GME DATA BRIEF (JULY 2020)

Graduate medical education (GME) is the system by which graduated medical students become fully trained doctors. This system is responsible for the production of the U.S.'s physician workforce. Although certain states and certain regions are often viewed as the home and center of most residency training, GME occurs in every part of the country and is a national system that is responsible for the pipeline of physicians who meet local, regional, and national needs. While the regions vary in their population count and density, institutions that oversee GME are spread in significant numbers through most regions of the country. This inaugural edition of *GME Data Brief* describes the GME system's geographic characteristics with the goal of giving stakeholders an accurate representation of its breadth and scope.

GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS

The US Census Bureau[1] divides the country into five regions: Northeast, South, Midwest, Mountain, and West. Population counts and density across the regions vary considerably. The South has the most people—nearly double that of the Midwest, the region with the second highest population count. On the other hand, the Northeast's population density is more than double that of the South, more than triple that of the Midwest, and more than 10 times the density of the Mountain region.[2]
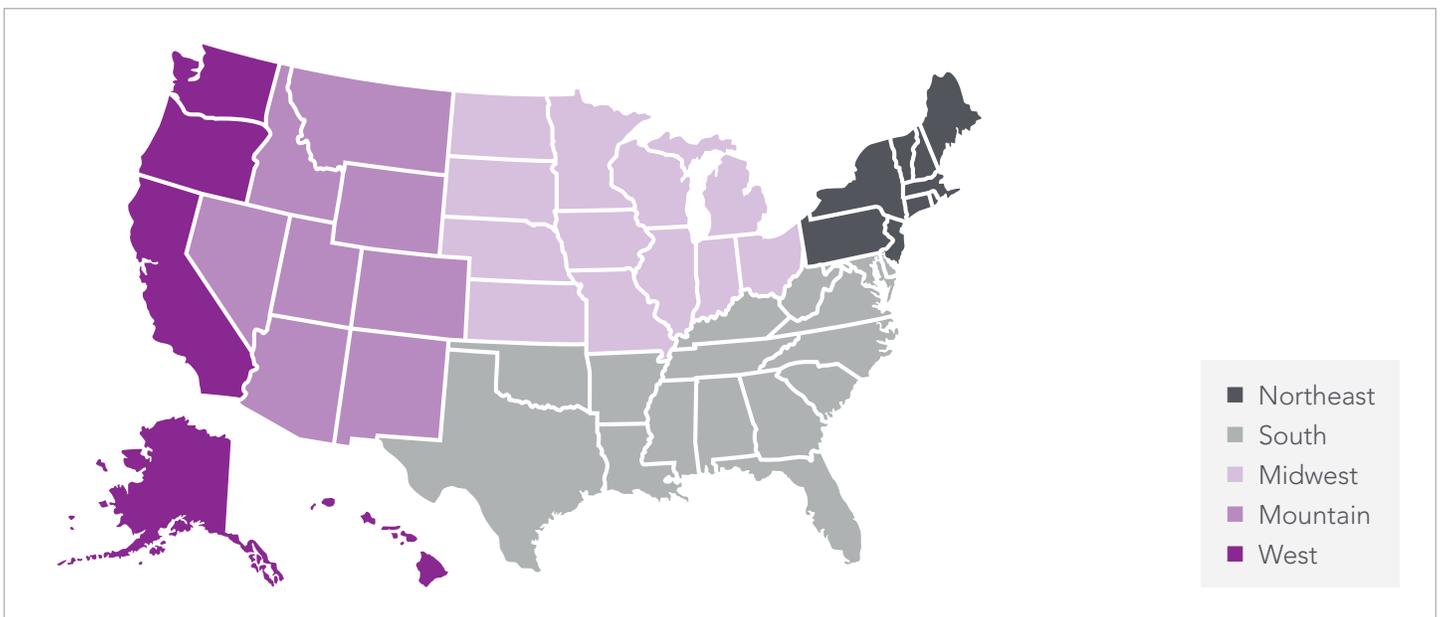
	Northeast	South	Midwest	Mountain	West
Population Count	55,982,798	125,580,448	68,329,004	24,854,998	53,491,270
Population Density	345.76	144.61	91.04	29.04	59.75

1 https://www2.census.gov/geo/pdfs/maps-data/maps/reference/us_regdiv.pdf
2 Population density is defined by the US Census Bureau as the population per square mile of land area; https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2010/dec/density-data-text.html

GNYHA is a dynamic, constantly evolving center for health care advocacy and expertise, but our core mission—helping hospitals deliver the finest patient care in the most cost-effective way—never changes.

NATIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF RESIDENCY TRAINING BY GEOGRAPHIC REGION[3,4,5]

One way to measure teaching activity is by number of sponsoring institutions. A sponsoring institution, as defined by the Accreditation Council for GME (ACGME), is the organization that "assumes the ultimate financial and academic responsibility for a program of graduate medical education" consistent with ACGME requirements. The South has the largest overall number (nearly one-third) of sponsoring institutions, followed by the Northeast. The Mountain region has the smallest number of sponsoring institutions.

The South also has the most residency programs, the Northeast has the second most, and the Mountain region has the fewest. Thirty-five percent of all residency programs are in the South, and approximately a quarter each are in the Northeast and the Midwest.

As measured by Census region, the South trains the largest number of residents in the country. The Northeast trains the second largest number of residents, and the Mountain region trains the fewest. As measured by resident count, the Northeast and South regions account for approximately 60% of the nation's residency training.

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GNYHA is deeply committed to supporting its member teaching hospitals' mission to train tomorrow's doctors. We devote significant resources to protecting GME reimbursement, including advancing policies and legislation that ensure an adequate future physician workforce, and supporting GNYHA members on special projects that enhance the operations and quality of the physician training enterprise.

Future editions of GME Data Brief will provide additional information on physician training within specific geographic regions, physician training occurring within different types of organizations, physician training across specific specialty areas, and other topics of interest to the GME and broader policy community.

3 https://apps.acgme.org/ads/Public/Reports/Report/16
4 https://apps.acgme.org/ads/Public/Reports/Report/2
5 https://apps.acgme.org/ads/Public/Reports/Report/20

Distribution of Sponsoring Institutions Across Geographic Regions

Number of Residency Programs by Geographic Region

Resident Count by Geographic Region