



# Emergency Medicine Residency: a Friend or a Foe for IMGs? An IMG's Perspective

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## Background and Introduction

For the second consecutive year, match rates in emergency medicine(EM) decreased. The match rate for this year was 81.6%, which is an 11 percentage point decline from the positions filled in 2022. The good news is that all but 44% of those 554 positions were filled at the end of the additional offer and acceptance period<sup>1</sup>.

## Why the Disparity?

A fall in the number of U.S. MD and U.S. DO seniors who submitted ranks for the specialty, which is partly responsible for the increase in the number of open positions (335 more than the previous year), maybe a reflection of shifting applicant interests or future employment forecasts<sup>3</sup>.

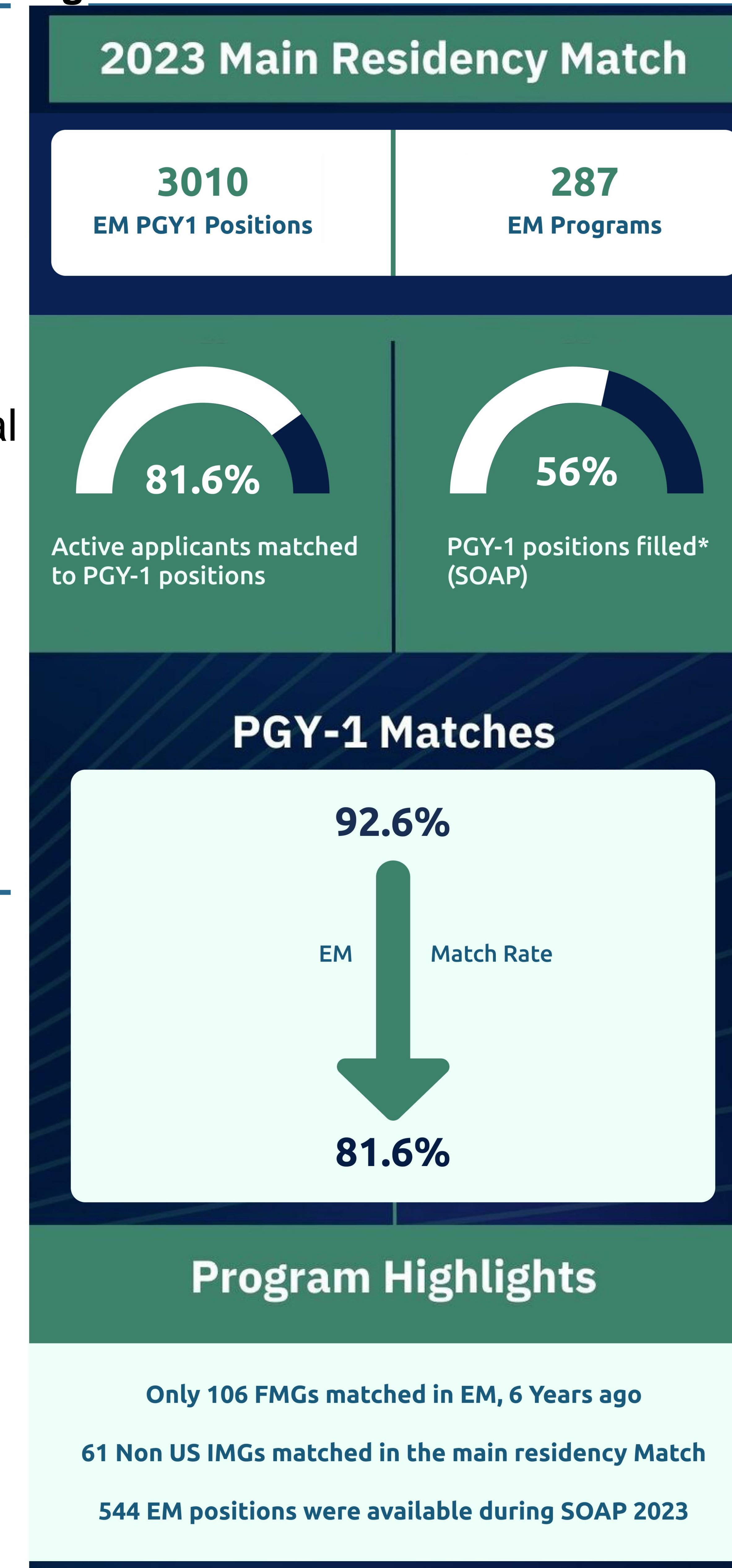
## Methodology

A search strategy was devised employing the keywords “Emergency Medicine Residency, MATCH, Unfilled PGY1 positions, Emergency Medicine Programs in SOAP” on the official websites of the National Residency Matching Program and the American Medical Association. Data were analyzed from 2017 until 2023 and the population of interest was EM IMG applicants

## Results

The number of foreign-trained physicians (US and Non-US IMGs) who matched in EM rose from 106 to 178 from 2017 to 2021. However, there is IMG prejudice during SOAP. To illustrate this, out of 5876 SOAP-eligible applicants, only 138 positions were accepted by non-US IMGs while this number was eight times more for US MDs<sup>4</sup>.

## Figure: The Fall of EM



## What the EM Fuss is all about

Out of the 3010 positions in 287 EM programs, there were a staggering 554 unfilled categorical spots and only 61 Non-US IMGs matched during the Match Week. The number of filled positions has dropped from 1617 in 2019 to 1274 in 2023. Meanwhile, the number of positions has steadily risen from 2488 in 2019 to just above 3000 this year<sup>2</sup>. 11 EM organizations issued a unified statement in which they listed many potential causes for the reduction in the Match rate<sup>5</sup>.

## Conclusion

The jury is out on the 2023 Main Residency Match Results and Data Book will be released later this Spring and will contain additional data, including SOAP results. To be able to meet the needs of the new physicians entering the field, the EM community must undoubtedly comprehend what is taking place.

## References

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