

What is the Value of Rural Residency Training?

Davis Patterson, PhD

University of Washington School of Medicine

Rural PREP Design & Dissemination Studio

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Background

- Residency location is a strong determinant of eventual practice location.
- Family medicine programs training residents in rural communities are more successful at producing rural physicians.
- Programs are often smaller (<4 residents/year), with fewer resources (vs. urban): questions about quality.
- The Federal Office of Rural Health Policy is investing in rural residencies (Rural Residency Planning and Development Program)
- Anecdotal evidence: rural training offers equal or better value (more individual attention, broader scope).

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2. Examine the relevance of ACGME minimum program size (resident complement) to quality.
3. Use findings to inform
 - ACGME policy and initiatives related to rural training
 - Future federal investments in rural training
 - Areas where programs can improve
 - Tracking of changes over time

Proposed Research Questions

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- **How do practicing physicians from small rural family medicine residencies compare with other physicians** in their assessments of residency **preparation for practice** and their actual **scope of practice** after residency?
- **How do practicing graduates of small rural versus other residencies compare** on aspects of **practice organization**, Patient-Centered Medical Home (**PCMH**) **certification**, **location** in rural and underserved settings, and use of electronic health records (**EHRs**)?

Methods

Data: Partner with American Board of Family Medicine for data access

➤ **Resident** data:

- Ratings of residents on competency and medical knowledge, including milestones (20+ competencies in 6 domains, available from 2014-15)
- In-training examination (ITE) scores, which assess medical knowledge
- Registrants for ABFM certification exam: intentions related to scope of practice and practice site (if known).

Methods

- **Early-career physician** data (National Graduate Survey of ABFM-certified physicians):
 - Residency preparation for practice, scope of practice, practice organization, and location
- **Mid- to late-career physician** data (Recertification Examination Registration Questionnaire):
 - Scope of practice, practice organization, location, use of EHRs, and PCMH features.

Methods

Analysis: Compare graduates of small rural residencies with graduates of other (urban) programs

- Adjust for physician age, sex, MD vs. DO degree type, U.S. vs. international medical graduate



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Clarifying Questions?