

HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE CHALLENGES IN MISSOURI



As people age, their need for health care services increases. By 2030, **more than 25 percent of Missourians will be over age 65**. Research shows that 90 percent want to age in place. A series of challenges exist for the state's rural health care system — 46 percent of Medicare beneficiaries are located in rural areas of the state, and there's an increased demand for care, a primary care practitioner shortage, an aging workforce and worsening health status. **The closure of six rural hospitals since 2014 further strains the system.**

Six Missouri counties lack a primary care physician, and **71 lack obstetrics coverage.**

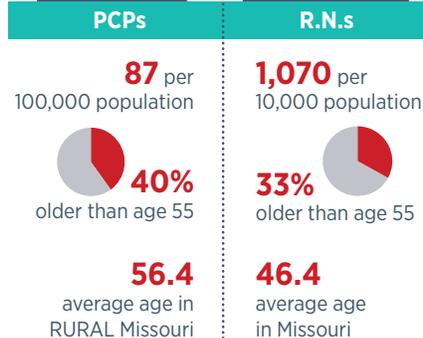
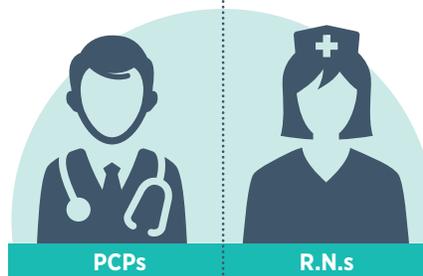


A Snapshot of Missouri's Licensed Primary Care Physicians

	2011		2014	
	Rural	Metro	Rural	Metro
Number of ALL licensed physicians	1,646	12,379	1,402	13,446
Number of licensed primary care physicians in Missouri (PCP)	859	4,639	789	5,201
Percent of physicians who are primary care (PCP)	52%	37%	56%	38%
Average age of ALL physicians	53	51	56.4	54.5
Percent of ALL physicians age 50 and older	62%	53%	68%	61%

PHYSICIANS

- ▶ Missouri has 267 active physicians per 100,000 population, which ranks 24 of the 50 states – the state median is 257.6.
- ▶ There are 87 active primary care physicians per 100,000 population, which ranks 28 of the 50 states – the state median is 90.8. **PCPs are essential to provide care in rural Missouri.**
- ▶ Among practicing physicians in Missouri, 40 percent are older than 55. **Physicians in rural Missouri are older** than their urban counterparts by at least two years.



NURSES

- ▶ Missouri has 1,069.7 registered nurses per 10,000 population, which ranks 26 of the 50 states.
- ▶ The average age of registered nurses in Missouri is 46.4, and 33 percent of working registered nurses are over age 55.
- ▶ **The nation is facing a shortage of nursing faculty to teach the next generation of nurses.** The average ages of doctoral-prepared faculty is 57 years and master's-prepared faculty is 55.1 years.