

Iowa Physician Shortage Facts

THE PROBLEM

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



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

- ▶ Nearly 40% of American physicians will reach retirement age by 2030.¹
- ▶ By 2030, the United States will face a shortage of over 120,000 physicians.²
- ▶ 31.9% of Iowa physicians are within retirement range right now.³

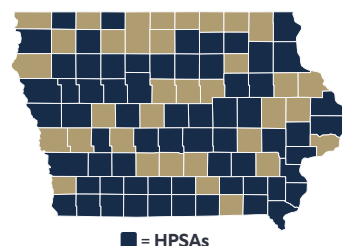


Iowa is projected to be **short 1,660 doctors** by 2030.

- ▶ Primary care alone is projected to be **short 119 providers**.⁵

65 of Iowa's 99 counties are health professional shortage areas (HPSAs).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**.⁷



Iowa ranks **in the bottom half** of states in the country in the availability of primary care doctors and for physician supply overall.⁴

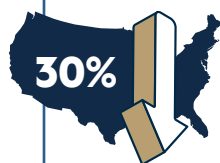
44th in total physician supply

45th in active primary physicians

50th in obstetrics

Iowa's physician-to-patient ratio is

30 percent worse than the national average.



80% worse for emergency medicine

79% worse in geriatric medicine

90% worse in internal medicine

63% worse in pediatrics

72% worse in psychiatry

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. "Iowa Physician Workforce Profile." Association of American Medical Colleges, 2021. <https://www.aamc.org/media/58196/download>.
4. Ibid
5. The Robert Graham Center. "South Carolina: 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/iowa.pdf>.
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=IA>.
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%22colId%22:%22Practitioners%20Needed%20to%20Remove%20HPSA%20Designation%22,%22sort%22:%22desc%22%7D>.