

Virginia Physician Shortage Facts

THE PROBLEM

Physician supply lags patient demand nationally and across Virginia. 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.^{1,2,4}



- ▶ Nearly 40% of American physicians will reach retirement age.
- ▶ 32.4% of Virginia physicians are within retirement range right now.

Virginia is projected to be **short 3,911 doctors**.^{2,3}



- ▶ Primary care alone is projected to be **short 1,622 providers**.

Overall, Virginia ranks in the **bottom half** of states for primary care and physician availability.⁴

27th in active physician supply

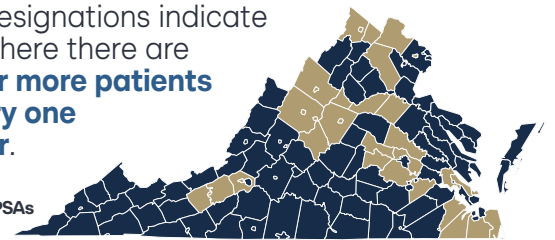
29th in primary physicians

33rd in general surgeons

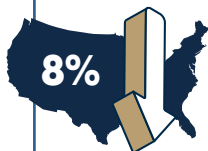
70 of Virginia's 95 counties are health professional shortage areas (HPSAs).^{5,6}

- ▶ **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**.

■ = HPSAs



Virginia's physician-to-patient ratio is **8 percent worse** than the national average.



24% worse for infectious diseases

46% worse in pediatric internal medicine

10% worse in internal medicine

35% worse in sports medicine

1. Goldman, Deborah. "The Forgotten Physician." National Affairs, 2019. <https://nationalaffairs.com/publications/detail/the-forgotten-physician>.
 2. Zhang, Xiaoming, Daniel W. Lin, Hugh Pfsich, 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>.
 3. The Robert Graham Center. "Virginia: 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/Virginia.pdf>.
 4. AAMC. "Virginia Physician Workforce Profile." Association of American Medical Colleges, 2021. <https://www.aamc.org/media/58351/download>.
 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=VA>.
 6. 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%22collId%22:%22Practitioners%20Needed%20to%20Remove%20HPSA%20Designation%22,%22sort%22:%22desc%22%7D>.