Orthopedic Surgeons
Physician Distribution – 2006
Secondary Care Service Areas* (SCSA)

- There was an increase in physicians becoming board certified between 1996 and 2006.
  - 1996: 78.6% of orthopedic surgeons were board certified compared to 73.4% of total physicians.
  - 2006: 84.0% of orthopedic surgeons were board certified compared to 83.2% of total physicians.

- Six of the twelve SCSAs are below the state rate and seven are below the national rate for orthopedic surgeons.

- The rate for SCSA Region 7, which includes Augusta, is more than twice the state rate at 15.2. Region 9, in the southeastern part of the state, is the lowest at 3.3.

- Orthopedic surgeons have grown by 24.0% between 1996 and 2006.

- Of all the orthopedic surgeons:
  - 1996: 5.6% were residents
  - 2006: 3.8% were residents

- Of all the residents:
  - 1996: 4.0% were in orthopedic surgery
  - 2006: 6.8% were in orthopedic surgery

MSA VERSUS NON-MSA DISTRIBUTION OF ORTHOPEDIC SURGEONS

Orthopedic surgeons have always been concentrated in Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs). However, there has been a decline of orthopedic surgeons practicing in Non-Metropolitan Statistical Areas (Non-MSAs). From 2004 to 2006, there was a 5.1% decrease in the percentage of orthopedic surgeons practicing in Non-MSA designated areas.

ORTHOPEDIC SURGEONS BY YEAR:
GEORGIA MSA/NON-MSA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DESIGNATION</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2006</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MSA</td>
<td>81.2%</td>
<td>86.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>NON-MSA</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
<td>13.7%</td>
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*State Service Delivery Regions; Effective July 1, 1998, the State Legislature voted to provide regional boundaries for the purpose of consistency in planning and service delivery from State Agencies.
Since 1996, there has been an increase in the number of female orthopedic surgeons practicing in Georgia. Overall, the percentage of minority physicians has increased, while the percentage of white orthopedic surgeons has decreased by 17.2% since 1996.

- The percentage of orthopedic surgeons age 55 and older increased only by .4% between 1996 and 2006.
- Similarly, the percentage of total practicing physicians age 55 and older showed a 2.8% increase during the same time period.

TRENDS IN THE NUMBER AND RATE OF ORTHOPEDIC SURGEONS

Over the last ten years, the NUMBER of orthopedic surgeons practicing in Georgia has steadily increased. The RATE for orthopedic surgeons decreased from 7.6 in 1996 to 6.7 in 2000. In 2002, the rate began to increase and reached 7.4 in 2006.