

Family physicians are residency-trained, primary care specialists dedicated to treating the whole person. With a focus on prevention, primary care, and overall care coordination, family physicians provide a wide variety of clinical services, and, when necessary, refer their patients to a specialist, while continuing to advocate for that patient's care.

Family Physicians in the U.S. Health Care System

More Americans depend on family physicians than on any other medical specialty. AAFP members are the main source of primary health care for the Medicare population and see a large proportion of new Medicaid beneficiaries.¹

91%
participate in Medicare

83%
accept new Medicare patients

69%
accept new Medicaid patients

Family Physicians^{2,3,4} in Alabama

1,912 AAFP members

**8 family medicine
residency programs**

**2 teaching health
center programs**

Physician Shortage in Alabama

Due to an aging, growing, and increasingly insured population, addressing both physician shortages and geographic maldistribution of primary care physicians requires analysis and action on both the federal and state level.^{5,6}

**39.4% of residents live in a health
professional shortage area**

99 medically underserved areas

**23% increase (612 physicians)
needed by 2030**

Family Medicine's Contributions to the Economy⁷ in Alabama

**\$2.2 billion in direct and
indirect economic output**

**14,941 jobs
direct and indirect positions**

**\$987 million in direct and
indirect wages and benefits**

In a week, the average family physician:



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2. AAFP. (April 2018). American Academy of Family Physicians: Member Count by Chapter and Type.
3. ACGME. Advanced Program Search.
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4. HRSA. (April 2017). Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education Awardees.
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5. AAFP. Resources for Policymakers.
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6. Robert Graham Center. (September 2013). Workforce.
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7. AMA. (February 2018). AMA Physicians' Economic Impact Study.
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