

South Carolina'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

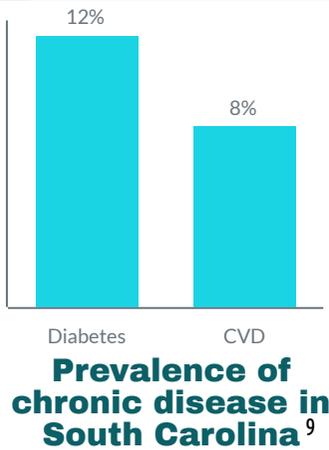
South Carolina has 95 designated HPSAs and only 69% of the primary care needs in those areas are currently being met.² There are 5,190 highly trained pharmacists in SC who are ready to provide valuable healthcare services.³

Meeting Patients' Needs in South Carolina

5.1
Million
people⁴

204
more primary
care providers
are needed⁵

5,190
Pharmacists
ready to help⁶



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


47%
of South Carolina
residents were
vaccinated for
the flu¹⁰

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

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



19%

of people in South
Carolina smoke
cigarettes¹²

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.

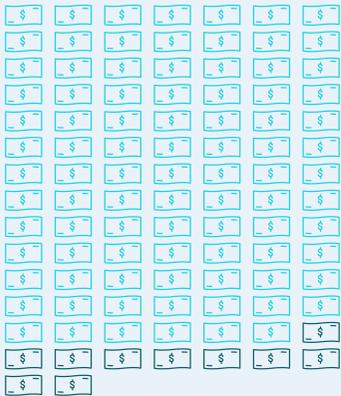
Medications are critical for the treatment of chronic conditions. Pharmacists can help patients use them safely and effectively to avoid medication related problems.



South Carolina spends **\$6,869,000,000** 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 South Carolina 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



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



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



South Carolina spent \$6.2 billion on Medicaid in 2018.²²

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

\$4.40
saved per \$1 spent on pharmacists' services²¹

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

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



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