
Nevada Health Workforce Research Center

Graduate Medical Education Trends in Northern Nevada – 2009 to 2018

Tabor Griswold, PhD, and John Packham, PhD
October 2018

Key Findings

Graduate Medical Education Trends in Northern Nevada – 2009 to 2018 contains current information about physicians (MDs and DOs) who have completed residency and fellowship programs in northern Nevada. This research brief utilizes data from an annual survey of physicians completing graduate medical education (GME) in Nevada over the past decade. The survey has been undertaken by the Office of Statewide Initiatives (OSI) at the University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine since 2004. The OSI survey data contained in this report is supplemented with licensure data from the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners and the Nevada State Board of Osteopathic Medicine.

Table 1: Post-Residency Employment, Training, and Location Plans of Physicians Completing GME in Nevada – 2018

	Begin Clinical Practice	Continue Training	Total
Remaining in Nevada	11 (28.2%)	2 (5.1%)	13 (33.3%)
Leaving Nevada	16 (41.0%)	10 (25.7%)	26 (66.7%)
Total	27 (69.2%)	12 (30.8%)	39 (100.0%)

Table 1 highlights the post-residency plans of the 39 physicians who graduated from GME programs in northern Nevada in 2018. In 2018, 33.3% of physicians completing GME training report that they will remain in Nevada upon graduation, whereas a majority of graduates (66.7%) intend to relocate to another state. A key finding of this report is that 10 of the 12 physicians pursuing additional training (83.3%) are leaving the state for fellowship and subspecialty training that does not exist in Nevada. This finding suggests that the development of fellowship programs in Nevada holds the potential for increasing the number and percent of GME graduates who ultimately remain in Nevada to begin practice. Finally, 11 physicians (28.2%) of northern Nevada GME graduates plan to practice in Nevada.

Figure 1 presents data on the post-residency plans of physicians completing GME in northern Nevada from 2009 to 2018. Over the past decade, the number of GME graduates in northern Nevada has increased by 169.5% from 23 graduates in 2009 to 39 graduates in 2018. However, over the decade, the proportion of GME graduates who remained in Nevada upon graduation has varied widely from 35.9% to 60.9%. Particularly, the retention rate exceeded 50% only four times over the past decade. These trend data highlight the there remains a substantial proportion of GME graduates leaving the state for fellowship training that does not exist in Nevada.

Figure 1: Post-Residency Employment, Training, and Location Plans of Physicians Completing GME in Nevada – 2009 to 2018

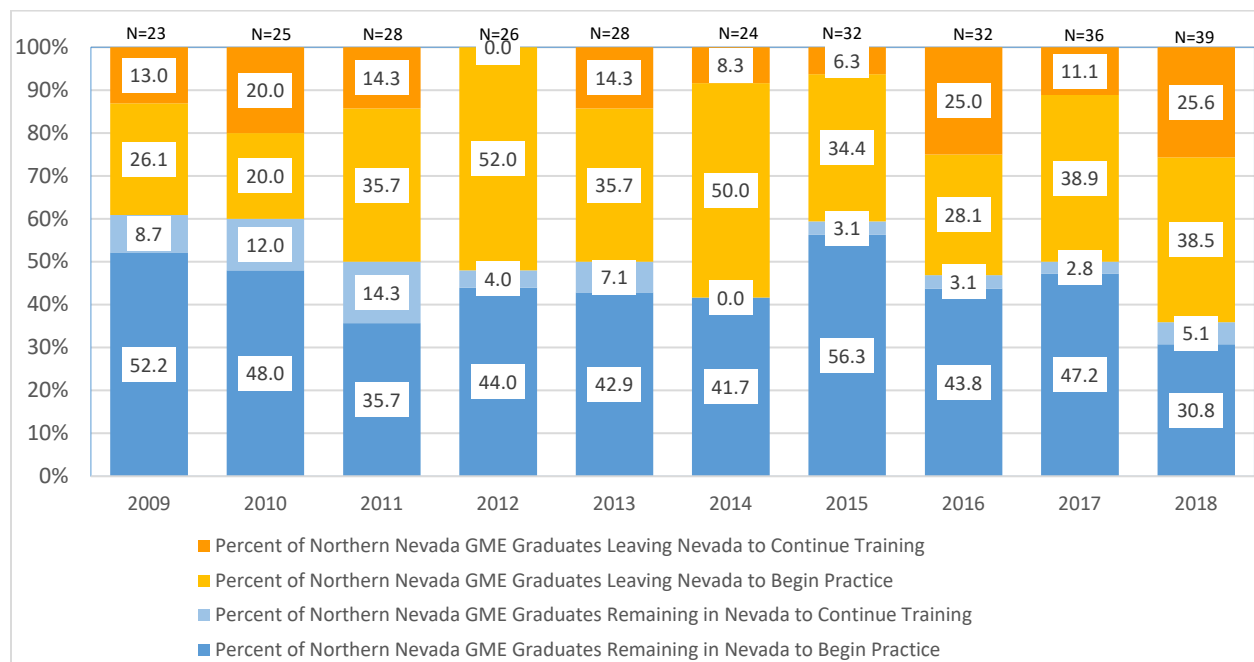
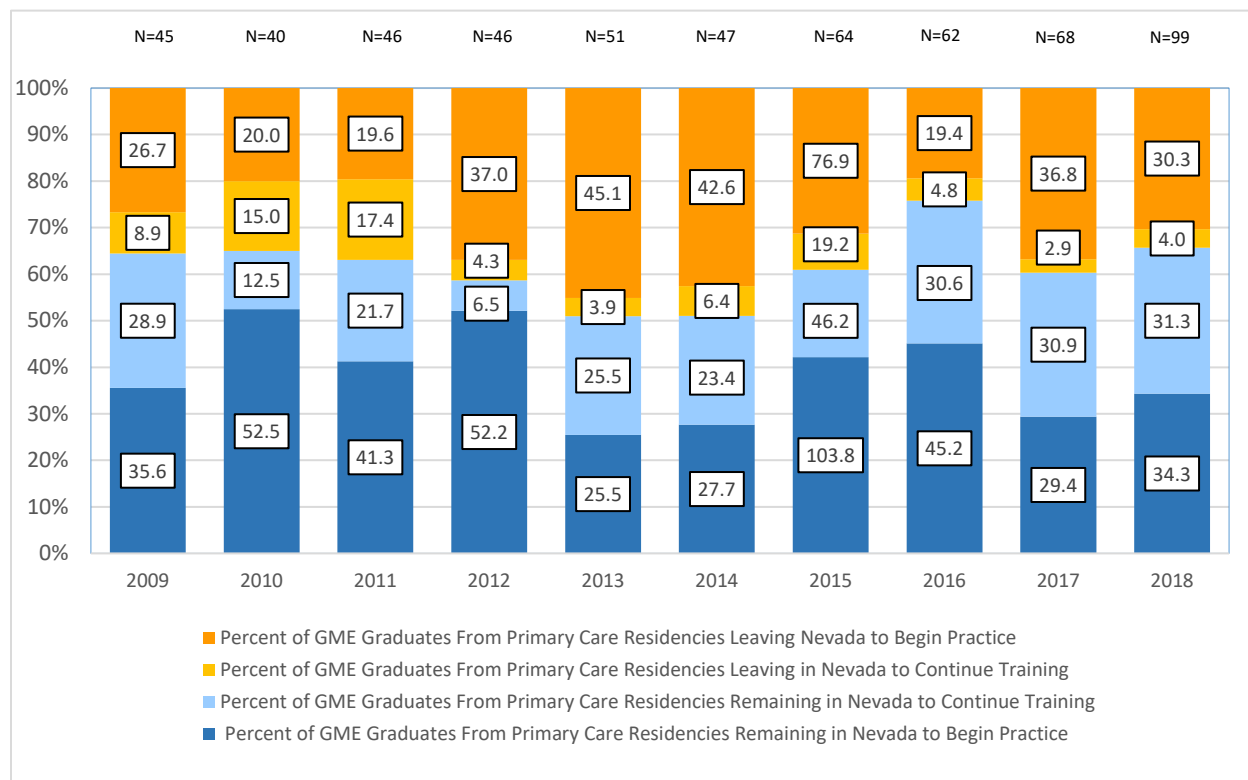


Figure 2 presents data on the post-residency plans of physicians completing primary care residency programs – Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, and Pediatrics – in Northern Nevada from 2009 to 2018. Over the past decade, the number of primary care GME graduates in Northern Nevada increased by 42.9% from 14 graduates in 2009 to 20 graduates in 2018.

In contrast to the general retention trends presented in the previous figure, Figure 2 highlights the fact that a majority of primary care GME graduates remain in northern Nevada upon graduation. Primary care retention rates have exceeded 50% over the past decade, ranging from 42.0% to 81.8%. In 2018, 66.6% of physicians completing primary care GME programs report that they will remain in Nevada upon graduation, as compared to only 33.4% of primary care GME graduates who plan to relocate to another state to begin practice or pursue additional training.

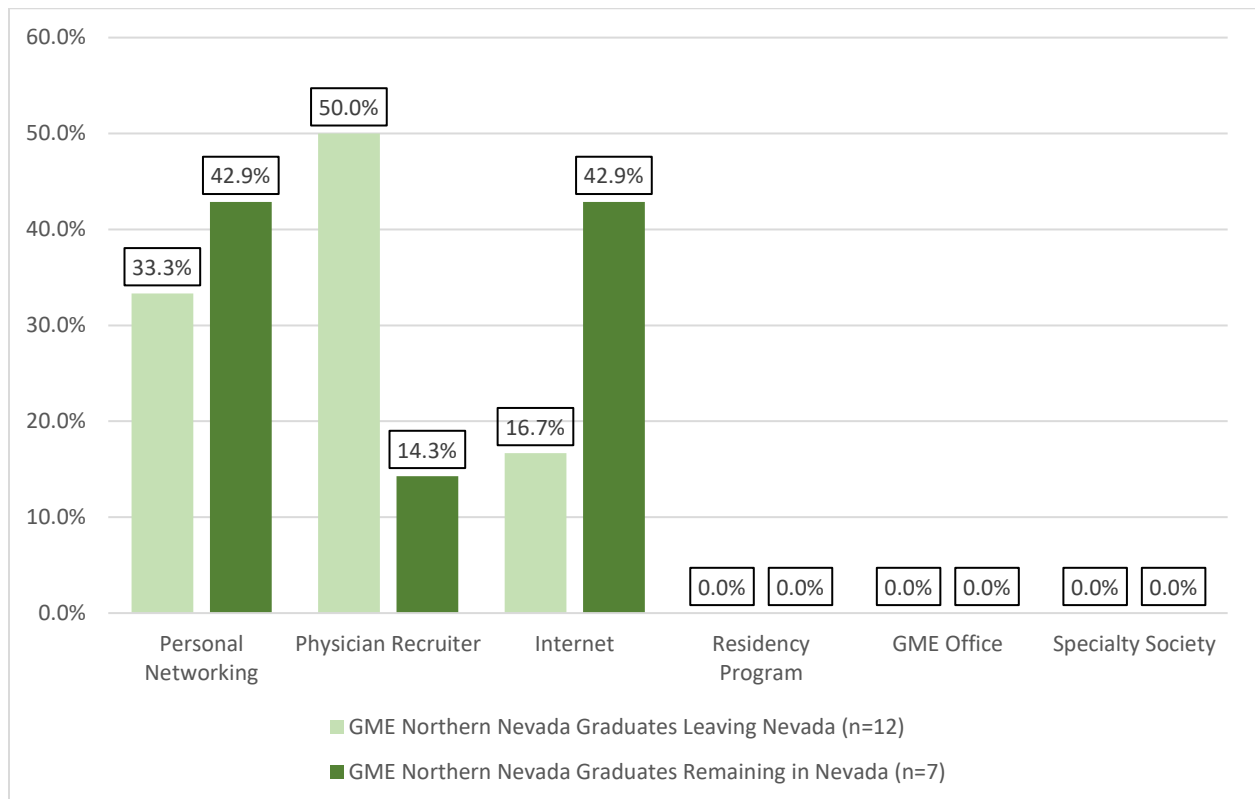
Figure 2: Post-Residency Employment, Training, and Location Plans of Primary Care Physicians Completing GME in Nevada – 2009 to 2018



Figures 3 and 4 illustrate, respectively, the variety of job search tools used by GME graduates and the level of debt of incurred by physicians completing GME in northern Nevada – key factors that affect a physician’s decision to remain or leave the state to begin practice or pursue additional training.

Figure 3 suggests important differences in job search strategies utilized by physicians remaining in Nevada, as compared those who leave the state after completing GME. In 2018, physicians remaining in Nevada used personal networking (42.9%) much more than those leaving the state (26.8%).

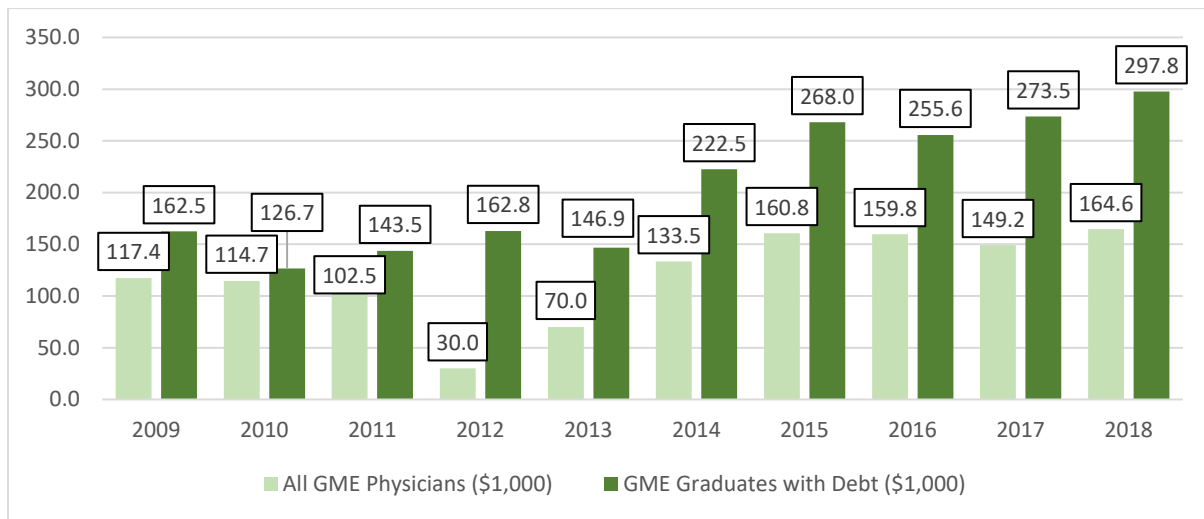
Figure 3: Job Search Tools Used by Physicians Completing GME in Nevada – 2018



Likewise, physicians leaving Nevada used physician recruiters (42.9%) much more than those who remain in the state (13.5%). Data from previous GME exit surveys undertaken by the Office of Statewide Initiatives suggest an overall decline in the use of personal networking and a steady increase in the use of physician recruiters by GME graduates in their professional job searches.

Figure 4 summarizes the average level of debt of physicians completing residencies and fellowships in Nevada over the past decade. The figure highlights the fact that a significant proportion of GME graduates – primarily foreign medical students – have no debt upon graduation. For example, while the average level of debt for all physicians completing GME in Nevada has decline over the past three years, the level of debt for those reporting any level of debt has exceeded \$250,000 for the past four years.

Figure 4: Educational Debt of Physicians Completing GME Programs in Nevada – 2009 to 2018



Discussion

The purpose of this research brief is to summarize key trends in the retention of physicians completing residencies and fellowships in Nevada, as well as some of the important factors affecting a physician’s decision to remain in or leave Nevada. While the report highlights a steady increase in the number of physicians completing GME in Nevada over the past decade, it also underscores opportunities to improve retention and increase the supply of physicians in Nevada through the continued expansion of fellowship programs and subspecialty training in surgery, emergency medicine, internal medicine, and pediatrics.



University of Nevada, Reno
School of Medicine