

Gender and Demographic Disparities in Radiology Residency Applications



A recent examination of residency programme data spanning from 2013 to 2022 reveals a significant gender gap in applications to radiology residency programmes compared to other specialties. Over this period, the proportion of female applicants to radiology residencies was nearly 21% lower than those applying to other programmes.

Gender Disparity in Radiology Residency Applications

Although women constituted close to half of all residency applicants during the studied timeframe, findings published in *Academic Radiology* show that they represented just over a quarter of applicants to diagnostic and integrated interventional radiology residencies. Researchers analysed aggregate data from the Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS) to investigate the gender, racial, and ethnic composition of applicants to these radiology programmes compared to non-radiology programmes.

Recognising Demographic Patterns in Radiology Residency Applications

The study reveals that only 27.63% of radiology residency applicants were women, contrasting starkly with the 48.08% of applicants to non-radiology programmes. Additionally, international medical graduates (IMGs) made up 33.54% of radiology residency applicants, slightly lower than the 40.67% applying to non-radiology programmes. The research also highlights lower percentages of African American and Hispanic, Latino, and Spanish origin applicants to radiology residencies compared to non-radiology programmes. However, there were higher proportions of Asian and American Indian or Alaska Native (AIAN) applicants to radiology programmes.

Addressing Disparities in Radiology Residency Applications

Yet, the study acknowledges limitations, including ambiguity in the ERAS dataset regarding applicants' ultimate programme placements and a lack of detailed demographic statistics for IMGs and United States medical graduates (USMGs). To address these disparities, the study suggests tailored educational programmes to introduce radiology early in training, promoting diversity in leadership roles, and tackling issues related to gender discrimination. Moreover, enhancing outreach and mentorship initiatives for individuals from underrepresented backgrounds is crucial for fostering diversity and inclusivity within the field of radiology.

Source: [Academic Radiology](#)

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