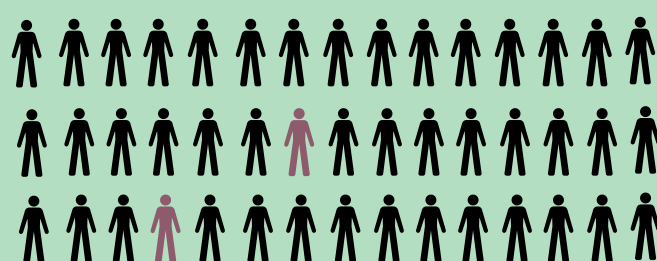


Preventive Medicine Physician Workforce

SUPPLY & DISTRIBUTION



In 2018, there were 6,866 physicians under age 80 who designated preventive medicine as their practice specialty, or 2.11 physicians per 100,000 people.

Preventive medicine physicians work at the intersection of clinical medicine and public health. Previous reports reveal an ongoing decline in preventive medicine physicians and residents. The number of PM physicians currently being trained will not reverse this trend.

The number of preventive medicine physicians is not likely to match population needs in the United States in the near term and beyond.



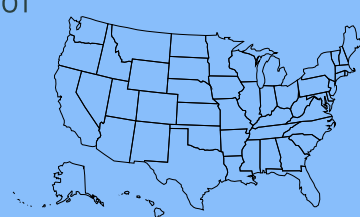
AGE & GENDER DISTRIBUTION



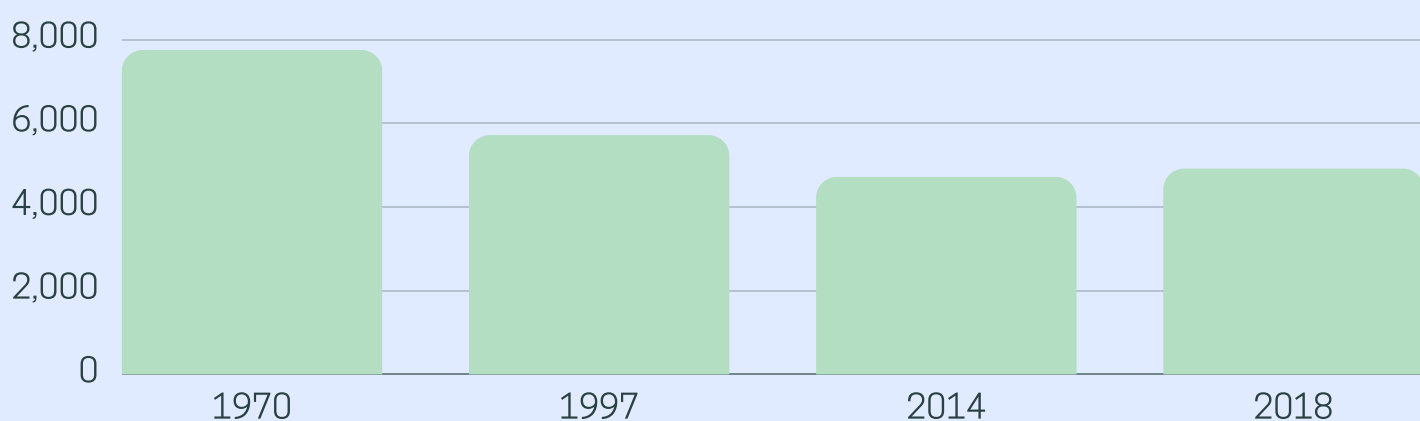
The PM specialty has become older. In 2001, 29.6% of active US Preventive Medicine physicians were 60 years or older; by 2017, that proportion increased to 47.1%. Preventive Medicine practitioners have, historically, been more often male but that has been shifting in recent years. In 2001, 24.6% of all active Preventive Medicine physicians were female; in 2017, that proportion rose to 47.1%, nearly half.

GEOGRAPHIC VARIATION

Preventive medicine physicians are not proportionately distributed across the rural-urban geography of the US. In 2017, only 2.0% of the total number of active PM physicians were in rural counties. The population in these rural counties is 5.5% of the total US population. Similarly, 6.5% were in “micropolitan” (small city) counties, which account for 8.4% of the total US population.



PM PHYSICIANS PER 100K POPULATION



Data from Lane, reporting of AMA Masterfile data for years 1965-1997 and American Medical Association Masterfiles 2003-2019 for subsequent years.

Source: Thomas C. Ricketts; Deborah S. Porterfield; Randall L. Miller; Erin P. Fraher. The Supply and Distribution of the Preventive Medicine Physician Workforce. *J Public Health Manage Pract.* May/June 2021, 27:116-122. doi: 10.1097/PHH.0000000000001322