Radiology Residency Positions Are Unevenly Distributed Among US States
Authors and Disclosures

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Purpose

• With demand for radiologic services high, it is important to ensure that sufficient radiologists are being trained to cover each state's needs.
Overview

• Many are aware that integrated Interventional Radiology (IR) positions have been offered for the first time in recent years.

• Fewer know the number of Diagnostic Radiology (DR) positions has decreased since 2014 and how DR and IR training positions are distributed among the states.
Materials and Methods

• The 2018 National Resident Matching Program® (NRMP) residency match data were reviewed to calculate the total DR and IR residency positions in each state.

• Population data were extracted from US Census Bureau 2010 surveys.

• Residency positions are reported per 1,000,000 persons.
Results

• From 2014-2018, **DR positions dropped 6% as more IR positions were offered:**

![Chart showing DR and IR positions offered from 2014 to 2018]
Results

• National mean of DR positions: 3.34 per 1M persons.

• National mean of DR and IR positions: 3.75 per 1M persons.

• 7 states have no DR or IR residency positions:
Results

DR Positions per 1M Persons

National Mean: 3.34
DR and IR Positions per 1M Persons

Results

National Mean: 3.75
Results

• 5 states have <0.5x of the national DR mean:
  – Hawaii (0.70), Oregon (1.21), Puerto Rico (1.50), Colorado (1.61), and Indiana (1.65).

• 4 states have >2.0x of the national DR mean:
  – Washington, D.C. (11.53), Vermont (9.62), Massachusetts (8.75), and Connecticut (8.08).
Discussion

• Wide variations in the distribution of radiology residency positions across US states:
  – **Lowest** concentration per capita in the **Rocky Mountain region**, where most states lack a radiology residency program altogether.
  – **Highest** concentration per capita in the **Northeast region**, followed by the Midwest.
Discussion

• Findings particularly important for radiology educators in states that train relatively low numbers of radiology residents.

• Should prompt an investigation into:
  – Underlying cause(s) of the relatively low number of radiology residents.
  – Efforts that need to be undertaken to ensure local radiologist demand is adequately met.
Conclusion

• By calling attention to variations in radiology residency positions and their underlying causes, organizations such as the ACR can help to ensure that radiologists are produced in sufficient numbers and in appropriate distribution to meet the needs of patients and communities in each state.
Thank You!

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