



SPECIAL REPORT
**COST TO STUDENTS OF A
 US MEDICAL EDUCATION
 2011-2012**



Summary

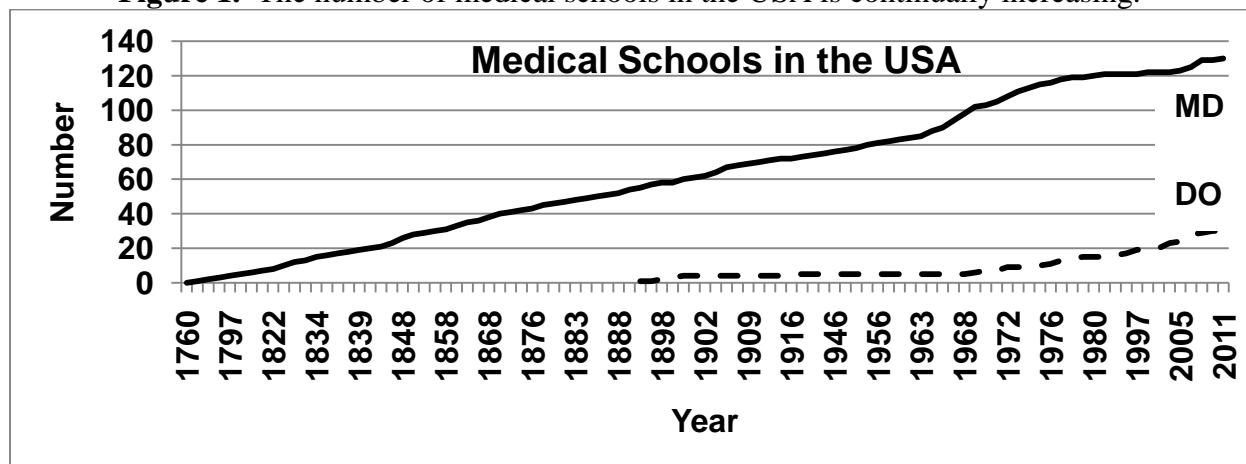
There are two types of medical schools in the USA, allopathic (MD) and osteopathic (DO). Medical education is delivered at 165 schools [135 MD (52 private and 83 public) and 30 DO (24 private and 6 public)] to a total of 94,565 students (Table 1), an average of 573 students per school. Graduates of these schools have equivalent medical practice rights in the USA.

There has been a steady increase in the number of MD schools since 1765 (Figure 1). DO schools began in 1832, but their numbers remained small until about 1975, when they began to experience rapid growth (Fig. 1).

The yearly cost to students for a US medical education is \$53,311- \$69,184 for MD schools, and \$62,875- \$65,265 for DO schools (Table 1). The current total student expenditures per year for a US medical education are estimated to be \$5.2 - \$6.5 billion.

In contrast, Canada, a country with a socialized health care system, has 15 MD schools that currently educate 9,824 students, an average of 655 students per school. Tuition at Canadian medical schools is less than half (34-46%) of that at US schools (Table 5).

Figure 1. The number of medical schools in the USA is continually increasing.



Expenditures by students for a US medical education are \$5.2 - \$6.5 billion for 2011-2012.

Table 1. Costs to students of a US medical education in 2011-2012.

Student Type	Number in 2011	Student Costs (median values)	Total Costs to Students
MD	75,138 ^a	\$53,311 ^a - \$69,184 ^a	\$4.0 - \$5.2 billion
DO	19,427 ^b	\$62,875 ^b - \$65,265 ^b	\$1.2 - \$1.3 billion
Total	94,565		\$5.2-6.5 billion

Notes: See ^aTable 2 and ^bTable 3 on pages 2 and 3.

Allopathic (MD):

Number of schools = 135 (52 private; 83 public)

Number of students = 75,138

Table 2. 2011 Financial Information (in \$US) [Ref. 1]:

Tuition & fees:	Number of schools ^a	Median	Average	Std. Dev.	Max.	Min.
a) In State	135	30,188	32,024 ^b	11,216 ^b	52,992	0
b) Out of State	133	46,251	45,389	10,076	78,282	0
Other (incl. living expenses):						
a) In State	135	21,313	21,650	4,136	33,185	0
b) Out of State	132	21,123	21,560	4,298	33,185	0
Health insurance:						
a) In State	135	1,810	1,838 ^b	1,109 ^b	4,585	0
b) Out of State	133	1,810	1,829 ^b	1,088 ^b	4,585	0
Percent receiving financial aid	130	90%	88% ^b	10% ^b	100%	0%
Avg. 2010 graduate indebtedness	130	135,111	134,052 ^b	42,193 ^b	206,426	0

Notes: ^aNumber of schools reporting the data. ^bThe data is not normally distributed; Std. Dev., standard deviation; Max., maximum; Min., minimum.

Total Costs for 2011 (median values):

a) In State: $\$(30,188 + 21,313 + 1,810) = \mathbf{\$53,311}$

b) Out of State: $\$(46,251 + 21,123 + 1,810) = \mathbf{\$69,184}$

Estimated cost for 4 year MD education, based on median values:

\$213,244 - \$276,736

Median 2010 graduate indebtedness:

\$135,111 (Range = \$0 - \$206,426)

Estimated amount spent on MD medical education in 2011, based on median values:

$[75,138 \text{ students} \times (\$53,311 - \$69,184)] = \mathbf{\$4.0 - \$5.2 \text{ billion}}$



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Osteopathic (DO):

Number of schools = 30 (24 Private; 6 public)

Number of students = 19,427

Table 3. 2011 Financial Information (in \$US) [Ref. 2]:

Tuition:	Number of schools ^a	Median	Average ^b	Std. Dev. ^b	Max.	Min.
a) Resident	29	37,908	36,157	8,769	49,219	11,606
b) Non-resident	25	40,300	41,320	9,004	73,731	26,803
Supplemental application fee:	29	50	64	33	200	0
Other fees:						
a) Resident	21	830	1,153	1,091	4,024	0
b) Non-resident	19	828	1,065	1,090	4,024	0
Health insurance	17	2,432	2,245	828	3,597	0
Estimated room, board, books, & living costs	30	21,655	24,332	4,845	38,891	15,000
2010 graduate indebtedness	23	185,782	187,792	33,248	290,000	131,630

Notes: ^aNumber of schools reporting the data. ^bThe data is not normally distributed; Std. Dev., standard deviation; Max., maximum; Min., minimum.

Total Costs for 2011 (median values):

a) Resident: $\$(37,908 + 50 + 830 + 2,432 + 21,655) = \mathbf{\$62,875}$ b) Non-resident: $\$(40,300 + 50 + 828 + 2,432 + 21,655) = \mathbf{\$65,265}$

Estimated cost for 4 year DO education, based on median values:

\$251,500 - \$261,060

Median 2010 graduate indebtedness:

\$185,782 (Range = \$131,630 - \$290,000)

Estimated amount spent on DO medical education in 2011, based on median values:

 $[19,427 \text{ students} \times (\$62,875 - \$65,265)] = \mathbf{\$1.2 - \$1.3 \text{ billion}}$ **College of
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Canadian Medical Schools

Total Number of Students = 9,824

Figure 2. The number of medical schools in Canada has not changed in 40 years.

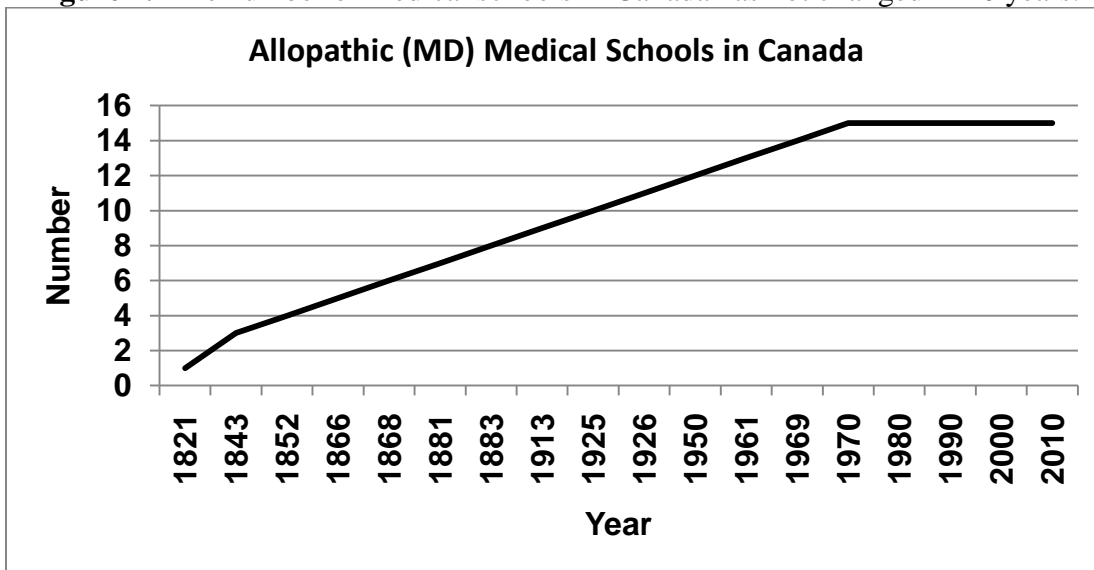


Table 4. 2011 Financial Information (in \$US) [Ref. 1]:

Tuition:	Number of schools ^a	Median	Average ^b	Std. Dev. ^b	Max.	Min.
a) Resident	16	12,937	12,606	6,403	21,567	1,800
b) Non-resident	12	18,666	29,032	27,732	109,282	8,500

Notes: ^aNumber of schools reporting the data. ^bThe data is not normally distributed; Std. Dev., standard deviation; Max., maximum; Min., minimum.

Tuition at Canadian medical schools is less than half (34-46%) of that at US schools (Table 5).

Table 5. Comparison of US and Canadian tuition data (median values).

Tuition:	US (MD)	US (DO)	Canada
a) In State / Resident	30,188	37,908	12,937 ^a
b) Out of State / Non-resident	46,251	40,300	18,666 ^b

Notes: ^a34-43% and ^b40-46% of US values.

References:

1. Medical School Admission Requirements 2012-2013; www.aamc.org
2. Osteopathic Medical Education Information Book 2012; www.aacom.org



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