

Health & Long-Term Care Access Advisory Council

The Basics on Iowa's Workforce

Active Professionals*

Physicians 5,685
Physician Assistants 734
Dentists 1,528
ARNPs 1,538
Pharmacists 2,824

Active Licensed Professionals**

RNs 47,401
LPNs 12,086

Direct Care Professionals***

Estimated 73,000

*Office of Statewide Clinical Education Programs

**Iowa Board of Nursing

***Iowa Direct Care Worker Advisory Council

Key Data

1. Iowa has 136 federal health professional shortage area designations which include nearly all counties in the state.
2. The University of Iowa Practice Opportunities Directory for the 2011-2012 year indicated 108 openings for Family Medicine physicians, 66 opportunities for General Internal Medicine physicians, 19 opportunities for General Pediatrics physicians, 43 opportunities for Psychiatrists, and 54 opportunities for Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants.
3. 64,548 Iowans are on the IowaCare program as of September 2012. The IowaCare waiver expires December 31, 2013.
4. Iowa had 19.5 physicians per 10,000 population compared to 25.7 in the U.S. in 2008.

Outcomes

1. Iowans have access to efficient, value-added care.
2. Adequate workforce is prepared for new health delivery models.
3. Iowa is competitive with other states for recruitment and retention of health professionals.

Next Steps

1. Develop and fund a state health workforce commission to set priorities.
2. Support innovative education models that focus on patient centered care by transforming from acute and episodic care to population based and value added delivery models, targeting population health, primary care, health promotion and disease prevention, chronic disease management, care coordination and team based practice models.
3. Support loan repayment programs and other incentive programs to recruit and retain health professionals and health profession educators in all disciplines to Iowa, particularly underserved areas of Iowa.
4. Develop more in-state opportunities for health professionals to complete the required clinical/practice component of their education and enable professionals to move into practice.
 - Streamline state employment evaluation process for health care workers.
 - Increase number of post-doctoral training opportunities for psychologists.
 - Assure adequate numbers of primary care physician residency slots.
 - Assure availability of clinical experiences for nurses, physician assistants and other health professionals in a variety of community-based and ambulatory care settings.

