

Title: Comparison of trends in Obstetrics and Gynecology Residency Applications from 2011 to 2021:  
State of the Specialty

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### Background

Limited information exists regarding how Obstetrics and Gynecology residency compares to other specialties with regard to “competitiveness”. We hypothesized the number of students applying to Obstetrics and Gynecology is rising at a faster rate compared with other surgical specialties while the number of available positions has increased to a smaller extent. Knowledge of the current state of Obstetrics and Gynecology residency trends is critical for successfully advising students preparing for the match.

### Methods

We used National Resident Matching Program Results and Data files for years 2011 and 2021 to extract the data for number of total positions, total matches, number of US MD senior applicants, and MD senior applicant matches among surgical specialties participating in the NRMP. We then calculated percent change in each of these parameters and the ratio of growth in the number of positions to growth in the number of applications to establish a normative comparison between the specialties.

### Results

The number of US MD seniors applying to Obstetrics and Gynecology increased by 33.1 percent between the years 2011 and 2021, and was the third highest among surgical specialties. The growth in positions offered was the second lowest among surgical specialties at 22 percent. Among all specialties participating in the NRMP, Obstetrics and Gynecology had the third lowest ratio of growth in positions to growth in number of applicants at 0.64. Among surgical specialties, Obstetrics and Gynecology ranked second only to Otolaryngology in this metric. Lastly, Obstetrics and Gynecology, along with Neurosurgery and Otolaryngology, was among the specialties in which the growth in the number of applicants outpaced the growth in the number of available positions.

### Discussion

Obstetrics and Gynecology is becoming increasingly more competitive as measured by the ratio of the number of applicants to available positions.

### Percent Change in NRMP Match Trends from 2011 to 2021

