Non-direct patient care physicians are defined as those who do not have regular contact with patients. They include physicians who do teaching, research, administration and other medical activities.

Currently there are 61 physicians identified in North Dakota. Figure 1 shows the distribution of these physicians relative to the population of North Dakota for rural areas.

Fifty-one (84%) were male. Nearly all (90%) of the physicians are in urban areas (which has 48% of the population).

The average age of physicians in North Dakota is 59 years. The average age is higher for small/isolated rural areas (Figure 2). Ten (16%) are 50 or younger, and 10 (16%) are 67 or older.

Twenty-five (41%) physicians are in administration, 18 (29%) are in teaching, 6 (10%) are in research, 12 (20%) are in other occupations.

Conclusions

Non-direct patient care physicians in North Dakota are older and work in urban areas. Their main foci are administration and teaching. They only account for 4% of North Dakota’s active physicians.

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