



Shortchanged: Health Workforce Gaps in Orange County

An estimated **381,543** people in Orange County live in an area that has a shortage of primary care providers. Approximately **6,860** people are experiencing homelessness and in need of housing, health, and social services.

Almost a third of Californians are in a Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA), including people who are experiencing homelessness — many of whom have extensive health needs. Those who live on the streets die an average 20 years earlier than people who are housed. Primary care providers (including physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and certified nurse midwives) can develop sustained relationships with patients and practice in the context of family and community. Having a usual primary care provider is associated with a higher likelihood of receiving appropriate care and lower mortality. Having greater access to primary care providers of all kinds can save lives.



3,185,968

Total Population



6,860

People Experiencing Homelessness



381,543

People in a HPSA



OUR MISSION

The California Health Care Foundation is dedicated to advancing meaningful, measurable improvements in the way the health care delivery system provides care to the people of California, particularly those with low incomes and those whose needs are not well served by the status quo.

Note: Please visit the [Health Resources & Services Administration website](https://www.chcf.org/resources/health-resources-services-administration) for more information about primary care shortage area designation. For detailed definitions and methods, as well as the full set of maps in this series, visit www.chcf.org/providershortages.

Data Sources: [Everyone Counts: 2019 Point In Time Summary \(PDF\)](#), Orange County, July 2019.; [Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Areas \(HPSA\) - Census Detail \(July 2014\)](#), California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, n.d.; and ["2018: ACS 1-Year Estimates Detailed Tables."](#) US Census Bureau, n.d.