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Personality types of Canadian medical students

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Purpose: Data on the personality types of Canadian medical students have not been reported; although, in 1965, Myers and Davis published personality-type data for US medical students. We collected the personality types for Canadian medical students from 2003 to 2012. **Methods:** Participating Canadian medical students received an access code to a webpage and completed the online Keirsey Temperament Sorter II. Each student and the principal investigator received an individualized report of the personality assessment. **Results:** Data were analyzed from 3435 out of 8806 eligible students (39% response rate) at 9 out of 17 Canadian medical schools. Women comprised 56% of the overall student population and accounted for 63% of the volunteer participants in this study. The distribution of the preferences for medical students in this study – E (55%), S (68%), F (72%) and J (76%) – appears to be different from the general population as reported by Psychometrics Canada – E (53%), S (55%), T (57%) and J (55%). The distribution of the four personality types for medical students (55.1% SJ, 12.6% SP, 26% NF, 6.3% NT), therefore, also differs from the distribution reported for the general population (36.5% SJ, 17% SP, 22% NF, 20.7% NT). **Conclusions:** In this first national accounting of personality types of Canadian medical students, data suggest either the personalities of medical school applicants differ from the general population or that personality affects medical school admissions success. Limits of the study (e.g., knowledge of the applicant pool) temper the strength of our conclusions. Recognition of personality-type distribution may have use in pipeline program planning, admissions policy development, and in academic or career advising.