Late in 2022, the UND School of Medicine & Health Sciences (SMHS) released its annual report Vital Signs and the Seventh Biennial Report on Health Issues for the State of North Dakota. The two publications not only give North Dakotans an assessment of the current state of their overall health and that of their healthcare delivery system, but the healthcare workforce education ongoing at the SMHS.

As the key charts and data points below from the two documents suggest, the SMHS is serious about keeping its promise of maintaining its mission of education, discovery, and service to the people of North Dakota.

Our 2021–23 biennial budget is $220,300,000

The majority of funds comes from non-state sources such as grants, contracts, patient revenue, and tuition. Notice that for every $1 appropriated to the School by the Legislature, the School generates about $2 in grants, contracts, tuition, and clinical revenues.

Residency or fellowship training is provided throughout North Dakota in 10 specialties:

- Family Medicine (Bismarck, Fargo, Grand Forks, Hettinger, Minot, and Williston)
- Internal Medicine (Fargo)
- Neurology (Fargo)
- Orthopedic Surgery (Fargo)
- Psychiatry (Fargo)
- Surgery (Fargo, Grand Forks)
- Transitional (Fargo)
- Geriatrics (Fargo)
- Hospitalist (Bismarck)
- Hematology-Oncology (Fargo)

(A new Pediatrics Residency Program, based in Fargo and managed by UND, was approved in 2022.)

Rural training programs:

- Family Medicine in Bismarck (Fort Yates), Fargo (Valley City, Hillsboro, and Wahpeton, N.D., and Detroit Lakes and Perham, Minn.), Hettinger, Minot (Belcourt, Garrison), and Williston
- Rural Surgery Track (Minot, Hettinger, Rugby, Williston, and Fargo, N.D., and Perham, Minn.)
- Psychiatry (Rural Outreach to Dickinson, Williston, Devils Lake, Jamestown, Valley City, and New Town, plus Telemedicine)

EDUCATE

Having graduated more than 300 health providers in 2022, the SMHS claims more than 1,000 current health professions students, nearly 300 of whom are medical students. As the chart shows, since 2013, our School has moved from the lower percentiles to one of the top percentiles among American medical schools retaining their graduates for in-state practice.

Retention of UND SMHS Medical Student Graduates for practice in-state

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentile rank (compared with other medical schools)</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>20%</th>
<th>40%</th>
<th>60%</th>
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Source: Missions Management Tool, 2022 AAMC
DISCOVER
Areas of research strength include: aging, cancer, health disparities in rural and American Indian communities, infectious disease, and neurodegenerative disorders. According to the SMHS Office of Research Affairs “Sponsored Projects Awards” report, the SMHS won a total of 104 research awards from external agencies like the National Institutes of Health, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, National Science Foundation, and other universities and foundations totaling a record $48,651,717.

SERVE
The practicing-primary-care-physician-to-10,000-population ratios are lower for rural N.D. counties, relative to the rest of the U.S., but higher for metropolitan counties in North Dakota, relative to the rest of the nation.

North Dakota’s primary care physicians are less likely to be in the “under 35” age group and more likely to be in the “35 to 44” age group with respect to the comparison regions.

“The primary purpose of the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences is to educate physicians and other health professionals for subsequent service in North Dakota and to enhance the quality of life of its people. Other purposes include the discovery of knowledge that benefits the people of this state and enhances the quality of their lives.”

—NORTH DAKOTA CENTURY CODE (Section 15-52-01)