

## THREE NEW EMS PUBLICATIONS

Three new publications are available from the **North Carolina Rural Health Research & Policy Analysis Center** that look at the results of a national survey of local rural and urban EMS directors.

Findings Brief #84 "*Rural-Urban Differences in Characteristics of Local EMS Agencies*" can be downloaded at  
[http://www.shepscenter.unc.edu/research\\_programs/rural\\_program/FB84.pdf](http://www.shepscenter.unc.edu/research_programs/rural_program/FB84.pdf)

Findings Brief #85 "*Challenges for Rural Emergency Medical Services: Medical Oversight*" can be downloaded at  
[http://www.shepscenter.unc.edu/research\\_programs/rural\\_program/FB85.pdf](http://www.shepscenter.unc.edu/research_programs/rural_program/FB85.pdf)

The complete report "*Issues in Staffing Emergency Medical Services: Results from a National Survey of Local Rural and Urban EMS Directors*" can be downloaded at  
[http://www.shepscenter.unc.edu/research\\_programs/rural\\_program/FR93.pdf](http://www.shepscenter.unc.edu/research_programs/rural_program/FR93.pdf)

### **Major findings from this study include:**

Rural EMS agency directors are significantly less likely to report that their DMD is trained in emergency medicine (57% rural vs. 82% urban) and more likely than urban directors to report that the medical specialty of their DMD is family or general medicine (31% rural vs. 9% urban).

In rural areas, 19% of respondents reported difficulty in recruiting a medical director compared to 10% in urban areas.

Regardless of location, almost two-thirds of EMS directors who had difficulty recruiting a DMD reported that local physicians do not want to serve in this capacity.

Rural EMS agencies are more likely to be freestanding or affiliated with a hospital while those in urban areas tend to be affiliated with other public services such as the fire or police department.

Directors of rural EMS agencies were less likely to report that their agency is fully staffed.

Rural EMS agencies are significantly more likely to be staffed entirely by volunteers who are not paid on a regular basis.

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