



Florida

The Florida Health Workforce: *Highlights* from the Health Workforce Profile

- ✓ There were nearly 630,000 people employed in the health sector in Florida in 1998, 9.5% of Florida's total workforce. However, this excludes health professionals working outside the health sector. Nationally, health sector employment represents 9.0% of the total US labor force; but the total US health workforce (health sector employment *plus* health professionals employed in other settings) comprises 10.5% of the total US labor force.
- ✓ More Florida health service workers were employed by hospitals (43.7%) in 1998 than in any other health care setting. Nearly 14% of Florida's health service workers were employed in nursing and personal care facilities and more than 6% were employed in home health care.
- ✓ By 2020, the total population of Florida is projected to grow 29% and the population over 65 is projected to grow 66%, compared to national growth projections of 18% and 53%, respectively.
- ✓ As in most states, the infant mortality rate for Blacks/African Americans in Florida in 1996-98 was more than twice as high (12.4/100,000) as for non-Hispanic whites (6.1/100,000) or Hispanics/Latinos (4.9/100,000).
- ✓ Blacks/African Americans continue to be under-represented in many health professions. While 14% of Florida's general population was Black/African American in 1998, only 3% of active patient care physicians were Black/African American.
- ✓ In 1997, Florida had the second highest incidence of reported AIDS cases in the nation.

Highlights of the findings about the health workforce in Florida are presented below:

Medicine

- ✓ There were 31,512 active patient care physicians in Florida in 1998. With 211 physicians per 100,000 population, Florida ranked 10th among states in physicians per capita.
- ✓ Florida had 59 active primary care physicians per 100,000 population in 1998, equal to the national average.
- ✓ Medical schools in Florida graduated 465 new physicians in 1997. On a per capita basis, Florida graduated fewer new physicians per 100,000 population (3.2) than did the entire United States (6.6) and ranked 41st among the 46 states with medical schools in medical school graduates per capita.
- ✓ There were 1,523 physician assistants practicing in Florida in 1999. This was equal to 10.1 physician assistants per 100,000 population, close to the national average of 10.4.

Nursing

- ✓ There were more than 148,000 licensed registered nurses (RNs) in Florida in 1996; more than 115,200 were employed in nursing. There were 800.8 RNs per 100,000 population in Florida in 1996, close to the national average of 798.
- ✓ Florida ranked 14th among the states in per capita employment of Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurses (LPNs) with 294.3 LPNs per 100,000 population, compared to the national rate of 249.3. Florida ranked 4th highest in the number of LPNs employed in 1998 with 43,880 workers.

- √ There were 4,300 nurse practitioners in Florida in 1998, equal to 28.8 nurse practitioners per 100,000 population, comparable to the national average of 26.3.
- √ With 364 certified nurse midwives in 2000, Florida had 2.4 certified nurse midwives per 100,000 population and ranked 21st among states in certified nurse midwives per capita.
- √ With more than 1,300 certified registered nurse anesthetists in 1997, Florida had 9.2 nurse anesthetists per 100,000 population, compared to the national average of 8.6.

Dentistry, Pharmacy and Mental Health

- √ There were 6,293 dentists, 7,520 dental hygienists, and 13,000 dental assistants practicing in Florida in 1998. There were 42.2 dentists per 100,000 population in Florida in 1998, below the national average of 48.4/100,000.
- √ The number of dentists in Florida grew 1% between 1991 and 1998 while the state's population grew 12%. The result was a 10% decline in dentists per capita compared to a 12% decline nationwide.
- √ There were 9,630 pharmacists and 10,860 pharmacy technicians and aides practicing in Florida in 1998. Florida had 64.6 pharmacists and 72.8 pharmacy technicians and aides per 100,000 population in 1998, which ranked them 33rd and 10th, respectively, among the 50 states.
- √ There were 1,379 psychiatrists, 4,820 psychologists and 30,100 social workers in Florida in 1998. With 9.2 psychiatrists and 32.3 psychologists per 100,000 population Florida ranked 20th among states in both psychiatrists and psychologists per capita. With 201.9 social workers per 100,000 population in 1998, Florida ranked 31st among states in social workers per capita.

Aides

- √ There were 23,350 home health aides and 58,970 nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants working in Florida in 1998. Florida had 157 home health aides and 396 nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants per 100,000 population in 1998, which ranked 18th and 41st, respectively, among the 50 states.
- √ Home health aide employment is expected to increase 79.8% in Florida between 1996-2006.