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THE COMPREHENSIVE SOURCE

Kaiser Daily Health Policy Report

State Watch | Conference To Address Physician Shortage in Adirondacks

[Aug 30, 2007]

Health care providers, government officials and business leaders on Thursday will meet in Warren County, N.Y., to discuss ways to curb a physician shortage in the state's Adirondack region, which is losing more primary care physicians than in the past to higher-paying jobs with better benefits in other regions throughout the U.S., the *Albany Times Union* reports. The North Country lost 20 PCPs between 2001 and 2005, a decline of 8%, while the number of PCPs statewide increased by 5%. Currently, there are 258 PCPs, or 60 PCPs per 100,000 people, in the region.

Jean Moore, director of the [Center for Health Workforce Studies](#) at the University of Albany [School of Public Health](#), said, "The areas of the state losing physicians the fastest are rural regions where the economy is not strong, especially the North Country."

Stephen Acquario, executive director of the [New York State Association of Counties](#) and meeting organizer, said, "The national health care crisis is hitting first in the Adirondack Park because of its unique nature," adding, "We need to address it there while it's still manageable enough to solve."

Rashi Fein, an emeritus professor of medical economics at [Harvard University](#), said that stakeholders will have to work with state officials to fix the problem. Fein said, "In many ways, the Adirondacks are a reflection of a national problem" (Grondahl, *Albany Times Union*, 8/29).

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