



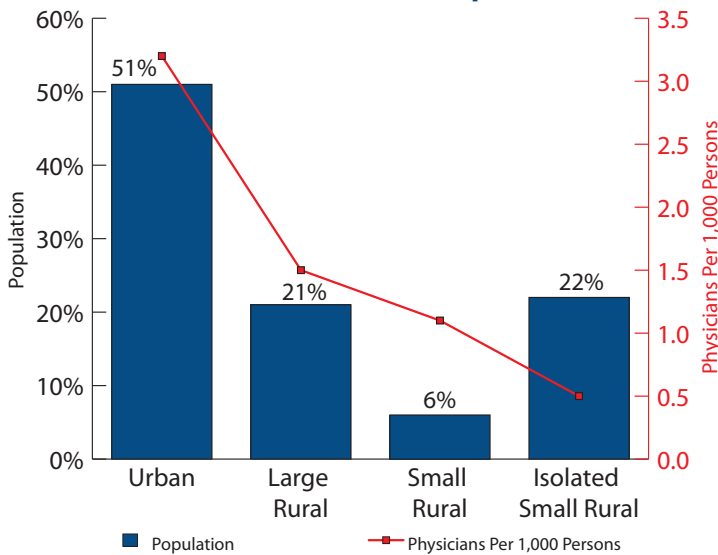
## Availability of Direct Patient Care Physicians in North Dakota

*This fact sheet is Number 26 in a series of analyses regarding physicians in North Dakota. It was developed using 2015 data from the American Medical Association Physician Masterfile.*

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. International medical graduates (IMGs) and Canadian medical graduates are also included.

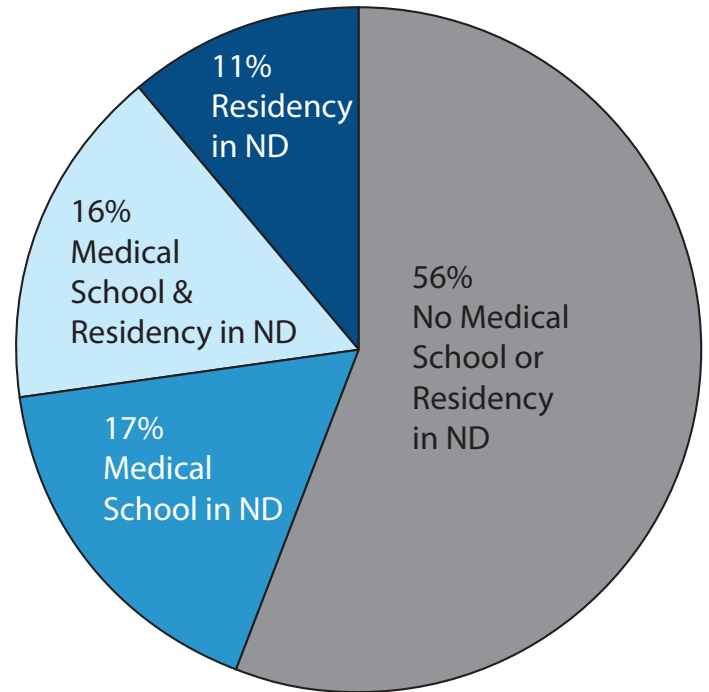
In 2015, there were 2.11 physicians per 1,000 persons in North Dakota, 23% lower than the national average of 2.73 per 1,000. The availability of the 1,614 direct patient care physicians is associated with their sex, age, rural/urban status (defined by RUCA codes), and origin.

**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 (3.20 per 1,000).
- Half of the population (51%) lives in urban areas, and 27% lives in large or small rural areas. Isolated small areas contain 22% of the population.
- The greatest physician population disparity is in isolated small rural areas, which have 22% 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**



- 44% (710) 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, 33% (540) went to medical school in North Dakota, and 27% (432) did their residencies in North Dakota.
- 16% (262) 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	1,237	77%	347	28%	890	72%	49.1
Large Rural	249	15%	69	28%	180	72%	51.2
Small Rural	52	3%	15	29%	37	71%	53.1
Isolated Small Rural	76	5%	22	29%	54	71%	53.6
<b>All</b>	<b>1,614</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>1,161</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>49.8</b>

- More than three-fourths of North Dakota’s direct patient care physicians practice in urban areas (77%).
- Nearly three-fourths of the physicians in North Dakota were male (72%), with physicians in urban and large rural areas having the highest proportion of males (72%), though the percent age differences are small.
- The mean age of physicians was 49.8 years. The mean age increased as rural/urban status increased (urban to isolated small rural, 49.1 to 53.6).

## Conclusions

- The urban areas of North Dakota make up slightly more than half the population but have more than seven times as many physicians per person than isolated small rural areas, which have slightly less than one-fourth the population.
- 44% 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 2015 American Medical Association Physician Masterfile.*

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

**North Dakota Workforce Fact Sheets Are Available At**  
[ruralhealth.und.edu/publications/health-workforce-factsheets](http://ruralhealth.und.edu/publications/health-workforce-factsheets)

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