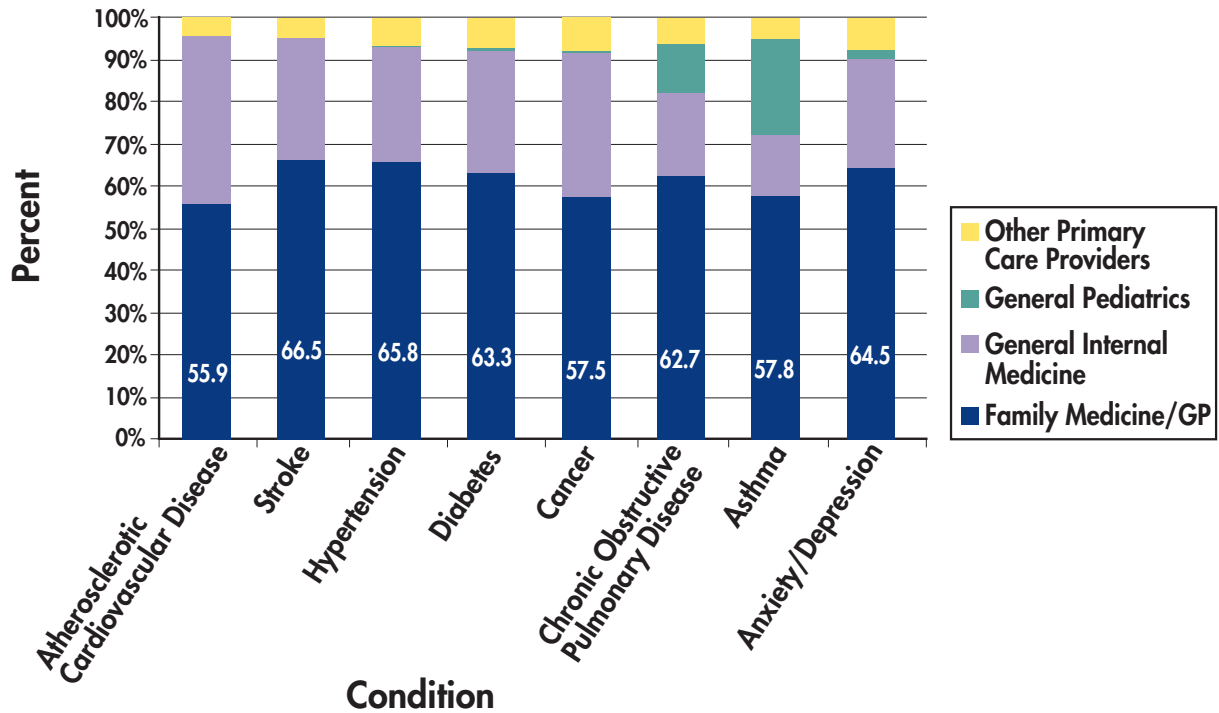


## Family Physicians Treat the Nation's Priority Health Problems

Patients beset with the nation's most serious health problems rely primarily on family physicians as their usual source of care.

### Distribution by Specialty of the Usual Source of Care for People with Selected Conditions AND a Physician as the Usual Source of Care

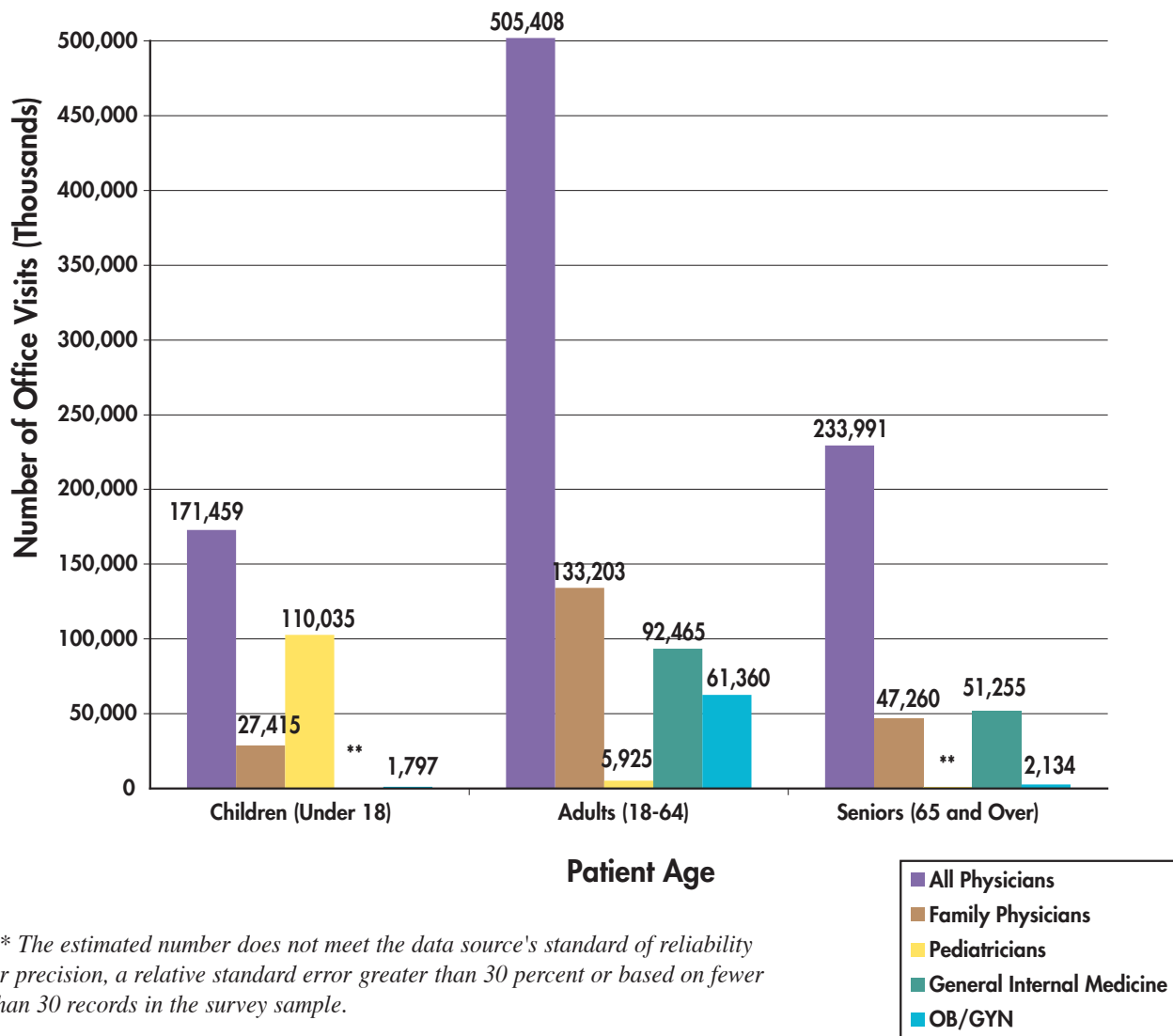


Source: 2000 Medical Expenditure Panel Surveys

## Number of Office Visits to Family Physicians

Nearly one in four of all office visits in the United States are made to general and family physicians every year. In 2004, more than 207 million office visits were made to general and family physicians — 62 million more than to any other specialty.

Number of Office Visits By Age to Selected Specialties, 2004

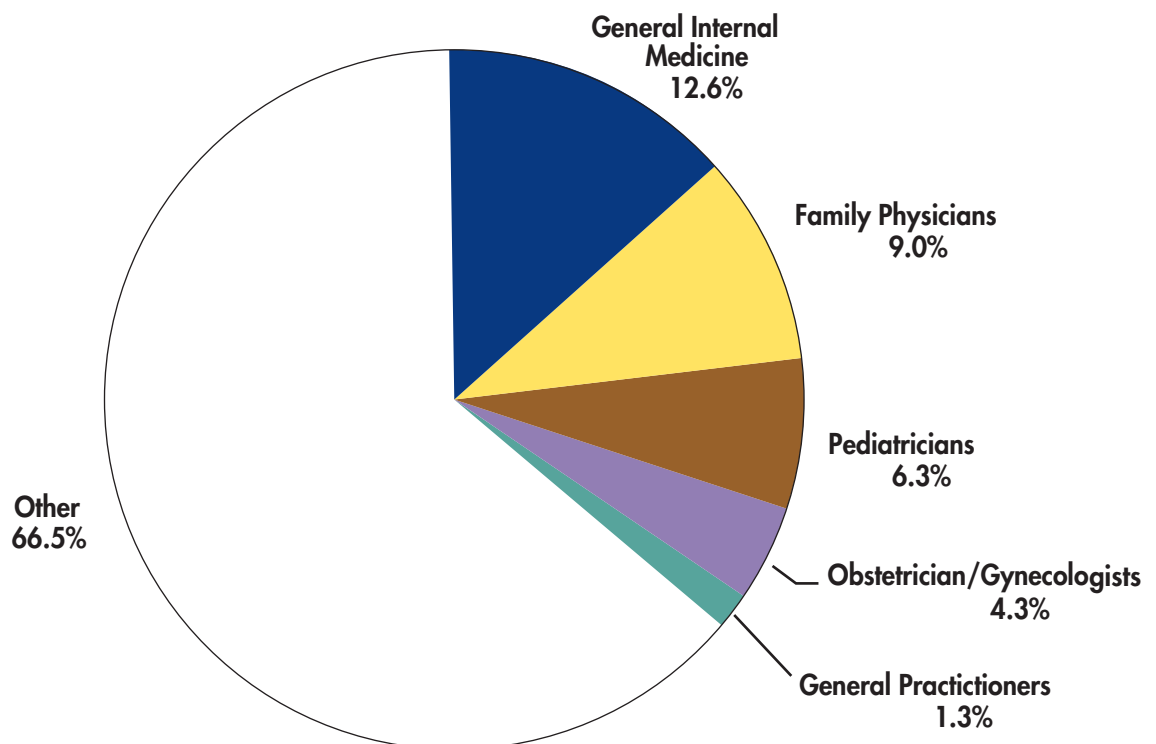


Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, 2006 National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey.

## Number of Physicians Who Are Family Physicians

Increasing subspecialization in health care has resulted in a decreasing percentage of physicians devoted to primary care. In 2004, family physicians comprised 9 percent of all primary care physicians in the United States.

### Estimated Number of Primary Care Physicians in the United States by Specialty, 2004



Source: Physician Characteristics and Distribution in the U.S., 2006

American Medical Association

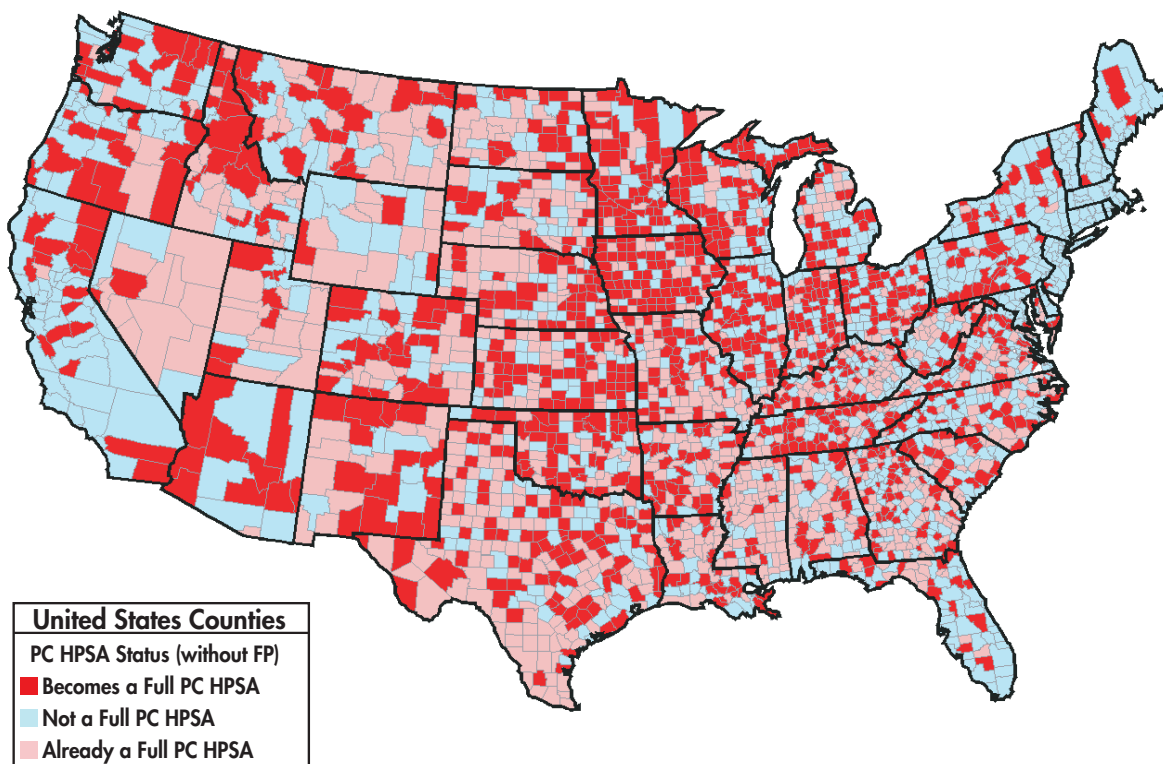
Table 4.1

## Geographic Spread of Family Physicians

The geographic spread of family physicians across the United States more closely matches the geographic spread of the general population than any other specialty. While 79 percent of the U.S. population is in urban areas, 71 percent of family physicians are in urban areas. While 21 percent of the U.S. population is in rural areas, 29 percent of family physicians are in rural areas (5.8 percent unknown classification).

As illustrated by the map below, more than a third of all U.S. counties, with a combined population exceeding 40 million Americans, depend on family physicians to avoid designation as primary health profession shortage areas, a federal government label for counties in which the ratio of primary care physicians to county residents falls below a standard of one to 3,500.

### Simulation of Whole County Primary Care Health Profession Shortage Areas (PCHPSA's) Without Family Physicians (FP's) in 1999

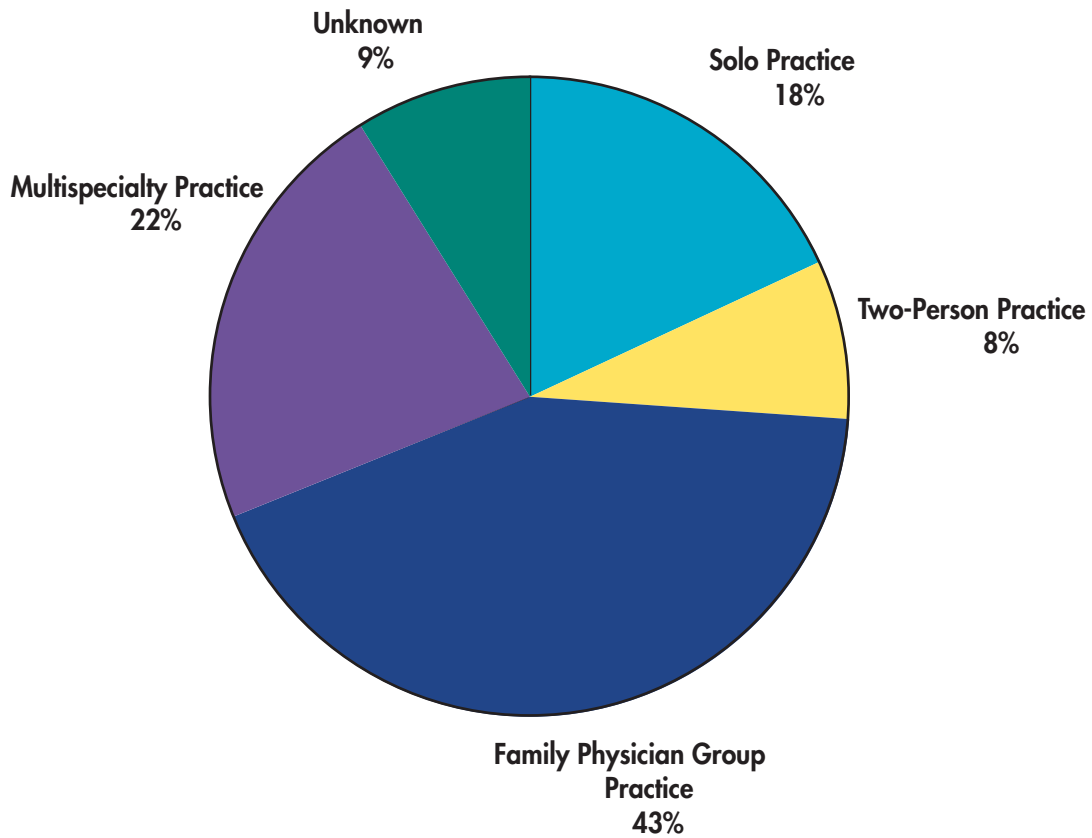


Source: The Robert Graham Center: Policy Studies in Family Medicine and Primary Care

## Practice Profile of Family Physicians

Most family physicians care for patients in group and private practices.

### Family Physicians' Practice Type Arrangement



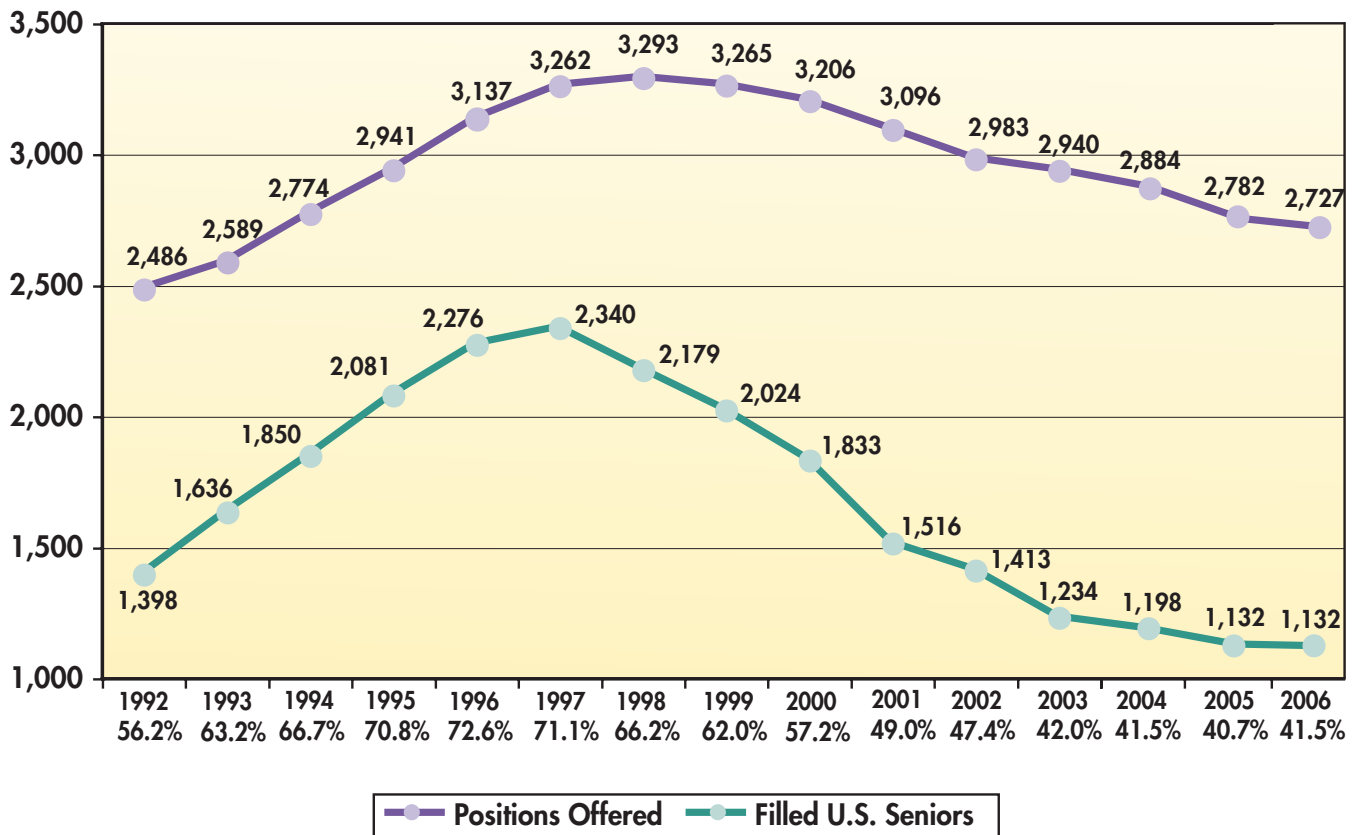
Source: American Academy of Family Physicians, 2006.

To view the complete table, visit [www.aafp.org/online/en/home/aboutus/specialty/facts/4.html](http://www.aafp.org/online/en/home/aboutus/specialty/facts/4.html).

## Number of Medical Students Choosing Family Medicine

The number of graduating seniors in the United States choosing family medicine has declined more than 50 percent since 1997, with only 8 percent of U.S. medical graduates choosing family medicine in 2006.

**Family Medicine  
Positions Offered and Filled with U.S. Seniors  
in March 1992 – 2006**



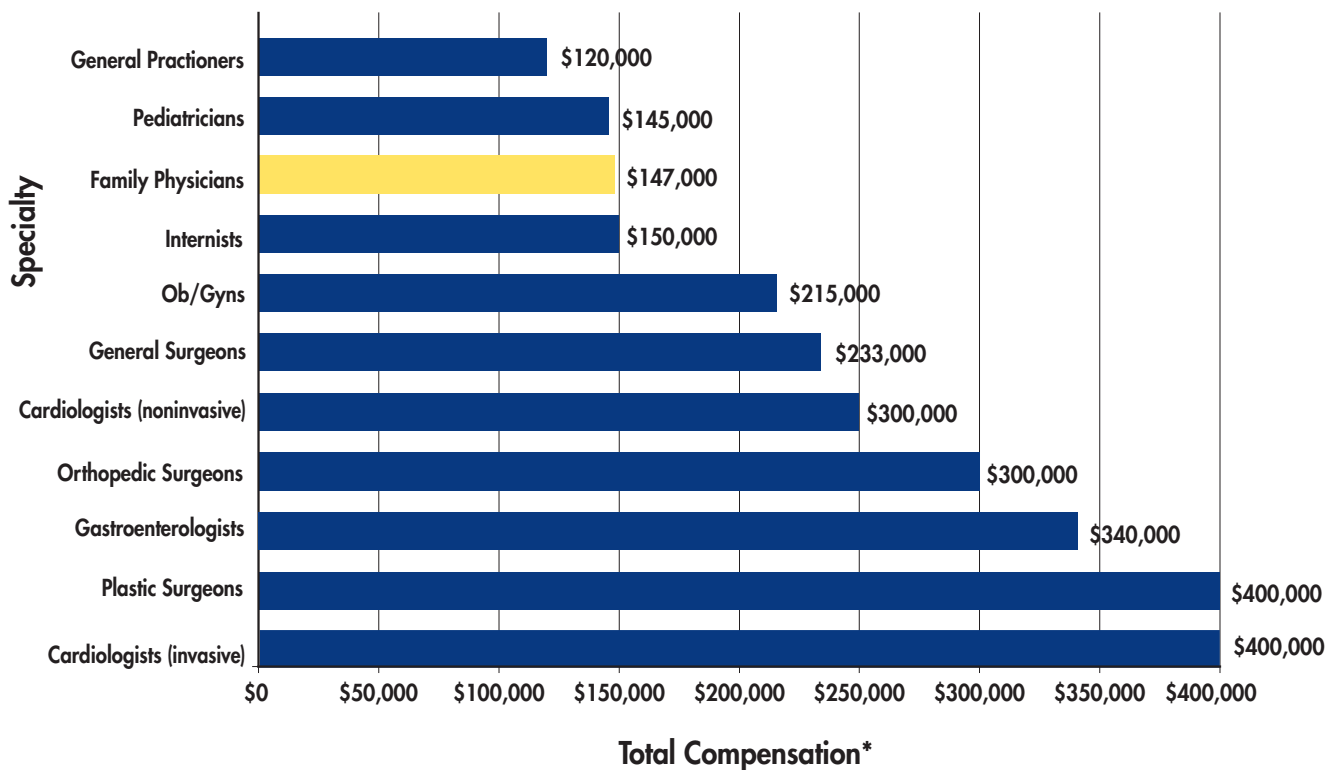
Source: 2006 National Resident Matching Program  
To view the complete table, visit [www.aafp.org/match/graph02.htm](http://www.aafp.org/match/graph02.htm)

## Average Income of Family Physicians

The median individual income (before taxes) of family physicians is \$147,000, according to the Medical Economics Continuing Survey.

According to a national study released in June 2006 by the Center for Studying Health System Change, physicians' net income from the practice of medicine declined about 7 percent between 1995 and 2003, after adjusting for inflation. Among different types of physicians, primary care physicians fared the worst with a 10.2 percent decline in real income during that time period. By contrast, medical specialists' real income essentially remained unchanged.

### 2004 Median Income of Physicians by Specialty



\* Compensation for unincorporated physicians is earnings after tax-deductible expenses but before income taxes. For physicians in professional corporations, it is the sum of salary, bonuses and retirement/profit sharing made on their behalf. All figures are medians. Data apply to individual office-based MDs and DOs.

Source: Medical Economics Continuing Survey, 2005