eHealthcareLists Research

US Healthcare Workforce Report 2026

Nurse practitioner ratios, women in medicine and provider growth, from CMS NPPES data (November 2, 2026)

1,253,270	528,441	224,178	42.2
physicians with an active NPI	nurse practitioners	physician assistants	NPs per 100 physicians

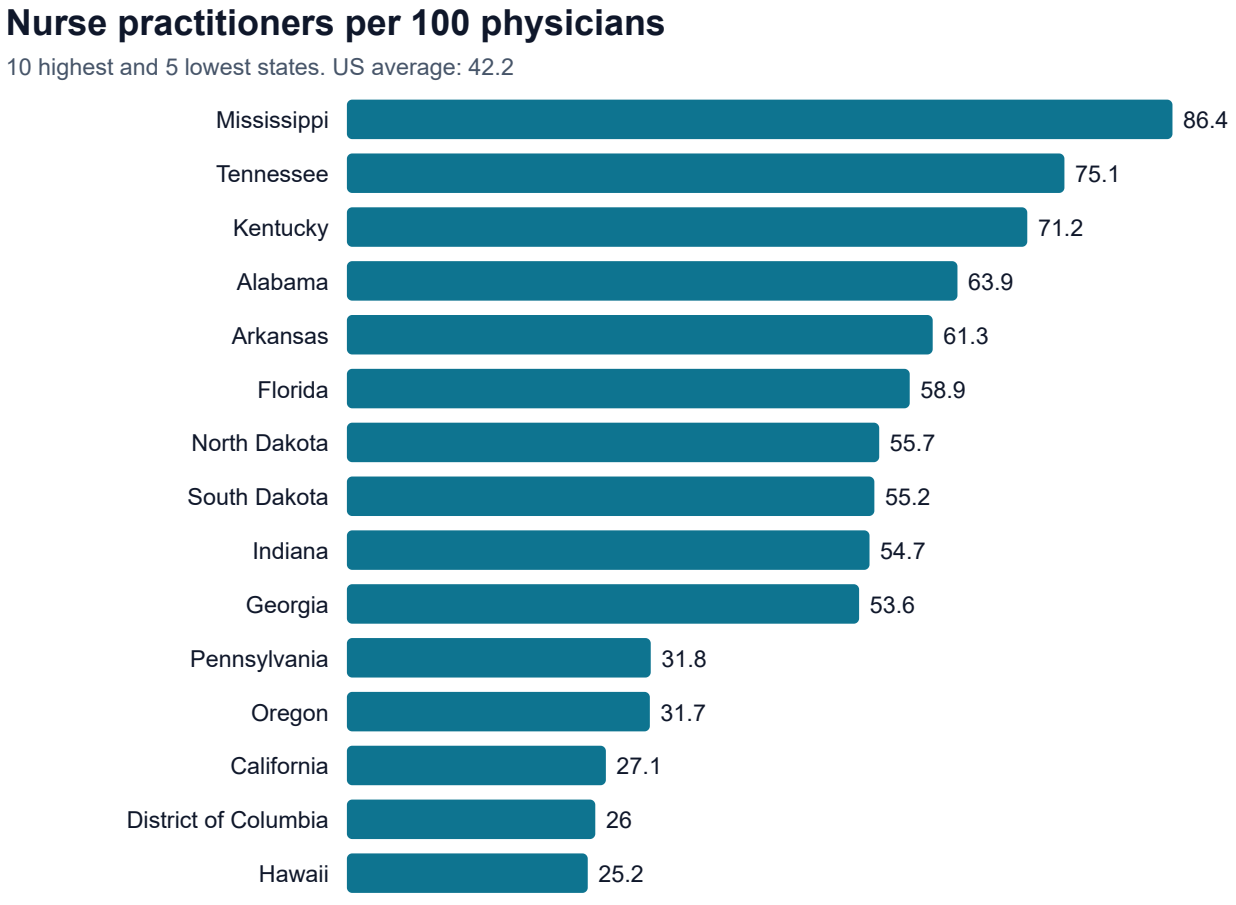
By Roger Smith, Marketing Manager, eHealthcareLists. Published November 2026.
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STUDY 1

Nurse Practitioners per 100 Physicians, by State (2026)

Across the US there are 528,441 nurse practitioners and 1,253,270 physicians with an active NPI, or **42.2 nurse practitioners for every 100 physicians**. The ratio varies more than threefold between states.

- Highest: Mississippi (86.4), Tennessee (75.1), Kentucky (71.2), Alabama (63.9), Arkansas (61.3).
- Lowest: Hawaii (25.2), District of Columbia (26.0), California (27.1), Oregon (31.7), Pennsylvania (31.8).
- National average: 42.2 nurse practitioners per 100 physicians.



Source: CMS NPPES (Nov 2026), analysis by eHealthcareLists.com

Full sortable table and CSV: ehealthcarelists.com/resources/research/nurse-practitioners-per-physician-by-state/

STUDY 2

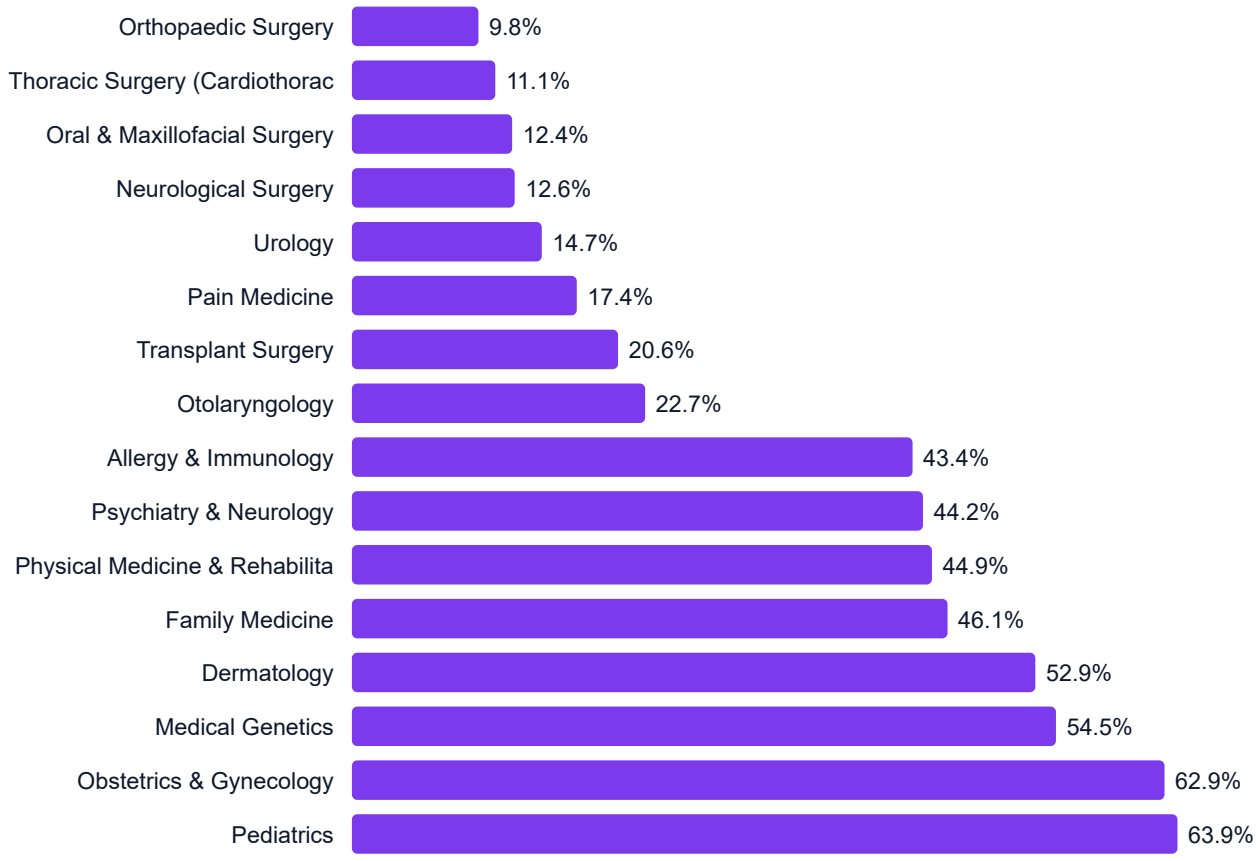
Share of Women Physicians by Specialty (2026)

Women make up very different shares of each medical specialty. Among providers with an active NPI, **9.8% of orthopaedic surgeons are women, against 63.9% of pediatricians**. For comparison, 89.1% of nurse practitioners and 71.0% of physician assistants are women.

- Lowest share of women: Orthopaedic Surgery (9.8%), Thoracic Surgery (Cardiothoracic Vascular Surgery) (11.1%), Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery (12.4%), Neurological Surgery (12.6%).
- Highest share of women: Pediatrics (63.9%), Obstetrics & Gynecology (62.9%), Medical Genetics (54.5%), Dermatology (52.9%).
- Nurse practitioners: 89.1% women; physician assistants: 71.0% women.

Share of women by medical specialty (%)

8 lowest and 8 highest specialties



Source: CMS NPPES (Nov 2026), analysis by eHealthcareLists.com

Full sortable table and CSV: ehealthcarelists.com/resources/research/women-in-medicine-by-specialty/

STUDY 3

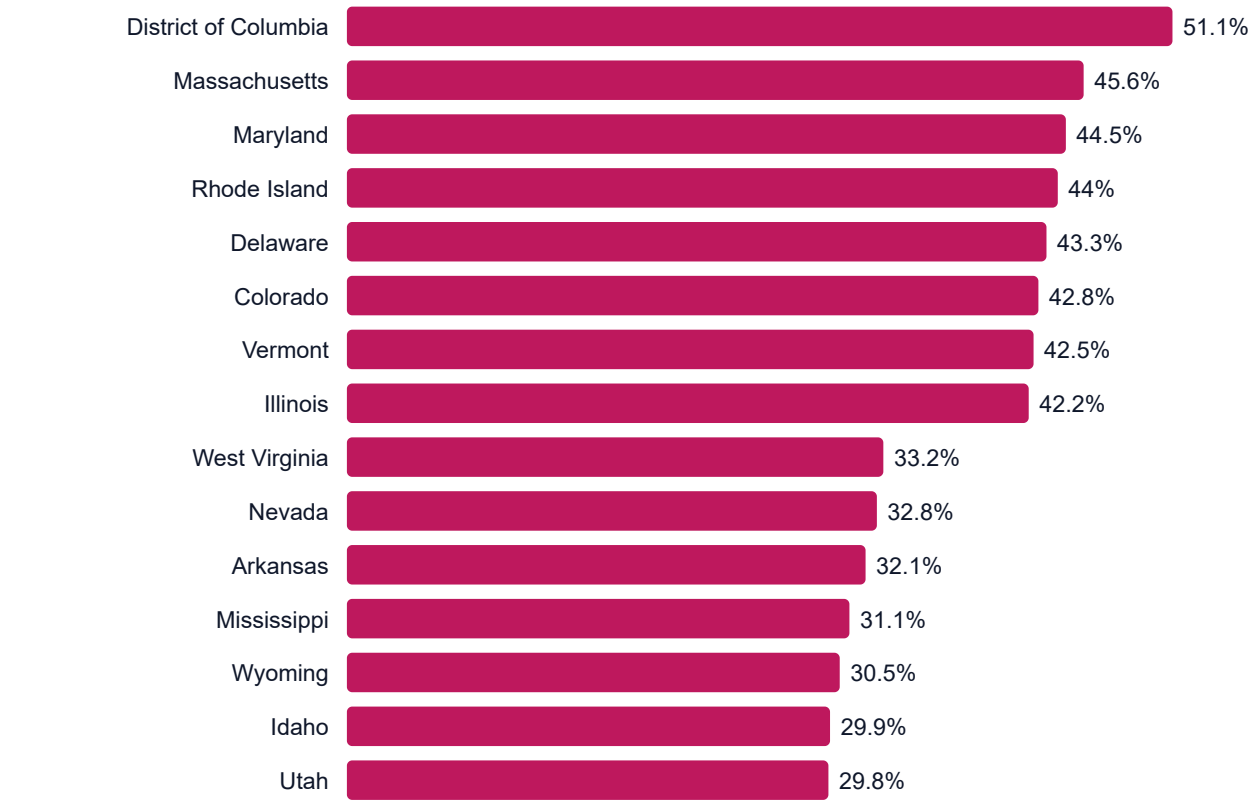
Women Physicians by State (2026)

The share of physicians who are women ranges from **29.8% in Utah to 51.1% in District of Columbia**, among physicians with an active NPI.

- Highest: District of Columbia (51.1%), Massachusetts (45.6%), Maryland (44.5%), Rhode Island (44.0%).
- Lowest: Utah (29.8%), Idaho (29.9%), Wyoming (30.5%), Mississippi (31.1%).

Women as % of physicians, by state

8 highest and 7 lowest states



Source: CMS NPPES (Nov 2026), analysis by eHealthcareLists.com

Full sortable table and CSV: ehealthcarelists.com/resources/research/women-physicians-by-state/

STUDY 4

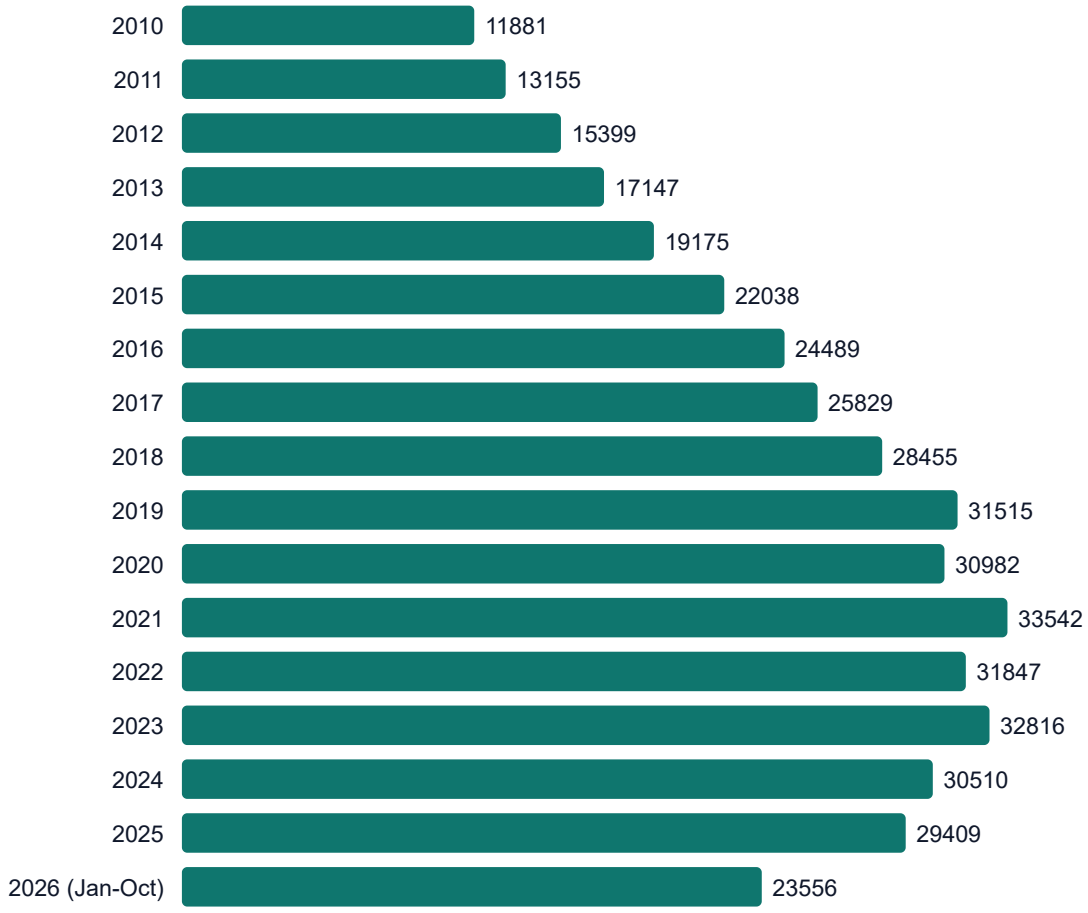
New Nurse Practitioners by Year: Growth Has Levelled Off (2026)

Counting nurse practitioners with an active NPI by the year their NPI was issued, new registrations rose from 22,038 in 2015 to **a peak of 33,542 in 2021**, and were 29,409 in 2025.

- 2015: 22,038 · 2021 (peak): 33,542 · 2025: 29,409.
- Registrations have levelled off since the peak rather than continuing to climb.
- 2026 covers January to October only.

Nurse practitioners still active, by year of NPI

Year the NPI was issued; providers whose NPI is still active today



Source: CMS NPPES (Nov 2026), analysis by eHealthcareLists.com

Full sortable table and CSV: ehealthcarelists.com/resources/research/nurse-practitioner-growth-by-year/

Methodology

Source: CMS National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES) full data file dated November 2, 2026 (npidata_pfile_20050523-20261102.csv). We counted individual providers with an active NPI and a US practice location, using each provider's primary taxonomy. Physicians = NUCC group "Allopathic & Osteopathic Physicians"; nurse practitioners and physician assistants by their NUCC taxonomy codes. "Providers with an active NPI" is not the same as "currently practising": an NPI stays active until it is deactivated. State tables cover the 50 states and the District of Columbia; Puerto Rico and other territories are excluded from state tables (national totals include them).

2026 registration counts cover January to October only. Counts by year of NPI issue include only NPIs still active today, so earlier years are understated.

About eHealthcareLists

eHealthcareLists provides verified healthcare contact data for marketing and recruiting, built on NPI-validated provider records. Data, tables and charts in this report: ehealthcarelists.com/resources/research/.

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