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 do 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:
- Arterial lines
- Paracentesis
- Audiometry
- Pap smears
- Casting
- Pulmonary function tests
- Central lines
- Punch biopsies
- Colposcopy
- Skin biopsies
- EKG
- Spirometry
- Excisions of moles, cysts, warts, skin tags
- Thoracentesis
- Endoscopy
- Ultrasound Imaging
- Intubation
- Tympanometry
- Joint injections
- Vasectomy

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).

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 4th 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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