



Minnesota's Health Workforce

Respiratory Care Practitioners, 2006

August 2007

Respiratory care practitioners (RCP) help patients with breathing problems that are often associated with diseases such as asthma, coronary heart disease, cystic fibrosis and emphysema, among others. The Board of Medical Practice registers RCPs who have completed an accredited training program.

Overview

In 2006, Minnesota had 1,596 registered respiratory care practitioners (RCP), an increase of 8 percent from 2005.

Geographic location

Metropolitan – The 21 Minnesota counties surrounding the seven metropolitan statistical areas connected with Minnesota, as defined by the US Census (Minneapolis-St. Paul; St. Cloud; Rochester; Duluth-Superior, WI; Fargo, ND; Grand Forks, ND; and La Crosse, WI).

Micropolitan – The 20 Minnesota counties surrounding smaller urban centers of at least 10,000 people.

Rural – The 46 Minnesota counties outside a Metropolitan or Micropolitan area.

Work location

More than a quarter of Minnesota's population lives in a micropolitan or rural county; however, less than 15 percent of RCPs have a primary work site in a micropolitan or rural county.

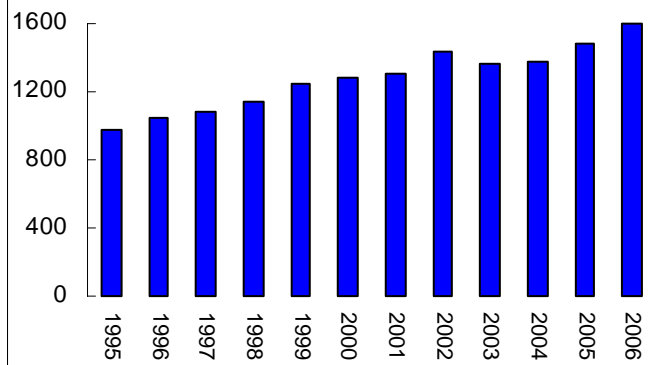
Demographics

Overall, 63 percent of RCPs are female; however, a majority of RCPs age 55 and older are male. This means the profession will probably become more female-dominated over the next 10 years as those age 55 and older start to retire.

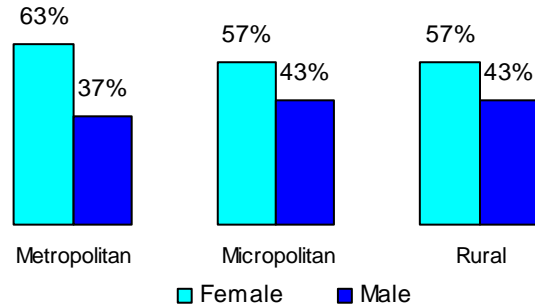
Ninety-seven percent of RCPs are white and 1 percent are Black. Other race categories accounted for less than a percent each.

Race data was available for about two-thirds of Minnesota registered RCPs.

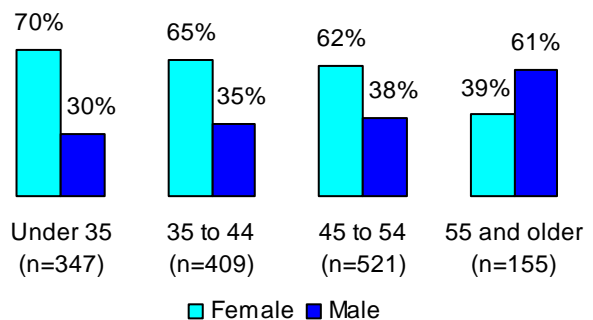
Number of Minnesota registered respiratory care practitioners



Female and male respiratory care practitioners by primary work location, 2006



Female and male respiratory care practitioners by age group, 2006



Place of employment

Eighty percent of RCPs work in hospitals. One-fifth are employed in other settings, such as home health agencies and clinics, each of which account for 6 percent of RCP employers.

RCP age and the breakout of males and females in hospital work sites was similar when compared to all RCPs – other work settings had too few RCPs for comparison.

Work activities

On an average day, 81 percent of RCPs time is devoted to patient care. Additional activities – such as supervising patient care, administration and teaching/research – each account for 1 to 8 percent of RCP work time. This is based on the average of all RCPs, which means some may spend nearly all their time on patient care, while others spend most of their time teaching.

The “other” category included case management, administration, telephone triage, public health, and many additional activities, which each accounted for a fraction of a percent.

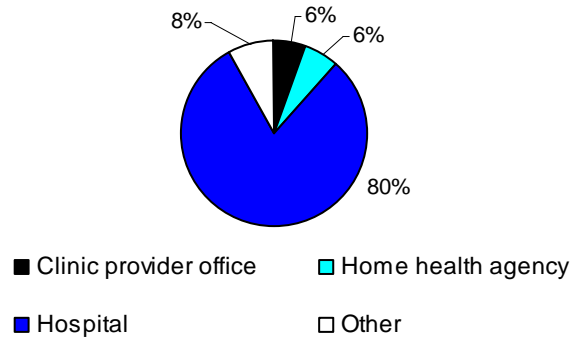
Future capacity

Ninety-six percent of registered RCPs are currently working in the field. An additional 1 percent are seeking work as an RCP. Of those currently working as an RCP, about two-thirds plan to continue practicing for at least 10 more years.

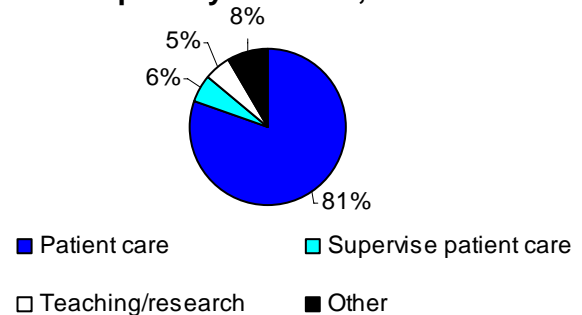
Seventy-four percent of RCPs between ages 35 and 54 are planning to work in the field for more than 10 years; while only 54 percent of those under age 35 plan to work as RCPs past 10 years.

Data involving race, location, place of employment, activities and future capacity are from a 2006 survey of RCPs (n=1,031) and include only those who work in Minnesota. Not all respondents answered all questions analyzed in this report. Additional data reflect all Minnesota registered RCPs.

Primary work site setting of respiratory care practitioners, 2006



Respiratory care practitioner activity as an average percent of time at primary work site, 2006



Number of years respiratory care practitioners plan to continue practicing, 2006

