

THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY MEDICINE IN TENNESSEE

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 Tennessee

2,403 AAFP members

No teaching health center programs

11 family medicine residency programs

Physician Shortage in Tennessee

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}

6.2% of residents live in a health professional shortage area

105 medically underserved areas

27% increase (1,107 physicians) needed by 2030

Family Medicine's Contributions to the Economy⁶ in Tennessee

\$3.3 billion in direct and indirect economic output

22,309 jobs direct and indirect positions

\$1.6 billion in direct and indirect wages and benefits

Primary Care in the U.S. Health Care System

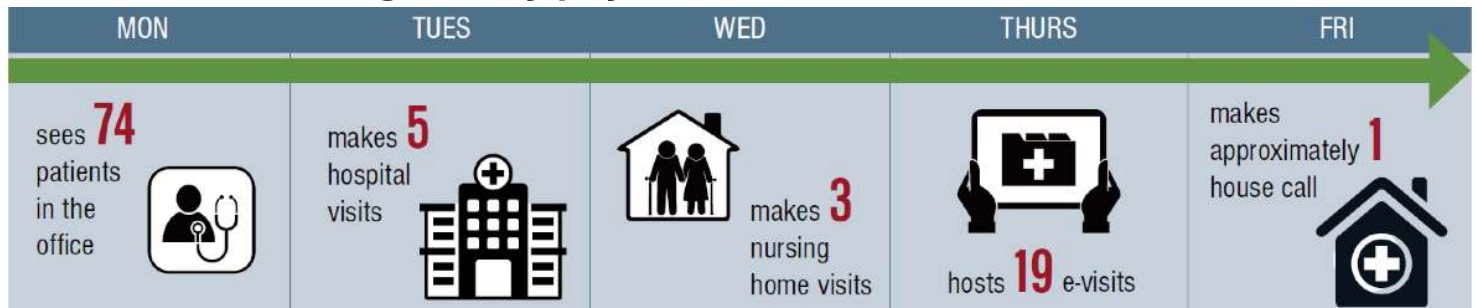
More Americans depend on family physicians than on any other medical specialty. American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) members are the main source of primary health care for the Medicare population as reported in the AAFP's 2017 Practice Profile Study.

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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6. AMA. (February 2018). AMA Physicians' Economic Impact Study.
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