

# THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY MEDICINE IN OKLAHOMA

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.<sup>1,2,3</sup>

## Family Physicians in Oklahoma

**1,337 AAFP members**

**6 teaching health center program**

**12 family medicine residency programs**

## Physician Shortage in Oklahoma

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.<sup>4,5</sup>

**7.9% of residents live in a health professional shortage area**

**79 medically underserved areas**

**20% increase (451 physicians) needed by 2030**

## Family Medicine's Contributions to the Economy<sup>6</sup> in Oklahoma

**\$2.3 billion in direct and indirect economic output**

**15,401 jobs direct and indirect positions**

**\$1 billion 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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