

What's the project?

- **In 2016:** We re-designed parts of our health workforce survey to better understand the role of health care providers in promoting health equity.
- **In 2019:** We are conducting separate health equity research to better understand what leads some providers to practice in underserved communities in Minnesota.

Why is it important?

- **Motivation:** To identify factors that incent or motivate providers to work in certain settings that care for underserved populations. Interventions might occur at the individual, educational, or organizational level.

How did you accomplish it? Who were your partners?

- **Method:** Survey and key informant interviews—A new survey question asking providers to identify the underserved patient groups they serve plus 1:1 interviews with providers working with underserved communities to understand the factors that motivate them to work in underserved settings.
- **Partners:** Health Licensing Boards, Professional/Trade Associations, Education/Training Institutions, Community & Regional Organizations.

Lessons Learned:

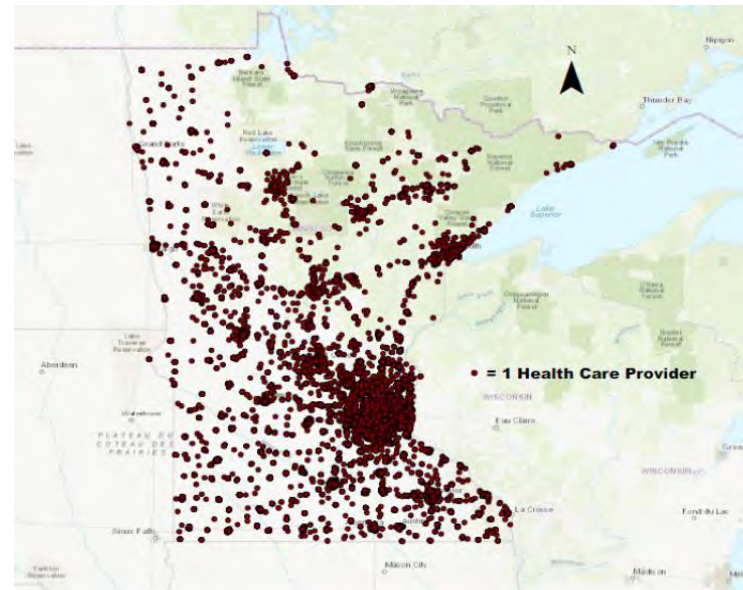
- While we collect race, ethnicity, and language data on providers, these data points do not sufficiently illuminate why providers care for underserved populations. To truly understand what policies can encourage practice in equity-promoting settings, we needed a mixed methods approach, for example survey and key informant interviews.

Next Steps

- Launching our 2019 health care workforce survey with a newly designed question asking providers to identify which underserved patient groups they see on a daily basis. These results will be combined with key informant interviews of select providers working primarily with underserved groups. At the end of the study, we hope to analyze data for 100,000+ licensed health care professionals combining it with qualitative results from face-to-face interviews to identify the factors that encourage providers to serve underserved populations

Team Members

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2018 Geographic Distribution of All Providers, State of Minnesota