



Virginia Department of Health Professions Healthcare Workforce Data Center PHYSICIAN FACTS AND TRENDS

Virginia & US 2008

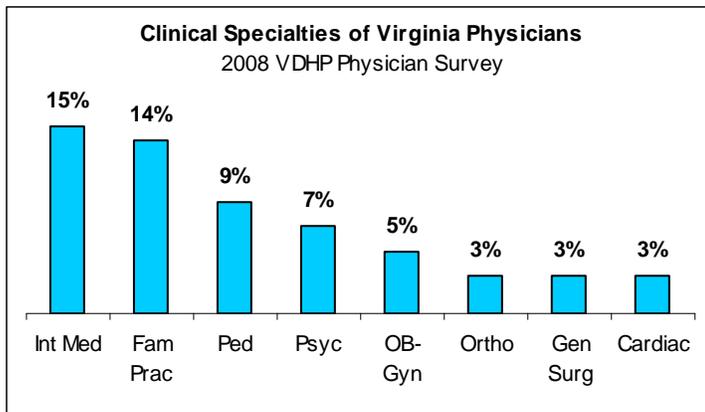
	Virginia Workforce (2008) ¹	National Workforce (2005) ²
Medical Doctors	93.7%	93.4%
Doctors of Osteopathy	6.2%	6.6%
Primary Care*	39.1%	37.4%
Non-Primary Care*	60.8%	62.6%
Active Physicians (Est)	22,215	817,440
Density**	285/100,000	276/100,000

*Primary specialty
**Population Figures from US Census Bureau, 2009 Population Estimates

The Virginia Department of Health Professions tracks data on the number, characteristics and workforce participation rates of licensed physicians using an online survey taken during biennial license renewal. 29,472 physicians renewed their licenses in 2008, and 18,221 (61.8%) completed the online survey. Of those respondents, 70.5 % indicated they are active in the Virginia physician workforce. If the population of respondents matches the population of licensed physicians as a whole, the results suggest about 22,215 licensed physicians practice in Virginia. However, readers should keep in mind that the population of physicians who renewed online and completed the survey may be different than the population of new physicians or physicians who renewed by other methods.¹

PHYSICIAN CHARACTERISTICS

Clinical Specialty: About 39% of Virginia physicians work in primary care specialties (Pediatrics, Family Practice, Internal Medicine), while 12% listed these as secondary specialties. Nationwide, and in Virginia, the largest percentage of physicians are in Internal Medicine (14.9%) and Family Practice (14.5%). More Pediatric and Family Practice physicians work part-time than do other specialists.¹



Salaries: Nationally, medical specialists earn significantly more than primary care providers. In 2005, the average annual salary for Internal Medicine was \$162,000, while Family Practitioners earned \$145,000. By contrast, Cardiologists averaged \$342,000 and Radiologists \$351,000.⁵ Virginia specific salary data is currently unavailable.

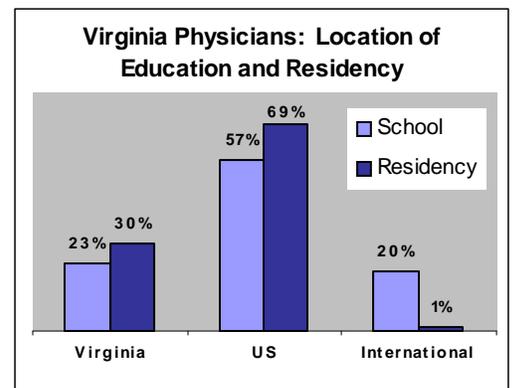
Physician Productivity: 85% of Virginia physicians work full-time and almost 60% spend 40 or more hours per week on patient care activities. The median physician reported spending 40+ hours per week on patient care, 1-9 hours per week teaching and 1-9 hours per week on administrative duties. However time spent on these duties may overlap and are not indicative of total hours worked. Over a quarter of physicians also spend some time performing research.¹

Demographics: Until the current biennium, Virginia did not collect data on race, ethnicity or gender. Nationally, the physician workforce is not as diverse as the general population. Almost 70% of physicians who choose to report their race or ethnicity are non-Hispanic white.² Over 71 percent of physicians are male.⁴ Minorities are catching up as a percentage of medical school graduates, but progress is slow. On the other hand, women now make up almost 50% of all medical school graduates.²

VIRGINIA'S MEDICAL EDUCATION

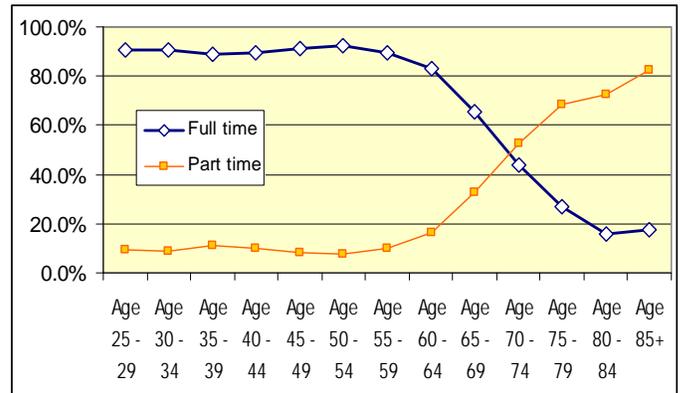
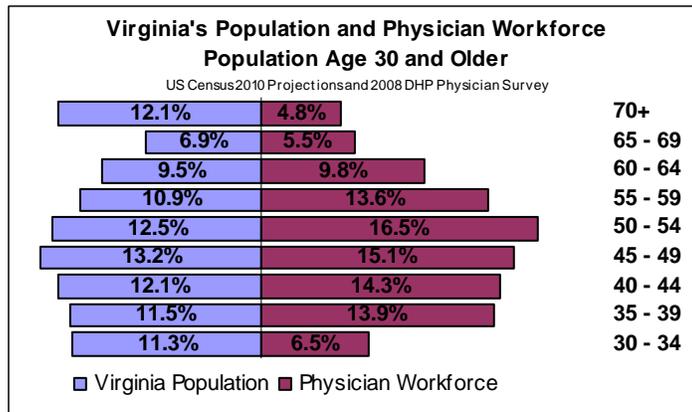
In 2008, Virginia spent over \$50 million from the General Fund to support medical education. 557 new physicians graduated from Virginia's four medical schools. Another medical school, with an expected class size of 40, will open in August 2010.³ Despite this, Virginia struggles to retain its medical graduates. Only 23% of Virginia's physician workforce graduated from Virginia Medical Schools, and only 30% completed their residencies in state.¹ According to the American Association of Medical Colleges, Virginia retains only 35% of its medical school graduates and 39% of its residents, ranking 31st and 39th, respectively, among the states.⁴

Virginia's Medical Schools ³	2008 Entering Class Size
Eastern Virginia Medical School, Norfolk.....	115
Edward Via Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine, Blacksburg.....	191
University of Virginia School of Medicine, Charlottesville.....	145
Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine, Richmond.....	192
Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine, Roanoke (August, 2010).....(Expected)	40



AGE AND THE PHYSICIAN WORKFORCE

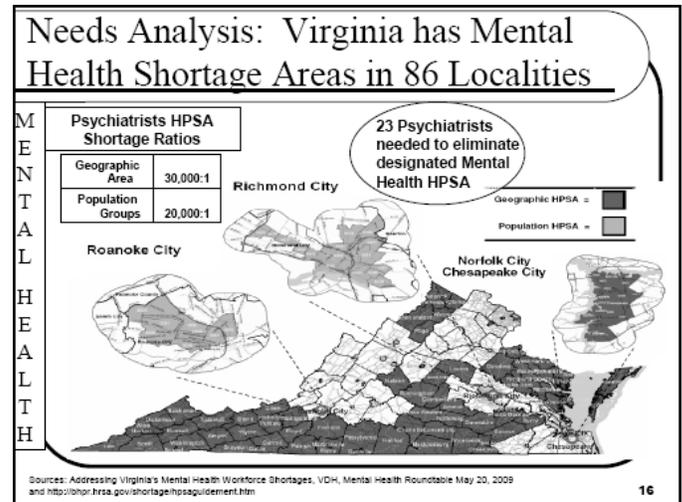
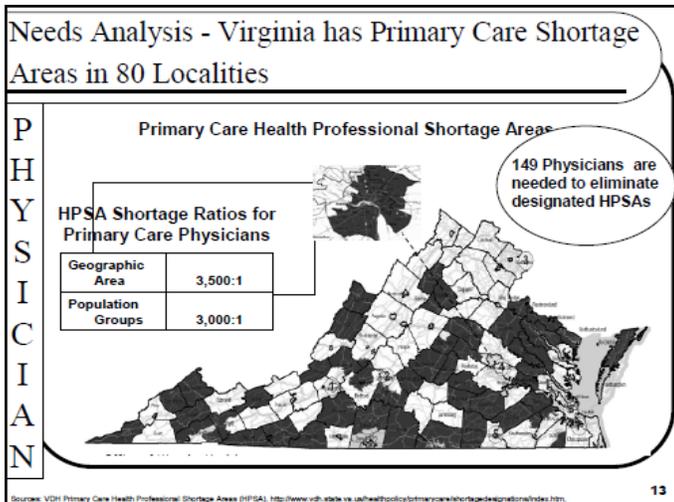
Virginia's population and its physicians are growing older. Both of these factors place strain on Virginia's physician workforce. About one third of Virginia's physician workforce is age 55 or older. Virginia's physicians begin to cut back their hours or retire after reaching age 55.¹ Meanwhile, persons age 65 to 75 require twice as many physician services as the population in general, while persons over age 75 require over three times.³



PHYSICIAN SUPPLY/DEMAND

Using existing survey data, the Department of Health Professions estimates Virginia has 267 active physicians per 100,000 residents and 104 active primary care physicians per 100,000 residents. While state level physician supply/demand forecasts are difficult and imprecise to produce, there is general agreement that the supply of primary care physicians will increasingly fall short of demand. The Kaiser Family foundation estimates that 8.6% of Virginia's population lived in primary care shortage areas in 2008.⁷

Shortage Areas: Physician to population ratios vary by urban/rural areas across the state and range from a high of 286 per 100,000 population in urban areas, to a low of 58 per 100,000 in selected rural areas. In Virginia and nationwide, rural areas are more likely to be medically underserved.⁶ More than 7,000 additional primary care physicians are needed in underserved and rural areas in the US now.² In Virginia, 149 physicians and 23 psychiatrists are needed *now* to eliminate designated Health Professional Shortage Areas.³



THE FUTURE OF VIRGINIA'S PHYSICIAN WORKFORCE

Experts disagree on how these trends will impact our health system. Federal estimates project a moderate shortage of physicians through 2020,² while the American Association of Medical Colleges predicts a national shortage of 124,000 physicians by 2025 should current trends continue.⁶ In 2007, then Governor Kaine's Health Reform Commission predicted a 1,500 physician shortfall in Virginia by 2020, while more recent studies suggest a shortfall of 2700 physicians by 2030.⁸ Additionally, maldistribution in the physician workforce means that some primary care and surgical specialties, along with many rural and urban areas, may suffer disproportionate shortages. The new Virginia Healthcare Workforce Data Center implemented new survey procedures for the current renewal cycle. These new surveys will collect more complete information on the Virginia physician workforce, providing policymakers, educators and the public with the tools they need to ensure Virginia maintains a high quality physician workforce.

[1] Profile of the Physician Workforce in Virginia: Findings from the 2008 Physician Workforce Survey; Virginia Department of Health Professions. [2] Physician Supply and Demand: Projections to 2020. U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services, HRSA, Bureau of Health Professions, October 2006 [3] Bowman, S. "Virginia's Healthcare Workforce: Present & Future Need." Report to VA JCHC, Sept. 1, 2009. <http://jchc.state.va.us/>. [4] 2009 State Physician Workforce Data Book, Center for Workforce Studies, Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), November, 2009. [5] 2006 Physician Comparison Report, Medical Group Management Association. [6] Dill M, Salzburg E, "The Complexities of Physician Supply and Demand: Projections through 2025", AAMC, Wash., DC, 2008. [7] Kaiser Family Foundation, State Facts: www.statehealthfacts.org [8] Forecasting Physician Supply and Demand in Virginia 2008-2030. Virginia Healthcare Workforce Data Center.