

WalletHub releases its list of the best and worst states for doctors in 2026

BY DENIS HOUSE
DHOUSE@LEBANONENTERPRISE.COM

While doctors rank among the highest-paid and most highly educated professionals in the United States, where they practice medicine makes a big difference, according to a new study released by WalletHub.

In the United States, family medicine physicians earn a median annual salary of about \$238,000, which reflects the life-saving nature of their work and the many challenges that come with a medical career. And most doctors do not begin their careers financially secure, as the average medical school graduate carries roughly \$247,000 in student debt.

Given the high cost of medical training and the difficulty of the profession, it is important for doctors to practice in states that offer strong financial opportunities along with favorable working conditions. To assist doctors in choosing where to practice, WalletHub compared all 50 states and the District of Columbia using 19 key metrics. These factors range from physicians' average annual wages to hospitals per capita and the quality of each state's public hospital system.

"Setting up a practice in one of the best states for doctors can have a profound effect on your medical career," said WalletHub analyst Chip Lupo. "Not only will you be working in top-quality medical facilities and earning high salaries, you'll be less likely to burn out, and pay less for malpractice insurance. Meanwhile, residents living in one of the best states for doctors will have access to quality healthcare at a reasonable cost."

WalletHub found that the best state to practice medicine in is Montana, with a score of 66.15. The state ranked second in opportunity and competition, and 15th in medical environment. Indiana was second (64.47), and Louisiana was third (63.94).

Montana is the best state for doctors, and it boasts one of the top hospital systems in the country. About 78% of patients in Montana gave their hospital a score of 9 or 10 on a scale of 0 to 10. Montana doctors are also well compensated. For example, the state has the second-highest average income for anesthesiologists, at nearly \$442,000, in addition to high yearly incomes for psychiatrists and surgeons, who earn above \$263,000 and almost \$400,000 on average, respectively.

The Treasure State is also good for doctors' mental well-being, as it has the lowest physician burnout rate. That bodes well for medical residents who train in Montana, as nearly 63% of them end up staying in-state, the second-highest retention rate in the country. Additionally, Montana enjoys both a high number of hospitals per 100,000 residents and physicians per 1,000 residents.

Kentucky was ranked 29th with a score of 56.66. The Bluegrass State ranked 12th in opportunity and competition, and 50th in medical environment.

Indiana is the second-best state for doctors, and one contributing factor is the high starting salaries for a wide range of practices, including psychiatrists (\$343,000), physicians (\$317,000), anesthesiologists (\$396,000), and surgeons (\$464,000). The state also gets

the highest marks for the punitiveness of its state medical board.

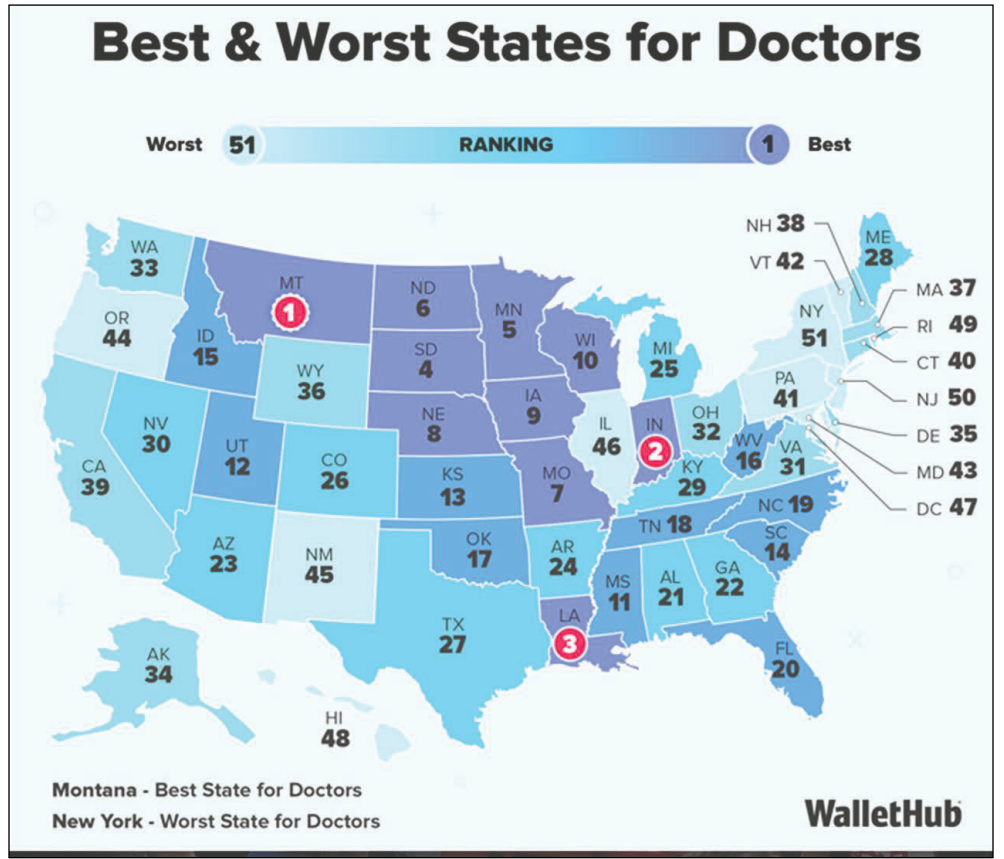
The Hoosier State also enjoys a high retention rate of medical residents who train in-state and some of the lowest malpractice insurance rates in the country. Plus, Indiana has well-ranked public hospital systems and a fairly low physician burnout rate.

Wisconsin had the highest average annual wage for physicians (adjusted for the cost of living), while the District of Columbia had the lowest. North Dakota had the lowest malpractice award payout amount per capita, while five states were tied with the highest (New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, the District of Columbia, and New Mexico).

WalletHub asked six experts for their opinion on a variety of topics, including what are the top five indicators in evaluating the best state for doctors.

"Culture and other living environments, jobs for spouses, payment, and expansion of Medicaid, where the doctor lived before entering medical school (especially important in attracting doctors to rural areas), and states with other specialists who can be referred to," said Edward J. Miller, Professor Emeritus, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. He also said the biggest issue facing doctors today is the organization in which they work, including "paperwork requirements," quantity of work expected (such as the number of patients seen per day), and amount of calls required.

To view the report, visit <https://wallethub.com/edu/best-and-worst-states-for-doctors/11376>



TENNIS

FROM PAGE B1

County found similar results in the girls' division.

First-year player Mary Beth Masterson provided a spark

with her singles play against Molly O'Daniel, but dropped a pair of games late to lose 8-6.

The tandem of Emma Thompson/Kyndra Blanford was defeated 8-0 in the doubles portion of the day.

In exhibition action,

Masterson teamed with Lila Bickett to pick up an 8-1 decision over Kasy McCown and Elyne Blincoe.

Marion County played at home yesterday against Nelson County and play host to Campbellville in a makeup match at the park on Friday.

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PREVIEW Sunday, April 5th 12:00-2:00 pm (EST)

PROCEDURE: The property will be offered in 18 individual tracts, any combination of tracts, or as a whole property. The property will be sold in the manner resulting in the highest total sale price. A 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to the final bid and included in the deed transaction sale price. 15% as down payment on the day of the auction with balance in cash at closing on or before 60 days. The down payment may be in the form of cashier's check, personal check, or corporate check. YOUR BIDDING IS NOT CONDITIONAL UPON FINANCING, SO BE SURE YOU HAVE ARRANGED FINANCING, IF NEEDED, AND ARE CAPABLE OF PAYING CASH AT CLOSING. The property will be sold by a new survey. Buyer will be responsible for 50% of the cost of the new survey. **FIRST RIGHT OF REFUSAL:** The auction is subject to a 30 day confirmation of a FIRST RIGHT OF REFUSAL FOR TILLABLE FARMLAND ONLY. **FARM RIGHTS:** Immediate Planting Privileges granted day of auction with buyer(s) escrow deposit of 15% Down.

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