

Academic Health Centers: Creating the Knowledge Economy

Academic health centers are essential to creating and sustaining an economic future in which knowledge resources, know-how, and expertise produce economic benefits and determine success around the globe.

Academic health centers strengthen the nation's higher education infrastructure

- Academic health centers, comprising health professions schools (including allied health, dentistry, graduate studies, medicine, nursing, pharmacy, and public health), major research complexes, and owned or affiliated hospitals, health systems, or organized health services, are central to the nation's health and research workforce capacity
- 72% of AAHC institutions have three or more schools within the academic health center
- Almost 60% of AAHC institutions have four or more schools within the academic health center
- Public (59%) and private (41%) AAHC institutions expand access to higher education
- 67% of AAHC institutions are part of a comprehensive university, 19% are part of a university system, and 21% are freestanding health sciences universities
- 44% of AAHC institutions are part of health systems that provide opportunities for clinical training

Academic health centers educate the knowledge workforce of tomorrow

- Academic health centers enroll more than 200,000 health professions students each year
- Average enrollment across all health professions and graduate schools is 2,330 students, and one in seven academic health centers enrolls at least 4,000 students
- Academic health centers award tens of thousands of undergraduate, graduate, and professional degrees annually in the health professions and graduate sciences
- In the last five years, three in five academic health centers have added new clinical doctoral degrees in the health professions to respond to changing public needs
- Approximately 32% of academic health centers are developing branch campuses that will expand education, health care delivery sites, and research for their communities

Academic health centers are major forces in economic development — creating jobs, developing innovative ways to improve and save lives, and providing care to the community

- Academic health centers often rank among the largest employers in their city, region, and/or state
- Academic health centers average more than \$430 million in annual payroll and often exceed \$1 billion, creating jobs for families nationwide
- Academic health centers employ more than 6,000 full-time employees on average and one in five has more than 10,000 employees
- Academic health centers employ more than 100,000 full-time faculty, averaging 1,410 faculty per institution and one in eight reports having more than 2,000
- 48% of academic health centers own or partially own one or more hospitals to provide primary, specialty, and quaternary care to their communities
- Academic health centers, on average, receive more than \$101 million in annual funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to advance biomedical research
- 44% of academic health centers have at least one research park and/or business incubator that facilitates technology transfer, accelerates entrepreneurial ventures, nurtures industry partnerships, and fosters regional economic development
- Academic health centers, on average, provide almost \$44 million in uncompensated patient care each year, and one in seven provides more than \$100 million, acting as a primary public safety net

Academic health centers lead in knowledge management, information technology, and new interdisciplinary research models — nationally and globally

- 85% of academic health centers are integrating functions to promote cross-disciplinary collaboration among faculty, students, and researchers
- Approximately 50% of academic health centers have a single, coordinated, centralized electronic medical record to provide effective, efficient, high-quality patient care
- Six in ten academic health centers have research collaborations with other academic health centers throughout the nation, and one in four collaborates with more than five other academic health centers
- Three in four academic health centers have at least one research partnership overseas, and seven in ten have at least one educational partnership with a foreign academic institution to share expertise and develop capacity
- 38 academic health centers have NIH-funded Clinical and Translational Science Awards, transforming research in communities nationwide
- 70% of academic health centers are constructing or planning to construct new research space to maintain U.S. preeminence in science and increase opportunities for cross-pollination of ideas across disciplines

The AAHC, which represents more than 100 institutions nationwide, is dedicated to improving the nation's health care system by mobilizing and enhancing the strengths and resources of the academic health center enterprise in health professions education, patient care, and research. This information is based on responses to a recent survey of AAHC institutions.