
Virginia's Optometrist Workforce: 2021

Healthcare Workforce Data Center

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More than 1,400 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!

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The Optometrist Workforce At a Glance:

The Workforce

Licenses:	1,717
Virginia's Workforce:	1,273
FTEs:	1,018

Background

Rural Childhood:	26%
HS Degree in VA:	33%
UG Degree in VA:	31%

Current Employment

Employed in Prof.:	96%
Hold 1 Full-Time Job:	72%
Satisfied?:	96%

Survey Response Rate

All Licenses:	83%
Renewing Practitioners:	94%

Residency Program

Ocular Disease:	8%
Primary Eye Care:	5%

Job Turnover

Switched Jobs:	6%
Employed Over 2 Yrs.:	69%

Demographics

% Female:	58%
Diversity Index:	49%
Median Age:	47

Finances

Median Inc.:	\$120k-\$130k
Health Benefits:	55%
Under 40 w/ Ed. Debt:	68%

Time Allocation

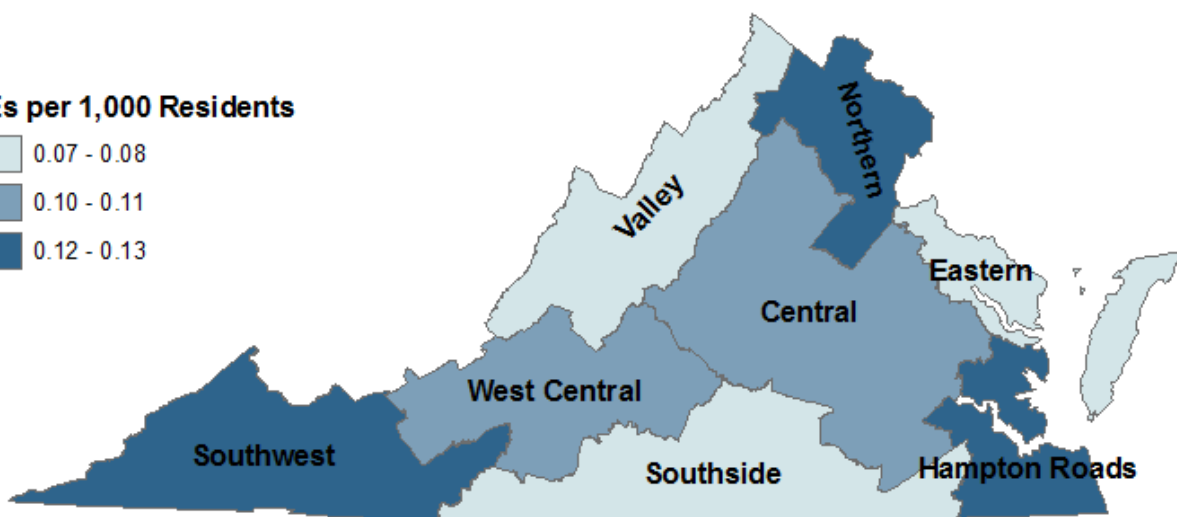
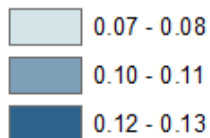
Patient Care:	90%-99%
Administration:	1%-9%
Patient Care Role:	92%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

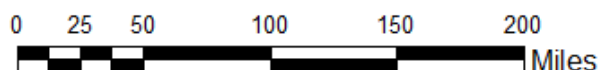
Full-Time Equivalency Units Provided by Optometrists per 1,000 Residents by Virginia Performs Region

Source: Va Healthcare Work force Data Center

FTEs per 1,000 Residents



Annual Estimates of the Resident Population: July 1, 2019
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division



This report contains the results of the 2021 Optometrist Workforce Survey. More than 1,400 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 takes place every March for optometrists. These respondents represents 83% of the 1,717 optometrists licensed in the state and 94% of renewing practitioners.

The HWDC estimates that 1,273 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 1,018 "full-time equivalency units," which the HWDC defines simply as working 2,000 hours per year.

Nearly 60% of Virginia's optometrists are female, including 76% of those who are under the age of 40. In a random encounter between two optometrists, there is a 49% chance that they would be of different races or ethnicities, a measure known as the diversity index. For those optometrists who are under the age of 40, this diversity index increases to 54%. Both of these values are below the comparable diversity index of 57% for Virginia's population as a whole. More than one-quarter of all optometrists grew up in a rural area, and 22% of this group of professionals currently work in non-metro areas of the state. In total, 9% of all optometrists work in non-metro areas of Virginia.

Nearly all optometrists are currently employed in the profession, 72% hold one full-time job, and 43% work between 40 and 49 hours per week. Meanwhile, 14% of all optometrists have experienced involuntary unemployment at some point over the past year. At the same time, 3% of optometrists have experienced underemployment. The vast majority of optometrists work in the private sector, including 92% who are employed in the for-profit sector. Nearly two-thirds of optometrists work in either a group or solo private practice. 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 63% who indicated that they are "very satisfied."

Summary of Trends

In this section, all statistics for this year are compared to the 2016 optometrist workforce. The number of licensed optometrists has increased by 11% (1,717 vs. 1,548). In addition, the size of the optometrist workforce has also increased by 11% (1,273 vs. 1,151), and the number of FTEs provided by this workforce has increased by 4% (1,018 vs. 977). Virginia's optometrists who are renewing their licenses are more likely to respond to this survey (94% vs. 87%).

Virginia's optometrists are more likely to be female (58% vs. 51%), and this is also the case among those optometrists who are under the age of 40 (76% vs. 72%). At the same time, the overall optometry workforce is also becoming more diverse (49% vs. 46%), although the comparable diversity index among optometrists who are under the age of 40 has fallen (54% vs. 58%). Optometrists are more likely to have grown up in a rural area (26% vs. 23%), and this group of professionals is more likely to work in non-metro areas of Virginia (22% vs. 18%). In total, the percentage of all optometrists who work in non-metro areas of the state has increased as well (9% vs. 7%).

Although optometrists are slightly less likely to be currently employed in the profession (96% vs. 97%), they are more likely to hold one full-time job (72% vs. 68%) and work between 40 and 49 hours per week (43% vs. 42%). Meanwhile, the effects of the coronavirus pandemic likely led to a significant increase in the rate of involuntary unemployment over the past year among Virginia's optometrists (14% vs. 1%).

The median annual income of Virginia's optometrists has increased (\$120k-\$130k vs. \$110k-\$120k), and more optometrists receive this income in the form of a salary (59% vs. 51%) instead of from a business or practice (25% vs. 32%). Although optometrists who are under the age of 40 are considerably less likely to carry education debt (68% vs. 85%), the median debt burden among those with education debt has increased (\$110k-\$120k vs. \$100k-\$110k). There has been no change in the percentage of optometrists who indicated that they are satisfied with their current work situation (96%). However, the percentage who indicated that they are "very satisfied" has fallen (63% vs. 65%).

A Closer Look:

Licensees		
License Status	#	%
Renewing Practitioners	1,459	85%
New Licensees	129	8%
Non-Renewals	129	8%
All Licensees	1,717	100%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

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

At a Glance:

Licensed Optometrists

Number: 1,717
 New: 8%
 Not Renewed: 8%

Response Rates

All Licensees: 83%
 Renewing Practitioners: 94%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Response Rates			
Statistic	Non Respondents	Respondents	Response Rate
By Age			
Under 30	37	76	67%
30 to 34	39	168	81%
35 to 39	26	198	88%
40 to 44	40	178	82%
45 to 49	26	171	87%
50 to 54	40	179	82%
55 to 59	22	143	87%
60 and Over	56	318	85%
Total	286	1,431	83%
New Licenses			
Issued in Past Year	66	63	49%
Metro Status			
Non-Metro	23	91	80%
Metro	147	934	86%
Not in Virginia	116	406	78%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Response Rates	
Completed Surveys	1,431
Response Rate, All Licensees	83%
Response Rate, Renewals	94%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Definitions

- 1. The Survey Period:** The survey was conducted in March 2021.
- 2. Target Population:** All optometrists who held a Virginia license at some point between April 2020 and March 2021.
- 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

Optometrist Workforce: 1,273
 FTEs: 1,018

Utilization Ratios

Licensees in VA Workforce: 74%
 Licensees per FTE: 1.69
 Workers per FTE: 1.25

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Definitions

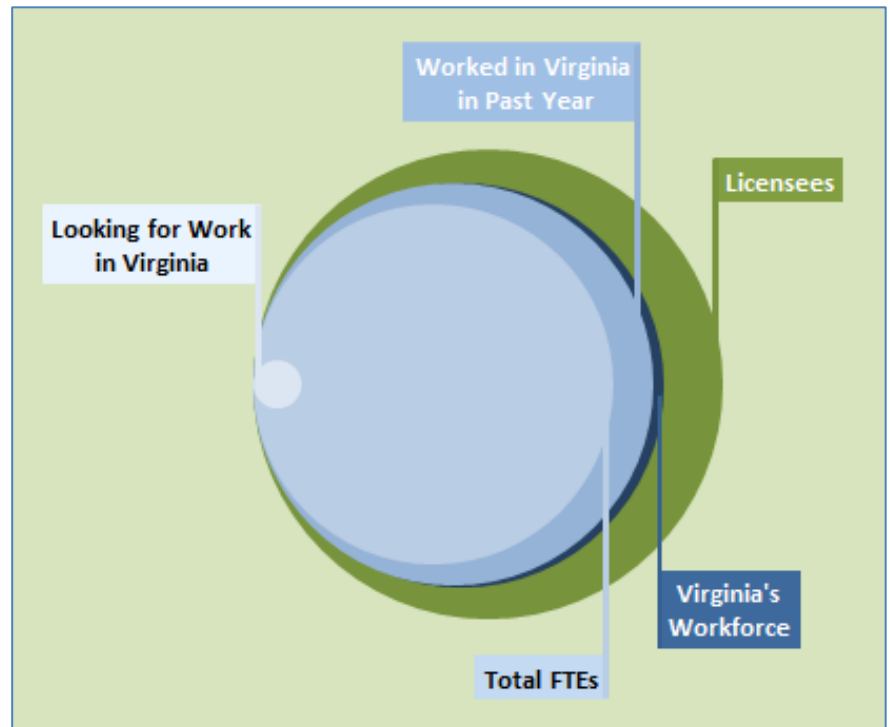
- 1. Virginia’s Workforce:** A licensee with a primary or secondary work site in Virginia at any time in the past year or who indicated intent to return to Virginia’s workforce at any point in the future.
- 2. Full-Time Equivalency Unit (FTE):** The HWDC uses 2,000 (40 hours for 50 weeks with 2 weeks 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.

Optometrist Workforce

Status	#	%
Worked in Virginia in Past Year	1,254	99%
Looking for Work in Virginia	19	1%
Virginia's Workforce	1,273	100%
Total FTEs	1,018	
Licensees	1,717	

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Weighting is used to estimate the figures in this report. Unless otherwise noted, figures refer to the Virginia Workforce only. For more information on the 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	20	23%	66	77%	86	9%
30 to 34	24	19%	100	81%	124	13%
35 to 39	39	29%	94	71%	133	14%
40 to 44	32	32%	68	68%	100	11%
45 to 49	45	44%	58	56%	103	11%
50 to 54	36	31%	80	69%	116	12%
55 to 59	46	53%	41	47%	86	9%
60 and Over	157	83%	32	17%	189	20%
Total	398	43%	538	58%	937	100%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Race & Ethnicity					
Race/ Ethnicity	Virginia*	Optometrists		Optometrists Under 40	
	%	#	%	#	%
White	61%	632	68%	211	62%
Black	19%	49	5%	14	4%
Hispanic	10%	19	2%	10	3%
Asian	7%	189	20%	89	26%
Two or More Races	3%	17	2%	9	3%
Other Race	0%	25	3%	6	2%
Total	100%	932	100%	339	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, 2019.

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

More than one-third of all optometrists are under the age of 40, and 76% of this group of professionals are female. In addition, there is a 54% chance that two randomly chosen optometrists from this age group would be of different races or ethnicities.

At a Glance:

Gender

% Female: 58%
% Under 40 Female: 76%

Age

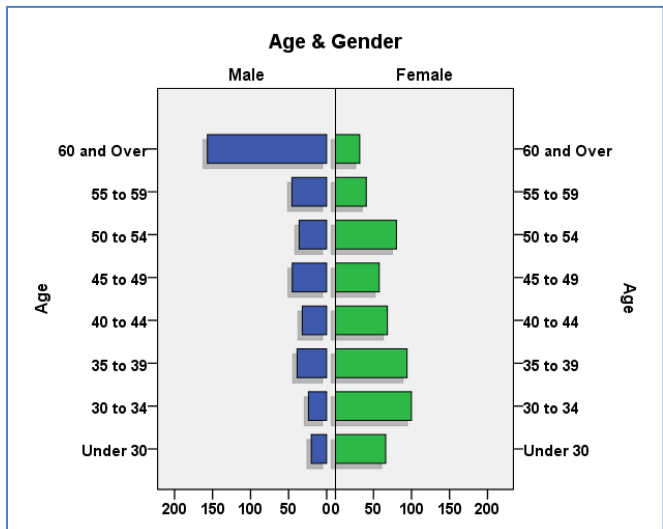
Median Age: 47
% Under 40: 37%
% 55 and Over: 29%

Diversity

Diversity Index: 49%
Under 40 Div. Index: 54%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

In a random encounter between two optometrists, there is a 49% 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: 12%
 Rural Childhood: 26%

Virginia Background

HS in Virginia: 33%
 UG Education in VA: 31%
 HS/UG Edu. in VA: 36%

Location Choice

% Rural to Non-Metro: 22%
 % Urban/Suburban to Non-Metro: 4%

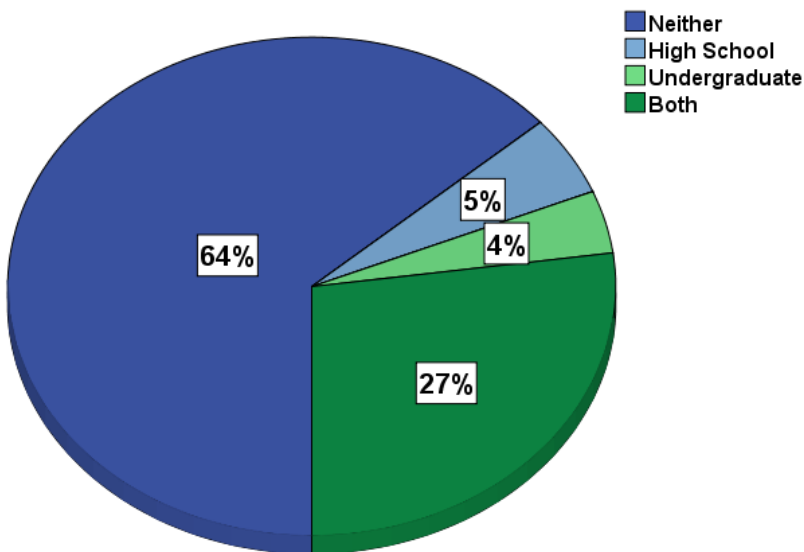
Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

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+	19%	69%	13%
2	Metro, 250,000 to 1 Million	46%	46%	9%
3	Metro, 250,000 or Less	32%	56%	13%
Non-Metro Counties				
4	Urban, Pop. 20,000+, Metro Adjacent	42%	53%	5%
6	Urban, Pop. 2,500-19,999, Metro Adjacent	50%	45%	5%
7	Urban, Pop. 2,500-19,999, Non-Adjacent	89%	8%	4%
8	Rural, Metro Adjacent	67%	17%	17%
9	Rural, Non-Adjacent	50%	50%	0%
Overall		26%	63%	12%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Educational Background in Virginia



Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

More than one-quarter of all optometrists grew up in a self-described rural area, and 22% of this group of professionals currently work in non-metro counties. In total, 9% of all optometrists work in non-metro counties of Virginia.

Top Ten States for Optometrist Recruitment

Rank	All Optometrists			
	High School	#	Professional School	#
1	Virginia	301	Pennsylvania	296
2	Pennsylvania	93	Tennessee	129
3	New York	72	Massachusetts	82
4	Maryland	62	Illinois	56
5	North Carolina	34	Florida	53
6	Ohio	32	Indiana	49
7	California	31	New York	47
8	Outside U.S./Canada	30	Ohio	41
9	Florida	28	Texas	37
10	Indiana	22	Alabama	34

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

One-third of all 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.

Among optometrists who have been licensed in the past five years, 32% received their high school degree in Virginia, while 34% received their Doctorate of Optometry in Pennsylvania.

Rank	Licensed in the Past Five Years			
	High School	#	Professional School	#
1	Virginia	76	Pennsylvania	81
2	Pennsylvania	32	Massachusetts	27
3	Maryland	17	Tennessee	24
4	California	12	Florida	18
5	New York	11	New York	15
6	Michigan	9	Texas	14
7	North Carolina	8	Indiana	13
8	Illinois	7	Illinois	12
9	Florida	7	California	12
10	Indiana	6	Puerto Rico	7

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

More than one-quarter of licensed optometrists did not participate in Virginia's workforce in the past year. More than 90% of these optometrists worked at some point in the past year, including 87% who currently work as optometrists.

At a Glance:

Not in VA Workforce

Total:	444
% of Licensees:	26%
Federal/Military:	20%
VA Border State/DC:	28%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

A Closer Look:

Residency Programs		
Area	#	% of Workforce
Ocular Disease	101	8%
Primary Eye Care	65	5%
Low Vision Rehabilitation	23	2%
Cornea and Contact Lenses	16	1%
Pediatric Optometry	13	1%
Vision Therapy and Rehabilitation	11	1%
Family Practice Optometry	10	1%
Refractive and Ocular Surgery	9	1%
Geriatric Optometry	5	0%
Brain Injury Vision Rehabilitation	4	0%
Other	7	1%
At Least One Program	183	14%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

At a Glance:

Residency Programs

Ocular Disease: 8%
 Primary Eye Care: 5%
 Low Vision Rehab.: 2%

Education Debt

Carry Debt: 44%
 Under Age 40 w/ Debt: 68%
 Median Debt: \$110k-\$120k

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

More than 10% of all optometrists have completed at least one residency program, including 8% who have completed a residency program in ocular diseases.

More than 40% of all optometrists currently have education debt, including 68% 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	427	56%	87	32%
Less than \$20,000	15	2%	2	1%
\$20,000-\$39,999	28	4%	11	4%
\$40,000-\$59,999	39	5%	10	4%
\$60,000-\$79,999	31	4%	8	3%
\$80,000-\$99,999	27	4%	5	2%
\$100,000-\$119,999	36	5%	15	5%
\$120,000 or More	164	21%	138	50%
Total	767	100%	276	100%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

At a Glance:

Employment

Employed in Profession: 96%
 Involuntarily Unemployed: < 1%

Positions Held

1 Full-Time: 72%
 2 or More Positions: 12%

Weekly Hours:

40 to 49: 43%
 60 or More: 4%
 Less than 30: 15%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

A Closer Look:

Current Work Status		
Status	#	%
Employed, Capacity Unknown	0	0%
Employed in an Optometry-Related Capacity	880	96%
Employed, NOT in an Optometry-Related Capacity	7	1%
Not Working, Reason Unknown	0	0%
Involuntarily Unemployed	2	< 1%
Voluntarily Unemployed	20	2%
Retired	5	1%
Total	914	100%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Nearly all licensed optometrists are currently employed in the profession, 72% hold one full-time job, and 43% work between 40 and 49 hours per week.

Current Positions		
Positions	#	%
No Positions	27	3%
One Part-Time Position	119	13%
Two Part-Time Positions	34	4%
One Full-Time Position	636	72%
One Full-Time Position & One Part-Time Position	56	6%
Two Full-Time Positions	4	0%
More than Two Positions	8	1%
Total	884	100%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Current Weekly Hours		
Hours	#	%
0 Hours	27	3%
1 to 9 Hours	17	2%
10 to 19 Hours	35	4%
20 to 29 Hours	77	9%
30 to 39 Hours	247	28%
40 to 49 Hours	378	43%
50 to 59 Hours	63	7%
60 to 69 Hours	17	2%
70 to 79 Hours	8	1%
80 or More Hours	7	1%
Total	876	100%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

A Closer Look:

Annual Income		
Income Level	#	%
Volunteer Work Only	2	0%
Less than \$40,000	33	5%
\$40,000-\$59,999	34	5%
\$60,000-\$79,999	47	7%
\$80,000-\$99,999	85	13%
\$100,000-\$119,999	108	17%
\$120,000-\$139,999	131	20%
\$140,000-\$159,999	85	13%
\$160,000-\$179,999	37	6%
\$180,000-\$199,999	22	3%
\$200,000 or More	63	10%
Total	647	100%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

At a Glance:

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

Benefits
Health Insurance: 55%
Retirement: 60%

Satisfaction
Satisfied 96%
Very Satisfied: 63%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Job Satisfaction		
Level	#	%
Very Satisfied	554	63%
Somewhat Satisfied	290	33%
Somewhat Dissatisfied	26	3%
Very Dissatisfied	13	2%
Total	883	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	461	52%	69%
Retirement	423	48%	60%
Health Insurance	391	44%	55%
Paid Sick Leave	292	33%	43%
Dental Insurance	270	31%	40%
Group Life Insurance	192	22%	30%
Signing/Retention Bonus	73	8%	11%
At Least One Benefit	562	64%	77%

*From any employer at time of survey.

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

A Closer Look:

Employment Instability in the Past Year		
In the Past Year, Did You . . . ?	#	%
Experience Involuntary Unemployment?	179	14%
Work Two or More Positions at the Same Time?	128	10%
Switch Employers or Practices	71	6%
Experience Voluntary Unemployment?	70	5%
Work Part-Time or Temporary Positions, but Would Have Preferred a Full-Time/Permanent Position?	39	3%
Experienced at Least One	377	30%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Over the past year, 14% of optometrists have experienced involuntary unemployment. By comparison, Virginia's average monthly unemployment rate was 6.9%.¹

Location Tenure				
Tenure	Primary		Secondary	
	#	%	#	%
Not Currently Working at This Location	12	1%	7	3%
Less than 6 Months	51	6%	25	11%
6 Months to 1 Year	72	8%	36	16%
1 to 2 Years	136	16%	41	18%
3 to 5 Years	146	17%	45	20%
6 to 10 Years	142	16%	29	13%
More than 10 Years	305	35%	40	18%
Subtotal	864	100%	224	100%
Did Not Have Location	20		1,041	
Item Missing	389		7	
Total	1,273		1,273	

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Nearly 60% of all optometrists receive a salary or work on commission at their primary work location. Another 25% receive income from a business or practice.

At a Glance:

Unemployment Experience

Involuntarily Unemployed: 14%
Underemployed: 3%

Turnover & Tenure

Switched Jobs: 6%
New Location: 21%
Over 2 Years: 69%
Over 2 Yrs., 2nd Location: 51%

Employment Type

Salary/Commission: 59%
Business/Practice Inc.: 25%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

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

Employment Type		
Primary Work Site	#	%
Salary/Commission	387	59%
Business/Practice Income	164	25%
Hourly Wage	83	13%
By Contract	19	3%
Unpaid	1	0%
Subtotal	655	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 5.1% and a high of 11.0%. At the time of publication, the unemployment rate from March 2021 was still preliminary.

At a Glance:

Concentration

Top Region:	40%
Top 3 Regions:	77%
Lowest Region:	1%

Locations

2 or More (Past Year):	26%
2 or More (Now*):	25%

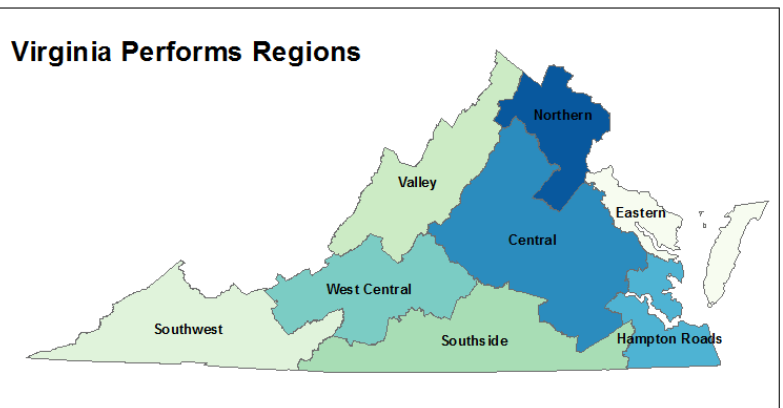
Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

More than three-quarters of all 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	349	40%	90	39%
Hampton Roads	163	19%	38	17%
Central	153	18%	34	15%
West Central	66	8%	17	7%
Southwest	43	5%	15	7%
Valley	32	4%	8	4%
Southside	30	3%	3	1%
Eastern	9	1%	2	1%
Virginia Border State/D.C.	14	2%	11	5%
Other U.S. State	8	1%	10	4%
Outside of the U.S.	0	0%	0	0%
Total	867	100%	228	100%
Item Missing	385		4	

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center



Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

One-quarter of all optometrists currently have multiple work locations, while 26% have had multiple work locations over the past year.

Number of Work Locations				
Locations	Work Locations in Past Year		Work Locations Now*	
	#	%	#	%
0	19	2%	27	3%
1	635	72%	639	72%
2	153	17%	149	17%
3	52	6%	51	6%
4	10	1%	7	1%
5	3	0%	2	0%
6 or More	12	1%	9	1%
Total	884	100%	884	100%

*At the time of survey completion: March 2021.

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

A Closer Look:

Sector	Location Sector			
	Primary Location		Secondary Location	
	#	%	#	%
For-Profit	728	92%	199	95%
Non-Profit	23	3%	1	0%
State/Local Government	4	1%	5	2%
Veterans Administration	13	2%	2	1%
U.S. Military	19	2%	0	0%
Other Federal Government	1	0%	2	1%
Total	788	100%	209	100%
Did Not Have Location	20		1,041	
Item Missing	465		22	

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

At a Glance: (Primary Locations)

Sector

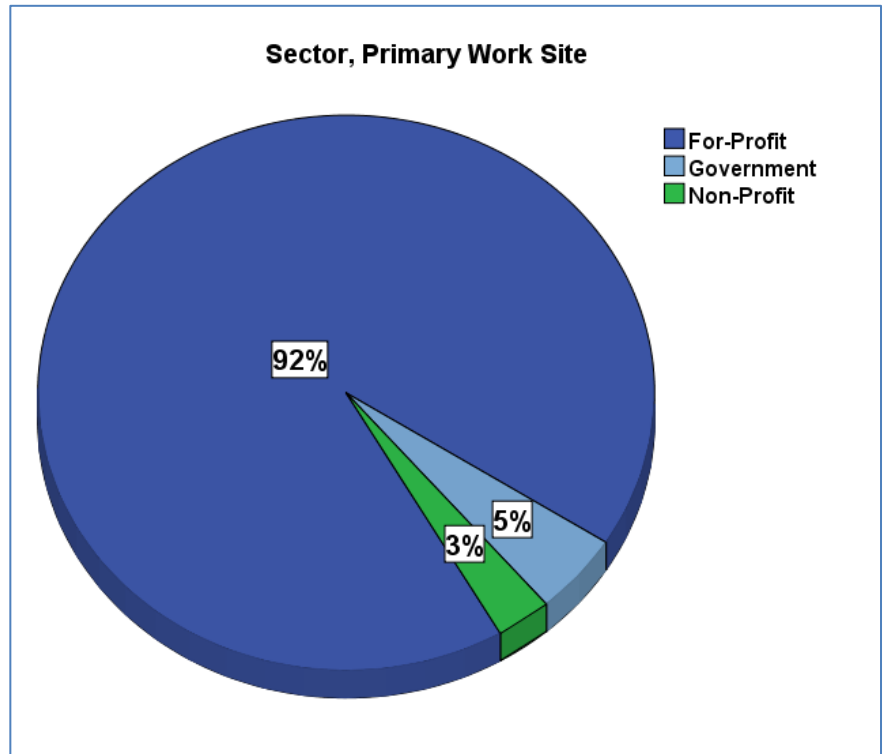
For-Profit:	92%
Federal:	4%

Top Establishments

Private Practice, Group:	43%
Private Practice, Solo:	21%
Optical Goods Store:	19%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

The vast majority of 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	326	43%	109	52%
Private Practice, Solo	157	21%	38	18%
Optical Goods Store	143	19%	36	17%
Physician Office	32	4%	6	3%
Outpatient/Community Clinic	25	3%	1	0%
General Hospital, Outpatient Department	21	3%	2	1%
Academic Institution	3	0%	4	2%
General Hospital, Inpatient Department	2	0%	1	0%
Other	49	6%	11	5%
Total	758	100%	208	100%
Did Not Have a Location	20		1,041	

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Nearly two-thirds of all optometrists work in a private practice, including 43% 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	798	63%
Private Insurance	758	60%
Medicare	675	53%
Medicaid	454	36%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

At a Glance: (Primary Locations)

Typical Time Allocation

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

Roles

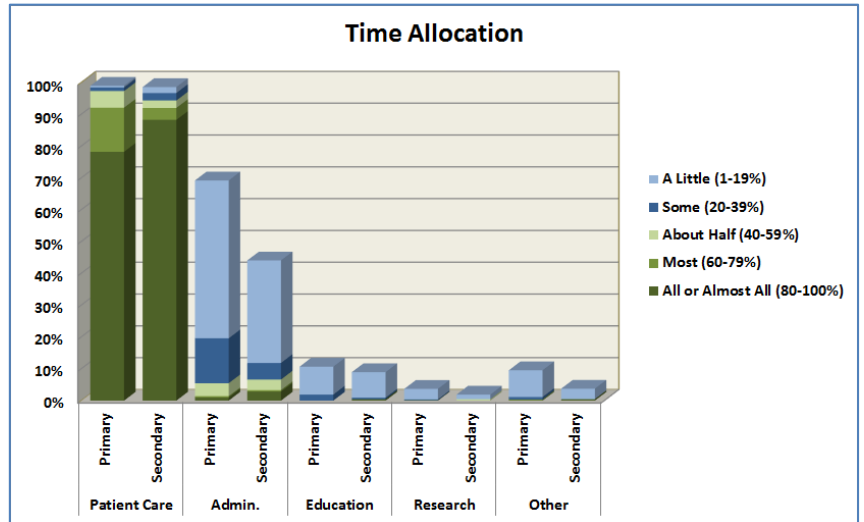
Patient Care: 92%
Administration: 1%

Patient Care Optometrists

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

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

A Closer Look:



Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Optometrists typically spend most of their time treating 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%)	78%	88%	1%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Most (60-79%)	14%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
About Half (40-59%)	5%	2%	4%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Some (20-39%)	1%	2%	14%	5%	2%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%
A Little (1-19%)	1%	2%	50%	32%	9%	8%	3%	1%	8%	3%
None (0%)	1%	1%	31%	55%	89%	91%	96%	98%	90%	96%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

A Closer Look:

Retirement Expectations				
Expected Retirement Age	All Optometrists		Optometrists 50 and Over	
	#	%	#	%
Under Age 50	17	2%	-	-
50 to 54	21	3%	2	1%
55 to 59	79	10%	16	5%
60 to 64	203	27%	54	17%
65 to 69	238	32%	112	35%
70 to 74	116	15%	73	23%
75 to 79	32	4%	28	9%
80 or Over	14	2%	13	4%
I Do Not Intend to Retire	35	5%	22	7%
Total	755	100%	320	100%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

At a Glance:

Retirement Expectations

All Optometrists

Under 65: 42%
Under 60: 15%

Optometrists 50 and Over

Under 65: 23%
Under 60: 6%

Time Until Retirement

Within 2 Years: 6%
Within 10 Years: 24%
Half the Workforce: By 2046

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

More than 40% of optometrists expect to retire before the age of 65. Among optometrists who are age 50 and over, 23% still expect to retire by the age of 65.

Within the next two years, 9% of Virginia's optometrists expect to increase their patient care hours, and 3% expect to pursue additional educational opportunities.

Future Plans

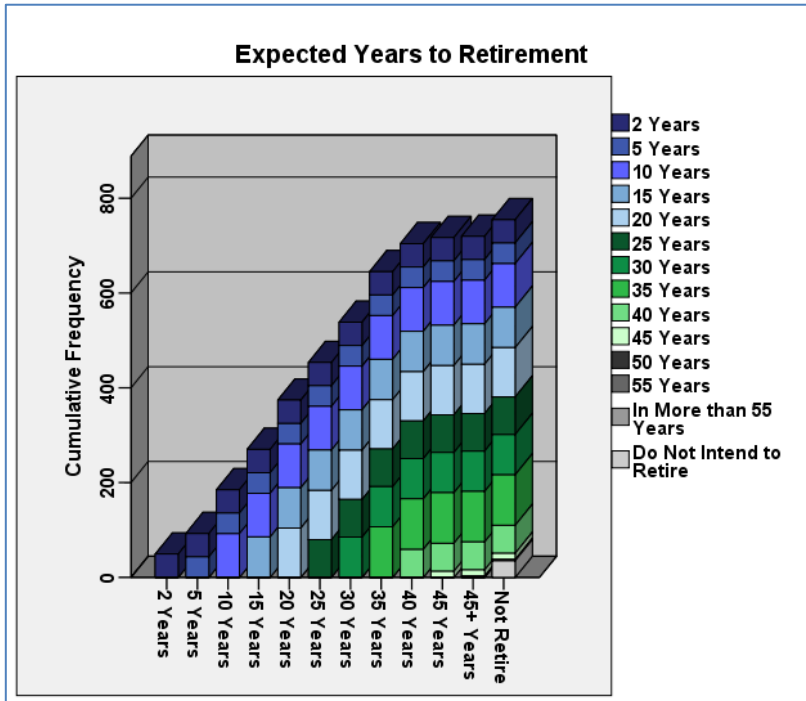
Two-Year Plans:	#	%
Decrease Participation		
Decrease Patient Care Hours	87	7%
Leave Virginia	24	2%
Leave Profession	9	1%
Decrease Teaching Hours	1	0%
Increase Participation		
Increase Patient Care Hours	119	9%
Pursue Additional Education	41	3%
Increase Teaching Hours	25	2%
Return to Virginia's Workforce	9	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 6% 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 2046.

Time to Retirement			
Expect to Retire Within . . .	#	%	Cumulative %
2 Years	49	6%	6%
5 Years	43	6%	12%
10 Years	92	12%	24%
15 Years	85	11%	36%
20 Years	104	14%	49%
25 Years	79	10%	60%
30 Years	85	11%	71%
35 Years	107	14%	85%
40 Years	59	8%	93%
45 Years	13	2%	95%
50 Years	3	0%	95%
55 Years	0	0%	95%
In More than 55 Years	0	0%	95%
Do Not Intend to Retire	35	5%	100%
Total	755	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 2031. Retirement will peak at 14% of the current workforce around 2056 before declining to under 10% again around 2061.

At a Glance:

FTEs

Total: 1,018
 FTEs/1,000 Residents²: 0.119
 Average: 0.81

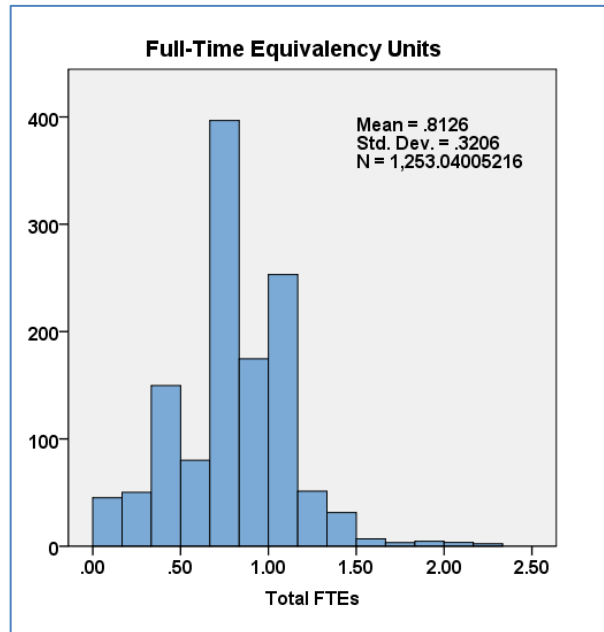
Age & Gender Effect

Age, *Partial Eta*²: Small
 Gender, *Partial Eta*²: Small

*Partial Eta*² Explained:
*Partial Eta*² is a statistical
 measure of effect size.

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

A Closer Look:

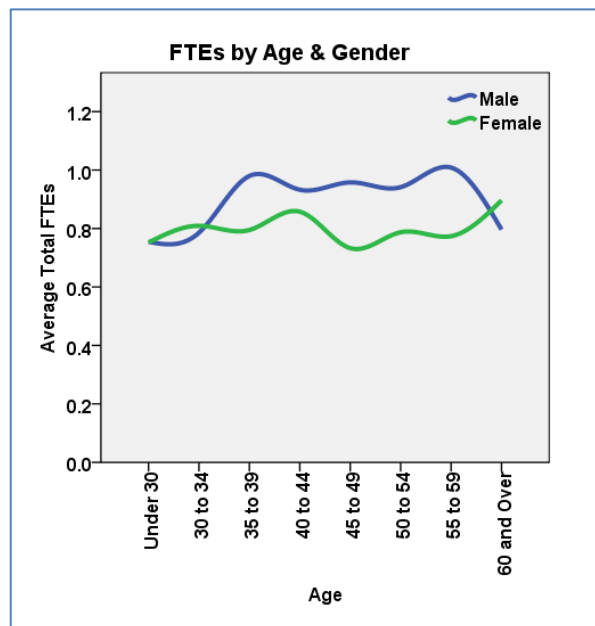


Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

The typical (median) optometrist provided 0.80 FTEs in the past year, or approximately 32 hours per week for 50 weeks. Although FTEs appear to vary by gender, statistical tests did not verify that a difference exists.³

Full-Time Equivalency Units		
Age	Average	Median
Age		
Under 30	0.76	0.80
30 to 34	0.81	0.80
35 to 39	0.90	1.07
40 to 44	0.85	0.80
45 to 49	0.82	0.80
50 to 54	0.83	0.80
55 to 59	0.87	0.78
60 and Over	0.72	0.58
Gender		
Male	0.88	0.93
Female	0.80	0.82

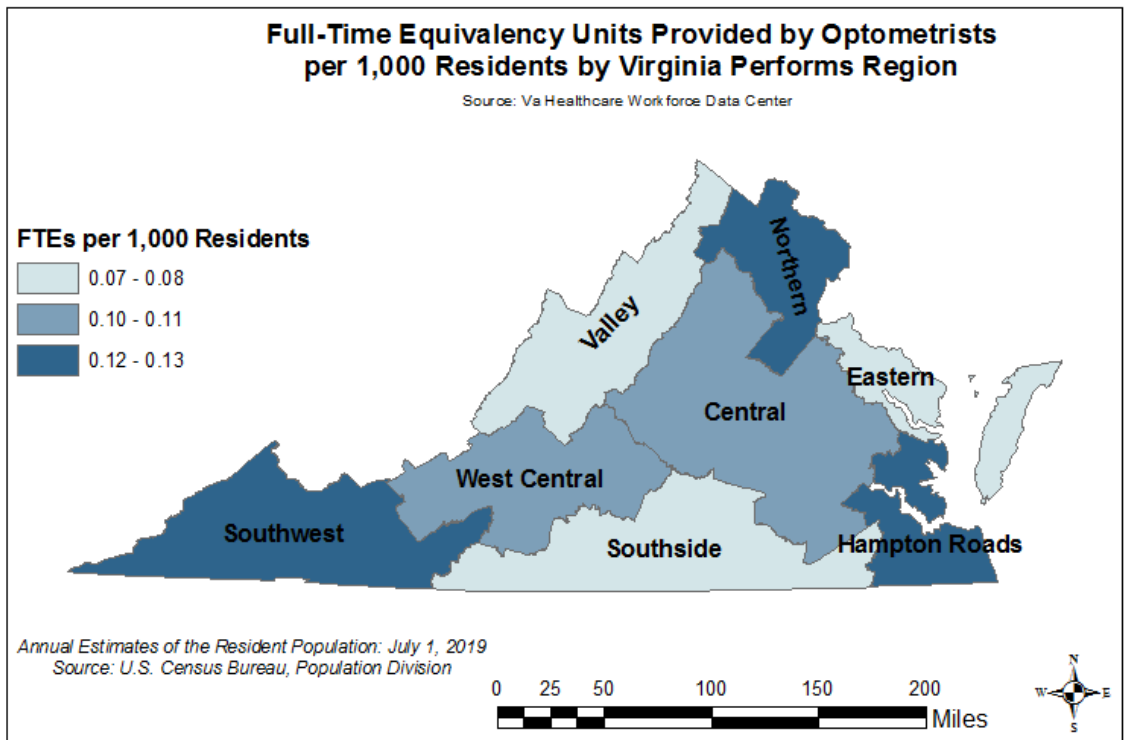
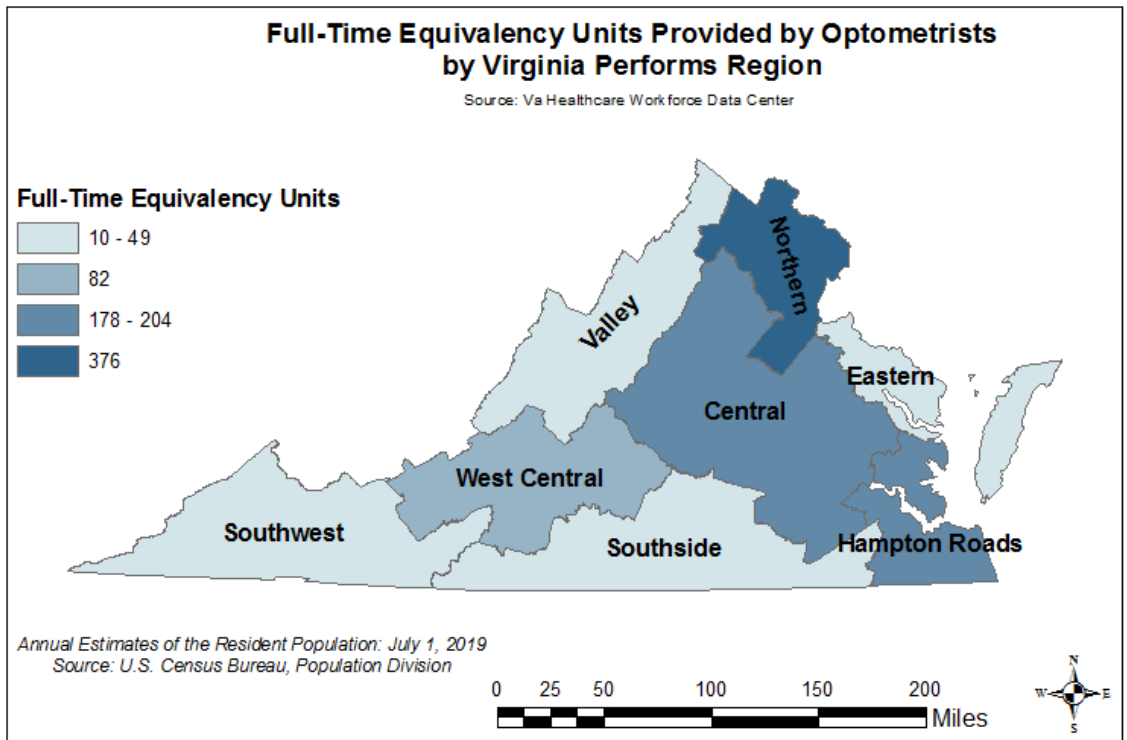
Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

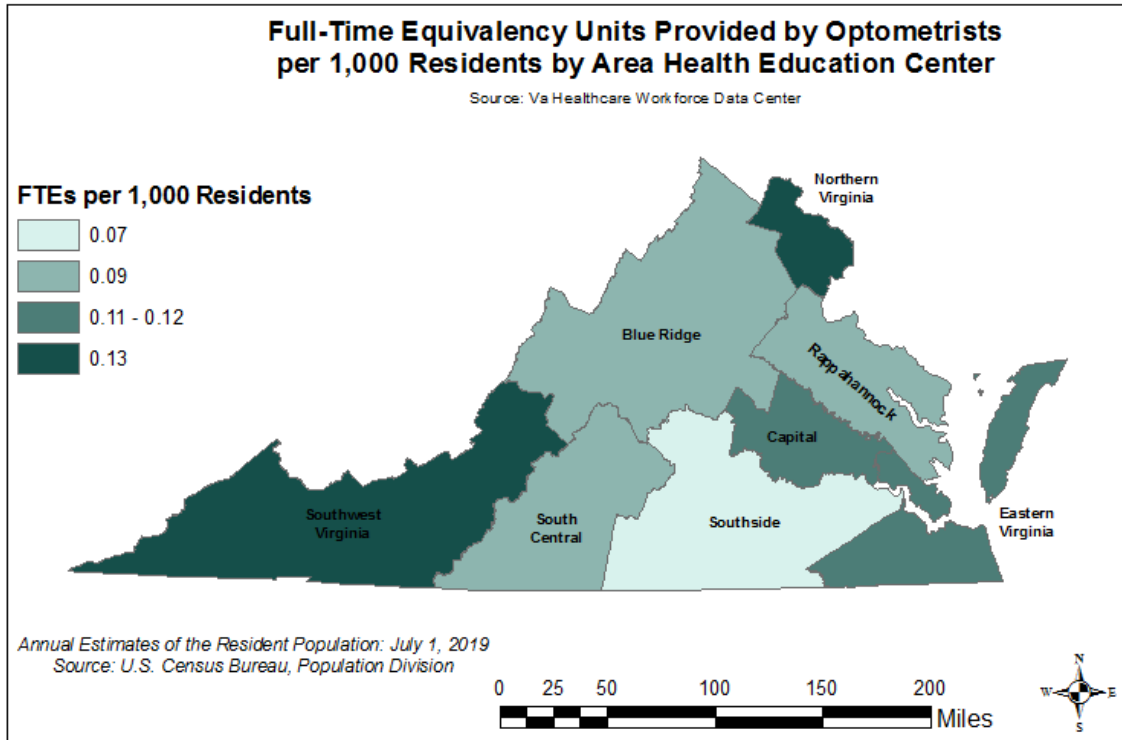
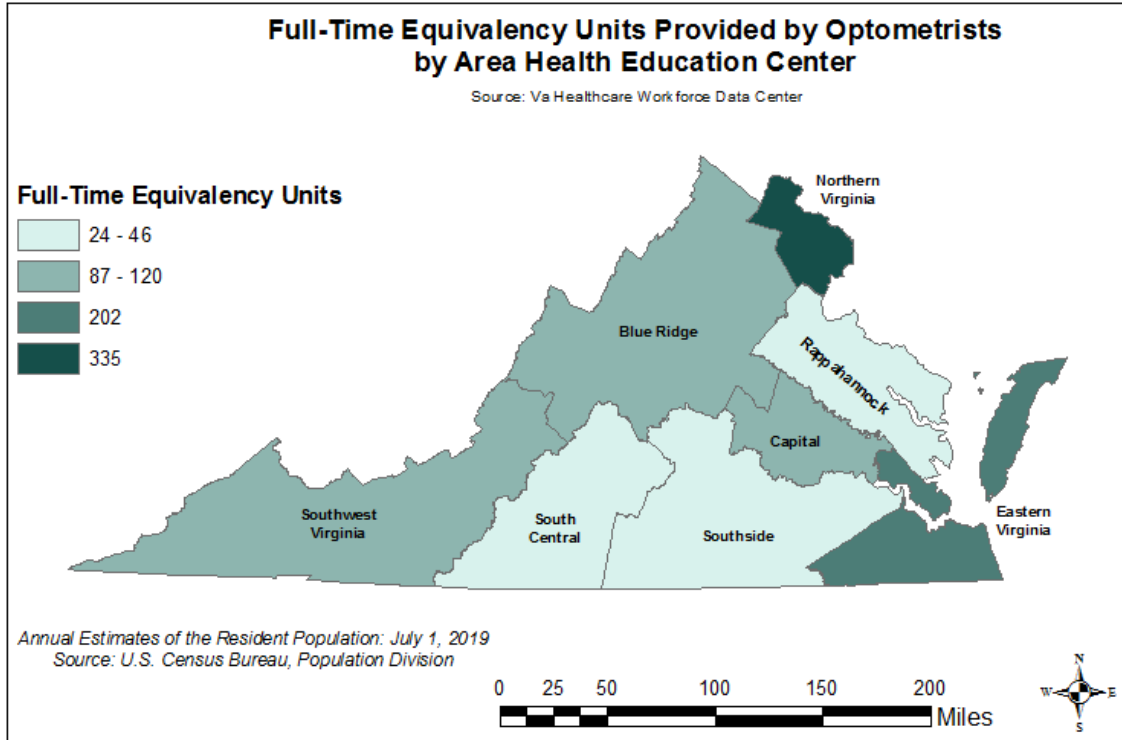


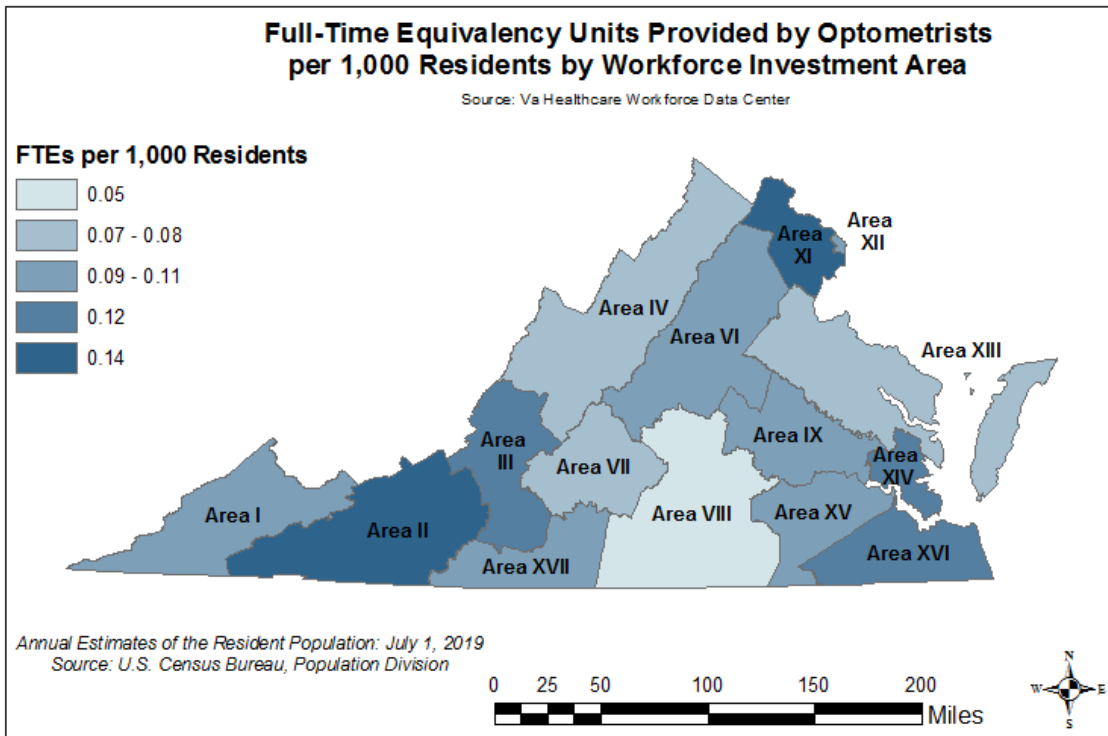
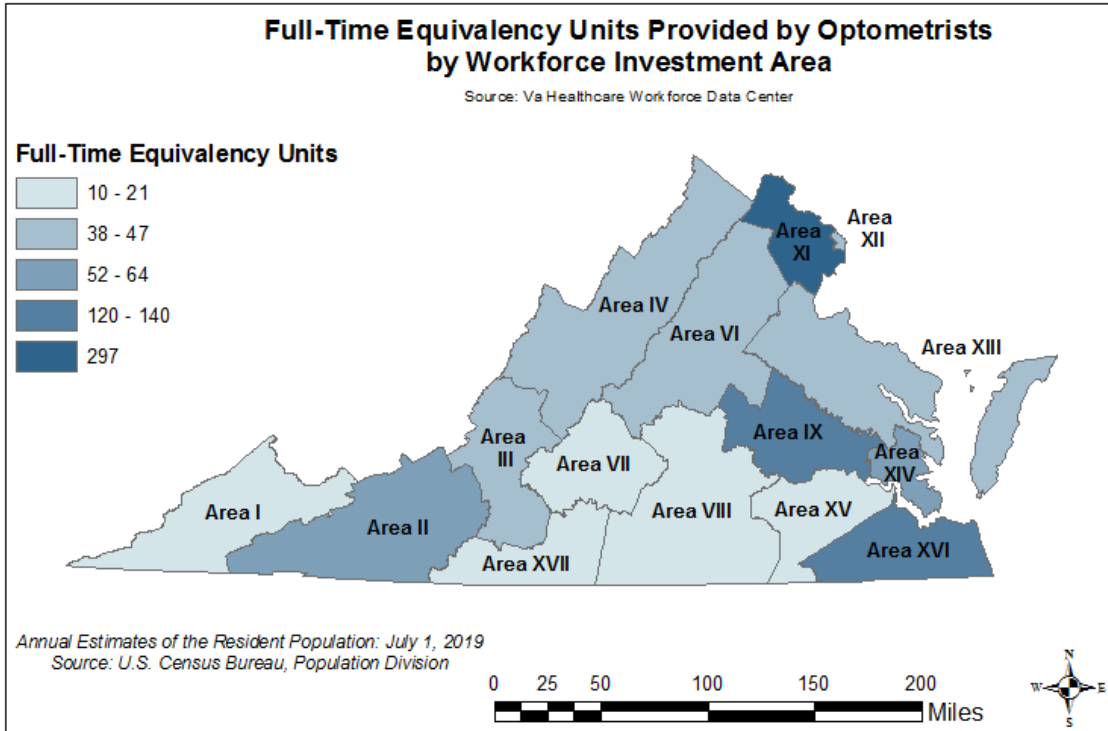
Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

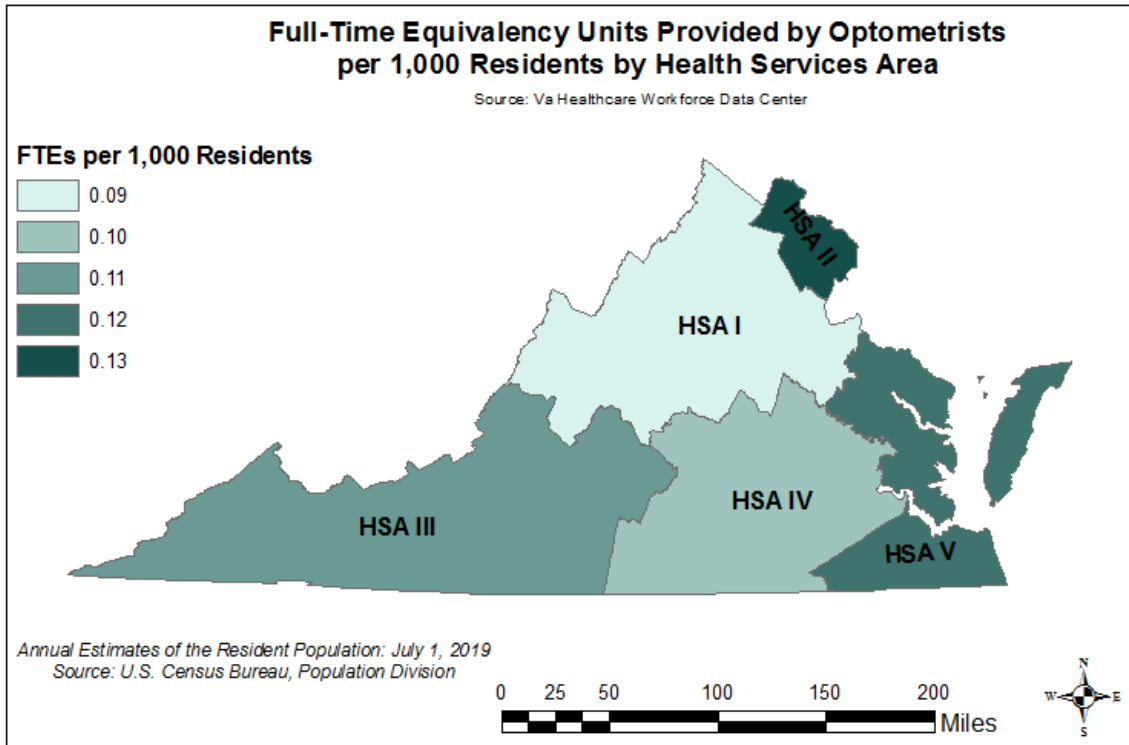
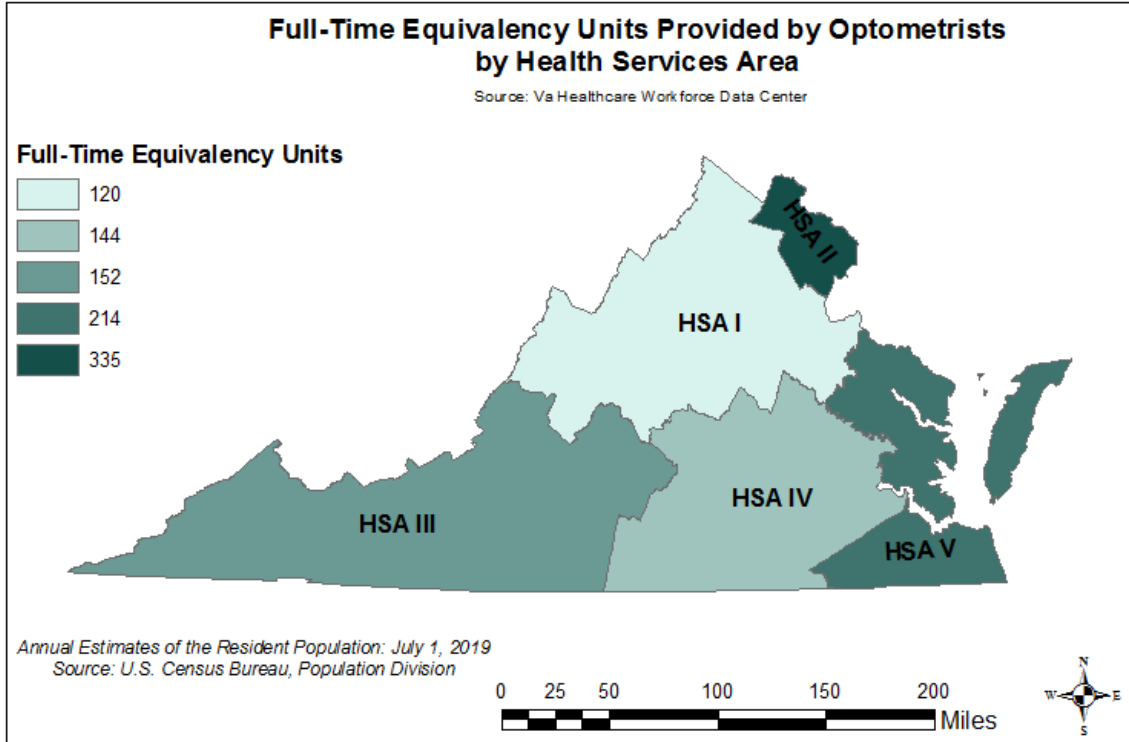
² Number of residents in 2019 was used as the denominator.

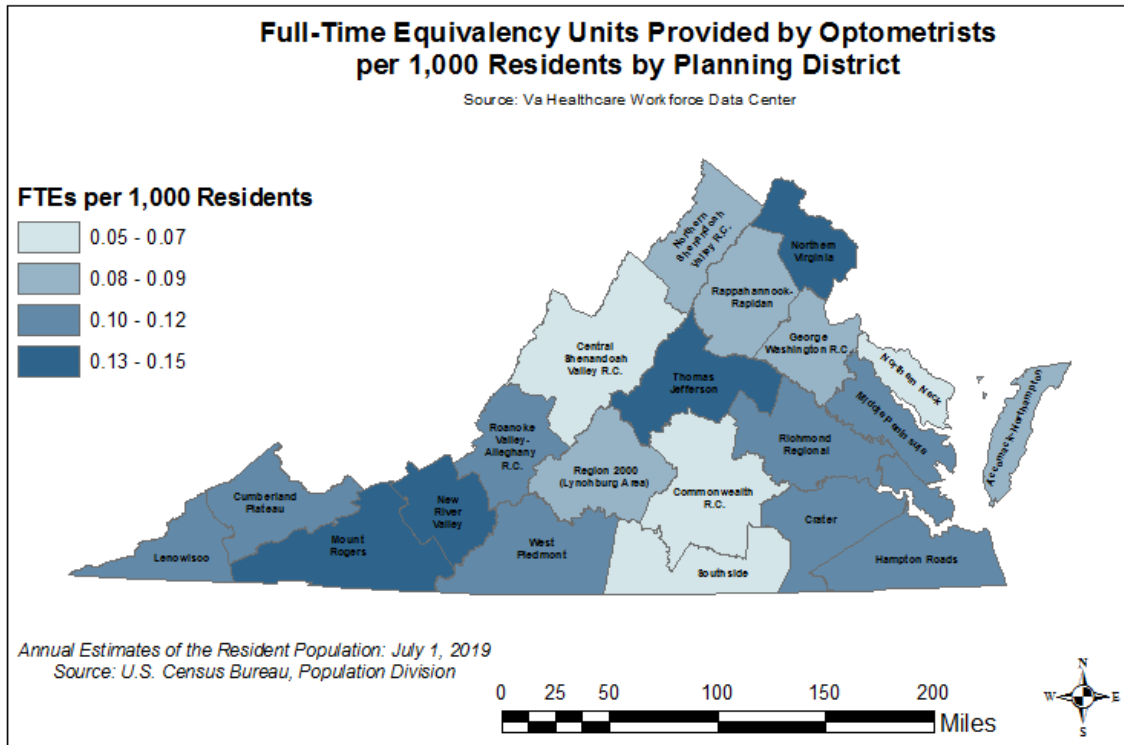
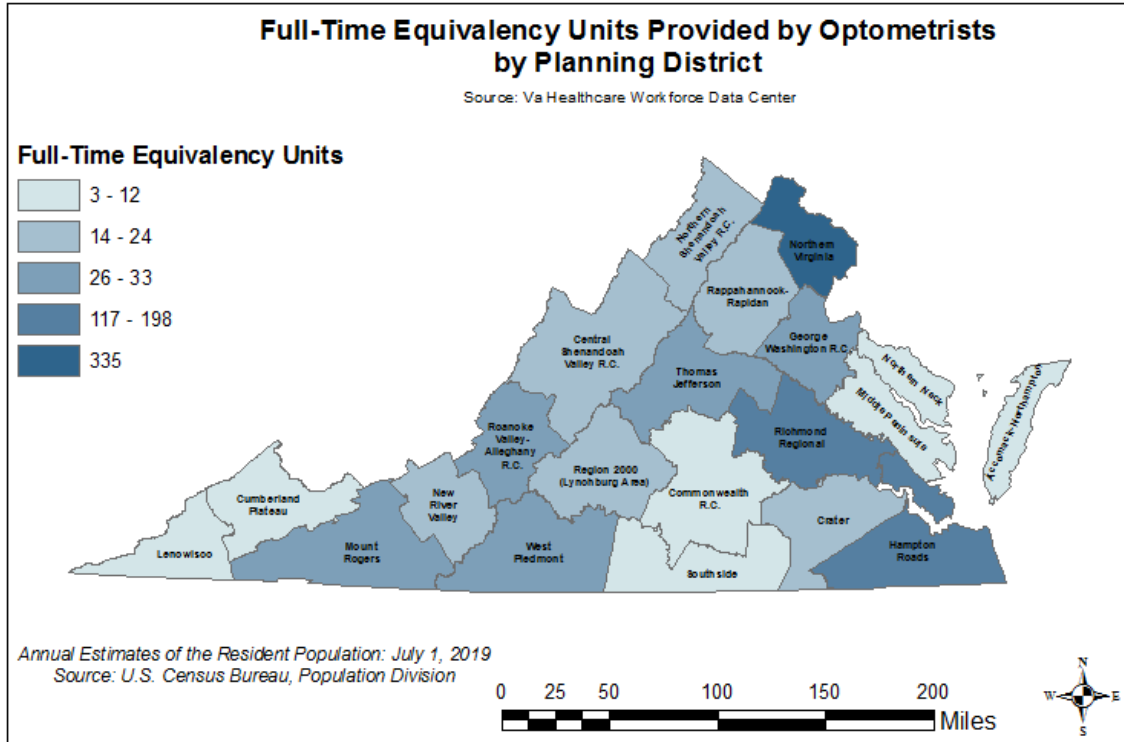
³ Due to assumption violations in Mixed between-within ANOVA (Levene's Test and Interaction effect were significant).











Appendices

Weights

Rural Status	Location Weight			Total Weight	
	#	Rate	Weight	Min.	Max.
Metro, 1 Million+	877	86.55%	1.155	1.089	1.432
Metro, 250,000 to 1 Million	85	87.06%	1.149	1.083	1.423
Metro, 250,000 or Less	119	84.87%	1.178	1.111	1.460
Urban, Pop. 20,000+, Metro Adj.	11	90.91%	1.100	1.037	1.123
Urban, Pop. 20,000+, Non-Adj.	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
Urban, Pop. 2,500-19,999, Metro Adj.	39	79.49%	1.258	1.186	1.559
Urban, Pop. 2,500-19,999, Non-Adj.	34	79.41%	1.259	1.187	1.560
Rural, Metro Adj.	23	78.26%	1.278	1.205	1.583
Rural, Non-Adj.	7	71.43%	1.400	1.320	1.429
Virginia Border State/D.C.	231	83.55%	1.197	1.129	1.483
Other U.S. State	291	73.20%	1.366	1.288	1.693

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Age	Age Weight			Total Weight	
	#	Rate	Weight	Min.	Max.
Under 30	113	67.26%	1.487	1.423	1.693
30 to 34	207	81.16%	1.232	1.180	1.403
35 to 39	224	88.39%	1.131	1.037	1.320
40 to 44	218	81.65%	1.225	1.123	1.429
45 to 49	197	86.80%	1.152	1.056	1.344
50 to 54	219	81.74%	1.223	1.171	1.428
55 to 59	165	86.67%	1.154	1.058	1.314
60 and Over	374	85.03%	1.176	1.078	1.372

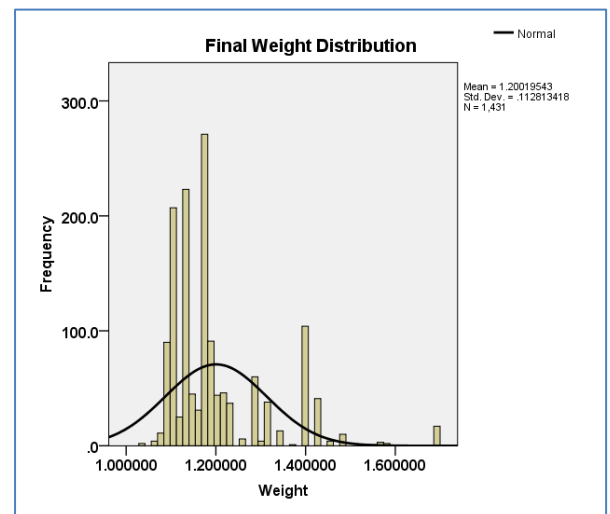
Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

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: 0.833430



Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center