

Massachusetts Physician Shortage Facts

THE PROBLEM

Physician supply lags patient demand nationally and across Massachusetts. 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**.^{1,2,4}



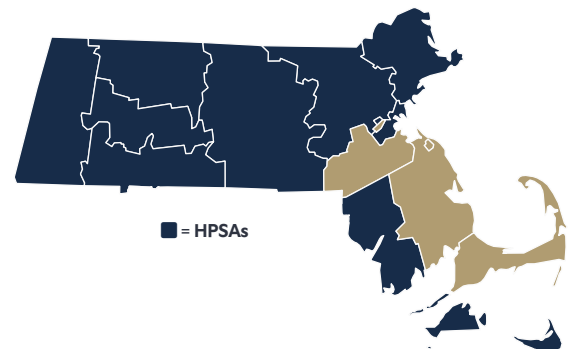
- ▶ Nearly 40% of American physicians will reach retirement age.
- ▶ The United States will face a shortage of over 120,000 physicians.
- ▶ 32.1% of Massachusetts physicians are within retirement range right now.

Massachusetts is projected to be **short 725 primary care providers**.³



11 of Massachusetts's 14 counties are health professional shortage areas (HPSA).^{6,7}

- ▶ 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**.



20,952 Massachusetts residents, physicians, and senior physicians were surveyed:⁵

- ▶ 55% of Massachusetts physicians report experiencing burnout.
- ▶ 27% of Massachusetts physicians report intention to leave medicine by 2026.

Ranked against other states, Massachusetts's doctor-to-patient ratio is:

- ▶ **40% worse** for family medicine and general practice
- ▶ **19% worse** in pediatric cardiology
- ▶ **30% worse** in pediatric hematology and oncology

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 2. Zhang, Xiaoming, Daniel W. Lin, Hugh Pfsich, and Vernon W. Lin. "Physician Workforce in the United States of America: Forecasting Nationwide Shortages." Human Resources for Health, February 6, 2020. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12960-020-0448-3>.
 3. The Robert Graham Center. "Missouri: Projecting Primary Care Physician Workforce." Policy Studies in Family Medicine and Primary Care. Accessed January 25, 2024. <https://www.graham-center.org/content/dam/rgc/documents/maps-data-tools/state-collections/workforce-projections/Massachusetts.pdf>.
 4. AAMC. "Massachusetts Physician Workforce Profile." Association of American Medical Colleges, 2021. <https://www.aamc.org/media/58221/download>.
 5. Rowe, MD MPH Susannah, MBA Yael Miller, and MBA Jessica Lacy. "Support MMS Physicians' Well-Being Report." Massachusetts Medical Society, March 2023.
 6. "Map of Health Professional Shortage Areas: Primary Care, by County, 2023 - Rural Health Information Hub," n.d. <https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/charts/5?state=MA>.
 7. KFF. "Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) | KFF," November 1, 2023. <https://www.kff.org/other/state-indicator/primary-care-health-professional-shortage-areas-hpsas/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22collId%22:%22Practitioners%20Needed%20to%20Remove%20HPSA%20Designation%22:%22sort%22:%22desc%22%7D>.