

Physician-led care supports patient access to care

MYTH

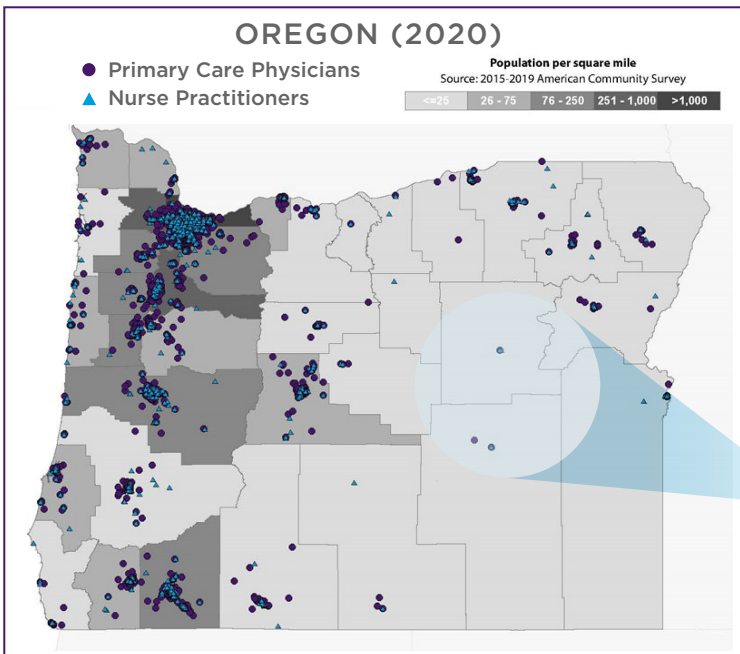
Allowing non-physicians to practice without physician involvement will increase access to care in rural and underserved areas.

FACT

States with laws allowing nurse practitioners to practice without physician supervision or collaboration has not guaranteed increased access in rural and underserved areas.

SCOPE EXPANSION DOESN'T INCREASE ACCESS TO CARE

The American Medical Association mapped the locations of primary care physicians and nurse practitioners (NPs) nationwide in 2013, 2018 and 2020. Each time, the results showed **physicians and nurse practitioners tend to practice in the same areas of the state—regardless of state scope of practice laws.**



The map compares primary care physicians to all NPs in a state. This likely overrepresents the number of NPs in primary care as a growing number are practicing in other specialty areas. The Oregon Center for Nursing found only 25% of NPs practice in primary care.

Despite promises, nurse practitioners have not moved to rural areas even after legislators removed physician supervision/collaboration.

MYTH

There are no other policy options to increase access to care in rural and underserved areas.

FACT

Proven reforms include telehealth expansion, increasing residency positions, loan forgiveness programs for physicians in rural and underserved areas, and programs that encourage students from underserved areas to pursue medical school.

For advanced practice registered nurses who graduated from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Graduate Nurse Education Demonstration Project, few work in underserved areas:

9% in rural areas

2% in Federally Qualified Health Centers

95% of patients say it's important for a physician to be involved in their diagnosis and treatment.