

- Resource shortage areas for TennCare primary care in 2000 included 30 of the 85 (35%) RSA's. These shortage areas cluster in the Northeast, East into the Northeast, and Southwest Regions of Tennessee.

Manpower in Tennessee: Ratios of Persons Licensed as Health Care Providers to Population, 2003

- In Tennessee in 2003, 11,293 persons in 95 counties held licenses to practice as medical doctors. Statewide, there was a ratio of one MD licensee per 508 persons. The counties with the lowest licensees per thousand population ratios were Bledsoe County with 0.08 licensee per thousand persons and Sequatchie County with 0.10 per 1,000. Counties with the highest licensee per thousand population ratios were Washington County (4.48 per 1,000), Davidson County (4.44 per 1,000), and Madison County (3.36 per 1,000).
- In 2003, 2,504 people held licenses to practice as dentists across 91 counties. The Tennessee licensee-to-population ratio was 1:2,292. Counties with the lowest ratios of licensees per thousand population were Van Buren, Pickett, Grundy and Hancock Counties, which had no dentists, while Union County had a prevalence of 0.05 licensees per thousand population. Davidson (0.71 per 1,000), Williamson (0.62 per 1,000), and Shelby (0.61 per 1,000) Counties had the highest ratios of licensees per thousand population.
- In 2003, 43,841 people were licensed as registered nurses (RNs) in 95 counties. Statewide, the licensed RN-to-population ratio was 1:131. Van Buren (1.46 licensees per 1,000 persons), Grainger (1.62 per 1,000), and Jackson (1.70 per 1,000) Counties had the lowest licensees per thousand population ratios. The highest ratios of licensees to population were in Madison (14.96 per 1,000) Davidson (14.83 per 1,000), and Washington (12.99 per 1,000) Counties.
- Individuals licensed as practical nurses (LPNs) totaled 18,482 across the 95 Tennessee counties. The licensee-to-state population ratio was 1:311. Union (0.81 per 1,000 persons), Williamson (1.32 per 1,000), and Sevier (1.61 per 1,000) Counties had the lowest ratios of LPN licensees per thousand population among the counties in Tennessee. Fentress (7.08 per 1,000), Clay (6.19 per 1,000), and Scott (6.00 per 1,000) Counties had the highest ratios.
- In 2003, 519 psychologists were licensed in Tennessee and distributed across 37 counties. The ratio of licensees-to-statewide population is 1:11,060. When the range is calculated across regions, the lowest ranges for regional licensees per thousand population ratios were found in the Northwest (0.0 to 0.03 per 1,000), and the South Central (0.0 to 0.06 per 1,000) Regions. Counties that had the highest licensed psychologists-to-population ratios were Knox County (0.26 per 1,000) and Davidson County (0.20 per 1,000).