



Center for
Rural Health

University of North Dakota
School of Medicine & Health Sciences

<http://medicine.nodak.edu/crh>

The Center for Rural Health: Serving North Dakota

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*Connecting resources and knowledge to strengthen
the health of people in rural communities.*

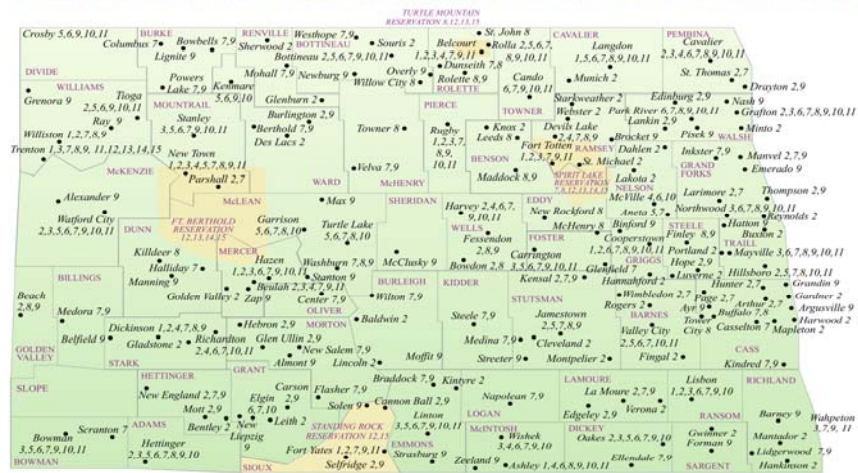


Center for Rural Health

- Established in 1980, at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences in Grand Forks, ND
- **Mission** ... to connect resources and knowledge to strengthen the health of people in rural communities
- Provide some form of assistance to **180 communities each year**
- **Focus on:**
 - Education, Training, & Resource Awareness
 - Community Development & Technical Assistance
 - Native American Health
 - Rural Health Workforce, Research, Policy, Evaluation

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What is the Center for Rural Health Doing in Your Community?



2001 - 2004 Center for Rural Health activities



1. Rural Health Dialogues
2. Family to Family Network
3. SEARCH Sites
4. Project CHRYSEAL
5. National Health Service Corps (J1) Placements
6. Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility (FLEX) Grant Program
7. The State Office of Rural Health Program (SORHP)
8. Blue Cross Blue Shield of ND Rural Health Grants
9. Rural Access to Emergency Devices (RAED)
10. Small Hospital Improvement Program (SHIP)
11. Polycystic Placement
12. Health Assessment Training
13. Elder Social and Health Needs Assessment Project
14. ND Native American HIV/AIDS Assessment Project
15. National Campfire's Survey Indian Reservations

Map Key

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Learning Objectives

1. Learn about the Center for Rural Health's role in serving North Dakota.
2. Acquire information related to resources available through the Center for Rural Health.
3. Opportunity to share and discuss challenges and solutions for addressing rural and public health issues.

Community Development Services

We assist health organizations to establish and/or strengthen community relationships

- Community needs assessment
- Disability issues training
- Grant development (workshops, application feedback)
- Health Professional Shortage Area designations
- Health professions recruitment, retention, tracking, and workshops
- Interdisciplinary training

Community Development Services

- Loan repayment and J-1 Visa information
- Market analysis
- Network enhancement
- Participatory Action Research
- Presentations on rural health topics
- Strategic planning/Balanced Scorecard
- Technical assistance (staff surveys, individual interviews, community forums, site development)



Rural Health Research

- How do we conduct research?
 - Surveys
 - Telephone
 - Mail-in
 - Focus groups
 - Secondary analysis of data sets
- Why do we collect research?
 - To inform practice or policy
 - Numbers have meaning (e.g., 8.2% of North Dakotans are uninsured)
 - To produce pictures or graphs
 - To produce maps



How is research used?

- To Inform:
 - Decision makers
 - Legislators, county commissioners, hospital board members
 - Healthcare providers
 - Consumers

➤ Ultimate Goal:
Improve people's
health



Research Areas

Workforce Issues

- Nursing Needs Study
- Emergency Medical Services

Health Issues

- Cancer
- Effects of Pesticide Exposure
- Traumatic Brain Injury

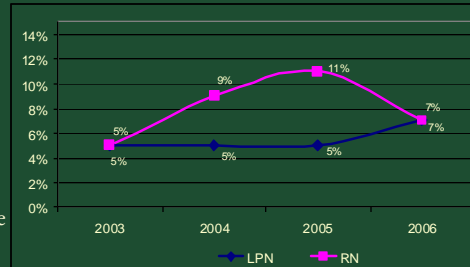
Access to Healthcare

- Health Insurance Coverage
- Geographic Access

Health Care Quality

- Patient Transfers
- Medication Safety

Statewide Vacancy Rates by Year (2003-2006)



Evaluation

based on research/program evaluation ethics and the tenets of action research:

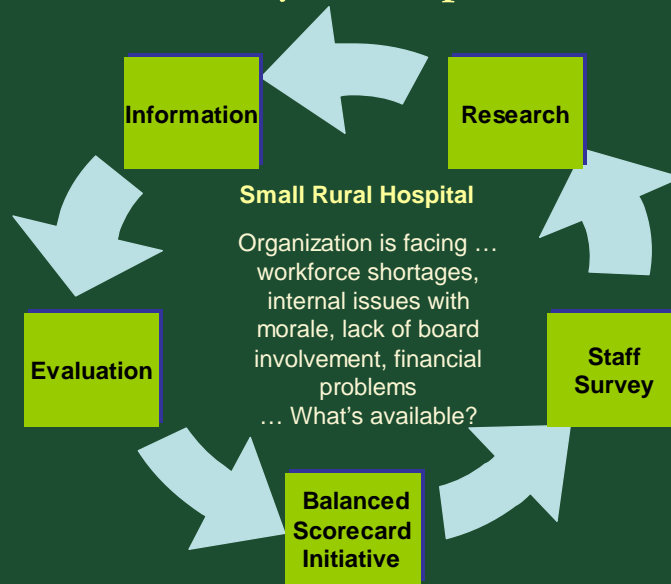
- 1) participation and democracy,
- 2) practical issues,
- 3) knowledge-to-action,
- 4) human flourishing, and
- 5) emergent developmental form (Reason and Bradbury, 2001).

Examples of Projects

- Empowerment Evaluation
- Evaluation of INBRE
- Evaluation of Domestic Violence Intervention Network
- Balanced Scorecard



Community Example





Questions for audience ...

- Remembering the Mission...to connect resources and knowledge to strengthen the health of people in rural communities--
- What challenges are you facing?
- How can the Center for Rural Health work with you to address these challenges?



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