



UW SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
at University of Idaho

# UWSOM/WWAMI TRUST



- Impacts on Rural Healthcare Delivery

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# Goals and Objectives



- Participants will understand the disparity between the total rural populations and the rural physician workforce
- Participants will understand at need rural specialties
- Participants Will understand the average indebtedness of a Idaho WWAMI Student
- Participants will become familiar with the Rural Physicians Incentive Program
- Participants will understand factors increasing the likelihood of a medical student ultimately practicing rurally
- Participants will understand the mission of the Targeted Rural and Underserved Track (TRUST) program
- Participants will understand the curriculum of the TRUST program
- Participants will understand the outcomes of the TRUST program

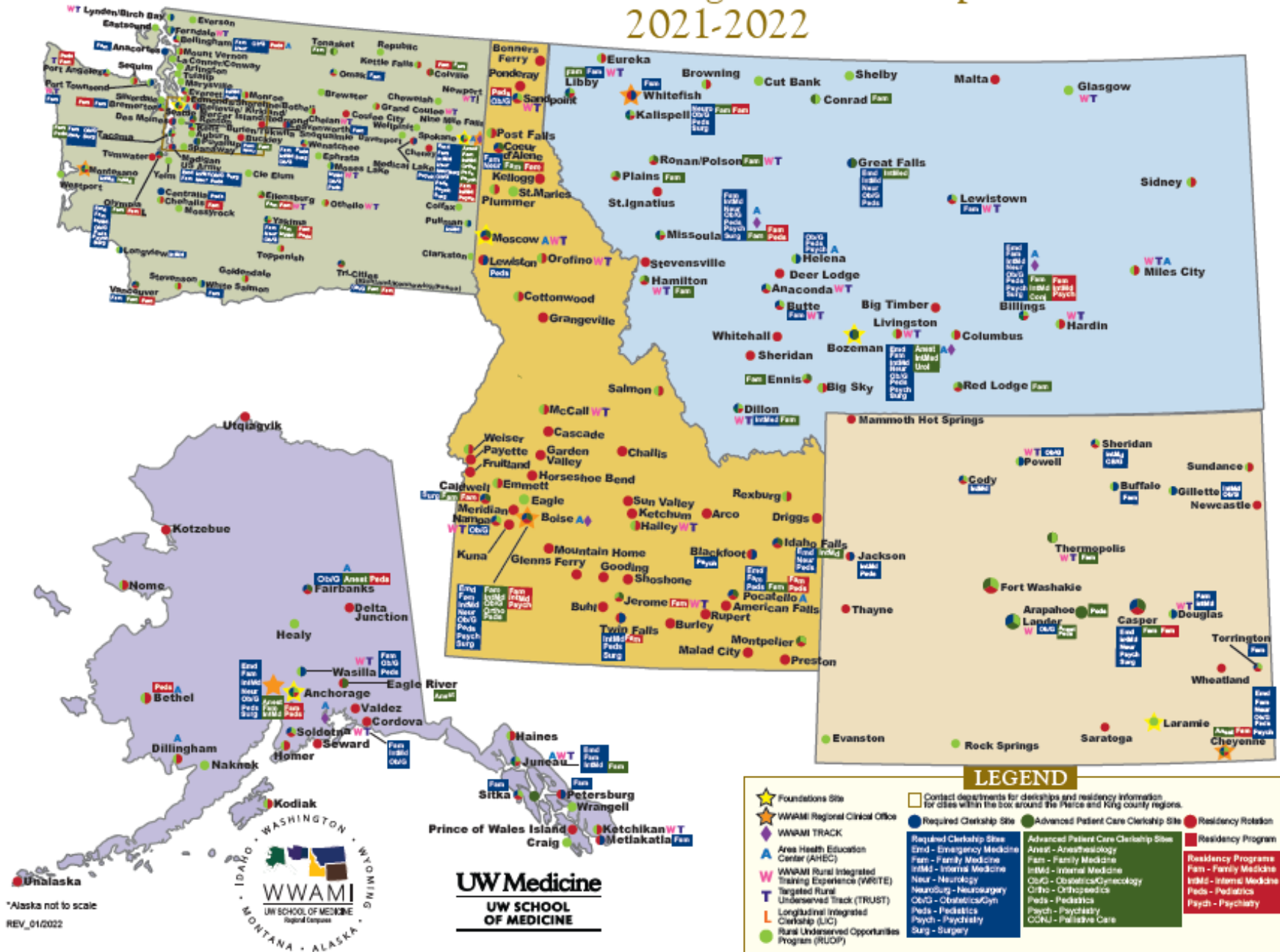




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# WWAMI Program Site Map 2021-2022



\*Alaska not to scale  
REV\_01/2022





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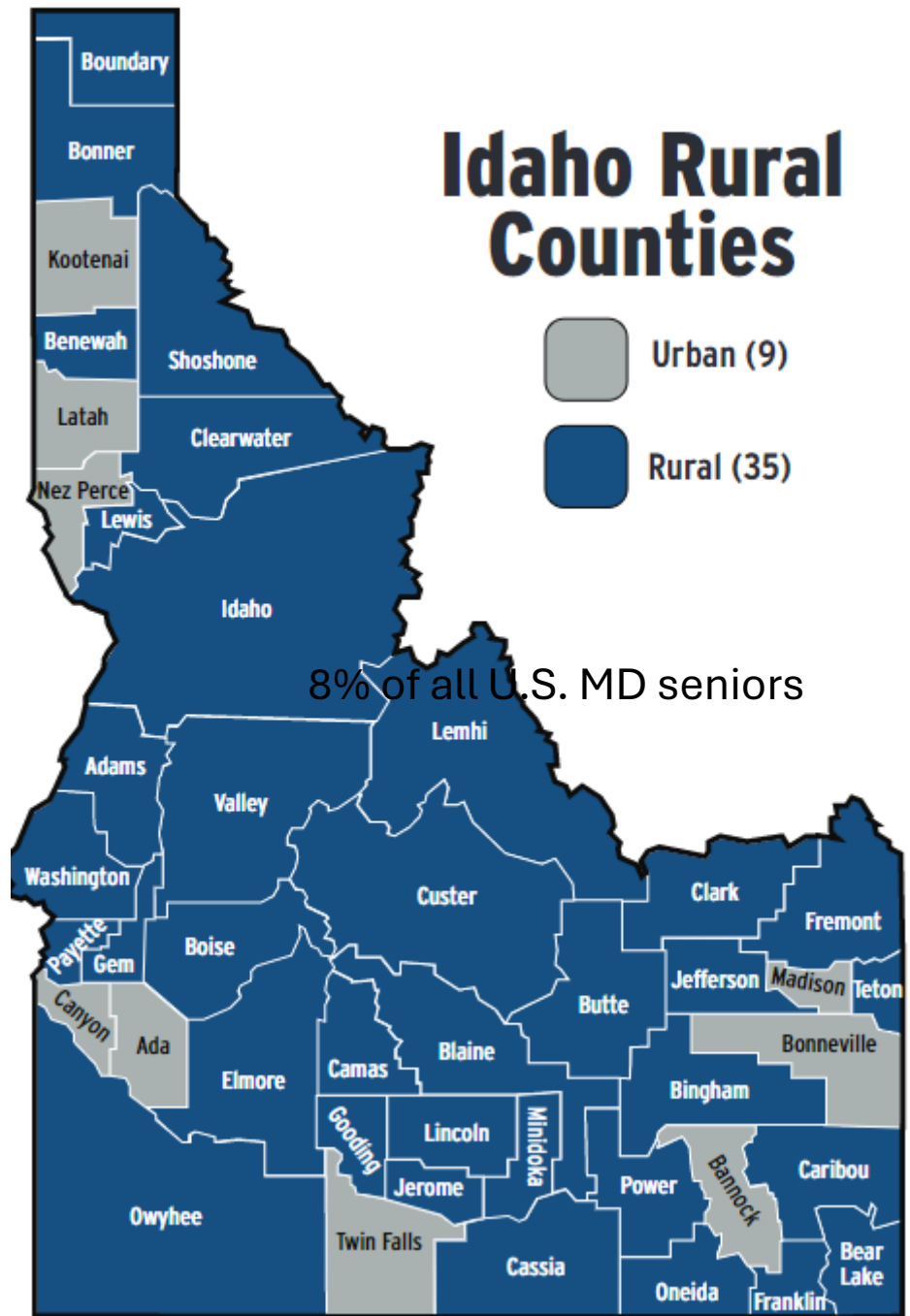


# Rural Physician Crisis

- 20% of the US population lives rurally, yet only 9% of physicians practice rurally

- West J Med. 2000 Nov;173(5):348–351. doi: 10.1136/ewjm.173.5.348 Physicians and rural America Roger A Rosenblatt 1, L Gary Hart 2





## Background

Because Idaho is a large and mostly rural western state, geography and distance impact the health and safety of Idahoans. The residents of Idaho's rural communities tend to be older, experience higher rates of poverty and lower per capita income, and have higher uninsured rates, as compared to their urban counterparts.

## The challenge of access to healthcare

The federal government designates Health Professional Shortage Areas for communities with a shortage of providers for primary care, dental health, or mental health. The shortage designations may include geographic areas, population groups or facilities.

## Economic impact

Health services contribute significantly to disease prevention and management and play a vital role in supporting state and local economies. In Idaho, the average physician directly and indirectly supports an estimated 12 jobs and generates approximately \$1.9 million in economic benefits.



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# Idaho WWAMI Student Indebtedness

- 2023- Median debt \$230,088





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# Rural Physician Incentive Program

- Each Idaho WWAMI student pays \$2000/year
- State matches 2:1
- Awards to physicians who choose to practice rurally, with preference to primary care
- \$100,000 over 4 years
- FY '24 16 awards





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# At Need Rural Specialties

- Family Medicine (with OB)
- General Internal Medicine
- Pediatrics
- OB/GYN
- General Surgery
- Psychiatry





# Factors Associated with Medical Students Choosing Rural or Underserved Practice

- Rural birth/background (3x more likely to go rural)
- Underrepresented in Medicine (URM)
- Economically disadvantaged
- Volunteer or service background
- Attending public college
- Specialty choice at matriculation
- Role models
- **Training in a rural area**

- Medical education and trainingResearch Factors influencing medical students' motivation to practise in rural areas in low-income and middle-income countries: a systematic review <http://orcid.org/0000-0002-8614-1087>Shyam Sundar Budhathoki<sup>1</sup>, Prisca A C Zwanikken<sup>2</sup>, Paras K Pokharel<sup>1</sup>, Albert J Scherpbier<sup>3</sup>





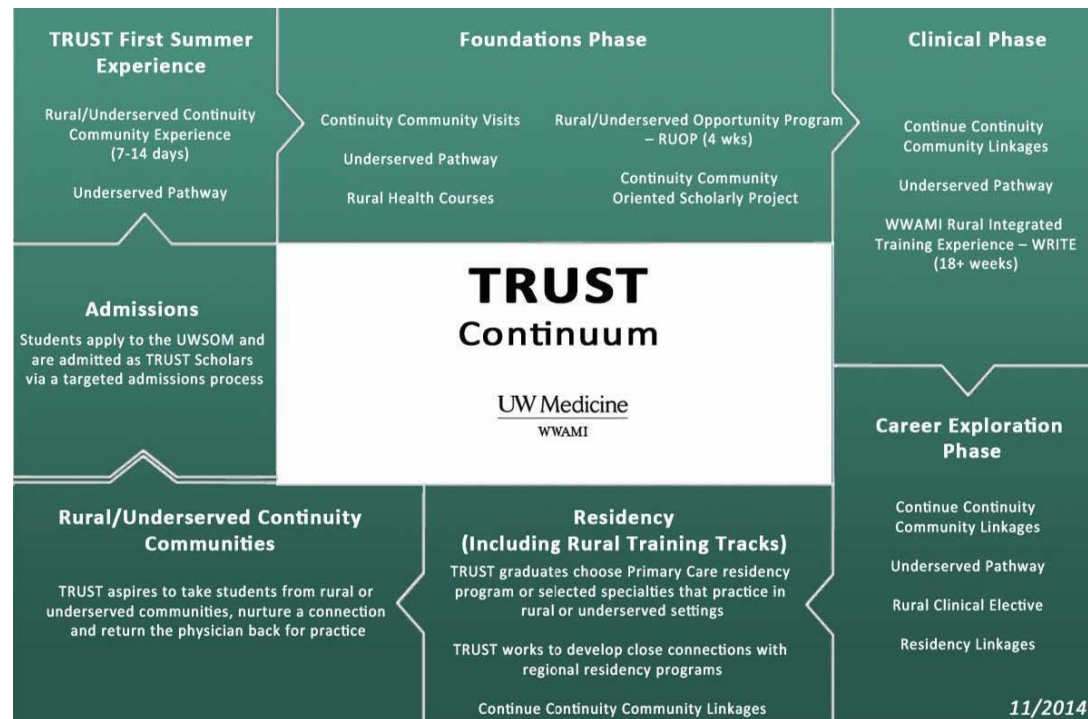
# Targeted Rural and Underserved Track (TRUST)

- TRUST seeks to provide a continuous connection between underserved communities, medical education, and health professionals in our region. **The goal is to create a full-circle pipeline by guiding qualified students through a special curriculum** that connects underserved communities in Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho to the UW School of Medicine and its network of affiliated residency programs in an effort to help meet the workforce needs of the region.

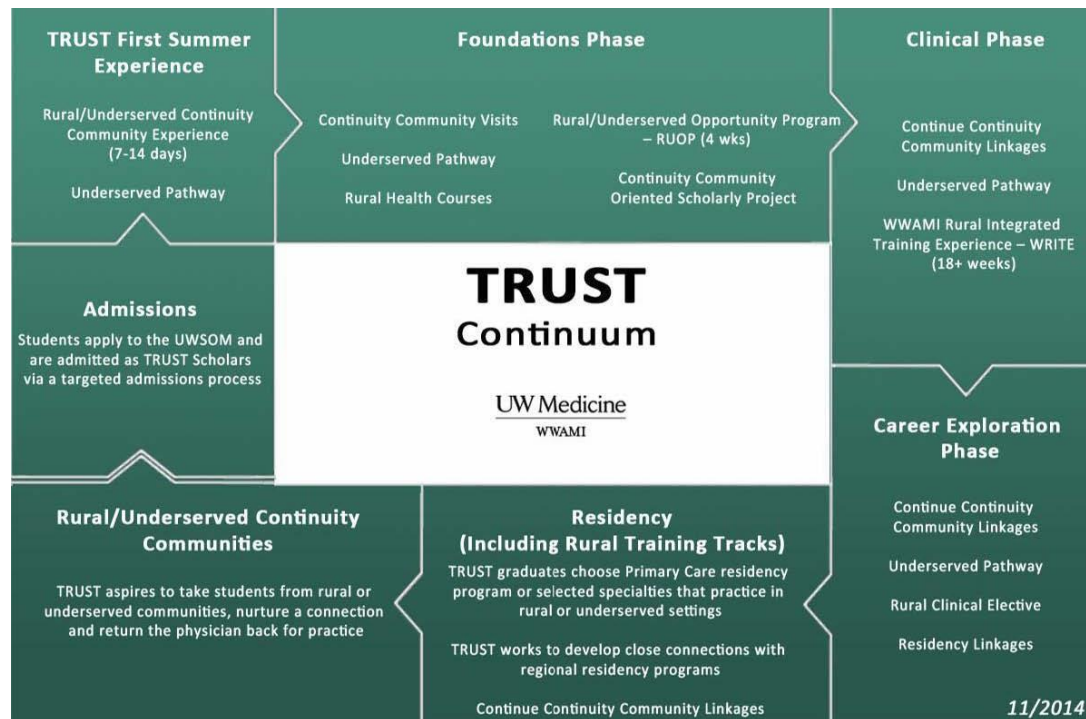


# TRUST

- Longitudinal experience with rural community over 3 years

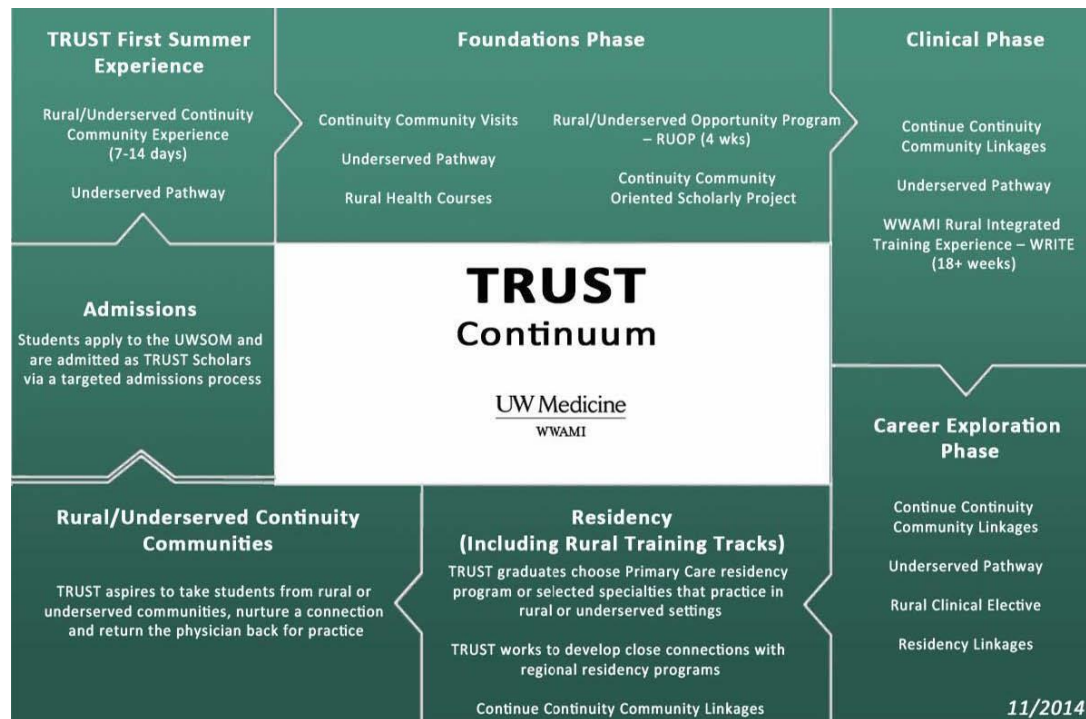


# TRUST



- Longitudinal experience with rural community over 3 years
- Multiple visits in first 2 years including one-month RUOP in summer

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- Longitudinal experience with rural community over 3 years
- Multiple visits in first 2 years including one-month RUOP in summer
- Capstone 5-month longitudinal integrated clerkship (WRITE) during 3<sup>rd</sup> year



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# TRUST Outcomes-the Idaho Story

- 42\* Total TRUST students since first class Entering 2013
  - 14 into FM (33%, national avg. ~8%), 5 practicing rurally (29% all practicing graduates)
  - 4 into IM (10%), 1 practicing rurally ( 6% all practicing grads)
  - 2 into Pediatrics (5%)
  - 2 into Psychiatry (5%)
  - 0 into OB/GYN
  - 2 into General Surgery (5%)
  - \* includes TRUST graduates still in training





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# UWSOM TRUST Data



Montana first TRUST class E2008

Match data easy to obtain, but ultimate practice data difficult

Idaho is a very small N (only 17 grads are practicing, the remainder are still in training)

UWSOM Office of Rural Programs is attempting a comprehensive compilation of all WWAMI TRUST graduates

Living document





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# UWSOM TRUST Match Data 2025

- Family Medicine 24% (8% of all U.S. MD seniors)
- Internal Medicine 24%
- Pediatrics 3%
- OB/GYN 7%
- Psychiatry 14%
- General Surgery 3%
  - Primary Care 51%
  - At Need Specialties 75%

