Florida Physician Workforce

2024 Annual Report

NOVEMBER 1, 2024

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD
State Surgeon General

Florida
HEALTH

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Executive Summary

The Physician Workforce Survey is part of the licensure renewal process for physicians and is administered by the Florida Department of Health (Department), Division of Medical Quality Assurance. Data in this report are from survey responses for licensees who renewed from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2024.

Of the 97,900 physicians who hold a license that allows them to actively work as physicians in Florida, 83,145 renewed their medical license between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2024, and responded to the physician survey. This annual report focuses only on the 59,856 physicians who provide direct patient care that renewed their license and responded to the survey.[1]

Key findings include:

- By age, physicians 40 to 49 years of age comprise the largest group participating in the physician survey. Of note, these data also show that almost one-third of respondents (32.8%) reported their age as 60 years or older.

- Alachua County has the highest rate, 62 physicians per 10,000 population while Florida's less populous counties have fewer than 10 physicians per 10,000.

- Florida's physicians providing direct patient care report internal medicine and family medicine as the two most common medical specialty areas, with over 40% of respondents identifying in these two groups.

- In terms of workload, 37,438 physicians (68%) report seeing up to 100 patients per week.

- A total of 1,521 obstetricians and gynecologists (OB/GYNs) report they deliver babies; 742 physicians reported they plan to discontinue obstetric care within the next two years.

- A total of 736 radiologists responded that mammography was part of their practice; 1,611 radiologists reported a specialty in diagnostic radiology.

- More than 95% of physicians responding to the physician survey reported accepting new Medicare patients and almost 89% reported accepting new Medicaid patients.

- Most physicians providing on-call services (11,799) are not planning to decrease their services. However, nearly 36.5% or 6,750 of 18,545 physicians reported in the survey that they plan to reduce on-call services.

- Regarding changes in scope of practice;

  → 8,079 physicians report they plan to stop providing direct patient care within the next five years; most reported approaching retirement as the reason for the change.

  → 3,055 reported plans to leave the state, while separately, another 401 reported they will change their medical specialty.

[1] Section 458.3191 and Section 459.0081, Florida Statutes

Introduction

Since 2007, the Florida Legislature has recognized that physician workforce planning is crucial for ensuring an adequate supply of trained physicians to meet the state's growing health care needs. This is especially important as Florida's population and elderly population increases.[2] Chapters 458 and 459, Florida Statutes, require the Florida Department of Health to analyze the results of the Florida Physician Workforce Survey (physician survey) and report findings to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by November 1 each year. The Florida Physician Workforce 2024 Annual Report fulfills these statutory requirements.[3]

Included herein is the analysis, by geographic area and specialty, of the number of physicians who:

✔ Practice medicine in this state.

✔ Perform deliveries of children in the state.

✔ Read mammograms and perform breast-imaged-guided procedures in the state.

✔ Perform emergency care on an on-call basis for a hospital emergency department.

✔ Plan to reduce or increase emergency on-call hours in a hospital emergency department.

✔ Plan to relocate outside the state.

✔ Plan to reduce or modify the scope of their practice.[4]

About the Survey

Data reported in the Florida Physician Workforce 2024 Annual Report are from responses to the physician survey administered from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2024. The physician survey is part of the licensure renewal process for physicians and is administered by the Department's Division of Medical Quality Assurance. Physicians must renew their licenses every other year. However, newly licensed physicians are not included in the analysis because the physician survey is only administered upon licensure renewal.[5]

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[2] Chapter 2007-172, Laws of Florida.
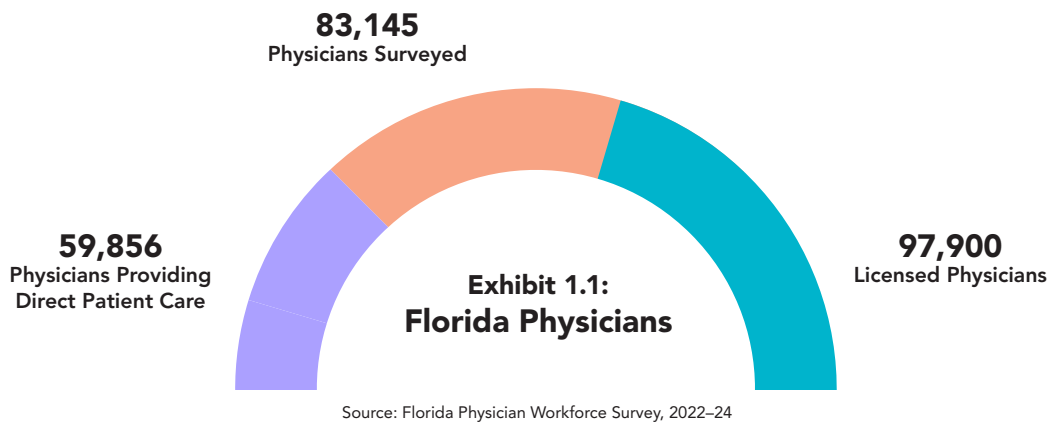[3] Section 458.3191 and Section 459.0081, Florida Statutes.
[4] Section 458.3192, Florida Statutes.
[5] In charts and graphs, "n" equals the number of question responses. The number of responses will equal the number of respondents for that survey question, except where multiple responses to a question are permitted. Unspecified values include those physicians not responding to a survey question.

Section 1: Physicians Providing Direct Patient Care and Demographic Characteristics

Key to interpreting the physician survey is an understanding of the physicians reflected in this report. As shown in Exhibit 1.1, a total of 97,900 physicians hold a license that allows them to actively work as a physician in Florida. Of these physicians, 83,145 renewed their medical license between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2024, and responded to the physician survey. Of those surveyed, 59,856 provide direct patient care.[6] Except where otherwise noted, this report presents survey results and analyzes physicians who provide direct patient care (n=59,856).

83,145
Physicians Surveyed

59,856
Physicians Providing
Direct Patient Care

97,900
Licensed Physicians

Exhibit 1.1:
Florida Physicians

Source: Florida Physician Workforce Survey, 2022–24

Demographics[7]

By Gender

Physician demographic data are captured from licensure files rather than physician survey responses. As shown in Exhibit 1.2, male physicians comprise the largest group in Florida, almost 66% (n=39,306) while female physicians comprise 33% (n=19,777) of the total.

Source: Florida Physician Workforce Survey, 2022–24

Male
39,306
65.67%

Not Specified
773
1.29%

Exhibit 1.2
Practicing Physicians
by Gender

Female
19,777
33.04%

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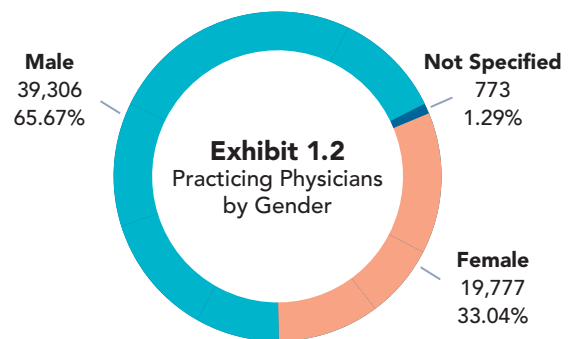
[6] Direct patient care physicians are physicians holding a Florida medical license who completed the license renewal survey and reported providing direct patient care in the last twelve months and who were not classified as current medical residents, interns, or fellows.
[7] Unless otherwise noted, out-of-state physicians are included throughout this report in physician survey results.

By Ethnicity

Exhibit 1.3 presents the racial and ethnic composition of the physician survey respondents. White physicians comprise the largest group of respondents followed by those identifying as Hispanic (17.9%) and Asian (13.56%). Black physicians comprise just under 6% in the current survey.
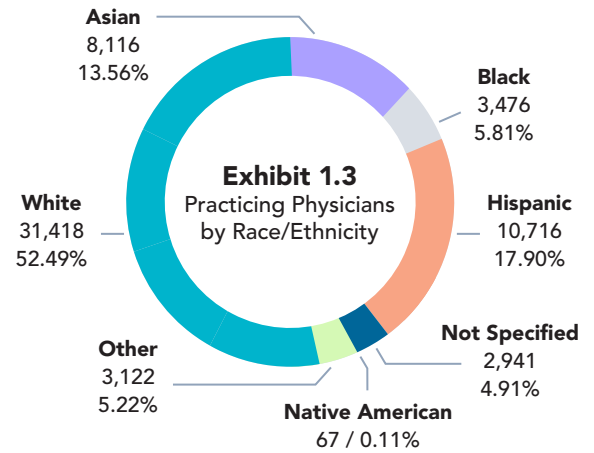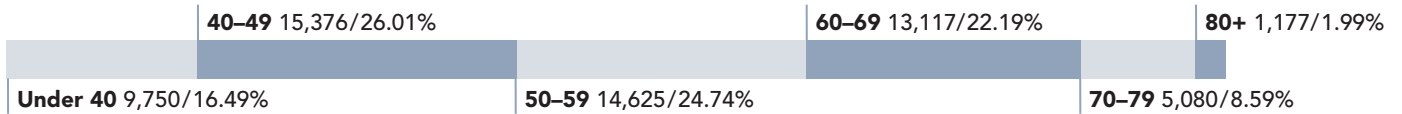
Source: Florida Physician Workforce Survey, 2022–24

Exhibit 1.3
Practicing Physicians by Race/Ethnicity

Asian
8,116
13.56%

Black
3,476
5.81%

Hispanic
10,716
17.90%

Not Specified
2,941
4.91%

Native American
67 / 0.11%

Other
3,122
5.22%

White
31,418
52.49%

By Age Range

By age, physicians 40 to 49 years of age comprise the largest group in the physician survey. Of note, these data show that almost one-third of respondents (32.8%) reported their age as 60 years or older. The physicians 60 years or older will be more likely to begin considering retirement in the coming years which could impact access to care for Floridians.

Exhibit 1.4
Practicing Physicians by Age Range

40–49 15,376/26.01% **60–69** 13,117/22.19% **80+** 1,177/1.99%

Under 40 9,750/16.49% **50–59** 14,625/24.74% **70–79** 5,080/8.59%

Source: Florida Physician Workforce Survey, 2022–24

By Gender and Age

Exhibit 1.5 shows physicians by gender and age group. The 40–49 age group included the greatest number of physicians. Further, the number of female physicians compared to male counterparts is closest in the under 40 age group, where male physicians number 5,120 (55%) compared to 4,196 (45%) female physicians.

Source: Florida Physician Workforce Survey, 2022–24

Exhibit 1.5
Physicians by Gender and Age Group
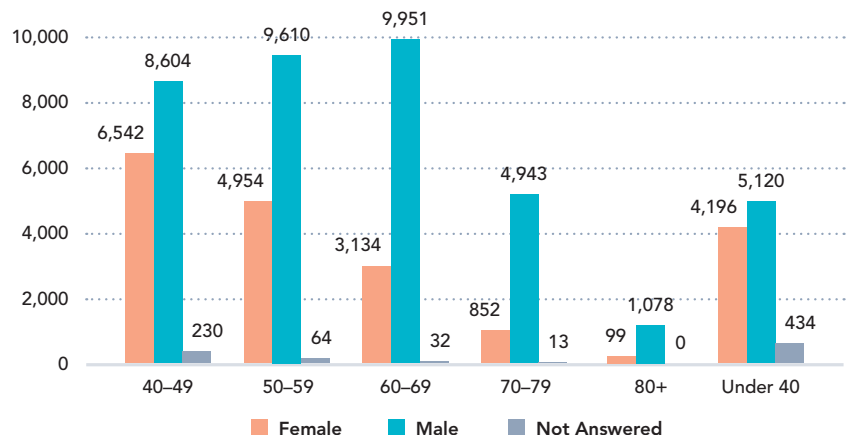
Age Group	Female	Male	Not Answered
40–49	6,542	8,604	230
50–59	4,954	9,610	64
60–69	3,134	9,951	32
70–79	852	4,943	13
80+	99	1,078	0
Under 40	4,196	5,120	434

Section 2: Physician Workforce by Geographic Distribution and Specialty

Access to health care services is vital to improving population health. While many factors affect health care access, a central component is understanding the geographic distribution of Florida's physician workforce.

Geographic Distribution

Results of the physician survey highlight the broad physician population differences across the state. Exhibit 2.1 shows the rate of physicians per 10,000 population by county. Alachua County has the highest rate, 62 physicians per 10,000 people compared to Florida's statewide rate of 26 physicians per 10,000 people.[8] Florida's less populous counties have fewer than 10 physicians per 10,000 (see Appendix B: Florida Physicians, Number by County, Per Capita).

Exhibit 2.1
Florida Physicians per 10,000 Population
Statewide rate = 26 per 10,000 population

Legend:
- 1.71 – 6.81
- 7.03 – 11.35
- 11.52 – 18.44
- 18.82 – 27.41
- 28.36 – 61.94

Source: Florida Physician Workforce Survey, 2022–24
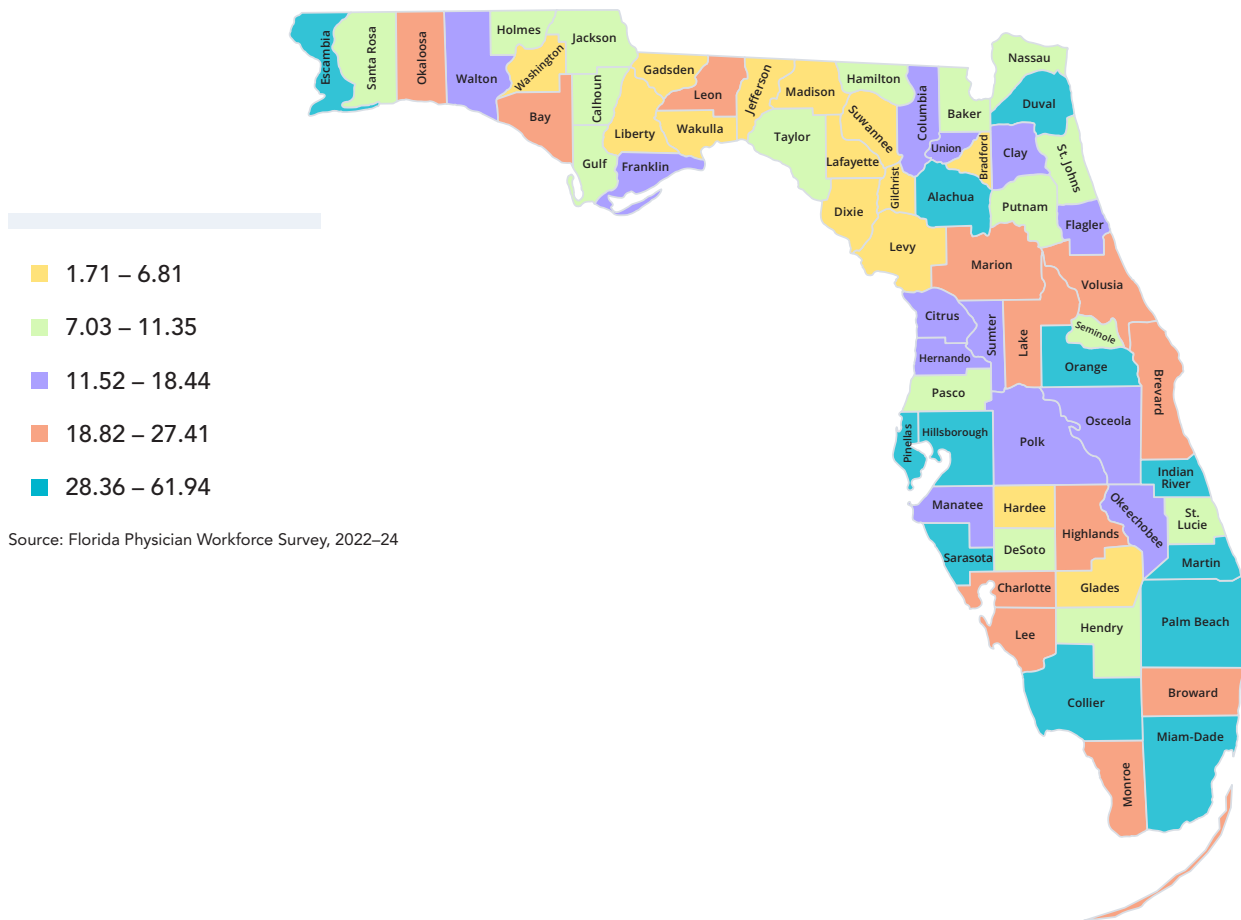
[8] 2022 population data are used for this exhibit.

Physician Specialties

Physician specialty refers to a medical field that physicians can specialize in, focusing their practice in one specific area. Physician specialties may focus on one type of disease, one organ in the body, one organ system, or a specific patient population, typically because they share similar medical symptoms and require similar types of care.[9] In Florida, specialties are defined in the context of board-certified specialists (see Glossary).

Exhibit 2.3
Florida Physicians by Specialty[1]

Source: Florida Physician Workforce Survey, 2022–24
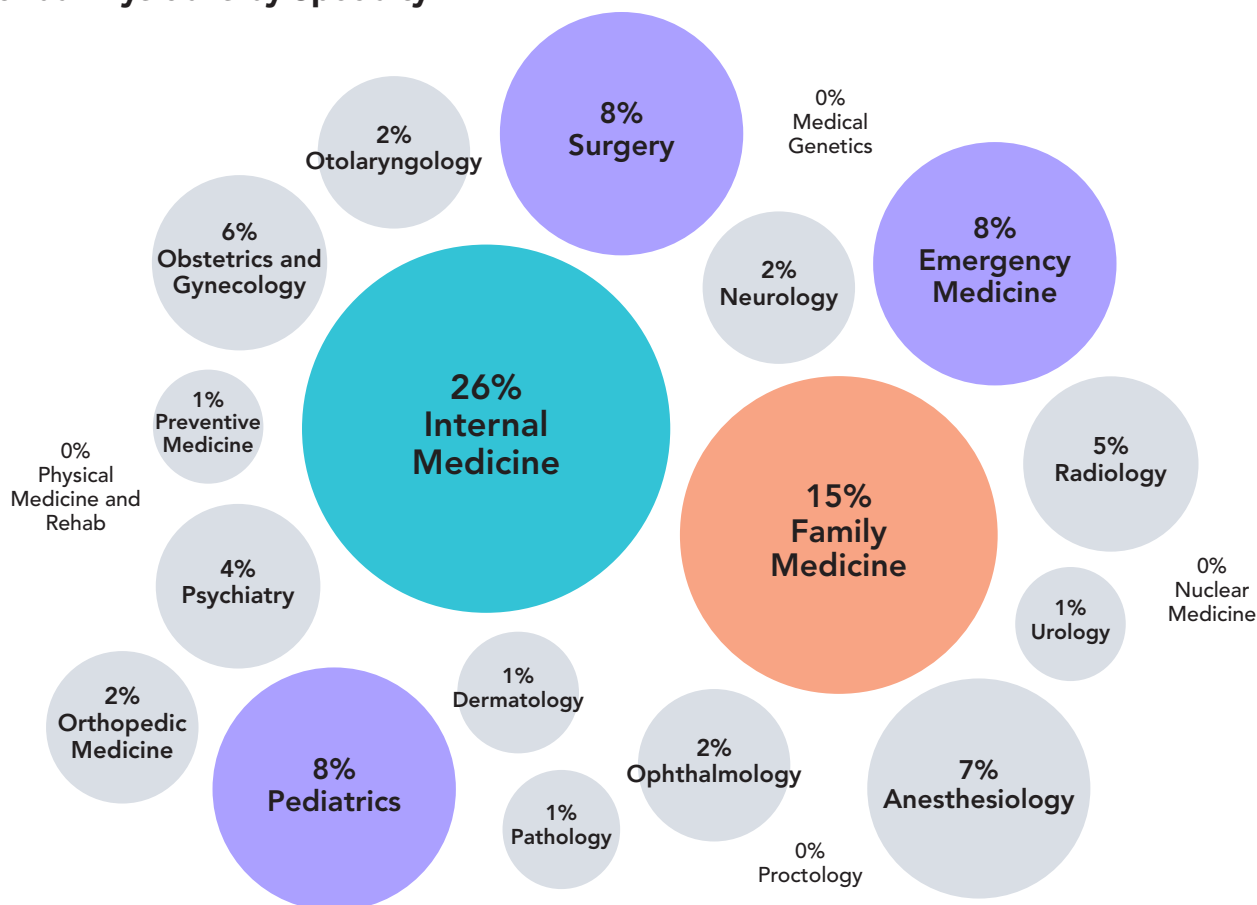[1] For the geographic distribution of physicians by specialty, see Appendix A.
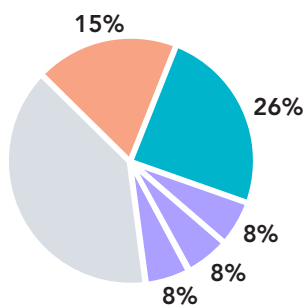
In terms of specialties, Florida's physicians report internal medicine and family medicine as the two most common specialty areas, with over 40% of respondents identifying in these two groups, see Exhibit 2.3. The next most reported physician specialty areas are surgery, emergency medicine, and pediatrics, at 8% each.

● Internal Medicine   ● Family Medicine   ● Surgery, Emergency Medicine, and Pediatrics

The complete statewide geographic distribution of direct patient care providers is found in Appendix A. As expected, specialists of all types are found in densely populated Florida counties and/or those counties that are home to the state's university and other large medical centers, e.g., Alachua, Brevard, Broward, Duval, Miami-Dade, and Orange.

[9] See Definitive Healthcare.

Section 3: Primary Care, Practice Settings, and Workload

Primary care provides the majority of health care needs over a person's life, and it is people rather than disease-focused.[10] When analyzing health care workforce, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) defines primary care physicians to include internal medicine, family medicine, pediatrics and geriatrics.[11] However, HRSA uses a slightly different definition of primary care to designate Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA) that identify areas of unmet needs. A HPSA designation identifies an area, population, or facility experiencing a shortage of health care services. In this context, primary care includes internal medicine, family medicine, pediatrics, and obstetrics and gynecology.[12] As of 2024, 66 of 67 Florida counties have primary care shortages in all or some part of the county.[13]

Primary Care

For the purposes of this report, primary care comprises three physician specialties, general internal medicine, family medicine, and general pediatrics. Exhibit 3.1 shows the total number of survey respondents who reported a specialty in one of these three and, of those physicians, the number providing primary care.

Exhibit 3.1
Primary Care Specialties Reported by Physician Survey Responses

Specialty	Count (All)	Count (Primary Care)
Internal Medicine	16,583	8,361
Family Medicine	8,686	7,253
Pediatrics	4,611	3,110
Total	**59,051**	**8,724**

Source: Florida Physician Workforce Survey, 2022–24

Exhibit 3.2 on the right shows that within the group of primary care physicians, those in internal medicine comprise the largest group, 45%. Family medicine physicians comprise nearly 39% of primary care physicians and pediatricians are 16% of the total. Exhibit 3.3 provides the distribution of primary care specialists by county.

Exhibit 3.2
Proportion of Primary Care Physicians

Internal Medicine	45%
Family Medicine	39%
Pediatrics	16%

0% — 100%

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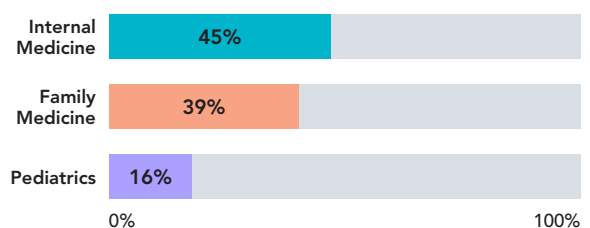
[10] World Health Organization, Primary Care Fact Sheet.
[11] HRSA, State of Primary Care Workforce, 2023.
[12] SHRSA. Shortage Designation Management System (SDMS): Manual for Policies and Procedures, May 24, 2024.
[13] According to the Rural Health Information Hub, Monroe County is the only Florida county that shows no primary care shortage in the state.

Exhibit 3.3
Number of Primary Care Physicians, by County

Legend:
- 1 – 8
- 9 – 39
- 43 – 142
- 143 – 396
- 410 – 2,554

Source: Florida Physician Workforce Survey, 2022–24
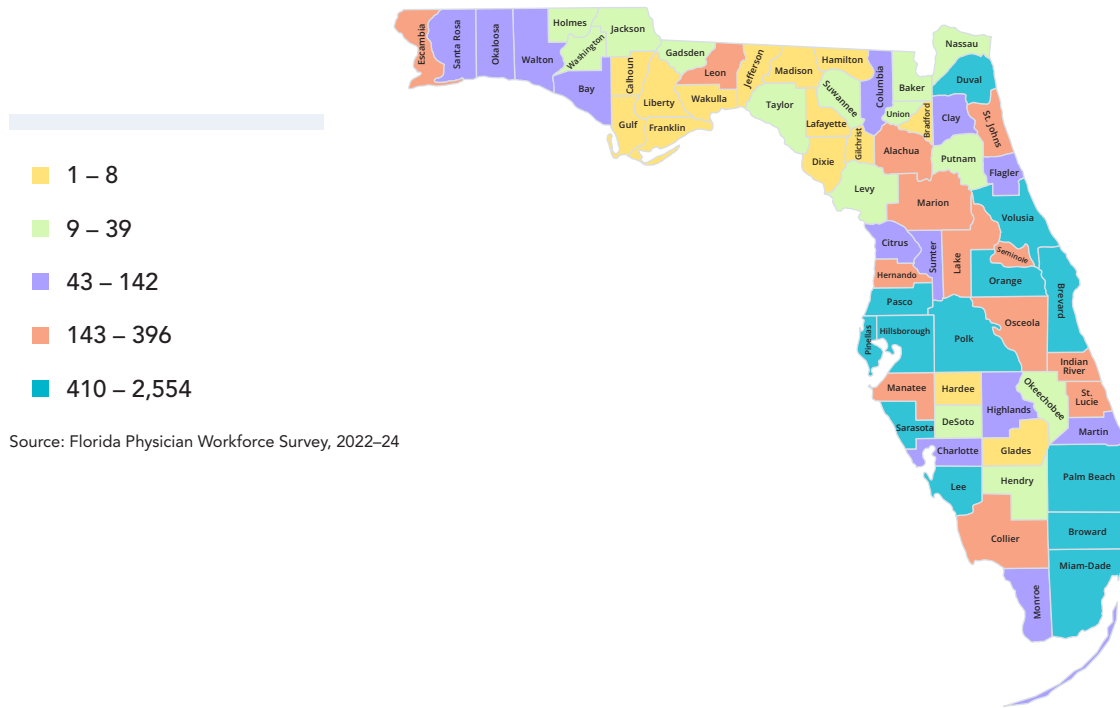
Practice Settings

Exhibit 3.4 shows the types of practice settings where physicians reported working. Most (63.5%) practice in an office setting, either a solo practice, single or multi-specialty practice. The next largest group practices in a hospital (20.6%) with the rest distributed across various practice settings, e.g., medical schools, health care organizations, and surgery centers.

Exhibit 3.4
Physician Survey Respondents Who Identified Their Type of Practice Setting

Practice Setting	Percentage / Count
Urgent care facility	1.23% / 682
Solo practice	17.52% / 9,732
Single specialty group practice	28.16% / 15,646
Other	7.80% / 4,332
Multi-specialty group practice	17.81% / 9,895
Medical school	2.81% / 1,563
Hospital	20.63% / 11,465
HMO/managed care organization	1.84% / 1,022
Faculty practice plan	1.56% / 866
Ambulatory surgery center	0.65% / 360

Source: Florida Physician Workforce Survey, 2022–24

Workload

Physicians who provide direct patient care are asked to identify the average number of patients they see per week. As shown in Exhibit 3.5., the largest group (37,438 physicians or 68%) report seeing from 1 to 99 patients per week.
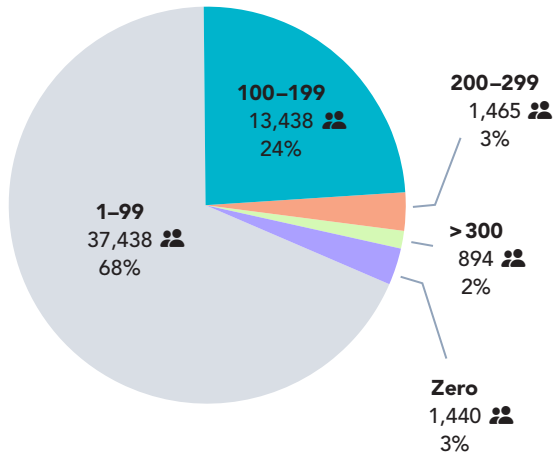
Exhibit 3.5
Average Number of Patients 👥 Per Week

Source: Florida Physician Workforce Survey, 2022–24

In addition to gathering data on number of patients seen by physicians, the physician survey also asks physicians about how they spend their hours during the week. As shown in Exhibit 3.6, 43.97% of respondents reported spending 21 to 40 hours weekly with patients.

Exhibit 3.6
Weekly Patient Care Hours
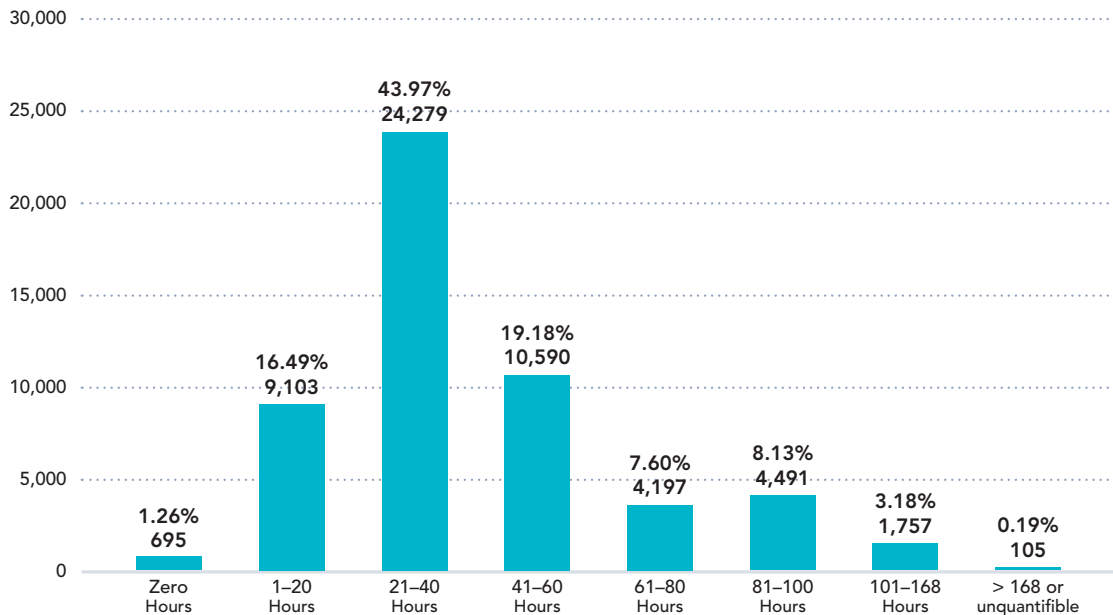
Source: Florida Physician Workforce Survey, 2022–24

In response to questions about other types of work, i.e., research and teaching or administrative work, they reported 1 to 20 hours weekly of administrative work (77.87%). Regarding research and teaching, physicians reported 1 to 20 hours (46.5%) weekly for research and teaching hours or zero hours of research and teaching (36.8%).

Section 4: Obstetrics and Gynecology (OB/GYN) and Radiologic Specialties

As noted in Florida's State Health Improvement Plan, the well-being of women, infants, children, and families determines the health of the next generation. Fundamental to the health of the next generation are the physicians who will deliver babies.[14] Also key to women's health is access to mammography screenings and the radiologists who can make diagnoses and provide additional care based on these test results.

Florida Births

From 2017 through 2023, Florida's number of resident live births averaged 219,535 per year. The rate of resident live births per 1,000 population declined overall from a high of 10.9 in 2017 to 9.8 in 2023. (See Exhibit 4.1). Given the distribution of Florida's population in 2023, the number of resident births per county varied widely from nearly 30,000 in Miami-Dade to fewer than 100 in the less populous counties of Franklin, Glades, Lafayette, and Liberty.[15]

Exhibit 4.1
Resident Live Births in Florida, 2017 to 2023

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023[1]
Rate per 1,000 total population	10.9	10.6	10.3	9.7	9.8	10.0	9.8

Resident Live Births in Florida, 2017 to 2023
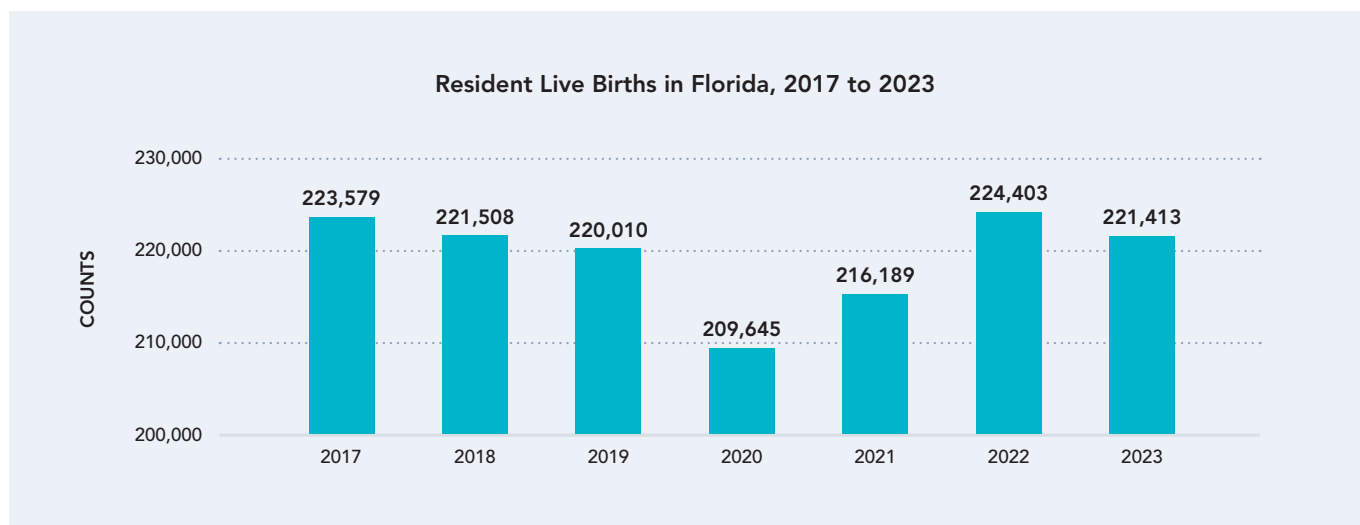
[1] 2023 data are provisional and subject to change.
Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

[14] Florida State Health Improvement Plan, 2022–2026, Priority Area 4, Maternal and Child Health.
[15] See 2023 Provisional Birth Count Data at www.FLHealthCHARTS.gov

As noted previously, physicians may choose any number of specialties, for example OB/GYN or radiology. It is possible for these physicians to further specialize within a subspecialty that may require additional training. Exhibit 4.2 presents the OB/GYN subspecialties and those physicians who answered yes that they deliver babies.

Exhibit 4.2
Physicians Reporting That They Deliver Babies

Subspecialty	Do not deliver babies	Deliver babies
Obstetrics and Gynecology, General	718	1,396
Critical Care Medicine - Obstetrics and Gynecology	3	-
Gynecologic Oncology - Obstetrics and Gynecology	86	6
Hospice and Palliative Medicine - Obstetrics and Gynecology	5	-
Laborist - Obstetrics and Gynecology	2	75
Maternal and Fetal Medicine - Obstetrics and Gynecology	95	-
Reproductive Endocrinology - Obstetrics and Gynecology	73	41
Urogynecology - Obstetrics and Gynecology	76	-
Total	**1,058**	**1,521**

Source: Florida Physician Workforce Survey, 2022–24

1,058 Do Not Deliver

1,521 Deliver
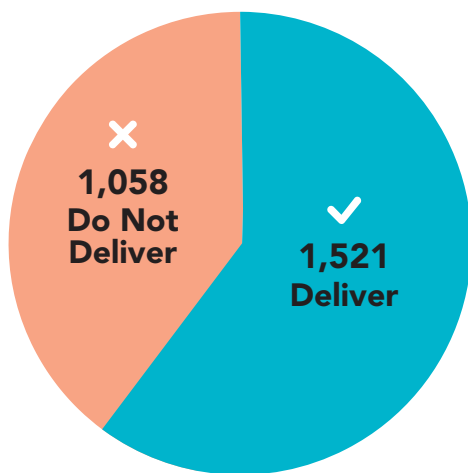
Out of **2,579** total responses, more subspecialty physicians reported delivering babies.

The physician survey also asks physicians if they are planning to discontinue obstetric care for any reason in the next two years. A total of 742 physicians (out of 2,658) answered yes to this question. Their reasons for discontinuing obstetric care are provided in Exhibit 4.3. Nearly 23.5% said the reason was retirement. But across the responses, physicians also answered reimbursement rates, cost of professional insurance, and liability and litigation.

Exhibit 4.3
Reasons for Discontinuing Obstetric Care in the Next Two Years

Reason	Percentage / Count
Retiring/retired	23.45% / 174
Private health plan reimbursement rates	3.77% / 28
Planning to move out of state	1.35% / 10
Other	26.55% / 197
Liability exposure	15.23% / 113
High medical malpractice litigation	14.42% / 107
Government reimbursement rates	5.39% / 40
Do not maintain a full-time residence in Florida	1.75% / 13
Cost of professional insurance	8.09% / 60
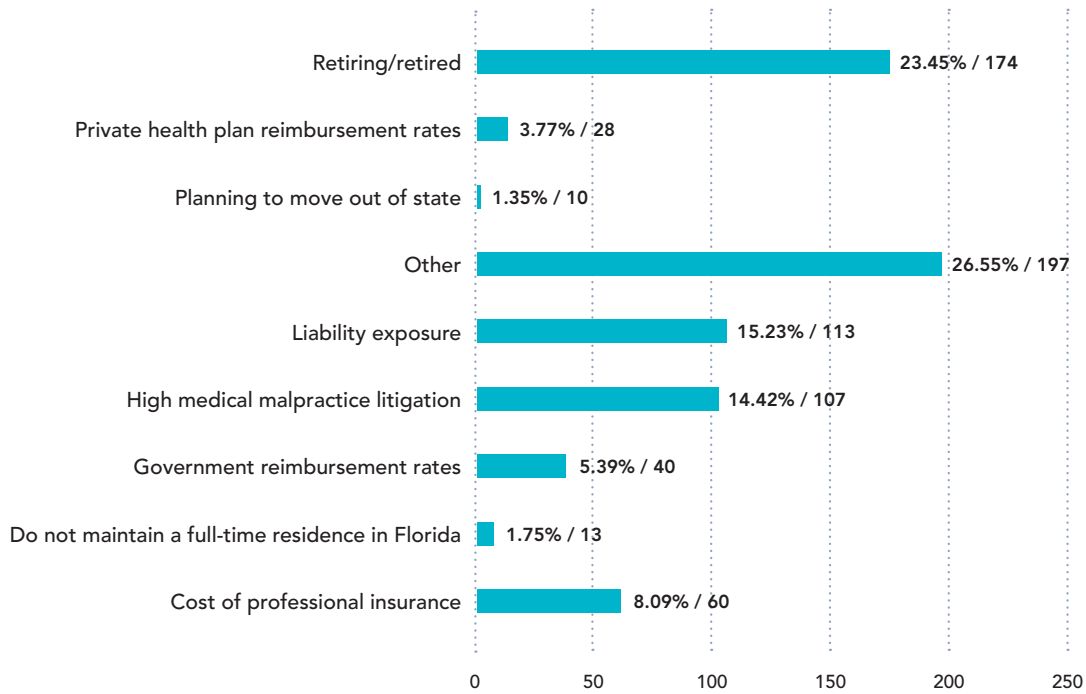
Source: Florida Physician Workforce Survey, 2022–24

Radiology

Like OB/GYNs, specialists in radiology also have several subspecialties as shown in Exhibit 4.4. Diagnostic radiology comprises the largest subspecialty group.

Exhibit 4.4
Subspecialties in Radiology

Radiology, General	Body Imaging	Diagnostic Radiology	Diagnostic Roentgenology
294	35	1,611	24
Diagnostic Ultrasound	**Neuroradiology**	**Roentgenology**	**Vascular and Interventional Radiology**
6	14	43	60

Total: 2,087

Source: Florida Physician Workforce Survey, 2022–24

Exhibit 4.5 shows the statewide distribution of radiologists. For the 2022–24 physician survey, there are 20 counties that have no radiologists (See Exhibit 4.5).

Exhibit 4.5
Number of Physicians Identifying a Primary Specialty in Any Radiology Subspecialty by County

Legend:
- 0
- 1 – 18
- 22 – 42
- 50 – 82
- 102 – 165
- 174 – 232

Source: Florida Physician Workforce Survey, 2022–24
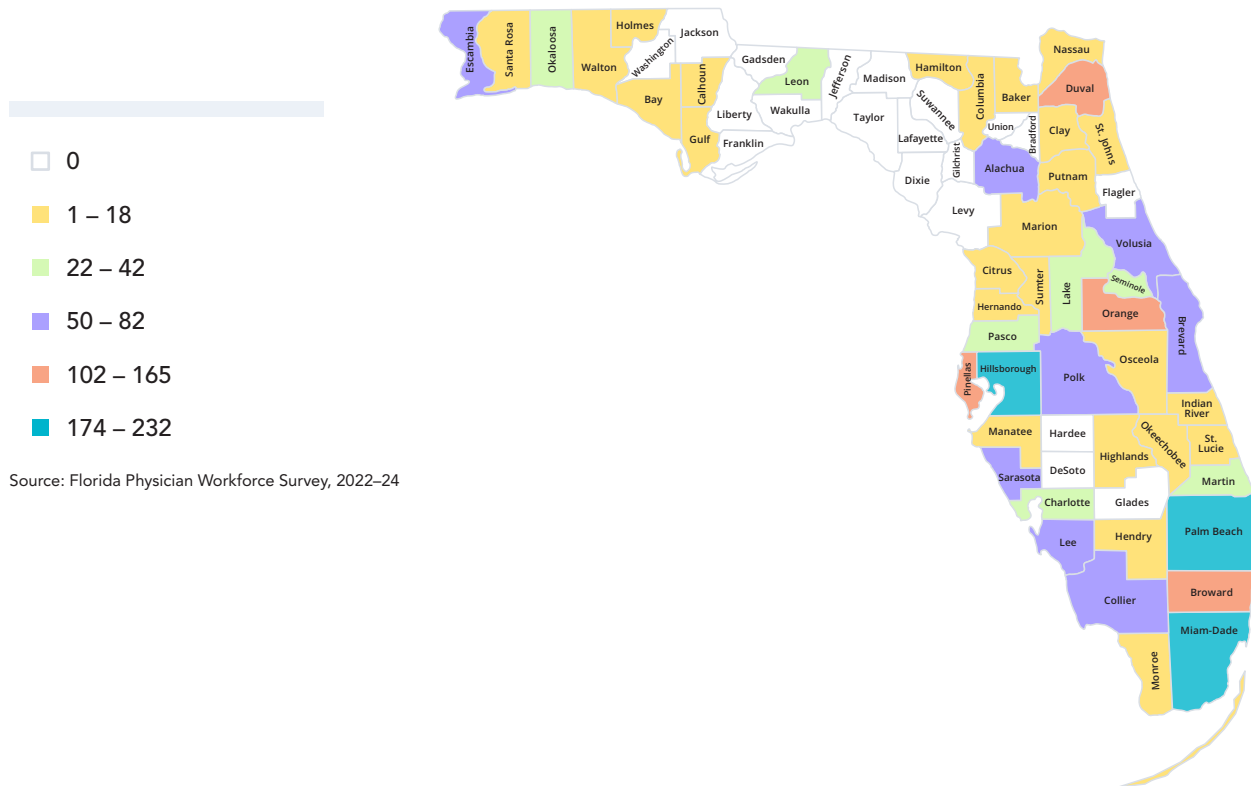
The physician survey also asks radiologists if they see mammography patients. For those who answer yes, they are asked a more detailed question as to the types of mammography services they provide (See Exhibit 4.6).

Exhibit 4.6
Radiologists Where Mammography Was Part of Their Practice (n=736)

Question	Does not perform this procedure	Does perform this procedure
Read screening mammograms? (n=726)	84	642
Read diagnostic mammograms and sonograms? (n=727)	80	647
Read breast MRIs? (n=725)	294	431
Read MRI guided core biopsies? (n=726)	408	318
Perform ultrsound and stereotactic guided core biopsies	243	481

Source: Florida Physician Workforce Survey, 2022–24
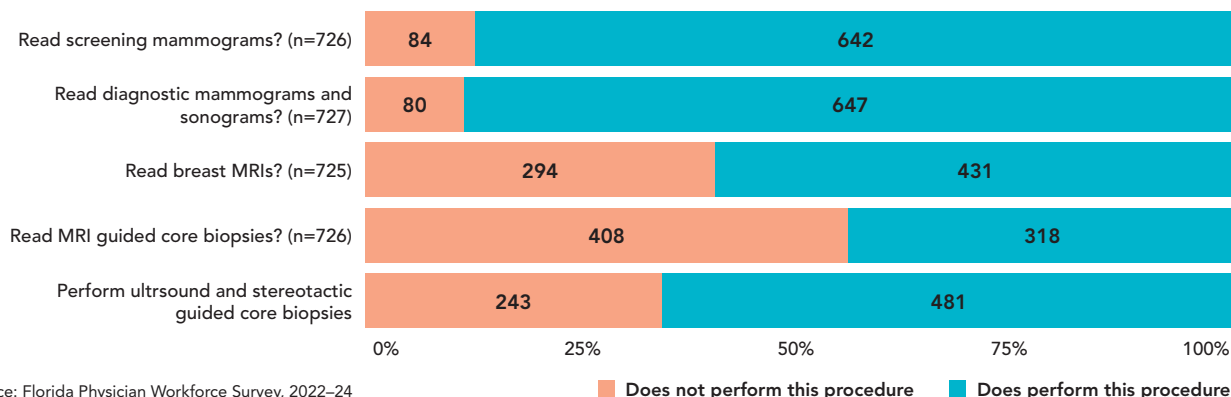
Section 5: Medicare and Medicaid

Another factor that affects access to health care is the willingness of providers to accept certain insurance and health coverage plans. As of June 2024, 5,101,450 individuals in Florida were served by Medicare, equating to roughly 2.8 million in fee-for-service and 2.2 million in Medicare Advantage plans.[16] As of November 2024, Florida also had 4,431,970 individuals enrolled in Medicaid.[17]

New Medicare and Medicaid Patients

Florida's Medicare and Medicaid enrollment numbers emphasize the demand for physicians who accept these health coverage plans. According to the most recent physician survey, more than 95% of physicians reported accepting new Medicare patients and almost 89% reported accepting new Medicaid patients (See Exhibits 5.1 and 5.2).

Exhibit 5.1
Physicians Reporting That They Accept New Patients With Medicare

No
4.57%
2,019

Yes
95.43%
42,113
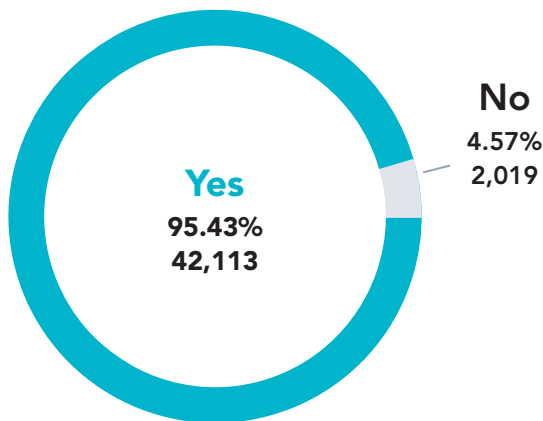
Exhibit 5.2
Physicians Reporting That They Accept New Patients With Medicaid
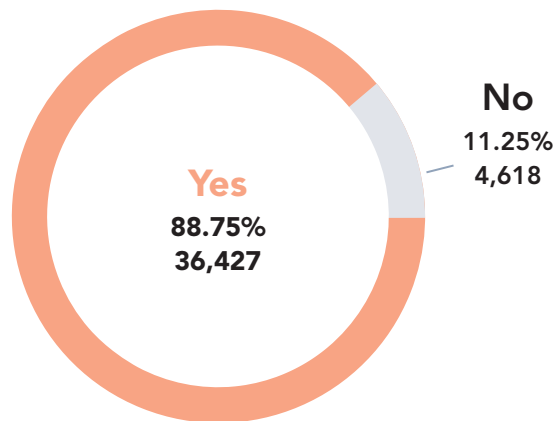
No
11.25%
4,618

Yes
88.75%
36,427

The physician survey asks those physicians who are not accepting new Medicare or Medicaid patients to describe the reason for their decision. Of those responding to why they are not accepting new Medicare patients, nearly 40% said their practice was at full capacity (see Exhibit 5.3). Of those responding to why they are not accepting new Medicaid patients, 23% of respondents reported their practices being at full capacity (See Exhibit 5.4). Aside from practices that were at full capacity, physicians also noted other reasons for not accepting new Medicare or Medicaid patients, such as paperwork and billing requirements and low compensation.
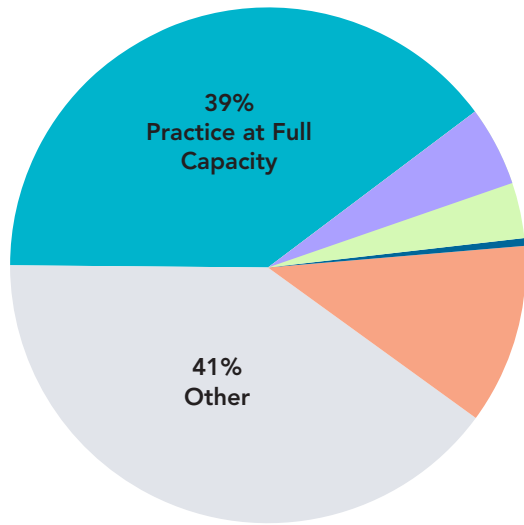
Exhibit 5.3
Reasons Why Physicians Are Not Accepting New Medicare Patients

○	788/40.58% Other	●	100/5.15% Too Much Paperwork
●	755/38.88% Practice at Full Capacity	●	73/3.76% Billing Requirements
●	217/11.17% Low Compensation	●	9/0.46% Concerned About Fraud Issues

Source: Florida Physician Workforce Survey, 2022–24

Exhibit 5.4
Reasons Why Physicians Are Not Accepting New Medicaid Patients

○	2,206/61.12% Other	●	164/4.95% Low Compensation
●	763/23.02% Practice at Full Capacity	●	158/4.77% Billing Requirements
●	183/5.52% Too Much Paperwork	●	21/0.63% Concerned About Fraud Issues
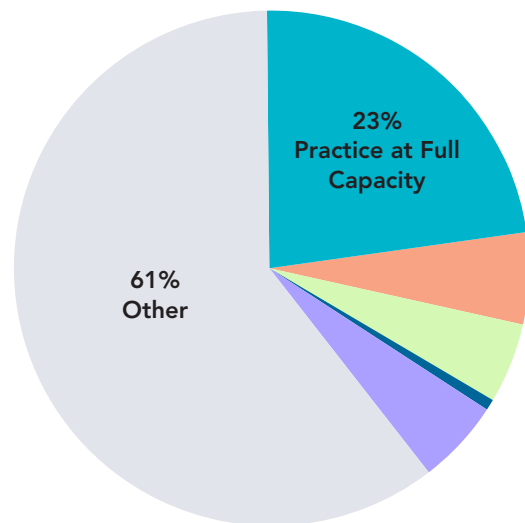
Source: Florida Physician Workforce Survey, 2022–24

Section 6: On-call Providers

According to the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP), emergency physicians are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Other specialists, such as neurosurgeons and cardiologists, work as needed and are on-call.[18] In the current survey, 20,270 physicians reported providing on-call services. Data for on-call services is reported by physicians who responded that hospital best describes their main medical practice. Exhibit 6.1 shows the number of on-call providers by county.

Exhibit 6.1
Number of Physicians Providing On-call Services by County

☐ 0	�	220 – 639
🟨 1 – 82	🟧	902 – 1,358
🟩 100 – 199	🟦	1,554 – 2,580
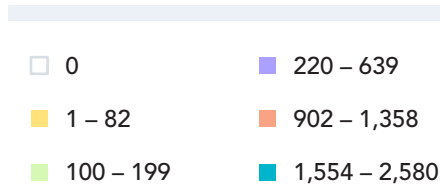
Source: Florida Physician Workforce Survey, 2022–24
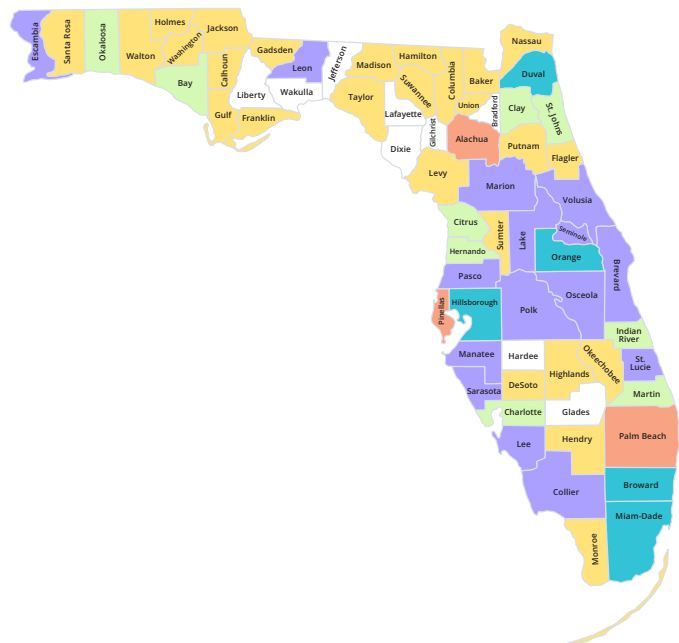
Exhibit 6.2
Number of On-call Providers by Specialty
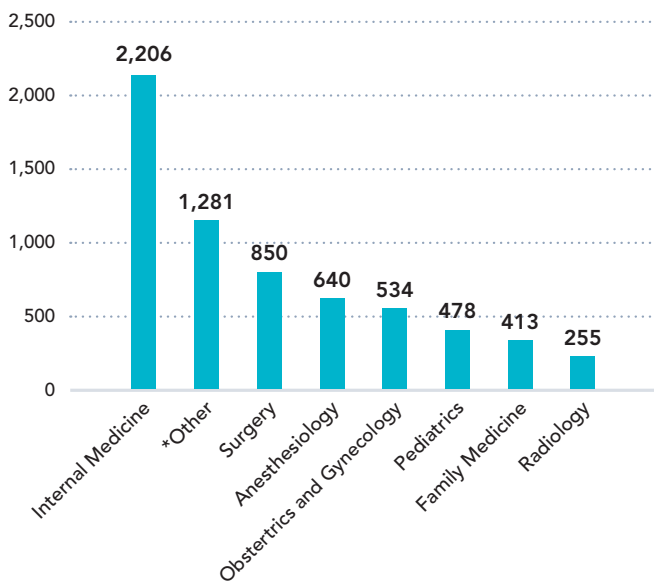
By far the greatest number of on-call physicians (2,206) list their specialty as **internal medicine** (33.1%) compared to the second highest number of specialists (850) who list a **surgery** specialty (12.8%).

*Other specialties include: Dermatology-51, Emergency Medicine-171, Medical Genetics-6, Neurology-190, Nuclear Medicine-2, Ophthalmology-128, Orthopedic Medicine-163, Otolaryngology-138, Pathology-56, Physical Medicine and Rehab-55, Preventive Medicine-7, Proctology-2, Psychiatry-206, Urology-106

Source: Florida Physician Workforce Survey, 2022–24

[18] American College of Emergency Physicians. Shortage of Physician Specialists. Last visited August 23, 2024.

Exhibit 6.3 shows the distribution by county for those physicians planning to reduce on-call services. Most physicians providing on-call services are not planning to decrease their services (11,799). See Exhibit 6.4. However, nearly 6,750 physicians reported that they plan to reduce on-call services.

Exhibit 6.3
Number of Providers Planning to Decrease On-call Services

Legend:
- ☐ 0
- 🟨 1 – 15
- 🟩 20 – 68
- 🟪 80 – 126
- 🟧 132 – 197
- 🟦 238 – 841
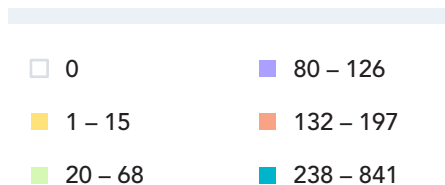
Source: Florida Physician Workforce Survey, 2022–24

The physician survey asks physicians who are planning to decrease on-call services to describe the reasons for their decisions. The most common answer was due to **lifestyle considerations** (25%).

Exhibit 6.4
Reasons Physicians Reported for Decreasing On-call Services

Reason	Percent / Count
Work in an urgent care clinic	0.09% / 17
Retiring	2.74% / 508
Private health plan reimbursement rates	0.20% / 38
Other	2.76% / 512
N/A (not decreasing on-call days)	63.62% / 11,799
Medicare/Medicaid reimbursement rates	0.63% / 116
Malpractice insurance rates	0.19% / 35
Lifestyle considerations	24.93% / 4,624
Liability exposure	1.74% / 323
Compensation	3.09% / 573
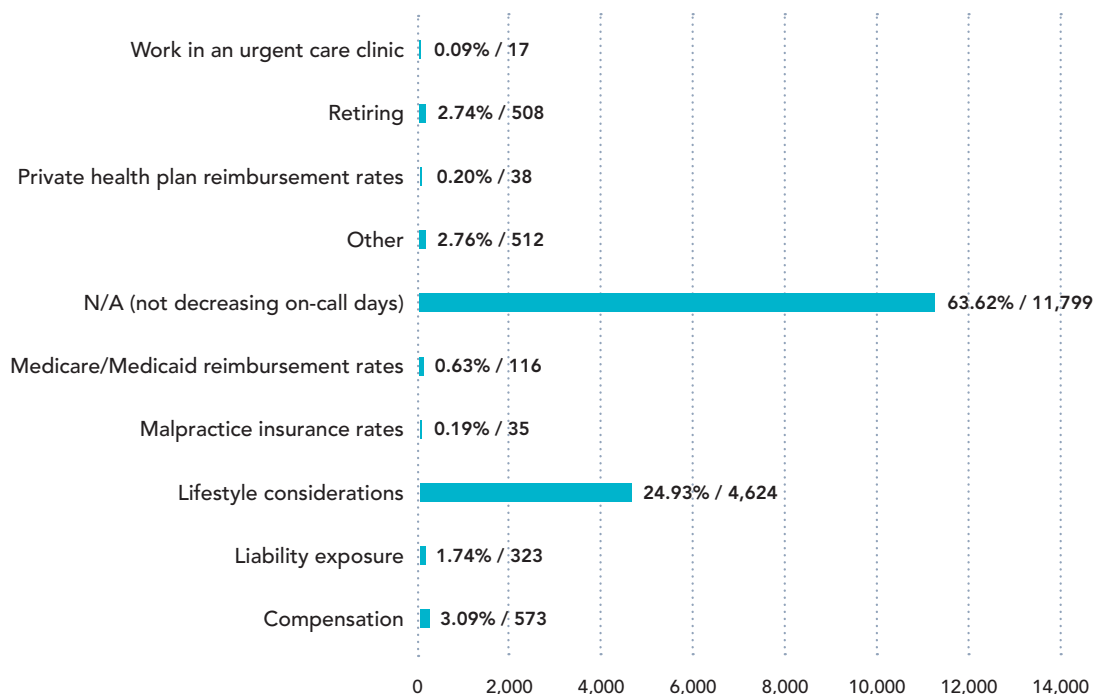
Source: Florida Physician Workforce Survey, 2022–24

Section 7: Change in Physician Practices

The dynamics of the physician workforce are continually changing. New physicians enter the workforce and those in practice make changes to their scope of practice. Scope of practice, as referenced in the physician survey, refers to physicians planning to retire, relocate to work in another state, or change their primary practice specialty.

Scope of Practice

As shown in Exhibit 7.1, more than 8,100 physicians anticipate discontinuing direct patient care in the next five years. More than 432 physicians anticipate a change in their medical specialty.

Exhibit 7.1
Physicians Changing Their Scope of Practice

Physicians anticipating changes in scope of practice	
Physicians who plan to stop providing direct patient care in Florida sometime within the next five years.	**8,136**
Physicians who plan to change specialties in the next five years.	**432**
Total	**8,568**

Source: Florida Physician Workforce Survey, 2022–24

The table below presents the results for 8,444 physicians by specialty who are planning to change their scope of practice. Proportionally, the physicians planning to change their scope of practice mirror the overall pattern of physician specialties, for example, the largest numbers are among internal and family medicine physicians.

Exhibit 7.2
Physicians Changing Their Scope of Practice in the Next Five Years, by Specialty

Internal Medicine - 2,156	**Obstetrics and Gynecology - 486**	Otolaryngology - 137
Family Medicine - 1,248	**Radiology - 399**	Pathology - 122
Pediatrics - 688	**Psychiatry - 337**	Dermatology - 121
Surgery - 669	Neurology - 199	Physical Medicine and Rehab - 89
Emergency Medicine - 646	Ophthalmology - 189	Urology - 76
Anesthesiology - 627	Orthopedic Medicine - 177	Preventive Medicine - 63

Source: Florida Physician Workforce Survey, 2022–24

Reducing Direct Patient Care

Of the 8,136 physicians who reported that they plan to stop providing direct patient care, 8,079 responded to a question regarding their reasons for this decision. As shown in Exhibit 7.3, nearly 70% report an approaching retirement date.

Exhibit 7.3
Reason for Stopping Providing Direct Patient Care

Reason	Value
Private health plan reimbursement rates	0.68% / 55
Planned retirement date approaching	68.76% / 5,555
Plan to practice medicine in other states via telemedicine	1.98% / 160
Other	11.51% / 930
Medicare/Medicaid reimbursement rates	1.84% / 149
Malpractice insurance rates	0.68% / 55
Liability exposure	3.22% / 260
Family	5.89% / 476
Compensation	5.43% / 439

Source: Florida Physician Workforce Survey, 2022–24

Relocating

Another component of practice changes encompasses physicians who plan to move their practices in the next five years. As shown in Exhibit 7.4, out of 3,055 physicians who responded, most appear to be making these changes for family (34%) or financial (compensation) reasons (19%).

Exhibit 7.4
Reason for Moving in the Next Five Years

Reason	Value
Private health plan reimbursement rates	0.85% / 26
Other	18.04% / 551
Medicare/Medicaid reimbursement rates	1.15% / 35
Malpractice insurance rates	1.28% / 39
Looking for a change	17.58% / 537
Liability exposure	6.51% / 199
Family	33.98% / 1,038
Education/training in another state	1.64% / 50
Compensation	18.99% / 580

Source: Florida Physician Workforce Survey, 2022–24
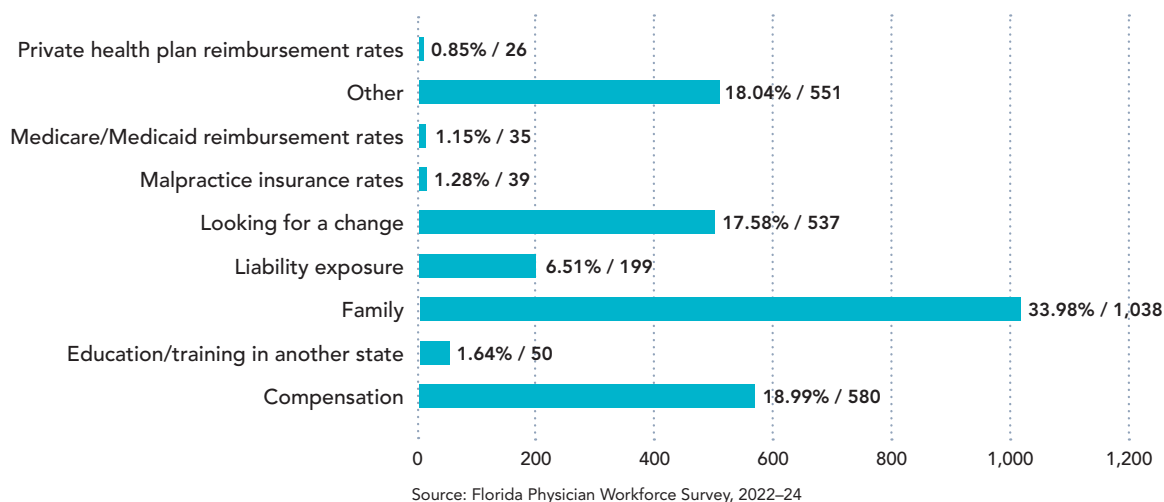
Another perspective on physicians deciding to relocate is seen in Exhibit 7.5. Of the 3,113 physicians who report planning to relocate outside the state, 3,076 identified their specialty. As shown in Exhibit 7.6, primary care physicians in internal medicine (25%) and family medicine (12%) comprise the largest groups considering relocation outside the state, followed by emergency medicine (12%).

Exhibit 7.5
Florida Physicians Who Anticipate Relocating Outside the State in the Next Five Years

1% Otolaryngology	8% Surgery	5% Psychiatry	2% Dermatology

8% Pediatrics

25% Internal Medicine

6% Radiology

0% Nuclear Medicine

5% Obstetrics and Gynecology

8% Anesthesiology

2% Pathology

12% Emergency Medicine

12% Family Medicine

3% Neurology

1% Physical Medicine and Rehab

1% Ophthalmology

1% Orthopedic Medicine

1% Preventive Medicine

1% Urology

0% Medical Genetics
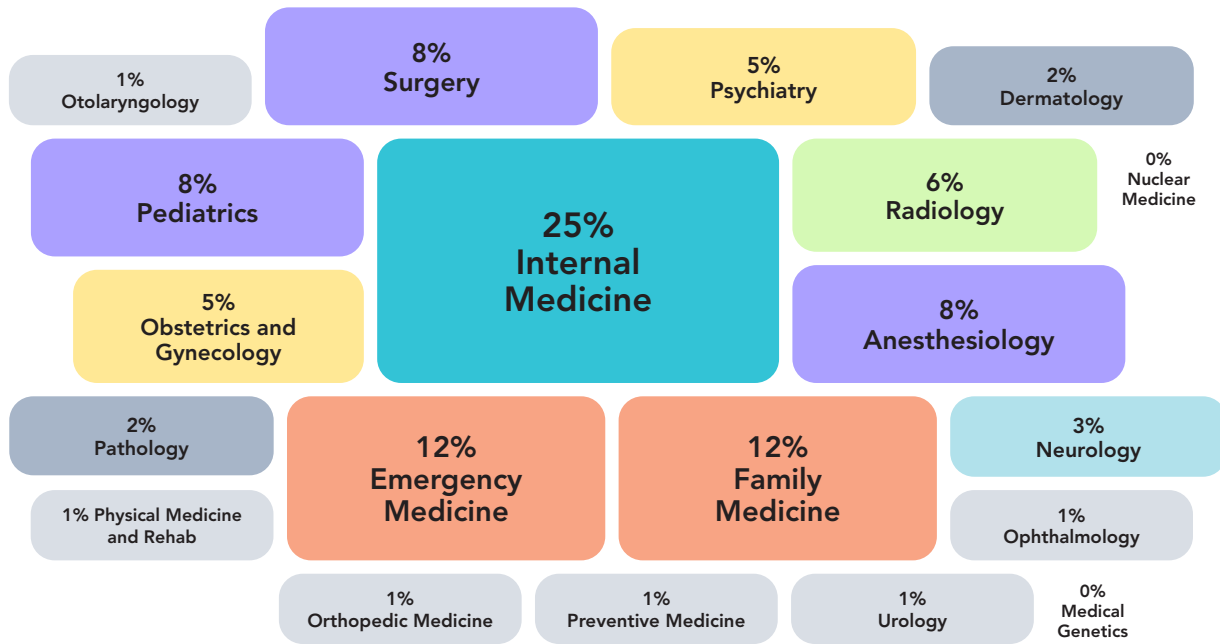
Source: Florida Physician Workforce Survey, 2022–24

Despite their investment in a current medical specialty, a small number of physicians reported they were planning to change specialties. The graph below summarizes the reasons that 410 physicians describe regarding this decision. Aside from those who answered Other, the most common reasons for changing a practice specialty were compensation (26.2%), family (17.7%) and liability exposure (11%).

Exhibit 7.6
Reason for Changing Specialty

Reason	Value
Private health plan reimbursement rates	2.49% / 10
Other	36.66% / 147
Medicare/Medicaid reimbursement rates	3.99% / 16
Malpractice insurance rates	2.00% / 8
Liability exposure	10.97% / 44
Family	17.71% / 71
Compensation	26.18% / 105
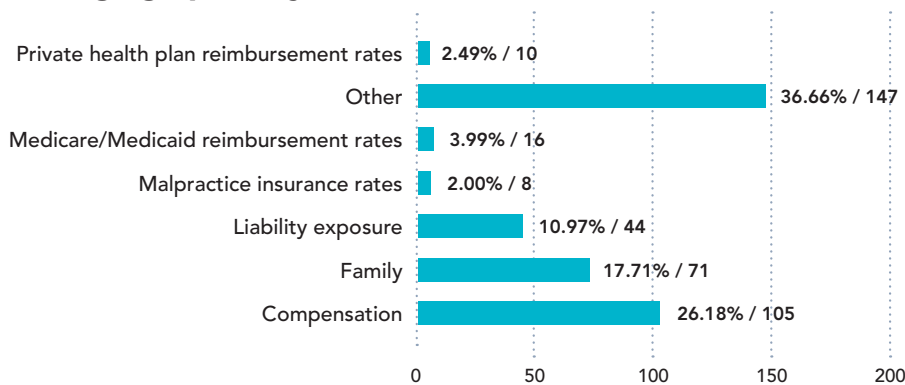
Source: Florida Physician Workforce Survey, 2022–24

Conclusion

Responses to the physician survey are a snapshot in time that provides insight regarding the composition of Florida's physician workforce and looming potential changes, such as retirements and other changes in scope of practice.

In terms of factors that may influence workforce, these data also show that almost one-third of respondents (32.8%) reported their age as 60 years or older. As many as 8,079 physicians report they plan to stop providing direct patient care within the next five years: most (69% or 5,555) reported approaching retirement as the reason for the change. Results also indicate that 742 physicians plan to discontinue obstetric care within the next two years. Nearly 6,750 (36.5%) of 18,545 physicians reported in the survey that they plan to reduce on-call services, while 3,055 reported plans to leave the state. On a positive note, more than 95% of physicians responding to the physician survey reported accepting new Medicare patients and almost 89% reported accepting new Medicaid patients.

> **The state of Florida continues working to strengthen the health care workforce. In recent years, the Legislature has funded the Florida Reimbursement Assistance for Medical Education and Florida Dental Student Loan Repayment programs to encourage qualified medical and dental professionals to practice in underserved locations of the state. These programs provide annual payments to offset the loans and educational expenses incurred by students for studies leading to medical and dental degrees and subsequent licensure.**

Survey Limitations

Two factors limit the ability to draw firm conclusions from the physician survey and to compare survey results over time. The physician survey is complicated by the licensure renewal cycle. Instead of an annual comprehensive survey of all physicians, the physician survey captures information over a four-year period to have all licensees included. In addition, it does not capture all licensed physicians and not all physicians who complete the physician survey will answer all the questions.

To more fully assess how many Florida physicians deliver babies, the physician survey could be revised to include that question for family medicine physicians who may deliver babies, especially in rural areas. There also might be an opportunity to obtain more comprehensive data as outlined in statute.

Appendix A: Physicians by Practice Specialty, by County

County	Anesthesiology	Dermatology	Emergency Medicine	Family Medicine	Internal Medicine	Medical Genetics	Neurology
Alachua	145	27	115	181	483	4	63
Baker	0	1	7	12	4	0	0
Bay	22	9	30	58	120	0	10
Bradford	0	0	2	4	1	0	1
Brevard	81	27	86	211	413	0	48
Broward	356	116	315	686	1,527	4	125
Calhoun	0	0	0	4	3	0	0
Charlotte	20	11	31	71	105	0	8
Citrus	18	4	13	52	96	0	7
Clay	24	3	24	79	114	0	8
Collier	73	36	69	159	351	0	23
Columbia	8	1	6	31	33	0	1
Desoto	1	0	0	5	8	0	0
Dixie	1	0	0	2	2	0	0
Duval	257	51	308	419	1,010	5	114
Escambia	80	15	85	134	236	0	20
Flagler	7	2	16	39	52	0	2
Franklin	1	0	3	5	3	0	0
Gadsden	0	0	0	9	6	0	0
Gilchrist	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
Glades	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Gulf	2	0	2	3	3	0	0
Hamilton	0	1	1	2	2	0	0
Hardee	0	0	2	5	2	0	0
Hendry	3	0	3	8	3	0	0

Appendix A: Physicians by Practice Specialty, by County (Continued)

County	Anesthesiology	Dermatology	Emergency Medicine	Family Medicine	Internal Medicine	Medical Genetics	Neurology
Hernando	19	7	28	68	122	0	4
Highlands	13	4	19	26	72	0	2
Hillsborough	314	80	316	523	1,411	6	129
Holmes	0	0	0	7	2	0	0
Indian River	34	11	27	72	152	0	10
Jackson	0	0	2	16	13	0	0
Jefferson	0	0	0	2	1	0	0
Lafayette	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Lake	36	16	50	155	257	0	13
Lee	81	36	98	233	496	1	122
Leon	38	8	57	168	183	1	22
Levy	0	0	0	5	3	0	0
Liberty	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Madison	1	0	1	5	2	0	0
Manatee	39	20	48	150	231	0	16
Marion	38	14	59	126	237	0	13
Martin	27	9	44	67	156	0	14
Miami-Dade	489	162	404	1,054	2,136	14	201
Monroe	10	3	18	38	36	0	4
Nassau	10	2	9	29	20	0	2
Okaloosa	43	9	49	77	90	0	10
Okeechobee	5	0	1	9	16	0	0
Orange	272	48	275	621	1,240	8	87
Osceola	26	4	76	176	197	0	13

County	Anesthesiology	Dermatology	Emergency Medicine	Family Medicine	Internal Medicine	Medical Genetics	Neurology
Palm Beach	299	171	235	450	1,318	1	119
Pasco	50	22	70	184	360	0	14
Pinellas	203	67	194	487	882	2	63
Polk	62	22	89	207	352	0	21
Putnam	1	0	5	20	29	0	1
St. Johns	29	12	27	123	116	0	7
St. Lucie	31	5	44	83	143	0	17
Santa Rosa	11	3	23	60	39	0	4
Sarasota	90	49	92	184	471	0	34
Seminole	34	23	68	197	223	0	18
Sumter	4	13	6	62	91	1	4
Suwannee	1	0	4	4	4	0	0
Taylor	1	0	5	9	3	0	0
Union	1	0	1	10	3	0	0
Volusia	71	22	97	287	333	1	23
Wakulla	0	0	0	6	0	0	0
Walton	11	3	12	22	31	1	1
Washington	0	0	2	12	1	0	0
Unknown	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
Out of State	51	27	134	364	347	3	79
Total	3,545	1,176	3,807	8,583	16,399	52	1,497

County	Nuclear Medicine	Obstetrics and Gynecology	Ophthalmology	Orthopedic Medicine	Otolaryngology	Pathology	Pediatrics
Alachua	2	71	31	18	28	54	167
Baker	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Bay	0	22	8	13	5	4	26
Bradford	0	1	0	1	0	0	2
Brevard	1	59	28	34	24	15	82
Broward	3	291	120	95	57	81	447
Calhoun	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Charlotte	1	8	14	6	3	9	15
Citrus	0	9	9	2	2	5	7
Clay	0	13	11	4	6	3	23
Collier	1	46	32	28	17	13	50
Columbia	0	1	3	1	0	0	6
Desoto	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Dixie	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Duval	3	174	65	59	43	71	308
Escambia	0	57	23	20	20	18	96
Flagler	0	4	4	6	2	0	4
Franklin	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Gadsden	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gilchrist	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Glades	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gulf	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Hamilton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hardee	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Hendry	0	0	0	0	0	0	8

County	Nuclear Medicine	Obstetrics and Gynecology	Ophthalmology	Orthopedic Medicine	Otolaryngology	Pathology	Pediatrics
Hernando	0	8	9	6	4	1	17
Highlands	0	8	3	8	1	2	9
Hillsborough	5	222	90	65	66	158	398
Holmes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Indian River	0	12	20	13	9	7	27
Jackson	0	2	2	0	1	0	5
Jefferson	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Lafayette	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Lake	1	29	16	16	8	14	39
Lee	2	74	56	39	25	34	141
Leon	0	41	15	17	4	13	47
Levy	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Liberty	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Madison	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Manatee	0	36	22	22	12	12	38
Marion	0	28	18	10	7	5	37
Martin	1	27	15	19	8	6	21
Miami-Dade	9	371	172	121	95	113	779
Monroe	0	6	2	11	3	3	9
Nassau	0	1	2	2	3	0	5
Okaloosa	0	28	13	23	7	3	29
Okeechobee	0	1	1	2	0	1	4
Orange	3	255	56	65	46	53	575
Osceola	0	58	7	11	10	5	54

County	Nuclear Medicine	Obstetrics and Gynecology	Ophthalmology	Orthopedic Medicine	Otolaryngology	Pathology	Pediatrics
Palm Beach	3	226	144	133	80	63	305
Pasco	0	32	28	21	12	6	66
Pinellas	4	112	77	49	41	47	288
Polk	1	47	31	17	17	9	73
Putnam	0	4	1	1	0	0	5
St. Johns	1	18	14	12	5	5	34
St. Lucie	0	28	10	17	10	5	53
Santa Rosa	0	8	0	11	2	0	27
Sarasota	2	76	47	49	25	13	53
Seminole	0	44	22	13	5	5	63
Sumter	0	4	7	2	3	4	2
Suwannee	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Taylor	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Union	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Volusia	0	38	31	17	10	16	47
Wakulla	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Walton	0	9	1	0	4	1	11
Washington	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Out of State	2	29	19	22	8	68	64
Total	45	2,639	1,301	1,102	739	947	4,581

County	Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation	Preventive Medicine	Proctology	Psychiatry	Radiology	Surgery	Urology	Total
Alachua	26	4	0	94	118	141	12	1,784
Baker	0	0	0	6	2	0	0	33
Bay	3	2	0	23	17	44	4	420
Bradford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
Brevard	27	17	0	47	77	87	15	1,379
Broward	85	23	1	217	292	448	50	5,339
Calhoun	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	11
Charlotte	4	1	0	11	22	40	4	384
Citrus	3	0	0	3	14	17	5	266
Clay	3	2	0	14	5	25	5	366
Collier	17	9	0	39	63	85	10	1,121
Columbia	3	1	0	4	3	3	1	106
Desoto	0	0	0	3	0	2	0	24
Dixie	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Duval	55	16	0	151	212	279	33	3,633
Escambia	12	11	0	39	47	99	11	1,023
Flagler	2	1	0	6	7	11	3	168
Franklin	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	16
Gadsden	0	1	0	8	0	0	0	24
Gilchrist	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	5
Glades	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	3
Gulf	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	15
Hamilton	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	9
Hardee	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
Hendry	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	29

County	Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation	Preventive Medicine	Proctology	Psychiatry	Radiology	Surgery	Urology	Total
Hernando	4	0	0	13	15	24	2	351
Highlands	1	1	0	5	7	11	5	197
Hillsborough	66	29	0	223	279	410	30	4,820
Holmes	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	14
Indian River	9	2	0	22	23	35	5	490
Jackson	0	0	0	2	1	4	1	49
Jefferson	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	7
Lafayette	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
Lake	16	6	0	14	41	44	9	780
Lee	25	3	0	72	84	137	13	1,772
Leon	6	7	0	41	54	59	6	787
Levy	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	11
Liberty	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Madison	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	11
Manatee	13	3	0	34	21	47	7	771
Marion	10	11	0	22	25	57	6	723
Martin	9	1	0	19	25	45	9	522
Miami-Dade	88	36	2	402	387	644	59	7,738
Monroe	2	1	0	5	3	10	4	168
Nassau	1	2	0	3	2	3	1	97
Okaloosa	2	5	0	13	20	52	3	476
Okeechobee	0	0	0	0	2	4	1	47
Orange	54	24	0	180	274	353	43	4,532
Osceola	10	11	0	25	15	57	10	765

County	Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation	Preventive Medicine	Proctology	Psychiatry	Radiology	Surgery	Urology	Total
Palm Beach	73	29	0	220	219	374	45	4,507
Pasco	16	6	0	55	33	85	13	1,073
Pinellas	45	16	0	135	145	240	27	3,124
Polk	9	9	0	44	73	85	12	1,180
Putnam	1	1	0	1	4	4	0	78
St. Johns	9	2	0	20	25	27	0	486
St. Lucie	7	2	0	22	21	49	2	549
Santa Rosa	3	2	0	5	6	16	0	220
Sarasota	25	6	0	58	56	114	16	1,460
Seminole	13	4	0	29	34	47	6	848
Sumter	1	4	0	1	10	4	5	228
Suwannee	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	17
Taylor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
Union	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	18
Volusia	19	7	1	38	65	101	11	1,235
Wakulla	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Walton	0	1	0	4	5	8	0	125
Washington	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	17
Unknown	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	6
Out of State	15	16	0	178	289	71	7	1,793
Total	795	339	4	2,580	3,157	4,511	511	58,310

Appendix B:
Florida Physicians, Number by County, Per Capita

County	Count	Per 10,000 Population	County	Count	Per 10,000 Population	County	Count	Per 10,000 Population
Alachua	1,800	61.94	Lake	792	18.97	Taylor	20	9.79
Seminole	859	43.65	Marion	730	18.82	Calhoun	11	8.04
Sarasota	1,476	42.01	Pasco	1,092	18.44	Holmes	15	7.60
Duval	3,671	35.28	Manatee	780	18.40	Santa Rosa	227	7.57
Martin	529	33.02	Osceola	775	18.16	Hendry	31	7.50
Pinellas	3,156	32.52	Hernando	358	17.95	Desoto	24	7.04
Hillsborough	4,862	31.85	Citrus	272	17.23	Hamilton	9	7.03
Escambia	1,034	31.56	Sumter	232	16.55	Washington	17	6.81
Orange	4,579	30.63	Clay	369	16.36	Madison	11	6.00
Indian River	498	30.31	Polk	1,194	15.45	Gadsden	24	5.47
Palm Beach	4,559	30.00	Walton	125	15.44	Hardee	13	5.15
Collier	1,127	28.83	Columbia	107	15.19	Jefferson	7	4.73
Miami-Dade	7,851	28.36	Flagler	168	13.51	Bradford	12	4.31
Broward	5,409	27.41	Franklin	16	12.80	Lafayette	3	3.86
Leon	795	26.52	Okeechobee	47	12.06	Suwannee	17	3.86
Bay	426	23.57	Union	18	11.52	Dixie	5	2.96
Okaloosa	482	22.34	St. Lucie	551	11.35	Liberty	2	2.79
Brevard	1,399	22.28	Baker	33	11.31	Gilchrist	5	2.71
Lee	1,793	22.20	St. Johns	495	11.00	Levy	11	2.48
Volusia	1,251	21.80	Jackson	52	10.99	Glades	3	2.47
Monroe	171	20.42	Putnam	78	10.55	Wakulla	6	1.71
Charlotte	391	20.09	Nassau	98	10.22	Out-of-State:		1,816
						Unknown:		853
Highlands	199	19.33	Gulf	15	9.98	TOTAL:		59,856

Glossary

The following definitions explain certain terms used in this report.

Term	Definition
Licensed Physicians/Active License	Physicians who are authorized to practice based on license status as of June 30, 2022, including those who may or may not be actively providing direct patient care. Only physicians with a license status of clear, clear/active, conditional/active, emergency restrictions/active, obligations/active, and probation/active are included.
Physician Workforce Survey (physician survey)	The physician survey was completed by all medical doctors (allopathic and osteopathic) biennially during the Florida medical license renewal process.
Physicians Not Providing Direct Patient Care in Florida	Physicians holding a Florida medical license who took the survey and reported they provided no direct patient care in the last twelve months, physicians who reported they were medical residents, interns, or fellows, physicians with inactive licenses, physicians who did not answer enough survey questions to determine if they were practicing, physicians whose practice location is officially listed as "not practicing," physicians whose practice location is officially listed as "confidential" unless the survey response gives a county location, and physicians whose license status as of June 30, 2023, does not authorize them to practice (administrative suspension, delinquent, emergency suspension, inactive, military active, retired, suspended, temporary military active and voluntary withdrawal).
Physicians Providing Direct Patient Care in Florida	Licensed physicians holding a Florida medical license who completed the survey and reported providing direct patient care in the last twelve months and who were not classified as current medical residents, interns, or fellows.
Primary Care Physicians	Physicians indicating they practice general internal medicine (0500-0501), family medicine (0400-0405 and 0407-0408) or general pediatrics (1400-1401) as a primary practice specialty, as defined by the American Academy of Family Physicians.
Primary Specialty	The primary practice specialty reported by the physician. Specialties, per section 458.3312, Florida Statutes, means a physician licensed under this Chapter may not hold himself or herself out as a board-certified specialist unless the physician has received formal recognition as a specialist from a specialty board of the American Board of Medical Specialties or other recognizing agency that has been approved by the board. However, a physician may indicate the services offered and may state that his or her practice is limited to one or more types of services when this accurately reflects the scope of practice of the physician.