



Local Health Departments Support Rural Communities

A total of 46 million Americans (15% of the U.S. population) live in rural areas. More than 60% of local health departments serve communities of 50,000 residents or fewer. Rural residents across the nation face disproportionate health challenges.

When compared to urban and suburban populations, people in rural communities:

- Are more likely to die from heart disease, cancer, chronic lower respiratory disease, and stroke
- Have higher rates of cigarette smoking, obesity, and high blood pressure
- Suffer higher rates of motor vehicle accidents

- Have less access to primary care providers and often have to travel long distances for specialty care

In 2015, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the rate of rural drug overdose deaths surpassed that of urban areas. Many of the states with the highest rates of opioid misuse have predominantly rural populations.

In 2017, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) estimated identified more than 2,400 mental health professional shortage areas exist in rural counties. It is estimated that it would take at least 950 practitioners to fill these gaps.

NACCHO Supports the Following Programs

Opioid Prescription Drug Overdose Prevention (CDC): Funds prescription drug abuse and overdose prevention programs in hardest-hit communities to enhance prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs), implement insurer and health system interventions to improve opioid prescribing practices, and foster collaboration with a variety of state entities, including law enforcement.

Diabetes Prevention (CDC): Funds state diabetes prevention and control activities that support diabetes self-management education and diabetes prevention lifestyle change.

Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention (CDC): Supports evidence-based state heart disease and stroke prevention programs and select local health departments to address at risk populations in their communities.

Core State Violence and Injury Prevention Program (CDC): Helps states implement, evaluate, and disseminate strategies that address the most pressing injury and violence issues, including child abuse and neglect, traumatic brain injury, motor vehicle crash injury and death, and intimate partner/sexual violence.

Rural Health Outreach & Network Grants (HRSA): Expands delivery of healthcare services, develop partnerships among community health care providers, and improve population health while demonstrating health outcomes and sustainability.

Rural Communities Opioid Response (HRSA): Established in FY2018, these grants will enable community partners to develop plans for opioid use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery interventions designed to reduce opioid overdoses among rural populations.

Rural Public Health Services

Services more likely provided at rural vs local health departments (NACCHO National Profile of Local Health Departments, 2016)

Services	Urban	Rural
Childhood Immunizations	77%	95%
Maternal and child health surveillance	59%	76%
Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)	53%	72%
Blood lead screening	49%	72%
BMI screening	43%	65%
Maternal and child health home visits	51%	64%
High blood pressure screening	51%	62%
Family Planning	42%	56%
School-based clinics	24%	50%
School health	36%	49%

Screening and treatment for diseases/conditions (NACCHO National Profile of Local Health Departments, 2016)

Screening	Urban	Rural
Tuberculosis	76%	86%
STDs (Not HIV)	59%	64%
HIV/AIDS	58%	57%
Blood Lead	49%	72%
High blood pressure	51%	62%
BMI	43%	65%
Diabetes	32%	37%
Cancer	30%	29%
Cardiovascular Disease	26%	28%
Treatment of communicable diseases		
Tuberculosis	72%	79%
STDs (Not HIV)	57%	63%
HIV/AIDS	30%	34%

About NACCHO

The National Association of County and City Health Officials is the voice of more than 3,000 local health departments across the country. These city, county, metropolitan, district, and tribal departments work every day to ensure the safety of the water we drink, the food we eat, and the air we breathe.

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NACCHO

National Association of County & City Health Officials

The National Connection for Local Public Health

www.naccho.org



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

The mission of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is to improve the health of communities by strengthening and advocating for local health departments.

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