

Factors Associated with Medical Graduates' Intentions to Practice Patient Care

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Introduction

- Predicted **physician shortage** of 37,800 to 124,000 physicians by 2034
- Greater pressure to graduate full-time clinicians
- Graduates' decision to practice full-time vs part-time unknown

Research Question

What factors are associated with medical school graduates' intentions to pursue full-time patient care vs part-time or no patient care?

Methods

Data

Graduation Questionnaire (GQ) from the Association of American Medical Colleges

- Annual national survey administered to fourth year U.S. allopathic medical students

Analysis

- Multivariate logistic regressions

Outcomes

- Full-time vs part-time patient care
- Full-time vs no patient care

Predictor Variables

- Year of graduation (2016-2021)
- Demographics
- Personal factors
- Medical school factors

Results

Descriptive Statistics

90,262/119,018 total U.S. allopathic medical students (75.8%) were included in the analyses

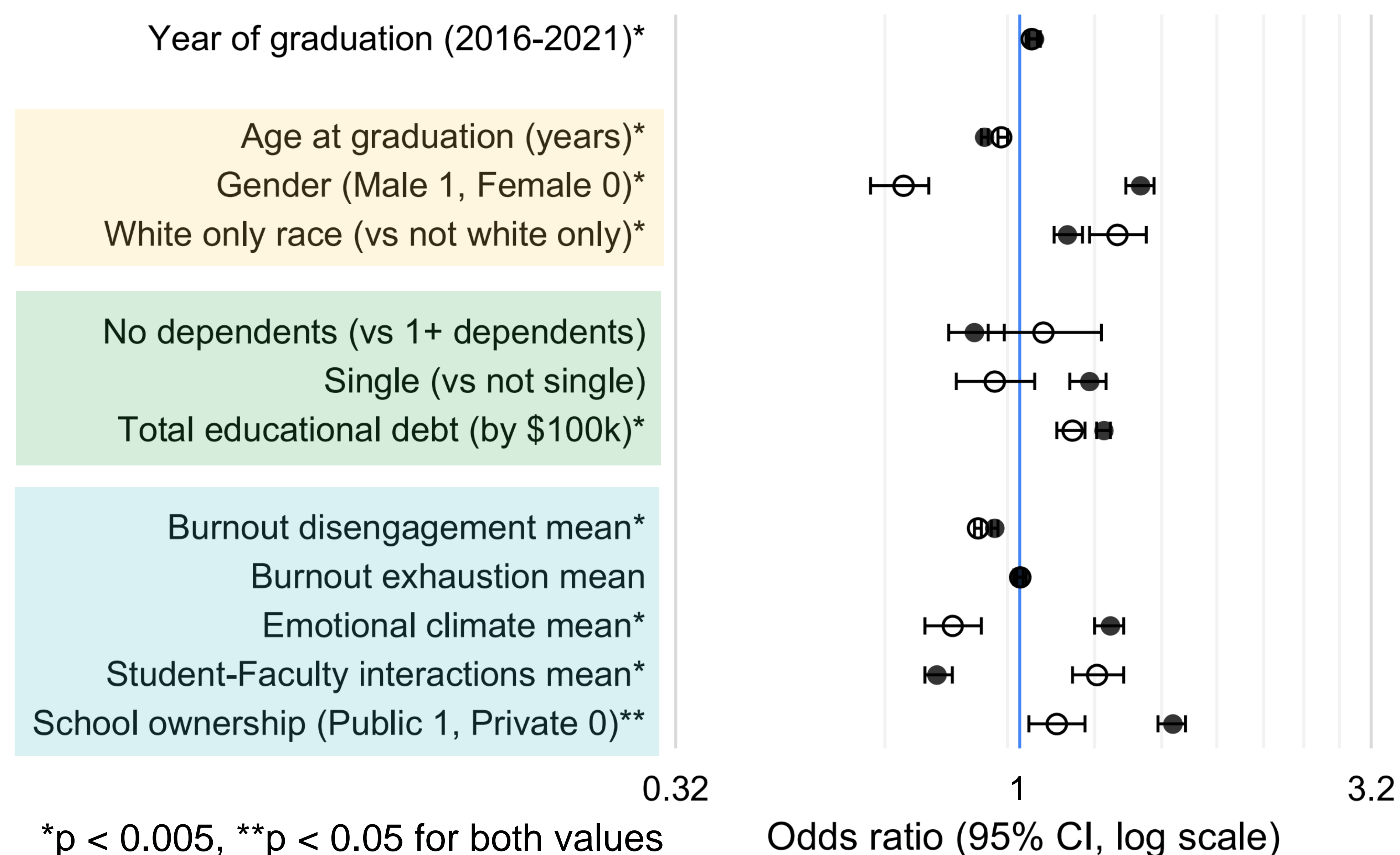
Regression Analysis

Career intentions

- full-time patient care: 86.8% (n=78,331)
- part-time: 10.6% (n=9,565)
- no patient care: 2.6% (n=2,366)

Odds Ratios for Full-time vs not Full-time Patient Care

Models: ● Full-time (1) vs Part-time (0) ○ Full-time (1) vs No patient care (0)



Content Analysis

Open-ended responses to the question "In which of the following activities do you plan to participate during your career?"

	Part-time (n=480/9,565)	No patient care (n=198/2,366)
1. Policy / legislation		1. Consulting
2. Global health		2. Business
3. Advocacy		3. Industry

Conclusion

- First national analysis of medical graduates' intentions to pursue full-time, part-time, or no patient care careers
- The proportion of graduates intending full-time clinical practice has been increasing
- Graduates who are white, younger, and have more debt are more likely to enter full-time patient care careers

Limitations

- Unclear how preferences change or which careers graduates end up pursuing
- Wide range of full-time equivalents among those practicing part-time care

Implications

- Part-time and no patient care graduates are distinct populations that need to be investigated separately
- Outreach to diversify the clinical workforce should consider full-time career intentions in addition to demographics