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# *Virginia's Optometrist Workforce: 2022*

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Healthcare Workforce Data Center

April 2022

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*Among all Optometrists, 1,500 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 their ongoing cooperation.*

***Thank You!***

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## The Optometrist Workforce At a Glance:

### The Workforce

Licensees:	1,753
Virginia's Workforce:	1,288
FTEs:	1,092

### Background

Rural Childhood:	25%
HS Degree in VA:	32%
UG Degree in VA:	32%

### Current Employment

Employed in Prof.:	96%
Hold 1 Full-Time Job:	69%
Satisfied?:	96%

### Survey Response Rate

All Licensees:	86%
Renewing Practitioners:	93%

### Residency Program

Ocular Disease:	9%
Primary Eye Care:	7%

### Job Turnover

Switched Jobs:	5%
Employed Over 2 Yrs.:	68%

### Demographics

% Female:	58%
Diversity Index:	50%
Median Age:	47

### Finances

Median Inc.:	\$120k-\$130k
Health Benefits:	59%
Under 40 w/ Ed. Debt:	72%

### Time Allocation

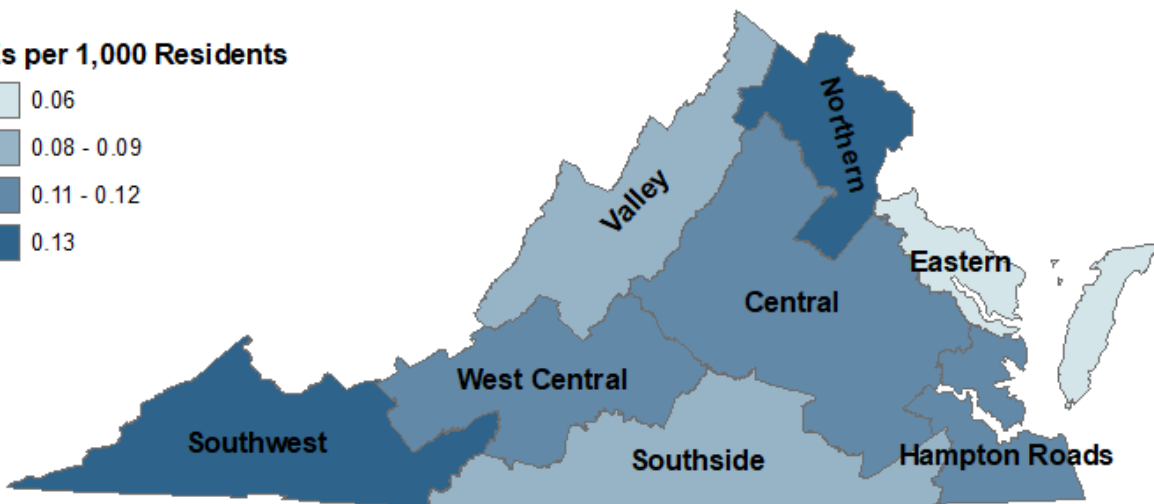
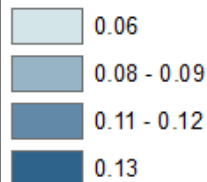
Patient Care:	90%-99%
Administration:	1%-9%
Patient Care Role:	93%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

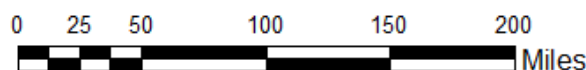
### Full-Time Equivalency Units Provided by Optometrists per 1,000 Residents by Virginia Performs Region

Source: Va Healthcare Work force Data Center

#### FTEs per 1,000 Residents



Annual Estimates of the Resident Population: July 1, 2020  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division



This report contains the results of the 2022 Optometrist Workforce Survey. Among all optometrists, 1,500 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 represent 86% of the 1,753 optometrists licensed in the state and 93% of renewing practitioners.

The HWDC estimates that 1,288 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 1,092 "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 74% of those who are under the age of 40. In a random encounter between two optometrists, there is a 50% 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 60% for Virginia's population as a whole. One-quarter of all optometrists grew up in a rural area, and 20% of this group of professionals currently work in a non-metro area of the state. In total, 9% of all optometrists work in a non-metro area of Virginia.

Among all optometrists, 96% are currently employed in the profession, 69% hold one full-time job, and 43% work between 40 and 49 hours per week. Over the past year, 1% of optometrists have experienced involuntary unemployment, and 1% have also experienced underemployment. Nearly all optometrists work in the private sector, including 92% who are employed in the for-profit sector. Nearly two-thirds of optometrists work in a private practice, including 43% who work in a group private practice. The typical optometrist earns between \$120,000 and \$130,000 per year. In addition, 82% of wage or salaried optometrists receive at least one employer-sponsored benefit. Nearly all optometrists are satisfied with their current work situation, including 61% who indicated that they are "very satisfied."

## Summary of Trends

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In this section, all statistics for this year are compared to the 2017 optometrist workforce. The number of licensed optometrists has increased by 11% (1,753 vs. 1,575). In addition, the size of the optometrist workforce has increased by 9% (1,288 vs. 1,178), and the number of FTEs provided by this workforce has increased by 13% (1,092 vs. 966). Virginia's renewing optometrists are more likely to respond to this survey (93% vs. 91%).

Virginia's optometrists are more likely to be female (58% vs. 50%), and this trend is also occurring among those optometrists who are under the age of 40 (74% vs. 71%). The optometry workforce is also becoming more diverse (50% vs. 47%), although this is not the case among optometrists who are under the age of 40 (54% vs. 59%). Optometrists are slightly more likely to have grown up in a rural area (25% vs. 24%), but this group of professionals is no more likely to work in a non-metro area of Virginia (20%). In total, the percentage of all optometrists who work in a non-metro area of the state has increased slightly (9% vs. 8%).

Although optometrists are less likely to be currently employed in the profession (96% vs. 98%), they are more likely to hold one full-time job (69% vs. 68%). Meanwhile, the economic recovery over the past year has led to a significant decrease in the one-year rates of both involuntary unemployment (1% vs. 14%) and underemployment (1% vs. 3%) relative to 2021.

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 (59% vs. 55%) instead of from a business or practice (24% vs. 29%). In addition, wage or salaried optometrists are more likely to receive at least one employer-sponsored benefit (82% vs. 72%), including those who have access to health insurance (59% vs. 52%) and a retirement plan (61% vs. 51%). Optometrists are just as likely to indicate that they are satisfied with their current work situation (96%). However, the percentage of optometrists who indicated that they are "very satisfied" has fallen (61% vs. 68%).

**A Closer Look:**

Licensees		
License Status	#	%
<b>Renewing Practitioners</b>	1,538	88%
<b>New Licensees</b>	112	6%
<b>Non-Renewals</b>	103	6%
<b>All Licensees</b>	<b>1,753</b>	<b>100%</b>

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 86% of all optometrists who held a license at some point in the past year.*

## At a Glance:

**Licensed Optometrists**

Number: 1,753  
 New: 6%  
 Not Renewed: 6%

**Response Rates**

All Licensees: 86%  
 Renewing Practitioners: 93%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Response Rates			
Statistic	Non Respondents	Respondents	Response Rate
<b>By Age</b>			
<b>Under 30</b>	27	70	72%
<b>30 to 34</b>	45	181	80%
<b>35 to 39</b>	33	208	86%
<b>40 to 44</b>	33	171	84%
<b>45 to 49</b>	20	193	91%
<b>50 to 54</b>	28	197	88%
<b>55 to 59</b>	20	141	88%
<b>60 and Over</b>	47	339	88%
<b>Total</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>86%</b>
<b>New Licenses</b>			
<b>Issued in Past Year</b>	52	60	54%
<b>Metro Status</b>			
<b>Non-Metro</b>	21	97	82%
<b>Metro</b>	138	939	87%
<b>Not in Virginia</b>	94	464	83%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Response Rates	
<b>Completed Surveys</b>	<b>1,500</b>
<b>Response Rate, All Licensees</b>	<b>86%</b>
<b>Response Rate, Renewals</b>	<b>93%</b>

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

## Definitions

- 1. The Survey Period:** The survey was conducted in March 2022.
- 2. Target Population:** All optometrists who held a Virginia license at some point between April 2021 and March 2022.
- 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: 1,288  
 FTEs: 1,092

### Utilization Ratios

Licensees in VA Workforce: 73%  
 Licensees per FTE: 1.61  
 Workers per FTE: 1.18

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

## Definitions

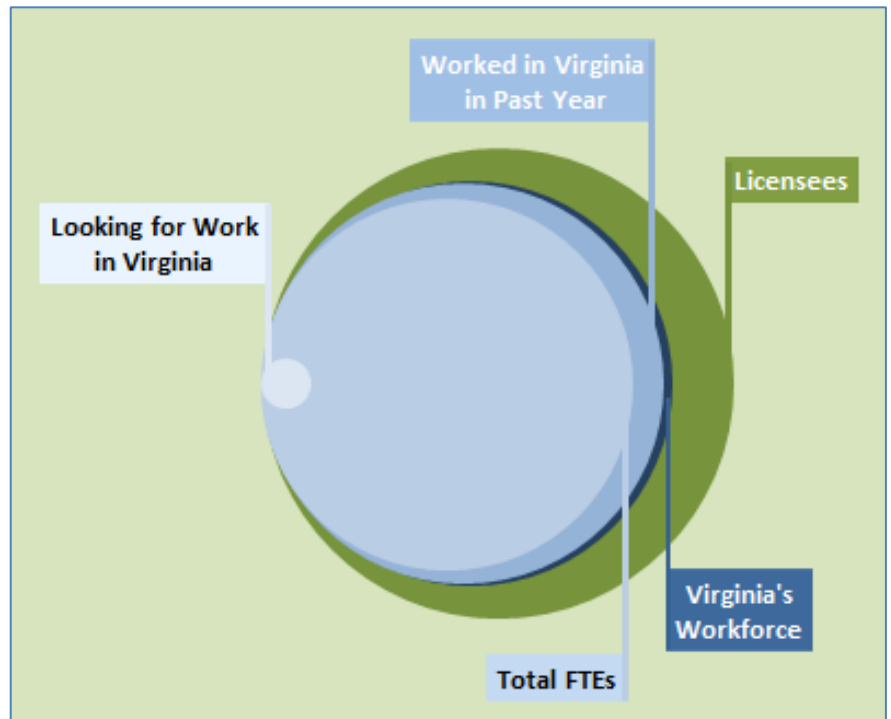
- 1. Virginia’s Workforce:** A licensee with a primary or secondary work site in Virginia at any time in the past year or who indicated intent to return to Virginia’s workforce at any point in the future.
- 2. Full-Time Equivalency Unit (FTE):** The HWDC uses 2,000 (40 hours for 50 weeks with 2 weeks 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	1,268	98%
Looking for Work in Virginia	20	2%
Virginia's Workforce	1,288	100%
Total FTEs	1,092	
Licensees	1,753	

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	21	32%	46	69%	67	7%
30 to 34	32	24%	103	76%	135	15%
35 to 39	31	25%	90	75%	121	13%
40 to 44	32	32%	70	69%	102	11%
45 to 49	41	39%	64	61%	104	11%
50 to 54	45	38%	73	62%	118	13%
55 to 59	38	49%	39	51%	78	9%
60 and Over	149	78%	41	22%	191	21%
<b>Total</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>917</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Race & Ethnicity					
Race/ Ethnicity	Virginia*	Optometrists		Optometrists Under 40	
	%	#	%	#	%
White	59%	616	67%	199	61%
Black	18%	49	5%	17	5%
Asian	7%	207	23%	94	29%
Other Race	1%	20	2%	3	1%
Two or More Races	5%	12	1%	6	2%
Hispanic	11%	14	2%	5	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>918</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*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, 2020.

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

More than one-third of all optometrists are under the age of 40, and 74% 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: 74%

Age

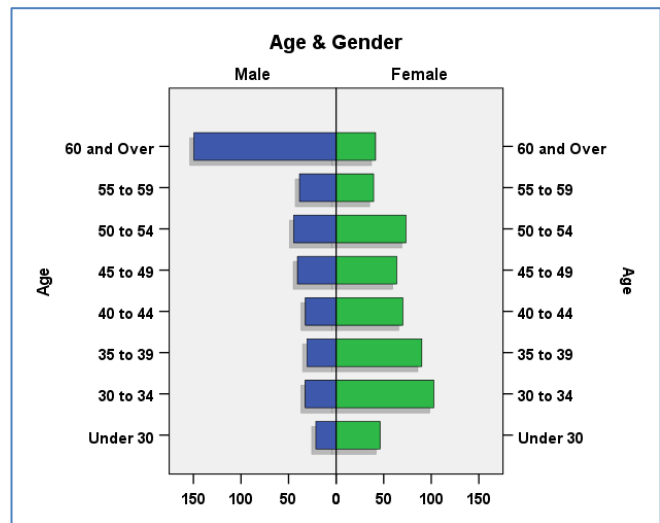
Median Age: 47  
% Under 40: 35%  
% 55 and Over: 29%

Diversity

Diversity Index: 50%  
Under 40 Div. Index: 54%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

In a random encounter between two optometrists, there is a 50% 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: 10%  
 Rural Childhood: 25%

### Virginia Background

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

### Location Choice

% Rural to Non-Metro: 20%  
 % Urban/Suburban to Non-Metro: 5%

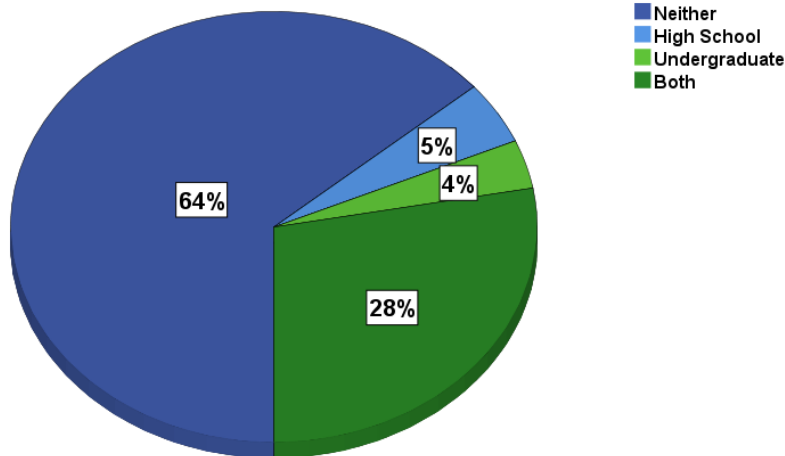
Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

## A Closer Look:

Primary Location: USDA Rural Urban Continuum		Rural Status of Childhood Location		
Code	Description	Rural	Suburban	Urban
<b>Metro Counties</b>				
<b>1</b>	Metro, 1 Million+	18%	70%	12%
<b>2</b>	Metro, 250,000 to 1 Million	49%	49%	2%
<b>3</b>	Metro, 250,000 or Less	31%	60%	9%
<b>Non-Metro Counties</b>				
<b>4</b>	Urban, Pop. 20,000+, Metro Adjacent	39%	46%	15%
<b>6</b>	Urban, Pop. 2,500-19,999, Metro Adjacent	35%	65%	0%
<b>7</b>	Urban, Pop. 2,500-19,999, Non-Adjacent	88%	12%	0%
<b>8</b>	Rural, Metro Adjacent	60%	20%	20%
<b>9</b>	Rural, Non-Adjacent	20%	80%	0%
<b>Overall</b>		<b>25%</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>10%</b>

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Educational Background in Virginia



Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

*One-quarter of all optometrists grew up in a self-described rural area, and 20% of this group of professionals currently work in a non-metro county. In total, 9% of all optometrists work in a non-metro county of Virginia.*

## Top Ten States for Optometrist Recruitment

Rank	All Optometrists			
	High School	#	Professional School	#
1	Virginia	296	Pennsylvania	291
2	Pennsylvania	83	Tennessee	126
3	New York	70	Massachusetts	77
4	Maryland	68	Florida	54
5	North Carolina	33	Illinois	53
6	Ohio	31	Ohio	40
7	Outside U.S./Canada	31	Alabama	40
8	California	29	New York	40
9	New Jersey	24	Indiana	40
10	Florida	23	Texas	36

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Nearly 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, 31% received their high school degree in Virginia, while 33% received their Doctorate of Optometry in Pennsylvania.

Rank	Licensed in the Past Five Years			
	High School	#	Professional School	#
1	Virginia	81	Pennsylvania	83
2	Pennsylvania	31	Massachusetts	26
3	Maryland	22	Tennessee	20
4	New York	12	Texas	16
5	California	12	Florida	15
6	Michigan	8	Illinois	14
7	Ohio	8	California	11
8	Outside U.S./Canada	7	Ohio	11
9	Massachusetts	6	Indiana	9
10	Illinois	6	New York	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. Among these optometrists, 94% worked at some point in the past year, including 91% who currently work as optometrists.

### At a Glance:

#### Not in VA Workforce

Total:	465
% of Licensees:	27%
Federal/Military:	23%
VA Border State/DC:	28%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

**A Closer Look:**

Residency Programs		
Area	#	% of Workforce
Ocular Disease	115	9%
Primary Eye Care	89	7%
Cornea and Contact Lenses	25	2%
Low Vision Rehabilitation	24	2%
Vision Therapy and Rehabilitation	18	1%
Family Practice Optometry	16	1%
Pediatric Optometry	15	1%
Refractive and Ocular Surgery	6	0%
Brain Injury Vision Rehabilitation	5	0%
Geriatric Optometry	5	0%
Community Health Optometry	1	0%
Other	7	1%
<b>At Least One Program</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>17%</b>

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

## At a Glance:

**Residency Programs**  
 Ocular Disease: 9%  
 Primary Eye Care: 7%  
 Cornea/Contact Lenses: 2%

**Education Debt**  
 Carry Debt: 45%  
 Under Age 40 w/ Debt: 72%  
 Median Debt: \$120k or More

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

*Nearly one out of every five optometrists have completed at least one residency program, including 9% who have completed a residency program in ocular diseases.*

*Nearly half of all optometrists currently have education debt, including 72% of those who are under the age of 40. For those optometrists with education debt, the median debt burden is greater than \$120,000.*

Education Debt				
Amount Carried	All Optometrists		Optometrists Under 40	
	#	%	#	%
None	438	55%	82	29%
Less than \$20,000	16	2%	6	2%
\$20,000-\$39,999	33	4%	9	3%
\$40,000-\$59,999	41	5%	10	3%
\$60,000-\$79,999	21	3%	8	3%
\$80,000-\$99,999	24	3%	6	2%
\$100,000-\$119,999	34	4%	14	5%
\$120,000 or More	184	23%	152	53%
<b>Total</b>	<b>791</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

## At a Glance:

### Employment

Employed in Profession: 96%  
 Involuntarily Unemployed: 0%

### Positions Held

1 Full-Time: 69%  
 2 or More Positions: 12%

### Weekly Hours:

40 to 49: 43%  
 60 or More: 4%  
 Less than 30: 14%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

## A Closer Look:

Current Work Status		
Status	#	%
Employed, Capacity Unknown	0	0%
Employed in an Optometry-Related Capacity	872	96%
Employed, NOT in an Optometry-Related Capacity	6	1%
Not Working, Reason Unknown	0	0%
Involuntarily Unemployed	0	0%
Voluntarily Unemployed	15	2%
Retired	14	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>907</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

*Among all licensed optometrists, 96% are currently employed in the profession, 69% hold one full-time job, and 43% work between 40 and 49 hours per week.*

Current Positions		
Positions	#	%
No Positions	29	3%
One Part-Time Position	133	15%
Two Part-Time Positions	33	4%
One Full-Time Position	610	69%
One Full-Time Position & One Part-Time Position	62	7%
Two Full-Time Positions	5	1%
More than Two Positions	10	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>882</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Current Weekly Hours		
Hours	#	%
0 Hours	29	3%
1 to 9 Hours	22	3%
10 to 19 Hours	40	5%
20 to 29 Hours	62	7%
30 to 39 Hours	245	28%
40 to 49 Hours	379	43%
50 to 59 Hours	67	8%
60 to 69 Hours	22	3%
70 to 79 Hours	5	1%
80 or More Hours	5	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>876</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

**A Closer Look:**

Annual Income		
Income Level	#	%
Volunteer Work Only	4	1%
Less than \$40,000	30	4%
\$40,000-\$59,999	32	5%
\$60,000-\$79,999	48	7%
\$80,000-\$99,999	52	8%
\$100,000-\$119,999	136	20%
\$120,000-\$139,999	137	20%
\$140,000-\$159,999	89	13%
\$160,000-\$179,999	40	6%
\$180,000-\$199,999	27	4%
\$200,000 or More	82	12%
<b>Total</b>	<b>677</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

## At a Glance:

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

**Benefits**  
Health Insurance: 59%  
Retirement: 61%

**Satisfaction**  
Satisfied: 96%  
Very Satisfied: 61%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Job Satisfaction		
Level	#	%
Very Satisfied	530	61%
Somewhat Satisfied	305	35%
Somewhat Dissatisfied	28	3%
Very Dissatisfied	7	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

The typical optometrist earns between \$120,000 and \$130,000 per year. In addition, 82% of all 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	476	55%	69%
Retirement	439	50%	61%
Health Insurance	412	47%	59%
Dental Insurance	297	34%	46%
Paid Sick Leave	296	34%	44%
Group Life Insurance	202	23%	32%
Signing/Retention Bonus	73	8%	11%
<b>At Least One Benefit</b>	<b>593</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>82%</b>

\*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?	13	1%
Experience Voluntary Unemployment?	57	4%
Work Part-Time or Temporary Positions, but Would Have Preferred a Full-Time/Permanent Position?	14	1%
Work Two or More Positions at the Same Time?	134	10%
Switch Employers or Practices?	63	5%
Experience at Least One?	<b>238</b>	<b>18%</b>

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Over the past year, 1% of optometrists have experienced involuntary unemployment. By comparison, Virginia's average monthly unemployment rate was 3.5%.<sup>1</sup>

Location Tenure				
Tenure	Primary		Secondary	
	#	%	#	%
Not Currently Working at This Location	8	1%	10	4%
Less than 6 Months	45	5%	28	11%
6 Months to 1 Year	79	9%	33	14%
1 to 2 Years	144	17%	57	23%
3 to 5 Years	145	17%	41	17%
6 to 10 Years	135	16%	30	12%
More than 10 Years	308	36%	44	18%
Subtotal	<b>863</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>100%</b>
Did Not Have Location	20		1,044	
Item Missing	405		0	
Total	<b>1,288</b>		<b>1,288</b>	

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Nearly 60% of all optometrists receive a salary or work on commission at their primary work location. Another 24% receive income from a business or practice.

**At a Glance:**

**Unemployment Experience**

Involuntarily Unemployed: 1%  
Underemployed: 1%

**Turnover & Tenure**

Switched Jobs: 5%  
New Location: 21%  
Over 2 Years: 68%  
Over 2 Yrs., 2<sup>nd</sup> Location: 47%

**Employment Type**

Salary/Commission: 59%  
Business/Practice Inc.: 24%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

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

Employment Type		
Primary Work Site	#	%
Salary/Commission	389	59%
Hourly Wage	85	13%
By Contract	26	4%
Business/Practice Income	156	24%
Unpaid	2	0%
Subtotal	<b>658</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

<sup>1</sup> 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 2.7% and a high of 4.5%. At the time of publication, the unemployment rate from February 2022 was still preliminary, and the unemployment rate from March 2022 had not yet been released.

## At a Glance:

### Concentration

Top Region:	39%
Top 3 Regions:	76%
Lowest Region:	1%

### Locations

2 or More (Past Year):	28%
2 or More (Now*):	27%

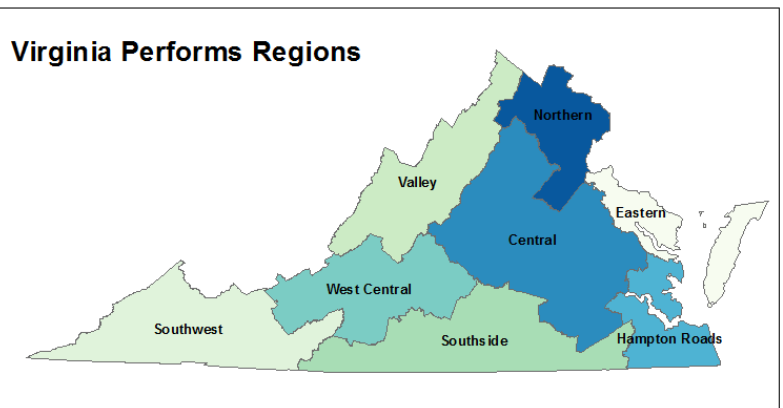
Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

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	
	#	%	#	%
Central	145	17%	33	14%
Eastern	8	1%	1	0%
Hampton Roads	175	20%	39	16%
Northern	337	39%	86	35%
Southside	25	3%	10	4%
Southwest	40	5%	17	7%
Valley	30	3%	9	4%
West Central	73	8%	30	12%
Virginia Border State/D.C.	14	2%	13	5%
Other U.S. State	13	2%	5	2%
Outside of the U.S.	0	0%	1	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>100%</b>
Item Missing	408		1	

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center



Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Among all optometrists, 27% currently have multiple work locations, while 28% have had multiple work locations over the past year.

Number of Work Locations				
Locations	Work Locations in Past Year		Work Locations Now*	
	#	%	#	%
0	20	2%	28	3%
1	619	70%	619	70%
2	147	17%	152	17%
3	72	8%	68	8%
4	9	1%	8	1%
5	1	0%	0	0%
6 or More	14	2%	8	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>883</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>883</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*At the time of survey completion: March 2022.

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center



**A Closer Look:**

Sector	Location Sector			
	Primary Location		Secondary Location	
	#	%	#	%
<b>For-Profit</b>	755	92%	214	90%
<b>Non-Profit</b>	23	3%	7	3%
<b>State/Local Government</b>	3	0%	6	3%
<b>Veterans Administration</b>	14	2%	3	1%
<b>U.S. Military</b>	21	3%	5	2%
<b>Other Federal Government</b>	1	0%	2	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>817</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Did Not Have Location</b>	20		1,044	
<b>Item Missing</b>	452		7	

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

## At a Glance: (Primary Locations)

**Sector**

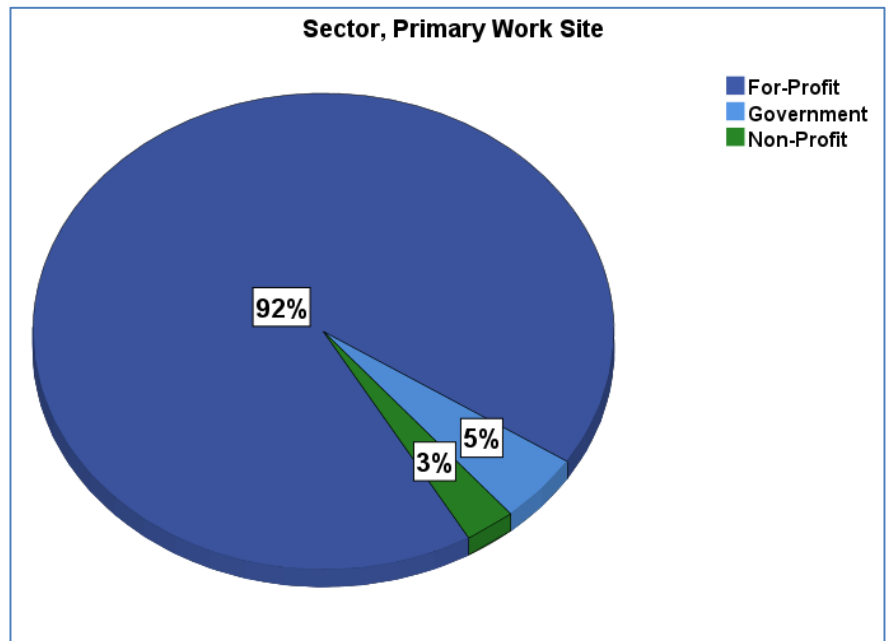
For-Profit:	92%
Federal:	4%

**Top Establishments**

Private Practice, Group:	43%
Private Practice, Solo:	21%
Optical Goods Store:	17%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

*Most 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	335	43%	107	47%
Private Practice, Solo	167	21%	36	16%
Optical Goods Store	134	17%	39	17%
Physician Office	35	5%	5	2%
Outpatient/Community Clinic	29	4%	6	3%
General Hospital, Outpatient Department	23	3%	5	2%
Home Health Care	2	0%	1	0%
General Hospital, Inpatient Department	1	0%	2	1%
Academic Institution	1	0%	0	0%
Other	50	6%	27	12%
<b>Total</b>	<b>777</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>100%</b>
Did Not Have a Location	20		1,044	

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.

More than three out of every five 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	800	62%
Private Insurance	763	59%
Medicare	667	52%
Medicaid	443	34%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

## At a Glance: (Primary Locations)

### Typical Time Allocation

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

### Roles

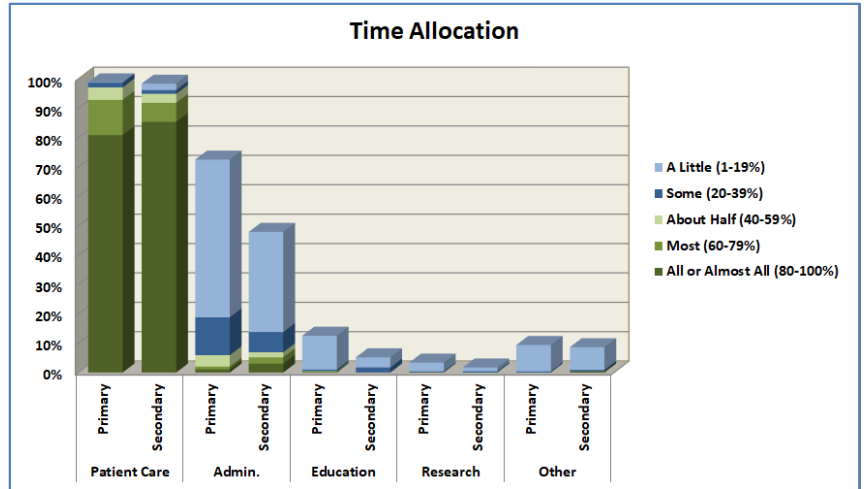
Patient Care: 93%  
Administration: 2%

### 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, 93% 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
<b>All or Almost All (80-100%)</b>	81%	85%	1%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Most (60-79%)</b>	12%	6%	1%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>About Half (40-59%)</b>	4%	3%	4%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Some (20-39%)</b>	2%	1%	13%	7%	1%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>A Little (1-19%)</b>	0%	2%	54%	34%	12%	3%	3%	1%	9%	8%
<b>None (0%)</b>	1%	2%	28%	52%	87%	94%	97%	98%	91%	91%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

**A Closer Look:**

Retirement Expectations				
Expected Retirement Age	All Optometrists		Optometrists 50 and Over	
	#	%	#	%
<b>Under Age 50</b>	12	2%	-	-
<b>50 to 54</b>	44	6%	5	2%
<b>55 to 59</b>	90	12%	16	5%
<b>60 to 64</b>	192	25%	63	19%
<b>65 to 69</b>	238	31%	110	33%
<b>70 to 74</b>	104	13%	73	22%
<b>75 to 79</b>	36	5%	22	7%
<b>80 or Over</b>	17	2%	12	4%
<b>I Do Not Intend to Retire</b>	44	6%	32	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>777</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

**At a Glance:**

Retirement Expectations

**All Optometrists**

Under 65: 44%  
Under 60: 19%

**Optometrists 50 and Over**

Under 65: 25%  
Under 60: 6%

Time Until Retirement

Within 2 Years: 6%  
Within 10 Years: 24%  
Half the Workforce: By 2047

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, 25% 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**

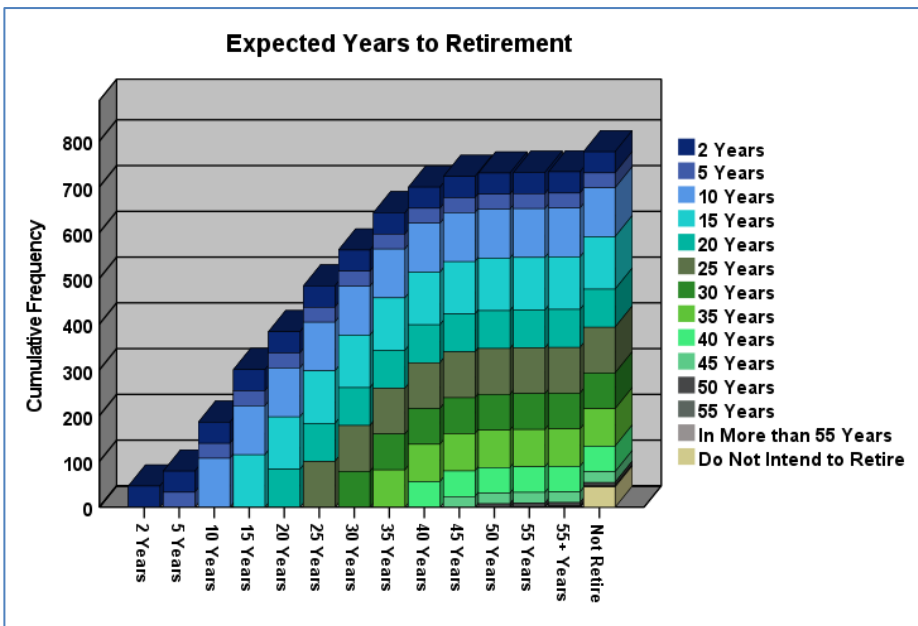
Two-Year Plans:	#	%
<b>Decrease Participation</b>		
<b>Leave Profession</b>	7	1%
<b>Leave Virginia</b>	26	2%
<b>Decrease Patient Care Hours</b>	111	9%
<b>Decrease Teaching Hours</b>	1	0%
<b>Increase Participation</b>		
<b>Increase Patient Care Hours</b>	99	8%
<b>Increase Teaching Hours</b>	38	3%
<b>Pursue Additional Education</b>	55	4%
<b>Return to the Workforce</b>	6	0%

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 2047.

Time to Retirement			
Expect to Retire Within . . .	#	%	Cumulative %
2 Years	46	6%	6%
5 Years	33	4%	10%
10 Years	107	14%	24%
15 Years	115	15%	39%
20 Years	83	11%	49%
25 Years	100	13%	62%
30 Years	78	10%	72%
35 Years	82	11%	83%
40 Years	56	7%	90%
45 Years	23	3%	93%
50 Years	8	1%	94%
55 Years	1	0%	94%
In More than 55 Years	1	0%	94%
Do Not Intend to Retire	44	6%	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>777</b>	<b>100%</b>	

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 2032. Retirement will peak at 15% of the current workforce around 2037 before declining to under 10% again around 2062.

## At a Glance:

### FTEs

Total: 1,092  
 FTEs/1,000 Residents<sup>2</sup>: 0.126  
 Average: 0.86

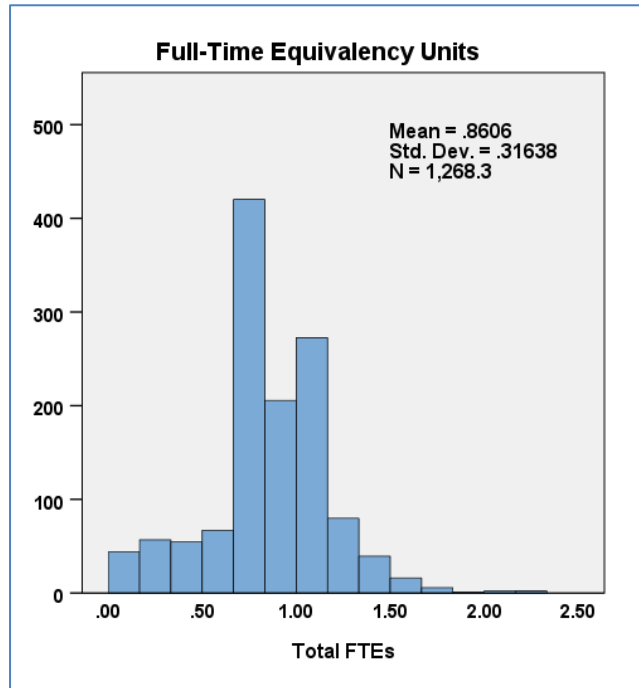
### Age & Gender Effect

Age, *Partial Eta*<sup>2</sup>: Small  
 Gender, *Partial Eta*<sup>2</sup>: Small

*Partial Eta*<sup>2</sup> Explained:  
*Partial Eta*<sup>2</sup> is a statistical  
 measure of effect size.

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

## A Closer Look:

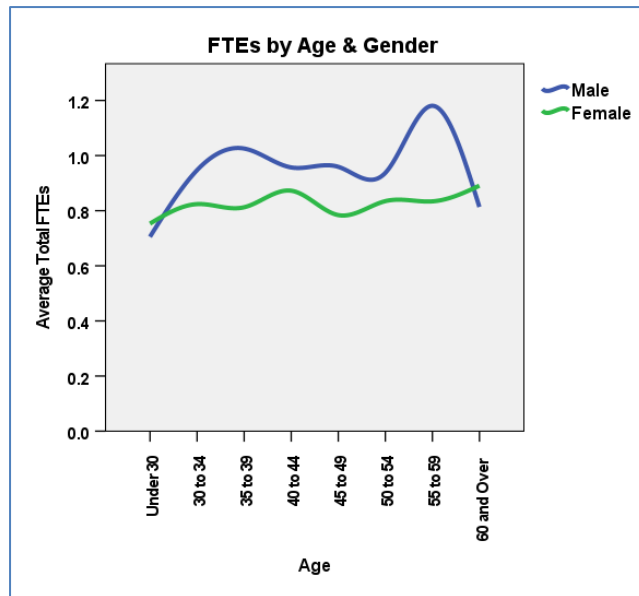


Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

*The typical (median) optometrist provided 0.83 FTEs in the past year, or approximately 33 hours per week for 50 weeks. Although FTEs appear to vary by age and gender, statistical tests did not verify that a difference exists.<sup>3</sup>*

Full-Time Equivalency Units		
Age	Average	Median
<b>Age</b>		
Under 30	0.76	0.83
30 to 34	0.85	0.83
35 to 39	0.88	0.93
40 to 44	0.94	1.03
45 to 49	0.80	0.68
50 to 54	0.86	0.83
55 to 59	0.96	0.83
60 and Over	0.83	0.83
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	0.91	0.96
Female	0.82	0.89

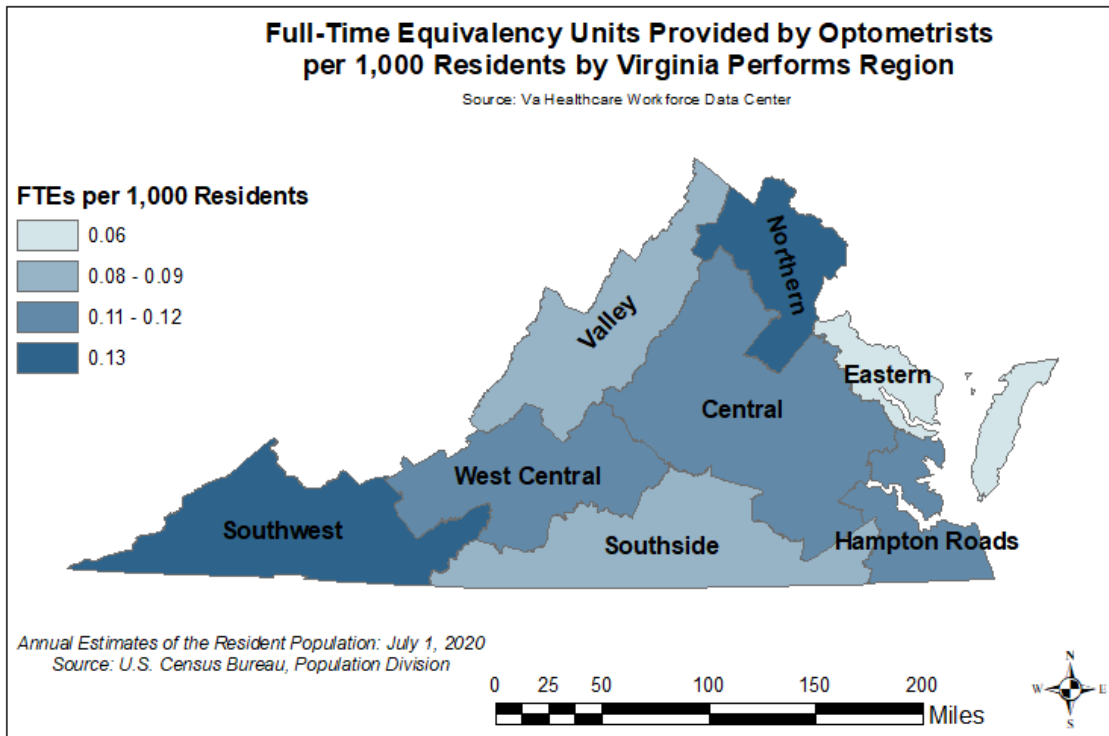
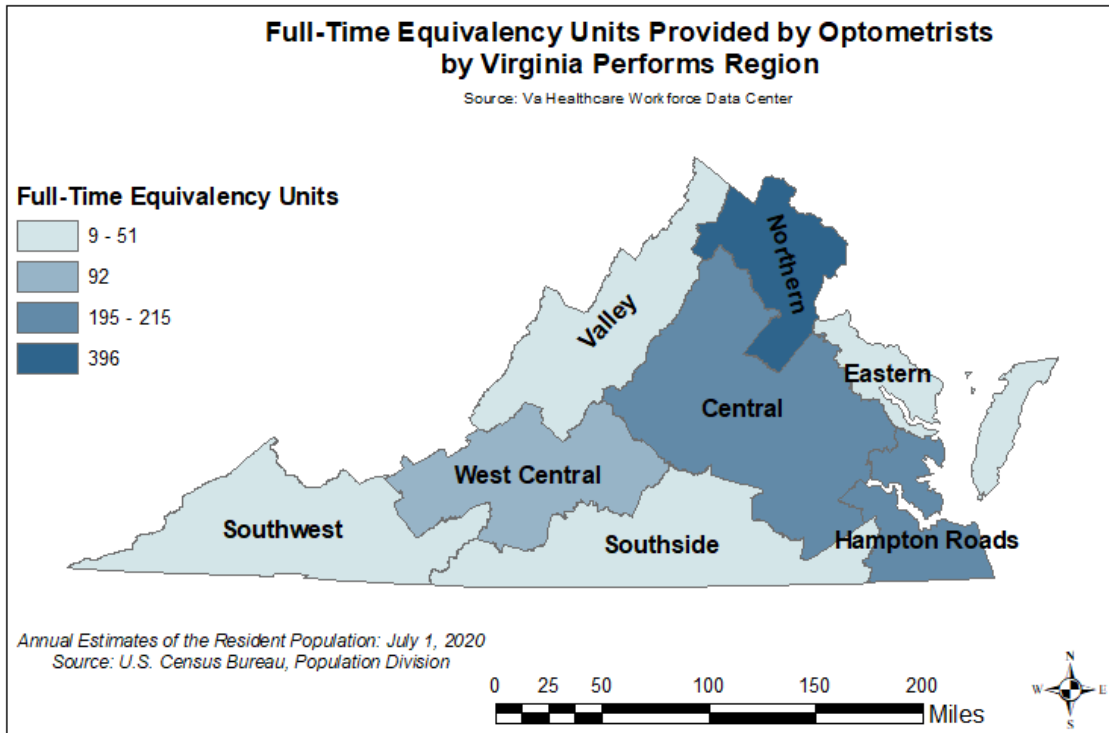
Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

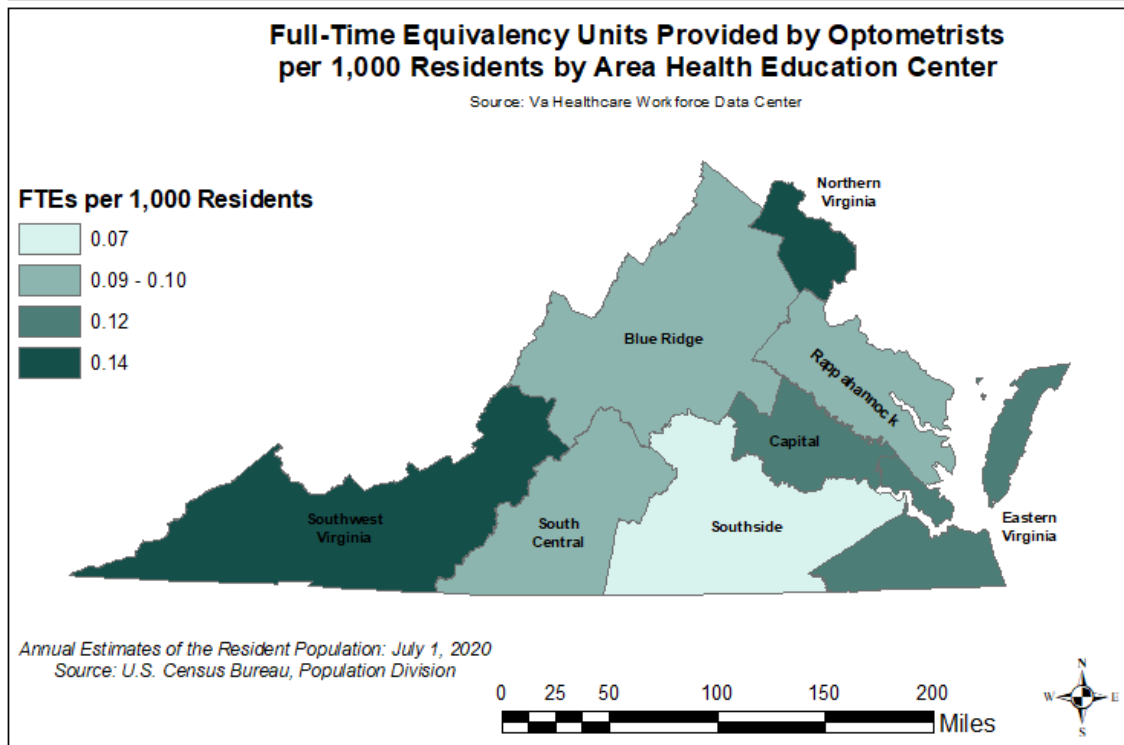
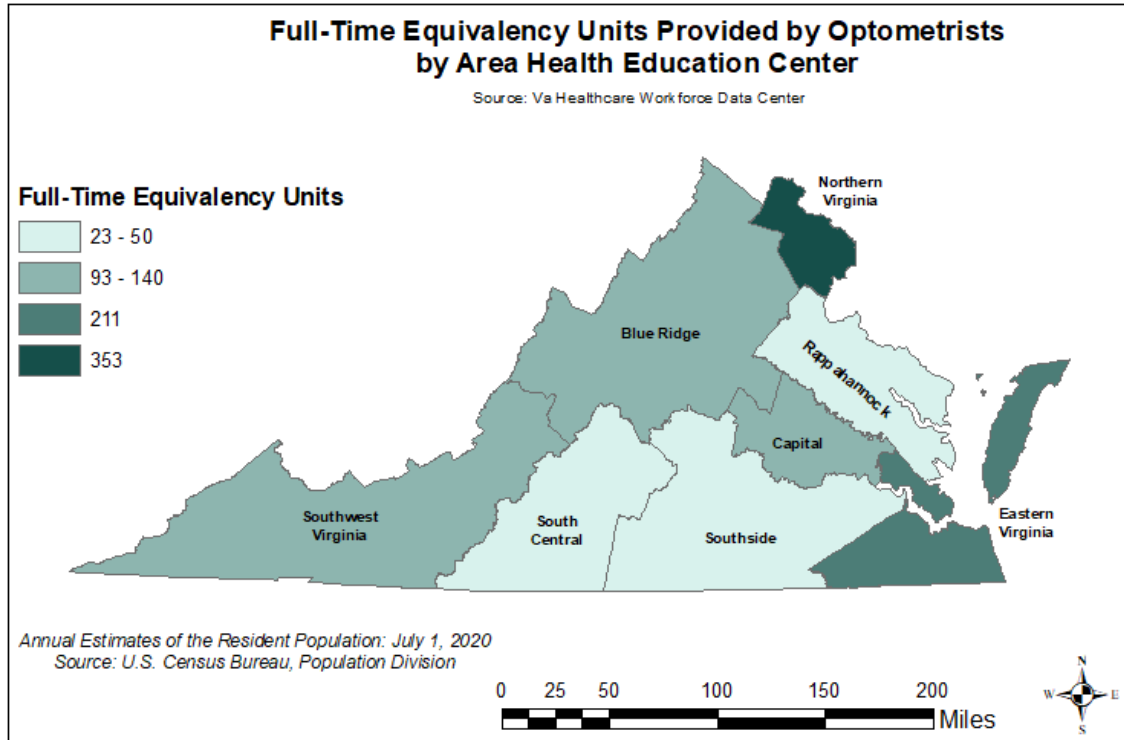


Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

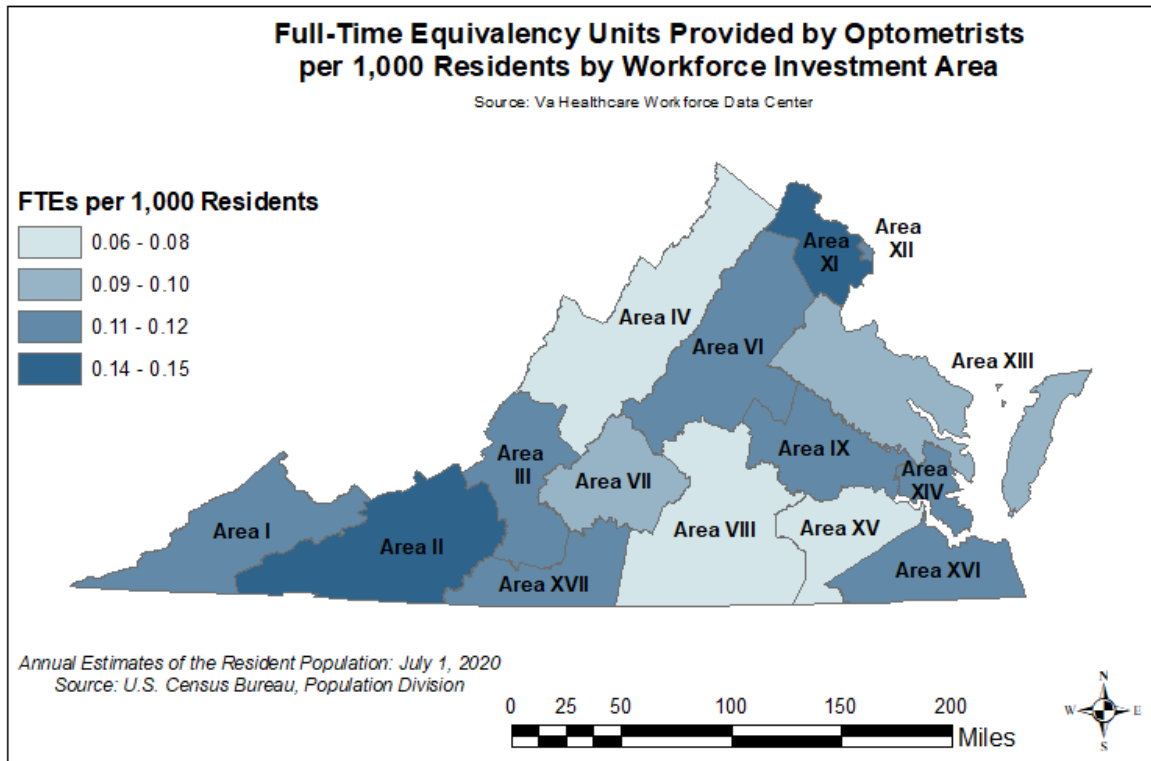
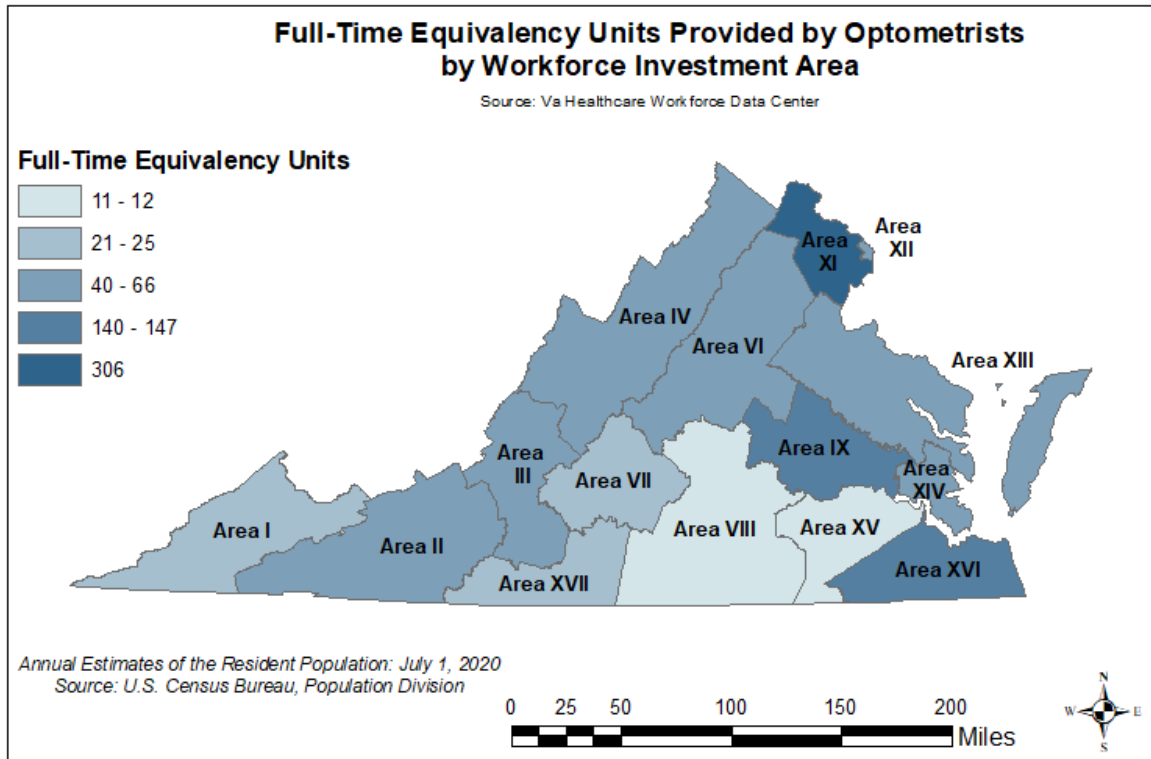
<sup>2</sup> Number of residents in 2020 was used as the denominator.

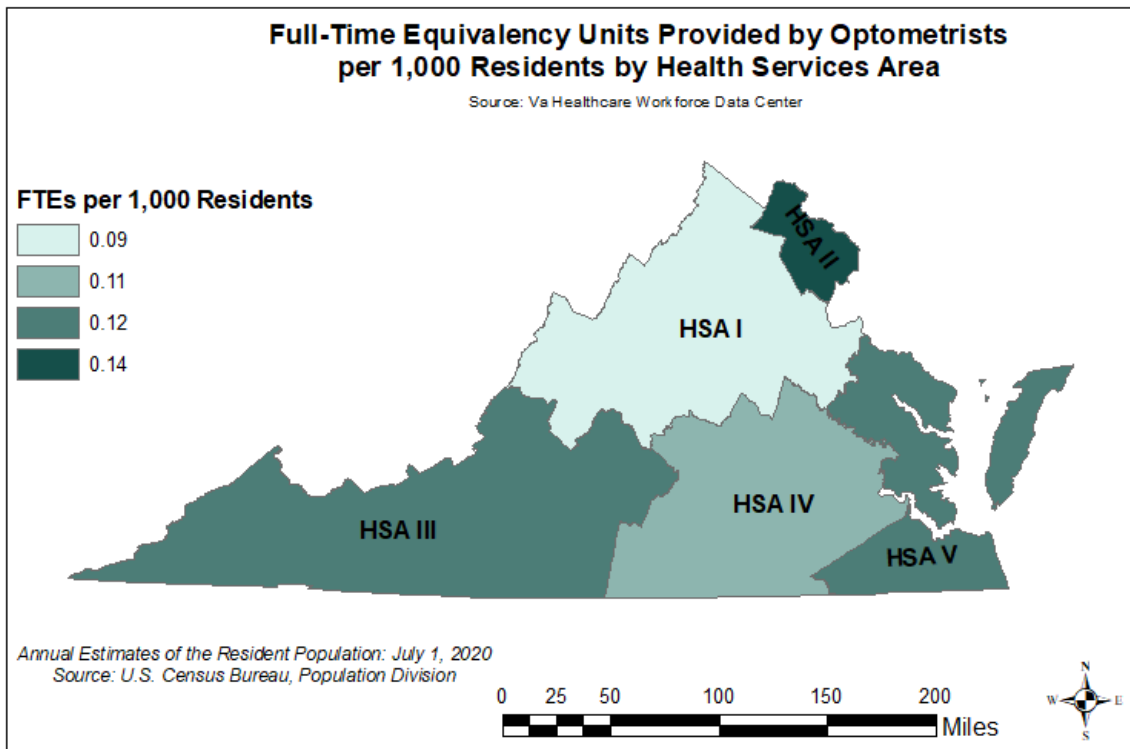
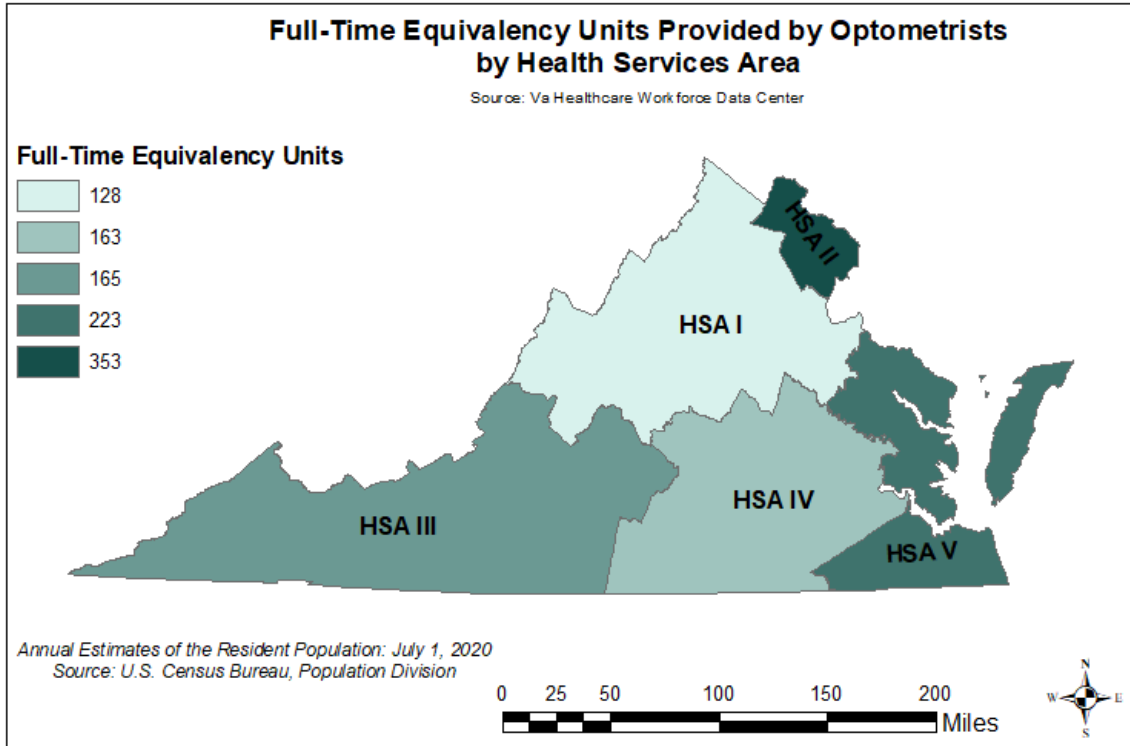
<sup>3</sup> Due to assumption violations in Mixed between-within ANOVA (Interaction effect was significant).

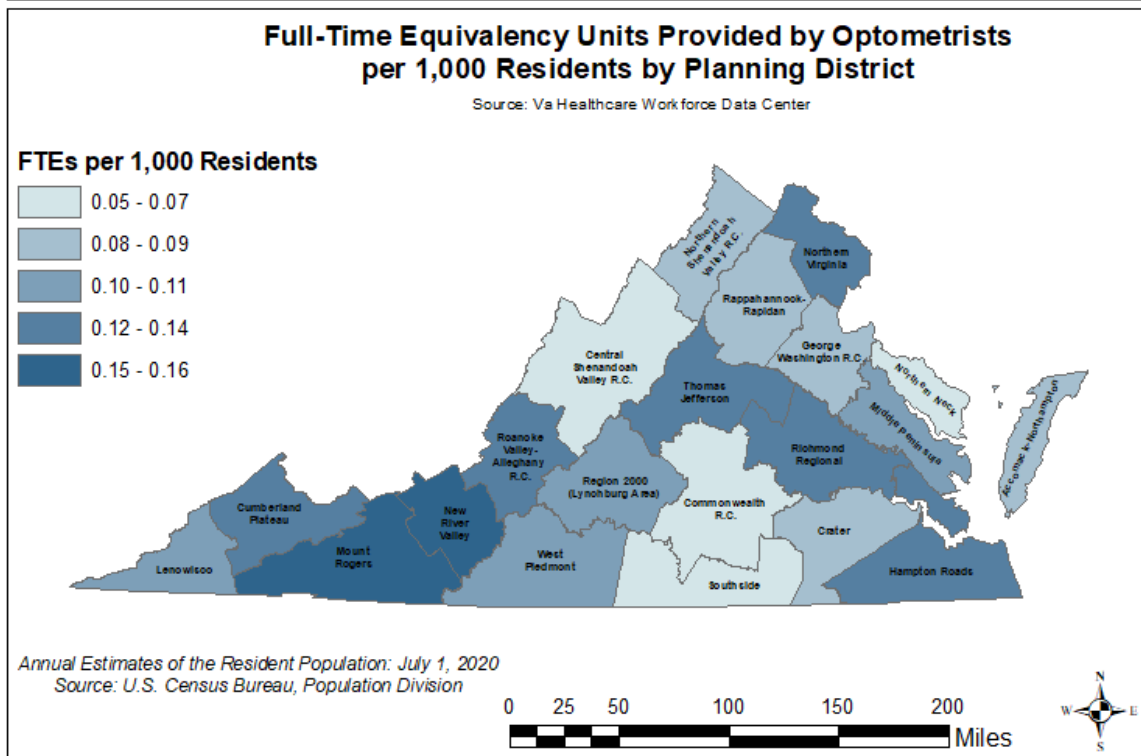
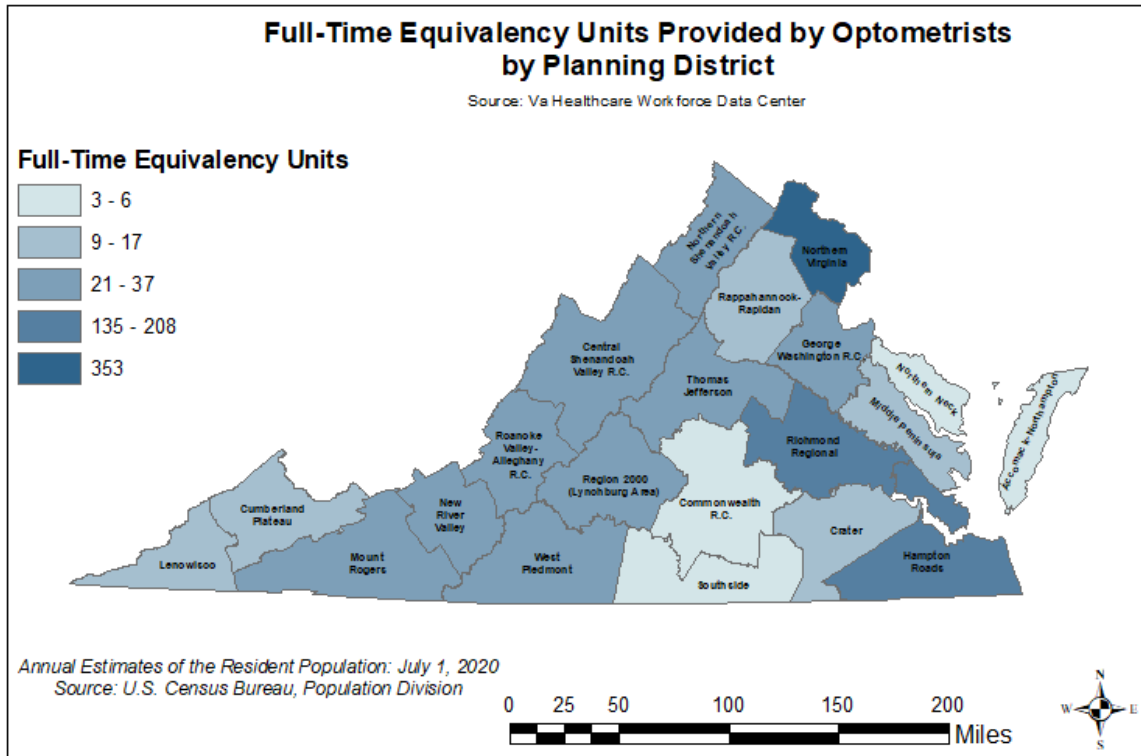












## Appendices

### Weights

Rural Status	Location Weight			Total Weight	
	#	Rate	Weight	Min.	Max.
<b>Metro, 1 Million+</b>	877	86.89%	1.151	1.087	1.365
<b>Metro, 250,000 to 1 Million</b>	87	88.51%	1.130	1.067	1.340
<b>Metro, 250,000 or Less</b>	113	88.50%	1.130	1.067	1.340
<b>Urban, Pop. 20,000+, Metro Adj.</b>	12	91.67%	1.091	1.030	1.114
<b>Urban, Pop. 20,000+, Non-Adj.</b>	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
<b>Urban, Pop. 2,500-19,999, Metro Adj.</b>	40	85.00%	1.176	1.111	1.395
<b>Urban, Pop. 2,500-19,999, Non-Adj.</b>	37	75.68%	1.321	1.248	1.567
<b>Rural, Metro Adj.</b>	23	86.96%	1.150	1.086	1.364
<b>Rural, Non-Adj.</b>	6	66.67%	1.500	1.417	1.487
<b>Virginia Border State/D.C.</b>	231	87.01%	1.149	1.085	1.363
<b>Other U.S. State</b>	327	80.43%	1.243	1.174	1.474

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Age	Age Weight			Total Weight	
	#	Rate	Weight	Min.	Max.
<b>Under 30</b>	97	72.16%	1.386	1.340	1.567
<b>30 to 34</b>	226	80.09%	1.249	1.207	1.412
<b>35 to 39</b>	241	86.31%	1.159	1.082	1.487
<b>40 to 44</b>	204	83.82%	1.193	1.114	1.349
<b>45 to 49</b>	213	90.61%	1.104	1.030	1.417
<b>50 to 54</b>	225	87.56%	1.142	1.066	1.466
<b>55 to 59</b>	161	87.58%	1.142	1.104	1.291
<b>60 and Over</b>	386	87.82%	1.139	1.063	1.287

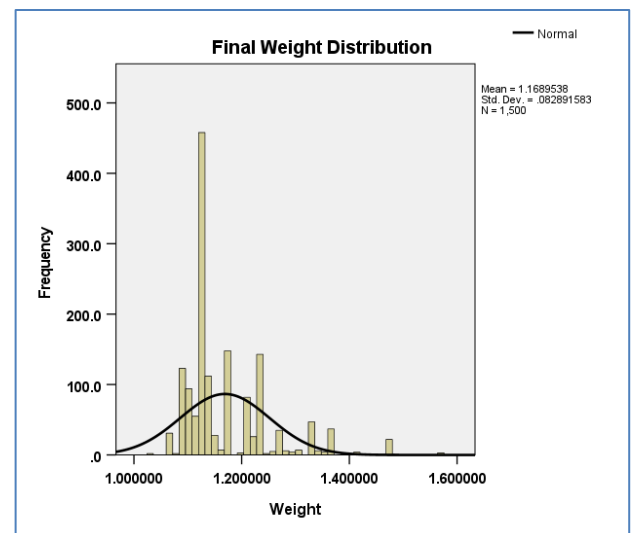
Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

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: 0.855676**



Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center