



South Carolina Area Health Education Consortium **2024 Annual Report**

Welcome to the Annual Report



Ann Lefebvre, DSW, CPHQ
SC AHEC Executive Director

Welcome to the 2024 Annual Report from the South Carolina Area Health Education Consortium (AHEC). South Carolina AHEC builds and supports the healthcare workforce our state needs and the data and information compiled within these pages represent how our statewide system has carried out this work over the past fiscal year. Without a robust healthcare workforce, our communities will not have access to the care needed to achieve better health. South Carolina AHEC is grateful for the investment our state, federal and private grant funders have made to ensure that AHEC can continue to strengthen the state's healthcare workforce and to serve as a resource to connect students to health careers, health professionals to communities and communities to better health. I welcome you to review the outcomes of the fantastic work our statewide team has accomplished this year.

In Fiscal
Year
2024:

9,871
Total individuals served
throughout the state across
all AHEC programs

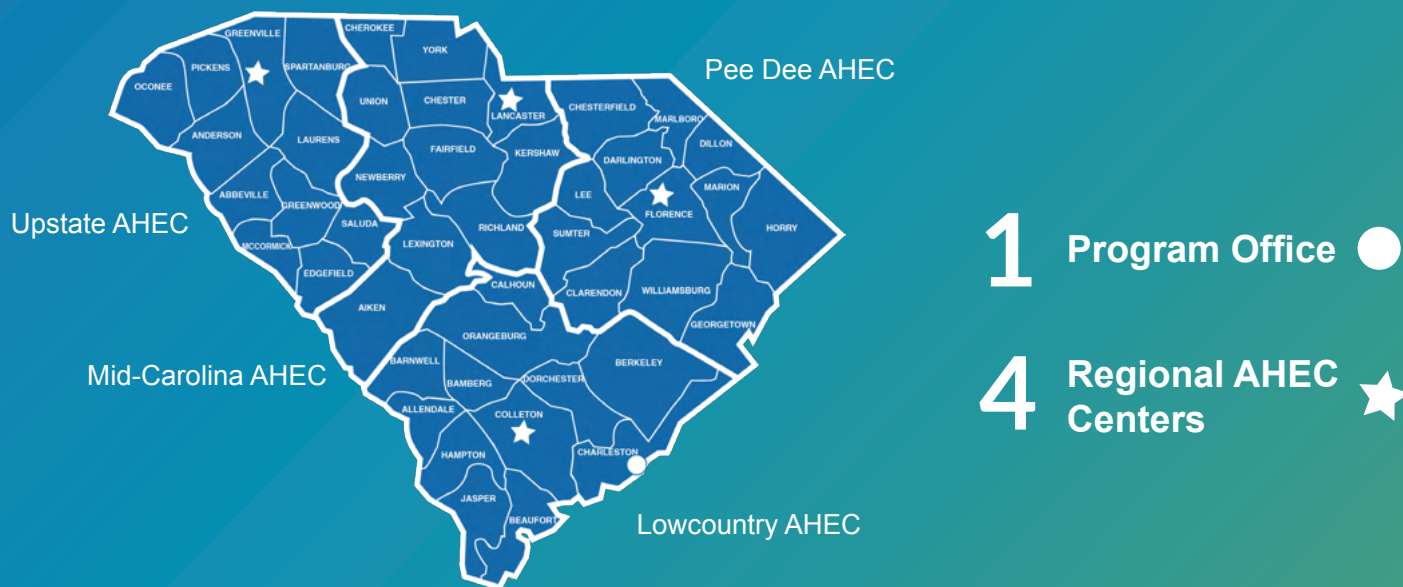
145,325
Total contact hours
of programming
delivered statewide

- 15,774** total contact hours of programming delivered to 1,019 high school and college students
- 1,113** training site placements for health professions students with 303 preceptors at 176 sites
- 50** medical students from 10 medical schools attended Family Medicine Interest Day
- 94** total providers active in the Rural Provider Incentive Program
- 7,532** professionals participated in SC AHEC continuing professional development programs
- 46** data requests fulfilled and 12 state and national presentations given by the SCOHW team



South Carolina AHEC System

South Carolina Area Health Education Consortium (AHEC) connects students and professionals with the tools, training and resources necessary to develop an effective healthcare workforce, with a focus on primary care for rural and underserved areas. Our education, recruitment and retention programs serve as a bridge between academics and communities, connecting students to health careers, health professionals to communities and communities to better care. Since 1972, South Carolina AHEC has strived to improve the training, diversity and distribution of health professionals to build and support the healthcare workforce South Carolina needs to connect all communities to better health.



SC AHEC Programs Build and Support the Healthcare Workforce South Carolina Needs

- + Health Careers Program**
Supports high school and college students on their paths to becoming healthcare professionals, building a future healthcare workforce that is representative of the communities it serves.
- + Recruitment & Retention Program**
Provides financial incentives to healthcare professionals who practice in rural and underserved areas to improve the distribution of providers statewide.
- + Health Professions Student Program**
Provides community-based training experiences, exposing students to the opportunities of working in rural and underserved areas of South Carolina.
- + Continuing Professional Development**
Enhances clinical skills, addresses ongoing and emerging health trends and helps professionals maintain their licensure and certifications.
- + Graduate Medical Education**
Works collaboratively with all of the family medicine residency programs in the state to facilitate recruitment for high-quality training in family medicine in South Carolina.
- + SC Office for Healthcare Workforce**
Analyzes data and provides policy-relevant information about the healthcare workforce in South Carolina.

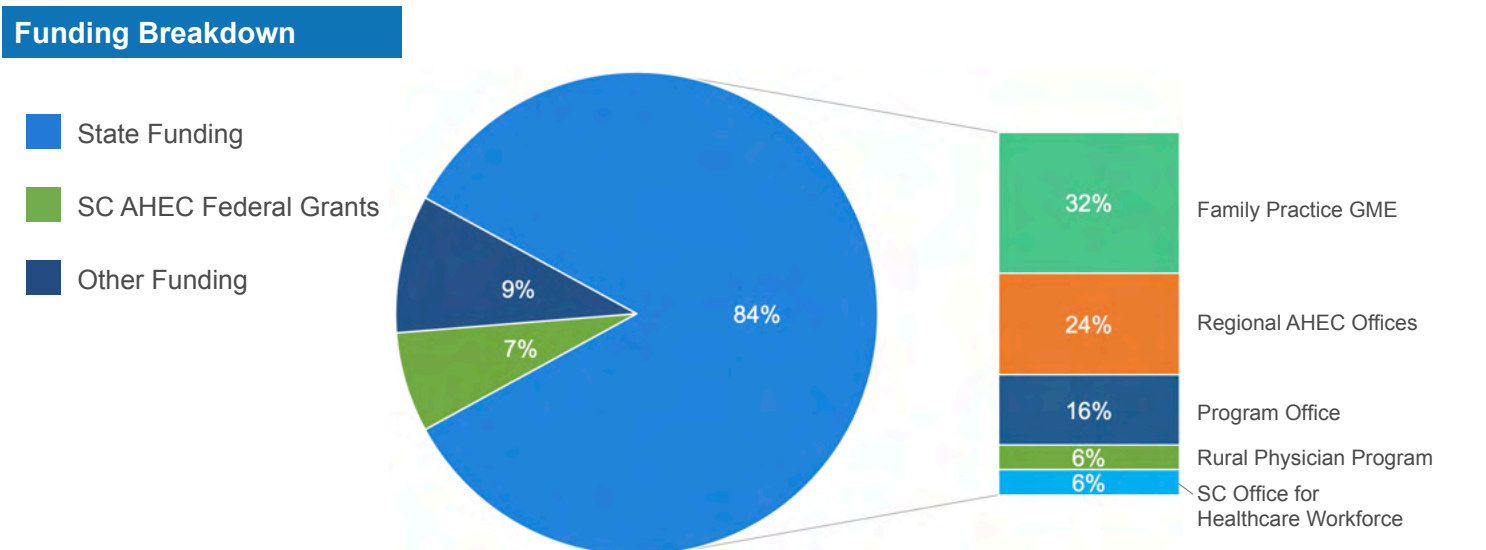
Pathways to a Health Career

South Carolina AHEC's broad range of programming supports points all along the health professions pathway: from high school and college students interested in health careers, students in health professions training programs, family medicine residents, and practicing professionals.



Fiscal Year 2024 Funding

| State Funding | | Amount |
|---|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Family Practice GME | | \$5,234,747 |
| Regional AHEC Offices | | \$3,792,058 |
| Program Office | | \$2,601,705 |
| South Carolina Office for Healthcare Workforce | | \$950,000 |
| Rural Physician Incentive Program | | \$917,287 |
| | Total State Funding | \$13,495,797 |
| Federal Grants Awarded to SC AHEC | | Amount |
| AHEC Point of Service Maintenance & Enhancement Award, POSME (HRSA Grant) | | \$646,856 |
| Behavioral Health Loan Repayment Program (HRSA Grant) | | \$255,555 |
| POSME Supplement Funding (HRSA Grant) | | \$172,894 |
| | Total Federal Funding | \$1,075,305 |
| Other Funding (Contracts, Direct Grants, Subawards on Others' Grants, etc.) | | Amount |
| Rural Physician Program/Rural Dentist Program (DHHS Contract) | | \$888,514 |
| SC's Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities (SC Office of Rural Health Grant) | | \$180,286 |
| Rural Dentist Loan Repayment Program (MUSC Contract) | | \$176,101 |
| Office for Telehealth Education (MUSC Center for Telehealth Contract) | | \$100,000 |
| Delta Dental of South Carolina (Direct Grant) | | \$50,000 |
| Results-Based Accountability (SCHA Grant) | | \$33,497 |
| Health Occupations Providing Excellence in Workforce Wellness & Resilience (USC Grant) | | \$29,135 |
| Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Fellowship Program Exploratory Workgroup (BlueCross® BlueShield® of South Carolina Foundation* - Direct Grant) | | \$15,137 |
| DPH Office of Primary Care Projects (DPH Contract) | | \$9,694 |
| | Total Other Funding | \$1,482,364 |
| Total Funding for FY24 | | \$16,053,466 |



* The BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Foundation is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

Health Careers Program

Connecting Students to Health Careers

The South Carolina AHEC Health Careers Program (HCP) supports high school and college students on their paths to becoming healthcare professionals, building a future healthcare workforce that will reflect the diverse range of communities it serves in South Carolina.

Why It Matters

A more representative health workforce provides more career opportunities for more individuals and also improves access to care, reduces health disparities, and improves patient outcomes through more productive patient/clinician relationships.



During the last fiscal year, the AHEC Health Careers Program achieved:

15,774

total contact hours of programming delivered to 1,019 high school and college students

52%

of HCP students identified as Black, Indigenous and/or People of Color*

52%

of HCP students were from rural areas

1,104

hours of job shadowing completed by HCP students

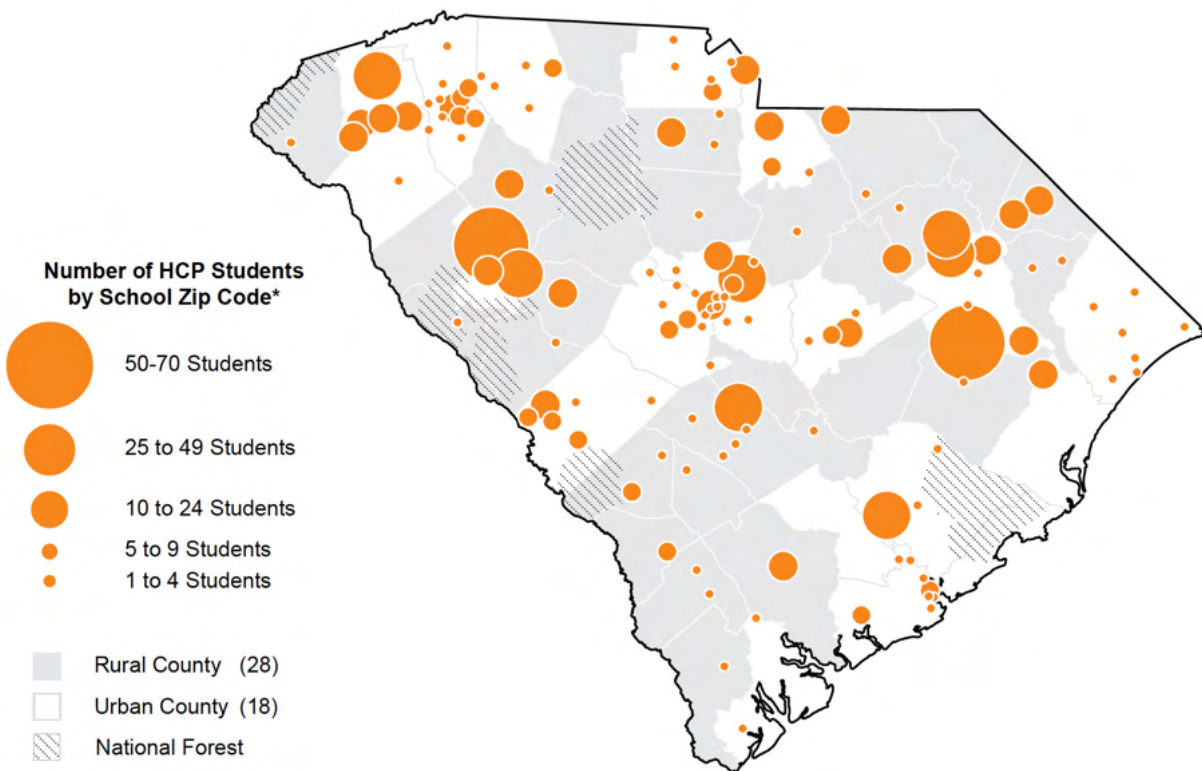
* Percent of total students for whom race/ethnicity data was available/provided.



View the Health Careers Program (HCP) webpage



SC AHEC Health Careers Program (HCP) Students Served across South Carolina in FY24



Note: *Data show the unique number of Health Careers Program participants in FY2024 (7/1/2023-6/30/2024), by students' secondary school zip code. If secondary school zip code was missing, post-secondary school zip code was used. If that was missing, home zip code was used (n=77). Map excludes 16 out-of-state records and 7 records that were missing zip code. Sources: HCP data from South Carolina AHEC. Rural definition from the U.S. Census Bureau, Geography Division, <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/geography/guidance/geo-areas/urban-rural.html>. Rural counties are those counties where 50% or more of the population lives outside an urban area, based on the 2020 Census counts (updated 9/2023). Administrative Forest Boundaries (Feature Layer) from the USDA Forest Service FSGeodata Clearinghouse, accessed 2/2/2022. Produced by: South Carolina Office for Healthcare Workforce, a division of South Carolina AHEC.

Exploring and Learning about Health Career Options



Brevie H.

Lowcountry AHEC HCP Student

“Through Lowcountry AHEC’s Summer Internship Program, I gained invaluable experience in a hospital setting, particularly in acute care. I had the opportunity to shadow a physical therapist, physician assistant, and orthopedic surgeon. This diverse exposure allowed me to see patient care in its entirety - from preoperative consultations to observing surgeries, and finally, to witnessing the start of rehabilitation services with a physical therapist. As a sophomore with aspirations for medical school, I am proud to add these 40+ hours of shadowing to my resume, showcasing my dedication to pursuing a career in medicine. I am deeply grateful for this opportunity, as it has both solidified and advanced my commitment to becoming a physician while also allowing me to connect with a physician for future shadowing experiences.”

“I loved shadowing the PTs (ProMotion Rehab). I am so grateful I had the opportunity and believe that it shifted my opinion. I really want to be a physical therapist when I grow up and I am so happy that AHEC showed me that path.”

Sheena P.

Pee Dee AHEC HCP Student



Health Professions Student Program

Connecting Students to Communities

The South Carolina AHEC Health Professions Student (HPS) Program provides community-based training experiences, exposing students to the opportunities of working in rural and underserved areas of South Carolina.

Why It Matters

Evidence shows when health professions students are exposed to training experiences in rural/underserved areas during their education, they are more likely to ultimately practice in a rural/underserved area.



During the last fiscal year, the AHEC Health Professions Student Program achieved:

1,113

training site placements for health professions students

30%

of placements in a rural setting

39%

of placements in a medically-underserved setting

35%

of placements in a primary care setting

303

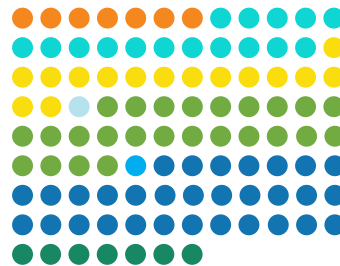
clinical preceptors at 176 community-based training sites

Project Feature: AHEC Scholars

The South Carolina AHEC Scholars Program prepares health professions students for interprofessional primary care practice and service to rural and underserved populations by providing: a dedicated two-year curriculum; training opportunities via team-based clinical fieldwork placements; focused training in key areas such as behavioral health integration, social determinants of health and cultural competency; and interprofessional simulation and training activities.

During the last fiscal year, the AHEC Scholars Program included:

103 Scholars in the program, representing 7 professions:



- Medicine - MD (7)
- Medicine - DO (16)
- Nurse Practitioner (15)
- Occupational Therapy (1)
- Pharmacy (25)
- Physical Therapy (1)
- Physician Assistant (31)
- Social Work - MSW (7)

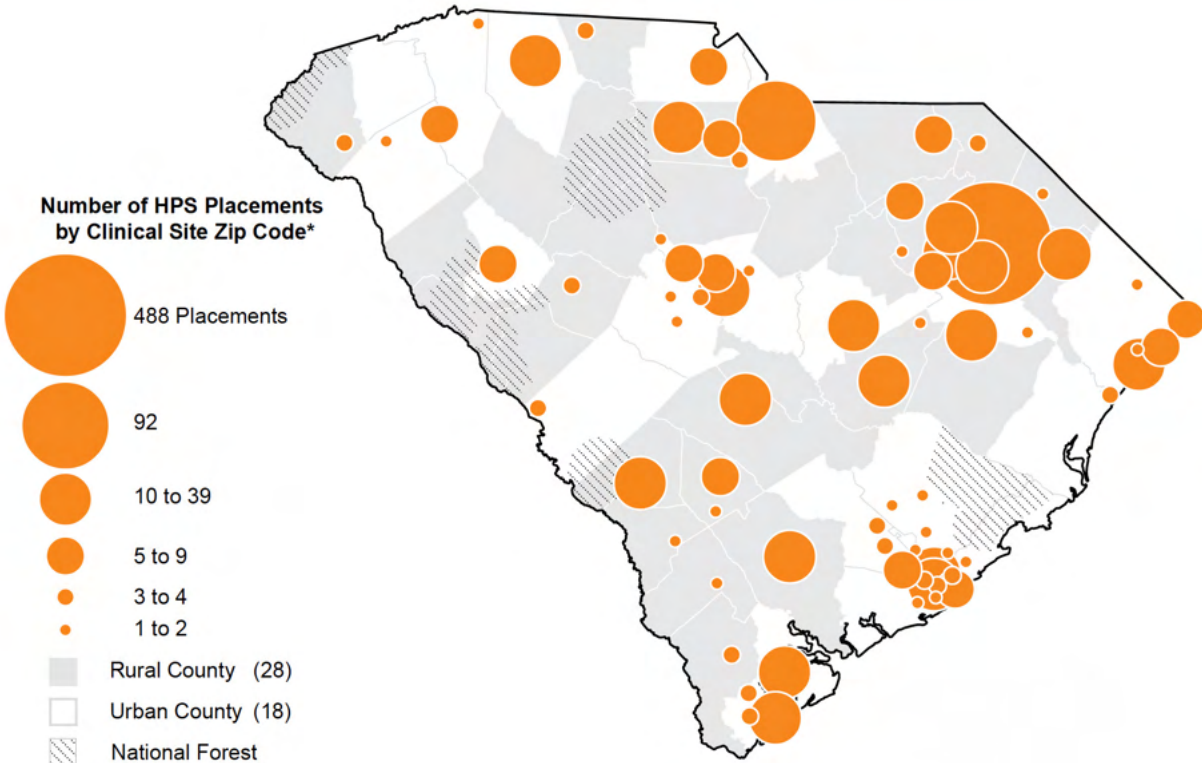
Scholars represented 12 educational institutions:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| A.T. Still University | Presbyterian College |
| Chamberlain University | University of South Carolina |
| Charleston Southern University | VCOM Carolinas Campus |
| Francis Marion University | Walden University |
| Maryville University | Wingate University |
| MUSC | Winthrop University |



View the Health Professions Student Program webpage

SC AHEC Health Professions Student (HPS) Training Assignments Placed Students in Communities across South Carolina



Note: *Data are based on the number of students participating in the SC AHEC HPS Program who performed clinical rotations in state fiscal year 2024 at the sites shown (n=1,113). Circles are located at the zip code centroid (center), may include more than one site, and may not represent actual street location. Map excludes out-of-state student training placements (n=4). Source: Student data from South Carolina AHEC. Rural definition from the U.S. Census Bureau, Geography Division, <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/geography/guidance/geo-areas/urban-rural.html>. Rural counties are those counties where 50% or more of the population lives outside an urbanized area, based on the 2020 Census counts (updated 9/2023). Administrative Forest Boundaries (Feature Layer) from the USDA Forest Service FSGeodata Clearinghouse, accessed 2/2/2022. Produced by: South Carolina Office for Healthcare Workforce, a division of South Carolina AHEC.

Providing Student Housing for Community-Based Rotations



Rebecca Hight, PA
Recent graduate of MUSC
Physician Assistant Program

“I was able to stay in Beaufort during my Emergency Medicine rotation. When I was assigned housing there, I knew that there was going to be five total roommates staying at the apartment with me, all people I have never met before. Especially for someone as outgoing as I am, I knew this was going to be so much fun getting to make new friends. With that being said, I was so surprised to know that the next month was going to be filled with so many memories with people that were once strangers to me.

I was lucky enough to share the AHEC space with a pharmacy student, PT student, another PA student, and another student from MUSC from the anesthesia program. Every night we would sit at the dinner table, eat dinner, study, and decompress about our days. It was so fun to hear about everyone’s experiences and how even though we are all in different paths of medicine, we can also relate to one another and learn from each other. We were able to ask each other questions and to learn more about topics that we needed more help on, make so many memories, as well as lifelong friendships that I hope to last a very long time. As mentioned before, I am so grateful for the opportunity to not only have had great housing, but also, to have met such wonderful and passionate colleagues that I can all call some of my closest friends!”

Graduate Medical Education

Connecting Physicians to Family Medicine Training

South Carolina AHEC works collaboratively with all of the family medicine residency programs in the state to facilitate recruitment for high-quality training in family medicine for South Carolina.

Why It Matters

Family medicine physicians provide lifelong care for the entire family, making them an important asset for the health of communities, especially in rural areas where they can practice comprehensive, full-scope medicine.



During the last fiscal year, programming for SC family medicine residencies achieved:

50

medical students attended SC Family Medicine Interest Day

10

medical schools represented by Family Medicine Interest Day student attendees

1,288

contact hours of training accrued by residents in the AHEC Learning Portal (ALP)

48

residents participating in training via the AHEC Learning Portal (ALP)

SC AHEC Family Medicine Summer Programming



Chief Residents Workshop

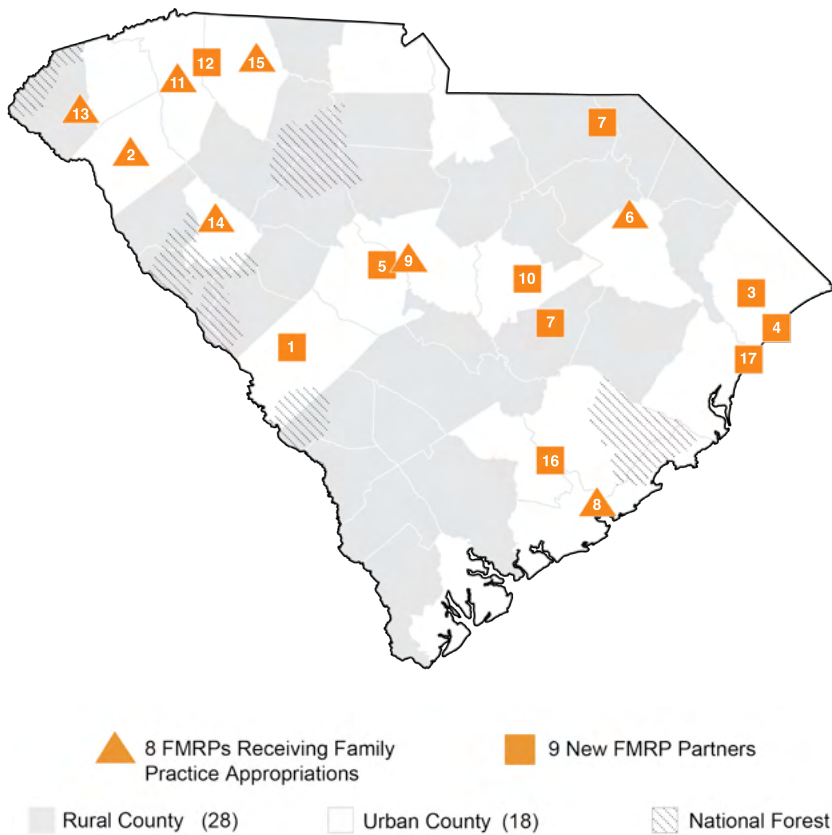


South Carolina's State Booth Block at the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) National Conference



South Carolina Family Medicine Interest Day

Family Medicine Residency Programs (FMRPs) in South Carolina



- 1 Aiken Regional Medical Centers
- ▲ 2 AnMed
- 3 Conway Medical Center
- 4 Grand Strand Health
- 5 Lexington Medical Center/USC SOMC
- ▲ 6 McLeod Health
- 7 McLeod Health Rural
- ▲ 8 MUSC Health
- ▲ 9 Prisma Health Midlands/USC SOMC Columbia
- 10 Prisma Health Midlands/USC SOMC Sumter
- ▲ 11 Prisma Health Upstate/USC SOMG Greenville
- 12 Prisma Health Upstate/USC SOMG Greer
- ▲ 13 Prisma Health Upstate/USC SOMG Seneca
- ▲ 14 Self Regional Healthcare Greenwood
- ▲ 15 Spartanburg Medical Center
- 16 Summerville Medical Center
- 17 Tidelands Health MUSC

Note: Seventeen Family Medicine Residency Programs included based on residency program city. McLeod Health Rural FMRP has two locations (Cheraw & Manning). Rural definition from the U.S. Census Bureau, Geography Division, <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/geography/guidance/geo-areas/urban-rural.html>. Rural counties are those counties where 50% or more of the population lives outside an urban area, based on the 2020 Census counts (updated 9/2023). Administrative Forest Boundaries (Feature Layer) from the USDA Forest Service FSGeodata Clearinghouse, accessed 2/2/2022.

Supporting Recruitment for South Carolina’s FMRPs



“When applying to family medicine residency programs, I knew I wanted to match within South Carolina. Attending SC Family Medicine Interest Day gave me the opportunity to speak with programs with which I might not have otherwise had the opportunity to interact, and it ultimately helped me decide which programs to apply to and how to rank them. I still refer to the information provided in the hands-on workshops, and I also enjoyed networking with other students who were applying to family medicine residency programs. This was a valuable experience which played a key role in my residency application process!”

Makayla Swygert, MD

PGY-1 Resident
Prisma Health Upstate/USC SOMG - Greenville Family Medicine Residency Program



View the
Graduate Medical
Education
webpage

Participant Testimonials



Ashley Dunston, MSW

Recent graduate of the USC
College of Social Work

“I would like to share my heartfelt testimony about my journey through the AHEC Scholars program. When I first enrolled, I was facing significant challenges that made it difficult to focus on my studies. Life issues weighed heavily on me, and there were moments when I doubted my ability to complete the program. Not to mention, COVID 19 happened, which further delayed my completion.

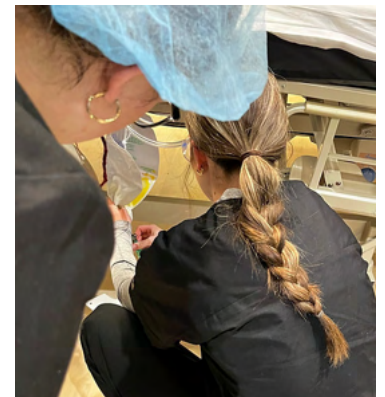
However, the support I received from the HPS staff at Upstate AHEC was truly transformative. They were not only understanding but also committed to helping me navigate through my struggles. Their encouragement and guidance made a world of difference; they provided me with resources and strategies to manage my time and stress effectively.

With their help, I found the strength to push through the tough times. I learned to balance my responsibilities and prioritize my education, ultimately completing the program successfully. I am incredibly grateful to Upstate AHEC HPS for their unwavering support and belief in my potential. Their dedication made this achievement possible, and I am now more confident in my abilities as I move forward in life. Thank you for believing in me!”

“I started the Health Careers Academy program my sophomore year and it has been an extremely rewarding opportunity! I first heard of it my freshman year of high school, but due to fear of having too many extracurriculars I did not join. Today, I deeply regret it since I have expanded my medical knowledge so much since I started the program. Additionally, I have had so many connections and access to different opportunities through it. It truly has been an amazing opportunity that I feel students interested in the medical field should highly take advantage of since it is fun and enriching.”

Madelyn M-P.

Mid-Carolina AHEC HCP Participant



“The partnership with the Lowcountry Area Health Education Center and our College of Nursing has been instrumental in the success of the Palliative Care Advanced Practice Provider Externship. This week-long immersion course, tailored for novice and experienced APRNs and PAs, offers an exceptional opportunity to gain hands-on clinical experience, develop leadership skills, and deepen knowledge in palliative care. The support from AHEC has enhanced our ability to provide continuing education, expanded our reach through improved marketing, and ensured that participants benefit from the expertise of well-known faculty and established community connections. This collaboration has truly elevated the quality and impact of the Externship and experience for the participants.”

Carrie L. Cormack, DNP, CPNP, FPCN, FAAN

Distinguished Professor in Palliative Care, Associate Professor, Palliative Care Lead
MUSC College of Nursing



“It is difficult for me to give a testimonial for a particular time period because I have utilized the services of Pee Dee AHEC since about 1984. Since that time, I have both attended training programs and, over the past ten years, have had the opportunity to share my knowledge and experience as a presenter. Each event has been organized and the content has provided timely information to better understand complex health problems. Now, forty years later, I continue to benefit from the services provided by Pee Dee AHEC and appreciate their commitment to providing evidence-based education to the healthcare community.

Most recently, I attended the “Brighter Days” conference in May 2024, which brought together professionals working across the spectrum of mental health, to learn about and work to prevent youth suicide. This conference was helpful for me specifically, because I was able to hear from people outside of my organization. There were other community service agencies, emergency services, law enforcement, and school personnel, just to mention a few. I was excited to discover the support measures already in place across the Pee Dee, and after hearing personal stories of loss, challenged to find my place in advancing protective measures.”

Gaye M. Douglas, DNP, MEd, APRN-BC

Family Nurse Practitioner

Pediatric Mental Health Provider, Pee Dee Mental Health Center

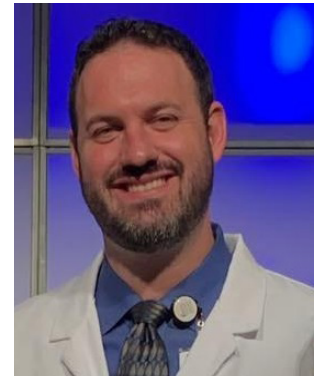
Building and Supporting the Healthcare Workforce South Carolina Needs

“South Carolina AHEC doesn’t just fill healthcare gaps; they create a bridge to a healthier future for our communities. By nurturing and placing dedicated professionals in underserved areas, they transform lives, ensuring that even the most remote regions receive the care and attention they deserve.”

Matthew S. Whitley, PA-S

MUSC Physician Assistant Student

Class of 2024



“I am a fourth year medical student pursuing family medicine and entering my second year of the AHEC Scholar Program. Thus far, this program has helped me build a solid foundation in topics such as social determinants of health, public health, patient education. Through AHEC, I have also had the opportunity to interact with other healthcare professional students across the state and learn more about their points of view. This interprofessional education will serve me well in my future career while working with underserved and rural patient populations.”

Ryann Shealy

MUSC College of Medicine Student

Class of 2025

Recruitment & Retention Programs

Connecting Health Professionals to Communities

South Carolina AHEC's Recruitment & Retention Programs utilize financial incentives to build an effective healthcare workforce to address the maldistribution of clinicians in rural and underserved areas of South Carolina.

Why It Matters

Research shows that financial incentives are effective at encouraging and supporting practitioners to live and work in rural and/or underserved areas. Increasing the availability of healthcare providers in these communities provides more access to care and better health for South Carolina.



During the last fiscal year, AHEC Recruitment & Retention Programs achieved:

94

total providers active in the Rural Provider Incentive Program

90%

retention rate for current Rural Provider Incentive Program participants

25

total dentists active in the Rural Dentist Loan Repayment Program

17

total professionals in the new Behavioral Health Loan Repayment Program

New Program Participants for FY24

Rural Provider Incentive Program

- 18 advanced practice nurses
- 10 physicians
- 1 physician assistant

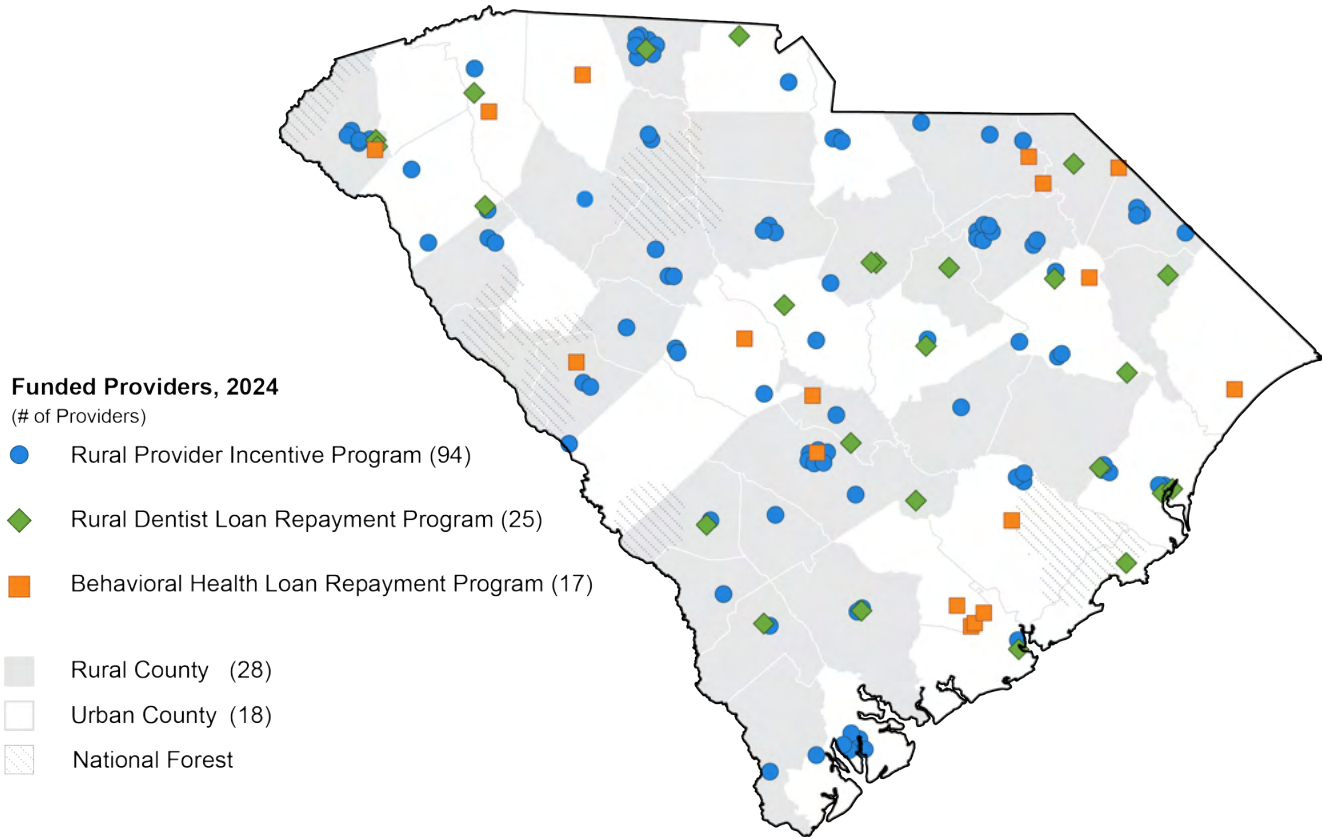
Rural Dentist Loan Repayment Program

- 11 community dentists
- 1 dental faculty at the MUSC College of Dental Medicine

Behavioral Health Loan Repayment Program

- 11 licensed professional counselors
- 3 licensed clinical social workers
- 2 nurse practitioners
- 1 physician

South Carolina Rural Provider Incentive Program, Rural Dentist Loan Repayment Program and Behavioral Health Loan Repayment Program Participants, FY24



Note: Information is based on the provider's current practice zip code in 2024. Symbols are randomly scattered within the zip code area and may not indicate a precise address. Source: Rural Incentive Grant Program recipient data from South Carolina AHEC. Rural definition from the U.S. Census Bureau, Geography Division, <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/geography/guidance/geo-areas/urban-rural.html>. Rural counties are those counties where 50% or more of the population lives outside an urban area, based on the 2020 Census counts (updated 9/2023). Administrative Forest Boundaries (Feature Layer) from the USDA Forest Service FSGeodata Clearinghouse, accessed 2/2/2022. Produced by: South Carolina Office for Healthcare Workforce, a division of SC AHEC.

Supporting Health Professionals in Rural Practice



Dr. Blake Holt
 Dentist practicing in Camden, SC

“Being a part of this program has both directly and indirectly helped me to financially succeed in working as a rural dentist in South Carolina.

This program has directly helped me by helping me to afford my student loan payments. It really helps me to reduce stress and focus on treating my patients.

This program has indirectly assisted me by helping me to realize that having Medicaid as a part of your practice can also be financially rewarding. In the last 3 years we have doubled our production and Medicaid has really helped my young practice to grow and stay busy.”

Loan repayment program funding supported by a grant from Delta Dental of South Carolina.



View the
 Recruitment
 & Retention
 Programs
 webpage

Continuing Professional Development

Connecting Professionals to Training and Education

South Carolina AHEC Continuing Professional Development Programs enhance clinical skills, address ongoing and emerging health trends and help professionals maintain their licensure and certifications.

Why It Matters

AHEC continuing education programs provide a local and low-cost approach to the education needed for health professionals to maintain their licensure and certifications and practice high-quality healthcare.



During the last fiscal year, AHEC Continuing Professional Development Programs achieved:

7,532

professionals participated in SC AHEC continuing professional development programs

86,175

contact hours of continuing education accrued by participants in SC and beyond

14,248

registrations from professionals in medically-underserved communities

3,214

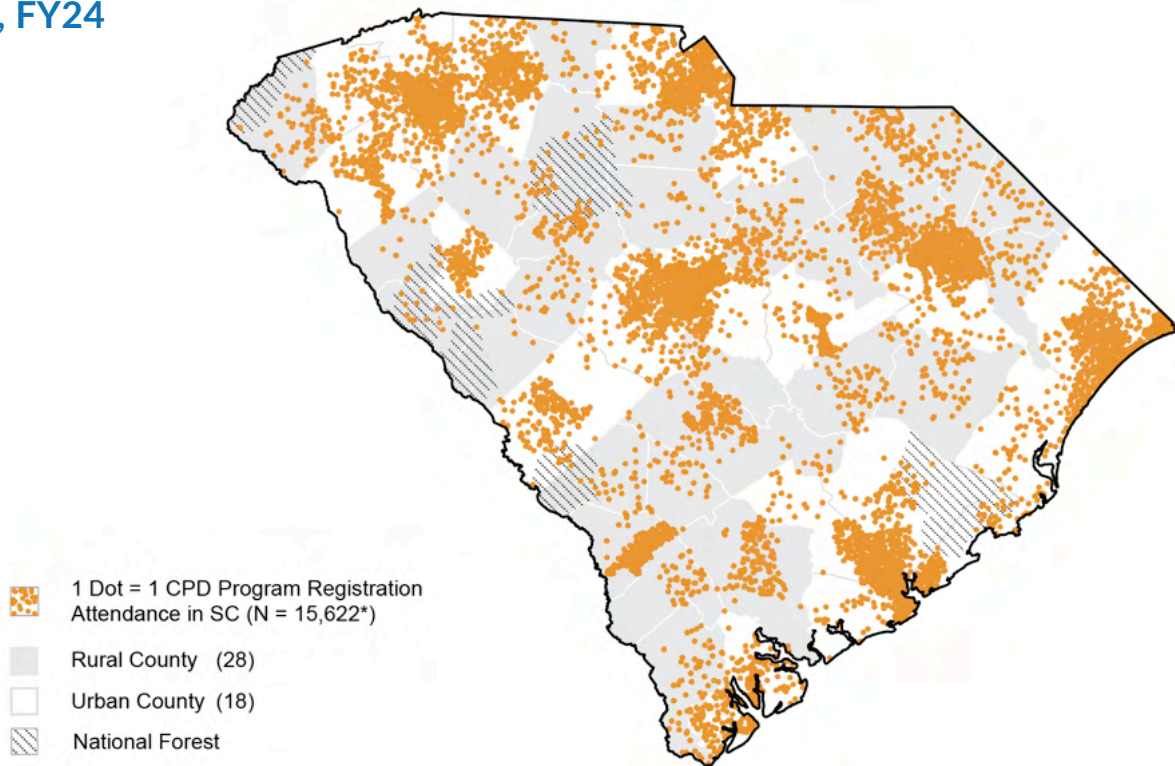
registrations from professionals in rural communities



View the Continuing Professional Development webpage



SC AHEC Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Program Registrations by Zip Code, FY24



Note: *Data show the number of continuing professional development program registrations/attendances provided in FY2024 (7/1/2023-6/30/2024), by individuals' self-reported practice zip code. Dots are scattered randomly within the zip code area and show 15,622 records within South Carolina. Map excludes 1,011 out-of-state records and 2,357 records that were missing a zip code. Sources: CPD data from South Carolina AHEC. Rural definition from the U.S. Census Bureau, Geography Division, <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/geography/guidance/geo-areas/urban-rural.html>. Rural counties are those counties where 50% or more of the population lives outside an urban area, based on the 2020 Census counts (updated 9/2023). Administrative Forest Boundaries (Feature Layer) from the USDA Forest Service FSGeodata Clearinghouse, accessed 2/2/2022. Produced by: South Carolina Office for Healthcare Workforce, a division of South Carolina AHEC.

Supporting Health Professionals in the Provision of High-Quality Care



Photo of New Morning staff

“New Morning has worked with Mid-Carolina AHEC for 6 years. Our work with Mid-Carolina has picked up over the past two years with the launch of our webinar series and the relaunch of our annual in-person conference. Hope and Rebecca from Mid-Carolina AHEC have been instrumental in our efforts to provide different continuing education opportunities to individuals serving patients in SC. They are always available for our (many) questions and are incredibly helpful and organized. Mid-Carolina AHEC is a vital partner of New Morning and our training program.”

Kate Lenze, MPH, Sarah Palmer, and Talae White, MSW
New Morning Training Team

“I attended the “Tall Cop” (Jermaine Galloway) presentation on “High in Plain Sight” that was offered by Upstate AHEC. I found it incredible to hear all the information Galloway shared from the research he has done across America. The Tall Cop also provided local information on what is happening in my area. He truly opened my eyes to current and upcoming drug trends. I encourage all first responders and medical personnel to attend or seek out the knowledge that he provides. This will aid your community, employer and you in the respective capacity that you serve.”

Master Deputy J R Brown
Greenville County Sheriff's Office
Crime Prevention Specialist



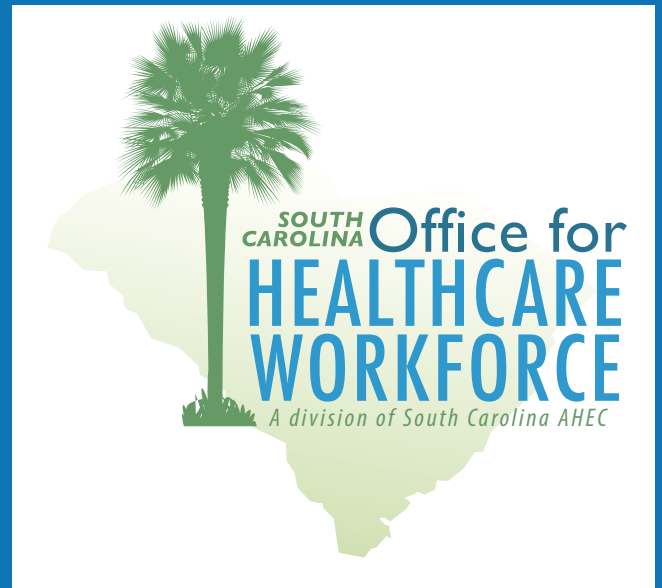
SC Office for Healthcare Workforce

Supporting Effective Healthcare Workforce Planning in South Carolina

The South Carolina Office for Healthcare Workforce (SCOHW), a division of South Carolina AHEC, studies issues that affect the balance of supply and demand for different types of healthcare professionals across the state. Its primary mission is to develop accurate, reliable information about the healthcare workforce in South Carolina and to make that information widely available to support planning and policy decisions.

Why It Matters

Policymakers and other stakeholders need objective, timely and reliable information with which to make data-driven decisions about healthcare — including the healthcare workforce — that impact the health of all South Carolinians.



During the last fiscal year, the SC Office for Healthcare Workforce achieved:

46

data requests fulfilled

12

state and national presentations

108,174

licensed health professionals included in the data analyzed by SCOHW

598

SC Health Professions Data Books mailed to partners around the state

New! Dedicated Nursing Workforce Unit

Increased state funding beginning in FY24 enabled SCOHW to establish a dedicated research unit to study the nursing workforce in South Carolina.

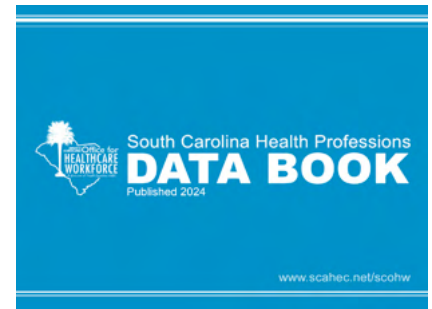
The research unit will work with nursing education programs, nurse employers, practicing nurses, community partners and other stakeholders to conduct comprehensive analysis and disseminate objective, reliable information to support planning and policy decisions.



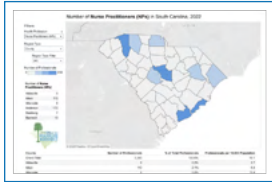
SCOHW Director Katie Gaul speaks at the Nursing Advisory Network Meeting in June.

2024 South Carolina Health Professions Data Book

The data book compiles existing information on licensed health professionals, population characteristics, healthcare facilities and health indicators from a variety of sources into a single repository of information. Use this easily-accessible resource for local, county and statewide planning to address healthcare needs and access issues.



New in this Data Book Edition



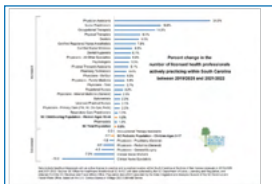
Online Data Visualization

New with this year's data book is a companion data visualization. This online tool enables you to interact with and download the county and region health professions data for easier analysis.

| Profession | Total | Per 10,000 | Percent of State Total |
|--------------------------|-------|------------|------------------------|
| Physician | 12 | 2.7 | 0.2% |
| Nurse Practitioner | 13 | 2.7 | 0.2% |
| Physician Assistant | 28 | 6.0 | 0.4% |
| Podiatrist | 1 | 0.2 | 0.0% |
| Chiropractor | 1 | 0.2 | 0.0% |
| Acupuncture Practitioner | 247 | 51.9 | 3.3% |

Data Points

This year's edition also includes two new data points: percent of state total and per 10,000 population metrics. This information is available for each profession within each county and region. These useful data points help contextualize the proportion of health professionals for a given area and whether it aligns with the population there.



Percent Change of Health Professionals

The 2024 Data Book brings back information on the percent change in the number of health professionals actively practicing in South Carolina. This table and chart show the 2-year total change, percent change, and change in per 10,000 population ratios for each profession.

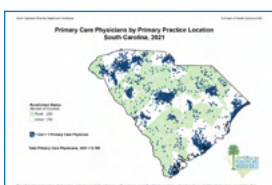
Available in Every Data Book Edition

Data Pages

Data pages for the whole state, each county, and select regions in South Carolina: The data include information about licensed health professions, population characteristics, healthcare facilities, and health indicators.

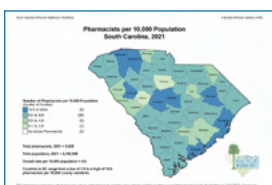
Total Healthcare Provider Counts by County

Summary tables, by profession: While the rest of the data reported in the Data Book are based on primary practice location, these tables show the additional number of health professionals that may be practicing at least part-time in those counties for a more comprehensive count of health professionals.



Dot Density Maps

Dot density maps for licensed health professionals: These maps show the distribution of health professionals by their primary practice location zip code.



Shaded Maps

Shaded county-level maps: These maps show the distribution of health professionals relative to the population based on self-reported primary practice locations.

View the data book, reports, briefs, visualizations and more on the SCOHW webpage

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