

Table 94. Doctors of medicine in primary care, by specialty: United States and outlying U.S. areas, selected years 1949–2012

[Data are based on reporting by physicians]

Specialty	1949 ¹	1960 ¹	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2011	2012
	Number								
Total doctors of medicine ²	201,277	260,484	334,028	467,679	615,421	813,770	985,375	1,004,635	1,026,788
Active doctors of medicine ³	191,577	247,257	310,845	414,916	547,310	692,368	794,862	809,492	826,001
General primary care specialists	113,222	125,359	134,354	170,705	213,514	274,653	304,687	309,672	313,793
General practice/family medicine	95,980	88,023	57,948	60,049	70,480	86,312	94,746	95,274	96,552
Internal medicine	12,453	26,209	39,924	58,462	76,295	101,353	113,591	116,715	118,504
Obstetrics/Gynecology	---	---	18,532	24,612	30,220	35,922	38,520	38,957	39,324
Pediatrics	4,789	11,127	17,950	27,582	36,519	51,066	57,830	58,726	59,413
Primary care subspecialists	---	---	3,161	16,642	30,911	52,294	76,122	79,751	83,532
Family medicine	---	---	---	---	---	483	1,445	1,593	1,764
Internal medicine	---	---	1,948	13,069	22,054	34,831	50,730	52,929	55,357
Obstetrics/Gynecology	---	---	344	1,693	3,477	4,319	4,277	4,229	4,186
Pediatrics	---	---	869	1,880	5,380	12,661	19,670	21,000	22,225
	Percent of active doctors of medicine								
General primary care specialists	59.1	50.7	43.2	41.1	39.0	39.7	38.3	38.3	38.0
General practice/family medicine	50.1	35.6	18.6	14.5	12.9	12.5	11.9	11.8	11.7
Internal medicine	6.5	10.6	12.8	14.1	13.9	14.6	14.3	14.4	14.3
Obstetrics/Gynecology	---	---	6.0	5.9	5.5	5.2	4.8	4.8	4.8
Pediatrics	2.5	4.5	5.8	6.6	6.7	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.2
Primary care subspecialists	---	---	1.0	4.0	5.6	7.6	9.6	9.9	10.1
Family medicine	---	---	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
Internal medicine	---	---	0.6	3.1	4.0	5.0	6.4	6.5	6.7
Obstetrics/Gynecology	---	---	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5
Pediatrics	---	---	0.3	0.5	1.0	1.8	2.5	2.6	2.7

--- Data not available.

0.0 Percentage greater than zero but less than 0.05.

¹Estimated by the Bureau of Health Professions, Health Resources and Services 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. 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 U.S. Pacific islands.

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, 2002–2003, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 editions, Department of Physician Practice and Communications Information, Division of Survey and Data Resources, AMA. (Copyright 1971, 1982, 1992, 2003, 2012, 2013, 2014: Used with permission of the AMA.) See Appendix I, American Medical Association (AMA) Physician Masterfile.