



Utah's Rural Healthcare Workforce

Health and Human Services
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Presented by Clark Ruttinger, MPA, MBA
Director, Workforce Research
Utah Medical Education Council

Retention of Medical Residents/Fellows



- 5,430 physicians completed medical residency or a fellowship in Utah between 1998 and 2017.
- 2,285 are currently practicing in Utah
- Of those who have chosen to practice in Utah, 115, 4.2% practice in a rural area of the state.

Utah Practicing Physicians who trained in Utah by Specific Specialties/ Geography

	Rural	Urban	Total
Primary Care	67	1,289	1,356
Specialty	36	892	928
Adult Psych	0	20	20
Child Psych	0	24	24
Triple Board	0	19	19

UMEC Sponsored Rural Rotations for Students/Residents and Fellows



Objectives of the UMEC rural rotation program

- Provide needed professionals to underserved areas of Utah
 - Provide experience practicing in a rural setting in order to improve the chances that healthcare professionals choose to practice in a rural area upon graduating.
- ❖ The program began in 2007 with only 6 medical residents in 3 areas.
- In 2017, the program provided support to 132 students/residents from four professions in 35 areas
 - According to the AAMC, 4.5% of new medical students plan on practicing in rural and non-urban areas*

Rural Training Rotations and Residents/Students, FY 2017



Profession	# of Students	# of Clinical Rotations
Medical Residents	26	26
Pharmacy Students	50	50
Physician Assistant Students (PAs)	49	67
Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Students (APRNs)	7	7
TOTAL	132	150

- Since 2007, the program has sponsored 890 rotations for 743 health care students/residents.
- These rotations have provided services in 51 different areas, covering 26 of the 29 counties in Utah*.

* Rotations have occurred in every rural county except Paiute, Rich and Daggett

Rural Rotations and Residents/Students, 2007-2017



Profession	# of Students	% of Students	# of Clinical Rotations	% of Clinical Rotations
Medical Residents	222	30%	239	27%
Dental Residents (DDS)	70	9%	70	8%
Pharmacy Students	235	32%	262	29%
PA Students (PAs)	139	19%	228	26%
Med Students (MS)	42	6%	53	6%
Adv. Prac. RN Students (APRNS)	35	5%	38	4%
TOTAL	743	100%	890	100%

- Roughly 30% of healthcare providers from the 20 rural counties with UMEC sponsored rural rotation sites in 2016 expect to retire over the next decade.
- Older age cohorts have higher demand for healthcare services
- Population of those 60+ is projected to increase in the next 10 years
- Possibility of exacerbating any potential shortage with increased demand on a smaller rural workforce without replacement and growth efforts

Rural Workforce



- 15.4% of Utah's population lives in a designated rural county.
- 27 of the 29 counties in Utah currently have some form of Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA)

Profession	Overall Rural Count	Overall Rural %	Primary Care-Rural Count	Overall Primary Care Count	Total	Rural 100,000 Pop. to Clinician Ratio	Urban 100,000 Pop. to Clinician Ratio	Multiple on Urban to Rural Ratio
Physician	469	7.8%	270	2,202	6,035	95	190	1.99
PA	134	13.3%	96	431	1,005	27	31	1.15
CNM	< 5	4.4%	< 5	51	91	1	2	2.96
NP	63	4.7%	18	252	1,354	13	44	3.45
CNS	< 5	2.7%			74	0	2	4.56
CRNA	34	21.1%			161	7	4	0.59
Dentist	289	14.0%			2,060	59	66	1.12
Pharmacist	268	12.6%			2,135	54	69	1.27
PT	174	10.3%			1,690	35	56	1.59
Mental Health	554	9.0%			6,154	113	207	1.84
Nurses	1,793	6.6%			27,330	364	580	1.59

Advanced Practice Registered Nurses



APRNs with Psychiatric/ Mental Health Certifications Practicing In Utah

	PMHNP		PMHCNS	
Rural	8	10.80%	< 5	7.10%
Urban	67	89.20%	52	92.90%
Total	75	100%	56	100%

APRN Reported Specialties in Utah

	NP Specialties				CNS Specialties			
	Beh./Mental Health		Psychiatry		Beh./Mental Health		Psychiatry	
Rural	0	0%	11	13.9%	0	0%	< 5	8%
Urban	21	100%	63	86.1%	8	100%	46	92%
Total	21	100%	74	100%	8	100%	50	100%

Clinician to 100,000 Pop. Ratios for Nurses Employed in Utah Elementary and Secondary Schools

	Rural	Urban
Overall	24.6	16.7
APRN	0.6	1.4
RN	19.7	13.8
LPN	3.9	1.5





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Questions?



www.utahmec.org

Clark Ruttinger MPA, MBA
Director, Workforce Research
Utah Medical Education Council

crutting@utah.gov

801-526-4564