

# Idaho Physician Shortage Facts

## THE PROBLEM

Physician supply lags patient demand nationally and across Idaho. 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.<sup>1</sup>
- ▶ By 2030, the United States will face a shortage of over 120,000 physicians.<sup>2</sup>



Idaho is projected to be **short 1,743 doctors** by 2030.

- ▶ Primary care alone is projected to be **short 382 providers**.<sup>3</sup>

Idaho ranks **in the bottom half** of all states for primary care doctor availability and overall physician supply.<sup>4</sup>

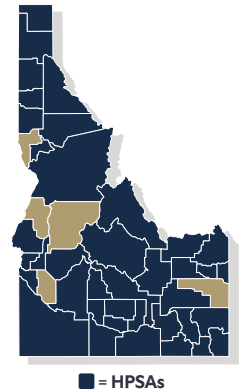
**50<sup>th</sup>** in total physician supply

**49<sup>th</sup>** in active primary physicians

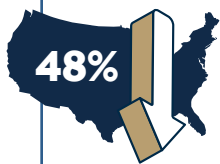
**50<sup>th</sup>** in general surgeons

**39 of Idaho's 44 counties** are health professional shortage areas (HPSAs).<sup>5</sup>

- ▶ **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**.<sup>6</sup>



Idaho's physician-to-patient ratio is **48 percent worse** than the national average.



**86% worse** for infectious disease medicine

**47% worse** in internal medicine

**36% worse** in pediatric critical care medicine

**40% worse** in preventive medicine

**45% 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. The Robert Graham Center. "Idaho: 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/Idaho.pdf>.  
 4. AAMC. "Idaho Physician Workforce Profile." Association of American Medical Colleges, 2021. <https://www.aamc.org/media/58171/download>.  
 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=ID>.  
 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>.