

# Utah Physician Shortage Facts

## THE PROBLEM

**Physician supply lags patient demand nationally and across Utah. 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.
- ▶ **32.7% of Utah physicians** are within retirement range right now.

Utah is projected to be **short 1,418 doctors.**<sup>4-6</sup>



- ▶ Primary care alone is projected to be short **1,095 providers.**
- ▶ There are only **90 residency slots** in Utah for primary care each year.
- ▶ **45.2%** of those residents will practice out of state.

Overall, Utah **ranks in the bottom half** of states for primary care and physician supply availability.<sup>7</sup>

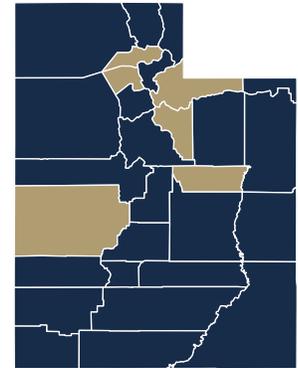
**42<sup>nd</sup>** in total physician supply

**49<sup>th</sup>** in primary physicians

**48<sup>th</sup>** in general surgeons

**23 of Utah's 29 counties** are health professional shortage areas (HPSA).<sup>8-9</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.**
- ▶ **615,591 Utah residents** live in a HPSA.



■ = HPSAs

**Utah's physician-to-patient ratio is 29 percent worse than the national average.**

**92% worse**  
in **cardiovascular disease**

**46% worse**  
in **critical care**

**119% worse**  
in **internal medicine**

**36% worse**  
in **neurology**

**51% worse**  
in **pediatrics**

1. Goldman, Deborah. "The Forgotten Physician." National Affairs, 2019. <https://nationalaffairs.com/publications/detail/the-forgotten-physician>.
2. Zhang, Xiaoming, Daniel W. Lin, Hugh Pforsich, 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. AAMC. "Utah Physician Workforce Profile." Association of American Medical Colleges, 2021. <https://www.aamc.org/media/58341/download>.
4. The Robert Graham Center. "Utah: 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/Utah.pdf>.
5. "Residency Programs in Utah." n.d. <https://www.residencyprogramslist.com/in-utah>.
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, 2025 - Rural Health Information Hub," n.d. <https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/charts/5?state=UT>.
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>.
9. U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. "Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas Statistics." Bureau of Health Workforce, December 31, 2023. <https://data.hrsa.gov/Default/GenerateHPSAQuarterlyReport>.