

Characteristics of International Medical Graduates (IMGs) in the U.S. Family Medicine Workforce

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Introduction

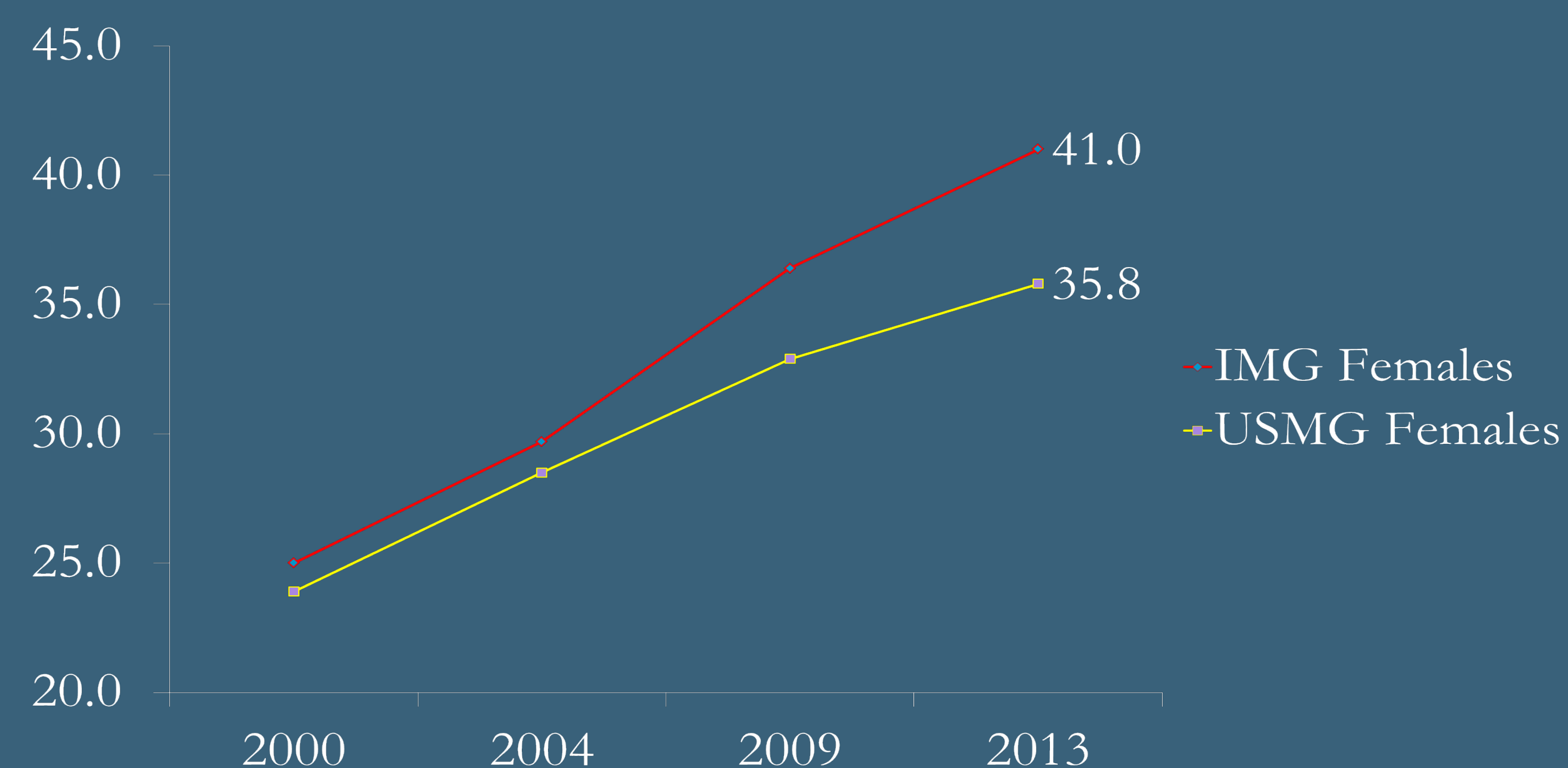
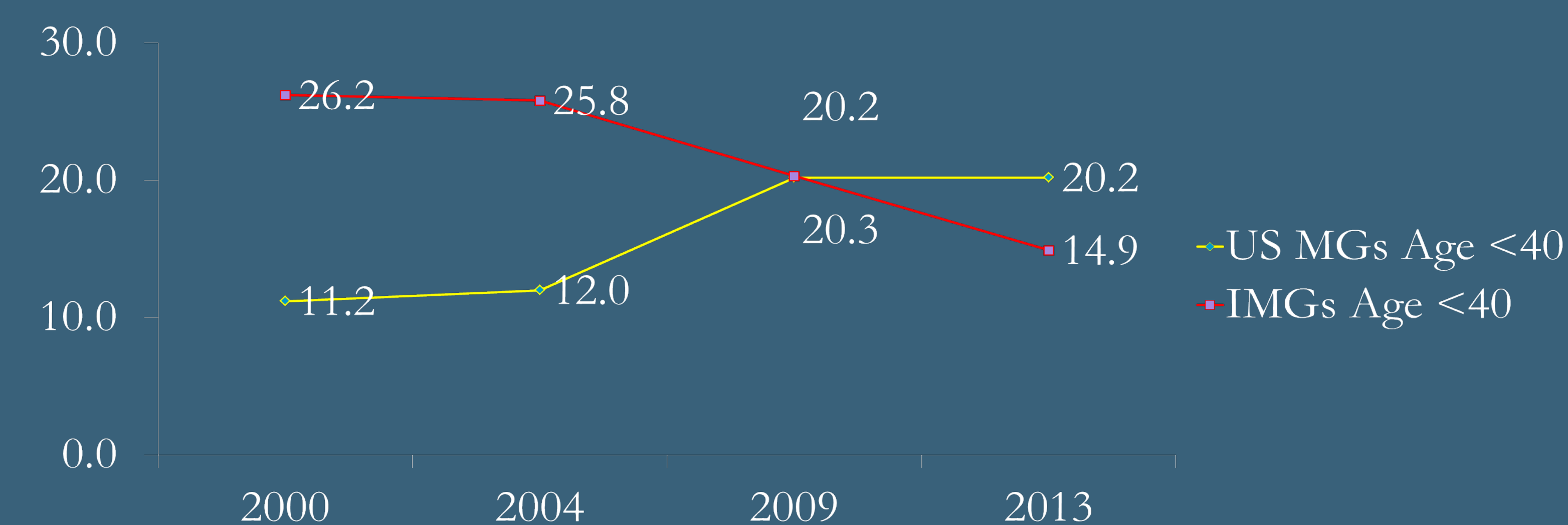
- There has been a steady increase in the number of international medical graduates (IMGs) in the US health workforce since the 1970s.
- Understanding characteristics of IMGs and source countries of IMGs has policy implications for the US and source countries.
- This study describes the role of IMGs in the U.S. family medicine workforce from 2000 to 2013.

Methods

- The AMA Physician Masterfile was used to describe practicing family physicians including IMGs and USMGs in the United States from 2000 to 2013.
- This study analyzed trends in the number, demographics, and practice locations of IMGs compared with USMGs.

Family medicine workforce and composition

	2000		2004		2009		2013	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
USMGs	56,870	85.5	66,332	85.6	71,827	83.2	74,730	80.8
IMGs	9,632	14.5	11,199	14.4	14,504	16.8	17,808	19.2
All	66,502		77,531		86,331		92,538	



Results

- Number of IMGs increased from 9,632 in 2000 to 17,808 in 2013. The proportion of IMGs in the US family medicine workforce increased from 14.5% to 19.2% in the same period.
- IMGs under age 40 increased from 11% to 20% while the USMGs under age 40 decreased from 26% to 15%.
- Women are represented by increased percentages in both the IMG group (from 24% to 41%) and the USMG group (from 24% to 36%).
- IMGs in 2013 graduated from schools of 128 different nations, with India and the Philippines the top two source nations.
- The pattern of IMGs working in rural areas (11%) and underserved areas (21%) has not changed and is similar to that of USMGs.

Conclusions

- IMGs continue to increase their presence in the US family medicine workforce.
- The increasing U.S. reliance on medical graduates from low income nations to provide primary care remains controversial.



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