



Fast Facts: Arizona Rural Health Workforce Research and Analysis

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

Arizona Health Workforce Profile: Physician Specialty

The purpose of this brief is to understand the physician workforce by specialty in Arizona, the percentage of each specialty who completed their undergraduate medical education (UME) in Arizona, and how those specialties are distributed across rural and non-rural Arizona. This brief uses 2019 physician licensure data from the Arizona Medical Board and the Arizona Board of Osteopathic Examiners and includes physicians with an active license status and a practice address in Arizona. Physician self-report areas of interest (AOI) in the licensure process. AOIs do not represent board certification. These AOIs were matched to the specialties reported by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) in their State Physician Workforce Data Report.¹

BACKGROUND

- Currently Arizona meets just 37% of its primary care needs and needs 653 primary care providers to address the primary care shortage²
- In the prior twenty years, Arizona's population has increased significantly by over 2 million between 2000 and 2021³
- Arizona ranks 12th highest by state in terms of population over 65 years old (in 2009 Arizona ranked 22nd)⁴
- The COVID-19 pandemic has strained the physician and health workforce. According to the Coping With Covid Study, 31% of physicians intended to reduce hours in the next 12 months⁵

17,180

In 2019 there were 17,180 physicians with active licenses and an Arizona practice address.

In 2019, the ratio of physicians per 100,000 was 243.6. The AAMC estimates the national median ratio of physicians per 100,000 is 272.0⁶

AZ Physicians Per 100,000

243.6

National Median Physicians Per 100,000

272.0

ARIZONA UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION
There are six Undergraduate Medical Education institutions in Arizona, two are public and four are private.

Public

- University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson
- University of Arizona College of Medicine – Phoenix

Private

- A. T. Still University School of Osteopathic Medicine – Mesa
- Craigenton University School of Medicine – Phoenix
- Mayo Clinic Allin School of Medicine – Scottsdale
- Midwestern University Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine – Glendale

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
MEL & ENID ZUCKERMAN COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Center for Rural Health

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If you are interested in summary workforce data for planning, projects, or grants we may be able to assist. You can review our current reports here and the data visualizations here. Please use the **following form** to tell us a little more about your interest and one of our team will follow-up directly with you!



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