

Table 111. Doctors of medicine in primary care, by specialty: United States and outlying U.S. areas, selected years 1949–2009

[Data are based on reporting by physicians]

Specialty	1949 ¹	1960 ¹	1970	1980	1990	1995	2000	2008	2009
	Number								
Total doctors of medicine ²	201,277	260,484	334,028	467,679	615,421	720,325	813,770	954,224	972,376
Active doctors of medicine ³	191,577	247,257	310,845	414,916	547,310	625,443	692,368	784,199	792,805
General primary care specialists	113,222	125,359	134,354	170,705	213,514	241,329	274,653	305,264	307,586
General practice/family medicine	95,980	88,023	57,948	60,049	70,480	75,976	86,312	93,761	94,671
Internal medicine	12,453	26,209	39,924	58,462	76,295	88,240	101,353	115,314	116,148
Obstetrics/Gynecology	---	---	18,532	24,612	30,220	33,519	35,922	38,272	38,573
Pediatrics	4,789	11,127	17,950	27,582	36,519	43,594	51,066	57,917	58,194
Primary care subspecialists	---	---	3,161	16,642	30,911	39,659	52,294	71,794	74,000
Family medicine	---	---	---	---	---	236	483	1,193	1,303
Internal medicine	---	---	1,948	13,069	22,054	26,928	34,831	47,779	49,324
Obstetrics/Gynecology	---	---	344	1,693	3,477	4,133	4,319	4,363	4,282
Pediatrics	---	---	869	1,880	5,380	8,362	12,661	18,459	19,091
	Percent of active doctors of medicine								
General primary care specialist	59.1	50.7	43.2	41.1	39.0	38.6	39.7	38.9	38.8
General practice/family medicine	50.1	35.6	18.6	14.5	12.9	12.1	12.5	12.0	11.9
Internal medicine	6.5	10.6	12.8	14.1	13.9	14.1	14.6	14.7	14.7
Obstetrics/Gynecology	---	---	6.0	5.9	5.5	5.4	5.2	4.9	4.9
Pediatrics	2.5	4.5	5.8	6.6	6.7	7.0	7.4	7.4	7.3
Primary care subspecialists	---	---	1.0	4.0	5.6	6.3	7.6	9.2	9.3
Family medicine	---	---	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2
Internal medicine	---	---	0.6	3.1	4.0	4.3	5.0	6.1	6.2
Obstetrics/Gynecology	---	---	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.5
Pediatrics	---	---	0.3	0.5	1.0	1.3	1.8	2.4	2.4

--- Data not available.

0.0 Percentage greater than zero but less than 0.05.

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

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

³Starting with 1970 data, MDs who are inactive, have unknown address, or primary specialty not classified are excluded. Also see [Table 107](#). 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, 2010, 2011 editions, Department of Physician Practice and Communications Information, Division of Survey and Data Resources, AMA. (Copyright 1971, 1982, 1992, 1996, 1997, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011: Used with the permission of the AMA.) See [Appendix I, American Medical Association \(AMA\) Physician Masterfile](#).