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Employment outlook : expected job growth for the medical workforce in South Carolina

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Expected Job Growth for the Medical Workforce in South Carolina

Every two years, the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics and the South Carolina Labor Market Information office in the Department of Employment and Workforce collaborate to estimate future employment levels for a wide variety of healthcare occupations. Their most recent report covers the period from 2012 to 2022. Summarized below are their estimates of how demand for physician assistants and different types of physicians, as reflected in job openings, is expected to change in South Carolina over the next few years. 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 (# of jobs)			Total % Change 2012 - 2022	Average Annual Job Openings
	Estimated 2012	Estimated 2022	Total Change		
Family Medicine / General Practitioners	3,090	3,475	385	13%	115
Physicians and Surgeons, All Other ^a	2,373	2,774	401	17%	99
Physician Assistants	771	1,070	299	39%	44
Surgeons	657	815	158	24%	32
Internal Medicine - General	663	764	101	15%	27
Anesthesiologists	420	519	99	24%	20
Pediatricians, General	273	319	46	17%	12
Obstetricians and Gynecologists	291	330	39	13%	11
Psychiatrists	221	240	19	9%	8

Note: job estimates in this table are based on survey data collected by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and are not related to the count of individual professionals presented in the "2014 South Carolina Professions Data Book." Internal Medicine and Pediatrician job counts in this table are restricted to only those focused on general practice – subspecialty jobs are excluded. This table is organized according the estimated annual number of job openings.

^a 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.

Employment opportunities for medical providers of all kinds are expected to grow over the next few years. For Physician Assistants the majority of the growth in jobs (68%) will be from the creation of new jobs rather than the need to replace those leaving the workforce, reflecting both new models of care delivery and the relatively young age of these providers. Not so for physicians, where at least half of the expected jobs for Anesthesiologists and Surgeons will be due to the need for replacements. For other types of physicians, the need to replace those leaving the workforce will be the dominant reason for job openings: Psychiatrists – 75%, Ob/Gyns – 64%, General Internal Medicine – 63%, and Family Medicine – 67%.

Data Source: Unpublished tables provided by the South Carolina Department of Commerce "2012 - 2022 Healthcare Workforce in South Carolina by Occupational Title." See http://www.bls.gov/emplep_projections_methods.htm for the BLS methodology used to estimate job growth and physician group definitions.