

# Oklahoma's Pharmacists: Improving People's Health



By 2032, the U.S. could see a shortage of as many as 55,200 primary care physicians. Even if nurse practitioners and physician assistants are fully utilized, patient needs will not fully be met.<sup>1</sup>

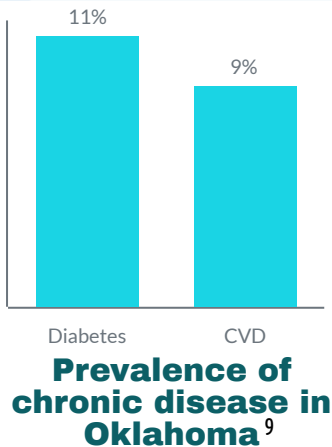
Oklahoma has 208 designated HPSAs and only 59% of the primary care needs in those areas are currently being met.<sup>2</sup> There are 3,710 highly trained pharmacists in OK who are ready to provide valuable healthcare services.<sup>3</sup>

## Meeting Patients' Needs in Oklahoma

**4.0**  
Million  
people<sup>4</sup>

**175**  
more primary  
care providers  
are needed<sup>5</sup>

**3,710**  
Pharmacists  
ready to help<sup>6</sup>




### Diabetes

Diabetes is a complex condition that is often managed by multiple medications. Pharmacists can optimize care and help patients understand their medications and their condition in order to improve outcomes and avoid complications.<sup>7</sup>

### Cardiovascular Disease (CVD)

For patients with uncontrolled high blood pressure, waiting even two months to optimize medications increases the risk of complications, including hospitalizations. Pharmacists are highly accessible members of the care team who significantly improve blood pressure control and can provide timely follow-up and monitoring to improve outcomes.<sup>8</sup>

  
**51%**  
of Oklahoma  
residents were  
vaccinated for  
the flu<sup>10</sup>

Immunization rates across the U.S. have continued to increase since pharmacists began vaccinating.<sup>11</sup>

**20%**  
  
of people in  
Oklahoma smoke  
cigarettes<sup>12</sup>

**50% of people with  
chronic diseases do  
not take their  
medicines correctly.<sup>14</sup>**



Smoking causes nearly 1 of every 5 deaths in the U.S. each year.<sup>13</sup> Pharmacists are qualified and capable of providing smoking cessation counseling.

Medications are critical for the treatment of chronic conditions. Pharmacists can help patients use them safely and effectively to avoid medication related problems.

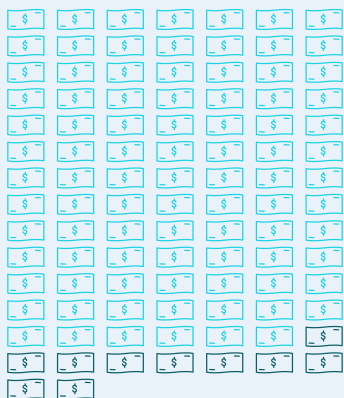


Oklahoma  
spends

**\$5,384,439,000**  
annually on prescription medications.<sup>15</sup>

Investing in pharmacists' services optimizes the use of those prescription medications. Decades of research have proven the value of including pharmacists on healthcare teams. Improved health outcomes, lower costs, and increased access to care could be a reality for Oklahoma residents if pharmacists were fully empowered to serve as patient care providers.

**90% of the nation's \$3.5 trillion in annual health care expenditures are for people with chronic and mental health conditions.**<sup>16</sup>

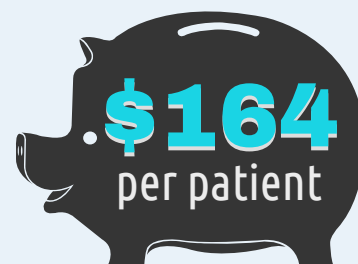


On average  
**\$1,000**

per patient per  
year is saved

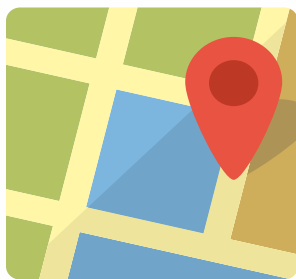
with pharmacist  
interventions for patients  
with chronic conditions.<sup>17</sup>

Pharmacists' counseling and  
adherence programs can  
save the healthcare system



in the 6 months following  
the start of a new  
prescription medication.<sup>18</sup>

**Pharmacists are  
accessible. 93% of  
Americans live  
within 5 miles of a  
community  
pharmacy.**<sup>19</sup>



Pharmacist  
prescribing for minor  
ailments can relieve  
pressure on  
Emergency Rooms.<sup>20</sup>



Oregon pharmacists wrote  
10% of all birth control  
prescriptions since a  
landmark law was passed.  
Oklahoma pharmacists  
could do this too!

**Oklahoma spent  
\$4.8 billion on  
Medicaid in  
2018.**<sup>22</sup>

Up to  
**30%**  
of Emergency  
Room visits are  
non-urgent.

**\$4.40**  
saved per \$1 spent  
on pharmacists'  
services<sup>21</sup>

This information was developed through a collaboration between APhA and NASPA with generous support from the Community Pharmacy Foundation.



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