# Secondary Data Sources for Health Professions Education Research: Where to Look and What You Will Find

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## What do I want to study?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students and other trainees</th>
<th>Programs and pathways</th>
<th>Practitioners</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Demographics</td>
<td>Educational experiences</td>
<td>Demographics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preferences and attitudes</td>
<td>Curriculum content</td>
<td>Preferences and attitudes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Test scores</td>
<td>Decision points (e.g., specialty, training program)</td>
<td>Educational history</td>
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<td>Graduation rates</td>
<td>Program standards</td>
<td>Practice characteristics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Employment outcomes (e.g., specialty, location)</td>
<td>Program capacity</td>
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## Where do I look for the data?

### Training program organizations (e.g., AAMC, AACOM, PAEA, AACN, ACGME, ADEA)
- Data from entrance exams, application processes, institutions, assessments, and student surveys

### Professional organizations (e.g., AMA, AOA, ADA)
- Data from institutions

### Government agencies (e.g., NCES)
- Data from institutions

## What do I want to know about them?

- Demographics
- Preferences and attitudes
- Test scores
- Graduation rates
- Employment outcomes (e.g., specialty, location)

## Examples of organizations that collect the information (specific content will vary)

### Training program organizations (e.g., AAMC, AACOM, PAEA, AACN, ACGME, ADEA)
- Surveys of institutions, faculty, and trainees
- Curriculum inventory

### Accrediting bodies (e.g., LCME, ACGME, ACEN, CCNE, ARC-PA, CODA)
- Data from institutions

### Government agencies (e.g., NCES)
- Data from institutions

### Professional associations (e.g., AMA, AAPA, ADA)
- Surveys of members

### Government agencies (e.g., CMS, U.S. Census, BLS)
- Claims data
- Population surveys
- Employment data

### State licensure boards (states, FSMB, USMLE)
- Data collection during licensure process

### Certifying boards and agencies (e.g., ABMS, NCCPA, AADB)
- Surveys of members

## What has been done with the data?

### Examples of Academic Medicine articles using some of the sources listed above

- Positioning Medical Assistants for a Greater Role in the Era of Health Reform
  (Based on NCES data)
- Learning About Medical Student Mistreatment From Responses to the Medical School Graduation Questionnaire
  (Based on AAMC data)

### The Road to an Academic Medicine Career: A National Cohort Study of Male and Female U.S. Medical Graduates
  (Based on AAMC data)

### Educational and Individual Factors Associated With Positive Change in and Reaffirmation of Medical Students’ Intention to Practice in Underserved Areas
  (Based on AAMC data)

### Thirty Years Training Rural Physicians: Outcomes From the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine Rural Physician Program
  (Based on AMA data)

### Specialty Certification Status, Performance Ratings, and Disciplinary Actions of Internal Medicine Residents
  (Based on AMA, FSMB, and USMLE data)

A list of acronyms and full citations for the listed scholarly publications is available in Supplemental Digital Appendix 1 at http://links.lww.com/ACADMED/A392.

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