

Growing Demand for Healthcare Workers in New York State

New York state has faced several healthcare worker shortages for years, and the coronavirus pandemic has only exacerbated these needs. In 2015, there were about 10 open healthcare jobs for every unemployed worker in the United States. By 2018, even before the coronavirus outbreak, this number had risen by more than 30%, with 13 open jobs for every unemployed healthcare worker. As states brace for a second wave of coronavirus infections, addressing these shortages will become even more critical.

In New York State, the demand for healthcare workers in general has remained steady, with at least 7 open healthcare jobs for every available unemployed healthcare worker in the state from 2015 to 2018.

However, the demand is much higher for high-skilled healthcare workers, called healthcare practitioners (including doctors, specialists, registered nurses, etc.), in New York state.

In 2018, the ratio was...

20.9 to 1 open healthcare practitioner jobs for each available healthcare practitioner who was unemployed.

Respiratory Therapists¹

>980 to 1

Nurses

29.1 to 1

Health Aides

1.7 to 1

Even as New York faces these shortages, demand for healthcare workers is growing. Despite record levels of job losses in other sectors in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak, the number of open healthcare jobs increased from March 1, 2020 to May 31, 2020 compared to the same period last year.

From March-May 2020, there were

56,167 new open healthcare jobs in New York.

This is an increase of
+11.8% over the same period in 2019.



March-May
2019

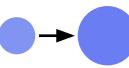


March-May
2020

Respiratory Therapists

+225% 

Physicians²

+35.8% 

Given these growing shortages and the imminent need for healthcare workers during the COVID-19 crisis, the role of immigrants in the healthcare industry is vital to the fight against the disease and to a successful recovery in its aftermath.



Immigrants make up a large share of the overall healthcare workforce in New York state, with **34.3% of all healthcare workers being immigrants**.

From 2015-2019, demand for bilingual healthcare workers in New York grew by

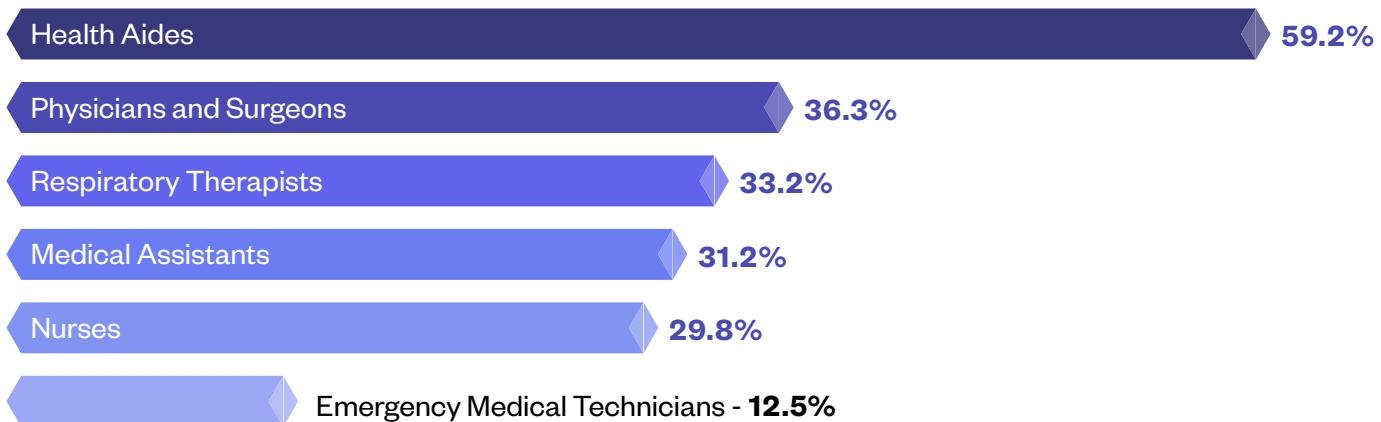
+76.9%



More than half of New York's immigrant healthcare workers are bilingual, with **53.1% proficient in English and another language**.

More specifically, we find that immigrants are well represented from the highest skilled specialists to the equally vital day-to-day healthcare support workers.

Immigrant shares of select healthcare occupations in New York state, 2018...



1 For Respiratory Therapists the number of unemployed was so insignificant that no accurate estimate is available. Nevertheless, there were more than 980 open Respiratory Therapist positions open in 2018 alone in New York state.

2 Demand is measured by new job postings.