



To: Ohio House Health Committee
From: Ohio Association of Advanced Practice Nurses
Date: May 16, 2019
Subject: HB177 – Clarifications on Healthcare Workforce Provider Data Sources

Considering independently sourced workforce licensure data vs. incomplete organizational data

During Opponents Testimony offered by the Ohio State Medical Association on Tuesday, May 14, several points were raised that call into question the data OAAPN provided in regard to Ohio's nurse practitioner and physician workforce during our April 30 testimony before the committee. It is important to clarify the sources and validity of data, especially if it is being called into question.

OSMA bases its workforce statistics on data compiled by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). The AAMC uses the AMA Masterfile as the basis of its data reporting. It should be noted that many researchers are moving away from using this source because of the decreasing percentage their membership represents (less than 25% of practicing physicians¹). The majority of all provider membership data is voluntarily collected, whereas licensure data – which we used – is a regulated data source for actively practicing providers. In fact, the federal government has also moved away from using the AMA Masterfile and other national provider Masterfile data sources and now utilizes the National Provider Identifier (NPI) for the basis of its physician shortage designation program. This is a substantial indicator of the AMA Masterfile's diminished quality to accurately represent all physicians (MD, DO). Therefore, it is our position that any report or comment based solely on the AAMC data should be carefully considered, if at all²⁻³. We have attached the data collection/quality assurance methodology used to create the data that is represented in our statistics and maps.

Further, OSMA calls into question that 48% of NPs in the state specialize in primary care. It asserts that just 15% of the total population of "APRNs" in Ohio specialize in primary care. OAAPNs testimony in this regard was specific to nurse practitioners; however, the report OSMA references relates to all RNs.

To be clear, the total number of actively licensed APRN's in Ohio is 16,444, and our data indicates the number of NPs is 12,484. Leveraging data that includes all APRNs in the state or RNs is simply not accurate.

Below, we have included links to references cited above. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have further questions on this matter.

¹ Graham, J., (12/22/2016). Like a slap in the face: Dissent roils the AMA, the nation's largest doctor's group. Retrieved on 5/15/2019 from: <https://www.statnews.com/2016/12/22/american-medical-association-divisions/>

² Bindman, A.B., (2013). Using the National Provider Identifier for Health Care Workforce Evaluation, *MMRR*, vol., 3(3). Retrieved from: http://cms.hhs.gov/mmrr/Downloads/MMRR2013_003_03_b03.pdf

³ Clark, J. & DiGaetano, R., (2014). Using the National Provider Identifier File as the Sampling Frame for a Physician Survey. Joint Statistical Meeting – Survey Research Methods Section. Retrieved from: http://www.amstat.org/sections/srms/Proceedings/y2014/Files/311621_87847.pdf