

Center for Rural Health



Looking at SDOH through a Rural Lens

NDDoH

May 24, 2022

Health Equity

**Presented by Brad Gibbens, Acting Director
and Assistant Professor**



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The University of North Dakota
School of Medicine & Health Sciences

1

Center for Rural Health

- Established in 1980, at The University of North Dakota (UND) School of Medicine and Health Sciences in Grand Forks, ND
- One of the country's most experienced state rural health offices
- UND Center of Excellence in Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity
- Home to seven national programs
- Recipient of the UND Award for Departmental Excellence in Research

Focus on

- Educating and Informing
- Policy
- Research and Evaluation
- Working with Communities
- American Indians
- Health Workforce
- Hospitals, Public Health, EMS, Primary Care, and other systems.

ruralhealth.und.edu



2

2



3

3



Three learning objectives of the presentation:

1. Understand how Social Determinants of Health impact rural areas.
2. Awareness of the primary community health needs in rural ND as measured by Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNA).
3. Identify how rural ND communities are responding.

4

4

The Importance of Values

*Ultimately our values guide our perceptions toward health,
health care, our view of the importance of “community”,
and the development of public health policy*

“It is not what we have that will make us a great nation, it is how we decide to use it”

Theodore Roosevelt

“Vision is the art of seeing things invisible”

Jonathan Swift

**“Americans can always be relied upon to do the right thing...after they have
exhausted all the other possibilities”**

Sir Winston Churchill

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Why is Community Important in Rural Health?

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What Is Rural Health?

- Rural health focuses on **population health** (“community”) and improving overall **health status** for rural community members (service and system development)
- Rural health relies on **infrastructure** – the organizations, resources, providers, health professionals, staff, and other elements of a health delivery system working to improve population health (the **rural health delivery system**)
- Rural health ***is not*** urban health in a rural or frontier area
- Rural health focuses on **health equity and fairness**
- Rural health is very **community focused and driven** – interdependent and collaborative
- Rural health is inclusive of **community sectors** – 1) health and human services, 2) business and economics, 3) education, 4) faith based, and 5) local government



7

7

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Rural Community and Rural Health

- Communities are comprised of key sectors that have economic, social, and cultural components – together they comprise the town
 - Health (with human services, more integration of functions)
 - Business (can have one or two dominant business types – ag, oil – economic impact of health and health care- CAH \$230 million)
 - Education (an active partner in improved community health)
 - Government – city, county, special districts – role of park board with health care)
 - Faith (social and cultural connections – access to health)
- *Viable health systems need viable communities* – strong education, business, faith, government and business, AND those sectors need a strong health system (e.g. health access for employees, general health improvement, health care is a significant employer adding to business and schools)

8

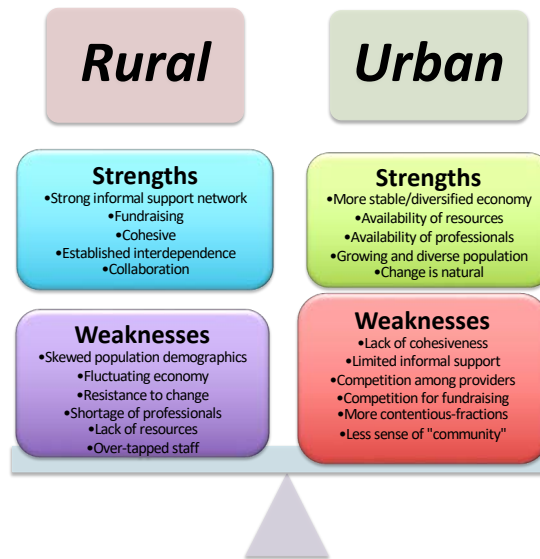
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Stutsman County



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Rural and Urban Strengths and Weaknesses



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It is always about the community

This is what shapes rural health – viable health systems, access to quality health care, improving population health contributes to community health – strong and independent communities

11

11

Why is Community Engagement Important to Rural Health for Population Health Improvement

- Health care providers and organizations cannot operate in isolation from their communities.
- Even more important as we continue to **implement health reform** – new payment models – movement **from volume payments to value based** payments as more and more providers are assessed and reimbursed on outcomes and patient satisfaction. Connect with community.
- **Community members input on needs, issues, and solutions more critical than ever** – community involvement in finding solutions (CHNA) that reflect their needs – **community ownership not just the health providers/systems ownership.**
- **Building local leadership and local capacity** – think of the next generation of community health leadership.
- **Communication** – listening to the community – educating the community –meeting community needs –listening to the community. **ESSENTIAL**


12

12



13

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**What is population health and
how does this relate do social
determinants of health?**

14

14

Population Health

“Health outcomes of a group of individuals, including the distribution of such outcomes within the group.” (Kindig, *What is Population Health?*)

- Groups can be based on geography, race, ethnicity, age, language, or other arrangements of people
- Focus – Health Outcomes (what is changed, what are the impacts, why?)
- What determines the outcomes (determinants of health)?
- What are the public policies and the interventions that can improve the outcomes?

15

15

Health Equity

- “Attainment of the highest level of health for all people. Achieving health equity requires valuing everyone equally with focused and ongoing societal efforts to address avoidable inequalities, historical and contemporary injustices, and the elimination of health and health care disparities.” (Healthy People 2020)
- Equity is aspirational and it relates to previous discussion on values.
- To achieve some level of equity we must first address disparities.

16

16

Factors Contributing to Health

Outside Health Care System	Related to the Health Care System	
Societal Factors	Care Delivery	Regulatory Environment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food Safety Health food availability Housing conditions Neighborhood violence Open space and parks/recreation availability Genetic inheritance Disease prevalence Income levels Poverty rates Geographic location Unemployment rate Uninsured/underinsured rate Median age Sex Race/ethnicity Pharmacy availability Care-seeking behaviors Health literacy Patient choice Morbidity rates Transportation availability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality of care Efficiency Access Physician training Health IT system availability Distance to and number of hospitals, primary and urgent care centers, retail clinics, etc. Provider supply (MDs, RNs, etc.) Physician mix (primary versus specialty care) Payer contracts Physician employment and payment structure Disease management Populations subgroup disparity Advanced technology availability Care integration and coordination Behavioral health availability Cultural and linguistic access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medicare payment rates and policies Medicare and Medicaid care delivery innovation CON regulation Medicaid/CHIP policies (payment rates, eligibility) Implementation of ACA Local coverage determinations (LCDs) Other local, state, and federal laws that impact the way health care is delivered and which treatments are provided

Source: Hospital Research Education Trust, *Managing Population Health, The Role of the Hospital, AHA, 2012*



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17



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18



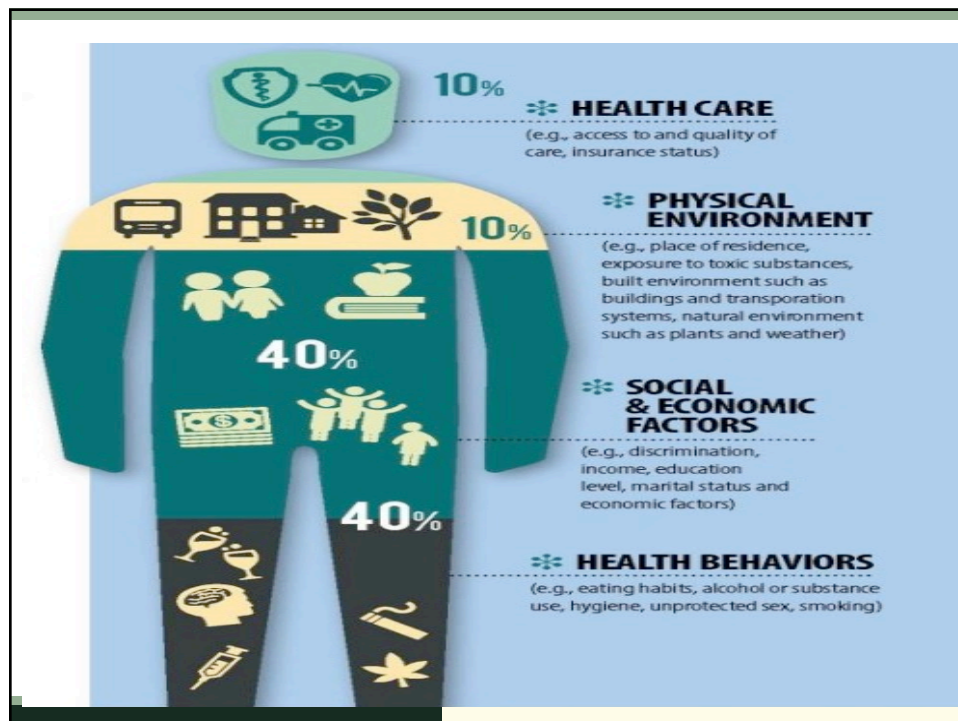
Social Determinants

World Health Organization definition:

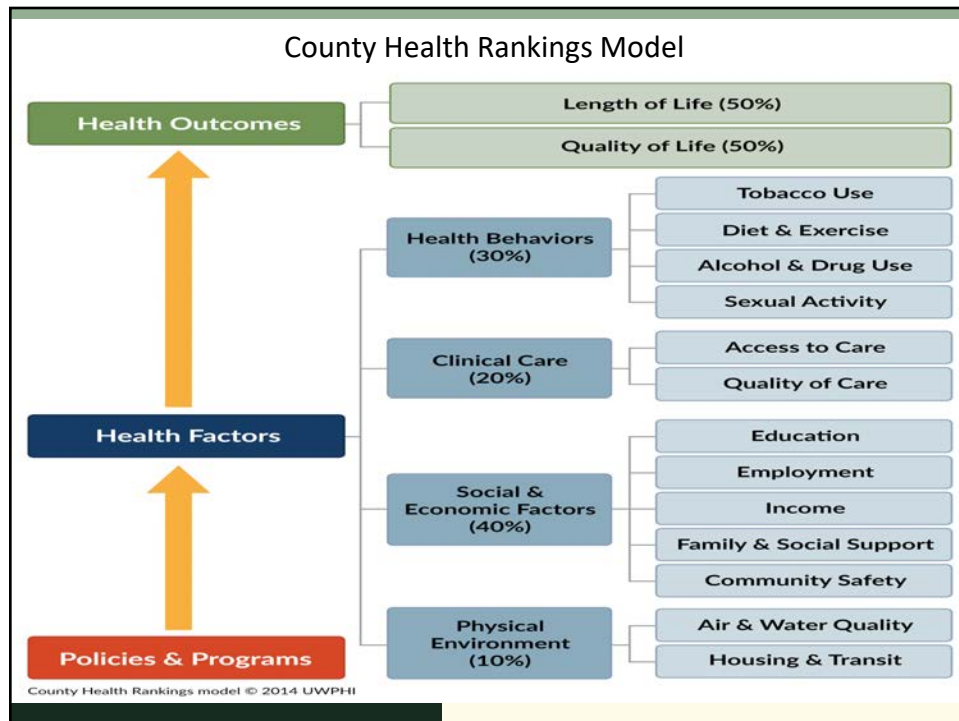
"the circumstances in which people are born, grow up, live, work and age, and the systems put in place to deal with illness. These circumstances are in turn shaped by a wider set of forces: economics, social policies, and politics."

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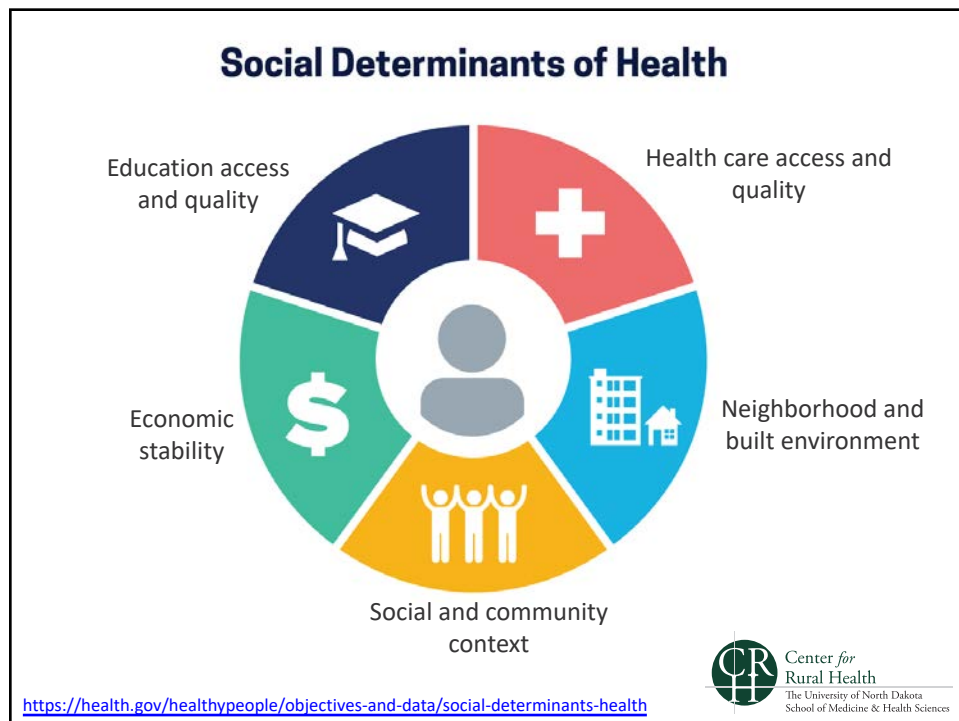
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20



21



22

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SDOH Toolkit



Updates & Alerts | About

Online Library -

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Rural Data Visualizations -

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Tools for Success -

IN THIS TOOLKIT

Modules

1: Introduction

2: Program Models

3: Program Clearinghouse

4: Implementation

5: Evaluation

6: Sustainability

7: Dissemination

About This Toolkit

[Rural Health](#) > [Tools for Success](#) > [Evidence-based Toolkits](#)
> [Social Determinants of Health in Rural Communities Toolkit](#)

Social Determinants of Health in Rural Communities Toolkit



23

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24

24

Population Health in the Affordable Care Act

- Provisions to expand insurance coverage by improving access to the health care delivery system (Medicaid expansions, state insurance exchanges “Marketplace”, support for community health centers, NHSC, safety net)
- Improving the quality of the care delivered (IHI **Triple Aims**, **CMS Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation**, and establishment of the **Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute**)

25

Population Health in the Affordable Care Act

- **CMS Innovation Center** – development and testing of innovative health care payment and service delivery models (better care, better health, and lowered costs through improvements in the health system)
 - **Alternative Payment Models (APM)**
 - This is value based or movement from “volume to value” (care coordination/mg).
 - Accountable Care Organizations (ACO)- Shared Savings is most common-8 CAHs in ND (483 Shared Savings Medicare ACOs nationally 2022-down from 517 in 2020).
 - CMS ACO REACH model – rural oriented.
 - MACRA and MIPS (system change an alternative payment models – clinicians).
 - Continuous change and evolution since 2014.
 - ✓ A range of ACO models and shifts to consolidation – some started and ended.
 - ✓ In 2019 five new Primary Care Initiatives (PCI) – grow out of Comprehensive Primary Care + (Volume to value for clinical providers) (27 rural ND in CPC+)
 - Simultaneous focus on increase quality and lowering cost.
 - Accepting risk – more and more an emphasis “skin in the game” –better outcomes and lower costs
- **BCBSND Blue Alliance**

26

Population Health Impacted by 2021 Infrastructure Act

- \$1.2 trillion – physical infrastructure that can improve population health
- “Once in a generation investment...think long term”
- Focus
 - Clean drinking water – replace lead water pipes
 - Roads and bridges
 - Air quality
 - Plug orphan oil wells
 - High speed internet –broadband – telehealth access –new Affordable Connectivity Program – rural and tribal impact
 - Electric transmission –invest in a clean energy power grid

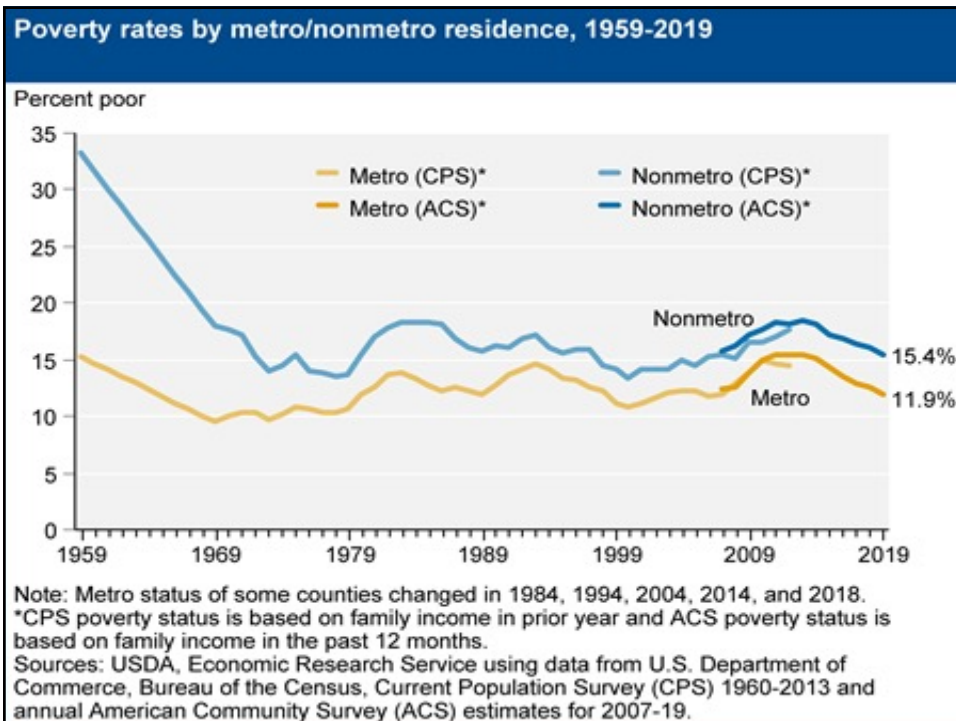
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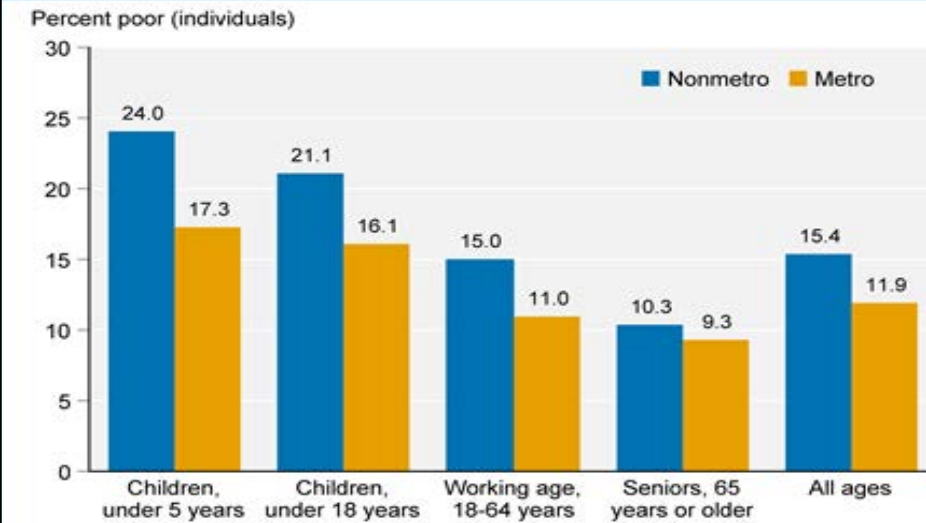
Social and Economic Factors of SDOH

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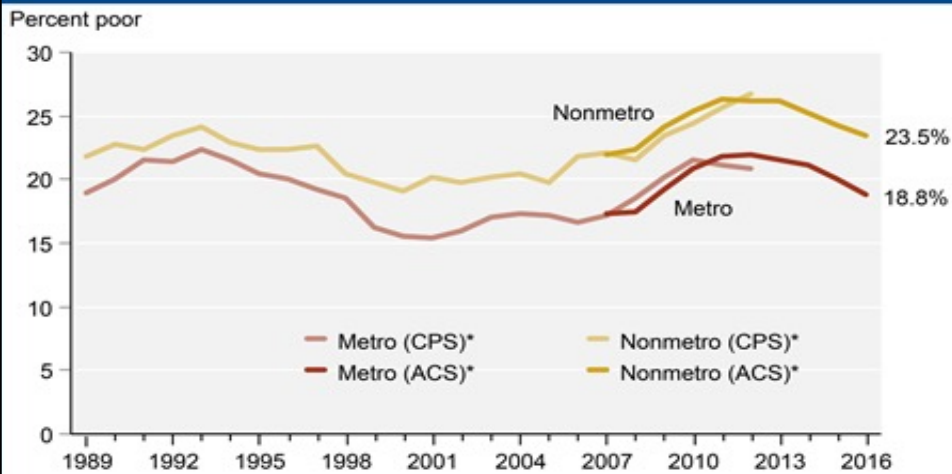
Poverty rates by age group and metro/nonmetro residence, 2019



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, annual American Community Survey, 2019.

31

Child poverty rates by metro/nonmetro residence, 1989-2016

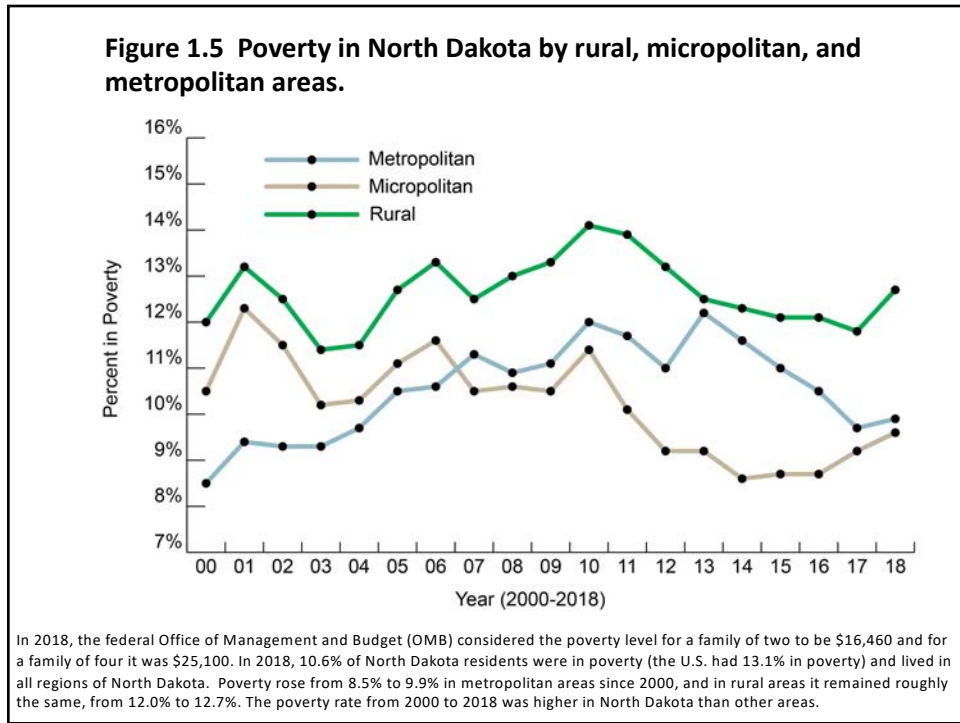


Note: Metro status of some counties changed in 1984, 1994, 2004, and 2014.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS) 1990-2013 and annual American Community Survey (ACS) estimates for 2007-16.

*CPS poverty status is based on family income in prior year and ACS poverty status is based on family income in the past 12 months.

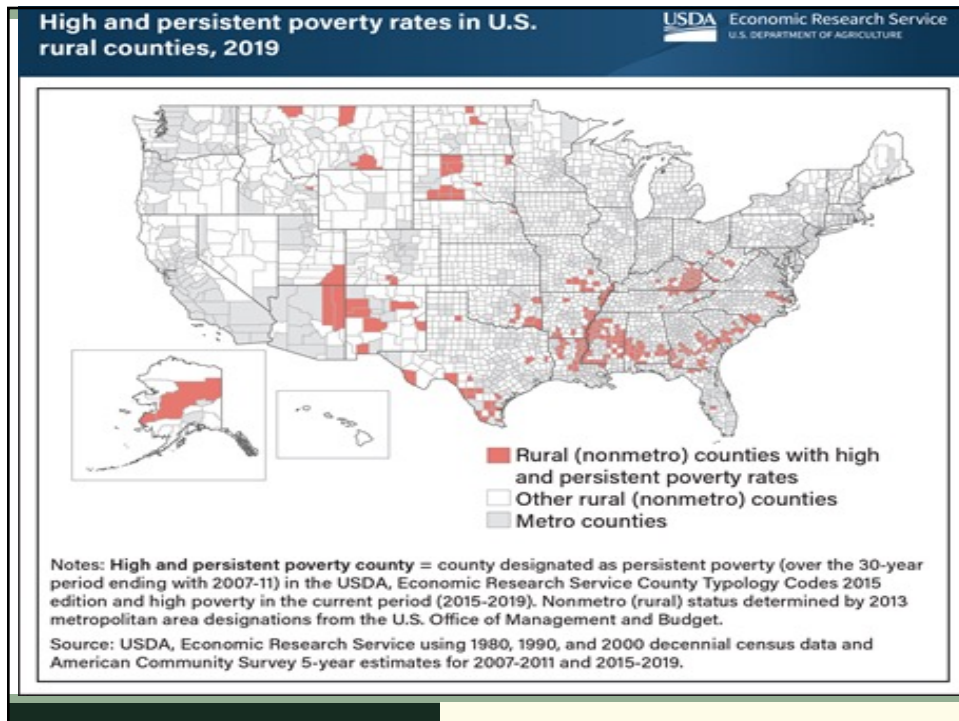
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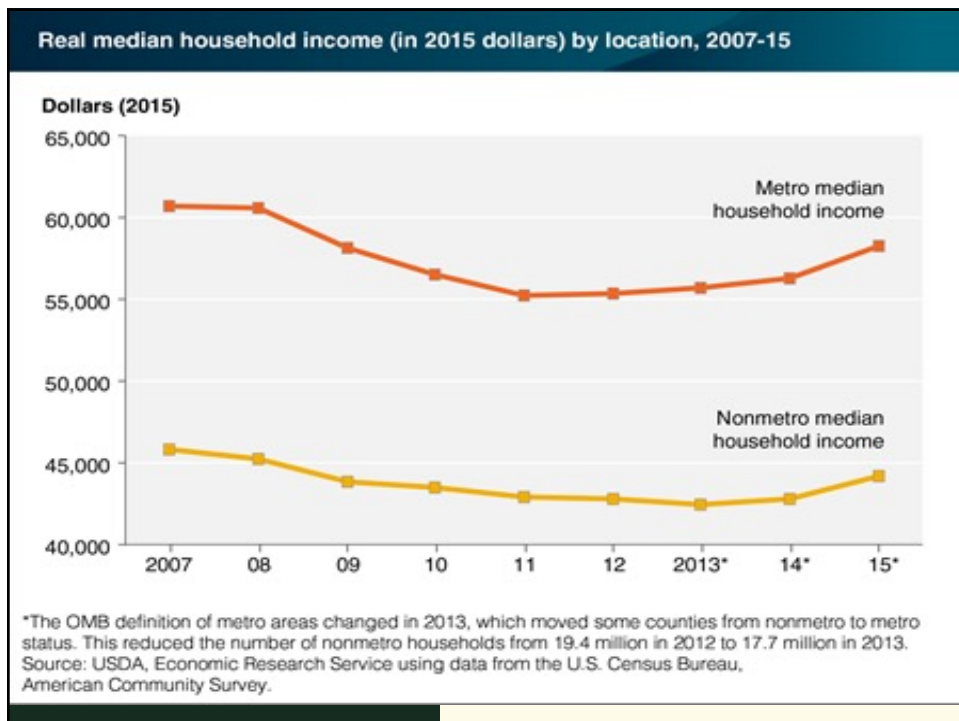
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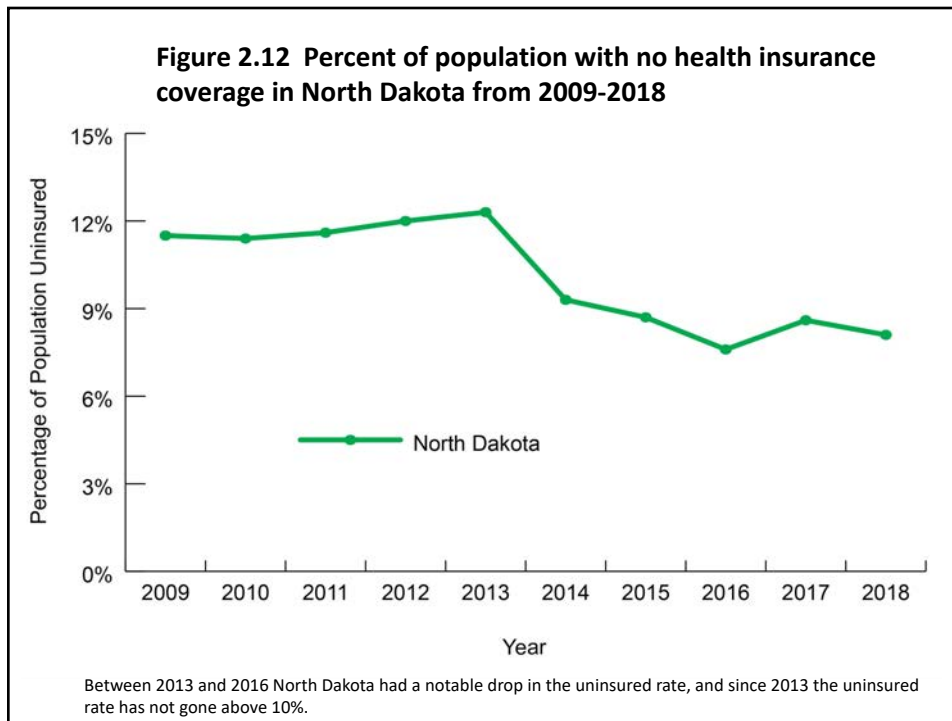
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35



36



37

SDOH for Rural American Indian and Alaska Natives

- Rural American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) populations experience both personal and community disadvantages.** In 2016, rural AI/AN were:
 - More likely to live in poverty (29%) than their rural white peers (10%).
 - More likely to live in counties falling into the highest quartile in the US for the proportion of households in poverty (61% of rural AI/AN rural residents versus 46% of rural white residents).
 - More likely to live in persistent poverty counties (37%) of rural AI/AN versus 9% of rural white residents).
 - Rural AI/AN adults were much more likely to live in counties where > 16% of the population lacked health insurance (55% versus 19%).
 - Rural AI/AN age adjusted mortality rates were higher than those of white residents.
 - Prevalence of self reported poor/fair health was 23% for AI/AN versus 16% for white residents.
 - Higher obesity – 35% vs. 31%.
 - (Source: *Rural and Minority Health Research Center, University of South Carolina, July 2019*).

38



39

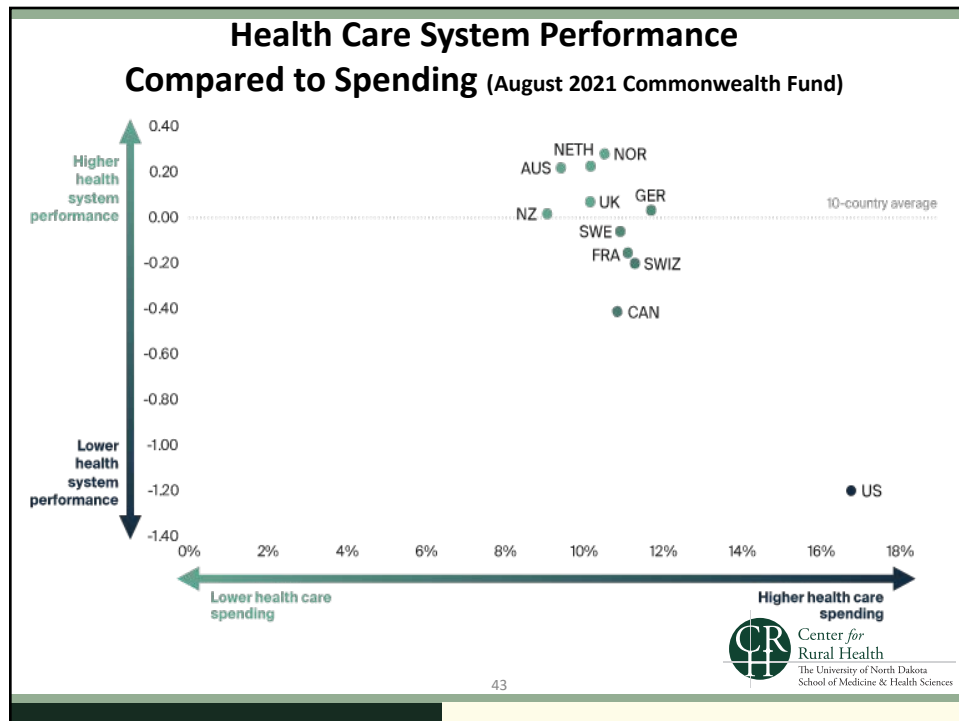


40

SDOH and Health Care Factors

General Observations on the Health Care System

- Most people give too much credit to health care/clinical care when thinking of their health and not realizing it is likely 10-20% of health status.
- US spends more on health care than any other country at about \$4 Trillion a year (\$12,000 per capita vs. Germany, \$6,700; France, \$5,500; Canada, \$5,400; United Kingdom, \$5,200; and Japan, \$4,700. (2020 data). (Source Commonwealth Fund)
- 19% of US GDP – Germany, 11%; Canada, 11%, and GB, 10%.
- We spend more yet health outcomes are lower.
 - Lower life expectancy with the US at 78.6 years and Switzerland at 83.6 years. (Varies by race). American Indian is about 73 years.
 - US has highest chronic disease burden.
 - US has highest suicide rate.
 - US has highest rates of obesity.
 - US residents visit medical providers less frequently.
 - US second highest rate of hospitalization for hypertension and diabetes.



43

Factors that Influence the North Dakota Health Care System

44

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44



45

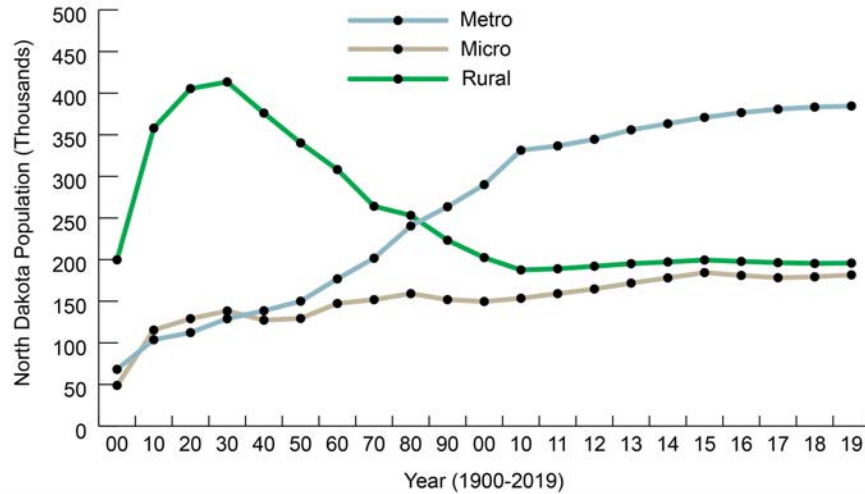
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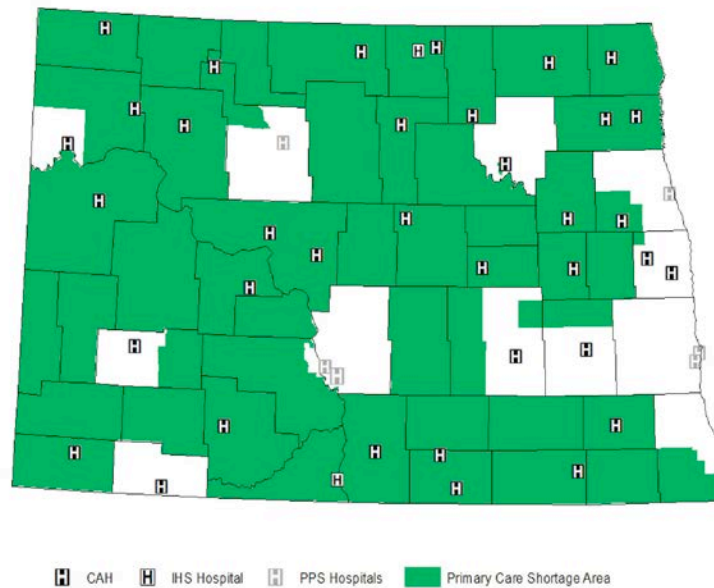
Figure 1.10 Population in North Dakota from 1900 to 2019 by metropolitan, micropolitan, and rural counties.



Rural population decreased from 1930 to 2010, but has remained stable since then. Since 1990, metropolitan population has been higher than rural population. Population in rural North Dakota counties was up to three times as high as metropolitan or micropolitan populations into the 1930s. Then a sharp increase in metropolitan populations and decrease in rural populations caused the rural counties' populations to become less than the metropolitan counties by the 1980s.

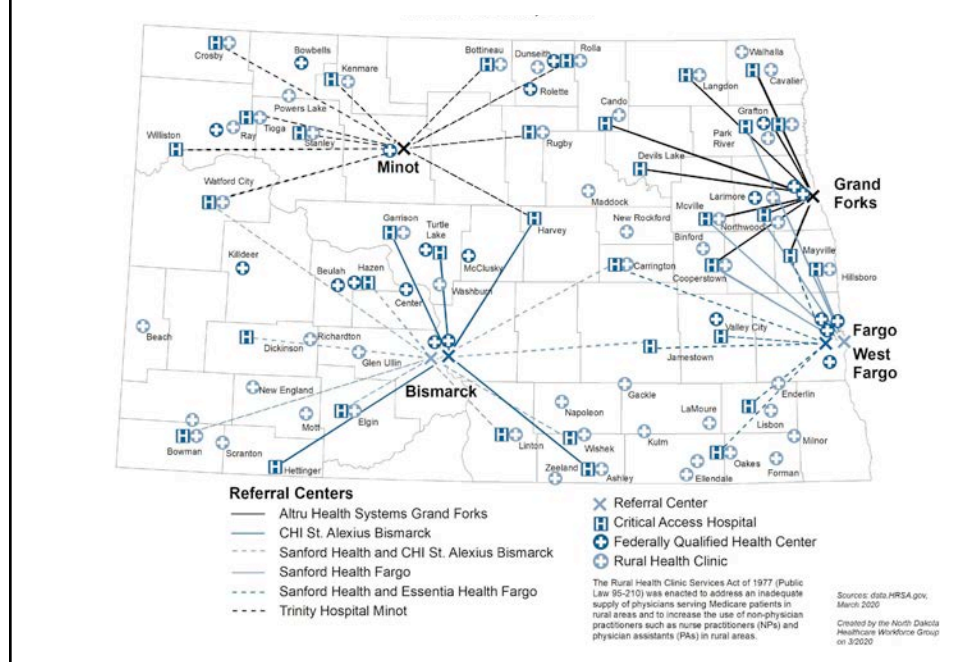
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Figure 9.1 Hospitals in North Dakota compared to primary care health professional shortage areas.



48

Figure 9.2 Critical access hospital and tertiary care network service areas.

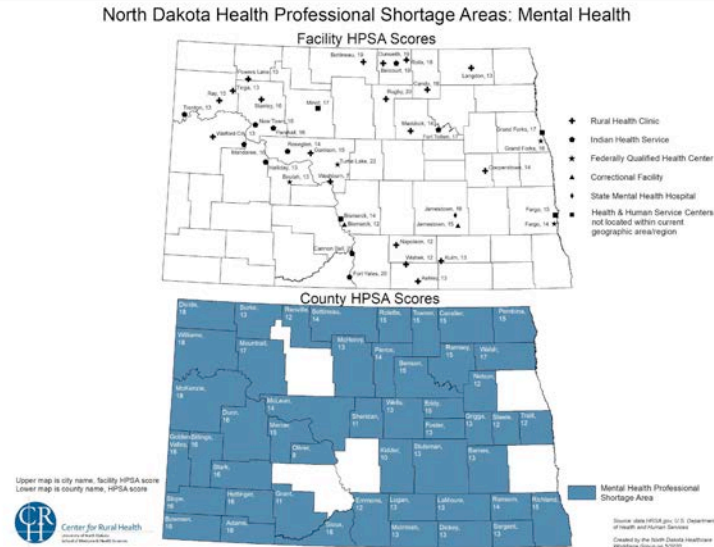


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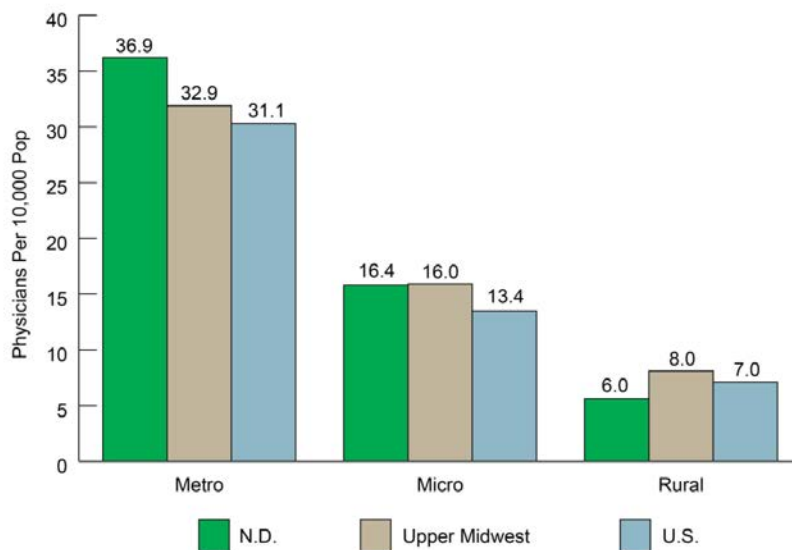
Figure 2.11 Mental health professional shortage areas (HPSAs) and facilities in North Dakota, 2020.



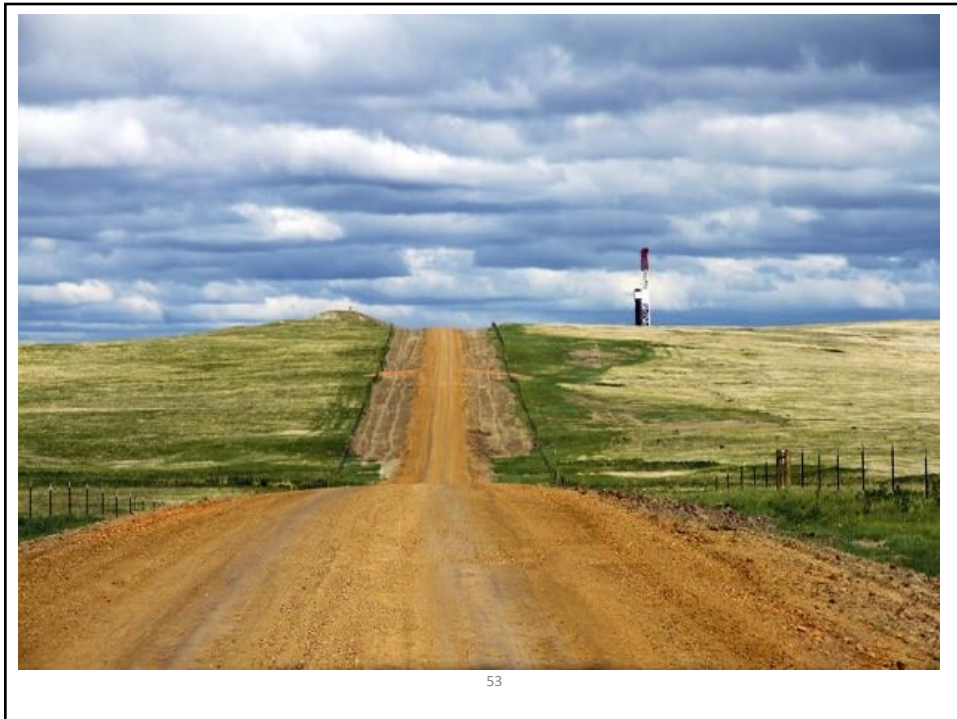
The majority of counties in North Dakota are designated as mental health professional shortage areas. The ones that are not designated contain or are adjacent to the cities of Grand Forks, Fargo, Bismarck, and Minot.

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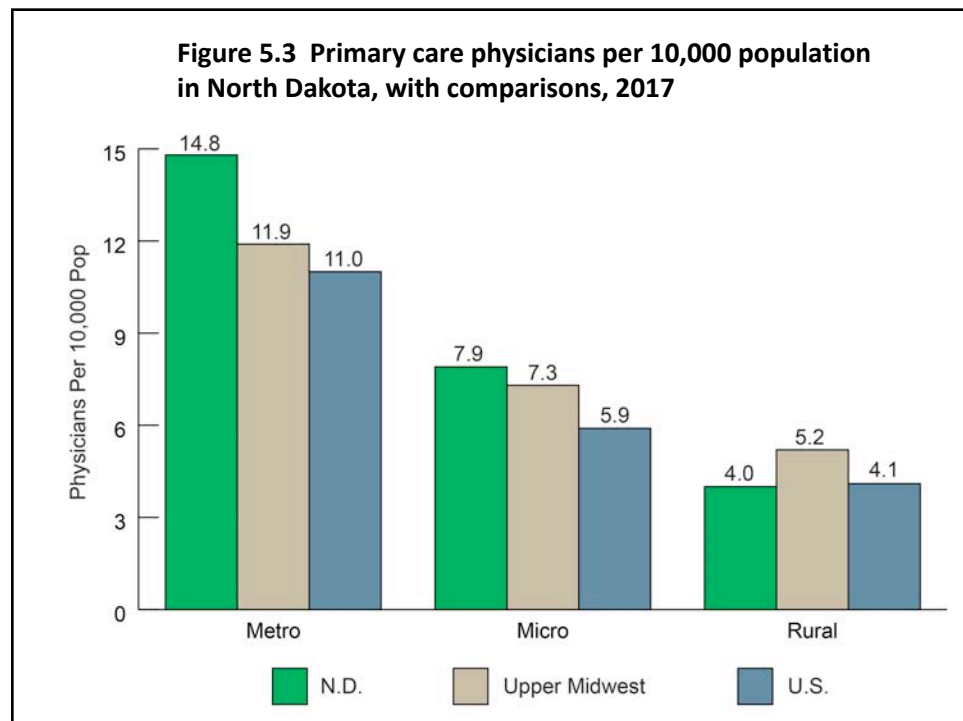
Figure 4.3 Physicians per 10,000 population for North Dakota with comparisons, 2017.



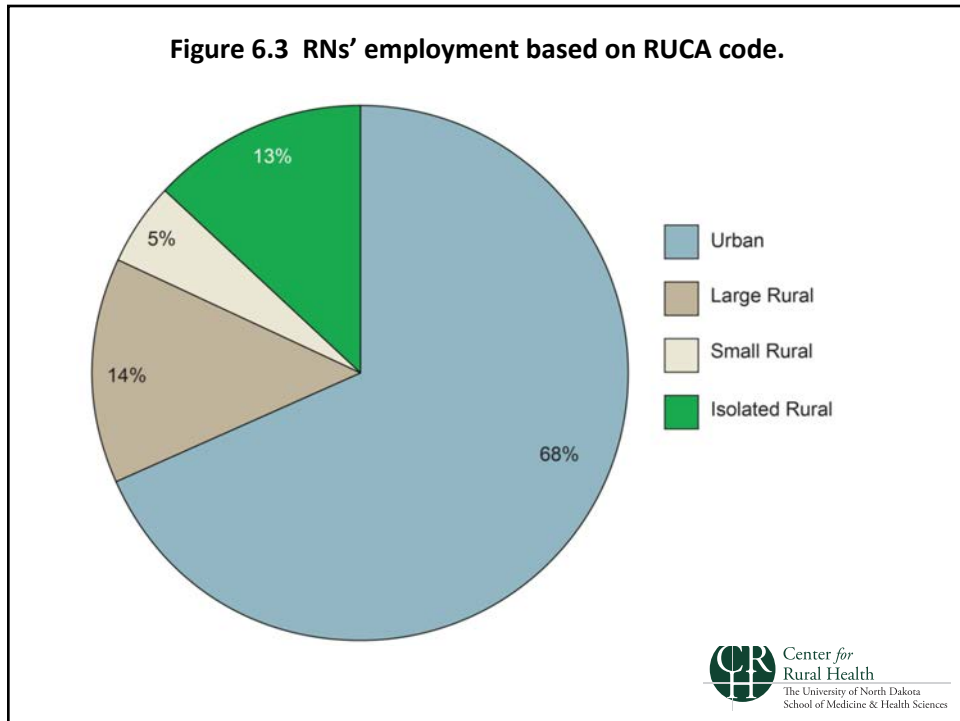
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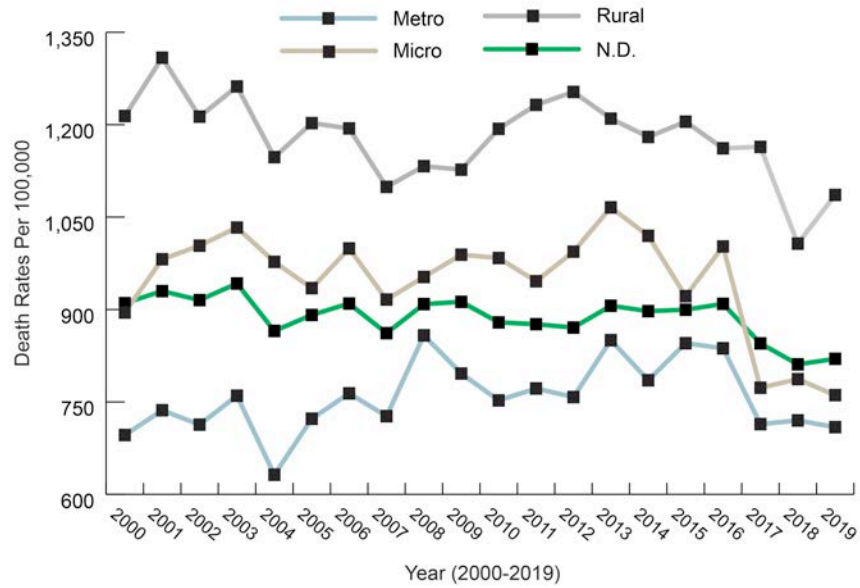
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Mortality

58

58

Figure 3.8 Changes in North Dakota mortality rates from 2000 to 2019 for metropolitan, micropolitan, and rural areas.



59



60

60



61

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It is always about the community

**This is what shapes rural health – viable health systems, access
to quality health care, improving population health
contributes to community health**

62

62

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CRH Partnership with Rural Communities

- Brain injury resources
- Behavioral Health Bridge
- Community Engagement Tool Kit
- Community Assessments and Analysis
 - Community Health Needs Assessment
 - Special Studies (e.g., assisted living, wellness centers, other)
 - Identifying Our Needs: A Survey of Elders (NRCNAA)
- Focus groups
- Key informant interviews (one-on-one)
- Strategic planning (organizational planning and community health planning)
- Internal Personnel Audit (staff satisfaction with work environment)
- Grant writing workshops
- Grant proposal critiques and background searches
- Rural Health Information Hub –RHI Hub (<https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/>)
- Community forum and/or meeting facilitation
- Program Evaluation
- Speakers Bureau – annual meetings or special presentations (rural health, health policy, Native American, aging, engaging your community, evaluation/program sustainability, HIT, quality improvement, TBI, network and system development, veterans, workforce strategies, and other subjects – *just ask!*)
- CAH Quality Network – quality metrics, data, CAH directed
- Quality Collaborative (and Care Coordination training)
- **RHC Network (NEW 2022)**
- QSP development and training –Originally Native focused now expanded to QSP Hub
- Native Elder Care Giver Curriculum (NECC)
- Education – statewide assessments (hospital and public health), presentations, research, Dakota Conference
- Workforce – R&R, Pathway (HOSA, R COOL Health Scrub Camps and Scrub Academy), HP5A, loan repayment, partner with NDDoH on PCO


63

Health Issues According to Rural North Dakotans 2020

- **CRH Community Health Needs Assessment Process (CHNA)** in 2017-2019 conducted with rural hospitals and many public health units (required under ACA for non-profit)
- All 36 CAHs reporting
- Top 2-5 ranked community health issues -139 needs ranked (3.9 per CHNA) -25 categories
- **Issues**

◦ Substance Abuse	30 of 36 CAH communities
◦ Mental Health	30 of 36 CAH communities
◦ Attracting and retaining young families	16
◦ Having enough child daycare services	11
◦ Ability to retain primary care providers	11
◦ Availability of resources elders in their homes	6
◦ Not enough jobs with livable wages	5
◦ Cancer	4
◦ Obesity	4
◦ Affordable Housing	3
◦ Bullying/Cyberbullying	3
◦ Cost of health insurance	3

64



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64

Rural ND Addressing Community Health (CHNA)

• Obesity and physical activity

- Community farmer's market
- Pilot wellness programs with hospital staff
- Monthly cooking classes
- 12 week weight management program
- Community run and/or walk
- Community access to school fitness center
- CDM monitor program
- Target fitness and exercise to elderly (stretching and movement)
- Step competitions (pedometers)
- Grants for Community Health



65

65

Rural ND Addressing Community Health (CHNA)

• Healthcare workforce

- Increase use of social media



- Create community marketing group – hospital, economic development, chamber of commerce
- Support local students, financial support for nursing and medicine, and other health professions
- Create local R & R committee with representatives from community – school, bank, business, realtor, church, younger people
- Create a promotional video
- Work with CRH workforce specialist

66

66



67

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Rural ND Addressing Community Health

- **Mental health**
 - Hire mental health nursing specialist in the hospital
 - Develop mental health screenings in schools
 - Connect to “Behavioral Health Bridge” at UNDSMHS and UNDCONPD <https://ruralhealth.und.edu/projects/behavioral-health-bridge>
 - Support groups
 - Work with university MSW, counseling, and psychology programs for student interns
 - Tele-mental health

68


68

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Rural ND Addressing Community Health (CHNA)


- **Not Enough Jobs with Livable Wages**
 - Promote jobs in healthcare as they tend to provide high paying jobs. [Jobs.net website lists all jobs by North Dakota community](#)
 - Create a liaison between hospital and area economic or jobs development corporation to promote economic impact of healthcare jobs. North Dakota CAHs have an average economic impact of \$6.4 million and contribute about 220 jobs to the community
 - Start a local scholarship for health education with understanding recipient returns to the community for service for a specified period of time
 - Focused community dialogue on job growth



69

69

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Rural ND Addressing Community Health (CHNA)

- **Child Daycare Services**
 - Offer incentives in the form of subsidies for licensed home daycare providers and/or subsidies to employees
 - Promote [Child Care Aware of North Dakota](#) as resource to find local child care centers
 - Offer extended Clinic hours, in evenings and weekends, for working parents
 - Offer hospital supported day care for healthcare employees



70



71



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72

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73



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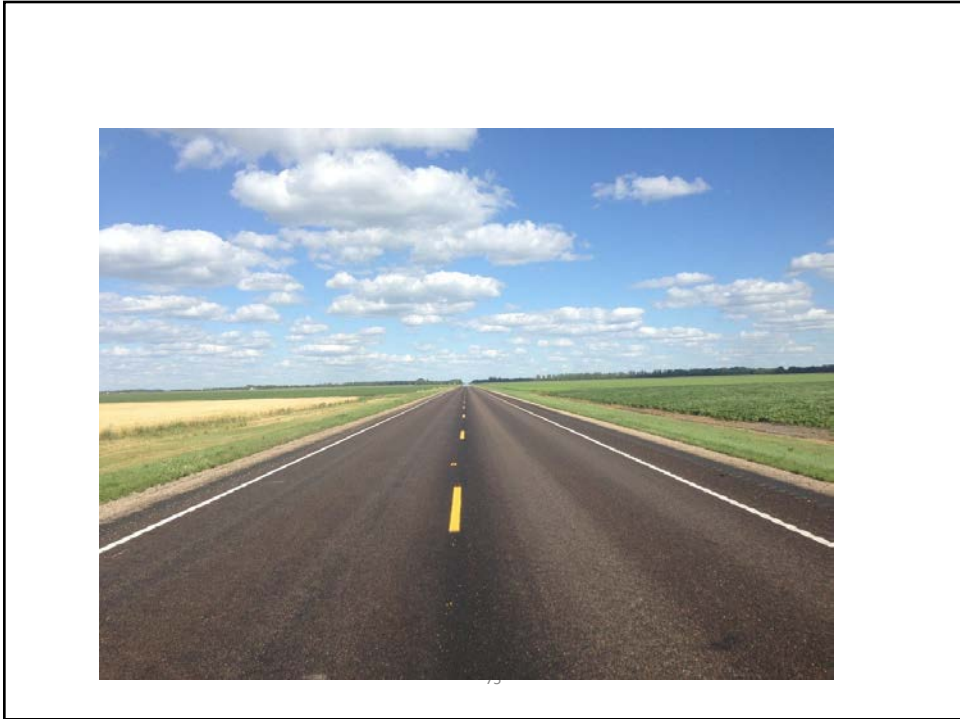
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Per Ostmo, MPA, Program Director
Tel: (701) 777-6522 • per.ostmo@UND.edu

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74



75



76

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Contact us for more information!

Center for Rural Health
 UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences
 1301 N. Columbia Road, Stop 9037
 Grand Forks, North Dakota 58202-9037
 Brad Gibbens (brad.gibbens@und.edu)
 701.777.2569 (desk)
 701.777.3848 (CRH Main #)
ruralhealth.und.edu



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77

77

Additional Slide

- **Not part of formal presentation but
useful information**

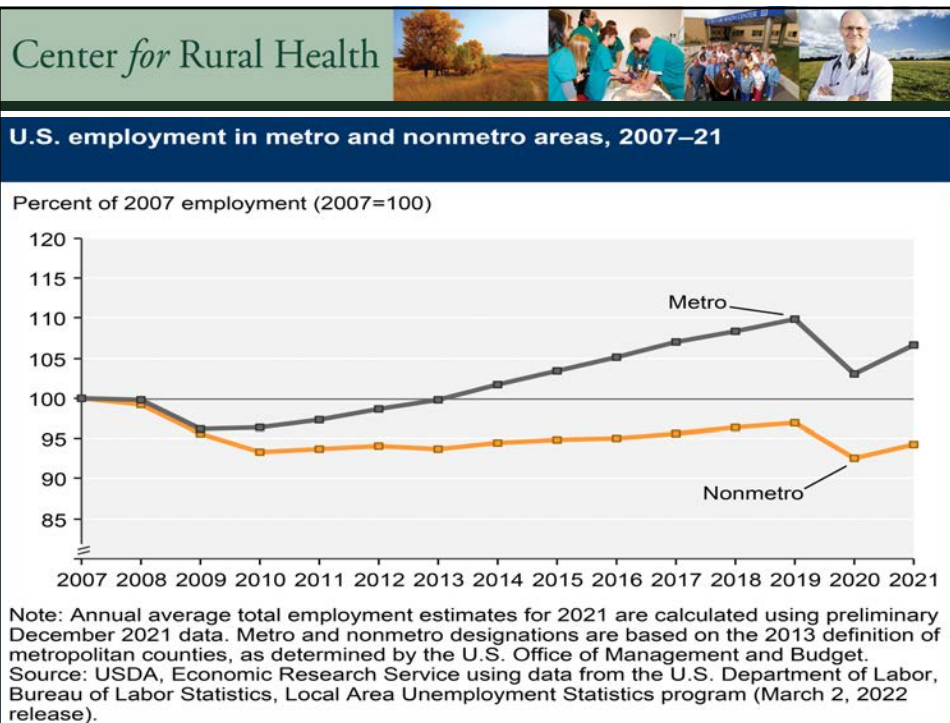


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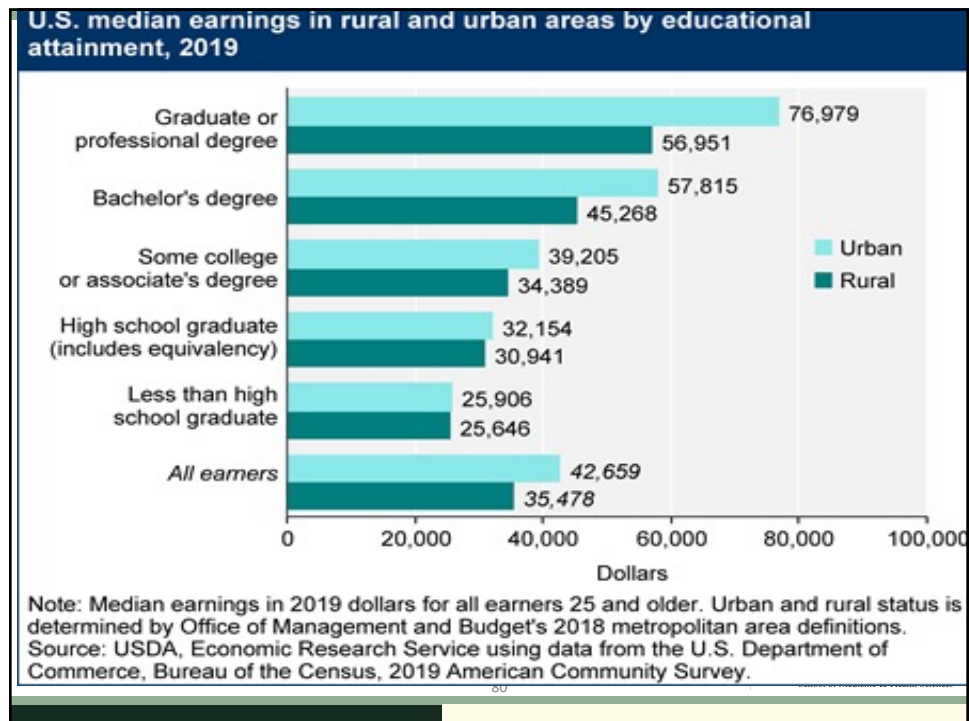
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78

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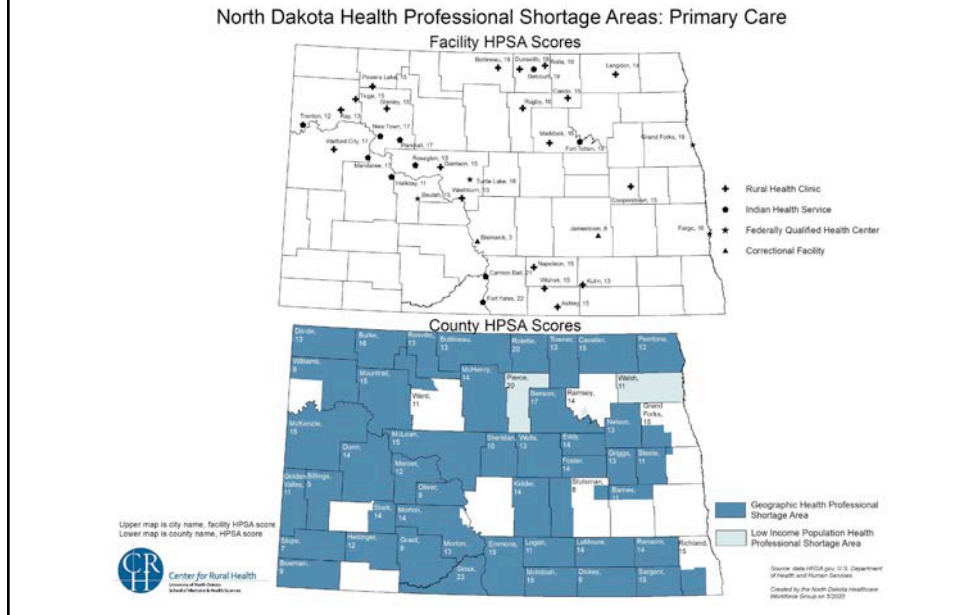


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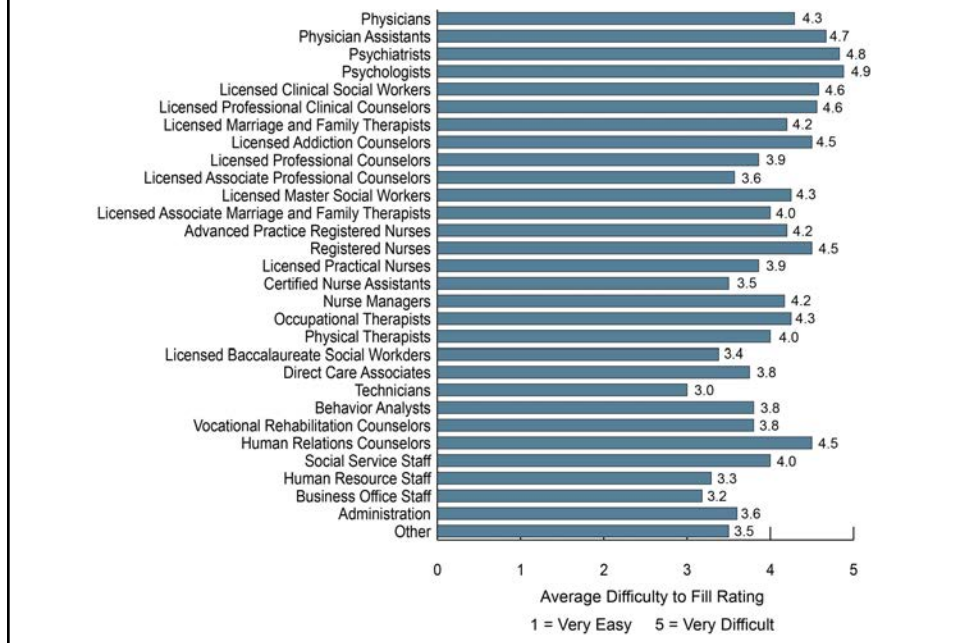
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Figure 2.9 Primary care health professional shortage areas (HPSAs) and facilities in North Dakota, 2020.



81

Figure 8.3 Average rated difficulty filling each position type, 2020



82

Health Disparity

- “a particular type of health difference that is closely linked with social, economic, and/or environmental disadvantage. Health disparities adversely affect groups of people who have systematically experienced greater obstacles to health based on their racial or ethnic group; religion; socioeconomic status; gender; age; mental health; cognitive, sensory, or physical disability; sexual orientation or gender identity; geographic location; or other characteristics historically linked to discrimination or exclusion.” (Healthy People 2020)
- Social Determinants of Health are factors to consider.
- We work to address SDOH to address disparity so as to achieve health equity and to improve population health (very simple).

83

83

Health Behavior Factors on SDOH

84

84

General Observations on Rural Health Behaviors

- **Health behaviors include activities** like physical activity, diet and nutrition, social engagement, safety, avoiding tobacco and other harmful substances, and other actions that contribute to general health and quality of life (Determinants of Health in Rural Communities, Henning-Smith).
- Rural have **limited access to healthy food** and fewer opportunities to be physically active compared to urban.
- Rural residents **higher rates of smoking, higher risk jobs, higher sedentary life style, and lower rates of maintaining healthy body weight** (Henning-Smith).
- Can lead to **greater rates of obesity**, high blood pressure, diabetes, and cancer.
- Can lead to **higher rates of poor health outcomes and mortality** (Henning-Smith).
- Consider how socio-economic, physical, and health care **all influence health behaviors**.



85

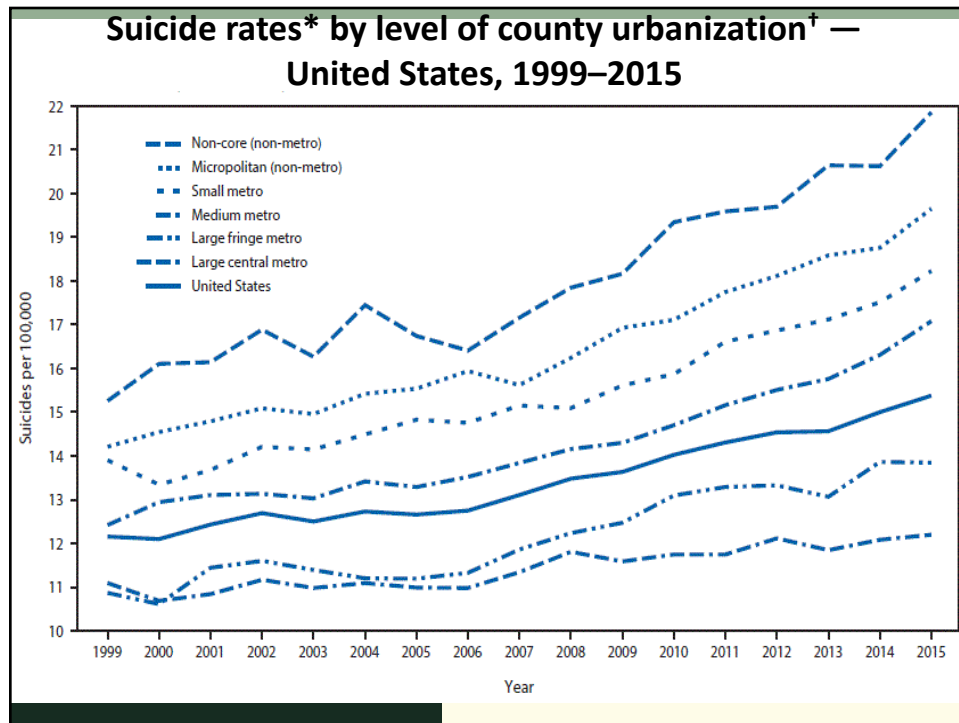
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Socio-Economic Impact on Health Access

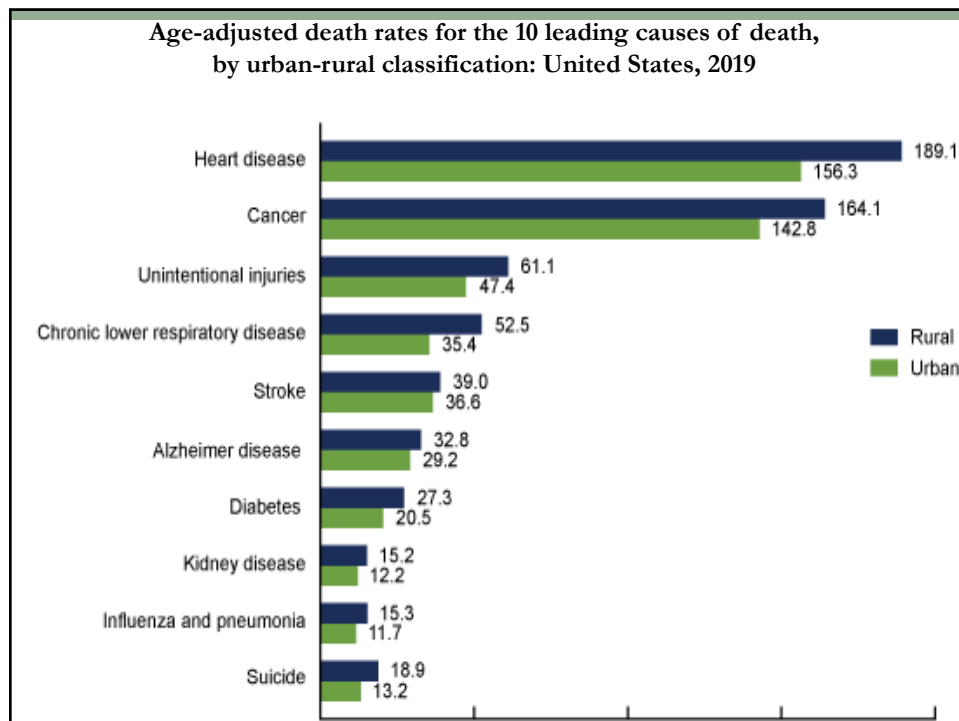
- Poverty, income, education, and employment status contribute to:
 - Health insurance coverage- affordability, access
 - The ability to pay out-of-pocket costs such as co-pays and prescription drug costs
 - Time off from work to go to an appointment
 - A means of transportation to visit a healthcare provider
- The skills to effectively communicate with healthcare providers
- An expectation that they will receive quality care, whatever their race/ethnicity or income level.

86

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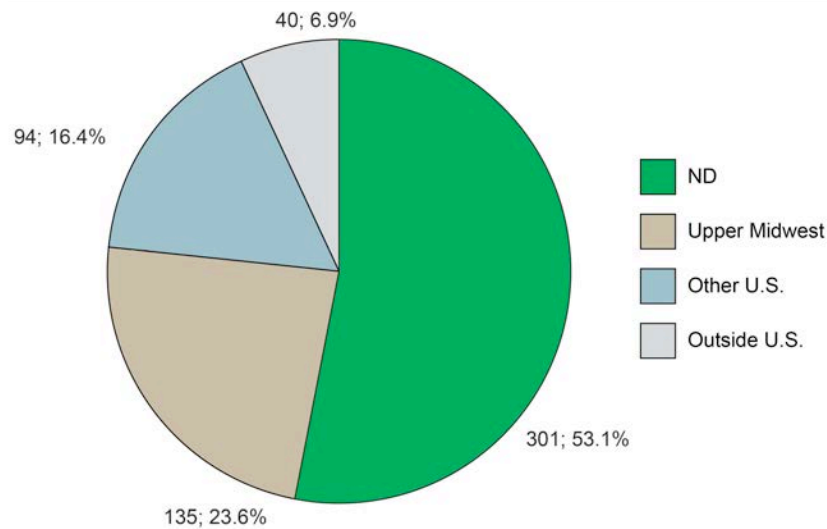


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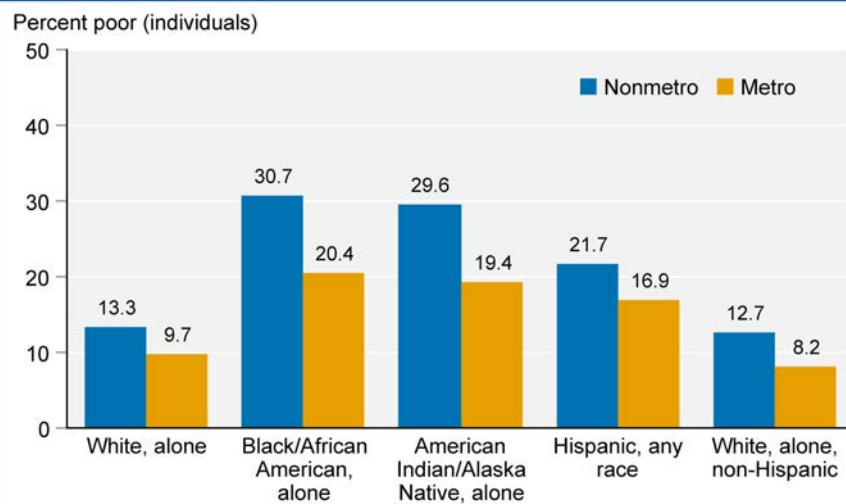
Figure 5.6 Locations where North Dakota primary care physicians completed their residency, 2019



More than half (53.1%) of North Dakota's currently practicing primary care physicians completed their residency training in North Dakota. Primary care physicians who graduated from residency programs outside of North Dakota came from the Midwest (23.6%), other United States (16.4%), Canada and other foreign (6.9%).

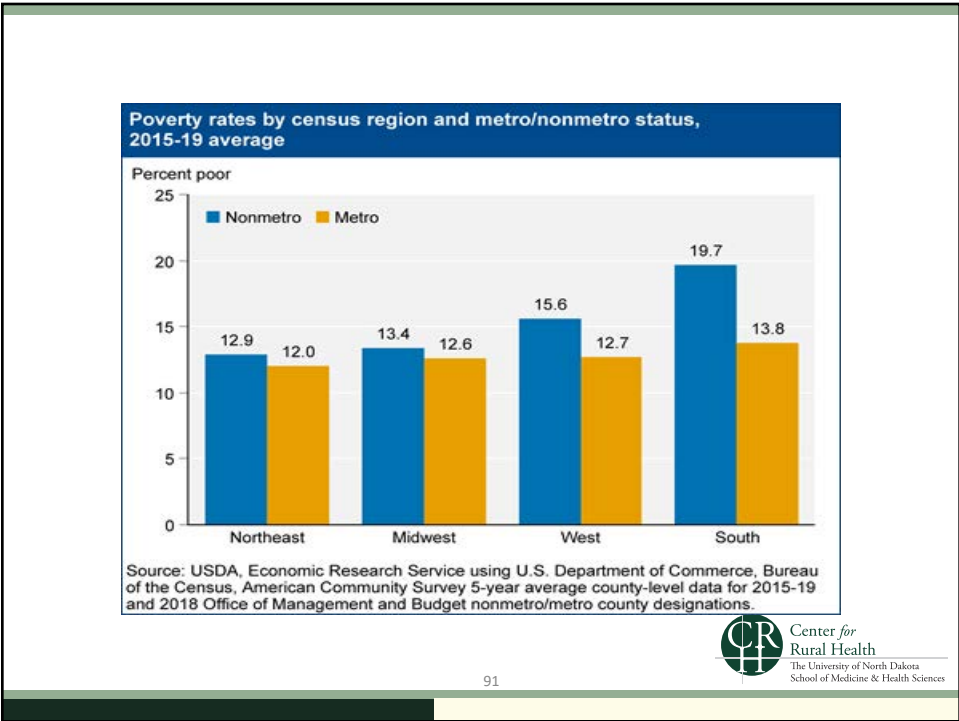
89

Poverty rates by selected race/ethnicity and metro/nonmetro residence, 2019



Note: "Alone" indicates a single answer to the race question; Hispanics may be any race. "White, alone, non-Hispanic" are individuals who responded "No, not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino" and who reported "White" as their only entry in the race question. Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, annual American Community Survey, 2019.

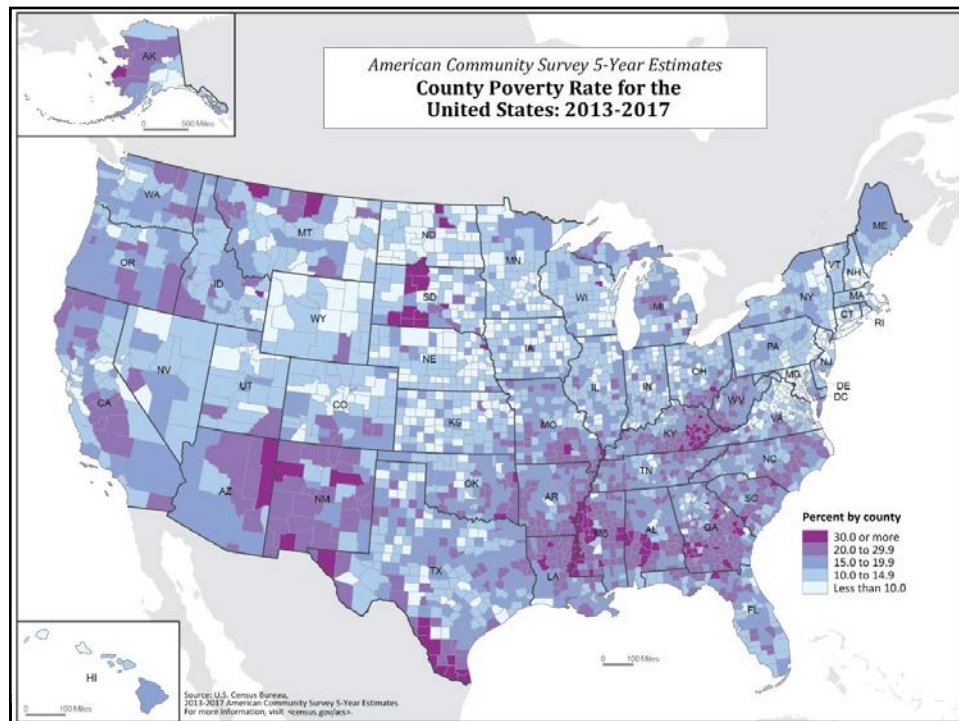
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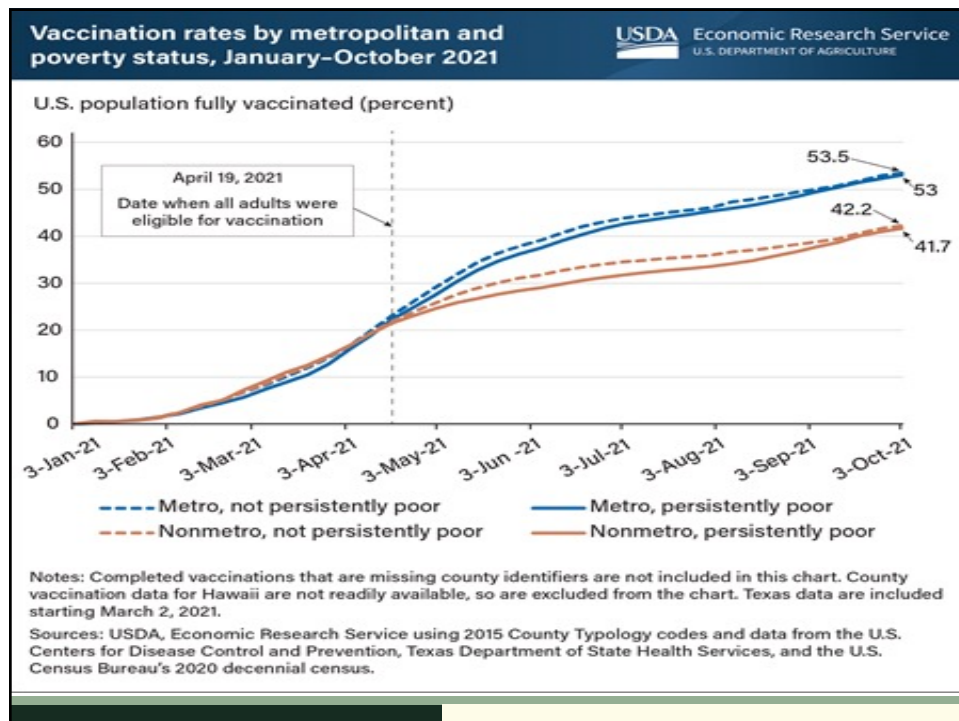
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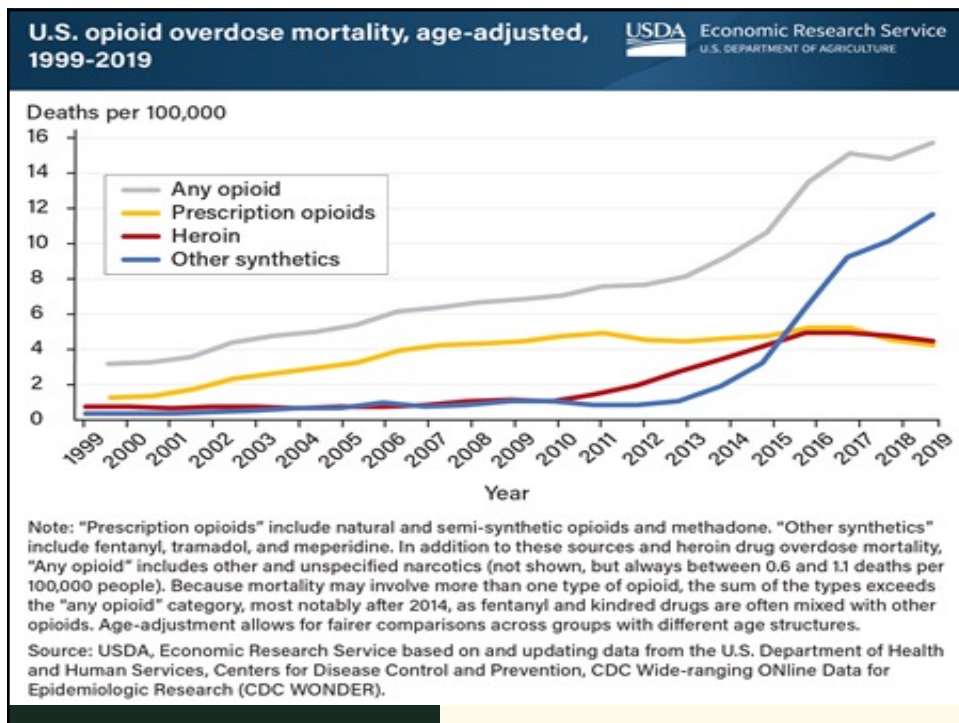
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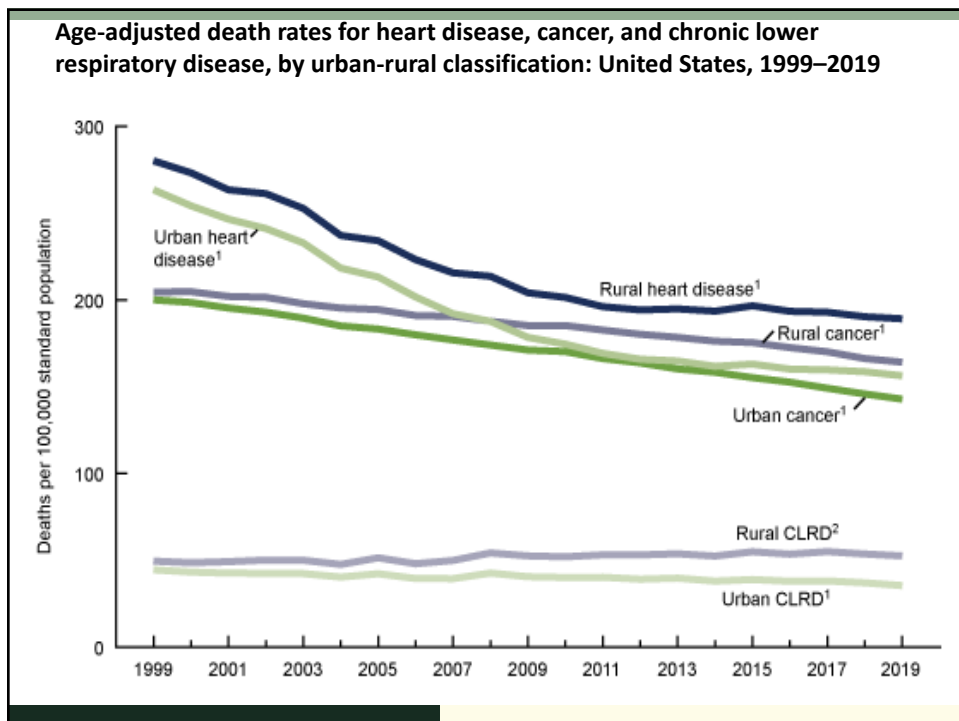
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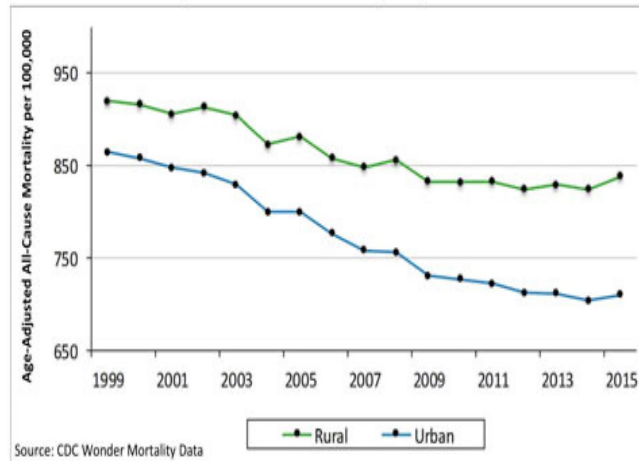


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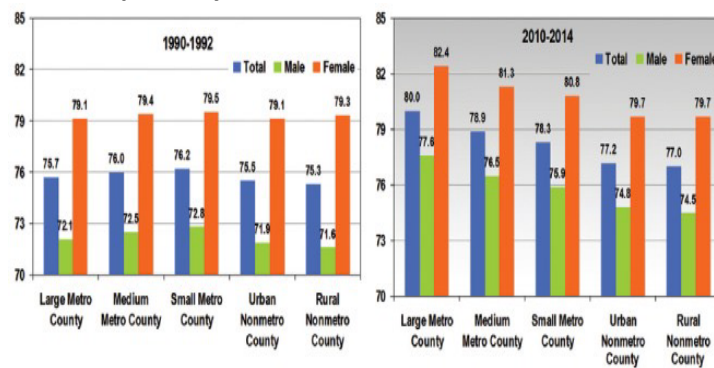
Figure 2: All-Cause U.S. Mortality Rate, 1999-2015



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Life Expectancy at birth 199-1992 and 2010-2014



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Community Benefit Examples that Show the Connection to Population Health

St. Francis Memorial Hospital (San Francisco) – gang ridden Tenderloin district – “**Corner Captains**” mothers of school children patrol area watching out for the children – part of **Safe Passage initiative of Tenderloin Health Improvement Partnership** funded by hospital – targeting social determinants of health such as violence, poverty, hunger, education, nutrition, and housing

Gang members leave the moms and kids alone

99



Center *for*
Rural Health

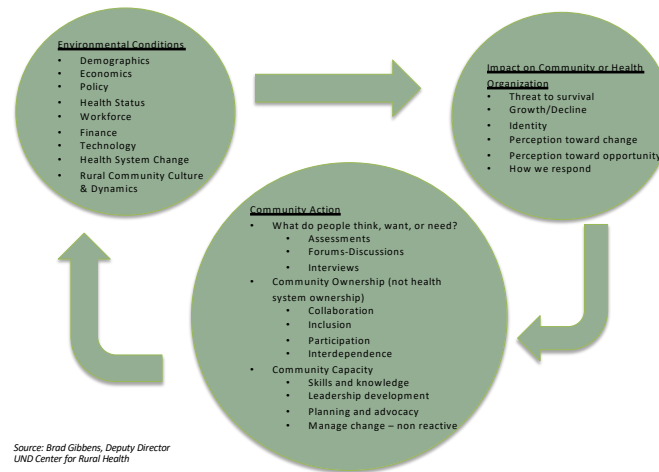
The University of North Dakota
School of Medicine & Health Sciences

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Rural Community Health Equity Model



Source: Brad Gibbens, Deputy Director
UND Center for Rural Health

101

Rural Community Health Equity Model

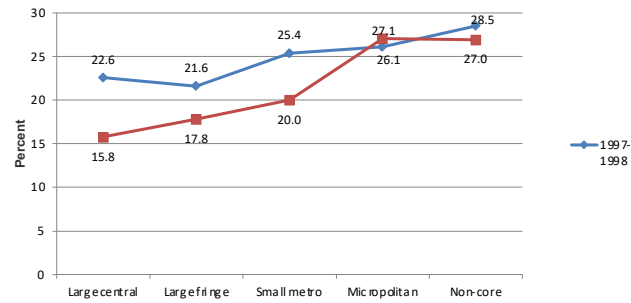


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Risk Factors: Adult Smoking

Cigarette smoking among persons 18 years of age and older by rurality



Risk Factors: Obesity

Obesity among persons 18 years of age and older by type of rural

