

Mississippi Physicians Boost Healthcare and State Economy

Mississippi physicians' multibillion-dollar economic contribution to the state is the subject of a new report just weeks before the 2018 legislative session begins.

Released Wednesday by the Mississippi State Medical Association and the American Medical Association, the report shows 4,670 physicians across the state each support an average of 11 jobs for a total of 51,305 jobs.

They also generate 7.8 percent of the state's economy or \$8.2 billion.

Gov. Phil Bryant has touted health care as an economic driver in the state, suggesting Mississippi can both improve health for people and the economy simultaneously.

The medical association report also found:

- Every dollar applied to physician services in Mississippi supports another \$1.75 in other business activity.
- Physicians contribute \$3.8 billion in wages and benefits for workers.
- Physicians generate \$313.1 million in state and local tax revenue for their communities.

The annual America's Health Rankings report released this week, which ranked Mississippi [last for overall health](#), indicated there are 106 primary care physicians for every 100,000 people in the state, compared to a national average of 150. For this primary care physician shortage, Mississippi ranked 47th.

Mississippi ranked last overall in the clinical care category, which encompassed a shortage of dentists (42 for every 100,000 people), the highest rate of babies born underweight (11.4 percent), and a high rate of preventable hospitalizations (70 discharges per 1,000 Medicare enrollees).

(Source: Clarion-Ledger)