

# Underrepresentation of Black, Latinx, and Indigenous Communities in Medicine & Dermatology

**Underrepresented in medicine** is a term used to describe racial and ethnic groups that aren't represented in medicine as they are in the general population. The term was coined and defined by the American Association of Medical Colleges.

## Matriculants to U.S Medical Schools by Race/ Ethnicity, 2021-2022 <sup>1</sup>

**9,573**  
White only

**2,124**  
Black, African  
American only

**1,574**  
Hispanic, Latino,  
Spanish Origin only

**40**  
American Indian,  
Alaska Native only

Out of 22,647 matriculants

## Residents selected into Dermatology in 2021 (US and Canada) <sup>2</sup>

**804**  
White only

**74**  
Black, African  
American only

**98**  
Hispanic, Latino,  
Spanish Origin only

**11**  
American Indian,  
Alaska Native only

Out of 1,363 residents

Several factors contribute to the lack of diversity in medical school and dermatology: <sup>3</sup>



**Lack of Mentorship**



**Decreased awareness** of the specialty during medical school



**Socioeconomic barriers** associated with the application process



**Implicit Bias** during resident selections

The lack of diversity in medical education and resources for dermatology training **affects the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of skin disorders** as they can appear differently on varying skin tones. <sup>4</sup>

## Sources

1. Table A-9: Matriculants to U.S. MD-granting medical schools by ... - AAMC. (n.d.). Retrieved February 17, 2023, from <https://www.aamc.org/media/6031/download?attachment>
2. Table B5. number of active MD residents, by Race/ethnicity (alone or in combination) and GME Specialty. AAMC. (n.d.). Retrieved February 17, 2023, from <https://www.aamc.org/data-reports/students-residents/interactive-data/report-residents/2022/table-b5-md-residents-race-ethnicity-and-specialty>
3. Montañez-Wiscovich, M. E., Brioso Rubio, X., & Torres, A. (2020). Dermatology leadership and a top-down approach to increasing diversity. *Clinics in Dermatology*, 38(3), 316–320. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.clindermatol.2020.02.006>
4. Perlman, K. L., Klein, E. J., & Park, J. H. (2020). Racial disparities in dermatology training: the impact on black patients. *Cutis*, 106(6), 300–301. <https://doi.org/10.12788/cutis.0135>