How Many Healthcare Professionals are Practicing in Kentucky?

A Brief Discussion of the 2023 Healthcare Workforce Capacity Report
What Does this Report Do?

1. Provides a count of credentialed healthcare professionals in Kentucky.
   a. 30 categories of healthcare professionals are featured.

2. Compares Kentucky’s supply of healthcare professionals to national ratios.
   a. Identifies which Area Development Districts are above or below these national ratios.

3. Describes how to improve the data quality for Kentucky’s licensure boards.
   a. In the present state, this data is limited in the types of questions that it can answer.
Conclusions

• Defining what it means to have a healthcare workforce shortage in an empirically rigorous way is very difficult.

• Kentucky’s population to provider ratios are broadly in line with the rest of the United States. However:
  • We likely need more dentists in Eastern Kentucky
  • We likely need more mental health clinicians everywhere, but especially in Western Kentucky
  • We probably need more physicians everywhere that isn’t Lexington or Louisville

• Our ability to learn about the supply of healthcare professionals in Kentucky is severely limited by the way we presently collect data.