

Table 157. Osteopathic Physicians: 2001 to 2009

Osteopathic physicians are fully qualified physicians licensed to practice medicine and to perform surgery. Osteopathic medicine has a strong emphasis on the interrelationship of the body's nerves, muscles, bones and organs. Doctors of osteopathic medicine, or D.O.s, apply the philosophy of treating the whole person to the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of illness, disease and injury]

Characteristics	2001	2005	2009	Characteristics	2001	2005	2009
Characteristics	2001	2005	2009	Unknown	28	318	208
Total number of DOs	46,990	56,512	67,167	Self-identified practice specialty ¹ .	31,996	38,442	46,031
Sex				Family and general practice. . .	14,102	17,800	18,792
Female	10,875	15,147	20,808	General internal Medicine	2,592	3,107	4,596
Male	36,115	41,365	46,359	General pediatrics/adolescent medicine	958	1,176	1,716
Age				Obstetrics and gynecology	1,219	1,465	1,986
Less than 35 years old	9,866	12,983	15,246	Pediatric specialties	320	348	532
35 to 44 years old	14,798	16,179	19,212	Osteopathic specialties ²	414	464	805
45 to 54 years old	12,754	13,845	15,985	Other specialties	12,001	13,431	17,396
55 to 64 years old	4,706	7,998	10,327	Unknown	390	651	208
65 years old and over	4,838	5,189	6,189				

¹ DOs are assumed to be in active practice if they are under age 65 and have not informed the AOA that they have retired or are inactive. DOs are assumed to be in postdoctoral training (internship, residency or fellowship) if they are within 4 years of graduation or if the AOA has received information that they are in a postdoctoral program. ² Osteopathic self-identified practice specialties include OMT (osteopathic manipulative treatment) and OMM (osteopathic manipulative medicine). OMT is the therapeutic application of manually guided forces by an osteopathic physician to improve physiologic function and/or support homeostasis that has been altered by somatic dysfunction. OMM is the application of osteopathic philosophy, structural diagnosis, and use of OMT in the patient's diagnosis and management.