

## VIRGINIA HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE DATA CENTER REPORTS SUPPLY OF MEDICAL DOCTORS OUTPACED BY DEMAND THROUGH 2030

*September 16, 2010*

As part of an ongoing series of survey's, workforce data voluntarily supplied by Virginia physicians during the Board of Medicine's 2007 – 2008 license renewal process was the focus of a Department of Health Professions (DHP) Healthcare Workforce Data Center (HWDC) telephone briefing. Reports and data cubes were outlined including: *Forecasting Physician Supply and Demand in Virginia 2008 – 2030*; *2008 Virginia Physician Workforce Survey Findings and Recommendations*; *DO and MD Data Cubes*; and, *Physician facts and trends*.

The Commonwealth is part of a national trend in which it is difficult to retain physicians though they may be trained here. This theme and related solutions were explored by panelists: **Virginia Secretary of Health of Human Resources, William Hazel, M.D.**; **Director of the Department of Health Professions, Dianne L. Reynolds-Cane, M.D.**; **Executive Director of the Board of Medicine, William Harp, M.D.**; **Arthur Garson, M.D., Provost, University of Virginia**; and **Director of the DHP VHWDC Elizabeth Carter, Ph.D.**

View the findings, a full transcript and images from the briefing at <http://www.dhp.virginia.gov/hwdc/press092010.htm>

### **Top findings from DHP's HWDC 2007 – 2008 Physician Survey**

- Virginia anticipates a continued increase in demand for physician services at a time when there will be a decrease in the supply of medical doctors.
- Some 39% of Virginia physicians work in primary care specialties such as Pediatrics, Family Practice, and Internal Medicine.
- Only 23% of Virginia's physician workforce graduated from Virginia medical schools, and only 30% completed their residencies in state and according to the American Association of Medical Colleges, Virginia retains only 35% of its medical school graduates and 39% of its residents, ranking 31<sup>st</sup> and 39<sup>th</sup>, respectively among states.
- About 85% of Virginia physicians work fulltime and almost 60% spend 40 or more hours per week on patient care activities.
- About one-third of survey responders were age 55 or older, and 10 percent were 65 or older.
- By age 65, over a third of responders who were still in practice reported working only part-time, by age 70, this figure jumped to over half.
- Although physicians tend to remain in the workforce longer than other professionals, there is no doubt that a substantial proportion of Virginia's experienced physicians will be leaving the workforce or reducing their involvement in practice within the next decade.
- Virginia's physicians begin to cut back their hours or retire after reaching age 55. Meanwhile, persons age 65 to 75 require twice as many physician services as the population in general, while persons over age 75 require over three times as much care.

# # #