Texas Physician Shortage Facts

THE PROBLEM

Physician supply lags behind patient demand nationally and across Texas. 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.
- ▶ 29.4% of Texas physicians are within retirement range right now.

Texas is projected to be short 20,420 doctors. 4-6



- ▶ There are only 334 residency slots in Texas for primary care each year.
- ▶ 45.2% of those residents will practice out of state.

Overall, Texas ranks in the bottom half of states for primary care and physician availability.⁷



224 of Texas' 254 counties are health professional shortage areas (HPSA).8-10

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.

▶ 6,066,420 Texas residents live in an HPSA.

Texas' physician-to-patient ratio is 26% worse than the national average:

37% worse in critical care

17% worse in family medicine

23% worse in general surgery

46% worse in internal medicine

31% worse in pediatrics

SOURCES:

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