

# Maryland'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>

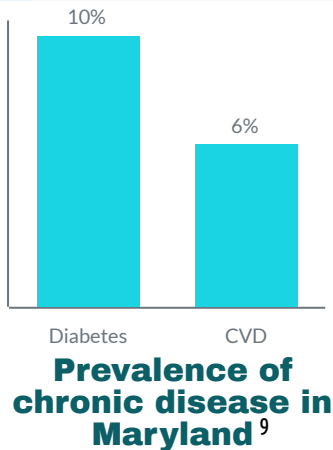
Maryland has 47 designated HPSAs and only 55% of the primary care needs in those areas are currently being met.<sup>2</sup> There are 5,310 highly trained pharmacists in MD who are ready to provide valuable healthcare services.<sup>3</sup>

## Meeting Patients' Needs in Maryland

**6**  
**Million**  
people<sup>4</sup>

**112**  
more primary  
care providers  
are needed<sup>5</sup>

**5,310**  
**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>

  
**57%**  
of Maryland  
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>

**14%**

  
of people in  
Maryland smoke  
cigarettes<sup>12</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.

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



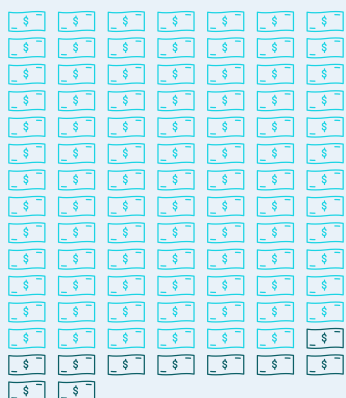
Medications are critical for the treatment of chronic conditions. Pharmacists can help patients use them safely and effectively to avoid medication related problems.



Maryland spends **\$6,655,825,064** 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 Maryland 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>

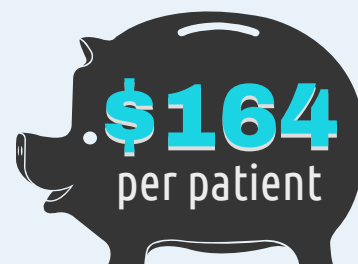


On average  
**\$1,000**

per patient per  
year is saved

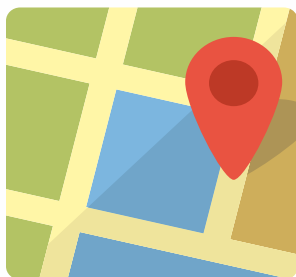
with pharmacist  
interventions for patients  
with chronic conditions.<sup>17</sup>

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>



Maryland spent  
**\$11.5 billion** on  
Medicaid in  
2018.<sup>22</sup>

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

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

**\$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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