

Mental Health and Healthcare in Our Rural Communities

An estimated 26% of Americans-- approximately 65 million adults-- suffer from a diagnosable mental disorder. With less than half of the psychiatrists needed, many Americans go without care.

Rural Communities



100+ million people live in areas with mental health professional shortages

Less than 25% of providers needed are practicing



Stigma is high, so privacy is paramount

Time and cost to travel for care may make it prohibitive to seek help.



Seniors in Long Term Care

68%

of skilled nursing facility residents have a diagnosed mental disorder



Difficult to find mental health providers to come to the facilities, leaving it to primary care providers.

Nursing homes have very low margins and are closing at an alarming rate.

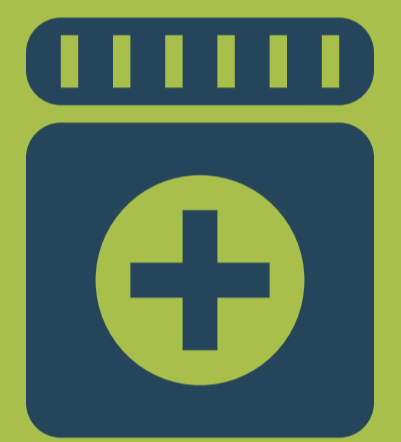


Transportation can cost \$500-\$2,000 per patient visit to off-site provide



Increased hospitalization rates can lead to CMS financial penalties

Some individuals with dementia prescribed anti-psychotics, increasing mortality rates



The Ag Industry

Economic outlook compared to the Farm Crisis of the 1980's, leads to long term stress.

45,000+
Americans died by suicide in 2019

Obstacles to Care include need for privacy, stigma, cost, and lack of providers.

Suicides by farmers are **1.5 times** higher than the national average.

Chronic stress can "turn genes on and off", leading to depression

Two Acts to Improve Access to Care

CONNECT for Health Act

Removes geographic and site-specific restrictions, allowing Medicare-insured Americans to receive care where they choose-- even in the privacy of their own homes.

Seeding Rural Resilience Acts

- Training for the farm-facing workforce to identify signs of stress to assist in finding help
- Launch of a public initiative to educate all on mental illness and how to find care
- Establishes a task force to assess best practices for response