

# Family Medicine & Primary Care

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## FAMILY PHYSICIANS WITH A CERTIFICATE OF ADDED QUALIFICATIONS (CAQS) IN SPORTS MEDICINE SPEND AN INCREASING AMOUNT OF THEIR TIME PRACTICING SPORTS MEDICINE



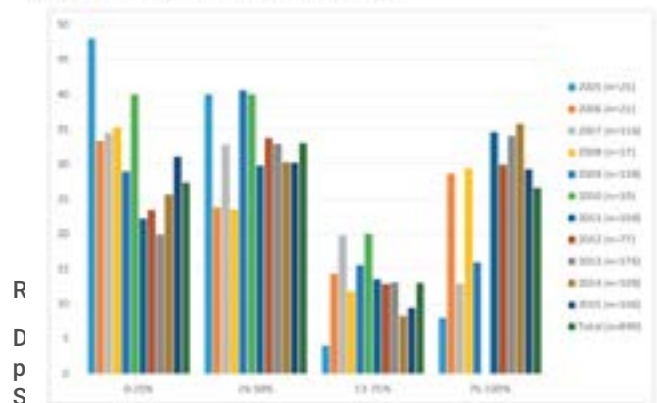
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While family physicians holding certificates of added qualifications in sports medicine practice in multiple settings, little is currently known about the proportion of their time devoted exclusively to the practice of sports medicine. We found that most do not spend a majority of their time doing so, but the number that do has been increasing over the past decade. A study conducted in 2006 reported that 58.3% of surveyed family physicians holding a sports medicine certificate of added qualifications (CAQ) were in private practice, and 41.7% practiced in an academic setting; 31.5% of these physicians practiced sports medicine only, while 22.1% reported practicing both sports medicine and family medicine. Using demographic data reported by family physicians applying for the American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM) Sports Medicine CAQ examination from 2005 to 2015, we sought to understand the amount of time family physicians who are certified in sports medicine spend practicing sports medicine. During the time period studied, 899 family physicians wishing to maintain their certification in sports medicine applied for and passed the ABFM Sports Medicine CAQ examination. The majority of applicants reported spending less than 50% of their time practicing sports medicine in every year, and these differences were significant ( $P=0.001$ ). However, the probability of a physician spending 50% of their time practicing sports medicine increased significantly over the study period ( $P=0.001$ ). These trends are similar to those reported for ABFM-certified family physicians holding CAQs in geriatric medicine.

The increasing time spent practicing sports medicine by family physicians maintaining a sports medicine CAQ directly affects the time they might otherwise spend providing primary care, potentially making primary care workforce needs more acute than originally projected.

Figure 1. Percentage of time practicing sports medicine among recertifying family physician with a Certificate of Added Qualification in sports medicine, 2005 to 2015 (n = 899).



Peterson L E, Cochrane A, Bazemore A W and Petterson S

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## Biography

Wade M Rankin is an Assistant Professor and Associate Residency Program Director at the University of Kentucky, Department of Family and Community Medicine, located in Lexington, Kentucky. Additionally, he serves as the Inpatient Medical Director of the Family Medicine inpatient service. His clinic interests include Sports Medicine, Health and Wellness, and Lipid Management. These interests provide him the opportunity to also serve as the Senior Editor for the AMSSM Education Committee, Team Physician at Georgetown College in Georgetown, Kentucky, Sports Track Advisor for the University of Kentucky Family Medicine residency program, and medical volunteer at various sports mass participation events. He is Board Certified with the American Board of Family Medicine and the American Board of Family Medicine – Sports Medicine.

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