

The Application Pathways of American Citizens who Pursue Medical Careers Abroad

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Background

- Perception: US citizens who attend medical school abroad applied to, and were not accepted to, US schools
- International Medical Graduates (IMGs) make up 25% of US physician workforce
- Recent increases in numbers of US citizen IMGs registering with ECFMG
- Expansion of capacity in Caribbean medical schools



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ECFMG Certification

- Eligibility for ECFMG Certification
 - Graduate from an international medical school listed in IMED (non-LCME school located outside the US or Canada)
 - Acceptable graduation year
 - 4 credit (academic) years
 - Pass a series of examinations: USMLE™ Step 1, Step 2 CK, Step 2 CS
 - Primary source verification of medical education credentials
- Must be ECFMG-certified to:
 - Enter accredited US residency and fellowship programs
 - Apply to take USMLE Step 3
- ECFMG collects demographic data on all applicants

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Purpose

- To describe the application pathways of US citizen international medical graduates (USIMGs)
 - USIMGs – ECFMG “registrants” who indicated that they were US citizens at the time of matriculation

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Data Sources

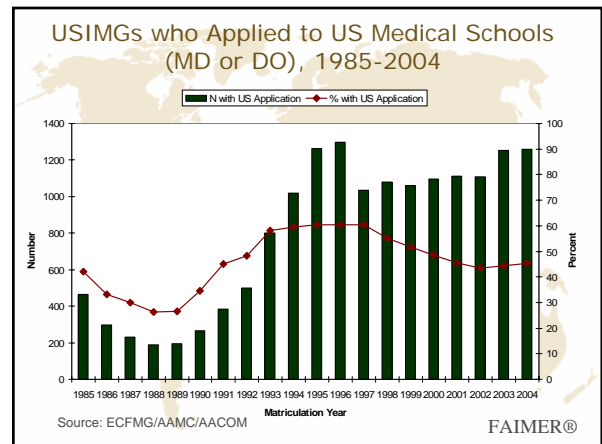
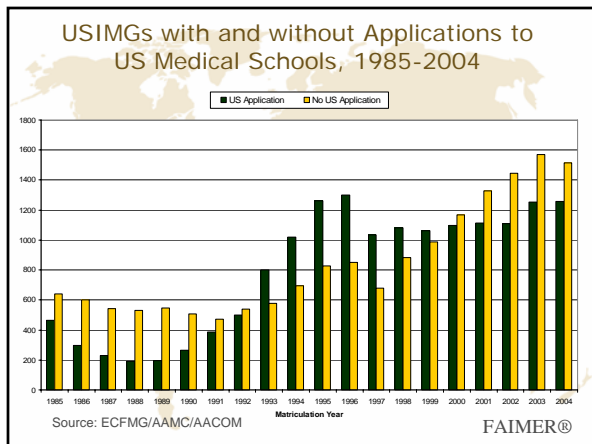
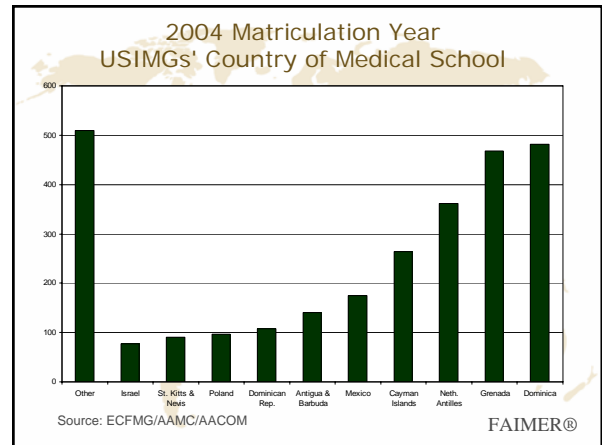
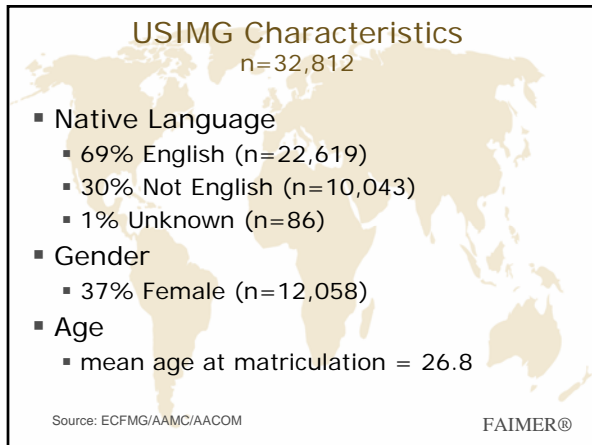
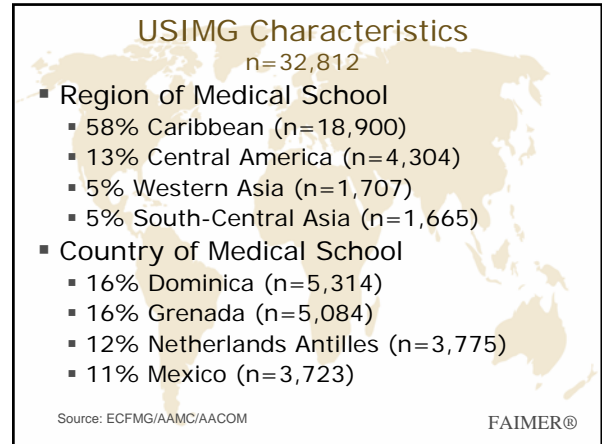
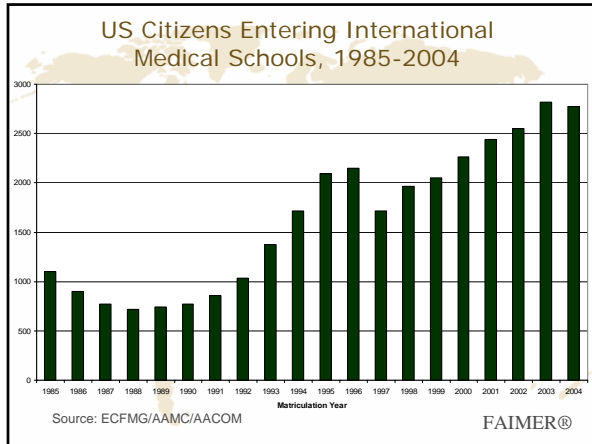
- Application data from AAMC & AACOM
 - 1981-2006 applications
- ECFMG registration (application) data for US citizen IMGs
 - 1987-2006 application cohort
 - Application year = year of first examination attempted for ECFMG certification
 - 1985-2004 matriculant cohort
 - Matriculation year = initial application year minus 2

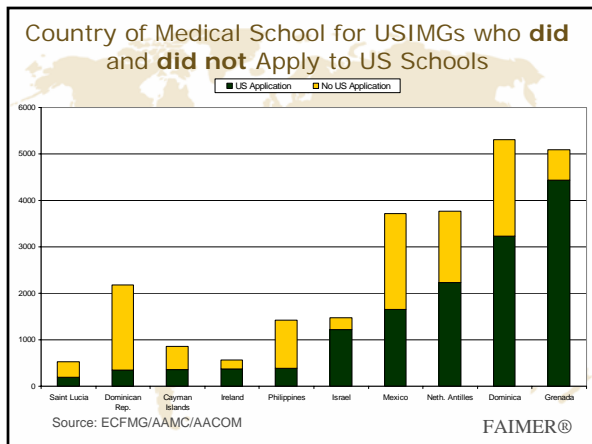
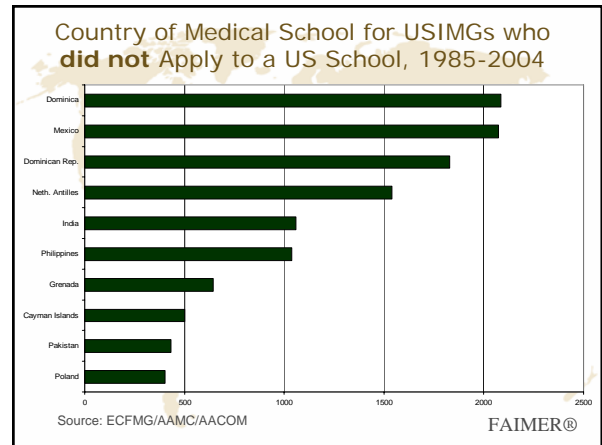
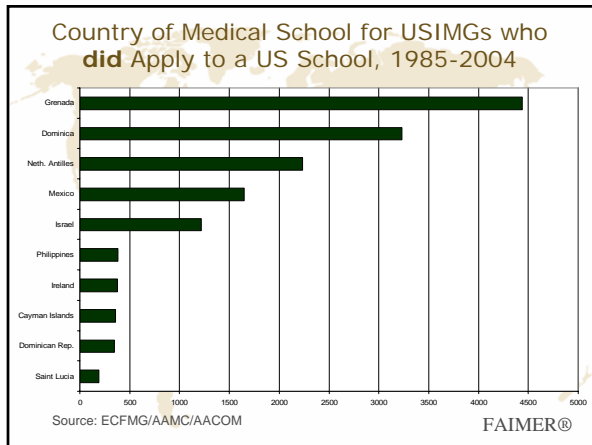
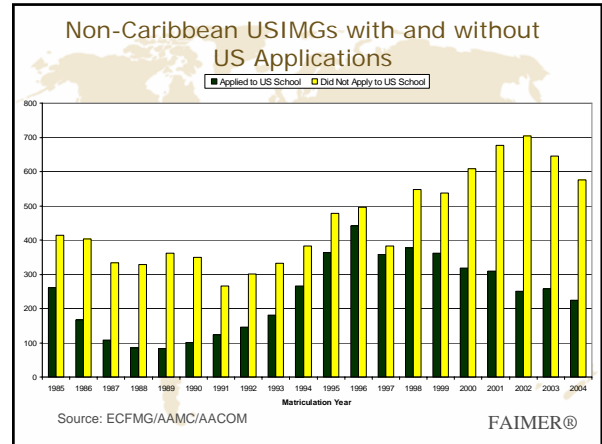
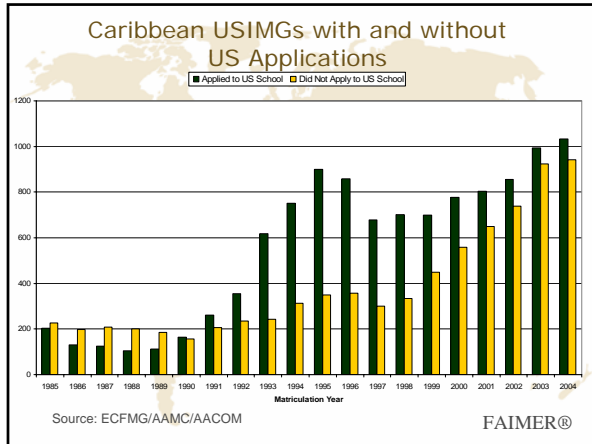
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Analyses

- AAMC/AACOM application data merged with ECFMG USIMG records
 - Matriculation trends over time summarized
 - Characteristics of USIMGs who do, and do not, make applications to US medical schools examined
 - Focus on individuals who attended medical schools in the Caribbean, the largest and fastest growing regional group of USIMGs

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Discussion

- Many USIMGs do not make US medical school applications
 - Overall, many US citizens bypass the US medical school system
 - Majority of recent Caribbean matriculants **do** apply to US schools (MD or DO)
 - Majority of recent non-Caribbean matriculants **do not** apply to US schools
- As US medical schools expand, will these individuals apply to these programs?
 - Acceptance? Quality?
- More US citizen IMGs = less diversity

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Limitations/Future Studies

- Limitations
 - Definition of matriculation year may introduce some errors
 - Only have data on American citizens who apply through ECFMG
- Future Studies
 - Detailed analysis of MD/DO applications of USIMGs (timing of applications, etc.)
 - Investigate factors associated with US/no US application
 - USMLE performance of USIMGs
 - Medical school characteristics

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