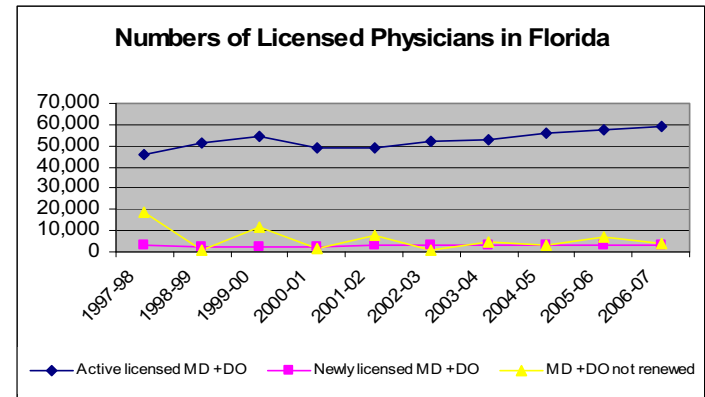


# Florida Physician Workforce

*The geographic distribution and specialty mix of active, licensed Florida physicians is a critical component in access to health care. Accessing valid, continuous data on Florida physicians assists policymakers and key stakeholders in strategic planning for the future of Florida's health delivery system.*

## Why is This Important?

- While Florida has approximately 245 physicians per 100,000 population, Florida is dealing with an aging workforce. Although licensing data indicate that over 50% of active, licensed Florida physicians are over 50 and over 22% are older than 65 years of age, data is not currently available regarding the extent to which physicians practice full-time, part-time, or the extent to which physicians maintain active licenses but don't actively practice.
- Florida policymakers must address recruiting and retaining Florida physicians, particularly in primary care.
- Florida ranks 41<sup>st</sup> in the number of medical students per 100,000 population and 46<sup>th</sup> in the number of medical residents per 100,000 population.
- Policymakers need access to more detailed physician workforce data to determine if an adequate specialty mix exists in Florida to ensure access to primary care and key specialty areas (such as obstetrics) for all Floridians, especially in underserved communities.



	Active licensed MD + DO	Newly licensed MD + DO	MD + DO not renewed
FY 97-98	46,274	2,911	18,319
FY 98-99	51,375	2,436	920
FY 99-00	54,137	2,515	11,482
FY 00-01	49,260	2,490	1,291
FY 01-02	49,226	2,748	7,529
FY 02-03	52,315	2,869	521
FY 03-04	53,096	3,184	4,541
FY 04-05	55,892	3,101	3,099
FY 05-06	57,270	2,942	6,712
FY 06-07	58,896	3,276	4,233



## *Florida Physician Workforce cont'd*

### How is Florida Doing?

- The number of licensed Florida physicians has increased by approximately 25% since FY 1997-98. During the same time period, the number of newly licensed physicians has remained at about 3000 per year. The number of physicians whose licenses were not renewed, for whatever reason, has varied widely over those 10 years, from a high of over 18,000 in FY 97-98 to a low of 521 in FY 2002-03. There is no pattern in the number of non-renewals.
- Beginning in 2009, Florida will better understand some of the following physician workforce issues:
  - The number of physicians who are in active full-time or part-time practice, and those who maintain active licenses but don't practice.
  - The distribution of physicians by geographic location and by specialty mix; for example, Florida will have information on the numbers of obstetricians in each county who deliver babies.
- The Department of Health will facilitate discussions with stakeholders including medical schools, residency programs, physician organizations and others to develop measures of physician workforce adequacy. Such measures could potentially include recommended numbers of obstetricians, trauma surgeons, family practice physicians and others by geographic area.
- The Department of Health will also facilitate discussions with stakeholders to analyze the supply of qualified Florida applicants to Florida medical schools; develop strategies to ensure that the number of graduates from the state's medical schools are adequate to meet physician workforce needs; and develop strategies and policies to create, expand, and maintain graduate medical education positions.



## *Florida Physician Workforce cont'd*

### **What Influences Physician Workforce?**

- The medical education pipeline: how pre-medical education students are recruited into in-state medical schools through the matching of in-state medical students into residency positions
- The capacity and cost of both medical education and graduate medical education
- The geographic distribution of physicians by specialty
- The age of the physicians in the workforce and the average age of the population
- Liability and insurance coverage issues

### **What is the State's Role?**

#### States Can

- Collect physician workforce data through workforce surveys as part of the physician licensure renewal cycle.
- Encourage key governmental and non-governmental entities to collaborate in developing and implementing a strategic plan.
- Work within existing programs to expand and provide new incentives in the recruiting and retaining of physicians.

### **Florida Initiatives**

Florida will begin to collect data in the spring of 2008 that will shed light on important physician workforce issues. Data from the Department of Health's physician workforce survey will become available over the next several years as licenses are renewed

(Mandated under Chapter 2007-172, Laws of Florida)