



Employment Outlook • March 2011

Strong Job Growth Expected for the Medical Workforce in South Carolina

Every two years, the South Carolina Department of Commerce and the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics collaborate to estimate future employment levels for a wide variety of healthcare occupations. Their most recent report covers the period from 2008 to 2018. Summarized below are their estimates of how demand for different types of physicians and physician assistants, as reflected in job openings, is expected to change in South Carolina over the next decade. The number of anticipated annual job openings include those due to growth (new jobs) and those created when people leave the workforce through retirement, career change, or for other reasons (replacements). These estimates are for job openings, not for individuals.

Physicians and Physician Assistants	Employment			Total % Change	Average Annual Openings
	Estimated 2008	Estimated 2018	Total Change		
Family and General Practitioners	1,763	2,152	389	22%	70
Internists, General ^a	662	838	176	27%	30
Pediatricians, General	229	291	62	27%	10
Obstetricians and Gynecologists	445	571	126	28%	21
Anesthesiologists	931	1,171	240	26%	40
Surgeons	770	996	226	29%	37
Physicians and Surgeons, All Other ^b	2,877	3,523	646	22%	116
Physician Assistants	595	833	238	40%	35

Note: Physician and Physician Assistant job estimates in this table are based on industry survey data collected by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and may differ from counts of the South Carolina license data used in the "2010 South Carolina Professions Data Book." Internal Medicine and Pediatrician counts in this table are restricted to only those focused on general practice – specialists are excluded from those numbers.

^a The occupational title "Internists, General" includes the following titles: Physician, Internist, Internal Medicine, Medical Doctor, General Internist, Attending Physician, Gastroenterologist, Clinic MD Associate, Internal Medicine Doctor, and Pulmonary Physician.

^b The occupational title "Physicians and Surgeons, All Other" includes: Allergists and Immunologists, Dermatologists, Hospitalists, Neurologists, Nuclear Medicine, Ophthalmologists, Pathologists, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Physicians, Preventive Medicine, Radiologists, Sports Medicine Physicians, and Urologists.

Growth rates for different types of physician positions over the period from 2008 to 2018 are expected to be similar, falling between 22% - 29%. Growth for physician assistant positions is expected to be even stronger, reflecting new models of care delivery that recognize the value of interdisciplinary teams. Overall, the majority of the annual openings for physicians and physician assistants are expected to come from new job growth rather than from replacement needs. Overall demand for Family and General Practitioner physicians is expected to generate the largest absolute number of job openings over the next decade, reflecting the central role they play in our healthcare system.

Data Source: Unpublished tables provided by the South Carolina Department of Commerce "2008 - 2018 Healthcare Workforce in South Carolina by Occupational Title." National occupational projections can be found at: <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/ecopro.toc.html>