



# Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs

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## **Match Day 2026: Continuing the Work to Strengthen the Pediatric Workforce**

*Statement from the Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs  
(AMSPDC) Pediatrics Workforce Initiative*

The 2026 Match brings welcome excitement as a new group of trainees enters the profession. At the same time, the pediatric Match results underscore the importance of the AMSPDC Pediatrics Workforce Initiative (PWI) and the need for continued collaboration across the pediatric community. The 2026 categorical pediatrics Match was similar to the 2025 Match, with 3,126 positions offered and 2,951 filled for a 94.4% fill rate, leaving 175 positions unfilled. This represents a slight decline from 2025, when 3,135 positions were offered and 2,988 were filled for a match rate of 95.3%. The composition of matched applicants shifted, with declines among U.S. MD seniors (down 5%), U.S. DO seniors (down 4%), and U.S. IMGs (down 15%), while the number of non-U.S. IMGs increased (up 16%). We are grateful for the many partners and leaders across the pediatric community contributing to this work, and these results call for us to deepen our collective efforts to strengthen the field and support the future pediatric workforce.

Since 2020, AMSPDC, through the Pediatrics Workforce Initiative, has worked with partners across the pediatric community to advance a coordinated strategy to strengthen recruitment into pediatrics and support the long-term vitality of the field. That work includes strengthening the economic foundation of pediatric practice, expanding exposure to pediatrics across educational pathways, supporting innovation in care delivery to improve subspecialty access, and investing in the next generation of pediatric physician-scientists.

We know that students and trainees are paying attention not only to the meaning and mission of pediatrics, but also to the environment in which pediatricians practice. Concerns about reimbursement, financial sustainability, lifestyle, perceived value in the health care system, and the broader undervaluing of children's health all shape how learners view the field. At the same time, pediatricians across the country continue to speak to the extraordinary meaning, purpose, and joy found in caring for children and providing the foundation for lifelong health and well-being. For these reasons, the AMSPDC PWI will be refocusing our efforts on early exposure and mentorship opportunities coupled with enhanced recruitment strategies and innovative educational models to attract more students into pediatrics.

By coordinating our efforts across the greater pediatric community, we must continue to make the case for pediatrics early and often, expose learners to the breadth and impact of pediatric careers, address the structural and economic barriers that discourage entry into the field, and advocate for policies that reflect the true value of investing in child health.

Through the Pediatrics Workforce Initiative and in collaboration with partner organizations, AMSPDC remains committed to advancing practical solutions that strengthen recruitment into pediatrics, supporting training programs, and building a workforce equipped to meet the evolving needs of children and families. The future pediatric workforce must be strong, supported, and prepared - because the health of children depends on it.

Laura Degnon - Co-Leader, AMSPDC PWI

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