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

| 96% participate in Medicare | 86% accept new Medicare patients | 70% accept new Medicaid patients |

**Family Physicians²³⁴ in Georgia**

- 3,204 AAFP members
- 16 family medicine residency programs
- No teaching health center programs

**Physician Shortage in Georgia**

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.⁵⁶

| 57.4% of residents live in a health professional shortage area | 167 medically underserved areas | 38% increase (2,099 physicians) needed by 2030 |

**Family Medicine’s Contributions to the Economy⁷ in Georgia**

- $5 billion in direct and indirect economic output
- 32,420 jobs direct and indirect positions
- $2.3 billion in direct and indirect wages and benefits

**In a week, the average family physician:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MON</th>
<th>TUES</th>
<th>WED</th>
<th>THURS</th>
<th>FRI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>74 patients in the office</td>
<td>makes 5 hospital visits</td>
<td>makes 3 nursing home visits</td>
<td>hosts 19 e-visits</td>
<td>makes approximately 1 house call</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. AAFP. (December 2018). American Academy of Family Physicians: Member Count by Chapter and Type.


