



Allied Health
i n T e n n e s s e e

A Supply and Demand Study 2010

Center for Health and Human Services
Middle Tennessee State University



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Foreword

Allied health workers constitute the largest component of the U.S. health care workforce, but this group is often one of the least studied. Consequently, having accurate and comprehensive information and data about this collection of disciplines is vital to effective operations and planning on the part of employers and education and government leaders. Over the years Tennessee has been well served by Dr. Jo Edwards and her collaborators who have monitored and reported on the status of allied health workforce supply and demand in the state. This fourth edition of *Allied Health in Tennessee* provides an indispensable reference of interest and use to a wide audience.

This publication is especially timely in view of the ongoing evolution of health care in the U.S. and concerns about the need for various types of health reform—all of which impact supply and demand for allied health professionals. While data on health workforce needs and supply at the national level are useful, it is important to remember that health care is delivered at local and regional levels. Thus, having relevant information at the local and state level is essential for good planning. In general, the lower the educational level of the allied health worker, the more place-bound or less mobile is that individual. As a result, the location of academic programs has a great influence on the availability or lack thereof of an adequate health care workforce.

Even with a national economic slowdown over the last few years, health care remains one of the strongest components of the U.S. economy, with continued growth expected. It is also anticipated that many who have either returned to the health care workforce over the last few years (or those who might have retired but did not) will most likely retire when the economy improves, creating again the prospect of significant worker shortages.

This book, by offering a compilation of academic programs and their location in Tennessee as well as pertinent information about each field, should be of great value to potential students, educational planners, and state officials.

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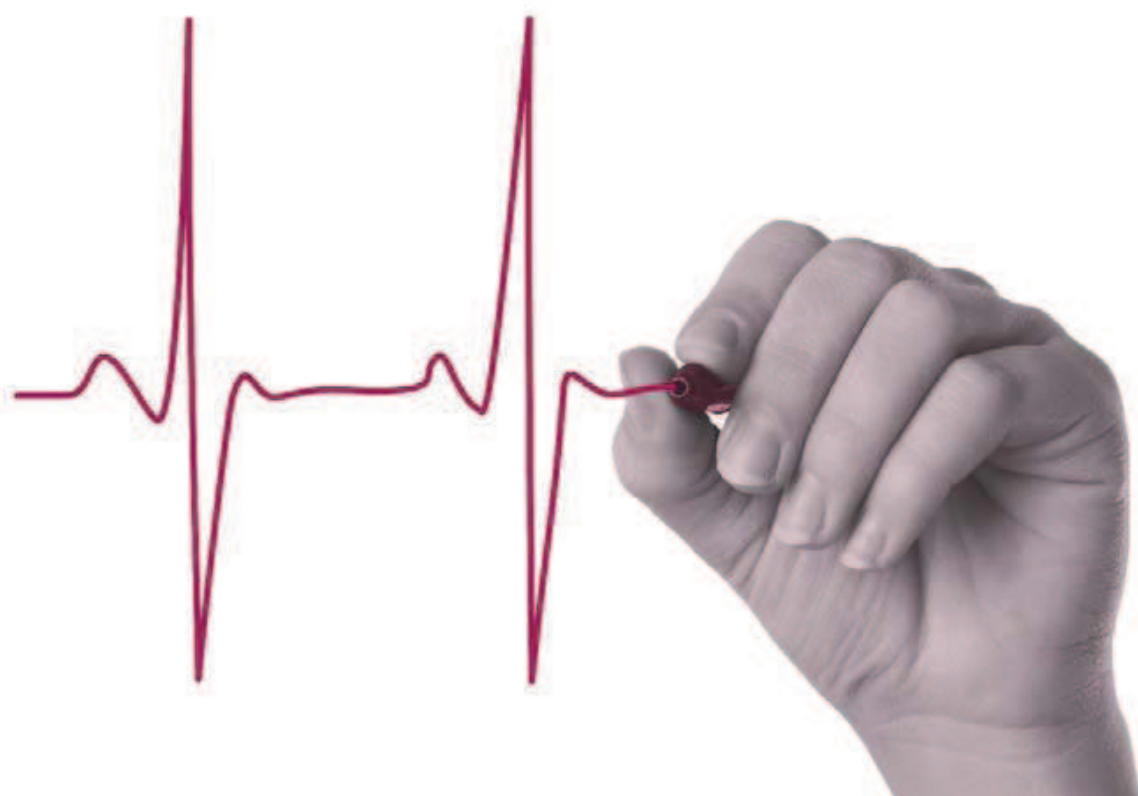


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