

THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY MEDICINE IN WASHINGTON

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 Washington

3,737 AAFP members

24 family medicine residency programs

7 teaching health center programs

Physician Shortage in Washington

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}

43.6% of residents live in a health professional shortage area

47 medically underserved areas

32% increase (1,695 physicians) needed by 2030

Family Medicine's Contributions to the Economy⁷ in Washington

\$6.4 billion in direct and indirect economic output

37,959 jobs direct and indirect positions

\$3.5 billion in direct and indirect wages and benefits

In a week, the average family physician:



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