

# Assessment of Primary Care Capacity in Connecticut

February 4, 2009



University of Connecticut

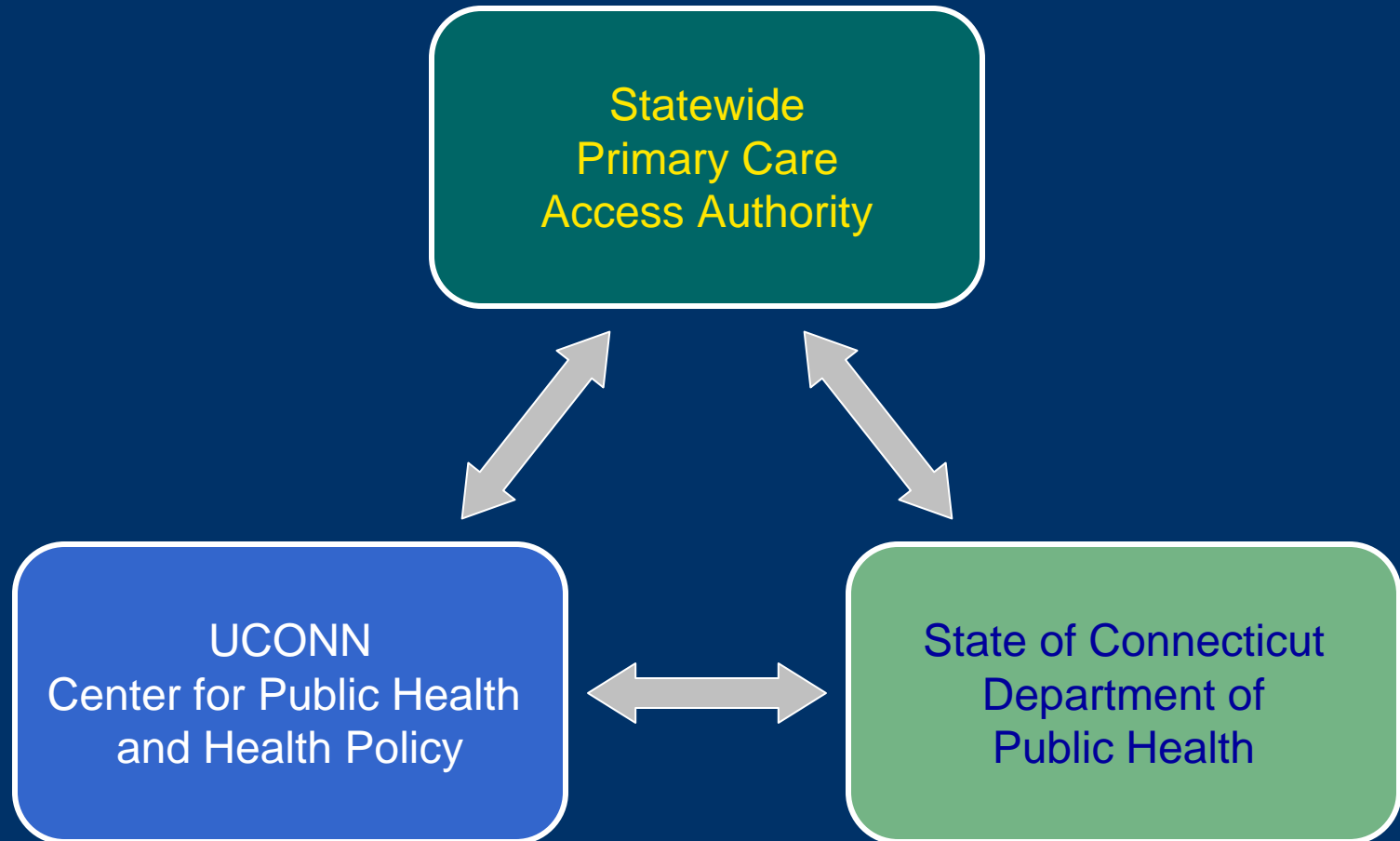
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Center for Public Health and Health Policy

# Overview

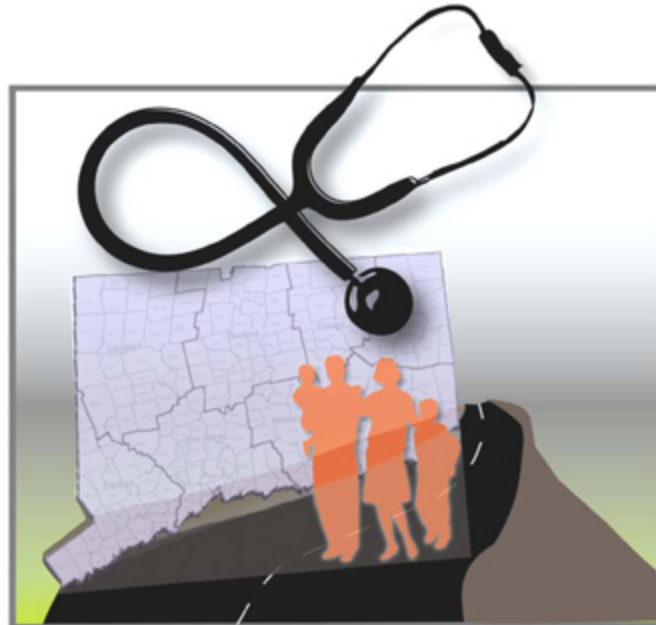
- Background
- Summary of Findings
- Data Sources
- Results

# Background



# Report

## Assessment of Primary Care Capacity in Connecticut



A report prepared by



University of Connecticut

Center for Public Health and Health Policy

December 2008

# Summary of Findings I

- Appearance of an adequate supply of primary care providers based on number of licensed providers
- Geographic distribution is unequal
- Unexpired provider licenses vs. practicing providers
- More existing data about physicians than other primary care providers

# Summary of Findings II

- Existing research
  - Impending and future shortage
  - Selection of non-primary care careers by medical students
- Massachusetts experience
  - Primary care access problems with individual insurance mandate

# DPH Licensure Database

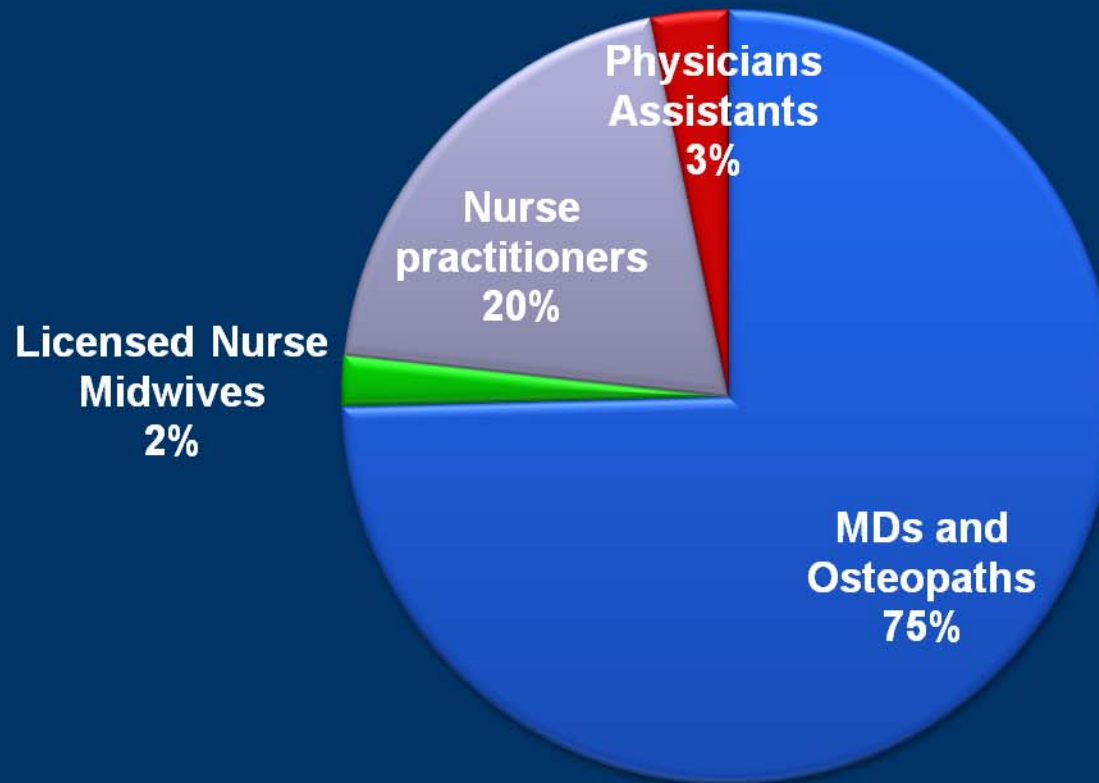
- MDs, Osteopaths, Homeopaths, Naturopaths
- Nurse Practitioners
- Physicians Assistants
- Licensed Nurse Midwives

# DPH Licensure Data

Type of Provider—Primary care	Number of unexpired licenses
MDs, Osteopaths, Homeopaths, Naturopaths	6201
Licensed Nurse Midwives	177
Nurse practitioners	1667
Physicians Assistants	268
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8313</b>



# DPH Licensure Data by Percent



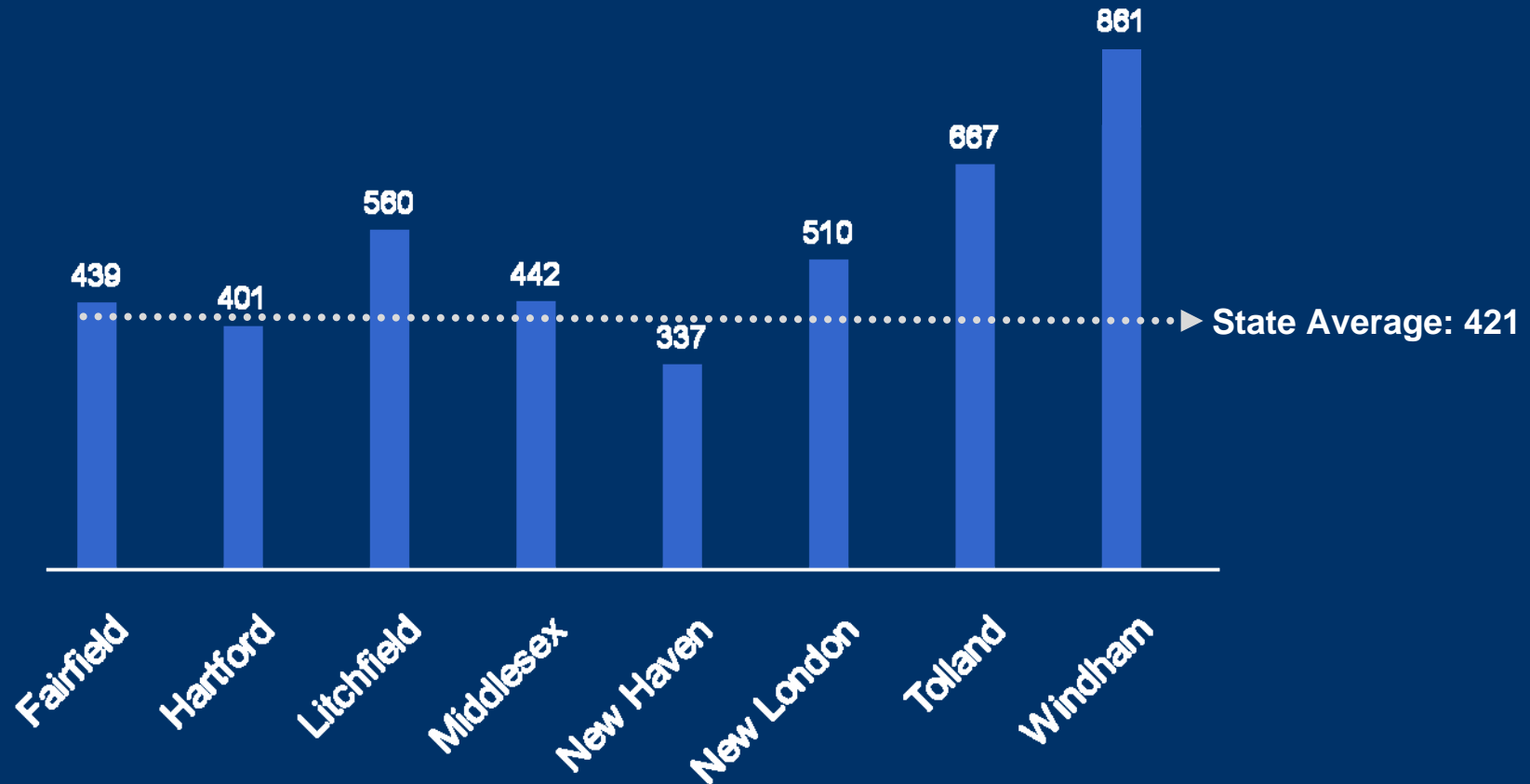
# Data Sources

- National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS)
- National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey-Outpatient Departments (NHAMCS-OPD)
- Medical Group Management Assoc. (MGMA)
- Other (existing surveys, Bureau of Primary Health Care, Health Resources and Services Administration, US Census)

# Measures

- All Providers
  - Population-per-Primary Care Provider
- Physicians
  - Primary Care Physicians per 100,000 Persons
  - Encounters & Visits
  - Geographic Distribution of Primary Care Physicians and Lack of Health Insurance

# Population-Per-Primary Care Provider Ratio By County



# Primary Care Physicians per 100,000 Persons

- Connecticut: 124 per 100,000 persons
- New York: 106 per 100,000 persons

# Encounters & Visits

- Federally-Qualified Health Center and Medical Group Management Association encounter data
- NAMCS/NHAMCS-OPD visit data
  - Based on the number of unexpired licenses and population data, there is an appearance of an adequate supply of primary care physicians

# Uninsured by County

County	Percent Uninsured
Fairfield	13.4
Hartford	11.8
New Haven	11.5
Tolland	11.4
Windham	11.1
Middlesex	10.8
Litchfield	10.7
New London	10.1

# Percent Uninsured and Primary Care Physician per 100K population by County

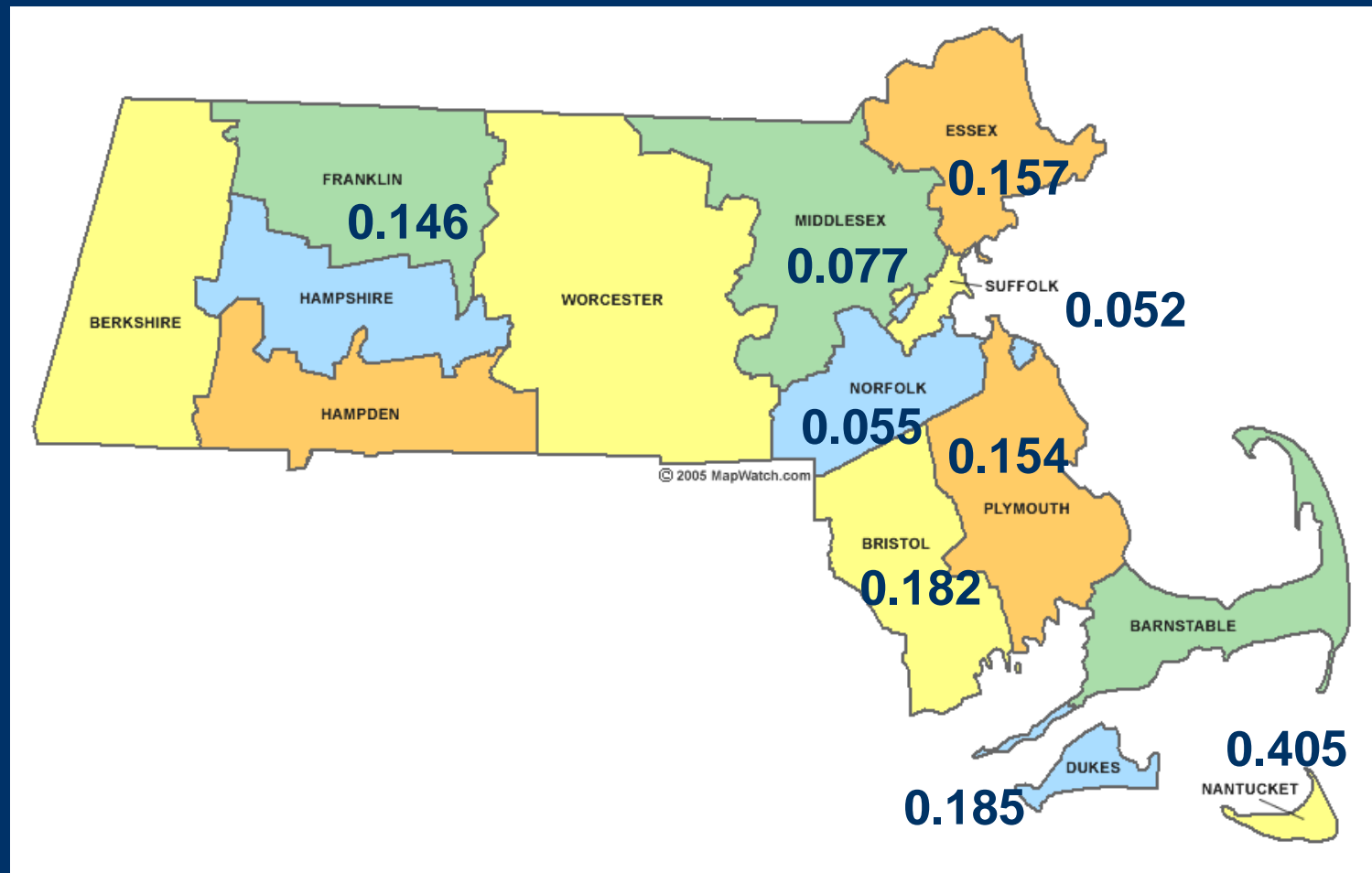
County	Percent Uninsured	Primary Care Physician per 100K population
New Haven	11.5	<b>143.84</b>
Hartford	11.8	<b>130.04</b>
Fairfield	13.4	<b>129.93</b>
Middlesex	10.8	<b>93.74</b>
Litchfield	10.7	<b>77.34</b>
New London	10.1	<b>75.01</b>
Tolland	11.4	<b>69.09</b>
Windham	11.1	<b>57.85</b>



# Ratio of Percent Uninsured and Primary Care Physicians by County

County	Percent uninsured	Primary Care Physicians per 100K population	Ratio
Windham	11.1	57.85	<b>0.192</b>
Tolland	11.4	69.09	<b>0.165</b>
Litchfield	10.7	77.34	<b>0.138</b>
New London	10.1	75.01	<b>0.135</b>
Middlesex	10.8	93.74	<b>0.115</b>
Fairfield	13.4	129.93	<b>0.103</b>
Hartford	11.8	130.04	<b>0.091</b>
New Haven	11.5	143.84	<b>0.080</b>

# Ratio of Percent Uninsured and Primary Care Physicians by County in MA, 2005



# Summary of Findings

- Appearance of an adequate supply of primary care providers based on available data sources
- Currently, fewer providers in rural areas
- Analyses based on count of unexpired licenses overestimates supply
- Future shortage of primary care providers

# Remaining Questions

- Number of providers with unexpired licenses not currently practicing
- Percentage of time providing primary care and specialty care
- Lack of availability of detailed, Connecticut-specific information about NPs, LNNMs.

# Additional Information

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