

While most medical schools give preference to applicants from their province, this is not the case at the postgraduate level where it is a national competition conducted by the Canadian Resident Matching Service. Of those who graduated from Canadian medical schools (CMGs), on average, 73% complete their postgraduate training in the same province. Almost all (99%) of graduates from Francophone medical schools in Quebec train in that province. The lowest figures occurred in Nova Scotia where less than half (45%) of the Dalhousie graduates remained there for their postgraduate training.

Each year CAPER tracks residents who have exited the postgraduate training system at a rank level consistent with completion of training. In partnership with the Canadian Medical Association, these physicians are tracked out into practice. For a recent analysis of retention within Canada at 2 to 20 years later see https://www.cma.ca/Assets/assets-library/document/en/advocacy/43-Bulletin_tracking_postgraduate_practice_entry_cohorts_e.pdf.

With respect to practising in a particular province, the graph below shows practice locations for CMGs (i.e., excludes international medical graduates) with regions of practice defined as Atlantic, Quebec, Ontario, and Western. For most faculties, retention of trainees in their geographic region was higher than retention of those who completed their undergraduate medical education at that school. At Dalhousie and Memorial for instance, just half of their undergraduate class were situated in Atlantic Canada two years into practice compared to over 70% of their postgraduate practice entry cohorts. Manitoba, however, showed slightly better retention of those who completed their MD degree in the province. For Canada as a whole, just over 1% of CMGs were located in the U.S.A. and 9.3% were either not located or in a country other than the U.S.A.

Percent of physicians exiting training in 2012 and located in same region as undergrad or postgraduate training in 2014 - Graduates of Canadian medical schools only.

