BACKGROUND:
- National need for primary care physicians in rural and underserved areas of U.S.
- Our residency program selects for students interested in such careers
- Residents do not complete rural or underserved rotations due to cost and logistical barriers

AIM:
- Select for primary care residents interested in rural and underserved practices, to do rotations during residency in hopes of producing more graduates choosing such careers

METHODS:
- Potential rural and underserved primary care preceptor sites identified
- Site visits completed by faculty
- Faculty development delivered to sites focusing on enhancing teaching skills in clinic and using competency-based evaluation form
- Education session offered to all primary care interns and residents regarding rural and underserved preceptorship options
- Colorado Rural Health Program presents at the education sessions providing detailed loan repayment opportunities at each site
- Resident preceptorship site choices recorded
- Funding for housing, gas, and food provided for rotations

RESULTS:
- Number of Residents Completing Rural or Underserved Preceptorships

- Primary Care Graduates Choosing Rural or Underserved Careers

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- Colorado Health Foundation
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DISCUSSION:
- Unusually high number of graduates went into rural and underserved careers in year 2008-this included two residents who had loan repayment obligations. Prior to this, average was one resident per year.
- Offering established rural and underserved sites to residents increases likelihood they will do this during training
- Increase in number of graduates choosing careers in rural and underserved sites
- This model can be used at other institutions to increase primary care residents choosing such careers