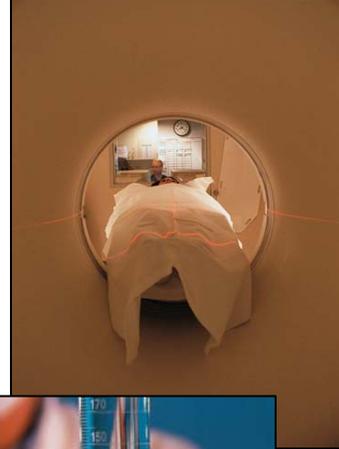


The Healthcare Services Industry in Tarrant County



Industry Overview and Projected Employment Growth in Specified Occupations



Prepared for:
Tarrant County College



Prepared by:
Terry L. Clower, Ph.D.
Michael Seman, M.S.
Bernard L. Weinstein, Ph.D.



Center for Economic Development
and Research
University of North Texas



May 2008

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	ii
Introduction	1
Tarrant County’s Healthcare Services Industry	2
Tarrant County Employment in Selected Healthcare Services Occupations	7
Outlook for Study Occupations	10
Forecast for Study Occupations	15
Conclusions	16

Table of Tables and Figures

Table ES1: Occupations for Analysis	ii
Table ES2: Economic Impacts of Healthcare Services Industry in Tarrant County	iii
Table ES3: Employment by Occupation in Tarrant County	iii
Table ES4: Employment Forecast By Occupation in Tarrant County	iv
Table 1: Occupations for Analysis	1
Table 2: Healthcare Services Employment in Tarrant County	3
Table 3: Economic Impacts of the Healthcare Services Industry in Tarrant County	7
Table 4: Employment by Occupation in Tarrant County	9
Table 5: Annual Earnings for Selected Healthcare Services Occupations	10
Table 6: Employment Forecast By Occupation in Tarrant County	16
Figure 1: Tarrant County Population	4

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to offer an assessment of the current status of the healthcare services industry in Tarrant County and to forecast demand for training in these specified occupations over the next several years.

Table ES1: Occupations for Analysis

Healthcare Services Occupations		
Registered Nurses	Surgical Technologists	Pharmacy Technicians
Dental Hygienists	Licensed Practical Nurses & Licensed Vocational	Respiratory Therapy Technicians
Radiological Technologists and	Medical Records & Health Information Technicians	Medical Assistants
Emergency Medical Technicians & Paramedics	Physical Therapy Assistants	

Our examination finds:

- The healthcare services industry has been one of the fastest growing segments of the Tarrant County economy. In just five years between 2000 and 2005, healthcare services rose from 9.6 percent of total Tarrant County employment to 10.5 percent.
- Defining the healthcare services industry as including organizations that offer ambulatory healthcare services, hospitals, and residential care facilities, as well as health and personal care retailers, more than 68,700 jobs in this industry were located in Tarrant County in 2005. We estimate that current employment in this sector is about 75,000.
- The healthcare services industry generates substantial economic activity in Tarrant County with total impacts exceeding \$13.6 billion and creating more than \$6 billion in annual labor income (see Table ES2.)
- Several of the above-listed occupations have experienced substantial growth since 2000 with the strongest growth rates in radiologic technicians and medical assistants, but the greatest numerical growth is in the nursing professions (see Table ES3).
- Four of the occupations examined in this analysis currently pay annual wages in excess of \$46,000 per year, not including overtime, bonuses, or other pecuniary income. These include registered nurses, dental hygienists, radiologic technicians, and physical therapy assistants.

- Between 2006 and 2015, we anticipate there will be more than 3,000 new jobs for registered nurses, 1,471 new jobs for LPN/LVNs, and demand for 540 more medical assistants. Other occupations, such as radiologic technicians, pharmacy technicians, and dental hygienists also show substantial increases. Though potential data problems limit our confidence, we expect fairly good growth for both EMT and respiratory therapy therapists. Physical therapy assistants and surgical technologists offer much smaller job growth opportunities (see Table ES4).

Table ES2: Economic Impacts of Healthcare Services Industry in Tarrant County

Description	Direct Impacts	Total Impacts*
Output Spending	\$ 7,153,620,000	\$ 13,642,849,000
Labor Income	\$ 3,308,872,000	\$ 6,258,878,000
Employment	74,991	135,942
Property Income#		\$ 1,792,924,000

Source: IMPLAN, authors' estimates. * Includes direct, indirect, and induced impacts. # Includes income from rents, royalties, dividends, and corporate profits.

Table ES3: Employment by Occupation in Tarrant County

Occupation	2000	2006	% Change
Registered Nurses	8,381	10,277	22.6%
Dental Hygienists	493	663	34.5%
Radiologic Technicians	757	1,080	42.7%
Emergency Medical Technicians	595	561	-5.7%*
Pharmacy Technicians	1,224	1,658	35.4%
Respiratory Therapy Techs	289	162	-44.1%*
Surgical Technologists	408	544	33.3%
LPN/LVN	2,907	3,876	33.3%
Medical Records/Info Techs	366	476	30.2%
Physical Therapy Assistants	145	187	29.4%
Medical Assistants	1,182	1,751	48.2%
Total	16,745	21,233	26.8%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Center for Economic Development and Research * Possible data problems for these occupations. See discussion in the report.

Table ES4: Employment Forecast By Occupation in Tarrant County

Occupation	2006	2015	Change	% Change
Registered Nurses	10,277	13,366	3,090	30.1%
Dental Hygienists	663	1,050	387	58.4%
Radiologic Technicians	1,080	1,529	450	41.6%
Emergency Medical Technicians	561	955	394	70.2%
Pharmacy Technicians	1,658	2,100	443	26.7%
Respiratory Therapy Techs	162	425	264	163.2%
Surgical Technologists	544	649	105	19.3%
LPN/LVN	3,876	5,347	1,471	38.0%
Medical Records/Info Techs	476	688	212	44.5%
Physical Therapy Assistants	187	229	42	22.5%
Medical Assistants	1,751	2,291	540	30.8%
Total	21,233	27,517	6,284	29.6%

Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Center for Economic Development and Research.

Introduction

The healthcare services industry has been one of the fastest growing segments of the Tarrant County economy. In just five years between 2000 and 2005, healthcare services rose from 9.6 percent of total Tarrant County employment to 10.5 percent. Recent data from the US Census Bureau reveal that Tarrant County is now adding more residents than any other county in the north central Texas region, creating increasing demand for healthcare services and professionals. However, meeting this demand and making sure Tarrant County will remain a focal point of healthcare industry growth will require attracting and developing an appropriately-skilled labor force. Rising to the challenge of training the requisite skilled workforce, Tarrant County College is in the planning stages of expanding programs for several key healthcare occupations (see Table 1). The purpose of this report is to offer an assessment of the current status of the healthcare services industry in Tarrant County and to forecast demand for training in these specified occupations over the next several years.

Table 1

Occupations for Analysis

Healthcare Services Occupations		
Registered Nurses	Surgical Technologists	Pharmacy Technicians
Dental Hygienists	Licensed Practical Nurses & Licensed Vocational	Respiratory Therapy Technicians
Radiological Technologists and Technicians	Medical Records & Health Information Technicians	Medical Assistants
Emergency Medical Technicians & Paramedics	Physical Therapy Assistants	

In what follows, we begin with an examination of recent trends in the local healthcare services industry with consideration for some of the industry's driving forces

such as population growth, market structure, and public policy. That is followed by an assessment of the contributions of this industry to the local economy. Finally, we offer an outlook for the healthcare services industry and specified occupations for the year 2015.

Tarrant County's Healthcare Services Industry

Defining the Healthcare Services Industry

For purposes of this analysis we focused on several healthcare services industries including ambulatory health care services, hospitals, and nursing and residential care facilities. In addition, we have included health and personal care retail establishments because they are significant employers of pharmacy technicians. Though clearly a part of a broader health care industry, we have not included medical equipment and pharmaceutical manufacturing, medical research and development, and education facilities. Based on our review of the data, the employment opportunities for individuals seeking careers in the occupations targeted by this analysis are largely concentrated in healthcare services.

Ambulatory healthcare services are generally outpatient services and include offices of physicians, dentists, and other providers, as well as clinics, laboratories, diagnostic imaging centers (CT-scans, MRI, ultrasound), and home healthcare services. Hospitals include not only medical and surgical facilities but also psychiatric and substance abuse hospitals and other specialty facilities providing in-patient services. Nursing and residential care facilities include nursing homes, state schools, and community care facilities. As noted above, pharmacies are significant employers of

pharmacy technologists. These businesses are categorized in the retail trade sector and are combined with retailers of personal care products in our economic models.

Employment trends in health care services

According to the US Department of Commerce, in 2000 total employment in healthcare services in Tarrant County exceeded 61,000 (Table 2). By 2005, the latest year for which data are available from this source, total healthcare services employment had expanded to almost 69,000, an increase of 11.6 percent in just five years. In comparison, total non-agricultural employment for Tarrant County in the 2000 to 2005 period rose by 1.9 percent. Of the industries examined in this analysis, the largest employment growth has occurred in nursing and residential care facilities and health and personal care retailers at 18 percent and 13 percent, respectively.

Table 2

Healthcare Services Employment in Tarrant County

Industry	2000	2005	% change
Health & Personal Care Products Retail	5,402	6,118	13.3%
Ambulatory Healthcare Services	24,586	27,220	10.7%
Hospitals	20,491	22,638	10.5%
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	9,054	10,722	18.4%
Total Healthcare Services	61,533	68,703	11.6%
Total Non-Agricultural Employment	640,927	653,140	1.9%
Healthcare Services as % of Total	9.6%	10.5%	

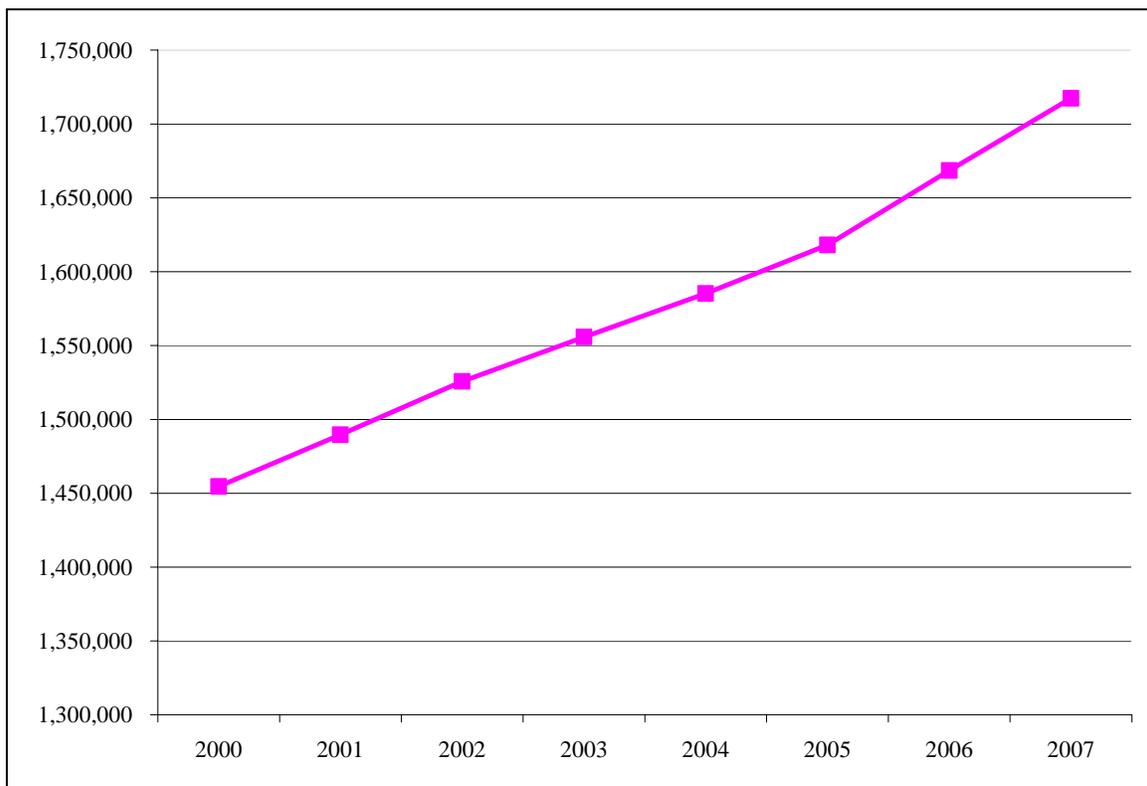
Source: US Department of Commerce County Business Patterns

Based on a different data source, the IMPLAN economic model that will be described later, we estimate that total employment in the healthcare services industrial sectors is now about 75,000. This continued growth suggests that the provision of healthcare services remains a critical component of economic growth in Tarrant County.

There are several factors that contribute to the growth seen in healthcare services. First, and most obvious, is population change. Migration and natural population growth have recently vaulted Tarrant County to status as the fastest growing county, in absolute terms, in the region (see Figure 1).

Figure 1

Tarrant County Population



Source: US Census Bureau

Healthcare services employment in Tarrant County has been growing in absolute terms and as a share of local jobs. However, based on the most recent detailed industry data available, Tarrant County is still relatively underrepresented in healthcare services employment versus Texas and the nation.¹ From 2000 through 2005, Tarrant County did

¹ This is based on comparing the relative portion of total employment that healthcare services represents in Tarrant County (10.5%) versus the State of Texas (12.3%) and the US (12.7%).

not exhibit any particular competitive advantage with all employment growth explained by national economic trends and patterns of industry development at the national level. However, data limitations may be masking more recent relative gains in local healthcare services growth due to an important change in the Texas Constitution.

In 2003 Texas voters approved a constitutional amendment imposing caps on non-economic damages that may be received by plaintiffs in medical malpractice lawsuits. The Medical Malpractice and Tort Reform Act sets the cap on non-economic damages effectively at \$250,000. This legislation has had the intended effect of greatly reducing the number of malpractice lawsuits in Texas, with subsequent reductions in the cost of malpractice insurance coverage, and it is also being credited with helping to attract hundreds, if not thousands, of physicians to the state. We can assume that realizing the full potential gains in healthcare industry development resulting from Texas tort reform legislation is probably not reflected in 2005 data. We expect that subsequent data will show stronger healthcare services employment in Texas and in Tarrant County.

Overall, the healthcare services industry in Tarrant County is strong and growing. This growth creates employment opportunities requiring specific training and skills.

Economic Impact of the Healthcare Services Industry

Using the industry categorizations noted above, we examined the level of economic activity associated with the healthcare services industry in Tarrant County. Our analysis is based on information from the IMPLAN economic input-output model developed by the Minnesota IMPLAN Group. This model is widely used in academic and professional research projects. The IMPLAN model is based on data gathered by the

US Census Bureau, the Bureau of Economic Analysis, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics. It provides estimates of direct, indirect, and induced economic activity. Direct impacts represent spending for goods and services by the subject entity. For example, a hospital purchases supplies and materials from local vendors. Indirect impacts occur when those vendors spend money in the local economy to support their business operations. Finally, induced impacts are those that result from hospital and vendor employees spending a portion of their earnings in the county for groceries, household goods, and other items. The model adjusts for spending that does not stay in the local economy, such as purchasing supplies that are not manufactured in Tarrant County. When added together, these impacts are typically greater than just direct spending, which is the “multiplier” effect.

Based on data from the IMPLAN model, we estimate that in 2008 the healthcare services industry in Tarrant County will generate almost \$7.2 billion in direct county-wide economic activity, support about 75,000 direct employees, and pay more than \$3.3 billion in salaries, wages, and benefits (see Table 3). The spending associated with the healthcare services industry creates \$13.6 billion in economic activity in Tarrant County supporting almost 136,000 total jobs paying in excess of \$6.2 billion in labor income. In addition, about \$1.8 billion is added in property income, which includes rents, royalties, dividends, and corporate profits directly or indirectly related to the healthcare services industry.

Table 3

**Economic Impacts of the Healthcare Services Industry in Tarrant County
2008**

Description	Direct Impacts	Total Impacts*
Output Spending	\$ 7,153,620,000	\$ 13,642,849,000
Labor Income	\$ 3,308,872,000	\$ 6,258,878,000
Employment	74,991	135,942
Property Income#		\$ 1,792,924,000

Source: IMPLAN, authors' estimates. * Includes direct, indirect, and induced impacts. # Includes income from rents, royalties, dividends, and corporate profits.

Tarrant County Employment in Selected Healthcare Services Occupations

In assessing current and future employment trends for the occupations covered in this analysis we have focused on data available from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) and the US Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). These data are somewhat different than data used in previous components of our research. For example, BLS data typically show larger numbers of employees than are shown in data from the US Department of Commerce. Department of Commerce data, especially those data from County Business Patterns, focus on employment in firms and organizations. They do not include independent contractors, sole proprietors, and other businesses that have no employees other than the owners. There are an increasing number of persons engaged in healthcare services occupations who are self-employed, independent contractors, or have a similar employment status.

Also, BLS and TWC data focus on the individual, not the firm. While it is possible that a large manufacturing firm could employ a registered nurse, that firm's industrial categorization would still be in the manufacturing sector for data reporting. Finally, detailed occupational data are often limited to the metropolitan division (MD)

level. The Fort Worth-Arlington Metropolitan Division currently includes Tarrant, Johnson, Parker, and Wise counties. Where necessary, we have adjusted MD level data to reflect only employment in Tarrant County.

Current Status of Study Occupations

Based on BLS data, in 2006 there were 21,233 persons employed in one of the study occupations, with the largest share being in nursing. Table 4 shows recent job growth trends for each of the study occupations. Two of the occupations show declines in total employment from 2000 through 2007—Emergency Medical Technicians/Paramedics and Respiratory Therapy Technicians. Data from the BLS are based on surveys, and there is a possibility of sampling error in their estimates. We have not uncovered any particular reason for these incongruous results, though we can say that after having experienced a decline in the early part of this decade, both of these occupations are growing in the most recent data period. Otherwise, the study occupations are showing very good to exceptional growth, suggesting market opportunities for educating and training persons wanting to pursue healthcare services careers.

Annual earnings for the study occupations vary with the highest earnings for dental hygienists, registered nurses, physical therapy assistants, and radiological technicians (see Table 5). Medical assistants and medical records technicians are at the lower end of the pay range. Importantly, reported earnings are based on average hourly wages and do not include overtime pay, “signing” bonuses, or other pecuniary compensation. These data are drawn from the BLS and reflect average earnings across the Fort Worth-Arlington Metropolitan Division.

Table 4**Employment by Occupation in Tarrant County**

Occupation	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	% Chng
Registered Nurses	8,381	8,534	8,194	8,594	8,917	9,469	10,277	22.6%
Dental Hygienists	493	N/A	N/A	485	561	765	663	34.5%
Radiologic Technicians	757	723	910	859	740	884	1,080	42.7%
Emergency Medical Technicians	595	672	663	740	731	417	561	-5.7%
Pharmacy Technicians	1,224	1,233	1,080	1,020	1,615	1,530	1,658	35.4%
Respiratory Therapy Techs	289	255	179	94	111	170	162	-44.1%
Surgical Technologists	408	383	408	459	553	519	544	33.3%
LPN/LVN	2,907	3,128	3,052	3,307	3,366	3,817	3,876	33.3%
Medical Records/Info Techs	366	383	374	468	383	434	476	30.2%
Physical Therapy Assistants	145	162	187	204	230	162	187	29.4%
Medical Assistants	1,182	1,275	1,479	1,802	1,471	1,768	1,751	48.2%
Total	16,745	16,745	16,524	18,029	18,675	19,933	21,233	26.8%

Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Center for Economic Development and Research

Table 5

**Annual Earnings for Selected Healthcare Services Occupations
Fort Worth-Arlington Metropolitan Division
2006**

Occupation	Annual Earnings*
Registered Nurses	\$ 58,280
Dental Hygienists	\$ 61,860
Radiologic Technicians	\$ 46,470
Emergency Medical Technicians	\$ 31,240
Pharmacy Technicians	\$ 28,030
Respiratory Therapy Techs	\$ 37,110
Surgical Technologists	\$ 36,980
LPN/LVN	\$ 39,030
Medical Records/Info Techs	\$ 26,680
Physical Therapy Assistants	\$ 46,600
Medical Assistants	\$ 23,280

* Not including overtime and bonuses. Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics

Outlook for Study Occupations

In the following, we offer an overall assessment of the employment outlook for each of the selected healthcare services occupations. Much of this information is taken from BLS publications, but we have adapted these outlooks for local circumstances.

Registered Nurses

Registered nurses will continue to enjoy an excellent job market. Reasons for this are many, but the leading causes include retirement of experienced nurses, technological advancements in-patient care leading to an increasing number of treatments, and a continuing emphasis on preventive care. The aging of the population, both in the over-65 cohort as well as in the Baby Boomers segment, is also creating demand for nurses. This demand is especially felt in areas outside of traditional hospital employment. Outpatient centers and physicians' offices are gaining in numbers and routinely performing more

sophisticated procedures that require nurses to be present. Finally, nursing remains a stressful job environment with more than modest turnover. Hospital administrators and work life experts are working to address scheduling and duty assignment choices to lower turnover in nursing staff. Still, there will be a segment of market demand for replacement nurses, whether from retirement or leaving the nursing profession.

Dental Hygienists

Currently one of the fastest growing occupations, dental hygienists will continue to see a booming job market due mainly to the growth and aging of the population – a population that is retaining their original teeth later in life. As dentists gain patients and preventative measures are increasingly encouraged, it is expected that routine preventative duties will continue to be delegated to hygienists. Another factor affecting the job market is the number of dentists nearing retirement age. Older dentists were more likely to not hire dental hygienists and perform preventative work themselves. Younger dentists are much more likely to hire one or more hygienists.

Radiologic Technologists and Technicians

Increasing quality, new technologies, and decreasing prices are driving a substantial increase in the demand for medical imaging. Hospitals are still the dominant domain of imaging technology, but offices of physicians, independent imaging centers, and other outpatient facilities are seeing dramatic growth. This growth is fueled by the changing characteristics of the patient population as well as the preference by third-party payers for outpatient treatment. One of the results of this trend in healthcare services will

be a strong demand for radiologic technologists and technicians lasting well into the next decade.

Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics

In major metropolitan areas, what once was a volunteer-centric field is now shifting to an emphasis on full-time paid employees. Training EMTs is a much more complex process than in the past, and the positions are becoming much more time consuming. Both of these factors have led to a high demand for EMTs and paramedics. Demand for EMT services will grow as the large Baby Boomer cohort ages and is more likely to have medical emergencies that will need the attention of an EMT or paramedic.

Pharmacy Technicians

Impressive employment growth in this field is due primarily to two factors: the aging of the population and advancements in the pharmaceutical industry. With advancing age comes a greater need for prescription medicines. Also spurring increased need for pharmacy technicians are changes in the health care industry, in particular the repositioning of pharmacies as patient-care centers. This new role for pharmacies will place an additional burden on pharmacists, who will most likely increasingly shift administrative tasks to pharmacy technicians.

Surgical Technologists

Growth in the field of surgical technology is largely a function of population growth and ageing. As the Baby Boomers age, they will generally require more surgical

procedures. In addition to this demand, advancements in technologies such as fiber optics and laser applications will continue to produce demand for new surgical procedures. Along with offering patients new options in terms of procedures, these advancements will require a greater number of surgical technologists to assist in a greater number of procedures.

Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses

The future job market for licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses is one of great promise, due to the expectation that many currently practicing LPNs will be soon leaving the workforce. In addition to this replacement trend is the aging of the nation's population and a concomitant growth in long-term care facilities that will require large number of LPNs.

Medical Records and Health Information Technicians

As the healthcare industry continues to grow rapidly, so too will employment opportunities for medical records and health information technicians. While nearly half of all records technicians work in hospitals, they also work in offices of physicians, various outpatient centers, insurance firms, and public health departments. Much of the future demand for technicians will stem from increased involvement by insurance companies and regulators in the health field as well as advancements in technology providing for an ever-flowing stream of new procedures and treatments. Projected growth in government sponsored healthcare programs will also increase the demand for medical records specialists.

Physical Therapist Assistants

Like most occupations in the healthcare field, the demand for physical therapy assistants (PTAs) will increase as the nation's population continues to age. While the short-term growth of this field may be hampered by federal limits on Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements for therapy services, above-average long-term growth is projected. Job growth for PTAs will be driven by two trends: the elderly will continue to have recurring conditions that will require a consistent amount of therapy while Baby Boomers enter the age where heart attacks and strokes are a greater risk, causing the need for cardiac and physical rehabilitation. An additional area of demand for physical therapists will be in trauma recovery as new technology and procedures allow more trauma victims to survive and, therefore, require subsequent therapy.

Respiratory Therapy Technicians

In addition to an aging population, future demand for respiratory therapy technicians can be directly linked to declining air quality in most major metropolitan areas. The north central Texas region is graded as a non-attainment area, meaning that local air quality does not meet federal standards. National data clearly show the link between air pollution and respiratory distress and illness. Unfortunately, federal mandates have yet to be effective in attaining cleaner air, suggesting the need for respiratory medical specialists will continue to expand.

Forecast for Study Occupations in 2015

In estimating the potential for growing demand for the specified healthcare services occupations we have relied on both quantitative and qualitative data and information. Data analysis reveals that population change explains much of the potential change in employment for most of these occupations. The exceptions are Radiologic Technicians and Respiratory Therapist Technicians, both of which track more closely with changes in the population that is 65 years old and above. However, we again caution that the uneven pattern of employment change in Respiratory Therapy Technicians may reflect possible data problems. (The same is true when assessing forecasts for EMTs/Paramedics.) Our estimates also assume that Tarrant County will strengthen its relative position as a healthcare services destination. This goal falls within the purview of the service providers themselves.

Table 6 provides our forecast of potential employment levels in Tarrant County for each of the targeted occupations. The occupations studied offer some strong growth opportunities and some that are not as strong. Nursing professions, either RNs or LVN/LPNs, remain the strongest growth occupations. However, there are others that show substantial promise including Dental Hygienists, Medical Records Technicians, Medical Assistants, and Radiological Technicians. Occupations with smaller opportunities are Physical Therapy Assistants and Surgical Technologists. Our forecast for employment potential for EMTs and Respiratory Therapy Technicians reflects our belief that recent BLS data show some bias resulting in undercounting employment in these occupations; therefore, calculations of absolute or percentage change are not meaningful.

Table 6

Employment Forecast By Occupation in Tarrant County

Occupation	2006	2015	Change	% Change
Registered Nurses	10,277	13,366	3,090	30.1%
Dental Hygienists	663	1,050	387	58.4%
Radiologic Technicians	1,080	1,529	450	41.6%
Emergency Medical Technicians	561	955	394	70.2%
Pharmacy Technicians	1,658	2,100	443	26.7%
Respiratory Therapy Techs	162	425	264	163.2%
Surgical Technologists	544	649	105	19.3%
LPN/LVN	3,876	5,347	1,471	38.0%
Medical Records/Info Techs	476	688	212	44.5%
Physical Therapy Assistants	187	229	42	22.5%
Medical Assistants	1,751	2,291	540	30.8%
Total	21,233	27,517	6,284	29.6%

Sources: US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Center for Economic Development and Research.

Conclusions

Healthcare services offer excellent employment opportunities in an industry that is seeing ever-increasing demand. However, supporting growth in Tarrant County’s healthcare services industry will require a new source of skilled labor. In addition, Tarrant County has an opportunity to enhance its relative competitiveness in the provision of healthcare services, further enhancing future job opportunities.

Nursing professions, both RN and LPN/LVN, will continue to be among the fastest growing occupations. Radiologic Technicians, Pharmacy Technicians, and Medical Assistants are also expected to experience strong growth. Though projections based on current data do not necessarily indicate strong growth, we feel that demand for respiratory technicians will grow and may represent future opportunities for education program development.

Demand for Dental Hygienists also presents potential opportunity for education program development, as do programs focused on EMT training. However, the data projections offered in this analysis suggest that though the need for Physical Therapy Assistants and Surgical Technologists will expand over time, there may not be sufficient demand in the near future for new programs supporting these occupations.