

Increasing Investment in Primary Care in Michigan: Key Messages

Primary care--the first point of contact for a patient's health needs-- is facing a crisis in Michigan. Finding a good doctor's office or clinic can be difficult. Patients face limited appointments and long wait times. This lack of access means missed opportunities for preventive care and management of chronic conditions, leading to potentially bigger and more expensive health problems down the road. Strong primary care is key to healthier communities, lower costs, and a stronger workforce. Many other states are rebalancing their health care spending by increasing investment in primary care. It is time to take action in Michigan.

What Is the Problem?

- Primary care serves as the first point of contact for a patient's health needs and a critical source of ongoing routine care, but too few Michigan residents have regular access to primary care
- One in four (1 in 4) Michiganders lacks a usual source of care[1] and one in five (1 in 5) hospitalizations are ambulatory care sensitive [2] and could be prevented through primary care
- This lack of access means missed opportunities for preventive care and chronic disease management, leading to potentially bigger and more expensive health problems down the road [3]

Why is Action Needed Now?

- Strong primary care is key to healthier communities, lower costs, and a stronger workforce
- Primary care provides 35% of all healthcare visits but receives only 5–6% of Michigan health spending[1]
- This financial neglect is contributing to clinician burnout and too few trainees choosing primary care as a specialty. Michigan is projected to be short 862 primary care physicians by 2030 [2]
- Other developed countries spend an average of 14% of healthcare expenditures on primary and achieve better outcomes at lower overall cost [3]
- Robust, well-functioning primary care that is available in a timely and continuous way to patients requires 12–15% of total medical spending on primary care

What Are Other States Doing?

- Leading states have used legislation and executive action as ways to require payers to increase investment in primary care, buoyed by the national call to action to double investment in primary care
- Over twenty (20) states [1] have acted to measure or increase primary care spending
- Michigan is lagging behind. Without urgent action to increase investment in primary care, our state's population health and health system will be harmed irreparably

What Can Michigan Legislators Do?

- Pass a legislative primary care spending target in Michigan of 12% of total medical expenditures, implemented incrementally over four years

[1] mafp.com/pcp-shortage-worsening

[2] [AMBULATORY CARE SENSITIVE HOSPITALIZATIONS, MICHIGAN](#)

[3] [Primary Care Scorecard | The Robert Graham Center](#)

[4] [2026 Primary Care Scorecard Data Dashboard | Milbank Memorial Fund](#)

[5] [The state reaching its physician shortage breaking point - Becker's Physician Leadership](#)

[6] [Implementing High-Quality Primary Care](#)

[7] [State Initiatives - PCC](#)