



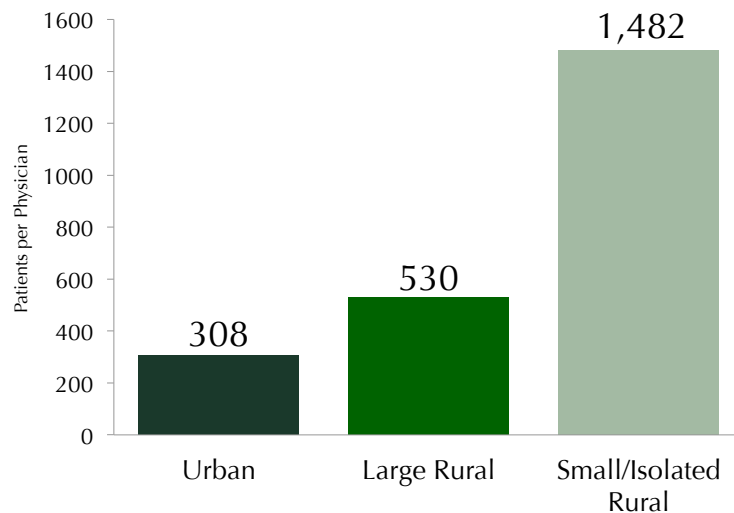
Demographics of Direct Patient Care Physicians in North Dakota

This fact sheet is Number 2 in a series of analyses regarding physicians in North Dakota. It was developed using 2011 data from the American Medical Association physician master file. An updated version of this information using 2013 data is available on Fact Sheet Number 17 in this series.

Direct patient care physicians are defined as those who have regular contact with patients. They do not include physicians who solely teach or do research. They do include those working in hospitals and clinics and those who are semi-retired.

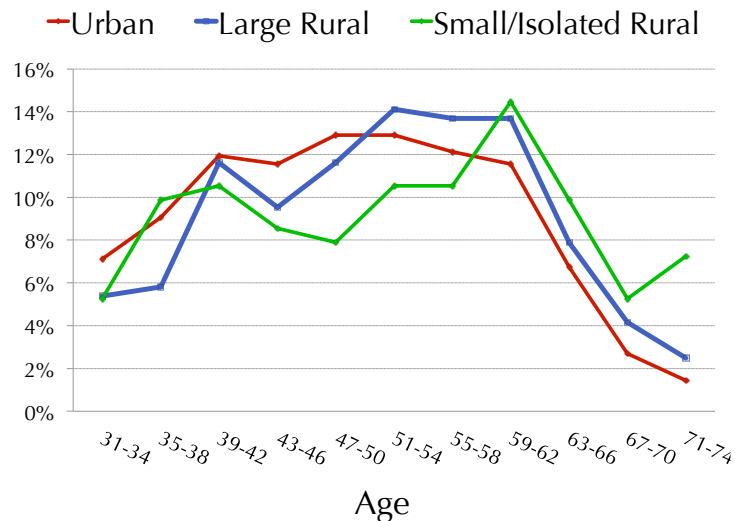
Currently there are 1,432 direct patient care physicians practicing in North Dakota. Figure 1 shows the number of patients for every one physician by rural/urban designation relative to the population.

Figure 1. Number of Patients Per Physicians in North Dakota by Rural/Urban Status



- There are almost twice as many patients per physician in large rural areas than urban areas, and almost five times as many in small rural areas.
- About one in four physicians are female which does not significantly vary by rural and urban type.

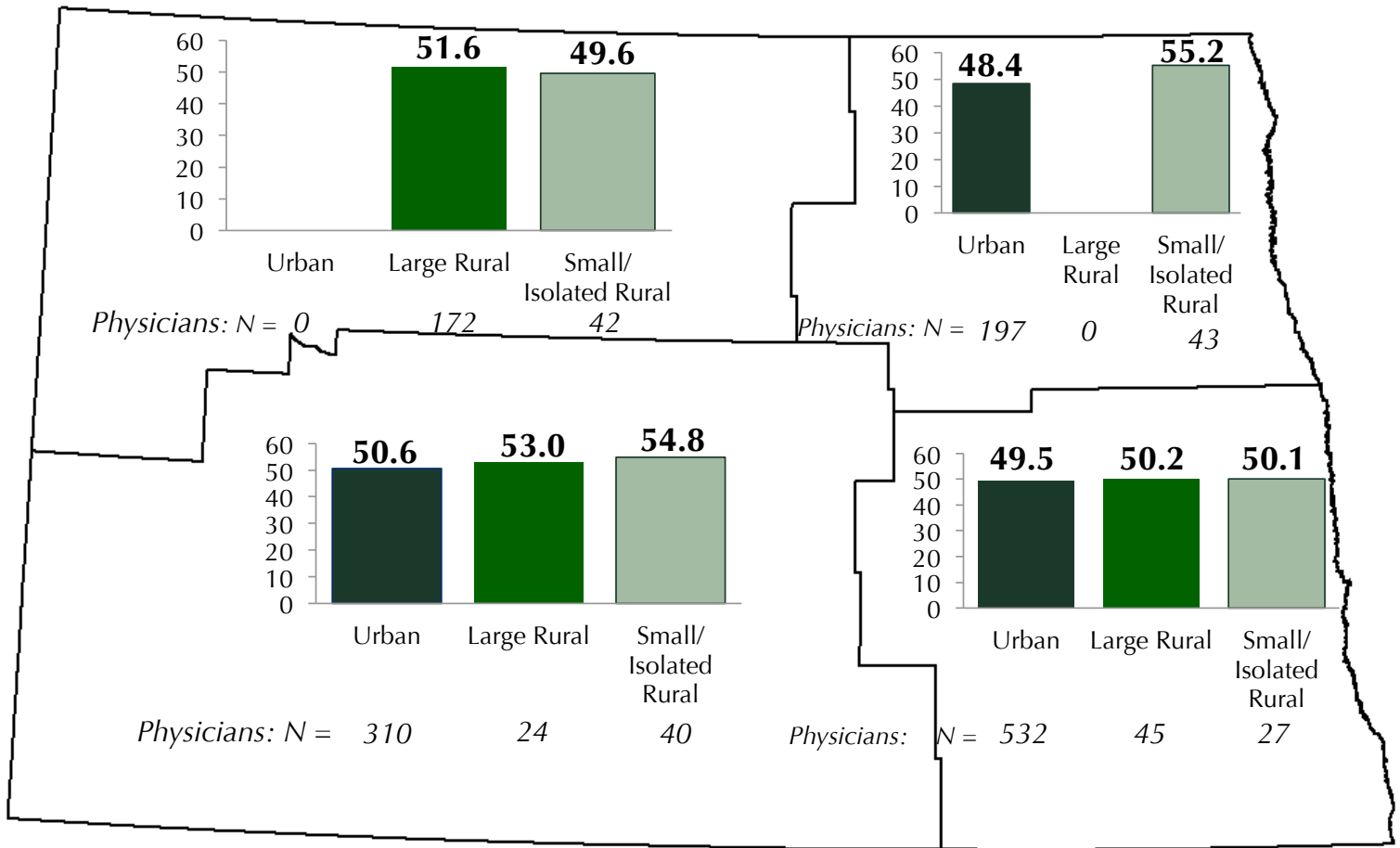
Figure 2. Physicians in North Dakota by Age Group for Rural/Urban Status



- Both large rural (Age=51.5, n=1,039) and small/isolated rural (Age=52.6, n=241) physicians are significantly older than urban physicians (Age=49.6, n=152) ($F=7.78$, $p<.001$).
- Large, small, and isolated rural areas have proportionally more physicians age 59 and older.



Figure 3. Average age of Physicians for Rural/Urban Status within Four Regions of North Dakota



- Physicians in the northeast region have the largest age difference between urban and rural areas (means of 48 vs. 55).
- Rural physicians in the southwest region are relatively older than their urban counterparts.
- There are no meaningful differences in mean age by rural/urban status in the southeast region.

Conclusions

- Rural areas in North Dakota have about one fifth the direct patient care physicians as do urban areas.
- The ratio of males to females is consistent across both rural and urban areas and regions.
- Rural areas have older physicians (over 58) than urban areas, consistent across regions.
- The mean age of physicians by rural/urban location varies notably across North Dakota regions and within regions. Clearly the northeast and southwest regions have older physicians in their rural areas.

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