

Louisiana Physician Shortage Facts

THE PROBLEM

Physician supply lags patient demand nationally and across Louisiana. 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.
- ▶ 32.8% of Louisiana physicians are within retirement range right now.

Louisiana is projected to be **short 4,820 doctors**.⁴⁻⁶



- ▶ Primary care alone is projected to be **short 392 providers**.
- ▶ There are only **313 residency slots** in Louisiana for primary care each year.
- ▶ **45.2%** of those residents will practice out of state.

Overall, Louisiana ranks in the **bottom half** of states for primary care and physician supply availability.⁷

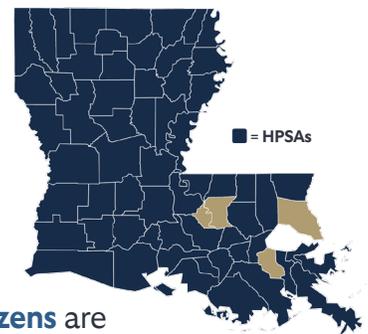
26th

in total physician supply

34th

in active primary physicians

60 of Louisiana's 64 parishes are health professional shortage areas (HPSA).⁸⁻¹⁰



- ▶ **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**.
- ▶ **1,889,316 Louisiana residents** live in a HPSA.

Louisiana's physician-to-patient ratio is 8% worse than the national average:

21% worse in critical care medicine

117% worse in geriatric medicine

20% worse in internal medicine

64% worse in preventative medicine

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