



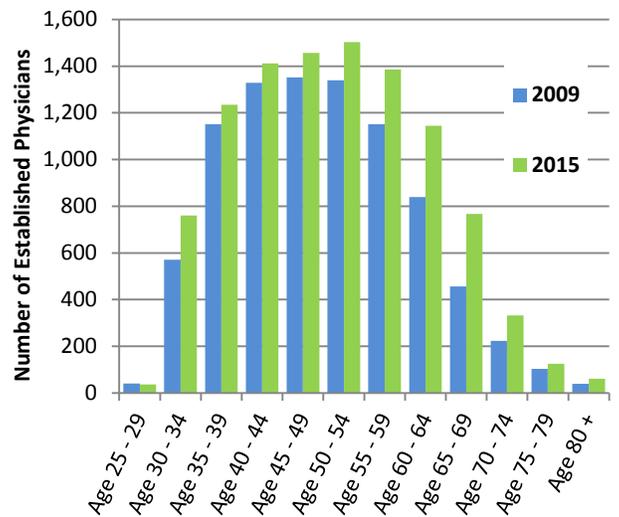
Changes in the Demographic Characteristics of the Physician Workforce in South Carolina: 2009 - 2015

The demographic profile of the physician workforce in South Carolina changed in several ways in the short period from 2009 to 2015. Changes in the age distribution, the gender composition and the racial composition of the physician workforce (which includes both established physicians and residents in training) are reviewed in this data brief.

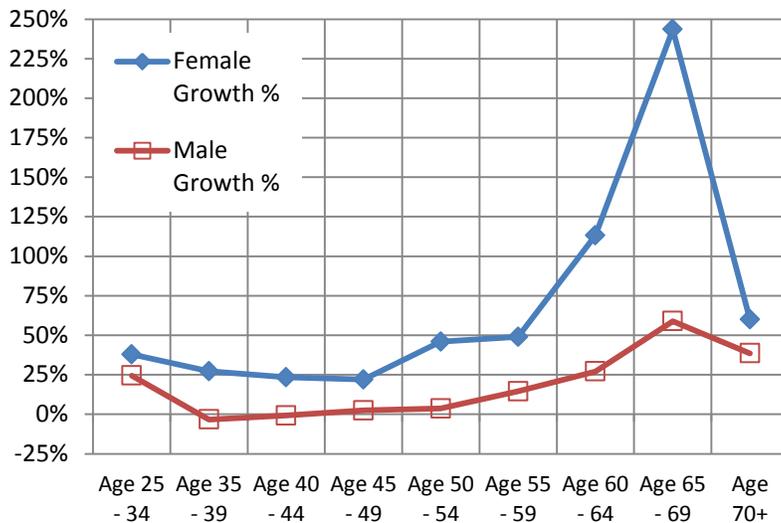
Established Physicians

Overall, the size of the established physician workforce grew by 19% between 2009 and 2015. The chart to the right illustrates both the overall growth in the physician workforce and how the age distribution of that workforce has been changing over time. The age groupings show the movement of the large baby boom cohort through time. From 2009 to 2015 there was a 15% growth in the number of physicians under the age of 40; those aged 40 to 59 grew by 11%; and the number of active physicians age 60 and over grew by 46%. The large growth in older physicians in the workforce is the result of the aging baby boom generation and the fact that they tend to stay active in the workforce longer than previous generations.

Change in the Age Distribution of the Established Physician Workforce



Growth rates from 2009 to 2015 for established physicians in the workforce by age and gender

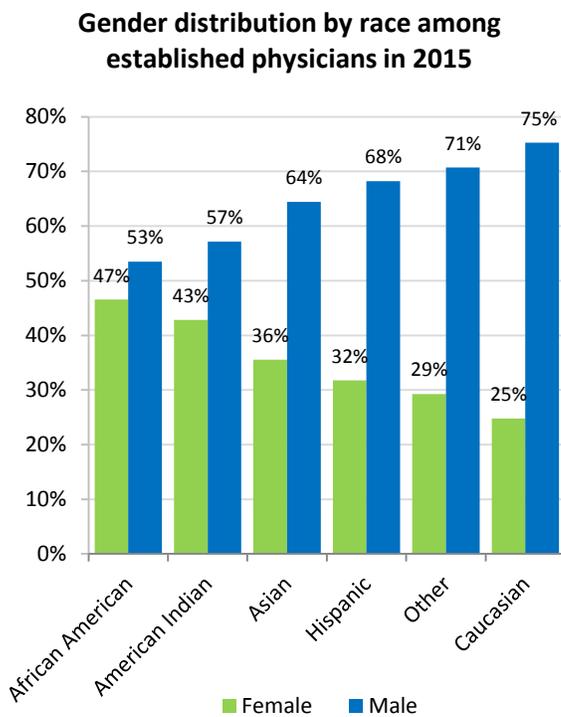


The gender profile of the physician workforce is also changing. The number of female physicians in established practice in South Carolina grew by 38% between 2009 and 2015. In 2009 females made up 23% of the established workforce and in 2015 they made up 27%. Some of this growth in female physicians in South Carolina comes from the increasing number of women attending medical school in the last two decades, but the chart to the left suggests that female physicians may also be moving into the state to practice at later stages in their career. The growth spike for females age 65-69 is unusually large because the underlying numbers were relatively small (23 in 2009, 79 in 2015).

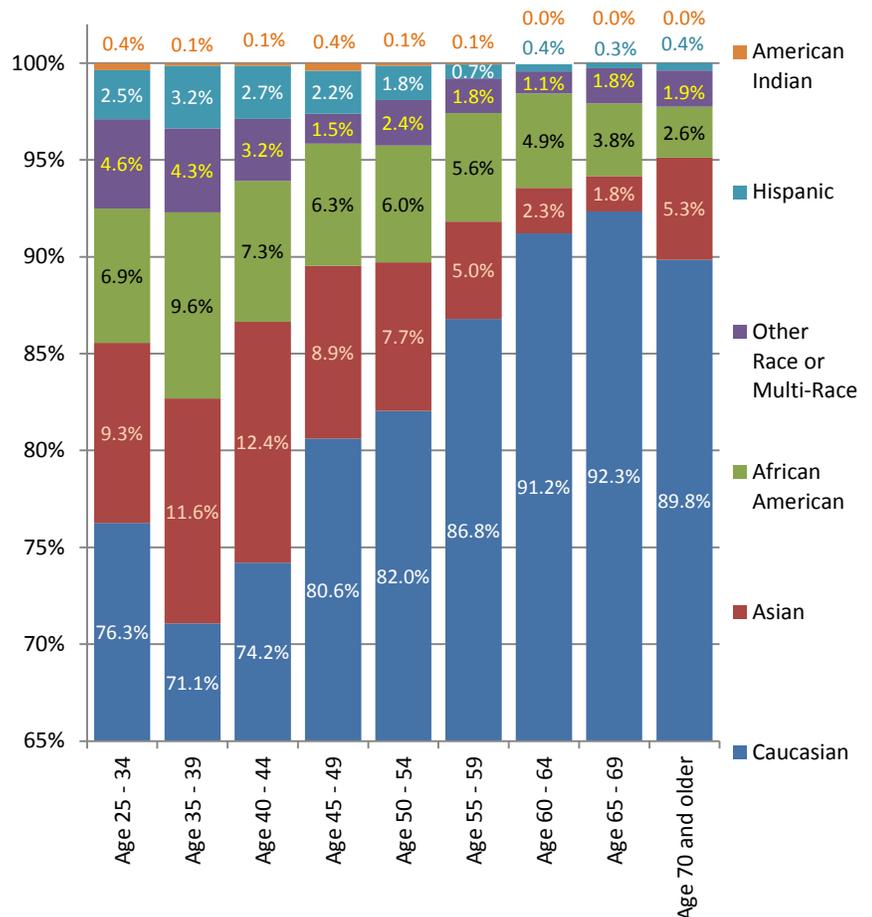
Race among established physicians	2009		2015		Growth % 2009 to 2015
Caucasian	7,254	84.4%	8,272	80.8%	14.0%
Asian	563	6.5%	819	8.0%	45.5%
African American	500	5.8%	634	6.2%	26.8%
Other or Multi-race	169	2.0%	270	2.6%	59.8%
Hispanic	110	1.3%	171	1.7%	55.5%
American Indian	11	0.1%	14	0.1%	27.3%
Race Unknown	8	0.1%	59	0.6%	
Total	8,596		10,239		18.9%

In 2009 84% of the established physician workforce was Caucasian (White). That percentage dropped to 81% by 2015 with the slight increase in the number of minority physicians entering the South Carolina workforce. The table to the left reports the number and percentage of established physicians practicing in South Carolina in each racial group in both 2009 and 2015 and the growth rate of each racial group across that time span.

The chart below on the left shows how the gender balance differs within racial groups in the 2015 established physician workforce.



Racial composition of the established physician workforce in 2015 by age group



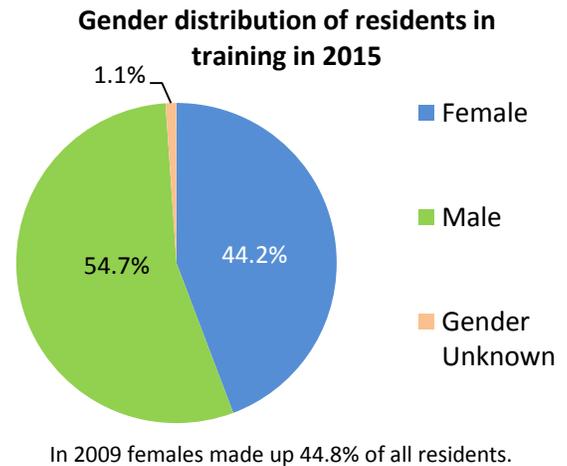
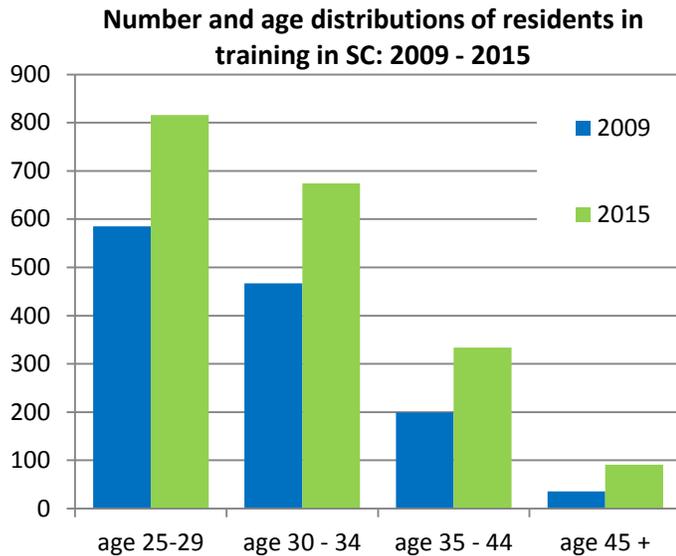
The chart above and to the right shows that younger physicians actively practicing in the South Carolina workforce are much more racially diverse than older generations, based on the 2015 workforce. The table on the following page reports the racial diversity of established physicians in different clinical subspecialty groups as well as the percent who are female and the proportion age 60 and older.

Physician Workforce Characteristics by Clinical Specialty in 2015	2015 Established Physician Headcount	Age: % age 60 and older	Gender: % female	Race: % Non-Caucasian
All Established Physicians	10,239	24%	27%	19%
Internal Medicine	1,813	19%	32%	35%
Family Medicine	1,469	27%	30%	19%
Pediatrics	880	16%	55%	23%
Emergency Medicine	714	15%	20%	11%
Obstetrics & Gynecology	554	27%	48%	16%
Anesthesiology	512	19%	20%	10%
General Surgery	443	27%	11%	13%
Psychiatry	404	36%	40%	25%
Orthopedic Surgery	392	26%	3%	7%
Cardiovascular Disease	298	28%	8%	21%
Diagnostic Radiology	268	28%	12%	9%
Ophthalmology	247	30%	16%	9%
Radiology	189	14%	19%	8%
Anatomic/Clinical Pathology	176	28%	29%	10%
Gastroenterology	173	29%	5%	18%
Other Specialty (not identified)	164	40%	24%	16%
Neurology	162	25%	21%	27%
Urology	154	29%	9%	8%
Pulmonary Diseases	151	17%	16%	33%
Dermatology	142	32%	42%	7%
Otolaryngology	137	23%	9%	7%
General Practice	104	60%	28%	15%
Physical Med & Rehab	98	10%	29%	23%
Plastic Surgery	94	20%	14%	12%
Neurological Surgery	93	22%	4%	14%
Child/Adolescent Psychiatry	70	23%	47%	14%
Allergy and Immunology	67	33%	24%	10%
Radiation Oncology	57	26%	21%	14%
Pediatric Cardiology	41	17%	32%	17%
Occupational Medicine	36	67%	17%	11%
Thoracic Surgery	35	23%	9%	6%
Colon & Rectal Surgery	24	21%	13%	17%
Unknown Specialty Type	19	21%	11%	11%
Public Health/Preventive Medicine	15	33%	53%	27%
Medical Genetics	13	38%	38%	23%
General Preventive Medicine	12	42%	17%	25%

Note: Subspecialty groups with a count of 10 or fewer are not included in this table. Physicians self-report their clinical specialties during the license renewal process.

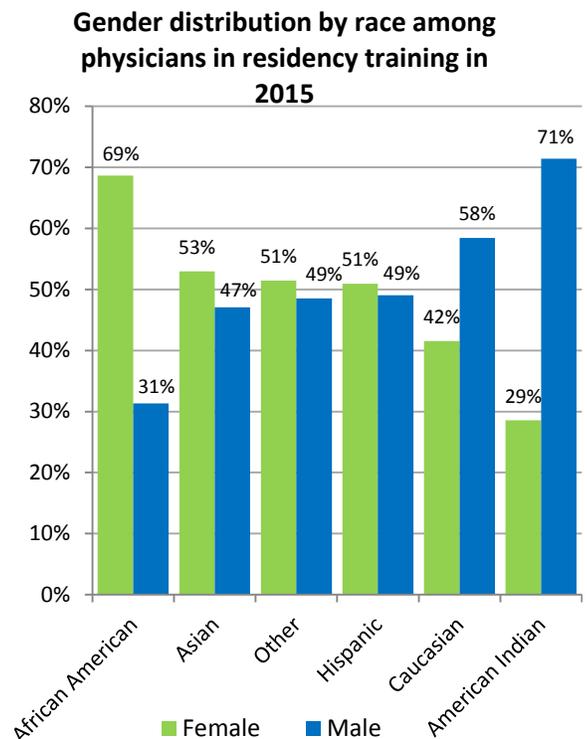
Physicians in Residency Training Programs

The number of physicians in residency training programs within South Carolina grew from 1,289 in 2009 to 1,933 in 2015: a growth rate of 50%. In 2015 these physicians-in-training comprised 15% of the total number of physicians actively practicing in the state. Given that most physicians in residency programs are relatively new medical school graduates, their age distribution is much younger than the established physician workforce. However, some established physicians enter residency or fellowship training programs to extend their skills or change clinical specialty areas.



The age distributions of male and female residents are very similar and have not changed much from 2009 to 2015. One interesting difference among residents is that different racial groups have very different gender distributions (see the chart below and to the right). The overall distribution of racial groups among residents changed slightly between 2009 and 2015 with a small increase in the number reporting their race as 'other' which may include those with multi-racial backgrounds.

Race among physicians in residency training programs in South Carolina				
	2009		2015	
	Headcount	%	Headcount	%
Caucasian	1,017	78.9%	1,498	77.5%
Asian	105	8.1%	136	7.0%
African American	85	6.6%	134	6.9%
Other Race	26	2.0%	68	3.5%
Hispanic	39	3.0%	53	2.7%
American Indian	11	0.9%	7	0.4%
Unknown	6	0.5%	37	1.9%
Total	1,289	100.0%	1,933	100.0%



End Notes and References

Information about the physician workforce in South Carolina presented in this report is based on information self-reported by the physicians during the renewal of their license to practice in 2009 and 2015.

Cases with missing information for a specific data element have been removed from the percentage calculations. By contrast, counts in the tables include physicians with missing data (classified as 'unknown' or 'missing') in order to sum to an accurate total count.

The information about physicians in residency training programs in 2009 and/or 2015 includes physicians in fellowship training programs.

Suggested Citation:

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