

# Doctor Shortage

**Transcript**

We have always had shortages of doctors in rural areas. Now we have reports that the shortage is nation-wide, and projected to get much worse. The Association of American Medical Colleges tells us we may face a shortage of up to 86,000 physicians by 2036.

This medical college association says it's not their fault. 30 new medical schools have opened since 2002, and enrollment is up 35%.

The hangup is residency positions for Graduate Medical Education. These are funded mostly by the federal government through Medicare. Congress decided to limit that funding in the mid-1990's, and the American Medical Association tells us we are already short by 19,000 physicians.

The AMA has asked Congress for more support, such as the Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act of 2025. This was introduced in June, but it has not yet moved forward.

So what do medical school graduates do while waiting for a residency position? They are encouraged to build up their resumes.

We have other issues as well. Our population is aging, and older people need more health care. At the same time, many doctors are feeling burned out. Some of them stop practicing medicine altogether; others move to concierge practices where they see fewer patients.

So I hope to see more resident doctors in the pipeline soon, and meanwhile, I'm putting more effort into healthy lifestyle!