Doctors Manitoba

Physicians in Manitoba (2026)

October 2026



Physicians in Manitoba • At-A-Glance

RECRUITMENT IMPROVES

Number of Physicians in Manitoba

3,694
2025/26
Source: CPSM

▲ 196 over last year
Record Net Gain

Physicians Per 100,000 Residents

235/100K
2025
Source: CIHI

▲ 4.5% over last year
Significant Increase

Physician Shortage to Canadian Average

229 doctors short
2025
Source: CIHI

▼ 17 over last year
Significant Improvement

MAJOR GAPS REMAIN

Significant Specialist Shortage

217 specialists short
2025
Source: CIHI

95% of total shortage
Contributes to Long Waits

Rural and Northern Shortage

30% gap from peer regions
2025
Source: CIHI

Gaps from 11% to 42%
Every Region is Short

Physician Retirements and Relocations

658 projected in next 3 years
2026
Source: DRMB Annual Survey

18% of Physicians
Significant Risk to Supply

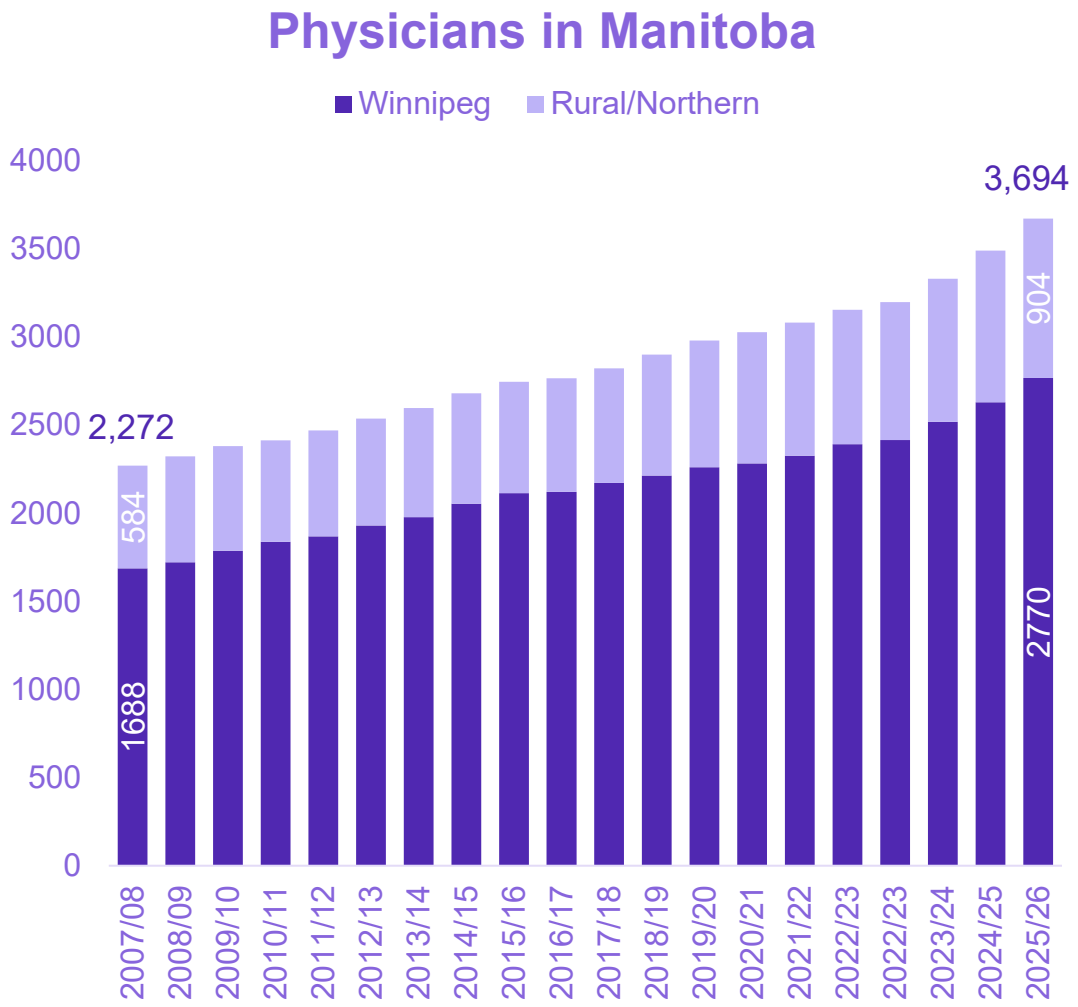
Physician Supply

Physicians in Manitoba

The number of physicians has **grown every year for over two decades**.

In 2026, there was a **net increase of 196 physicians**. **This is the largest increase on record**, higher than the last year's record of 164 in a single year.

The 2026 year reflects the CPSM reporting period of May 1, 2025 to April 30, 2026.



Source: CPSM Annual Reports

Physicians Per Capita

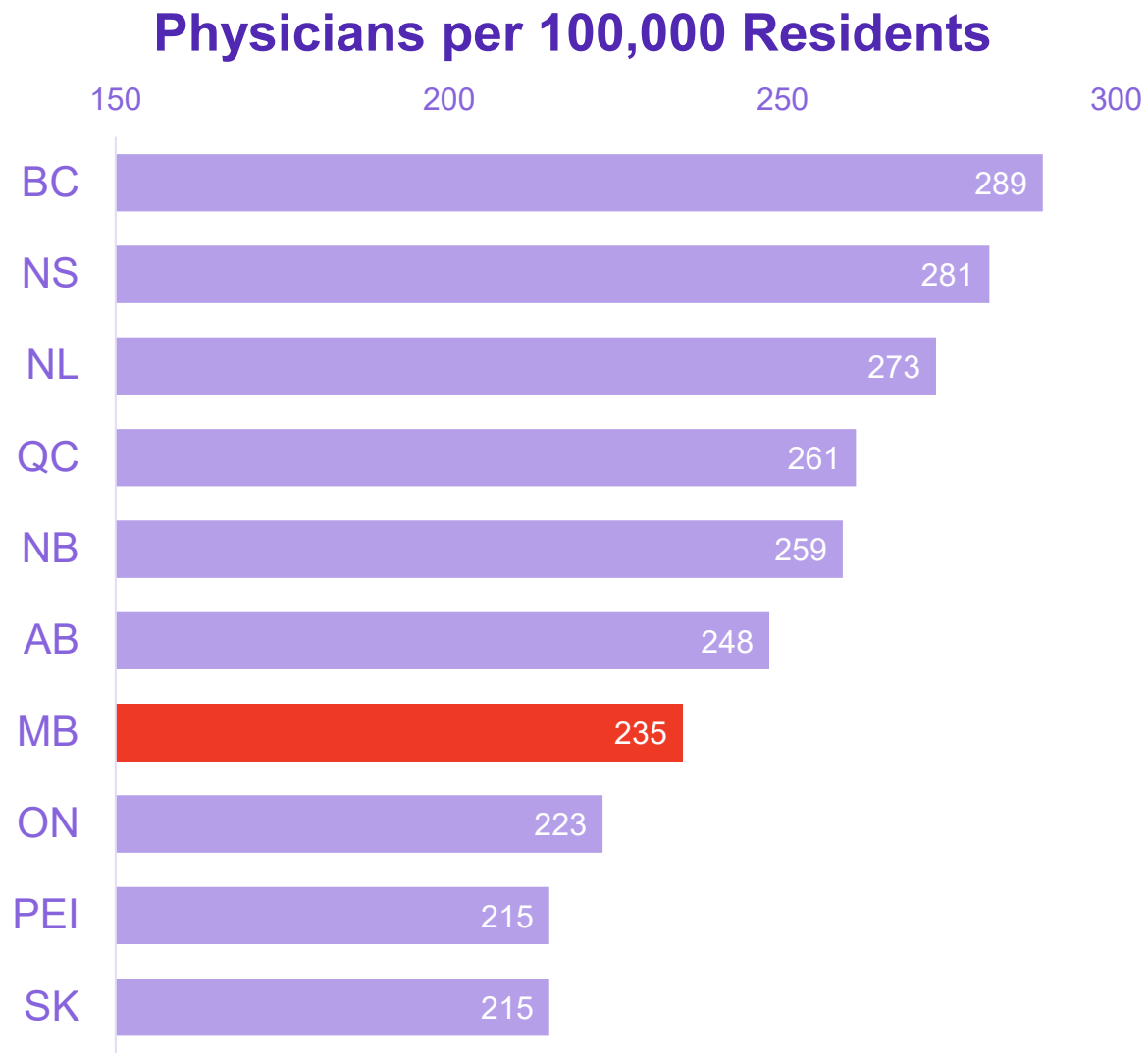
Updated to 2025 (CIHI)

Overall, Manitoba ranks 7th in Canada on physicians per capita.

Manitoba has 235 physicians per 100,000 residents, a 4.5% increase over the previous year.

In contrast, the national average is 246 physicians per 100,000 residents, which increased from 241 the previous year.

Manitoba needs 229 more physician to reach the Canadian average of physicians per 100,000 residents, and 805 more to reach best-in-Canada



Source: Canadian Institute for Health Information

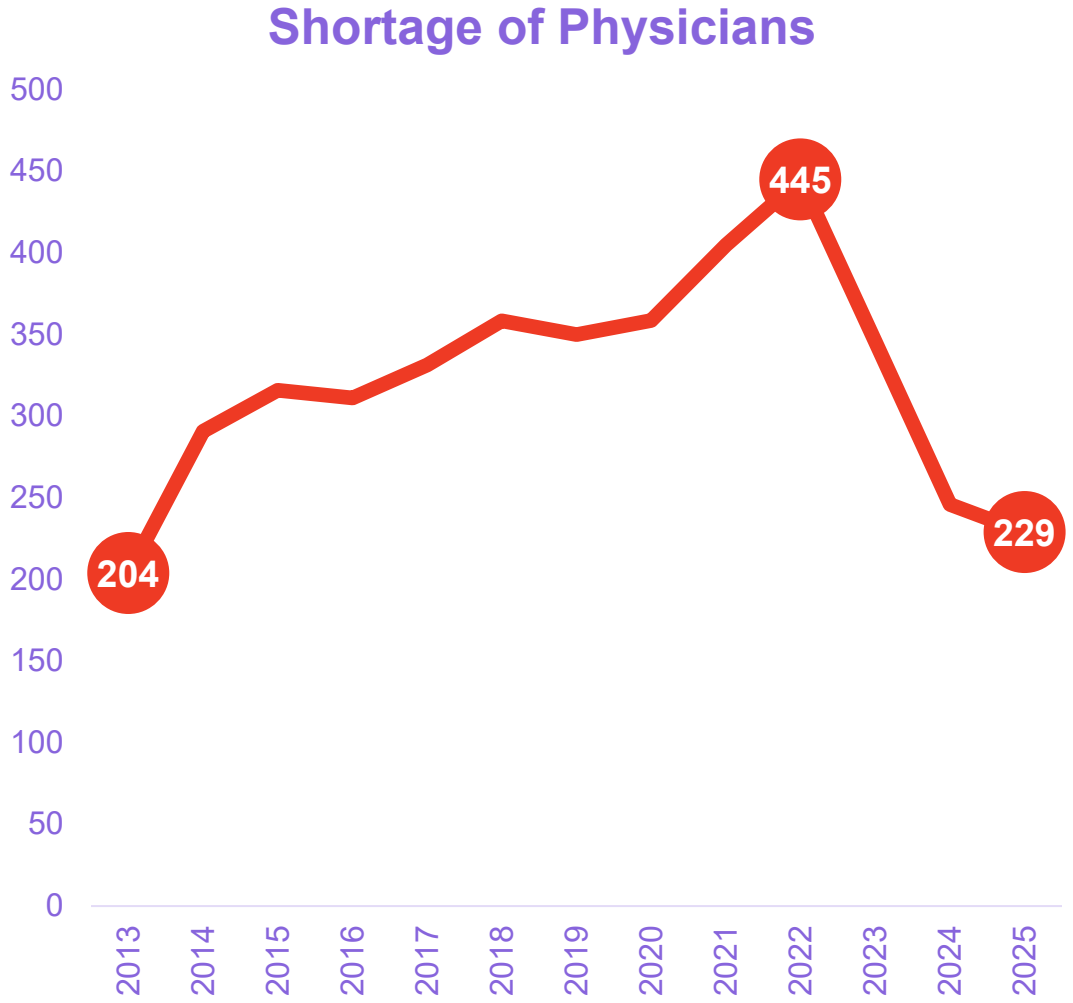
Physician Shortage

Manitoba is short 229 physicians compared to the national average of doctors per 100,000 residents.

While this shortage is still a major concern, **it is a sharp improvement from the peak shortage of 445 physicians just a few years ago year.**

It's important to note that currently the shortage is measured as the gap to meet the Canadian average for physicians per capita, but the Canadian average should not be seen as sufficient. Canada has among the lowest number of doctors per capita among high income countries, reflecting a significant shortage by international standards.

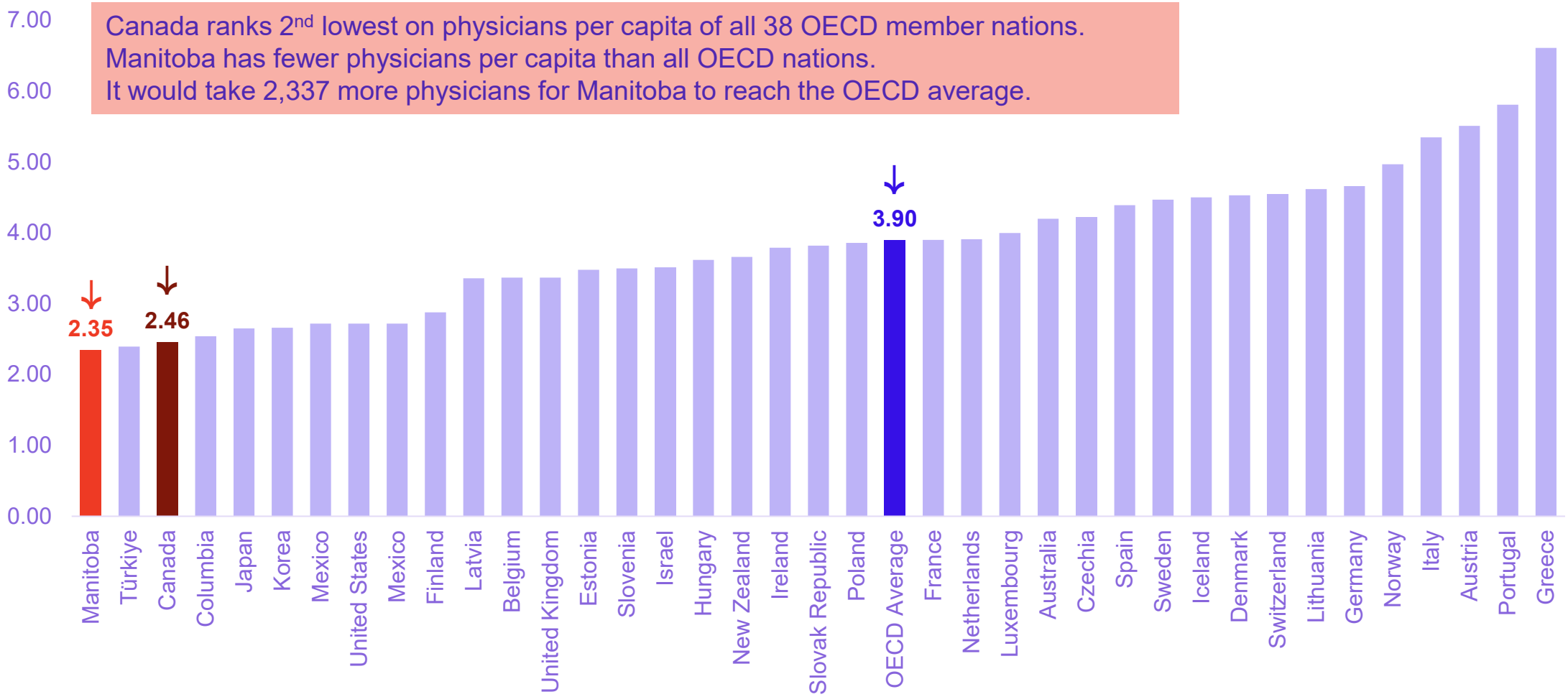
Note: The shortage is calculated by determining the number of physicians required to increase Manitoba's total count of practicing physicians up to the Canadian number of physicians per 100,000 residents. In 2025, this methodology was refined to focus on those specialties with lower-than-average counts per capita, determining the number needed in Manitoba to reach the national average on a specialty-by-specialty basis.



Source: Canadian Institute for Health Information

International Comparison: Physicians Per Capita

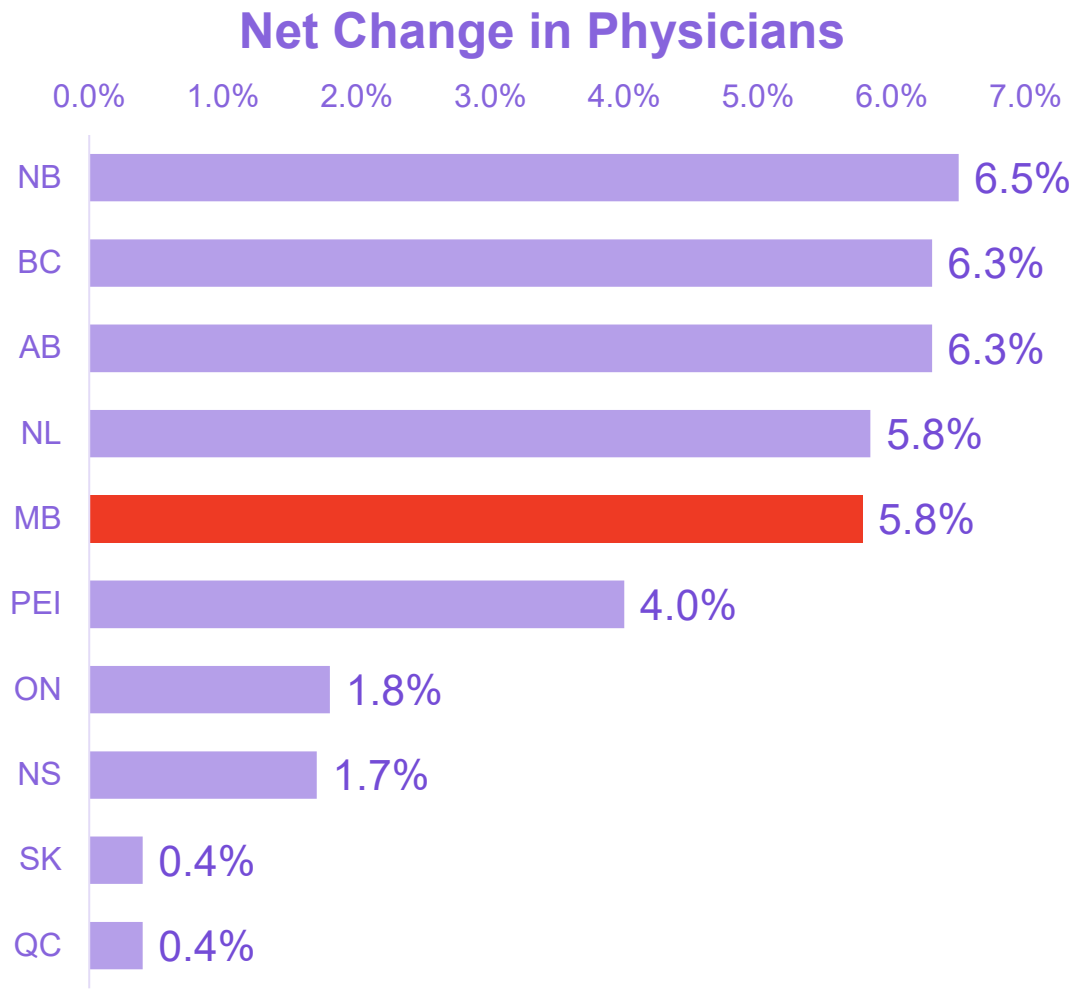
Canada ranks 2nd lowest on physicians per capita of all 38 OECD member nations.
Manitoba has fewer physicians per capita than all OECD nations.
It would take 2,337 more physicians for Manitoba to reach the OECD average.



Source: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), physicians per 1,000 citizens
Manitoba and Canada's figures updated with latest data from CIHI.

Physician Gains

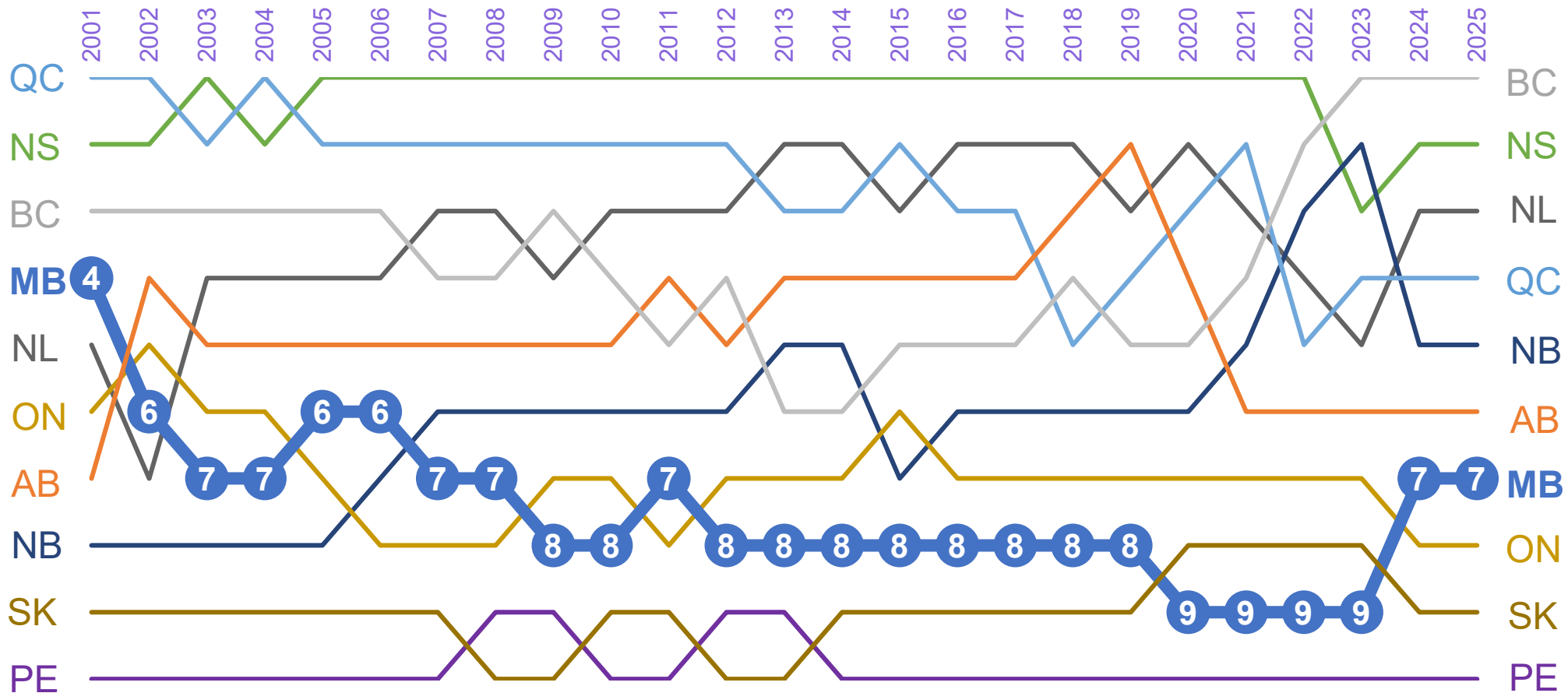
After achieving the largest physician supply growth rate among provinces in 2024, Manitoba's growth was middle of the pack last year.



Source: Canadian Institute for Health Information

Physicians Per Capita: Ranking by Province

Manitoba's rank on physicians per capita declined over the last two decades but improved over the last two years after record growth.

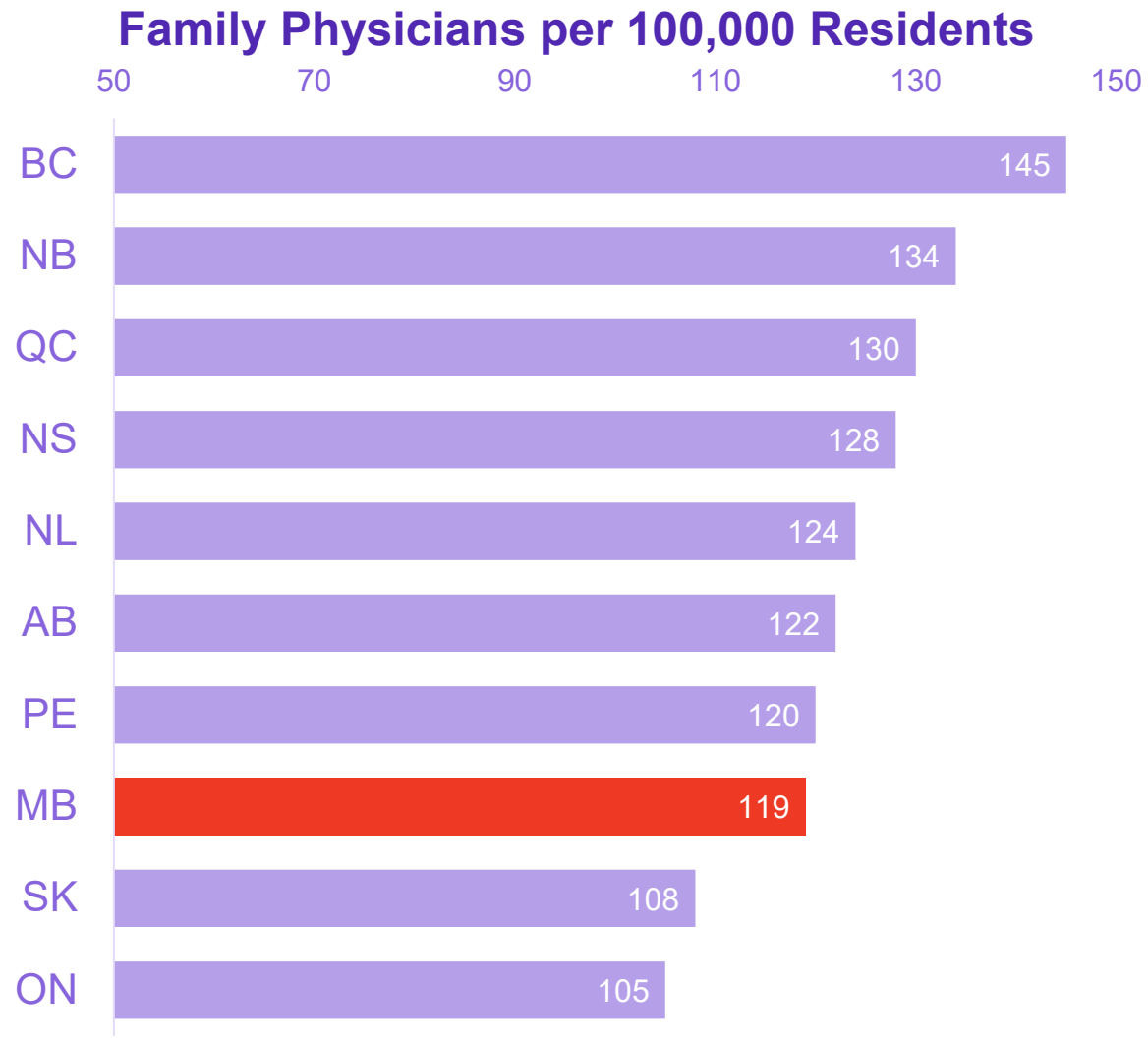


Source: Canadian Institute for Health Information

Family Physicians

Updated to 2025 (CIHI)

With 119 Family Physicians per 100,000 residents, Manitoba ranks 8th for number per capita in Canada.

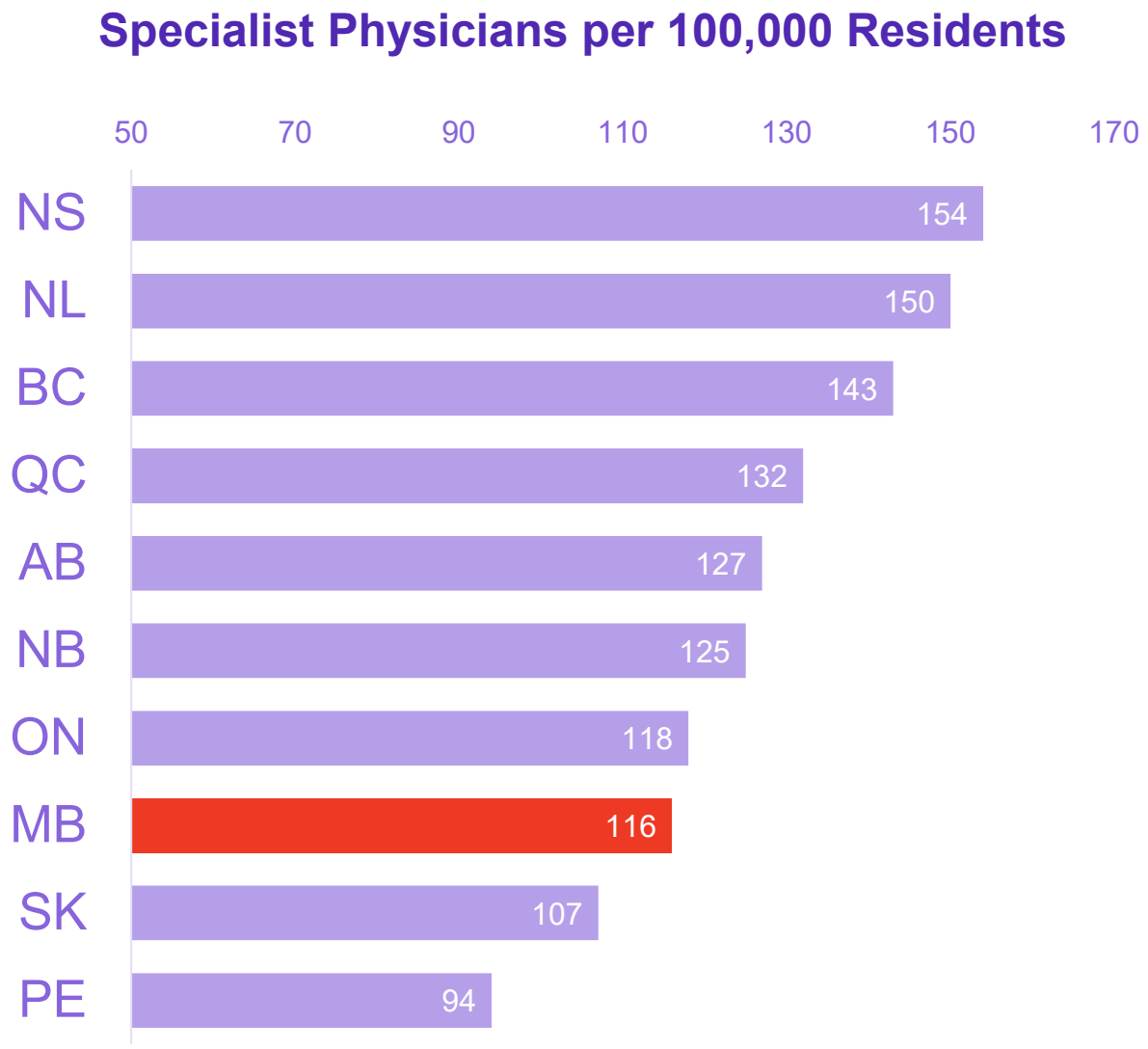


Source: Canadian Institute for Health Information

Specialists

Updated to 2025 (CIHI)

With 116 Specialists per 100,000 residents, Manitoba ranks 8th for number per capita in Canada.



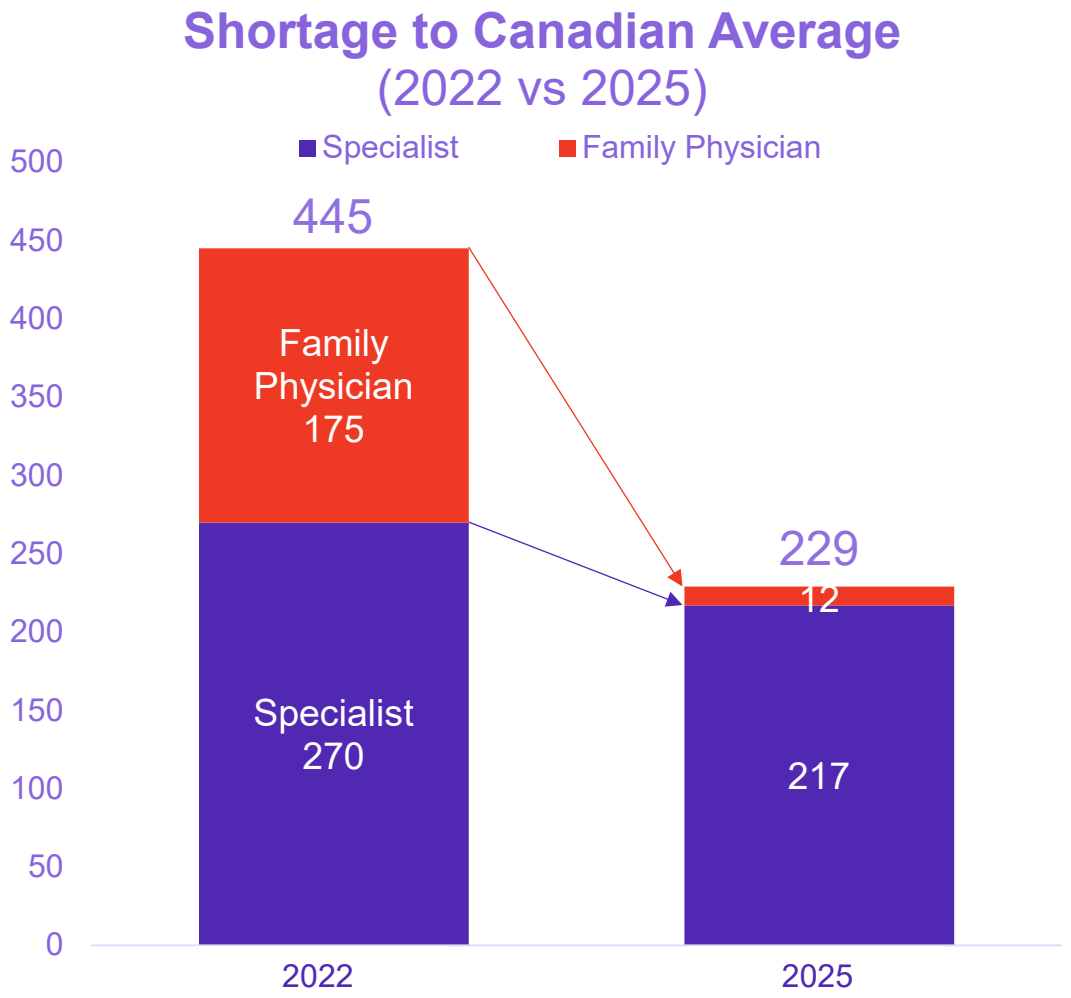
Source: Canadian Institute for Health Information

Specialist Shortage

The shortage of physicians to meet the Canadian average improved significantly for family physicians, but less so for other specialties.

Many specialties have significant gaps from the Canadian average, regularly impacting patient care. Examples include:

- Geriatric medicine: 62% short from average
- Vascular surgery: 49% short from average
- Nuclear medicine: 36% short from average
- Gastroenterology: 35% short from average
- Respirology: 30% short from average
- Cardiology: 29% short from average
- Urology: 29% short from average
- Ophthalmology: 27% short from average
- Emergency physicians: 25% short from average
- Dermatology: 24% short from average
- Otolaryngology (ENT): 20% short from average
- Radiology: 18% short from average
- Psychiatry: 16% short from average
- Oncology (radiation and medical): 16% short from average
- Neurology: 11% short from average



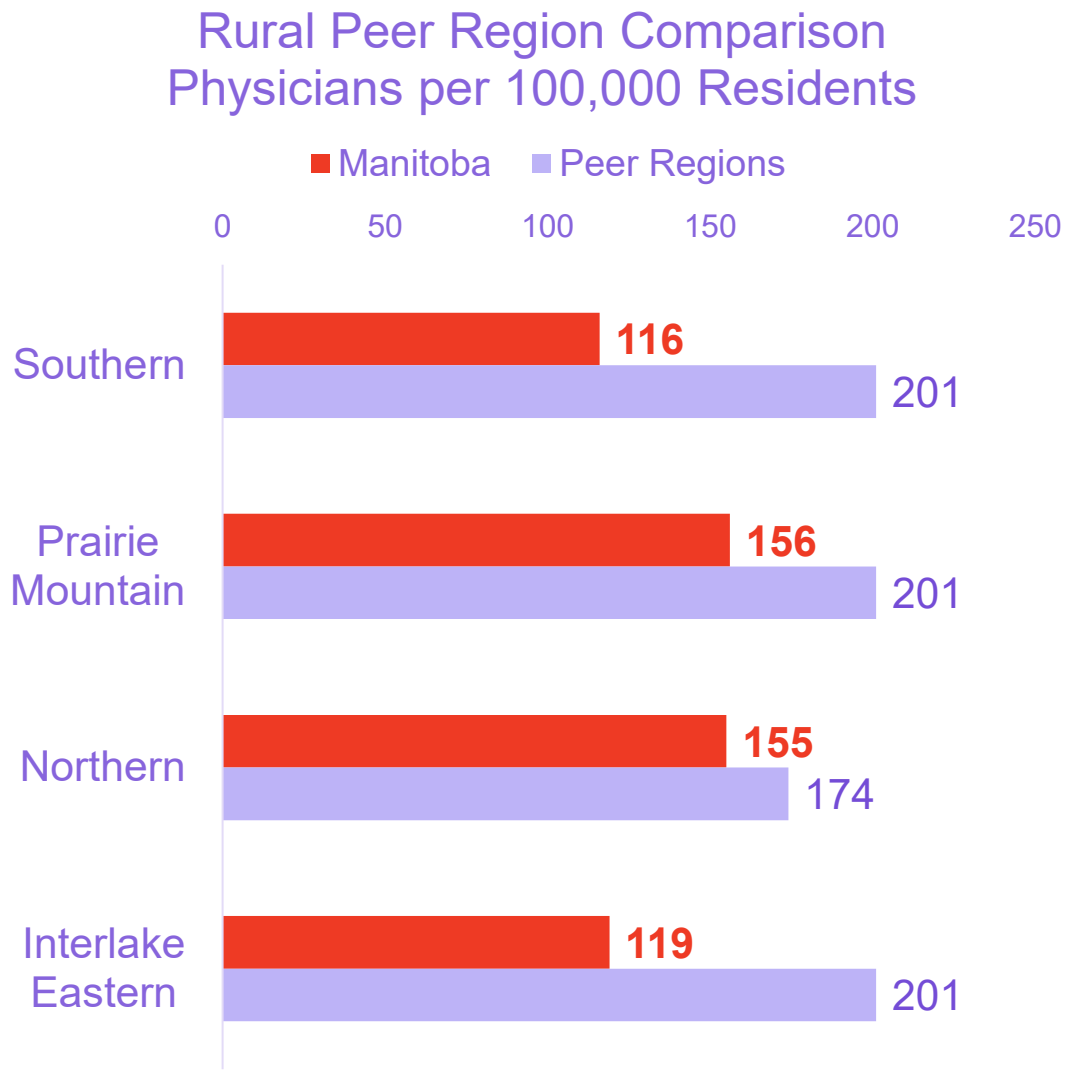
Source: Canadian Institute for Health Information

Rural & Northern Physician Supply

All four of Manitoba's rural and northern regions fall short of their peer regions across Canada when it comes to physicians per 100,000 residents. This results in physicians working beyond their normal capacity, gaps in physician coverage in rural hospitals, and temporary suspensions or reductions in hours in rural ERs.

- Southern Health Region is 42% short from the average of peer regions across Canada.
- Prairie Mountain Health Region is 22% short.
- Northern Health Region is 11% short.
- Interlake Eastern Health Region 41% short.

Overall, Manitoba's rural and northern regions are short about 30% from the average of comparable regions across Canada.



Source: Canadian Institute for Health Information

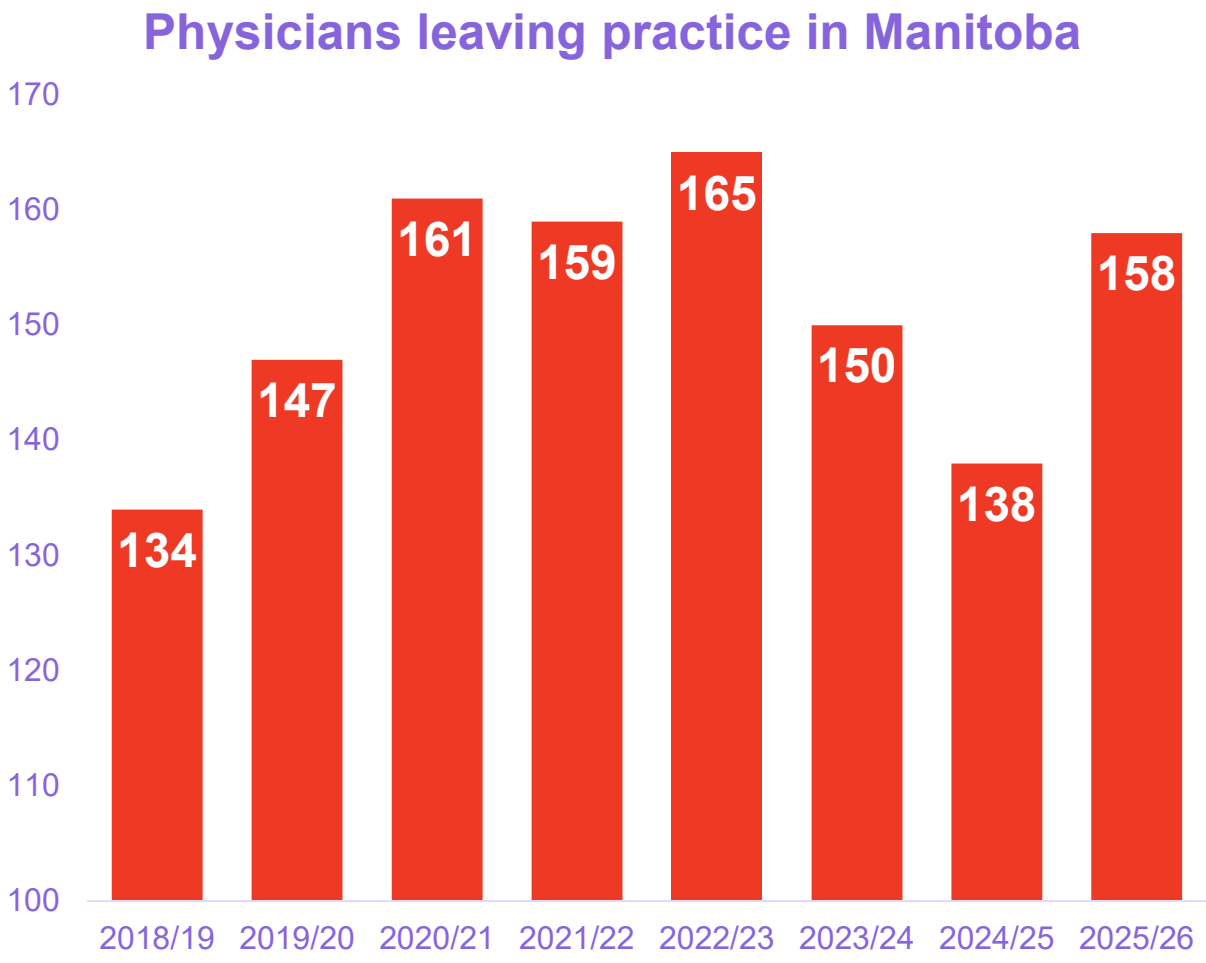
Looking Ahead

Retaining Physicians in Manitoba

Leaving Practice

According to CPSM, the number of physicians leaving practice increased last year, rivaling pandemic-era levels.

Physicians leave either for retirement or to relocate to other jurisdictions.



Source: CPSM Annual Reports

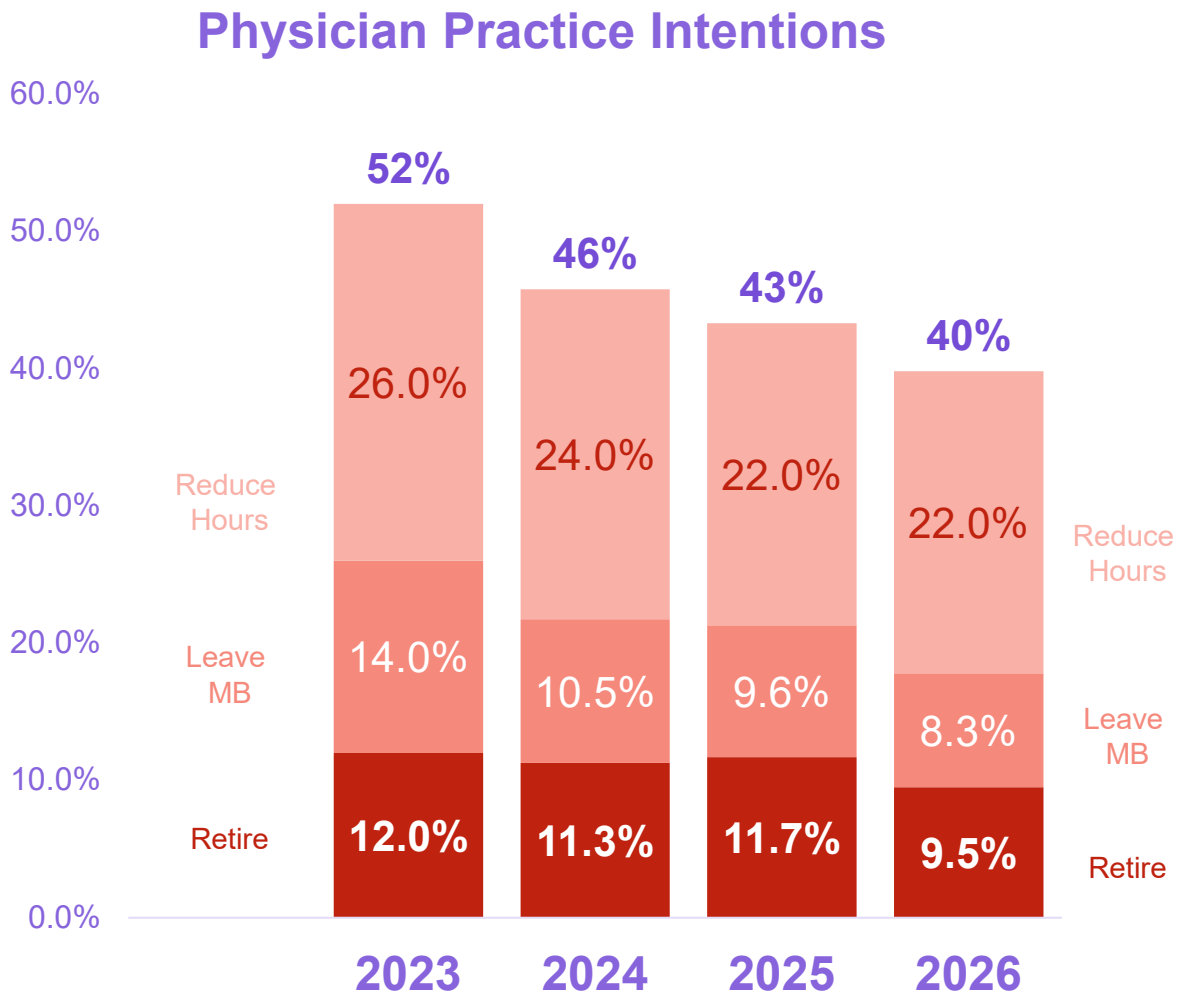
Practice Intentions
Next Three Years

In the next three years, 40% of physicians are planning to:

- Retire (10%),
- Leave Manitoba (8%), or
- Reduce their clinical hours (22%).

This has decreased every year from the peak in 2023.

Even with the improvement, however, **Manitoba is at risk of losing 658 physicians** to retirement or relocation over the next three years.



2022 n=1,294 2023 n=1,121 2024 n=1,145, 2025 n=1,172, 2026 n=1,223
Source: DRMB Member Survey

Where are physicians considering relocating?

8% of physicians are considering relocating to other jurisdictions, unchanged from last year.

The top jurisdictions considered include BC, Alberta and Ontario.

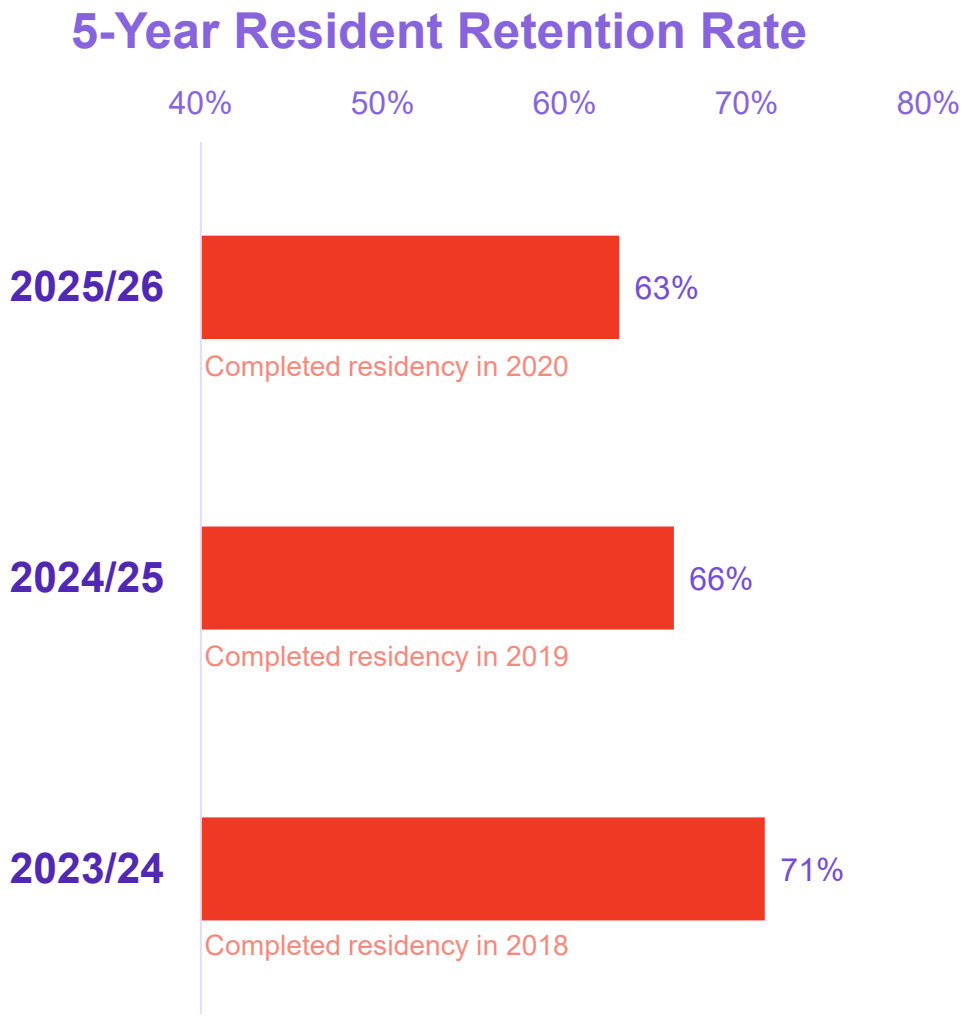


n=103
Source: DRMB Member Survey, 2026

Five-Year Resident Retention

Manitoba's five-year retention rate for residents has decreased from 71% to 63% over three years.

Manitoba's 63% retention rate in 2025/26 is the second lowest among all regions, and below the national average of 73%



CAPER Postgraduate Medical Education Census Tables

Medical Student & Resident Practice Plans

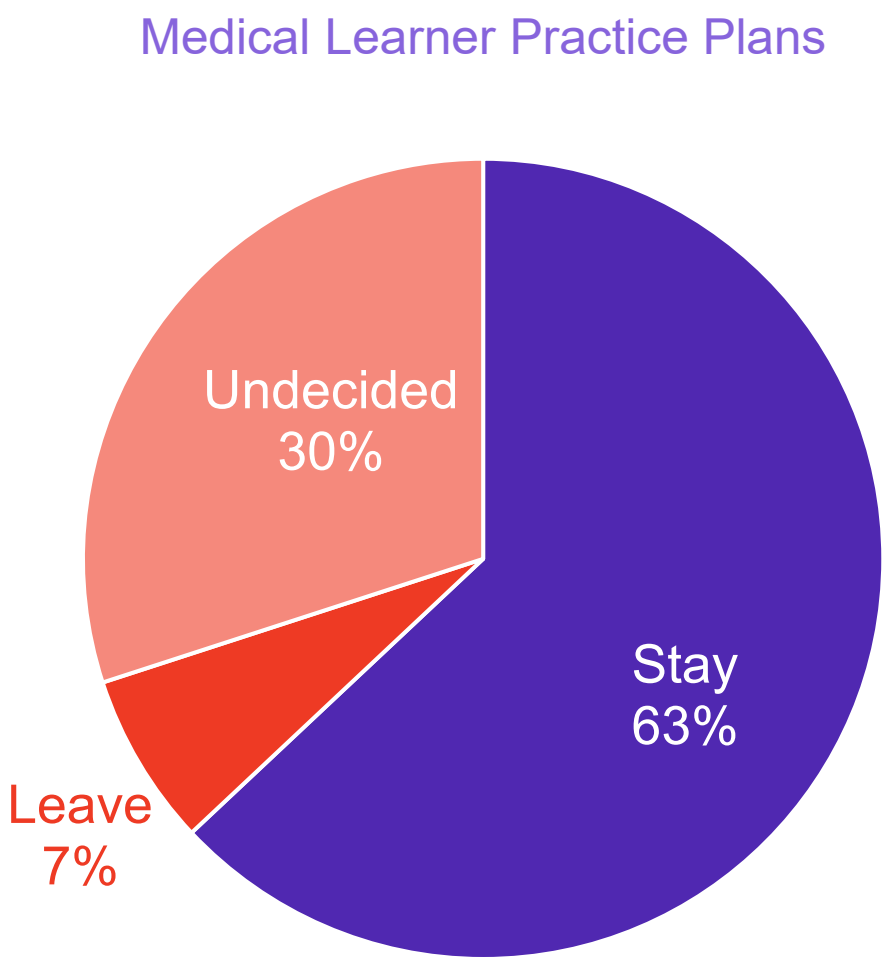
Medical students and residents were asked if they plan to stay and practice in Manitoba after completing their education and residency.

63% plan on staying, but 37% are planning or open to leaving Manitoba.

The top systemic reasons students and residents cite for considering other provinces include:

- Outdated facilities or technology
- Frustration with system issues
- Excessive administrative burden
- Better recruitment incentives/remuneration elsewhere
- Not a safe environment

For some students and residents, their plans to relocate to another province are personal, such as family or spouse.



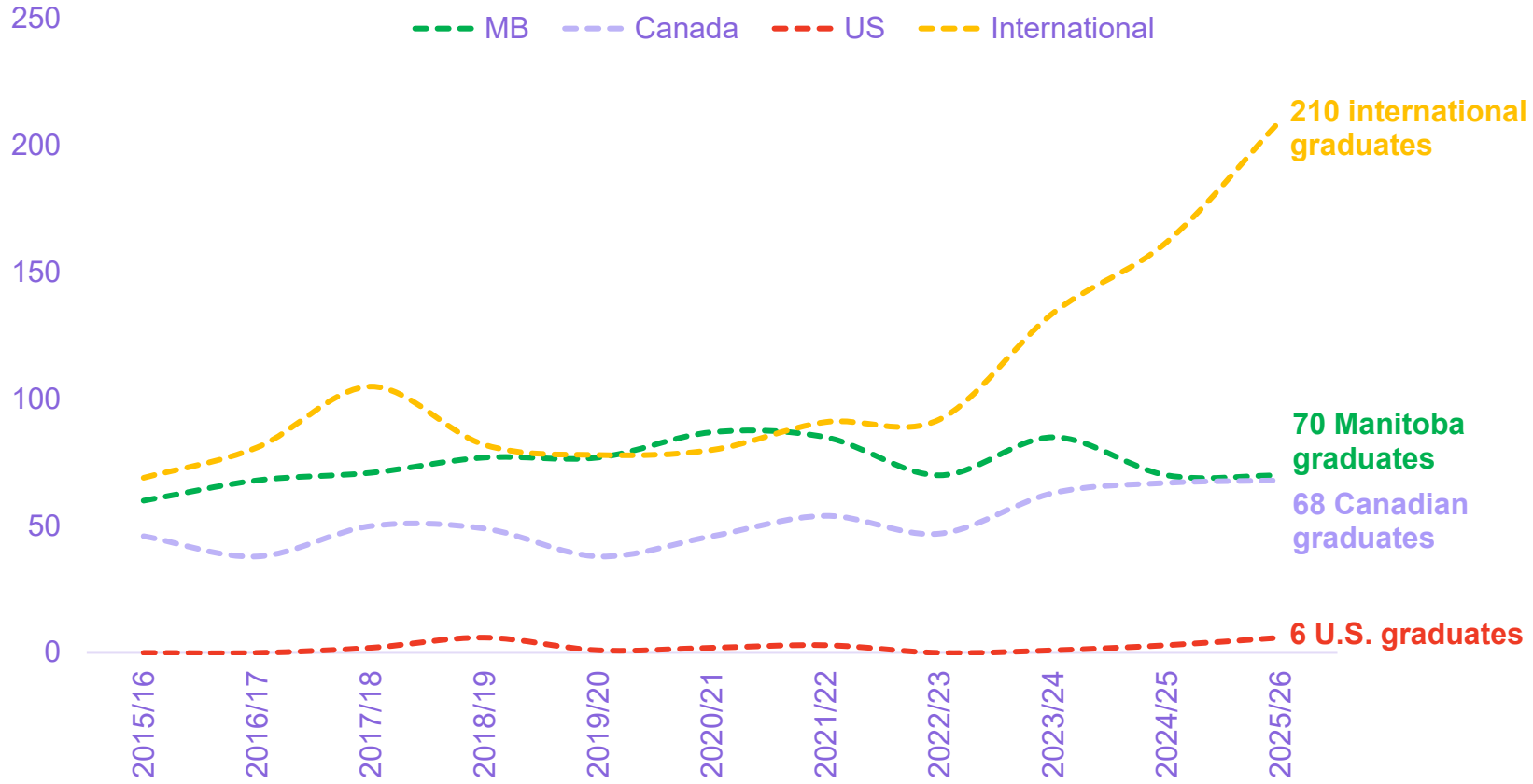
2026 n=271
Source: DRMB Member Survey

Where are new physicians coming from?

The record increase in physicians the last few years has been driven largely by increases in out-of-province graduates.

The number of Manitoba graduates starting practice in Manitoba was 70 last year, declining from a record high of 87 in 2021.

International graduates made up 59% of all new physician recruits last year.



Source: CPSM Annual Reports

What's Behind These Trends?

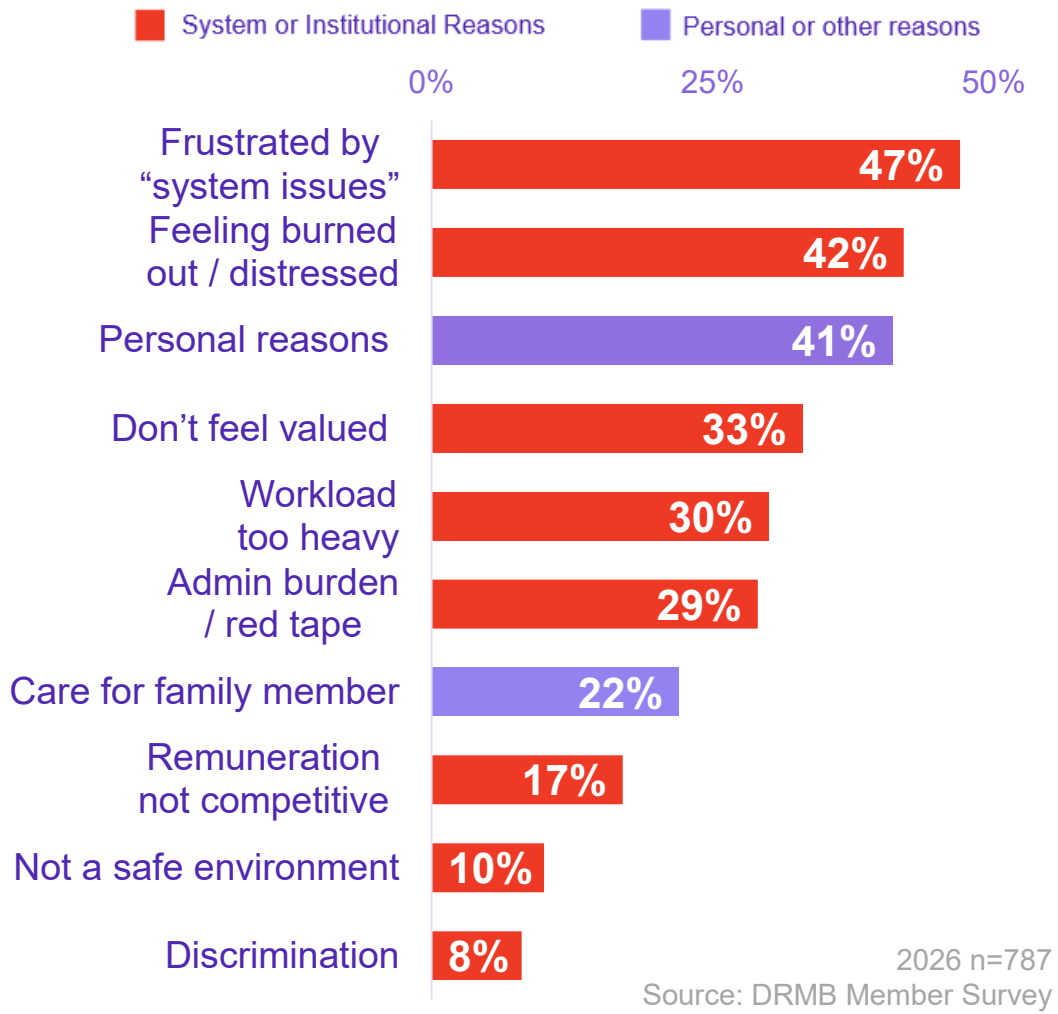
What is driving plans to leave or reduce practice?

Many of the top reasons physicians are considering leaving practice in Manitoba are not personal, but rather systemic or institutional causes. These are often preventable.

75% of physicians cited systemic or institutional issues as their reason for leaving or reducing their practice.

The top issues include frustration with health system issues, burn out, feeling undervalued, and excessive administrative burden.

Top Reasons for Leaving/Reducing Practice



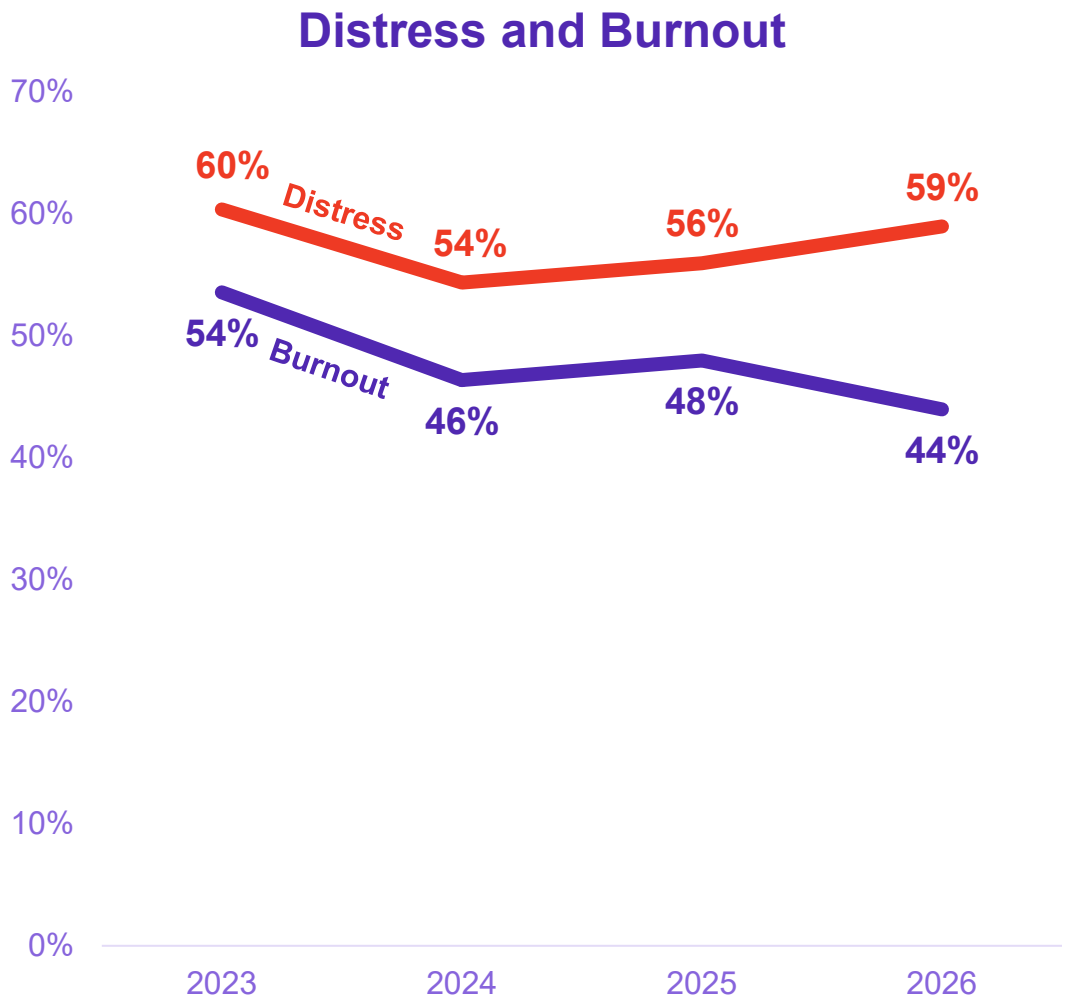
2026 n=787
Source: DRMB Member Survey

Physician Burnout & Moral Distress

59% of physicians are experiencing distress and 44% are experiencing burnout. While there was improvement in burnout after the peak of the pandemic, moral distress has increased.

Burnout is an occupational syndrome caused by prolonged workplace stress. It is a leading cause of physicians reducing or leaving practice in Manitoba.

Physicians experiencing distress or burnout are 3 times more likely to have plans to move their practice out of Manitoba than those planning to continue their practice here.



High level of burnout was measured using the Maslach Burnout Inventory (MBI) two-item scale.

Moral distress was measured using a single item question, aligned with the Canadian Medical Association's Physician Health Survey.

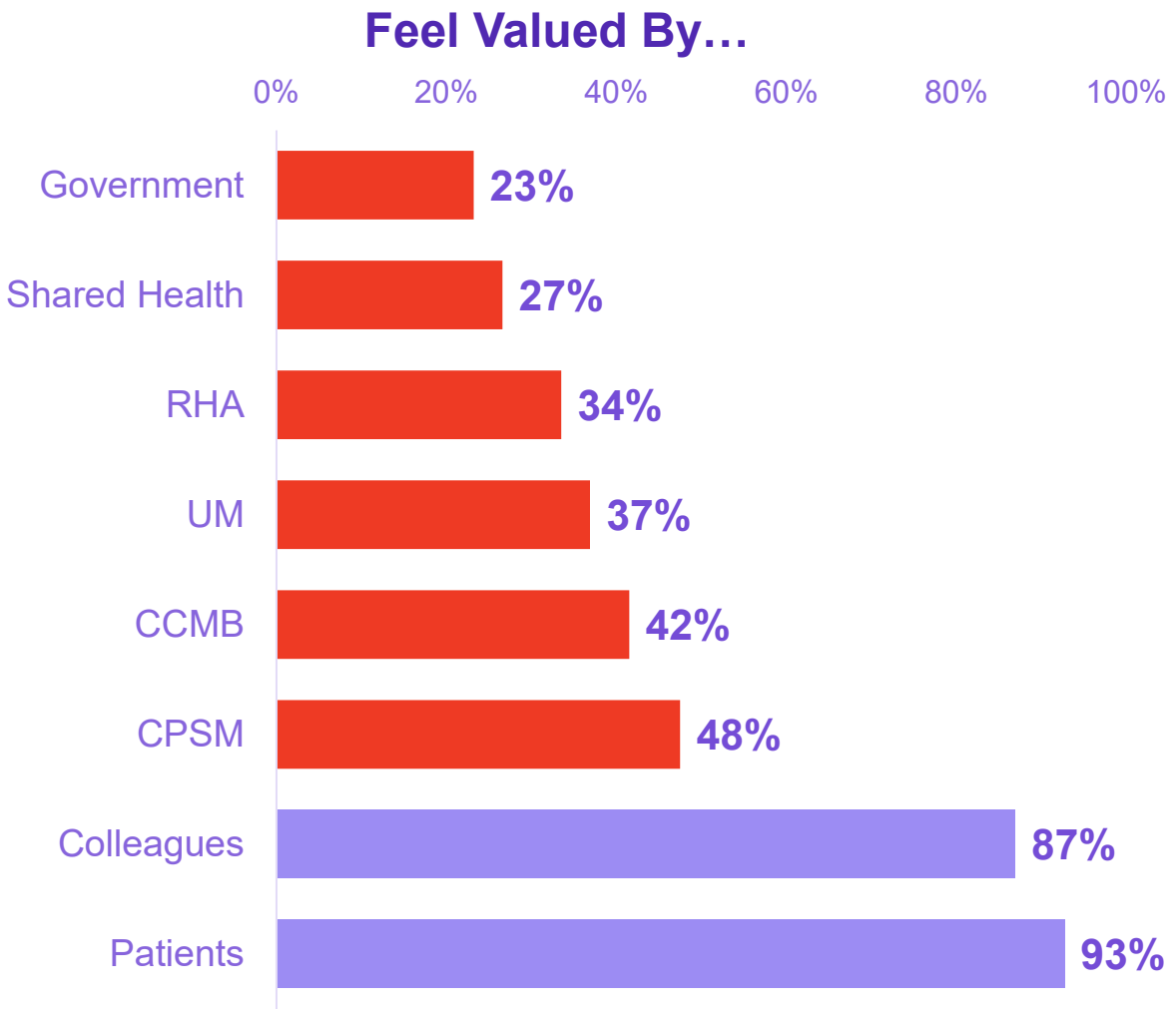
n=1,544
Source: DRMB Member Survey, 2026

Feeling Valued by Health System

Most physicians do not feel valued by “the system”, including Shared Health, their RHA, or the provincial government.

Physicians who don’t feel valued by government, Shared Health or their RHA are 4 times more likely to have plans to move their practice out of Manitoba than those continuing their practice here.

The most significant improvement was physicians working with CancerCare, which increased from 37% to 42% in one year.



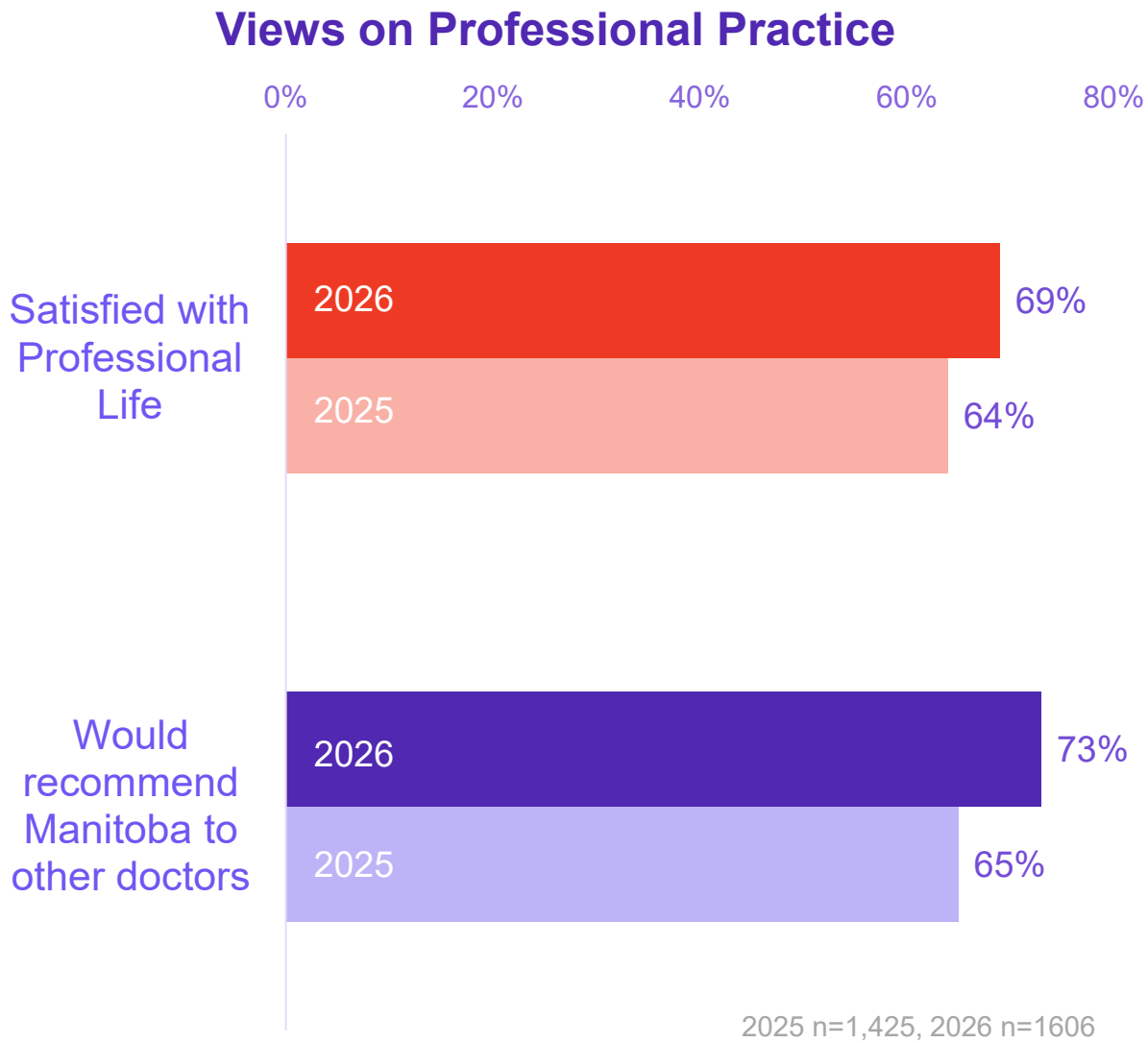
Manitoba n=1,215
Source: DRMB Physician Survey, 2026

Views on Professional Fulfillment

Physicians' views on professional fulfillment have improved over the previous year:

- 69% of physicians are satisfied with their professional life, up from 64% last year.
- 73% of physicians would recommend Manitoba as a place to practice medicine, up from 65% last year.

Physicians who aren't satisfied with their professional life are 11 times more likely to have plans to move their practice out of Manitoba than those continuing their practice here.



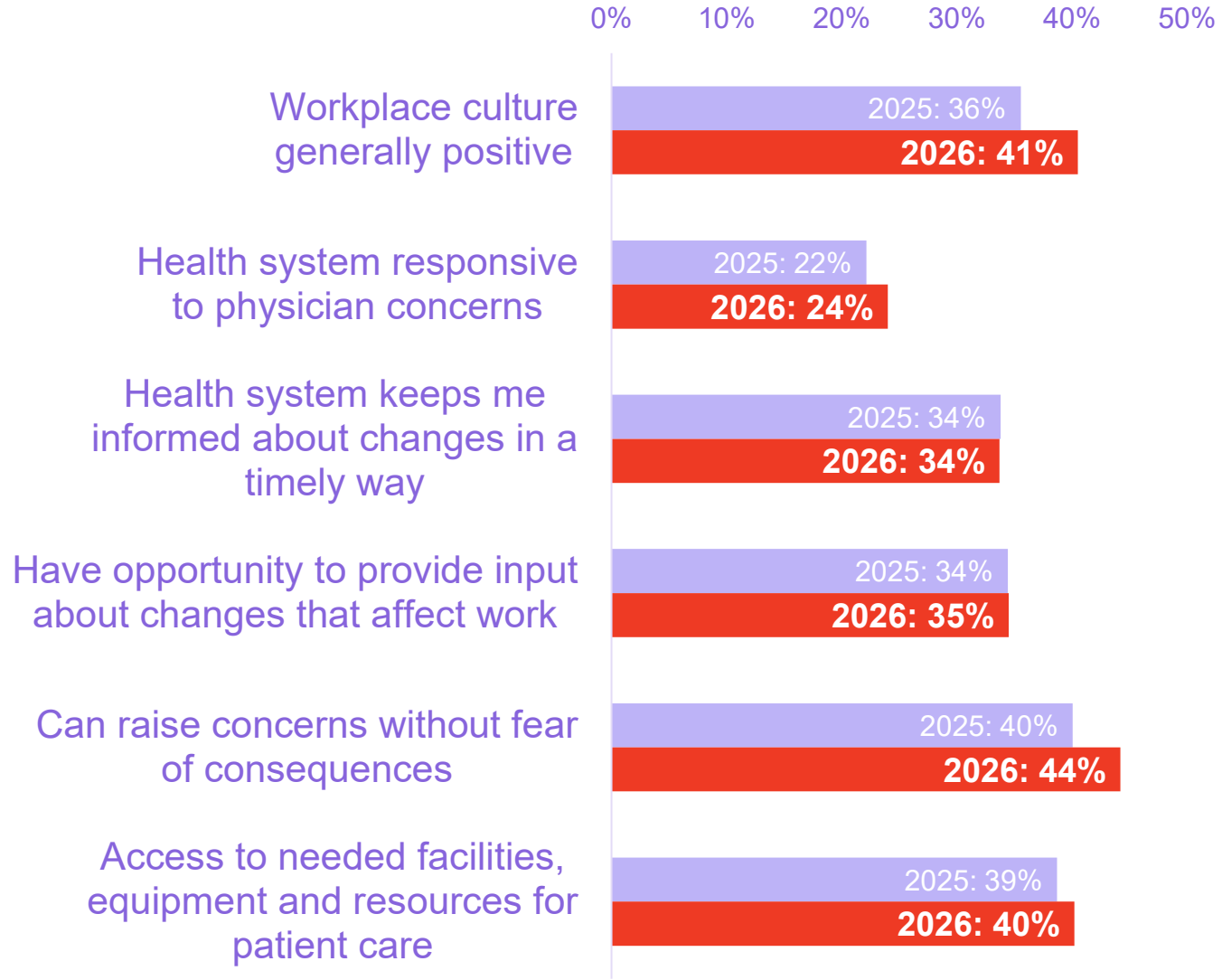
2025 n=1,425, 2026 n=1606
Source: DRMB Physician Survey

Views on Physician Engagement

Generally, only a quarter to a third of physicians agree with topics suggesting the health system is effective at engaging front line physicians and prioritizing their feedback.

While slightly more physicians agree the workplace culture is positive, most engagement indicators did not change over the previous year.

Physicians are 2 to 3 more times as likely to have plans to move their practice out of Manitoba if they aren't engaged in these ways by the health system, or don't have the equipment and facilities they need for patient care.



Manitoba n= 1,369
Source: DRMB Physician Survey, 2026

Improving Physician Retention

Several steps are already underway to improve physician retention in Manitoba:

- New services to support early career physicians to succeed in Manitoba.
- Continued recruitment efforts which help to reduce workload pressures on existing physicians.
- A Physician Services Agreement finalized in 2023 with improved and innovative models of funding for family physicians and many specialty groups.
- Expanded peer support and physician health supports.

However, more needs to be done, including:

- Improving physician consultation and engagement, especially about changes or issues affecting their day-to-day work such as digital system or clinical service delivery.
- Reduce administrative paperwork burden.
- Expanding team-based care, specifically prioritizing action under the government's commitment to add 250 health providers to physician practices.
- Invest in the facilities and equipment physicians need to care for patients, including in hospitals and in community practices.

Sources and Methods

This report draws on several resources, including:

- Annual Physician Survey, Doctors Manitoba (2026). The survey included responses from 1,382 fully licensed physicians in Manitoba, a 39% response rate. This is equivalent to a +/- 2% margin of error, 19 times out of 20.
- Analysis of Physicians in Canada reports, Canadian Institute for Health Information (2025)
- Annual Reports, College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba
- National Physician Health Survey, Canadian Medical Association (2025)
- Doctors Per Capita, OECD Data Explorer (2026)
- Prescription to Improve Health Care, Doctors Manitoba (2023)
- Physician Recruitment and Retention Recommendations from the Rural & Northern Health Summit, Doctors Manitoba and the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce (2022)

Additional analysis can be requested by contacting Doctors Manitoba at general@doctorsmanitoba.ca.

