

The need for dermatology clinics in Florida

By Nour Fackih

AUTHOR BIO

Nour Fackih is a driven student, athlete, and leader passionate about healthcare and dermatology. As a junior in high school in 2025, she plays varsity soccer and runs varsity track while excelling academically. She is actively involved in NJROTC and serves as president of the Multicultural Club, Dance Marathon Committee, and Athletic Director in Student Government. Nour is also a member of the National Honor Society and the Interact Service Club, reflecting her commitment to leadership and service.

With a strong interest in public health, she has researched dermatology disparities in Florida, focusing on climate, demographics, and healthcare shortages. Aspiring to become a dermatologist, Nour advocates for expanded dermatology services, teledermatology solutions, and healthcare reform. Her dedication to bridging healthcare gaps reflects her ambition to make a lasting impact in dermatology.

ABSTRACT

Florida's climate, aging population, and high tourism rates create a high demand for dermatology services, yet access to those services remains challenging. This is especially true in rural areas, where residents face severe provider shortages that force them to travel long distances for specialized care. In urban centers, residents struggle with long wait times that exceed recommended benchmarks. High-risk populations, including elderly residents, uninsured individuals, and tourists, also experience barriers to dermatological care, leading to delayed diagnoses and worsening health outcomes. With fewer than 600 certified dermatologists, Florida has an average of 37,000 residents per specialist, which further strains the system. To address these workforce shortages, surveyed dermatologists emphasized the need for more residency programs, financial incentives, and teledermatology services. Additionally, affordability concerns prevent many uninsured and Medicaid patients from receiving necessary treatment. These financial and geographic barriers persist despite possible solutions, limiting care for those most in need. This study highlights the potential to expand the state's dermatology services, reinforcing the importance of workforce development, telemedicine, and healthcare reforms to improve dermatology access for all Floridians. Future research should explore patient experiences and policy effectiveness to address ongoing disparities.

Keywords: *dermatology, healthcare access, Florida, skin health, rural, urban, disparities, cancer, teledermatology, shortage, policy, sun exposure*

INTRODUCTION

Earning its title as the “Sunshine State,” Florida receives more than 230 days of sunshine annually; it also has one of the highest UV indexes in the United States, with an average of 9 (very high) during the summer months (Winsberg, 2000; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2024). This high UV exposure increases the risk of skin cancer and other sun-related conditions. At the same time, Florida’s subtropical and tropical climate worsens skin conditions such as heat rashes, fungal infections, and inflammation-related problems like acne, rosacea, and eczema (Sipos & Warner, 2021). High temperatures, humidity, and intense sun exposure make skin health a critical concern, emphasizing the need for accessible dermatological care across the state.

Florida’s heat and location further exacerbate dermatological risks. It is the hottest state in the country, with an average annual temperature of 71.5° and summer temperatures that frequently exceed 100°F (Winsberg & Simmons, 2007). Extreme heat days are projected to increase significantly, with the Peninsula expected to experience 40 or more days above 95°F annually by 2050 (Hoffman et al., 2023; Marvel et al., 2023; Park et al., 2023). Additionally, Florida’s proximity to the equator intensifies its UV radiation levels, causing cellular damage within 15–25 minutes of sun exposure and increasing the risk of harmful skin conditions (Sipos & Warner, 2021).

Beyond heat and UV exposure, Florida’s high humidity levels also impact skin health. The state’s consistently humid environment disrupts the skin’s outermost protective layer, the *stratum corneum*, leading to excessive oil production, clogged pores, and an increased risk of acne, fungal infections, and skin irritations (Van Smeden et al., 2014; Warner et al., 2003; Goad & Gawkrödger, 2016). These environmental factors create an ongoing need for dermatological services to help residents manage skin conditions effectively.

Florida’s aging population further amplifies the demand for dermatology care. With more than 5.5 million residents over 60—a number projected to rise to 8.4 million by 2045—older adults face a heightened risk of chronic skin conditions such as skin cancer and severe eczema (The Florida Department of Elder Affairs, 2021; Blume-Peytavi et al., 2016). Additionally, Florida’s beaches attract more than 810 million day visits annually. Many of these visitors are tourists, often unaware of the risks associated with prolonged sun exposure, increasing the prevalence of skin-related health concerns (Houston, 2013).

Despite the growing need for dermatological care, Florida faces a significant shortage of dermatologists; statewide, Florida has only 550–575 specialists, and some counties have no dermatologists (Brown, 2015; Florida Academy of Dermatology, 2024). This shortage—which is particularly severe in rural areas—limits access to timely treatment and preventive care. Given Florida’s unique climate, high population of older adults, and heavy tourism, addressing this gap is essential to improving skin health outcomes across the state.

METHODS

Literature search strategy

To find articles and statistics, this study used Google Scholar, EBSCO, the National Institutes of Health, and other government websites to search the following key terms: “Dermatology,” “Urban/rural,” “Florida,” “Shortage,” “Skin conditions,” and “Solutions.” The inclusion criteria were studies written in English and research conducted in Florida.

Survey and recruitment strategy

Based on this literature review, the study designed a nine-question survey (Appendix I) to explore dermatologists’ experiences treating various skin conditions specific to Florida’s demographics. Following a review of clinic websites and relevance to the research scope, 110 Florida dermatologists were chosen to participate in the survey. The study favored dermatologists who focused on general treatment of skin conditions over those who provided more specialized care, such as cosmetic services. An email invitation with a Google Forms survey link was sent to all 110 dermatologists on December 18, 2024.

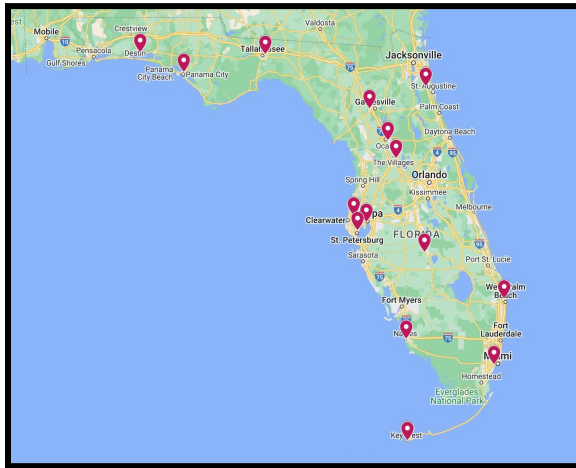
RESULTS

Demographics and perspectives of survey respondents

A total of 15 dermatologists practicing across Florida (Figure 1) responded to the survey, providing diverse insights into the accessibility, challenges, and conditions associated with dermatological care in the state. These participants represent urban and rural areas, ensuring a balanced perspective on care, access to services, and patient needs.

Figure 1

Location of dermatology survey respondents



The study's urban respondents included dermatologists practicing in Miami, Orlando, Tampa, Jacksonville, and Naples. These respondents highlighted challenges such as high patient volumes, long wait times, and a lack of care distribution across populations. Many urban dermatologists noted that their areas are well-resourced, but communities still struggle to access timely and affordable care. Their responses also emphasized the impact of Florida's year-round UV exposure on conditions such as skin cancer, hyperpigmentation, and acne.

The rural respondents included dermatologists practicing in the Florida Panhandle, Central Florida, and the Florida Keys, where there are few specialists; to receive care in these areas, many people must travel long distances. Rural respondents noted that skin cancer is often diagnosed at later stages due to limited access to dermatologists and that conditions such as sun damage are common among agricultural and construction workers. Teledermatology and mobile clinics were suggested multiple times as potential solutions to help bridge this rural care gap.

The study also received responses from dermatologists practicing in St. Augustine, Ocala, and Panama City—areas with urban and rural characteristics. These respondents described challenges such as seasonal populations (tourists), disparate healthcare access between wealthy and lower-income residents, and unique public health needs related to tourism and outdoor labor.

Across all regions, respondents highlighted Florida's high skin cancer rates, the need for greater public education on sun protection, and workforce shortages in dermatology, especially in rural areas. The perspectives gathered provide a view of the barriers, trends, and potential solutions to improving dermatological care in Florida.

SURVEY RESPONSES

Impact of climate on UV-related skin conditions

UV-related skin conditions include skin cancer, sunburns, aging, and actinic keratoses. All dermatologists agreed that Florida's intense year-round UV exposure is the primary factor behind its higher-than-average skin cancer rates. In rural areas, dermatologists wrote that many patients, especially those in outdoor jobs like farming and construction, get prolonged sun exposure without adequate protection. Urban dermatologists highlighted a different issue: many city lovers underestimate their UV exposure, especially from reflected sunlight off buildings, pavement, and through car windows. Several providers also emphasized that the aging population in Florida has had decades of UV damage that has piled up over time, increasing the prevalence of skin conditions such as basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, and melanoma.

Preventative measures and public education campaigns

Public education efforts were seen as effective but inconsistent across different regions. Urban dermatologists spoke highly about awareness campaigns, sunscreen dispensers in public areas, and free skin screenings at malls and parks. Some also noted measures for workplace initiatives—including UV-blocking window films and employer-provided sun protection—as practical strategies. In contrast, rural dermatologists saw significant gaps in people reaching out to healthcare facilities, especially in agricultural communities. Many suggested that education for outdoor workers coupled with telehealth initiatives could improve awareness and early detection.

Challenges in diagnosing

Both rural and urban dermatologists noted that delayed diagnosis of skin conditions was a significant challenge, but for different reasons. Rural dermatologists pointed to long travel distances, provider shortages, and limited screening options, all of which can result in patients not seeking care until conditions have advanced. For urban providers, overloaded schedules and long appointment wait times can lead to delayed access to diagnose skin cases. Also, multiple urban dermatologists said that darker-skinned patients often don't realize they're at risk, which also leads to later-stage diagnoses. Some also noted that primary care physicians sometimes overlook presentations in skin of color.

Impact of climate on non-cancerous skin conditions

Respondents agreed that acne, rosacea, eczema, and hyperpigmentation are the most common non-cancerous conditions. Florida's humidity worsens acne and eczema by increasing sweat and oil production, while the heat and sun aggravate rosacea. Urban dermatologists noted that melasma and post-inflammatory hyperpigmentation (PIH) are prevalent for patients with darker skin tones due to UV

exposure and hormonal influences. Rural dermatologists highlighted skin conditions such as contact dermatitis from pesticides and chronic sun damage in outdoor workers.

Florida-specific dermatology advice to manage skin conditions

All dermatologists emphasized daily sunscreen use as the most crucial recommendation, though rural providers noted that most outdoor workers do not care for or try to use it. Other recommendations included the following:

- Mineral-based sunscreens for sensitive skin (eczema, rosacea)
- Oil-free, lightweight moisturizers to prevent clogged pores in humid conditions
- Niacinamide and azelaic acid for treating hyperpigmentation
- Avoiding peak sun hours and wearing UV-protective clothing and hats
- Skincare options like vitamin C for patients struggling with hyperpigmentation
- Barrier creams and hydration for people with work-related exposures

Care: Rural versus urban

The dermatologists agreed that Florida has disparities in dermatology access, with rural areas suffering the most. Many rural patients travel hours for care, leading to delayed diagnoses and treatment. While urban areas have more dermatologists overall, providers noted that cities still experience service disparities, with low-income and uninsured patients struggling to access care. A few urban practitioners also pointed out that an overflow of rural patients makes it harder for urban patients to get timely appointments.

Lack of dermatology services in rural Florida

Every rural dermatologist confirmed the practitioner shortage and explained that many counties have few dermatologists, forcing residents to seek care in urban centers. Some rural providers noted that they see patients traveling 2–3 hours for appointments, and many delay seeking care due to distance and cost. Urban dermatologists acknowledged that they frequently treat rural patients with advanced cases that could have been addressed earlier if care were more accessible. Multiple providers suggested that expanding teledermatology and mobile clinics were potential solutions.

Catering to older populations

Urban and rural dermatologists emphasized that Florida's aging population requires frequent skin cancer screenings and management for xerosis, actinic keratoses, and sun damage. Urban providers mentioned that many older patients know their need for care but struggle with mobility and transportation to appointments. Rural dermatologists noted that financial limitations (such as Medicare coverage gaps) sometimes prevent the elderly from seeking specialized treatments. Some dermatologists

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have adjusted to accommodate older patients' needs by offering flexible scheduling, early appointments, and in-office treatments for skin conditions.

Suggestions to improve dermatology services

Most dermatologists emphasized Florida's need for more residency spots, particularly in rural counties, to encourage new dermatologists to practice in underserved areas. Other suggestions included the following:

- Loan forgiveness programs for dermatologists who work in rural areas
- Expanding teledermatology to reduce wait times and improve access
- Income-based clinics in urban areas to improve access for low-income patients
- Better education for primary care providers to recognize skin cancers in diverse populations

Many agreed that these changes could help reduce disparities and improve the early detection of skin cancers and chronic conditions across the state.

DISCUSSION

Climate and skin health

Florida's tropical climate and high levels of outdoor activity contribute significantly to its elevated rates of UV-related skin conditions. The state has a UV-attributable skin cancer incidence rate of 29.2 per 100,000 residents, compared to the national average of 19.7 per 100,000 (Arnold et al., 2018). Year-round outdoor activities such as boating, swimming, and beachgoing increase cumulative sun exposure, particularly for residents and tourists who neglect proper sun protection measures (Islami, 2020). The surveyed dermatologists confirmed that sun exposure is a primary factor driving Florida's high skin cancer prevalence, with practitioners in high-tourism areas like Miami and Orlando frequently treating cases of severe sunburns, actinic keratoses, and early-stage melanomas.

Among Florida's most dangerous and prevalent skin conditions is melanoma, for which the state ranks second in the nation. In 2018, Florida accounted for 7,940 of the 91,270 U.S. melanoma cases; in 2020, Florida's cases rose to 8,750 (Blanchard, 2020). Despite these alarming statistics, public awareness and prevention efforts remain low. Surveyed dermatologists expressed frustration over low sunscreen usage among Florida's youth, a concern reflected in the 2015 Youth Behavior Survey, which found that 91.2% of public high school students do not wear sunscreen outside for over an hour on a sunny day. Additionally, 6% of students reported using UV tanning beds, further increasing their risk of melanoma and other skin cancers (Guild, 2018). To mitigate this ongoing problem, dermatologists emphasized that Florida must strengthen its public education efforts on sun safety, mainly targeting youth and tourists.

Beyond melanoma, Florida's climate worsens chronic skin conditions such as acne, eczema, and rosacea. Acne, which affects up to 50 million Americans annually, is prevalent in Florida, with 3 million

cases originating from the state (American Academy of Dermatology Association, 2024). The combination of heat, humidity, and sweat buildup triggers inflammation, clogged pores, and bacterial growth, leading to frequent flare-ups (American Academy of Dermatology Association, 2001). Dermatologists observed a seasonal spike in acne cases, particularly during the hot and humid summer, when excess sweating worsens breakouts (Branch, 2016).

Similarly, eczema (atopic dermatitis) affects approximately 2 million Floridians, making the state one of the most impacted in the country (Hanifin et al., 2007). Eczema is sensitive to environmental factors, with heat and humidity intensifying inflammation, itching, and bacterial infections (NIAID, 2024). Surveyed dermatologists reported frequent flare-ups among patients, especially in summer when humidity levels peak (Sargen et al., 2014).

Another common condition related to Florida's climate is rosacea, which affects 1–2 million residents (Harper, 2010). Characterized by redness, bumps, and visible blood vessels, rosacea worsens with prolonged sun exposure (Northwestern Medicine, 2024). Dermatologists confirmed that UV radiation is one of rosacea's most significant triggers, with many Florida-based patients reporting increased flare-ups due to daily sun exposure (American Academy of Dermatology Association, 2016).

In addition to climate-related factors, occupational exposures compound dermatological risks, mainly for farmworkers and outdoor laborers. These individuals experience chronic sun exposure, pesticide contact, and limited access to dermatological care, leading to higher rates of skin irritation, rashes, and worsening eczema symptoms. Research confirms that rural Florida communities experience higher rates of occupational skin conditions, which are further exacerbated by economic and healthcare access barriers.

Given the widespread impact of Florida's climate on skin health, dermatologists emphasized the need for expanded dermatological resources, prevention initiatives, and public education efforts. The state's high prevalence of skin cancer, acne, eczema, and rosacea highlights the demand for more accessible dermatology services, particularly for high-risk and underserved populations.

Rural versus urban dermatology access

The disparity in dermatology access between rural and urban areas in Florida presents challenges for residents statewide. A 2018–2020 cross-sectional study found that 17.1% of rural Floridians reported having skin cancer, compared to 14.9% in urban communities (Lin et al., 2024). While the difference appears minor, rural residents face greater barriers to dermatological care. For example, Belle Glade, a highly rural city in Florida, exemplifies these challenges, with 42.1% of its population living in poverty and limited access to specialized dermatology services (Asbeck et al., 2023). Rural primary care practitioners often lack the expertise to diagnose and treat complex skin conditions, forcing patients to travel long distances for specialized care, which can be financially limiting. The absence of accessible dermatology services increases healthcare disparities, particularly in a state that ranks second nationally for melanoma cases (Fernandez et al., 2012).

Survey responses from dermatologists in rural areas reinforced these findings, noting severe provider shortages, long travel distances, and financial obstacles as key barriers to timely care. Many dermatologists expressed concerns over delayed melanoma diagnoses, emphasizing that early detection can improve treatment outcomes. Their experiences align with statistical data showing higher rates of skin cancer in rural Florida, where a lack of specialists limits early intervention and worsens disease progression.

Urban centers like Miami, Orlando, and Tampa have more dermatology clinics and specialists (Feng et al., 2018). However, despite the higher provider availability, urban patients still face accessibility challenges. Long wait times—often exceeding the recommended 14-day benchmark—are a persistent issue, with average wait times recorded at 33 days in Tampa and 28 days in Miami. These delays contribute to cancellations, missed follow-ups, and postponed treatments, ultimately pushing back diagnosis and patient outcomes. Affordability is also a concern, particularly for uninsured and Medicaid patients, who struggle to find dermatologists who accept their coverage (Jaklevic, 2024).

Urban dermatologists surveyed confirmed these challenges, noting that while their patients generally face fewer travel barriers than those in rural areas, prolonged wait times still increase risks, especially for melanoma and other time-sensitive conditions. Their responses underscore that Florida's dermatology shortage is not just a rural issue but a statewide crisis, impacting timely diagnosis and treatment for patients across all regions. These findings underscore the need to expand dermatology services across Florida, addressing geographic and systemic barriers to ensure access to dermatological care for all residents.

High-risk population

Florida's demographics highlight the growing demand for dermatological services, yet the state's shortage of dermatology professionals makes it challenging to meet the needs of high-risk populations. The state has one of the oldest populations in the country, with residents aged 65 and older increasing from 8.6% to 17.3% in 2010 (Smith & Rayer, 2014). Older adults are prone to dermatological conditions, including melanoma, non-melanoma skin cancers, eczema, and psoriasis, which tend to worsen with age (Feng et al., 2018). The rapid growth of Florida's elderly population emphasizes the need for specialized dermatological care to ensure early detection and management of these conditions.

The surveyed dermatologists who treat older Floridians expanded on their challenges, noting that elderly patients require frequent screenings and long-term management for chronic skin conditions. However, mobility and financial constraints frequently prevent these patients from accessing necessary care. These findings align with broader research indicating that Florida's aging population is straining an already-limited dermatology workforce, delaying timely treatment and increasing health risks.

Beyond its aging residents, Florida's tourism adds to the growing demand for dermatology services. The state attracts more than 100 million tourists annually, and many engage in outdoor

activities without proper sun protection. The Florida Keys, home to fewer than 75,000 residents as of 2019, hosts approximately 3 million overnight tourists annually (BenDor et al., 2015). The combination of extreme heat, high UV exposure, and inconsistent sunscreen use increases sunburn, skin aging, and UV-related skin conditions. Tourists, who often lack access to regular dermatological care while traveling, may develop complications that place further strain on dermatology providers (Rodrigues et al., 2013).

Another high-risk group facing significant barriers to dermatological care is Florida's uninsured population. Nearly 2.9 million Floridians lack health insurance, and the state's limited Medicaid expansion leaves many residents unable to afford specialized dermatology services. As a result, many individuals delay or entirely skip dermatologist visits, leading to more severe skin conditions when they do seek treatment (Finegold et al., 2021).

The surveyed dermatologists reinforced these concerns, noting that uninsured patients frequently experience delayed diagnoses of melanoma, eczema, and chronic infections. Many practitioners expressed frustration that preventable and treatable skin conditions escalate to severe stages due to financial barriers. These survey findings align with existing research demonstrating that Florida's high-risk populations face challenges accessing timely dermatological care. Without expanded dermatology services and improved healthcare access, these groups will experience worsening health outcomes.

Dermatology shortage

Florida's growing demand for dermatology services and a critical shortage of professionals leave many residents without timely or proper care. With fewer than 600 certified dermatologists statewide, Florida averages approximately 37,000 residents per dermatologist. This shortage is severe in rural areas, where some regions have access to only one dermatologist and others have none (Asbeck et al., 2023). Even in urban centers with greater access to specialists, patients still face long wait times—often exceeding four weeks—delaying essential treatment for melanoma, chronic skin disorders, and other severe conditions (Brown, 2015).

Regardless of location, surveyed dermatologists across Florida identified the statewide shortage of specialists as a barrier to care. Many practitioners, especially those in rural settings, expressed frustration with Florida's limited dermatology residency programs, emphasizing that this lack of training opportunities directly contributes to the shortage of specialists. This challenge aligns with national trends: Dermatology is one of the most competitive medical specialties in the United States, and restricted residency slots limit the number of new dermatologists entering the field. Florida's high workload and lack of incentives for specialists further discourage dermatologists from practicing, worsening the issue (Craig et al., 2021).

To combat this shortage, surveyed dermatologists proposed expanding teledermatology services to reach underserved communities, implementing loan forgiveness programs, and increasing incentives

for specialists to practice in high-demand areas. Some practitioners emphasized the need for policy changes to expand dermatology residency programs and improve workforce retention. These proposals underline the breadth of Florida's dermatology shortage; both rural and urban populations struggle with accessing care, leading to delayed diagnoses and worsened health outcomes. Without immediate action, Florida's growing population and high-risk demographics will continue to face gaps in dermatological care.

LIMITATIONS

While this study provides valuable insights into Florida's dermatology shortage, its limitations are acknowledged. One key limitation is the study's reliance on survey responses from dermatologists. While informative, these responses do not fully capture the perspectives of patients, healthcare policymakers, or primary care physicians frequently encountering dermatological concerns. Additionally, because the survey reflects the experiences of only a specific group of dermatologists, their insights may not fully represent the broader dermatology workforce across Florida.

Another limitation is the state's geographic variability. While this study examines disparities between rural and urban areas, it does not capture the full extent of regional differences. Some rural areas may experience even more severe shortages than described, while specific urban centers may face additional barriers beyond long wait times, such as affordability concerns and insurance limitations. A more detailed regional analysis could provide greater insight into localized access challenges. Additionally, while this study emphasizes Florida's unique climate and demographics, comparisons to other high-UV states facing similar challenges could offer further insights into Florida's dermatology shortage.

Finally, this research is limited by the availability of up-to-date data on Florida's dermatology workforce and patient outcomes. Although national reports and past studies provide valuable information, workforce numbers and healthcare accessibility constantly evolve. Future research could benefit from real-time patient data, expanded surveys with diverse respondents, and policy evaluations to assess the effectiveness of potential solutions, such as teledermatology expansion and increased dermatology residency programs.

Despite these limitations, this study highlights the dermatological access challenges in Florida, reinforcing the need to expand dermatology services, improve workforce development, and enhance patient access to care.

CONCLUSION

Florida's climate, aging population, and high tourism rates demand dermatological care, yet access to specialists remains limited, especially in rural areas. This study examined the state's dermatology shortage through literature review and survey responses from practicing dermatologists, confirming that rural and urban communities face barriers to timely and affordable care. While rural

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residents experience the most practitioner shortages, urban patients endure long wait times, which can delay essential treatment.

Expanding dermatology residency programs in Florida is crucial to increasing the number of specialists entering the field. Teledermatology offers a promising solution by bridging access gaps in rural areas, allowing for remote consultations and diagnoses. To help attract specialists to high-need communities, financial incentives could be offered, including loan forgiveness programs for dermatologists practicing in underserved areas. Beyond workforce expansion, public health initiatives should prioritize sun safety awareness and preventive skin care to reduce the burden of skin-related diseases across the state.

This research contributes to existing knowledge by providing direct insights from dermatologists practicing in Florida. While previous studies have highlighted the state's high rates of skin cancer and other dermatological conditions, the survey findings offer a first-hand perspective on the challenges that medical professionals face today. The results emphasize, for example, that dermatology shortages are not just a rural issue but also a statewide concern, reinforcing the need for systemic healthcare reforms.

Future research could explore patient experiences, particularly among uninsured and underinsured populations, to better understand barriers to dermatological care. Additionally, evaluating the effectiveness of teledermatology programs and policy changes, such as residency expansion and financial incentives, could provide valuable data on solutions. Addressing Florida's dermatology shortage requires multiple perspectives, and continued research is essential to shaping policies that improve access to care for all residents.

APPENDIX I*Survey for Florida dermatologists (December 2024)***Skin cancer and sun exposure**

1. How do you perceive Florida's unique climate contributing to the state's high rate of skin cancers compared to the national average?
2. What preventative measures or public education campaigns are most effective in reducing UV-related skin damage among Florida residents?
3. What challenges do you face in diagnosing and treating melanoma and other skin cancers in Florida's diverse demographic, including rural and urban areas?

Dermatological conditions in Florida

4. Which non-cancerous skin conditions, like eczema, rosacea, or acne, are most prevalent among your patients, and how does Florida's climate exacerbate these conditions?
5. What specific advice do you give your patients to manage skin conditions aggravated by Florida's high humidity and sun exposure?

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Accessibility and workforce issues

6. What is your perspective on the disparity in dermatological care between rural and urban areas of Florida?

7. I have read that there is a severe lack of dermatology services in Florida, especially in rural areas (Asbeck et al., 2023). What is your experience related to this?

Special populations

8. How do the needs of Florida's older population, who are at greater risk for chronic skin conditions and cancers, impact the way you prioritize and deliver care?

Dermatology practice and public health

9. What changes in dermatology training, residency programs, or state policies could improve the availability and accessibility of dermatology services in Florida?

APPENDIX II

[Spreadsheet of dermatology survey responses](#)

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