

TOP FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: Department of Health Professions (DHP) Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Why was the Department of Health Professions (DHP) Healthcare Workforce Data Center established?

The Healthcare Workforce Data Center was recommended by the Governor's Health Reform Commission in 2007 to be established within the Department of Health Professions to improve the data collection and measurement of Virginia's healthcare workforce.

What is the goal of the online DHP Healthcare Workforce Data Center?

The DHP Healthcare Workforce Data Center seeks to improve the data collection and measurement of Virginia's healthcare workforce through regular assessment of workforce supply and demand issues among the 80 professions and 350,000 practitioners licensed in Virginia by DHP.

DHP Healthcare Workforce Data is provided online to ensure accessibility of the findings among healthcare decision makers, hospital systems, academic institutions and constituents statewide.

How is the DHP Healthcare Workforce Data Center funded?

The Administration designated Workforce Investment Act Governor's Discretionary Funds in fiscal years 2008 and 2009 to implement the recommendation for establishing the data center at DHP.

Are there key healthcare leaders who contributed to the establishment of the DHP Healthcare Workforce Data Center?

The DHP HCWF Data Center was established beginning with an Advisory Council of 19 key stakeholders, 3 advisory committees involving 50 + members for physician, nursing, and data network, to provide advice and expertise with development of the data center, workforce surveys, and reporting information online at www.dhp.virginia.gov/hwdc .

Why is the Commonwealth's repository of healthcare workforce data collected by the Department of Health Professions?

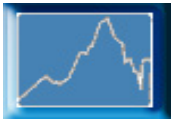
DHP was chosen because the agency has an ongoing repository of licensure information for Virginia's 350,000 healthcare professionals which includes over 100 healthcare licensee types. DHP has the essential electronic capabilities and ability to effectively conduct workforce policy research and reporting to assist policymakers with tracking the shortages across the Commonwealth and measure the success of strategies to diminish the gaps between supply and demand.

What State Statute in the Code of Virginia led to the establishment of the Department of Health Professions Healthcare Workforce Data Center?

Legislation (HB 2405 - Governor's bill) was enacted in 2009 that improves data collection and measurement of the healthcare workforce by the Department of Health Professions as recommended by the Governor's Health Reform Commission.

What data sets are posted on www.dhp.virginia.gov/hwdc/ now and what will appear in the future?

The first findings of the DHP Healthcare Workforce Data Center will be released this month. Almost half of the 53,000 Registered Nurses who renewed their licenses between 2007 and 2008 and participated in a voluntary survey indicate they will leave nursing in the next ten years. The results for physicians are scheduled for later release. This information is critically important for planning as Virginia's population is aging and baby boomers statewide will need increased care.



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The DHP Healthcare Workforce Data Center has begun studying direct nursing support personnel, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants. Dentistry is the next priority for workforce studies in 2010 following completion of the initial analysis and dissemination of information regarding the physician and nursing workforce.

As the largest segment of the healthcare workforce what measures is Virginia taking to improve educational opportunities for Registered Nurses as reported on the DHP HWDC?

DHP data shows in the past four years, the Administration has worked to increase the supply of RNs by: Increasing nursing faculty salaries by 10%; Instituting \$600,000 for nursing advanced degree scholarship and stipend programs; and, Assisting Longwood University in expanding their nursing program, Additionally between 2004 and 2009 sixteen new Registered Nursing programs opened in Virginia.

How is data for the DHP Healthcare Workforce Data Center collected?

In addition to the online renewal data being collected for healthcare professions, for the first time a workforce survey is being implemented for all initial licensee applicants with the first time implementation of web online applications this month. Ultimately, workforce data for all professions regulated by the Commonwealth will be obtained through licensure application and renewal surveys with the results reported by the Center on an ongoing basis.

Initial primary and secondary research for the DHP Healthcare Workforce Data Center was gathered through public private collaboration with established research and analysis organizations including: Lacey Research Associates; The Lewin Group; George Mason University; and, Chmura Economics.

What type of data will be posted on the DHP Healthcare Workforce Data Center in the future?

Future postings in 2010 will include additional survey findings, data cubes, charts, and secondary analysis of existing supply and demand research on physicians and nurses plus findings for nursing education programs.

What economic impact does Virginia's healthcare workforce have on the labor market?

According to the Virginia Employment Commission (October 2009) healthcare and social assistance sector jobs grew by 10,900 jobs (or a 3% increase) between 2008 and 2009.

2010 findings from the Virginia Employment Commission and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics indicate one in ten emerging jobs in the Commonwealth is in the health sector.

The Governor's 2008 bond package for capital construction to expand the class size and train health professionals at VCU-MCV, Eastern Virginia Medical School and the Virginia Tech Carillon School of Medicine will help meet the future needs for healthcare professionals in the Commonwealth, particularly in underserved and rural areas and will create jobs immediately in the affected areas.