

# Maryland Physician Shortage Facts

## THE PROBLEM

**Physician supply lags patient demand nationally and across Maryland. 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>

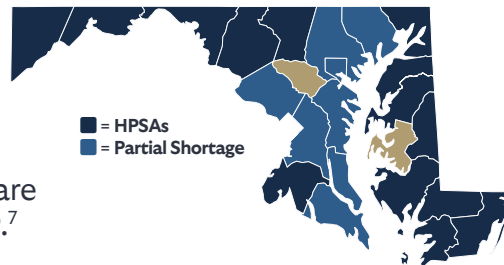


Maryland is projected to be **short 1,052 doctors** by 2030.<sup>3</sup>

- ▶ **35.8% of physicians** in Maryland are current within retirement range.<sup>4</sup>
- ▶ The aging workforce is most prevalent in the **capital region and among surgical specialties.**<sup>5</sup>

**14 of Maryland's 24 counties** are health professional shortage areas (HPSAs).<sup>6</sup>

- ▶ 8 of the 24 are partial HPSAs meaning **22/24 counties are affected.**
- ▶ **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>7</sup>



**Ranked against other states, Maryland's doctor-to-patient ration is:**

**35% worse**  
for family  
medicine/general  
practice

**44% worse**  
in interventional  
cardiology

**249% worse**  
in pediatric  
cardiology

**37% worse**  
in pediatric  
hematology/  
oncology

**6% worse**  
in sports  
medicine

1. Goldman, Devorah. "The Forgotten Physician." National Affairs, 2019. <https://nationalaffairs.com/publications/detail/the-forgotten-physician>.  
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3. The Robert Graham Center. "Maryland: 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/Maryland.pdf>.  
4. AAMC. "Maryland Physician Workforce Profile." Association of American Medical Colleges, 2021. <https://www.aamc.org/media/58211/download>.  
5. Barish, M.D., Chair Robert, and Secretary John Colmers. "Maryland Physician Workforce Study." MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, 2007. <https://www.medchi.org/Portals/18/files/Law%20&%20Advocacy/Initiatives%20Page/Workforce%20Study%20Executive%20Summary.pdf?ver=2009-09-02-040000-000>.  
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=MD>.  
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>.