



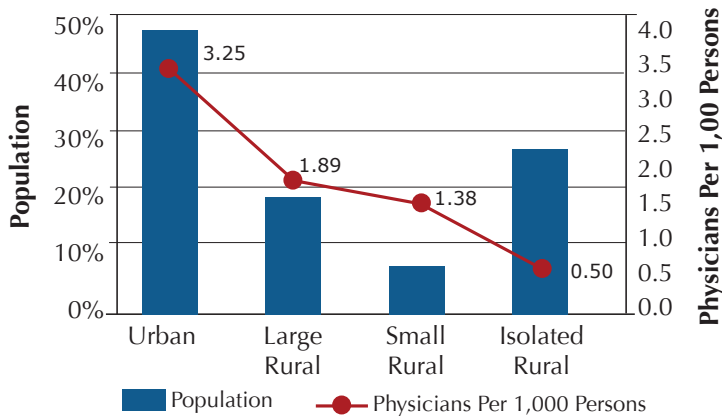
Availability of Direct Patient Care Physicians in North Dakota

This fact sheet is Number 1 in a series of analyses regarding physicians in North Dakota. It was developed using 2011 data from the American Medical Association physician master file. An updated version of this information using 2013 data is available on Fact Sheet Number 16 in this series.

Direct patient care physicians are defined as those who have regular contact with patients. They do not include physicians who predominantly teach or do research. They do include those working in hospitals and clinics and those who are semi-retired.

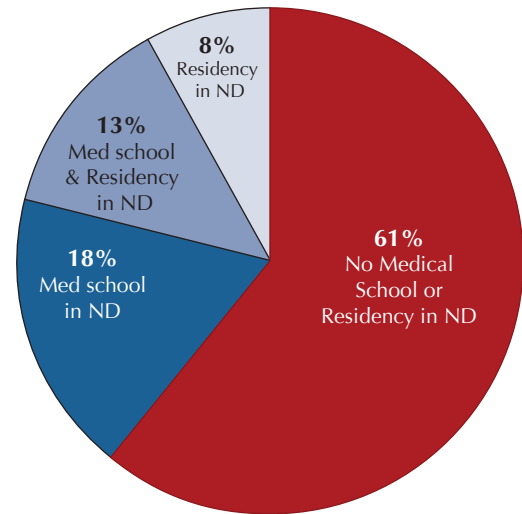
In 2011 there were 2.13 physicians per 1,000 persons in North Dakota,^{1,2} (17%) lower than the national average of 2.57 per 1,000.³ The availability of the 1,432 direct patient care physicians is associated with their sex, age, rurality (defined by RUCA codes),⁴ and origin.

Figure 1. Rate of Physicians Associated with Rurality of North Dakota Population



- Urban areas represented the highest rate of physician to population ratio (3.25 per 1,000).
- Nearly half (48%) of the population lives in urban areas, only 25% lives in large or small rural areas.
- The greatest physician disparity is in isolated rural areas which have 27% of the population but only 0.50 physicians per 1,000 people (6% of North Dakota physicians).

Figure 2. Location of Medical School and Residency for Physicians Currently Practicing in North Dakota



- Nearly 40% of North Dakota practicing direct patient care physicians received either medical school or residency training or both in North Dakota.
- Of the physicians practicing in North Dakota, 31% went to medical school in North Dakota and 21% did their residency in North Dakota.
- 13% of the physicians in North Dakota obtained both their medical school and residency training in North Dakota.

Table 1: Demographics of Physicians Practicing in North Dakota by Rurality

	ALL		SEX				AGE
	N	%	F		M		Mean
			N	%	N	%	
Rurality							
Urban	1,039	73%	262	25%	777	75%	49.61
Large Rural	241	17%	53	22%	188	78%	51.48
Small Rural	62	4%	14	23%	48	77%	51.97
Isolated Rural	90	6%	25	28%	65	72%	53.10
All	1,432	100%	354	25%	1,078	75%	50.25

- Nearly three-fourths of North Dakota’s direct patient care physicians practice in urban areas (73%).
- Three-fourths of the physicians in North Dakota were male (75%), with physicians in large and small rural areas having the highest proportion of males (78% and 77%).
- The mean age of physicians was 50.25 years. The mean age increased as rurality increased (urban to isolated rural, 49.61 to 53.10).

Conclusions

- The urban areas of North Dakota make up nearly half the population, but have six times more physicians per person than isolated rural areas, which have slightly more than one-fourth the population.
- Nearly 40% of the direct patient care physicians currently practicing in North Dakota graduated from medical school or completed a residency in North Dakota.
- The age of physicians in North Dakota increases as areas become more rural.

References

- ¹AMA Physician Masterfile (May 2011).
- ²U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census. Retrieved August 22, 2011, ftp2.census.gov.
- ³Health, United States, 2010 National Center for Health Statistics: Hyattsville, MD, 2004.
- ⁴depts.washington.edu/uwruca. Retrieved November 15, 2010.

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