Education, training, retention and support for Arizona’s rural health workforce are essential to carrying out the AzCRH mission of improving the health and wellness of Arizona’s rural and underserved populations. Health workforce research and analysis help inform decisions on policies and programs aimed at supporting health workforce pathways from education to practice.

Due to the ongoing transformation of the healthcare delivery system in the U.S., it is important for states to collect, compile, analyze and report on the health workforce. It is especially important to provide data-driven solutions to the existing maldistribution of the health workforce that plays a role in shortages and constrained access to care for population based on geography or demographic factors.

With support from the Arizona Area Health Education Center (AZAHEC) Program, we sustain the Arizona Health Workforce Data System (AzHWDS) project. A core component of this project is a data warehouse that contains health workforce, health system, and population level social, health, and demographic data.

The data warehouse serves as the foundation for our core report, the Arizona Health Workforce Profile Report. The profile report includes workforce data for behavior analysts, counselors, dentists, dental hygienists, marriage and family therapists, nurses, physician assistants, physicians, psychologists, social workers, and the substance use disorder counselors workforce.

The standardized collection and reporting of healthcare workforce data supports AzCRH and other stakeholders to answer questions regarding healthcare workforce:

- Supply
- Demand
- Distribution
- Recruitment and Retention
- Influence of social and demographic factors on workforce needs