The United States of America's physician Workforce:

Predicting National Shortages



The Incredible Role of Physician in the Healthcare

The medical industry has followed the characteristics of the longstanding tradition of discipline for thousands of years. A doctor would have a distinctive body of experience and skills and put them to use in the treatment of patients. As such, the interaction between the doctor and patient was paramount. It has served as the basis of an intimate, loving relationship that has endured the test of time.

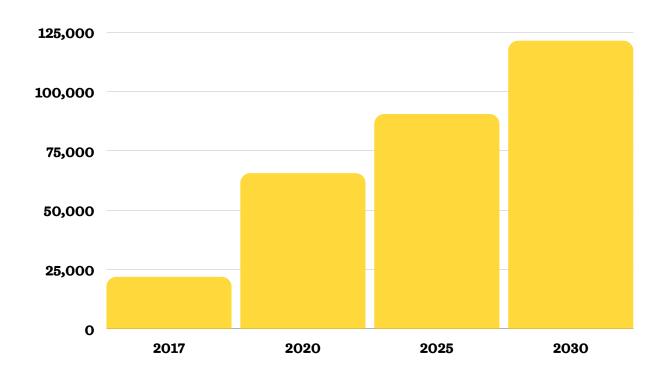


The US is on the Edge of a Destruction, Yet Preventable Shortage of Physicians

Medicine faces a crisis in the United States: As the population ages, supply is outpacing demand for physicians. It has been a matter of speculation and experiences exchanged in doctors' lounges to understand the nature of the shortage. A new report by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) now sheds light on the nature of the shortage of physicians, precisely where the shortage's effect would be most acute.



Deficit in US Number of Physicians from 2017 to 2030



The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) estimates that the U.S. will face a shortage of up to 159,300 doctors in 15 years. The AAMC estimates that universal access to health care by an additional 31,000 physicians will increase the physician shortage. Consequently, the AAMC has called for a 30 percent rise in the number of doctors trained in the U.S.

A shortage of 149,000 doctors by 2020 is projected by the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), while a shortage of 65,560 primary care doctors by 2020 is projected by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

Reports of physician shortages have been published by twenty-four states, and 21 medical specialty societies have published reports of shortages in their fields.

Strong physician demand from the growth of the overall population, ageing state population, and ageing physicians without a sufficient proportionate rise in physician supplies are the primary reasons for high shortages in these three states. In the US through 2032, physician demand is also expected to decline along racial and ethnic lines. The highest growth in demand for doctors will be seen by White Americans. The number of FTE doctors expected to represent this portion of the population is set at 46,300 by AAMC.

"Instead of treating the dysfunctional, hodgepodge method of today as a basis for the future of primary care, we should instead pose the following questions: How many doctors would we really need if best, evidence-based practices were widely adopted?" And how do we enable such activities to be adopted?

