

# Global Foresight, Inc. 2006 Report on Industry Trends

## Health Care

In the rapidly changing health care industry, technological advances have made many new procedures and methods of diagnosis and treatment possible. Clinical developments, such as organ transplants, less invasive surgical techniques, skin grafts, and gene therapy for cancer treatment, continue to increase the longevity and improve the quality of life of many Americans. In addition, advances in information technology continue to improve patient care and worker efficiency with devices such as hand-held computers that record notes on each patient. Information on vital signs and orders for tests are transferred electronically to a main database; this process eliminates the need for paper and reduces recordkeeping errors.

### Employment Outlook

Job opportunities should be excellent in all employment settings because of high job turnover, particularly from the large number of expected retirements and tougher immigration rules that are slowing the numbers of foreign health care workers entering the U.S. Wage and salary. Employment in the health care industry is projected to increase 27 percent through 2014, compared with 14 percent for all industries combined. Projected rates of employment growth for the various segments of the industry range from 13 percent in hospitals, the largest and slowest growing industry segment, to 69 percent in the much smaller home health care services.

About 545,000 establishments make up the health care industry; they vary greatly in terms of size, staffing patterns, and organizational structures. About 76 percent of health care establishments are offices of physicians, dentists, or other health practitioners. Although hospitals constitute only 2 percent of all health care establishments, they employ 40 percent of all workers.

*(Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics)*

### Trends & Emerging Issues

#### Macro Trends

- The population of the United States is expected to grow 29.2% between 2000 and 2030, from 282,125,000 to 363,584,000.
- Rates of all cancers for men declined between 1990 and 2001 (almost 1% per year), while for women the rates increased (an average of 0.4% per year).
- The prevalence of overweightness and obesity among adults has dramatically increased.
- The number of persons covered by employer-based health insurance decreased steadily between 2000 and 2004, and during that period the total number of uninsured adults increased by 6 million.

#### Market Trends

- 8 out of 20 occupations projected to grow the fastest are in health care.
- More new wage and salary jobs — about 19 percent, or 3.6 million — created between 2004 and 2014 will be in health care than in any other industry.
- Most workers have jobs that require less than 4 years of college education, but health diagnosing and treating practitioners are among the most educated workers.

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### Forecasts

- Researchers have found that by electrically stimulating certain nerves they can influence human movement, and possibly create better prosthetics.
- A California biotech company expects to begin trials of a treatment for spinal cord injuries next year.
- New drugs that target the brain's nicotine receptors, without the addictiveness of cigarettes, might help memory impairment in Alzheimer's disease and schizophrenia.
- Researchers predict significant health and cost benefits from linking data from individual biomonitors, as well as community health monitoring, to encourage healthy behavior changes.
- Accenture is developing a talking medicine cabinet to help the elderly manage their medications and keep track of their vitals.

### Resources

#### *Associations:*

[American Academy of Physician Assistants](#)  
[American Association of Medical Assistants](#)  
[American Dental Assistants Association](#)  
[American Medical Association](#)  
[National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants](#)

#### *Articles & Reports:*

Bureau of Labor Statistics  
[www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)

Telemedicine and the Future Patient  
<http://www.york.ac.uk/res/ihp/projects/l218252067.htm>

Global Health Mapping  
[http://www.iff.org/docs/SR\\_970\\_HH\\_Global\\_Health\\_Mapping\\_ExecSum.pdf](http://www.iff.org/docs/SR_970_HH_Global_Health_Mapping_ExecSum.pdf)