



# NEWS RELEASE

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**For more information:**  
Blair Horner [bhorner@nypirg.org](mailto:bhorner@nypirg.org)

## **NEW YORK ADDS DOCTORS AT A PACE OUTSTRIPPING OVERALL NEW YORK POPULATION GROWTH**

### **NEW YORK STATE CONTINUES TO HAVE ROBUST SUPPLY OF PHYSICIANS**

According to a review of the latest national data, New York State continues to have a robust number of doctors. The New York Public Interest Research Group's review found that the state ranks among the nation's highest in terms of total physicians, active primary care physicians, surgeons per capita and above average in the percentage of doctors under the age of 40.

NYPIRG's analysis is based on a November 2017 report of the American Association of Medical Colleges and census and state government data. NYPIRG's analysis concludes that while New York ranks among the top states in physician supply, there is no doubt that certain communities within the state have more difficult access to physician care than others.

NYPIRG's analysis can be found on its website, [www.nypirg.org](http://www.nypirg.org).

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# NYPIRG

February, 2017

## Policy Close Up #2

### Doctor Supply in New York State

**Summary:** The latest data show that New York State continues to have a robust number of doctors. The state ranks among the highest in terms of total physicians, active primary care physicians, surgeons per capita and above average in the percentage of doctors under the age of 40.

**Background:** Despite some recent comments that New York's supply of doctors is shrinking, new national data show that the state continues to be one rich in its physician supply. According to a November 2017 report of the American Association of Medical Colleges, New York ranks among the top states in physician supply:

Category	Physicians Per 100,000, 2016 <sup>1</sup>	National Rank, 2016	National Average, 2016
Total physicians per 100,000 people	365.1	3	271.6
Active patient care physicians per 100,000	299.8	4	236.8
Active primary care physicians per 100,000	111.2	7	91.7
Active patient care primary care physicians per 100,000	94.3	11	82.5
Active general surgeons per 100,000	10.2	7	7.8
Active patient care general surgeons per 100,000	7.6	15	6.7
Active physicians by age, under 40	17.8%		17%
Active physicians by age, over 60	33.4%		30.9%

As seen above, New York is ranked third in the total overall number of physicians per capita practicing in the state. Where major categories of specialty physicians are concerned, the state ranks well above the national averages. The data also suggests that New York remains an attractive place for younger physicians under 40 to practice, ranking above the national average.

Moreover, the growth in the total number of physicians practicing in the state is expanding at a rate more than four times as great as is New York's general population, roughly twice the difference nationally:

	Total physician population <sup>2</sup>	Total general population <sup>3</sup>
New York, 2016	72,095	19.8 million
New York, 2008	67,545	19.5 million <sup>4</sup>
New York growth 2008-16	~6.7%	~1.8%
U.S., 2016	877,616	323 million
U.S., 2008	773,809	301 million <sup>5</sup>
U.S. growth 2008-16 <sup>6</sup>	~13.4%	~7.4%

As seen above, rate of the growth in the number of physicians practicing in the state exceeds rate of the growth in New York's population. New York State has more physicians practicing now than at any other time.

New York Public Interest  
Research Group Fund

9 Murray Street, Lower  
Level, New York, NY 10007

Moreover, according to New York licensing data the state continues to add to its number of practicing physicians.

**Licenses Issued, Past Six Calendar Years<sup>7</sup>**

	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Number of physicians	4,272	5,223	4,644	4,575	4,589	4,776

There is no doubt, however, that certain communities within the state have more difficult access to physician care than others.<sup>8</sup> Yet, in the aggregate, New York’s physician supply continues to grow at a rate that far exceeds the growth of the state’s population.

In terms of statewide aggregate numbers, no shortage of physicians exists in New York.

<sup>1</sup>Data from AAMC “2017 State Physician Workforce Data Book,” see: <https://members.aamc.org/eweb/upload/2017%20State%20Physician%20Workforce%20Data%20Report.pdf>. Released November, 2017.

<sup>2</sup> Data from AAMC “2017 State Physician Workforce Data Book,” see: <https://www.aamc.org/data/workforce/reports/484392/2017-state-physician-workforce-data-report.html>. Released November, 2017 and AAMC “2009 State Physician Workforce Data Book,” see: <https://www.aamc.org/download/47340/data/statedata2009.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Census, 2016 estimates, see: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/data/data-sets.html>. Total New York State population estimate for July 1, 2016 was 19,836,286, for the United States 323,405,935.

<sup>4</sup> New York State population, New York State Department of Health, “Table 2: Population, Land Area, and Population Density by County, New York State – 2008 see: [https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/vital\\_statistics/2008/table02.htm](https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/vital_statistics/2008/table02.htm). According to the Health Department, the 2008 New York State population was 19,490,297.

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Census, “American Fact Finder, TOTAL POPULATION Universe: Total population, 2006-2008 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates,” [https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS\\_08\\_3YR\\_B01003&prodType=table](https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_08_3YR_B01003&prodType=table).

Total U.S. population was 301,237,703.

<sup>6</sup> Calculation, NYPIRG

<sup>7</sup> New York State Education Department, see: <http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/med/medcounts.htm>.

<sup>8</sup> New York State Department of Education, “Regents: Designated Physician Shortage Areas in New York State,” see: <http://www.highered.nysed.gov/kiap/scholarships/documents/2015PLFShortageBulletin.pdf>.