

## PHYSICIAN WORKFORCE SURVEY

Florida Board of Medicine  
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### **Purpose:**

In 2007, the state legislature passed a bill that required the Florida Department of Health to issue a physician workforce survey to assess Florida's physician workforce and its impact on the future of Florida's delivery of quality medical care. The goal is to evaluate a complex range of health workforce concerns including:

- public policy
- professional practice
- current/projected supply and demand
- education and training
- regulatory questions

### **Method:**

In 2006, the Department developed and distributed a voluntary survey. Using the results data from that survey and the requirements of the new law [s. 381.4018, Florida Statutes], the workforce committee developed the mandatory survey. In order to develop a strategic plan the committee concentrated on three (3) key substantive areas: medical education, graduate medical education and the attraction and retention of physicians in Florida.

Many stakeholders participated in the creation of the survey, including the Council on Medical School deans, Florida Medical Association, Florida Osteopathic Medical Association, the Boards of Medicine and Osteopathic Medicine, the Graduate Medical Education Committee, the Florida Hospital Association, the Florida Justice Association and many others. The first survey was issued as part of the physician renewal process in 2008 and the second survey was issued with the 2009 renewal.

The survey itself consists of questions regarding a physician's practice status and projected changes to practice as well as demographic information. There are 12 general questions and a series of specialty questions. The survey can be completed online or by printing the paper format for completion and submission to the Department.

### **Results:**

The 2008 survey participation was at 99% and included 30,492 allopathic and osteopathic physicians. This reflects half of the MD population that renews on even years and all osteopathic physicians.

- 71% of participating allopathic and osteopathic physicians indicated they maintain a Florida address and practice in Florida
- 77% of participating allopathic and osteopathic physicians are male

- The top specialty areas include family medicine, internal medicine, medical specialists followed by surgical specialists
- 87% of participating allopathic and osteopathic physicians indicated they do not plan to retire or relocate outside of Florida in the next 5 years

**Conclusions:**

This report is critical at a time when Floridians and others across the country are concerned about the impact of potential physician shortages on health care access. The impact to the delivery of primary care services, including family practice, obstetrics and gynecology, and emergency medicine is profound and far-reaching. Physician workforce shortages in areas of primary care also affect health care facilities that provide primary care, particularly in underserved areas or to vulnerable populations. The Department of Health is addressing these issues by convening a multi-disciplined group of experts, which will offer recommendations to the State Surgeon General, policymakers and state leaders.

The second half of the physician population was surveyed during the 2009 renewal process. The report on this survey will be issued by November 1, 2009.