

Running the Numbers

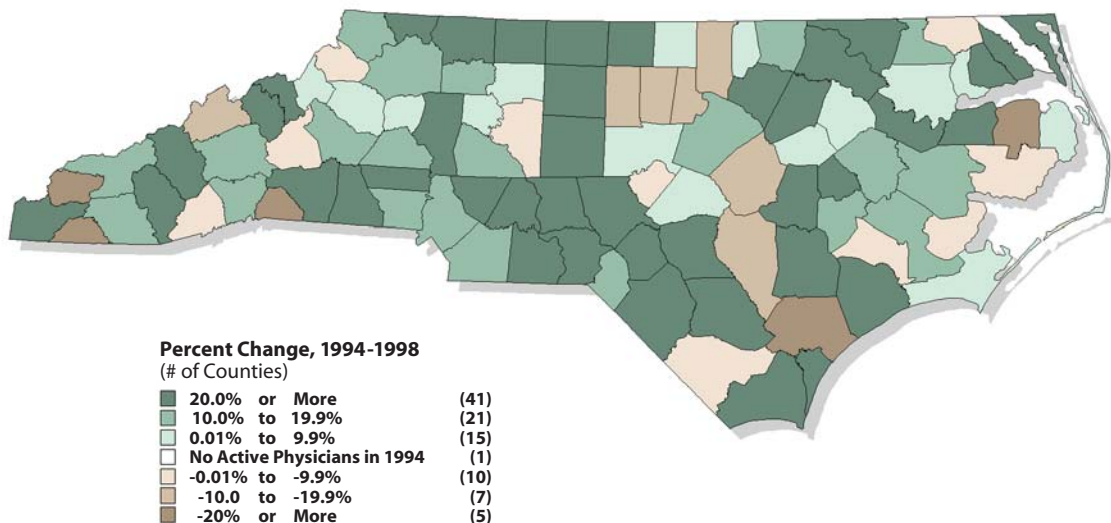
*A Periodic Feature to Inform North Carolina Healthcare Professionals
about Current Topics in Health Statistics*

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Primary Care Physician Supply in North Carolina

The first map shows changes in the ratio of physicians-to-population for the period 1994-1998, and there is a general trend toward improved ratios and better distribution of primary care physicians across most counties in the state. This trend slows in the next period, 1998-2003. There are smaller increases in the ratio of doctors-to-population, and we are beginning to see more areas where there are physician losses. The final map shows that some of these changes in ratio are due to population shifts. In some counties the population has grown faster than the doctor supply, and in others, the doctor supply has decreased along with the population. The latter category includes places where the economy has slowed and places that are at real risk for losing important human and professional resources. Counties where there is rapid population growth present other challenges for physician supply as the professionals have to meet the needs of more people.

Percent Change in Primary Care Physicians per 10,000 Population North Carolina, 1994-1998

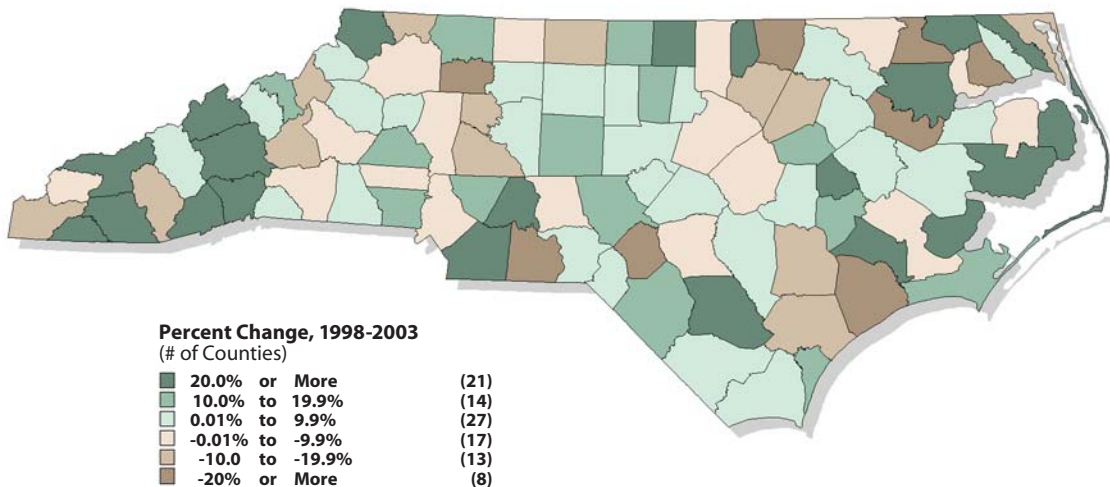


Source: North Carolina Health Professions Data System, Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, with data derived from the North Carolina Medical Board, 1994-1998.

* There were no active physicians in 1994; there were two active physicians in 2003. Counts include active, instate, nonfederal, non-resident-in-training physicians who indicated a primary specialty of family practice, internal medicine, general practice, OB/GYN or pediatrics.

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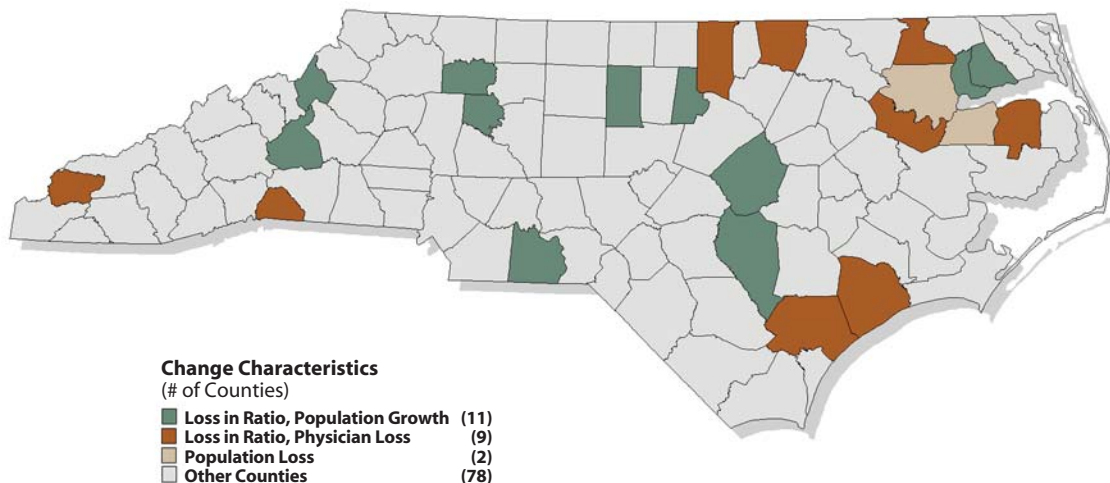
Percent Change in Primary Care Physicians per 10,000 Population North Carolina, 1998-2003



Source: North Carolina Health Professions Data System, Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, with data derived from the North Carolina Medical Board, 1998-2003.

Counts include active, instate, nonfederal, non-resident-in-training physicians who indicated a primary specialty of family practice, internal medicine, general practice, OB/GYN or pediatrics.

Components of Primary Care Physicians Ration Change North Carolina, 1994-2003



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Counts include active, instate, nonfederal, non-resident-in-training physicians who indicated a primary specialty of family practice, internal medicine, general practice, OB/GYN or pediatrics.