



2017 STATISTICS: HEALTH PROFESSIONS TRAINEES

In order to carry out the primary patient care mission of the Veterans Health Administration and to assist in providing an adequate supply of health personnel to the Nation, VA is authorized by Title 38 Section 7302 to provide clinical education and training programs for developing health professionals. VA conducts these programs in conjunction with the nation's academic institutions and plays a leadership role in defining the education of future healthcare professionals to meet the changing needs of U.S. healthcare delivery. Health professions trainees contribute substantially to VA's ability to deliver cost-effective, high-quality patient care for Veterans.

VA conducts the largest education and training effort for health professionals in the United States. VA's physician education program is conducted in collaboration with 144 of 149 LCME-accredited medical schools and 34 of 34 AOA-accredited medical schools¹. In addition, over forty other clinical health professions education programs are represented by affiliations with over 1,800 unique colleges and universities. Among these institutions are Minority Serving Institutions such as Hispanic Serving Institutions and Historically Black Colleges and Universities.¹

VA health professions education programs have a major impact on the healthcare workforce in VA. For example, roughly 70% of current VA optometrists and psychologists and 60% of physicians participated in VA training programs prior to employment. VA's involvement in health professions education has thus been shown to be an effective mechanism to support VA's patient care mission.

Official 7 Year Statistics (Paid and WOC):²

	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	AY 2017*
Advanced Fellows	288	297	253	311	383	452	463
Associated Health	24,608	25,122	26,121	26,454	26,410	26,932	25,428
Dental Residents & Students	1,231	1,195	1,397	1,398	986	1,044	849
Physician Residents	36,816	37,809	40,420	41,697	43,004	43,768	43,565
Medical Students	21,502	20,218	21,541	23,031	24,283	25,707	24,683
Nursing Trainees	32,349	32,859	29,067	28,086	28,127	28,845	27,549
Non-Health Profession	N/A	N/A	N/A	368	359	463	412
Grand Total	116,794	117,500	118,799	121,345	123,552	127,211	122,949*

*NOTE: Methodology changed in 2017 data from a Fiscal Year to an Academic Year frame. This results in more accurate data collection and avoids double-counting of trainees.

¹ The listing of allopathic medical schools is from the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) [see: <http://lcme.org/directory>]. For the American Osteopathic Associate (AOA) listing of osteopathic medical schools, see: <http://www.osteopathic.org/inside-aoa/about/affiliates/Pages/osteopathic-medical-schools.aspx>.

² This information is from the Health Services Training Report, completed by each facility annually at the conclusion of each fiscal year and now academic year (AY).