

The Health Professions Database: Questions and Answers

1. **What is the Health Professions Database?**

The Health Professions Database includes demographic, geographic, education and employment information on regulated health professions in Ontario.

2. **Why is this information being collected?**

With an aging population and increasingly complex technologies, Ontario's health care needs are evolving. The Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (ministry), Local Health Integration Networks, researchers, your professional association and your regulatory college will be able to use the information we gather to shape research, policies and programs for health human resources planning.

3. **How is this information collected?**

The regulatory colleges collect the information from their respective members through their registration and annual renewal forms. The colleges prepare and submit the information to the ministry each year. The information is made anonymous, without names or contact information, before it is passed on to the ministry.

4. **How will this help me/my profession?**

The ministry is working with its partners in the health care sector to better understand the health care workforce. By finding out more about the demographics, geographic distribution, education and employment of our health professionals, we'll all be able to use this information along with other evidence to answer questions such as: Do we need more health professionals? Where do shortages of these health professionals exist? These answers will help us learn more about the basic, and then more complex issues to inform the development of effective health human resources policies and programs.

5. **Do I need to fill out the entire form?**

Yes. By law, you are required to provide the information requested on the form under the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991*. All Ontario regulated health professionals are filling out a form similar to the one you will be filling out. It is important to fill out the form carefully and completely. The more accurate the information you provide, the more effective the resulting health human resource planning will be.

6. **Will I receive a similar form every year?**

Yes. Some of the questions may change, some may be added and some may be removed, but you will receive a similar form to complete every year as part of the registration and renewal process for your profession

7. Will my name and contact information be released to the Ministry?

No. Your regulatory college will send the ministry anonymous answers to these questions without including your name and contact information.

8. What information will be released to the public?

Ministry analysts will pool information from the database to create reports profiling your profession that will be available to the public, your association and your regulatory college. These reports will help build knowledge and awareness of your profession among the public, researchers and policymakers.

9. Has the ministry conducted a Privacy Impact Assessment?

Yes. A Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) determines if there are privacy risks with the information collected and recommends mitigation techniques. The ministry hired an independent consultant to conduct a PIA on the Health Professions Database, which resulted in minimal risks. The PIA findings helped to guide the ministry's development of the database.

10. Where will the information be stored?

The information is stored at the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care in a securely hosted server environment protected by firewalls and authentication procedures.

Produced by:

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