



## TRACKING CANADIAN POSTGRADUATE TRAINEES INTO INITIAL PRACTICE

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Knowing what factors may determine where physicians geographically set up initial practice is a tool that can be used for workforce planning and forecasting of physician supply.

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### PURPOSE/OBJECTIVES

To analyze the differences between faculties of medicine in terms of likelihood of trainees exiting and setting up practice in rural, small town or urban areas. Determine main predictors such as specialty or place of undergraduate medical education.

### FINDINGS/IMPACT/OUTCOMES

Some universities are more likely to have physicians set up in rural practice or small city/towns than others. More than a quarter of physicians who completed training at Université Laval and NOSM were practising in rural areas two years after exit, the highest proportions among Canadian faculties of medicine. Those who trained at Dalhousie University had the largest proportion locating in small cities or towns (26%). Family medicine physicians were less likely than other specialists to set up urban practices but for both groups the percentage of urban initial practices has been increasing during the last 15 to 20 years. Some faculties are more successful than others in retaining physicians in their region even if not in the same province of postgraduate training. Research is underway on IMGs vs graduates of Canadian medical schools.

### CONCLUSIONS

Depending on the faculty of medicine, it is not one-size-fits-all when it comes to the likelihood of entering a non-urban practice. This research determines where the differences lie and some of the determining factors.