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**Video Transcript:**  
**AAMC Releases 2016 Medical School Applicant, Enrollee Data**

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I'm Dr. Darrell Kirch, president and CEO of the Association of American Medical Colleges, and I'm pleased to share with you the AAMC's 2016 medical school applicant and enrollment data.

For the eighth year in a row, the number of students applying to U.S. medical schools has reached record highs—with more than 53,000 applicants this year. First-time applicants—an important indicator of interest in medicine—reached nearly 39,000.

These students are answering the call to serve their communities, which is good news for a growing, aging population with increasing health care needs that will require doctors of all kinds.

Medical schools continued to diversify in 2016... and one of the most significant findings from this year's data indicate that the number of women enrolling in medical school rose by more than 6 percent—the largest increase in 10 years. Among first-time applicants, the number of women increased more than 5 percent.

We are encouraged to see that medical school efforts to build diverse classes across a number of ethnic and racial backgrounds are showing signs of success. We're making progress, but we know we still have work to do.

Our member institutions are leading pipeline programs, outreach efforts, and new and creative admissions initiatives to create a future workforce that reflects the diversity of our population, and is best suited to meet the needs of patients. And more than one-third of the nation's medical schools are using holistic review to look, not just at grades and test scores, but also at an applicant's personal characteristics, experiences, and attributes.

This year's applicant pool is every bit as qualified as any group we've seen in past years. Students are entering medical school with strong academic credentials and impressive research and community service experience.

These new data show that medicine continues to be an attractive career choice for students. For their part, over the last two decades, medical schools and teaching hospitals have been educating tomorrow's doctors in new and innovative ways, and improving how they deliver high-quality, patient-centered care.

Medical schools and teaching hospitals are innovating in multiple ways...

- They are educating doctors in teams with other health care professionals;
- They are piloting ways to move away from the traditional, time-based model of education toward a competency-based system to enable students to progress—sometimes more quickly—based on their demonstrated mastery of skills.
- By modernizing the way residents are trained, teaching hospitals are moving some of the training out of the hospital setting and into communities and doctors' offices, and making residents a key part of quality improvement efforts.
- And they are focusing on ways to improve quality and value in health care.

The increases we are seeing in applicants and enrollees to medical schools are vital to the health of our nation—it is critical now more than ever for us to train more physicians. According to a comprehensive study released by the AAMC earlier this year, there will be a real and significant doctor shortage in the next decade—as many as 95,000—and it will be particularly serious in the kinds of care needed for our aging population.

Medical schools and teaching hospitals and their students are doing their part to prepare for the future of health care in this country. However, increasing the country's overall supply of physicians requires Congress to lift the cap on federal support for residency training that it imposed in 1997. The AAMC supports legislation to increase federal support for residency training—which every medical school graduate requires to practice independently—so that the patients are able to have access to a doctor's care when they need it.

For additional data about applicants and enrollees or for more information about what medical schools and teaching hospitals are doing to transform medical education, visit [news.aamc.org](https://www.aamc.org/news).