

Growing Demand for Healthcare Workers in Florida

Florida has faced several healthcare worker shortages for years, and the coronavirus pandemic has only exacerbated these needs. In 2015, there were about 10 open healthcare job postings for every unemployed worker in the United States. By 2018, even before the coronavirus outbreak, this number had risen by more than 30 percent, with 13 open job postings for every unemployed healthcare worker. As states brace for a second wave of coronavirus infections, addressing these shortages will become even more critical.

In Florida, the demand for healthcare workers in general has remained steady, with at least 10.4 open healthcare jobs for every available unemployed healthcare worker in the state from 2015 to 2018.

However, the demand is much higher for high-skilled healthcare workers, called healthcare practitioners (including doctors, specialists, registered nurses, etc.), in Florida.

In 2018, the ratio was...

19.0 to 1 open healthcare practitioner jobs for each available healthcare practitioner who was unemployed.

Nurses

17.7 to 1

Health Aides

2.9 to 1

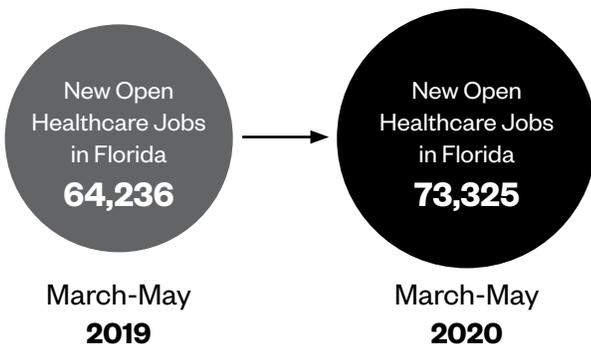
Even as Florida faces these shortages, demand for healthcare workers is growing. Despite record levels of job losses in other sectors in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak, the number of open healthcare jobs increased from March 1, 2020 to May 31, 2020 compared to the same period last year.

From March-May 2020, there were

73,325 new open healthcare jobs in Florida.

This is an increase of

+14.1% over the same period in 2019.



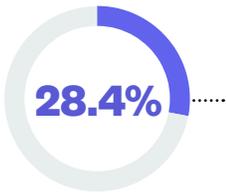
Physicians¹

+99.9%

Nursing Assistants

+12.5%

Given these growing shortages and the imminent need for healthcare workers during the COVID-19 crisis, the role of immigrants in the healthcare industry is vital to the fight against the disease and to a successful recovery in its aftermath.



Immigrants make up a large share of the overall healthcare workforce in Florida, with **28.4% of all healthcare workers being immigrants.**

From 2015-2019, demand for bilingual healthcare workers in Florida grew by

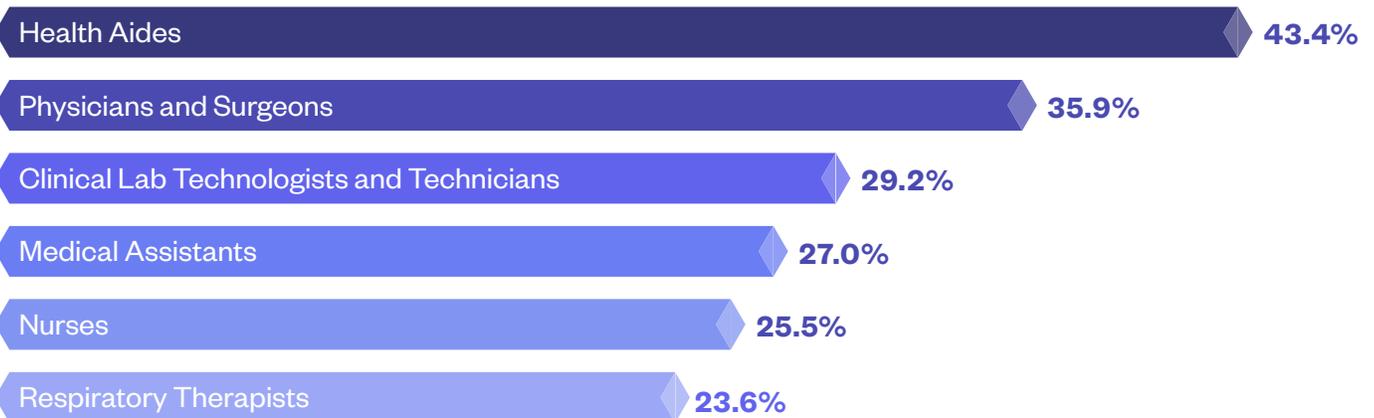
+59.6%



More than two-thirds of Florida's immigrant healthcare workers are bilingual, with **67.1% proficient in English and another language.**

More specifically, we find that immigrants are well represented from the highest skilled specialists to the equally vital day-to-day healthcare support workers.

Immigrant shares of select healthcare occupations in Florida, 2018...



1 Demand is measured by new job postings.