



Rural Oral Health & Community Solutions

07.18.2024

About AIDPH

AIDPH is a 501c3 nonprofit organization committed to transforming dental public health practices through science, education, and advocacy. Serving as a catalyst for change, AIDPH advocates for a justice-oriented oral health system that prioritizes equity and inclusion.



AIDPH's Mission and Vision

MISSION

Empowering our community to advance oral health through science, education, and advocacy

VISION

A justice-oriented oral health system



Our Communities of Focus



LGBTQIA+

By tailoring preventive and treatment strategies to the unique needs of this community, we can contribute to reducing disparities and promoting oral health equity for all individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, or intersex status.



Veterans

By recognizing and addressing the distinct challenges faced by veterans, we can contribute to improving oral health outcomes, promoting preventive care, and enhancing the overall quality of life for those who have served in the military.



Disabilities

By prioritizing inclusivity, accessibility, and targeted education, we can contribute significantly to improving the oral health outcomes and overall well-being of people with disabilities.



Rural

By addressing the unique challenges faced by residents in rural areas, we can contribute to reducing oral health disparities and improving the overall well-being of these communities.

Our model



knowledge
expertise
technical skill
research capacity



lived experience
community trust
representation
direct benefit



Webinars and Workshops

Meetings on a specific topic or initiative made to deliver information to a broader network



Learning Collaboratives

Informal meetings on an overarching topic focused on growth and collective action



Certificates

Dedicated curriculum pathways to earn a certificate signaling expertise in an established topic



Fellowships

Dedicated curriculum that is explored in longer terms to earn a certificate and moniker of "Fellow of the Academy"



Colloquium

Intensive topical examination that is interactive and geared for personal and professional development

The AIDPH Rural ECHO Series

Rural Oral Health ECHO



[REGISTER FOR THE 6/27/24 SESSION →](#)

Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) is an all-teach-all-learn telementoring model focused on building the capacity of health providers. Seeing clear alignment with our mission and vision, AIDPH was credentialed in the ECHO model in 2020 to establish a rural oral health ECHO hub.

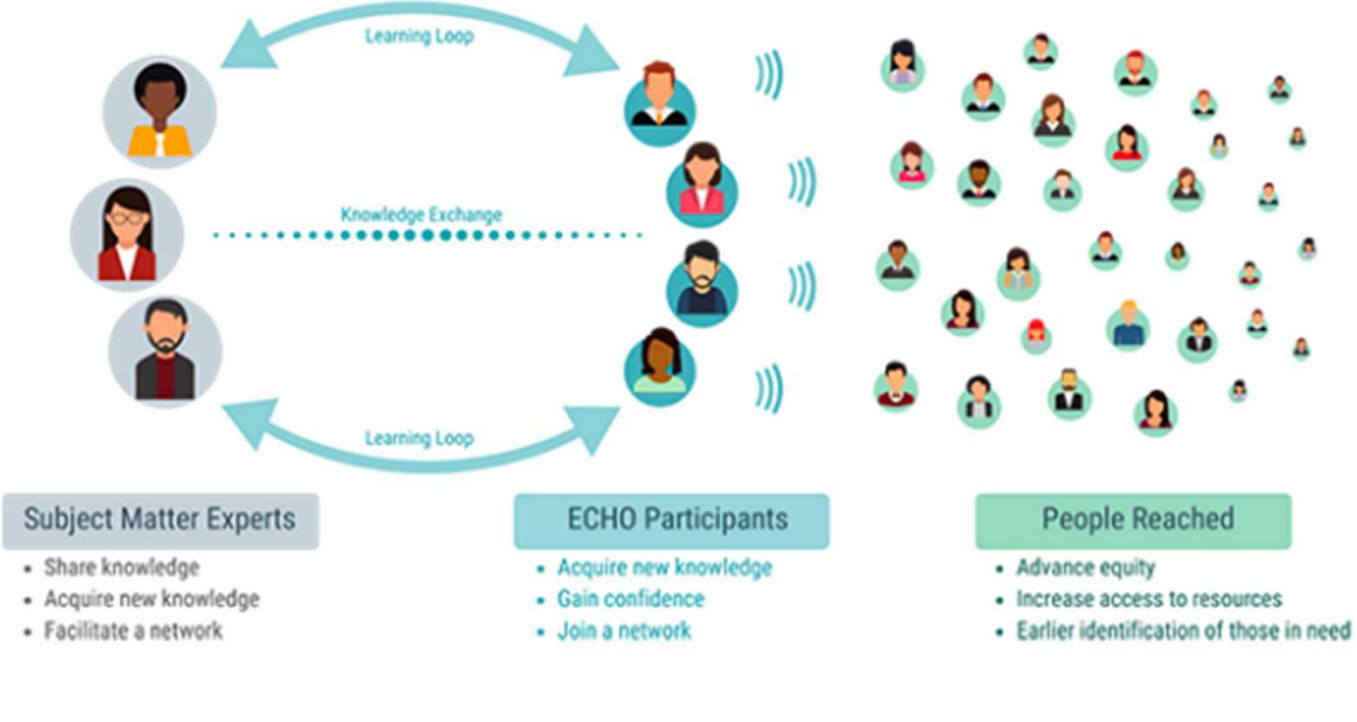
Our Rural Oral Health ECHO follows The Three Domains Framework using the lens of rurality and health equity. Each virtual session includes three key elements:

- Expert didactic presentation
- Participant Q&A
- Think tank challenge

Participants take this knowledge back to their communities to implement in their daily work, building the capacity of our oral health professional workforce.

ECHO Model Overview

MOVING KNOWLEDGE, NOT PEOPLE

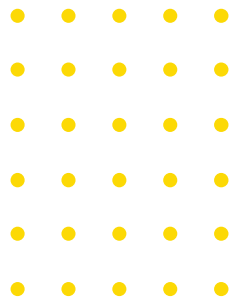


The AIDPH Rural ECHO Series

- 2024: Navigating Rural and Tribal Oral Health Solutions
- 2023: Innovations in Rural Oral Health
- 2022: Exploring Special Topics in Rural Oral Health

2024 ECHO: Navigating Rural and Tribal Oral Health Solutions Using a Community Compass

- Explores the key assets of rural and tribal communities and how to advance oral health access through community engagement.
- Builds on AIDPH's 2023 Innovations in Rural Oral Health ECHO and certificate (though not a prerequisite).
- Offerings:
 - **CEUs for each session** after completing an evaluation and request form
 - A **Certificate in Community Engagement in Rural and Tribal Oral Health** for completing competency assessments for **all five** sessions



The AIDPH Rural ECHO Series



Certificate Programs

We recognize the value of continuous learning, specialization, and training that complements traditional academic pathways. Our certificate programs are crafted to signal expertise in distinct areas of dental public health. By obtaining a certification, participants not only validate their knowledge and skills, but also demonstrate a commitment to advancing oral health equity and catalyzing positive change.

A wide-angle photograph of a rural landscape. The foreground is dominated by a vast field of golden-yellow crops, likely wheat or corn, stretching towards the horizon. In the middle ground, there are a few scattered green trees and a line of trees in the distance. The sky is filled with large, dramatic, grey and white clouds, suggesting an overcast or stormy day. The overall scene is a typical rural setting.

Rural Health Landscape

The Health and Oral Health of Rural People

Rural has an Older, Sicker and Poorer Population

- The median age of adults living in rural areas is greater than those living in urban:
 - Rural: 51 years
 - Urban: 45 Years
- 18.4% of rural residents are age 65+, whereas its 14.5% in urban
- **Rural areas have higher rates of several health risk factors/conditions:**
 - **Obesity**
 - **Diabetes**
 - **Smoking**



"Rural America is often a story about workforce shortages, vulnerable populations, and chronic poverty. Let's be honest: the truth lies in between. The challenges that we face in Rural America drive innovation and that's an important starting point. People living in rural areas are often sicker, older, and poorer. It's not a smaller version of urban living, it's a unique healthcare delivery environment that requires an asset-based approach to policy change."

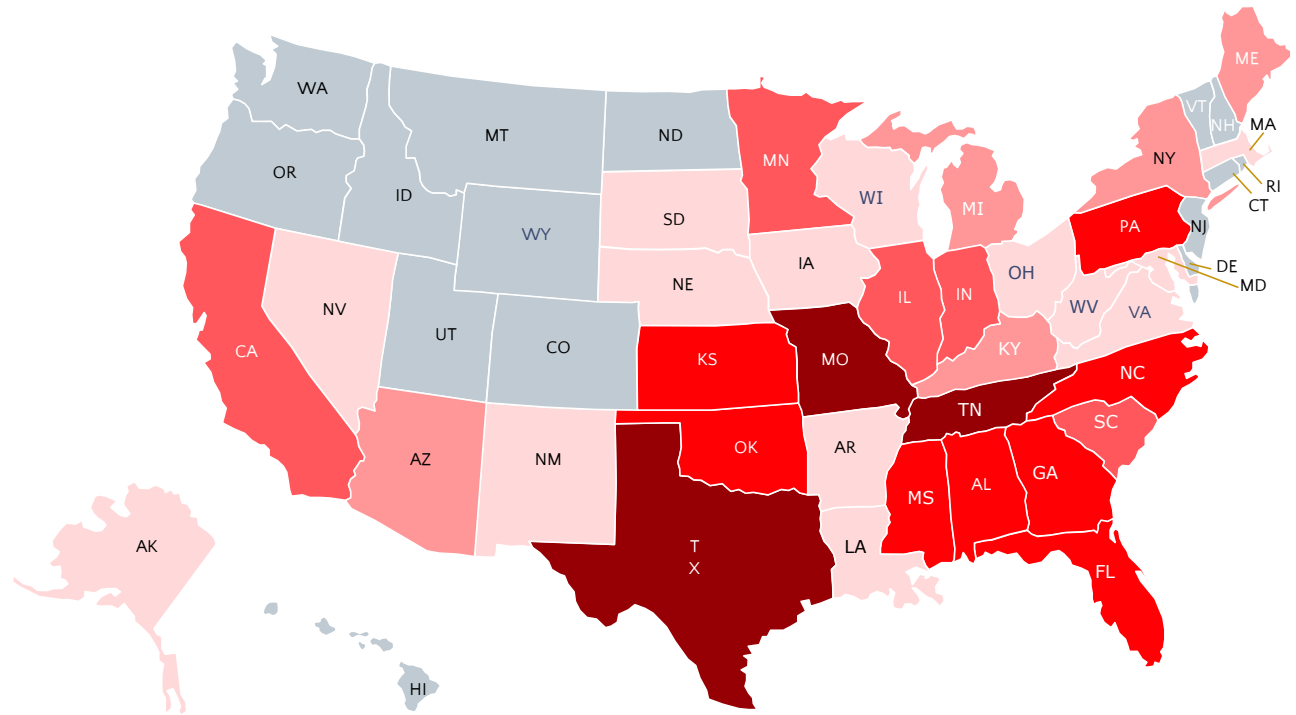
**Alan Morgan, CEO
National Rural Health Association**

America's Rural Hospital Crisis

Since 2010, **access to care has deteriorated significantly** in rural communities across America.

161 rural hospitals have either closed or converted to a model that excludes inpatient care (e.g., REH).

Highest loss of inpatient care tends to be in **states resisting** (or slow to adopt) **Medicaid Expansion**.



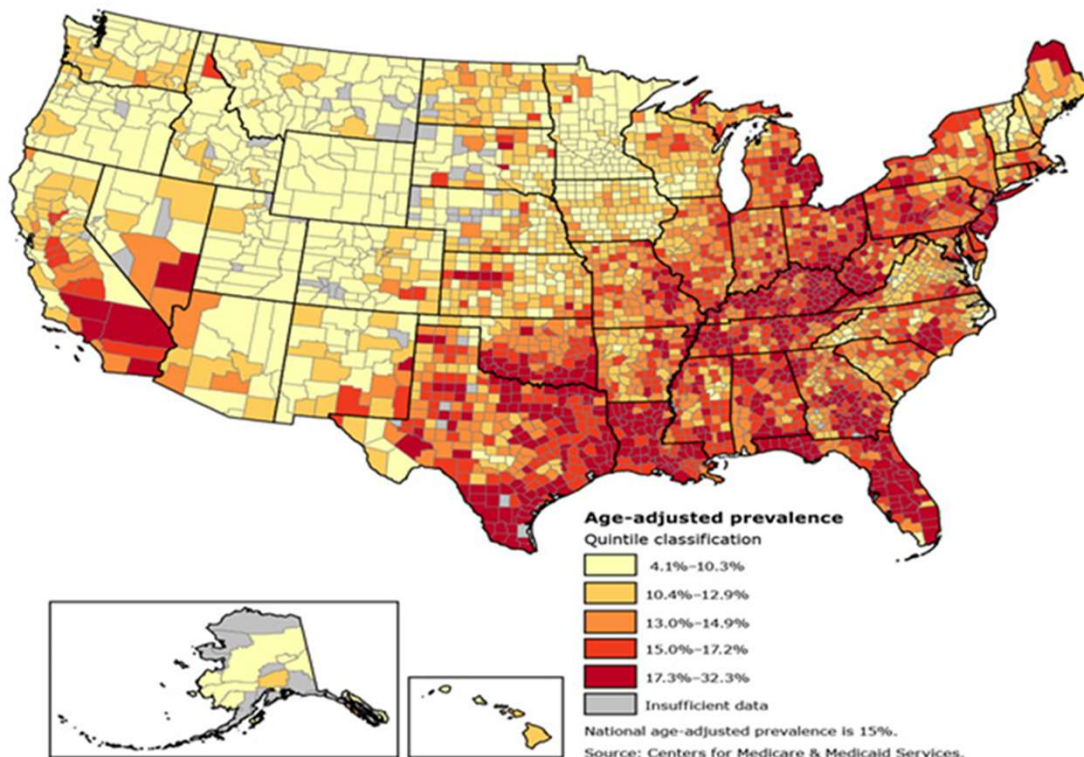
Number of rural hospitals closed or ceasing inpatient care since 2010.



Closure Source: Cecil B. Sheps Center for Health Services Research, 10/11/23.

Prevalence of Medicare Patients with 6 or more Chronic Conditions

The Prevalence of Medicare Fee-for-Service Beneficiaries 65 Years or Older With 6 or More Chronic Conditions, by County, 2012



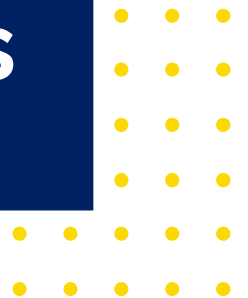
Key Rural Oral Health Challenges

- Lack of Insurance
- Distance to Care
- Workforce Training and Shortages
- High Rates of Substance Use
- Low Rates of Dental Care Utilization
- Higher Rates of Dental Caries

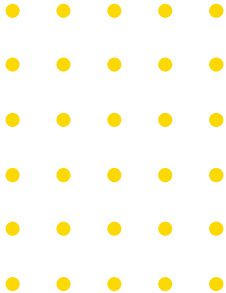
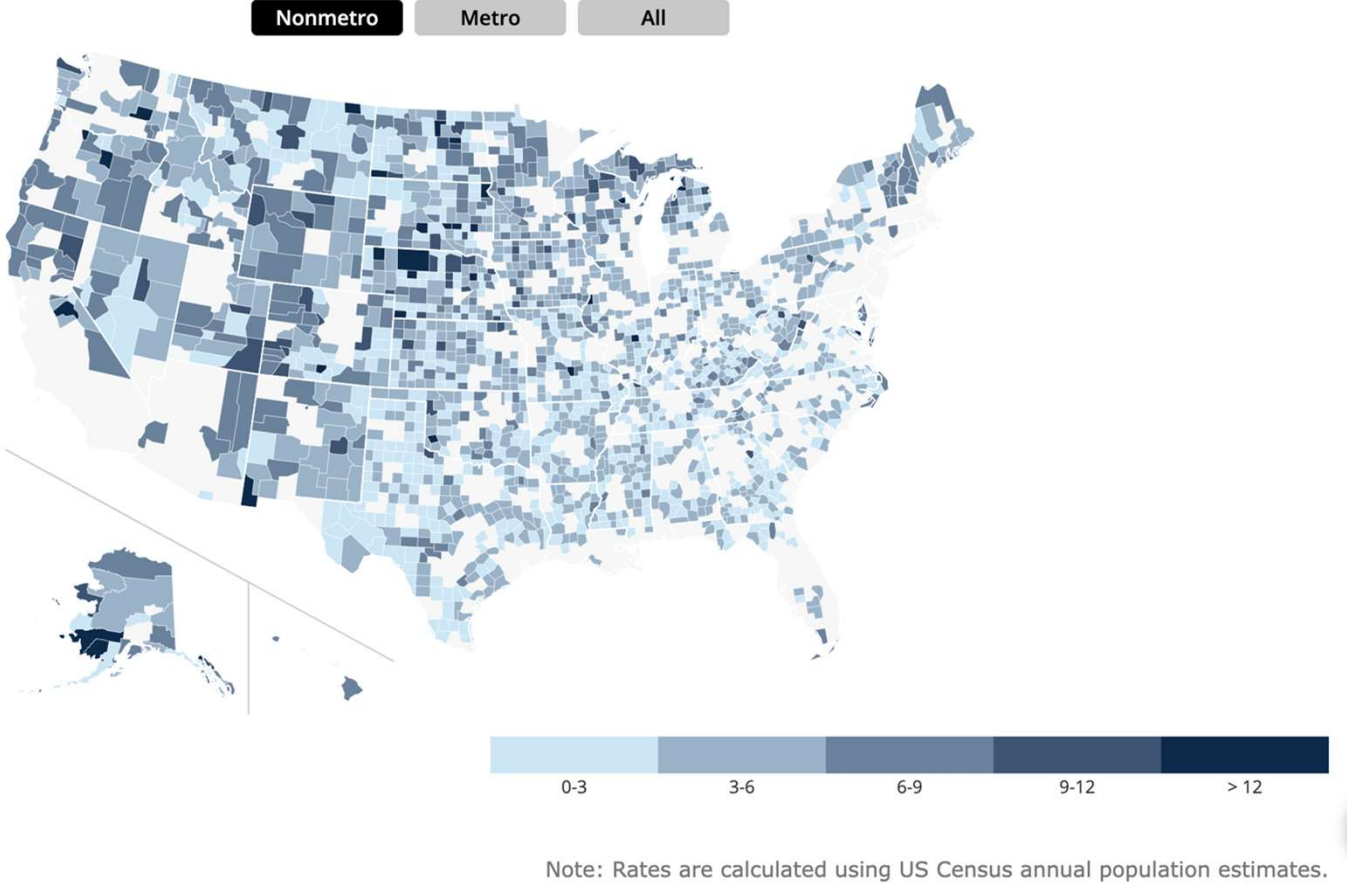
The Oral Health of Rural People

MORE gum
disease,
cavities/decay,
and edentulism

LESS insurance
coverage &
dental
appointments

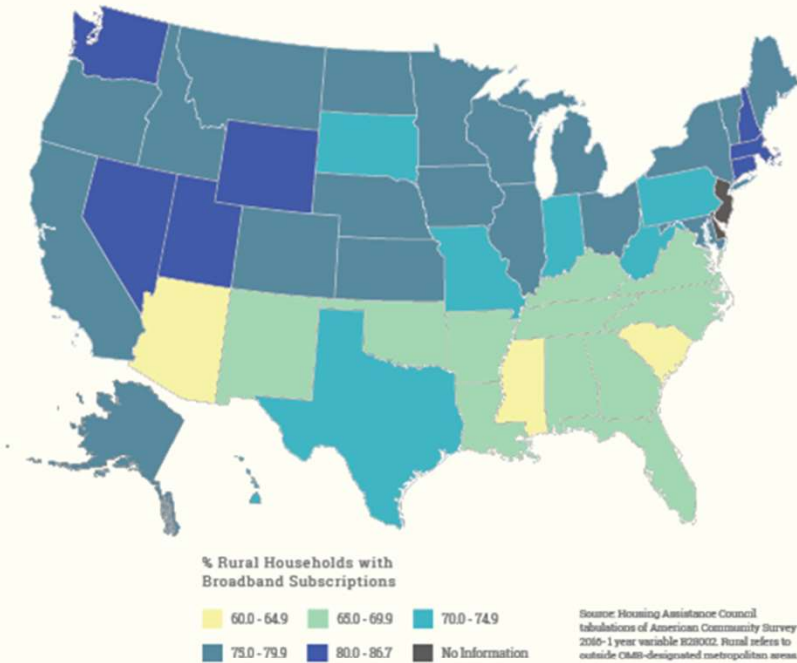


Dentist Availability for Rural People



The Digital Divide in Rural America

RURAL HOUSEHOLDS WITH BROADBAND SUBSCRIPTIONS



HOUSEHOLDS WITH BROADBAND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Source: Housing Assistance Council tabulations of American Community Survey 2010-1 year.

83%
METROPOLITAN

VS

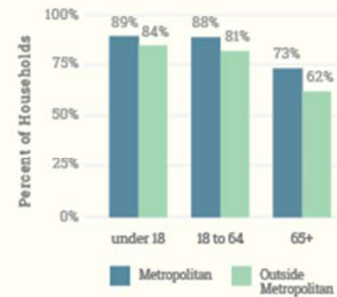
73%
OUTSIDE METROPOLITAN

BROADBAND SUBSCRIPTIONS

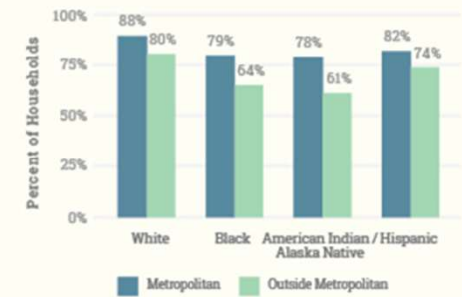
BY INCOME



BY AGE



BY RACE / ETHNICITY



Fragile Rural Health Safety Net

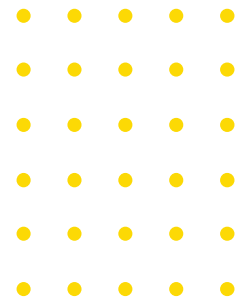
- Vulnerable populations
- Systemic workforce shortages
- Scattered populations with inherent access to care issues
- Limited resources for providers
- Inadequate Medicare, Medicaid and private insurance coverage
- Lack of Medicaid expansion and high uninsured populations
- Rural provider closures



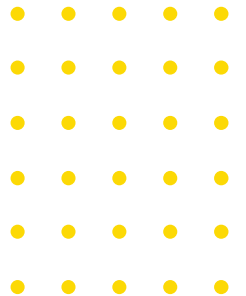
Recommendations

For Improving Veteran Oral Health and Well-Being

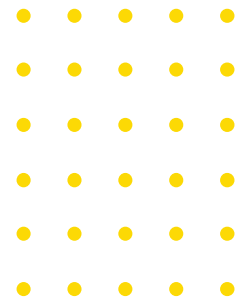
1. Ensure our oral health workforce is maximized



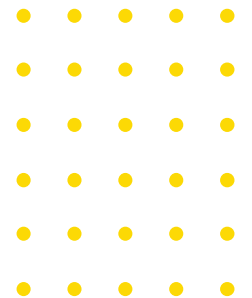
2. Advance integrated care models of delivery & payment



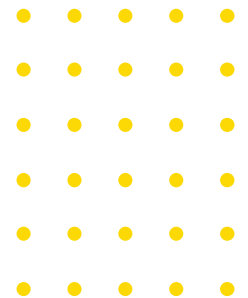
3. Expand FQHCs and rural access clinics



4. Expand broadband & telehealth access



5. Improve data collection for oral health indicators





Resources

How Can I Learn More About Veteran Oral Health

Rural Health Info Hub



[Updates & Alerts](#) | [About RHIhub](#) | [Contact Us](#)

- Online Library ▾
- Topics & States ▾
- Rural Data Visualizations ▾
- Case Studies & Conversations ▾
- Tools for Success ▾



Get Rural Updates & Alerts



Sign-up to receive our [weekly newsletter](#):

Find Rural Data



The [Rural Data Explorer](#) and [Chart Gallery](#) provide access to a wide range of data on rural health issues.

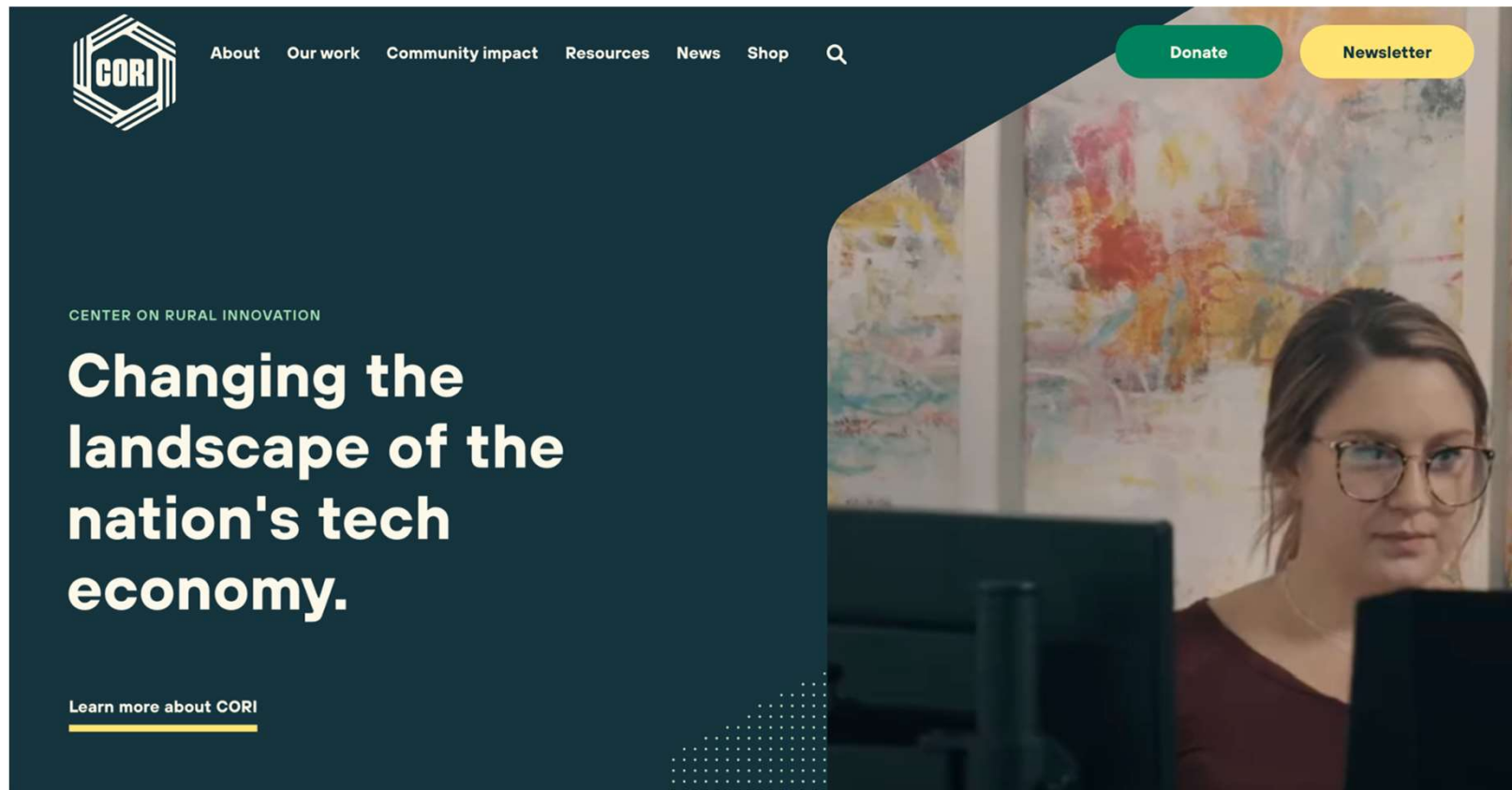
The Rural Monitor

[Collaboration, Not Competition: Thrive Allen County's Capacity Building Initiatives](#)

Thrive Allen County, a Kansas nonprofit, brings grant money into its community and helps other entities build capacity through grant writing, technical assistance, and other services. Since 2019, the nonprofit has brought over \$28 million into its rural community and its work has led to hiking and biking trails, a state park, new grocery stores, and much more.



Center on Rural Innovation



US Department of Agriculture

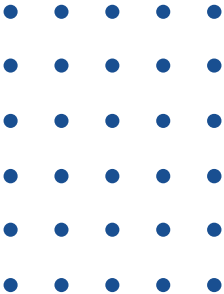
USDA Economic Research Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

2021 Edition

Rural  **America**

at a Glance

By Elizabeth A. Dobis, Thomas P. Krumel, Jr., John Cromartie,
Kelsey L. Conley, Austin Sanders, and Ruben Ortiz



VetDentalData.org



GET DATA

ABOUT US

ABOUT THE DATA

PUBLICATIONS

ADVOCACY

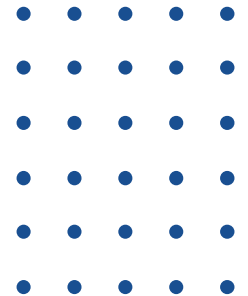
CONNECT



**Essential information on the oral health of veterans in the United States.
See the State Profiles**



Good oral health is essential for health and well-being. Unfortunately, many veterans bear a disproportionate burden of disease and disability due to their military service. Over 85% of Veteran Health Administration (VHA) enrollees are not eligible for dental care leaving approximately 7.6 million veterans without access to vital dental care services. Use data available in this site to advocate for and support sound strategies and policies to improve the oral health and overall well-being of veterans.



National Rural Health Association



NRHA National Rural Oral Health Initiative

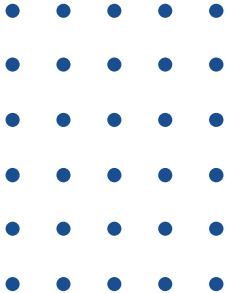
The National Rural Oral Health Initiative is the combined effort of the National Rural Health Association and the CareQuest Institute for Oral Health to improve oral health disparities amongst rural Americans. The efforts of the combined organizations focus on Policy, Communications, Education, and Research; to help spread awareness and prioritize person centered care across the board.



Featured NRHA Partners

As oral health issues have plagued those in rural communities - this initiative is designed to enhance the access to quality oral health care for all, while connecting groups to the resources they need to help patients.

NRHA has released the association [2020 Compendium of Rural Health Best Practices](#). The compendium contains best practices in programs, models, and policies aimed at enhancing access to quality rural oral health care. The NRHA previously released the [2017 Compendium of Rural Oral Health Best Practices](#).



Stay Connected to AIDPH

Investment in Health Equity for Rural Residents

For rural communities, AIDPH is committed to bridging the vast oral health divide that leaves these areas underserved and overlooked. Rural populations face unique challenges, including limited access to dental care professionals, long distances to healthcare facilities, and a higher prevalence of oral health issues compared to urban areas.

We advocate for increased resources, infrastructure development, and workforce solutions that ensure rural communities have equal access to preventive and comprehensive oral health services. We support workforce development that brings healthcare providers into rural settings to practice.



Get In Touch



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Visit aidph.org to learn more!





THANK YOU