
Virginia's Optometrist Workforce: 2020

Healthcare Workforce Data Center

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Virginia Department of Health Professions
Healthcare Workforce Data Center
Perimeter Center
9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300
Henrico, VA 23233
804-367-2115, 804-527-4466 (fax)
E-mail: HWDC@dhp.virginia.gov

Follow us on Tumblr: www.vahwdc.tumblr.com

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More than 1,300 Optometrists voluntarily participated in this survey. Without their efforts, the work of the center would not be possible. The Department of Health Professions, the Healthcare Workforce Data Center, and the Board of Optometry express our sincerest appreciation for your ongoing cooperation.

Thank You!

Virginia Department of Health Professions

David E. Brown, DC
Director

Barbara Allison-Bryan, MD
Chief Deputy Director

Healthcare Workforce Data Center Staff:

Elizabeth Carter, PhD
Director

Yetty Shobo, PhD
Deputy Director

Laura Jackson, MSHSA
Operations Manager

Rajana Siva, MBA
Research Analyst

Christopher Coyle
Research Assistant

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The Optometrist Workforce: At a Glance:

The Workforce

Licensees:	1,674
Virginia's Workforce:	1,246
FTEs:	1,029

Background

Rural Childhood:	24%
HS Degree in VA:	32%
UG Degree in VA:	30%

Current Employment

Employed in Prof.:	97%
Hold 1 Full-Time Job:	68%
Satisfied?:	95%

Survey Response Rate

All Licensees:	83%
Renewing Practitioners:	92%

Residency Program

Ocular Disease:	7%
Primary Eye Care:	4%

Job Turnover

Switched Jobs:	5%
Employed Over 2 Yrs.:	71%

Demographics

% Female:	55%
Diversity Index:	48%
Median Age:	46

Finances

Median Inc.:	\$120k-\$130k
Health Benefits:	56%
Under 40 w/ Ed. Debt:	71%

Time Allocation

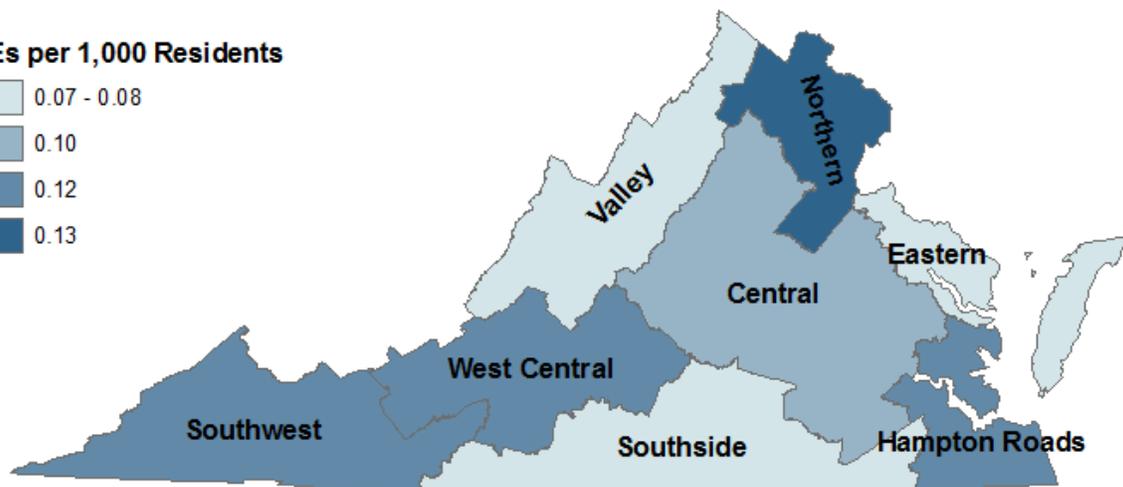
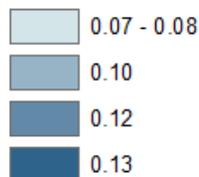
Patient Care:	90%-99%
Administration:	1%-9%
Patient Care Role:	92%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

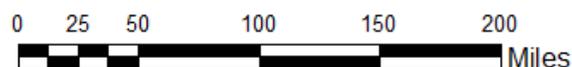
Full-Time Equivalency Units Provided by Optometrists per 1,000 Residents by Virginia Performs Region

Source: Va Healthcare Workforce Data Center

FTEs per 1,000 Residents



Annual Estimates of the Resident Population: July 1, 2018
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division



This report contains the results of the 2020 Optometrist Workforce Survey. More than 1,300 optometrists voluntarily participated in this survey. The Virginia Department of Health Professions' Healthcare Workforce Data Center (HWDC) administers this survey during the license renewal process, which now takes place every March for optometrists; the process previously occurred in December. These survey respondents represents 83% of the 1,674 optometrists who are licensed in the state and 92% of renewing practitioners.

The HWDC estimates that 1,246 optometrists participated in Virginia's workforce during the survey time period, which is defined as those who worked at least a portion of the year in the state or who live in the state and intend to return to work in the profession at some point in the future. Virginia's optometrist workforce provided 1,029 "full-time equivalency units", which the HWDC defines simply as working 2,000 hours per year.

More than half of Virginia's optometrists are female, including 73% of those who are under the age of 40. In a random encounter between two optometrists, there is a 48% chance that they would be of different races or ethnicities, a measure known as the diversity index. This makes Virginia's optometrist workforce less diverse than the state's overall population, which has a diversity index of 57%. Nearly one-quarter of all optometrists grew up in a rural area, and 18% of these professionals currently work in non-metro areas of the state. In total, 7% work in non-metro areas of Virginia.

Nearly all optometrists are currently employed in the profession, 68% hold one full-time job, and 42% work between 40 and 49 hours per week. Over the past year, 2% of all optometrists have experienced involuntary unemployment, and 2% have experienced underemployment. Nearly all optometrists work in the private sector, including 92% who are employed in the for-profit sector. With respect to establishment types, nearly half of optometrists work in group private practices, while another 23% work in solo private practices. The typical optometrist earns between \$120,000 and \$130,000 per year, and 77% of wage or salaried optometrists receive at least one employer-sponsored benefit. Nearly all optometrists are satisfied with their current work situation, including 64% who indicate that they are "very satisfied".

Summary of Trends

In this section, all statistics for this year are compared to the 2015 optometrist workforce. The number of licensed optometrists has increased by 7% (1,674 vs. 1,571). In addition, the size of the optometrist workforce has also increased by 7% (1,246 vs. 1,165), and the number of FTEs provided by this workforce has increased by 3% (1,029 vs. 1,003). Virginia's optometrists who are renewing their licenses are more likely to respond to this survey (92% vs. 85%).

The percentage of the state's optometrist workforce that is female has increased (55% vs. 51%), and this workforce has also become more diverse (48% vs. 43%) at a time when the state's overall population is also becoming more diverse (57% vs. 55%). Although there has been no change in the percentage of optometrists who grew up in rural areas, this group of optometrists is slightly less likely to work in non-metro areas of the state (18% vs. 19%). Among all optometrists, the percentage who work in non-metro areas of Virginia has decreased (7% vs. 9%).

Optometrists are less likely to hold one full-time job (68% vs. 69%). At the same time, optometrists are relatively more likely to work between 30 and 39 hours per week (30% vs. 26%) and relatively less likely to work between 40 and 49 hours per week (42% vs. 46%). Meanwhile, optometrists are more likely to work in group private practices (45% vs. 39%) instead of either solo private practices (23% vs. 25%) or optical goods stores (16% vs. 19%).

The median annual income of Virginia's optometrists has increased (\$120k-\$130k vs. \$100k-\$110k), and more optometrists receive this income in the form of a salary/commission (54% vs. 51%) instead of from a business/practice (29% vs. 32%). In addition, wage or salaried optometrists are more likely to receive at least one employer-sponsored benefit (77% vs. 70%), including those who have access to health insurance (56% vs. 47%). Optometrists who are under the age of 40 are considerably less likely to carry education debt (71% vs. 89%), but the median debt burden among those with education debt has increased (\$110k-\$120k vs. \$100k-\$110k). Optometrists are slightly less likely to indicate that they are satisfied with their current work situation (95% vs. 96%). This is also the case among those optometrists who indicate that they are "very satisfied" (64% vs. 66%).

A Closer Look:

Licensees		
License Status	#	%
Renewing Practitioners	1,439	86%
New Licensees	123	7%
Non-Renewals	112	7%
All Licensees	1,674	100%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

At a Glance:

Licensed Optometrists

Number: 1,674
 New: 7%
 Not Renewed: 7%

Response Rates

All Licensees: 83%
 Renewing Practitioners: 92%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

HWDC surveys tend to achieve very high response rates. More than 90% of renewing optometrists submitted a survey. These represent 83% of all optometrists who held a license at some point in the past year.

Response Rates	
Completed Surveys	1,388
Response Rate, All Licensees	83%
Response Rate, Renewals	92%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Response Rates			
Statistic	Non Respondents	Respondents	Response Rate
By Age			
Under 30	39	71	65%
30 to 34	48	181	79%
35 to 39	38	172	82%
40 to 44	38	168	82%
45 to 49	30	181	86%
50 to 54	21	166	89%
55 to 59	20	149	88%
60 and Over	52	300	85%
Total	286	1,388	83%
New Licenses			
Issued in Past Year	60	63	51%
Metro Status			
Non-Metro	17	89	84%
Metro	154	926	86%
Not in Virginia	115	373	76%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Definitions

- 1. The Survey Period:** The survey was conducted in March 2020.
- 2. Target Population:** All optometrists who held a Virginia license at some point between April 2019 and March 2020.
- 3. Survey Population:** The survey was available to optometrists who renewed their licenses online. It was not available to those who did not renew, including some optometrists newly licensed in the past year.

At a Glance:

Workforce

2020 Optometrist Workforce: 1,246
 FTEs: 1,029

Utilization Ratios

Licensees in VA Workforce: 74%
 Licensees per FTE: 1.63
 Workers per FTE: 1.21

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Definitions

- 1. Virginia’s Workforce:** A licensee with a primary or secondary work site in Virginia at any time in the past year or who indicated intent to return to Virginia’s workforce at any point in the future.
- 2. Full-Time Equivalency Unit (FTE):** The HWDC uses 2,000 (40 hours for 50 weeks with 2 weeks off) as its baseline measure for FTEs.
- 3. Licensees in VA Workforce:** The proportion of licensees in Virginia’s workforce.
- 4. Licensees per FTE:** An indication of the number of licensees needed to create 1 FTE. Higher numbers indicate lower licensee participation.
- 5. Workers per FTE:** An indication of the number of workers in Virginia’s workforce needed to create 1 FTE. Higher numbers indicate lower utilization of available workers.

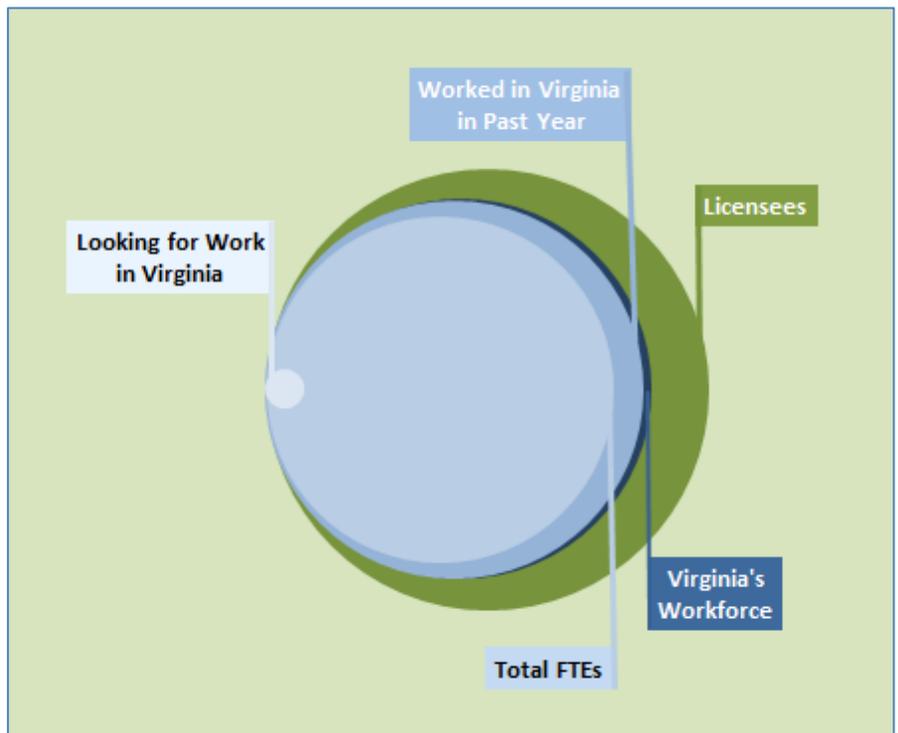
Virginia's Optometrist Workforce

Status	#	%
Worked in Virginia in Past Year	1,232	99%
Looking for Work in Virginia	14	1%
Virginia's Workforce	1,246	100%
Total FTEs	1,029	
Licensees	1,674	

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

This report uses weighting to estimate the figures in this report. Unless otherwise noted, figures refer to the Virginia Workforce only. For more information on HWDC’s methodology visit:

<https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/PublicResources/HealthcareWorkforceDataCenter/>



Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

A Closer Look:

Age & Gender						
Age	Male		Female		Total	
	#	% Male	#	% Female	#	% in Age Group
Under 30	19	26%	52	74%	71	8%
30 to 34	36	26%	101	74%	137	15%
35 to 39	36	29%	88	71%	124	13%
40 to 44	31	28%	79	72%	110	12%
45 to 49	48	41%	69	59%	117	13%
50 to 54	41	40%	61	60%	102	11%
55 to 59	50	62%	31	39%	81	9%
60 and Over	160	87%	25	14%	185	20%
Total	419	45%	506	55%	925	100%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Race & Ethnicity					
Race/ Ethnicity	Virginia*	Optometrists		Optometrists Under 40	
	%	#	%	#	%
White	61%	643	69%	193	59%
Black	19%	45	5%	18	6%
Asian	7%	178	19%	88	27%
Other Race	0%	24	3%	7	2%
Two or More Races	3%	19	2%	13	4%
Hispanic	10%	18	2%	8	2%
Total	100%	927	100%	327	100%

*Population data in this chart is from the U.S. Census, Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin for the United States, States, and Counties: July 1, 2018.

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

More than one-third of all optometrists are under the age of 40, and 73% of these professionals are female. In addition, there is a 57% chance that two randomly chosen optometrists from this age group would be of different races or ethnicities.

At a Glance:

Gender

% Female: 55%
% Under 40 Female: 73%

Age

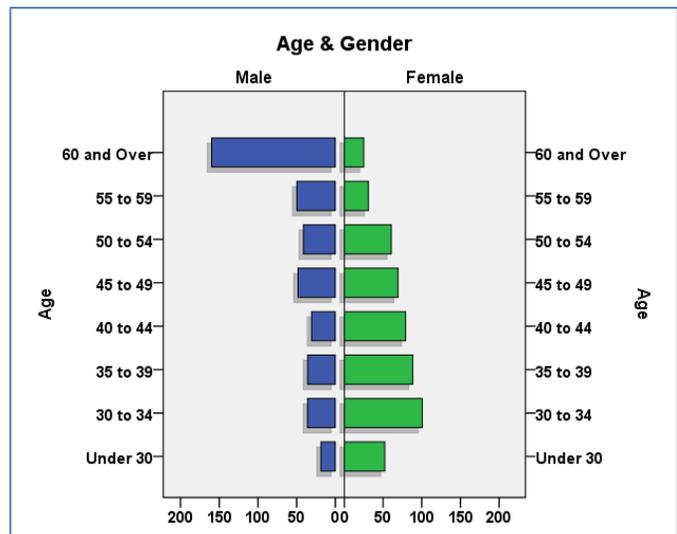
Median Age: 46
% Under 40: 36%
% 55+: 29%

Diversity

Diversity Index: 48%
Under 40 Div. Index: 57%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

In a chance encounter between two optometrists, there is a 48% chance that they would be of different races or ethnicities (a measure known as the diversity index).



Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

At a Glance:

Childhood

Urban Childhood: 11%
 Rural Childhood: 24%

Virginia Background

HS in Virginia: 32%
 UG Education in VA: 30%
 HS/UG Edu. in VA: 36%

Location Choice

% Rural to Non-Metro: 18%
 % Urban/Suburban to Non-Metro: 4%

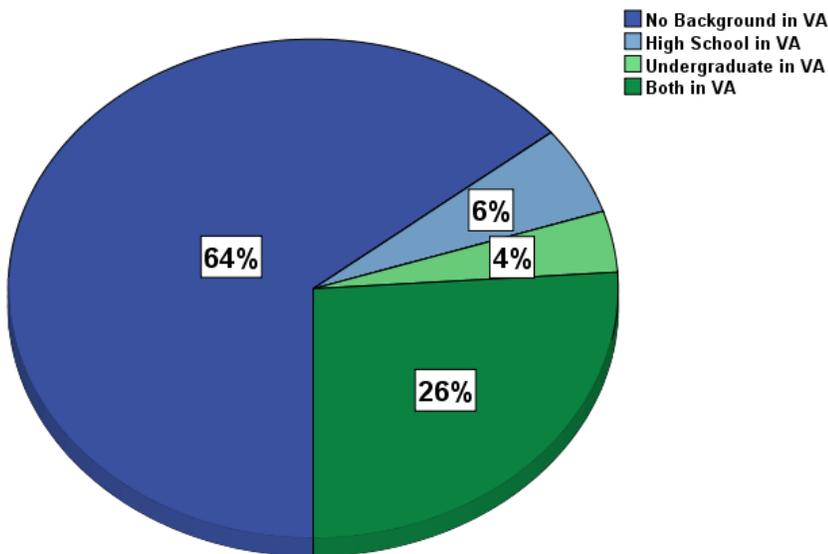
Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

A Closer Look:

Primary Location: USDA Rural Urban Continuum		Rural Status of Childhood Location		
Code	Description	Rural	Suburban	Urban
Metro Counties				
1	Metro, 1 Million+	18%	70%	12%
2	Metro, 250,000 to 1 Million	39%	50%	11%
3	Metro, 250,000 or Less	30%	66%	4%
Non-Metro Counties				
4	Urban Pop., 20,000+, Metro Adjacent	0%	80%	20%
6	Urban Pop., 2,500-19,999, Metro Adjacent	47%	47%	5%
7	Urban Pop., 2,500-19,999, Non-Adjacent	83%	17%	0%
8	Rural, Metro Adjacent	67%	0%	33%
9	Rural, Non-Adjacent	25%	50%	25%
Overall		24%	65%	11%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Educational Background in Virginia



Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Nearly one-quarter of all optometrists grew up in self-described rural areas, and 18% of these professionals currently work in non-metro counties. Overall, 7% of Virginia's optometrist workforce work in non-metro counties of the state.

Top Ten States for Optometrist Recruitment

Rank	All Optometrists			
	High School	#	Professional School	#
1	Virginia	296	Pennsylvania	293
2	Pennsylvania	77	Tennessee	131
3	New York	72	Massachusetts	94
4	Maryland	69	Illinois	60
5	North Carolina	38	Florida	53
6	Ohio	34	Ohio	46
7	Florida	34	Indiana	45
8	California	28	New York	38
9	Outside U.S./Canada	27	Alabama	33
10	New Jersey	26	Texas	31

Nearly one-third of optometrists received their high school degree in Virginia, while 32% received their Doctorate of Optometry in Pennsylvania. Virginia does not currently have a professional school for optometrists.

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Among optometrists who have been licensed in the past five years, 31% received their high school degree in Virginia, while 30% received their Doctorate of Optometry in Pennsylvania.

Rank	Licensed in the Past Five Years			
	High School	#	Professional School	#
1	Virginia	68	Pennsylvania	66
2	Pennsylvania	18	Massachusetts	32
3	California	17	Tennessee	22
4	Maryland	13	Florida	16
5	North Carolina	9	New York	12
6	New York	8	Indiana	11
7	Indiana	7	Puerto Rico	11
8	Illinois	7	Illinois	10
9	Ohio	6	Texas	10
10	Massachusetts	5	California	9

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

More than one-quarter of licensed optometrists did not participate in Virginia's workforce in the past year. Most of these optometrists worked at some point in the past year, including 91% who currently work as optometrists.

At a Glance:

Not in VA Workforce

Total:	430
% of Licensees:	26%
Federal/Military:	22%
Va. Border State/D.C.:	31%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

A Closer Look:

Residency Programs		
Area	#	% of Workforce
Ocular Disease	83	7%
Primary Eye Care	55	4%
Cornea and Contact Lenses	22	2%
Family Practice Optometry	21	2%
Pediatric Optometry	19	2%
Vision Therapy and Rehabilitation	17	1%
Low Vision Rehabilitation	16	1%
Geriatric Optometry	6	0%
Brain Injury Vision Rehabilitation	6	0%
Refractive and Ocular Surgery	6	0%
Community Health Optometry	1	0%
Other	8	1%
At Least One Res. Program	163	13%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

At a Glance:

Residency Programs
 Ocular Disease: 7%
 Primary Eye Care: 4%
 Cornea/Contacts Lenses: 2%

Education Debt
 Carry Debt: 44%
 Under Age 40 w/ Debt: 71%
 Median Debt: \$110k-\$120k

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

More than one out of every ten optometrists has completed at least one residency program, including 7% who have completed a residency program in ocular diseases.

More than 40% of all optometrists currently have education debt, including 71% of those who are under the age of 40. For those optometrists with education debt, the median debt burden is between \$110,000 and \$120,000.

Education Debt				
Amount Carried	All Optometrists		Optometrists Under 40	
	#	%	#	%
None	444	56%	82	29%
Less than \$20,000	15	2%	6	2%
\$20,000-\$39,999	26	3%	8	3%
\$40,000-\$59,999	31	4%	9	3%
\$60,000-\$79,999	32	4%	15	5%
\$80,000-\$99,999	42	5%	12	4%
\$100,000-\$119,999	32	4%	17	6%
\$120,000 or More	166	21%	136	48%
Total	788	100%	285	100%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

At a Glance:

Employment

Employed in Profession: 97%
 Involuntarily Unemployed: 0%

Positions Held

1 Full-Time: 68%
 2 or More Positions: 15%

Weekly Hours:

40 to 49: 42%
 60 or More: 3%
 Less than 30: 14%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

A Closer Look:

Current Work Status		
Status	#	%
Employed, Capacity Unknown	1	< 1%
Employed in an Optometry-Related Capacity	887	97%
Employed, NOT in an Optometry-Related Capacity	7	1%
Not Working, Reason Unknown	0	0%
Involuntarily Unemployed	0	0%
Voluntarily Unemployed	12	1%
Retired	9	1%
Total	916	100%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Nearly all licensed optometrists are currently employed in the profession, more than two-thirds hold one full-time job, and 42% work between 40 and 49 hours per week.

Current Positions		
Positions	#	%
No Positions	21	2%
One Part-Time Position	126	14%
Two Part-Time Positions	38	4%
One Full-Time Position	594	68%
One Full-Time Position & One Part-Time Position	60	7%
Two Full-Time Positions	10	1%
More than Two Positions	21	2%
Total	870	100%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Current Weekly Hours		
Hours	#	%
0 Hours	21	2%
1 to 9 Hours	15	2%
10 to 19 Hours	34	4%
20 to 29 Hours	69	8%
30 to 39 Hours	263	30%
40 to 49 Hours	368	42%
50 to 59 Hours	68	8%
60 to 69 Hours	19	2%
70 to 79 Hours	6	1%
80 or More Hours	4	0%
Total	867	100%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

A Closer Look:

Income		
Annual Income	#	%
Volunteer Work Only	5	1%
Less than \$40,000	35	5%
\$40,000-\$59,999	30	5%
\$60,000-\$79,999	54	8%
\$80,000-\$99,999	75	11%
\$100,000-\$119,999	129	19%
\$120,000-\$139,999	117	18%
\$140,000-\$159,999	77	12%
\$160,000-\$179,999	33	5%
\$180,000-\$199,999	30	5%
\$200,000 or More	81	12%
Total	666	100%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

At a Glance:

Earnings

Median Income: \$120k-\$130k

Benefits

Health Insurance: 56%

Retirement: 56%

Satisfaction

Satisfied 95%

Very Satisfied: 64%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Job Satisfaction		
Level	#	%
Very Satisfied	567	64%
Somewhat Satisfied	275	31%
Somewhat Dissatisfied	33	4%
Very Dissatisfied	10	1%
Total	884	100%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

The typical optometrist earns between \$120,000 and \$130,000 per year. In addition, 77% of wage or salaried optometrists receive at least one employer-sponsored benefit at their primary work location.

Employer-Sponsored Benefits			
Benefit	#	%	% of Wage/Salary Employees
Paid Vacation	465	52%	68%
Retirement	409	46%	56%
Health Insurance	389	44%	56%
Paid Sick Leave	300	34%	46%
Dental Insurance	241	27%	37%
Group Life Insurance	176	20%	28%
Signing/Retention Bonus	84	9%	14%
At Least One Benefit	568	64%	77%

*From any employer at time of survey.

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

A Closer Look:

Underemployment in Past Year		
In the Past Year, Did You . . . ?	#	%
Work Two or More Positions at the Same Time?	146	12%
Switch Employers or Practices?	61	5%
Experience Voluntary Unemployment?	45	4%
Experience Involuntary Unemployment?	21	2%
Work Part-time or Temporary Positions, but Would Have Preferred a Full-Time/Permanent Position?	20	2%
Experienced at Least One	239	19%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Over the past year, 2% of Virginia’s optometrists have experienced involuntary unemployment. By comparison, Virginia’s average monthly unemployment rate was 2.7% during the same time period.¹

Location Tenure				
Tenure	Primary		Secondary	
	#	%	#	%
Not Currently Working at this Location	7	1%	10	4%
Less than 6 Months	41	5%	25	10%
6 Months to 1 Year	93	11%	34	13%
1 to 2 Years	112	13%	43	17%
3 to 5 Years	141	16%	51	20%
6 to 10 Years	135	16%	42	16%
More than 10 Years	341	39%	52	20%
Subtotal	870	100%	257	100%
Did Not Have Location	14		982	
Item Missing	362		6	
Total	1,246		1,246	

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

More than half of optometrists receive a salary or a commission at their primary work location, while 29% earn income from a business or practice.

At a Glance:

Unemployment Experience

Involuntarily Unemployed: 2%
Underemployed: 2%

Turnover & Tenure

Switched Jobs: 5%
New Location: 22%
Over 2 Years: 71%
Over 2 Yrs., 2nd Location: 56%

Employment Type

Salary/Commission: 54%
Business/Practice Inc.: 29%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

More than 70% of all optometrists have been employed at their primary work location for more than two years.

Employment Type		
Primary Work Site	#	%
Salary/Commission	363	54%
Business/Practice Income	197	29%
Hourly Wage	93	14%
By Contract	23	3%
Unpaid	1	0%
Subtotal	678	100%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

¹ As reported by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Over the past year, the non-seasonally adjusted monthly unemployment rate fluctuated between a low of 2.4% and a high of 3.3%. At the time of publication, the unemployment rate from March 2020 was still preliminary.

At a Glance:

Concentration

Top Region:	40%
Top 3 Regions:	78%
Lowest Region:	1%

Locations

2 or More (2020):	30%
2 or More (Now*):	28%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

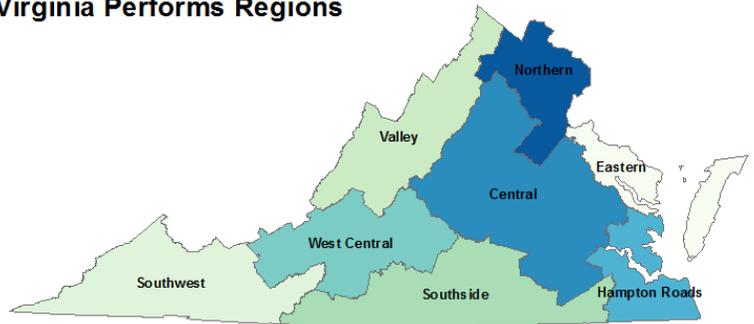
Nearly 80% of optometrists work in Northern Virginia, Hampton Roads, and Central Virginia.

A Closer Look:

Regional Distribution of Work Locations				
Virginia Performs Region	Primary Location		Secondary Location	
	#	%	#	%
Northern	346	40%	104	40%
Hampton Roads	174	20%	41	16%
Central	152	18%	44	17%
West Central	81	9%	23	9%
Southwest	36	4%	12	5%
Valley	33	4%	10	4%
Southside	14	2%	5	2%
Eastern	12	1%	1	0%
Virginia Border State/D.C.	12	1%	16	6%
Other U.S. State	7	1%	6	2%
Outside of the U.S.	0	0%	0	0%
Total	867	100%	262	100%
Item Missing	364		1	

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Virginia Performs Regions



More than one quarter of all optometrists currently have multiple work locations, while 30% have had multiple work locations over the past year.

Number of Work Locations				
Locations	Work Locations in Past Year		Work Locations Now*	
	#	%	#	%
0	14	2%	20	2%
1	607	69%	615	70%
2	160	18%	154	17%
3	63	7%	70	8%
4	15	2%	7	1%
5	13	2%	11	1%
6 or More	13	2%	7	1%
Total	884	100%	884	100%

*At the time of survey completion: March 2020.

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

A Closer Look:

Sector	Location Sector			
	Primary Location		Secondary Location	
	#	%	#	%
For-Profit	741	92%	230	92%
Non-Profit	22	3%	6	2%
State/Local Government	7	1%	9	4%
Veterans Administration	14	2%	0	0%
U.S. Military	21	3%	2	1%
Other Federal Government	0	0%	2	1%
Total	805	100%	249	100%
Did Not Have Location	14		982	
Item Missing	426		13	

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

At a Glance: (Primary Locations)

Sector

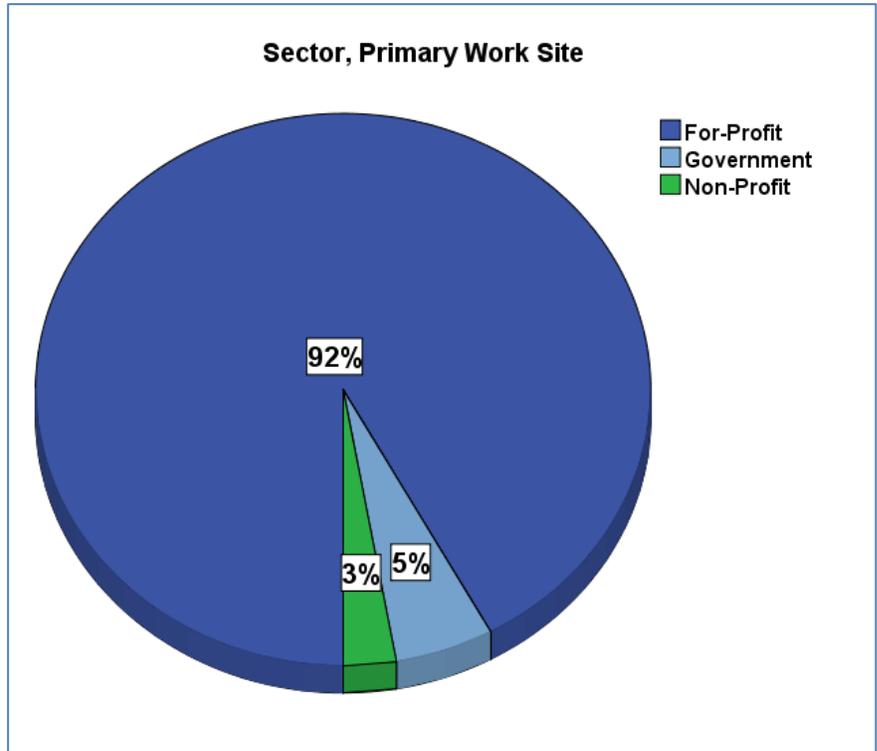
For-Profit:	92%
Federal:	4%

Top Establishments

Private Practice, Group:	45%
Private Practice, Solo:	23%
Optical Goods Store:	16%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

More than 90% of all optometrists work in the private sector, including 92% who work in the for-profit sector.



Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Location Type				
Establishment Type	Primary Location		Secondary Location	
	#	%	#	%
Private Practice, Group	343	45%	122	51%
Private Practice, Solo	176	23%	28	12%
Optical Goods Store	120	16%	60	25%
General Hospital, Outpatient Department	32	4%	2	1%
Physician Office	20	3%	4	2%
Outpatient/Community Clinic	18	2%	8	3%
Home Health Care	2	0%	0	0%
Academic Institution	1	0%	1	0%
General Hospital, Inpatient Department	1	0%	1	0%
Other	48	6%	14	6%
Total	761	100%	240	100%
Did Not Have a Location	14		982	

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

More than two-thirds of all optometrists work in a private practice, including 45% who work in a group private practice.

Nearly two-thirds of optometrists work at an establishment that accepts cash/self-pay as a form of payment for services rendered. This makes cash/self-pay the most commonly accepted form of payment among Virginia's optometry workforce.

Accepted Forms of Payment		
Payment	#	% of Workforce
Cash/Self-Pay	806	65%
Private Insurance	780	63%
Medicare	695	56%
Medicaid	443	36%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

At a Glance: (Primary Locations)

Typical Time Allocation

Patient Care: 90%-99%
Administration: 1%-9%

Roles

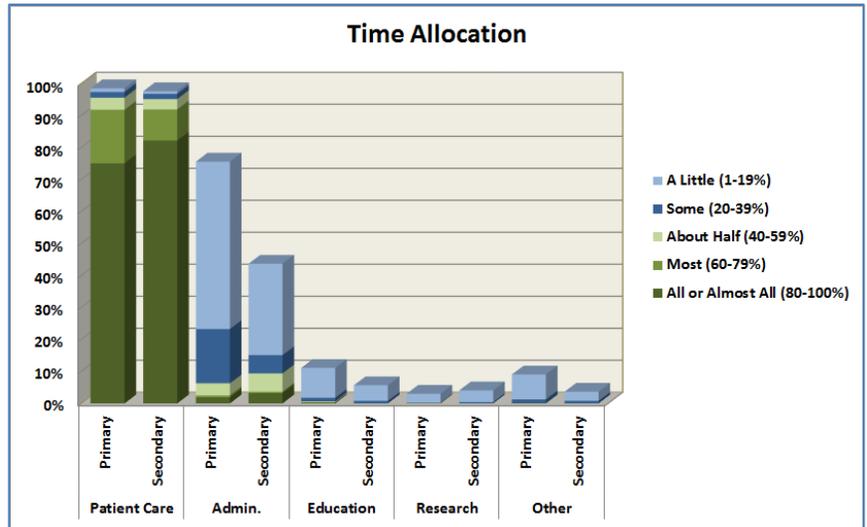
Patient Care: 92%
Administrative: 3%

Patient Care Optometrists

Median Admin. Time: 1%-9%
Avg. Admin. Time: 10%-19%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

A Closer Look:



Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

The typical optometrist spends most of her time caring for patients. In fact, 92% of all optometrists fill a patient care role, defined as spending at least 60% of their time in that activity.

Time Allocation										
Time Spent	Patient Care		Admin.		Education		Research		Other	
	Pri. Site	Sec. Site	Pri. Site	Sec. Site	Pri. Site	Sec. Site	Pri. Site	Sec. Site	Pri. Site	Sec. Site
All or Almost All (80-100%)	75%	83%	2%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Most (60-79%)	17%	10%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
About Half (40-59%)	4%	3%	4%	6%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Some (20-39%)	2%	2%	17%	6%	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%
A Little (1-19%)	1%	1%	52%	28%	9%	5%	3%	4%	8%	3%
None (0%)	2%	2%	24%	56%	89%	94%	97%	96%	91%	96%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

A Closer Look:

Retirement Expectations				
Expected Retirement Age	All Optometrists		Optometrists Over 50	
	#	%	#	%
Under Age 50	10	1%	-	-
50 to 54	27	4%	2	1%
55 to 59	82	11%	15	5%
60 to 64	181	23%	41	13%
65 to 69	265	34%	115	36%
70 to 74	102	13%	73	23%
75 to 79	45	6%	33	10%
80 or Over	18	2%	14	4%
I Do Not Intend to Retire	42	5%	28	9%
Total	771	100%	321	100%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

At a Glance:

Retirement Expectations

All Optometrists

Under 65: 39%
Under 60: 15%

Optometrists 50 and Over

Under 65: 18%
Under 60: 5%

Time Until Retirement

Within 2 Years: 7%
Within 10 Years: 24%
Half the Workforce: By 2045

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Nearly 40% of optometrists expect to retire before the age of 65. Among optometrists who are at least age 50, 18% still expect to retire by the age of 65.

Within the next two years, 8% of Virginia's optometrists expect to increase their patient care hours, and 4% expect to pursue additional educational opportunities.

Future Plans

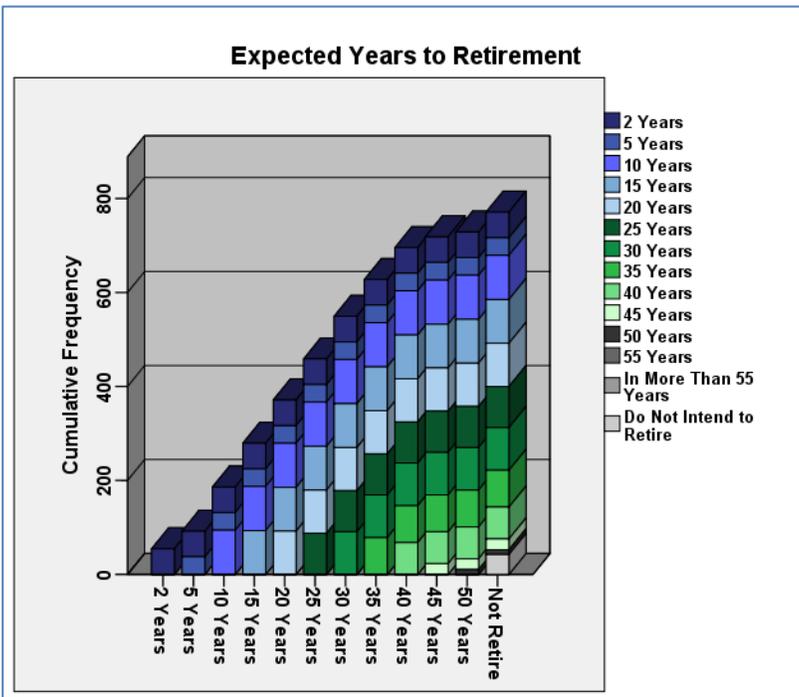
Two-Year Plans:	#	%
Decrease Participation		
Decrease Patient Care Hours	88	7%
Leave Virginia	21	2%
Leave Profession	14	1%
Decrease Teaching Hours	3	0%
Increase Participation		
Increase Patient Care Hours	102	8%
Pursue Additional Education	49	4%
Increase Teaching Hours	19	2%
Return to Virginia's Workforce	7	1%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

By comparing retirement expectations to age, we can estimate the maximum years to retirement for optometrists. While only 7% of optometrists expect to retire in the next two years, 24% expect to retire within the next decade. More than half of the current workforce expect to retire by 2045.

Time to Retirement			
Expect to Retire Within . . .	#	%	Cumulative %
2 Years	55	7%	7%
5 Years	37	5%	12%
10 Years	94	12%	24%
15 Years	93	12%	36%
20 Years	92	12%	48%
25 Years	87	11%	59%
30 Years	91	12%	71%
35 Years	78	10%	81%
40 Years	68	9%	90%
45 Years	23	3%	93%
50 Years	10	1%	94%
55 Years	0	0%	94%
In More than 55 Years	0	0%	94%
Do Not Intend to Retire	42	5%	100%
Total	771	100%	

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center



Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Using these estimates, retirement will begin to reach over 10% of the current workforce every five years by 2030. Retirement will peak at 12% of the current workforce around the same time before declining to under 10% again around 2060.

At a Glance:

FTEs

Total: 1,029
 FTEs/1,000 Residents²: 0.121
 Average: 0.84

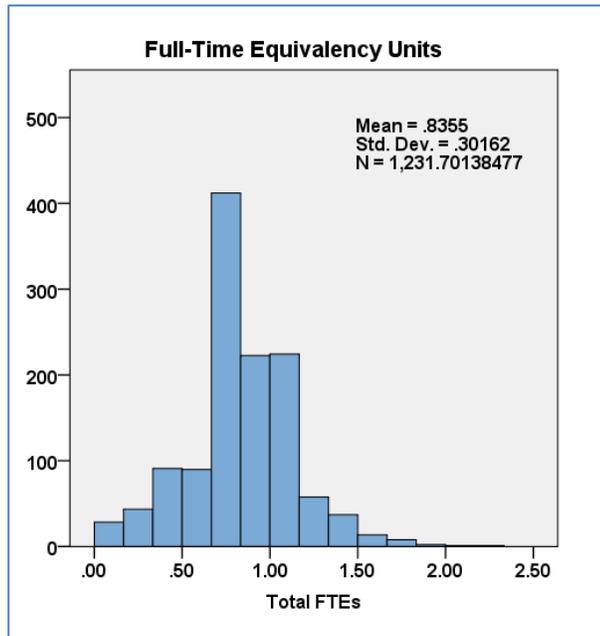
Age & Gender Effect

Age, Partial Eta³: Small
 Gender, Partial Eta³: Small

Partial Eta³ Explained:
 Partial Eta³ is a statistical measure of effect size.

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

A Closer Look:

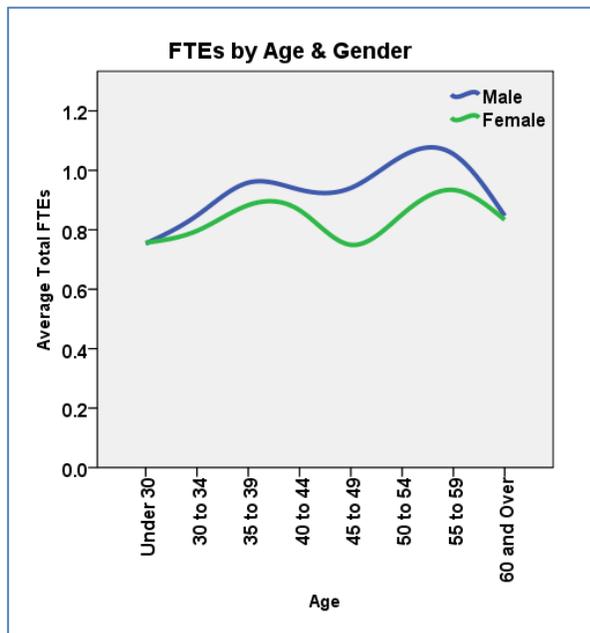


Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

The typical (median) optometrist provided 0.81 FTEs in the past year, or approximately 32 hours per week for 50 weeks. Although FTEs appear to vary by both age and gender, statistical tests did not verify that a difference exists.³

Full-Time Equivalency Units		
Age	Average	Median
Age		
Under 30	0.75	0.81
30 to 34	0.82	0.81
35 to 39	0.85	0.84
40 to 44	0.87	0.81
45 to 49	0.81	0.77
50 to 54	0.80	0.79
55 to 59	0.98	0.92
60 and Over	0.81	0.74
Gender		
Male	0.91	0.96
Female	0.83	0.87

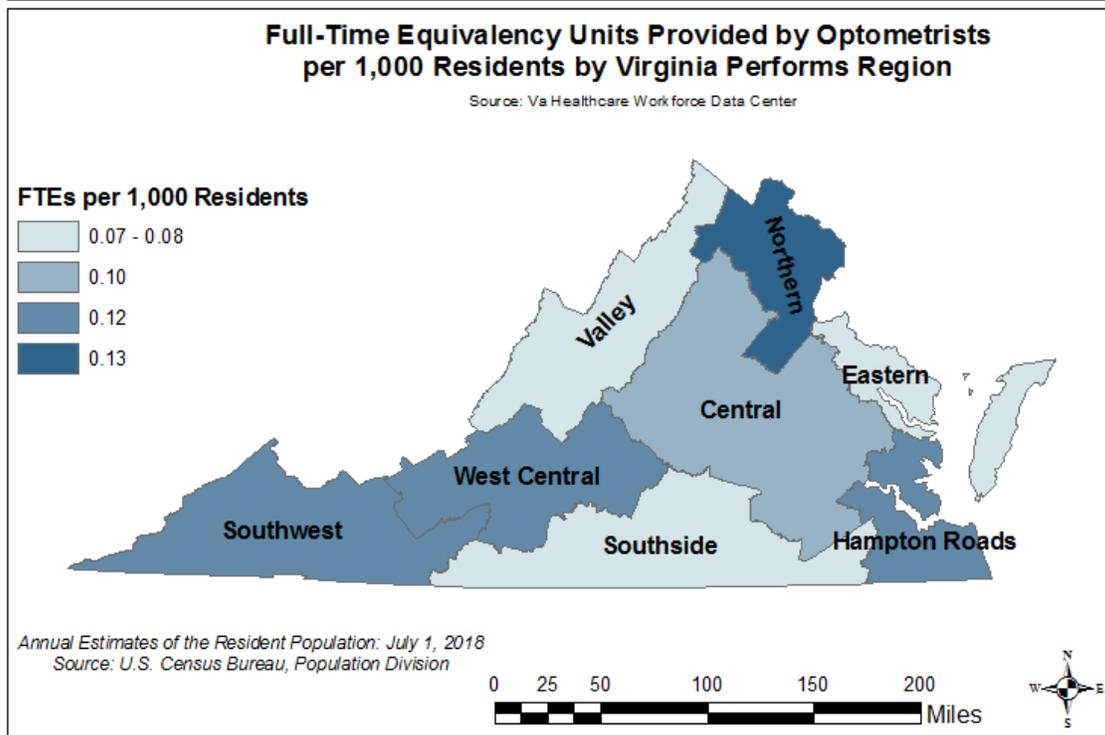
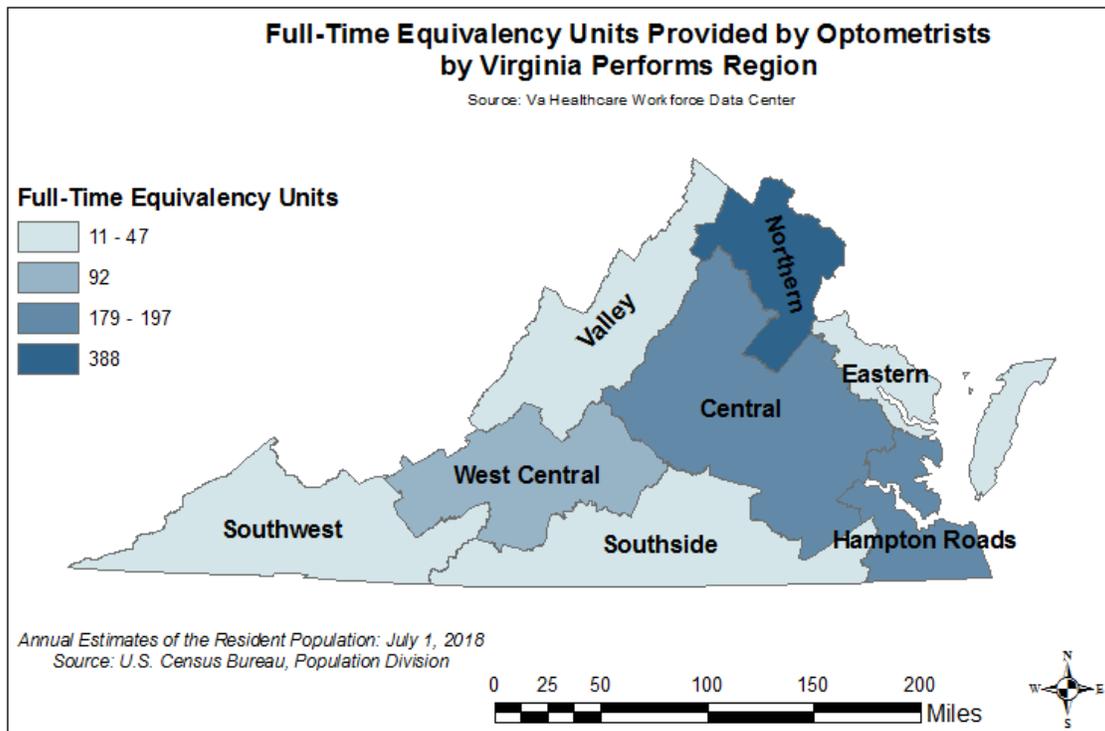
Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

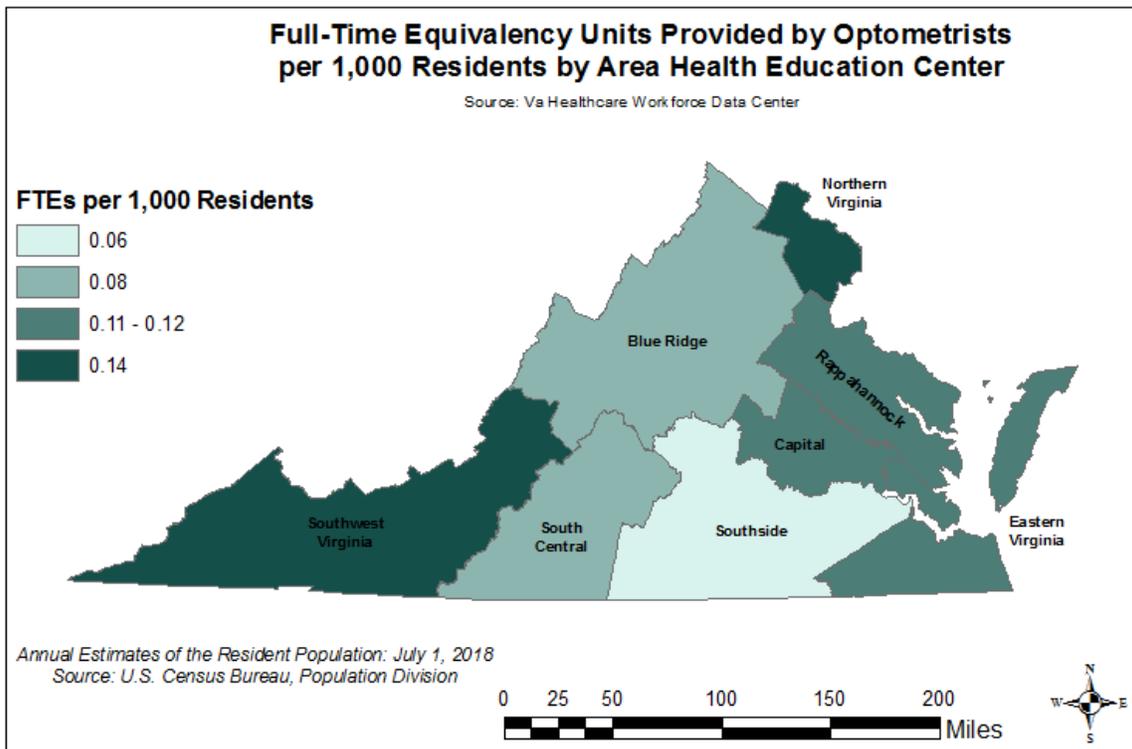
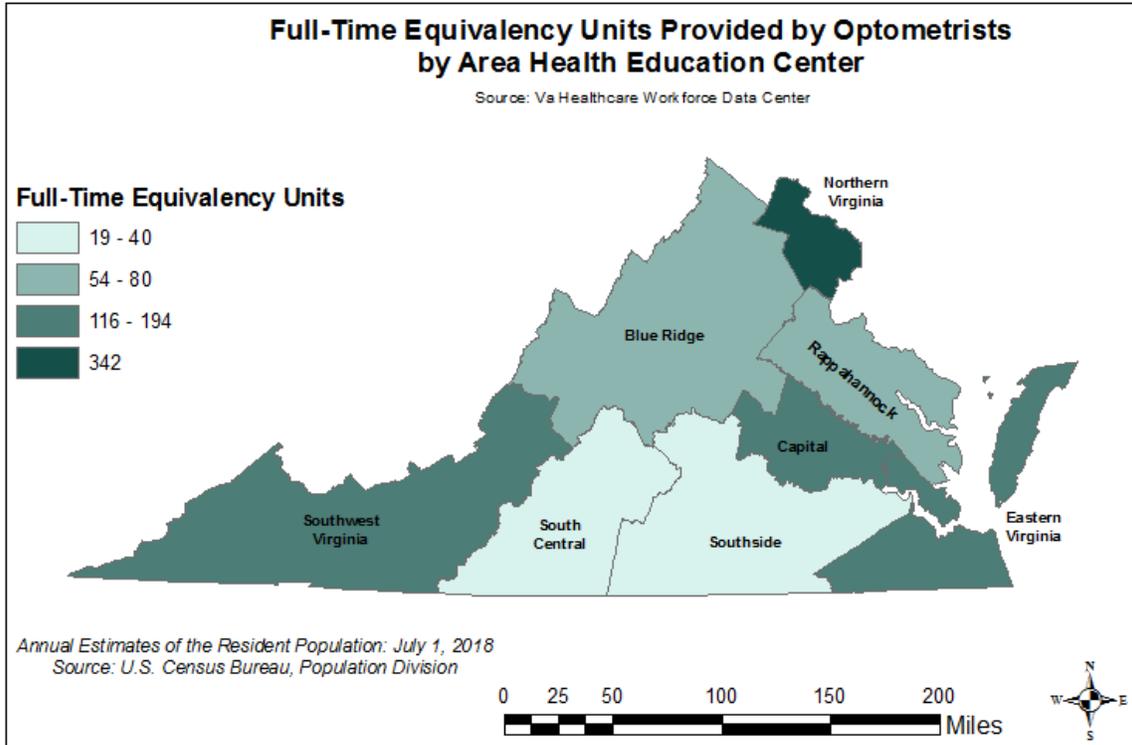


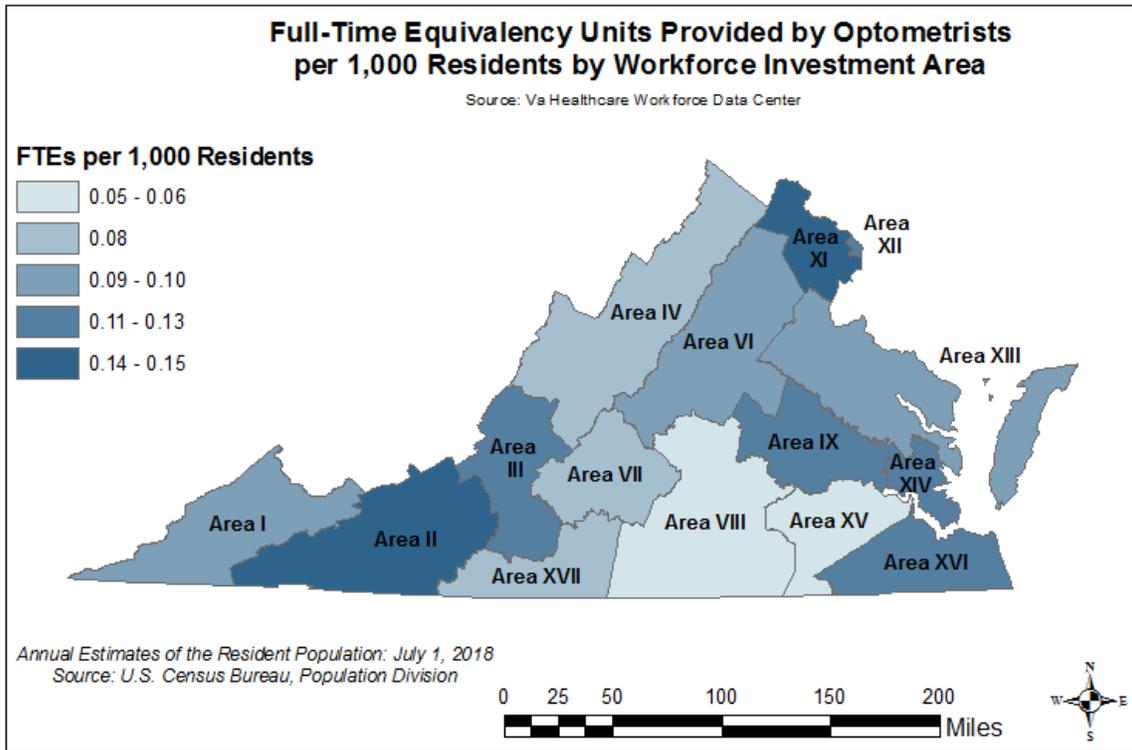
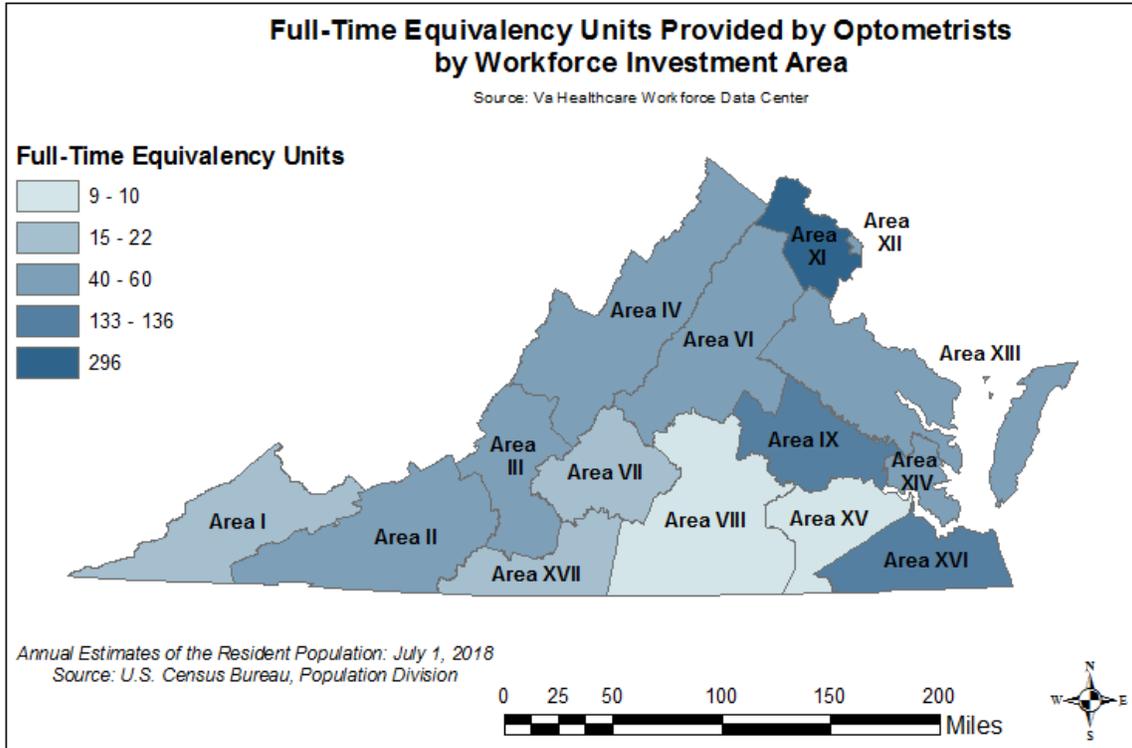
Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

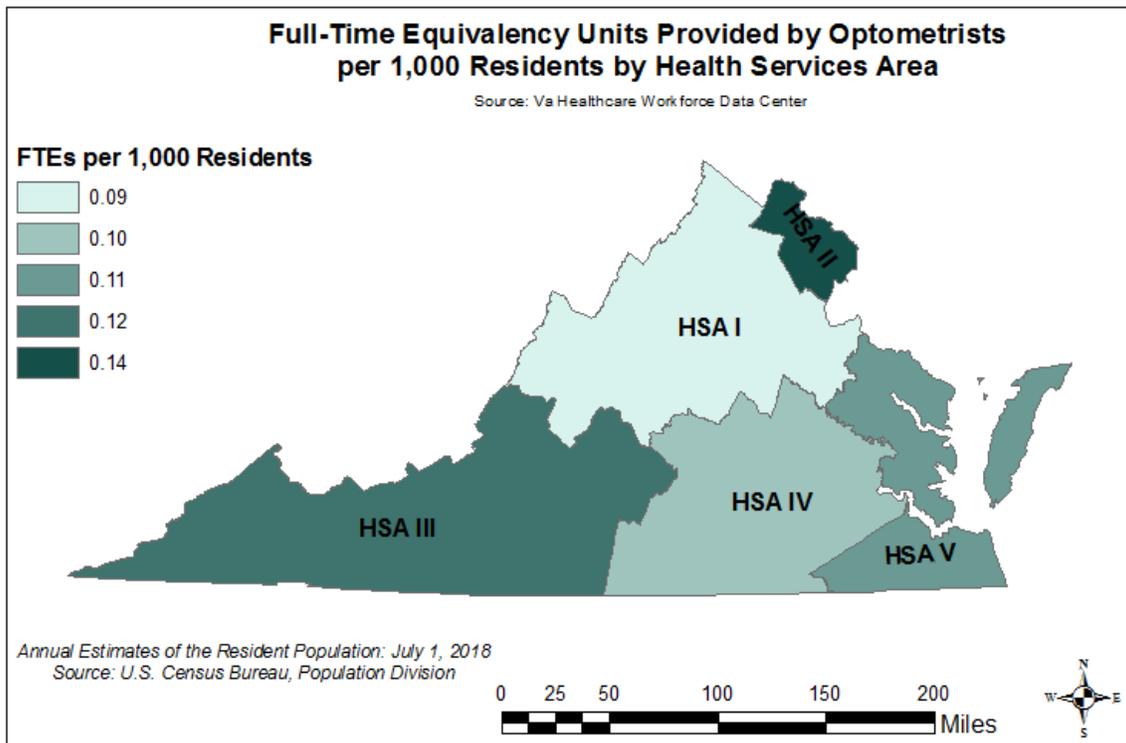
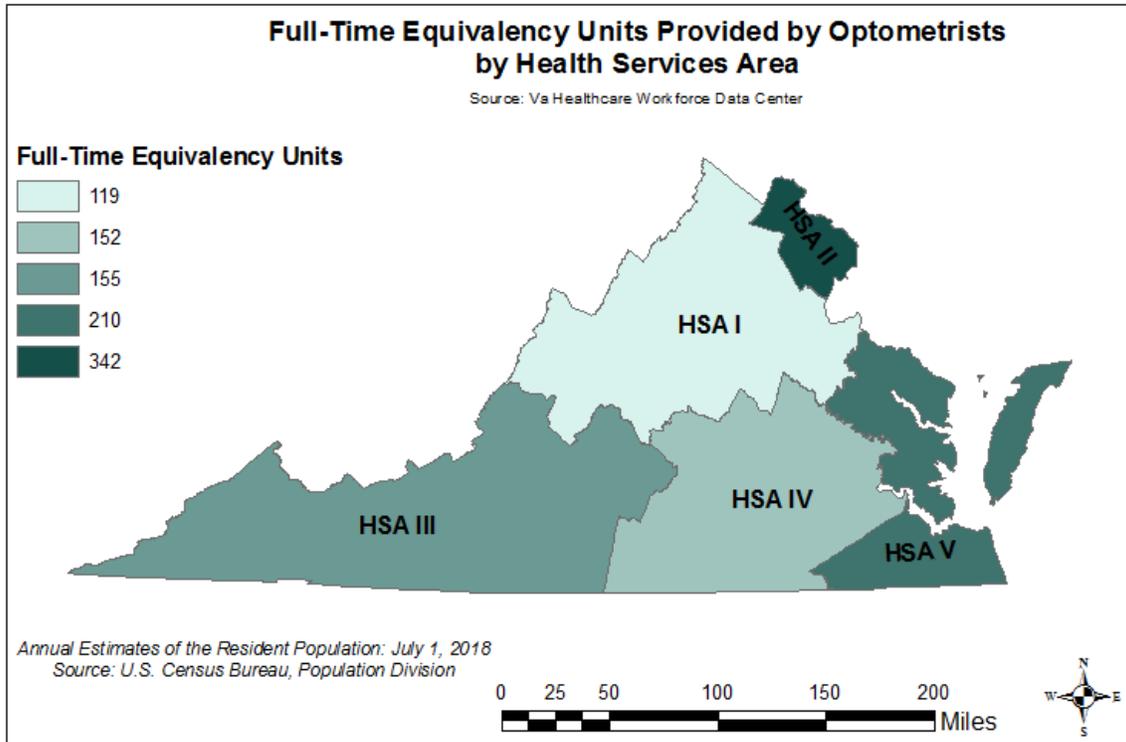
² Number of residents in 2018 was used as the denominator.

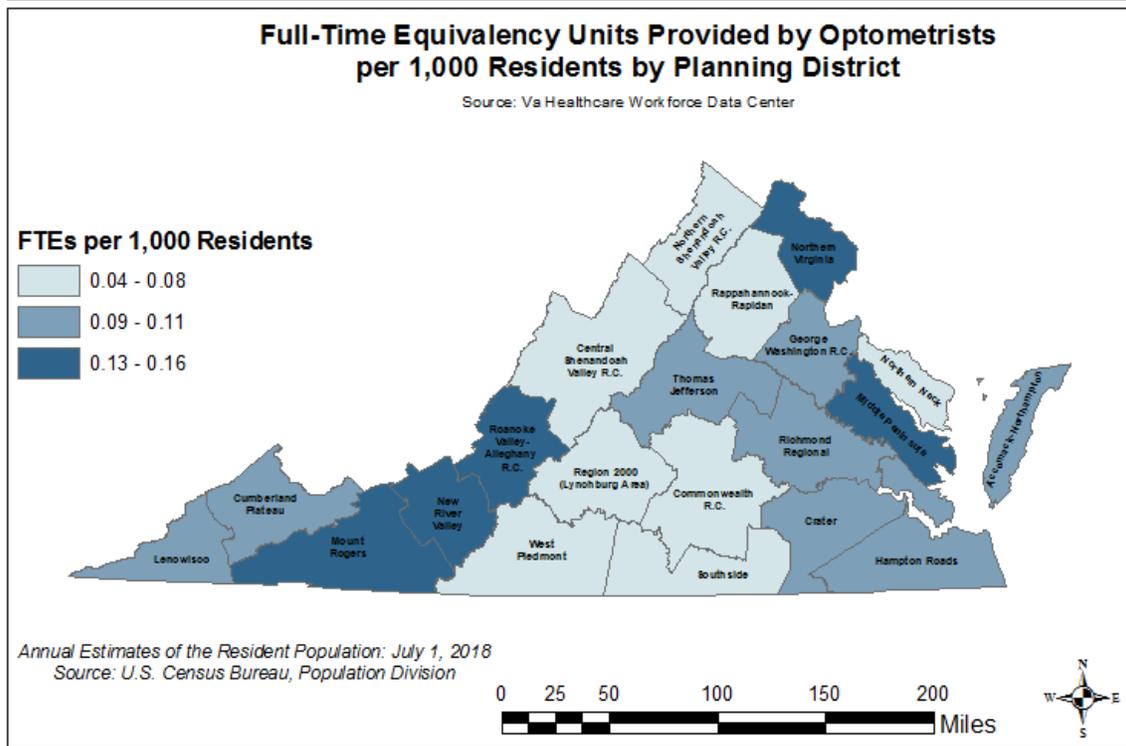
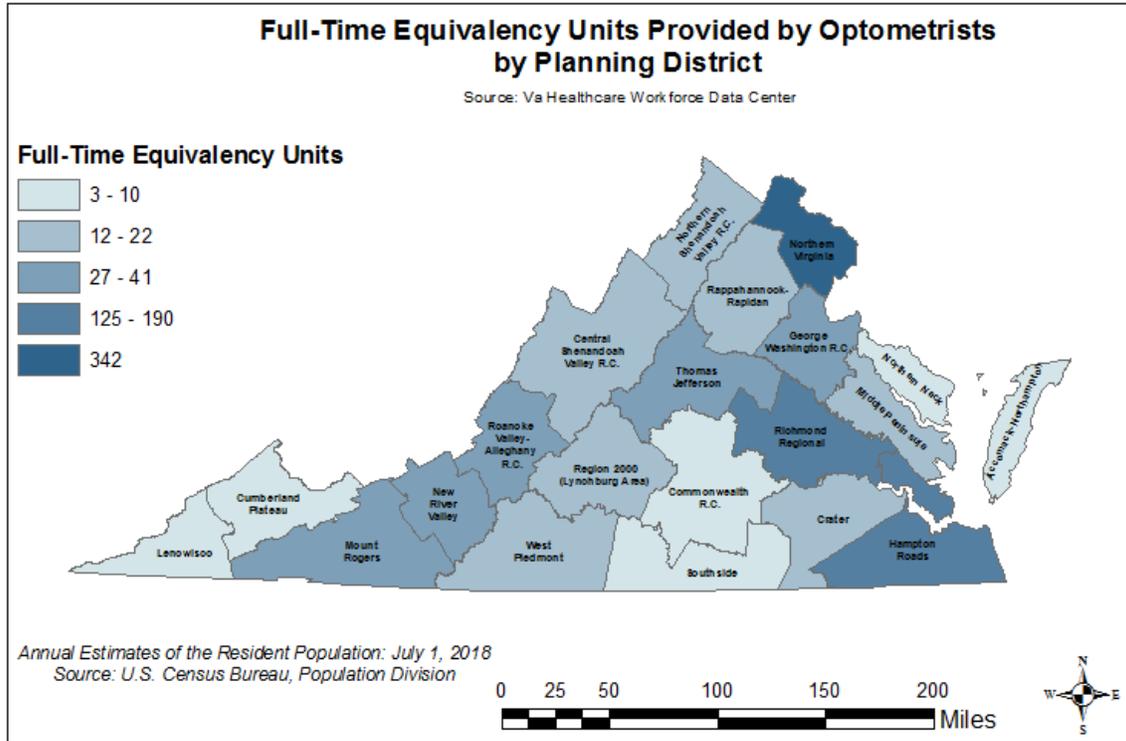
³ Due to assumption violations in Mixed between-within ANOVA (Levene's Test was significant).











Appendices

Weights

Rural Status	Location Weight			Total Weight	
	#	Rate	Weight	Min.	Max.
Metro, 1 Million+	879	85.89%	1.164	1.087	1.496
Metro, 250,000 to 1 Million	89	85.39%	1.171	1.094	1.504
Metro, 250,000 or Less	112	84.82%	1.179	1.101	1.514
Urban Pop., 20,000+, Metro Adj.	13	100.00%	1.000	0.934	1.049
Urban Pop., 20,000+, Non-Adj.	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
Urban Pop., 2,500-19,999, Metro Adj.	35	82.86%	1.207	1.127	1.550
Urban Pop., 2,500-19,999, Non-Adj.	30	80.00%	1.250	1.168	1.606
Rural, Metro Adj.	21	80.95%	1.235	1.154	1.296
Rural, Non-Adj.	7	85.71%	1.167	1.090	1.186
Virginia Border State/D.C.	229	82.53%	1.212	1.132	1.556
Other U.S. State	259	71.04%	1.408	1.315	1.808

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Age	Age Weight			Total Weight	
	#	Rate	Weight	Min.	Max.
Under 30	110	64.55%	1.549	1.496	1.808
30 to 34	229	79.04%	1.265	1.049	1.477
35 to 39	210	81.90%	1.221	1.012	1.425
40 to 44	206	81.55%	1.226	1.017	1.431
45 to 49	211	85.78%	1.166	0.967	1.361
50 to 54	187	88.77%	1.127	0.934	1.315
55 to 59	169	88.17%	1.134	0.940	1.324
60 and Over	352	85.23%	1.173	0.973	1.369

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

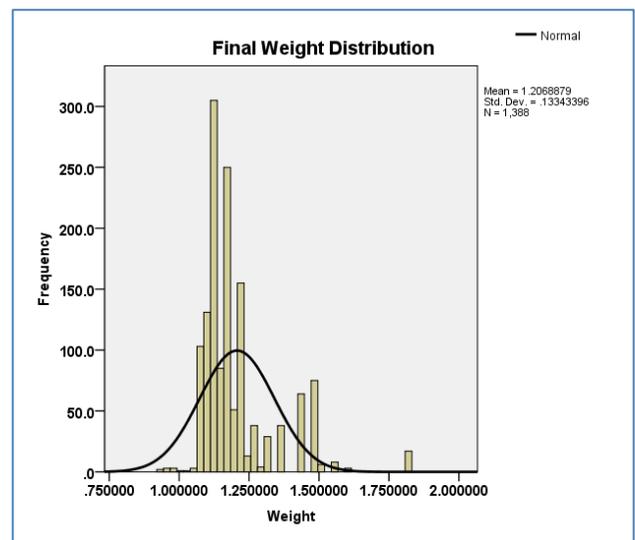
See the Methods section on the HWDC website for details on HWDC Methods:

<https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/PublicResources/HealthcareWorkforceDataCenter/>

Final weights are calculated by multiplying the two weights and the overall response rate:

$$\text{Age Weight} \times \text{Rural Weight} \times \text{Response Rate} = \text{Final Weight.}$$

Overall Response Rate: 0.829152



Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center