

Rural program affects choice of surgical practice

July 9 2013



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(HealthDay)—Surgical residents who complete a rural surgery rotation are much more likely to enter general surgery practice and practice in a rural area, even if they had initially planned to specialize, according to research published online July 3 in *JAMA Surgery*.

Karen Deveney, M.D., from Oregon Health and Science University in Portland, and colleagues analyzed the records of 70 [surgical residents](#) who entered practice since implementation of a one year rural rotation in 2002. Of these, 11 completed the rural surgery program.

The researchers found that residents who completed the rural year were significantly more likely to enter [general surgery](#) practice (91 versus 47 percent) and practice in a population site of less than 50,000 (36 versus 7 percent). About half of residents (six residents; 55 percent) who completed the rural year had entered residency with a desire to practice general surgery, and all were practicing general surgery. Of the five residents who completed the rural year and had entered residency desiring a specialty practice, 80 percent (four residents) were practicing general surgery. In contrast, only 29 percent of residents who did not complete the rural year were in general surgery.

"Providing residents a dedicated and significant experience in a rural setting increases the likelihood that they will practice general surgery in a similar setting despite initial specialty plans," Deveney and colleagues conclude.

More information: [Abstract](#)

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Citation: Rural program affects choice of surgical practice (2013, July 9) retrieved 24 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2013-07-rural-affects-choice-surgical.html>

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