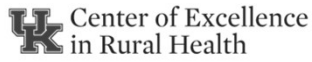


“What about Rural Kentucky?”

Sydney P. Howard, DrPH, MS
Frances Feltner, DNP, MSN, RN, FAAN



Workforce Methods

- Obtain licensure data from respective boards
 - Yearly, after licensure deadline
- Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure (KBML)
- Kentucky Board of Nursing (KBN)
- Kentucky Board of Dentistry (KBD)
- Other workforce as needed

Workforce Methods

- Cleaning licensure data
 - Duplicates are removed
 - Rural/Urban designations from HRSA
 - Licensure age is based on year licensure was obtained subtracted from year of licensure record

Physicians and Primary Care Physicians (PCPs)

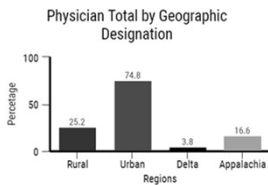


Primary care physicians were calculated using the following parameters:

- Active status
- Working in KY
- Hospital Based
- Private practice based
- Adolescent medicine
- Family medicine
- General medicine
- Internal medicine
- Pediatrics

Physicians and PCPs

- 10,002 physicians are practicing in Kentucky.
- Most physicians practice in Urban counties (74.8%; n=7,481 total) as compared to Rural (25.2%; n=2,521).
- 16.2% of physicians are practicing in Appalachian counties (n=1,663)
- 3.6% of Kentucky physicians practice in the Delta region (n=378 total).



Physicians and PCPs

The United States Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) defines a Health Provider Shortage Area (HPSA) as a ratio of provider to population that is greater than 1:3,500 (KFF, 2022). There are three types of HPSA designations, however, for the scope of this report, county-level HPSAs will be examined.

The provider-to-population ratio reflects the number of PCPs to populations in each county or region. For example, 1:331 means that for every 1 PCP there are 331 residents in the urban region, or for every 331 individuals, there is one provider.

Region	Physician Ratio	PCP Ratio
Urban	1:331	1:1500
Rural	1:714	1:1935
Appalachia	1:678	1:1860
Delta	1:515	1:1726

Physicians and PCPs

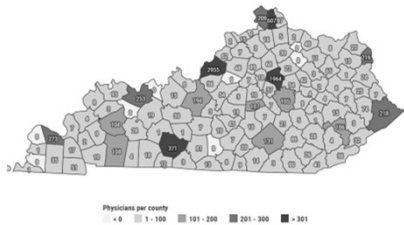
Kentucky Physicians: Total Years Licensed

Years Licensed as a Physician	Number of Physicians	%
<15	333	3.3%
6-10	1,377	13.8%
11-20	2,683	26.8%
21-30	2,372	23.7%
31-40	2,092	20.9%
41-50	946	9.5%
51+	189	1.9%

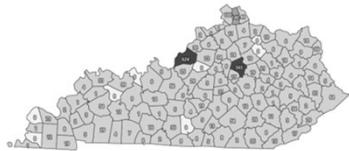
- Most physicians practicing in Kentucky have been licensed between 11 and 20 years (26.8%).
- Almost a third of Kentucky physicians have been licensed between 31 and 50+ years (32.3%).
- Only 17.1% of Kentucky physicians have been licensed for 10 years or less.

Physicians and PCPs

Distribution of Physicians By County



Physicians and PCPs



The map illustrates the distribution of PCPs across Kentucky. The lighter color counties represent fewer PCPs, whereas the darker-colored counties indicated more PCPs practicing in those Kentucky counties.

- There are a total of eight counties without a PCP: Ballard (rural), Hancock (urban), Hickman (rural), McLean (urban), Metcalf (rural Appalachian), Nicholas (rural Appalachian), Robertson (rural Appalachian), and Spencer (urban).

Physicians and PCPs

The following table illustrates physician data tracked over a five-year period. The year 2021 was omitted due to inaccurate data due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Year	Physician Count	Physician Year Change	PCP Count	PCP Year Change
2016	10,260		2,696	
2017	11,012	+752	2,750	+54
2018	11,437	+425	2,825	+75
2019	10,592	-845	2,772	-53
2020	10,072	-520	2,734	-38
2022	10,002	-70	2,729	-5

- The largest tracked increase was between the years 2016 and 2017.
- The largest tracked decrease was between the years 2018 and 2019.
- Across the six-year span, a net loss of 258 physicians and a net gain of 30 PCPs occurred.

Neuro as Specialty

- Neurological surgery (25%)
- Neurology (67%)
- Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine (3%)
- Neuropathology (2%)
- Neuroradiology (3%)

- 13% rural vs 87% urban

Registered Nurses (RNs) and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs)

- 2023

- 69,102 RNs
- 2,403 APRNs

Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs)

- Work setting
 - 44.1% work in office clinic
 - 27.1% hospital inpatient
 - 10.2% ambulating care

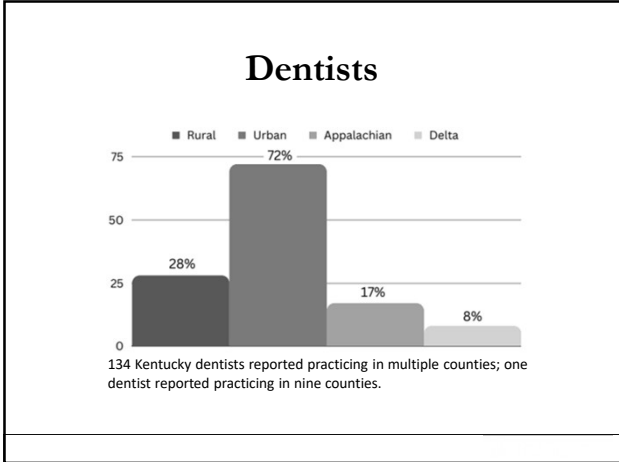
- Population Foci
 - 64.9% family medicine
 - 12.1% anesthetist
 - 5.4% family psych/ mental health

Registered Nurses (RNs) and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs)

	RN	APRN
Rural (%)	38%	38%
Urban (%)	62%	62%
Appalachian (%)	24%	26%
Delta (%)	11%	10%

Dentists

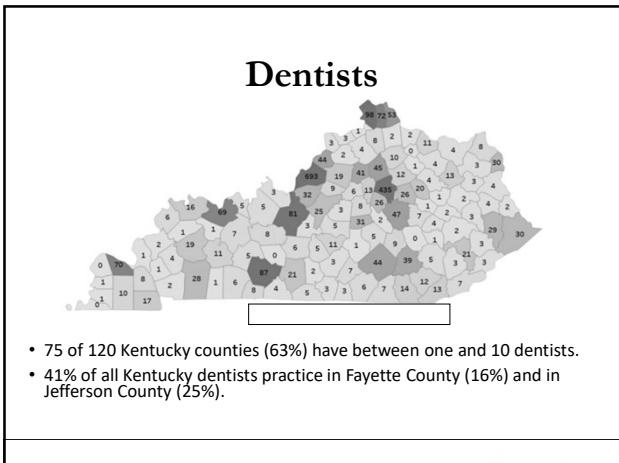
- 2,546 dentists practicing in Kentucky.
- The majority of dentists are located within urban counties.
- Most counties with dentist provider shortages are in rural counties.
 - Five Kentucky counties have no practicing dentists (Ballard, Edmonson, Fulton, Jackson, and Robertson). All five counties are rural, excluding Edmonson.



Dentists

- Number of counties within geographical designations with dentist shortage.

Geographical Designation	Number of Counties with Dentist Shortage
Rural	20
Urban	7
Appalachian	15
Delta	9





U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS



What Community Health Workers Do

- Community health workers provide services such as basic health screenings.
- Community health workers promote wellness by helping people adopt healthy behaviors.
- They implement programs and advocate for people who may have limited access to health resources and social services. <https://www.bls.gov/>

- Coordinate care among individuals, communities, and health and social service systems
- Conduct outreach, such as through home visits
- Provide culturally appropriate health and informational resources
- Oversee case management and resource access
- Advocate for individuals and communities regarding housing, food security, and other needs
- Provide coaching and social support, such as nutrition training, recovery services for mental health and substance use disorders, and chronic disease management and prevention
- Provide services, such as basic health screenings and first aid
- Increase individual and community participation in assessments and education to improve health and well-being



U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

Community health workers work closely with other healthcare and social service providers, including registered nurses, social workers, and substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors.



Community health workers may provide services such as basic health screenings

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, Community Health Workers, at <https://www.bls.gov/ocs/communityandocial-services/community-health-workers.htm> (revised October 25, 2022).

Citations and Links to Full Reports



2023 KBD Report

Howard, S.P. & Feltner, F. (2023). Kentucky dental workforce report [Report].



2023 KBML Report

Howard, S.P., Boots, K., & Feltner, F. (2023). Kentucky physician report 2022 [Report].

2023 KBN Report
coming soon
