



Better Information for Better Outcomes

Center for Health Workforce Studies
School of Public Health, University at Albany

The Contribution of New York Graduate Medical Education Programs to Primary Care Capacity in the State's Neediest Communities

January 2011

Overview

New York's graduate medical education (GME) programs are the primary supplier of active patient care physicians in the state. In 2009, 77% of all active patient care physicians in the state completed GME training in New York.¹ This research brief examines the contribution of New York's GME programs to the supply of community-based primary care physicians² in primary care Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) in New York. In addition to examining the state as a whole, five sub-state regions are analyzed. This brief is an update of a 2007 publication by the Center for Health Workforce Studies.

Many of New York's neediest communities are located in primary care HPSAs. A primary care HPSA is a geographic area, population group, or facility determined by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Shortage Designation to have a shortage of primary care physicians. It's critical to understand the supply and characteristics of community-based primary care physicians practicing in these areas so that health care services can be improved in the future. More than three-quarters of all community-based primary care physicians practicing in primary care HPSAs in New York completed GME training in the state. However, there was wide geographic variation in the distribution of New York trained physicians practicing in shortage areas. Community-based primary care physicians practicing in HPSAs downstate³ were much more likely to have completed training in the state compared to those practicing in upstate HPSAs. In addition, New York's GME programs contribute to the diversity of community-based primary care physician practicing in shortage areas. Eighty-six percent of all underrepresented minorities (URMs: Blacks/African Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, and American Indians/Alaska Natives) practicing in New York's HPSAs were trained in the state.

Key Findings

- ◆ More than three-quarters of the community-based primary care physicians who work in federally designated primary care HPSAs in the state completed their GME training in New York.
- ◆ There was wide geographic variation in the distribution of New York trained community-based primary care physicians who practice in HPSAs. Community-based primary care physicians practicing in shortage areas downstate were more likely to have completed GME training in the state compared to those practicing upstate.
- ◆ New York's GME programs contribute to the diversity of community-based primary care physicians practicing in the state's HPSAs. Eighty-six percent of all URM community-based primary care physicians practicing in New York's HPSAs were trained in the state.

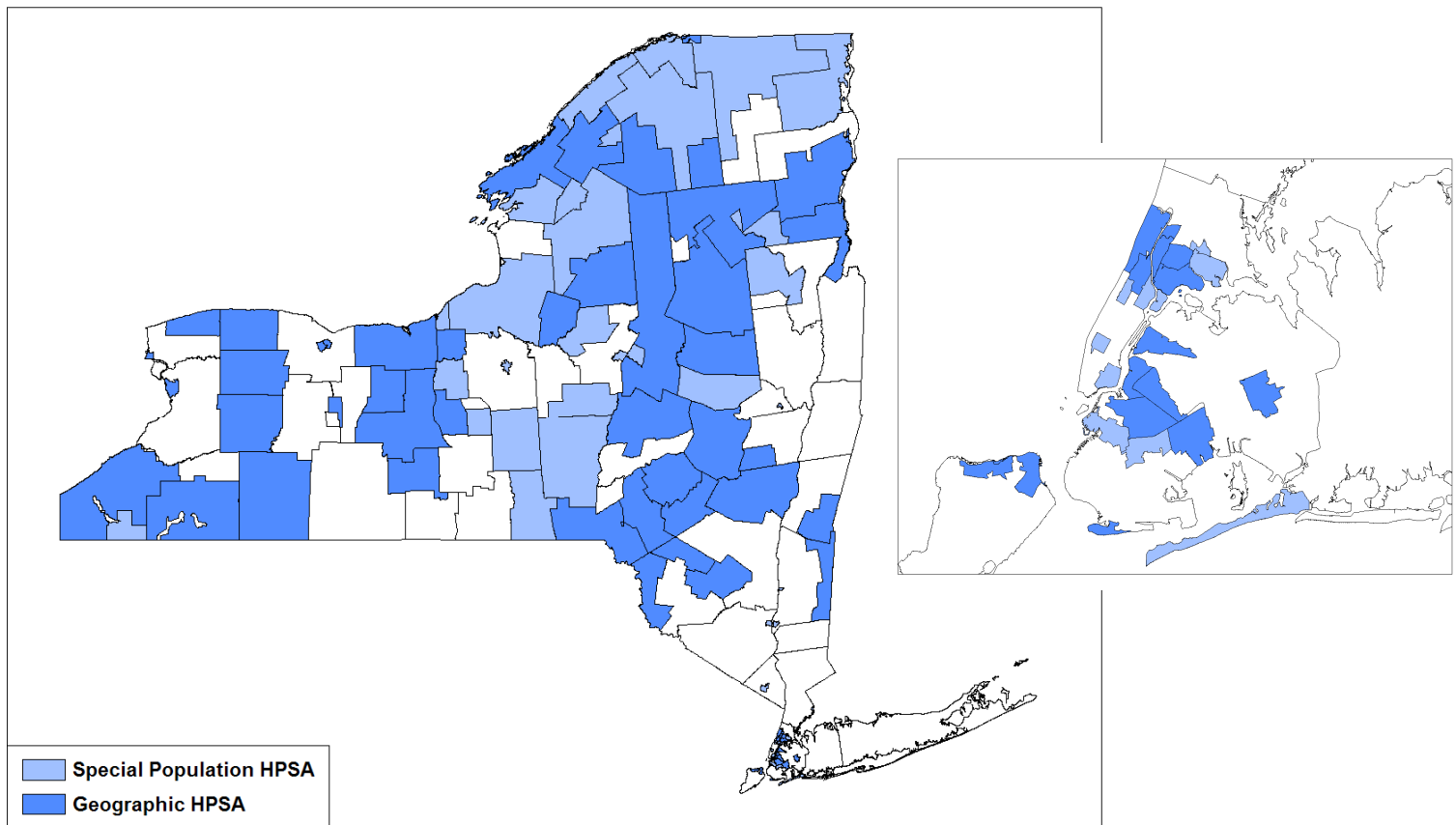
¹ Armstrong, David P. and Forte, Gaetano J. *Annual New York Physician Workforce Profile, 2010*. Rensselaer, NY: Center for Health Workforce Studies, School of Public Health, SUNY Albany. December, 2010.

² Community-based primary care physicians practice in ambulatory care settings and include the following specialties: family medicine, general practice, general internal medicine, general pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, and geriatrics. Community-based primary care physicians do not include primary care physicians practicing in inpatient hospital settings (e.g., hospitalists) or other settings that make their services unavailable to the general public.

³ Downstate New York includes the following counties: Bronx, Kings, Nassau, New York, Queens, Richmond, Suffolk, and Westchester.

Health Professional Shortage Areas in New York

Currently, there are 102 geographic and special population primary care HPSAs in New York.⁴ Over 3,600,000 New Yorkers live in the 54 geographic HPSAs. HPSA designation criteria are based on the population to full-time equivalent provider ratio for community-based primary care physicians and an assessment of the availability of providers in contiguous areas, which considers the number of providers and economic and cultural barriers that may hinder access to care.



Physicians Practicing in New York

In 2009, more than 84,000 physicians were licensed to practice medicine in New York. Over 18,000 physicians were providing community-based primary care services to New Yorkers.⁵ Of these physicians, one in four was providing services in geographic and special population primary care HPSAs in the state.

⁴ Data on designated HPSAs were retrieved from the Division of Shortage Designation, Health Resources and Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: <http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/shortage/> (accessed 12/05/2010).

⁵ Data on physicians practicing in New York derived from responses to the ongoing New York Physician Re-registration Survey conducted by the Center for Health Workforce Studies with the cooperation of the New York State Department of Education.

Graduate Medical Education in New York

With over 15,000 residents in training in more than 1,100 GME programs in the state, New York is by far, the nation's leader in GME. Its nearest competitor, California, has about 60% as many residents in training. Of the community-based primary care physicians practicing in primary care HPSAs in the state, over three-quarters completed GME in New York. Eighty-five percent of community-based primary care physicians practicing in downstate New York primary care HPSAs completed graduate medical education in New York. By contrast, 62% of community-based primary care physicians practicing in upstate NY primary care HPSAs completed GME in New York.

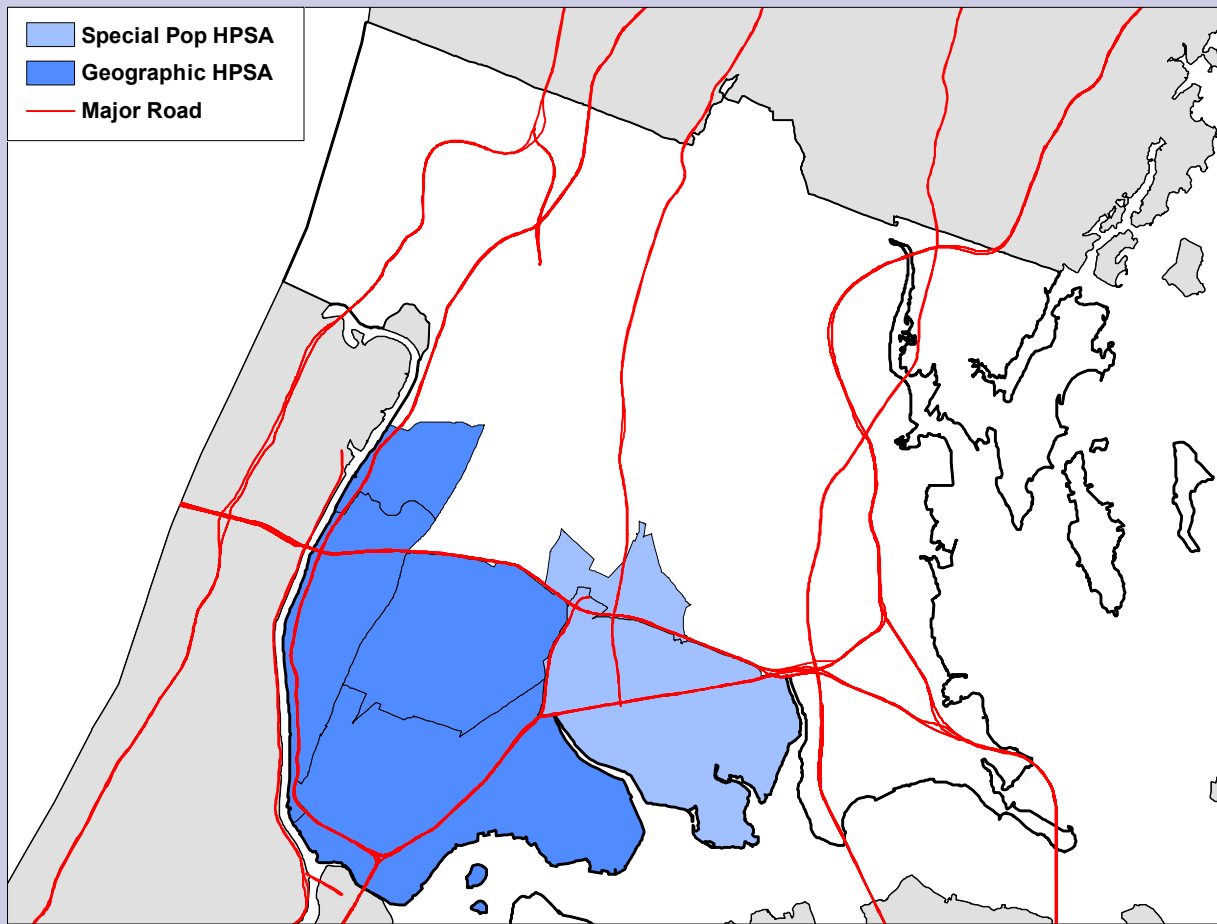
Location of GME of Community-based Primary Care Physicians in Geographic and Special Population Primary Care HPSAs in New York, 2009			
	All NY HPSAs	Downstate NY	
		HPSAs	Upstate NY HPSAs
GME in New York	76.4%	84.9%	62.1%
GME Elsewhere in US/Canada	21.6%	12.8%	36.4%
GME in Other Location	2.0%	2.3%	1.5%

Characteristics of Community-based Primary Care Physicians

Twenty-five percent of community-based primary care physicians practicing in geographic and special population primary care HPSAs were URMs. Of them, 86% were trained in New York (not shown in table). Community-based primary care physicians practicing in primary care HPSAs who were trained in the state were almost twice as likely to be URMs as those who were trained elsewhere.

Characteristics of Community-based Primary Care Physicians Practicing in Geographic and Special Population Primary Care HPSAs by GME Location, 2009			
	All Physicians	GME in New	GME in Other
		York	Location
Male	59.9%	59.1%	62.3%
Female	40.1%	40.9%	37.7%
Average Age	51.8	51.9	51.6
Underrepresented Minorities	24.6%	27.8%	14.6%
Black/African American	15.3%	17.2%	9.4%
Hispanic/Latino	8.9%	10.1%	5.0%
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.4%	0.5%	0.2%
Asian/Pacific Islander	26.9%	28.5%	21.8%
White (Non-Hispanic)	48.5%	43.8%	63.6%
<i>Practice Plans in the Next 12 Months</i>			
Plan to retire	1.3%	1.3%	1.5%
Plan to reduce hours	9.4%	9.6%	8.8%
Move practice to another location in NY	5.8%	5.6%	5.7%
Move practice out of NY	2.9%	3.1%	2.5%

Focus On: Bronx County



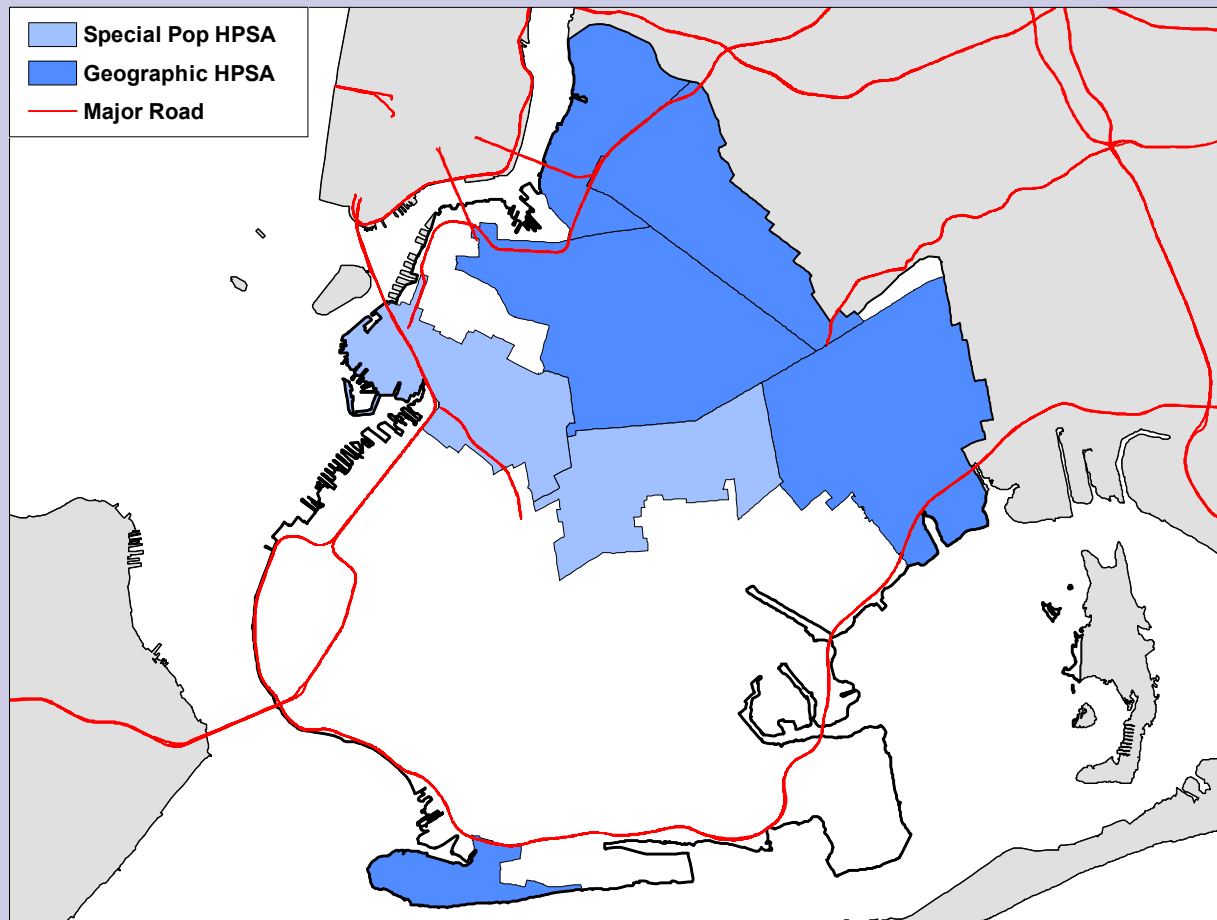
Bronx County Quick Facts

Physicians	4,007
Primary Care HPSAs	6
Population in Geo HPSAs	461,413
Total Population	1,376,775
% Non-White	87.8%
% 65 Years and Older	10.7%
% in Poverty	28.3%
Birth Rate (per 1k pop)	16.5
Low Birthweight (per 100 births)	10.0
Mortality Rates (per 100k pop):	
Heart Disease	215.0
Lung Cancer	32.1
Cerebrovascular	20.6
Breast Cancer (Female)	23.0

There are currently six primary care HPSAs in Bronx County. Over 450,000 people reside in the four geographic HPSAs, accounting for one-third of the county's population. More than 40% of the population residing in all of the HPSAs were at or below 100% of the federal poverty level and almost 70% were at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. Among community-based primary care physicians practicing in primary care HPSAs in Bronx County, 83% completed GME in New York. Fifteen percent of the community-based primary care physicians practicing in primary care HPSAs completed GME in another state or Canada. The remainder (2%) completed GME in other locations.

Data sources used in "Quick Facts" tables: The population and age data for the year 2009 were obtained from the New York State Department of Health, Information Systems and Health Statistics Group, Bureau of Biometrics and Health Statistics, Claritas (Small Area) Data. Percent in poverty for the year 2009 was obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE). The health status indicators for the year 2008 were obtained from the New York State Department of Health, New York State County Health Indicator Profiles.

Focus On: Kings County

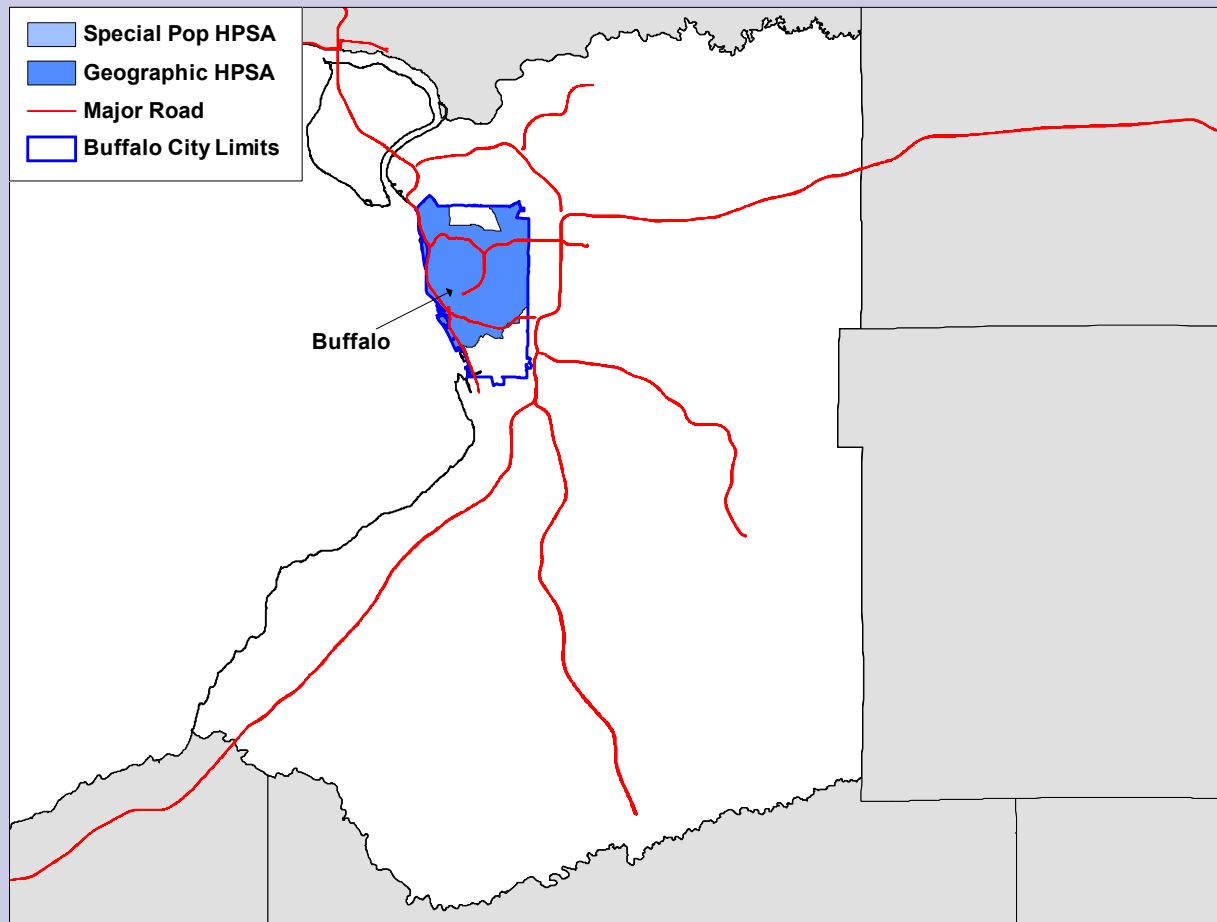


Kings County Quick Facts

Physicians	6,742
Primary Care HPSAs	7
Population in Geo HPSAs	934,563
Total Population	2,539,821
% Non-White	64.8%
% 65 Years and Older	12.4%
% in Poverty	21.7%
Birth Rate (per 1k pop)	16.3
Low Birthweight (per 100 births)	8.6
Mortality Rates (per 100k pop):	
Heart Disease	278.5
Lung Cancer	31.0
Cerebrovascular	15.9
Breast Cancer (Female)	23.0

There are currently seven primary care HPSAs in Kings County. Over 900,000 people reside in the five geographic HPSAs, accounting for over one-third of the county's population. More than 30% of the population residing in all of the HPSAs were at or below 100% of the federal poverty level and more than 50% were at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. Among community-based primary care physicians practicing in primary care HPSAs in Kings County, 89% completed GME in New York. Eight percent of the community-based primary care physicians practicing in primary care HPSAs completed GME in another state or Canada. The remainder (3%) completed GME in other locations.

Focus On: Erie County

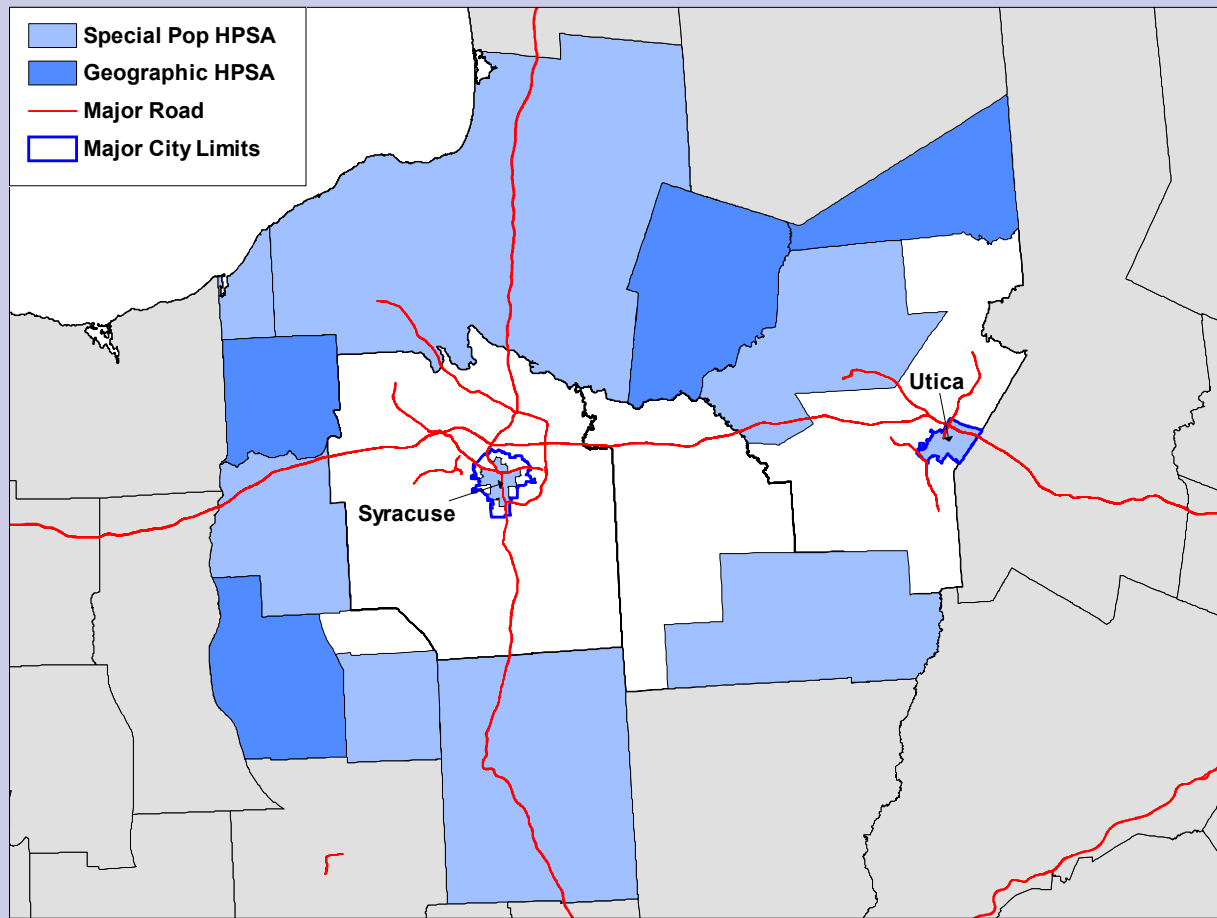


Erie County Quick Facts

Physicians	2,765
Primary Care HPSAs	1
Population in Geo HPSAs	200,884
Total Population	904,850
% Non-White	20.8%
% 65 Years and Older	15.9%
% in Poverty	13.9%
Birth Rate (per 1k pop)	10.6
Low Birthweight (per 100 births)	8.2
Mortality Rates (per 100k pop):	
Heart Disease	272.8
Lung Cancer	69.2
Cerebrovascular	60.3
Breast Cancer (Female)	32.5

There is currently one primary care HPSA in Erie County. Over 200,000 people reside in the geographic HPSA, accounting for over 20% of the county's population. More than 30% of the population residing in the HPSA were at or below 100% of the federal poverty level and more than 50% were at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. Among community-based primary care physicians practicing in the primary care HPSA in Erie County, 78% completed GME in New York. Twenty percent of the community-based primary care physicians practicing in the primary care HPSA completed GME in another state or Canada. The remainder (2%) completed GME in other locations.

Focus On: Central New York Region⁶



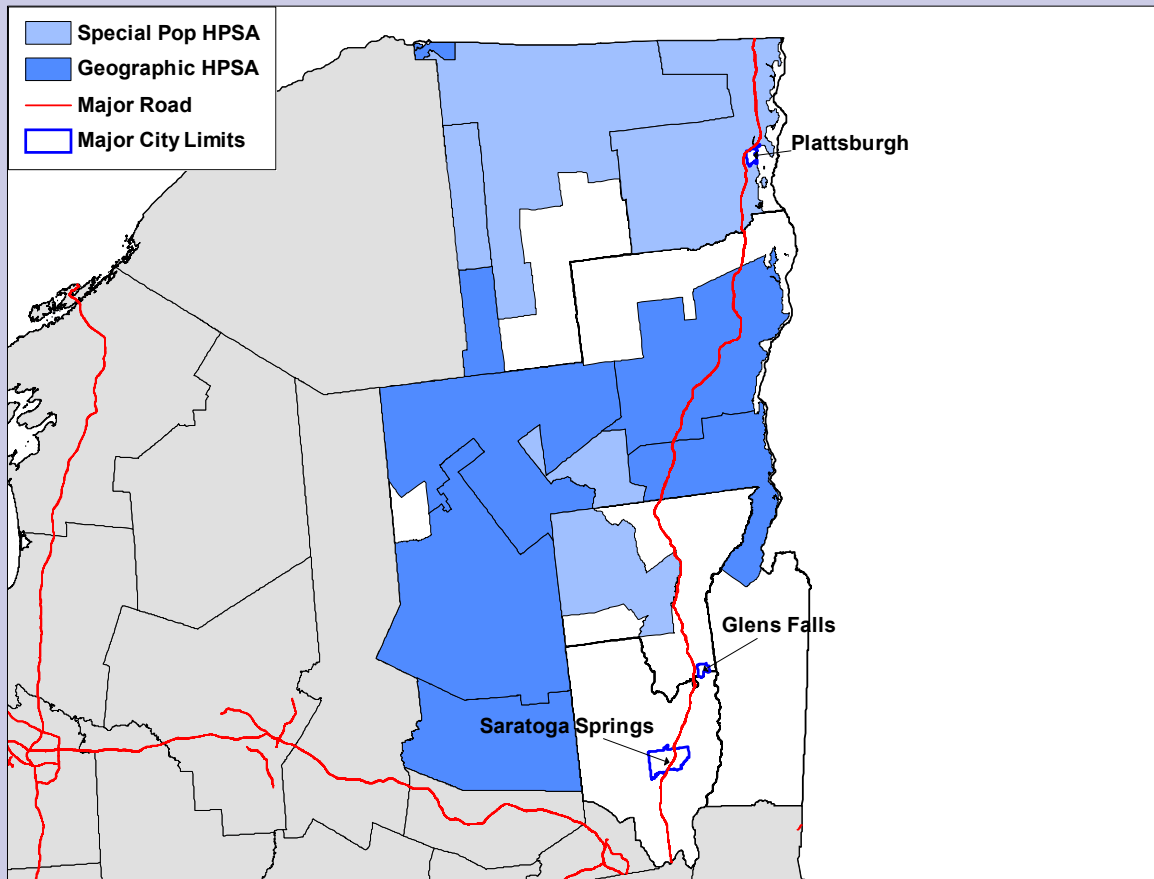
Central New York Region Quick Facts

Physicians	2,469
Primary Care HPSAs	13
Population in Geo HPSAs	37,586
Total Population	1,003,233
% Non-White	13.1%
% 65 Years and Older	14.3%
% in Poverty	14.0%
Birth Rate (per 1k pop)	11.6
Low Birthweight (per 100 births)	7.1
Mortality Rates (per 100k pop):	
Heart Disease	223.7
Lung Cancer	61.1
Cerebrovascular	48.0
Breast Cancer (Female)	27.7

There are currently 13 primary care HPSAs that are either completely or partially in the Central New York region. Over 37,000 people reside in the four geographic HPSAs, accounting for nearly 4% of the region's population. Almost 20% of the population residing in all of the HPSAs were at or below 100% of the federal poverty level and more than 40% were at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. Among community-based primary care physicians practicing in primary care HPSAs in the Central New York region, 63% completed GME in New York. Thirty-seven percent of the community-based primary care physicians practicing in primary care HPSAs completed GME in another state or Canada. The remainder (< 1%) completed GME in other locations.

⁶ The Central New York region includes the following counties: Cayuga, Onondaga, Cortland, Madison, Oneida, and Oswego.

Focus On: Adirondack Region⁷



Adirondack Region Quick Facts

Physicians	874
Primary Care HPSAs	11
Population in Geo HPSAs	85,978
Total Population	512,237
% Non-White	7.7%
% 65 Years and Older	14.3%
% in Poverty	11.0%
Birth Rate (per 1k pop)	10.4
Low Birthweight (per 100 births)	7.3
Mortality Rates (per 100k pop):	
Heart Disease	222.6
Lung Cancer	64.8
Cerebrovascular	35.9
Breast Cancer (Female)	23.7

There are currently 11 primary care HPSAs that are either completely in or partially in the Adirondack region including one Indian reservation. Over 85,000 people in the region reside in the seven geographic HPSAs, accounting for nearly 17% of the region's population. About 15% of the population residing in all of the HPSAs were at or below 100% of the federal poverty level and almost 40% were at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. Among community-based primary care physicians practicing in primary care HPSAs in the Adirondack region, 35% completed GME in New York, while 64% completed GME in another state or Canada. The remainder (1%) completed GME in other locations.

⁷ The Adirondack region includes the following counties: Franklin, Clinton, Essex, Hamilton, Warren, Fulton, Saratoga, and Washington.

Center for Health Workforce Studies

This brief was prepared by the Center for Health Workforce Studies at the School of Public Health, University at Albany, State University of New York with funding from the Greater New York Hospital Association. Center staff who worked on the report included David Armstrong, Robert Martiniano, Gaetano Forte, and Jean Moore. Funding for this analysis was provided by the Greater New York Hospital Association. Web Site: <http://chws.albany.edu>