

Coverage Does NOT Equal Care

The Changing Healthcare Workforce

Kavita K. Patel, MD, MSPH

Fellow, Economic Studies, Managing Director, Engelberg Center
for Health Care Reform, The Brookings Institution

Mallory L. West, Research Assistant, The Brookings Institution

Geographic Distribution of the Primary Care Workforce

Table. Geographic Distribution of Health Care Professionals in 2010

Geography	All (%)			Primary care (%)					U.S. population (%)
	NP	PA	Physicians	NP	PA	Family medicine	General internal medicine	General pediatrics	
Urban	84.3	84.4	91.0	72.1	75.1	77.5	89.8	77.6	80
Large rural	8.9	8.8	6.5	11.0	11.6	11.1	6.7	9.6	10
Small rural	3.9	3.7	1.7	7.7	6.9	7.2	2.4	7.3	5
Isolated rural, frontier	2.8	3.0	0.7	9.1	6.3	4.2	1.1	5.5	5

NOTE: Data from the National Provider Identifier file (November 2010) and the 2007 U.S. Census.

NP = nurse practitioner; PA = physician assistant.

Adapted from Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Primary care workforce facts and stats no. 3. January 2012. <http://www.ahrq.gov/research/findings/factsheets/primary/pcwork3/index.html>. Accessed May 8, 2013.

Source: Petterson, S.M., Phillips, R.L., Bazemore, A.W., and G.T. Koinis. *Unequal Distribution of the U.S. Primary Care Workforce*. American Family Physician. June 2013; 87(11):1

Comparison of Non-physician and Physician Salaries

NON-PHYSICIAN	MEDIAN SALARY, 2012	PHYSICIAN	MEDIAN SALARY, 2012
Audiologist	\$69K	Otolaryngologist	\$316
CR Nurse Anesthetist	\$157K	Anesthesiologist	\$337K
Certified Nurse Midwife	\$92K	OB-GYN	\$255K
Chiropractor	\$131K	Orthopedic Surgeon	\$414K
Naturopath	\$62K	Family Practitioner	\$176K
		General Internist	\$188K
Nurse Practitioner	\$91K	Family Practitioner	\$176K
		General Internist	\$188K
Optometrist	\$107K	Ophthalmologist	\$251K
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon	\$217K	Dermatologist	\$280K
		Otolaryngologist	\$316L
		Plastic Surgeon	\$325K
Pharmacist	\$115K	Family Practitioner	\$176K
		General Internist	\$188K
Physical Therapist	\$75K	Orthopedic Surgeon	\$414K
Psychologist	\$83K	Psychiatrist	\$194K

Nurse Practitioner Scope of Practice Autonomy, 2012

