

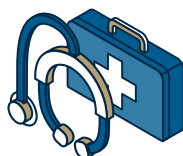
Washington Physician Shortage Facts

THE PROBLEM

Physician supply lags patient demand nationally and across Washington. 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.
- ▶ 32.7% of Washington physicians are within retirement range right now.

Washington is projected to be **short 6,037 doctors.**^{2,4}

- ▶ Primary care alone is projected to be short 1,695 providers.



Overall, Washington ranks in the **bottom half** of states for general surgeons and OB/GYN availability.³

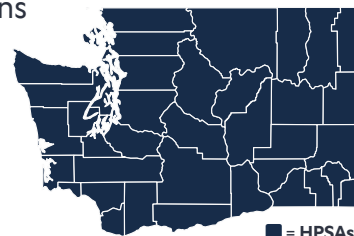
37th in general surgeons

31st in obstetrics and gynecology

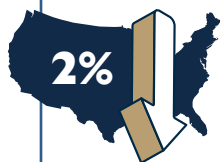
All 69 of Washington's counties are health professional shortage areas (HPSAs).^{5,6}

- ▶ **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.**



Washington's physician-to-patient ratio is **2 percent worse** than the national average.



10% worse for critical care medicine

9% worse in general surgery

13% worse in internal medicine

12% worse in psychiatry

26% worse in plastic surgery

1. Goldman, Devorah. "The Forgotten Physician." National Affairs, 2019. <https://nationalaffairs.com/publications/detail/the-forgotten-physician>.
2. Zhang, Xiaoming, Daniel W. Lin, Hugh Pforsich, 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. AAMC. "Washington Physician Workforce Profile." Association of American Medical Colleges, 2021. <https://www.aamc.org/media/58631/download>.
4. The Robert Graham Center. "Washington: 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/Washington.pdf>.
5. "Map of Health Professional Shortage Areas: Primary Care, by County, 2023 - Rural Health Information Hub," n.d. <https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/charts/5?state=WA>.
6. 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%22colId%22:%22Practitioners%20Needed%20to%20Remove%20HPSA%20Designation%22,%22sort%22:%22desc%22%7D>.