

For Immediate Release

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Severe Shortage of Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists Illustrated in AACAP Workforce Maps

Washington, DC, May 22, 2018 – The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) has released updated workforce maps illustrating the severe national shortage of child and adolescent psychiatrists. The maps specifically show the rate of practicing child and adolescent psychiatrists per 100,000 children aged 0-17 years by county as well as the average age of child and adolescent psychiatrists per state.

National studies have consistently substantiated the magnitude of mental, emotional, or behavioral disorders in U.S. children and adolescents. AACAP works to reduce the workforce shortage of child and adolescent psychiatrists who are trained to provide specialized mental health care.

- 13%-20% of U.S. children - nearly 1 in 5 - have a mental, emotional, or behavioral disorder in a given year.
- Only about 20% of children with mental, emotional, or behavioral disorders receive care from a specialized mental health care provider.
- 50% of all lifetime cases of mental illness begin by age 14 and 75% by age 24.
- Up to 70% of youth in the juvenile justice system suffer from mental health disorders.
- There are approximately 8,000 practicing child and adolescent psychiatrists in the United States.
- Ratios of child and adolescent psychiatrists range by state from 1 to 60 per 100,000 children, with a median of 11 child and adolescent psychiatrists per 100,000 children. This includes Puerto Rico and District of Columbia.

For more information about AACAP's Workforce Maps, visit AACAP's [website](#). For questions, please contact AACAP's Communications Department at communications@aacap.org.

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Representing 9,300+ child and adolescent psychiatrists worldwide, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) is the leading authority on children's mental illnesses.

AACAP Members actively research, diagnose, and treat psychiatric disorders affecting children, adolescents, and their families. For more information, please visit www.aacap.org.