

ADVOCACY

FACT SHEET

An estimated **46 family physicians** per 100,000 population could reduce readmission costs by **\$81 million** per year. One-hundred family physicians per 100,000 population could **reduce costs** by **\$579 million per year**, or 83% of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act target.

19% of all Americans are Medically Disenfranchised and have inadequate access to a primary care physician.

52 million Americans are living without health care coverage, while an additional 75 millions defer treatment because they can't afford it. (2011).

Following implementation of a national **Patient-Centered Medical Home** pilot program, WellPoint realized significant decreases in acute in-patient hospitalization admissions, emergency room visits, and specialist visits, resulting in improved care and lower costs for patients and providers. Community Care of North Carolina saved **\$150 million** over two years with asthma and diabetes patients, while increasing quality outcomes.

Health Care Reform
— a top priority for both the **Federal and State Governments.**

Family Medicine — Despite numerous studies showing primary care helps prevent illness and death, primary care is still undervalued in the United States. The AAFP advocates for a primary care-based system with incentives to help medical students choose family medicine.

Coverage for All — The AAFP actively supports legislation that enables all people to access health care, regardless of income. However, the AAFP also recognizes that proper health care can only be possible with an adequate number of primary care physicians.

Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH)
— The Patient-Centered Medical Home allows comprehensive primary care for everyone by creating partnerships between patients, their physicians, and the patient's family. The PCMH helps each patient have an ongoing relationship with a personal physician.

Advocacy — Through the AAFP's grassroots efforts, FamMedPAC (the AAFP's political action committee), and through our staff presence in Washington DC, the Academy is able to legislatively support patients as well as family physicians.



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS
STRONG MEDICINE FOR AMERICA

Explore Family Medicine

ADVOCACY

AND YOU

How to Advocate at the National Level

Attend the National Conference of Family Medicine Residents and Medical Students — aafp.org/nc

Learn to write resolutions, participate in the Student Congress, and watch recommendations become AAFP Policy.

Participate in the Family Medicine Congressional Conference — aafp.org/fmcc

Learn how to lobby, and then go do it. Students can attend this conference in Washington DC each spring.

Tell Your Story — aafp.org/grassroots

Why does family medicine matter to you? Your firsthand experiences provide much-needed context for the health care debate.

Become a Key Contact — aafp.org/advocacy/involved/keycontacts.html

Build a strong ongoing relationship with key congressional members in positions important to the policy goals and objectives of the AAFP.

Contribute to FamMedPac: The AAFP's federal political action committee — aafp.org/advocacy/donate/fammedpac.html

Its purpose is to help elect candidates to the U.S. Congress who support AAFP's legislative goals and objectives.

Speak Out for Family Medicine — capitol.aafp.org

Write a letter, email, or fax your Congressman or Editor of your local paper telling them how medical students are changing the health care system.

Understand the Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) — aafp.org/pcmh

The PCMH is at the center of the health care reform debate and crucial to the future of health care in America. Not surprisingly, it's built on the foundation of family medicine—continuous, comprehensive, whole-person care.

Get Involved — aafp.org/getinvolved

AAFP student and resident leadership positions give you exposure to health care issues and debate and a place at the table.

How to Advocate at the Local Level

Join your FMIG and organize an advocacy event — aafp.org/med-ed

Invite a Legislator to speak at your school, start a letter-writing campaign on a significant issue, or partner with the community to engage in change.

Advocate for your patients

Identify a community health need and work with local leaders to make changes on behalf of your patients.

Create a new Student Advocate Position with your state chapter

Encourage your state chapter to include students and residents in Hill visits. Organize a student legislative liaison to report on state activities to FMIGs.