

A photograph of four healthcare professionals (three women and one man) standing in a row, smiling. They are all wearing white lab coats. The woman on the far right has a stethoscope around her neck. The background is a blurred indoor setting, likely a hospital or clinic. The image is framed by blue and orange geometric shapes on the left and right sides.

Optimal Patient Care in North Carolina

March 29, 2022

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Current Relationship between Physicians and APRNs



Resources & Information

Resources & Information
Overview

Professional Resources

Online Services

Laws, Rules and Position
Statements

■ [Laws](#)

Position Statements

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9.1.1: Physician Supervision of Other Licensed Health Care Professionals

 Adopted: Jul 2007 | Amended: Sep 2021

Steps Required to Practice as a Physician in North Carolina

- Undergraduate Degree: 4 years
- Medical school: 4 years
 - US Medical Licensing Examination Step 1
 - US Medical Licensing Examination Step 2
- Residency: 3-7 years
 - US Medical Licensing Examination Step 3
- Licensure through the North Carolina Medical Board
- Fellowship: 3-7 years

	Physicians	Nurse Practitioners
Education	Comprehensive; Hands-on; Standardized and Proven	Abbreviated; Limited hands-on; Not standardized
Residency	3-7 years residency	No residency
Clinical Training	10,000-16,000 hours training	500-720 hours training

Experience Confirms the Need for Collaborative, Physician-Guided Care Teams

Observed disparities in education and training.



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Observed disparities in readiness.

Observed impact on optimal patient care.

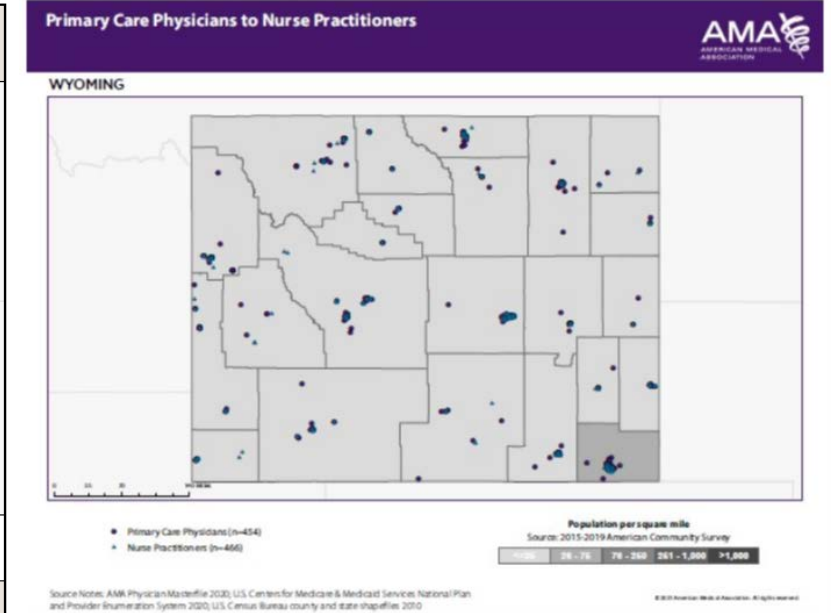
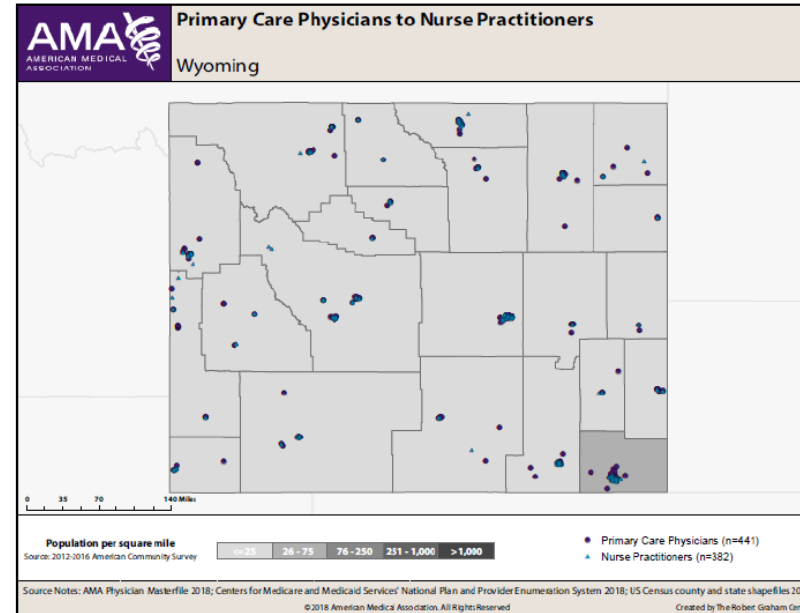
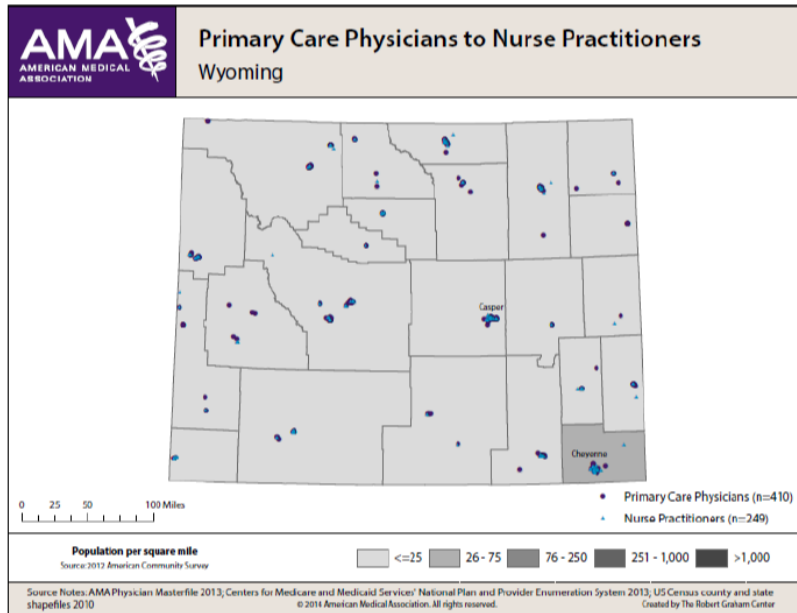
Scope Changes Do Not Improve Access to Care

- ▶ Expanding the role of non-physician health care practitioners does not translate to increased access to care.
- ▶ In other states, independent practice for APRNs has not resulted in more providers locating in rural and underserved areas.

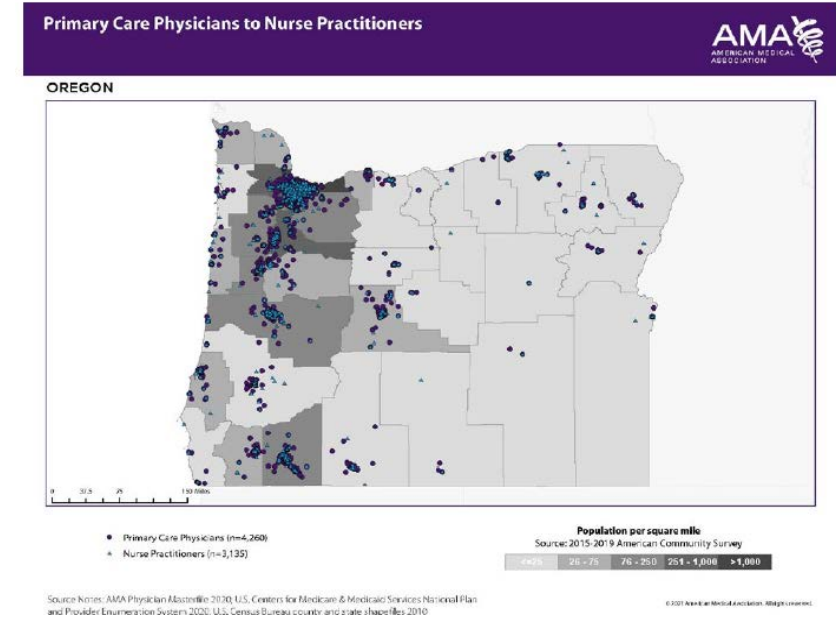
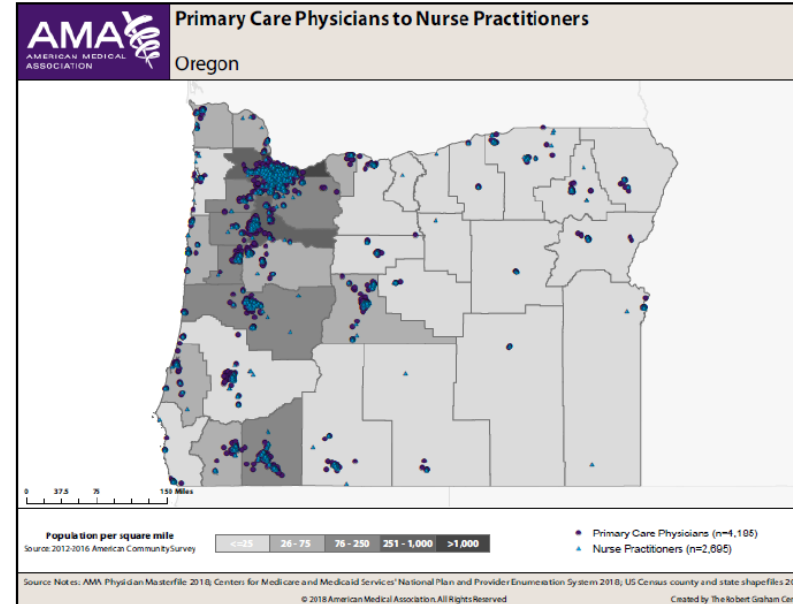
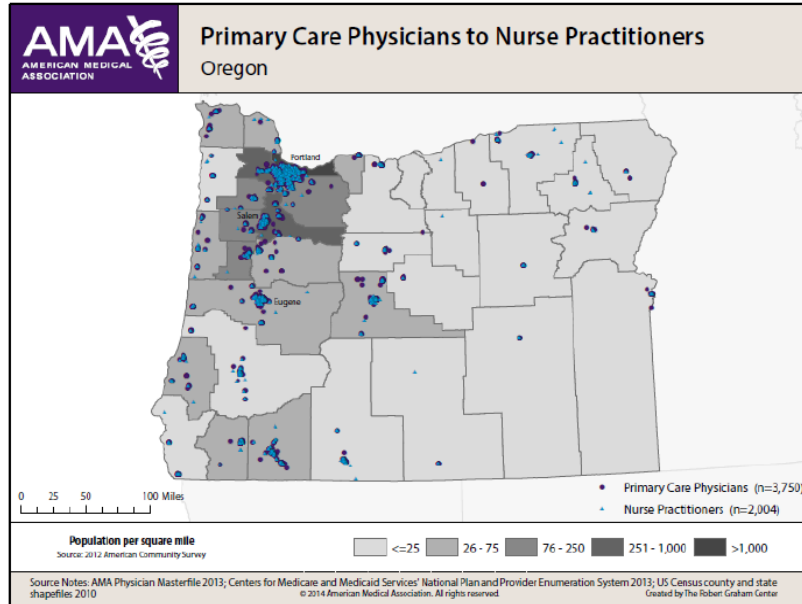
AMA Study Maps



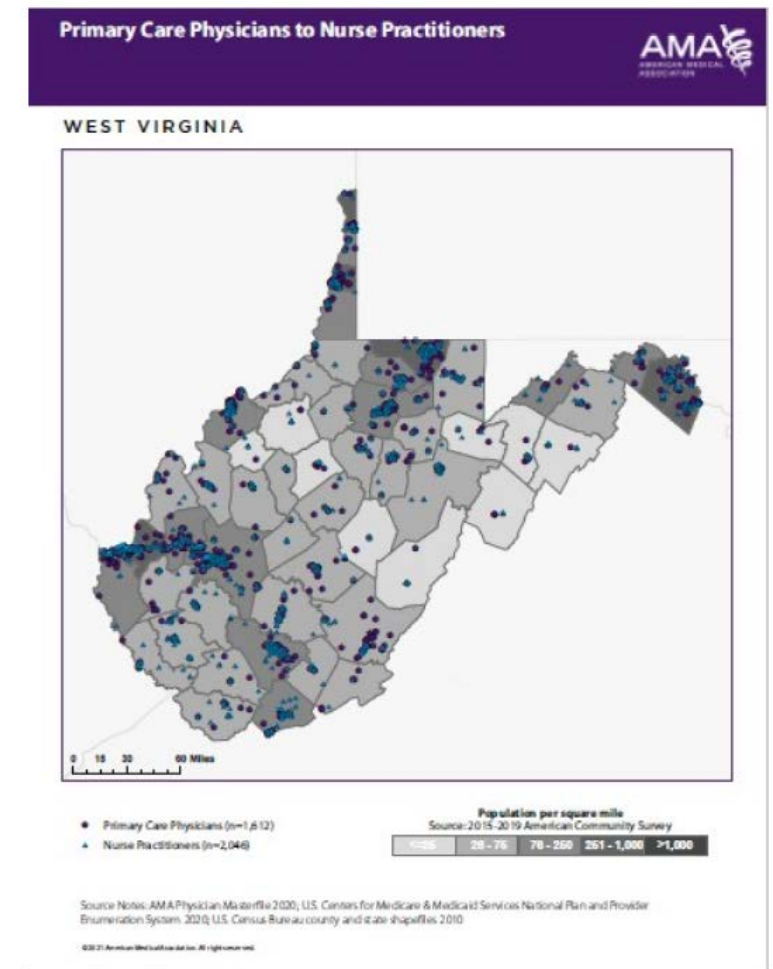
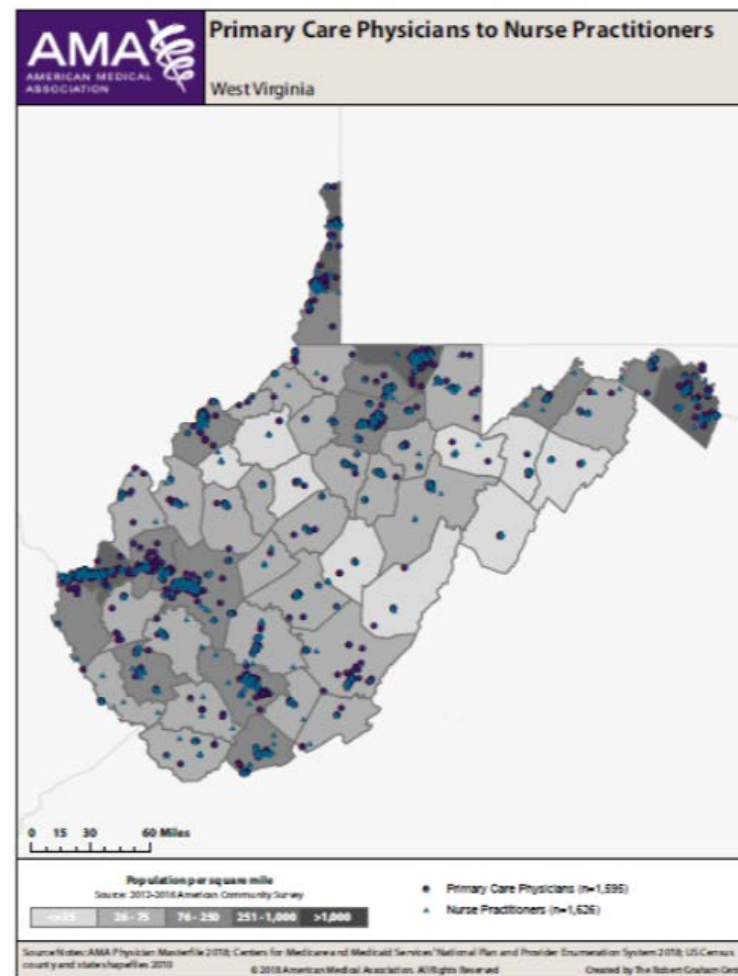
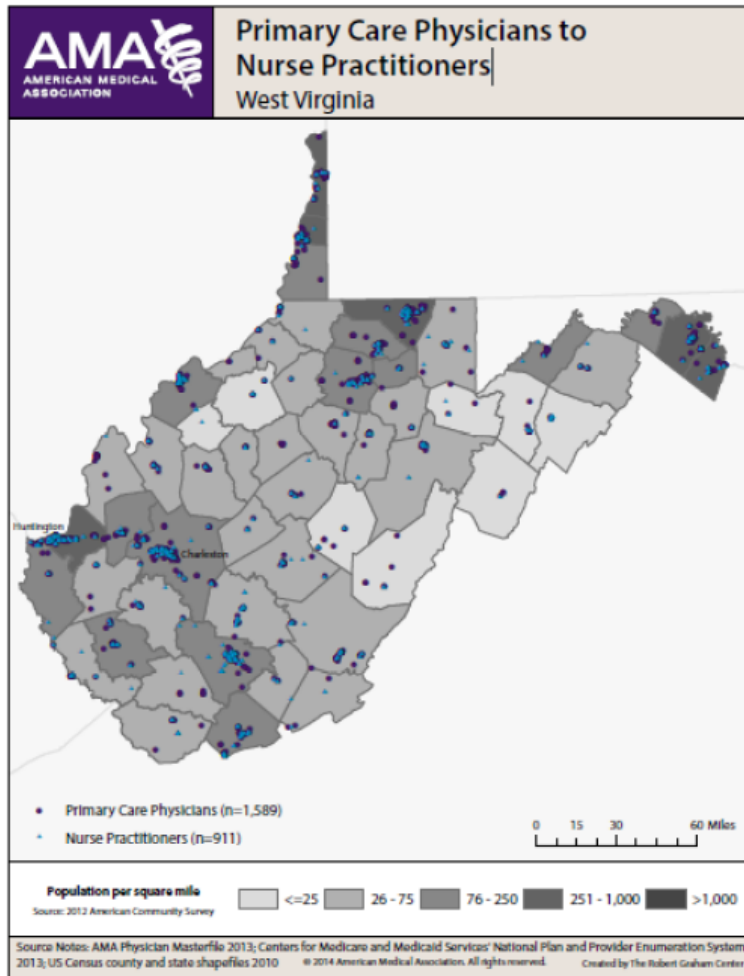
Wyoming - Independent Practice



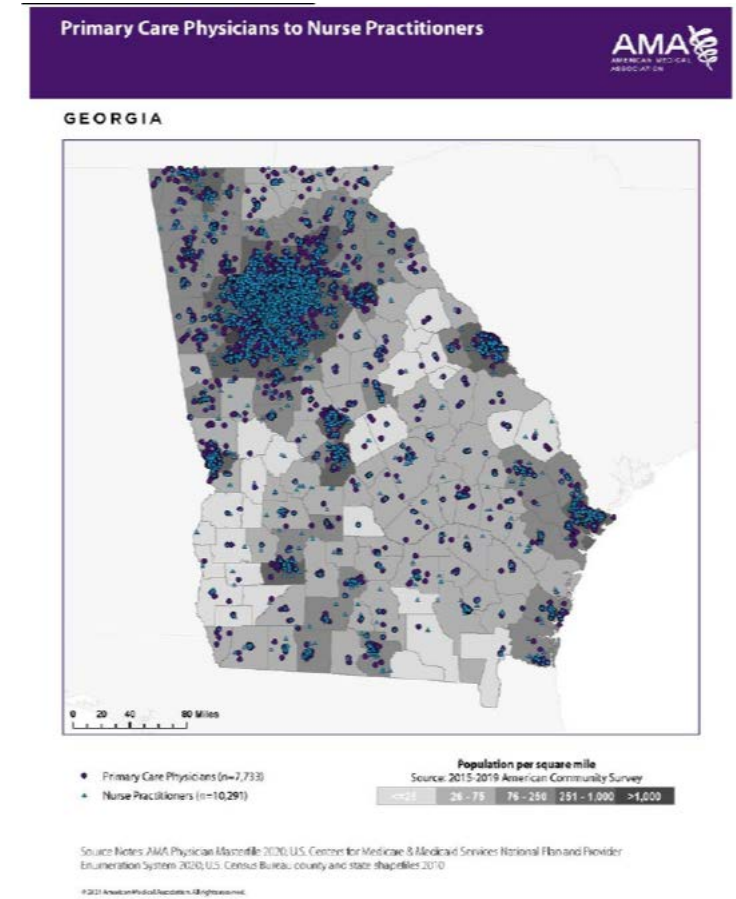
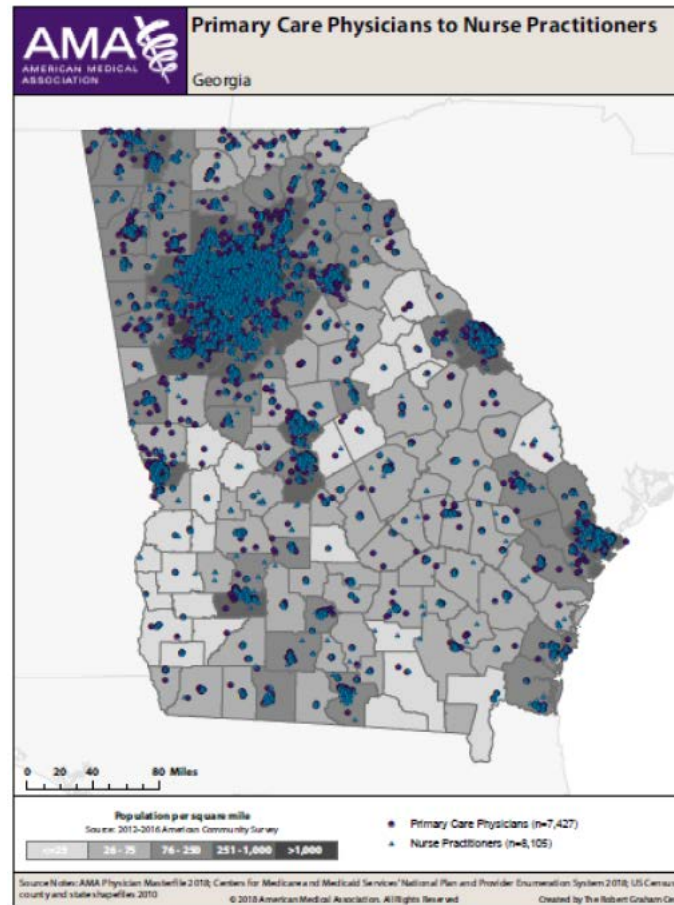
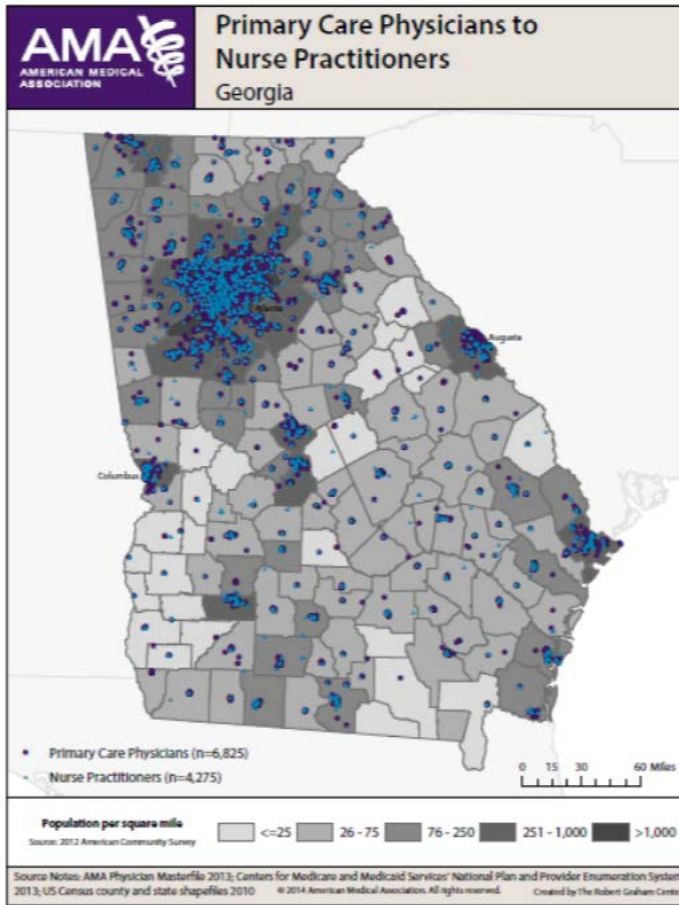
Oregon – Independent Practice

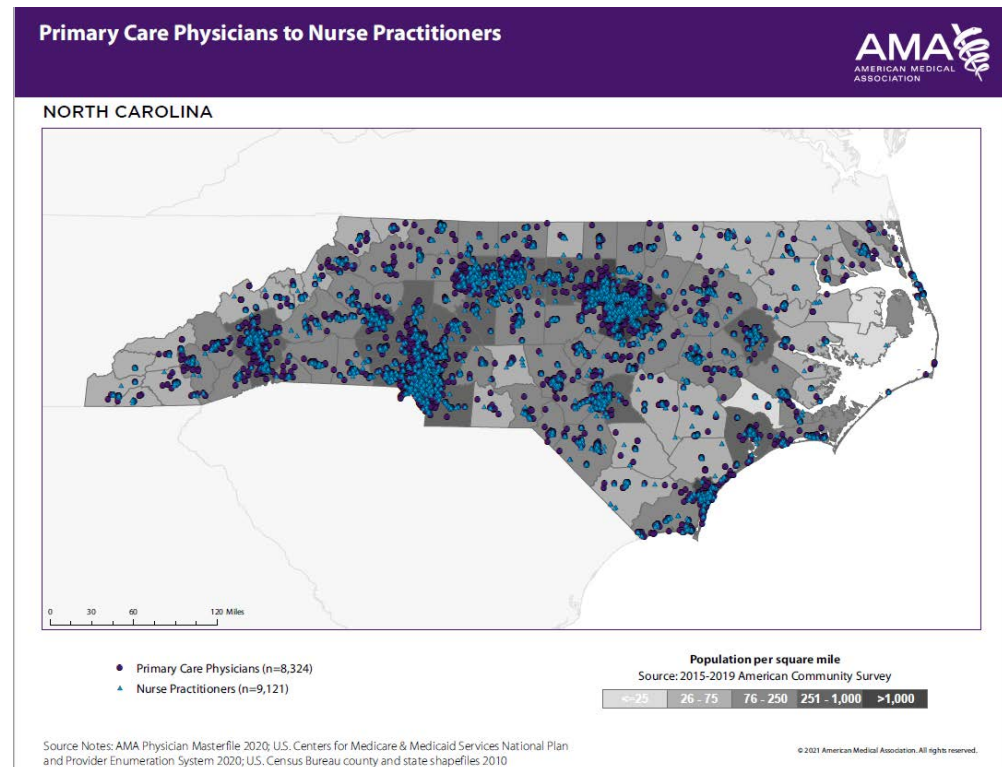
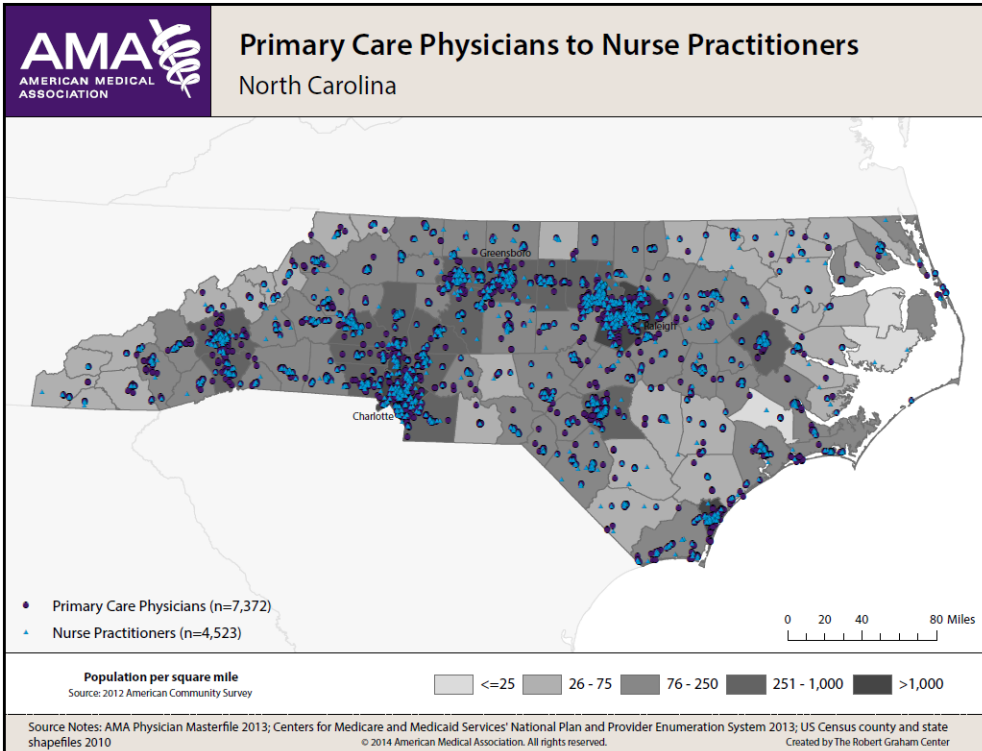


West Virginia – Physician Involvement for 3 Years to Prescribe



Georgia – Physician Supervision or Collaboration Required to Diagnose, Treat, and Prescribe





Expanding Nurse Practitioner Scope of Practice Increases Costs & Utilization of Health Care Resources

- ▶ X-ray ordering increased 441% among non-physicians.
- ▶ Non-physicians needed 2x the number of biopsies to screen for skin cancer.
- ▶ Patients were 15% more likely to receive an antibiotic from a non-physician.
- ▶ 6.3% of nurse practitioners prescribed opioids to over half of their patients compared to 1.3% of physicians.
- ▶ Finding from Hattiesburg Clinic study.

Solutions for Optimal Patient Care

Collaborative, Patient Centered Care

Value-Based Care

Medicaid Expansion

Telehealth/Expanded Broadband Access

Interstate Medical Licensure Compact

Loan Repayment

Incentives for Rural Preceptorships