

PEDIATRIC WORKFORCE SHORTAGES PERSIST IN 2024

The Children's Hospital Association (CHA) assessed the current pediatric workforce vacancies and appointment wait times at children's hospitals across the country in the fall of 2023. The results show **continued shortages across pediatric care fields with an outsized impact on mental and behavioral health specialties.**

Pediatric Physician Vacancies Continue

Children's hospitals reported pediatric physician vacancies in a number of critical specialties. **Shortages in the top six areas along with the percentage of hospitals experiencing vacancies, are listed below.**



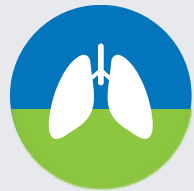
Pediatric Neurology
54%



Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics
45%



Genetics
45%



Pediatric Pulmonology
45%



Adolescent Medicine
41%



Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
41%

3 OUT OF 4

shortages reported as most severe are in neurological, behavioral, and mental health specialties.

1. Pediatric Neurology

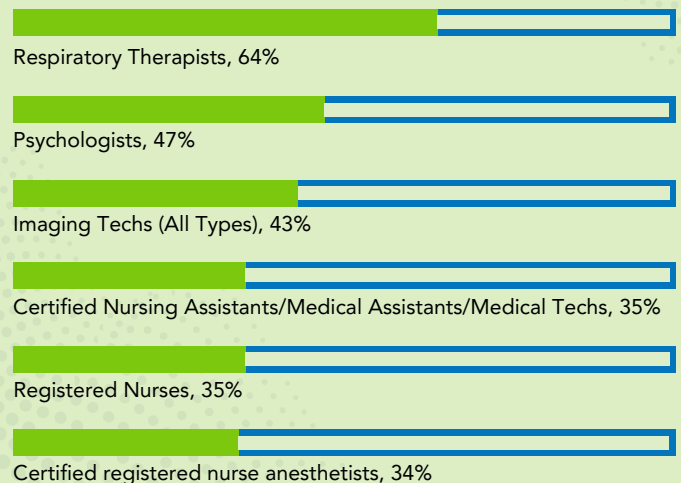
2. Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics

3. Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

4. Genetics

6

Pediatric non-physician workforce professional areas are facing major or severe shortage according to a third or more of children's hospitals.



Pediatric physician shortages and longer wait times are linked

Nine clinical areas had wait times over 10 weeks. Notably, the top three specialty areas experiencing longer wait times are also the three areas with the highest vacancies.

20.6 WEEKS

Genetics

20.5 WEEKS

Developmental-Behavioral
Pediatrics

14.3 WEEKS

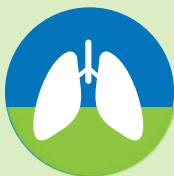
Pediatric Neurology

Workforce shortages can impact access to care

There were three non-physician pediatric professional areas where shortage levels were identified as having a **major or severe impact** on care capacity over 30% of the time.



Psychologists
38%



Respiratory
Therapists
38%



Imaging Techs
(All Types)
33%

ACT NOW: Bolster federal support for the pediatric workforce



Support the Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) program to boost the number of pediatricians and pediatric specialists.



Invest in hospital-based pediatric nurse and other clinician training and retraining.



Expand the eligibility for existing loan repayment and scholarship programs to the pediatric non-physician workforce.



Increase support for the pediatric workforce through Medicaid.

Methodology: Information from 56 children's hospitals obtained by Children's Hospital Association, September-October 2023.

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