

## Academic Health Centers: Providing Health Care Services and Expanding Access

Academic health centers provide needed health care services—from preventive to quaternary care—and ensure access to diverse populations nationwide.

### Providing unparalleled clinical care in unique settings

- All AAHC institutions own or are affiliated with teaching hospitals, where scientific discoveries are translated to care at the bedside and the next generation of providers is trained every day.
- With an average of almost 600 beds, AAHC institutions' teaching hospitals are among the largest hospitals and maintain a reputation for superior quality of services.
- AAHC institutions offer specialized services, such as transplantation, high-risk obstetrics, oncology, and Level I trauma units, earning a reputation for providing care for the most complex cases.

### Creating networks to enhance clinical care

- 45% of AAHC institutions are part of a health system (i.e., a complex institutional network of hospitals, clinics, and other facilities) that can offer patients a continuum of care; these health systems, on average, have six hospitals.

- Academic health centers have affiliations with, on average, at least five hospitals (e.g., children's, general medical/surgical, geriatric, orthopedic, psychiatric, rehabilitation, and women's hospitals and Veterans Affairs Medical Centers), expanding the network for training.
- One in five AAHC institutions has a clinical collaboration with another academic health center.

### Ensuring access in urban and rural communities

- As essential safety nets for vulnerable populations, AAHC institutions, on average, provide almost \$44 million in uncompensated patient care each year, with one in seven providing more than \$100 million.
- Academic health centers have affiliations with—and in some instances manage or own—hundreds of community health centers nationwide, which are often the only source of primary and preventive health care services for vulnerable populations.

## ASSOCIATION OF ACADEMIC HEALTH CENTERS

- At least 50% of the health professions students who graduate from academic health centers practice in the state where they are educated, delivering care in health professions shortage areas and elsewhere in their states.
- 32% of AAHC institutions are developing or planning one or more branch campuses which respond to community needs for training of health professionals, provide communities with new care systems, and may serve as sites for testing and implementing new educational modalities.

### Developing new models of education and patient care

- 72% of AAHC institutions have three or more health professions schools. 42% have five or more schools that are creating educational environments to prepare students for future practice.
- AAHC institutions, on average, enroll 2,330 health professions students, including doctoral students in biomedical science and multiple health fields, who will address complex health problems, advance the evidence base for practice, and develop and maintain rigorous research programs.
- 61% of AAHC institutions in the past five years have added clinical doctorates to respond to changing educational and practice needs; nursing, audiology, physical therapy, and occupational therapy (in that order) are the most common offerings.

- 53% of AAHC institutions have practice plans in disciplines other than medicine, thus expanding outreach for nursing, dentistry, and other faculties.

*The AAHC, representing 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 a recent survey of AAHC institutions.*

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