



NORTH DAKOTA
Optometric Association

Interim Health Services Committee Meeting
Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Good Afternoon Madam Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Nancy Kopp. I serve as the Executive Director of the North Dakota Optometric Association.

The NDOA represents 150 of 175, or 86% of practicing optometrists in our state.

You asked that we provide you information, as to distribution of optometrists practicing in North Dakota. I have provided you a map, indicating where the optometric practices, as well as satellite clinics are located. Please take note that the map indicates 210 practicing optometrists, but that number is elevated or duplicated, due to the fact that an optometrist may practice in an urban area for 3-4 days a week and then service a satellite location 1-2 days per week. A number of practices do provide services 6 days a week.

For your information, optometry has different modes of practice. 59% of the NDOA members are private practice (100% ownership), 24% employed by a hospital or ophthalmology clinic and 17% are practicing independently, but lease space and equipment from a corporate entity.

The demographics of the profession are changing somewhat in the recent past. We are experiencing a gender shift, from what may have been a male dominated profession to over 50% female practitioner rate.

Another question asked of the committee, "What is the appropriate number of optometrists in a population?" I think this is a situation that will be determined in the next few years, dependent on North Dakota's aging population and the impact of the Affordable Care Act, both that may increase the demand for eye and vision care services.

Last, "Is there a shortage of optometrists in North Dakota?" At this time, we would say no. However, with the oil impacted western counties, it has been very difficult to recruit additional optometrists to fill the service needs, due to lack of housing. In addition, our records show that approximately 30% of our membership will most likely retire in the next 10 years.

This concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have, or provide any additional information to follow-up on any concerns you may have.

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□ Satellite Clinic (1-2 OD's)
1-3 Days/Week

2013 ND Optometrists—Geographic Practice Distribution

NDOA Members & Non-Members
Total - 210

