South Dakota’s healthcare industry is projected to be among the largest growth industries from 2012 - 2022. The industry is projected to add 7,305 workers to SD’s economy which is a 13.8% growth.

Although the number of high school graduates could rise by 20% between 2016 and 2025, the 65 and older population will increase by 95% between 2015 and 2035.

Scary statistics, aren’t they? So….are you ready? Do you know what these stats mean to your community? Simply speaking, they mean that as our baby boomers retire and leave the healthcare workforce they are subsequently aging, requiring additional healthcare services.

A focus has been placed on high school graduates who can replace the retirees in the workforce and continue to provide quality healthcare services across the state. So…. do you know what you can do to be sure you have adequate numbers of healthcare workers to meet the crisis head-on? If not, look inside to get ideas on how to prepare!
Need ideas? Look below for some ways you can get students interested in a career in the healthcare industry!

- Set up career fairs in your schools.
- Send health professionals to speak at all grade levels.
- Arrange tours of your healthcare facility.
- Involve your local media.
- Create posters to hang in school lunch rooms and hallways.
- Sponsor mock accidents.
- Sponsor an elementary school coloring contest.
- Visit your local library for books on health careers and have a health professional read to young students.
- Distribute health career bookmarks.
- Place health career table tents in the lunch room.
- Incorporate HOTT lesson plans into the classroom.
- Ask your Community Health Nurse to bring their HOTT Futures Kits to the classroom.

For more ideas, visit healthcareers.sd.gov!

The healthcare industry in South Dakota is projected to be one of the largest growing industries, adding an estimated 7,305 jobs between the years 2012 and 2022 and is expected to be one of the fastest growing industries, increasing by over 13 percent. In response, the SD Departments of Education, Health, and Labor and Regulation, and the SD Board of Regents have created a program to address the critical need for healthcare workers in the state. Health Occupations for Today and Tomorrow (HOTT) focuses on health career information and opportunities for South Dakota students at all grade levels.

Available Resources:
- Lesson Plans
- Tool Kits
- HiPAA-Compliant Activities
- Career Fact Sheets
- Career Videos
- PowerPoints
- Bookmarks
- Coloring Books
- Facebook™ Page
- Posters
- Puzzles

Many more tools, resources and ideas at healthcareers.sd.gov!