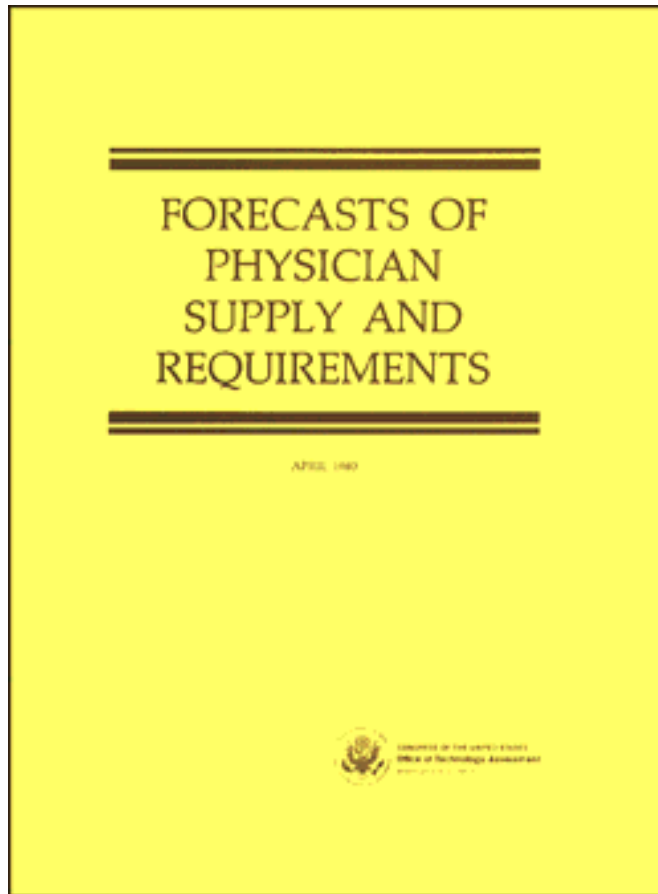


*Forecasts of Physician Supply and  
Requirements*

April 1980

NTIS order #PB80-181670



**Library of Congress Catalog Card Number 80-600063**

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office  
Washington, D.C. 20402 Stock No. 052-003 -00746-1

# Foreword

Undertaken at the request of the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources, this report evaluates the assumptions, methods, and results of the two current models used to forecast the number and kinds of physicians the country is likely to need and have. Congress must rely heavily on such forecasts in shaping Federal policy and programs for aiding education in the health professions and for providing health resources and services.

This report examines the two most important physician forecasting efforts—those of the Bureau of Health Manpower of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and those of the DHHS-chartered Graduate Medical Education National Advisory Committee. These two efforts together are generally representative of the kinds of techniques that are used to forecast physician and other health personnel supplies and requirements.

The report points out that projections of physician supply and requirements depend on historical data to predict future events, but even recent historical data reflect past policies, not current ones. The limits of forecasts must be fully understood if they are to serve as effective tools in the shaping of Federal medical policy. Those limits could be made clearer by explicitly describing the assumptions behind any forecasts, by making alternative forecasts based on different sets of assumptions, and by expanding the forecasting process to include policy makers as well as technicians.

This analysis was prepared by OTA staff. Drafts of the report were reviewed by an advisory panel convened for the study, by the Health Program Advisory Committee, and by various individuals associated with the forecasting activities analyzed.

JOHN H. GIBBONS  
*Director*

# OTA Health Program Advisory Committee

Frederick C. Robbins, *Chairman*  
*Dean, School of Medicine, Case Western Reserve University*

**Stuart H. Altman**  
*Dean*  
*Florence Heller School*  
*Brandeis University*

**Patricia King**  
*Professor*  
*Georgetown Law Center*

**Robert M. Ball**  
*Senior Scholar*  
*Institute of Medicine*  
*National Academy of Sciences*

**Sidney S. Lee**  
*Associate Dean*  
*Community Medicine*  
*McGill University*

**Lewis H. Butler**  
*Adjunct Professor of Health Policy*  
*Health Policy Program*  
*School of Medicine*  
*University of California, San Francisco*

**Mark Lepper**  
*Vice President for Inter-institutional Affairs*  
*Rush-Presbyterian—St. Luke's Medical*  
*Center*

**Kurt Deuschle**  
*Professor of Community Medicine*  
*Mount Sinai School of Medicine*

**C. Frederick Mosteller**  
*Professor and Chairman*  
*Department of Biostatistics*  
*Harvard University*

**Zita Fearon**  
*Research Associate*  
*Consumer Commission on the Accreditation*  
*of Health Services, Inc.*

**Beverlee Myers**  
*Director*  
*Department of Health Services*  
*State of California*

**Rashi Fein**  
*Professor of the Economics of Medicine*  
*Center for Community Health and*  
*Medical Care*  
*Harvard Medical School*

**Mitchell Rabkin**  
*General Director*  
*Beth Israel Hospital*  
*Boston, Mass.*

**Melvin A. Glasser**  
*Director*  
*Social Security Department*  
*United Auto Workers*

**Kerr L. White**  
*Deputy Director of Health Sciences*  
*Rockefeller Foundation*

# Forecasts of Physician Supply and Requirements

## OTA Health Program Staff

Joyce C. Lashof, *Assistant Director-, OTA  
Health and Life Sciences Division*

H. David Banta, *Health Program Manager*

Lawrence Mike, *Project Director*

Pamela Doty, *Congressional/ Fellow*

Nancy Kenney, *Administration*

## OTA Publishing Staff

John C. Holmes, *Publiszing Officer*

Kathie S. Boss      Debra M. Datcher      Joanne Heming

## Advisory Panel Members

E. Harvey Estes, Jr., *Chairman  
Chairman, Department of Community and Family Medicine  
Duke University School of Medicine*

E. B. Campbell  
*Executive Vice President  
Lane College*

Jack Hadley  
*The Urban Institute*

John Hatch  
*School for Biomedical Education  
City College of New York*

Lauren LeRoy  
*Health Policy Program  
School of Medicine  
University of California, San Francisco*

Charles Lewis  
*Department of Medicine  
School of Medicine  
University of California, Los Angeles*

Ted Phillips  
*Associate Dean for Academic Affairs  
School of Medicine  
Unitiiversity of Washington*

Jane Record  
*Health Services Research Center  
Kaiser Foundation*

Alvin Tarlov  
*Department of Medicine  
School of Medicine  
University of Chicago*

John Wennberg  
*Department of Community Medicine  
Dartmouth College*

## List of Acronyms

AMA	— American Medical Association
AOA	— American Osteopathic Association
BCHS	— Bureau of Community Health Services
BHM	— Bureau of Health Manpower
BLS	— Bureau of Labor Statistics
CMG	— Canadian medical graduate
CPI	— Consumer Price Index
DHHS	— Department of Health and Human Services
DO	- doctor of osteopathy
FMG	— foreign medical graduate
FTE	— full-time equivalent
GMENAC	— Graduate Medical Education National Advisory Committee
GNP	— gross national product
GP	— general practitioner
HIS	— Health Interview Survey
HMOS	— health maintenance organizations
HMSA	— Health Manpower Shortage Area
HSA	— Health Service Area
MD	— doctor of medicine
MUA	— Medically Underserved Area
NHI	- national health insurance
NHSC	— National Health Service Corps