

Expanding Healthcare Access in Georgia

A New Year's Resolution for 2025

Physician supply lags behind patient demand nationally and across Georgia. As supply falls, patients wait longer to see a doctor, and doctors burn out.

The Cicero Institute suggests a New Year's Resolution for Georgia in 2025 to increase access to healthcare by streamlining the pathway for internationally trained physicians to practice in the state.

BY 2023

The U.S. is projected to have **120,000 too few doctors** nationally.



- ▶ **Nearly 40% of American physicians** will reach retirement age.
- ▶ **32.9% of Georgia physicians** are within retirement range right now.

Georgia is projected to be **short 8,012 doctors**.



- ▶ There are only **167 residency slots** in Georgia for primary care each year.
- ▶ **33.5%** of those residents will practice out of state.

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

38th

in total
physician
supply

42nd

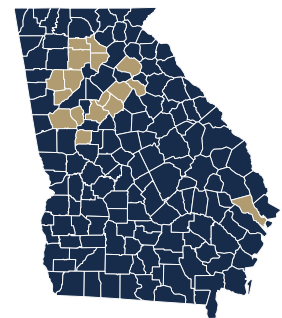
in primary
physicians

44th

in general
surgeons

143 of Georgia's 159 counties are health professional shortage areas (HPSA).

- ▶ **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**.
- ▶ **2,750,382 Georgia residents** live in a HPSA.



■ = HPSAs

View Online



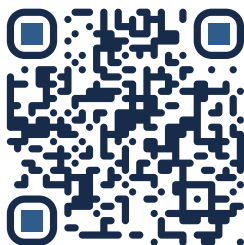
Redundant residency training requirements force internationally trained physicians to spend years in low-paid training roles.

This discourages top international doctors from trying to practice in America and drives some foreign doctors who relocate to America into non-medical jobs. It also reduces the number of residency slots available to students attending U.S. medical schools.

The Expanding Rural Healthcare Act allows regulators to waive U.S. residency requirements for certain internationally trained physicians who meet state quality and safety standards.



With an increase in trained physicians in Georgia, the state can look forward to a happy and healthy future.



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