
Virginia's Optometrist Workforce: 2017

Healthcare Workforce Data Center

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1,335 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:	1,575
Virginia's Workforce:	1,178
FTEs:	966

Background

Rural Childhood:	24%
HS Degree in VA:	31%
UG Degree in VA:	28%

Current Employment

Employed in Prof.:	98%
Hold 1 Full-time Job:	68%
Satisfied?:	96%

Survey Response Rate

All Licenses:	85%
Renewing Practitioners:	91%

Residency Program

Ocular Disease:	6%
Primary Eye Care:	5%

Job Turnover

Switched Jobs in 2017:	5%
Employed over 2 yrs:	71%

Demographics

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

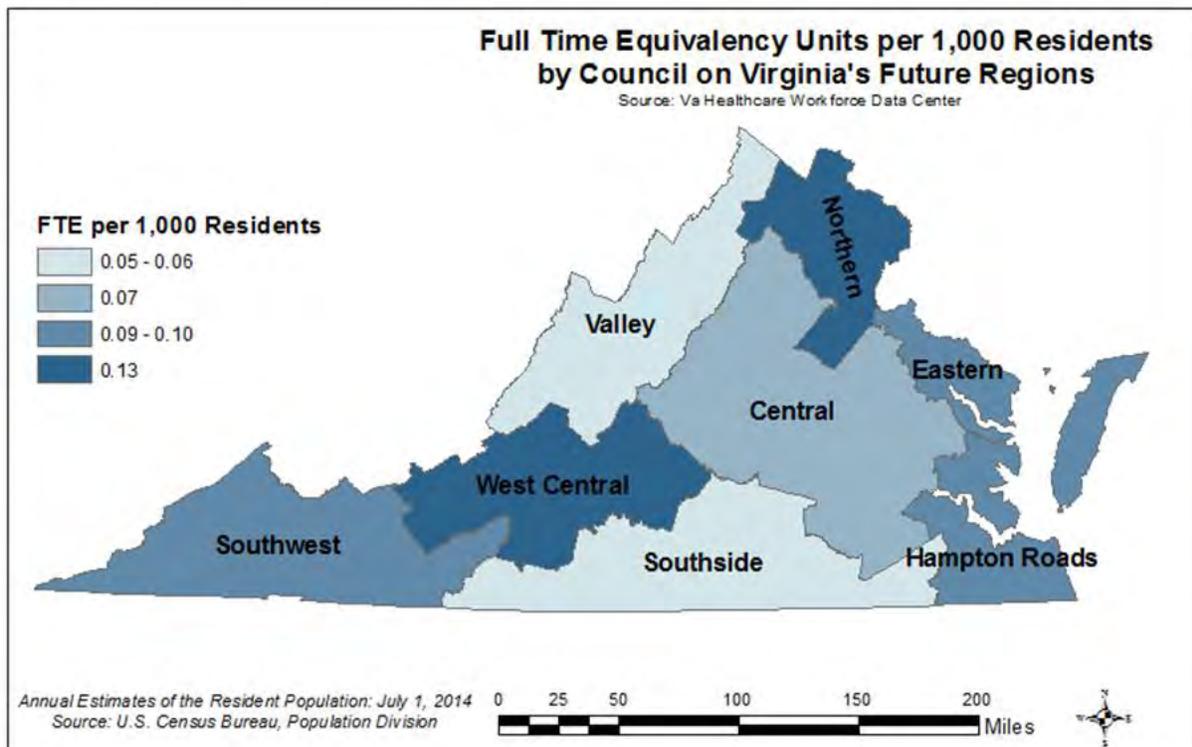
Finances

Median Inc.:	\$110k-\$120k
Health Benefits:	52%
Under 40 w/ Ed debt:	84%

Primary Roles

Patient Care:	91%
Administration:	2%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center



1,335 optometrists voluntarily took part in the 2017 Optometrist Workforce Survey. The Virginia Department of Health Professions' Healthcare Workforce Data Center (HWDC) administers the survey during the license renewal process, which takes place every December. These survey respondents represent 85% of the 1,575 optometrists who are licensed in the state and 91% of renewing practitioners.

The HWDC estimates that 1,178 optometrists participated in Virginia's workforce during the survey 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 966 "full-time equivalency units" during the survey time period, which the HWDC defines simply as working 2,000 hours a year (or 40 hours per week for 50 weeks with 2 weeks off).

50% of all optometrists are female, including nearly three-quarters of those optometrists who are under the age of 40. Overall, the median age of Virginia's optometrists is 47. In a random encounter between two optometrists, there is a 47% chance that they would be of different races or ethnicities, a measure known as the diversity index. For Virginia's population as a whole, this same probability is 56%. Hence, the optometrist population is less diverse than the state.

24% of Virginia's optometrist workforce grew up in a rural area, and 20% of these professionals currently work in non-Metro areas of the state. Overall, just 8% of Virginia's optometrists currently work in non-Metro areas of the state. Meanwhile, 31% of all optometrists went to high school in Virginia.

13% of Virginia's optometrists have completed a residency program. Ocular Diseases, Primary Eye Care, and Low Vision Rehabilitation were the most commonly completed residency programs. 44% of Virginia's optometrist workforce has educational debt, including 84% of those professionals who are under the age of 40. For those optometrists with education debt, the median debt load is between \$100,000 and \$110,000.

98% of all optometrists are currently employed in the profession. 68% of these professionals hold one full-time position, while 14% currently have multiple positions. During the past year, less than 1% of Virginia's optometrists have been involuntarily unemployed, while 3% of all optometrists have considered themselves underemployed. 19% of Virginia's optometrists began work at a new location at some point in the past year, while 71% have been at their primary work location for at least two years.

The median annual income for Virginia's optometrist workforce is between \$110,000 and \$120,000. Among those optometrists who receive either a salary or an hourly wage, 72% receive at least one employer-sponsored benefit, including 52% who receive health insurance. 96% of optometrists indicate they are satisfied with their current employment situation, including 68% who indicate they are "very satisfied".

92% of all optometrists work at a for-profit establishment, while 4% work for the federal government. Private group practices employ 43% of Virginia's optometrist workforce, the most of any establishment type in the state. Private solo practices and independent practices adjacent to optical stores are also common types.

A typical optometrist spends nearly all of her time treating patients. In fact, 91% of optometrists serve a patient care role, meaning that at least 60% of their time is spent in that activity. In addition, the typical optometrist also spent a small amount of his time engaged in administrative activities.

39% of all optometrists expect to retire by the age of 65. Within the next ten years, 25% of the current workforce expect to retire, while half of the current workforce plan on retiring by 2042. During the next two years, 1% of Virginia's optometrists plan on leaving the profession, while 2% of all optometrists expect to leave the state in order to practice optometry elsewhere. At the same time, 10% of optometrists hope to increase their patient care hours, while 5% plan to pursue additional educational opportunities.

Summary of Trends

Few changes have occurred in the optometrist workforce since last surveyed in 2016. Most notable there has been a slight increase in the number of licensed optometrists in the state and in the state workforce, but a decline in the number of full time equivalency (FTE) units provided. The number of licensed optometrist increased from 1,548 in 2016 to 1,575 in 2017, overcoming last year's decline from 1,571 in 2015. The number in the state's workforce also made up for last year's decline from 1,165 in 2015 to 1,151 in 2016; there were 1,178 optometrists in the state's workforce in 2017. This number is, however, still lower than 1,179 optometrists in the state's workforce in 2014. Further, fewer full time equivalency (FTE) units were provided, continuing the decline from last year. In 2017, 966 FTEs were provided compared to 977 FTE in 2016. In fact, the FTEs provided in 2017 is a 4-year low as 1,003 and 1,019 FTEs were provided in 2015 and 2014, respectively. However, survey response rates increased among both renewing and the overall optometrist population as more respondents completed the survey in 2017 than ever before.

The results from the 2017 survey paint an unclear financial picture of the state's optometrist population. The percent of optometrist with education debt continued to decline for those under age 40 and for the overall population of optometrists. In 2014, 89% of optometrists below age 40 reported having education debt compared to 84% in 2017; overall 45% reported carrying education debt in 2014 compared to 44% in 2017. The median educational debt, however, stayed the same at \$100,000-\$110,000. Median income, however, declined from \$110,000-\$120,000 in 2016 to \$100,000-\$110,000 in 2017. The percent of optometrist with employer-sponsored benefits also declined from 75% in 2016 to 72% in 2017. However, the percent of optometrists employed in the profession increased from 97% in 2016 to 98% in 2017; those underemployed, who had declined from 3% in 2015 to 2% in 2016, increased back to 3% in 2017.

The optometrist workforce is becoming more racially diverse. The diversity index increased from 42% in 2014 to 47% in 2017; the diversity index for those under age 40 also increased to 59% in 2017 from 58% in 2014. Gender diversity also improved with exactly half of optometrists being female. The profession is aging slightly as median age stayed at 47 years old in 2017, although this is an increase from the 45 year median of 2014. The profession is also less geographically dispersed although 8% now work in non-metro areas of the state compared to 7% in 2016; those working in non-metro areas still remain below the 9% of optometrists who worked in non-metro areas of the state in 2014.

The optometrist workforce reported fewer work hours in 2017 compared to 2015. In 2015, 46% of optometrist worked between 40 and 49 hours. In the current report, only 43% did. Additionally, a lower proportion of optometrists are completing residency. In 2014, 18% reported at least one residency whereas only 13% did in 2017. Ocular disease residency was the most reported in both years. In 2014, 8% reported the residency whereas 6% did in 2017.

Retirement intentions did not change significantly among optometrists but some trends are noteworthy. The percent intending to retire within two years of the survey increased from 5% to 6% in the past year. A quarter also plan to retire in the next decade whereas only 21% planned to do so in the 2014 survey. The percent planning to retire by age 65 also increased from 37% in 2014 to 39% in 2017. Further, although 1% of optometrist planned to return to the Virginia workforce within 2 years of the 2015 survey, 0% did in the 2017 survey. The percent planning to increase patient care also declined from 13% in 2015 to 10% in 2017.

A Closer Look:

Licensees		
License Status	#	%
Renewing Practitioners	1,397	89%
New Licensees	86	5%
Non-Renewals	92	6%
All Licensees	1,575	100%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

HWDC surveys tend to achieve very high response rates. 91% of renewing optometrists submitted a survey. These represent 85% of optometrists who held a license at some point in 2017.

Statistic	Response Rates		Response Rate
	Non Respondents	Respondent	
By Age			
Under 30	21	49	70%
30 to 34	30	167	85%
35 to 39	40	178	82%
40 to 44	33	165	83%
45 to 49	25	194	89%
50 to 54	24	149	86%
55 to 59	15	137	90%
60 and Over	52	296	85%
Total	240	1,335	85%
New Licenses			
Issued in 2017	26	60	70%
Metro Status			
Non-Metro	15	82	85%
Metro	168	932	85%
Not in Virginia	57	321	85%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

At a Glance:

Licensed Optometrists

Number:	1,575
New:	5%
Not Renewed:	6%

Response Rates

All Licensees:	85%
Renewing Practitioners:	91%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Response Rates

Completed Surveys	1,335
Response Rate, All Licensees	85%
Response Rate, Renewals	91%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Definitions

- 1. The Survey Period:** The survey was conducted in December 2017.
- 2. Target Population:** All optometrists who held a Virginia license at some point in 2017.
- 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 2017.

At a Glance:

Workforce

2017 Optometrist Workforce: 1,178
FTEs: 966

Utilization Ratios

Licensees in VA Workforce: 75%
Licensees per FTE: 1.63
Workers per FTE: 1.22

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) 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	1,168	99%
Looking for Work in Virginia	10	1%
Virginia's Workforce	1,178	100%
Total FTEs	966	
Licensees	1,575	

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:

www.dhp.virginia.gov/hwdc



Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

A Closer Look:

Age & Gender						
Age	Male		Female		Total	
	#	% Male	#	% Female	#	% in Age Group
Under 30	13	27%	36	73%	49	5%
30 to 34	35	30%	81	70%	116	12%
35 to 39	35	29%	88	71%	124	13%
40 to 44	48	38%	77	62%	125	13%
45 to 49	52	40%	76	60%	128	14%
50 to 54	43	44%	54	56%	97	10%
55 to 59	61	70%	27	30%	87	9%
60 +	182	84%	34	16%	216	23%
Total	469	50%	474	50%	943	100%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Race & Ethnicity					
Race/ Ethnicity	Virginia*	Optometrists		Optometrists Under 40	
	%	#	%	#	%
White	63%	660	70%	162	57%
Black	19%	46	5%	16	6%
Asian	6%	169	18%	82	29%
Other Race	0%	39	4%	17	6%
Two or more races	3%	11	1%	4	1%
Hispanic	9%	14	2%	5	2%
Total	100%	940	100%	286	100%

* Population data in this chart is from the US Census, Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin for the United States, States, and Counties: July 1, 2015.

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

At a Glance:

Gender

% Female: 50%
% Under 40 Female: 71%

Age

Median Age: 47
% Under 40: 31%
% 55+: 32%

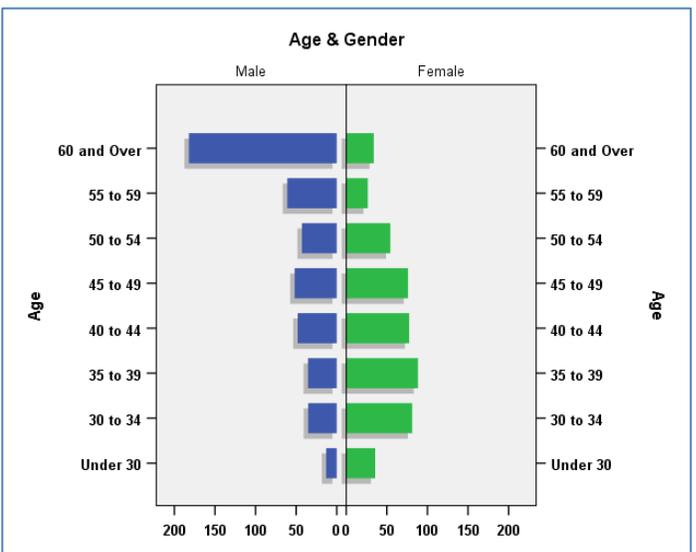
Diversity

Diversity Index: 47%
Under 40 Div. Index: 59%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

In a chance encounter between two optometrists, there is a 47% chance that they would be of a different race/ethnicity (a measure known as the diversity index).

31% of all optometrists are under the age of 40, and 71% of these professionals are female. In addition, there is a 59% chance that two randomly chosen optometrists from this age group would be of a different race or ethnicity.



Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

At a Glance:

Childhood

Urban Childhood: 12%
 Rural Childhood: 24%

Virginia Background

HS in Virginia: 31%
 UG Education in VA: 28%
 HS/UG Edu. in VA: 35%

Location Choice

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

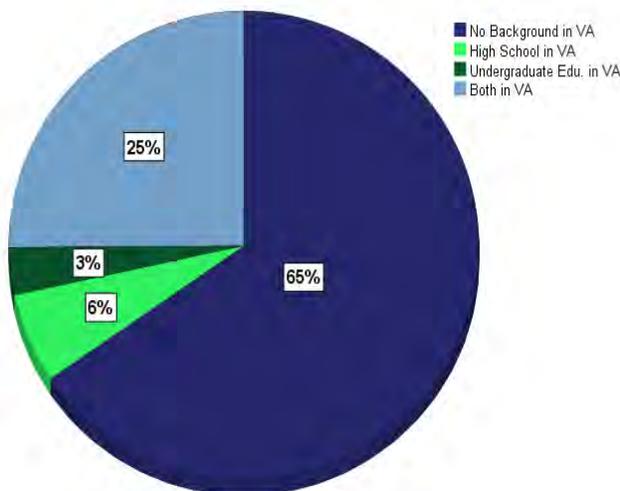
Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

A Closer Look:

Primary Location: USDA Rural Urban Continuum		Rural Status of Childhood Location		
Code	Description	Rural	Suburban	Urban
Metro Counties				
1	Metro, 1 million+	18%	69%	13%
2	Metro, 250,000 to 1 million	37%	56%	7%
3	Metro, 250,000 or less	32%	55%	13%
Non-Metro Counties				
4	Urban pop 20,000+, Metro adj	23%	62%	15%
6	Urban pop, 2,500-19,999, Metro adj	60%	35%	5%
7	Urban pop, 2,500-19,999, nonadj	71%	11%	18%
8	Rural, Metro adj	67%	17%	17%
9	Rural, nonadj	0%		100%
Overall		24%	64%	12%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Educational Background in VA



Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

24% of all optometrists grew up in self-described rural areas, and 20% of these professionals currently work in Non-Metro counties. Overall, just 8% 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	289	Pennsylvania	300
2	Pennsylvania	88	Tennessee	132
3	New York	84	Massachusetts	83
4	Maryland	56	Illinois	59
5	North Carolina	44	Florida	55
6	Florida	31	Indiana	48
7	Ohio	30	Ohio	46
8	Outside U.S	29	New York	44
9	New Jersey	28	Alabama	37
10	Indiana	23	Puerto Rico	29

31% of optometrists received their high school degree in Virginia, while 33% 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, 32% received their high school degree in Virginia, while 18% received their Doctorate of Optometry in Pennsylvania.

Rank	Licensed in the Past 5 Years			
	High School	#	Professional School	#
1	Virginia	78	Pennsylvania	45
2	Pennsylvania	17	Florida	31
3	New York	13	Massachusetts	30
4	California	13	Tennessee	29
5	Florida	11	Puerto Rico	23
6	North Carolina	11	New York	14
7	Outside U.S	11	Ohio	13
8	Illinois	7	Indiana	13
9	New Jersey	6	Illinois	12
10	Canada	6	Texas	11

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

25% of licensed optometrists did not participate in Virginia's workforce in the past year. 95% of these optometrists worked at some point in the past year, including 90% who currently work as optometrists.

At a Glance:

Not in VA Workforce

Total:	397
% of Licensees:	25%
Federal/Military:	24%
Va Border State/DC:	30%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

A Closer Look:

Residency Programs		
Area	#	% of Workforce
Ocular Disease	68	6%
Primary Eye Care	63	5%
Low Vision Rehabilitation	22	2%
Cornea and Contact Lenses	17	1%
Pediatric Optometry	14	1%
Family Practice Optometry	14	1%
Vision Therapy and Rehabilitation	12	1%
Geriatric Optometry	5	0%
Refractive and Ocular Surgery	5	0%
Brain Injury Vision Rehabilitation	2	0%
Community Health Optometry	0	6%
Other	8	1%
At Least One Res. Program	149	13%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

At a Glance:

Residency Programs
 Ocular Disease: 6%
 Primary Eye Care: 5%
 Low Vision Rehab.: 2%

Educational Debt
 With debt: 44%
 Under age 40 with debt: 84%
 Median debt: \$100k-\$110k

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

13% of Virginia's optometrist workforce has completed at least one residency program.

44% of optometrists currently have educational debt, including 84% of those under the age of 40. For those optometrists with educational debt, the median debt burden is between \$100,000 and \$110,000.

Educational Debt				
Amount Carried	All Optometrists		Optometrists under 40	
	#	%	#	%
None	446	56%	40	16%
Less than \$20,000	28	4%	9	4%
\$20,000-\$39,999	22	3%	10	4%
\$40,000-\$59,999	33	4%	9	4%
\$60,000-\$79,999	34	4%	15	6%
\$80,000-\$99,999	35	4%	16	7%
\$100,000-\$119,999	37	5%	19	8%
\$120,000 or More	155	20%	127	52%
Total	790	100%	245	100%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

At a Glance:

Employment

Employed in Profession: 98%
 Involuntarily Unemployed: 0%

Positions Held

1 Full-Time: 68%
 2 or more Positions: 14%

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	897	98%
Employed, NOT in an optometry-related capacity	4	0%
Not working, reason unknown	0	0%
Involuntarily unemployed	0	0%
Voluntarily unemployed	8	1%
Retired	12	1%
Total	920	100%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

98% of licensed optometrists are currently employed in the profession. 68% of all optometrists currently hold one full-time job, while 14% have multiple positions. Meanwhile, 43% of all optometrists work between 40 and 49 hours per week.

Current Positions		
Positions	#	%
No Positions	20	2%
One Part-Time Position	136	16%
Two Part-Time Positions	42	5%
One Full-Time Position	593	68%
One Full-Time Position & One Part-Time Position	72	8%
Two Full-Time Positions	3	0%
More than Two Positions	8	1%
Total	874	100%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Current Weekly Hours		
Hours	#	%
0 hours	20	2%
1 to 9 hours	21	2%
10 to 19 hours	42	5%
20 to 29 hours	72	8%
30 to 39 hours	247	28%
40 to 49 hours	375	43%
50 to 59 hours	68	8%
60 to 69 hours	26	3%
70 to 79 hours	3	0%
80 or more hours	6	1%
Total	880	100%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

A Closer Look:

Income		
Annual Income	#	%
Volunteer Work Only	2	0%
Less than \$40,000	52	7%
\$40,000-\$59,999	48	7%
\$60,000-\$79,999	65	9%
\$80,000-\$99,999	95	14%
\$100,000-\$119,999	165	24%
\$120,000-\$139,999	101	15%
\$140,000-\$159,999	57	8%
\$160,000-\$179,999	22	3%
\$180,000-\$199,999	32	5%
\$200,000 or More	57	8%
Total	697	100%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

At a Glance:

Earnings
Median Income: \$100k-\$110k

Benefits
Employer Health Ins.: 52%
Employer Retirement: 51%

Satisfaction
Satisfied 96%
Very Satisfied: 68%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Job Satisfaction		
Level	#	%
Very Satisfied	595	68%
Somewhat Satisfied	250	28%
Somewhat Dissatisfied	33	4%
Very Dissatisfied	4	0%
Total	882	100%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

The typical optometrist earned between \$100,000 and \$110,000 during the past year. In addition, 72% of wage or salaried optometrists received at least one employer-sponsored benefit at their primary work location.

Employer-Sponsored Benefits			
Benefit	#	%	% of Wage/Salary Employees
Paid Vacation	423	47%	62%
Retirement	355	40%	51%
Health Insurance	355	40%	52%
Paid Sick Leave	272	30%	39%
Dental Insurance	212	24%	33%
Group Life Insurance	159	18%	25%
Signing/Retention Bonus	57	6%	9%
*At Least One Benefit	512	57%	72%

*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 . . . ?	#	%
Experience involuntary unemployment?	3	<1%
Experience voluntary unemployment?	43	4%
Work Part-time or temporary positions, but would have preferred a full-time/permanent position?	31	3%
Work two or more positions at the same time?	154	13%
Switch employers or practices?	58	5%
Experienced at least 1	233	20%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Less than 1% of Virginia’s optometrists experienced involuntary unemployment at some point in 2017. By comparison, Virginia’s average monthly unemployment rate was 3.8%.¹

Location Tenure				
Tenure	Primary		Secondary	
	#	%	#	%
Not Currently Working at this Location	17	2%	21	8%
Less than 6 Months	62	7%	34	14%
6 Months to 1 Year	51	6%	22	9%
1 to 2 Years	128	15%	39	16%
3 to 5 Years	138	16%	53	21%
6 to 10 Years	122	14%	25	10%
More than 10 Years	360	41%	57	23%
Subtotal	876	100%	250	100%
Did not have location	12		920	
Item Missing	289		7	
Total	1,178		1,178	

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

55% of Virginia’s optometrist workforce received either a salary or a commission at their primary work location, while 29% earned income from a business or practice.

At a Glance:

Unemployment Experience 2017

Involuntarily Unemployed: <1%
Underemployed: 3%

Turnover & Tenure

Switched Jobs: 5%
New Location: 19%
Over 2 years: 71%
Over 2 yrs, 2nd location: 54%

Employment Type

Salary/Commission: 55%
Business/Practice Inc.: 29%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

71% of optometrists have worked at their primary location for more than two years—the job tenure normally required to get a conventional mortgage loan.

Employment Type		
Primary Work Site	#	%
Salary/Commission	383	55%
Business/Practice Income	198	29%
Hourly Wage	73	11%
By Contract	37	5%
Unpaid	2	0%
Subtotal	693	100%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

¹ As reported by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics. The non-seasonally adjusted monthly unemployment rate ranged from 3.4% in December to 4.2% in January 2017. At the time of this publication, results from December were preliminary.

At a Glance:

Concentration

Top Region:	39%
Top 3 Regions:	78%
Lowest Region:	1%

Locations

2 or more (2017):	29%
2 or more (Now*):	25%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

39% of optometrists work in Northern Virginia, the most of any region in the state. Hampton Roads and Central Virginia are also common employment locations for Virginia's optometrist workforce.

A Closer Look:

Regional Distribution of Work Locations				
COVF Region ²	Primary Location		Secondary Location	
	#	%	#	%
Central	160	18%	41	16%
Eastern	6	1%	2	1%
Hampton Roads	179	20%	41	16%
Northern	341	39%	89	35%
Southside	29	3%	5	2%
Southwest	42	5%	17	7%
Valley	24	3%	11	4%
West Central	77	9%	22	9%
Virginia Border State/DC	12	1%	14	5%
Other US State	6	1%	14	5%
Outside of the US	0	0%	0	0%
Total	876	100%	256	100%
Item Missing	290		1	

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Council On Virginia's Future Regions



25% of all optometrists currently have multiple work locations, while 29% of optometrists had at least two work locations in 2017.

Locations	Number of Work Locations			
	Work Locations in 2017		Work Locations Now*	
	#	%	#	%
0	9	1%	20	2%
1	621	70%	641	72%
2	165	19%	141	16%
3	57	6%	64	7%
4	16	2%	10	1%
5	8	1%	7	1%
6 or More	9	1%	4	0%
Total	886	100%	886	100%

*At the time of survey completion: December

2017. Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

² These are now referred to as VA Perform's regions: <http://vaperforms.virginia.gov/Regions/regionalScorecards.php>

A Closer Look:

Sector	Location Sector			
	Primary Location		Secondary Location	
	#	%	#	%
For-Profit	752	92%	214	92%
Non-Profit	24	3%	5	2%
State/Local Government	6	1%	6	3%
Veterans Administration	15	2%	2	1%
U.S. Military	20	2%	2	1%
Other Federal Government	1	0%	2	1%
Total	817	100%	231	100%
Did not have location	12		920	
Item Missing	349		26	

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

At a Glance: (Primary Locations)

Sector

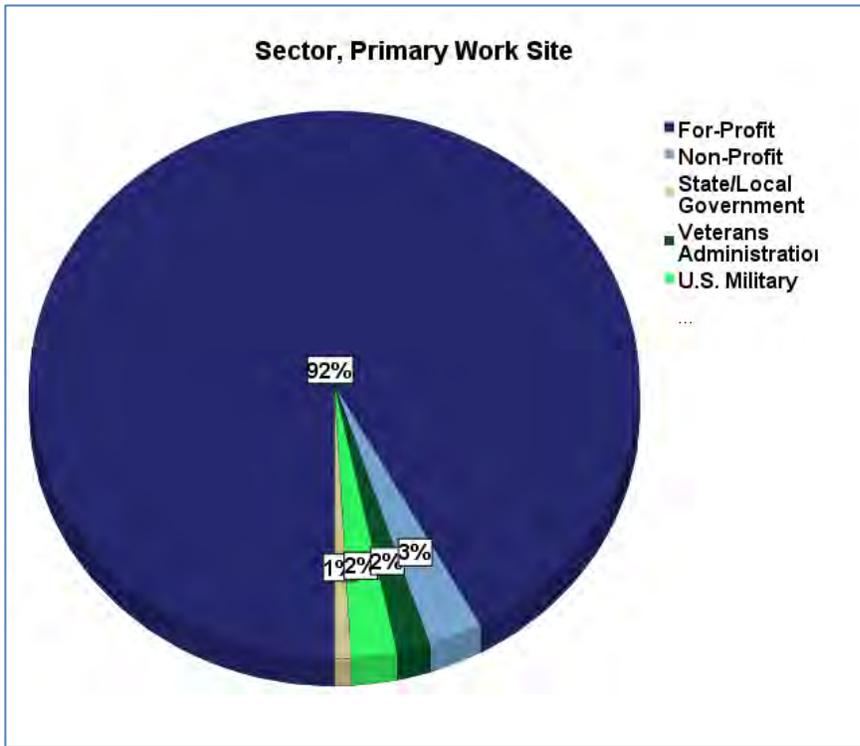
For Profit:	92%
Federal:	4%

Top Establishments

Private Practice, Group:	43%
Private Practice, Solo:	23%
Optical Goods Store:	17%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

92% of all optometrists work in the private sector, while 4% work for the federal government in the military and veterans' administration.

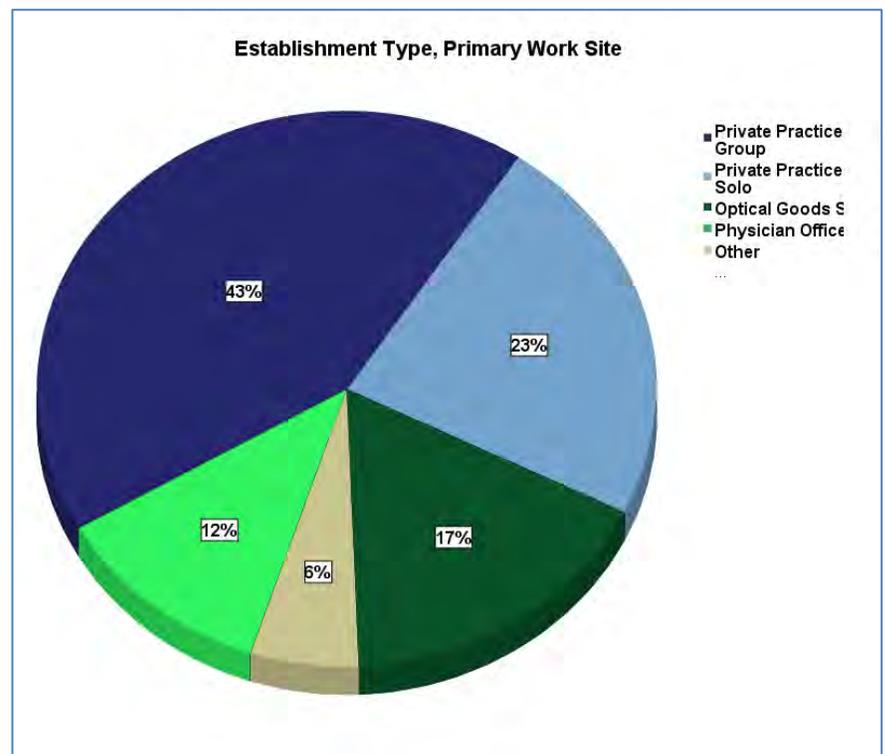


Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Establishment Type	Location Type			
	Primary Location		Secondary Location	
	#	%	#	%
Private Practice, Group	340	43%	112	52%
Private Practice, Solo	183	23%	23	11%
Optical Goods Store	136	17%	45	21%
Physician Office	35	4%	7	3%
General Hospital, Outpatient Department	33	4%	7	3%
Outpatient/Community clinic	21	3%	4	2%
Academic Institution	2	0%	0	0%
Home Health Care	1	0%	3	1%
General Hospital, Inpatient Department	0	0%	1	0%
Other	45	6%	15	7%
Total	796	100%	217	100%
Did Not Have a Location	12		920	

Private group practices are the most common establishment type in Virginia, employing 43% of all optometrists.

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center



52% of Virginia's optometrists who have a secondary work location are also employed by a private group practice.

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

At a Glance: (Primary Locations)

Typical Time Allocation

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

Roles

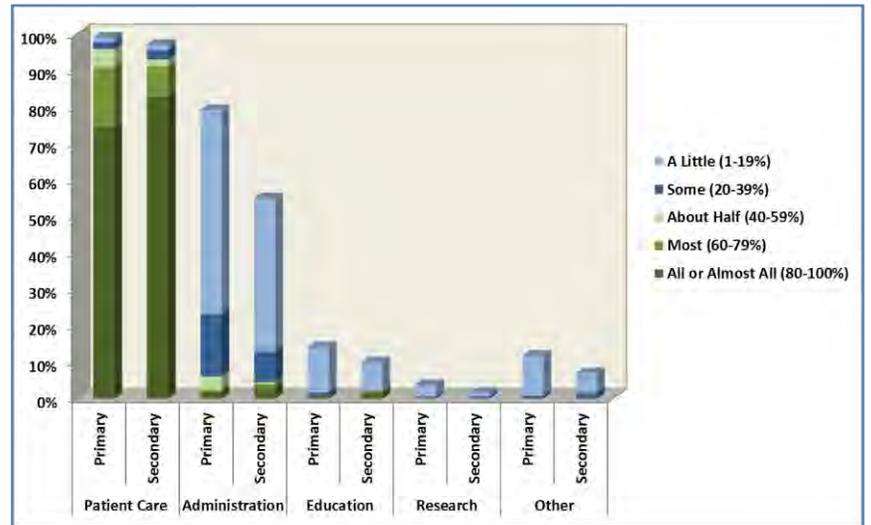
Patient Care: 91%
Administrative: 2%

Patient Care Optometrists

Median Admin Time: 1%-9%
Ave. 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, 91% of all optometrists fill a patient care role, defined as spending at least 60% of her time in that activity.

Time Allocation										
Time Spent	Patient Care		Admin.		Education		Research		Other	
	Prim Site	Sec. Site	Prim Site	Sec. Site	Prim Site	Sec. Site	Prim Site	Sec. Site	Prim Site	Sec. Site
All or Almost All (80-100%)	74%	83%	2%	2%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Most (60-79%)	16%	8%	1%	2%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
About Half (40-59%)	5%	2%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Some (20-39%)	2%	3%	17%	8%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%
A Little (1-20%)	1%	1%	56%	42%	12%	8%	3%	1%	11%	5%
None (0%)	1%	3%	21%	45%	86%	90%	96%	99%	88%	93%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

A Closer Look:

Retirement Expectations				
Expected Retirement Age	All Optometrists		Optometrists over 50	
	#	%	#	%
Under age 50	14	2%	-	-
50 to 54	24	3%	1	0%
55 to 59	63	8%	13	4%
60 to 64	169	23%	51	15%
65 to 69	227	30%	105	32%
70 to 74	125	17%	82	25%
75 to 79	48	6%	34	10%
80 or over	23	3%	19	6%
I do not intend to retire	58	8%	29	9%
Total	750	100%	333	100%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

At a Glance:

Retirement Expectations

All Optometrists

Under 65: 36%
Under 60: 13%

Optometrists 50 and over

Under 65: 19%
Under 60: 4%

Time until Retirement

Within 2 years: 6%
Within 10 years: 25%
Half the workforce: By 2042

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

36% of optometrists expect to retire before the age of 65. Among optometrists who are age 50 and over, 19% still plan on retiring by age 65.

Within the next two years, 10% of Virginia's optometrist workforce plan on increasing their patient care hours, while 5% expect to pursue additional educational opportunities.

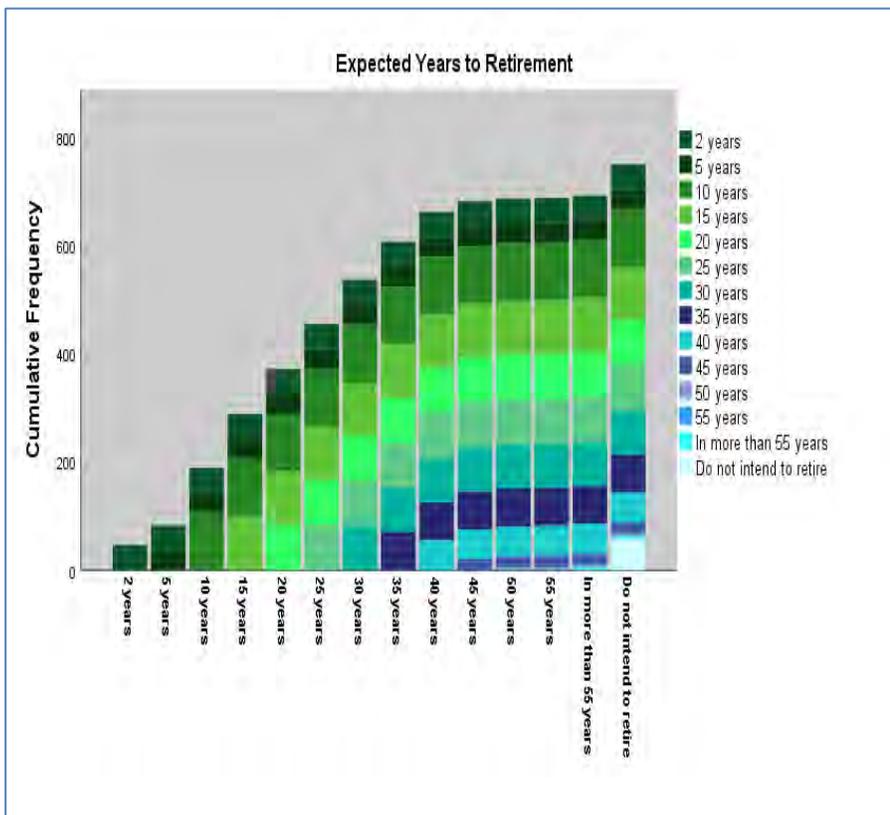
Future Plans		
Two Year Plans:	#	%
Decrease Participation		
Leave Profession	11	1%
Leave Virginia	27	2%
Decrease Patient Care Hours	107	9%
Decrease Teaching Hours	1	0%
Increase Participation		
Increase Patient Care Hours	113	10%
Increase Teaching Hours	32	3%
Pursue Additional Education	53	5%
Return to Virginia's Workforce	4	0%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

By comparing retirement expectation to age, we can estimate the maximum years to retirement for optometrists. Only 6% of optometrists expect to retire within the next two years, while 25% plan on retiring within the next ten years. Half of the current optometrist workforce expect to be retired by 2042.

Time to Retirement			
Expect to retire within. . .	#	%	Cumulative %
2 years	46	6%	6%
5 years	36	5%	11%
10 years	106	14%	25%
15 years	100	13%	38%
20 years	83	11%	49%
25 years	83	11%	61%
30 years	81	11%	71%
35 years	70	9%	56%
40 years	55	7%	88%
45 years	20	3%	91%
50 years	5	1%	91%
55 years	1	0%	91%
In more than 55 years	4	1%	92%
Do not intend to retire	58	8%	100%
Total	750	100%	

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center



Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Using these estimates, retirement will begin to reach 10% of the current workforce starting in 2027. Retirements will peak at 14% of the current workforce around the same time before declining to under 10% of the current workforce again around 2052.

At a Glance:

FTEs

Total: 966
 FTEs/1,000 Residents: 0.115
 Average: 0.83

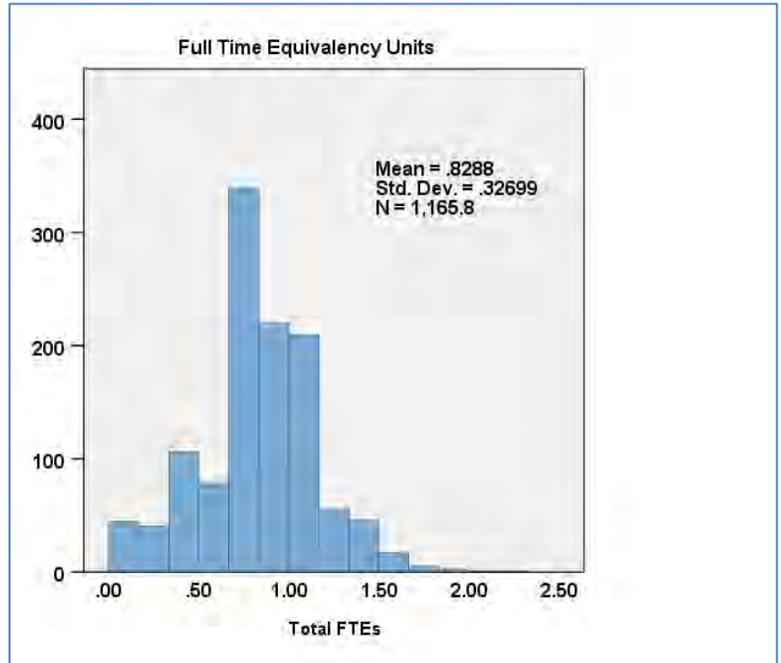
Age & Gender Effect

Age, Partial Eta²: Medium
 Gender, Partial Eta²: Medium

Partial Eta² Explained:
 Partial Eta² is a statistical measure of effect size.

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

A Closer Look:

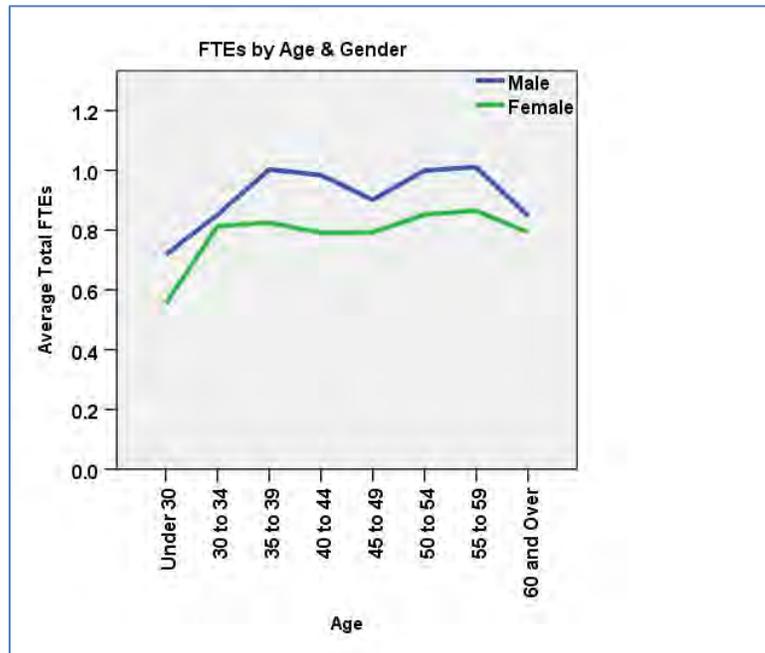


Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

The typical (median) optometrist provided 0.83 FTEs in 2017, or approximately 33 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.²

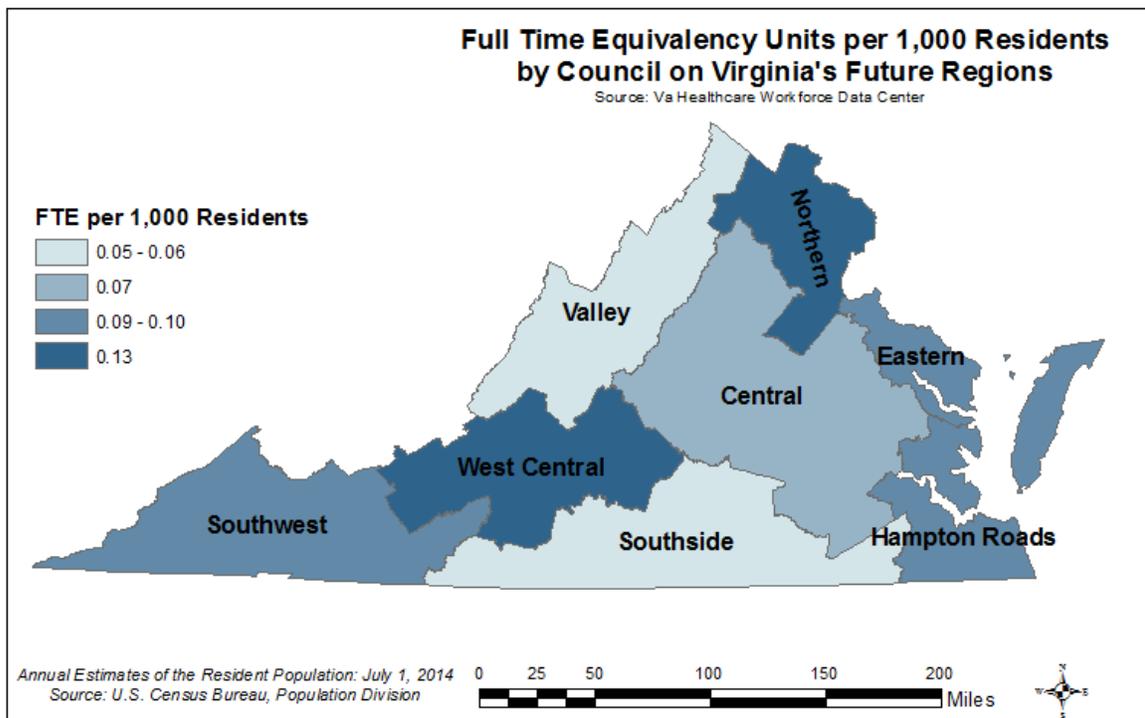
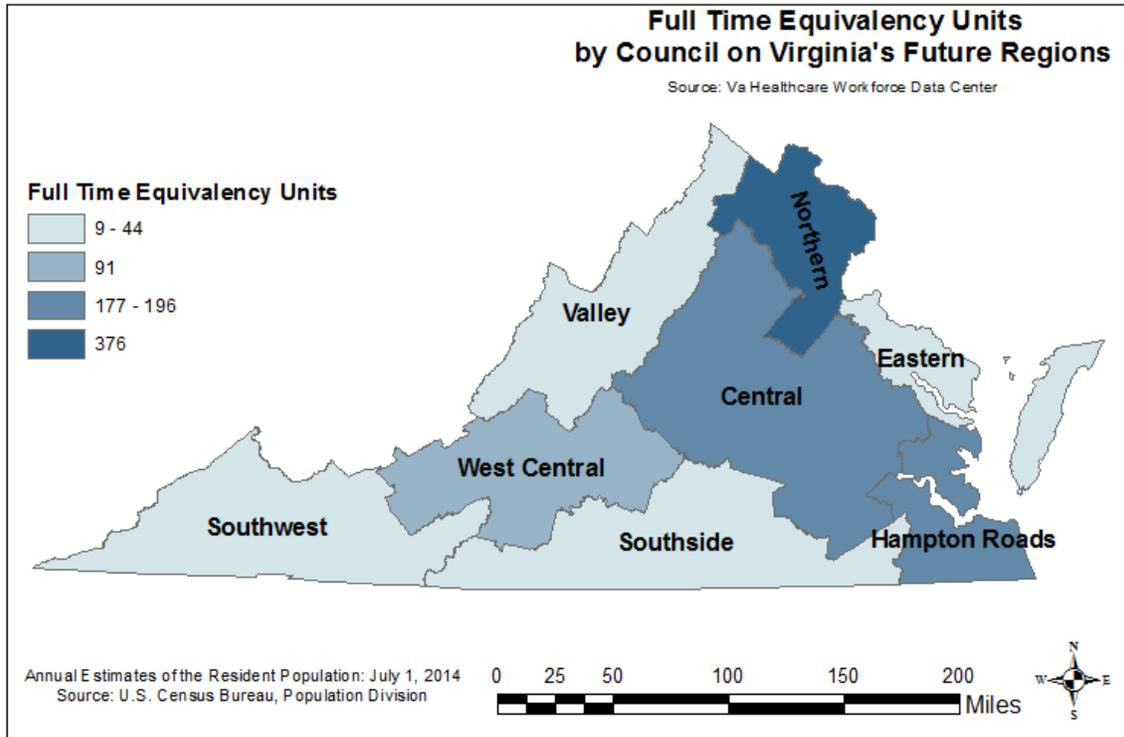
Full-Time Equivalency Units		
Age	Average	Median
Age		
Under 30	0.61	0.57
30 to 34	0.82	0.81
35 to 39	0.87	0.81
40 to 44	0.85	0.83
45 to 49	0.80	0.71
50 to 54	0.92	0.93
55 to 59	0.93	0.89
60 and Over	0.77	0.80
Gender		
Male	0.91	0.94
Female	0.79	0.83

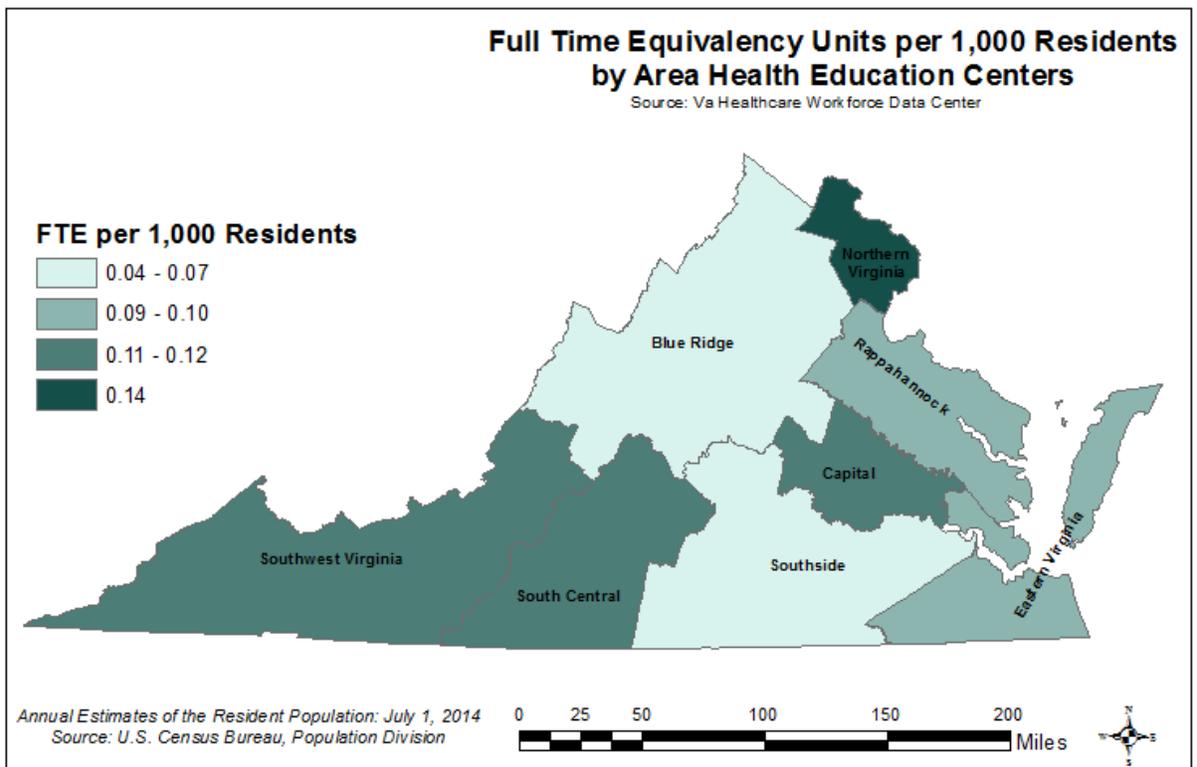
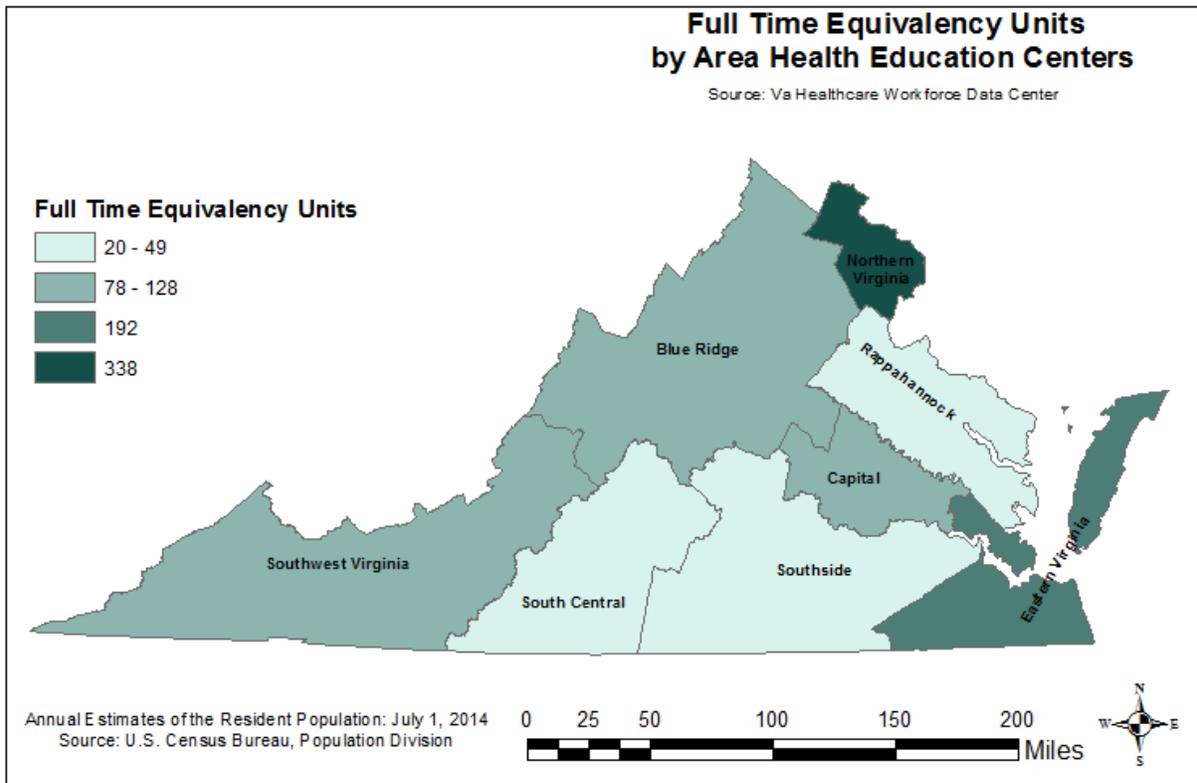
Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

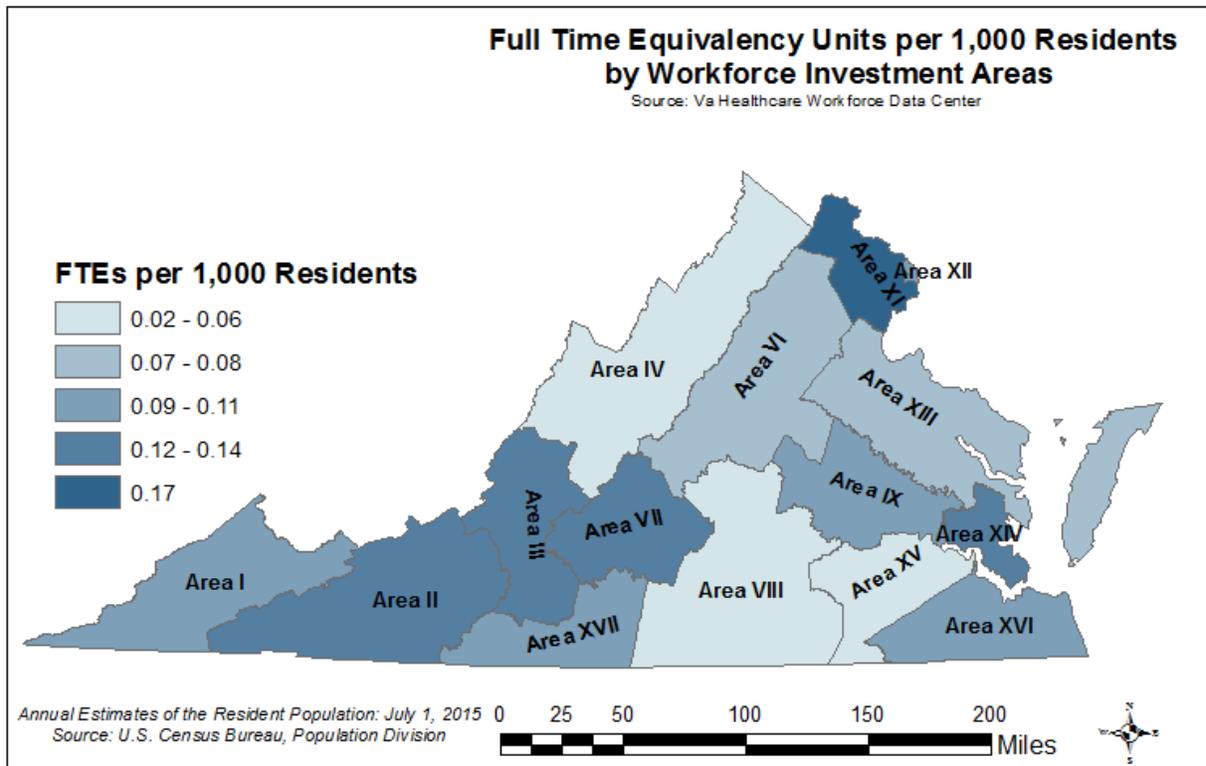
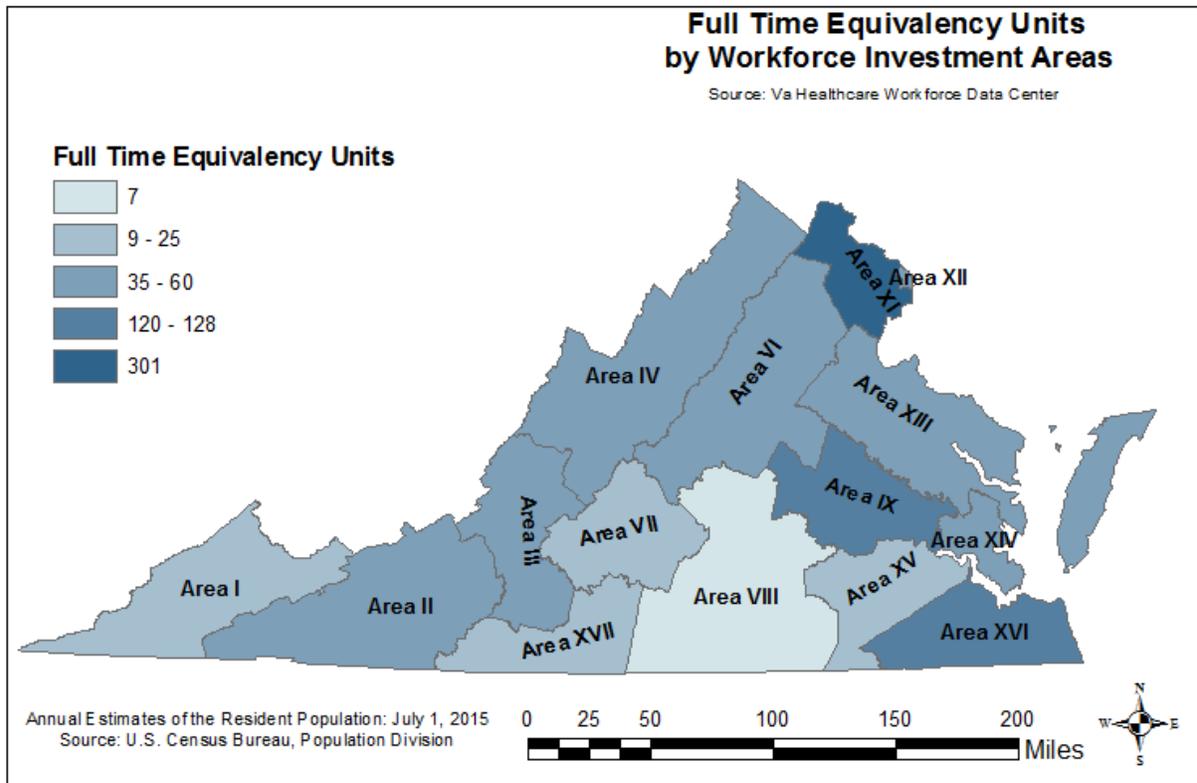


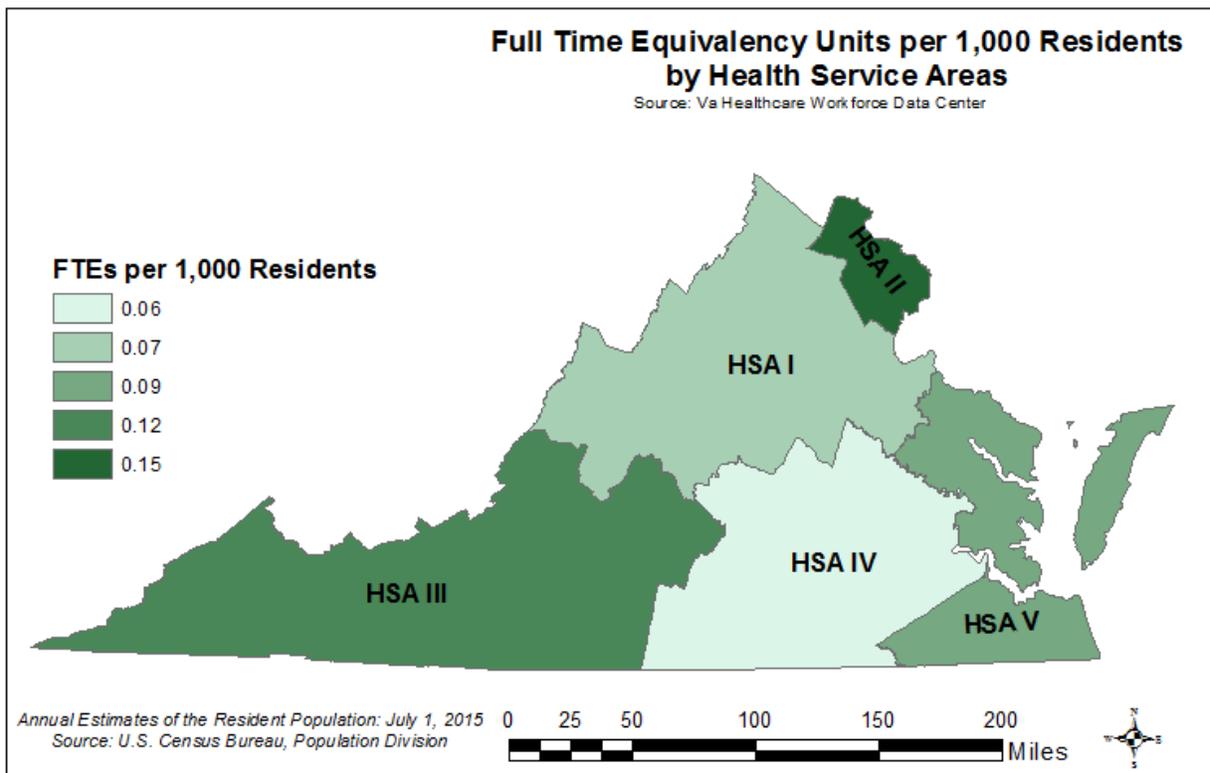
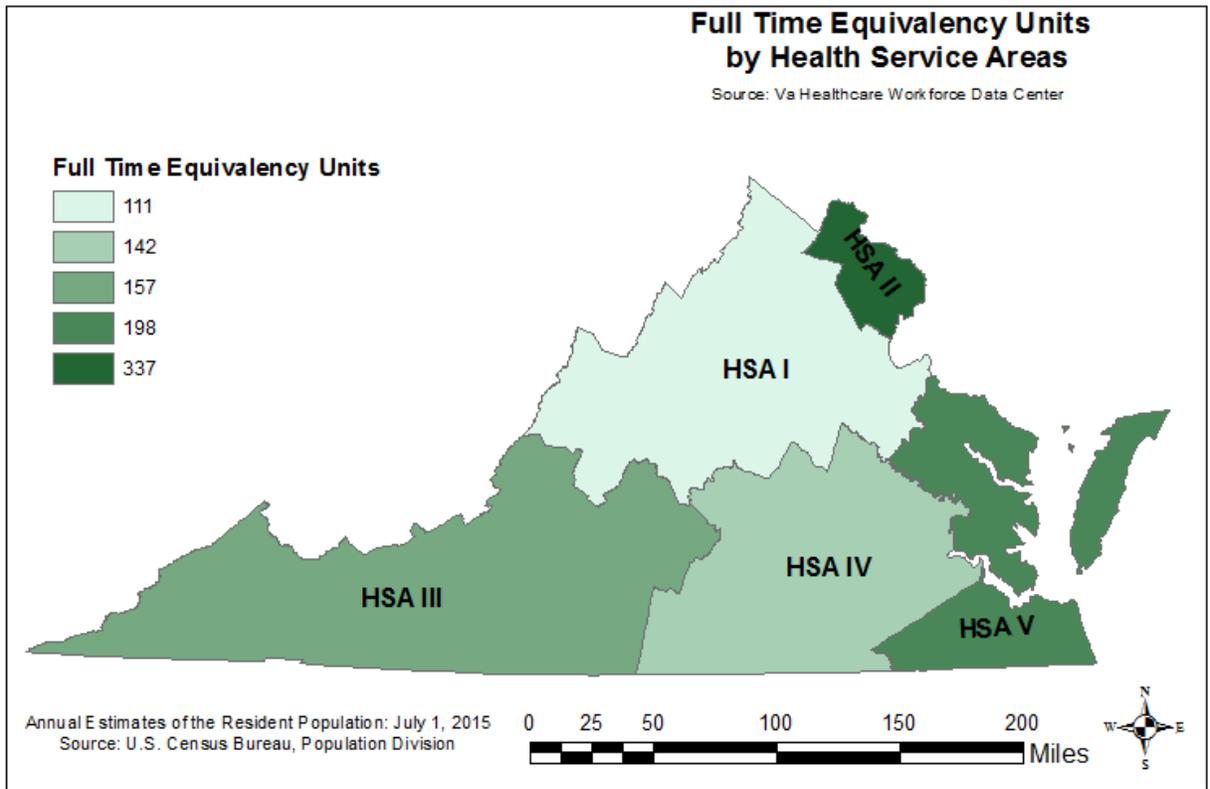
Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

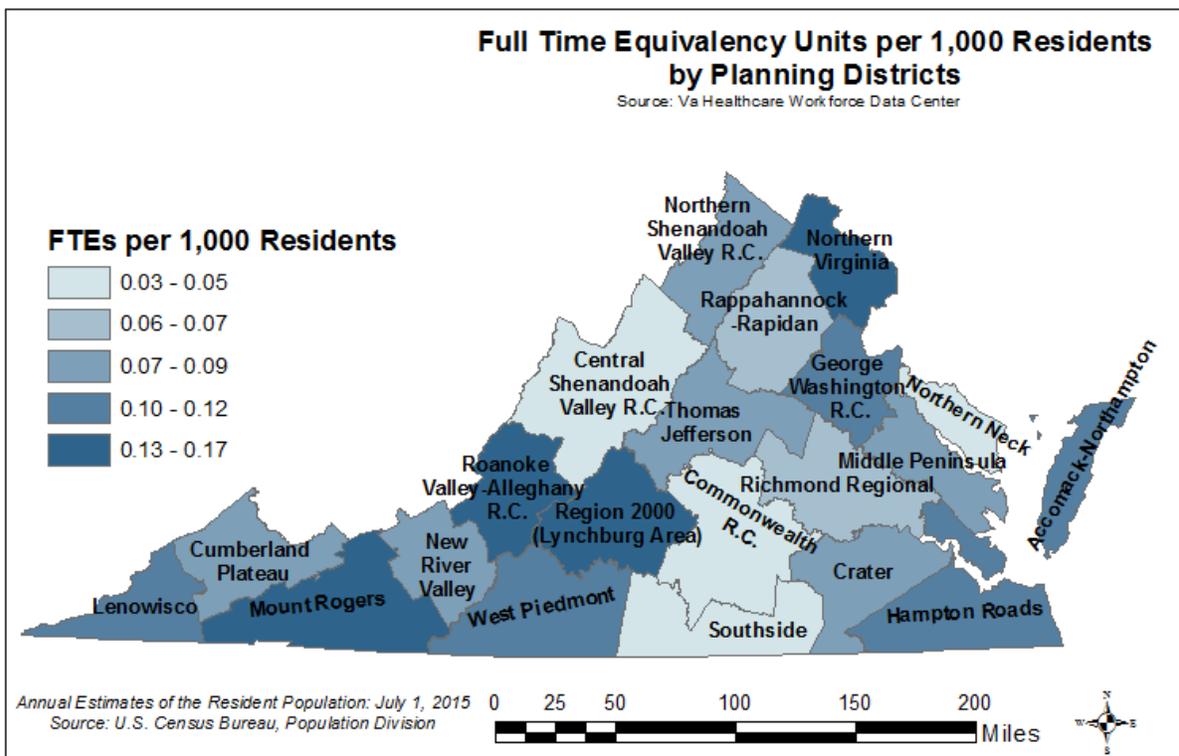
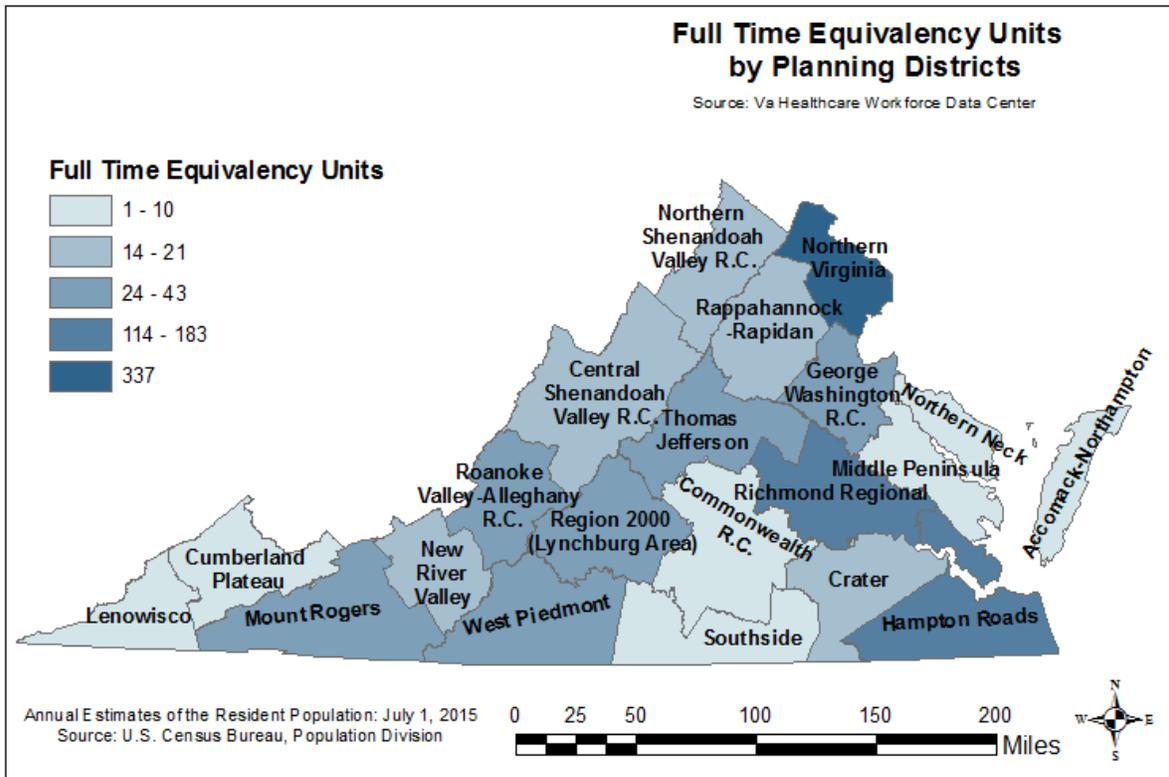
³ Due to assumption violations in Mixed between-within ANOVA (Levene's Test was significant).











Appendices

Weights

Rural Status	Location Weight			Total Weight	
	#	Rate	Weight	Min	Max
Metro, 1 million+	904	84.07%	1.189473684	1.11861	1.440315
Metro, 250,000 to 1 million	97	83.51%	1.197530864	1.126187	1.450071
Metro, 250,000 or less	99	91.92%	1.087912088	1.023099	1.317336
Urban pop 20,000+, Metro adj	19	89.47%	1.117647059	1.051062	1.160224
Urban pop 20,000+, nonadj	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
Urban pop, 2,500-19,999, Metro adj	34	85.29%	1.172413793	1.102566	1.419658
Urban pop, 2,500-19,999, nonadj	25	84.00%	1.19047619	1.139105	1.441529
Rural, Metro adj	16	75.00%	1.333333333	1.253899	1.384127
Rural, nonadj	3	100.00%	1	0.940424	1.038095
Virginia border state/DC	210	90.95%	1.09947644	1.033974	1.331339
Other US State	168	77.38%	1.292307692	1.215317	1.564835

Age	Age Weight			Total Weight	
	#	Rate	Weight	Min	Max
Under 30	70	70.00%	1.428571429	1.317336	1.564835
30 to 34	197	84.77%	1.179640719	1.087788	1.29216
35 to 39	218	81.65%	1.224719101	1.038095	1.384127
40 to 44	198	83.33%	1.2	1.106562	1.314462
45 to 49	219	88.58%	1.128865979	0.956848	1.275798
50 to 54	173	86.13%	1.161073826	1.070667	1.312198
55 to 59	152	90.13%	1.109489051	0.940424	1.253899
60 and Over	348	85.06%	1.175675676	1.084132	1.3287

See the Methods section on the HWDC website for details on HWDC Methods:
www.dhp.virginia.gov/hwdc/

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: 0.84762

