



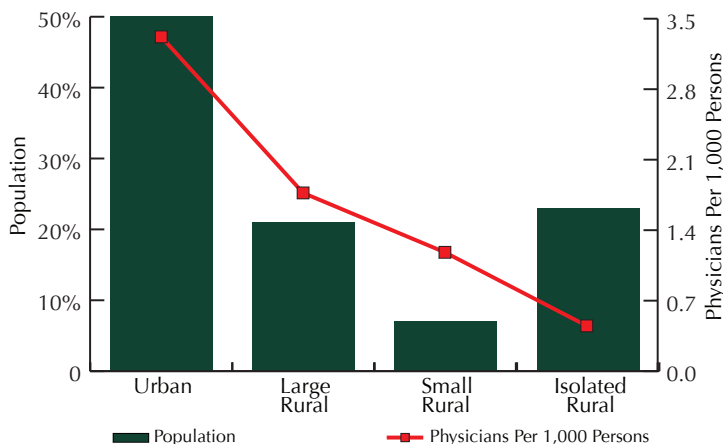
## Availability of Direct Patient Care Physicians in North Dakota

*This fact sheet is Number 16 in a series of analyses regarding physicians in North Dakota. It was developed using 2013 data from the American Medical Association physician master file. This document is an updated version of Fact Sheet Number 1 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.

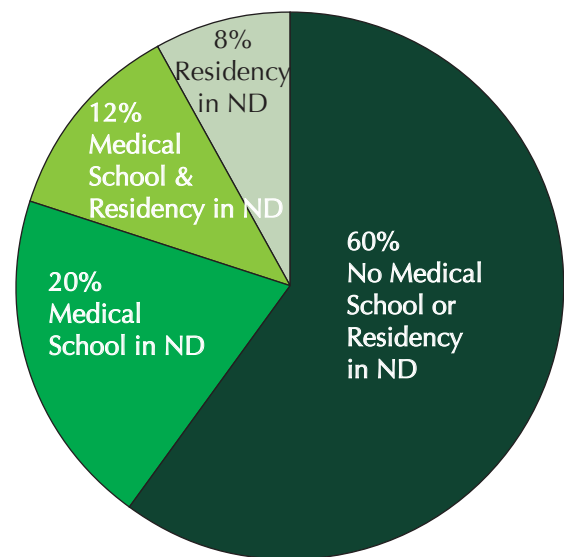
In 2013 there were 2.21 physicians per 1,000 persons in North Dakota, (18%) lower than the national average of 2.71 per 1,000. The availability of the 1,548 direct patient care physicians is associated with their sex, age, rural/urban status (defined by RUCA codes), and origin.

**Figure 1. Rate of Physicians Associated with Rural/Urban Status of North Dakota Population**



- Urban areas represented the highest rate of physician to population ratio (3.32 per 1,000).
- Half of the population (50%) lives in urban areas, only 28% lives in large or small rural areas.
- The greatest physician disparity is in isolated rural areas which have 23% of the population but only 0.45 physicians per 1,000 people (5% of North Dakota physicians).

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



- 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, 32% went to medical school in North Dakota and 20% did their residency in North Dakota.
- 12% 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 Rural/Urban Status**

Rural/ Urban Status	All		Female		Male		Age
	N	%	N	%	N	%	Mean
Urban	116 7	75%	30 9	27%	858	74%	49.9
Large Rural	254	16%	64	25%	190	75%	52
Small Rural	56	4%	16	29%	40	71%	53.2
Isolated Rural	71	5%	19	27%	52	73%	53.5
<b>All</b>	154 8	100	40 8	26%	114 0	74%	50.5

- Three-fourths of North Dakota’s direct patient care physicians practice in urban areas (75%).
- Nearly three-fourths of the physicians in North Dakota were male (74%), with physicians in large rural and urban areas having the highest proportion of males (75% and 74%).
- The mean age of physicians was 50.5 years. The mean age increased as rural/urban status increased (urban to isolated rural, 49.9 to 53.5).

## Conclusions

- The urban areas of North Dakota make up half the population, but have seven times more physicians per person than isolated rural areas, which have slightly less than one-fourth the population.
- 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.

## Data

*The physician data are from the 2013 American Medical Association physician master file.*

*The national average for physician per population is from the North Dakota Third Biennium Report.*

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