



Educating Tomorrow's Healthcare Professionals

Inland Northwest Partners, June 4, 2014

J. Anthony Fernandez, President

Lewis-Clark State College

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Connecting Learning to Life

Idaho Health Professions Education Council

- Conduct health workforce analyses
- Assess capacity for training healthcare professionals
- Advise the Governor and legislators
- Develop healthcare workforce objectives for the State
- Recommend strategies to address healthcare provider shortages in rural locations
- Develop strategies to increase public/private partnerships to increase the healthcare providers for Idaho

Today's Topics

- **Physicians**
- **Nurses**
- **Physician Assistants**
- **Dentists**

Idaho Physicians

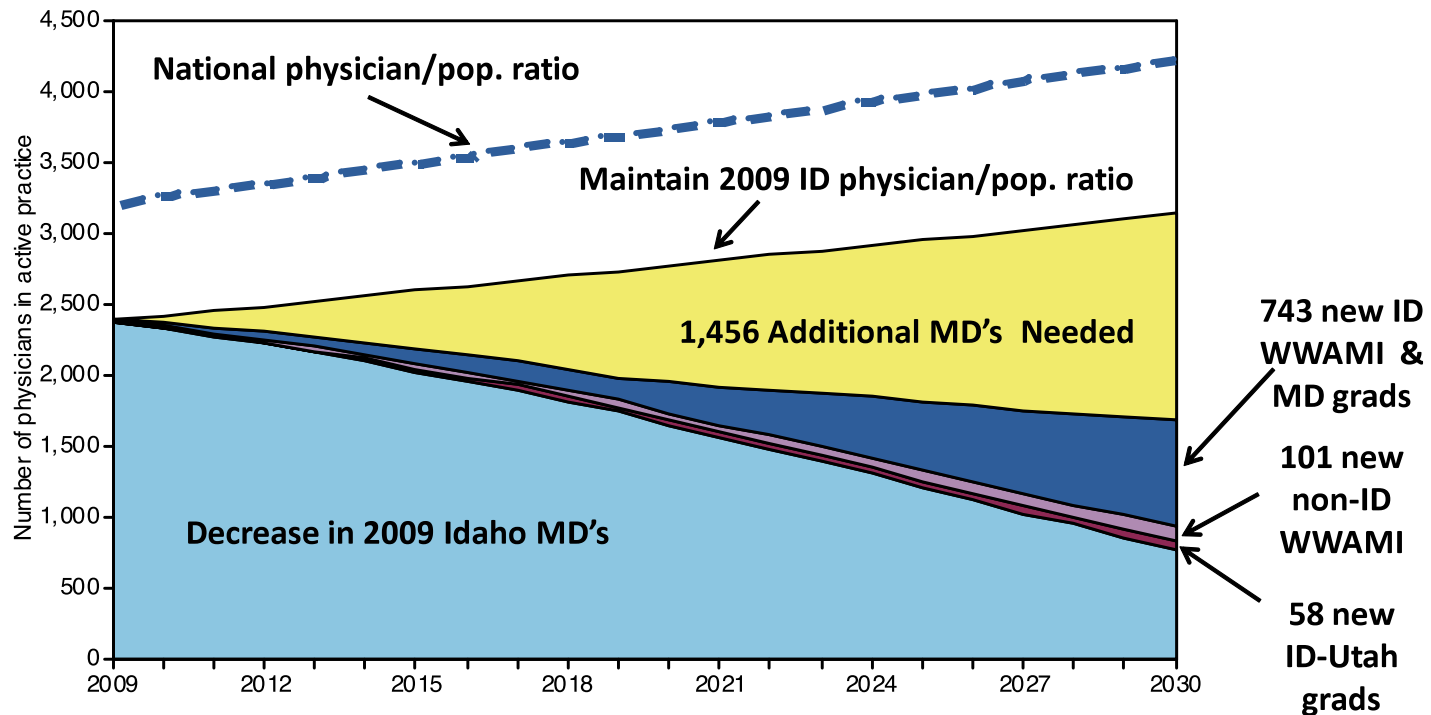
- Among the lowest supply in the nation
- Among the oldest supply in the nation
- Among the fewest entering students in the nation, one-third the national average on a per capita basis
- Among the most qualified medical school entrants in the nation
 - Idaho-WWAMI medical students have higher GPAs and MCAT scores than their WWAMI counterparts
 - In other words, many highly qualified medical school applicants cannot gain admission to Idaho-supported medical education

Mark Doescher, MD

University of Washington School of Medicine

Idaho Physician Supply Estimates

Scenario 2: Idaho Graduates Expanded by 50,
75% Idaho Return Rate, Maintain Other WWAMI/Utah Return



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University of Washington School of Medicine

Physicians

- Idaho will need more physicians by 2030 – just to stay at the current level of supply.
- Compared to other states, Idaho produces very few physicians/100k population.
- The region relies heavily on importing physicians from other locations.
- The state has no shortage of qualified applicants for medical school.

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University of Washington School of Medicine

Physicians

- Staying at current production capacity would result in increasing reliance on importing new physicians from outside the UW and UU programs
- Expanding the medical education program in Idaho by 50 physicians per year would reduce the reliance on physicians trained outside of the UW/UU programs...
- ...but the majority of new physicians would still come from non-UW/UU schools

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University of Washington School of Medicine

Recommendations

Physicians

- Support planned, steady annual growth in medical student education, following the recommendations of the Idaho State Board of Education.
- Increase access to medical education opportunities for applicants from rural communities and underserved groups.
- Increase State funding support for Graduate Medical Education (GME)/residency programs.

Recommendations

Physicians

- Expand rural training tracks in existing Family Medicine residencies and create additional Idaho primary care medical residency programs.
- Evaluate the creation of an Idaho GME office to provide oversight in the expansion and future funding of Idaho medical residency programs.
- Expand Idaho Rural Physician Incentive Program.

Nursing

- **Nurse-to-citizen ratio 20% below national average, 40% of nurses over the age of 50**
- **7,500 more nurses needed over next 10 years**
- **400 more seats, increase nursing faculty**
- **Innovative educational practices**
- **Workforce retention.**

Idaho Nursing Workforce Advisory Council

Recommendations

Nurses

- **Implement the Nursing Workforce Advisory Council's recommendations, especially as they pertain to retaining and increasing nursing faculty to meet the growing demand for educating the nursing workforce.**

Physician Assistants

- 545 practicing PA's in Idaho
- ISU has produced 338, 63% stay in Idaho
- 33% work in shortage areas
- 60% work in primary care
- PA's employed within two months after graduation

John Schroeder, Idaho State University

Recommendations

Physician Assistants

- Continue to regionalize Physician Assistant training programs.
- Establish smaller classes across the State.
- Diversify the funding model to increase support for faculty across regional program sites.

Dentists

- 984 dentists in Idaho, 196 specialists
- Adequate to serve 1.5 million Idahoans
- Geographic distribution favors urban areas
- One-third 55+ years old – many in rural areas
- Decay extremely high in Idaho

Quinn Dufurrena, DDS, JD

Executive Director of the Idaho Dental Association

Recommendations

Dentists

- **Begin programs to recruit and admit dental students from rural areas of Idaho.**
- **Insure that graduating dental students are aware of the National Health Service Corps and other loan reimbursement programs.**
- **Start an aggressive, State sponsored program to promote better dental health in the State's primary and secondary schools.**

Recommendations

All Health Professions

- Improve tracking and access to current State data on all healthcare and medical graduates in Idaho programs through collaboration with the Idaho Department of Labor.
- To retain the highest quality program faculty, salary and benefits support in all health care disciplines must be competitive.



Thank You

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