

MARK BOWEN | COURIER

Developers propose for the Banks can't be built under Bengals' lease terms.

## Deal-breaker?

Over almost  
square feet of  
space, Bengals  
to play ball  
negotiations

BY LUCY MAY AND DAN MONK | lmay or dmonk@bizjournals.com

As much as one-third of what an Atlanta development team has proposed for the Banks can't be built under the terms of the Cincinnati Bengals' stadium lease with Hamilton County.

That's according to the developers themselves, who said if the lease deal remains unchanged, it

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## Supplier ZF moving 220 local jobs to Mexico as part of larger reshuffling

.com

Automotive supplier ZF Group is shuttering its ZF Sachs shock absorber plant in Northern Kentucky to move production to Mexico, and plans to expand its steering components

operations at the same Florence site.

The changeover recently got under way in Florence and is expected to take 18 months to complete. It's part of a larger initiative by ZF's North American business to consolidate oper-

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## Staffing checkup

### Study shows shortage of 750 doctors in Tri-State

BY JAMES RITCHIE

jritchie@bizjournals.com

Greater Cincinnati needs about 750 more doctors, and the number of physicians who soon will retire means the shortage could grow sharply in coming years, according to new data.

Other studies have found the area's number of doctors to be low. But the Cincinnati MD Resource Center has compiled the most complete picture yet available of the area's providers.

"We have the exact number of physicians and their ages," said Lisa Adkinson, director of the center. "We never had that before. Nobody had a complete list."

To be precise, the 14-county Tri-State region has 4,465 doctors engaged fully in patient care and 875 who also are involved in education and research.

For her calculations, Adkinson divided the 875 by half to reflect that those providers spend less time on patient care. In total, that means 4,902 full-time equivalents.

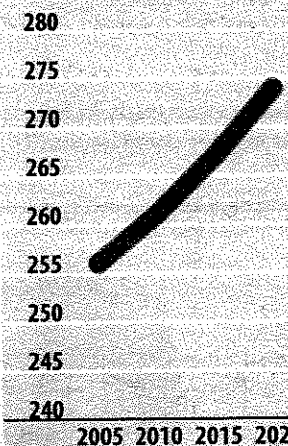
Compared with U.S.

Department of Health and Human Services data released in 2006, the numbers leave the area 748 physicians short.

As earlier examinations have found, certain specialties are in particularly short supply. For example, data

### NATIONAL STANDARD

Number of physicians needed per 100,000 of population in the United States.



Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Oct. 2006

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# DOCTORS: Study provides most complete picture yet of Tri-State's physician staffing levels, gaps

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show the area needs 200 more general surgeons and 87 additional psychiatrists.

Adkinson's group, a free physician recruiting service formed in 2004 by the nonprofit Health Improvement Collaborative of Greater Cincinnati, worked with provider lists from hospitals, insurers, the local Academy of Medicine and other sources. Previous studies had used partial data sets, he said.



The center spent two years putting together the information, which it hopes to use to help Greater Cincinnati plan for its physician needs.

Adkinson is not sure how accurate the federal government's benchmarks are. "They feel to me a little high," she said. "I think if we had that many, we'd probably have physicians complaining about not having a big enough patient load."

Worrisome to her are the demographics of the local medical community. In 15 years, 46 percent of current doctors in the area will have turned 65. Seventy-nine percent will have turned 55.

As they retire, not enough new physicians are likely to emerge from local programs to fill the vacancies; the area produces about 233 new doctors a year.

Jeff Blunt, spokesman for Humana, declined to comment on the MD Resource

Center's data but said, "We've seen absolutely no indication of an overall physician shortage in Greater Cincinnati, nor have we seen any indication of a negative trend."

"Humana's physician network for both specialists and primary care physicians has grown both on an overall basis—sheer number of physicians—and on a per-capita basis—number of physicians per member—year over year for at least the past five years," he said. "We monitor physician access and member feedback regarding appointment wait times very closely, and we are not seeing problems in either area."

**'Cincinnati may have recognized the problem a little sooner than some.'**

**Bruce Haskin**  
Academy of Medicine

In 2003, Cincinnati had a shortage of 520 doctors compared with 10 other Midwestern cities, according to a study by the Health Improvement Collaborative and the Cincinnati Business Committee, a group of business leaders.

Dr. Roslyn Kade, an obstetrician/gynecologist, said physicians that know certain referrals are hard to make. She is president of the local Academy of Medicine and part of the Cincinnati MD Resource Center's advisory board.

## ALLING NUMBERS

The Tri-State's number of physicians per 100,000 in area population falls short of national benchmarks.

Specialty	2007 local total	2007 national benchmark	Difference
Anesthesiology	239	300	-61
Cardiology	125	168	-43
General surgery	115	315	-200
Obstetrics/gynecology	288	318	-30
Ophthalmology	113	149	-36
Orthopedic surgery	147	190	-43
Pathology	92	138	-46
Psychiatry	216	303	-87
Urology	79	84	-5
All patient care	4,902	5,651	-748

Source: Health Improvement Collaborative of Greater Cincinnati

"The two that I deal with the most are dermatology and endocrinology. I can't get a patient in to see a dermatologist. I can't get myself in to see a dermatologist," she said. "It's a three- to six-month wait. Once in a while if you have a true dermatological emergency, which is rare, you might get someone in immediately."

Cincinnati doctors have long complained that reimbursement here is lower than in other comparable cities, making it hard to recruit physicians into town. Adkinson said she doesn't have data on the issue. Bruce Haskin, director of the Academy of Medicine of Cincinnati, said he hears anecdotally that the situation is improving.

At any rate, Cincinnati's situation is not

unusual. The Health and Human Services department predicts a national shortage of 136,400 doctors in 2010 and 201,600 in 2020.

"I think it's going to be a situation where Congress and the state legislatures will respond by trying to expand medical school slots," Haskin said. "But we're going to have a lead-lag period, because even after you've recruited people, it takes a long time for someone to go through the complete training."

He suspects there will be winners and losers across the country. "Cincinnati may have recognized the problem a little sooner than some of the rest of the country, putting us ahead of the curve," Haskin said. "But we have to stay ahead of the curve."