



May 23, 2011

Dear colleague,

We are pleased to announce the release of our Fall 2010 Allied Health Job Vacancy Tracking Report. This is a collaborative effort of The Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, The Council for Allied Health in North Carolina, and The North Carolina Area Health Education Centers (NC AHEC) Program, with funding from the North Carolina Department of Commerce, the NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund, and the Florence Rogers Charitable Trust.

Allied health jobs comprised approximately 35% of total health care employment in North Carolina (NC) in 2009 and represent a large, and increasingly important, employment sector in the state. Allied health employment increased 67% between 1999 and 2009 compared to a 3% increase in total employment in North Carolina. In contrast to most other employment sectors, health care jobs grew during the latest economic downturn adding 12,000 new jobs between January 2008 and April 2010.

In this latest vacancy report, we track vacancies for ten allied health professions across the state. Highlights of the report include:

- Certified Occupational Therapy Assistants have the highest vacancy rate with 13.4 vacancies per 100 employed professionals.
- Physical therapist (PTs) vacancies accounted for the largest share (30%) of total vacancies and demand is statewide.
- Nearly half (46%) of Southern Regional AHEC's job vacancies were for PTs.
- The majority of job vacancies are for positions in hospital (43%) and practice (23%) settings, followed by home health (11%) and rehabilitation (8%).

We hope you will take a moment to read the report. We would welcome the chance to hear back from you about how your organization will benefit from, and use, these data. Please feel free to contact us with questions regarding the report. To access the electronic copy of the report, please visit the North Carolina Health Professions Data System (HPDS) website at <http://www.shepscenter.unc.edu/hp>. Hard copies are available upon request, while supplies last.

If you would like to be notified of new publications and data released by the HPDS, please join our listserv. This is a low traffic listserv and messages will include relevant updates on all health professions tracked by the HPDS. Instructions can be found at <http://www.shepscenter.unc.edu/hp/listserv.htm>.

Sincerely,

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