

# THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY MEDICINE IN SOUTH DAKOTA

Family physicians are residency-trained, primary care specialists dedicated to treating the whole person. With a focus on prevention, primary care, and overall care coordination, family physicians provide a wide variety of clinical services, and, when necessary, refer their patients to a specialist, while continuing to advocate for that patient's care.

## Family Physicians in the U.S. Health Care System

More Americans depend on family physicians than on any other medical specialty. AAFP members are the main source of primary health care for the Medicare population and see a large proportion of new Medicaid beneficiaries.<sup>1</sup>

**91%**  
participate in Medicare

**83%**  
accept new Medicare patients

**69%**  
accept new Medicaid patients

## Family Physicians<sup>2,3,4</sup> in South Dakota

**581 AAFP members**

**3 family medicine  
residency programs**

**No teaching health  
center programs**

## Physician Shortage in South Dakota

Due to an aging, growing, and increasingly insured population, addressing both physician shortages and geographic maldistribution of primary care physicians requires analysis and action on both the federal and state level.<sup>5,6</sup>

**29.7% of residents live in a health  
professional shortage area**

**70 medically underserved areas**

**27% increase (162 physicians)  
needed by 2030**

## Family Medicine's Contributions to the Economy<sup>7</sup> in South Dakota

**\$569 million in direct and  
indirect economic output**

**3,673 jobs  
direct and indirect positions**

**\$297 million in direct and  
indirect wages and benefits**

## In a week, the average family physician:



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