



ARIZONA ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS
STRONG MEDICINE FOR ARIZONA

Who We Are

The Arizona Academy of Family Physicians (AzAFP) is a the state chapter of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). The AzAFP has 2,200 statewide members, all of whom practice family medicine in Arizona.

What We Do

The main focus of the AzAFP is to provide continuing medical education (CME) and advocacy. We support policies that improve the practice of medicine in Arizona – including the promotion of public health and safety, medical liability reform, investments in graduate medical education, and other initiatives that help recruit and retain family physicians in Arizona. We help create an adequate primary care health workforce.

The AzAFP members come from a variety of backgrounds, practice settings, and interests, and we work hard to connect our members to each other and to our advocacy efforts.

Why Family Medicine is Important

In the increasingly fragmented world of health care, one thing remains constant: Family physicians are dedicated to treating the whole person. Family medicine is built on a cornerstone of an ongoing, personal patient-physician relationship that focuses on integrated care. Family physicians serve patients of all genders and ages, and advocate for the patient in a complex health care system.

Family medicine is the only medical specialty devoted solely to primary care. Family physicians conduct approximately one in five office visits - 192 million visits each year, and 48 percent more than to the next most-visited specialty.

The Arizona Academy of Family Physicians
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The specialty of family medicine was created in 1969 to fulfill the generalist function in medicine, which suffered with the growth of sub-specialization after World War II. Since its creation, the specialty has delivered on its promise to reverse the decline of general medicine and provide personal, front-line medical care to people of all socioeconomic strata and in all regions of the United States.

Today, family physicians provide the majority of care for America's underserved rural and urban populations. In fact, family physicians are distributed more proportionally to the U.S. population than any other physician specialty. Without family physicians, rural and underserved populations, in particular, would lack access to primary care.

Because of their extensive training, family physicians are the only specialists qualified to treat most ailments and provide comprehensive health care for people of all ages, from newborns to seniors. Like other medical specialists, family physicians complete a three-year residency program after graduating from medical school.

As part of their residency, they participate in integrated inpatient and outpatient learning and receive training in six major medical areas: pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, internal medicine, psychiatry and neurology, surgery, and community medicine. They also receive instruction in many other areas, including geriatrics, emergency medicine, ophthalmology, radiology, orthopedics, otolaryngology, and urology.

Family physicians deliver a range of acute, chronic, and preventive medical care services while providing patients with a patient-centered medical home.

In addition to diagnosing and treating illness, they also provide preventive care, including routine checkups, health-risk assessments, immunizations and screening tests, and personalized counseling on maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Family physicians also manage chronic illness, and can serve as coordinator for the care provided by other subspecialists. From heart disease, stroke and hypertension, to diabetes, cancer, and asthma, family physicians provide ongoing, personal care for the nation's most serious health problems.

If you're interested in learning more about Family Medicine and The AzAFP / AAFP, please visit www.azafp.org and www.aaafp.org.

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