Understanding primary care healthcare disparities at the community, regional and state level through visualization

Disparities in the distribution of healthcare workforce in rural areas has been a persistent problem in the United States for decades. Adding to this problem are complexities of causes surrounding the lack of quality and consistent data regarding rural population health and workforce. Since 2007, the National Center for the Analysis of Healthcare Data (NCAHD) created a data collection process for the generation of national healthcare workforce datasets of physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, dentists and eleven other healthcare providers that is made available through a free internet mapping portal. Much has been documented about current primary care workforce disparities and the need for new incentives and policies to cause more effective change. But to truly understand the impact these disparities have upon rural we must assess them over time and utilize these results for future program planning, program evaluation and policy development. Through the National

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