NCDHHS
Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Use Services

UNC | THE CECIL G. SHEPS CENTER FOR HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH

NEW WORKFORCE DATA SNAPSHOTS

North Carolina's Mental Health & Substance Use Services Workforce

DMH/DD/SUS and the UNC Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research have released 13 occupational data snapshots examining North Carolina's mental health and substance use services workforce.

Each profile provides concise data on workforce supply, geographic distribution, demographics and key findings.

13 SNAPSHOTS ACROSS FIVE WORKFORCE CATEGORIES

- **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PRESCRIBERS**
- **GRADUATE-LEVEL MH/SU SERVICES CLINICIANS**
- **ADDICTION COUNSELORS**
- **CERTIFIED COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS**
- **CERTIFIED PEER SUPPORT SPECIALISTS**

Created for providers, health systems, policymakers, planners, community partners and workforce advocates.

EACH SNAPSHOT INCLUDES:

- **WORKFORCE SUPPLY**
- **GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION**
- **DEMOGRAPHICS**
- **KEY FINDINGS & TAKEAWAYS**

KEY FINDINGS FROM THE STATEWIDE LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

DEMAND IS GROWING

1 IN 5
NC adults experience a mental health challenge

16%
adults affected by substance use disorders

CLINICIANS ARE THE LARGEST WORKFORCE

30,800+
graduate-level clinicians practicing in NC

LED BY
clinical social workers and mental health counselors

PRESCRIBERS REMAIN LIMITED

3,605
MH/SU prescribers in 2024

3.28
prescribers per 10.000 population

ACCESS VARIES BY LOCATION

METRO > RURAL
more providers per capita in metro counties

GAPS REMAIN
some rural counties lack key professions

EXPLORE THE RESOURCES

FULL LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT REPORT
Quick-reference profiles for 13 key MH/SU professions. →

OCCUPATIONAL DATA SNAPSHOTS
Read the full report (March 2026) for comprehensive findings. →

The full report draws on data from state licensure and certification boards, the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System, the Medicaid Provider Enrollment File, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and other sources. It includes maps and profiles by AHEC region, Behavioral Health Tailored Plan catchment area, and metropolitan/nonmetropolitan county status.

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