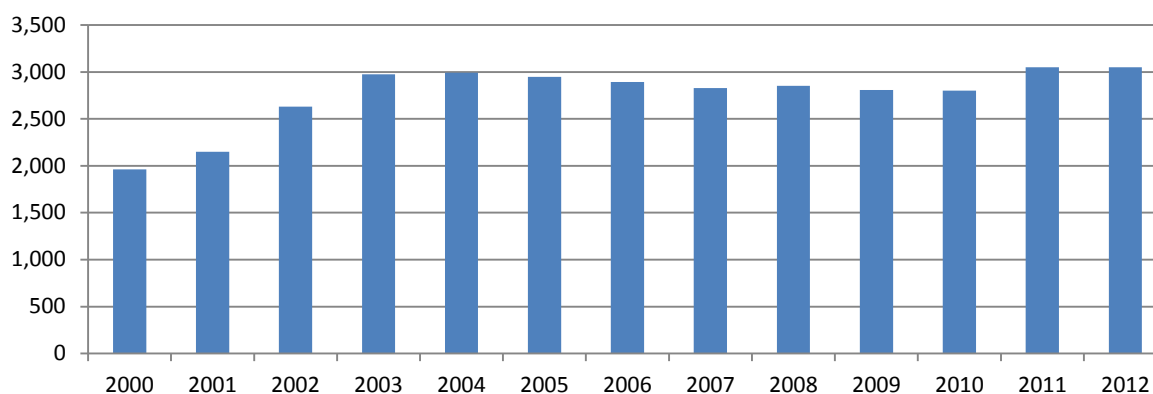


2000 and 2003 (from about 2 000 per year to 3 000 per year). From 2003 to 2010, the number remained relatively stable or even decreased slightly, until it went up again to about 3 000 in 2011 and 2012. This recent increase has been driven by concerns over an expected decrease in the number of foreign-trained doctors coming to work in the Netherlands following previous projections that there might be widespread shortages of doctors in Europe (Advisory Committee on Medical Manpower Planning, 2010). However, these concerns did not materialise and the 2013 report from the Advisory Committee on Medical Manpower Planning recommended to reduce the admission numbers back to their 2010 level to avoid any over-supply.

Figure 2. Students admitted to medical education, the Netherlands, 2000 to 2012



Source: Advisory Committee on Medical Manpower Planning (2013).

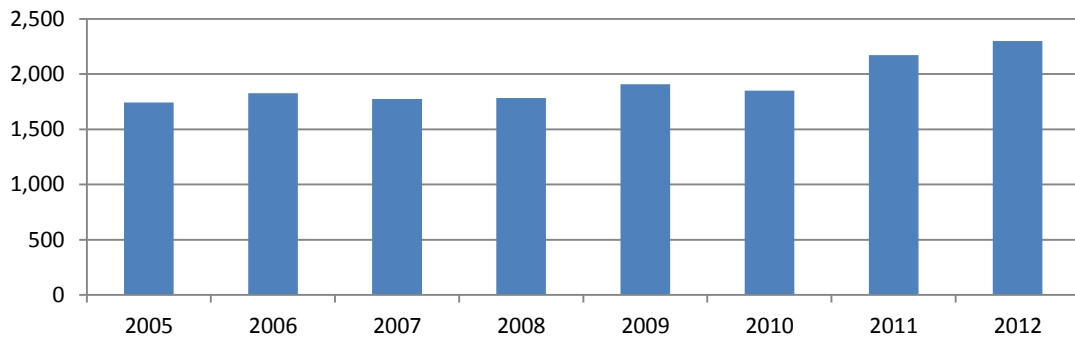
Box: What is the evidence about student dropout rates from medical schools in the Netherlands?

- A 2009 study by Schmidt and colleagues on graduation rates for 10 waves of students enrolled in Dutch medical schools between 1989 and 1998 found that, on average, 83% of students who were admitted graduated within a period of seven years.
- A more recent report from ACMMP (2013) estimated a 10% dropout rate from Dutch medical schools.

3. Trends in Admissions to Post-graduate Training

- Students intake to post-graduate training in the Netherlands is also subject to a *numerus clausus* (i.e., annual quota), determined by the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sports in consultation with other stakeholders, taking into account the financial resources available for teaching hospitals and other training institutes, and the human and physical capacities to take on people in post-graduate training programmes (ACMMP, 2013).
- Figure 3 shows trends in admissions in post-graduate training places from 2005 to 2012. Admissions to post-graduate training increased throughout this period, with most of the growth occurring in 2011 and 2012. This followed recommendations from the 2010 ACMMP report calling for an increase in training places given widespread concerns over possible shortages of doctors in Europe at that time and a possible reduction in the number of foreign-trained doctors coming to work in the Netherlands (ACMMP, 2013).

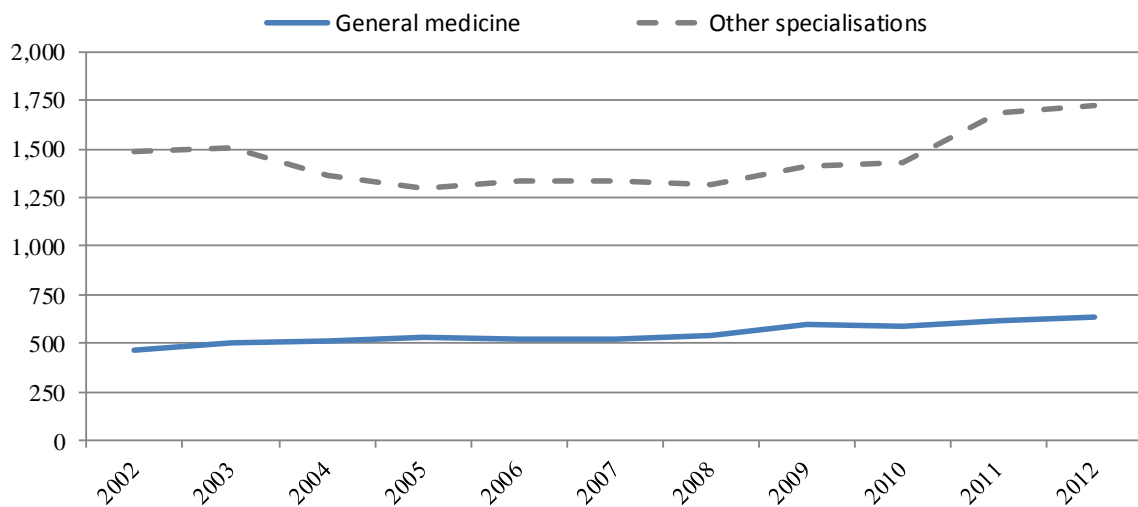
Figure 3. Admission to post-graduate training, the Netherlands, 2005-2012



Source: Advisory Committee on Medical Manpower Planning (2013).

- By contrast with some other countries like France and Canada that have expanded more rapidly the number of post-graduate training places in general medicine to address projected shortages of general practitioners, in the Netherlands, the number of post-graduate training places in recent years has increased more rapidly for different medical and surgical specialisations than for general medicine. Between 2008 and 2012, the number of post-graduate training places in general medicine increased from 537 to 638, an increase of almost 20%. Yet, this growth was more modest than the number of places in other medical and surgical specialties which grew by 30% (Figure 5). In its 2013 report, the ACMMP recommended that the number of places in general medicine training remain the same as in 2012, while the number of places in other specialisations should reduce back to their level of 2009 and 2010, given concerns about a possible over-supply of doctors in certain specialties. In assessing the future demand for GPs, the ACMMP also took into account the fact that a growing number of physician assistants and nurse practitioners could respond to the demand for primary care services. This more comprehensive approach of looking at the primary health care workforce as a whole is quite innovative, as interactions and possible substitutions between different health care providers are often neglected in health workforce planning models and policy discussions in other countries.

Figure 5. Places filled in medical post-graduate training, the Netherlands, 2002-12



Source: ACMMP – Advisory Committee on Medical Manpower Planning (2013)

REFERENCES

Advisory Committee on Medical Manpower Planning (2010), “The 2010 Recommendations for Medical Specialist Training – In the medical, dental, clinical technological and related educational as well as further training areas”, Capaciteits Orgaan, Utrecht.

Advisory Committee on Medical Manpower Planning (2013), “The 2013 Recommendations for Medical Specialist Training – In the medical, dental, clinical technological and mental health areas of training”, Capaciteits Orgaan, Utrecht.

Cate, O. (2007), “Medical Education in the Netherlands”, Medical Teacher, Volume 29, pp. 752-757.

Ketel, N. et al. (2012), “The returns to medical school in a regulated labor market: Evidence from admission lotteries”, available at <http://dare.uva.nl/document/464069>.

Schmidt, H. et al. (2009), “Impact of problem-based, active learning on graduation rates for 10 generations of Dutch medical students”, Medical Education, Volume 43, No.

Read the report online:

<http://www.oecd.org/health/health-workforce-policies-in-oecd-countries-9789264239517-en.htm>

Contact us:

Gaetan Lafortune: gaetan.lafortune@oecd.org

health.contact@oecd.org



Follow us on Twitter [@OECD_Social](https://twitter.com/OECD_Social)