

# Wisconsin Physician Shortage Facts

## THE PROBLEM

**Physician supply lags patient demand nationally and across Wisconsin. 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.
- ▶ **31.1% of Wisconsin physicians** are within retirement range right now.

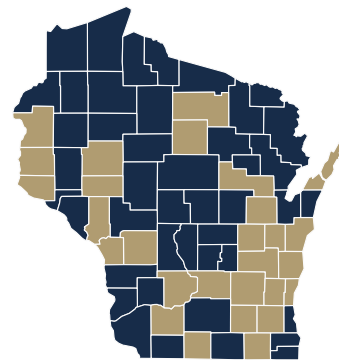
Wisconsin is projected to be **short 2,263 doctors.**<sup>2,4-6</sup>



- ▶ Primary care alone is projected to be **short 942 providers.**
- ▶ There are only **278 residency slots** in Wisconsin for primary care each year.
- ▶ **43.5%** of those residents will practice out of state.

**44 of Wisconsin's 72 counties** are health professional shortage areas (HPSA).<sup>5,7-8</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.**
- ▶ **1,729,286 Wisconsin residents** live in an HPSA.



■ = HPSAs

**Ranked against other states, Wisconsin's doctor-to-patient ratio is:**

**17% worse**  
for **critical care**

**25% worse**  
in **geriatric medicine**

**38% worse**  
in **infectious diseases**

**19% worse**  
in **obstetrics and gynecology**

**30% worse**  
in **preventative medicine**

1. Goldman, Deborah. "The Forgotten Physician." National Affairs, 2019. <https://nationalaffairs.com/publications/detail/the-forgotten-physician>.
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3. AAMC. "Wisconsin Physician Workforce Profile." Association of American Medical Colleges, 2021. <https://www.aamc.org/media/58366/download>.
4. The Robert Graham Center. "Wisconsin: 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/Wisconsin.pdf>.
5. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), and U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. "Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas Statistics." Bureau of Health Workforce, 2024. <https://data.hrsa.gov/Default/GenerateHPSAQuarterlyReport>.
6. AAMC. "Table C4. Physician Retention in State of Residency Training, by Last Completed GME Specialty | AAMC," n.d. <https://www.aamc.org/data-reports/students-residents/data/report-residents/2023/table-c4-physician-retention-state-residency-training-last-completed-gme>.
7. "Map of Health Professional Shortage Areas: Primary Care, by County, 2023 - Rural Health Information Hub," n.d. <https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/charts/5?state=WV>.
8. 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%22colId%22:%22Practitioners%20Needed%20to%20Remove%20HPSA%20Designation%22,%22sort%22:%22desc%22%7D>.