

# Minnesota Physician Shortage Facts

## THE PROBLEM

Physician supply lags patient demand nationally and across Minnesota. 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.<sup>1,2,4</sup>



- Nearly 40% of American physicians will reach retirement age.
- The United States will face a shortage of over 120,000 physicians.
- 29.9% of Minnesota physicians are within retirement range right now.

## Minnesota is projected to be short 2,260 doctors.<sup>2,3</sup>



Primary care alone is projected to be short 1,187 providers. Overall, Minnesota ranks in the bottom half of states for general surgeons and obstetrician availability.<sup>4</sup>



### **69 of Minnesota's 87 counties** are health professional shortage areas (HPSAs).<sup>5,6</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.



### — Ranked against other states, — Minnesota's doctor-to-patient ratio is:

16% worse for infectious disease 16% worse in internal medicine 17% worse in pediatrics 29% worse in plastic surgery

1. Goldman, Devorah. "The Forgotten Physician." National Affairs, 2019. https://nationalaffairs.com/publications/detail/the-forgotten-physician.

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=MN.

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.

<sup>3.</sup> The Robert Graham Center. "Georgia: 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/Minnesota.pdf.

<sup>4.</sup> AAMC. "Georgia Physician Workforce Profile." Association of American Medical Colleges, 2021. https://www.aamc.org/media/58231/download.

<sup>6.</sup> 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%22colld%22:%22Practitioners%20Needed%20to%20Remove%20HPSA%20 Designation%22,%22sort%22:%22desc%22%7D.