MONTANA’S PRIMARY CARE WORKFORCE

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for the
Montana Healthcare Workforce
Advisory Committee
PRIMARY CARE (PC) PHYSICIANS

○ National
  • Provide 52% of all ambulatory care
  • 23.3% of physicians are over the age of 60 & likely to retire within 5 years (24.5% in MT)
  • Only 2% of medical students plan to work in PC

○ Montana
  • 40% of total MT physicians are practicing in PC
    ○ 37% Physicians practice is in Billings, Missoula, or Great Falls
  • 9 counties without a physician, 12 counties without PC physician, 7 counties without hospitals

○ Future
  • National shortage of 124,000 physicians by 2025
DISTRIBUTION OF MONTANA’S PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS

Montana Health Care Delivery System
Primary Care Physicians by County Total
(Total Number = 862)

Primary Care Physicians by County
# in County
- None
- 5 or less
- 6 - 15
- 16 and over

Data Source: Montana Medical Association (July 2009)
Maps created by the Peterson Consulting
July 28, 2009
DISTRIBUTION OF MONTANA’S FAMILY MEDICINE PHYSICIANS

Montana Health Care Delivery System
Family Medicine Physicians by County Total
(Total number = 491)

Family Medicine Physicians
# by County

- None
- 5 or less
- 6 -20
- 21 or more

Data Source: Montana Medical Association (July 2009)

Maps created by the Petos Consulting
July 29, 2009
DISTRIBUTION OF MONTANA’S GENERAL PRACTICE PHYSICIANS

Montana Health Care Delivery System
General Practice Physicians by County Total
(Total number = 18)

General Practice Physicians
# by County
None
1
2
3

Data Source: Montana Medical Association (July 2009)

Maps created by the Petos Consulting
July 28, 2009
DISTRIBUTION OF MONTANA’S INTERNAL MEDICINE PHYSICIANS

Montana Health Care Delivery System
Internal Medicine Physicians by County Total
(Total number = 262)

Internal Medicine Physicians
# by County
- None
- 5 or less
- 6 - 30
- 31 or more

Data Source: Montana Medical Association (July 2009)

Maps created by the Patas Consulting
July 20, 2009
P.A., CERTIFIED NURSE MIDWIVES, NURSE PRACTITIONERS

- **National**
  - Between 1992 and 2002 - 60% increase in the number of PAs, NPs, and CNMs

- **Montana**
  - 57% of MT PAs practice in primary care
    - Compare with the national average of 37%
      - Possible cause: Lower number of PC physicians
  - 10 counties are without a NP, 11 counties are without PA, 44 counties are without a CNM, 3 counties do not have any PAs, CNMs, or NPs

- **Future**
  - If the future demand for physicians is not met, MT may look to PAs, NPs, and CNMs to provide more of the state’s primary care
DISTRIBUTION OF MONTANA’S CNMs AND NPs

Montana Health Care Delivery System

Montana Healthcare Providers
- Certified Nurse Midwives (n = 42)
- Nurse Practitioners (n = 410)

Data Source: Montana Department of Labor and Industry (July 2009)
Maps created by the Petos Consulting July 24, 2009
DENTISTS AND DENTAL HYGIENISTS

- National
  - Ratio of dentists to urban population is 150% of the rural ratio
  - 33.9% of active dentists are 55 or older

- Montana
  - 13 counties are without a practicing dentist and 10 are without a dental hygienist
    - Implies: 19,291 residents must travel to another county to receive dental care
  - 1 dentist to every 2,058 people in MT
    - Nationally: 1 dentist to every 1,891 people
  - 26.7% of MT dentists are 55 or older
    - 70% of MT dentists are older than 45

- Future
  - Between 2014 and 2027, it is estimated that more dentists will leave the workforce than enter it
DISTRIBUTION OF MONTANA’S DENTAL HYGIENISTS

Montana Health Care Delivery System
Dental Hygienists

Data Source: Montana Dental Hygienists Association (July 2009)

Maps created by: Petos Consulting
July 24, 2009
DISTRIBUTION OF MONTANA’S DENTISTS

Montana Health Care Delivery System
Dentist by County Total
(Total Number = 493)

Dentists
# in County
- None
- 5 or Less
- 6 - 25
- 26 or More

Data Source: Montana Medical Association (July 2009)

Maps created by the Petos Consulting
July 29, 2009
EDUCATING MONTANA’S WORKFORCE

- **Physicians**
  - 20 MT students accepted to WWAMI yearly
  - MT Family Medicine Residency Program
  - MT TRUST

- **Nursing**
  - Baccalaureate Nursing Program – MSU, SKC, Carroll
  - Associate Degree Nursing Programs – 7 institutions
  - Graduate Program – MSU

- **Physician Assistant**
  - Rocky Mountain College

- **Dentists**
  - No dental schools in MT

- **Allied Health – Universities, COTs, Community Colleges**
WHAT CAN BE DONE TO INCREASE PC WORKFORCE IN MT?

- **Prepare Adequate Numbers**
  - 2-10 years to train professionals
  - Prepare now by investing in all levels of education to assure a health care workforce in the future

- **Encourage Education & Practice in Rural and Underserved Areas**
  - Clinical rotations in rural and underserved settings
  - Clinical preceptors from rural Montana
  - Distance education programs
  - Education programs targeted to a rural practice
WHAT CAN BE DONE TO INCREASE PC WORKFORCE IN MT?

- Recruit Young People from Rural & Frontier Communities
  - Individuals from rural communities are more likely to serve in rural areas
  - Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA)

- Provide Opportunities for Rural Residents to Obtain Education
  - Allow facilities to “grow their own” professionals

- Recruit to Rural and Underserved Communities
  - MT Recruitment Collaborative
IS MONTANA PREPARED?

- We are NOT prepared for the health care workforce shortage
  - Impact of health care reform
    - New demands on pc workforce
  - Retirements & aging population
  - Lack of faculty
    - Inhibits expansion of programs

- Recommendation for a state study
  - Assess state health care workforce needs
  - Propose strategies for assuring adequate workforce in the future
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