Match Day 2020
Texas residency programs did well, but clouds loom
by SEAN PRICE

With a one huge caveat, Match Day 2020 was great for Texas medicine. It was great because the number of first-year residency positions offered — 2,159 — was not only a record high, it was the 10th consecutive record high, according to data compiled by the Texas Medical Association. And a record 2,015 of those positions filled. Research shows that if the number of residency positions remains unchanged, TMA projects that the surplus of positions compared with graduates will hold until 2024.

The high number also keeps the state well above its target of having a 1.1-to-1 ratio of first-year residency slots to graduating fourth-year medical students. The target is designed to ensure the state always has enough residency positions for the number of graduates and a slight overage for recruitment. Since there were 2,159 positions and 1,839 projected graduates, the 2020 ratio is a healthy 1.17-to-1.

The number of medical school graduates is expected to grow, thanks to larger medical school classes and the addition of three new medical schools. If the number of residency positions remains unchanged, TMA projects that the surplus of positions compared with graduates will hold until 2024.

That’s where that huge caveat comes in. Residency positions typically are funded by hospitals with some assistance through state funding. Since March, Texas’ economy has been hit hard by collapsing oil prices and the COVID-19 lockdown. Both factors already have caused projected budget shortfalls at hospitals and for the state, making residency positions vulnerable to cutbacks.

TMA continues to advocate for improved residency opportunities to ensure that Texas medical school graduates remain in Texas.

### 2020 Texas Match Day Results

- **Total positions:** 2,312, up 178 (8.3%)*
- **Total positions filled:** 2,182, up 120 (5.8%)*
- **First-year positions:** 2,159, up 172 (8.7%)*
- **First-year positions filled:** 2,015 up 113 (5.9%)*

### 2020 National Match Day Results

- **Total positions:** 37,256, up 2,071 (5.9%)*
- **Total positions filled:** 35,258, up 1,841 (5.5%)*
- **First-year positions:** 34,266, up 2,072 (6.4%)*
- **First-year positions filled:** 32,399, up 1,849 (6.1%)*

*Indicates a record high. Record highs are due in part to 100% of osteopathic programs joining the Main Residency Match for the first time in 2019. This is the last year of a five-year gradual transition to a single accreditation system for residency programs.

### Sources

- National Resident Matching Program, with analysis by the Texas Medical Association; American Osteopathic Association Match statistics
- Texas Medical School Graduates
- TMA projects that the surplus of positions compared with graduates will hold until 2024.
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- TMA continues to advocate for improved residency opportunities to ensure that Texas medical school graduates remain in Texas.