

# MONTANA'S PRIMARY CARE WORKFORCE



Report Prepared by Saul M.J. Rivard  
With Assistance from Kristin Juliar and Frank Newman  
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

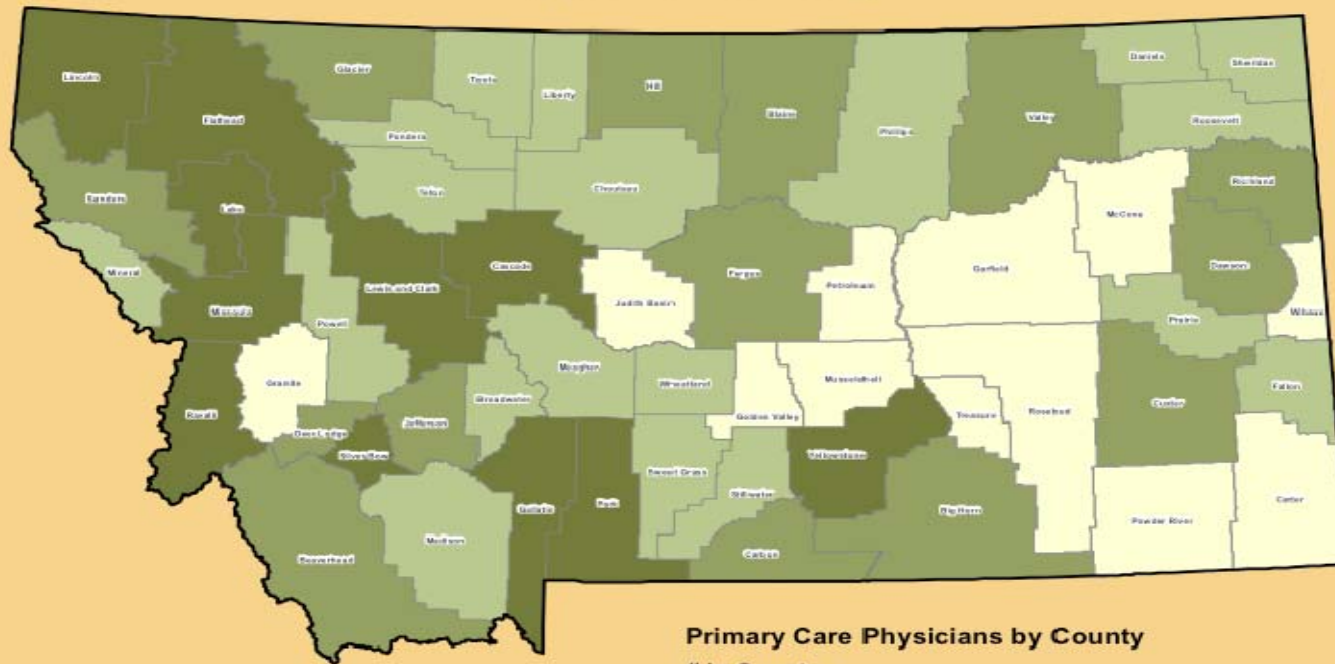
- 40 % of total MT physicians are practicing in PC
  - 37% Physicians practice is in Billings, Missoula, or Great Falls
- 9 counties without a physician, 12 counties without PC physician, 7 counties without hospitals

## ○ 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)**



Data Source: Montana Medical Association (July 2009)

**Primary Care Physicians by County**

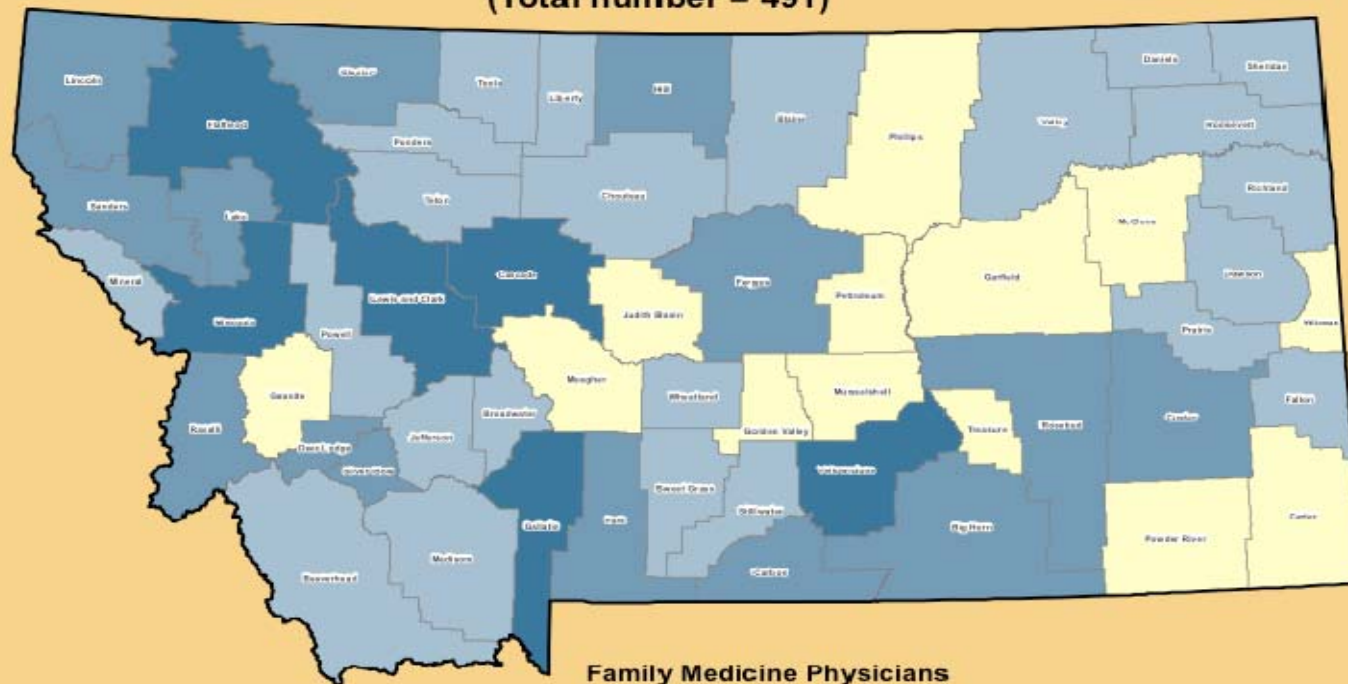
**# in County**

- None
- 5 or less
- 6 - 15
- 16 and over

Maps created by the  
Petron Consulting  
July 29, 2009

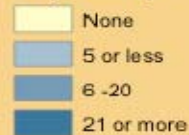
# DISTRIBUTION OF MONTANA'S FAMILY MEDICINE PHYSICIANS

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



Family Medicine Physicians

# by County

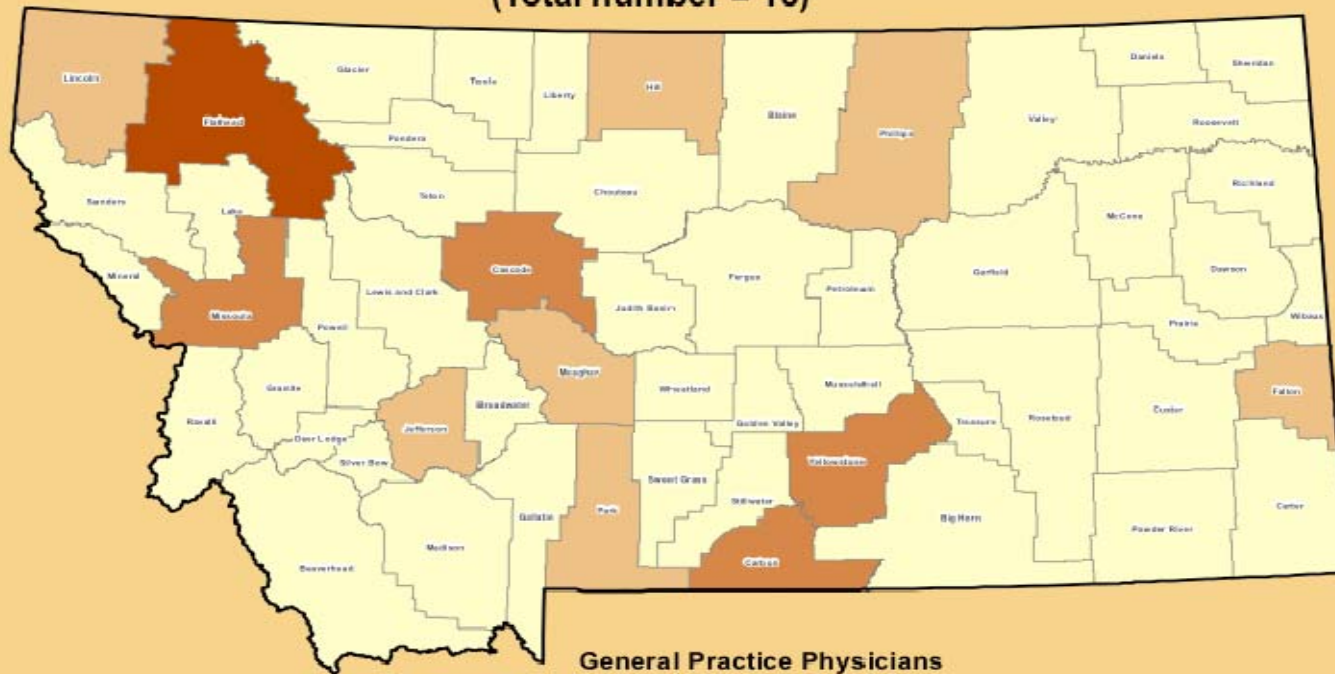


Data Source: Montana Medical Association (July 2009)

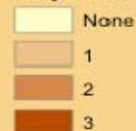
Maps created by the  
Peton Consulting  
July 29, 2009

# 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

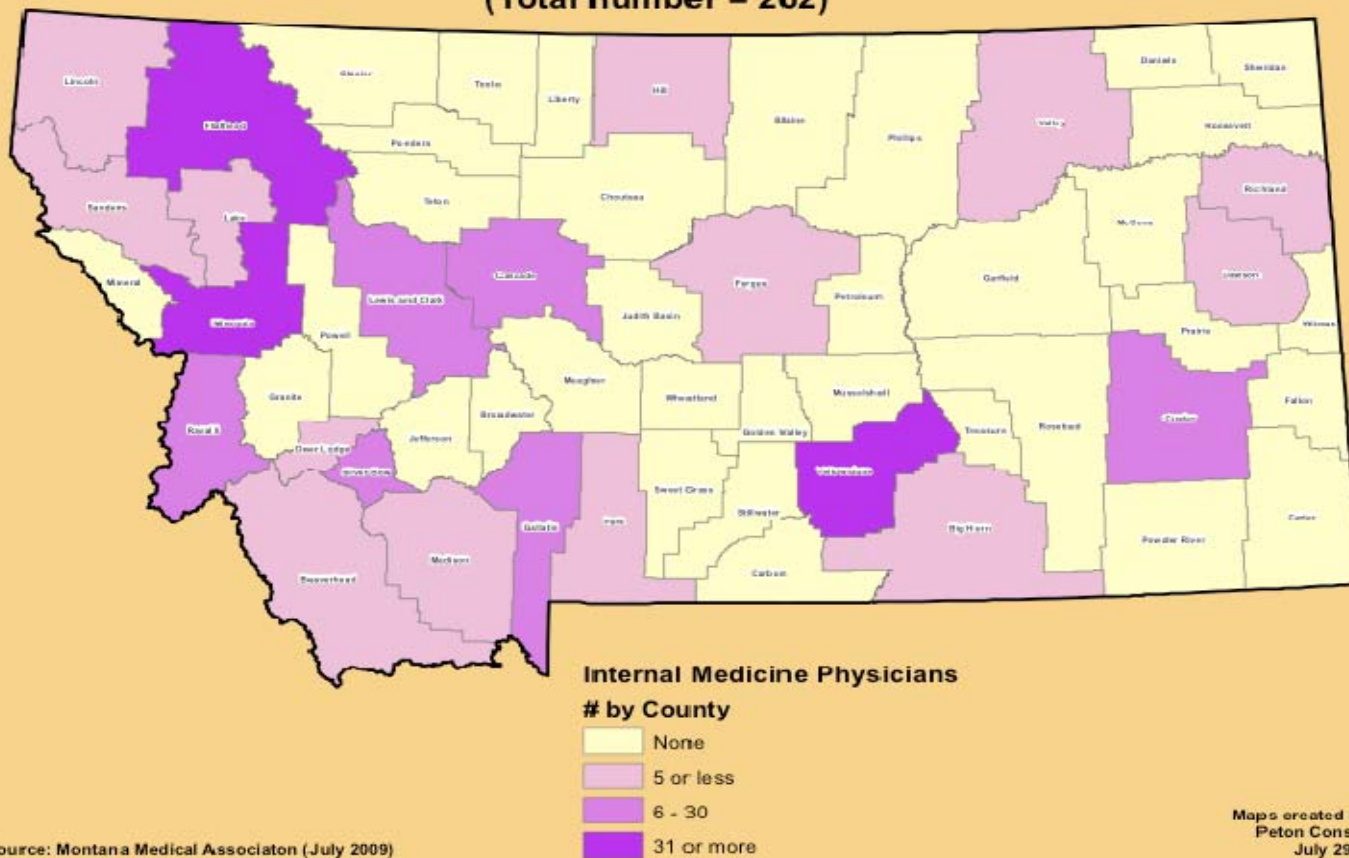


Data Source: Montana Medical Association (July 2009)

Maps created by the  
Peton Consulting  
July 29, 2009

# DISTRIBUTION OF MONTANA'S INTERNAL MEDICINE PHYSICIANS

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

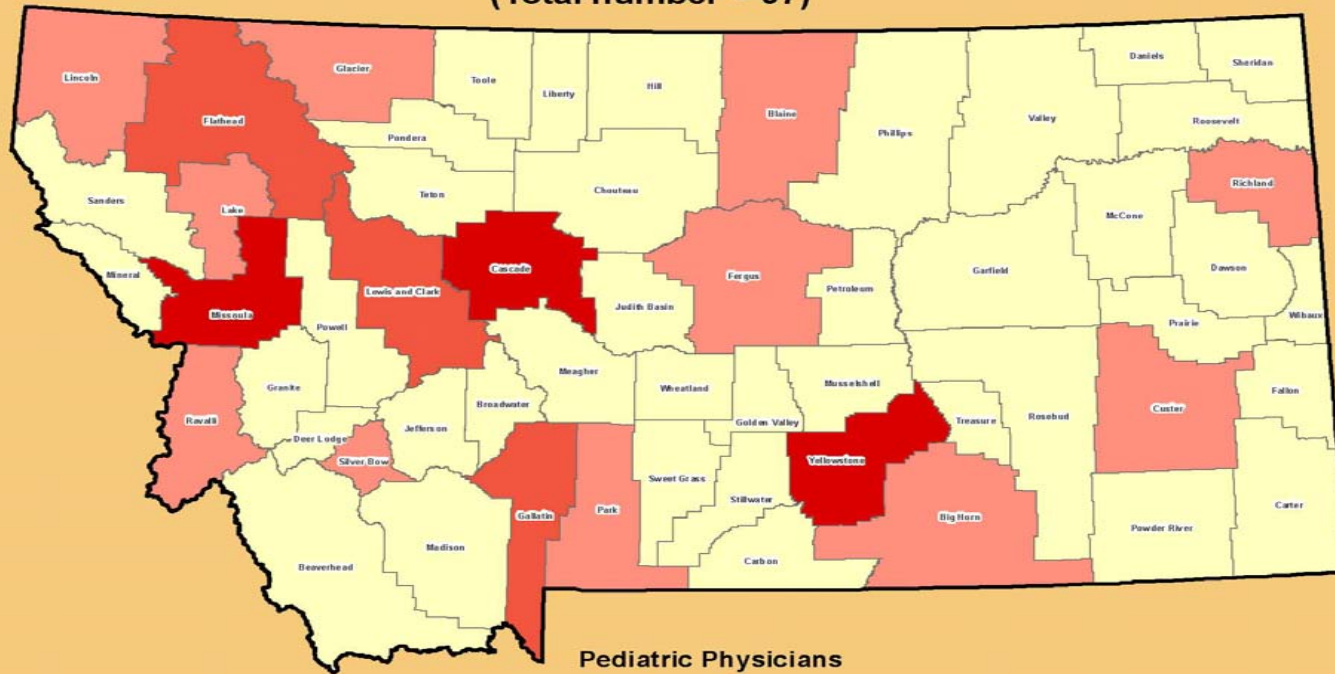


Data Source: Montana Medical Association (July 2009)

Maps created by the  
Petron Consulting  
July 29, 2009

# DISTRIBUTION OF MONTANA'S PEDIATRICIANS

Montana Health Care Delivery System  
 Pediatric Physicians by County Total  
 (Total number = 97)



**Pediatric Physicians  
 # by County**

- None
- 5 or less
- 6 - 10
- 11 or more

Data Source: Montana Medical Association (July 2009)

Maps created by the  
 Peton Consulting  
 July 29, 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

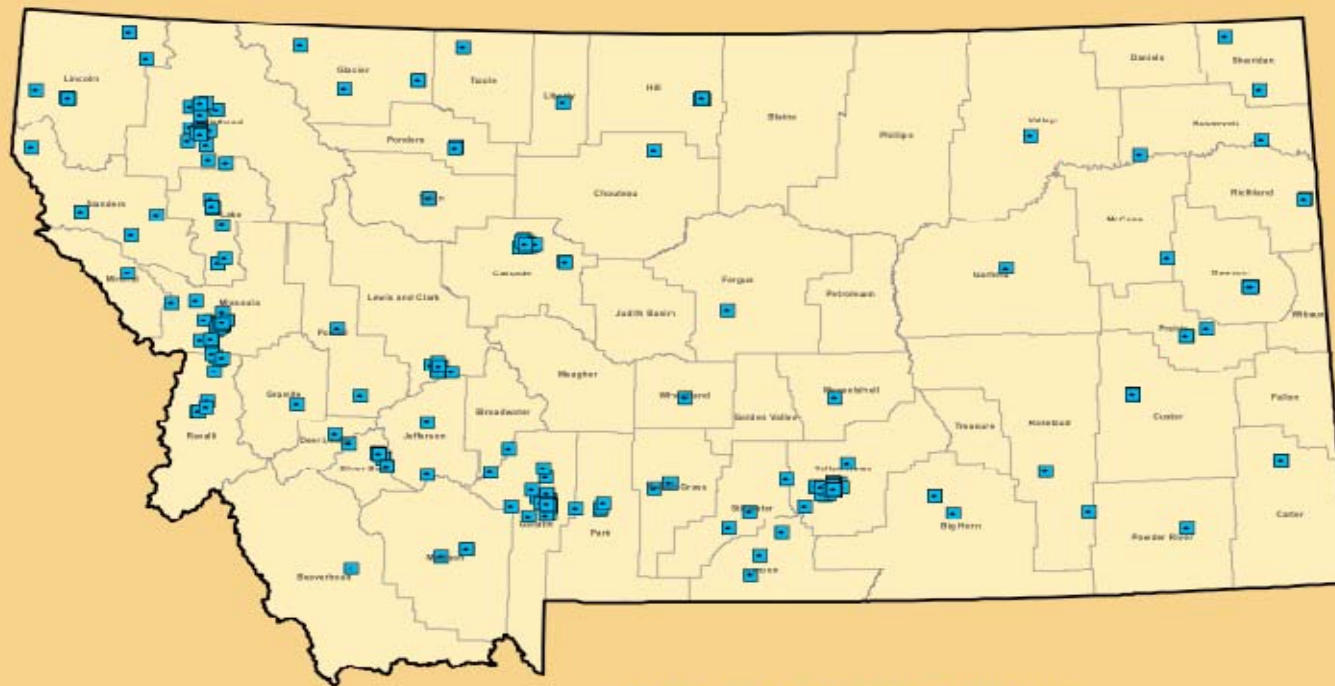
## ⦿ Future

- 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 PHYSICIANS ASSISTANTS

## Montana Health Care Delivery System



## Montana Healthcare Providers

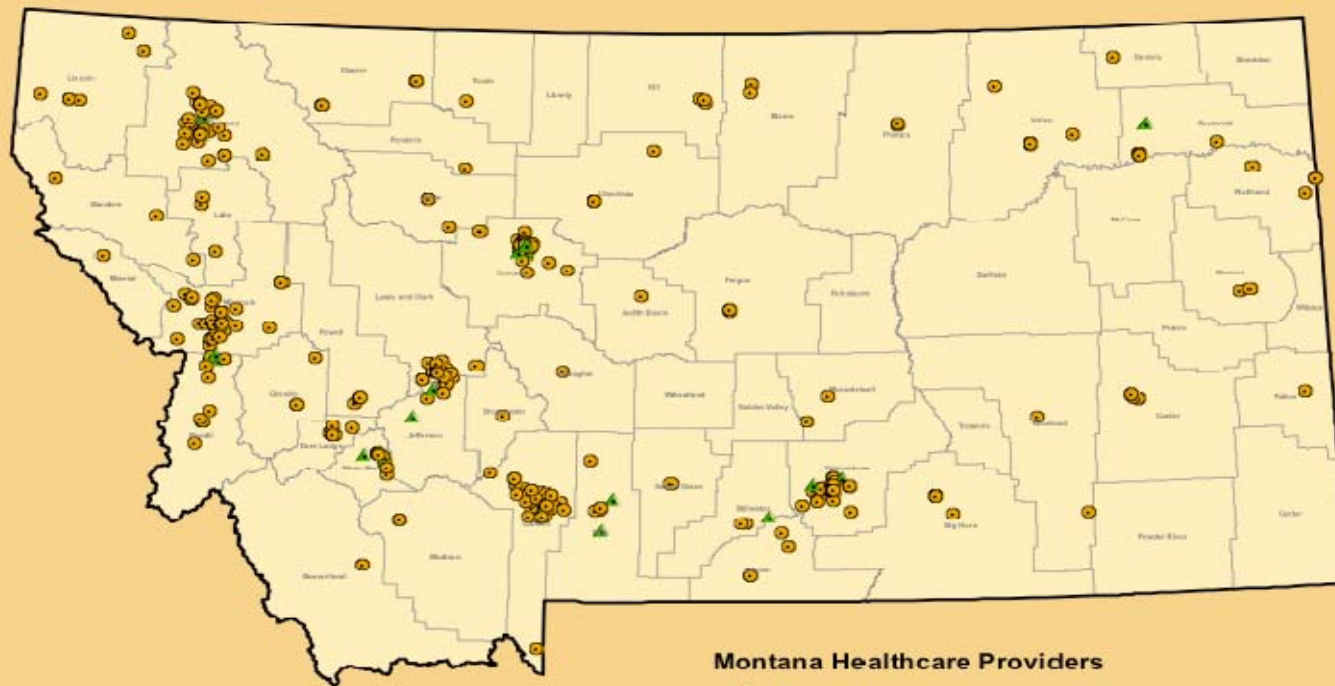
■ Physician Assistants (n = 326)

Data Source: Montana Medical Association (July 2009)

Maps created by the  
Petron Consulting  
July 29, 2009

# 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  
Peton 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

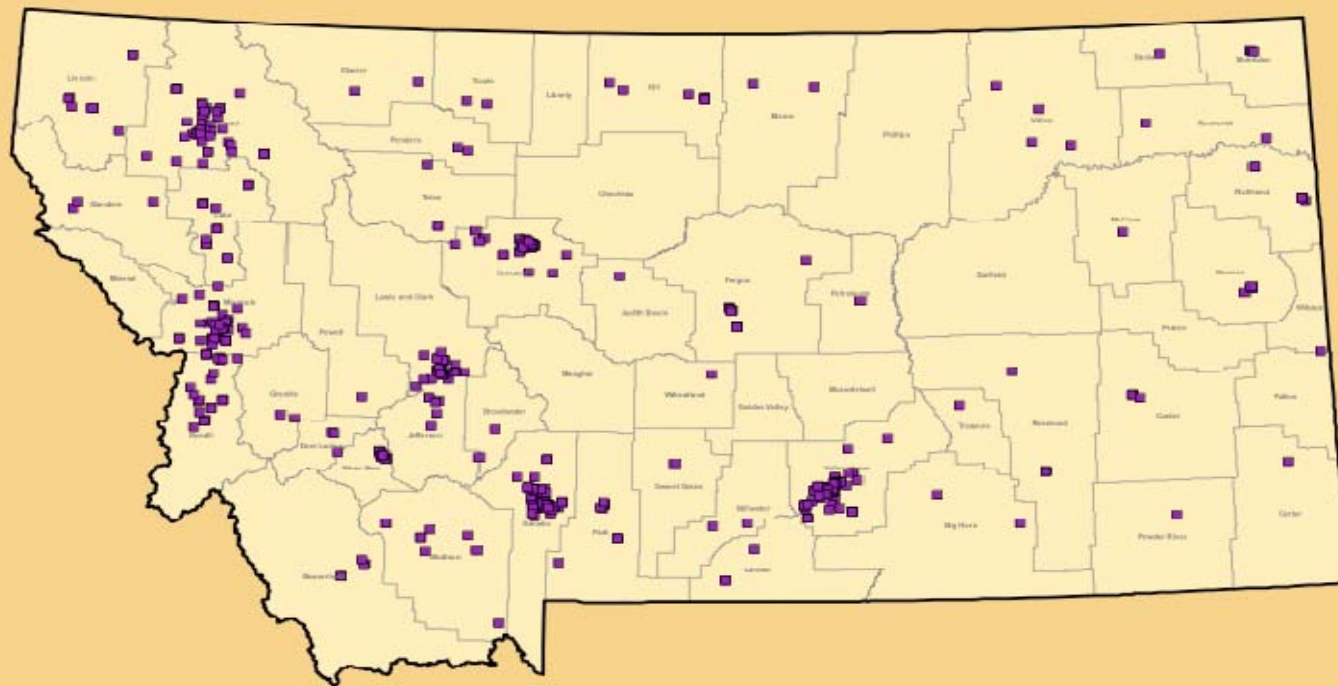
- 13 counties are without a practicing dentist and 10 are without a dental hygienist
  - Implies: 19,291 residents must travel to another county to receive dental care
- 1 dentist to every 2,058 people in MT
  - Nationally: 1 dentist to every 1,891 people
- 26.7% of MT dentists are 55 or older
  - 70%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



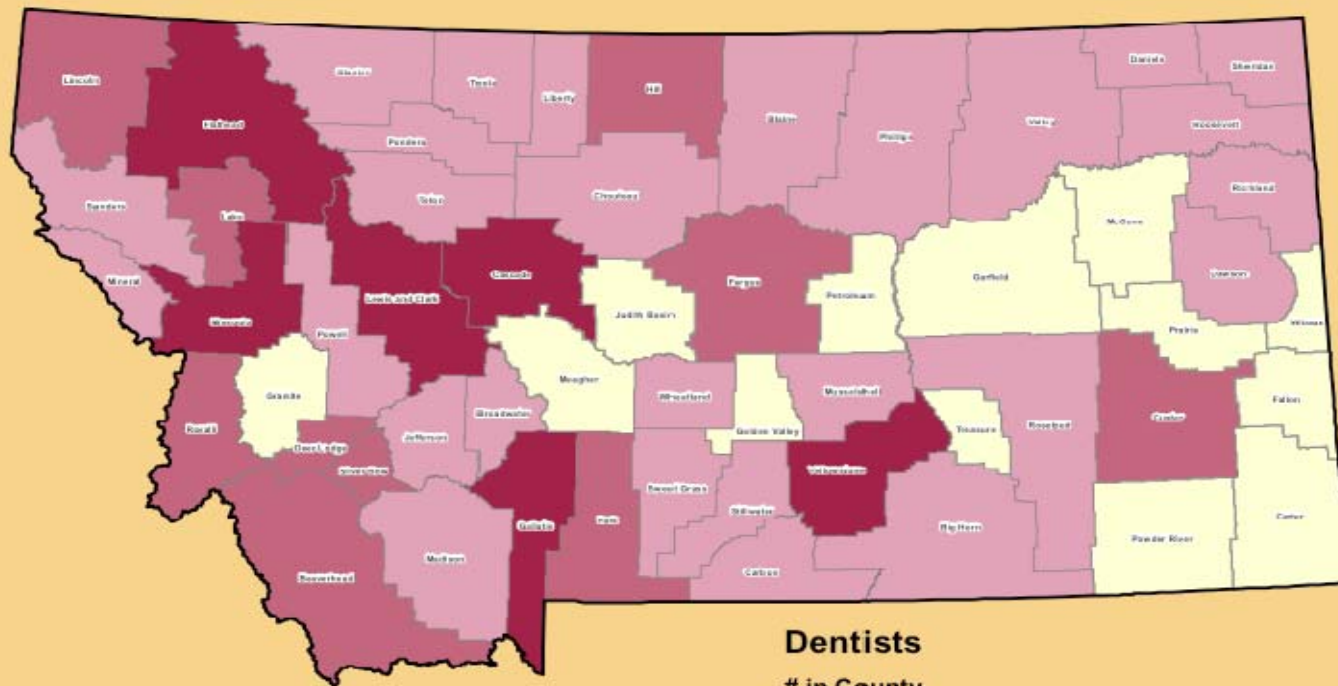
■ Dental Hygienists (n = 582)

Data Source: Montana Dental  
Hygienists Association (July 2009)

Maps created by the  
Peton 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  
Peton 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?

- ① 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)
- ① Provide Opportunities for Rural Residents to Obtain Education
  - Allow facilities to “grow their own” professionals
- ① 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

# Contact:

Kristin Juliar, Director

Montana Office of Rural Health & Area Health  
Education Center

Montana State University

PO Box 170520

Bozeman, Montana 59717

406-994-6003

[kjuliar@montana.edu](mailto:kjuliar@montana.edu)