

**Table 108. Doctors of medicine in primary care, by specialty: United States and outlying U.S. areas, selected years 1949–2008**

[Data are based on reporting by physicians]

Specialty	1949 <sup>1</sup>	1960 <sup>1</sup>	1970	1980	1990	1995	2000	2004	2008
	Number								
Total doctors of medicine <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	201,277	260,484	334,028	467,679	615,421	720,325	813,770	884,974	954,224
Active doctors of medicine <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	191,577	247,257	310,845	414,916	547,310	625,443	692,368	744,143	784,199
General primary care									
Specialists . . . . .	113,222	125,359	134,354	170,705	213,514	241,329	274,653	296,495	305,264
General practice/family									
medicine . . . . .	95,980	88,023	57,948	60,049	70,480	75,976	86,312	91,164	93,761
Internal medicine . . . . .	12,453	26,209	39,924	58,462	76,295	88,240	101,353	111,800	115,314
Obstetrics/Gynecology . . . . .	---	---	18,532	24,612	30,220	33,519	35,922	37,779	38,272
Pediatrics . . . . .	4,789	11,127	17,950	27,582	36,519	43,594	51,066	55,752	57,917
Primary care subspecialists . . . . .	---	---	3,161	16,642	30,911	39,659	52,294	62,322	71,794
Family medicine . . . . .	---	---	---	---	---	236	483	768	1,193
Internal medicine . . . . .	---	---	1,948	13,069	22,054	26,928	34,831	41,471	47,779
Obstetrics/Gynecology . . . . .	---	---	344	1,693	3,477	4,133	4,319	4,280	4,363
Pediatrics . . . . .	---	---	869	1,880	5,380	8,362	12,661	15,803	18,459
	Percent of active doctors of medicine								
General primary care specialist . . . . .	59.1	50.7	43.2	41.1	39.0	38.6	39.7	39.8	38.9
General practice/family									
medicine . . . . .	50.1	35.6	18.6	14.5	12.9	12.1	12.5	12.3	12.0
Internal medicine . . . . .	6.5	10.6	12.8	14.1	13.9	14.1	14.6	15.0	14.7
Obstetrics/Gynecology . . . . .	---	---	6.0	5.9	5.5	5.4	5.2	5.1	4.9
Pediatrics . . . . .	2.5	4.5	5.8	6.6	6.7	7.0	7.4	7.5	7.4
Primary care subspecialists . . . . .	---	---	1.0	4.0	5.6	6.3	7.6	8.4	9.2
Family medicine . . . . .	---	---	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2
Internal medicine . . . . .	---	---	0.6	3.1	4.0	4.3	5.0	5.6	6.1
Obstetrics/Gynecology . . . . .	---	---	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6
Pediatrics . . . . .	---	---	0.3	0.5	1.0	1.3	1.8	2.1	2.4

--- Data not available.

0.0 Percent greater than zero but less than 0.05.

<sup>1</sup>Estimated by the Bureau of Health Professions, Health Resources Administration. Active doctors of medicine (MDs) include those with address unknown and primary specialty not classified.

<sup>2</sup>Includes MDs engaged in federal and nonfederal patient care (office-based or hospital-based) and other professional activities.

<sup>3</sup>Starting with 1970 data, MDs who are inactive, have unknown address, or primary specialty not classified are excluded. Also see Table 108. See Appendix II, Physician.

NOTES: See Appendix II, Physician specialty. Data are as of December 31 except for 1990–1994 data, which are as of January 1, and 1949 data, which are as of midyear. Outlying areas include Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Pacific islands of Canton, Caroline, Guam, Mariana, Marshall, American Samoa, and Wake. Data have been revised and differ from previous editions of *Health, United States*.

SOURCE: Health Manpower Source Book: Medical Specialists, USDHEW, 1962; American Medical Association (AMA). Distribution of physicians in the United States, 1970; Physician characteristics and distribution in the U.S., 1981, 1992, 1996–1997, 1997–1998, 1999, 2000–2001, 2001–2002, 2002–2003, 2003–2004, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 editions, Department of Physician Practice and Communications Information, Division of Survey and Data Resources, AMA. (Copyrights 1971, 1982, 1992, 1996, 1997, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009: Used with the permission of the AMA.)