

# Frequently Asked Questions About The Specialty of Family Medicine 2008

## How long has the specialty of Family Medicine been around?

*Family Medicine has been a medical specialty recognized by the American Medical Association and the American Board of Medical Specialties since 1969.*

## In the U.S., what % of all visits to office-based physicians are made to Family Physicians? 25%.

## What do Family Physicians Do?

*Family physicians provide comprehensive and continuous primary care health care to:*

- *Individuals and families*
- *Women and men regardless of age or disease*
- *Infants, children and adolescents regardless of disease*

## What services to family physicians provide?

- *Prevention and Management of acute injuries and illnesses*
- *Health promotion*
- *Hospital care for acute medical illnesses*
- *Chronic disease management*
- *Maternity Care*
- *Well-child care and child development*
- *Primary mental health care*
- *Rehabilitation*
- *Supportive and end of life care*

## What kind of work schedules do Family Physicians have?

*Family Physicians work an average of 50.8 hours per week and 47 weeks per year.*

## How many Family Medicine Residencies are there in Michigan? 18.

## Do Family Physicians in Michigan do Obstetrics?

*In the East North Central Region of the U.S. (includes Michigan) 26.2 % of Family Physicians provide OB care and do Routine Deliveries.*

## What procedures are performed by Family Physicians?

*Procedures performed by family physicians include:*

<i>Arterial lines</i>	<i>Paracentesis</i>
<i>Audiometry</i>	<i>Pap smears</i>
<i>Casting</i>	<i>Pulmonary function tests</i>
<i>Central lines</i>	<i>Punch biopsies</i>
<i>Colposcopy</i>	<i>Skin biopsies</i>
<i>EKG</i>	<i>Spirometry</i>
<i>Excisions of moles, cysts, warts, skin tags</i>	<i>Suturing lacerations</i>
<i>Endoscopy</i>	<i>Thoracentesis</i>
<i>Intubation</i>	<i>Ultrasound Imaging</i>
<i>Joint injections</i>	<i>Tympanometry</i>
	<i>Vasectomy</i>

## What kind of income can a physician expect after finishing a Family Medicine Residency?

*In a survey of 165 Family Physician placement searches done by a major physician placement firm in 2003-2004, the average starting income offered to Family Physicians was \$146,000 (Up from \$136,000 in 2000-2001 – Source: Merritt, Hawkins, and Associates).*

## Of physicians in the following specialties—Orthopedic Surgery, Ophthalmology, Family Medicine, OB-GYN, and Internal Medicine—which were the most satisfied with their careers?

*Family Medicine (Source: Arch. I.M. 2002; 162).*

**The first Family Medicine residency programs in Michigan began in 1970. Between 1970 and 2004 how many physicians have completed F.M. residencies in Michigan? 2902.**

**Of the 3 M.D. medical schools in Michigan, which one has had the most students entering Family Practice residencies from 1996-2006?**

*University of Michigan 179*

*Michigan State University 197*

*Wayne State University 282*

**In the 10 years 1996-2006, 2441 students have graduated from the WSU School of Medicine. What % of these graduates entered Family Medicine Residencies?**

*12% (282 students).*

**In 2008, the number of Family Medicine positions rose for the first time since 1998. What percent were filled by US seniors? 90.6**

**What was the average number of ERAS applications sent to family medicine residency programs? 13.0**

**Are Family Physicians in demand?**

- *The 4<sup>th</sup> most recruited specialty in 2004*
- *The primary care specialty most in demand*
- *35% increase in recruitment of family physicians in 2004*

More information about a career in Family Medicine can be obtained from:

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The American Academy of Family Physicians at <http://fmignet.aafp.org/real.html>.