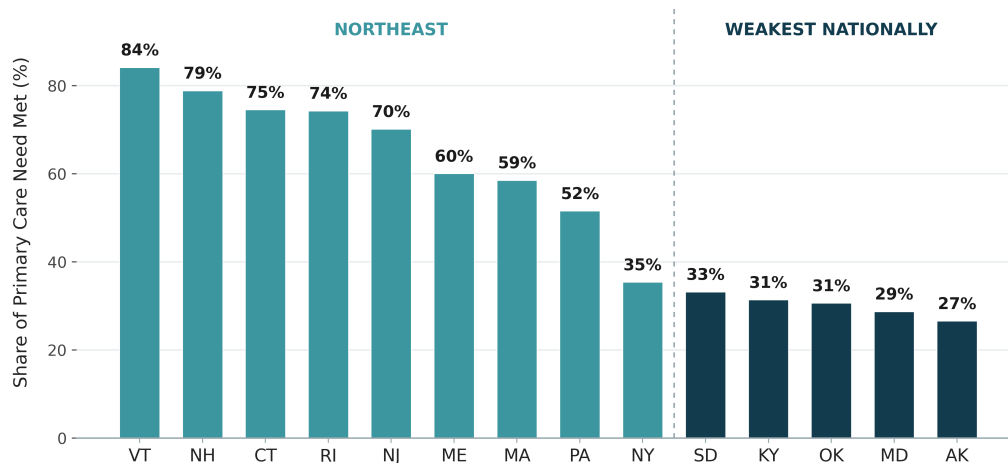


The Northeast and National Primary Care Shortage

Measured by the share of primary care need currently met, most Northeastern states actually outperform the national average of 48.1%. New York is the clear exception, and it is worth flagging on its own: at 35.41%, New York's shortage is deeper than Florida's on a percentage basis, and its 1,036-physician gap is among the largest of any state in the country, trailing only Florida, Texas, and California.

Primary Care Access Gap: Northeast States vs. Nation's Weakest Markets

Share of population's primary care need currently met, by state (HRSA, Dec. 2025)



Source: HRSA Bureau of Health Workforce, Designated Health Professional Shortage Area Statistics, data as of December 31, 2025. Navy bars show the five weakest states nationally, excluding the Northeast, for comparison.

State	Primary Care Need Met	Physicians Needed	Read
Vermont	84.2%	2	Best-covered state in the country
New Hampshire	78.9%	14	Strong coverage, small absolute gap
Connecticut	74.6%	73	Solid coverage statewide
Rhode Island	74.3%	22	Solid coverage statewide
New Jersey	70.2%	24	Above national average
Maine	60.1%	26	Statewide figure masks rural decline
Massachusetts	58.5%	81	Mid-tier despite academic medical density
Pennsylvania	51.6%	91	Near national average, large state
New York	35.4%	1,036	One of the three worst gaps in the U.S.

"Physicians needed" reflects HRSA's estimate of additional primary care physicians required to remove a state's shortage designations entirely. It does not account for nurse practitioners or physician assistants, who are absorbing a growing share of primary care visits in several of these states.