



additional resources available at www.wha.org

Physician Workforce

Background

Wisconsin's population is growing older, and in the next 25 years, the state will see the number of people age 65 and older grow at rates four to six times greater than the general population. This will cause a tremendous strain on the health care industry as the elderly population accesses health care services more often than their younger counterparts. While Wisconsin will need to meet this unprecedented demand for all health care workers, the need to increase and broaden the pool of physicians in the state is critical to meeting the health care needs of this growing population. Even the current primary physician supply in Wisconsin is inadequate, especially in rural Wisconsin and the inner city of Milwaukee. A current shortage also exists statewide for certain specialty physicians.

Issues

- Wisconsin currently faces a physician shortage in certain parts of the state, and the shortage will increase dramatically in all parts of the state as the population ages. By 2015, unmet physician needs are projected to grow by 13.5% for primary care physicians and more than 20% for all other physicians.

WHA Position

- Wisconsin needs to grow the state's physician supply to meet the current and future health care needs of the citizens of the state. The following is a list of recommendations to grow Wisconsin's physician supply that WHA and the Wisconsin Medical Society (WMS) have identified through a joint project focused on reporting on the status of Wisconsin's future physician workforce. WHA and WMS will continue their work to advance these recommendations through the newly created Wisconsin Medical Education Advisory Council.
 - Enroll students in medical schools who will practice in Wisconsin
 - Develop new care delivery models
 - Retain current physicians and attract new physicians to Wisconsin
 - Target and enhance funding for Graduate Medical Education
 - Create an infrastructure to guide medical education in Wisconsin



Wisconsin Hospital Association, Inc.

Physician Workforce

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Related Resources

- **Who Will Care For Our Patients? Wisconsin Takes Action to Fight a Growing Physician Shortage**
<http://www.wha.org/physicianshortage3-04.pdf>
- **News Release, March 22, 2004: Physician Shortage Will Threaten Access to Care**
<http://www.wha.org/newsCenter/pdf/nr3-22-04physician.pdf>
- **Health Care Workforce Toolkit Issue Paper**
<http://www.wha.org/toolKit/Workforce.pdf>

Localize The Message

Be prepared to talk about:

- What your hospital does to attract, recruit and retain physicians.
- The role of the allied health professionals in delivering care.

