



## Fact Sheet: Ontario's Doctor Shortage

### DID YOU KNOW?

At least 2.3 million Ontarians do not have regular access to primary care.

- The shortage is especially acute in northern and rural areas
- Communities in northern Ontario are actively recruiting more than 350 physicians, including more than 200 family doctors, according to the Northern Ontario School of Medicine University
- More than 2,500 physicians are needed in Ontario (according to HealthForceOntario)
- Half of the physicians in northern Ontario are expected to retire in the next five years
- 40% of physicians are considering retiring in Ontario

Ontario's doctor shortage has existed for decades, although the population grows in size and age each year.

- Ontario has 2.8 physicians for every 1,000 people
- Compared to other countries, Canada ranks 23rd out of 32 OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development) countries in doctor-to-population ratio
- The proportion of Ontario seniors is projected to increase to 22.2 per cent or 20 million people by 2046.

### Ontario's doctor shortage and growing population adds stress on health care

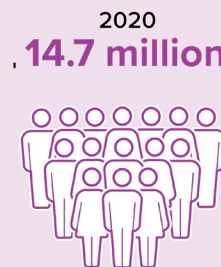


More than  
**2.3 million**  
**Ontarians**  
do not have a  
family doctor

#### For northern Ontario, it's worse

- Recruiting 350+ physicians
- 200+ family doctors needed

#### Ontario's population is growing and aging



Growth in proportion of  
population 65 and over

2020 **17.6%**

2046 **22.2%**

Source: Ontario Ministry of Health, Health Care Experience Survey, 2019; Ontario Physician Human Resources Data Centre; Ontario Ministry of Finance Population Projections, Reference Scenario