



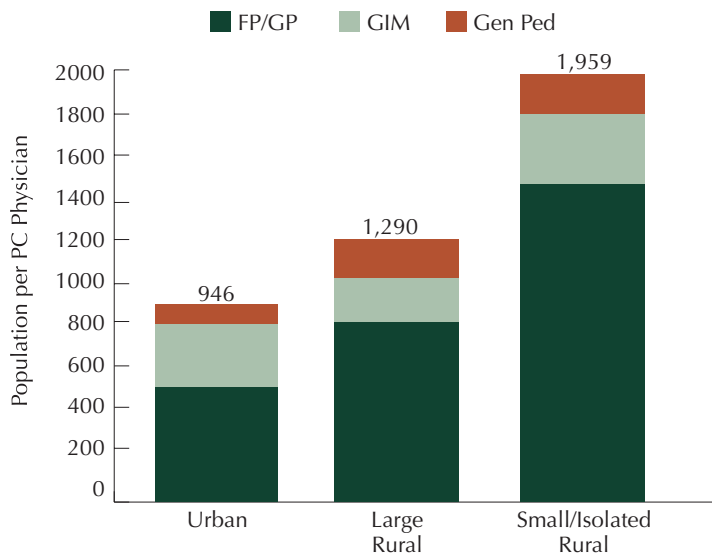
## Demographics of Primary Care Physicians in North Dakota

*This fact sheet was developed using 2011 data from the American Medical Association Master File. An updated version of this information using 2013 data is available on Fact Sheet Number 22 in this series.*

Primary care physicians are defined as those practicing in family/general practice (FP/GP), general internal medicine (GIM), and general pediatrics (Gen Ped).

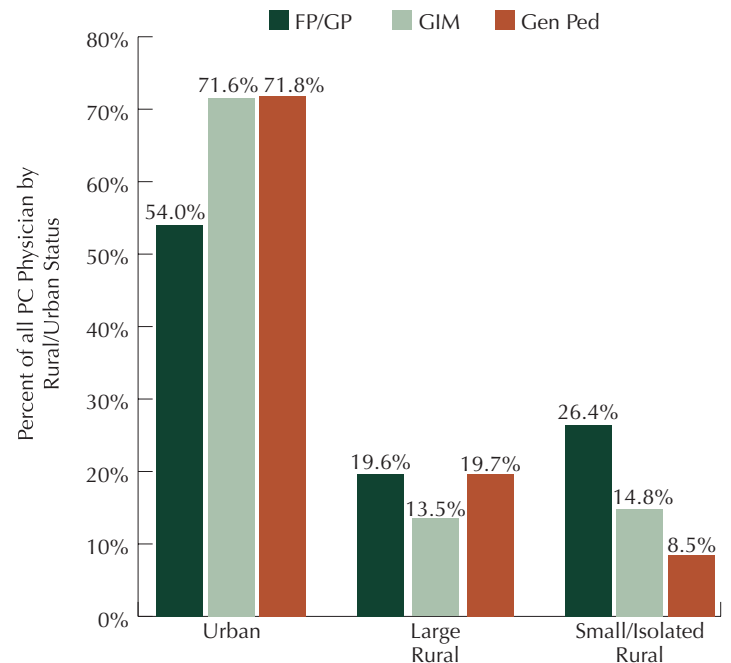
In 2011, there were 552 active primary care physicians in North Dakota. Of these physicians, 338 (61.2%) practiced in urban areas, 99 (17.9%) in large rural areas, 44 (8.0%) in small rural areas, and 71 (12.9%) in isolated rural areas. There are 214 primary care physicians in all rural areas combined, which represents 38.8% of all primary care physicians in North Dakota.

**Figure 1. Population per primary care physician by rural/urban status in North Dakota**



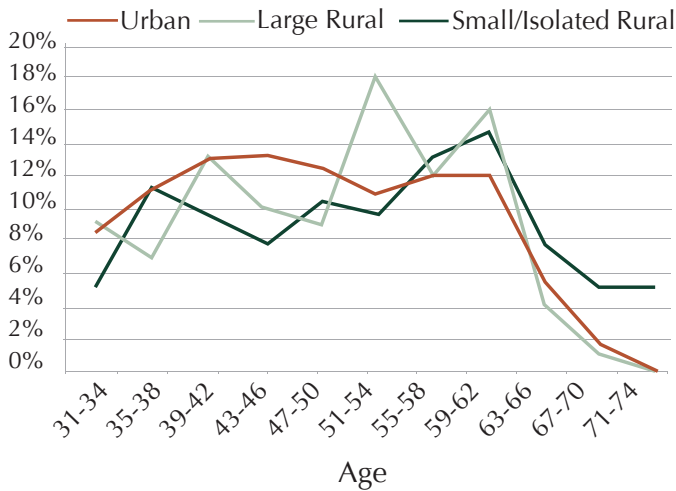
- There are over twice as many patients per primary care physician in small/isolated rural areas compared to urban areas.
- The largest absolute difference is for small/isolated rural versus urban family physicians per population (1,013).

**Figure 2. Percentage of primary care physicians in North Dakota by specialty for rural/urban status**



- GIM and Gen Ped primary care physicians are more likely to practice in urban areas (72%) than FP/GP physicians (54%).
- By far, FP/GP primary care physicians are more likely to be practicing in isolated rural areas than are GIM and Gen Ped physicians.

**Figure 3. Primary care physicians in North Dakota by age group for rural/urban status**



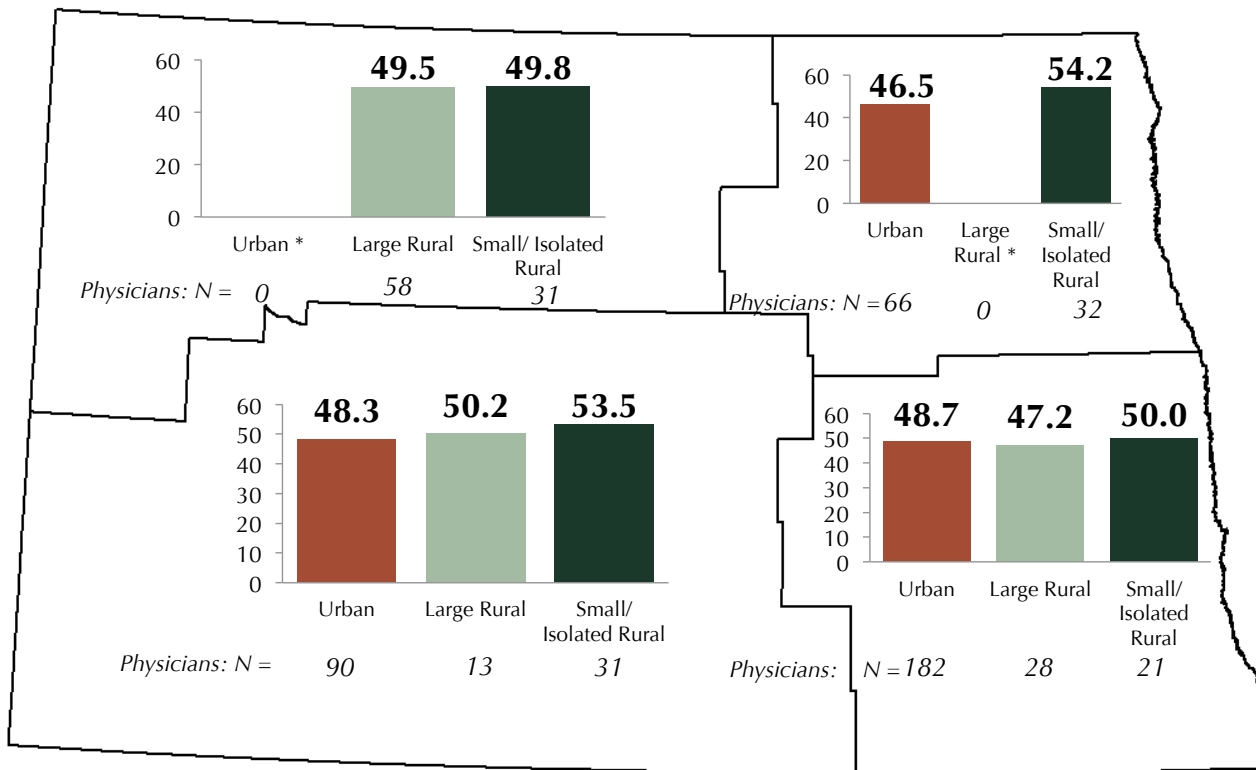
**Conclusions**

- Nearly two-thirds (61%) of North Dakota’s primary care physicians practice in urban areas.
- Family Practice/General Practice physicians are relatively more likely to work in small/isolated rural areas.
- Primary care physicians in small and isolated rural areas are older, especially in small isolated rural areas of the northeast and southwest portions of North Dakota.

**Data**

The physician data are from the 2011 American Medical Association physician master file. Urban, large rural, small rural, and isolated rural are defined using Rural-Urban Community Areas (RUCAs). (<http://depts.washington.edu/uwrucal/>)

**Figure 4. Average age of primary care physicians for rural/urban status within four regions of North Dakota**



\* No cities of this size in this area

- Primary care physicians in small/isolated rural areas are older than elsewhere.
- The highest mean ages for primary care physicians are in small/isolated rural areas of northeast and southwest North Dakota.
- Primary care physicians average the youngest in northeast North Dakota (46.5) urban areas (i.e., Grand Forks).

**For more information, contact**

**Marilyn G. Klug, PhD**  
701.787.0089 • [marilyn.klug@med.und.edu](mailto:marilyn.klug@med.und.edu)

**Gary Hart, PhD**  
701.777.3848 • [gary.hart@med.und.edu](mailto:gary.hart@med.und.edu)

**Mandi-Leigh Peterson, MA**  
701.777.6719 • [mandi.peterson@med.und.edu](mailto:mandi.peterson@med.und.edu)

**Center for Rural Health**  
University of North Dakota  
School of Medicine & Health Sciences  
501 North Columbia Road, Stop 9037  
Grand Forks, ND 58202-9037  
701.777.3848 • [ruralhealth.und.edu](http://ruralhealth.und.edu)