



UNIVERSITY OF  
**SOUTH DAKOTA**  
SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Ten Year Trend of the USD Physician Assistant  
Studies Program: Report to the Governor's  
Primary Care Task Force

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Dean

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# Mission

The Physician Assistant Studies Program at The University of South Dakota provides a comprehensive primary care education that prepares graduates to deliver high quality healthcare to meet the needs of patients in South Dakota and the region.

To accomplish this mission, the USD PA Program:

- Promotes and supports the ideal of a competent, caring, and compassionate physician assistant
- Promotes and supports excellence and professionalism
- Fosters an evidence-based approach to patient care
- Expects students to be accountable for individual learning
- Expects faculty and students to be partners in the educational process within an environment of mutual respect
- Empowers students to be lifelong learners
- Selects individuals likely to practice in South Dakota and the surrounding region
- Fosters interest in primary care to rural and underserved populations
- Selects individuals who have the interpersonal aptitudes and maturity that are necessary for successful practice as a physician assistant



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# Core Faculty

- Program Director
  - Wade Nilson, MPAS, PA-C
- Medical Director
  - Bruce Vogt, MD
- Academic Coordinator
  - Louise Papka, MPAS, PA-C, DFAAPA
- Clinical Coordinator
  - Betty Hulse, MSPAS, PA-C
- Assistant Professors
  - William E. Schweinle, PhD
  - Melissa Alexander, MSPAS, PA-C

# Overview

## Admission Requirements

- Undergraduate degree
- Course prerequisites
- Minimum GPA
- Direct hands on patient care - expected

## Curriculum Length - Degree

- 28 month curriculum
  - Equally divided into:
    - 14 month didactic phase
    - 14 month clinical phase
- Culminating in a Masters of Science in Physician Assistant Studies (MSPAS)

# Pre-Requisite Requirements

- 2 Semesters Biology with Lab
- 2 Semesters of Inorganic Chemistry with Lab
- 2 Semesters of Anatomy & Physiology with Lab
- Microbiology with Lab
- Biochemistry
- General Psychology
- Abnormal Psychology

# Class Averages

## Class of 2014

- Avg Age
  - 27 years
- Healthcare Experience
  - 2.65 years
- Undergraduate GPA
  - Cumulative-----3.55
  - Pre-Requisite -----3.62
- An average of 43% of their years were spent in communities < 5,000

## Class of 2013

- Avg Age
  - 28 years
- Healthcare Experience
  - 3.6 years
- Undergraduate GPA
  - Cumulative-----3.32
  - Pre-Requisite -----3.56
- An average of 27% of their years were spent in communities < 5,000



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# Admission

- Selection
  - 20 students selected annually
    - 10 SD Residents
    - 10 Non-Residents
  - Starting 2013-2014
    - 20 SD Residents
    - 5 Non-SD Residents



# PA Program Curriculum

## **Didactic Phase – 14 Months**

- Gross Anatomy
- Embryology
- Human Physiology
- Introduction to Clinical Medicine I
- Medicine I
- Research Perspectives
- Professional Issues
- Pharmacology
- Introduction to Clinical Medicine II
- Medicine II
- Masters Project

## **Clinical Phase – 14 Months**

- Family Medicine
- Internal Medicine
- General Surgery
- General Pediatrics
- Behavioral Health
- OB/Gyn
- Emergency Medicine
- Family Medicine - Rural/Underserved
- Elective x 2



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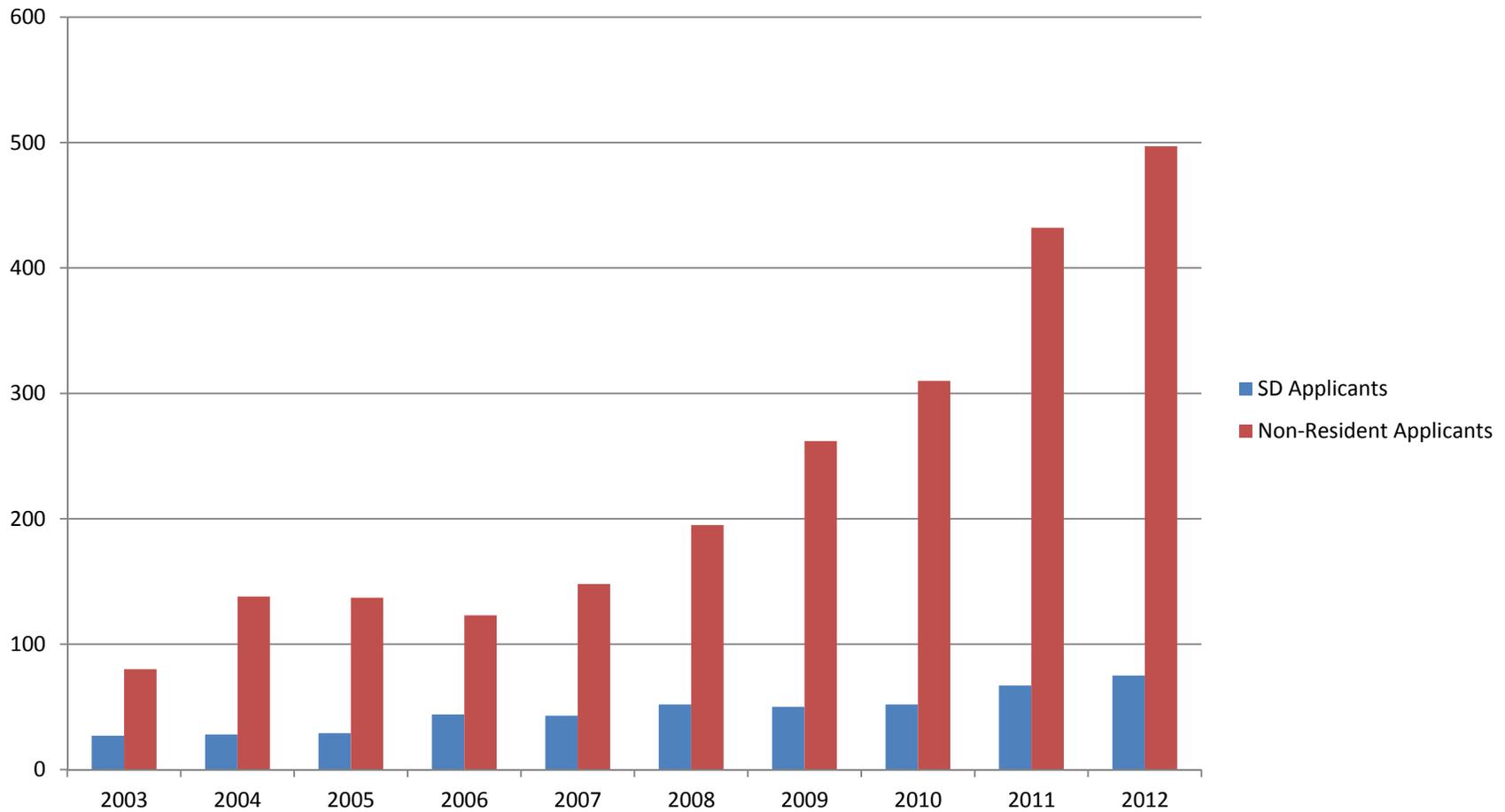
# Graduates

- 305 graduates to date
  - 149 practice in SD
    - 46 or 31% of those in SD practice in towns <10,000 population
    - 42 or 28% of those in SD practice in towns between 10,000-50,000 population



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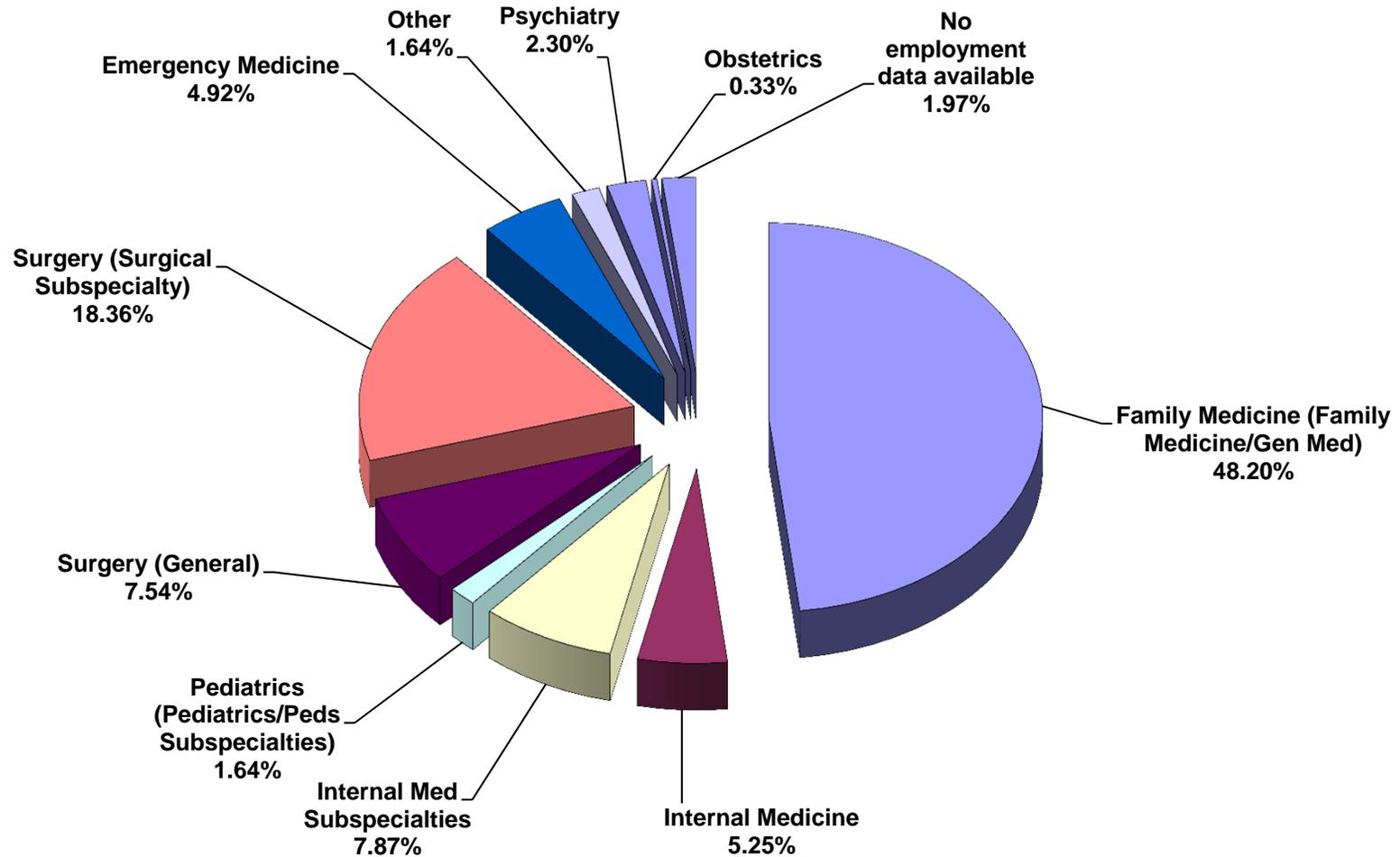
# 10 year Trend PA Applicants





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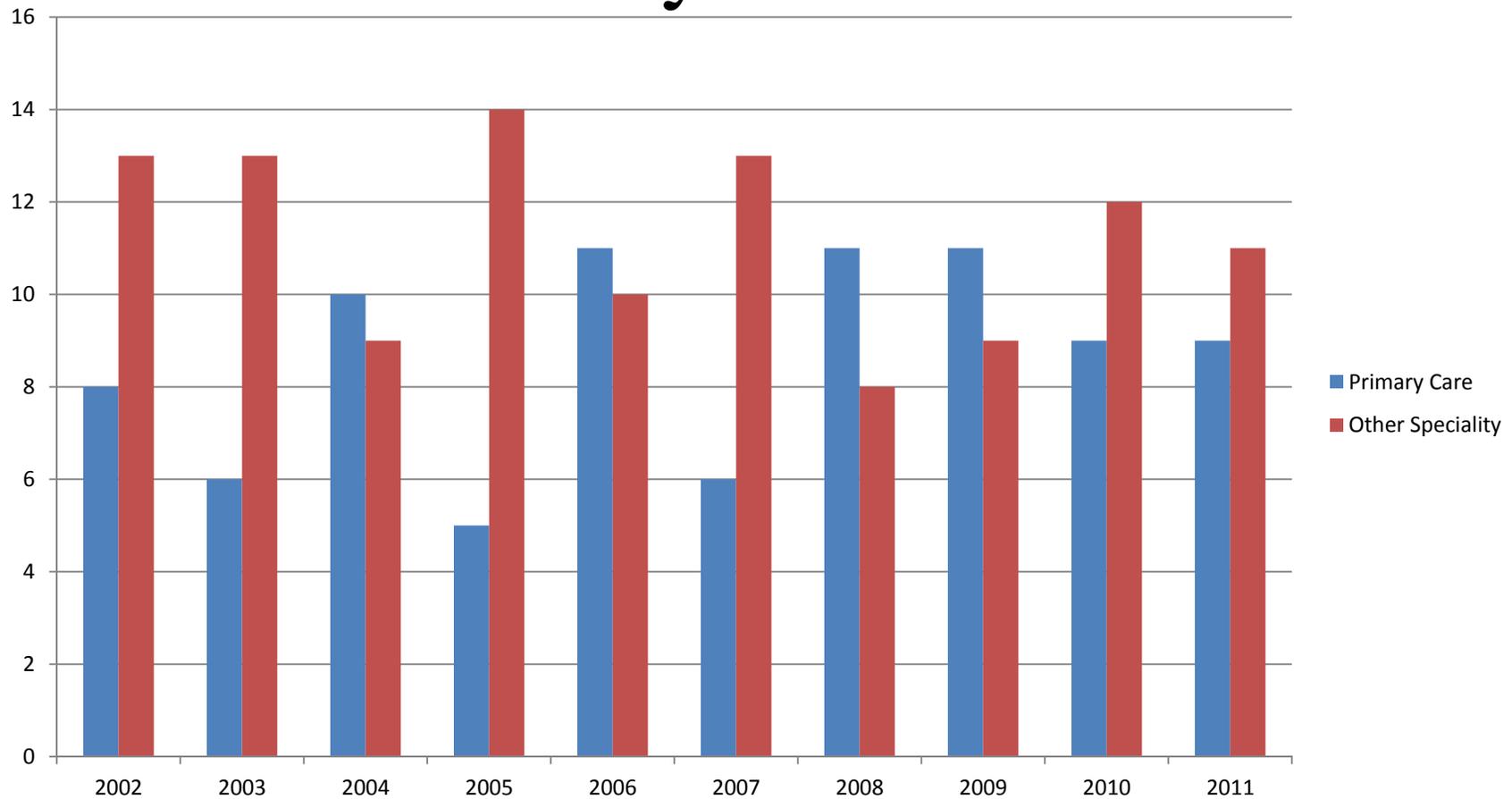
# PA Graduates Medical Practice Classes of 1995-2011





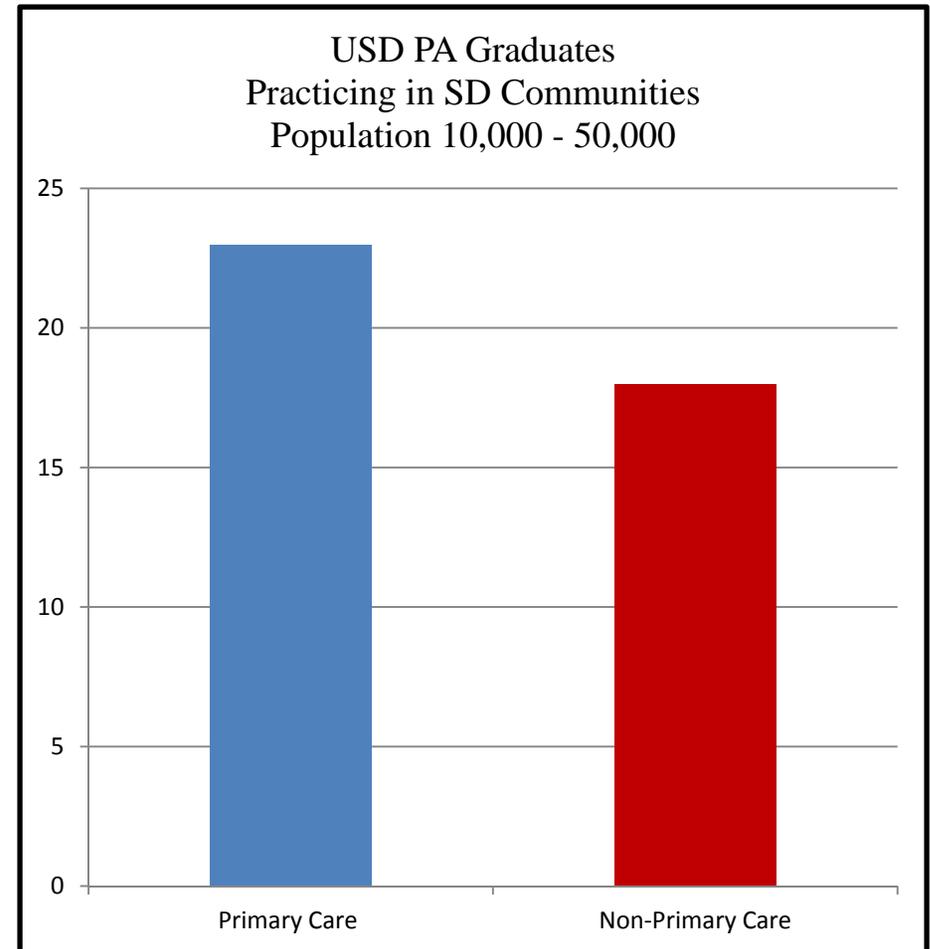
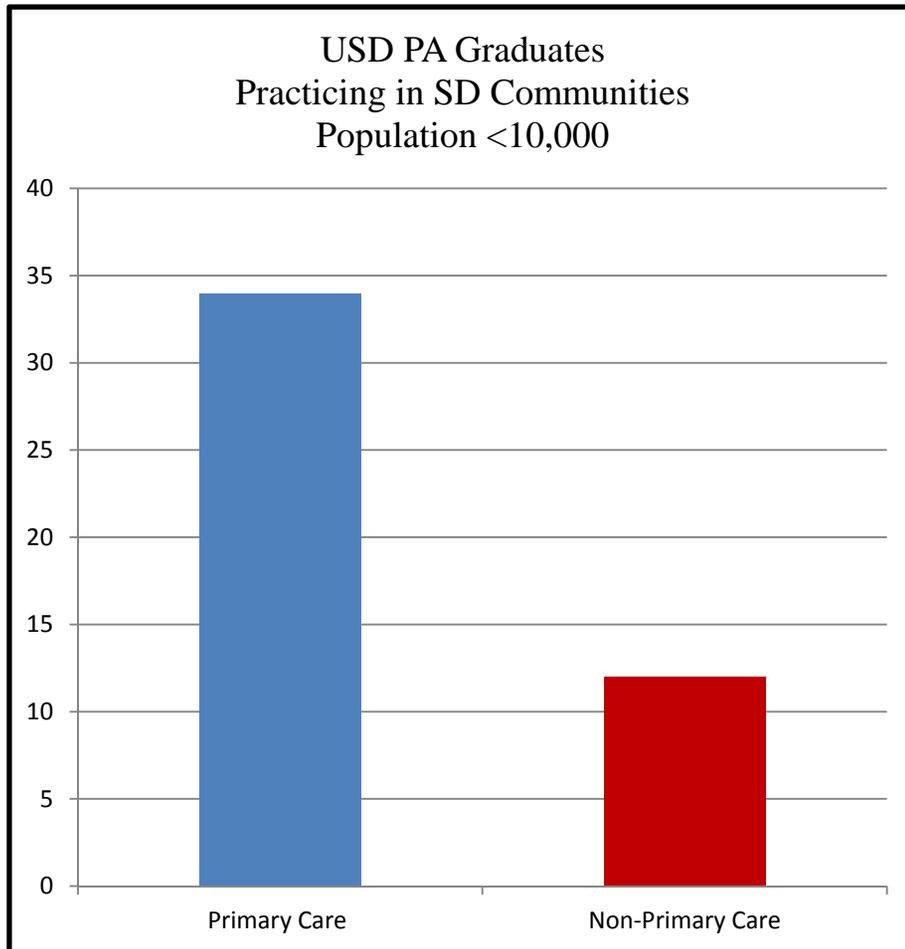
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# PA Graduate Primary Care Practice 10 year Trend





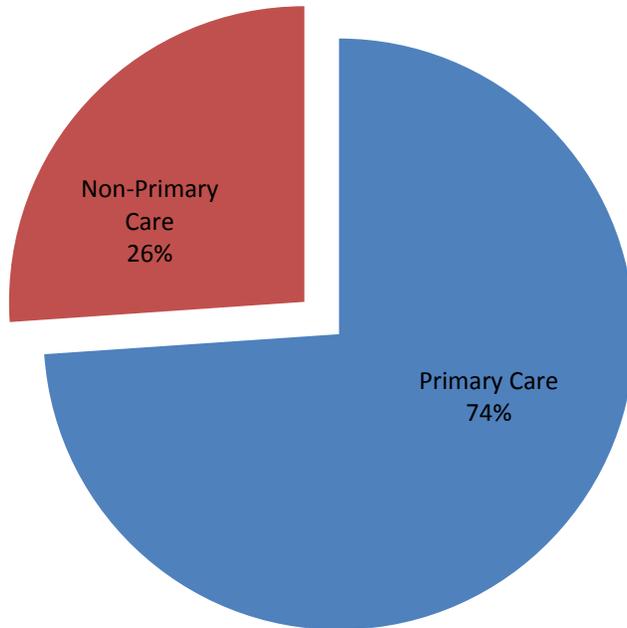
## USD PA Graduates 1995 - 2011





## USD PA Graduates 1995 - 2011

USD PA Graduates  
Practicing in SD Communities  
Population <10,000



USD PA Graduates  
Practicing in SD Communities  
Population 10,000 - 50,000

