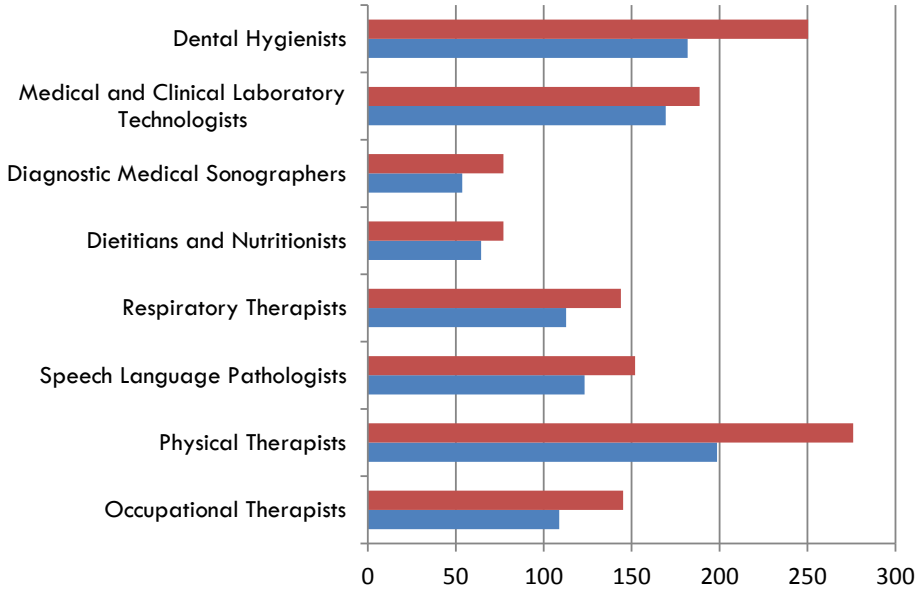
Training Needs in Allied Health

ACTUAL AND PROJECTED NEED FOR ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS



Bureau of Labor Statistics labor projections (number in thousands).

ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS KEEP OUR NATION HEALTHY

Allied health professionals will play a key role in health care reform by:

- Addressing obesity, e.g. dietitians and nutritionists
- Maintaining functional mobility, e.g. physical and occupational therapists
- Supporting primary care, e.g. clinical laboratory sciences and diagnostic medical sonographers

THE ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS OF ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS (ASAHP)

The Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions (www.asahp.org) is the principal membership organization representing and promoting the schools and colleges of allied health. Its mission is to advance the professions of allied health and advocate for allied health programs in the United States and abroad.

NEED FOR ADDITIONAL TRAINING FUNDS

- HRSA funded over $122 million in training grants to physician, physician assistant, and nursing programs in 2012.
- Allied health programs are eligible to apply for a limited number of HRSA funds and compete with medical and nursing schools, e.g.
  - Centers of Excellence
  - Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students
  - Health and Child Health Workforce Development Centers
- While training needs are just as great in the allied health professions, **training grants specifically targeted for allied health are not available.**
- Minority enrollment in allied health programs continues to be well below desired, e.g. in 2011 the average physical therapy class size was 43.3 students with only 7.3 minority students per class.
- Funding is needed to support training grants for both those entering the professional field and to support training of additional faculty

References:

Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Outlook Handbook http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/ accessed 8/26/2013

2011-2012 Fact Sheet Physical Therapist Education Programs, Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education. Updated 3/14/2013. http://www.capteon-line.org/uploadedFiles/CAPTEorg/About_CAPTE/Resources/Aggregate_Program_Data/AggregateProgramData_PTPrograms.pdf Accessed 8/26/2013.

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