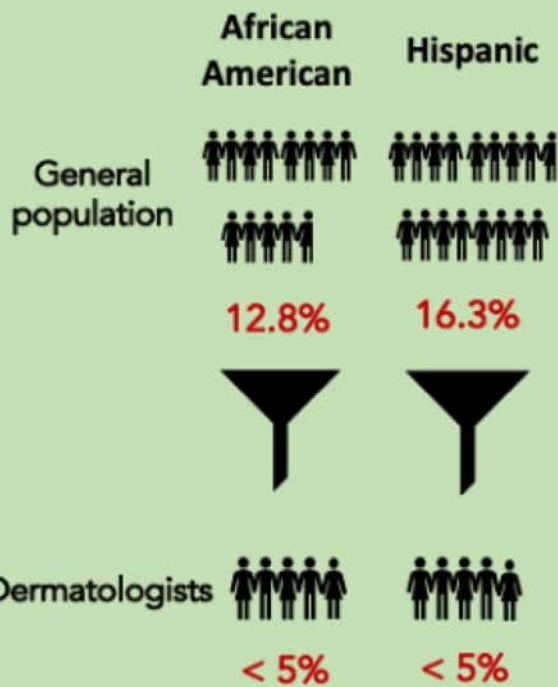


Dermatology Series: Disparities in the Dermatology Workforce 2.1

Understanding Perceived Barriers of Minority Medical Students Pursuing a Career in Dermatology: A survey was sent out to medical students to understand the lack of diversity and barriers to applying to dermatology residency.

POPULATION STATISTICS





*Smart DR. *Physician Characteristics and Distribution in the US.* Chicago, IL: American Medical Association; 2009.

STUDY DESIGN

- ✦ This survey of medical students used a Likert scale to assess factors important to applying to dermatology. 1 = not important, 5 = very important
- ✦ Accessed by 242 students and completed by 155 students (80% school response rate, 64% student response rate)
- ✦ 15.5% of respondents were Black, 9% were Hispanic, 11% identified as LGBTQIA, 52% had a childhood household income ≤ \$100,000

BARRIERS TO A CAREER IN DERMATOLOGY

- ✦ For all participants, most important cited factors included:
 - Step 1 scores, clinical grades, and risk of not matching
- ✦ For low – income and minority participants, highly-ranked factors included:
 - Lack of diversity in dermatology 
 - Negative perceptions of minority students by programs
 - Socioeconomic barriers (lack of loan forgiveness) 
 - Accessibility to mentors (especially with whom the student can identify)

RECOMMENDATIONS

Actively recruit and mentor students of all backgrounds
 Increase minority students' exposure to dermatology in the curriculum, provide research opportunities and reduce the cost of away rotations by offering stipends