

Healthcare Industry Fact Sheet

As the number of Americans age and retire, their need for health care will grow. Yet, the supply of health care workers is unlikely to keep up with the demand. This problem is not unique to New York or to the United States; indeed, many other countries are already in the throes of a major worker shortage. Why is health care unique? Health care is a skilled, labor-intensive business requiring practitioners at all levels to be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Although the shortages are not yet endemic, they are already affecting optimum quality of care in all settings—hospitals, nursing homes, laboratories, and home health agencies.

- The Physician Assistant category is supposed to grow by 53% nationally by 2010. In New York State an expected increase of 47% by 2010.
- An increase of 24% statewide of Pharmacists by 2010.
- An increase of 20% of Registered Nurses Statewide by 2010.
- Over 10 Healthcare occupations will experience double digit growth by 2010.
- The number of Medical Assistants will increase over 56.1% by 2010.

Chenango-Delaware-Otsego Employment Change					
2nd Quarter 2000 to 2nd Quarter 2003					
	EMPL	EMPL	EMPL	# Of	AVERAGE
Industry Sector	2003	2000	CHANGE	FIRMS	ANNUAL PAY
	2003	2000	CHANGE	2003	2003
Health Care	7,566	7,053	513	244	\$ 32,995

Career Path	Salary Range**
Home Health Aides	\$19,300
Medical Assistant	\$27,290
Dental Assistants	\$30,880
Respiratory Therapists	\$38,540
Registered Nurses	\$41,820
Massage Therapists	\$52,200
Physicians Assistants	\$66,000
Pharmacists	\$72,930
Family and General Doctors	\$124,200
Dentists	\$116,950

** Average for NYS, source NYSDOL

An Increase in Demand ... A Decrease in Supply

Increase in Demand:

- An aging population – “baby boomers” will soon tax the health care system
- Longer life span – the 65 years old and older group is projected to grow 54% between 2000 and 2020
- Patients in hospitals are sicker yet discharged faster
- Jobs needed by the other health care providers

Decrease in Supply:

- Fewer workers – a war for talent is underway
- Aging workforce – in 2000, the average age of nurses was 45 years old; only 9% of all nurses are younger than 30 years old
- Decline in RN graduations by 31% between 1996 and 2002; However in 2003 the trend is beginning to reverse itself.
- Lack of interest in health care as a career
- Dissatisfaction of current employees – 22% of NY nurses plan to leave within the next year