

Rural is big: About 46.2 million people (≈14% of the U.S.) live in nonmetro counties, spread across roughly 72% of the nation's land area.

Economic Research Service

Care close to home: The U.S. has **1,796 rural community hospitals** supporting hometown care and local economies.

American Hospital Association

Always-on access: Critical Access Hospitals are required to provide **24/7 emergency services** — small hospitals, big reliability.

CMS

RHCs power access: Rural Health Clinics serve **over 62%** of rural Americans, expanding primary care where it's needed most.

NARHC

Team-based care: RHCs use **physicians + NPs/PAs/CNMs** to widen access and coverage in rural communities.

Rural Health Information Hub

Health centers reach millions: HRSA-funded health centers cared for 32.4 million people in 2024 — a record year — with care delivered at 16,000+ service sites nationwide.

HRSA

Telehealth sticks: Hospitals continue using telehealth at scale; Medicare data show use remains **well above pre-pandemic** levels (e.g., **12.6%** of Medicare beneficiaries used telehealth in Q4-2023). *American Hospital Association*

Celebrate the #PowerOfRural

National Rural Health Day happens every third Thursday of November!