



Broward Regional Health Planning Council

Broward County Healthcare Resources

INTRODUCTION

'Access to comprehensive, quality health care services is important for the achievement of health equity and quality of life for everyone. Disparities in access to health services affect individuals and society. Limited access to health care impacts people's ability to reach their full potential, negatively affecting their quality of life'.¹

HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREAS

Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) are designated by Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) as having shortages of primary care, dental care, or mental health providers and may be geographic (a county or service area), population (e.g., low income or Medicaid eligible) or facilities (e.g., federally qualified health centers, or state or federal prisons).²

As of 2014, the following were the shortage areas in Broward County designated by HRSA:

BROWARD COUNTY SHORTAGE AREAS , 2014	
<i>Primary Medical Care</i>	
1	Seminole Tribe of Florida
2	Noth Broward Hospital District/Homeless
3	Broward Community and Family Health Center
4	Low income - Ft. Lauderdale
5	Low income - Pompano Beach
6	Low income - Deerfield Beach
7	Low Income - Margate
8	Low income - Hallandale/Miramar
9	Low income - Sunrise
10	Low income - Davie/Hollywood/Dania
<i>Dental Care</i>	
1	Seminole Tribe of Florida
2	Broward Community and Family Health Center
3	Noth Broward Hospital District/Homeless
4	Low income - Pompano
5	Low income - Ft. Lauderdale
6	Low income - Davie
<i>Mental Care</i>	
1	Seminole Tribe of Florida
2	Noth Broward Hospital District/Homeless
3	Broward Community and Family Health Center

Source: HRSA Data Warehouse 2014. Retrieved on January 2016

MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS

Medically Underserved Areas/Populations are areas or populations designated by HRSA as having too few primary care providers, high infant mortality, high poverty or a high elderly population.³

By 2014, the following were the underserved areas/populations in Broward County designated by HRSA:

BROWARD COUNTY MEDICALLY UNDESERVED POPULATION, 2014	
1	Low income Pompano Beach Service Area
2	Low income Dania
3	Low income Deerfield Beach
4	Low income Ft. Lauderdale
5	Low income Hallandale
6	Low income Hollywood
7	Low income Margate
8	Low income Miramar
9	Low income Sunrise
10	Low income Hallandale/Miramar

Source: HRSA Data Warehouse 2014. Retrieved on January 2016

BROWARD COUNTY COST OF LIVING

'The Florida Price Level Index (FPLI) represents the cost of hiring comparable personnel across school districts. As population density increases, workers face higher housing costs, longer commutes, or both, for which they must be compensated in the form of higher wages. Therefore, although many factors may affect a county's FPLI position, counties that are more urban tend to have higher values'.⁴

The 2015 FPLI ranking shows a median with an index value of 100.74. Nine counties, including Broward, had an index value of *over 100.74* which accounts for 49.76% of the state's population. The 57 counties with index values *below 100.74* account for 46.9% of the state population.⁵

In 2015, Broward's PLI (103.23) was higher than Miami-Dade's PLI (102.63) but lower than Palm Beach PLI (105.42).

FAMILY MEDICINE PROGRAMS

‘Today, family physicians provide the majority of care for America’s underserved rural and urban populations. In fact, family physicians are distributed more proportionally in the U.S. population than any other physician specialty. Without family physicians, rural and underserved populations, in particular, would lack access to primary care’.⁶

According to the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP), the 2014 Main Residency Match®, was the largest in NRMP history when measured by the number of positions offered (29,671) and filled (28,490). More than half the increase from 2013 to 2014 was attributable to growth in Family Medicine and Internal Medicine positions.⁷

By 2015, of the 99 positions in the Match Program for Family Medicine in Florida, 100% were filled in accordance with NRMP.

In the Physicians Workforce Surveys carried out by the Florida Department of Health, for the past 3 years, internal medicine has had the highest count of specialists, followed by family medicine and surgical specialist.

BROWARD COUNTY PHYSICIAN WORKFORCE SPECIALTY GROUP COUNTS			
Year	2012 - 2013	2013 - 2014	2014 - 2015
Internal Medicine	603	606	626
Family Medicine	471	465	472
Surgical Specialist	325	307	314

Source: Florida Department of Health – Physician Workforce Surveys

MEDICAL STUDENT DEBT

‘Medical education is expensive. As a result, in many countries, healthcare professional students, especially medical students, must take out loans to pay for their studies. Many universities charge per year in tuition fees. In addition, accommodation, subsistence, and living expenses are necessities. This results in students’ debts reaching five-digit figures. This large amount of debt has created concerns at both the beginning and the end of undergraduate education’.⁸

According to the 2015 Medical School Graduation Questionnaire, 78.5% (n=13,902) of medical students across the Nation had an outstanding educational loan for their medical school education. Of those with educational loans, 22.1% had a loan amount ranging from \$150,001 to \$200,000.

Despite the financial burden and efforts involved in being a medical student, the enrollment in medical schools keeps increasing annually across the State.

TOTAL ENROLLMENT IN FLORIDA					
Year	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Florida International University	167	287	373	444	481
University of Florida	563	563	567	571	583
Florida Atlantic University	64	127	188	251	261
Florida State University	482	481	486	486	489
University of Miami	794	801	809	844	847
University of Central Florida	179	278	359	423	462
University of South Florida	505	559	628	667	712
TOTAL	2,754	3,096	3,410	3,686	3,835

Source: Association of American Medical Colleges 2016

PHYSICIANS REIMBURSEMENT

‘Physicians find themselves under constant pressure to get paid for the work they do. Increasingly, those challenges will be tied to the impact of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and how reimbursement models are shifting from the *fee-for-service* model to *value-based* payment models.

The challenges are likely to grow for some of those who work with Medicare patients. Under the ACA, penalties for physicians who do not participate in the Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) or aren’t deemed successful participants for the 2013 program year will face a 1.5% penalty in Medicare payments in 2015 and 2% thereafter. In 2014, Medicare proposed that physicians not participating in PQRS in 2014 would face penalties in 2016’.⁹

References:

¹ Healthy People 2020. HealthyPeople.gov
^{2, 3} HRSA Data Warehouse
^{4, 5} Dewey, J. (2015). 2015 Florida Price Level Index. Florida Department of Education
⁶ American Academy of Family Physicians: Family Medicine Specialty
⁷ National Resident Matching Program “The Match”: Results and Data 2014 Main Residency Match
⁸ Walsh, K. (2015). Medical Student Debt: What Perspective Should We Take? Korean Journal of Family Medicine, 36(4), 159–161. <http://doi.org/10.4082/kjfm.2015.36.4.159>
⁹ Terry, K. et al. (2014). Top 15 challenges facing physicians in 2015. Medical Economics.

Broward Regional Health Planning Council, Inc. is a non profit organization committed to delivering health and human service innovations at a national, state and local level through planning, direct services, evaluation and organizational capacity building. For additional information, please visit www.BRHPC.org.

The entire *Broward County Health Plan* available online (www.BRHPC.org) or hard copy upon request.