

# More doctors fail to land residency positions after school

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Doctors wanting to practice medicine in the U.S. cannot start treating patients on their own immediately after medical school. They typically must go through a residency program that provides additional training under the supervision of experienced physicians.

Most [doctors](#) who apply to participate in residency programs are matched with particular hospitals or [health care providers](#), but the percentage remaining unmatched has risen faster over the past decade than the percentage placed in residency programs.

Here's a look at the number of annual active applicants, those who matched and those who remained unmatched through the National Resident Matching Program.

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Year Applicants Matched Unmatched

2005: 25,348 19,760 5,588

2006: 26,715 20,072 6,643

2007: 27,944 20,514 7,430

2008: 28,737 20,940 7,797

2009: 29,888 21,340 8,548

2010: 30,543 21,749 8,794

2011: 30,589 22,385 8,204

2012: 31,355 22,924 8,431

2013: 34,355 25,264 9,091

2014: 34,270 25,687 8,583

2015: 34,905 26,252 8,653

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