

Table 155. Osteopathic Physicians: 2001 to 2008

[As of May 31. 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]

Characteristic	2001	2005	2008	Characteristic	2001	2005	2008
Total number of D.O.s	46,990	56,512	64,000	Self-identified practice specialty ¹ .	31,996	38,442	43,896
Sex				Family and general practice. . .	14,102	17,800	18,680
Female	10,875	15,147	19,138	General internal medicine	2,592	3,107	4,171
Male	36,115	41,365	44,862	General pediatrics/adolescent medicine	958	1,176	1,525
Age				Obstetrics and gynecology	1,219	1,465	1,858
Less than 35 years old	9,866	12,983	13,251	Pediatric specialties	320	348	470
35 to 44 years old	14,798	16,179	18,638	Osteopathic specialties ²	414	464	656
45 to 54 years old	12,754	13,845	15,931	Other specialties	12,001	13,431	16,178
55 to 64 years old	4,706	7,998	9,819	Unknown	390	651	358
65 years old and over	4,838	5,189	6,120				
Unknown	28	318	241				

¹ D.O.s 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. D.O.s 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.

Source: American Osteopathic Association, Chicago, IL.; *AOA Annual Statistics*; See also <http://www.osteopathic.org/index.cfm?PageID=aoa_annualrprt>.