

## Background Material for Two OTA Surveys

### Methods

#### OTA'S 1988 Survey of State Rural Health Activities

**Survey Instrument and Respondents**—A written questionnaire was designed to assess State involvement in rural health programs and activities (a copy of the questionnaire and a list of respondents' names and addresses follow the methods section in this appendix). A draft of the survey instrument was reviewed by selected individuals and by two of the eventual respondents, and it was subsequently revised in accordance with their comments.

Respondents for the survey were identified through brief telephone interviews with State health officers or other individuals known to be knowledgeable about rural health activities within that State. Multiple responses were received from 13 States where 2 or more organizationally independent entities were identified as playing a major role in State rural health planning, development, research, and/or policy (see ch. 4, figure 4-1). A total of 65 respondents reported for the 50 States.

The survey solicited basic descriptive information including the agency's specific rural health objectives, location in the State organizational structure, and origins (e.g., legislative or administrative).

Respondents were asked to indicate whether they had been directly involved during the past 3 years in specific rural health *activities* within the following 8 general categories:

1. provider recruitment/placement;
2. financial assistance to local organizations;
3. technical assistance to rural communities, health facilities, and health providers;
4. rural health research;
5. rural health systems coordination and implementation;
6. education;
7. legislative affairs relating to rural health; and
8. rural health-related publications.



Respondents were then asked to identify, from the eight general *activity* categories, the three that were their organization's highest priorities for action, and to indicate any special populations (e.g., children, elderly, low income, racial/ethnic groups) to which their previously identified rural health *activities* were targeted. Respondents were asked to rank six general health *issue areas* (e.g., medical liability insurance costs/availability, payment issues, health provider issues) according to which were the most pressing *issues* for rural health in the State, with the option to add and rank any of their own priorities not listed. Respondents were also asked to rate on a six-point scale their level of involvement in several specific health services (e.g., acute health care, child health care, long-term care, mental health care). Due to inconsistencies in interpretation of and responses to this section<sup>1</sup>, however, responses were not included in the analysis.

**Data Collection and Analysis**—Data were collected on the mailed survey form from all 50 States. After being received by OTA, the data were summarized on a standardized form and sent back to the respondent for verification. For States with more than one respondent, all respondents were sent both a copy of their response summary and the summaries from the other respondents in their State. The verified (or corrected) data were used for the analysis. Information about budget and staff size was also collected, but because these items were not addressed consistently budget and staff data were for the most part excluded from analysis. While specific budget data were not comparable, analysis of funding sources was conducted to examine the degrees of dependence of responding organizations on Federal, State, and private or other dollars. For this reason, only budget changes and sources are reported.

<sup>1</sup>Followup phone conversations with respondents revealed that many thought this section of the survey meant to elicit responses regarding level of involvement in the *delivery* of these specific services, rather than involvement in *research, planning, and development* activities.

<sup>2</sup>Differences in State budgeting and recording procedures as well as differences in States' definitions of "rural" limited the amount and uniformity of financial data collected through the survey. Seven States did not respond to this section of the survey, and the remaining 43 used a variety of methods to determine the amount of their budget spent on rural health activities. Some respondents listed the entire State health budget others computed the rural health budget as a percentage of the total State health budget according to the proportion of rural residents or rural counties in the State; and some States reported specific budget allocations for rural health initiatives.

Data from the States with more than one respondent were combined to reflect the total picture of State activities. For items requiring a single response (i.e., priorities, rankings, and ratings), a primary respondent was selected by the OTA staff based on their judgment regarding which respondent appeared most generally knowledgeable about the breadth of the State's activities.

For purposes of analyses, States were divided in three fashions. First, States were divided into four standard regions: Northeast, South, Midwest, and West (see app. F for the States included in each region). Second, States were classified as "more rural" or "less rural" depending on the percentage of their population residing in nonmetropolitan areas in 1986.<sup>3</sup> Third, States were divided according to whether the respondents in that State were reporting activities of an identified "office of rural health," or an office whose primary responsibility is to administer to the health needs of rural areas of the State.<sup>4</sup>

This survey does not provide a complete picture of State-conducted or State-funded rural health-related activities, but it does give us a basis for describing State activities. Respondents were often in specific bureaus, divisions, or sections of State departments of health, and did not always respond on behalf of the department or the State government as a whole. Rather, they tended to describe only the activities in which they were directly involved. Rural health-related activities of other State departments or agencies and independent activities of State universities and colleges (e.g., university-based offices of rural health or Area Health Education Centers) were for the most part not captured.<sup>5</sup> Chapter 4 includes a list of the entities in each State whose activities were reported in the survey response. The survey also did not attempt to determine: 1) the degree to which the respondents or their agencies were involved in any given activity; 2) the degree to which any particular activity was deemed

effective, either by the organization itself or by outside individuals; or 3) the amount or source of funding for any specific activity. These limitations may affect the comparability of data among States.

The degree to which individual States identified "ruralhealth" issues as separate from general health issues and addressed them in a targeted manner varied greatly from State to State. The survey did not prescribe a definition of "rural" correspondents, but left the definitional issue up to the individual States. What is considered "urban" in North Dakota may be considered "rural" in New Jersey or Pennsylvania. Some of the more urban States may not identify rural health as a specific issue because such a small proportion of their population is affected, while some of the more rural States may not regard "rural health" as a separate set of issues because most of their population is rural. As a result, some of the activities listed by respondents were not specifically targeted to rural areas, but were provided to the State as a whole. These differences may also affect the comparability of State data.

#### OTA'S 1989 Survey of States on Health Personnel Shortage and Medically Underserved Areas

A second OTA survey was designed to examine State activity and satisfaction with the Federal designation of health manpower shortage areas (HMSAs) and medically underserved areas (MUAs). The questionnaire was reviewed by 10 people familiar with shortage area designations and was subsequently revised based on their comments (a copy of the questionnaire follows the methods section in this appendix). In July 1989 OTA mailed the questionnaire to the individual in each State responsible for designating health personnel shortages and medically underserved areas.<sup>6</sup> Respondents were encouraged to consult with other involved parties in their States when responding to the

<sup>3</sup>"More rural" States (those with more than 50 percent of their population residing in nonmetropolitan areas) are Idaho, Vermont, Maine, South Dakota, Wyoming, Mississippi, Maine, West Virginia, North Dakota, Arkansas, Iowa, Alaska, Kentucky, Nebraska, and New Mexico. All other States are considered "less rural".

<sup>4</sup>A State was identified as having an office of rural health if a) the name of one or more of the responding organizations within that State included the term "rural", or b) the organization was otherwise known to have a mission primarily related to rural health. States with offices of rural health (hereafter referred to as "ORH States") were: Arizona, California, Connecticut, Georgia, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Texas, and Utah. All other States were classified as "non-ORH States." States with offices of "local" or "community" health were not classified as "ORH States," although the roles of these offices may be similar to the role of an office of rural health.

<sup>5</sup>In some States, AHECs operating primarily on State funding and university-based offices of rural health with State budget authority were included if they had been identified as appropriate respondents during the identification process.

<sup>6</sup>The list of respondents was based in part on a list supplied by the Office of Shortage Designation, Bureau of Health Care Delivery and Assistance. Other respondents were identified through phone calls to State health department officials.

questionnaire. Forty-five of fifty States returned questionnaires—a 90 percent response rate.<sup>7</sup> (No list of respondents to this survey is included in this appendix because some responses were confidential.)

The goals of OTA's survey were to learn:

- how satisfied States were with Federal designation criteria and processes;
- if and why interest in Federal designations had increased or decreased over the last 5 years;
- if States were using their own health personnel shortage areas or medically underserved area designations and, if so, how they were used;
- if States had sufficient resources to monitor health personnel shortage and medically underserved areas; and
- what Federal programs were perceived to have had the most positive effects on shortage and underserved areas.

Data analysis included variable frequencies and some regional comparisons.

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<sup>7</sup>California, Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, and North Dakota did not return questionnaires. Wyoming was also excluded from the Survey analysis because, as of June 1988, the position responsible for HMSA/MUA designations was cut and it has since been left to individual counties and hospitals to do their own designations.

### *List of Respondents to OTA's 1988 Survey of State Rural Health Activities*

NOTE: The first respondent listed under each State was the "primary respondent", whose responses to the ranking and rating sections were used to express State rural health issues and priorities.

"\*\*" indicates the entity whose activities are reported in the survey response. Budget data may not be reported for the same entity, but for a more specific division.

"\*\*\*" indicates the person who completed the questionnaire.

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SURVEY OF STATE RURAL HEALTH ACTIVITIES

Spring 1988

Office of Technology Assessment  
U.S. Congress  
Washington, D.C. 20510-8025

Conducted by the Office of Technology Assessment  
U.S. Congress



## SURVEY OF STATE RURAL H

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. READ OVER THE SURVEY CAREFULLY. If you have any questions, contact Leah Wolfe or Marc Zimmerman at the Office of Technology Assessment, Health Program, U.S. Congress, Washington, D.C. 20510-8025 (202/228-6590).
2. Please feel free to attach separate sheets whenever more room is needed for a response.
3. Please note that for each item in the ACTIVITIES section, we are interested only in activities your organization is CURRENTLY involved in OR has been involved in DURING THE PAST 3 YEARS.
4. Please make use of the "other" categories throughout the survey to capture any activities/programs that we have not included in our checklists. Don't forget to describe these other activities in the spaces provided.
5. Please enclose any representative literature/publications you may have that will help describe your activities/programs in greater detail, and feel free to reference this literature at any point in the survey (e.g., "See p. 26 of enclosed Annual Report for description of our demonstration projects."). A postage-paid envelope has been provided for this purpose.
6. When you have finished, please enclose the completed questionnaire as well as any related literature in the postage-paid envelope. Please return the survey by

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND COOPERATION<

### I. GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name/Title of director: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name/Title of other key contact: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name/Title of persons completing survey: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Year established: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Type of organization: State Government-based  
University-based  
Private/non-profit  
 Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

### Staffing and Funding

(If rural health activities are only part of your organization's responsibilities, please make the following estimates based on those activities alone.)

Number of people on staff: \_\_\_\_\_ FTE (include professional, administrative, support)

Total annual budget for rural programs (include federal, state, local, private, and fee-for-service income):

FY 87: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 N 88: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 N 89: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Breakdown: % Federal funding — % Local public funding  
 % State funding — % Fee-for-service income  
 % Private funding (e.g., foundation grants)

Please list private funding sources \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

1. GENERAL DESCRIPTION (CONTINUED)

A) What are your organization's rural health objectives? (Include your official mandate, if applicable.):

B) Was your organization established on the authority of State legislation or through an administrative action?

C) Where within the organizational structure of the State government are you located? (Please provide an organizational chart if available.) If you are not a State agency, what is your relationship to the State government?

2. ACTIVITIES

\_\_\_\_\_

Please check those rural health activities below in which your organization has been DIRECTLY involved DURING THE PAST 3 YEARS. If your organization engages in/has engaged in any activities that are not listed here, please check "other" and describe these activities in the space provided.

A: PROVIDER RECRUITMENT/PLACEMENT

NO, we have not done any provider recruitment or placement in the past 3 years.  
If NO, are there any other agencies/organizations in your State that do?  
Please give names: \_\_\_\_\_

YES, we engage/have engaged in the activities indicated below:

Indicate \_\_\_\_\_ of providers PLACED OVER THE PAST 3 YEARS:  
(please put ● 0" if you recruited but did not place anyone)

M. D.'s/D.O.'s                      Physician Assistants  
R.N.'s                                  Mental Health Professionals  
— Nurse Practitioners

• Other (Please specify typea and give # PLACED OVER THE PAST 3 YEARS - e.g.,  
L. P. N.'s, Physicat Therapists, Pharmacists):

\_\_\_\_\_

Recruitment methods (check all that apply

— Loan forgiveness/repayment programs (Please describe): \_\_\_\_\_

— State scholarships in exchange for service in rural areas

— Other financial *incentives* \_\_\_\_\_

Placement service

— Other \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

B: FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

NO, we have not provided any financial assistance during the past 3 years.  
if NO, are there any other agencies/organizations in your State that do?

Please give names: \_\_\_\_\_

YES, we have provided/provide the types of financial assistance checked below:

Type of assistance:	Recipients (e.g., rural communities, local organizations, educational institutions)
Loans (non-student) . . . .	_____
Direct subsidy . . . . .	_____
Matching funds . . . . .	_____
— Other (describe) . . . . .	_____

C: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

NO, we have not provided any technical assistance during the past 3 years.

If NO, are there any other agencies/organizations in your State that do?

Please give names: \_\_\_\_\_

— YES, we have provided/provide the types of technical assistance checked below.

(1) — HMSA/MUA/MUP designations

(2) Assistance to rural communities

Statewide Mental health needs assessment

Date of last Statewide assessment \_\_\_\_\_

— Other needs **assessments** (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

— **Community Board development**

— Grant application **assistance**

— **planning**

— Resource **identification**

— **Other:** \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE CONTINUE ON NEXT PAGE

2. ACTIVITIES, C: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (CONTINUED)

(3) Assistance to rural health facilities/providers

— Facility development/construction consultation

— Grant application assistance

Management assistance

— Other \_\_\_\_\_

D: RESEARCH

NO, we have not done any rural health research in the past 3 years.

If NO, are there any other agencies/organizations in your State that do?

Please give names: \_\_\_\_\_

YES, we have done/are doing research on the following topics (check all that apply):

\_\_\_\_\_ Health personnel

\_\_\_\_\_ Health services utilization

\_\_\_\_\_ Health status (e.g., morbidity)

\_\_\_\_\_ Health system coordination

\_\_\_\_\_ Insurance coverage in

\_\_\_\_\_ Medical liability insurance

\_\_\_\_\_ New technology (e.g.,

\_\_\_\_\_ Quality of care

\_\_\_\_\_ Rural hospitals

\_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE CONTINUE ON NEXT PAGE.

## 2. ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

## E: RURAL HEALTH SYSTEMS COORDINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

NO, we have not engaged in any rural health systems coordination or implementation during the past 3 years.

If NO, are there any other agencies/organizations in your State that do?

Please give names: \_\_\_\_\_

YES, we have engaged/engage in the activities checked below:

Developing alliances between hospitals

Please specify types of participants (e.g., urban/rural, large/small) \_\_\_\_\_

— Developing alliances between hospitals and other medical service facilities (e.g., **WITH** CHC's, private physicians, mental health centers, county health depts.)

Please specify types of participants: \_\_\_\_\_

Developing alliances **not** involving hospitals (e.g., **AMONG** CHC's, private physicians, mental health centers, county health depts., community representatives)

Please specify types of participants: \_\_\_\_\_

— Special health service district development or other financial options

Please describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## F: EDUCATION

— NO, we have not engaged in any educational activities during the past 3 years

If NO, are there any other agencies/organizations in your State that do?

Please give names: \_\_\_\_\_

— YES, we have engaged/engage in the educational activities checked below:

— Medical and other health professions education

— Consumer health education programs

— Continuing education programs for rural providers

— Statewide rural health conferences

— Other: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE CONTINUE

## 2. ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

## G: LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

NO, we have not engaged in any legislative affairs during the past 3 years

If NO, are there any other agencies/organizations in your State that do?

Please give names: \_\_\_\_\_

YES, we have engaged/engage in the activities checked below:

Development of task force/committee to address rural health care issues

Working with legislature/legislative committees on rural health issues

— Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## H: PUBLICATIONS

Please check below any rural health-related publications your organization has produced during the past three years. Enclose representative samples if possible.

Annual report

Information packets

Research reports

Newsletter

Evaluation reports

— Newspaper articles

Journal articles — Policy recommendations

Other \_\_\_\_\_

## I: PRIORITIES

Please check below **UP TO THREE** activity areas which are currently your highest priorities

— A: PROVIDER RECRUITMENT/PLACEMENT

— F: EDUCATION

— B: FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

— G: **LEGISLATIVE** AFFAIRS

— C: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

— **H: PUBLICATIONS**

— D: RESEARCH

— E: RURAL HEALTH SYSTEMS COORDINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

## 3. SPECIAL POPULATIONS

Please check below special populations to which any of your programs or activities you indicated **above** are/have been specifically targeted

— Children

Racial/Ethnic groups

Elderly

Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

— Low income

— Migrant workers

— Uninsured

— Pregnant women

— Other: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE CONTINUE ON NEXT PAGE

#### 4. MAJOR RURAL HEALTH CARE DELIVERY ISSUES IN YOUR STATE

..... ==... ==..... \*=\*= \*.....\*=-\*-----\*-----\*

GENERAL ISSUES: The following is a list of health care **DELIVERY** issues *in rural areas*. Please rank each of the six issues by severity of the issue in your State, using "1" to indicate the biggest problem area, "6" the smallest problem area. List and rank any other health care **DELIVERY** issues in the space provided, expanding the ranking scale as necessary. **Please use each number only once.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Health provider **issues** (e.g., shortages, recruitment/retention)  
Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Medical liability insurance costs/availability
- \_\_\_\_\_ Meeting the needs of special populations (e.g., elderly, migrant workers, high-risk pregnancies)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Payment issues (e.g., Medicare urban/rural differential, **insurance** coverage)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Quality of care
- \_\_\_\_\_ services issues (e.g., hospital closures & restructuring, **systems** planning & development)
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Other:** \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIFIC SERVICES Using the scale described below please indicate the amount of ● tention your organization is **CURRENTLY** devoting to each of the following

RATING SCALE: 0 . . . . . 1 . . . . . 2 . . . . . 3 . . . . . 4 . . . . . 5  
devoting NO devoting M06T  
attention to this ● tention to this

(You may use each number more than once . . . )

- |   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| _____ Acute health care                   | <u>H o m e</u> health care      |
| <u>C h i l d</u> health care              | <u>L o n g</u> term care        |
| <u>E m e r g e n c y</u> medical care     | <u>M e n t a l</u> health care  |
| _____ Health promotion/Disease prevention | <u>o b s t e t r i c s</u> care |
|   | — Other: _____                  |
|   | — Other: _____                  |

#### 5. QUESTIONS

== ..... as==..... ----- ==.. .. -.-.-.-==.-===-\*---\*-----\*-----\*

Please describe briefly (A) three **CURRENT** activities and programs in your State that have been effective in addressing rural health issues; and (B) three activities or programs you would like to see in your State **IN THE FUTURE** to address these issues.

A) Current Activities (3):

B) Future Activities (3):

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR TIME AND COOPERATION.

PLEASE CONTINUE ON *NEXT* PAGE

Please return survey by \_\_\_\_\_ to: Leah Wolfe, Health Program, Office of Technology Assessment, U.S. Congress, Washington, DC 20510-8025.

July 24, 1989

CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT'S  
SURVEY OF STATES ON  
HEALTH PERSONNEL SHORTAGE AND  
MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED AREA DESIGNATIONS

Name/Title of person  
completing survey:

Name/Title of other  
contact(a):

Organization Name:

Address:

Phone:

A. Primary Care Health Personnel Shortage Area Designations

1. How satisfied are you with the criteria used to Designate Primary  
Care Health Manpower Shortage Areas (HMSAs)?

- ☐ Very satisfied  
☐ Satisfied  
☐ Dissatisfied  
☐ Very dissatisfied  
☐ Don't know  
☐ No opinion

Please describe why you satisfied or dissatisfied.

a. What changes would you suggest in Primary Care HMSA criteria that  
would improve identification of primary care personnel shortage  
areas?

b. What aspects of the Primary Care HMSA criteria are good and should be  
retained?

c. Describe any problems that you have had in designating primary care  
personnel shortage areas in the rural (i.e., nonmetropolitan) areas  
of your State (e.g. designations in frontier areas).

2. To what extent do you agree with the following statements:

a. A primary care HMSA's priority grouping (i.e., group 1-4) is a good  
measure of the HMSA's relative degree of primary care health  
personnel shortage.

- ☐ Strongly agree  
☐ Agree  
☐ Disagree  
☐ Strongly disagree  
☐ Don't know  
☐ No opinion

Comment:

b. Allocation of Federal resources is correlated to HMSA priority  
groups.

- ☐ Strongly agree  
☐ Agree  
☐ Disagree  
☐ Strongly disagree  
☐ Don't know  
☐ No opinion

Comment:

3. Please briefly describe trends in HMSA designation activity in your  
State's metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas since 1980.

4. Since 1985 has the demand for Federal Primary Care HMSA designation increased, decreased or remained the same for metro and nonmetropolitan areas in your State?

Demand for Primary Care HMSA designation	Metropolitan	Nonmetropolitan
Increased very much	_____	_____
Increased somewhat	_____	_____
Remained the same	_____	_____
Decreased somewhat	_____	_____
Decreased very much	_____	_____
Don't know	_____	_____
Does not apply	_____	_____

5. Please indicate whether each of the following has increased, decreased or had no effect on the demand for Federal Primary Care HMSA designations in your State since 1985.

Factor:	Factor has:			
	Increased demand	Decreased demand	Had no effect	Don't know
a. Need for NHSC personnel	_____	_____	_____	_____
b. Availability of NHSC personnel	_____	_____	_____	_____
c. Rural Health Clinics Act	_____	_____	_____	_____
d. Medicare physician bonus payment	_____	_____	_____	_____
e. State programs linked to HNSA designation	_____	_____	_____	_____
f. Other _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
g. Other _____	_____	_____	_____	_____

6. Has your State filed any Primary Care HMSA applications since 1985?

Yes a  
 \_\_\_\_\_ No (If no, skip to question 8.)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Don't know (If don't know, skip to question 8.)

7. In general, what is your level of satisfaction with how Federal Primary Care HNSA applications have been processed?

\_\_\_\_\_ Very satisfied  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Satisfied  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Dissatisfied  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Very dissatisfied  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Don't know  
 \_\_\_\_\_ No opinion

If satisfied or dissatisfied, what aspect(a) of the application process led to your satisfaction or dissatisfaction?

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

8. If any Federal Primary Care HMSA designations have been reviewed since 1985, indicate your general level of satisfaction with the Federal review process.

\_\_\_\_\_ Very satisfied  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Satisfied  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Dissatisfied  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Very dissatisfied  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Don't know  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Does not apply, no review  
 \_\_\_\_\_ No opinion

If satisfied or dissatisfied, what aspect(s) of the review process have led to your satisfaction or dissatisfaction?

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

9. Is your State defining shortage areas for physician specialties (e.g. OB/Gyn) or for non physician health care providers (e.g., nurses)?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes  
 \_\_\_\_\_ No  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Don't know

If yes, specify the type of providers for which shortage areas are defined and briefly describe designation criteria (or, if available, attach).

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

- B. Medically Underserved Areas (MUA)

1. How satisfied are you with the criteria used to designate Federal Medically Underserved areas (mlas)?

\_\_\_\_\_ Very satisfied  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Satisfied  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Dissatisfied  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Very dissatisfied  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Don't know  
 \_\_\_\_\_ No opinion

Please describe why you are satisfied or dissatisfied.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

- a. What changes would you suggest in the Federal MUA criteria that would improve identification of medically underserved areas?

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- b. What aspects of the MUA criteria are good and should be retained?

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- c. Describe any problems that you have had in designating medically underserved areas in the rural (i.e., nonmetropolitan) areas of your State (e.g., designations in frontier areas).

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2. Please briefly describe trends in MUA designation activity in your State's metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas since 1980.

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3. Since 1985, has the demand for Federal MUA designation increased, decreased or remained the same for metro and nonmetropolitan areas in your State?

	Metropolitan	Nonmetropolitan
<u>MUA applications</u>		
Increased very much	_____	_____
Increased somewhat	_____	_____
Remained the same	_____	_____
Decreased somewhat	_____	_____
Decreased very much	_____	_____
Don't know	_____	_____
Does not apply	_____	_____

4. Please indicate whether each of the following factors has increased, decreased or had no effect on the demand for Federal MUA designations in your State since 1985.

Factor:	Factor has:			
	Increased demand	Decreased demand	Had no effect	Don't know
a. Need for CHCs	—	—	—	.
b. Availability of CHC funds	—	—	—	.
c. Rural Health Clinics Act	—	—	—	.
d. State programs linked to MUA designation	—	—	—	_____
e. Other _____	—	—	—	_____
f. Other _____	—	—	—	.

-5-

5. Has your State filed any MUA applications since 1985?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes  
 \_\_\_\_\_ No (If no, skip to question 7.)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Don't know (If don't know, skip to question 7.)

6. In general, what is your level of satisfaction with how Federal MUA applications are processed?

\_\_\_\_\_ Very satisfied  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Satisfied  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Dissatisfied  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Very dissatisfied  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Don't know  
 \_\_\_\_\_ No opinion

If satisfied or dissatisfied, what aspect(s) of the application process led to your satisfaction or dissatisfaction?

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7. What is your level of satisfaction with the frequency of Federal MUA review?

\_\_\_\_\_ Very satisfied  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Satisfied  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Dissatisfied  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Very dissatisfied  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Don't know  
 \_\_\_\_\_ No opinion

Please comment on why satisfied or dissatisfied and if dissatisfied, specify how often the MUAs should be reviewed and why.

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8. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

Different criteria should be used when reviewing Federal MUAs that have established Federal services (e.g., city health centers) in the \_\_\_\_\_ area.

\_\_\_\_\_ Strongly agree  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Agree  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Disagree  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Strongly disagree  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Don't know  
 \_\_\_\_\_ No opinion

Comment:

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-6-



c. General Comments on Shortage Areas and Medically Underserved Areas

1. Does your State have health personnel distribution programs that use some type of shortage area designation?

☐ Yes  
☐ No (If no, skip to Question 2.)  
☐ Don't know (If don't know, skip to Question 2.)

If YES, please check all State health personnel distribution programs present in your State and for each checked program indicate whether the Federal HMSA, MUA or State criteria are used to implement the program. In the space provided below, briefly describe any State designation criteria that are used (or, if available, attach).

	Program Present in State?		Shortage Designation Used	
	Yes	No	Federal HMSA	State MUA Designation
<b>STATE DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMS:</b>				
1. Educational Programs:				
a. AHECs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Targeted Primary Care training opportunities (e.g., residencies)			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Seat purchases			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Preceptorships			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Other educational program			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Financial Incentives During Training				
a. Service-contingent loans and scholarships				
b. Other loans				
c. Other scholarship				
d. Other financial incentive				
3. Aid in Practice				
a. Placement				
b. Guaranteed income				
c. Loans				
d. Health professions school loan repayment		<input type="checkbox"/>		
e. Malpractice subsidy				
f. Other aid in practice				
4. Other Program(s)				
a.				
b.				

Please briefly describe ☐ State designation criteria that are used (or, if available, attach).

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- a. If your State uses a designation other than the HMSA or MUA designations to identify shortage areas:

Why doesn't your State use the Federal HMSA or MUA designation for these areas?

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2. In your opinion, are there areas or populations in your State that have health personnel shortages or are medically underserved but are not designated as Federal HMSAs or MUAs?

☐ No  
☐ Yes  
☐ Don't know  
☐ No opinion

If Yes, please describe these areas/populations and why they have not been designated

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If Yes, are any of these areas/populations are designated as State health personnel shortage or medically underserved areas?

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3. In your opinion, are there areas/populations that are inappropriately designated as Federal HMSAs or MUAs areas/populations that do not have a shortage of health personnel or are not medically underserved)?

☐ No  
☐ Yes  
☐ Don't know  
☐ No opinion

If Yes, please explain why the designation are inappropriate.

4. In your opinion how effective have the following Federal (s) been in improving the availability of health services in your State's nonmetropolitan health personnel shortage and medically underserved areas?

VE - Very Effective  
 E - Effective  
 I - Ineffective  
 VI - Very ineffective  
 NF - Not familiar with Federal program  
 DK - Don't know  
 NO - No opinion

	Effectiveness						
	VE	E	I	VI	NF	DK	NO
<u>Federal programs</u>							
National Health Service Corps	-	---		---	---	---	
Support of Primary Care educational programs							
AHEC activities							
Community Health Centers							
Rural Health Clinics Act							
Medicare physician payment bonus							
Private loan repayment programs (other than NHSC)							
Other (specify)							
Other (specify)							

5. HMSA and MUA designations were originally designed to meet the needs of the NHSC and CHC programs. In your opinion, how appropriate are these designations for other Federal programs such as the Rural Health Clinics Act and Medicare incentive payments?

Very appropriate  
Appropriate  
 Inappropriate  
 Very inappropriate  
 Don't know  
 No opinion

6. Does your State delineate primary care service areas?

Yes  
 No  
 Don't know

If Yes, please briefly describe how the areas are defined

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7. Does your State conduct any special surveys of primary care providers monitor shortage areas/underserved areas or as part of your HMSA/MUA designation activities?

Yes  
 No  
 Don't know

If Yes, please briefly describe the surveys.

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8. Has the withdrawal of Federal planning resources (e.g., State Health Planning and Development Agency (SHPDA) funds) had a positive, negative, or no effect on your State's ability to prepare requests for HMSA/MUA designation?

Very positive (describe)  
 Somewhat positive (describe)  
 Somewhat negative (describe)  
 Very negative (describe)  
 - No effect

9. In general are your State/Federal resources adequate for maintaining accurate and up-to-date set of health personnel shortage areas and medically underserved areas?

Yes  
 No  
 Don't know  
 No opinion

If No, please describe what resources are inadequate

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10. If available, please send us any State maps you have prepared that show the location of any of the following: Federal HMSAs, MUAs, State-designated shortage areas CHCs, NHSC sites, certified Rural Health Clinics, and/or primary care service areas.

D General Comments

Please provide any additional general comments that you have about the designation of primary care personnel shortage areas or medically underserved areas that have not been covered adequately by this questionnaire?

Comments:

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Please return this questionnaire by 4 August in the self-addressed envelope enclosed or send to:

Rita Hughes  
Office of Technology Assessment  
Health Program  
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E.  
Washington D.C. 20003