

# Office of Rural Health & Primary Care

## Health Care Workforce Programs

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*The Minnesota Office of Rural Health and Primary Care (ORHPC) is a comprehensive source for health care workforce data, analysis, shortage information, and financial and technical assistance for health professionals.*

### Health Care Workforce Analysis Program

The Workforce Analysis Program gathers workforce information, analyzes workforce trends and distributes findings to policymakers, educators, professionals and employers.

Information collected varies by profession, and generally provides information about:

- Age and gender
- Racial and ethnic background
- Types of work sites and locations
- Hours worked
- Degrees and career plans
- Professional specialties.

### Health Workforce Datasets and Surveys

ORHPC coordinates with Minnesota's licensing boards, collecting data from and surveying the following health professions at the time of the licensure or registration renewal:

- Dentists
- Dental Assistants
- Dental Hygienists
- Licensed Practical Nurses
- Physical Therapists
- Physical Therapist Assistants
- Physician Assistants
- Physicians
- Registered Nurses
- Respiratory Therapists.

The ORHPC uses data from surveys and other sources to inform and enable stakeholders to respond to emerging health care workforce issues, such as:

- Current supply of health care personnel
- Geographic distribution of professions
- Occupation-wide shortages
- Recruitment and retention strategies
- Age and race distribution
- Educational training
- Demand by profession
- Types of practice settings.

The ORHPC is working to expand data collection and surveying additional professions, including:

- Licensed Social Workers
- Psychologists.

Workforce data, summaries and reports are available online at:

[www.health.state.mn.us/divs/orhpc/workforce/index.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/orhpc/workforce/index.html) or by contacting:

- Debra Hagel at [debra.hagel@state.mn.us](mailto:debra.hagel@state.mn.us) or 651-201-3857
- Angie Sechler at [angie.sechler@state.mn.us](mailto:angie.sechler@state.mn.us) or 651-201-3862



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## Health Workforce

### Shortage Designations

Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA) and Medically Underserved Areas/Populations (MUAP) are federal designations that identify shortages of health care providers and services. ORHPC collects statistical information and prepares applications for federal shortage area designation. Maps showing dental, primary care and mental health shortage areas and medically underserved areas are online at [www.health.state.mn.us/divs/orhpc/shortage/index.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/orhpc/shortage/index.html). For more information about Minnesota's health workforce shortage areas and medically underserved areas, contact: Lee Schutz at [leona.schutz@state.mn.us](mailto:leona.schutz@state.mn.us) or 651-201-3860.

### Loan Forgiveness and Repayment

The Office of Rural Health and Primary Care's state-funded Loan Forgiveness Programs help recruit and retain health professionals to needed areas and facilities within Minnesota. The program benefits professionals as well as the care facilities and communities experiencing a shortage of access to primary health care services. Information is available at [www.health.state.mn.us/divs/orhpc/funding/loans/index.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/orhpc/funding/loans/index.html), or contact Amy Vallery at [amy.vallery@state.mn.us](mailto:amy.vallery@state.mn.us) or 651-201-3870.

With funding from the federal government, providers working in federally designated Health Professional Shortage Areas may be eligible to apply for loan repayment through the Minnesota State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) or the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Federal Loan Repayment Program. Information is available at: [www.health.state.mn.us/divs/orhpc/funding/loans/state.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/orhpc/funding/loans/state.html), or contact Deb Jahnke at [debra.jahnke@state.mn.us](mailto:debra.jahnke@state.mn.us) or 651-201-3845.

## J-1 Visa Waivers

Many communities turn to foreign medical graduates with J-1 Visa Waivers to fill their physician vacancies. J-1 physicians, also known as foreign medical graduates or international medical graduates, are physicians from other countries with a J-1 exchange visitor visa. The visa allows them to remain in the United States until their studies are completed. When their studies are complete they are expected to return to their home countries for two years before applying for a permanent visa in the United States. Information is online at: [www.health.state.mn.us/divs/orhpc/workforce/j1/index.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/orhpc/workforce/j1/index.html), or contact Lorry Colaizy at [lawrence.colaizy@state.mn.us](mailto:lawrence.colaizy@state.mn.us) or 651-201-3851



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