The American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) represents 129,000 physicians and medical students nationwide. Within AAFP membership, 70,400 family physicians are active members, 34,000 are students, and 12,000 are residents. The total number of members, as well as the number of active members, students, and residents, all represent record high benchmarks for the AAFP.

Within the AAFP’s active membership, 71% are employed, 43% are female, and 25% are new to practice family physicians. Two in 10 are graduates of medical school outside of the United States (20%). Rural family physicians account for 17% of active AAFP members.

The mean of 2016 net income of AAFP active members was $209,887; the median net income was $198,000.

Sources: 2017 Member Benchmark Data, 2017 Member Census, 2017 Practice Profile

Eighty-four percent of active members practice primarily in an office setting. The remaining active members practice in hospital settings, urgent care facilities, institutional residential facilities, and other practice settings.

Seventy-one percent of practicing members are employees in their practice, 15% are partial owners, 11% are solo owners of their practice, and 3% are not in clinical practice.

Common types of care provided by active members include chronic care management (82%), geriatric care (77%), and urgent care (56%).

More than three-quarters (78%) of active AAFP members are primarily engaged in direct patient care at least 30 hours each week.

In 2017, active AAFP members averaged 46 work hours per workweek, including an average of 32 hours per week of his/her time on patient care tasks and 14 hours per week engaged in administrative tasks.

The most common in-office procedures performed by active AAFP members are EKG (89%), skin procedures (86%), pulmonary function testing (58%), and endometrial biopsy (49%). Other in-office procedures performed by active AAFP members include OB (19%) and non-OB ultrasound imaging (16% each), and cardiac stress testing (9%).

Source: 2015 and 2017 Practice Profile Studies
AAFP active members write an average of 124 prescriptions per week. More than three in ten (31%) of active members indicate the number of prescriptions written in the past three years has increased.

Family physicians prescribed, administered, or suggested 22% of all medications in 2015, more than general internists (16%), pediatricians (9%), or OB-GYNs (7%).

Nine in ten active members (90%) provide immunizations in their practice. More than eight in ten (84%) provide the influenza vaccine.

Diabetes (85%), hypertension (88%), emotional problems (80%), cholesterol problem (79%), and coughs/colds (79%) are the most common categories of problems for patients seen by active members during a typical two-day visit.

In 2013, out of a total of 210.8 million visits to family physicians, 73.9 million were by patients with hypertension. Other chronic conditions frequently seen by family physicians include hyperlipidemia (55.3 million visits), diabetes (31.9 million visits), arthritis (27.1 million visits), depression (26.9 million visits), and obesity (19.4 million visits).

Of the active members primarily working in clinical practice/patient care, four in ten (41%) work in an officially recognized medical home. Another 2% are in a practice that has submitted an application to be recognized in a medical home.

Of those working in a recognized medical home, most have received enhanced payments for the following: pay for care management fees (46%), pay-for-performance (40%), shared savings (37%) and enhanced fee for service (23%).

Three in ten members (30%) working in clinical practice/patient care work in an accountable care organization (ACO). Three percent (3%) currently operate in a direct primary care (DPC) practice.

Sources: 2017 Practice Information Survey, 2013 National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey

Source: 2017 Practice Information Survey, 2015 National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey
In order to improve patients’ access to care, active AAFP members use open access (same day) scheduling (79%), web portal for secure messaging (69%), web portal for refill requests (57%), extended office hours (early morning or evening appointments) (54%), email communication (51%), web portal for scheduling appointments and sharing information (44%), 24-7 access to EHR (42%), weekend appointments (36%), and text communication (12%).

Another tool family physicians are using to access care for their patients is telehealth services. Two in 10 (20%) family physicians are currently using telehealth services in their practices. The two primary drivers for implementing telehealth services are 1) to improve access to care for their patients (78%) and 2) to provide convenience and flexibility for physicians and their staff (61%).

Sources: 2017 Telehealth Study and 2015 Practice Profile

AAFP Digital Experience

- AAFP.org
  - 7.5 million monthly page views
  - 3.1 million monthly unique visitors
  - 91% overall valuable rating

- AAFP Mobile App
  - 92,000 downloads
  - 7,000 monthly unique visitors
  - CME is the most popular activity

- FamilyDoctor.org
  - 5.6 million monthly page views
  - 4.1 million monthly unique visitors
  - Most visited content: Abdominal pain, skin rashes, and oral conditions

Source: 2017 Digital Analysis

Personal Electronics Ownership and Use

Seven in 10 (69%) of active members own an Apple iPhone. Fifty-six percent own an iPad, 23% an Android/Droid/Google phone, and 6% a basic cell phone.

Features regularly accessed via phone or mobile device/tablet include texting (81%), email (78%), web (76%), calendar (65%), and medical apps (63%). Forty-five percent regularly access social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.), 41% regularly shop or purchase products, 32% regularly access news widgets/apps, and 32% regularly access professional education.

Source: 2016 Lifestyle Survey
Most of attendees would recommend FMX (96%) to their colleagues.

CME continues to be the key driver for attending FMX. Both quality and quantity of CME are important factors to attendees.

The AAFP offers more than 300 CME courses at FMX and CME offered at FMX is considered better than that offered at other CME activities by 77% of attendees. FMX CME received positive reviews from most attendees for the following: evidence supports course content (97%), improves knowledge of patient care (96%), up-to-date (96%), applicable to practice (96%). In addition, 88% agreed that FMX is a unique experience compared to other medical conferences.

"Not only great CME, but ability to network with just family docs and have the AAFP provide excitement, renewed spirit in what we do, re-energize, celebrate family medicine."  

"No other venue for such a huge number of family physicians from all around the world and from such varied practices and stages of careers to come together and learn."

"High energy, enthusiastic, up-to-date forum dedicated to family medicine."

"Not only great CME, but ability to network with just family docs and have the AAFP provide excitement, renewed spirit in what we do, re-energize, celebrate family medicine."

Quotes from FMX Attendees

Source: 2017 FMX Post-event Survey

The exhibit hall at AAFP FMX is also important to attendees. For instance, nine in 10 attendees (95%) visited the exhibit hall, with each visitor spending an average of three hours there during the course of three days.

At least 70% found the AAFP Exhibit and Marketplace, Public Health Resource Pavilion, and Expo theaters valuable. Products and services that most interested attendees include CME resources, publications/books/journals, instruments, and diagnostic/testing equipment.

Attendees would like to see the following additional products and services exhibited at FMX: chronic care management (34%), patient education (33%), and consumers electronics (30%) (wearables, digital health, e-health).

Members’ Perceptions of the AAFP

Source: 2017 Member Satisfaction Study

Virtually all members (94%) plan to renew their AAFP membership. More than three-fourths of members (77%) indicated they consider their AAFP membership important. Close behind seven in 10 (72%) would recommend an AAFP membership to other family physicians. The primary reasons for joining the AAFP are CME reporting, CME resources, and to demonstrate support for family medicine.

Nine in 10 members (86%) see the AAFP as a trusted source for information about their profession.