Home Program Surgery Match Trends by Medical School Campus Site

Ashley C. Qualls, BS; William B. Fox, BS
University of Illinois College of Medicine Rockford, Rockford, IL

INTRODUCTION

Match Day is a national day recognized by physicians across the country because it is the day that fourth year medical students find out what residency program that they will continue their medical career at.

- General surgery and subspecialty surgery matches are known to be competitive and to rely heavily on surgeon letters of recommendation.
- Trends from previous studies show that students have a small advantage at their home program.
- Physicians and residents at home programs have a longer amount of time, the time that the medical student spent on rotations, to get to know the applying student and come to the consensus on if they would be a good fit for that program or not.

This study analyzes whether this trend is shown within a program that has multiple campus sites and affiliated residency programs.

HYPOTHESIS

Due to having a home residency program, it is suspected that students who attend either the Peoria or Chicago campus will have a higher rate of surgery matches at their home program and higher rate of surgery matches to any institution.

METHODS

The official website of the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Chicago/Peoria/Rockford was used to tabulate and compare surgery residency match data from 2013-2023.

- Surgery match rates to be compared by campus and surgery home residency program match rates to be compared by campus site.

Inclusion criteria: any type of preliminary or categorical surgery match: general, vascular, plastics, etc
Exclusion criteria: included applicants who matched after a gap year or alumni matches

- Averages were then calculated for each campus on surgery match rates and surgery match rates to home programs in general (either at the residency program in Chicago or Peoria).
- The confounding variable of number of students within each campus's program was addressed by taking the average number of surgical matches to non-surgical matches within the class for each given year.
- An ANOVA analysis was run on each of these categories to determine statistical significance.

RESULTS

- The overall trend in data showed that students at the Peoria campus had the highest number of average surgery matches with an average of 17.3% of match candidates between the years 2013-2023 matching a surgical specialty.
- UIC's Rockford campus had an average of 12.9% of people matching into a surgical specialty.
- University of Illinois College of Medicine: Chicago had an average of 13% of people matching into surgical specialties.
- The Chicago campus was found to have a higher average number of surgery matches to home residency program; either in Peoria or Chicago.
- UICOM: Chicago had an average of 21.1% of applicants matching at either the residency program in Peoria or Chicago while Rockford had an average of 12.5% and Peoria had an average of 6.6%.
- ANOVA analysis of the data showed that there is statistical significance that applicants have a higher rate at matching a surgical specialty at their home program in comparison to all students who are matching a surgical residency.

CONCLUSION

Match data is important in helping applicants best prepare and strategize for residency interviews and away rotations. Students want to ensure that they are the best applicants possible so that they have the best opportunity at matching to a program that will mold them into being a capable surgeon.

- This data supports the widely accepted trend that other studies have proven; one has the best chance at matching within their home program for a surgical residency.
- This data is unique in that it allows comparison to a campus site without a "home program" surgical residency within the city of the medical school. As the Rockford campus's only affiliated surgical residencies are in Peoria and Chicago.
- Despite this, the national trend in data is still upheld. While it is unsure the exact factors that maintain this phenomenon, it is an area for further research to provide the best data for students to make decisions on during the residency application cycle.

UIC UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
ROCKFORD