



The Family Medicine Workforce Pipeline

Family physicians: Your trusted healthcare advisor, for life.

- ❑ Family medicine is by far the largest specialty in the state. Twenty-seven North Carolina counties do not have an Ob/Gyn, and 17 counties do not have a pediatrician. Only four counties lack a family physician.¹
- ❑ Family medicine is on the rise in our state. In 2018, over 15 percent of graduating medical students (92 of 597) in North Carolina chose family medicine as their specialty, compared to a national average of 9.4%.²
- ❑ Early medical school exposure to primary care works. Over 57% of the participants in the NCAFP Family Medicine Scholars Program entered family medicine residencies, with 63% staying in state for residency. Nearly a third of medical students who participated in other NCAFP summer clinical experiences entered family medicine residencies between 2013 and 2017, with 65% staying in state for training. In comparison, during that same period only 10.7% of allopathic medical students in NC entered family medicine, and only 48% stayed in state.³

The Ask

- Provide dedicated time and/or compensation for community-based primary care physicians who precept/teach health professions students during their clinical day. High-quality, engaged and satisfied role models make a difference in student choice of specialty.
- Invest in family medicine workforce and leadership development initiatives.

Footnotes:

¹North Carolina Health Professions Data System, the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research, University of North Carolina.

²2018 Family Medicine Residency Match Results and Data from NC Medical Schools.

³Results of the Family Medicine Scholars Initiative, A Joint Project of the NC Academy of Family Physicians Foundation and the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of NC Foundation.