

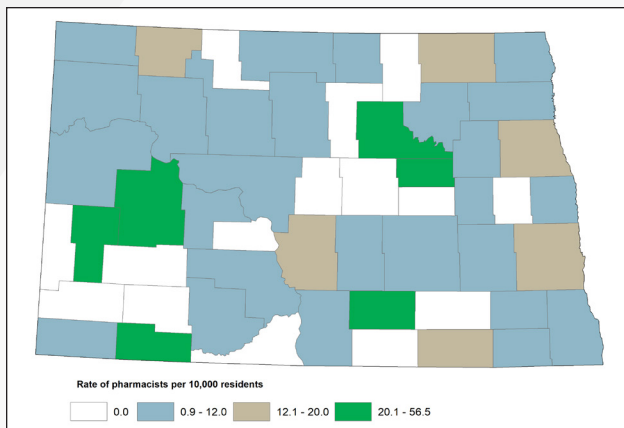
Availability of Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians in North Dakota

In North Dakota, pharmacists and pharmacy technicians play a critical role in promoting wellness among residents. Both work to deliver medication and provide medication assistance to patients. They must be licensed by the state of ND to practice in their occupation. As part of this, there are several permit classes from which a registered pharmacist may choose. Choosing one class of permit does not imply that the pharmacist is precluded from choosing another permit class in which to operate a different pharmacy. As long as they are qualified and pay the fee set by the licensing board, they can pick many classes of permits. However, they must be willing to comply with all the rules for each class.

Pharmacists

In 2019, North Dakota had 893 licensed pharmacists working in the state. Among these, 70.0% of pharmacists in North Dakota were in urban areas, 13.3% were in large rural areas, 12.8% in isolated rural areas, and 3.9% were in small rural areas. On average, pharmacists in North Dakota had been licensed for about 16 years.

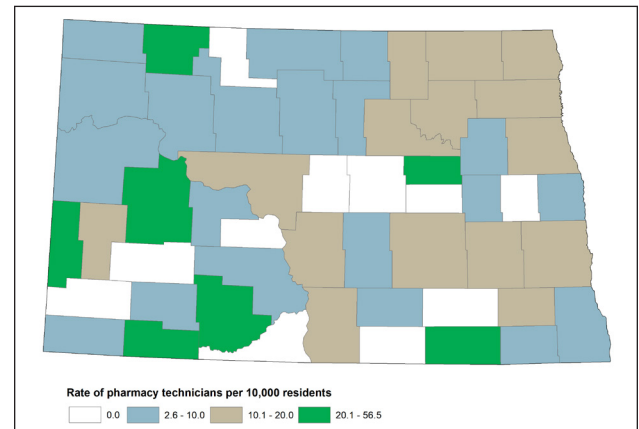
Figure 1. Rate of Pharmacists per 10,000 North Dakota Residents by County



Pharmacy Technicians

There were 771 licensed pharmacy technicians practicing in North Dakota as of 2019. Among those working in North Dakota, 59.4% of licensed pharmacy technicians worked in urban areas, followed by 17.4% in large rural areas, 16.7% in isolated rural areas, and 6.5% who worked in small rural areas. The average length of licensure among pharmacy technicians in the state was approximately 9 years and 6 months.

Figure 2. Rate of Pharmacy Technicians per 10,000 North Dakota Residents by County



Pharmacy Classes by Type

Pharmacies in North Dakota are classified into one of three different types: outpatient, location-based, and mail order and tele-pharmacy. Within these, there are many different pharmacy permits, each listed under a different class name.

Outpatient Pharmacies

- Class A: Allows a pharmacist to open an outpatient pharmacy to dispense drugs and devices to the general public.
- Class C: A holder is permitted to conduct a Home Health Care Pharmacy.

Location-Based Pharmacies

- Class B: A holder opens a hospital pharmacy.
- Class D: A holder is allowed to open a pharmacy conducting services to long-term care facilities.
- Class H: Permits the running of a governmental agency pharmacy. The permit is issued to pharmacies operating in North Dakota that dispense devices and drugs to patients within rehabilitation or correctional facilities.
- Class J: Allows for the opening of an office practice pharmacy.

- Class L: This permit allows the dispensing of drugs and devices in a long-term care facility, mental care facility or retirement care facility, as well as other institutions and facilities that provide extended health care to residents.

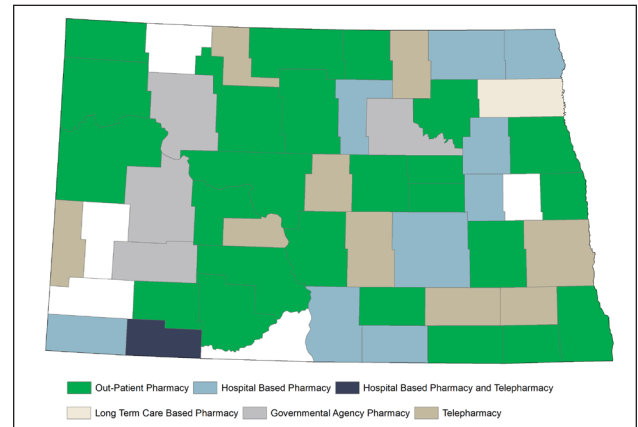
Mail Order and Tele-pharmacy

- Class F: Permits the opening of a mail-order pharmacy for dispensing drugs or devices to American citizens through the use of the postal service or other delivery services.
- Class K: This permit allows the running of a tele-pharmacy where the aim is to allow registered pharmacists to dispense drugs through the use of a computer link, video-link, and audio-link.

Other

- Class E: Holders can open a nuclear pharmacy for dispensing therapeutic or diagnostic radioactive devices and drugs for administration.
- Class G: Allows holders to operate pharmacies outside of North Dakota and also to mail, deliver or ship drugs or devices needed into North Dakota.
- Class I: Permits the opening of a research pharmacy. In this type of pharmacy, scientific research can be conducted under the protocols established by the institutional review board. It must also meet the Federal Drug Administration guidelines.

Figure 3. Pharmacy Classification in North Dakota by County



Conclusions

- As of 2019, there were 893 pharmacists currently working in the state which decreased from 2018 (981).
- As of 2019, there were 771 pharmacy technicians currently practicing in the state which decreased from 2018 (882).
- North Dakota pharmacy ownership laws state that only registered pharmacists may own or operate a pharmacy within the state.
- To be registered as a pharmacist, one needs to be qualified. They must also be of good standing and regularly or actively employed in and responsible for the supervision, management and operation of a pharmacy.
- Most of the pharmacy professionals are located in urban settings (70.0% for pharmacists, 59.4% for pharmacy technicians)

Data

North Dakota Board of Pharmacy. (2020). Licensure file. Retrieved from nodakpharmacy.com/apps-