Dermatology practices: Effects of geographic distribution on health care disparities

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Background
Extensive epidemiologic studies have explored the relationship between physician practice distribution in communities and access to care. The majority of these studies have focused on the primary care workforce and specialties that traditionally serve a high proportion of underserved patient populations (e.g., racial/ethnic minorities, underinsured, lower socio-economic status). Unfortunately, few studies were identified that studied similar trends in dermatology.

Objective
The objective of this study is an exploratory one, to assess the disparities in dermatologic care and potential explanatory factors. There was no association between dermatologist density and socioeconomic variables (i.e., Income, race/ethnicity, education, insurance) for Boston, Chicago, nor Philadelphia. However, there was a positive association between dermatologist density and the proportion of individuals with professional degrees (p=0.013).

Results

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