



**THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,
DIVISION OF HEALTH ACCESS & TOBACCO
PRESENTS THIS INTERIM**

PHYSICIAN WORKFORCE REPORT

**TO THE
FLORIDA SENATE BANKING AND INSURANCE COMMITTEE**

SEPTEMBER 2011

INTRODUCTION

The Florida Department of Health presents this ad-hoc report in response to the following questions raised by the Florida Senate Banking and Insurance Committee.

Question 1:

How many licensed physicians do not practice medicine due to malpractice insurance rates or liability exposure. Please also provide a breakdown of this answer by location and specialty.

Question 14a:

How many physicians do not provide on-call emergency room coverage due to malpractice insurance or liability exposure. Please provide a breakdown by location and specialty.

Question 14d, 14e:

How many physicians that are decreasing their number of on-call days are doing so because of liability exposure or malpractice insurance rates? Please provide a breakdown by location.

Question 18:

How many physicians plan to retire over the next five years due to liability exposure or malpractice insurance rates? Please provide a breakdown by location and specialty.

Question 19:

Of the total number of physicians that plan to work in another state in the next five years, what states are they moving to? How many physicians plan to move to another state in the next five years due to malpractice insurance rates or liability exposure? Please provide a breakdown by location and specialty.

Question 20:

How many physicians plan to change their specialty in the next five years due to malpractice insurance rates or liability exposure? Please identify the current specialty of the physicians and the specialty they are changing to.

Orthopedic Surgery:

How many orthopedic surgeons will see a hand patient?

Plastic Surgery:

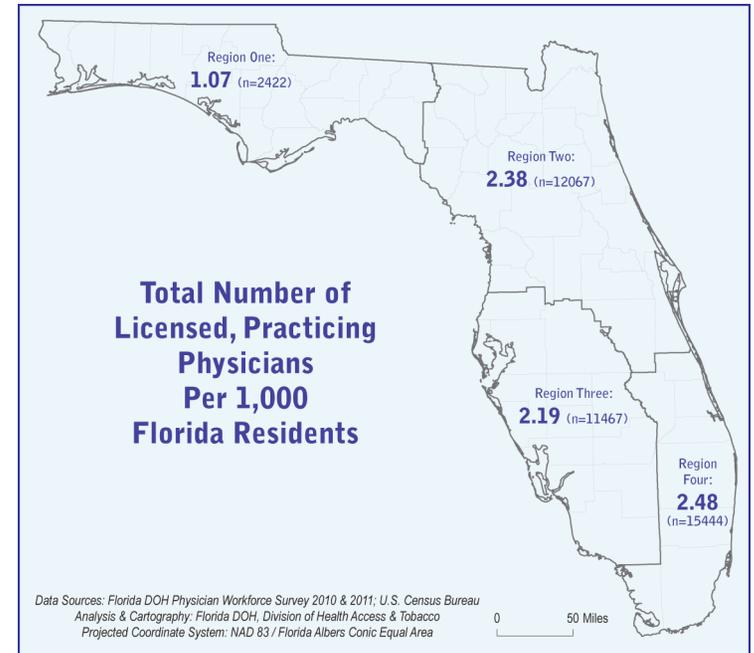
How many plastic surgeons will see patients for hand/microsurgery? How many take ER calls for hand surgery?

OB-GYN:

How many people plan to discontinue doing obstetric care in the next two years due to Cost of Professional Insurance, Medical Malpractice Litigation, or Liability Exposure? How many people are protected by NICA? Of the number who are not, how many are not because it is too costly or provides inadequate protection? Please provide information regarding the location of such physicians.

Radiology:

Of the radiologists who do not include mammography in their clinical practice, how many cite the Cost of Professional Insurance, Medical Malpractice Litigation, or Liability Exposure? Please provide information regarding the location of such physicians.



Map 1:
Physicians per population, by region.

METHODOLOGY

Respondents included in this report are allopathic and osteopathic physicians who: a) renewed their licenses in the 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 cycles; b) indicated they had practiced in Florida at some point in the year preceding renewal; c) provide a valid Florida practice address; and d) maintain licenses in good standing.

Of the 59,394 renewals during the full two-year period, **72.71% (n=43,188)** of Florida’s licensed physicians meet these criteria for inclusion. It is important to note that all workforce analysis presented by the Department relies upon *self-reported input* from Florida’s physicians, stored in the Department’s physician workforce, profile, and licensure databases. The Department also applied newly available 2010 data from the U.S. Census Bureau to complete this report.

The Department aggregated spatial data (geocoded point locations of physician practice addresses) regionally, employing the region/sub-region scheme developed with the guidance of the Florida Physician Workforce Advisory Council according to geography and population demographics. County-level reporting risks identifying individual survey respondents, violating the spirit of the public-records exemption extended to physicians meant to ensure full survey participation. The four Main Regions are groups of Florida’s Medicaid Regions, themselves simply groups of counties (Figure 1). The department will use the same spatial scheme in upcoming versions of the Physician Workforce Annual Report.

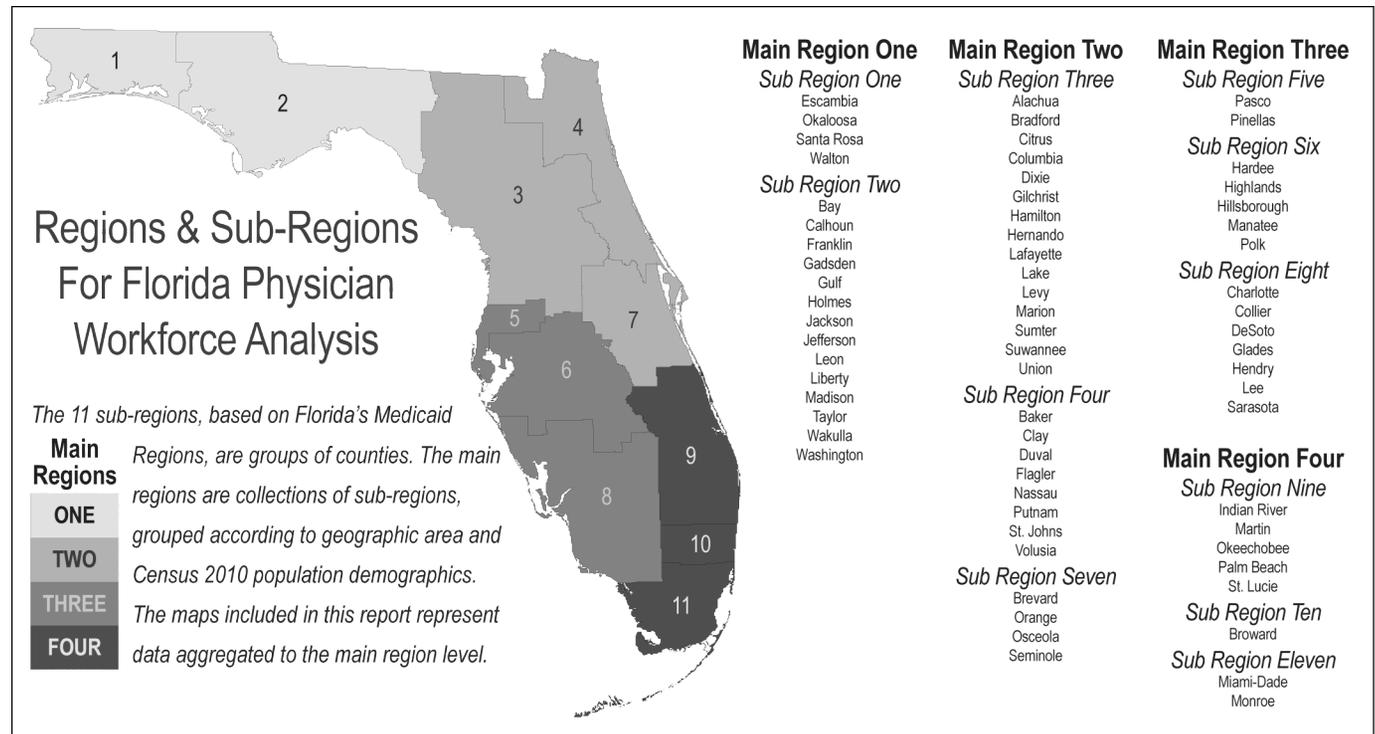


Figure 1:
 Spatial aggregation methodology.

Florida Physician Workforce Survey, QUESTION 1:

25.27% (n=15,006) of Florida’s licensed physicians (n=59,394) report that they had not practiced in-state at any time during the year prior to license renewal.

2.33% (n=350) of these respondents cite Malpractice Insurance Rates or Liability Exposure as the main reason for not practicing.

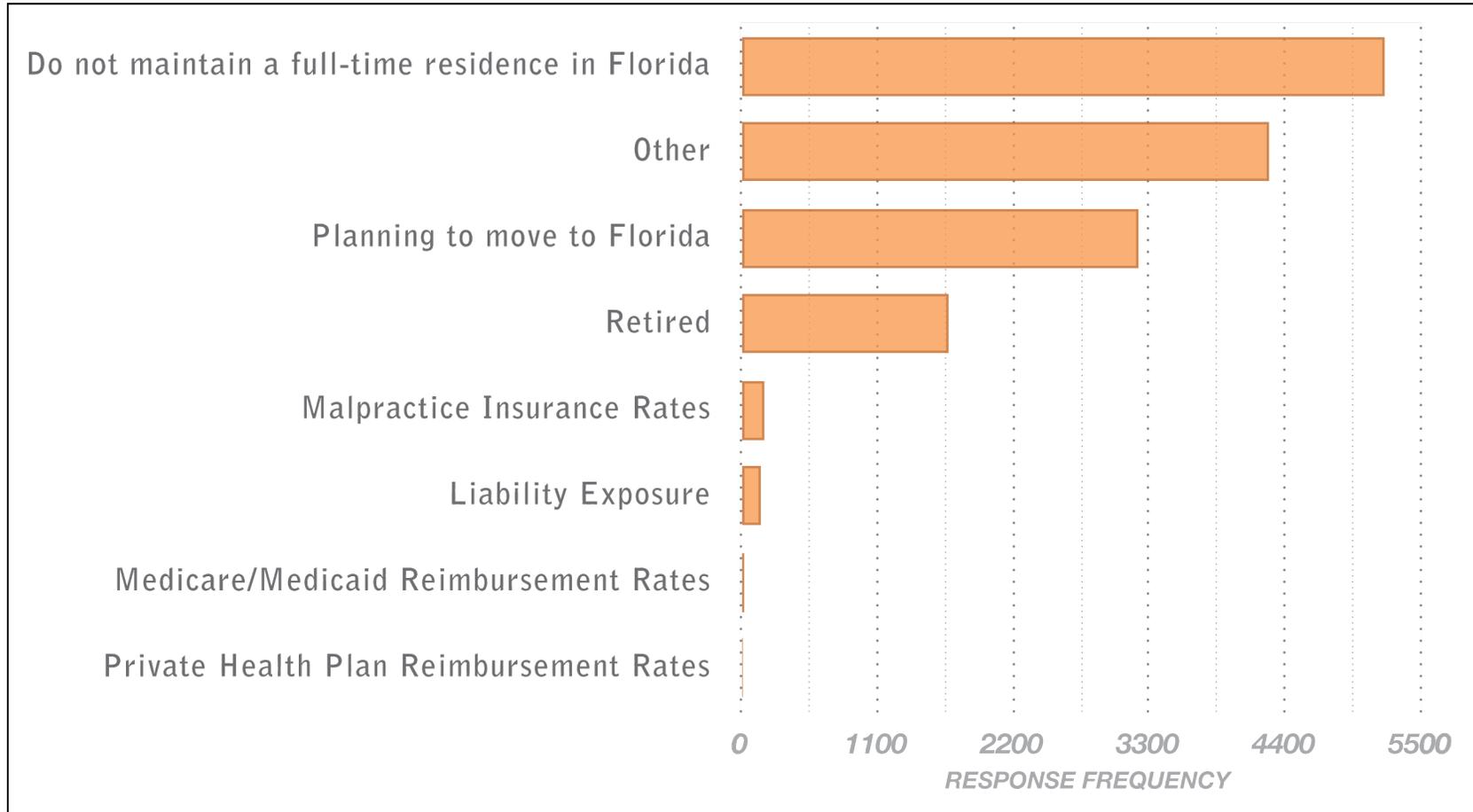


Figure 2:

Reasons cited by respondents reporting they had not practiced in-state at any time during the year prior to license renewal.

SPECIALTY GROUP	FREQUENCY
Surgical Specialist	60
OB GYN	42
Radiology	40
Anesthesiology	33
Internal Medicine	27
Medical Specialist	27
Family Medicine	25
Emergency Medicine	22
General Surgery	15
Neurology	12
Psychiatry	7
Dermatology	5
Pathology	4
Pediatrics	4
Pediatric Sub-specialist	2
Other / Unspecified	25

Figure 3:
 Respondents (by specialty group) citing Malpractice Insurance Rates or Liability Exposure as the main reason for not practicing in-state.

Florida Physician Workforce Survey, QUESTION 14a:

61.95% (n=26,754) of Florida’s licensed, practicing physicians (n=43,188) report that they do not provide on-call emergency room coverage.

3.19% (n=853) of these respondents cite Malpractice Insurance or Liability Exposure as the main reason for not providing ER coverage.

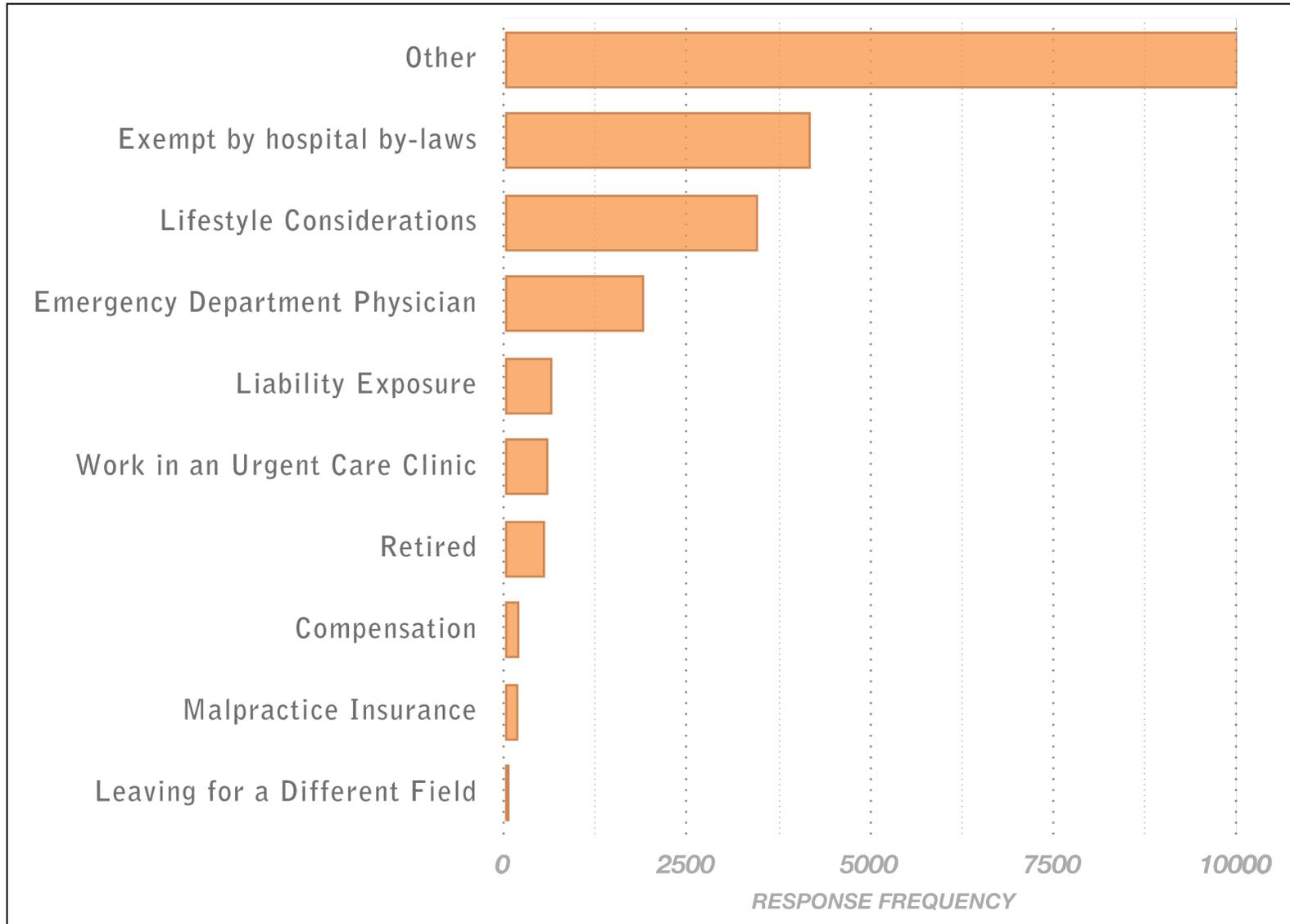
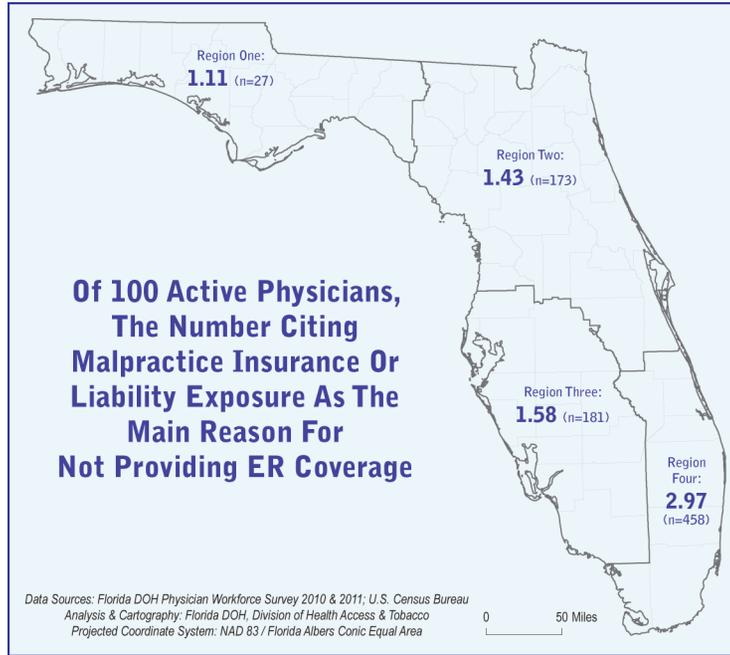


Figure 4: Reasons cited by respondents reporting they do not provide on-call emergency room coverage.



Map 2:
Distribution of respondents not providing ER coverage due to malpractice or liability concerns, by region.

SPECIALTY GROUP	FREQUENCY
Family Medicine	191
Internal Medicine	143
Surgical Specialist	111
Medical Specialist	88
OB GYN	53
Psychiatry	51
Pediatrics	41
Anesthesiology	28
Neurology	25
Dermatology	21
Radiology	19
General Surgery	7
Emergency Medicine	3
Pediatric Sub-specialist	2
Other	7

Figure 5:
Respondents (by specialty group) citing Malpractice Insurance Rates or Liability Exposure as the main reason for not providing ER coverage.

Florida Physician Workforce Survey, QUESTIONS 14d,e:

3.6% (n=1,554) of Florida’s licensed, practicing physicians (n=43,188) report that they are decreasing their number of on-call emergency room coverage days. 12.03% (n=187) of these respondents cite Malpractice Insurance Rates or Liability Exposure as the main reason for decreasing ER coverage.

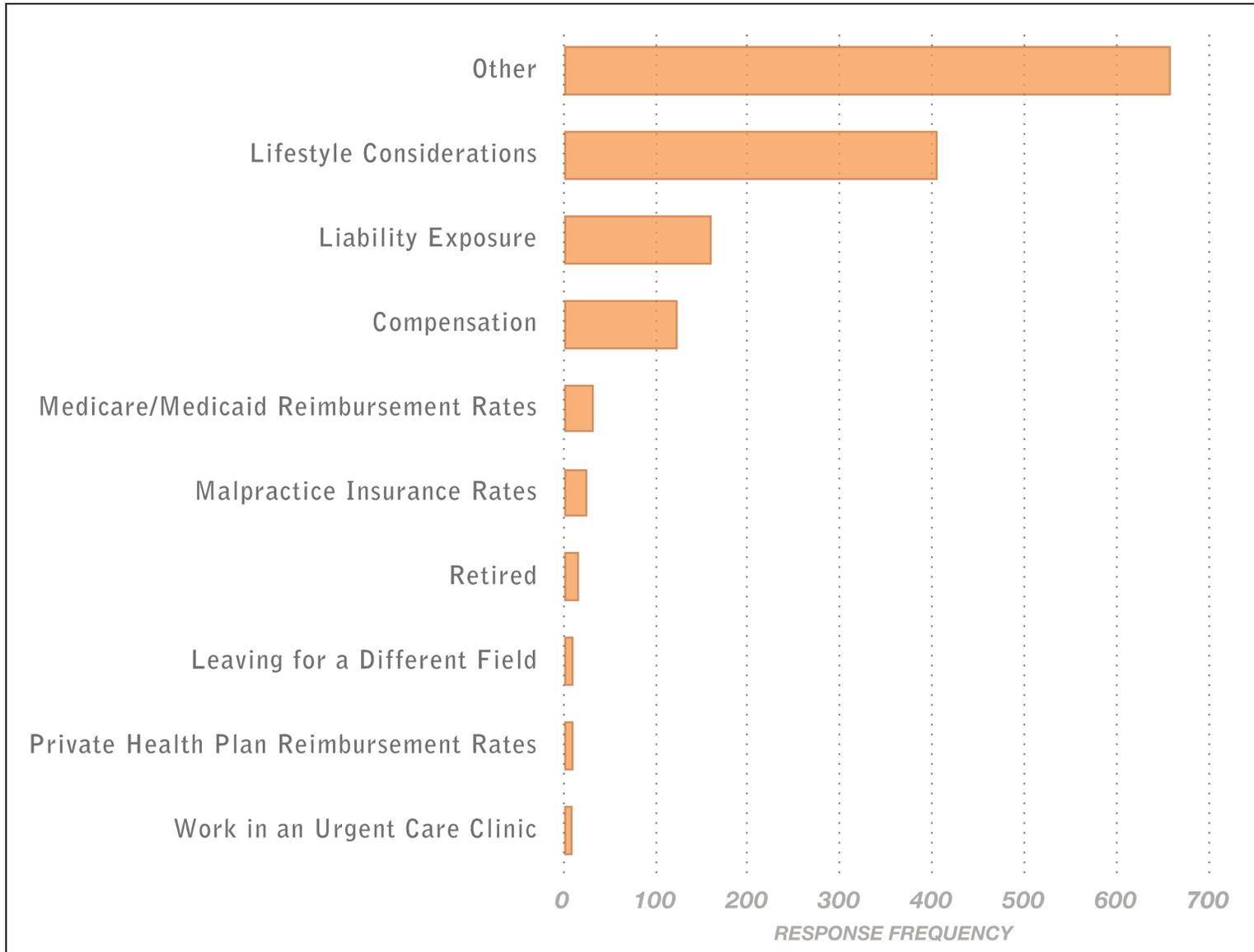
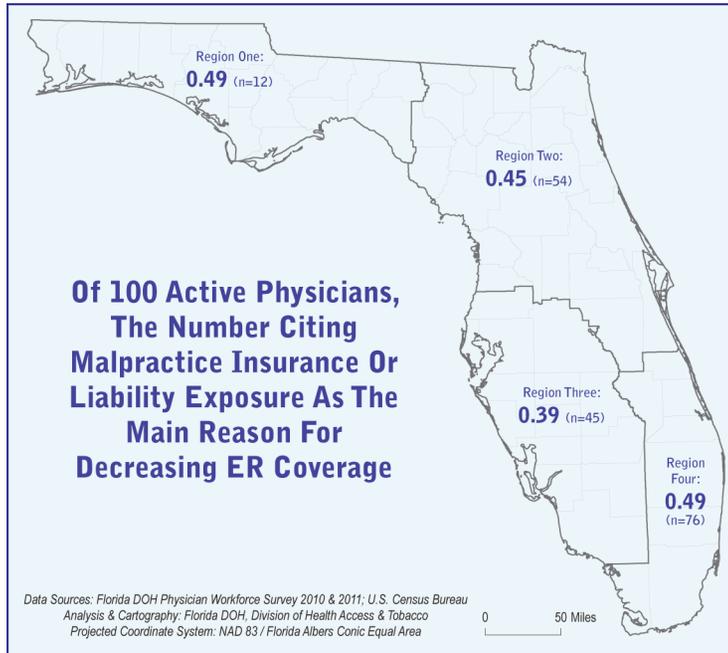


Figure 6:
Reasons cited by respondents reporting decreased on-call emergency room coverage.



Map 3:
Distribution of respondents decreasing ER coverage due to malpractice or liability concerns, by region.

SPECIALTY GROUP	FREQUENCY
Surgical Specialist	98
Internal Medicine	50
Medical Specialist	49
General Surgery	17
OB GYN	16
Neurology	10
Pediatric Sub-specialist	8
Family Medicine	6
Anesthesiology	5
Pediatrics	5
Psychiatry	5
Dermatology	2
Radiology	2

Figure 7:
Respondents (by specialty group) citing Malpractice Insurance Rates or Liability Exposure as the main reason for decreasing emergency room coverage days.

Florida Physician Workforce Survey, QUESTION 18:

14.69% (n=6,344) of Florida’s licensed, practicing physicians (n=43,188) report that they plan to retire within the next five years.

7.96% (n=505) of these respondents cite Malpractice Insurance Rates or Liability Exposure as the main reason for retirement.

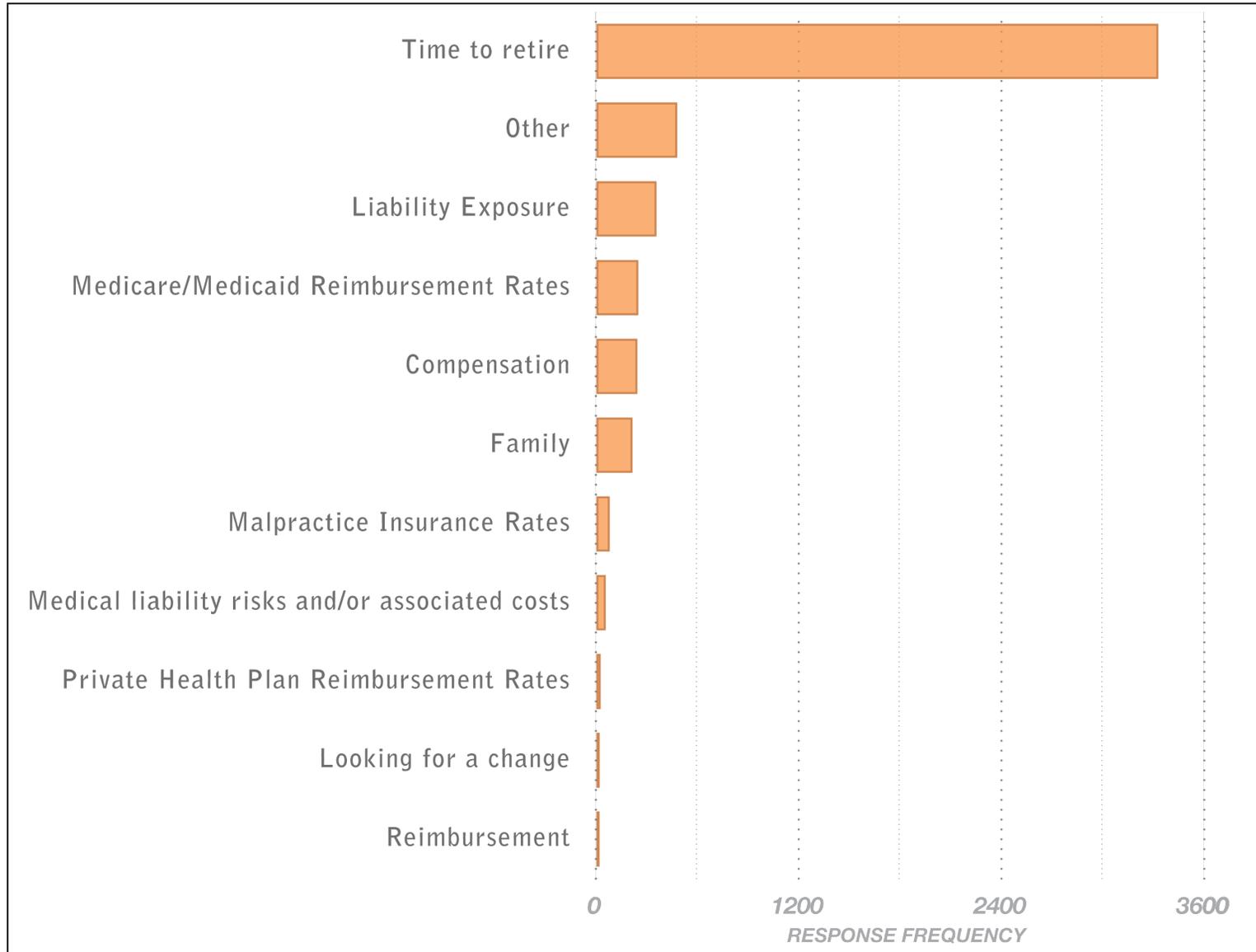


Figure 8:
Reasons cited by respondents reporting planned retirement within five years.
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Map 4:
Distribution of respondents planning to retire due to malpractice or liability concerns, by region.

SPECIALTY GROUP	FREQUENCY
Emergency Medicine	72
Family Medicine	53
Surgical Specialist	53
Internal Medicine	42
Medical Specialist	35
Radiology	32
Anesthesiology	26
OB GYN	25
Pediatrics	18
General Surgery	11
Psychiatry	11
Pediatric Sub-specialist	9
Pathology	7
Neurology	5
Dermatology	2
Other	3

Figure 9:
Respondents (by specialty group) citing Malpractice Insurance Rates or Liability Exposure as the main reason for planning to retire within five years.

Florida Physician Workforce Survey, QUESTION 19:

4.3% (n=1,859) of Florida’s licensed, practicing physicians (n=43,188) report that they plan to move to work in another state within the next five years.

23.08% (n=429) of these respondents cite Malpractice Insurance Rates or Liability Exposure as the main reason for moving to another state.

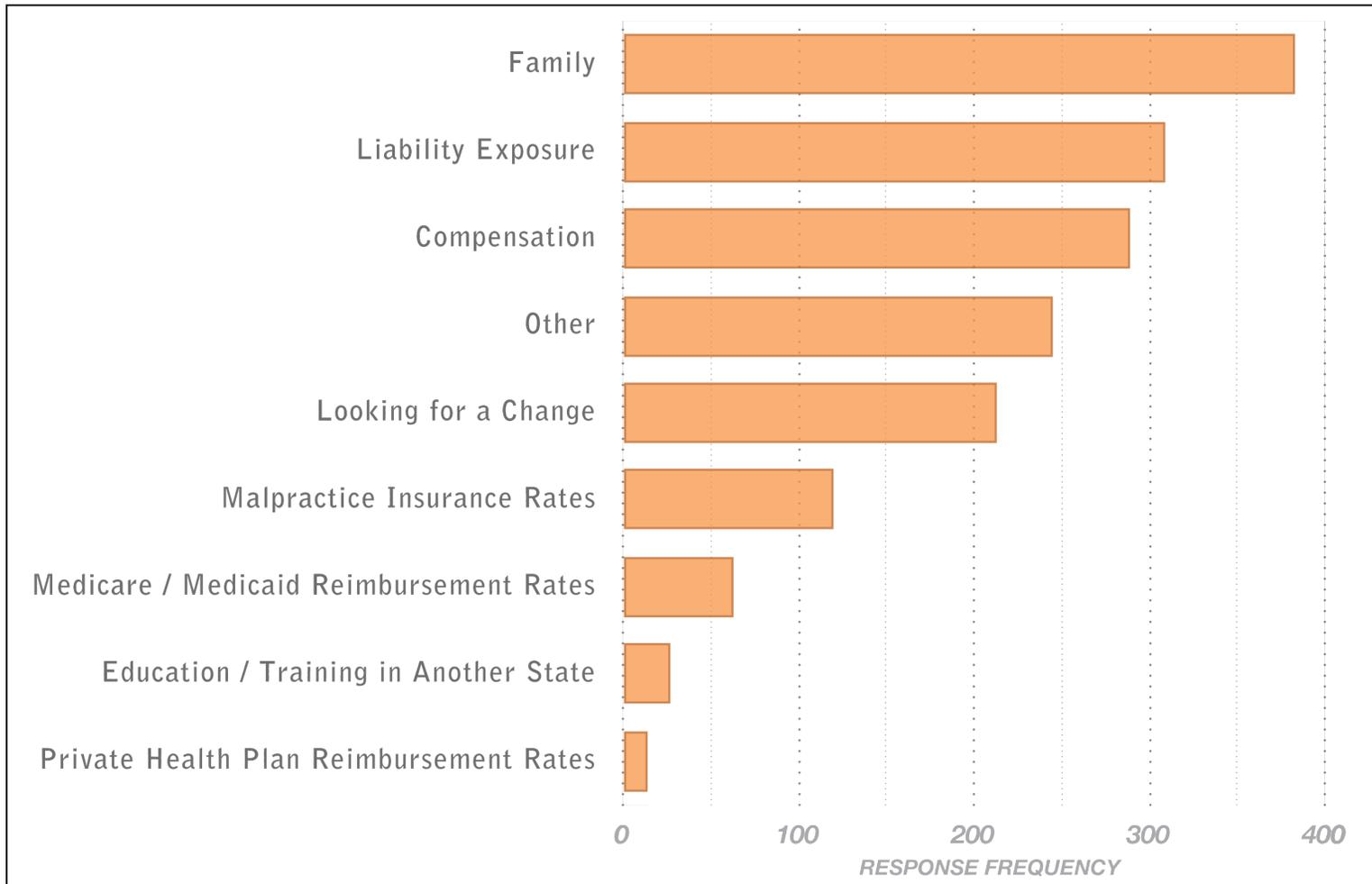


Figure 10:
Reasons cited by respondents reporting planned out-of-state move within five years.



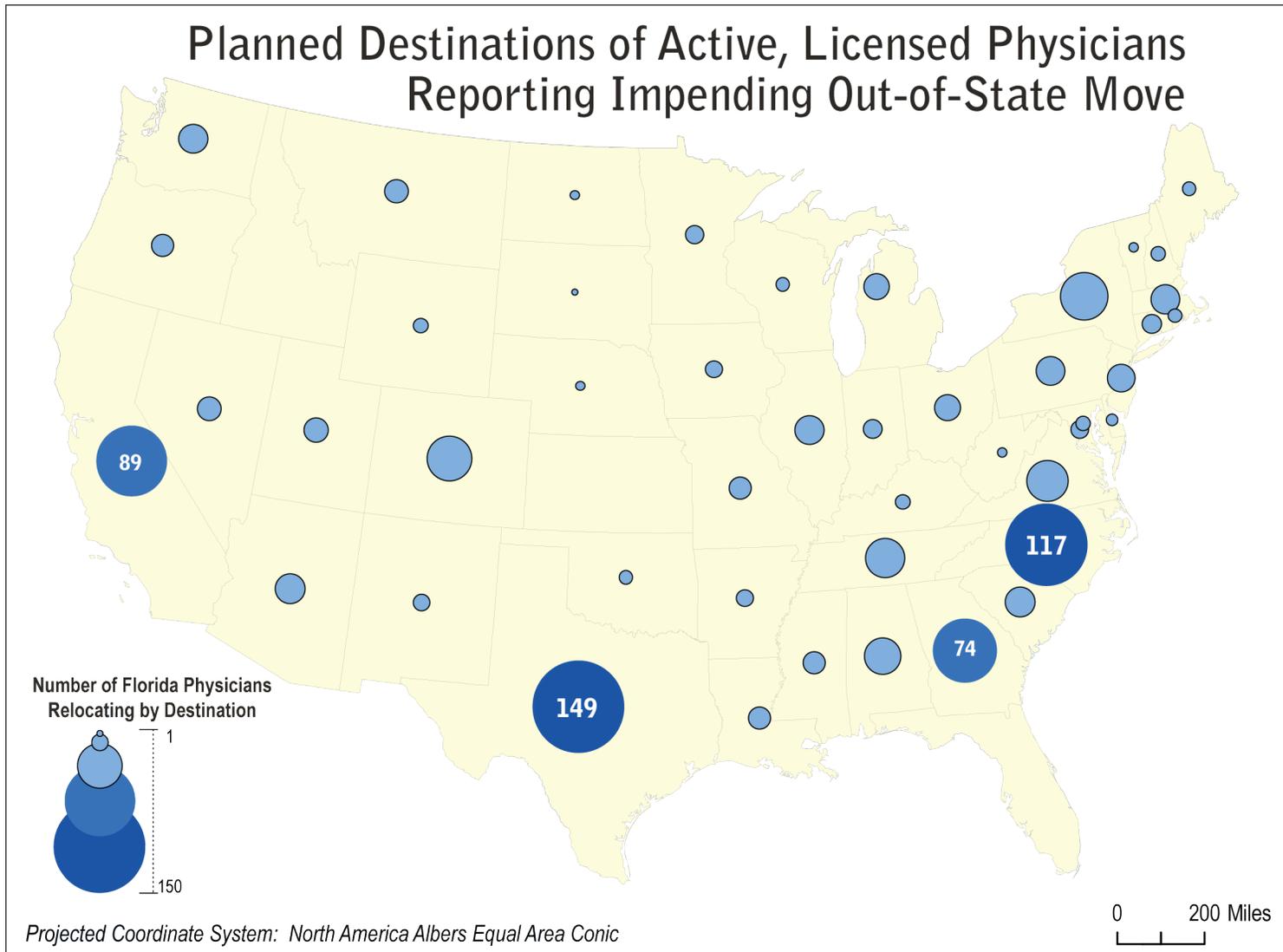
Map 5:
Distribution of respondents planning to move out of state due to malpractice or liability concerns, by region.

SPECIALTY GROUP	FREQUENCY
Emergency Medicine	83
Internal Medicine	58
Surgical Specialist	46
Family Medicine	39
Medical Specialist	39
Anesthesiology	37
OB GYN	26
Radiology	18
General Surgery	15
Psychiatry	15
Pediatrics	9
Pediatric Sub-specialist	8
Neurology	6
Dermatology	3
Pathology	1
Other	5

Figure 13:
Respondents (by specialty group) citing Malpractice Insurance Rates or Liability Exposure as the main reason for planning to move to work in another state within five years.

DESTINATION	FREQUENCY	SPECIALIZATION GROUP	DESTINATION	FREQUENCY	SPECIALIZATION GROUP
Texas	14	Emergency Medicine	North Carolina	3	Internal Medicine
Texas	10	Internal Medicine	California	3	Medical Specialist
Texas	9	Family Medicine	Tennessee	3	Internal Medicine
Texas	7	Medical Specialist	Virginia	3	Emergency Medicine
Texas	7	Anesthesiology	North Carolina	3	Medical Specialist
Georgia	6	Emergency Medicine	South Carolina	2	Family Medicine
Texas	6	OB GYN	Texas	2	General Surgery
Texas	5	Surgical Specialist	North Carolina	2	Radiology
Georgia	5	OB GYN	North Carolina	2	Psychiatry
North Carolina	5	Surgical Specialist	New York	2	Internal Medicine
California	5	Emergency Medicine	Virginia	2	Medical Specialist
California	4	Surgical Specialist	Colorado	2	Family Medicine
Colorado	4	Emergency Medicine	Texas	2	Pediatrics
North Carolina	4	OB GYN	Texas	2	Neurology
Tennessee	4	Family Medicine	North Carolina	2	Emergency Medicine
Georgia	4	Internal Medicine	Georgia	2	Anesthesiology
Texas	4	Pediatric Subspecialist	Alaska	2	Emergency Medicine
Colorado	4	Medical Specialist	Texas	2	Psychiatry
California	4	Anesthesiology	Georgia	2	Radiology
South Carolina	3	Emergency Medicine	Colorado	2	OB GYN
Virginia	3	Internal Medicine	California	2	Psychiatry
North Carolina	3	Anesthesiology	Georgia	2	Family Medicine
Louisiana	3	Emergency Medicine	Alaska	2	Family Medicine

Figure 12:
Intended destinations of respondents reporting they plan to move to work in another state within five years, by specialty group.



DESTINATION	FREQUENCY	DESTINATION	FREQUENCY
Texas	155	Alaska	13
North Carolina	125	Connecticut	12
California	110	Oregon	12
Georgia	87	Missouri	10
Out Of Country	87	Indiana	8
New York	58	Minnesota	8
Colorado	48	District of Columbia	7
Virginia	41	Kentucky	7
Tennessee	36	Iowa	6
Alabama	32	Arkansas	6
Arizona	26	New Mexico	6
South Carolina	22	Oklahoma	5
Washington	21	Maine	5
Ohio	21	Wyoming	5
New Jersey	20	West Virginia	5
Massachusetts	19	Maryland	5
Pennsylvania	19	New Hampshire	5
Hawaii	19	Rhode Island	4
Illinois	18	Delaware	4
Michigan	17	Wisconsin	3
Louisiana	15	Vermont	2
Nevada	14	Kansas	2
Montana	14	Nebraska	2
Mississippi	14	North Dakota	2
Utah	14	South Dakota	1

Figure 11:
Intended destinations of respondents reporting they plan to move to work in another state within five years.

Florida Physician Workforce Survey, QUESTION 20:

0.9% (n=390) of Florida’s licensed, practicing physicians (n=43,188) report that they plan to change their specialty within the next five years.

19.74% (n=77) of these respondents cite Malpractice Insurance Rates or Liability Exposure as the main reason for changing their specialty.

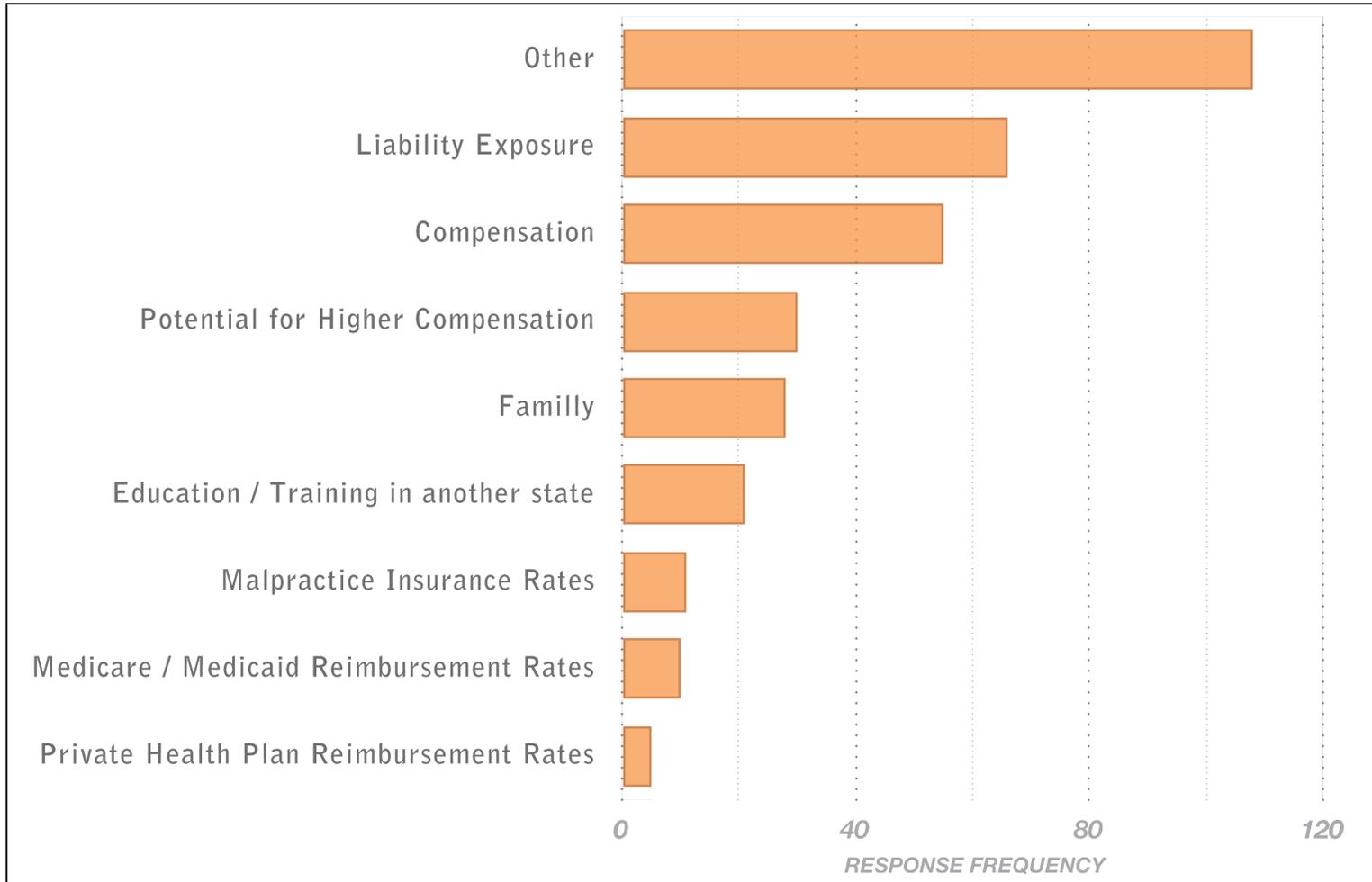


Figure 14:
Reasons cited by respondents reporting planned specialty change within five years.



Map 6:
Distribution of respondents planning to retrain due to malpractice or liability concerns, by region.

NEW SPECIALTY	FREQUENCY	CURRENT SPECIALTY GROUP
Family Medicine	9	Emergency Medicine
Internal Medicine/Pediatrics	4	Emergency Medicine
Family Medicine	2	Family Medicine
Sleep Medicine - Family Medicine	2	Medical Specialist
Preventive medicine	2	OB GYN
Preventive medicine	2	Emergency Medicine
Preventive medicine	2	Family Medicine
Sleep medicine	2	Medical Specialist

Figure 15:
Intended new specialty of respondents reporting they plan to change their specialty within five years.

SPECIALTY GROUP	FREQUENCY
Emergency Medicine	30
OB GYN	10
Family Medicine	8
Medical Specialist	7
Anesthesiology	3
General Surgery	3
Internal Medicine	3
Neurology	2
Surgical Specialist	2
Dermatology	1
Pediatric Sub-specialist	1
Other	1

Figure 16:
Respondents (by specialty group) citing Malpractice Insurance Rates or Liability Exposure as the main reason for planning to change specialties within five years.

Florida Physician Workforce Survey, ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY questions:

1,060 physicians responded to at least one Orthopedic Surgery specialty question.

21.23% (n=225) of these respondents indicated that they will see a patient for hand surgery.

Florida Physician Workforce Survey, PLASTIC SURGERY questions:

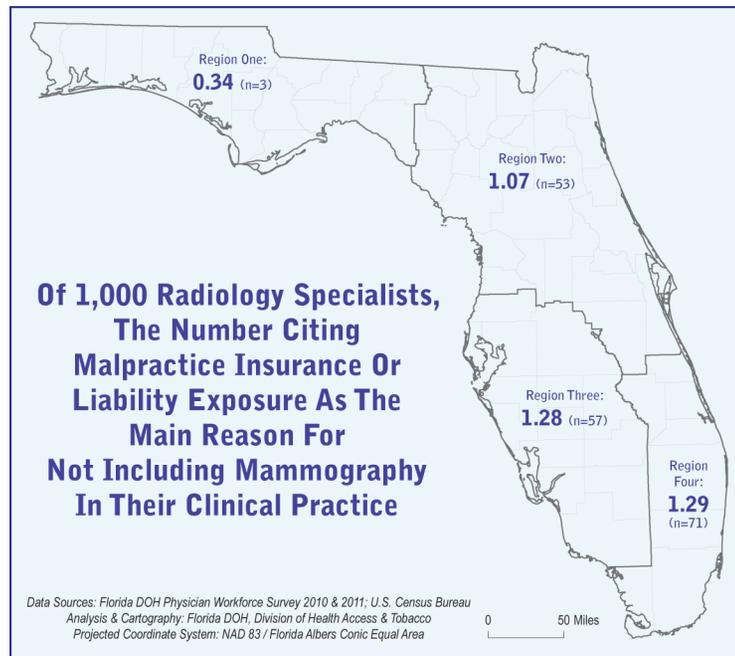
562 physicians responded to at least one Plastic Surgery specialty question.

29.54% (n=166) of these respondents indicated that they will see a patient for hand/microsurgery.

19.75% (n=111) of these respondents indicated that they will take emergency room calls for hand surgery.

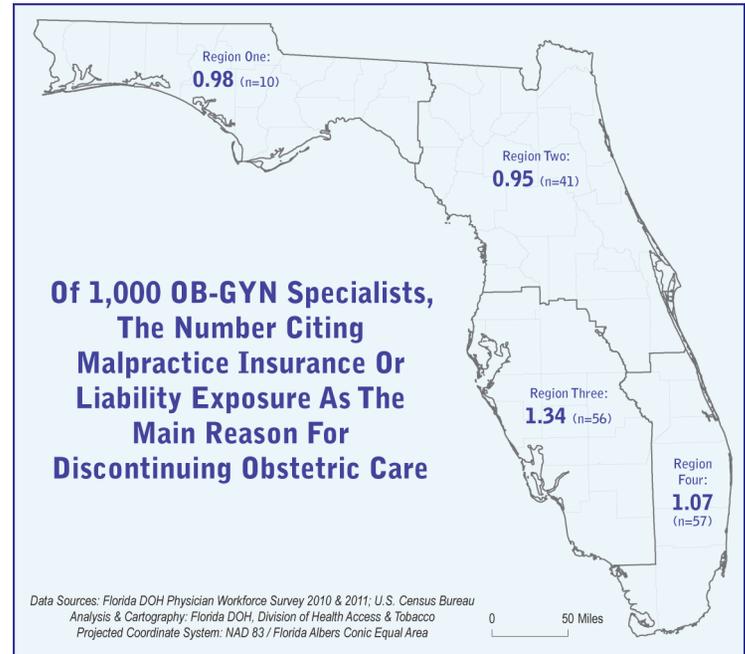
Florida Physician Workforce Survey, OB-GYN questions:

1,483 physicians responded to at least one OB-GYN specialty question.
 16.99% (n=252) of these respondents indicated that they will discontinue obstetric care within the next two years due to the Cost of Professional Insurance, Medical Malpractice Litigation or Liability Exposure.
 74.11% (n=1,099) of these respondents indicated that they are protected by NICA.
 39.13% (n=135) of respondents that indicated they are not protected by NICA (n=345) cite cost or inadequate protection.



Map 8:

Distribution of radiologists not performing mammography due to malpractice or liability concerns, by region.



Map 7:

Distribution of OB-GYNs planning to discontinue obstetric care due to malpractice or liability concerns, by region.

Florida Physician Workforce Survey, RADIOLOGY questions:

1,897 physicians responded to at least one Radiology specialty question.
 14.99% (n=225) of respondents that indicated they do not include mammography in their clinical practice (n=1,501) cite Medical Malpractice Litigation or Liability Exposure.