

North Carolina Physician Shortage Facts

THE PROBLEM

Physician supply lags behind patient demand nationally and across North Carolina. As supply falls, patients wait longer to see a doctor, and doctors burn out.

BY 2030

The U.S. is projected to have **120,000 too few** doctors nationally.¹⁻³



- ▶ Nearly 40% of American physicians will reach retirement age.
- ▶ The United States will face a shortage of over 120,000 physicians.

North Carolina is projected to be **short 7,725 doctors**.²⁻⁵



- ▶ Primary care alone is projected to be **short 1,885 providers**.
- ▶ There are only **506 residency slots** in North Carolina for primary care each year.
- ▶ **45.2%** of those residents will practice out of state.

North Carolina ranks in the **bottom half** of states for primary care and physician availability.⁶

28th in total physician supply

33rd in primary physicians

37th in general surgeons

92 of North Carolina's 100 counties are health professional shortage areas (HPSA).⁷⁻⁹

- ▶ **Low-income citizens** are disproportionately affected by these shortages.
- ▶ HPSA designations indicate areas where there are **3,500 or more patients for every one provider**.
- ▶ **2,229,951 North Carolina residents** live in an HPSA.



North Carolina's physician-to-patient ratio is **10% worse** than the national average:

18% worse in internal medicine

24% worse in interventional cardiology

22% worse in nuerology

28% worse in preventative medicine

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