

THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY MEDICINE IN NEW MEXICO

Family physicians are residency-trained, primary care specialists dedicated to treating the whole person. They treat babies with ear infections, adolescents with hypertension, adults with depression, and seniors with multiple chronic illnesses. With a focus on prevention, primary care, and overall care coordination, they provide a wide variety of clinical services, and, when necessary, refer their patients to the right specialist and advocate for their care.^{1,2,3}

Family Physicians in New Mexico

880 AAFP members

1 teaching health center program

4 family medicine residency programs

Physician Shortage in New Mexico

Due to an aging, growing, and increasingly insured population, addressing both physician shortages and geographic maldistribution of PCPs requires analysis and action on the state level.^{4,5}

12.6% of residents live in a health professional shortage area

39 medically underserved areas

23% increase (326 physicians) needed by 2030

Family Medicine's Contributions to the Economy⁶ in New Mexico

\$1.4 billion in direct and indirect economic output

9,156 jobs direct and indirect positions

\$686 million in direct and indirect wages and benefits

Primary Care in the U.S. Health Care System

More Americans depend on family physicians than on any other medical specialty. American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) members are the main source of primary health care for the Medicare population as reported in the AAFP's 2017 Practice Profile Study.

91% participate in Medicare

83% accept new Medicare patients

69% affect new Medicaid patients

In a week, the average family physician:



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1. AAFP. (January 2018). American Academy of Family Physicians: Member Count by Chapter and Type.
2. HRSA. (April 2017). Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education Awardees.
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5. Robert Graham Center. (September 2013). Workforce.
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6. AMA. (February 2018). AMA Physicians' Economic Impact Study.
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