



# Pediatric Workforce Shortages Persist

Children's hospitals across the country continue to experience significant shortages in pediatric specialties. Pediatric specialty shortages affect children and their families' ability to receive timely, appropriate care.

## PEDIATRIC SPECIALTY SHORTAGES BURDEN CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

A robust pediatric workforce is essential to ensuring that no child lacks access to high-quality medical care. Forty children's teaching hospitals recently responded to a 2017 Children's Hospital Association (CHA) survey that asked children's hospitals to highlight the specialties with the longest appointment wait times and vacancies at their institutions.

### SPECIALTIES WITH THE HIGHEST AVERAGE WAIT TIMES:



Genetics  
**20.8 WEEKS**



Developmental Pediatrics  
**18.7 WEEKS**



Pain Management  
Palliative Care  
**12.1 WEEKS**



Child and Adolescent Psychiatry  
**9.9 WEEKS**



Dermatology  
**8.3 WEEKS**



Allergy and Immunology  
**7.7 WEEKS**



Dentistry  
**7.6 WEEKS**

**IMPROVEMENTS:** While not indicated in this report, Pediatric Neurology and Pediatric Rheumatology were listed among areas with the top-five highest wait times in a 2012 CHA survey.

### SURGICAL SPECIALTIES WITH THE HIGHEST AVERAGE WAIT TIMES:



Plastic  
**5.5 WEEKS**



Orthopedic  
**3.3 WEEKS**



Cardiovascular  
**2.3 WEEKS**



Otolaryngology  
**2.3 WEEKS**

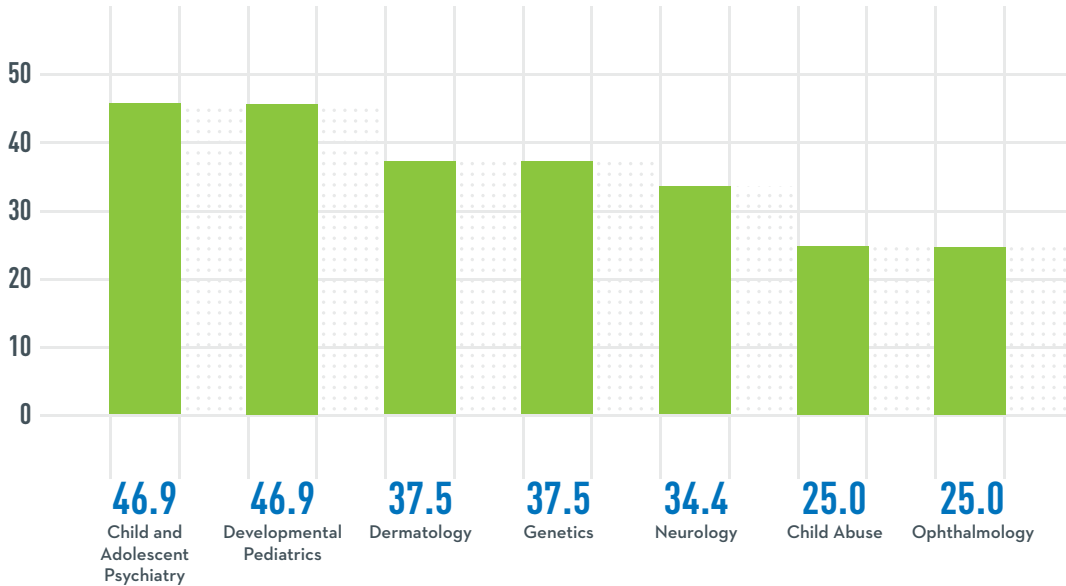


**MEASUREMENT**  
“Days to third-next available appointment” is used to measure wait time scheduling. This metric is considered a more accurate assessment of actual appointment availability as it helps control for availability due to a cancellation or random events.

## CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS' PEDIATRIC SPECIALTY SHORTAGES

Children's hospitals were asked to name areas where pediatric specialist vacancies persisted for over a year. Hospitals also indicated the three specialty areas that most affect their ability to deliver care.

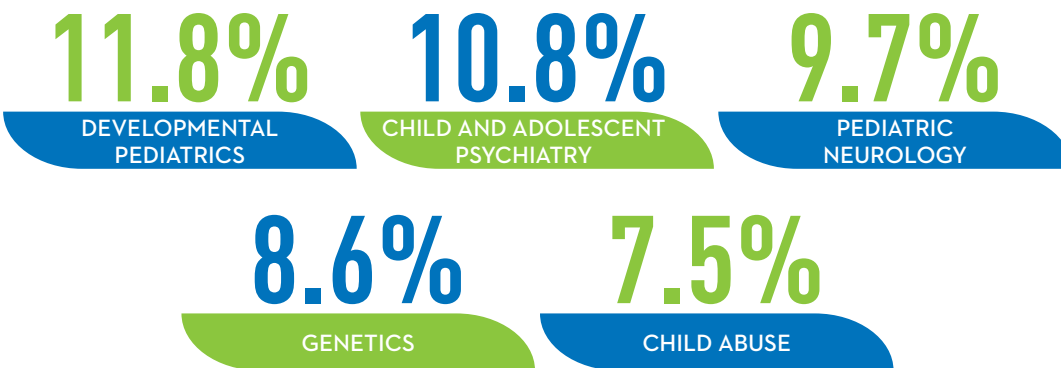
### PERCENT OF HOSPITALS REPORTING VACANCIES



Pediatric specialists in Emergency Medicine, Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, Endocrinology, Rheumatology, Hospitalists, Pain Management/Palliative Care, and Adolescent Medicine also are frequently reported as experiencing vacancies longer than 12 months.

**IMPROVEMENTS:** While not indicated in this report, General Surgery, Gastroenterology and Pulmonology were frequently named as areas reporting vacancies in a 2012 CHA survey.

### TOP-RANKED SHORTAGES THAT AFFECT ABILITY TO DELIVER CARE



The next most frequently cited specialty shortages that most impact children's hospitals include: Pediatric Emergency Medicine, Pediatric Dermatology, Pediatric Pain Management / Palliative Care, Pediatric Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, Pediatric Ophthalmology and Pediatric Allergy & Immunology.

**IMPROVEMENTS:** While not currently indicated, Gastroenterology, Pediatric Surgery and Neurosurgery were frequently named as shortages most affecting ability to deliver care in a 2012 CHA survey.



Photo: Cynthia Brodway, Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children, Wilmington, Delaware

For more information about the Children's Hospital Association survey, contact Mitch Harris at [mitch.harris@childrenshospitals.org](mailto:mitch.harris@childrenshospitals.org).