

## Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) and Physician Assistants (PAs)

### Snapshot:

- Healthcare reform, growing and aging population expected to increase demand for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) and Physician Assistants (PAs)
- Four types of APRNs licensed in GA: Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM); Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA); Nurse Practitioner (NP); and Clinical Nurse Specialist/Psychiatric Mental Health (CNS/PMH)
- APRNs feed the nursing faculty pipeline required to educate general RN workforce
- CNM, CRNA, and PA supply consistent or above national average per population
- Concerns exist with supply of NPs
- With an estimated 2,000 PAs practicing in Georgia, compared to over 4,500 NPs, Nurse Practitioners appear to be the backbone of the primary care non-physician workforce
- Current estimates do not take into consideration passage of 2010 health care reform so demand may be underestimated
- APRNs and PAs of critical importance given their capacity to complement primary care physician workforce

### Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs)

- Must attain a Master's in Nursing (MSN) or Doctorate in Nursing Practice (DNP) to secure certification as an APRN
- APRNs represent only a fraction (3.8%) of the overall RN workforce in GA
- Nurse Practitioners (NPs) represent bulk of APRNs in Georgia
- Average age of APRNs is 51.5 vs. 51.2 for all RNs in GA
- Data indicates Georgia has a deficit of Nurse Practitioners relative to 100,000 in population
  - 44 in Georgia vs. 51 for US in 2009<sup>1</sup>
  - 36 in Georgia vs. 42 in US in 2006<sup>2</sup>
- Role of APRNs in health care delivery is expected to grow
- Graduates at these levels may pursue other avenues of nursing practice so it is not clear how many of these graduates will enter into clinical roles

Types of APRN	Number of Licensees in GA <sup>1</sup>	Percent of all RNs in GA <sup>2</sup>	Percent receiving qualifying education in GA <sup>3</sup>
Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM)	439	0.4%	60.0%
Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA)	1,757	1.7%	21.1%
Nurse Practitioner (NP)	4,596	4.3%	74.3%
Clinical Nurse Specialist/Psychiatric Mental Health (CNS/PMH)	302	0.3%	71.9%

<sup>1</sup> Source: Georgia Board of Nursing, 11/16/2010; <sup>2</sup> As percentage of 105,952 licensed RNs in Georgia, 11/16/2010; <sup>3</sup> Data from USG RN Licensure Renewal Survey, 2010

Number of Programs in Georgia					
	Master's Degree in Nursing	Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)	Doctor of Nursing Science (DNS)	Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Nursing	Physician Assistant (PA)
USG	11	2	1	2	1
Privates	4	Others in development	0	2	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2 + others in development</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>

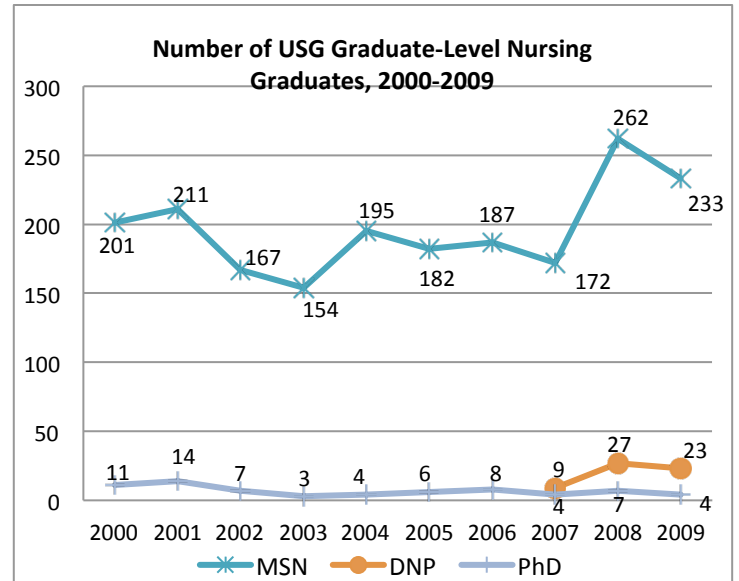
- Growth can be seen in the graduation count of RNs with requisite degrees to assume the role of an APRN
- While growth is seen in the graduation count in recent years, it disappears when accounting for population growth

<sup>1</sup> Kaiser Foundation (2010). Statehealthfacts.org. Projected Number of Physician Assistants per 100,000 Population in Clinical Practice, as of December 31, 2008. Total Nurse Practitioners per 100,000 Population, 2009

<sup>2</sup> The New York Center for Health Workforce Studies (2006). *The United States Health Workforce Profile*, October, Rensselaer, NY.

## APRN Education Pipeline

- USG graduates bulk of graduate nurses in Georgia. In 2008:
  - MSN graduates: 262 USG; 100 privates
  - DNP graduates: 27 USG; 0 privates
  - PhD graduates: 7 USG; 2 privates
- Mercer recently started PhD program
- MSN and doctorate graduates also feed nursing faculty pipeline
- Number of graduate level nursing graduates has remained relatively flat compared with population growth
- USG still ramping up program capacity to educate future generations of nursing faculty



## Physician Assistants (PAs)

- 4 programs currently offer PA degrees in Georgia
  - 1 USG program at MCG; 3 private institutions
  - New PCOM program started
- Bulk of PAs are educated in the private sector in Georgia
  - 37 USG graduates vs. 100 graduates from private institutions in 2009

Profession	GA number per 100,000/ population	National number per 100,000/ population	GA rank out of 50 states + DC
Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM)	15.57	n/a	27th
Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA)	3.73	2.50	15th
Nurse Practitioner (NP)	35.82	42.04	34th
Clinical Nurse Specialist/Psychiatric Mental Health (CNS/PMH)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Physician Assistant (PA)	18.29	16.87	27th

- MCG recently switched from baccalaureate level to master's degree level for PAs
- Data indicates Georgia has comparable number of PAs per 100,000 in population as the nation
  - 24 in GA vs 24 for US in 2009<sup>3</sup>
  - 18 in GA vs 17 in US in 2006<sup>4</sup>
- Between 2006 and 2016, the Georgia Department of Labor estimates 120 annual openings for PAs in Georgia<sup>5</sup>
- Given current graduate counts of 137 (2009) PAs in Georgia, one new program at PCOM enrolling students, and GDOL estimates of 120 annual openings thought 2016, the PA educational system is on track to meet projected demand
- However, demand for PAs may increase as provisions of health care reform are implemented

Source: The New York Center for Health Workforce Studies (2006). *The United States Health Workforce Profile*, October, Rensselaer, NY.

<sup>3</sup> Kaiser Foundation (2010). Statehealthfacts.org. Projected Number of Physician Assistants per 100,000 Population in Clinical Practice, as of December 31, 2008. Total Nurse Practitioners per 100,000 Population, 2009

<sup>4</sup> The New York Center for Health Workforce Studies (2006). *The United States Health Workforce Profile*, October, Rensselaer, NY.

<sup>5</sup> Data compiled from the Georgia Department of Labor (2008). "Long Term Occupational Employment Projections," Atlanta, GA