

2008 **Allied Health**

AHEC Update

NORTH CAROLINA AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTERS

Who are Allied Health Professionals?

Allied Health Professionals include individuals who:

- Perform x-rays, mammograms, MRIs, and other imaging services
- Perform lead and prostate cancer marker screenings
- Monitor individuals with liver disease, diabetes, and leukemia
- Provide speech, physical, and occupational therapy
- Perform dental cleanings
- Provide emergency medical services (EMTs and paramedics)
- Dispense prescriptions (pharmacy technicians)
- Provide counseling services
- Code and manage medical records

They constitute 36% of all health care jobs in North Carolina.



Allied Health: Engine of Economic Growth in North Carolina

Allied health jobs represent not only a large and increasingly important employment sector in the state, but also an engine for economic growth. Allied health is projected to add 28,600 jobs between 2000 and 2010 – a 36% increase over 2000 employment. Eight of the 10 fastest-growing occupations in North Carolina, across all industries and all jobs, are allied health occupations (see charts on back).



AHEC's Response to Allied Health Workforce Vacancies

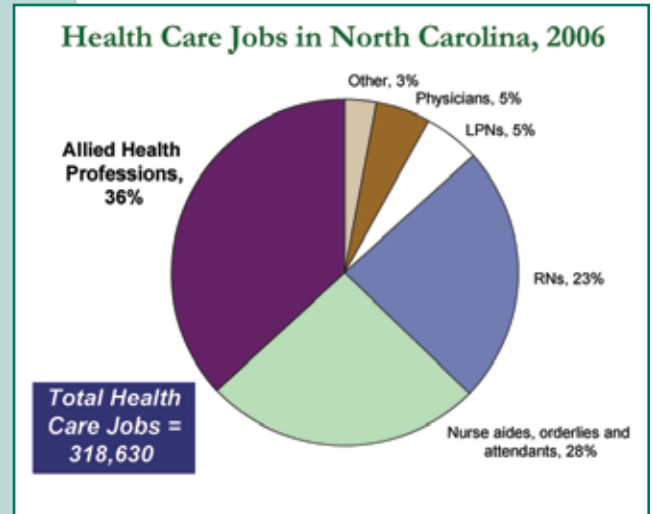
While North Carolina is facing increased demand for allied health workers due to the state's population growth and increase in the median age, educational programs that produce these workers face serious challenges: too few qualified applicants, high attrition rates, faculty shortages, and lack of sites for clinical education. In addition, there are persistent disparities between rural and urban areas in the supply of allied health workers.

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Response continued...

In response to these workforce challenges, the NC AHEC Program engages in a number of strategies to recruit and maintain a quality allied health workforce. These include:

- Providing housing in more than 70 towns/cities for allied health students on clinical rotations in NC communities
- In 2006-2007, providing more than 280 continuing education programs attended by 7,281 allied health professionals
- Promoting allied health professions to middle and high school students through the statewide distribution of the *NC Health Careers* manual
- With grants from the NC Dept. of Commerce, partnering with community agencies and industries to develop allied health workforce strategies
- Helping develop community-based clinical training sites
- Supporting the Council for Allied Health in North Carolina and workforce vacancy reports in partnership with the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research



Source: North Carolina Health Professions Data System, Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research with data from the NC Employment Security Commission.

North Carolina's Fastest Growing Occupations Percent Change in Employment 2002-2012

RANK	OCCUPATION	PROJECTED OPENINGS	% CHANGE
1	Medical Assistants	4,950	60.9
2	Occupational Therapist Aides	30	60.0
3	Dental Hygienists	2,590	53.9
4	Dental Assistants	3,120	53.0
5	Social and Human Service Assistants	5,110	48.4
6	Medical Records and Health Info Technicians	2,620	48.3
7	Physical Therapist Assistants	720	47.7
8	Fitness Trainers and Aerobics Instructors	2,780	47.6
9	Respiratory Therapy Technicians	330	47.1
10	Respiratory Therapists	1,170	46.8

Allied Health occupations are highlighted in green
SOURCE: NORTH CAROLINA EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION

North Carolina Area Health Education Centers

Area I AHEC

Rocky Mount
www.area1ahec.org

Charlotte AHEC

Charlotte
www.charlotteahec.org

Eastern AHEC

Greenville
eahec.ecu.edu

Greensboro AHEC

Greensboro
www.gahec.org

Mountain AHEC

Asheville
www.mahec.net

Northwest AHEC

Winston-Salem
northwestahec.wfubmc.edu

South East AHEC

Wilmington
www.seahec.net

Southern Regional AHEC

Fayetteville
www.southernregionalahec.org

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