

Use of New York State Physician Data to Analyze Potential Impact of Hospital Restructuring/Closures in New York City

Association of American Medical Colleges
Third Annual Physician Workforce Research Conference

May 3, 2007

Gaetano Forte, Director of Information Management
Center for Health Workforce Studies
School of Public Health, SUNY at Albany
<http://chws.albany.edu>



Today's Presentation

Today, we will discuss

- The Center for Health Workforce Studies
- New York State Education Department Physician Re-registration Survey
- The mission and findings of the Commission on Health Care Facilities in the 21st Century
- The HHC/PCDC Analysis and Report on Primary Care Capacity Shortage in NYC and the Potential Impact of Hospital Closure



Center for Health Workforce Studies
School of Public Health at U Albany

- Conducts studies of the supply, demand, use, and education of the health workforce
- Committed to collecting and analyzing data to understand workforce dynamics and trends
- Goal is to inform public policies, the health and education sectors, and the public



New York State Education Department Physician Re-registration Survey

- Physician survey is sent out with re-registration packet
- Physicians re-register every two years
- Center has been collecting physician data since 1996
- 2004 – 06 survey had 84% response rate



New York State Education Department Physician Re-registration Survey

- Physician survey requests information on:
 - Practice setting
 - Practice address, including zip code
 - Practice specialty
 - Percent of patient panel by source of payment (Medicaid, Medicare, Self-Pay, Other)
 - Demographics



Selected Recent Reports Using Physician Re-registration Data

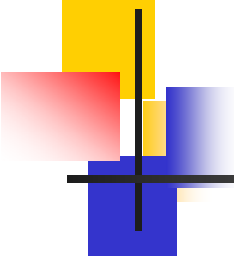
- ***“The Supply and Distribution of Physicians in New York State, 2004,”***
January, 2006
- ***“Changing Practice Patterns of Obstetricians/Gynecologists in New York,”***
April, 2006
- ***“A Profile of New York’s Underrepresented Minority Physicians, 2006,”***
June, 2006



The Supply and Distribution of Physicians in NY, 2004

Based on survey responses, it is estimated that there were:

- New York State
 - 77,471 licensed physicians
 - 61,931 active physicians (55,390 full-time equivalents)
 - 21,344 active physicians in primary care, including Ob/Gyns (34% of active physicians)
- New York City
 - 29,559 active physicians (25,249 full-time equivalents)
 - 10,067 active physicians in primary care, including Ob/Gyns, in NYC (34% of active physicians)



The Commission on Health Care Facilities in the 21st Century

- Non-partisan panel established to review acute and long-term care systems
- One state-wide panel
- Six regional panels
- Charged with “rightsizing” institutions
 - Consolidation
 - Closure
 - Conversion
 - Restructuring



Issues Identified by the Commission

- Financial instability of current system of providers, with over 125 closures of hospitals and nursing homes since 1983
- Hospitals and nursing homes continue to operate at a financial loss
- Aging health care infrastructure, with little additional funds to reinvest in capital projects



Issues Identified by the Commission

- Excess number of hospital and nursing home beds
- Insufficient primary and preventive care to meet the needs of New Yorkers
- Insufficient community-based alternatives to meet the needs of New Yorkers



NYC Providers and Advocates Concerned About Major Gap in Commission's Charge, Namely Primary Care

- Concerned that Commission did not understand NYC hospitals' contribution to the provision of primary care
- Several NYC organizations partnered to develop report using physician data, primarily
 - New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation (HHC)
 - Primary Care Development Corporation (PCDC)



HHC/PCDC Study Purpose

- Understand primary care physician capacity available to New York City residents, particularly low-income New Yorkers
- Determine how hospital restructuring and closures could affect the availability of primary care
- Identify issues that Commission needs to consider to ensure access to health care for the most vulnerable New Yorkers



HHC/PCDC Study Methodology

- To download or read the HHC/PCDC report:
http://www.pcdcny.org/documents/Primary_Care_Capacity.pdf
- Used 2004-06 physician re-registration data to assess primary care capacity in NYC
- Primary care defined as:
 - Family practice
 - General practice
 - Internal Medicine (general)
 - Obstetrics/Gynecology
 - Pediatrics (general)



HHC/PCDC Study Methodology

- Assessed primary care in non-inpatient settings
 - Community settings (non-hospital based providers)
 - Solo/group/partnership physician practices
 - Health Centers/Staff Model HMOs
 - State and local health departments
 - Hospital settings
 - Outpatient departments
 - Satellite locations



HHC/PCDC Study Methodology

- Calculated full-time equivalents (FTEs) by zip code for all providers and for Medicaid providers
- From the re-registration survey
 - Selected physicians working in patient care full or part time
 - Calculated FTEs based on patient care hours reported (36 hours = 1 FTE)
 - Used field “primary source of payment” to determine Medicaid FTEs



HHC/PCDC Study Methodology

Calculated population-to-provider ratios

- By zip code for 173 zip codes in NYC
 - Incorporated 21 point zip codes into geographic zip codes (buildings, airports, military bases)
- By NYC Borough (County)
- For total population and Medicaid-Eligible population
 - Used 2005 Claritas estimates for total population
 - Used New York State Department of Health Medicaid Enrollment Figures for FFY 2005



HHC/PCDC Study Methodology

- Applied thresholds for shortages
 - >3,000 residents per 1 FTE primary care provider considered shortage area
 - Between 2,000 and 2,999 residents per 1 FTE primary care provider considered stressed area
 - Developed ratios by community setting and by hospital setting



Finding: 38% of NYC Population in Shortage or Stressed Areas

- Maldistribution of primary care physicians based on:
 - Income
 - Location of hospitals
- 40% of all zip codes defined “serious shortage” or “stressed”
- Overall, 3 million New Yorkers are in “serious shortage” or “stressed” areas

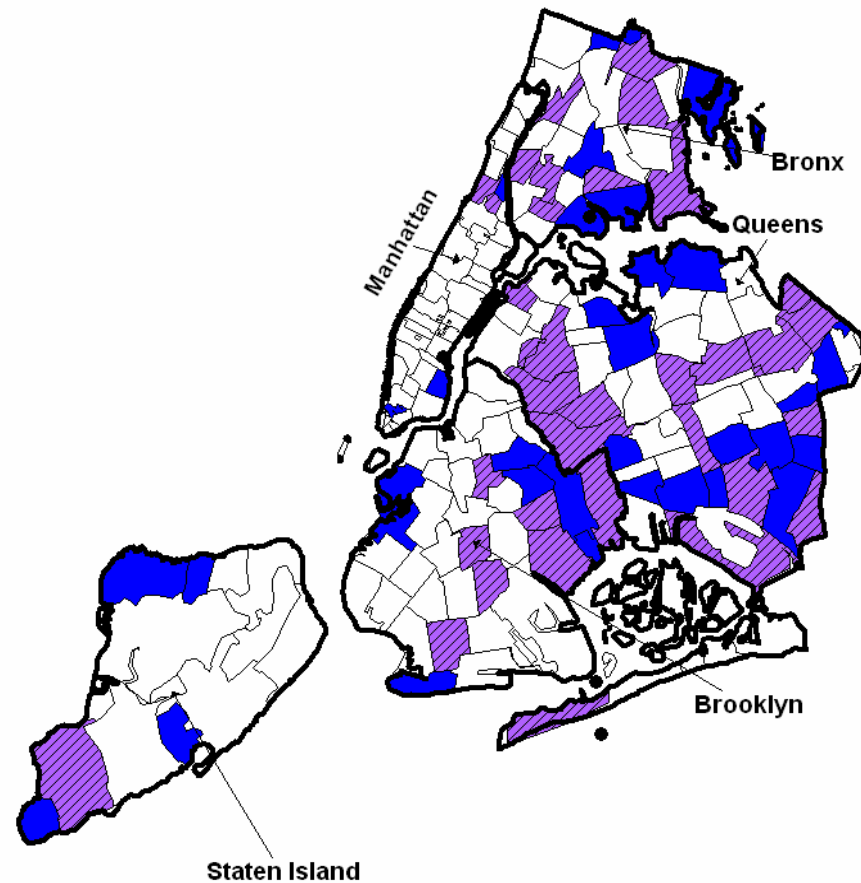
Finding: 38% of NYC Population in Shortage or Stressed Areas

- 36 “serious shortage” zip codes have a population to primary care FTE ratio of 4,408:1
- 34 “stressed” zip codes have a population to primary care FTE ratio of 2,392:1
- A number of areas outside of Manhattan (New York County) have primary care access issues

NYC Primary Care Physician Shortage Areas by Zip Codes

- Serious Shortage: >3,000 Residents per 1 FTE Primary Care Provider (36)
- Stressed Shortage: 2,000 to 2,999.99 Residents per 1 FTE Primary Care Provider (34)

Total number of zip codes = 173



Source: Center for Health Workforce Studies, SUNY, Albany, NYS Physician Re-registration Survey 2004-2006



*Finding: Shortage of Primary Care Physicians
Serving Low-Income New Yorkers*

- More than half of NYC communities have significant shortage of primary care physicians serving low-income New Yorkers.
- 39% of NYC residents are enrolled in Medicaid but they have access to just 25% of primary care physicians based in NYC

Finding: Shortage of Primary Care Physicians Serving Low-Income New Yorkers

- 64 “serious shortage” zip codes have a Medicaid enrollee to Primary Care FTE ratio of 4,682:1

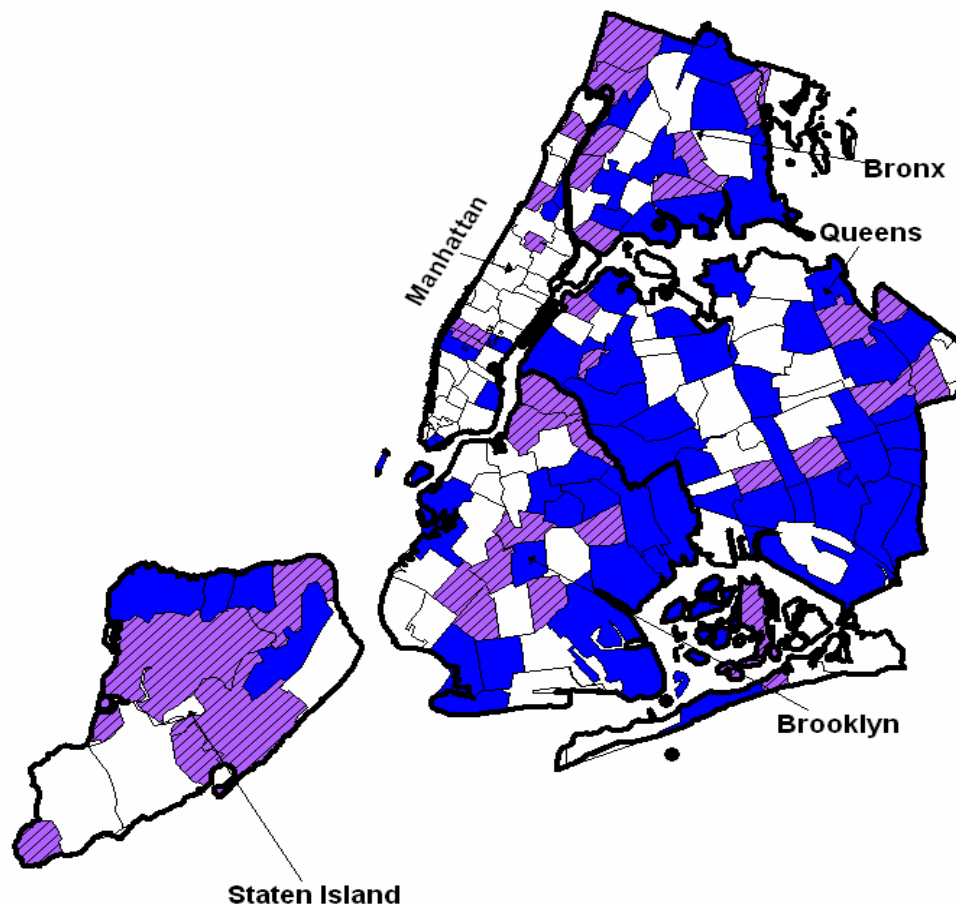
- 36 “stressed” zip codes have a Medicaid enrollee to Primary Care FTE ratio of 2,422:1

- Remaining 73 zip codes have a Medicaid enrollee to Primary Care FTE ratio of 1,101:1

**NYC Primary Care Physician Shortage Areas For Medicaid-Enrolled Residents,
By Zip Code**

- Serious Shortage: >3,000 Residents Per 1 FTE Primary Care Provider (64 zips)
- Stressed: 2,000 to 2,999 Residents Per 1 FTE Primary Care Provider (36 zips)

Total number of zip codes =173



Source: Center for Health Workforce Studies, SUNY, Albany,
NYS Physician Re-registration Survey 2004-2006



Finding: Closing Hospitals Could Severely Impact Physician Supply

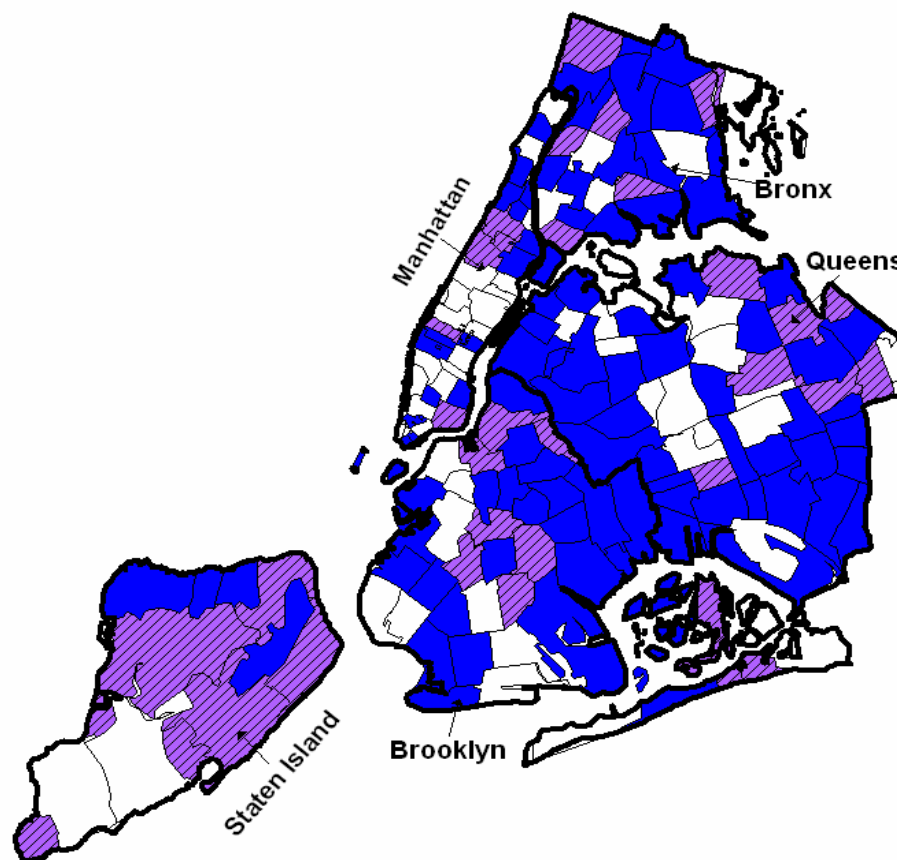
- Low-income NYC residents are dependent on hospitals for their primary care
- Over 70% of zip codes in NYC would be potentially stressed or have shortages if hospital-based primary care were to go away

Finding: Closing Hospitals Could Severely Impact Physician Supply

- 90 (52%) zip codes could have serious shortages
- 33 (19%) zip codes could be stressed
- While this represents the worst case scenario, it shows how dependent NYC residents are on hospital-based primary care physicians.

NYC Primary Care Physician Shortage Areas If No Hospital-Based Physicians Are Available

- Serious Shortage: >3,000 Residents Per 1 FTE Primary Care Provider (90 zips)
 - Stressed: 2,000-2,999 Residents Per 1 FTE Primary Care Provider (33 zips)
- Total Number of Zip Codes = 173





Acknowledgements

- Center for Health Workforce Studies
 - Robert Martiniano, MPA, MPH
 - Maria Kouznetsova, MPH, PhD
- Health and Hospitals Corporation
 - Dona Green, MBA
 - Victor Kim
- Primary Care Development Corporation
 - Nancy Lager, MPH, MSUP
 - Deborah Zahn, MPH