



Where Are They Now? Tracking Canada’s Medical Graduates Across Time

The [2024-25 CAPER Annual Census](#) and [2025 National Internation Medical Graduates \(IMG\) Database Report](#) are now live on our website! As Canada’s medical education landscape continues to shift, so do the practice patterns of our graduates. This fact sheet dives into the evolving journey of the 2019 cohort of Canadian Medical Graduates (CMGs) and International Medical Graduates (IMGs), comparing where they chose to practice two years after completing training (2021) versus five years later (2024). Discover how community needs and graduate preferences are shaping healthcare delivery across the country.

Two Years Later: Where Canada’s 2019 Medical Graduates were Practicing in 2021

| Practice Setting | CMG | | IMG | |
|---------------------|------|--------|-----|--------|
| | n | % | n | % |
| Large Urban Centers | 2252 | 82.6% | 459 | 85.0% |
| Small City | 72 | 2.6% | 15 | 2.8% |
| Towns | 202 | 7.4% | 36 | 6.7% |
| Rural | 199 | 7.3% | 30 | 5.6% |
| Total | 2725 | 100.0% | 540 | 100.0% |

Notes: Practice location classifications are based on the Statistical Area Classification Type from the Postal Code Conversion File (PCCF). Data excludes physicians with unknown practice locations.

In 2021, the majority of 2019 medical graduates were practicing in large urban centres, 82.6% of CMGs and 85.0% of IMGs. CMGs showed a slightly broader distribution across smaller communities, with 14.7% working in towns or rural areas, compared to 12.3% of IMGs. Small cities attracted the fewest physicians overall, with just 2.6% of CMGs and 2.8% of IMGs choosing this setting. These figures highlight a strong urban preference, particularly among IMGs, and ongoing challenges in attracting physicians to rural and remote areas.

Five Years Later: Where Canada’s 2019 Medical Graduates are Practicing in 2024

| Practice Setting | CMG | | IMG | |
|---------------------|------|--------|-----|--------|
| | n | % | n | % |
| Large Urban Centers | 2229 | 82.0% | 460 | 84.6% |
| Small City | 79 | 2.9% | 17 | 3.1% |
| Towns | 205 | 7.5% | 40 | 7.4% |
| Rural | 204 | 7.5% | 27 | 5.0% |
| Total | 2717 | 100.0% | 544 | 100.0% |

Notes: Practice location classifications are based on the Statistical Area Classification Type from the Postal Code Conversion File (PCCF). Data excludes physicians with unknown practice locations.

By 2024, most 2019 medical graduates continued to practice in large urban centres, 82.0% of CMGs and 84.6% of IMGs. CMGs showed a slightly broader distribution across smaller communities, with 15.0% working in towns or rural areas, compared to 12.4% of IMGs. Small cities remained the least popular choice, attracting just 2.9% of CMGs and 3.1% of IMGs. These figures reinforce the strong urban preference, particularly among IMGs.

Between 2021 and 2024, the practice settings of CMGs and IMGs from the 2019 cohort remained largely stable, with both groups consistently showing a strong preference for large urban centres. CMGs held steady at around 82%, while IMGs saw a slight decrease from 85.0% to 84.6%. CMGs maintained a broader distribution across smaller communities, with 14.7% practicing in towns or rural areas at the 2-year mark, and 15.0% at the 5-year mark. IMGs also saw a modest increase in representation in these settings, from 12.3% to 12.4%. Small cities remained the least popular choice for both groups across both time points.

These subtle shifts reinforce a persistent urban-centric trend and highlight the continued challenge of attracting physicians to underserved communities.

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