



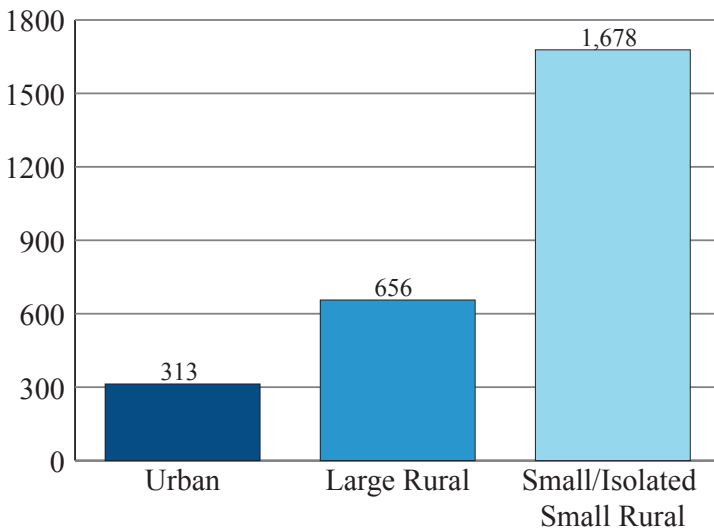
Demographics of Direct Patient Care Physicians in North Dakota

This fact sheet is Number 27 in a series of analyses regarding physicians in North Dakota. It was developed using 2015 data from the American Medical Association Physician Masterfile.

Direct patient care physicians are defined as those who have regular contact with patients. They do not include physicians who predominately teach or do research. They do include those working in hospitals and clinics and those who are semi-retired. International medical graduates (IMGs) and Canadian graduates are also included.

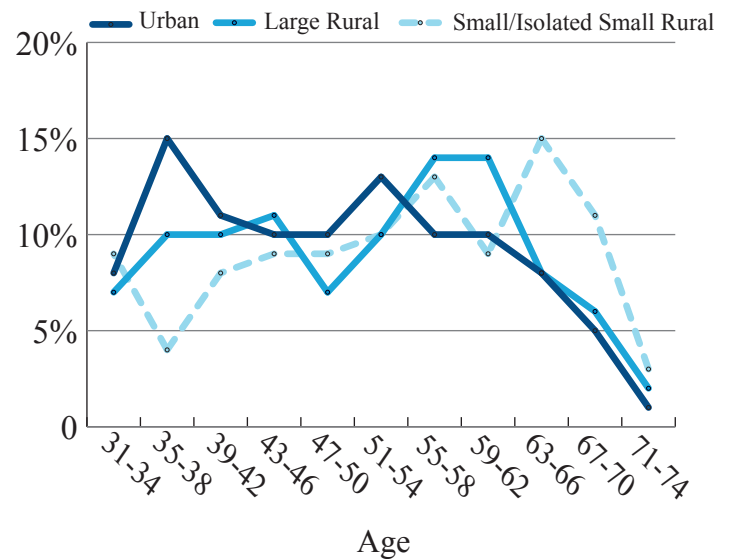
Currently there are 1,614 direct care physicians practicing in North Dakota. Figure 1 shows the number of patients for every one physician by rural/urban designation relative to the population.

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



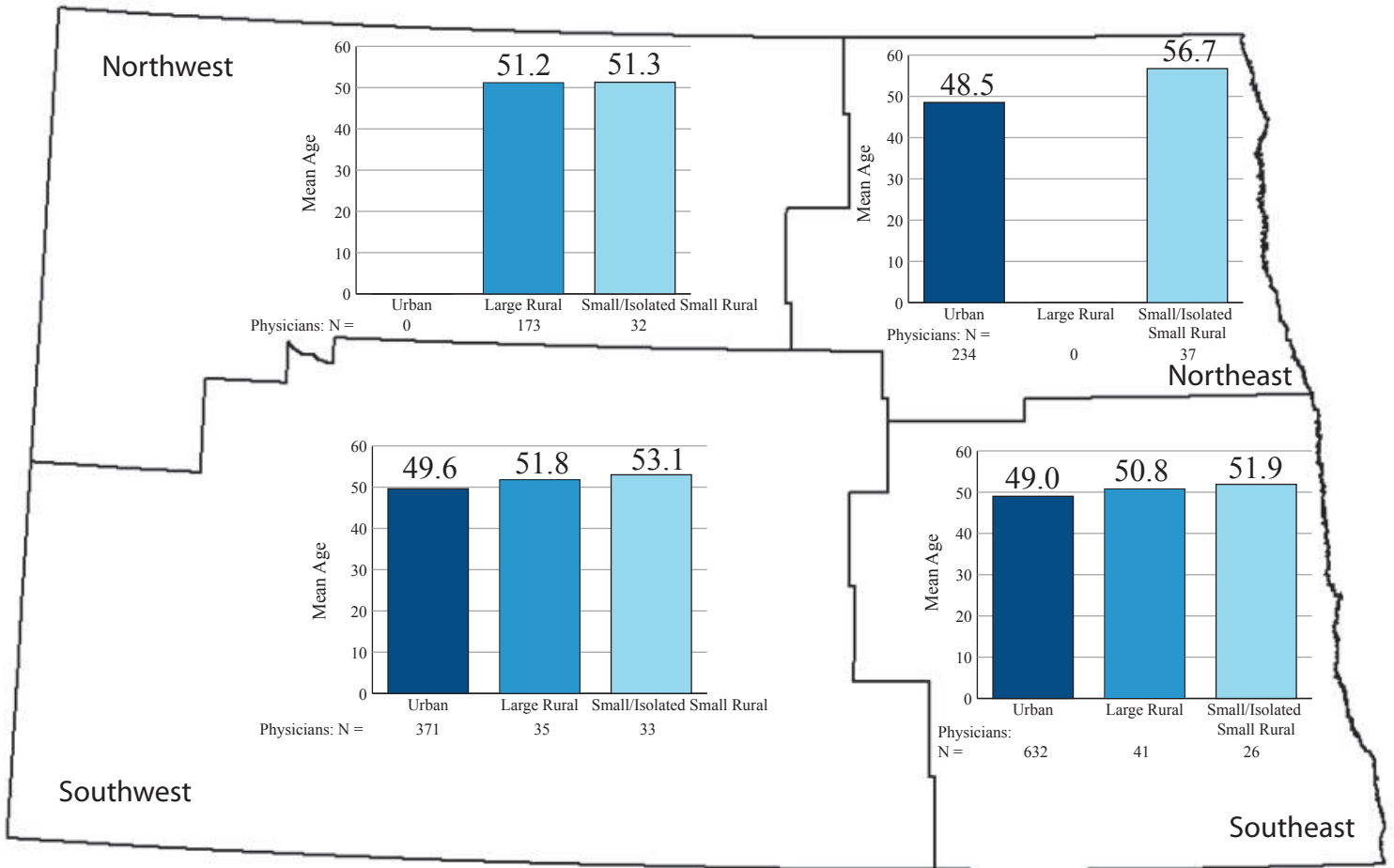
- There are more than twice as many patients per physician in large rural areas than urban areas and more than five times as many for small/isolated small rural areas.
- About one in four physicians is female, which does not significantly vary by rural and urban type.

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



- Both large rural (Age=51.2, n=249) and small/isolated small rural (Age=53.4, n=128) physicians are older than urban physicians (Age=49.1, n=1,237).
- Large, small, and isolated small rural areas have proportionally more physicians ages 59 and older than do urban areas.

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 48.5 vs. 56.7).
- Rural physicians in the southwest region are relatively older than their urban counterparts.

Conclusions

- Rural areas in North Dakota have about one-third the direct patient care physicians as urban areas.
- The ratio of males to females is relatively consistent across both rural and urban areas and regions.
- Rural areas have older physicians (over 63) than urban areas, consistent across North Dakota's regions.
- The mean age of physicians by rural/urban location varies notably across North Dakota regions and within regions. All areas have older physicians in rural areas.

Data

The physician data are from the 2015 American Medical Association Physician Masterfile.

North Dakota Workforce Fact Sheets Are Available At:
ruralhealth.und.edu/publications/health-workforce-factsheets

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