Where did North Dakota Primary Care Physicians Graduate from Medical School and Where Have North Dakota Medical School Graduates Gone?

This fact sheet is Number 23 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 13 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 2013, 422 primary care physicians practiced in direct patient care in North Dakota. See Figure 1.*

- 58% (243) graduated from North Dakota
- 8% (35) graduated from Minnesota
- 6% (27) graduated from other Midwest states
- 6% (26) graduated from other Southern states
- 4% (16) graduated from Northeastern states
- 2% (10) graduated from other Western states

In 2013, 599 graduates from the University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Science (UND SMHS) practiced as primary care physicians in direct patient care in the United States. See Figure 1.*

- 41% (243) practiced in North Dakota
- 20% (120) practiced in Minnesota
- 16% (95) practiced in other Western states
- 5% (29) practiced in other Southern states
- 2% (14) practiced in other Midwest states
- 1% (4) practiced in Northeastern states

Figure 1. Where 422 North Dakota primary care physicians graduated from medical school and where 599 University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences (UND SMHS) graduates currently practice primary care.

*In 2013, there were 18 physicians from Canada and 141 from other countries practicing in primary direct patient care in North Dakota. The number of medical school graduates from the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences (UND SMHS) practicing out of the United States is unknown. These physicians are not included in this fact sheet.
Where practicing North Dakota physicians are more likely to have graduated from medical school compared to where UND SMHS graduates currently practice (more coming in than going out):

- North Dakota (58% vs. 41%)
- Southern states (AL, AR, DE, DC, FL, GA, KY, LA, MD, MS, NC, OK, SC, TN, VA, and WV) (6% vs. 5%)
- Midwestern states (IL, KS, MI, MO, OH, and IN) (6% vs. 2%)
- Northeastern states (CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, and VT) (4% vs. 1%)
- Iowa (5% vs. 1%)
- Nebraska (2% vs. 1%)
- Texas (2% vs. 1%)

Where UND SMHS graduates are more likely to currently practice compared to where North Dakota practicing physicians have graduated from (more going out than coming in):

- Minnesota (20% vs. 8%)
- Western states (AK, AZ, CO, HI, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA, WY) (16% vs. 2%)
- Wisconsin (5% vs. 1%)
- South Dakota (3% vs. 2%)
- California (3% vs. 1%)

Conclusions

- The balance of migration into and out of North Dakota regarding medical school graduation location 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 their residency training location, specialty choice, opportunities, home origins and their spouse home origins where applicable. The smaller and/or more specialized the medical specialty, the more nationwide is their specialty market.
- The largest number of UND SMHS graduates practicing out of state is in Minnesota (120).
- Note that only 35 primary care physicians in direct patient care who practiced in North Dakota received medical degrees in Minnesota.

Data

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