

Michigan Department of Community Health

Survey of Physicians 2005

INTRODUCTION

The Michigan Department of Community Health asked Public Sector Consultants Inc. to conduct a survey of licensed physicians in 2005 to collect data on their employment characteristics, age, practice specialty, time spent providing patient care, practice capacity and acceptance of Medicaid, plans to continue practice, education background, professional activities, use of computer technology, gender, racial/ethnic background, and foreign language proficiency. A total of 13,496 physicians received the survey with their license renewal application.¹ Responses were received online or by return mail from 7,438 physicians, for a response rate of 55 percent.

The high response rate for the survey guarantees that the survey data are representative of all licensed physicians in Michigan. As of April 2005, the total number of physicians licensed in Michigan is 39,159; of these, 32,414 are doctors of allopathic medicine (MD) and 6,745 are doctors of osteopathic medicine (DO). Key survey findings are presented below.

EMPLOYMENT CHARACTERISTICS

- Overall, 73 percent of physicians licensed in Michigan are *active* in Michigan—that is, they are providing patient care in Michigan, working as a physician in Michigan with no time in patient care, enrolled in graduate medical training in Michigan, and/or semi-retired.²
- Sixty percent of physicians licensed in Michigan are providing patient care services in Michigan.
- Twenty-seven percent of physicians licensed in Michigan are *not active*; they are not working as a physician, or they are working as a physician, but not in Michigan.

EXHIBIT 1

Employment Characteristics of Physicians, 2005

Active in Michigan	73%
Providing patient care services in Michigan	60%
Working as a physician in Michigan but no time in patient care	3
Enrolled in graduate medical training in Michigan	6
Semi-retired	7
Not Active in Michigan	27%
Not working as a physician	4
Working as a physician but not in Michigan	24

SOURCE: Michigan Department of Community Health Survey of Physicians 2005.

NOTE: Physicians were asked to mark “all that apply,” so the sum of the subset percentages under the active and not active categories totals more than 100 percent.

¹ Physicians who are in the first, second, or third year of a residency program and practicing with a Michigan educational limited license are not included in this survey.

² This definition of the term “active” is used throughout the report.

PRACTICE SPECIALTY

- About 34 percent of *active* physicians are primary care doctors (i.e., their primary specialty is family practice, general medicine, internal medicine, or general pediatrics).
- About 67 percent of *active* physicians are specialists in an area other than primary care.

EXHIBIT 2
Distribution of Active Physicians by Specialty, 2005

	Specialty			Specialty	
	Primary	Secondary		Primary	Secondary
Allergy & Immunology	1%	1%	Otolaryngology	1%	1%
Anesthesiology	4	1	Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine	<1	4
Dermatology	2	1	Pathology (General)	2	1
Cardiovascular Disease	2	3	Pediatrics (General)	6	5
Critical Care Medicine	<1	4	Pediatrics subspecialty	2	3
Emergency Medicine	6	3	Medical Pediatrics	<1	1
Endocrinology	1	1	Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation	1	<1
Family Practice	14	5	Plastic Surgery	1	1
General Medicine	3	5	Preventive Medicine	<1	1
Gastroenterology	1	1	Psychiatry (Adult)	6	4
Geriatrics	1	6	Psychiatry (Children & Adolescent)	1	5
Hospitalist	1	3	Pulmonary Disease	1	2
Infectious Disease	1	1	Radiology (Diagnostic)	4	1
Internal Medicine (General)	11	14	Radiology (Therapeutic)	1	1
Nephrology	1	1	Rheumatology	1	1
Neurology	2	1	Sports Medicine	<1	2
Neuromusculoskeletal	<1	1	Surgery (General)	3	2
Obstetrics & Gynecology	4	2	Thoracic Surgery	<1	<1
Gynecology (Only)	1	1	Urology	1	<1
Occupational Medicine	1	2	Vascular Surgery	<1	1
Oncology/Hematology	2	1	Other	3	8
Ophthalmology	3	1			
Orthopedic Surgery	3	1			

SOURCE: Michigan Department of Community Health Survey of Physicians 2005.
NOTE: Percentages do not equal 100 percent due to rounding.

- Dermatology, endocrinology, neurology, rheumatology, psychiatry, and orthopedic surgery are the specialties for which active physicians say that they or their patients have the greatest difficulty scheduling a timely appointment for a referral. Five to 7 percent of physicians note difficulty scheduling appointments for referrals to these specialty areas; only 1 or 2 percent of physicians indicate difficulty arranging appointments for referrals to other specialty areas.

EXHIBIT 3
Greatest Difficulty Scheduling Referrals, by Specialty Area, 2005

Specialty	Percentage of active physicians indicating difficulty scheduling a referral to the identified specialty
Dermatology	7%
Endocrinology	6
Neurology	6
Psychiatry (Adult)	6
Rheumatology	6
Psychiatry (Children & Adolescent)	5
Orthopedic Surgery	5

SOURCE: Michigan Department of Community Health Survey of Physicians 2005.

TIME SPENT PROVIDING PATIENT CARE

- Physicians who provide patient care spend an average of 43 hours per week providing such care.
- Twenty-five percent of these physicians spend 32 hours or less per week providing patient care.
- Twenty-five percent of physicians who provide patient care spend more than 50 hours per week providing patient care.

EXHIBIT 4
Hours Spent Providing Patient Care by Physician Quartile, 2005

	Hours per week
Average	43
1st quartile	32
2nd quartile	40
3rd quartile	50
4th quartile	100

SOURCE: Michigan Department of Community Health Survey of Physicians 2005.

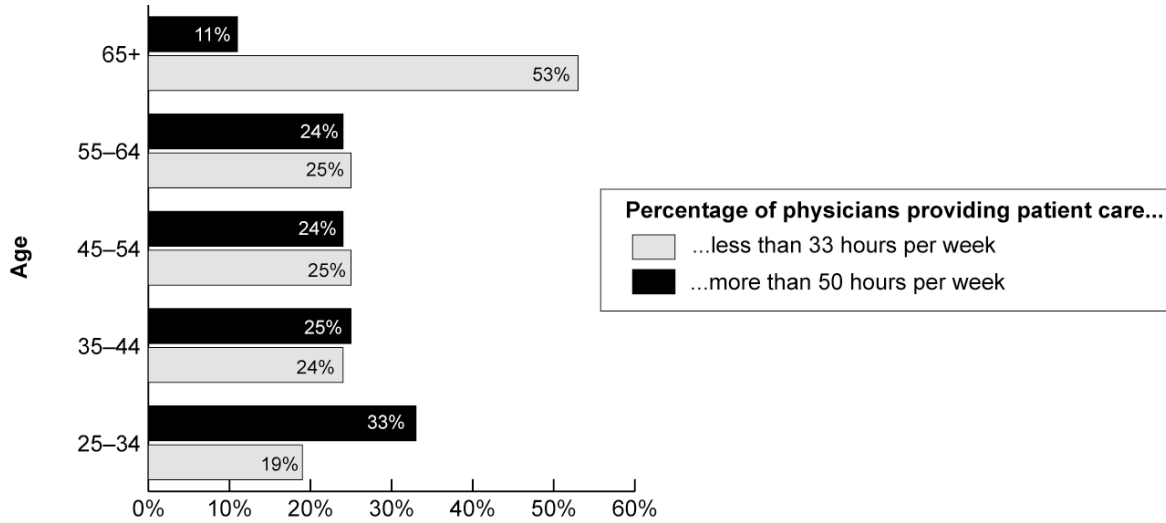
NOTE: Data presented are only for physicians who are providing patient care services and/or are enrolled in graduate medical training in Michigan.

Physicians who are younger, male, or practicing in a specialty other than primary care are likely to spend more time providing patient care.

- Thirty-three percent of physicians aged 25–34 spend more than 50 hours per week providing patient care compared to 25 percent or less of physicians in all other age groups.
- Twenty-seven percent of male physicians and 13 percent of female physicians spend more than 50 hours per week providing patient care.

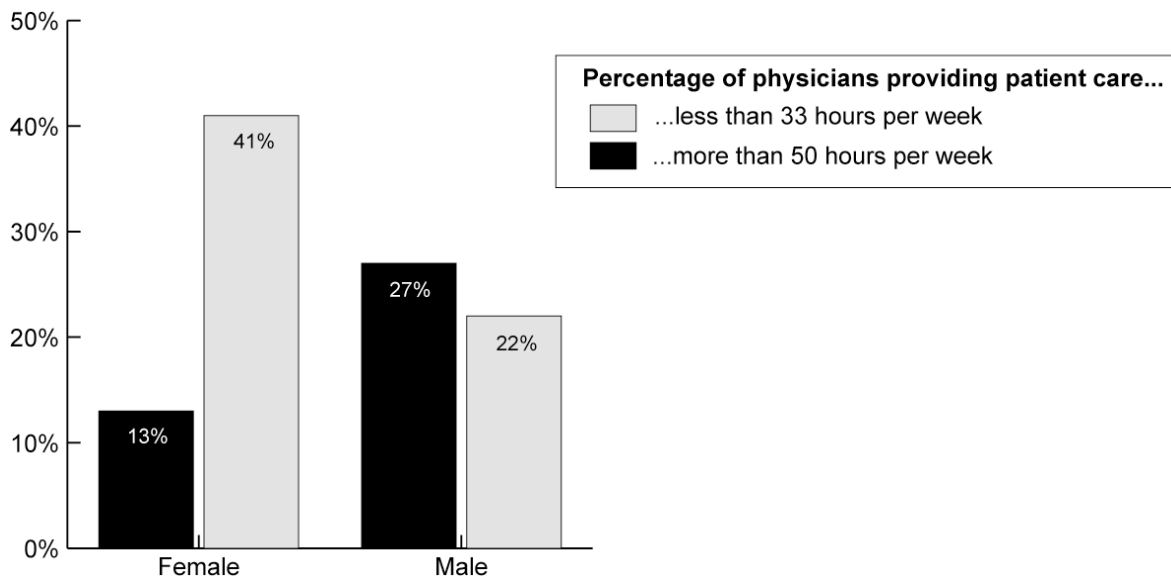
- Twenty-seven percent of specialists and 17 percent of primary care physicians spend more than 50 hours per week providing patient care.

EXHIBIT 5
Patient Care Hours per Week by Age of Physician, 2005



SOURCE: Michigan Department of Community Health Survey of Physicians 2005.
NOTE: Data presented are only for physicians who are providing patient care services and/or are enrolled in graduate medical training in Michigan.

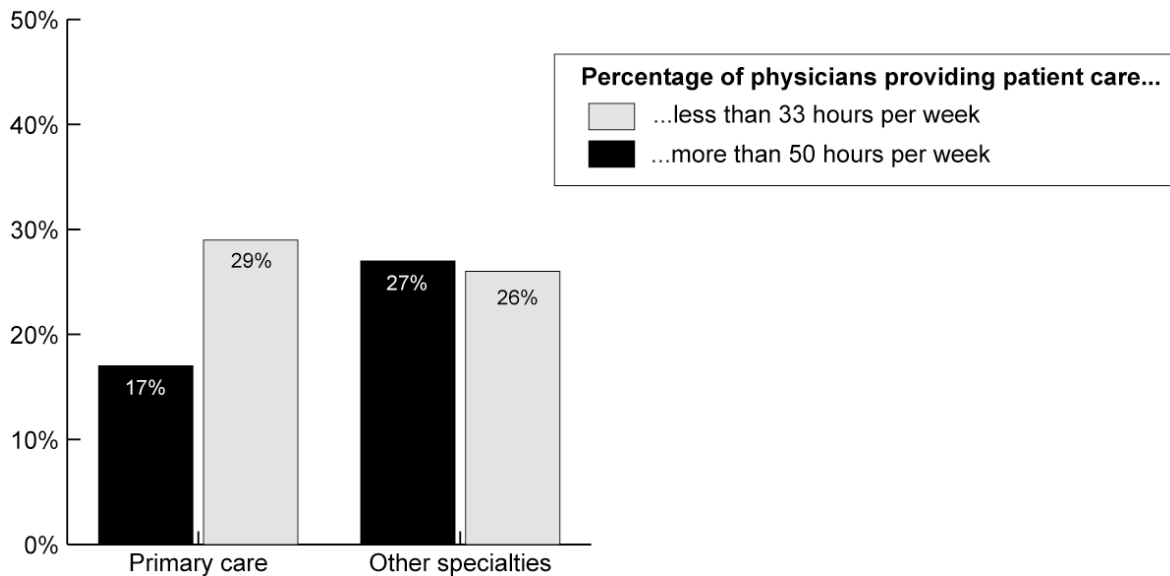
EXHIBIT 6
Patient Care Hours per Week by Gender, 2005



SOURCE: Michigan Department of Community Health Survey of Physicians 2005.
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EXHIBIT 7

Patient Care Hours per Week, Primary Care vs. Other Specialties, 2005



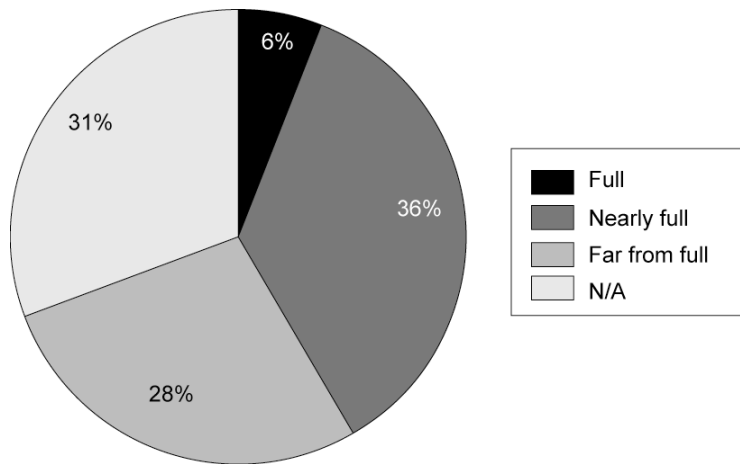
SOURCE: Michigan Department of Community Health Survey of Physicians 2005.

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PRACTICE CAPACITY AND ACCEPTANCE OF MEDICAID

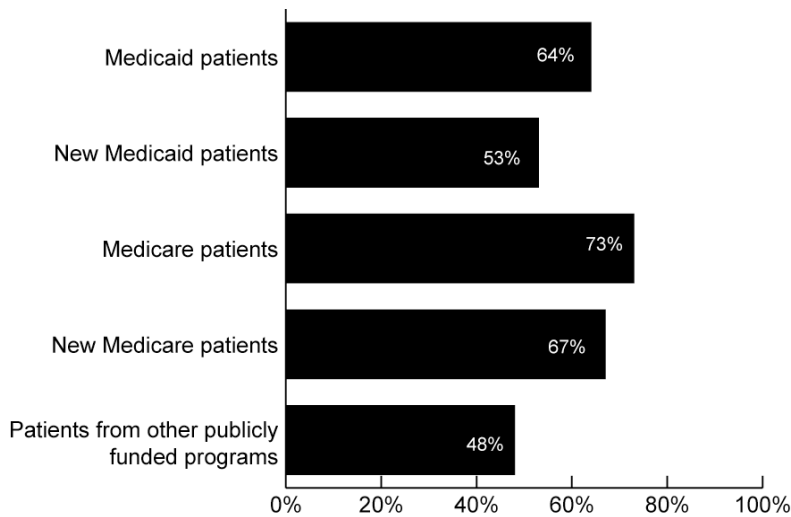
- Thirty-six percent of physicians who are providing patient care report that their practice is nearly full and they can accept only a few new patients; another 6 percent report that their practice is full.
- Twenty-eight percent report that their practice is far from full and they can accept many new patients.
- Sixty-four percent of physicians who are providing patient care report that they serve Medicaid patients.
- Fifty-four percent are accepting *new* Medicaid patients.
- Seventy-three percent of physicians who are providing patient care report that they serve Medicare patients.
- Sixty-seven percent are accepting *new* Medicare patients.
- Physicians providing patient care spend an average of 22 percent of their patient care time with Medicaid patients, but 50 percent of physicians who are providing patient care report that they spend 15 percent or less of their patient care time with Medicaid patients.
- Physicians providing patient care spend an average of 11 percent of their patient care time with patients who pay on a sliding fee scale, but 50 percent of physicians who are providing patient care do not spend any time with these patients.

EXHIBIT 8
Practice Capacity, 2005



SOURCE: Michigan Department of Community Health Survey of Physicians 2005.
NOTE: Data presented are only for physicians who are providing patient care services and/or are enrolled in graduate medical training in Michigan. Percentages do not equal 100 percent due to rounding.

EXHIBIT 9
Percentage of Physicians Accepting Patients from
Publicly Funded Programs, 2005



SOURCE: Michigan Department of Community Health Survey of Physicians 2005.
NOTE: Data presented are only for physicians who are providing patient care services and/or are enrolled in graduate medical training in Michigan.

EXHIBIT 10

Percentage of Patient Care Time Spent with Patients Insured by Medicaid or Paying on a Sliding Fee Scale, by Physician Quartile, 2005

	Medicaid	Sliding fee scale
Average	22%	11%
1st quartile	5	0
2nd quartile	15	0
3rd quartile	30	10
4th quartile	100	100

SOURCE: Michigan Department of Community Health Survey of Physicians 2005.

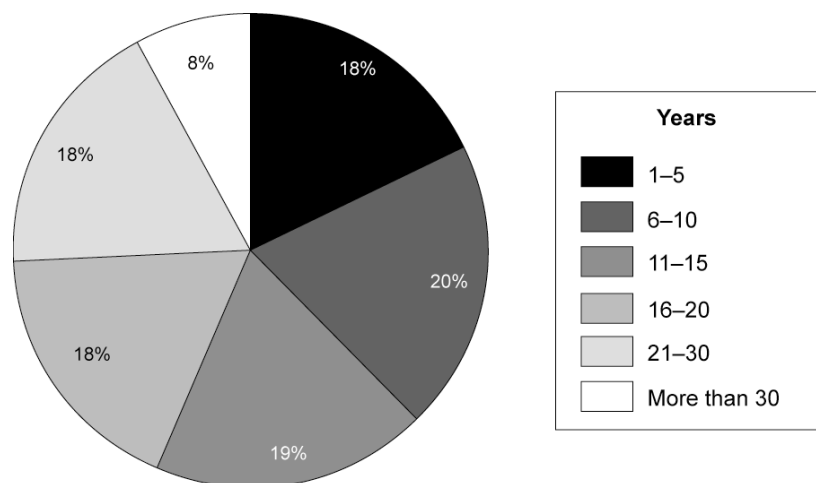
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PLANS TO CONTINUE PRACTICE

- Thirty-eight percent of *active* physicians indicate that they only plan to practice medicine for one to ten more years.
- In the next three years, 14 percent of *active* physicians plan to increase patient care hours, 6 percent plan to significantly reduce patient care hours, 5 percent plan to move their practice out of state, and 8 percent plan to retire.
- For physicians who are planning to retire or reduce their patient care hours, the factors cited most often are age (25 percent), medical malpractice insurance cost (17 percent), increasing administrative/regulatory burden (14 percent), and inadequate reimbursement for services (13 percent).

EXHIBIT 11

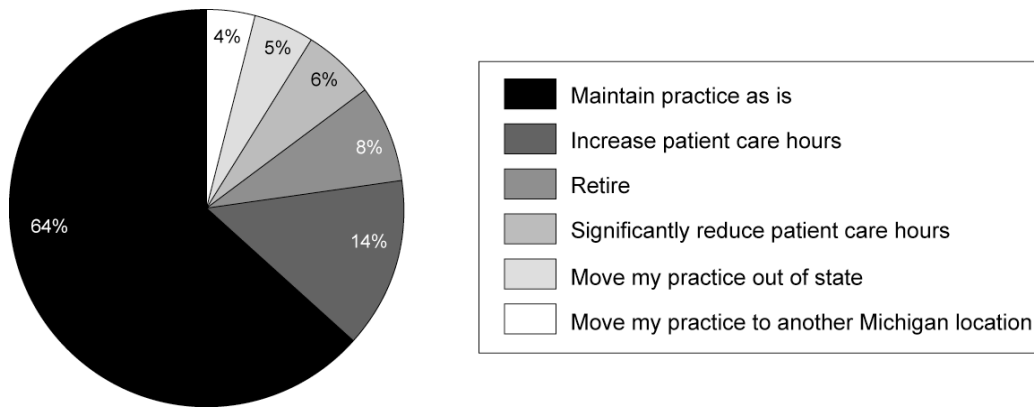
Physician Plans to Continue Practicing, 2005



SOURCE: Michigan Department of Community Health Survey of Physicians 2005.

NOTE: Data presented are for *active* physicians licensed in Michigan. Percentages do not equal 100 percent due to rounding.

EXHIBIT 12
Physician Practice Plans for the Next Three Years, 2005



SOURCE: Michigan Department of Community Health Survey of Physicians 2005.
NOTE: Data presented are for *active* physicians licensed in Michigan. Percentages do not equal 100 percent due to rounding.

EXHIBIT 13
Distribution of Factors Contributing to Decisions to Retire or Reduce Patient Care Hours, 2005

Factors	Percentage
Age	25%
Medical malpractice insurance cost	17
Increasing administrative/regulatory burden	14
Inadequate reimbursement for services	13
Lifestyle changes	10
General lack of job satisfaction	7
Personal or family health concerns	6
Moved to management/consulting/teaching/research	3
Childbearing/childrearing	2
Employer/employee conflict	2
Other	1

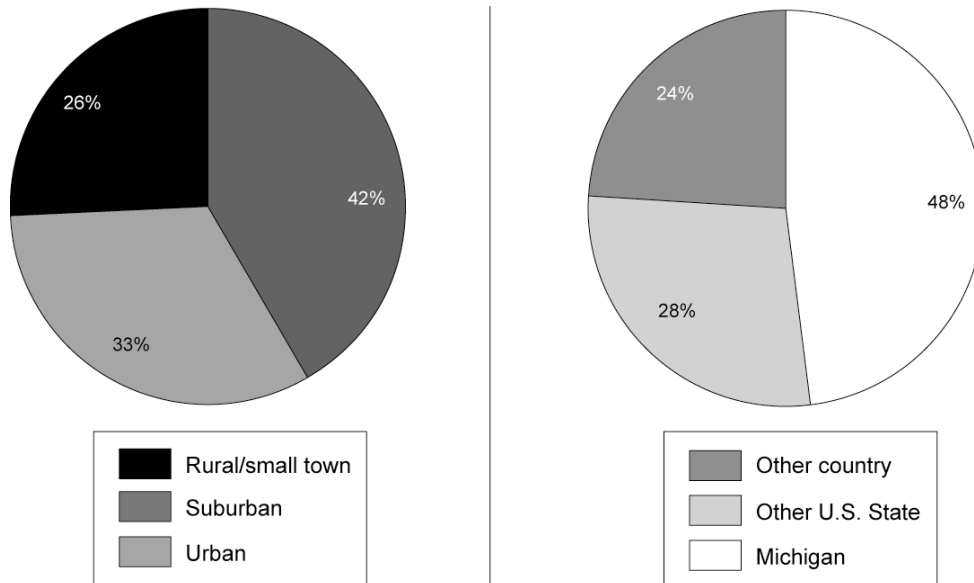
SOURCE: Michigan Department of Community Health Survey of Physicians 2005.
NOTE: Data presented are for *active* physicians licensed in Michigan.

ORIGIN AND EDUCATION BACKGROUND

- Forty-eight percent of *active* Michigan-licensed physicians grew up in Michigan, 28 percent grew up in another U.S. state, and 24 percent grew up in another country.
- Forty-two percent of active physicians grew up in a suburban area, 33 percent in an urban area, and 26 percent in a rural area/small town.

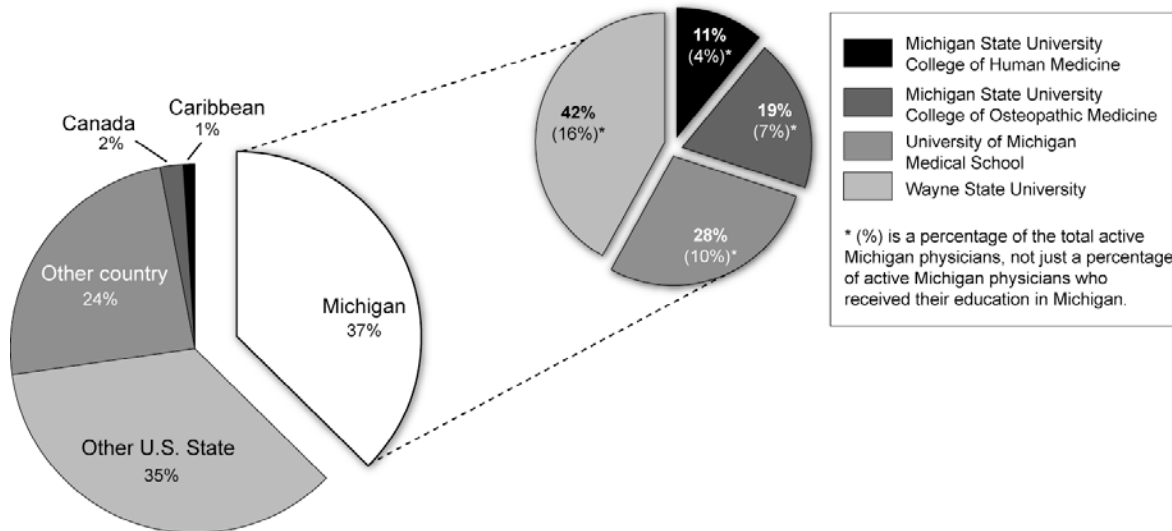
- Survey results indicate that 37 percent (10,577) of active physicians attended a medical school in Michigan, 35 percent attended a medical school in another state, and 27 percent attended a medical school in another country.
- Of the estimated 10,577 active physicians who attended a medical school in Michigan, 42 percent (4,442) attended Wayne State University School of Medicine, 28 percent (2,962) attended University of Michigan Medical School, 19 percent (2,010) attended Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine, and 11 percent (1,163) attended Michigan State University College of Human Medicine.
- Sixty-one percent of active physicians did a residency in Michigan; 15 percent did a fellowship in Michigan.
- Seven percent of active physicians are in their first year after their residency or fellowship.

EXHIBIT 14
Origin of Physicians, 2005



SOURCE: Michigan Department of Community Health Survey of Physicians 2005.
NOTE: Data presented are for *active* physicians licensed in Michigan. Percentages do not equal 100 percent due to rounding.

EXHIBIT 15
Education Background of Physicians, 2005



SOURCE: Michigan Department of Community Health Survey of Physicians 2005.
NOTE: Data presented are for *active* physicians licensed in Michigan. Percentages do not equal 100 percent due to rounding.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Forty-eight percent of *active* physicians are involved in teaching.
- Twenty-three percent are involved in administration in a private practice; 14 percent are involved in administration in a medical school, hospital, health plan, or nursing home.
- Twenty percent of active physicians are involved in research.
- Fourteen percent are involved in emergency room care.

EXHIBIT 16
Distribution of Professional Activities, 2005

Professional activity	Percentage
Teaching	48%
Administration in a private practice	23
Research	20
Administration in medical school, hospital, health plan, or nursing home	14
Emergency room care	14
Patient care in a nursing home	8
Medical Examiner	2

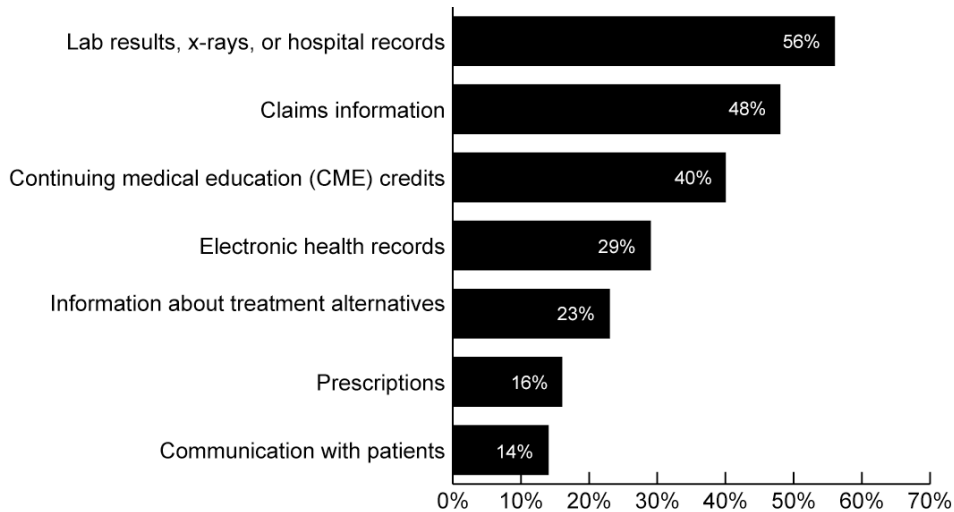
SOURCE: Michigan Department of Community Health Survey of Physicians 2005.
NOTE: Data presented are for *active* physicians licensed in Michigan.

USE OF COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY

Active physicians report that someone in their medical practice uses a computer or computer-like device to receive or transmit:

- Lab results, x-rays, or hospital records (56 percent)
- Electronic health records (29 percent)
- Information about treatment alternatives (23 percent)
- Prescriptions (16 percent)
- Communication with patients (14 percent)

EXHIBIT 17
Percentage of Physician Offices Using Computer Technology to
Receive or Transmit Information, 2005



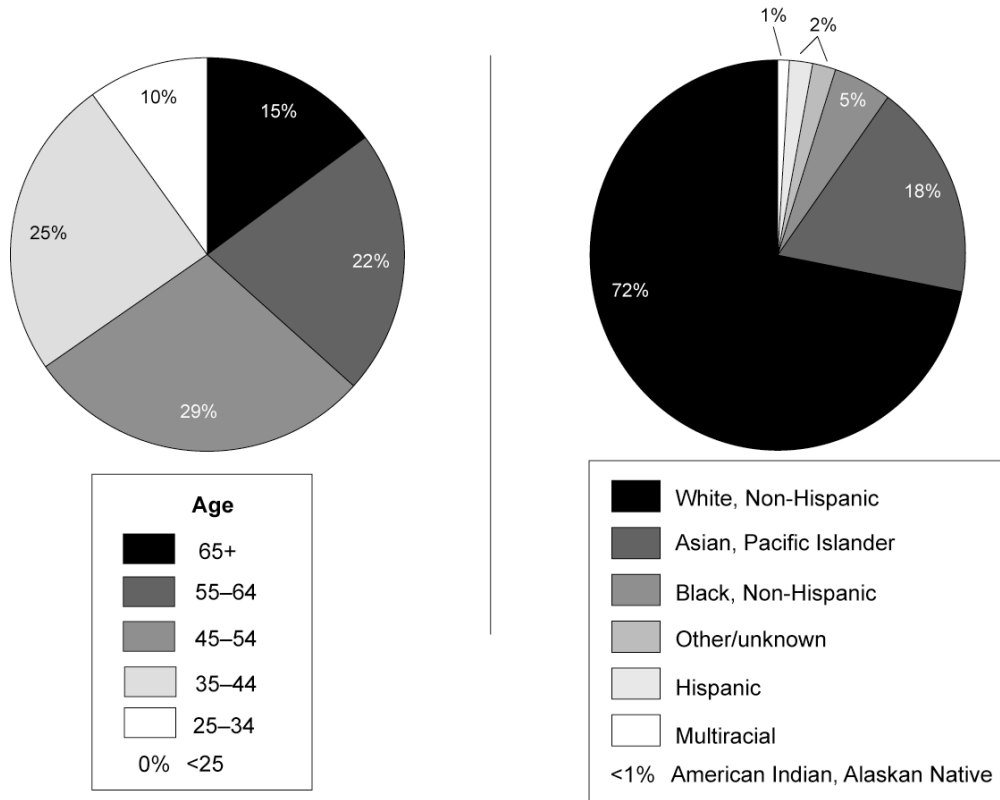
SOURCE: Michigan Department of Community Health Survey of Physicians 2005.

NOTE: Data presented are for *active* physicians licensed in Michigan.

GENDER, RACE, ETHNICITY, AND FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

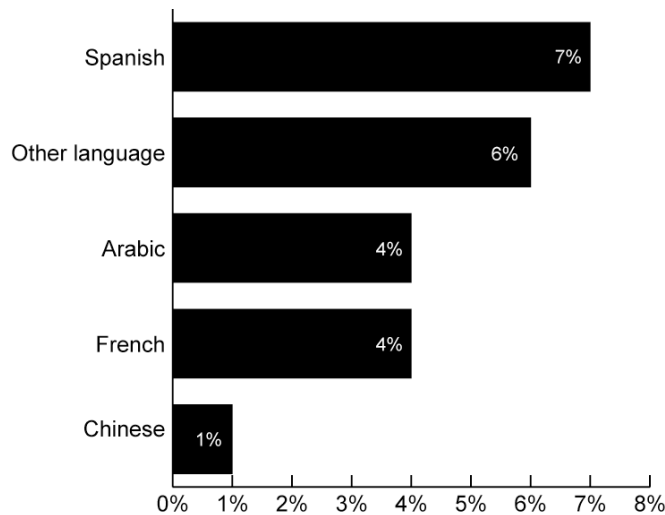
- Seventy-four percent of *active* physicians are male; 26 percent are female.
- Thirty-seven percent of active physicians are aged 55 or older.
- Eighteen percent of active physicians are Asian or Pacific Islander, 5 percent are African American, 2 percent are Hispanic, and less than 1 percent are American Indian/Alaskan Native.
- Seven percent of active physicians report they are fluent in Spanish, 4 percent are fluent in Arabic, and 4 percent are fluent in French.

EXHIBIT 18
Age, Race, and Ethnicity of Physicians, 2005



SOURCE: Michigan Department of Community Health Survey of Physicians 2005.
NOTE: Data presented are for *active* physicians licensed in Michigan. Percentages do not equal 100 percent due to rounding.

EXHIBIT 19
Percentage of Physicians Fluent in Languages Other Than English, 2005



SOURCE: Michigan Department of Community Health Survey of Physicians 2005.
NOTE: Data presented are for *active* physicians licensed in Michigan.

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