

REDUCING BARRIERS TO IMPROVE HOOSIER HEALTH

Indiana ranks *41st* in public health compared to other states. This includes subpar rates of infant and maternal mortality, accident deaths, and alcohol, drug, and suicide deaths. Indiana has low rates of vaccinations and scores in the bottom tier nationally in public health preparedness. The average Hoosier is sicker and suffers from more health conditions than the average American, especially with respect to high smoking rates, mental health conditions, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes. Rural hospitals in Indiana are at higher risk of closure due to financial issues than those across the US.

- Fairbanks School of Public Health

The Federal Trade Commission has continuously promoted reducing barriers for varied healthcare professionals, as competition benefits consumers by controlling costs, protecting patient choice, improving quality, and expanding access.

The COVID-19 pandemic forced quick changes to the public health infrastructure in order to reduce barriers and increase access. Examples included allowing advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants to sign orders for home health services and expanding pharmacists access to patients for vaccinations.

Indiana has fewer physicians, especially in primary care, than the US overall and most neighboring states

The quality and safety of care provided by non-physician practitioners is supported through decades of research

The Fairbanks School of Public Health stated that Indiana's stakeholders should consider modernizing scope of practice laws for non-physician providers, as existing ones may restrict access to care by contributing to shortages of clinicians, which can exacerbate market conditions and contribute to higher healthcare costs.

Access. Quality. Cost.
IndianaPatients.org