

Ophthalmology Provider Supply by State

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Public methodology surface -- <https://fonteum.com/methodology/ophthalmology-supply>

Active U.S. ophthalmologists per 100,000 residents, by state.

Source provenance

Source families: CMS NPPES NPI Registry (public API) + U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates Program (PEP) V2025

Spatial resolution: State (50 + DC). NPPES does not publish a county-level field of practice in its public API.

Temporal coverage: 2026 snapshot (NPPES queried 2026-05-06; Census 2024 vintage).

Refresh cadence: Quarterly NPPES refresh; annual Census denominator update.

Snapshot: 24,811 ophthalmologists across 51 states + DC, dated 2026-05-06.

Reproducibility

1. Query the NPPES API at <https://npiregistry.cms.hhs.gov/api/> with `taxonomy_description=<NUCC name>` and `enumeration_type=NPI-1` for each NUCC taxonomy in the parent specialty's scope (full list in the parent study's methodology).
2. Filter results to records with active license status.
3. Bucket by practice-address state (50 USPS codes + DC).
4. Pull U.S. Census Bureau PEP V2025 (2024 vintage) state population estimates from <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest.html>.
5. Compute $\text{per_100k} = \text{count} / \text{population} \times 100,000$ per state. Rank ascending and bucket into quartiles by rank.
6. Apply the parent study's transparent underserved threshold to flag the per-state row's underserved boolean.

The full ingest script is published at `scripts/research/nppes-write.ts` in the Fonteum engine repository (private). Customers under a pilot or Standard agreement can request the script for independent reconciliation.

Limitations

- Counts NPI-1 individual providers only; the parent specialty taxonomy plus any subspecialty taxonomies the Sec.183 / Sec.188 ingest scoped to. PAs / NPs / CNMs working in the same care setting under different taxonomy codes are out of scope.
- Dataset measures density (per-capita supply), not access. Drive time, appointment availability, insurance acceptance, and wait times are not modeled.
- Underserved threshold is the parent study's transparent baseline cutoff, not a regulatory or clinical definition.
- Provider state is the practice-address state in NPPES. NPPES does not publish a county-level field of practice in its public API; county queries surface state-level density.
- NPPES `last_updated` reflects when CMS last touched the record -- providers may have moved, retired, or changed practice settings without updating their NPPES record. Roughly 5-15% of records have `last_updated > 5` years per CMS published quality reports.

- U.S. Census Bureau PEP V2025 (2024 vintage) state population. Annual estimates between decennial counts; Census itself documents a confidence band of ~0.5-2% depending on state.
- Estimates do not reflect mid-2025+ population movements. Major hurricane / wildfire displacements may distort per-capita ratios for several quarters until next vintage.

Field schema

- > npi -- Individual provider NPI (10-digit).
 - Source: CMS NPPES NPI Registry (public API) (<https://npiregistry.cms.hhs.gov/api/>)
 - Refresh: Quarterly - Confidence: 1.0 (verbatim)
- > taxonomy_codes -- All NUCC taxonomy codes attached to the record (primary + subspecialties).
 - Source: CMS NPPES NPI Registry (public API) (<https://npiregistry.cms.hhs.gov/api/>)
 - Refresh: Quarterly - Confidence: 1.0 (verbatim)
- > taxonomy_primary -- The provider's primary NUCC taxonomy code.
 - Source: CMS NPPES NPI Registry (public API) (<https://npiregistry.cms.hhs.gov/api/>)
 - Refresh: Quarterly - Confidence: 1.0 (verbatim)
- > state -- Practice-address state (USPS code) at the time of NPPES record's last_updated.
 - Source: CMS NPPES NPI Registry (public API) (<https://npiregistry.cms.hhs.gov/api/>)
 - Refresh: Quarterly - Confidence: 1.0 (verbatim)
- > city -- Practice-address city at the time of NPPES record's last_updated.
 - Source: CMS NPPES NPI Registry (public API) (<https://npiregistry.cms.hhs.gov/api/>)
 - Refresh: Quarterly - Confidence: 1.0 (verbatim)
- > last_updated -- When CMS last modified the NPPES record. Reflects record freshness, not Fonteum snapshot date.
 - Source: CMS NPPES NPI Registry (public API) (<https://npiregistry.cms.hhs.gov/api/>)
 - Refresh: Quarterly - Confidence: 1.0 (verbatim)
- > population_2024 -- PEP V2025 state population estimate for 2024 vintage.
 - Source: U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates Program (PEP) V2025 (<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest.html>)
 - Refresh: Annual (V<year> vintage releases each March) - Confidence: 1.0 (verbatim)
- > count -- ophthalmologists active in NPPES as of snapshot date. The Sec.193 sub-specialty filter parameter (`?subspecialty=<NUCC code>`) on the public API recomputes counts and density against any registered subspecialty taxonomy.
 - Source: Fonteum Research (derived from CMS NPPES + U.S. Census Bureau)
 - Refresh: Recomputed on each NPPES + Census refresh cycle - Confidence: 0.95
- > per_100k -- ophthalmologists per 100,000 residents (count / population x 100,000).
 - Source: Fonteum Research (derived from CMS NPPES + U.S. Census Bureau)
 - Refresh: Recomputed on each NPPES + Census refresh cycle - Confidence: 0.95
- > rank_density -- 1..51 rank by per_100k across U.S. states + DC.
 - Source: Fonteum Research (derived from CMS NPPES + U.S. Census Bureau)
 - Refresh: Recomputed on each NPPES + Census refresh cycle - Confidence: 0.95
- > rank_count -- 1..51 rank by absolute count.
 - Source: Fonteum Research (derived from CMS NPPES + U.S. Census Bureau)
 - Refresh: Recomputed on each NPPES + Census refresh cycle - Confidence: 0.95
- > quartile -- Q1..Q4 from rank_density.
 - Source: Fonteum Research (derived from CMS NPPES + U.S. Census Bureau)
 - Refresh: Recomputed on each NPPES + Census refresh cycle - Confidence: 0.95
- > underserved -- Boolean: per_100k below the transparent threshold defined in the parent study.
 - Source: Fonteum Research (derived from CMS NPPES + U.S. Census Bureau)
 - Refresh: Recomputed on each NPPES + Census refresh cycle - Confidence: 0.9 - Caveat: Threshold is a baseline cutoff, not a regulatory or clinical definition.

Version history

v2026.05.0 - released 2026-05-06

Initial Audit Pack release. Methodology, provenance map, reproducibility statement, and limitations stack baselined.

Citation

APA:

Fonteum. (2026). Ophthalmology Provider Supply by State (v2026.05.0) [Dataset]. Fonteum, Inc.. <https://fonteum.com/methodology/ophthalmology-supply>

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Fonteum. 2026. "Ophthalmology Provider Supply by State." v2026.05.0. Fonteum, Inc.. <https://fonteum.com/methodology/ophthalmology-supply>.

Plain text:

Fonteum -- Ophthalmology Provider Supply by State (v2026.05.0). Snapshot 2026-05-06. <https://fonteum.com/methodology/ophthalmology-supply>

BibTeX:

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Cross-references

Audit Pack: <https://fonteum.com/audit-pack/ophthalmology-supply>

Research study: <https://fonteum.com/research/ophthalmologist-supply-by-state-2026>

Limitations: <https://fonteum.com/methodology/ophthalmology-supply#limitations>

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