Intealth™
Advancing the Global Health Workforce

ECFMG FAIMER

Recent Immigration Actions: What's Real and What's Not

Tracy Wallowicz, MLS
Senior Vice President, Regulatory Affairs
and Chief Communications Officer

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About Intealth

- **Announced in late 2021**
- **Introduced a new corporate identity** supporting the global health workforce and representing our divisions, ECFMG and FAIMER
- **Integrates the expertise and resources** of ECFMG and FAIMER under one strategic framework
- **Establishes a strong foundation** for continued growth and diversification
- **Enhances our ability** to meet the evolving needs of stakeholders worldwide

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About International Medical Graduates (IMGs)

DEFINITION: An IMG is any physician who received their medical degree from a medical school outside of the United States, regardless of country of citizenship. This includes:

- Any **U.S. citizen or permanent resident** who received a medical degree from a school outside of the United States (US IMG)
- **Foreign nationals** who received a medical degree outside of the United States + require a visa for U.S. GME
  - Foreign nationals who graduate from a medical school in the United States are not considered IMGs, but **still require a visa** to participate in U.S. GME



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Overview



The U.S. healthcare system currently cannot function without international medical graduates (IMGs)



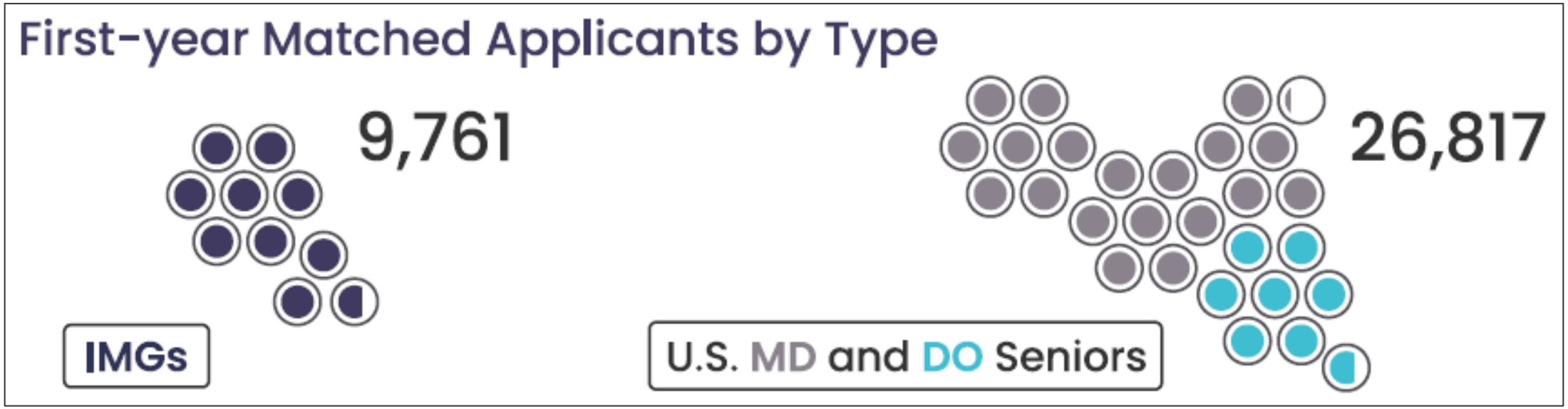
1 in 4 physicians in practicing in the United States is an IMG (this includes U.S. IMGs)



Nearly a third (1 in 3) of practicing physicians in the United States came from abroad to train in the US (17%) or they are the child of an immigrant (13%)

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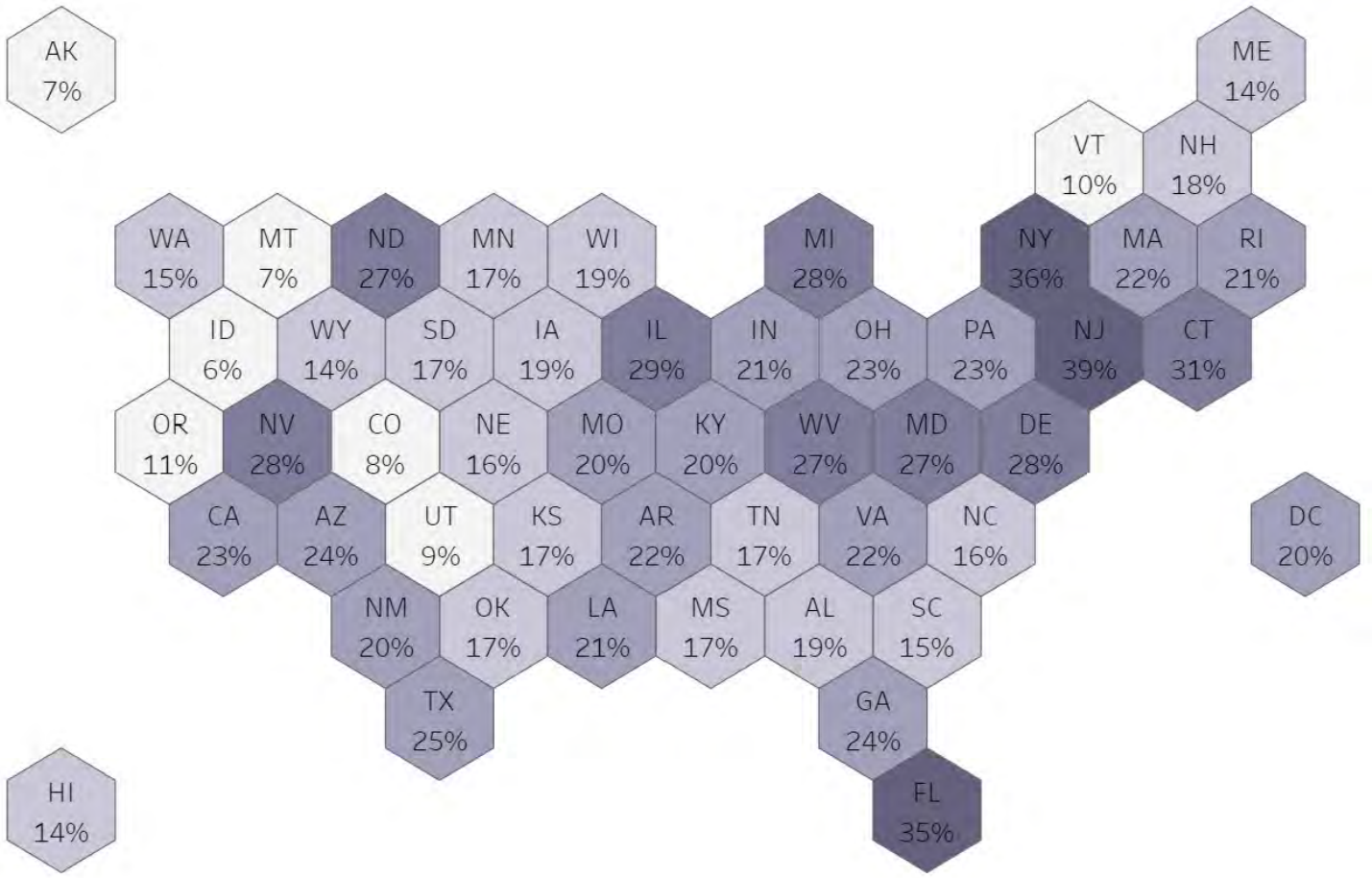
2025 Match



** About 28% of Pediatrics first-year residency positions filled in 2025 were matched by IMGs.*

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IMGs in Active Practice by State



	% IMG
All Active Physicians	24%
Idaho (min)	6%
New Jersey (max)	39%

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Recent Immigration Issues Impacting IMGs

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Why This Conversation Matters Right Now…

Immigration headlines sometimes move faster than policy reality:

- Rapid announcements, pauses, and proclamations create confusion
- Social media amplifies partial or incorrect interpretations
- Teaching hospitals and IMGs may want to react, even when policy does not change eligibility

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Two Ground Rules Before We Start

Understanding immigration starts with two distinctions

Visa ≠ Status: A visa allows entry; status governs the ability to live, train, and work in the U.S.

Immigration action ≠ immigration impact: Not every announcement changes what physicians or programs can do

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What You May Have Heard…

"Visas for 75 countries are paused."

"J-1 physicians can't enter the U.S."

"Travel bans mean residents won't be able to start."

"H-1B fee applies to everyone."

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Who Should Be Concerned vs. Reassured

Recent immigration actions do **not** affect all physicians or programs the same way.

- Residents and fellows **already in valid J-1 or H-1B status**
  → Generally **reassured**; training and work authorization continue
- **Incoming residents** requiring a new visa appointment abroad
  → **Monitor timing**; appointment availability matters
- Individuals from **countries subject to travel restrictions**
  → **Case-specific review** required; exemptions may apply
- **Immigrant visa (green card) applicants processing abroad**
  → **Procedural delays only**; nonimmigrant training is unaffected

Key point: Impact is **situational**, not universal.

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What's Not Real

- There is **no blanket pause** on nonimmigrant visas
- J-1 and H-1B physicians are **not barred** from training or employment
- Immigrant visa (green card) actions do not change nonimmigrant training authorization
- Visa expiration does not equal loss of lawful status

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What is Real

- Temporary visa appointment pauses and rescheduling
- Increased documentation and security vetting
- Layered travel restrictions for certain countries
- Uncertainty

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Five Specific Issues Since June 2025

01

Visa Appointment Pause

02

Presidential Proclamation Introducing Travel Ban

03

Proposed Regulatory Change Regarding "Duration of Status"

04

Presidential Proclamation Introducing H-1B Fee

05

Pause on Immigrant Visa Issuance for 75 Countries

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What Has Not Changed

- Despite recent headlines, the core framework for physician training remains stable.
- Eligibility for **J-1 and H-1B** residency and fellowship training
- Sponsorship, oversight, and reporting requirements
- Ability of residents and fellows to **train, work, and maintain status**
- Longstanding immigration pathways for IMGs exist

Key point: Most recent actions affect **how cases are processed**, not **who qualifies**.

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What Has Actually Changed: The Big Picture

Recent actions affect *process*, not *eligibility*

- *Most* recent developments focus on how cases are reviewed, not who qualifies
- Nonimmigrant physician categories remain intact, with the exception of the “travel bans”
- Confusion stems from overlapping policies and uneven implementation

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1. May 2025 Appointment Pause: Social Media Vetting

What Happened

- On May 27, 2025, the U.S. Department of State initiated a pause in visa processing while implementing new security review procedures.
- The pause primarily impacted nonimmigrant visa applicants, including J-1 physicians in the Exchange Visitor Program.
- Applicants were unable to schedule new appointments; some experienced unexpected cancellations and reschedulings.

IMPORTANT: Appointments resumed on June 18, 2025, with a directive to consular posts to prioritize J-1 physicians.

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2. June 2025 Presidential Proclamation: Travel Ban / Restrictions

Tier 1 Full suspension of entry: all citizens barred from entering the United States	Tier 2 Partial suspension of entry: citizens seeking certain visa classifications, including J-1, barred from entering the United States
Afghanistan, Burma (Myanmar), Chad, Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen	Burundi, Cuba, Laos, Sierra Leone, Togo, Turkmenistan, and Venezuela

Exemptions:

- U.S. lawful permanent residents (green card holders)
- Individuals with valid visas issued prior to the proclamation
- Dual nationals traveling on a passport from a non-designated country
- **Certain individuals traveling on diplomatic or humanitarian grounds**

Intealth sponsoring 117 initial applicants from "travel ban" countries this year.
More than half had their visas before the ban took effect on June 9.

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3. Duration of Status

- Reemergence of an issue first introduced by the previous Trump administration in 2020
- Would significantly modify admission and extension procedures for nonimmigrant students, exchange visitors, and foreign media representatives
- Goal is to replace *Duration of Status (D/S)* with fixed time periods for admission
- Comment period closed September 29, 2025

*"Establishing a Fixed Time Period of Admission and an Extension of Stay Procedure for Nonimmigrant Academic Students, **Exchange Visitors**, and Representatives of Foreign Information Media"*

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4. H-1B Presidential Proclamation

On October 3, 2025, a coalition of H-1B employers, unions, educational institutions, religious organizations, and H-1B employees filed a lawsuit challenging the Proclamation.

Proclamation issued Sept. 19, 2025

Imposes new $100,000 fee for certain H-1B petitions filed on/after Sept. 21, 2025

Not impacted:

- Extensions, amendments, or change-of-employer cases

Physician implications include:

- All new entrants from outside of the United States after Sept. 21, 2025
- Employers must cover fee; cannot shift to physicians
- National interest exemption exists, unclear whether these will be successful

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5. Immigrant Visa Pause (75 Countries)

- Applies only to certain immigrant visas processed abroad
- Does **not** affect J-1 or H-1B residents and fellows
- Training, employment authorization, and sponsorship for trainees remain unchanged except where there is overlap with “travel ban”

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Why These Still Feel Disruptive

“Unaffected” does not mean “unfelt” *(Trainee + Program)*

Delayed start dates and onboarding uncertainty *(Trainee + Program)*

Family separation and dependent visa backlogs *(Trainee)*

Financial strain from travel changes and legal costs *(Trainee)*

Cognitive load of policy monitoring *(Trainee + Program)*

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Policy Effects on IMG Well-Being

1. **Psychological Stress & Uncertainty**
   - Visa delays → delayed start dates → loss of income & educational continuity
   - Constant policy changes → feelings of instability and lack of control
2. **Social & Family Strain**
   - Backlogs for dependents prolong separation
   - Emotional fatigue from remote family support
3. **Practical & Financial Burden**
   - Additional legal / documentation costs
   - Time spent navigating complex systems instead of clinical focus
4. **Disrupted Career Trajectories**
   - Interrupted training timelines
   - Reduced opportunities for planned mentorship & orientation

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What Programs Can Reinforce

Clear, calm, and accurate messaging matters

- “Your training and authorization remain intact.”
- “We are monitoring changes and will communicate updates.”
- “Questions should be escalated early, don’t assume.”
- “Feel free to reach out to your sponsor (if J-1).”

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What Not to Do

Common mistakes that increase anxiety

- Forwarding headlines without context
- Overgeneralizing from unrelated immigration actions
- Offering legal advice without expertise
- Staying silent when reassurance is needed

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What Intealth is Doing

- Ongoing engagement with policymakers
- Case-level troubleshooting and pattern recognition
- Policy monitoring, advocacy, and institutional guidance

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Three Takeaways to Remember

If you remember nothing else…

1. Most recent immigration actions affect **process**, not **eligibility**
2. J-1 and H-1B training continues, but planning buffers matter
3. Clear communication reduces harm, even when policy is stable

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Conclusion and Discussion

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twallowicz@intealth.org

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