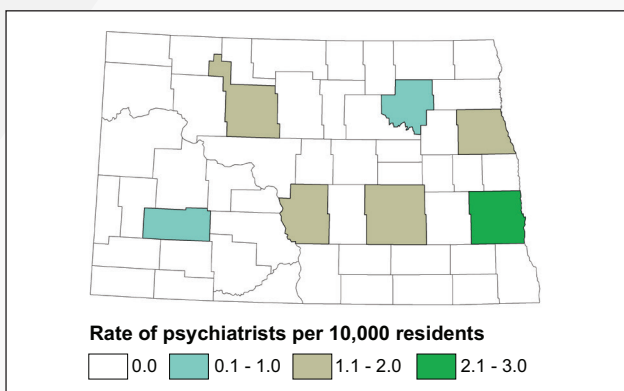


## Demographics and Practice Characteristics of Psychiatrists in North Dakota

Psychiatrists are professionals who specialize in behavioral health and hold a degree in medicine. These professionals are capable of making diagnoses of behavioral health issues using the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders 5th Edition (DSM-5). Moreover, they can prescribe various medications to patients for the treatment of behavioral health disorders. Psychiatrists work with all age groups, including adults, adolescents, and children.

Psychiatrists are tier 1a behavioral health professionals. The tiered system for behavioral health professionals in North Dakota is a basic ranking of behavioral health professionals based on their scope of practice, with tier 1 being the highest rank and tier 4 being the lowest rank. Tier 1a professionals have the skills and knowledge to observe, describe, evaluate, interpret, or modify human behavior to reduce or eliminate behavioral health concerns. As of 2018, 88 licensed psychiatrists practiced in North Dakota. This translates into 1.16 psychiatrists for every 10,000 residents. Figure 1 shows the rate of psychiatrists per 10,000 residents in each North Dakota county.

**Figure 1. Rate of Psychiatrists Per 10,000 Residents in North Dakota**



### Education

Psychiatrists are required to have a Doctor of Medicine (MD) or Doctor of Osteopathy (DO) degree. They must then complete postdoctoral work in a psychiatry residency program, which are typically 4-year residency programs. The University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences offers MD training and a psychiatry residency program.

### Licensure Criteria

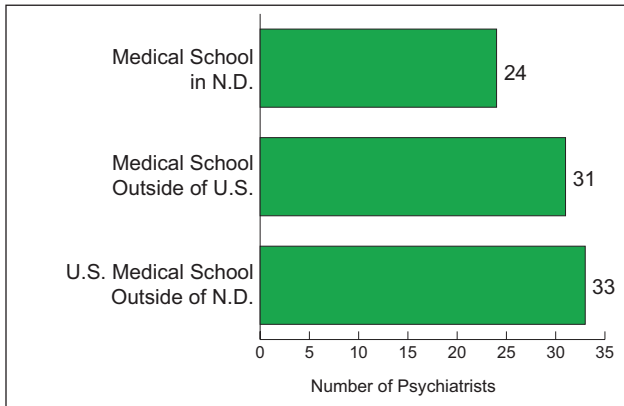
Licensure requirements for psychiatrists include:

- Successful completion of a North Dakota Board of Medicine approved medical or osteopathic doctoral degree program.
- Successful completion of one year of postgraduate training in an approved program in the US or Canada.
- Successful completion of medical licensure examinations.
- A history free of disciplinary action by the ND Board of Medicine.
- Have the physical, mental and professional capability to practice medicine.
- International graduates must be awarded a certificate by the educational council for foreign medical graduates and provide evidence that the Degree of Medicine is equivalent. Graduates of osteopathic schools located outside of the US are not eligible for licensure.

### Demographics

- The average age of psychiatrists in North Dakota was 51 years and 5 months, which is slightly older than the average age of direct patient care physicians in the state (50 years and 8 months).
- Of all the psychiatrists licensed and practicing in North Dakota, 53.4% were male, and 46.6% were female. This differs from the distribution of direct patient care physicians, where 70.7% were male, and 29.3% were female.
- The majority (89.9%) of licensed and practicing psychiatrists had a Doctor of Medicine degree, while 10.2% held a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree.
- More than one-third (37.5%) of practicing psychiatrists in North Dakota graduated from a U.S. medical school outside of North Dakota, while 35.2% graduated from an international medical school. The remainder attended the University of North Dakota (27.3%) (Figure 2).
- On average, psychiatrists had been practicing for 23 years and 1 month since graduation.

**Figure 2. School Location of North Dakota Psychiatrists**



**Practice Characteristics**

- Approximately 79.6% of psychiatrists in North Dakota worked in direct patient care settings, while 10.2% worked in residential settings.
- Most (77.3%) psychiatrists in the state listed their primary specialty as psychiatry, while 21.6% listed theirs as child psychiatrists; only 1 (1.1%) psychiatrist was an addiction psychiatrist.
- The majority of psychiatrists worked in urban areas (84.1%).

**Conclusion**

- Psychiatrists can choose to work in several environments such as private hospitals and clinics as well as nursing homes. However, 50% of psychiatrists managed their own practice.
- The most popular employment options for psychiatrists were outpatient care centers, psychiatric and substance abuse hospitals as well as general hospitals.
- Most North Dakota psychiatrists worked in urban areas (84.1%).

**Data**

- North Dakota Board of Medicine. (2018). Licensure file. Retrieved from [www.ndbom.org/](http://www.ndbom.org/).