

These FAQs are intended to respond to questions of a general nature. They have been designed to help audiences learn more about the impact and depth of Preventive Medicine and will be updated throughout the campaign to address ongoing relevant issues and topics.

1. What is Preventive Medicine?

Preventive Medicine is the essential medical specialty focused on preventing disease, disability, and death by promoting health and well-being among patients, communities, and populations. Preventive Medicine physicians are dedicated to improving systems for all populations and are an indispensable resource in building toward health equity.

2. Where is Preventive Medicine practiced?

Preventive Medicine is practiced in and outside of the doctor's office, in settings that have a profound impact on health (social, economic, clinical, and behavioral).

Preventive Medicine physicians work in a variety of settings including:

- Hospitals and Clinics
- Government Agencies
- Colleges and Universities
- United States Military
- State and Local Health Departments
- Corporations
- Insurers

3. Who are Preventive Medicine physicians?

Preventive Medicine physicians are board-certified and highly skilled clinicians who work upstream to improve public health through disease prevention and health promotion. They impact all aspects of health and the healthcare system, from the doctor's office to the board room, and the halls of government.

4. How do Preventive Medicine physicians impact healthcare systems?

Preventive Medicine physicians are uniquely trained to bridge the gap between public health and clinical medicine through a diverse range of medical, analytical, and leadership skills. They provide value and improve efficiency by exhibiting the knowledge, skills, and expertise to fill multiple roles within a single position. They also have a keen understanding of value-based care, allowing them to serve a key role in developing systems and interventions to meet care delivery needs.

5. What is the American College of Preventive Medicine?

The American College of Preventive Medicine (ACPM) is the medical society representing more than 2,000 board-certified Preventive Medicine physicians driven by a passion for prevention and improving health outcomes across all populations.

6. What makes ACPM a credible institution?

ACPM represents more than 2,000 Preventive Medicine physicians and is among the 24 American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS). Preventive Medicine physicians are board-certified professionals with clinical and public health training, giving them skills and experience in epidemiology, clinical medicine, scientific research, public health administration, and analytical decision-making.

ACPM equips its members with the knowledge, resources, and networks to build healthier communities and transform the healthcare system. ACPM is a trusted source of expertise on issues impacting health ecosystems including public health, social determinants of health, health equity, disease prevention, technology, and innovation.

7. Why should medical students consider a career in Preventive Medicine?

A career in Preventive Medicine creates an opportunity to make an impact on the health of individuals, families, and communities by tackling the toughest public health challenges. By following this path, medical students can build on their clinical foundation with limitless opportunities to merge their practical expertise with roles in the halls of government, the boardroom, administration, and beyond. The door is open for Preventive Medicine physicians to shape the future of health.

As a certified Preventive Medicine physician, you would work at the intersection of clinical care and public health – improving population health outcomes through efforts beyond the exam room and taking on the grand challenges of health: social inequities, climate change, and systematic disparities and make an impact on systems upstream.

8. Why should healthcare providers in other specialties know about Preventive Medicine physicians?

Preventive Medicine physicians deliver valuable perspective from both inside and outside of the doctor's office, making them natural partners to practitioners of other specialties in optimizing metrics and health outcomes. Partnering with Preventive Medicine physicians can help improve health outcomes for individuals, communities, and entire populations.

9. Why should healthcare providers pursue a second board certification in Preventive Medicine?

Preventive Medicine is an outstanding option for physicians who want to add a population health dimension to their clinical background and enhance their field of practice (e.g., travel medicine, smoking cessation, employee wellness and well-being). Exploring a career in Preventive Medicine can help physicians fully realize the potential of their public health and clinical knowledge, it can also foster a balanced lifestyle. In fact, according to Medscape's "Public Health and Preventive Medicine Physician Lifestyle, Happiness and Burnout Report," Preventive Medicine physicians experience less burnout, and the specialty is ranked #1 for job satisfaction.

10. What is the emerging role of Preventive Medicine physicians in health policy advocacy?

When it comes to the health of the United States, Preventive Medicine physicians contribute unique training and expertise to help move the needle on the greatest public health challenges. They are board-certified medical professionals with both clinical and public health experience, giving them a highly specialized perspective that informs health policies.

11. What does the Preventive Medicine field do to battle inequities in healthcare?

Preventive Medicine is a diverse specialty that attracts residents who often represent and reflect the diversity of populations who are among historically excluded and marginalized groups.