

AAMC Group on Resident Affairs: *Navigating Physician Immigration in a Shifting Political Climate: Insights from Intealth*

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August 5, 2025



IntealthTM

Advancing the Global Health Workforce

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August 5, 2025

Overview

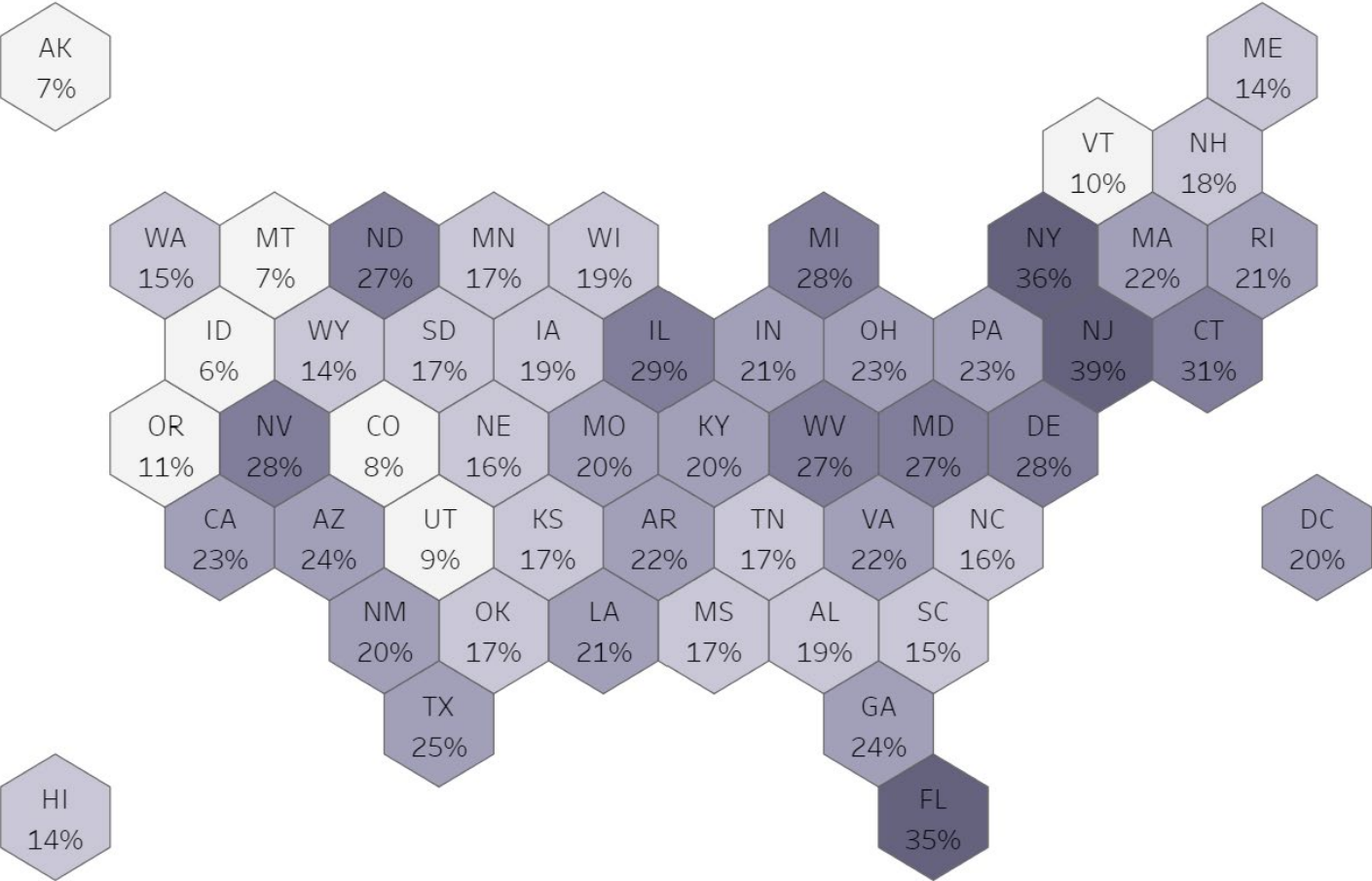
- The U.S. healthcare system currently cannot function without international medical graduates (IMGs)
- IMGs comprise \approx 41-42% of all internal medicine trainees
- Nearly a third (1 in 3) of practicing physicians in the United States came from abroad to train in the US (17%) or they are the child of an immigrant (13%)

2025 Match

First-year Matched Applicants by Type

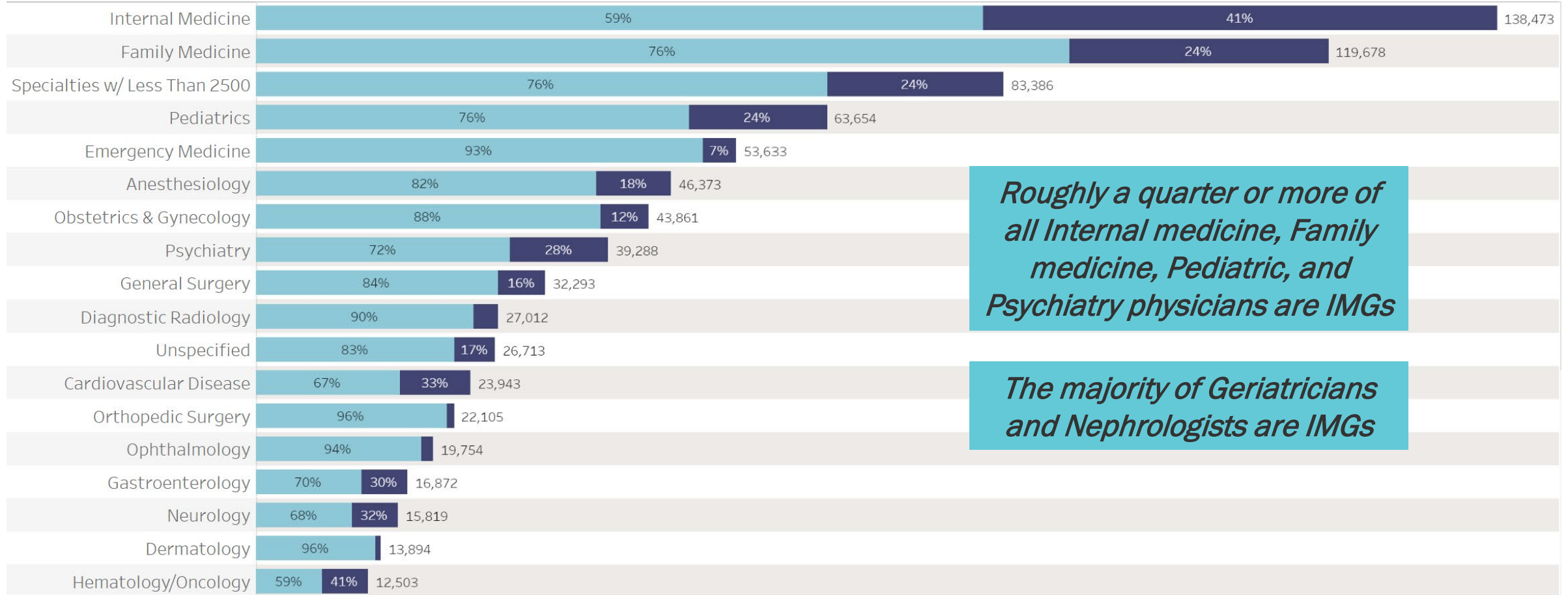


IMGs in Active Practice by State



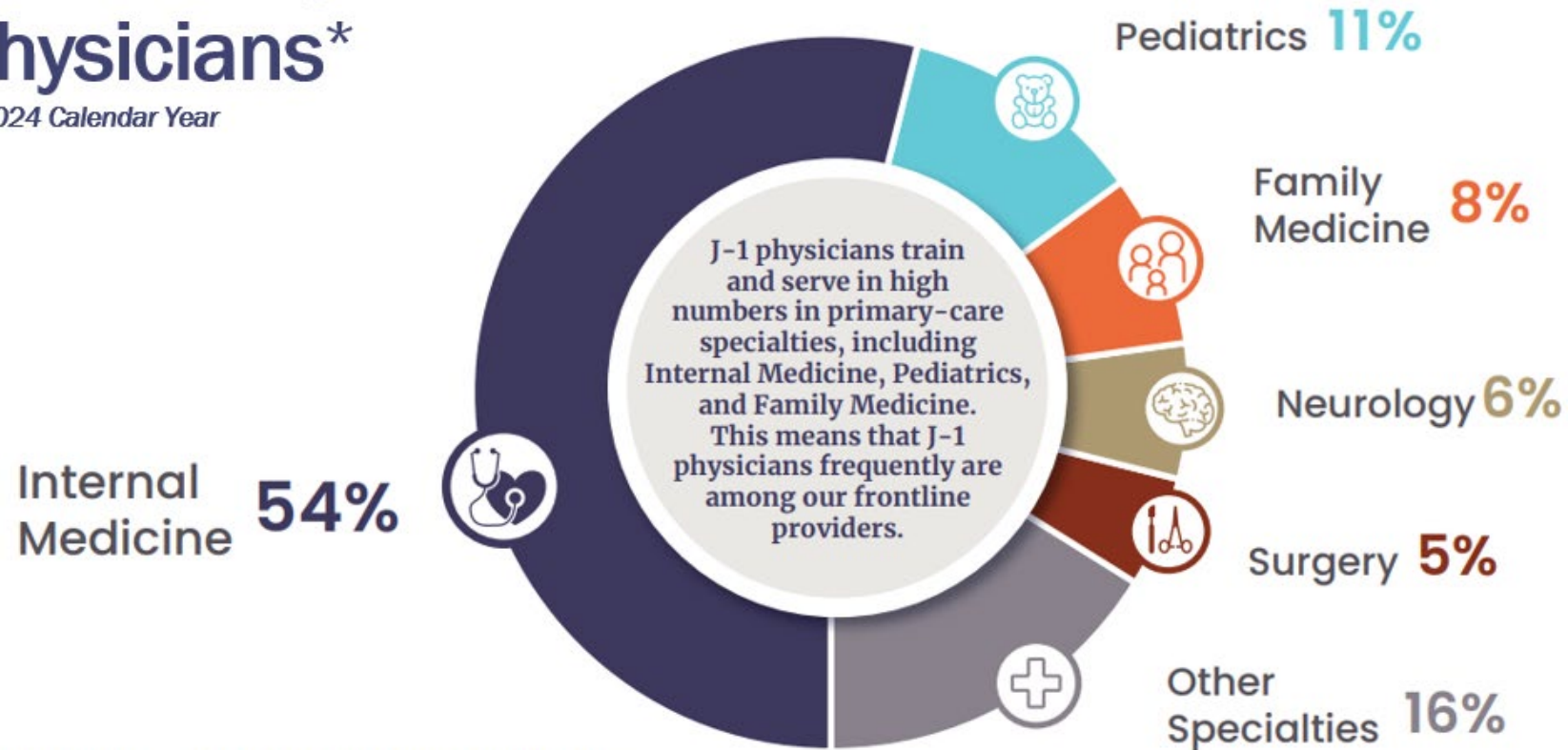
	% IMG
All Active Physicians	24%
Idaho (min)	6%
New Jersey (max)	39%

Active Physicians by Specialty & IMG Status



Specialties Pursued by J-1 Physicians*

*2024 Calendar Year



*Specialties listed include related subspecialties.

RECENT ISSUES

Visa vs. Visa Status

Understanding this distinction is critical as we navigate recent and expected immigration actions.

- **Visa** = permits entry to the U.S.; *can expire while still lawfully present*
- **Visa Status** = allows an individual to **live, train, or work** in the U.S.; *must stay valid the entire time*

This difference matters — especially amid increased vetting, shifting policies, and visa appointment delays.

May 2025 Appointment Pause: Social Media Vetting

What Happened

- On May 27, 2025, the U.S. Department of State initiated a pause in visa processing while implementing new security review procedures.
- The pause primarily impacted nonimmigrant visa applicants, including J-1 physicians in the Exchange Visitor Program.
- Applicants were unable to schedule new appointments; some experienced unexpected cancellations and reschedulings.

Appointments resumed on June 18, 2025, with a directive to consular posts to prioritize J-1 physicians.

Best Practices for Social Media Activities

Immigration agencies request information regarding **personal social media accounts**

This includes all accounts used in the **last 5 years**

Ask.FM, Douban, Facebook, Flickr, Google+, Instagram, LinkedIn, MySpace, Pinterest, QZone (QQ), Reddit, Sina Weibo, Tencent Weibo, Tumblr, Twitter, Twoo, Vine, VKontakte (VK), Youku, YouTube

Advise trainees to be conscious and thoughtful of information they post on social media, particularly regarding their **political views**

Immigration officials are **likely able to view their full profile and contacts** regardless of access to password

June 2025 Presidential Proclamation: Travel Ban / Restrictions

Tier 1	Tier 2
Full suspension of entry: all citizens barred from entering the United States	Partial suspension of entry: citizens seeking certain visa classifications, including J-1, barred from entering the United States
Afghanistan, Burma (Myanmar), Chad, Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen	Burundi, Cuba, Laos, Sierra Leone, Togo, Turkmenistan, and Venezuela

Exemptions:

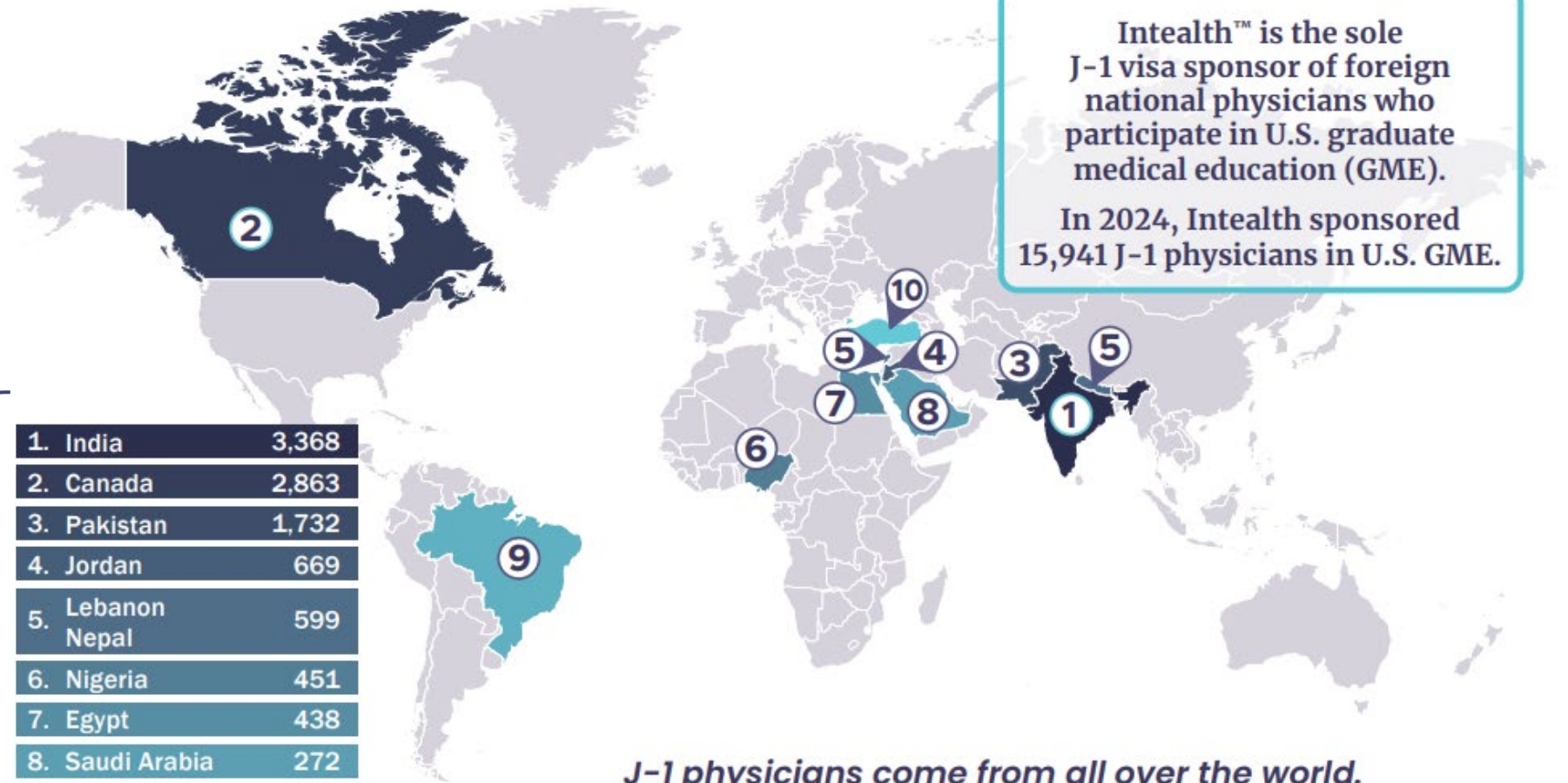
- U.S. lawful permanent residents (green card holders)
- Individuals with valid visas issued prior to the proclamation
- Dual nationals traveling on a passport from a non-designated country
- **Certain individuals traveling on diplomatic or humanitarian grounds**

*Intealth sponsoring 117 initial applicants from “travel ban” countries this year.
More than half had their visas before the ban took effect on June 9.*

J-1 Physicians' Top Nations of Origin

*None are
"travel ban"
countries.*

1. India	3,368
2. Canada	2,863
3. Pakistan	1,732
4. Jordan	669
5. Lebanon Nepal	599
6. Nigeria	451
7. Egypt	438
8. Saudi Arabia	272
9. Brazil	252
10. Turkey	240



*J-1 physicians come from all over the world.
In 2024, they represented about 155 home countries.*

Watching: Duration of Status

- Reemergence of an issue first introduced by the previous Trump administration in 2020
- Would significantly modify admission and extension procedures for nonimmigrant students, exchange visitors, and foreign media representatives
- Goal is to replace *Duration of Status (D/S)* with fixed time periods for admission

*“Establishing a Fixed Time Period of Admission and an Extension of Stay Procedure for Nonimmigrant Academic Students, **Exchange Visitors**, and Representatives of Foreign Information Media”*

INTEALTH APPROACH

Washington Outreach Goals



Educate

Educate Members of Congress about the Problem(s) and the Value of IMGs

Identify

Identify Champions

Build

Build Long-term Bipartisan Support