

Testimony
Health Care Reform Review Committee
Wednesday, March 14, 2014

Good Afternoon Mr. Chair and members of the Health Care Reform Review Committee. My name is Mary Amundson, representing the University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Sciences. I am here today to provide a presentation regarding the health care workforce demand assessment. The assessments are conducted three times each year and what is being presented today are the results from the March/April 2014 survey.

This survey was sent electronically to 58 health care clinics/hospitals and/or systems across the state with a response rate of 90%. Several of the responses are combined hospital and clinic vacancy information. Unfortunately, six organizations did not respond to the survey from key facilities in Regions I, II, and VIII.

As shown in Figure 1, of the fifty-two responses received, thirty-five clinics/hospitals and/or systems, or 67%, were actively recruiting health care providers.

Figures 2 and 3 show 82 primary care vacancies which include the specialties of family medicine, general internal medicine, obstetrics, and general pediatrics. The most sought after specialty in primary care was for family medicine physicians with a total of 51 representing 62% of the vacancies. Regions V, VI, and VII reported the most vacancies for primary care.

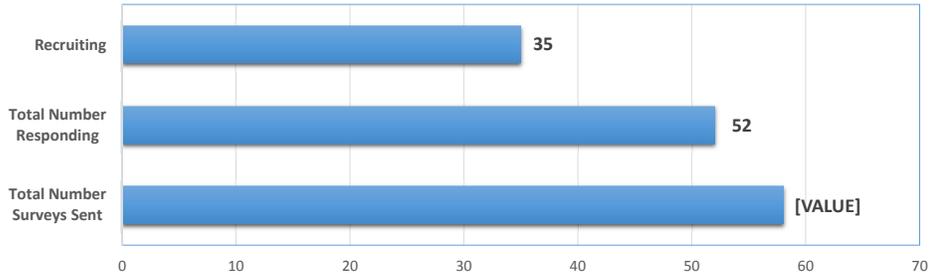
As you review Figures 4 and 5, the 40.5 openings for nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and certified nurse midwives, the greatest number of vacancies were noted in Region 5 for nurse practitioners and/or physician assistants.

Figure 6 illustrates the 96 openings for 31 subspecialties and include: anesthesiology, cardiology, dermatology, endocrinology, gastroenterology, general surgeon, hospitalist, neurology, orthopedics, podiatry, emergency medicine, infectious disease, geriatrics, nephrology, pediatric intensive care unit, ear/nose/throat, intensivist, neurosurgery, cardiothoracic surgery, pediatric neurosurgery, otolaryngology, pediatric anesthesiology, orthopedic trauma surgery, oncology, pathology, psychiatry (general/child/adolescent), pulmonary critical care, radiology, rheumatology, urgent care and urology. Among the regions, the most recruited subspecialties were for neurology and psychiatry (general/child and adolescent) and the greatest number of subspecialty vacancies were in Regions V and VII.

The vacancy numbers are always changing and the information presented today is a point-in-time analysis which does not tell us what the needs in the future will be. I would caution you from extrapolating beyond this data. Assessing the true workforce needs requires more than a snapshot report of vacancies. We do know that sites such as Devils Lake and others are successful in their recruitment efforts and point to the Health Workforce Initiative as being a major part of their success.

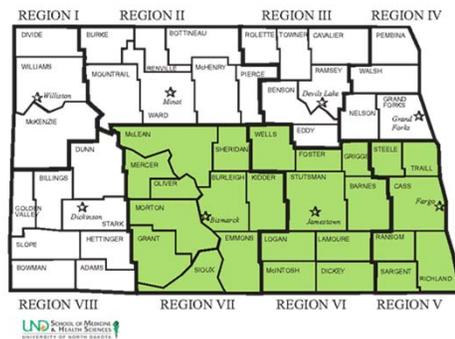
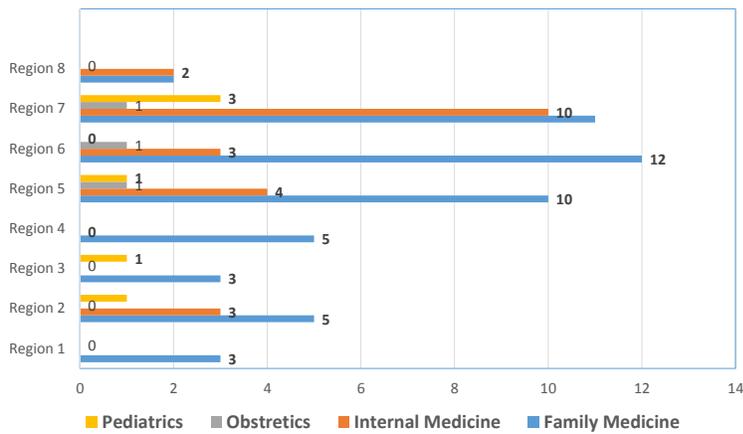
This concludes my presentation. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Figure 1: Number of Clinics, Hospitals and/or Organizations Recruiting April 2014



90% responded to the survey; of those, 67% are currently recruiting.

Figure 2: Primary Care Specialties



Regions V, VI and VII reported the most openings for primary care.

Figure 3: Number of Primary Care Openings (82)

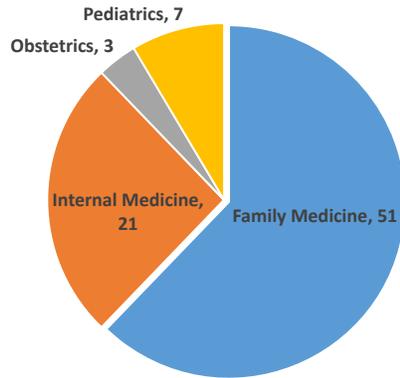
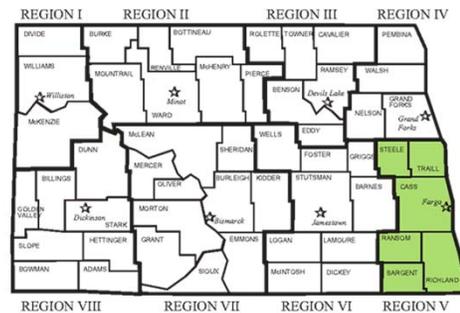
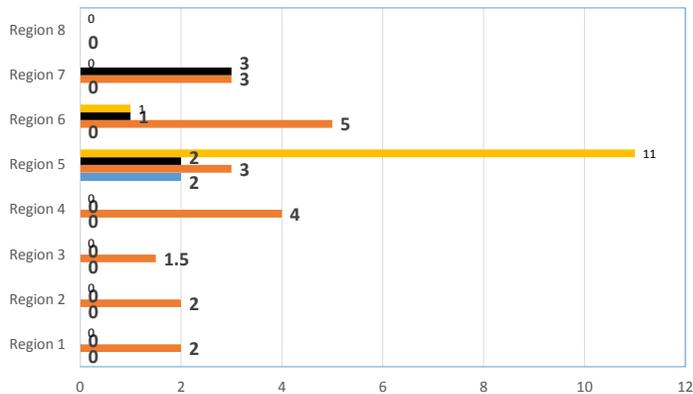


Figure 4: Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants, Certified Nurse Midwives Openings by Region



The greatest need for NPs and PAs is in Region V.

Figure 5: Nurse Practitioner, Physician Assistants, Certified Nurse Midwife Openings (40.5)

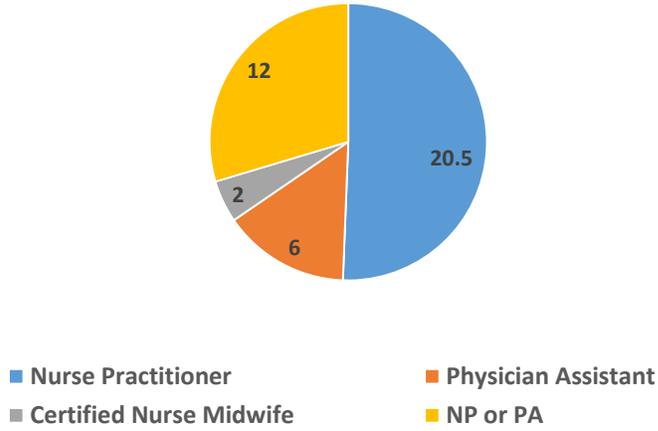
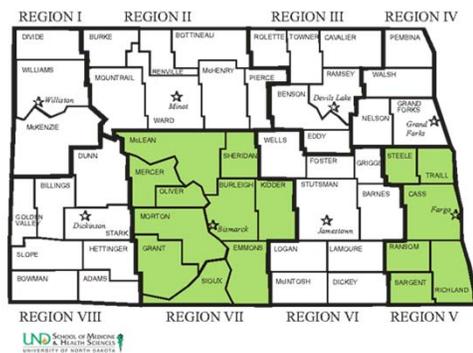
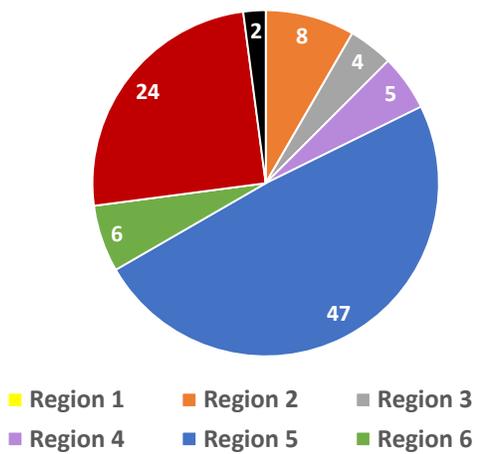


Figure 6: Number of Subspecialty Openings (96)



The majority of subspecialty openings are in Regions V and VII.