National Rural Health Day

Celebrating the **Power of Rural!** ®

Key Messages
& DATA POINTS

NOSORH
National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health

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KEY MESSAGE

Rural America is fueling an innovative rural health infrastructure.

Roughly

1,300 Critical Access Hospitals (CAH) and **900** other rural hospitals

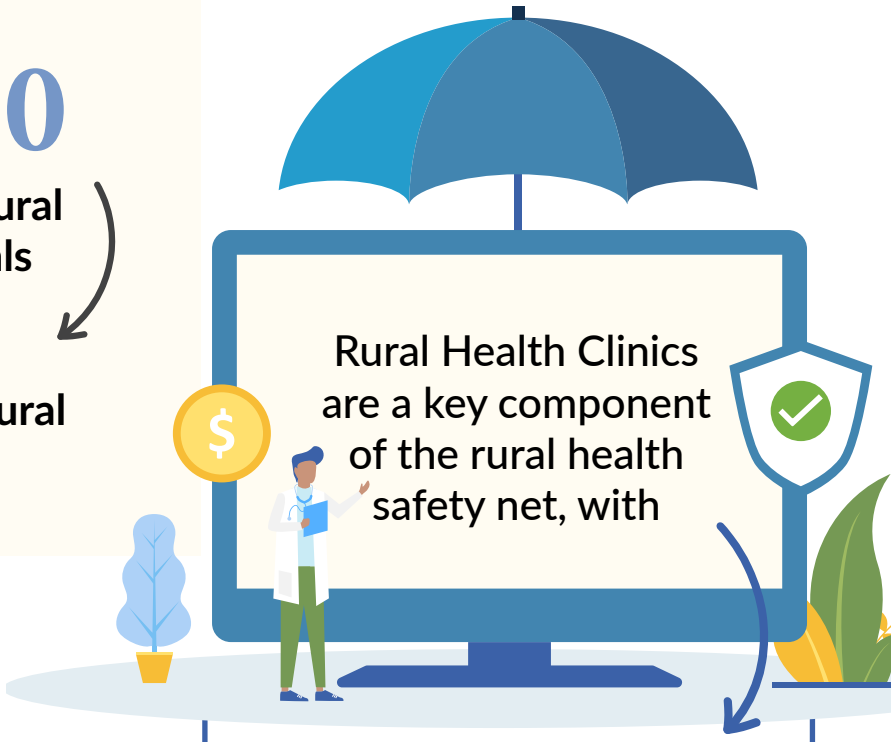


support the acute care landscape of rural communities.[i]



More than **5,400** Rural Health Clinics and over **6,000** rural health centers or health center look-alike sites

provide the backbone of the primary care infrastructure in rural America. [ii]



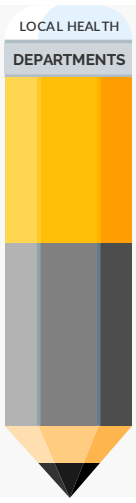
Rural Health Clinics are a key component of the rural health safety net, with



Offering free or reduced-cost care, and



Accepting new Medicaid or state CHIP patients. [iii]



40% of rural Local Health Departments (LHDs) report operating school-based health clinic services, and are more likely than urban LHDs to provide certain services, including immunizations, tuberculosis screening and treatment, Women, Infants and Children (WIC) programs, screening for BMI, and home health care. [iv]

KEY MESSAGE

Rural America is a great place for mission-minded health professionals to provide individualized care.



From 2022-2023, the number of students from a rural background in federal pipeline programs jumped to 118,384 (18% of total pipeline participants). **Rural pipeline participants were more likely to graduate (84%)** compared to urban participants (75%).[vii]



Compared to urban nurse practitioners, rural NPs report being **more satisfied** with their jobs, fully practicing to the extent of their license and anticipate staying in their jobs much longer. [viii]



There are **400+ rural training sites** for medical residencies, a **4-fold increase** since 2008.[vi] Graduates of rural graduate medical education programs are **2 to 5 times more likely** to stay and practice in rural communities.[vii viii]
*Check out rural training opportunities at **ruralgme.org/rural-programs.***

Rural children are more likely to volunteer in their community, school or church and have greater odds of having a mentor for advice or guidance compared to urban children.[v]

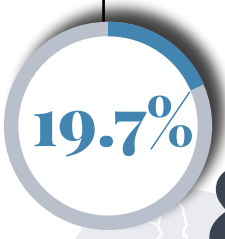


KEY MESSAGE

Rural America offers a beautiful and challenging landscape, requiring unique approaches.

Nearly

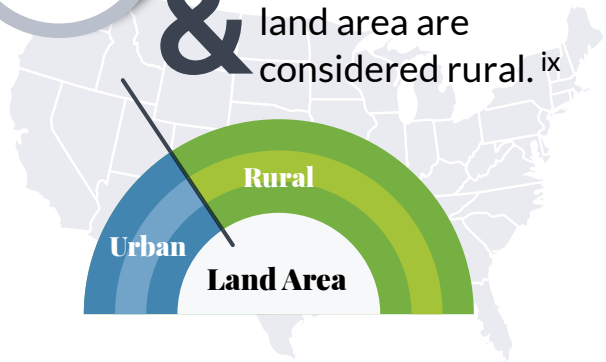
61 million people



of the population

&

86% of the country's land area are considered rural. [ix]



Children in Rural Areas

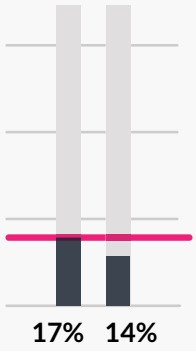


Rural children from Black, Indigenous, and Hispanic backgrounds face higher rates of poverty and obesity, and lower educational attainment, compared to their White rural and urban peers.[xii xiii xiv]

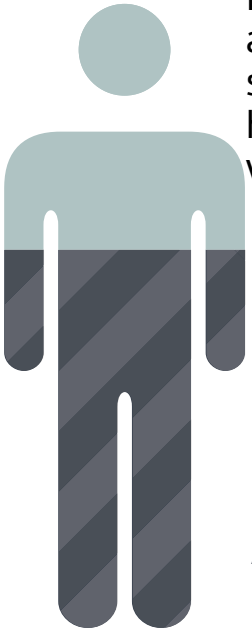
The median annual household income of rural residents is lower than urban residents,

Rural $45,000

Urban $62,000



with 17% of rural residents living at or **below the poverty line**, compared to 14% in urban.[xi]

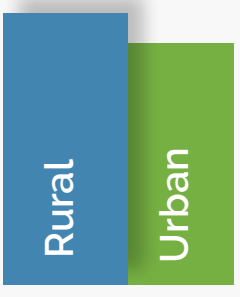


Rural communities face a disproportionate shortage of qualified health care providers, with

66.5%

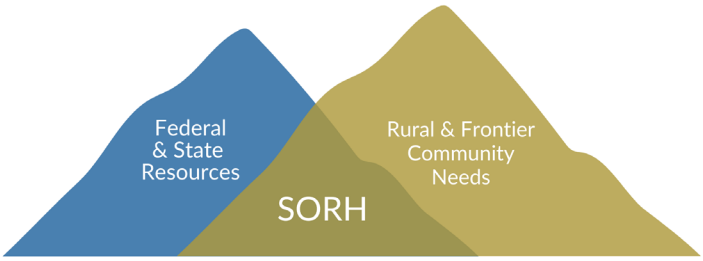
of designated primary care Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) located in rural areas.[x]





Food Insecurity

State Offices of Rural Health: Your partners to grow communication, education, collaboration and innovation in rural health.



No other resource does the work of a SORH

State Offices of Rural Health (SORH) are the only statewide organizations designed to work at the local level, linking federal and state resources to rural and frontier community needs.

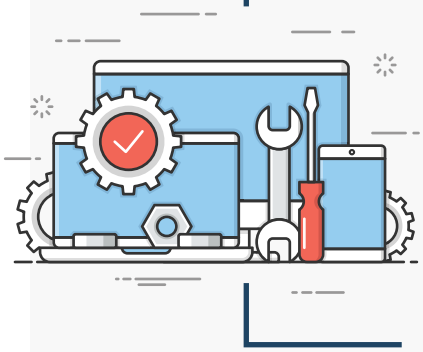
These partners are a true part of your state:

37 SORH are part of a state health department,

10 are part of a state institution of higher learning,

3 are non-profit organizations.

SORH provided over



84,500 instances of technical assistance to over

30,000 rural stakeholders in 2024.[xv]

More than 2.6 million Americans accessed SORH websites,

nearly 130,000 subscribed to SORH distribution lists,

and more than 96,000 subscribed to SORH newsletters. [xvi]

How to find your partner:

Learn more about the SORH by visiting **www.nosorh.org**

Sources

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