

Illinois Physician Shortage Facts

THE PROBLEM

Physician supply lags patient demand nationally and across Illinois. 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.
- ▶ 32.3% of Illinois physicians are within retirement range right now.

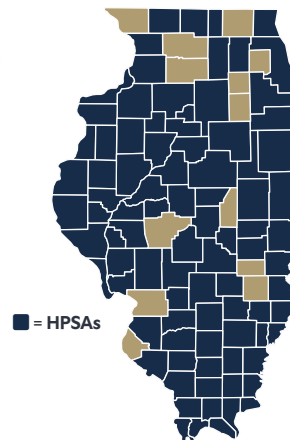
Illinois is projected to be **short 6,203 doctors.**⁴⁻⁶



- ▶ Primary care alone is projected to be **short 1,063 providers.**
- ▶ There are only **237 residency slots** in Illinois for primary care each year.
- ▶ **45.2%** of those residents will practice out of state.

89 of Illinois's 102 counties are health professional shortage areas (HPSA).⁷⁻⁹

- ▶ **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.**
- ▶ **3,657,588 Illinois residents** live in an HPSA.



Ranked against other states, Illinois's doctor-to-patient ratio is:

7% worse
for general
surgery

13% worse
in orthopedic
surgery

13% worse
in plastic
surgery

34% worse
in preventative
medicine

SOURCES:

- Goldman, Deborah. "The Forgotten Physician." National Affairs, 2019. <https://nationalaffairs.com/publications/detail/the-forgotten-physician>.
- 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>.
- AAMC. "Illinois Physician Workforce Profile." Association of American Medical Colleges, 2021. <https://www.aamc.org/media/58186/download>.
- The Robert Graham Center. "Illinois: 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/Illinois.pdf>.
- "Residency Programs in Illinois," n.d. <https://www.residencyprogramslist.com/in-illinois>.
- AAMC. "Table C4. Physician Retention in State of Residency Training, by Last Completed GME Specialty | AAMC," n.d. <https://www.aamc.org/data-reports/students-residents/data/report-residents/2023/table-c4-physician-retention-state-residency-training-last-completed-gme>.
- "Map of Health Professional Shortage Areas: Primary Care, by County, 2023 - Rural Health Information Hub," n.d. <https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/charts/5?state=IL>.
- 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>.
- U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. "Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas Statistics." Bureau of Health Workforce, December 31, 2023. <https://data.hrsa.gov/Default/GenerateHPSAQuarterlyReport>.