



There is a Critical Need in Health Care.

- The American healthcare system would stop functioning without the over six million allied health professionals that make up greater than 60% of its service workforce.
- Allied Health encompasses over 100 unique professions that are often highly technical and difficult to identify during a typical encounter with the health care system.
- Despite the growing number of Americans needing health care, workforce shortages are common in many allied health specialties - some at critical levels - and there are no resources allocated to alleviate this growing problem.
- Allied Health as a collective is often omitted from critical discussions regarding the nation's health care system, even though when addressed collectively, allied health represents the majority of the healthcare workforce.

15 of the 30 Fastest Growing Occupations for 2002-2012 are Allied Health Professions (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Rank	Occupation	Growth Expected
1	Medical Assistant	59%
3	Physician Assistant	49%
4	Social/Human Service Assistant	49%
5	Home Health Aides	48%
6	Medical Records and Health Information Managers	47%
7	Physical Therapist Aides	46%

Why is allied health important to America's health care delivery system?

Allied health professionals greatly decrease cost and improve access to quality medical care. Allied health providers are trained in specialized areas and support physicians with skilled, knowledgeable care. Physicians trust these professionals as an essential part of the health care team. Allied health professionals generally work under the supervision or prescription of physicians, providing quicker access to treatment for those who need it most. This autonomy frequently reduces the cost of high quality care, resulting in lower costs for patients and third party payers. Having more allied health professionals, and making more people aware of their skills and services, will only improve overall health care for all Americans.

What has **Health Professions Network** been doing to help solve the problems?

- Collaborating over 35 allied health organizations representing over 650,000 allied health providers
- Building mutually supportive relationships with the DHHS/HRSA/Bureau of Health Professions, Department of Labor, American Hospital Association and the American Medical Association
- Developing and distributing posters and literature promoting allied health career choices to students in K-12 grades nationwide
- Advocating for legislative action that supports allied health such as Title VII appropriations and the Allied Health Reinvestment Act
- Becoming the representative voice of Allied Health in America