

PHYSICIAN SPECIALTY: 1980 - 2000

Data are from the
MAINE COOPERATIVE HEALTH MANPOWER RESOURCE SYSTEM

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MAINE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

PHYSICIAN SPECIALTY - MAINE: 1980-2000

Series 10

➔ In 2000, 2,843 physicians worked in Maine compared to 1,771 in 1980. During that 20 year period, the proportion of the physician workforce that was osteopathic grew from 10% (179 physicians) in 1980 to more than 12% (349 physicians) in 2000.

➔ The specialty which experienced the greatest numeric growth during this period was general/family practice followed by internal medicine, both primary care specialties¹.

➔ The number of physicians declaring non-primary care practice areas as their primary specialty also grew; the end result was that primary care physicians represented 43% of all physicians in 2000 - the same proportion as in 1980.

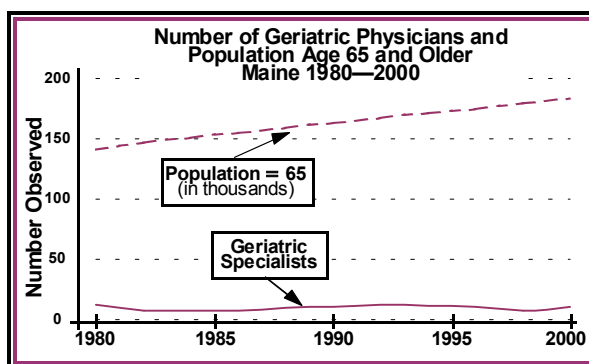
Specialties Experiencing Greatest Numeric Change: Maine, 1980 - 2000			
Specialty	1980	2000	Percent Change
General/Family Practice	386	583	+51%
Internal Medicine	204	351	+72%
Psychiatry	85	196	+131%
Emergency Medicine	59	152	+158%
General Pediatrics	84	173	+106%

➔ The practice area of psychiatry, which showed the 3rd largest numeric gain, more than doubled its numbers between 1980 and 2000, from 85 to nearly 200 physicians. In addition, physicians reporting child psychiatry as their primary specialty increased from 6 to 33 physicians.

➔ In 1980, all 59 emergency medicine physicians were allopaths; 25 of the 152 emergency medicine physicians in 2000 were osteopaths (16%).

➔ The number of physicians who specified general pediatrics as their primary specialty doubled between 1980 and 2000 (84 in 1980 compared to 173 in 2000) while the population under age 15 decreased from 257,000 to 246,000. The end result was that there were more than twice as many general pediatricians available for the same population in 2000 (2.1 physicians/3,000 youths) than in 1980 (1 physician/3,000 youths).

➔ During the 20 years, Maine's older population increased by 30%, from 140,977 to 183,402, yet physicians declaring geriatrics as their primary specialty remained virtually the same (12 in 1980 and 11 in 2000). This resulted in 1 geriatric specialist for every 12,000 residents aged 65 or older in 1980, and 1 for every 16,500 residents in 2000.



Notes: Differences in percentages and ratios are statistically significant unless noted, i.e., they could not be accounted for by chance alone.

¹ Primary Care specialties are General/Family Practice, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Internal Medicine, and Pediatrics.

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