

Rural Public Health



Geography should not be a determining factor for **health status**.

Rural public health efforts and interventions must be specifically catered to address rural population health.

Rural areas experience unique health challenges in comparison to their urban counterparts. Among these are a higher likelihood to die from leading **chronic diseases** and **unintentional injury**. Additionally, many **socioeconomic inequities** and **environmental hazards** contribute to rural communities' **unequal health outcomes**.

S. 403/H.R. 3102: Rural Health Focus Act

Sens. Hyde Smith (R-MS), Merkley (D-OR) & Reps. Guest (R-MS), Gluesenkamp Perez (D-WA)

Provides statutory authority for the Office of Rural Health (ORH) within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

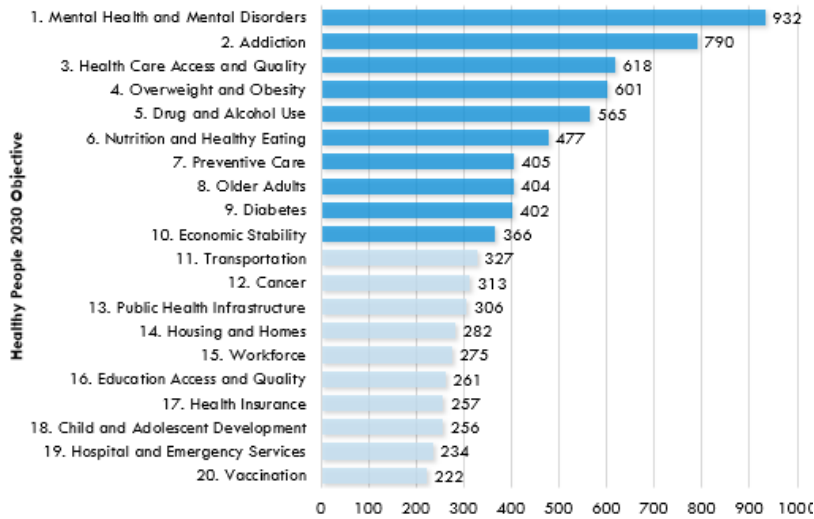
The Office of Rural Public Health enhances implementation of CDC's rural health portfolio, coordinates efforts across CDC programs, and implements a strategic plan for rural health that maps the way forward both administratively and programmatically. NRHA urges Congress to increase funding to \$10 million for implementation of these essential functions.

H.R. 1480: Rural Health Innovation Act

Reps. Kustoff (R-TN) & Pappas (D-NH)

Establishes two new grant programs to increase access to emergency care in rural areas through rural health clinics, community health centers, and local health departments.

2030 Top 20 Healthy People Priorities for Rural America



Southwest Rural Health Research Center, 2023



There are more than **2,512 LHDs** in the United States, about half of which are rural.



Rural LHDs tend to have fewer staff and larger geographic jurisdictions to cover.