

Life cycle of Utah health workforce data

As outlined in the Utah Health Workforce Act

The Utah Health Workforce Advisory Council (HWAC) established a Data Subcommittee to advise on health workforce data-related activities executed by the Utah Health Workforce Information Center (HWIC) and Department of Commerce, Division of Professional Licensing (DOPL). This document outlines the process and roles of each entity.

Step 1: Finalize workforce surveys to collect data Utah needs

Utah Code 58-1-112 authorized the state to request information from select healthcare professionals during the licensing process. The HWAC established a Data Subcommittee, which is tasked with initial development of survey tool(s) in collaboration with the HWIC. The HWAC approves of the data to be collected from licensees.

Step 2: Implement surveys within licensing process

The HWAC-approved data fields are shared with DOPL to be integrated within the licensing process. Members of DOPL's staff implement the supplemental information fields survey tool by embedding the data coding within a survey to be administered to the affected professions during licensing processes.

Step 3: Managing and analyzing survey data

After the renewal period closes, DOPL extracts data in raw form and shares with the HWIC under appropriate interagency data sharing provisions. Once the HWIC receives the data, data are cleaned, coded, and analyzed as requested in statute and specified by the HWAC. The HWAC advises on research and analyses needed to study certain health workforce issues. The HWIC implements analyses as directed by the HWAC.

Step 4: Workforce reports and recommendations

Once analyses are complete, the HWIC finalizes data reports including information as authorized in statute or requested by the HWAC. Data reports are submitted to the HWAC for review, approval, and publication. The HWAC reviews results and may make recommendations to enhance Utah's health workforce. The HWAC shares health workforce-related reports with the entities outlined in the HWAC statute.



Importance of data

The HWAC uses data as the foundation for its activities. Information captured from healthcare practitioners at time of licensing renewal provides a strategic opportunity to gather information the state and key stakeholders need.

With the HWAC guiding data collection and the HWIC providing data expertise, the captured information meets requirements for reporting, evaluation, policy decisions, and supporting program implementation. The involved teams strive to keep the use case in mind during data collection, analysis, and reporting. Close coordination between the HWAC, HWIC, and DOPL will be critical to having the information Utah needs.

