



## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:**

### **Department of Health Professions (DHP) Healthcare Workforce Data Center (HWDC)**

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

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.

#### **Are there thought leaders who contributed to the establishment of the DHP Healthcare Workforce Data Center?**

The DHP Healthcare Workforce Data Center was established beginning with an Advisory Council of 19 key stakeholders, 3 advisory committees involving 36+ 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/hwdc](http://www.dhp.virginia/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.

#### **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 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.