

# **Ensuring the Health Care Workforce Can Meet Future Demand**

April 14, 2011

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# **Impact of the Affordable Care Act on Demand for Health Professionals**

# Impact of the Affordable Care Act on Demand for Health Care Services

- Persons with health insurance use more health care services than persons who are uninsured
- Greatest differences in
  - Physician visits
  - Prescription drugs
  - Preventive services
  - Disease management services

# Number of Doctor Visits in Past Year, California, 2009

	0 Doctor Visits	1 or more Doctor Visits
Uninsured	44%	56%
Medi-Cal, Healthy Families, or Other Public Coverage	16%	84%
Privately Purchased Insurance	20%	80%
Employment-based Insurance	12%	88%
Medicare (alone or plus Medi-Cal or supplemental)	7%	93%

Source: California Health Interview Survey, 2009

# Additional Health Workforce Challenges

- Aging population and health care workforce
- Shortages in some health professions
- Geographic maldistribution of health professionals
- Need for more racial/ethnic diversity, cultural competence, and bilingual health professionals
- Constraints on capacity of educational programs
- Increase in length of education in some fields
- Scope of practice laws
- Reimbursement policies
- The recession

# **The Affordable Care Act and Health Workforce Development**

# Affordable Care Act Provisions Regarding Physician Reimbursement

- Increase in **Medicaid** fee-for-service reimbursement for primary care physicians to Medicare rates
  - States will receive 100% federal matching funds
  - ***Only authorized for 2013 and 2014***
- **Medicare** bonus payments of 10% for primary care providers
  - Also includes physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and clinical nurse specialists, as well as physicians
  - ***Only authorized from 2011 through 2015***
- **Medicare** bonus payments of 10% for general surgeons in health professional shortage areas
  - ***Only authorized from 2011 through 2015***

# The ACA Authorizes Funding for Educating Multiple Types of Health Professionals

- Physicians
- Registered Nurses (including Advanced Practice)
- Physician Assistants
- Pharmacists
- Allied Health Professionals
- Mental Health Professionals
- Dental Health Professionals
- Public Health Professionals
- Direct Care Workers



# Health Workforce Development Provisions of the Affordable Care Act

- Health workforce needs assessment and action plans
- Changes Medicare graduate medical education (GME) payments to expand training in primary care and ambulatory settings
- Reauthorizes existing scholarship & loan repayment programs and creates new ones
- Reauthorizes existing and creates new grant programs to health professions schools
  - Increase supply in high priority professions
  - Improve racial/ethnic diversity
  - Prepare professionals for practice in underserved areas

# Affordable Care Act Grant for Health Workforce Planning Awarded to California

- In the fall of 2010, California received a \$150,000 grant for health workforce planning funded through the ACA
- Grant awarded to the Workforce Investment Board in partnership with the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development
- Grant used to establish the Health Workforce Development Council which is:
  - Assessing California's current and future health workforce needs
  - Developing a comprehensive strategy to meet those needs
- Council members represent a wide range of stakeholders  
[http://www.cwib.ca.gov/special\\_committees/healthcare\\_reform/member\\_roster](http://www.cwib.ca.gov/special_committees/healthcare_reform/member_roster)

# ACA Grants for Health Professions Education Awarded in California

Program	Total Funding to California
Primary Care Residency Expansion	\$18,240,000
Health Professions Education for Low-income Persons	\$5,000,000
Physician Assistant Education	\$4,053,808
Nursing Education in Nurse Managed Clinics	\$2,956,686
Public Health Training Centers	\$1,947,694
Advanced Practice Nurse Education – Increase Full-time Students	\$1,056,000
Personal and Home Care Aide State Training Program	\$749,960

Sources: Administration for Children & Families, Health Resources & Services Administration

# Expansion of the National Health Service Corps

“By the end of FY2011, we expect that over 10,800 clinicians will be caring for more than 11 million people, more than tripling the National Health Service Corps since 2008.”

National Health Service Corps Director Rebecca Spitzgo

Source: Health Resources & Services Administration press release, November 22, 2010

# Appropriations vs. Authorizations

- The National Health Service Corps is the only health workforce program for which the ACA explicitly *appropriated* funds
- Funding for all other health workforce programs are only *authorized*
- Vulnerable to efforts to cut non-defense domestic discretionary spending

# Acknowledgements

- The California Program on Access to Care, a program of UC Berkeley, School of Public Health, commissioned this paper.
- Editorial advisors included: Kevin Barnett, Katherine Flores, Serena Kirk, Robert Montoya, Perfecto Munoz, Jeff Oxendine, Cathryn Nation, Martin Radosevich, Pedro Salcido.
- Particular thanks goes to Donna Fox, CPAC's staff editor and Mike Smith, Fenton Communications.