

"AAL brought an abundance of passion to our workforce issues, which led to a comprehensive workforce study praised by our executive leadership. It was a pleasure to work with AAL and it is my fervent hope that I have the opportunity to do so again in the future."

– Ms. Kamilah Lewis
Director, Training & Workforce
American College of Rheumatology

RHEUMATOLOGY

CHALLENGE

Ten years have elapsed since the last Rheumatology Workforce Study (WFS), and much has changed since 2005. There are many anticipated challenges now and in the near future to train and sustain a robust workforce of rheumatology specialists. The 2015 WFS sought to expand the current understanding of the rheumatology workforce utilizing an integrated, patient-centered approach to workforce modeling. AAL was selected to ACR to facilitate the WFS and write the final report.

SOLUTION

The 2015 WFS was completed using several primary and secondary data sources, including, ACR/ARHP member data, state licensure registries, 2005 ACR workforce study, professional organizations, other medical literature, and a web-based survey. Utilizing an integrated, patient-centered workforce modeling methodology, supply and demand projections were computed for rheumatology providers in the U.S. from 2015-2030. Multivariate regression modeling was used to determine significant factors affecting demand. These included healthcare utilization, provider practice trends, disease prevalence, population demographics, per capita income and access to care trends. Both total numbers and a Clinical FTE was computed to determine an accurate snapshot of the workforce today and in 2020, 2025, and 2030.

CURRENT STATUS

Projections reflected a significant shift in the mix of the future workforce by 2030 due to higher retirement rates, a female gender shift, and an increased demand in rheumatology care. Regional and innovative strategies will be addressed by the ACR Board to manage access to care and reduce barriers to care for rheumatology patients.

SUMMARY

- The American College of Rheumatology is an ethically-driven, professional membership organization that was founded in 1934.
- As a global medical society, ACR serves over 9,500 physicians, health professionals, and scientists worldwide.
- The previous Rheumatology Workforce Study (WFS) was conducted in 2005.
- The 2015 WFS sought to expand the current understanding of the rheumatology workforce utilizing an integrated, patient-centered approach to workforce modeling.
- Projections reflected a significant shift in the mix of the future workforce by 2030 due to higher retirement rates, a female gender shift, and an increased demand in rheumatology care.