

# Applicant Placement Rate in the Main Residency Match® and Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program®

The applicant Match Rate is a primary outcome measure published upon conclusion of the annual Main Residency Match. The Match Rate represents the percentage of active applicants (i.e., applicants who have certified a rank order list) who matched to post-graduate year one (PGY-1) positions when the matching algorithm was processed. Historically, only active applicants are used to calculate Match Rate as they fully participate in the Match. While a good measure of success, the Match Rate does not include those applicants who participated in and received a position in the Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program (SOAP) during Match Week. In addition, Match Rate has been published both in aggregate and by applicant type, illustrating the variability in outcomes by distinct categories of applicants. Since Match Rate does not factor in positions received through SOAP, it provides only partial insight into the outcomes for all applicants participating in the Match and SOAP and may not reflect the true scope of positions received in some applicant groups more than others. To rectify the issue, the NRMP has established two new measures of applicant outcomes.

### Placement Rate

“Placement Rate” examines outcomes for applicants who participate in both the matching algorithm and SOAP. Placement Rate is calculated twice based on two pools of applicants:

*Placement Rate – All Applicants:* the proportion of active and SOAP-eligible applicants successfully placed into a PGY-1 position through either the matching algorithm or SOAP (SOAP-accepted) for a specific match year. For this measure, SOAP-eligible applicants include:

- applicants who certified a rank order list **and did not** match to a PGY-1 position when the matching algorithm was processed; **or**
- who **did not** certify a rank order list and participated only in SOAP.

*(PGY-1 Matched Applicants + PGY-1 SOAP-Accepted Applicants)/Certified or SOAP-eligible Unique Applicants*

*Placement Rate – Active Applicants:* the proportion of active applicants successfully placed into a PGY-1 position through either the matching algorithm **or** SOAP for a specific match year.

*(PGY-1 Matched Applicants + PGY-1 SOAP-Accepted Active Applicants)/Active Applicants*

These measures establish a standardized calculation and definition of applicant placement data, incorporating the variables associated with Match applicants. This paper will demonstrate the placement rates of applicants participating in the 2023 Main Residency Match.

### Match Participant Categories

*Registered Applicants:* In each Match cycle, there are applicants who register for the Match but do not certify a rank order list and therefore, do not participate in the matching algorithm.

However, if eligible, these applicants may participate in SOAP. The NRMP considers those who receive a position through SOAP as placed, but not “matched,” as they did not certify a rank order list and receive a position when the algorithm was run. Reasons applicants register for the Match but do not submit a rank order list likely include ineligibility to participate in the Main Residency Match, a change in decision about applying to programs, or a decision only to participate in SOAP as a result of not receiving interviews. The NRMP does not provide an application service or interview platform; therefore, it has no data pertaining to these decisions and cannot ultimately determine why an applicant does not submit a rank order list.

**Active Applicant:** Applicant who certified a rank order list of programs and is included in the processing of the matching algorithm.

**Matched Applicant:** Active applicant and matched to a PGY-1 position using the matching algorithm.

**SOAP-Eligible Applicant:** Applicant who registered for the Main Residency Match, is verified as eligible to participate in SOAP, and who is either unmatched to a PGY-1 position when the matching algorithm was processed or who did not certify a rank order list.

**SOAP-Accepted Applicant:** Applicant who accepted a PGY-1 position during SOAP, regardless of whether they certified a rank order list to be used in the matching algorithm.

**SOAP-Accepted Active Applicant:** Applicant who certified a rank order list, **did not** match to a PGY-1 position when the algorithm was processed, **and did** accept a PGY-1 position during SOAP.

### Applicant Match and Placement Rates in the 2023 Main Residency Match

To demonstrate the aggregate Match Rate and Placement Rates in the 2023 Main Residency Match, the NRMP calculated the *Placement Rate – All Applicants* and the *Placement Rate – Active Applicants* (Table 1).

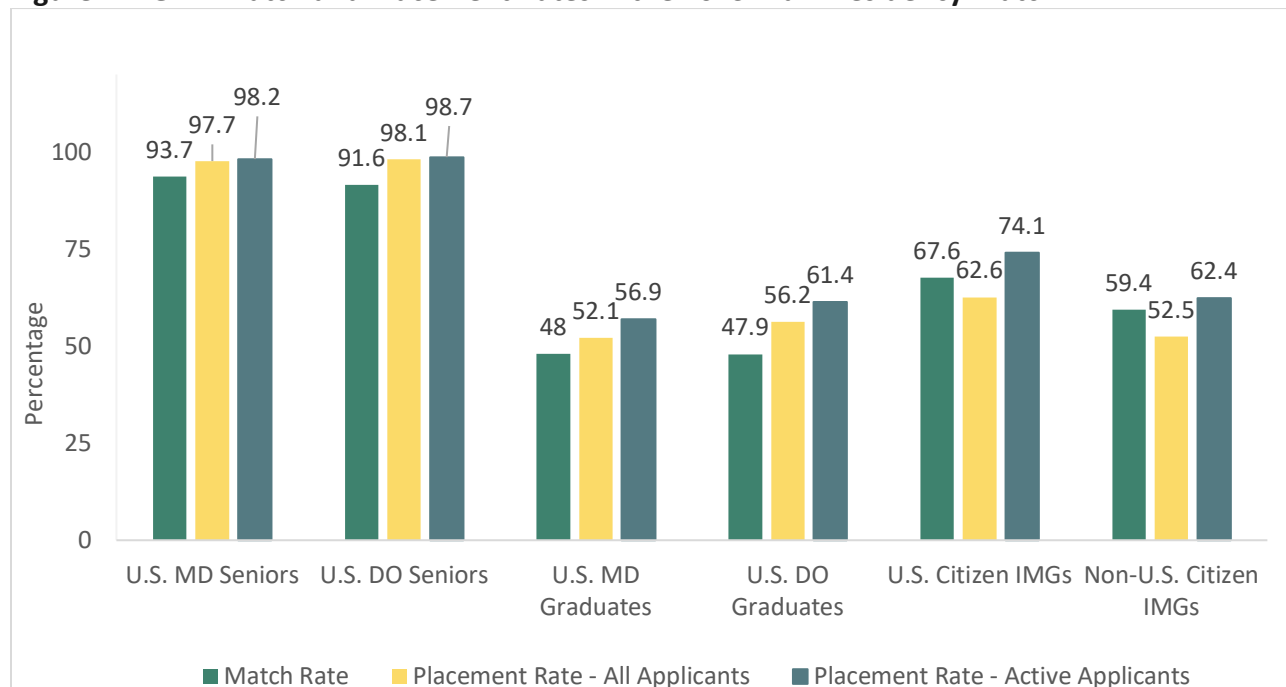
**Table 1: PGY-1 Aggregate Match and Placement Rates in the 2023 Main Residency Match**

	U.S. Seniors (MD and DO)	U.S. Graduates (MD and DO)	International Medical Graduates (IMGs) (U.S. and Foreign)	All Applicant Types
<b>Match Rate (algorithm) (N = 42,952)</b>	93.1%	47.9%	62.4%	81.1%
<b>Placement Rate-All Applicants (N = 46,050)</b>	97.9%	53.3%	56.3%	80.8%
<b>Placement Rate-Active Applicants (N = 42,952)</b>	98.3%	58.2%	66.7%	86.3%

Data for the 2023 Main Residency Match demonstrated Placement Rate – Active Applicants to be the highest of the three metrics across the three aggregate applicant groups i.e., U.S. Seniors, U.S. Graduates, International Medical Graduates (IMGs). The lowest rate for U.S. Seniors and U.S. Graduates is the Match Rate. Applicants educated in the U.S. are, collectively, the most competitive for training positions, so the Placement Rate – All Applicants increases for those groups when SOAP outcomes are included. For International Medical Graduates (IMGs), the Placement Rate – All Applicants is the lowest. Approximately 15 percent of IMGs who registered for the 2023 Main Residency Match did not submit a rank order list; it would stand to reason, then, that the rate would decline when including applicants who potentially lacked the interest or interview opportunities to submit a rank order list.

To further understand applicant data, Figure 1 reflects the Match Rate and Placement Rates for individual categories of applicants. Data demonstrated the Placement Rate - All Applicants was higher than Match Rate for all applicant types except U.S. citizen IMGs and non-U.S. citizen IMG's. These findings are consistent with data demonstrating there are fewer IMGs placed into a residency training position during the SOAP process. Data also revealed that the disparity in Match Rate between U.S. MD and DO Seniors is nearly extinguished when calculating Placement Rate.

**Figure 1: PGY-1 Match and Placement Rates in the 2023 Main Residency Match**



**Next Steps**

Beginning with the 2024 Main Residency Match, these new metrics will be incorporated into the *Results and Data* report released annually for the Main Residency Match. This will ensure

that primary-source data about outcomes is being disseminated to the medical education community by establishing standardized definitions and accurate calculations of Match and SOAP outcomes data.

The NRMP will also conduct a 10-year retrospective, longitudinal analysis of Match and Placement Rate data, documenting trends in these rates over time. This analysis of historical data will allow for other important factors to be considered including applicant growth versus the growth in the number of positions; important because the increase in the number of applicants each year is different than the increase in number of positions.

For questions, please contact the NRMP at [support@nrmp.org](mailto:support@nrmp.org).

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For more than seventy years, the National Resident Matching Program® (NRMP®) has fulfilled its mission of providing matching services to the medical education community through a process that is fair, equitable, efficient, transparent, and reliable while also providing meaningful and accessible match data and analysis to stakeholders and to the community. As the Main Residency Match grows and evolves, NRMP continues to evaluate the data we provide to the community.