



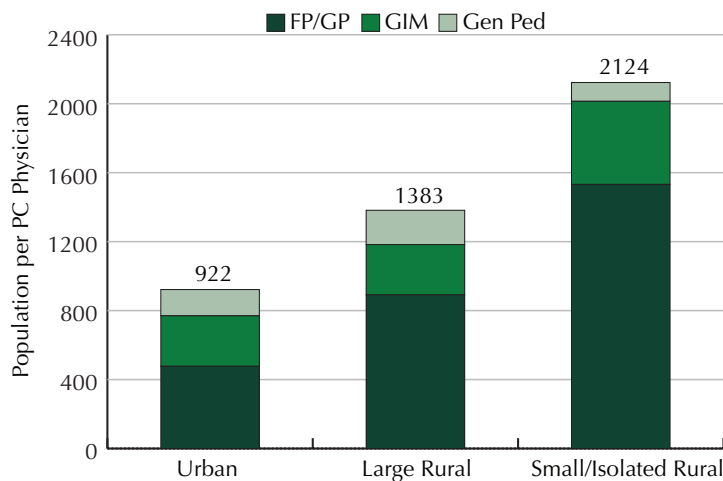
## Demographics of Primary Care Physicians in North Dakota

This fact sheet is Number 22 in a series of analyses regarding physicians in North Dakota. It was developed using 2013 data from the American Medical Association physician master file. This document is an updated version of Fact Sheet Number 11 in this series.

Primary care physicians are defined as those practicing in family/general practice (FP/GP), general internal medicine (GIM), and general pediatrics (Gen Ped) in 2013.

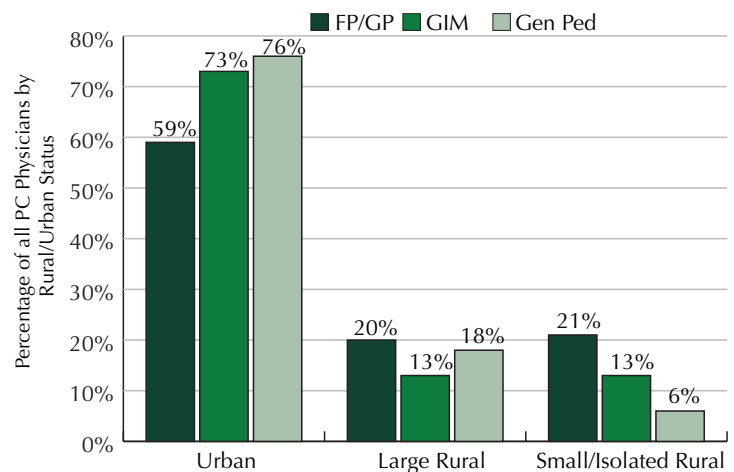
In 2013, there were 582 active primary care physicians in North Dakota. Of these physicians, 381 (65%) practiced in urban areas, 104 (18%) in large rural areas, 41 (7%) in small rural areas, and 56 (10%) in isolated rural areas. There are 201 primary care physicians in all rural areas combined, which represents 35% of all primary care physicians in North Dakota.

**Figure 1. Population Per Primary Care Physicians by Rural/Urban Status in North Dakota**



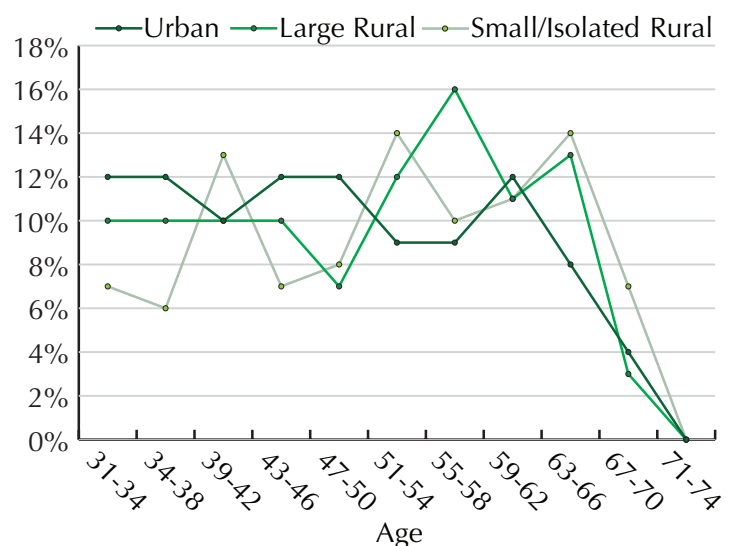
- There are over twice as many patients per primary care physician in small/isolated rural areas compared to urban areas.
- The largest absolute difference is for small/isolated rural versus urban family physicians per population (1,202).

**Figure 2. Percentage of Primary Care Physicians in North Dakota by Specialty for Rural/Urban Status**



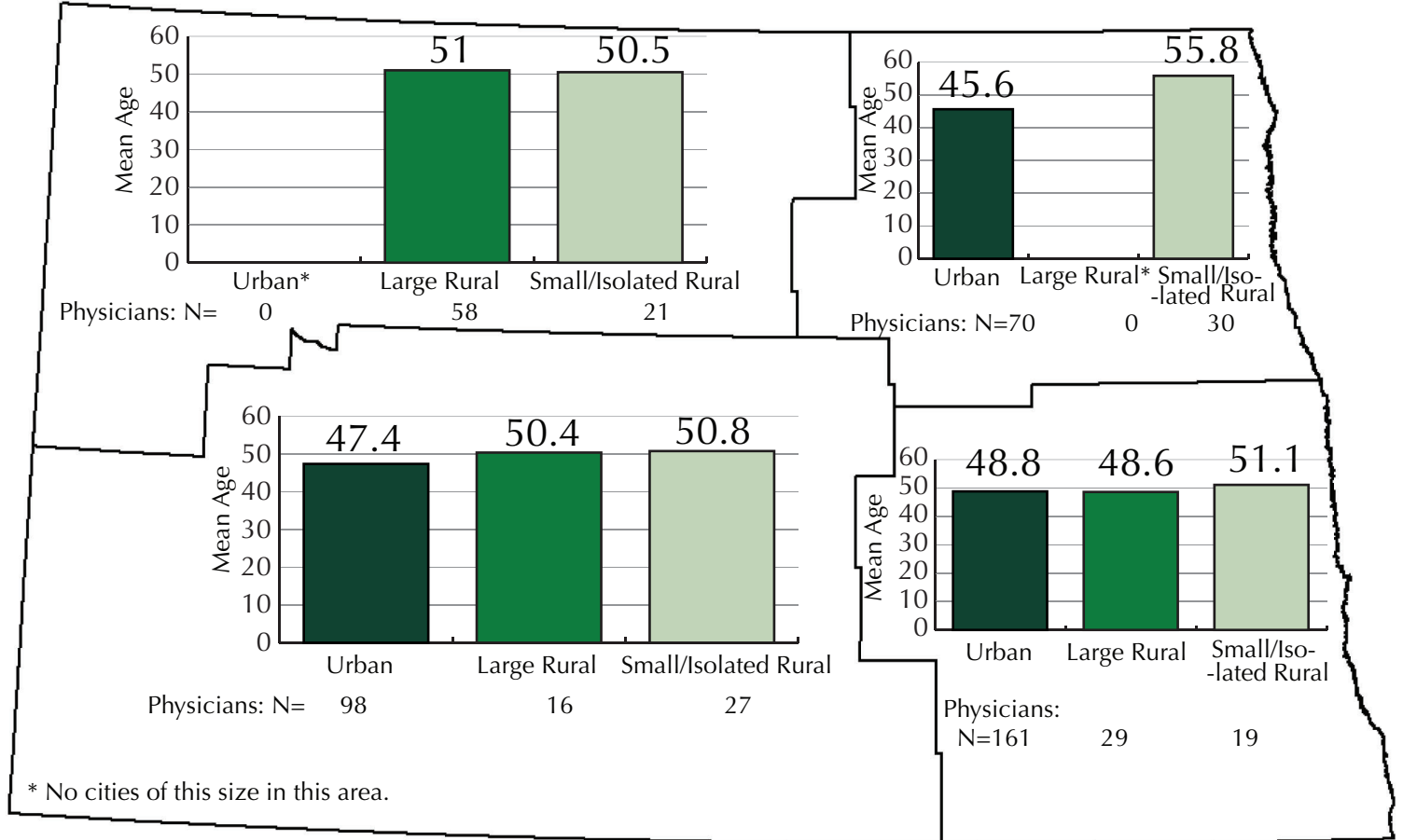
- GIM and Gen Ped primary care physicians are more likely to practice in urban areas (73% and 76%) than FP/GP physicians (59%).
- By far, FP/GP primary care physicians are more likely to be practicing in isolated rural areas than are GIM and Gen Ped physicians.
- Compared to 2011 data, there is an overall decrease in practice in large and small/isolated rural areas, while there is an increase in urban areas for primary care physicians.

**Figure 3. Primary Care Physicians in North Dakota by Age Group for Rural/Urban Status**



## Conclusions

Figure 4. Average Age of Primary Care Physicians for Rural/Urban Status within Four Regions of North Dakota



- Primary care physicians in small/isolated rural areas are older than elsewhere in the state.
- The highest mean ages for primary care physicians are in small/isolated rural areas of northeast and southwest North Dakota.
- Primary care physicians average the youngest in northeast North Dakota (45.6) urban areas (i.e. Grand Forks).
- More than two-thirds (65%) of North Dakota's primary care physicians practice in urban areas.
- Family Practice/General Practice physicians are relatively more likely to work in small/isolated rural areas.
- Primary care physicians in small and isolated rural areas are older, especially in small and isolated rural areas of the northeast and southwest portions of North Dakota.

## Data

The physician data is from the 2013 American Medical Association physician master file. Urban, large rural, small rural, and isolated rural are defined using Rural-Urban Community Areas. ([depts.washington.edu/uwrural](http://depts.washington.edu/uwrural))

### For more information, contact

#### Gary Hart, PhD

701.777.3848 • [gary.hart@med.und.edu](mailto:gary.hart@med.und.edu)

#### Mandi-Leigh Peterson, MA

701.777.6719 • [mandi.leigh.peterson@med.und.edu](mailto:mandi.leigh.peterson@med.und.edu)

#### Abdimajid Ahmed

701.777.6842 • [abdimajid.ahmed@med.und.edu](mailto:abdimajid.ahmed@med.und.edu)

## Center for Rural Health

University of North Dakota  
 School of Medicine & Health Sciences  
 501 North Columbia Road, Stop 9037  
 Grand Forks, ND 58202-9037  
 701.777.3848 • [ruralhealth.und.edu](http://ruralhealth.und.edu)