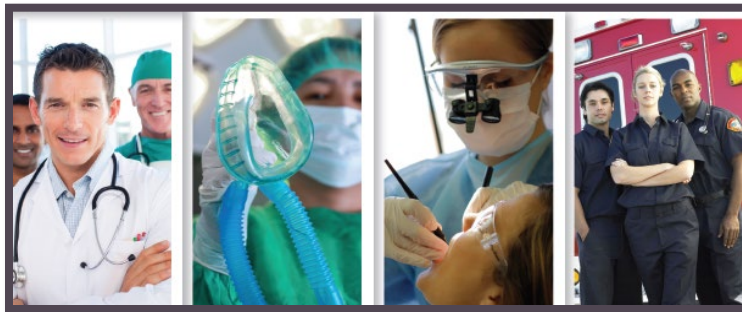


Fall 2021

Healthcare Workforce Update

ADDRESSING THE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE NEEDS IN SOUTH DAKOTA THROUGH A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION, LABOR & REGULATION, HEALTH AND THE BOARD OF REGENTS



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Healthcare Workforce Collaborative

Greetings from the South Dakota Office of Rural Health. This office along with our many partners continues to work at addressing South Dakota's healthcare workforce needs. Read on to see what's noteworthy over the past few months as well as what's coming in the future! As always, we welcome your feedback regarding these and other workforce development issues.

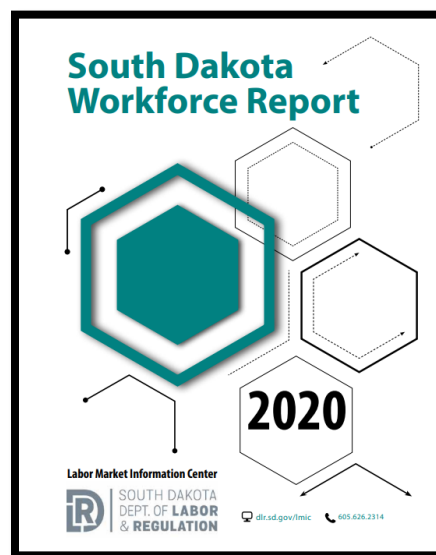
South Dakota Workforce Report

Contributed by South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation

The South Dakota Workforce Report Offers Insights to the Healthcare Industry's Performance During 2020. Education and Health Services is one of the state's four industry supersectors being featured in the latest [South Dakota Workforce Report](#) as having especially noteworthy trends during 2020, the year of the COVID-19 pandemic. With the private Educational Services sector losing employment during 2020 (decreasing by 258 workers, 7.0%), it was the Health Care and Social Assistance sector earning the supersector's feature slot.

Compared to other sectors, Health Care and Social Assistance has the highest employment and largest amount of total wages paid out in South Dakota. Both employment and wages in this sector rose in 2020. The number of workers increased by 336 (0.5%) to 65,541. Average annual wages increased \$4,664 (8.7%) to \$58,421. This sector includes both health care and social assistance, because sometimes it is difficult to distinguish between the boundaries of these two activities. The Health Care and Social Assistance sector is made up of four subsectors: Ambulatory Health Care Services; Hospitals; Nursing and Residential Care Facilities; and Social Assistance.

Check out the [Workforce Report](#) to learn more about how the health care industry subsectors fared in 2020 and helped their supersector earn its feature status.



Avera Expands Student Loan Repayment Program

Contributed by Avera Health

Avera knows that student debt is a real obstacle to our employees. In September, 2020, nurses employed in high needs areas in Avera's owned and regional facilities were the first to receive Avera's new Student Loan Repayment Program. Essentially, Avera helps them pay off their student loans faster and save money. RNs and LPNs working at least 48 hours every 2 weeks are eligible to receive up to \$10,000 in student loan repayment. As Avera continued to identify healthcare workers in other critical workforce areas, the Student Loan Repayment Program was expanded in September, 2021, to also include Medical Assistants, Respiratory Therapists, Medical Lab Scientists, Medical Lab Technicians, Histology Technicians, Radiology Technicians, Sonographers, and Surgical Technicians.

Avera offers a Career Planning Service to help you learn about this benefit and many others as you plan your healthcare career. Contact us to get a start on your healthcare career.

<https://www.avera.org/careers/career-planning-service/>



Simulation Gives Students Glimpse into Health Care Careers

Contributed by Sanford Health

A middle-aged man gets into a car crash. He wasn't wearing his seat belt, the car rolled several times, and he was ejected from the vehicle. He has several internal injuries and is taken to Canton, South Dakota, in an ambulance. He arrives at Canton High School where a group of students is waiting for him.



This is the scenario high school students were given as they started a simulation, teaching them how health care workers care for patients.

“Our goal today is to just get students to understand what a career looks like in health care to see if it's a right fit for them,” said Linda Heerde. She is the director for ASPIRE by Sanford.

[ASPIRE](#) has certified career coaches who work with employees and students in post-secondary schools sponsored by Sanford to work on career development. Another group of coaches under ASPIRE creates experiences for kids in [K-12](#).

“Particularly for this event, it's our K-12 team that's creating an experience for students to get them exposed to health care careers and be able to experience a day in the life of what someone maybe looks like in working in one of our health care careers,” said Heerde.

“We just hope that it just confirms their passion and desire to go into a health care career field and actually see themselves working in one of our facilities someday,” said Heerde.

Click [here](#) to read the full story.



Canton High School students watch as Sanford Health providers demonstrate how they respond to an emergency. (Photo by Vanessa Vondra, Sanford Health)

Mental Health Support Available in South Dakota

Contributed by SD Department of Social Services

Press Release: Monday, October 4, 2021

As Mental Illness Awareness Week kicks off the Department of Social Services (DSS) wants South Dakotans to know there is help available for those dealing with mental health challenges.

“Mental health is vital to our overall health and well-being,” said DSS Cabinet Secretary Laurie Gill. “Mental illness is treatable, and South Dakota has resources and support available for those who need it.”

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, one in five adults in the United States experiences mental illness each year. Diagnosing mental illness can be difficult, but there are signs to watch for:

- Feeling very sad or withdrawn for more than two weeks.
- Trying to harm or end one’s life or making plans to do so.
- Sudden overwhelming fear for no reason.
- Significant weight loss or gain.
- Seeing, hearing or believing things that aren’t real.
- Excessive use of alcohol or drugs.
- Drastic changes in mood, behavior, personality, or sleeping habits.
- Extreme difficulty concentrating or staying still.
- Intense worries or fears that get in the way of daily activities.

If you or someone you know is experiencing any of these symptoms, it is important to talk to a health care professional, mental health provider, or crisis helpline. Crisis counseling services in South Dakota are available 24 hours per day, 7 days a week. Services are available to anyone and all calls are completely confidential by dialing 1-800-273-8255 or text CONNECT to 741741. Additional resources are also available by visiting 605Strong.com or calling 211.

DSS contracts with 11 accredited community mental health centers across the state to provide services to both adults and youth. Services provided include screenings and assessments, specialized outpatient services, individual therapy, group therapy, and crisis intervention. Funding assistance may be available. To find a service provider in your area, please visit dss.sd.gov/behavioralhealth/agencycounty.

Congress officially established the first full week of October as Mental Illness Awareness Week in 1990.





Scrubs Camp and Camp Med Continue with Virtual Option for 2021-2022 School Year

Contributed by Office of Rural Health

The Scrubs Camp Program continues to grow and keep students interested in South Dakota health careers.

In-person, hands-on learning Health Career Camp options are offered, as well as, a second year of offering a virtual option that can be brought right into the classroom. The goal is to ensure all high school students in South Dakota have the opportunity to attend in-person or virtually.

Since the program's inception in 2007 the program has grown three-fold in attendance. We have a dedicated number of coordinators and medical professionals that assist with the camps each year. We welcome all speakers and presenters from the medical field to volunteer to participate.

The link to request a virtual camp experience in your classroom or school can be found here: <https://forms.gle/HtYVwTqu41SexdGZ9>

The virtual camp is coordinated by Dr. Bree Oatman, from the SD Discovery Center in Pierre. The virtual camps are customized to Middle School (Camp Med) or High School (Scrubs Camp) level students. Each camp includes hands on learning with short exercises and activities included and supplies mailed to schools/teachers who choose to participate.

A culturally competent Native American student option honoring Native American language and traditions has also been created. Please contact Dr. Bree Oatman at breeoatman@sd-discovery.org for interest in this virtual option.

Contact Natalie Nagle, Rural Health Specialist for more information: Natalie.Nagle@state.sd.us or visit the website at: <http://scrubscamps.sd.gov/>



Sanford Health Nursing Assistant Training Program Meets Workforce Needs

Contributed by Sanford Health



The [Sanford Health Nursing Assistant Training Program](#) prepares participants to work as nursing assistants (certified and uncertified) in ambulatory, in-patient, and long-term care environments throughout our healthcare organization.

The Sanford program provides an internal workforce development solution for this in-demand position, which serves an important role across the combined Sanford Health and Good Samaritan Society enterprise. It allows us to hire uncertified individuals, invest in their training and certification to validate skills, and begin the transition into the workforce in as little as two weeks. A portion of the program also serves as an onboarding curriculum for patient care technician within ambulatory care settings.

The Sanford program consists of several training levels that prepare the participant to work in different roles and environments. Advanced levels prepare for certification to work as a CNA. The hybrid curriculum is delivered through standardized online content that can be completed from a work location or from home through our learning management system. In-person clinical training and labs are also incorporated to ensure participants have the skills and experience they need to be successful in the role.

Since July 2020, Sanford Health has seen 171 participants pass their CNA exam and begin employment. Click [here](#) for locations in South Dakota. For more information, reach out to NAProgram@sanfordhealth.org.



DOH Social Media

What's happening at the South Dakota Department of Health and the Office of Rural Health?

Keep informed at these social media accounts.

DOH on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/SDHealthDepartment>

DOH on Twitter - <https://twitter.com/SDDOH>

SD Health Careers on Twitter - <https://twitter.com/SDHealthCareers>

HOTT on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/SDHealthCareers?ref=hl>

SIM-SD on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/Simulation-in-Motion-South-Dakota-131973850231573/timeline/>

More Information?

Contact [Josie Petersen](#), Department of Health

If you would like to be removed from this distribution list, please contact [Josie Petersen](#).

