

IS MY HOSPITAL Rural?

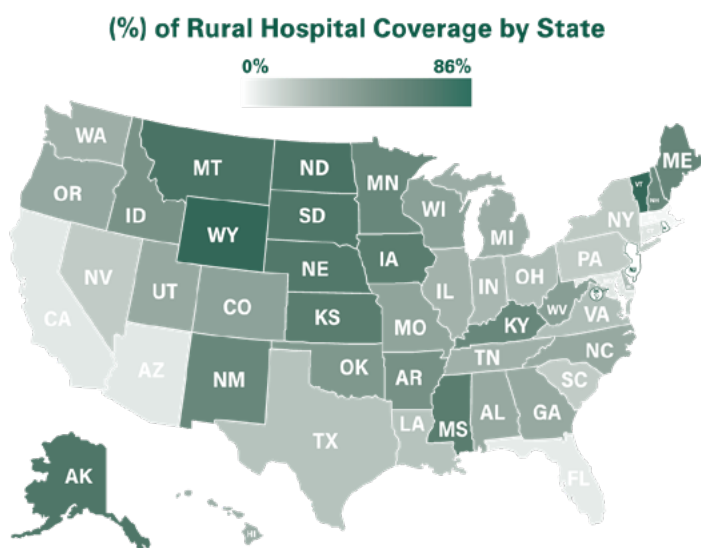
Rural hospitals are those not located within a metropolitan area as designated by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget and the Census Bureau. Community hospitals are nonfederal, acute care hospitals open to the general public. For alternate rural definitions, see ruralhealthinfo.org/am-i-rural.

Rural hospitals account for about one-third of all community hospitals nationwide.

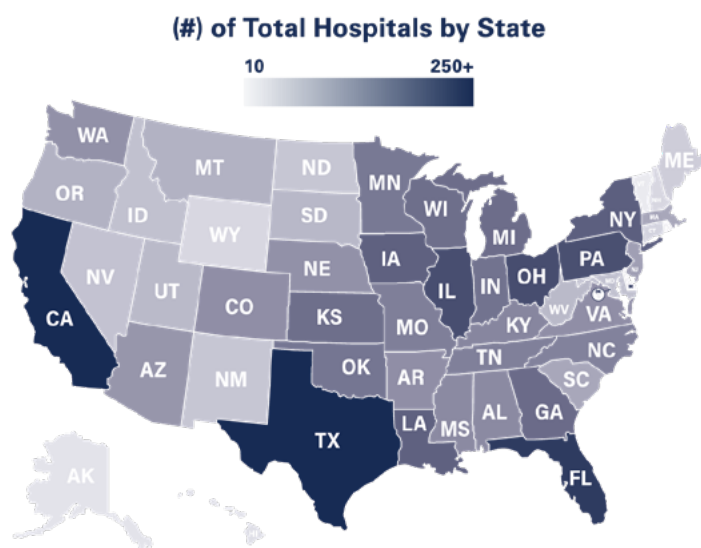
ECONOMIC IMPACT

- EMPLOYMENT** – Rural hospitals provide jobs for health care professionals as well as support staff, such as food service and janitorial workers.
- PURCHASING** – Rural hospitals buy goods and services from local businesses.
- TAX REVENUE** – Rural hospitals generate local and state tax income.

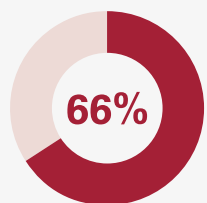
Mapping U.S. Hospital Coverage: Proportion of Rural Hospitals vs. Total Hospitals by State



1,796 RURAL HOSPITALS
IN 2023



5,112 U.S. COMMUNITY HOSPITALS
IN 2023



66% of rural hospitals
have 50 beds or fewer

RURAL HOSPITALS ARE ALREADY STRUGGLING

108 Rural hospitals have closed their doors or been unable to continue providing inpatient services since 2015.

Source: [AHA analysis of data from Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research](#)

One in 7 Americans live in rural areas and rely on rural hospitals and health systems for the health and well-being of their communities. Individuals who live in these communities face greater challenges in accessing health care due to factors like a lack of affordable coverage options, geographic isolation and a shortage of health care providers.

Source: [Medicaid Coverage Supports Rural Patients, Hospitals, and Communities](#)

US Rural Community Hospitals by Staffed Bed Size Range	2023	
	#	%
Up to 24 Beds	476	26
25-49 beds	713	40
50-99 beds	334	19
100 or more beds	273	15
Total	1796	100