The Changes in Health Resources by Rurality and Region: 2000 to 2010

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Methods

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Data

Area Health Resources File (AHRF) supplemented by data from the US Census Bureau

Exclusion Criteria

Missing information on rurality

Rurality

Urban Influence Codes: Urban, Micropolitan, Small Adjacent, and Remote Rural

Health Care Resources

Primary care physicians, PCP to resident ratios, Obstetrician/Gynecologists, Hospitals, Hospital Beds to resident ratio, LTC Facilities, HH Agencies

Analysis

All analyses were performed at the county level, with key measures summarized. Analysis was subset by rurality

Statistical analysis and merging of data was conducted in SAS 9.4.

Results

Figure 1: Percent change in number of primary care physicians and population to physician care physician ratio from 2000-2010, by Rurality and Region

Figure 2: Percent change in number of hospitals and hospital bed to population ratio from 2000-2010, by Rurality and Region

Figure 3: Percent change in number of Obstetric/Gynecologists from 2000-2010, by Rurality within Region

Figure 4: Percent change in number of long-term care facilities and home health agencies from 2000-2010, by Rurality within Region

Conclusions

- Rurality and regional differences in health care resources distributions were apparent. There are marked shortages in specific geographic areas, particularly in rural America.
- Rural areas disproportionately lack hospitals, HHAs, PCPs, and OB/GYN physicians.

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