Combatting the physician shortage: 71% of locum physician jobs in underserved areas

Nearly three-quarters (71%) of locum tenens assignment worksites are located in health professional shortage areas (HPSAs), according to a new study by CHG Healthcare.
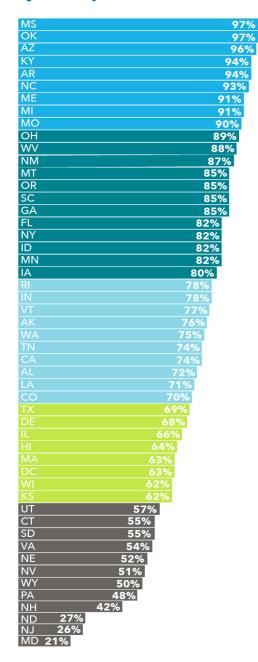
What are health professional shortage areas?

HPSAs can be geographic areas, populations, or facilities with a shortage of healthcare professionals. In the U.S., there are nearly 7,500 HPSA designations, resulting in around 75 million people who have inadequate access to the medical care they need.

Locum tenens physicians and the healthcare gap

A study from three of the top locum tenens staffing agencies (CompHealth, Global Medical Staffing, and Weatherby Healthcare) from July 2022 to June 2024 found that nearly three-quarters (71%) of locum tenens assignment worksites were located in HPSA zip codes. Almost 20% of U.S. states/territories have at least 90% of their locum jobs in HPSAs.

Percent of locum tenens worksites in HPSA zip codes by state

State	Percent
MS	97%
OK	97%
AZ	96%
KY	94%
AR	94%
NC	93%
ME	91%
MI	91%
MO	90%
OH	89%
WV	88%
NM	87%
MT	85%
OR	85%
SC	85%
GA	85%
FL	82%
NY	82%
ID	82%
MN	82%
IA	80%
RI	78%
IN	78%
VT	77%
AK	76%
WA	75%
TN	74%
CA	74%
AL	72%
LA	71%
CO	70%
TX	69%
DE	68%
IL	66%
HI	64%
MA	63%
DC	63%
WI	62%
KS	62%
UT	57%
CT	55%
SD	55%
VA	54%
NE	52%
NV	51%
WY	50%
PA	48%
NH	42%
ND	27%
NJ	26%
MD	21%

CHG Healthcare

Providing more than just medical care

In locations where healthcare is hard to access, locum tenens physicians provide more than just care for emergent needs. They provide:

- Uninterrupted care for chronic conditions
- Access to specialty services
- Trust and hope
- New ideas and best practices

Locum tenens fills a crucial need in shortage areas while also providing locum doctors with rich experiences that expand their experience and impact.

Methodology

The state ranking of locum tenens worksites by **HPSA zip code** is based on a July 2024 data pull of locum tenens physician assignments completed in U.S. states and territories between July 2022 and June 2024 for three CHG Healthcare companies: CompHealth, Global Medical Staffing, and Weatherby Healthcare.

CHG Healthcare provides physician-centered clinical workforce solutions for healthcare organizations. To learn more about our staffing solutions, call **866.588.5996** *or email* **ecs.contact@chghealthcare.com**