

Rural Behavioral Health

NRHA Supported Legislation

H.R. 6407 Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP) Authorization Act

Reps. Miller (R-WV), Tonko (D-NY), Carter (R-GA), & Sewell (D-AL)
Reauthorizes the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program.

S. 3048/ H.R. 1627 TREATS Act

Sens. Murkowski (R-AK), Whitehouse (D-RI), & Reps. Norcross (D-NJ), Fitzpatrick (R-PA)
Makes prescribing buprenorphine for opioid use disorder via telehealth permanent, including the use of audio-only.

S. 2282/H.R.4400 Farmers First Act

Sens. Baldwin (D-WI), Ernst (R-IA), & Reps. Feenstra (R-IA), Craig (D-MN)
Reauthorizes the Farm & Ranch Stress Assistance Network to provide increased funding for farmer behavioral health resources and allows grant recipients to establish referral relationships with key rural behavioral health providers, including RHC and CAHs.

S. 2011/ H.R. 3884 Telemental Health Care Access Act

Sens. Cassidy (R-LA), Smith (D-MN), & Reps. Matsui (D-CA) & Balderson (R-OH)
Removes the statutory requirement that Medicare beneficiaries be seen in-person within six months of being treated for mental and behavioral health services through telehealth.

Factors contributing to greater behavioral health challenges in rural America

- Lack of access to treatment options
- Behavioral health workforce shortages
- Greater sense of stigma
- Longer distances and fewer transportation options
- Higher rates of under- or un-insurance

Nearly a **quarter of nonmetropolitan** adults reported having mental illness in 2023.

Rural areas have just **15.8 psychologists per 100,000** people.

7.2 million adults misused prescription opioids at least once in the previous year, with approximately **1.2 million** of those adults in a **nonmetropolitan area**.

62% of the US counties with the highest rates of OUD are located in rural areas.