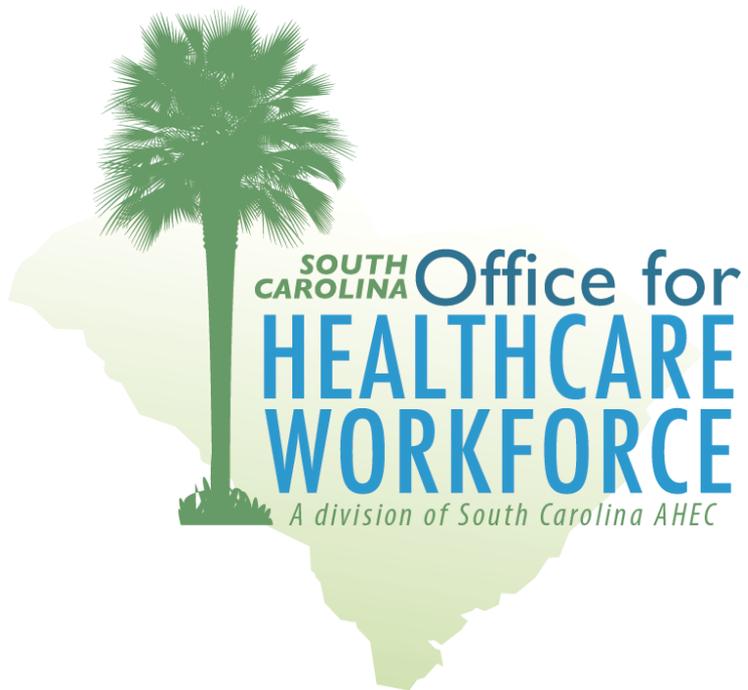




# Tracking South Carolina's Healthcare Workforce

Carolinas Pandemic Task Force | February 28, 2022

# The South Carolina Office for Healthcare Workforce



The South Carolina Office for Healthcare Workforce **studies the issues that affect the balance of supply and demand for different types of healthcare professionals** in South Carolina.

# Knowledge vs. Preparedness

### The Licensed Practical Nurse Workforce in South Carolina - 2016

December 2016

South Carolina Office for Healthcare Workforce

### Recent Changes in the Balance of Generations Within the RN Workforce in South Carolina

December 2017 Data Brief

December 2017 Data Brief

### Growth and Decline in Selected Healthcare Occupations Active in the South Carolina Workforce: 2016-2017

### April 6, 2020 | Data Brief

### A Snapshot of the Healthcare Workforce Addressing COVID-19 in South Carolina

South Carolina Office for Healthcare Workforce (OHW) within the South Carolina AHEC Program offers data and information on healthcare professionals to support planning and policy decisions. South Carolina has more than 150,000 physicians, nurses and other healthcare workers available to serve the state's COVID-19 response (Table 1). This brief provides a snapshot of selected data and policy examples to address questions relating to the workforce needed to address COVID-19 in the state.

#### Number of selected healthcare workers in South Carolina and the United States

| Type of provider                    | SC            | US             |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| <b>Physicians (MDs and DOs) *1</b>  |               |                |
| Anesthesiology                      | 652           | 41,762         |
| Emergency medicine                  | 841           | 42,348         |
| Geriatric medicine                  | 62            | 5,598          |
| Infectious disease                  | 70            | 9,136          |
| Ob/Gyn                              | 608           | 41,856         |
| Primary care *2                     | 3,876         | 292,829        |
| Pulmonary disease and critical care | 223           | 16,824         |
| <b>Total Physicians</b>             | <b>12,741</b> | <b>892,856</b> |
| <b>Nurses</b>                       |               |                |
| Nurse assistants (CNAs) *3          | 20,950        | 1,450,960      |
| Nurse Practitioners (NPs) *4        | 1,091         | 43,520         |
| Pharmacists (PhMs) *5               | 8,800         | 791,890        |
| Podiatrists (POs) *6                | 2,568         | 179,650        |
| Registered nurses (RNs) *7          | 40,365        | 3,957,861      |
| <b>Other professions</b>            |               |                |
| Behavioral Technicians *8           | 4,580         | 321,220        |
| Biomedical Technicians *9           | 5,240         | 257,210        |
| Health Information Technicians *10  | 9,600         | 797,070        |
| Medical assistants *11              | 9,800         | 673,660        |
| Personal care aides *12             | 18,040        | 2,211,950      |
| Pharmacists *13                     | 4,827         | 309,550        |
| Physicians *14                      | 7,009         | 417,860        |
| Physician assistants (PAs) *15      | 1,276         | 114,710        |
| Podiatrists *16                     | 1,216         | 129,600        |
| Psychologists *17                   | 140           | 9,090          |
| Psychiatrists *18                   | 1,230         | 110,490        |
| Therapists *19                      | 100           | 48,520         |
| Therapists *20                      | 30            | 17,534         |
| Therapists *21                      | 539           | 38,205         |
| Therapists *22                      | 2,362         | 284,940        |
| Therapists *23                      | 1,760         | 267,730        |

\*1, \*2, \*3, \*4, \*5, \*6, \*7, \*8, \*9, \*10, \*11, \*12, \*13, \*14, \*15, \*16, \*17, \*18, \*19, \*20, \*21, \*22, \*23: See source notes for details.

### South Carolina Health Professions Data Book

Published 2019

### South Carolina Health Professions DATA BOOK

Published 2021

www.scohw.org

### Key Policy Implications

The state has already implemented some measures to address surge capacity for COVID-19 triage and treatment. Additional measures to consider include:

1. Implement further temporary measures to relax licensing requirements and to relax scope of practice restrictions for non-physician providers.
2. Increase critical care capacity by approving respiratory care students and certain health professionals to work as respiratory care extenders.
3. Approve health professions students to assist in screening, triage and other supervised support roles.
4. Redevelop unfinished healthcare workers to roll facilities in to develop essential resources to use in these different available health care where they are.
5. Develop a clear available health care where they are.
6. Use alternate surgery centers, hospitals, field testing units to address COVID-19 or

### February 2018 Data Brief

### Changes in the Size of the Dentist Workforce in South Carolina: 2008 - 2015

The number of dentists holding a license to practice in South Carolina has increased from 10,000 in 2008 to 12,000 in 2015. This increase was driven by a combination of factors, including an increase in the number of dental schools in the state and an increase in the number of dentists who are practicing in the state.

### South Carolina Nursing Education Programs August, 2015 - July 2016

The number of nursing education programs in South Carolina has increased from 100 in 2015 to 110 in 2016. This increase was driven by a combination of factors, including an increase in the number of nursing schools in the state and an increase in the number of nursing programs in the state.

### January 2018 Data Brief

### Trends in the Size and Distribution of the South Carolina Physician Workforce: 2009-2017

The number of physicians in South Carolina has increased from 10,000 in 2009 to 12,000 in 2017. This increase was driven by a combination of factors, including an increase in the number of medical schools in the state and an increase in the number of physicians who are practicing in the state.

### January 2018 Data Brief

### Trends in the Size and Distribution of the South Carolina Physician Workforce: 2009-2017

The number of physicians in South Carolina has increased from 10,000 in 2009 to 12,000 in 2017. This increase was driven by a combination of factors, including an increase in the number of medical schools in the state and an increase in the number of physicians who are practicing in the state.

### South Carolina Health Professions Data Book

Published 2017

### South Carolina Health Professions Data Book

Published 2010

www.scahec.net/scohw

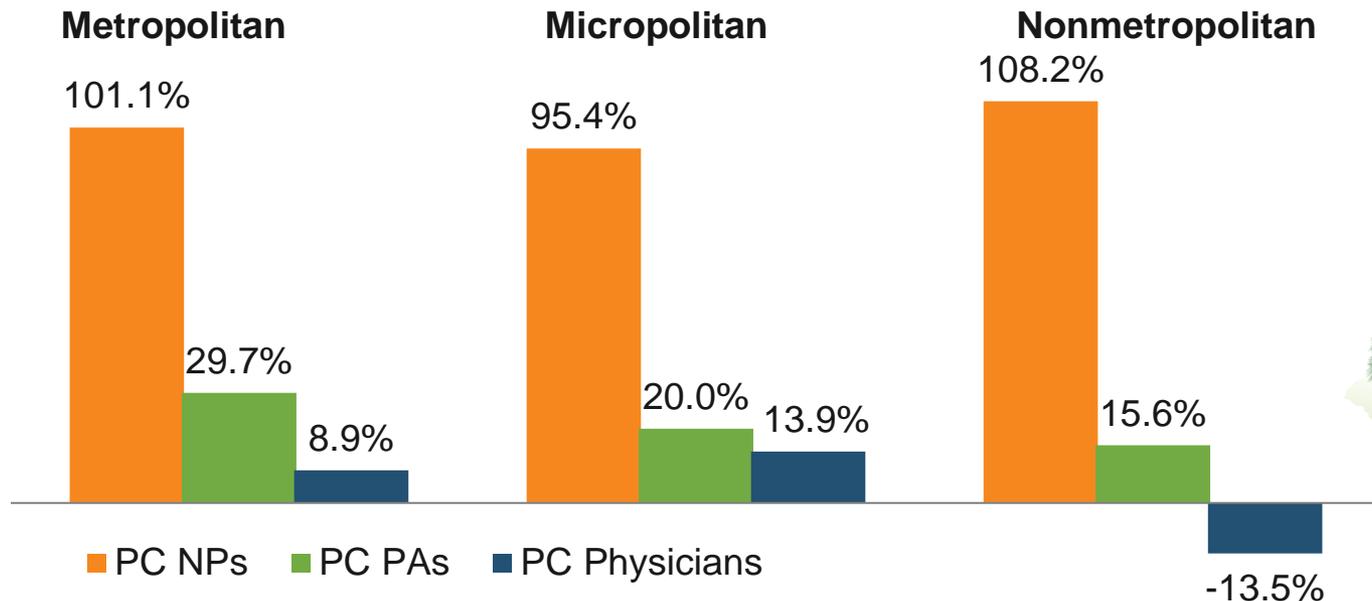
<https://www.scahec.net/scohw/reports>



Building and Supporting the Healthcare Workforce South Carolina Needs

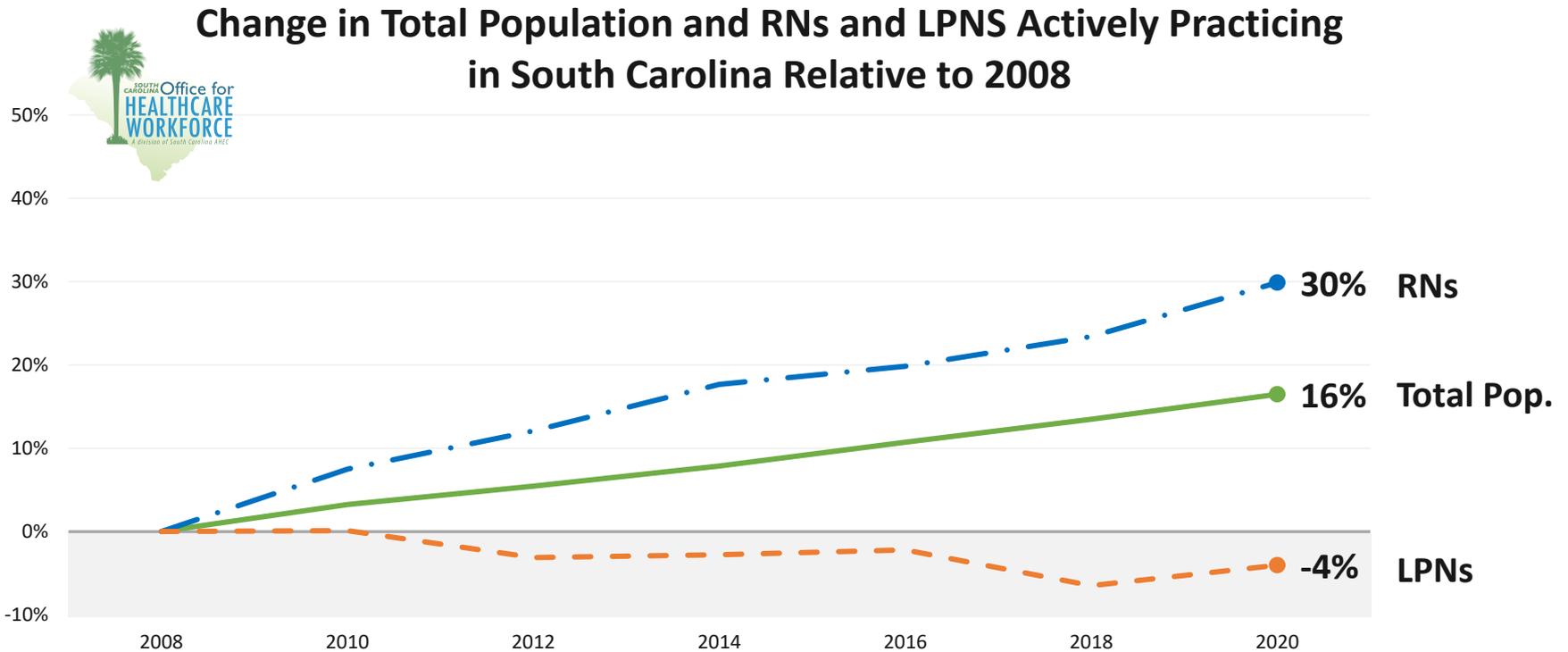
# Trends in the Primary Care Workforce

Percent change in the number of primary care NPs, PAs, and physicians per 10,000 population by MSA region, South Carolina, 2009-2019



Source: SC Office for Healthcare Workforce, 2021; US Census Bureau, 2021. Data include nonfederal NPs, PAs and physicians actively practicing within South Carolina as of their 2009/2019 (physicians and PAs) and 2010/2018 (NPs) renewal periods. Data are based on primary practice location. Primary care physicians and PAs include those indicating a primary specialty area of family medicine, internal medicine, obstetrics/gynecology, or pediatrics. Primary care NPs include those with a specialty area of family NP, adult NP, geriatric NP, ob/gyn NP, women’s health Ns or pediatric NP.

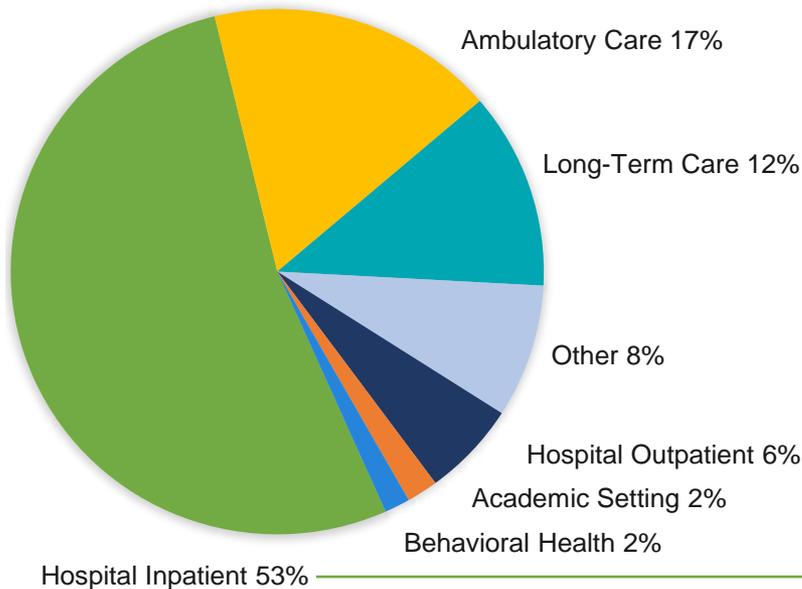
# RNs have grown faster than the state's population



The information in this table includes all licensed practical nurses and registered nurses with an active license to practice and a primary practice location in a nonfederal setting in South Carolina as of two-months after their license lapse date (April 30 of even years, Sept 30, 2020).  
 Nurse data source: South Carolina Office for Healthcare Workforce, South Carolina AHEC, with data collected by the SC Board of Nursing under the SC Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation and obtained from the South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office. Population data source: DHEC SCAN, [https://apps.dhec.sc.gov/Health/SCAN\\_BDP/tables/populationtable.aspx](https://apps.dhec.sc.gov/Health/SCAN_BDP/tables/populationtable.aspx), all ethnicities, both sexes, all ages, 2008-2020.

# Half of RNs are inpatient hospital; three-quarters of those are staff nurses

**Registered nurse primary practice settings, SC, 2020 (N=43,640)**



**Position type of RNs in hospital inpatient settings, SC, 2020 (N=23,078)**

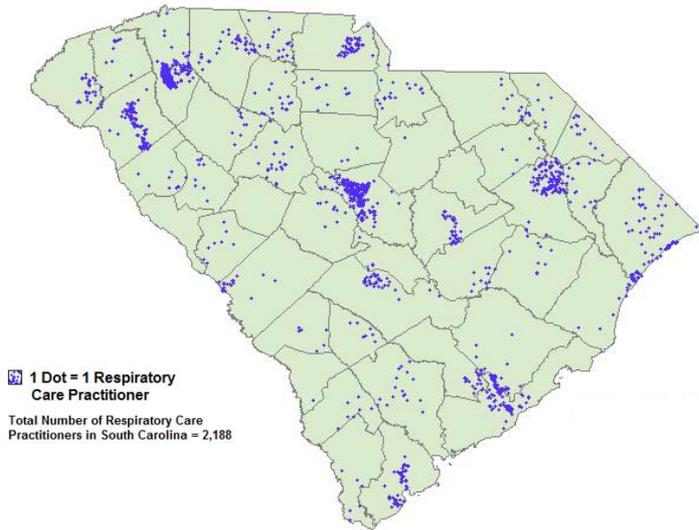
| Type of Position                           | #             | %    |
|--|---------------|------|
| Staff nurse/Direct care/General duty nurse | 18,048        | 78.2 |
| Charge Nurse/Supervisory                   | 1,025         | 4.4  |
| Nurse Manager                              | 963           | 4.2  |
| Care Coordinator/Case Mgr/ Discharge plan. | 653           | 2.8  |
| Quality improvement, Utilization review    | 549           | 2.4  |
| Nurse Executive/Administration             | 430           | 1.9  |
| Other - Health Related (Patient Focus)     | 354           | 1.5  |
| Nurse Educator (inc. In-Service, Prof.)    | 317           | 1.4  |
| All other types of positions               | 739           | 3.2  |
| <b>Total</b>                               | <b>23,078</b> |      |

Data include RNs with an active license to practice and a primary practice location in South Carolina as of two-months after their license lapse date (9/30/20). Nurse data source: South Carolina Office for Healthcare Workforce, South Carolina AHEC, with data collected by the SC Board of Nursing under the SC Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation and obtained from the South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office.

# Same picture, different year

## 2009

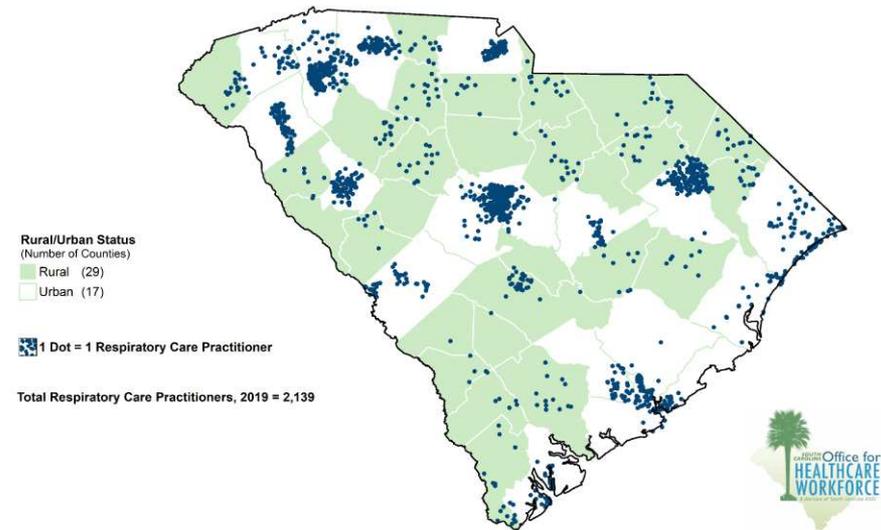
Respiratory Care Practitioners (RCPs) by Primary Practice Location, South Carolina, 2009



This information is based on all Respiratory Care Practitioners with an active license to practice and a practice location in South Carolina as reported during the license renewal period ending 03/15/2009. Locations plotted here are the primary practice zip code locations. Dots are randomly placed within the zip code area and may not represent the street location of the practice.

## 2019

Respiratory Care Practitioners (RCPs) by Primary Practice Location South Carolina, 2019

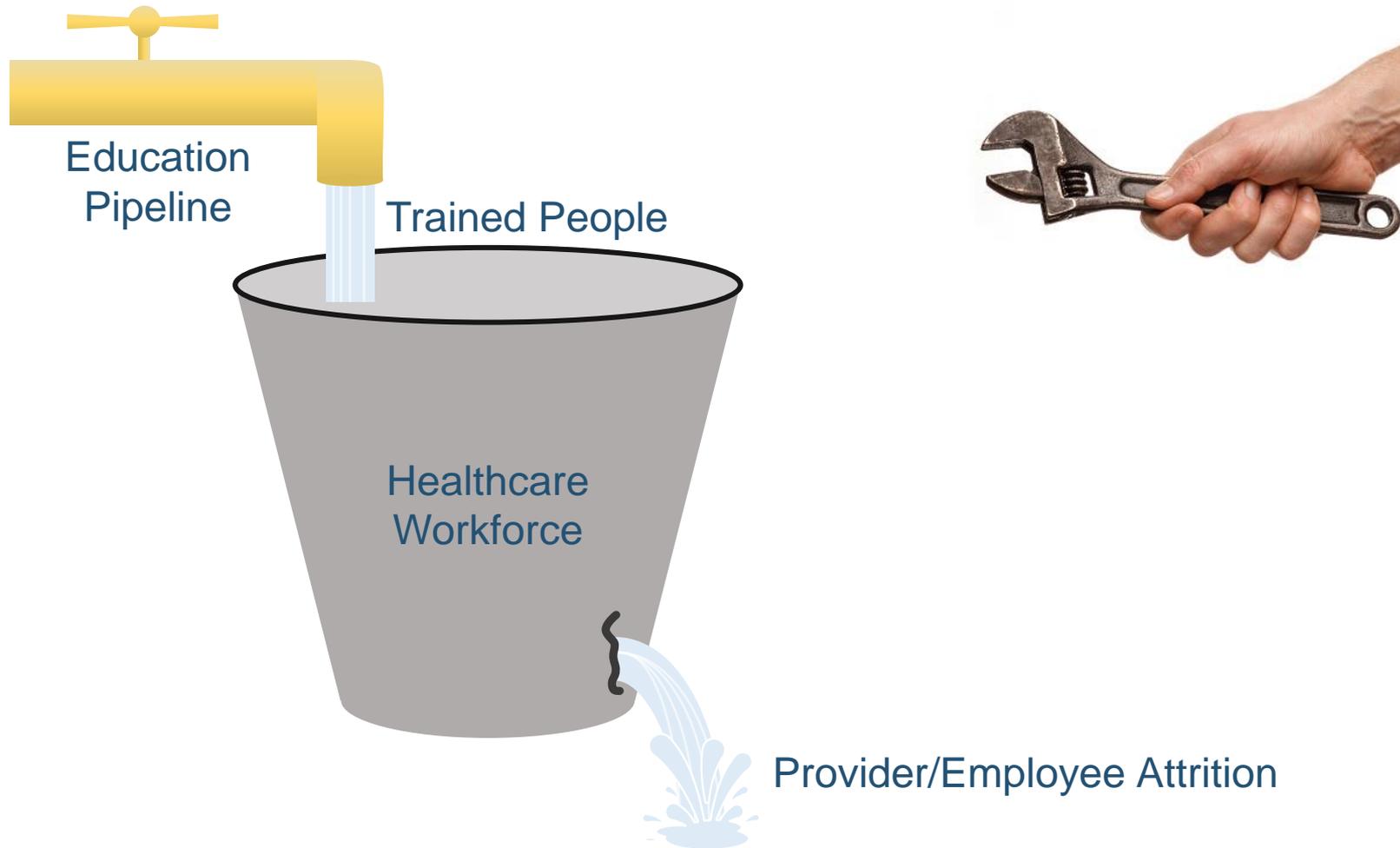


This information is based on all respiratory care practitioners with an active license to practice and a primary practice location in a nonfederal setting in South Carolina as of 8/1/2019. Counts are based on self-reported primary practice location. Dots are randomly scattered within the zip code area and may not represent the actual street address of the practice. Source: South Carolina Office for Healthcare Workforce, SC AHEC, with data collected by the SC Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation and obtained from the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office. Rural definition from the U.S. Census Bureau, Geography Division, <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/geography/guidance/geo-areas/urban-rural/2010-urban-rural.html>. Rural counties are those counties where 50% or more of the population lives outside an urbanized area, based on the 2010 Census counts.

# But healthcare employs people, ...not numbers.

- Burnout/resiliency
- Workplace culture
- Recruitment and retention
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Shortages vs. Maldistribution

# Health Workforce Pipeline



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