



Bill Richardson
Governor



Liz Stefanics PhD
Director

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NM Health Policy Commission Presents Physician Supply and Distribution Report and the Physicians Supply in New Mexico 2006 Report.

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The New Mexico Health Policy Commission has completed two studies on the physician workforce in New Mexico. These reports present an overview of the supply and distribution of physicians practicing in New Mexico as well as the demographics of the physician population. It is designed to help planners, policy makers, and the public make informed decisions about the adequacy of the physician workforce in their communities, regions, and the state.

"A major goal of my administration is to increase the number of physicians choosing to live and practice in our state. We've made great progress through tax incentives, investing in facilities and hospitals, and most recently by expanding the professional loan repayment program in the 2008 legislature. And we will continue to do more. These studies are important tools," said Governor Richardson.

The first study completed in conjunction with the Center for Health Workforce Studies of The State University of New York, was a follow-up to the 2002 physician survey done by the center and the Health Policy Commission. The 2006 study looked at the demographics and distribution of New Mexico's physicians as well as issues of importance to New Mexico physicians.

Extensive data on physicians practicing in New Mexico by County are presented in the report ranging from aggregate counts of physicians and full-time equivalent physicians and practitioner-per-population ratios to descriptive statistics on the demographic and practice characteristics of New Mexico's physicians.

The second report completed by the Commission looks at the results of the Center for Health Workforce Studies report and analyzes the data with respect to New Mexico's current and future physician's workforce needs.

Kevin McMullan former Program Manager for the Health Policy Commission comments: "With growth and the population as a whole getting older, the demand for medical services will increase in New Mexico."

"Both reports are important policy documents for gauging the current and future physician's needs in New Mexico," according to Dr. Liz Stefanics, Director of The New Mexico Health Policy Commission.

According to Dr. Jerry Harrison with New Mexico Health Resources, the information in the reports helps us identify areas in need of healthcare recruitment since it is a snapshot of the New Mexico physician population. The report also provides information of interest to New Mexico's physicians the public and policymakers.

Dr. Dan Derksen, of the UNM School of Medicine and currently serving a fellowship with Senator Bingaman's office, assisted in the preparation of this report. "The report shows a continuing need for more physicians in New Mexico despite our recent increase in physician supply. This is especially true as our current physician population age and retire over the next decade."

Dr. Valerie Romero-Leggott, Vice President for Diversity at the UNM Health Sciences Center, in partnership with the NMHPC and other stakeholders throughout the state, is coordinating a Pipeline Forum with New Mexico First to address the issue of health care professional shortages in New Mexico. She comments, "The Office of Diversity contributes a key role in the development of a diverse health professional workforce with a strong connection and commitment to a healthy and economically prosperous New Mexico. The Pipeline Forum to be conducted on May 2-3 offers New Mexicans an opportunity to present their views and recommendations on strategies to assure that we have a workforce that provides high quality and culturally competent care for our state's citizens."

Randy Marshall, Executive Director of the New Mexico Society comments: "The recruitment and retention of physicians in New Mexico has been, and continues to be, a top priority for the New Mexico Medical Society, the state's professional organization of physicians. With the help of the governor, legislature and many governmental departments, the number of physicians here has increased, but there is much work to be done as we continue to face shortages of physicians in rural areas."

Copies can be obtained through the commission's website at:

<http://www.hpc.state.nm.us/>

or by calling Carlos Beserra at (505) 827-6287.

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