

II. RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

OVERVIEW OF FINDINGS

Consistent with community stakeholder perceptions and based upon 1997 data, Delaware has adequate physician and hospital resources. However, the majority of these resources are concentrated in New Castle County.

- The Lewin Group conducted a survey of state hospitals to ensure that we used the most accurate and updated information in our analysis of hospital capacity.
- Based upon 1997 data, Delaware's acute care hospital bed supply meets its demand¹.
 - After adjusting for migration, the 1,621 staffed acute care beds in Delaware meet the demand of its residents.
 - Because Delaware residents have higher use rates than residents in benchmark communities (except the US), alternate utilization scenarios would result in an excess of beds in the community. Indeed, if Delaware had the same demand for care as comparison communities, Delaware hospitals would need between 15 percent and 34 percent fewer staffed acute care beds.
 - If use rates in Delaware paralleled that of the US, no excess acute care hospital beds would exist, and the state would require additional beds to meet its needs.
- The primary care versus specialty mix of physicians is consistent with that of the US, and the total supply of physicians appears to be adequate.
- The supply of dentists in Delaware falls short of an industry-based standard of 50 dentists per 100,000 persons but varies by county.
- Consistent with community stakeholder perceptions, Delaware experiences a small amount of out-migration for hospital services.
 - Approximately 10 percent of hospital care is provided by out-of-area providers.
 - Delaware residents who seek care outside of the state most often travel to Wicomico County, MD or Philadelphia County, PA.

¹ Standard occupancy levels are defined as 80 percent for medical/surgical beds, 70 percent for maternity beds and 95 percent for psychiatric/substance abuse beds.