

Greater racial, ethnic diversity of doctors found in Ob-Gyn

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(HealthDay)—Among adult medical specialists, greater racial and ethnic diversity is found among obstetrician-gynecologists (ob-gyns), according to research published in the January issue of *Obstetrics & Gynecology*.

William F. Rayburn, M.D., M.B.A., of the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, and colleagues conducted a cross-sectional study involving national U.S. data for 190,379 [physicians](#) to examine differences in racial and ethnic characteristics among specialties. Adult medical specialties included [obstetrics](#) and gynecology, general internal medicine, family medicine, and emergency medicine.

The researchers found that, in all specialties, female physicians were more likely to be nonwhite; in obstetrics-gynecology, physicians were more likely to be female (61.9 percent). Compared with the other

specialties studied, obstetrics-gynecology had the highest proportion of underrepresented minorities (combined, 18.4 percent), particularly black physicians (11.1 percent) and Hispanic physicians (6.7 percent).

Underrepresented minority ob-gyns were more likely than white or Asian ob-gyns to practice in federally funded underserved areas and areas with high poverty levels. Native American, Alaska Native, and Pacific Islander ob-gyns had the highest proportion of those practicing in rural areas.

"Compared with other adult medical specialists, ob-gyns have a relatively high proportion of black and Hispanic physicians," the authors write. "A higher proportion of underrepresented minority ob-gyns practiced at medically underserved areas."

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