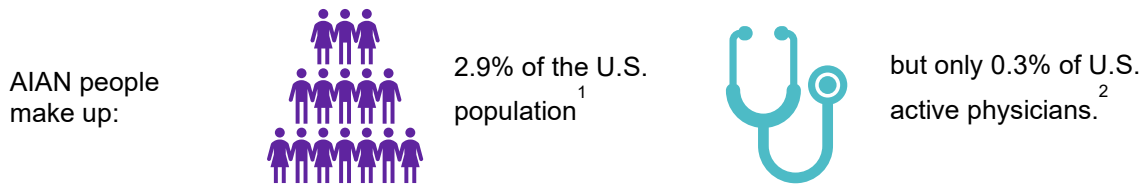


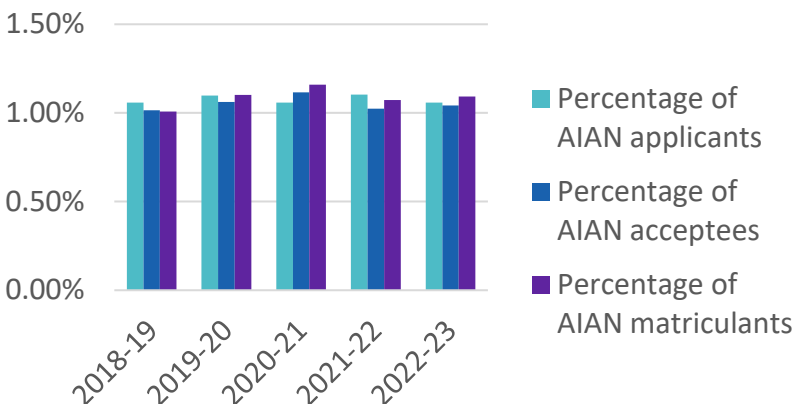
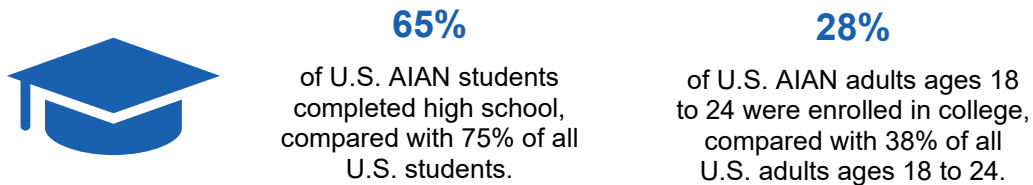
September 2023

## American Indian and Alaska Native Medical School Applicants, Acceptees, and Matriculants

American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) physicians make significant contributions to the U.S. health care system and tribal communities. However, AIAN people are markedly underrepresented in the physician workforce compared to their representation in the U.S. population.



**Educational Attainment.** High school and college degree attainment rates are increasing for AIAN students but remain significantly lower than for the overall population. Thus, systems challenges start early for AIAN students on the pathway to medicine.



### Medical School Application, Acceptance, and Matriculation.

AIAN students have consistently accounted for 1% of the applicants, acceptees, and matriculants to U.S. MD-granting schools (refer to Figure 1).

**Figure 1. Percentage of American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) applicants, acceptees, and matriculants to U.S. MD-granting schools, 2018-19 through 2022-23.**

Source: AAMC. 2022 FACTS: Applicants and Matriculants Data [tables A-14.1, A-14.2, and A-14.3]. <https://www.aamc.org/data-reports/students-residents/data/2022-facts-applicants-and-matriculants-data>. Accessed Sept. 28, 2023.

**Medical School Recruitment and Admissions.** Changes to the recruitment and admissions processes may help increase the number of AIAN applicants and matriculants to medical schools. Individuals who identify as AIAN and are members of federal- or state-recognized tribes hold a political status based on their nation's sovereignty. This political status allows institutions to develop separate admissions pathways, scholarships, or other programs that do not conflict with prohibitions against the use of race.

**Summary and Implications.** AIAN physicians are critical to addressing U.S. public health needs, yet their representation in medicine remains low. These data suggest that early engagement of AIAN communities (e.g., in high school) is necessary to improve their representation in medicine.

## Key Questions for Interpreting This Snapshot

1. The AIAN K-16 community faces significant educational disparities. What are the high school and college graduation rates in your recruitment area? How can you work with your local community to support AIAN students?
2. How are your institution's admission policies, practices, and procedures aligned with your institutional mission and goals?
3. AIAN students from state and federally recognized tribes hold a political identity. How familiar is your admissions committee with this status and how it should be considered in the admission process?

## References

1. U.S. Census Bureau. Race and ethnicity in the United States: 2010 census and 2020 census. Updated 2021. Accessed Aug. 21, 2023. <https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/interactive/race-and-ethnicity-in-the-united-state-2010-and-2020-census.html>.
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## Additional Resources

1. National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Science. Status dropout rates. Updated May 2023. Accessed Aug. 25, 2023. <https://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/indicator/coj>.
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## Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank Sarah Conrad, Amy Addams, Natalie Felida, and Nicole Stern for their stewardship and exceptional analyses of AAMC matriculant data.