

# Physicians may retire en masse soon. What does that mean for medicine?

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The double whammy of pandemic burnout and the aging of baby boomer physicians has, indeed, the makings of some scary headlines. A recent [survey](#) by Elsevier Health predicts that up to 75% of health care workers will leave the profession by 2025. And a 2020 [study](#) conducted by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) projected a shortfall of up to 139,000 physicians by 2033.

## Why younger doctors are fast-tracking retirement

Fernando Mendoza, MD, 54, a pediatric emergency department physician in Miami, worries that physicians are getting so bogged down by paperwork that this may lead to even more doctors, at younger ages, leaving the profession.

“I love taking care of kids, but there’s going to be a cost to doing your work when you’re spending as much time as we need to spend on charts, pharmacy requests, and making sure all of the Medicare and Medicaid compliance issues are worked out.”

These stressors may compel some younger doctors to consider carving out a second career or fast-track younger physicians toward retirement.

“A medical degree carries a lot of weight, which helps when pivoting,” said Dr. Mendoza, who launched [Scrivas](#), a Miami-based medical scribe agency, to help reduce the paperwork workload for physicians. “It might be that a doctor wants to get involved in the acquisition of medical equipment, or maybe they can focus on their investments. Either way, by leaving medicine, they’re not dealing with the hassle and churn-and-burn of seeing patients.”

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