



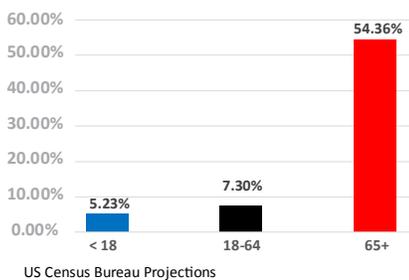
SB36 PRIMARY EYE CARE SCOPE MODERNIZATION



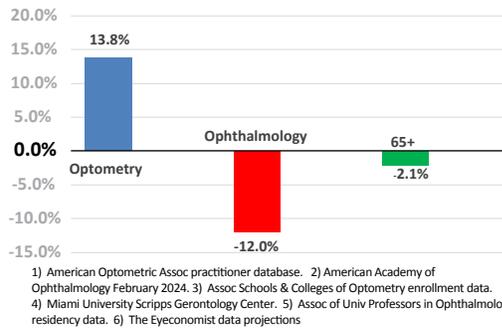
Eye Care Projections and Work Force Data April 2025

Ohio's aging population **60yrs+ will represent over 26% of the population by 2030** and those **85+ are projected to increase by 51% from 2020 to 2040.** Miami University, Scripps Gerontology Center

US Population Change 2020 > 2040



OHIO Eye Care Provider Supply & Aging Population 2023-2035



Ohio already has the **6th LARGEST** population of older adults in the country

Source: The Ohio Department of Aging | Aging.Ohio.gov



This decade, Ohio's population of adults age 60 and older will grow **28x MORE** than the general population

Due to the high prevalence of age-related eye diseases such as cataracts, glaucoma, macular degeneration, and diabetic eye conditions, the aging population is driving a **2.5–3.0% annual increase** in demand for eye care services. National Eye Institute, NIH

The supply of ophthalmologists is unable to keep pace with projections showing a **DECREASE by 12% from 2020 to 2035** alongside a projected increase in demand of 24%. Berkowitz ST, Finn AP, Parikh R, Kuriyan AE, Patel S. Ophthalmology Workforce Projections in the United States, 2020 to 2035. Ophthalmology. 2024 Feb;131(2):133-139. doi: 10.1016/j.ophtha.2023.09.018. Epub 2023 Sep 20. PMID: 3773923

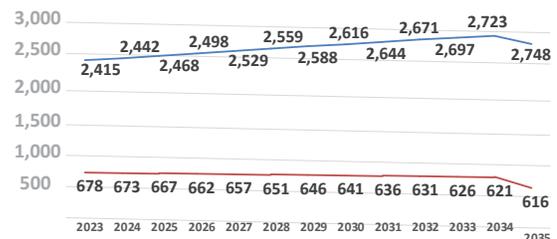
It is estimated that as of 2025 the US will have a **shortage of 6,180 ophthalmologists.** US Department of Health and Human Services

ECP Supply 2020-2035



1) American Optometric Assoc practitioner database 2024. 2) Assoc Schools & Colleges of Optometry enrollment data 2024. 3) Assoc of Univ Professors in Ophthalmology residency data 2024. 4) AAO Workforce Projections Feb 2024. 5) The Eyeconomist data projections

Ohio Eye Care Provider Supply 2023-2035



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In a 2025 study in JAMA, percentages of rural ophthalmologists have declined over time, suggesting a disparity in the number of subspecialist surgeons available to serve rural patients. Ahmed A, Ali M, Dun C, Cai CX, Makary MA, Woreta FA. Geographic Distribution of US Ophthalmic Surgical Subspecialists. JAMA Ophthalmol. 2025 Jan 2. doi: 10.1001/jamaophthalmol.2024.5605. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 39745719.

WVU Econ Analysis provided evidence that expanding the optometric scope of practice reduces vision impairment and helps address racial and ethnic disparities in eye health. Bae, Kihwan & Timmons, Edward & Nandy, Protik. (2023). Seeing is Believing: The Effects of Optometrist Scope of Practice Expansion. SSRN Electronic Journal. 10.2139/ssrn.4556268

In a cost-benefit analysis, Avalon Health Economics determined that scope of practice expansion adds \$600 million per year in transaction costs savings and another \$4 billion per year in savings attributable to access-related improvements in health outcomes. June 20, 2019 by Avalon Health Economics LLC (Optometry's Essential and Expanding Role in Health Care.)



SB36 PRIMARY EYE CARE SCOPE MODERNIZATION

Data on Ohio Licensed Optometrists

Modernizing the optometric profession by expanding the scope of practice is crucial for workforce retention, ensuring that young practitioners remain in Ohio rather than relocating to states that allow them to practice at the full extent of their training.

As of March 2025, there are 2,336 licensed optometrists in Ohio. Ohio Vision Professionals Board.

- 2,100 are actively practicing American Optometric Association Doctor of Optometry Master Data File.
- 1,745 listed having Ohio as their primary state of practice American Optometric Association Doctor of Optometry Master Data File.
- 57 hold dual licenses in IN and 92 hold dual licenses in KY where both states have laser authority. Indiana and Kentucky State Board of Optometry.

The Ohio State Medical Association (OSMA) reported a 6% increase in optometric licenses over the past year. However, our data suggests otherwise when examining the 26–35 age group.

- Doctors of Optometry between the ages of 26–35 that designate Ohio as their primary state of practice make up only 19% of Ohio practicing ODs compared to 23% in all other age groups.
- Furthermore, a data analysis of the last three graduating classes from the OSU College of Optometry also shows that of 197 students, 52% left Ohio. The Ohio Optometric Association Ohio State College of Optometry Student data file.

All Active Licenses in Ohio

	All Licensed OH Docs	Primary State OH	Primary State not OH	All Licensed OH Docs (%)	Primary State OH (%)	Primary State not OH (%)
Total Active Licenses in Ohio as of 3/21/24	2,336	1,892	444	-	81%	19%
Also Licensed in Indiana	62	23	39	3%	1%	9%
Also Licensed in Kentucky	98	50	48	4%	3%	11%
Licensed in both Indiana & Kentucky	12	6	6	1%	0%	1%

Practicing Optometrists

	All Licensed OH Docs	Primary State OH	Primary State not OH	All Licensed OH Docs (%)	Primary State OH (%)	Primary State not OH (%)
Total Practicing (Seeing Patients)	2,100	1,745	335	90%	83%	16%
Total Practicing with Indiana License	57	23	34	3%	1%	10%
Total Practicing with Kentucky License	92	47	42	4%	3%	13%
Practicing with both IN and KY license	10	6	4	0%	0%	1%
Total Practicing - Military or VA	133			6%		
Total Practicing with more than one license	459	192	267	22%	11%	80%
Total Practicing with more than FIVE licens	34	3	31	2%	0%	9%
Age Groups of Ohio Licensed Practicing Docs						
26-35	485	324	161	23%	19%	48%
36-45	499	396	103	24%	23%	31%
46-55	483	406	77	23%	23%	23%
56-65	460	405	55	22%	23%	16%
66+	236	214	22	11%	12%	7%

American Optometric Association Doctor of Optometry Master Data File



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Data on Ohio Licensed Optometrists



OSMA also noted that **Ohio ranks among the top five states** in the number of optometrists compared to its neighboring states. However, it is essential to consider population density when evaluating this claim.

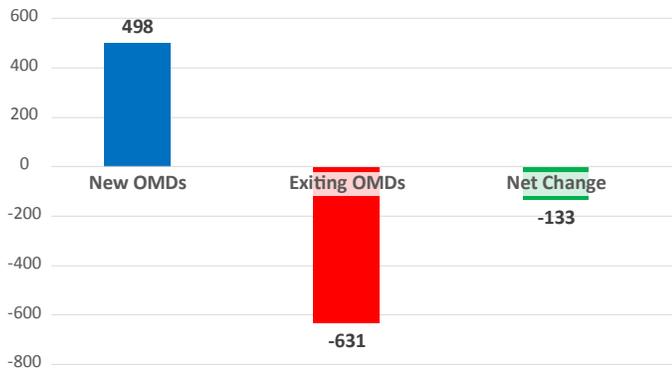
- When measuring the number of optometrists per 100,000 residents, Ohio falls within the mid-range of surrounding states.
 - WVA = 12.1 ODs/100k
 - KY = 13.8 ODs/100k
 - MI = 14.8 ODs/100k
 - OH = 15.4 ODs/100k**
 - PA = 16.3 ODs/100k
 - IN = 16.9 ODs/100k



Although data shows that young practitioners are leaving Ohio at higher rates than previous generations, the outlook for the ophthalmology workforce presents another challenge.

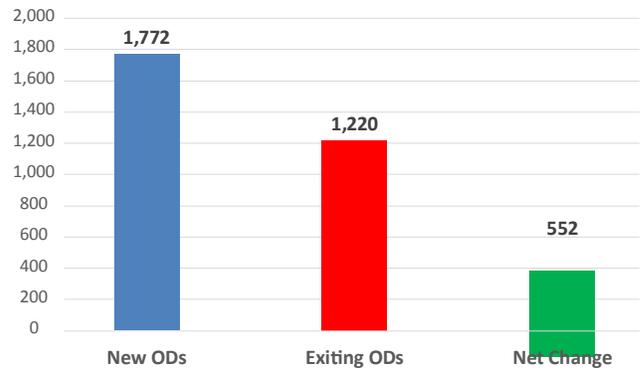
- In 2024, 498 new ophthalmologists entered the workforce. With retirements, there was an estimated net **decrease of 133 ophthalmologists** nationwide.

Ophthalmology July 2024



1) Assoc University Professors in Ophthalmology Residency Data 2024. 2) AAO Workforce Projections 2020 > 2035. 3) The Eyeconomist Workforce Projections 2024

Optometry July 2024



ASCO Enrollment Data 2024
The Eyeconomist Workforce Projections 2024

- 50% of ophthalmologists are older than 50 years of age and closer to retirement than training. American Academy Ophthalmology 2022 Ophthalmology Numbers Cause for Concern - American Academy of Ophthalmology (aaao.org)



Optometrists practice in 87 of 88 counties. Ophthalmology is present in 53 counties.

The referenced evidence-based data highlights the anticipated rise in demand for eye care over the next decade, driven by the growing aging population. To ensure optimal care for all, eye care professionals must collaborate effectively, utilizing the complementary skills of optometrists. Scope expansion improves efficiency, access, and helps maintain a talented optometric workforce in Ohio.