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, 521 primary care physicians practice in direct patient care in North Dakota.*
- 48% (248) completed residencies in North Dakota
- 16% (81) completed residencies in other Midwest states
- 9% (48) completed residencies in Southern states
- 8% (42) completed residencies in Minnesota
- 7% (34) completed residencies in New York
- 4% (23) completed residencies in Western states

Currently, 570 primary care physicians practicing in the United States did their residencies in North Dakota*
- 43% (248) practice in North Dakota
- 19% (108) practice in Minnesota
- 14% (81) practice in Western states
- 8% (45) practice in other Midwest states
- 6% (33) practice in Southern states
- 5% (29) practice in California

Figure 1. Where 521 North Dakota primary care practicing physicians completed their residencies and where 570 physicians who completed residencies in North Dakota currently practice.

*In 2011, there were 31 primary care physicians practicing in North Dakota who did not graduate from a residency in the United States. These physicians are not included in this fact sheet.
Where primary care physicians practicing in North Dakota were more likely to have completed their residencies compared to where physicians who completed residencies in North Dakota currently practice (more coming in than going out):

- North Dakota (48% vs. 43%)
- Southern states (Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia) (9% vs. 6%)
- Northeastern states (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont) (3% vs. 1%)
- Other Midwestern states (16% vs. 8%)
- New York (7% vs. 1%)

Where primary care physicians who completed their residency in North Dakota were more likely to currently practice compared to where primary care physicians practicing in North Dakota completed their residencies (more going out than coming in):

- Minnesota (19% vs. 8%)
- Western states (Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming) (14% vs. 4%)
- California (5% vs. 3%)

Conclusions

- The balance of migration into and out of North Dakota regarding where physicians completed their residencies varies widely by state. It can be thought of as the state level balance of trade in training and practice destination.
- The market for physicians is a national one. Medical school graduates disperse widely across the nation and are strongly influenced by such factors as the location of their residency training, specialty choice, opportunities, home origins, and their spouse origins when applicable. The smaller and/or more specific the medical specialty, the more nationwide is their employment market.
- Subsequent fact sheets in this series of physicians and North Dakota will explore this information from the perspective of such factors as residency training and specialty.
- The largest number of physicians who completed residencies in North Dakota but practice out of state in primary care is in Minnesota (108).
- Note that 42 practicing primary care physicians in North Dakota completed residencies in Minnesota.

Data

The physician data are from the 2011 American Medical Association physician master file.