Rhode Island'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.[1]

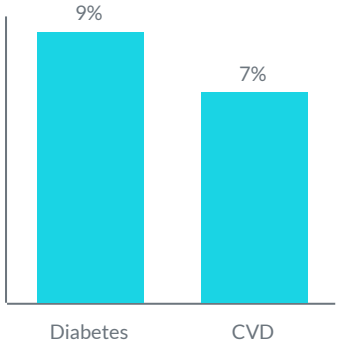
Rhode Island has 13 designated HPSAs and only 69% of the primary care needs in those areas are currently being met.[2] There are 1,520 highly trained pharmacists in RI who are ready to provide valuable healthcare services.[3]

Meeting Patients' Needs in Rhode Island

1.1 Million people[4]

17 more primary care providers are needed[5]

1,520 Pharmacists ready to help[6]



Prevalence of chronic disease in Rhode Island[9]

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.[7]

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.[8]

60% of Rhode Island residents were vaccinated for the flu[10]

Immunization rates across the U.S. have continued to increase since pharmacists began vaccinating.[11]

15% of people in Rhode Island smoke cigarettes[12]

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

50% of people with chronic diseases do not take their medicines correctly.[14]

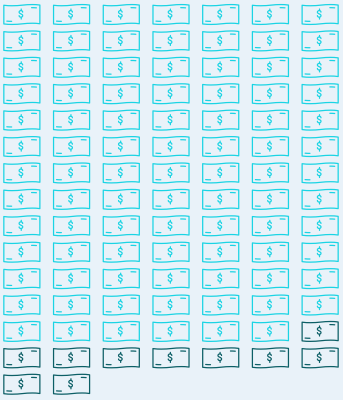


Medications are critical for the treatment of chronic conditions. Pharmacists can help patients use them safely and effectively to avoid medication related problems.

Rhode Island spends $1,266,000,000 annually on prescription medications.[15]

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 Rhode Island residents if pharmacists were fully empowered to serve as patient care providers.

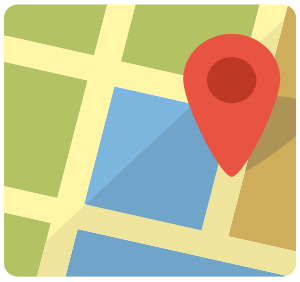
90% of the nation's $3.5 trillion in annual health care expenditures are for people with chronic and mental health conditions.[16]



On average **$1,000** per patient per year is saved with pharmacist interventions for patients with chronic conditions.[17]

Pharmacists' counseling and adherence programs can save the healthcare system **$164** per patient in the 6 months following the start of a new prescription medication.[18]

Pharmacists are accessible. 93% of Americans live within 5 miles of a community pharmacy.[19]



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

Pharmacist prescribing for minor ailments can relieve pressure on Emergency Rooms.[20]



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

Rhode Island spent $2.6 billion on Medicaid in 2018.[22]

$4.40 saved per $1 spent on pharmacists' services[21]

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

Access our references at tinyurl.com/factsheet2020
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