

THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY MEDICINE IN RHODE ISLAND

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 Rhode Island

593 AAFP members

**2 family medicine
residency programs**

**No teaching health
center programs**

Physician Shortage in Rhode Island

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}

**15.3% of residents live in a health
professional shortage area**

12 medically underserved areas

**11% increase (99 physicians)
needed by 2030**

Family Medicine's Contributions to the Economy⁷ in Rhode Island

**\$562 million in direct and
indirect economic output**

**3,400 jobs
direct and indirect positions**

**\$308 million in direct and
indirect wages and benefits**

In a week, the average family physician:



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6. Robert Graham Center. (September 2013). Workforce.
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