

Support Funding Family Medicine Line

The future health of Ohio depends upon us providing more dollars to this important cause.

Funding for Family Medicine is Critical.

Here is Why:

- The Family Medicine Line provides much needed funding to help educate and produce family physicians – family physicians that provide patients with a personal medical home and high quality, cost effective care.
- The Family Medicine Line helps train family physicians who locate in areas with need; family physicians tend to distribute themselves to rural and inner city areas in larger numbers than do physicians in other specialties.
- The Family Medicine Line helps produce family physicians who emphasize disease prevention and health maintenance in addition to treating illness (decreasing healthcare costs by preventing and correcting health issues early before they are more serious and expensive to treat).
- The Family Medicine Line trains the family physicians who Medicare and Medicaid patients rely upon for their care.

Why Family Medicine Line is Important

A severe shortage of family physicians is predicted in the next 10-20 years. Ensuring that Ohio has an adequate supply of family physicians is essential to keeping Ohio's workforce healthy and productive because:

- Family physicians detect and treat health issues early before they become serious illnesses that are much more expensive to treat.
- In markets where family and primary care physicians provide the majority of care, patients are healthier and costs are lower.
- Populations with a high primary care physician-to-sub-specialist ratio result in lower mortality rates and lower costs.

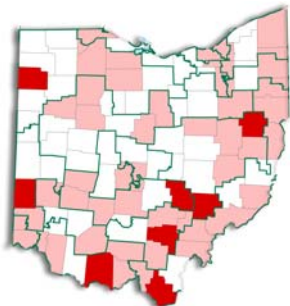
Family Physicians Care for Ohio

Regardless of the patient's geographic location, age, gender, health status or income level, family physicians care for the people of Ohio.

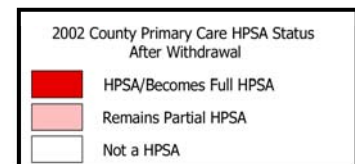
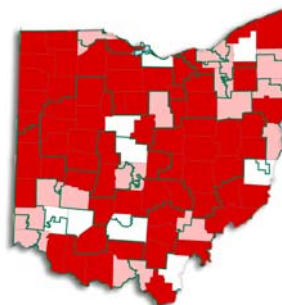
- Family physicians account for 12 percent of the physician labor force but treat almost one out of every four patients visiting a physician's office.
- Twenty-one percent of the U.S. population lives in a rural setting, which is where 24 percent of family physicians choose to practice.
- Family physicians care for Medicare patients – of people age 65 and older, 60 percent identified a family physician as their provider.
- Family physicians care for Medicaid patients – even with extremely inadequate reimbursement, 76.9 percent of family physicians still treat Medicaid patients.
- Family physicians care for 65.8 percent of all patients with hypertension, 63.3 percent of all patients with diabetes, 57.8 percent of all patients with asthma and 55.9 percent of all patients with heart disease.

Primary Care Physicians in Health Professional Shortage Areas

Now



If Family Physicians were Eliminated



Data Source: 2003 Area Resource File
(U.S. Department of Health and Human Services)

Source: The Robert Graham Center for Policy Studies in Family Practice and Primary Care

Provided by: Ohio Academy of Family Physicians

4075 N. High Street - Columbus, Ohio 43214

Ph: 614/267-7867

Fax: 614/267-9191

www.ohioafp.org