

High income linked to application, admission to med school in Canada

Tyler Pitre
Alexander Thomas
Kyle Evans
Aaron Jones
Margo Mountjoy
Andrew P. Costa

Video Byte

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Abstract

Canadian medical school applicants come from homes that earn nearly \$30K more than the general population confirming a long-perceived disparity in economic diversity among Canadian med students. That's according to a new study from McMaster University, a public institution in Ontario. Researchers reviewed income characteristics for more than 26,000 applicants to the university's Michael G. DeGroot School of Medicine from 2013 to 2018, comparing characteristics between applicants and the general population. Income was determined according to the neighborhoods students called home during high school. Compared to a median neighborhood income of \$70,336 for Canada's general population, medical school applicants came from households earning \$98,816. And despite already representing a high economic stratum, applicants offered admission came from households earning \$105,984. The findings could help officials address systemic barriers faced by applicants from lower socioeconomic status and influence the ability of future physicians to serve the diverse needs of their patients.