

Economic impact of physicians quantified for 2015

January 11 2018



(HealthDay)—Physicians have a large economic impact across the

nation, creating an aggregate of \$2.3 trillion of economic activity and supporting employment of nearly 12.6 million Americans, according to a report published by the American Medical Association.

The report captures the 2015 [economic activity](#) of all physicians providing patient care (nearly 750,000 physicians). Indirect benefits such as business-to-business spending on supplies, equipment, and laboratory services were included, as was the downstream economic activity of induced benefits.

According to the report, the state-level measure of direct and indirect revenue was calculated to be \$32.8 billion. For each direct output dollar, an extra \$1.84 indirect output was created, resulting in a national figure of \$2.3 trillion. At the individual state level, physicians supported an average of 182,370 total jobs, including their own and other direct positions and indirect employment; the total employment figure was close to 12.6 million nationally. Physician-supported wages and benefits averaged \$16.7 billion in state-level value; the figure was more than \$1 trillion at the national level, including indirect wages and benefits. The average physician support was \$1.3 billion for state and local taxes; with \$92.9 billion in state and local [tax revenues](#) nationwide for 2015.

"The breadth of a [physician's](#) impact reaches far beyond just the provision of [patient care](#)," the authors write. "Physicians also play a vital role in the state and local economies by creating jobs, purchasing goods and services, and supporting state and community public programs through generated tax revenues."

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Citation: Economic impact of physicians quantified for 2015 (2018, January 11) retrieved 19 April 2024 from

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