

# Maine Physician Shortage Facts

## THE PROBLEM

**Physician supply lags patient demand nationally and across Maine. 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>1-3</sup>



- ▶ Nearly 40% of American physicians will reach retirement age.
- ▶ The United States will face a shortage of over 120,000 physicians.
- ▶ 39.3% of Maine physicians are within retirement range right now.

Maine is projected to be **short 120 primary care providers.**<sup>4-6</sup>

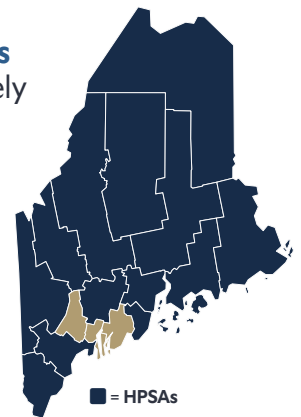


- ▶ There are only 35 residency slots in Maine for primary care each year.
- ▶ 45.2% of those residents will practice out of state.

Maine **does not currently have any M.D. programs in the state**, thus relying mainly on other New England medical schools to provide the majority of their physicians.<sup>7</sup>

**13 of Maine's 16 counties are health professional shortage areas (HPSA).**<sup>8-10</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.
- ▶ 85,169 Maine residents live in an HPSA.



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

**35% worse**  
in  
dermatology

**22% worse**  
in  
gastroenterology

**28% worse**  
in infectious  
disease  
medicine

**30% worse**  
in pediatric  
internal medicine

**75% worse**  
in plastic  
surgery

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