

Data below is from what is considered to be the definitive source of comprehensive national comparative data on the U.S. M.D. physician workforce---the American Medical Association's Physician Masterfile. The AMA Masterfile includes data on all U.S. allopathic physicians, whether or not they are AMA members.

A file is begun on each physician when he/she starts medical school and is maintained throughout that physicians' life. In fact the AMA stresses that a physician's file is not expunged even after the physician dies in order to allow for historical and longitudinal analysis of physician workforce trends.

(1) DATA ON OVERALL SUPPLY:

Florida has 48,706 physicians, placing it 4th nationally in terms of total number of physicians

Florida ranks 17th nationally in terms of our ratio of physicians per 100,000 state population.

Between 1975 and 2002, Florida's ratio of physicians per 100,000 population steadily increased from 185 to 284, but

Florida's national ranking in terms of physicians per 100,000 population dropped from 11th to 17th

(2) DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS:

Florida's physician workforce is significantly older than the Nation's, with 26% of Florida's physicians age 65 or older, as contrasted to 16% nationally. At the other end of the age spectrum, only 9% of Florida's physicians are under 35, as contrasted to 16% nationally.

73% of Florida's physicians are White, as compared to the 64% of the state population that is White.

16% of Florida's physicians are Hispanic a ratio that is slightly lower than the 18% of the state's population that is Hispanic

Only 3% of the state's physicians are African American, a ratio that is significantly lower than the 15% of the state's population that is African American.

(3) DATA ON WHERE FLORIDA PHYSICIANS WERE EDUCATED AND TRAINED:

Florida "imports" most of the physicians who practice here-

By “import” I mean most of the physicians who practice in Florida were not educated or trained here:

Only 20% of allopathic physicians practicing in Florida graduated from a Florida medical school; Nationally, 32% of the physicians practicing in a given state graduated from medical school in that same state.

Only 32% of allopathic physicians practicing in Florida completed a Florida residency program. Nationally, 45% of the physicians practicing in a given state completed residency training in that same state.

60% of all physicians who complete a Florida residency program remain in Florida to practice, placing Florida 4th nationally in retention of residency completers in state practice.

34% of Florida physicians graduated from international medical schools, placing Florida 3rd nationally in the number of physicians who graduated from international medical schools. Nationally, 24% of the US physician workforce graduated from an international medical school.

(4) DATA ON PHYSICIANS' PRACTICE CHARACTERISTICS

75% of Florida physicians are involved in direct patient care, compared to 79% Nationally; (the category of “direct patient care” excludes physicians who are medical school faculty and those who are primarily involved in research or administration)

Florida ranks 25th nationally in terms of the ratio of its physicians per 100,000 who are involved in direct patient care

Approximately 35% of Florida physicians practice primary care (family/general practice, general internal medicine, general pediatrics and OB/GYN; this is somewhat below the National average of 40% of physicians in primary care practice.

The percentage of Florida physicians practicing surgical specialties (14%) and all other non-surgical specialties (30%) is approximately equal to the Nation

(4) DATA ON WHERE PHYSICIANS PRACTICE

In Florida, as in the Nation, physician's practices are concentrated in major metropolitan areas and the suburban fringes that surround them.

Also, like the Nation, Florida has too few physicians practicing in many rural areas of the state.

As of 2001, Florida had 13 whole counties and multiple geographic areas and special populations that were designated by the Federal Government as Health Profession Shortage Areas;

A total of 2.3 million, or 14% of Floridians, live in a Health Professions Shortage Area

Approximately 385 physicians would have to locate in or provide care in these HPSA's for the shortage designation to be removed