

Group Medical Practice Units Said Tripled

New Orleans (Science Service)—Group medical practice units in the United States have tripled since 1946, with 1,154 groups in 1959 reporting as "multi-specialty" units.

This means that three or more physicians provide services in more than one medical field or specialty, with their combined income distributed according to a pre-arranged plan.

In a preliminary report to the American Association of Medical Clinics, Dr. S. David Formine, chief of health professions in the U.S. Public Health Service, said that about 37 per cent of the groups responding to questionnaires were multi-specialty types.

Some Serving Part-Time

More than 10,000 physicians are serving full-time, and 1,955 part-time in the 1,154 multi-specialty groups reporting, and an additional 355 physicians serve full-time and 3,062 part-time in 219 multi-specialty groups having fewer than three full-time doctors.

The study shows that 63.5 per cent of the multi-specialty groups are in the central states, 13 per cent in the middle and south Atlantic states, 7.3 per cent in the mountain states, and 14.6 per cent in the Pacific states. New England has only 1.5 per cent of the groups.

The percentage of all practicing physicians in group practice is lowest in the New England and North Atlantic areas, and greatest in the Midwest.

Plan To Add More

When the study was made in 1959, 6.21 per cent of all practicing physicians in the U.S. were in full-time group practice and 0.85 per cent more were part-time group practitioners. The multi-specialty groups reported they planned to add more than 1,000 additional full-time physician members in 1960.

Dr. Marcus B. Goldstein of the Public Health Service collaborated in the preparation of both the 1946 and the 1959 report.

BLACK MAGIC

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