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Doctor shortage at NY hospitals

Business First of Buffalo - June 19, 2007 by [Annemarie Franczyk](#) Business First

A half-dozen Western New York hospitals have an immediate need of 36 doctors in varying specialties, according to a survey by the Healthcare Association of New York State.

In total, 99 hospitals across the state responded to the survey, collectively reporting a current shortage of 804 doctors in a variety of specialties.

The survey identified several major contributors to the physician shortage, including low reimbursement from government and insurance payers, New York's overall economic condition, and the state's comparatively strict regulatory environment.

The Western New York facilities reported needing 25 primary care practitioners, two general surgeons, five orthopedists and four neurologists. Medical services have been reduced or eliminated at four of the six facilities as a result of the shortage, the survey showed.

"We are looking at a looming health care crisis that already has led to the reduction of health care services here in Western New York and across much of the state," association president Daniel Sisto said.

The association is collaborating with the Medical Society of the State of New York and the Associated Medical Schools of New York to develop strategies to address current and future physician supply issues.

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