

Primary Care Provider Types and Specializations

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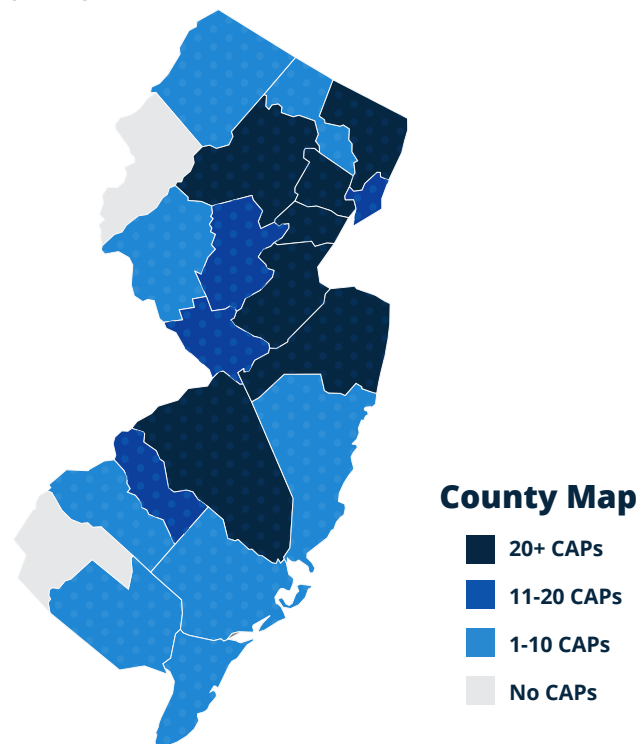
APPENDICES

While some clinicians treat youth from birth through late adolescents, others specialize in specific age groups. Although primary care providers are clinically trained to treat youth, their training is more generalized, not specifically focused on mental health.

- **Pediatricians:** Doctors specializing in children and adolescents.
- **Family Medicine Physicians:** Doctors specializing in generalized medicine and trained to treat patients of all ages including youth.
- **Child Developmental Pediatricians:** Specialized pediatricians that have received additional training in developmental behavioral disorders including diagnosing and treating intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).
- **Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists:** Doctors trained in mental health for children and adolescents, including related medications. Some may also provide mental health therapy services. Adult psychiatrists may also treat youth, especially older adolescents, at their own discretion but do not have pediatric-specific training.
- **Advanced Practice Nurses (APNs):** APNs (also called advanced practice registered nurses (APRN) are registered nurses (RNs) who have completed graduate-level education in an advanced nursing specialty.
- **Nurse Practitioners (NPs):** NPs are a type of APN who receive advanced training focused on a specific patient population (e.g., family, pediatric, or psychiatric-mental health).
- **Physician Assistants (PA):** PAs complete an accredited graduate-level PA program and work directly under the supervision of a physician.

Figure G1

NJ Practicing Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists (CAPs)



Source: American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) - https://www.aacap.org/aacap/Advocacy/Federal_and_State_Initiatives/Workforce_Maps/Home.aspx. Accessed April 2, 2026. "American Medical Association (AMA) is the source for the raw physician data; statistics, tables or tabulations were prepared by the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) using AMA Masterfile data received January 2024.