

Family Medicine State Fact Sheet in South Carolina



Family medicine is the only medical specialty in which physicians are trained to provide continuing, comprehensive health care for people of all ages and genders, treating each organ system and every disease entity. No other medical specialty covers the broad range of primary care services that family medicine does.

Family medicine is based on a philosophy of caring for the whole person and a continual emphasis on family, community and environmental context, making it the ideal specialty to care for America's most vulnerable and underserved communities.

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.¹



Accepts new Medicare patients

86%



Accepts new Medicaid patients

70%

In a week, the average family physician has 82 total patient encounters.²



Office Visits per week

61



E-visits per week

13



Hospital visits per week

8



Nursing Home Visits per week

1



House calls per week

1

51 days of life are added with every 10 additional primary care providers added per 100k residents.³

Family Physician Training in South Carolina

There were **133** family medicine residents in South Carolina between 2018 and 2020 and **63.2%** remained in the state.⁴

of Family Medicine Residency Programs⁵

17

of Teaching Health Centers⁶

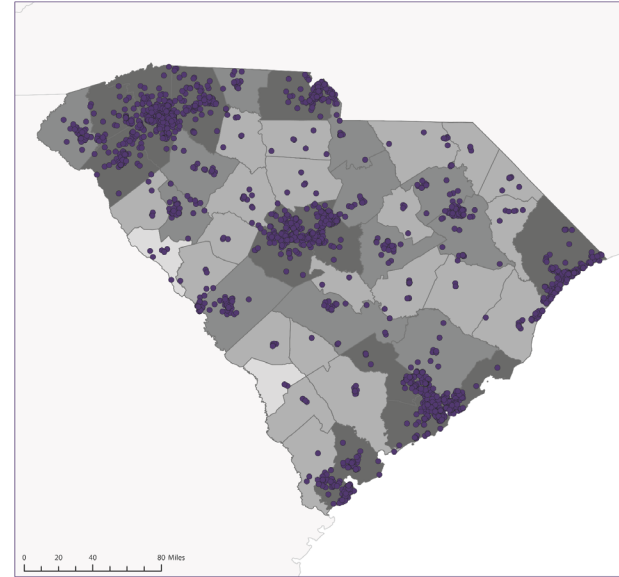
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Primary Care Physicians



SOUTH CAROLINA



● Primary Care Physicians (n=3,845)
 Population per square mile
 Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey
 Legend: <=25, 26-75, 76-250, 251-1,000, >1,000

Source Notes: AMA Physician Masterfile 2022; U.S. Census Bureau county and state shapefiles 2020

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South Carolina has 72.2 primary care physicians per 100,000 state residents.⁷

Family Physician Shortage in South Carolina

South Carolina currently has **1,790** family physicians but needs **2,520** for an adequate level of services.⁸

South Carolina has **39** designated Health Professional Shortage Areas.⁹

2,413,461 residents in South Carolina live in a medically underserved area.⁹

Family Medicine's Contribution to South Carolina's Economy¹⁰

\$2.9 billion in direct and indirect economic output

19,744 direct and indirect jobs

\$1.4 billion in direct and indirect wages and benefits

1. AAFP. Family Medicine Facts.
2. AAFP 2024 Practice Profile Survey
3. Basu S, Phillips RS, Berkowitz SA, Landon BE, Bitton A, Phillips RL. Estimated Effect on Life Expectancy of Alleviating Primary Care Shortages in the United States. *Ann Intern Med.* 2021 Jul;174(7):920-926. doi: 10.7326/M20-7381. Epub 2021 Mar 23. PMID: 33750188.
4. AMA Physician Masterfile as of November 2024.
5. ACGME. Advanced Program Search. Retrieved from <https://apps.acgme.org/ads/Public/Programs/Search>
6. HRSA. [Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education Awardees](#)
7. 2021 AMA Masterfile and the U.S. Census Bureau estimates of State Population Totals for 2021 <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/popest/2020s-state-total.html>.
8. HRSA. [Health Workforce Projections](#)
9. HealthLandscape. Underserved Population
10. AMA. [Economic Impact Study](#).