

# More than half of internal medicine graduates choosing primary care

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(HealthDay)—More than half of internal medicine graduates in 2016

and 2017 pursued a career in primary care, according to a study published online April 8 in the *Journal of General Internal Medicine*.

In a cross-sectional study, Paul O'Rourke, M.D., M.P.H., from the Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center in Baltimore, and colleagues characterized the current [internal medicine primary care](#) residency landscape in the United States. Seventy percent of internal medicine primary care [program](#) directors completed a survey assessing program characteristics, educational curricula, clinical training experiences, and graduate outcomes.

The researchers found that in 2016 and 2017, more than half of internal medicine graduates pursued a primary care career upon residency graduation. For most of the program, curricular, and clinical training factors that were assessed, no correlation was found with programs that have a majority of graduates pursuing a primary care career path. Programs with a majority of program graduates entering a primary care career were less likely than other programs to have X+Y scheduling, where X refers to hospital training time treating inpatients and Y refers to time spent in clinics outside hospitals treating ambulatory patients.

"Even in light of these results, just this one study wouldn't convince me to forgo X+Y," O'Rourke said in a statement. "The most important thing is to provide quality outpatient training to better prepare trainees for a [career](#) in primary care."

**More information:** [Abstract/Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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