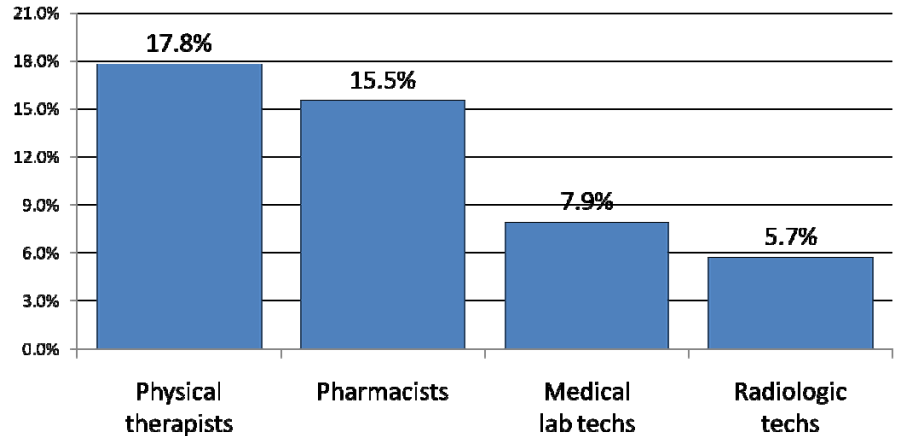


## Facts About Pennsylvania's Allied Health Workforce

**Pennsylvania's hospitals support more than half a million jobs in the commonwealth.** Nearly 596,000 Pennsylvanians depend on hospitals for their jobs through direct employment and or through other jobs that support hospitals.

- Nationally, Pennsylvania ranked 5<sup>th</sup> among the states in total health care employment.<sup>1</sup>
- According to data provided by the Pennsylvania Center for Health Careers, physical therapists, pharmacists, medical lab technologists, and radiologic technologists are expected to experience an increase in employment opportunities from 2004 to 2014.<sup>2</sup>

### Percent Growth In Pennsylvania Health Professions Employment, 2004-2014



Source: PA Center for Health Careers, *An Analysis of Allied Health Occupations in the Commonwealth*, May 2008

### Partnering to Promote Allied Health Professions

Hospitals have worked with the **Pennsylvania Center for Health Careers**, to develop several allied health initiatives. The Center serves as a catalyst to develop action-oriented strategies to address Pennsylvania's short- and long-term health care workforce challenges, including:



- Increasing the capacity of Pennsylvania's nursing education system
- Retaining health care workers in health care professions
- Responding to the demand for critical allied health professions
- Addressing the needs of direct care workers

A statewide outreach program has been implemented that promotes allied health career opportunities, including medical imaging, occupational/physical therapy, respiratory therapy, surgical technology, laboratory sciences, and pharmacy.

An allied health working group was established to develop strategies to address the issues associated with retaining health care professionals. Recommendations were developed and currently are being considered by the Rendell Administration.

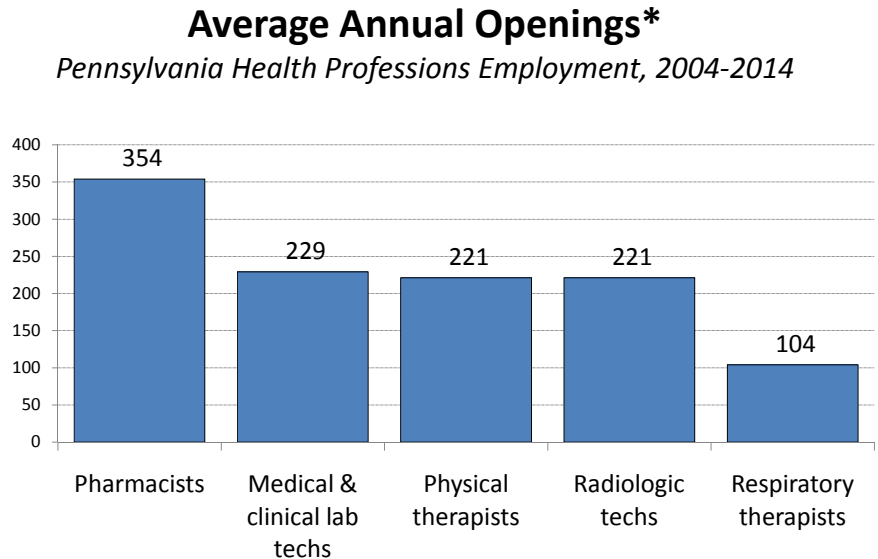
# Facts About Pennsylvania's Allied Health Workforce

- The work group focused on **22 high priority occupations**, and examined each occupation relative to four primary themes:

- Image
- Recruitment (both in schools and the workforce)
- Retention (both in schools and the workforce)
- Educational capacity within the commonwealth.<sup>2</sup>

- The group identified the following occupations to be the focus of immediate attention:<sup>3</sup>

- Pharmacists
- Medical lab technologists
- Physical therapists
- Radiologic technologists
- Respiratory therapists



**\*Due to growth and replacement**

Source: PA Center for Health Careers, *An Analysis of Allied Health Occupations in the Commonwealth, May 2008*

## What Needs To Be Done:

- Secure passage of Senate Bill 174, which permanently establishes The Pennsylvania Center for Health Careers within the Department of Labor and Industry.
- Secure funds for nursing and allied health workers' education capacity and faculty.
- Oppose legislation or regulation that exacerbates workforce shortages, prevents health care workers from practicing at their fullest potential, or imposes administrative burdens; this includes:
  - Opposing patient-nurse staffing legislation.
  - Oppose Employee Free Choice Act legislation, known as the "card check bill."
- Support funding, grants, and expansion of workforce development programs.

<sup>1</sup>Kaiser Family Foundation, *State Health Facts* at [www.statehealthfacts.org](http://www.statehealthfacts.org), 2008

<sup>2</sup>Results of the analysis outlined in working group's technical report at [www.paworkforce.state.pa.us](http://www.paworkforce.state.pa.us)

<sup>3</sup>Recommendations on how to increase the supply of these professionals at [www.paworkforce.state.pa.us](http://www.paworkforce.state.pa.us)