


Rural Healthy People 2020

Building Healthy Rural Communities

## Rural Healthy People 2020: Identifying Rural Public Health Workforce Needs



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TEXAS A&M HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER

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### Presenter Disclosures

Jane N. Bolin, RN, JD, PhD


(1) The following personal financial relationships with commercial interests relevant to this presentation existed during the past 12 months:

No relationships to disclose

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### RHP 2020 Project Funding

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### Presentation Outline

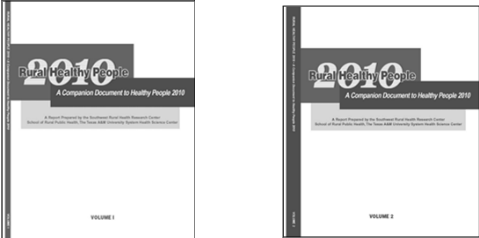
- ❖ Discuss how RHP2020 helps identify and support future rural public health workforce needs
- ❖ Discuss currently identified public health workforce needs
- ❖ Apply RHP2020 findings to setting rural health workforce priorities.

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### Historical Perspective

Rural Healthy People 2010: A Companion Document to Healthy People 2010 – 3 Vols.



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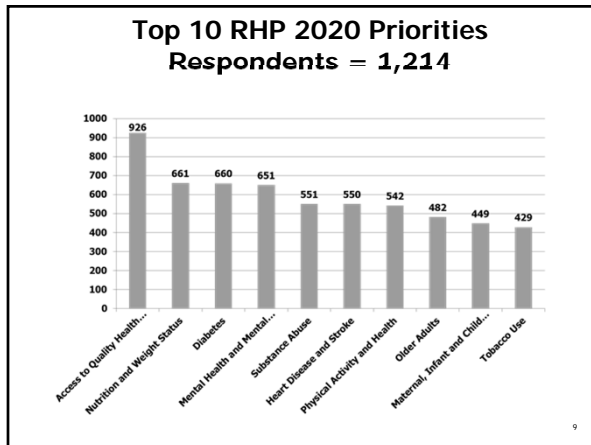
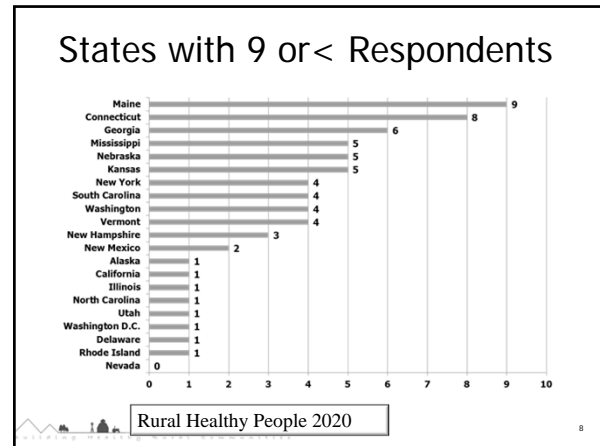
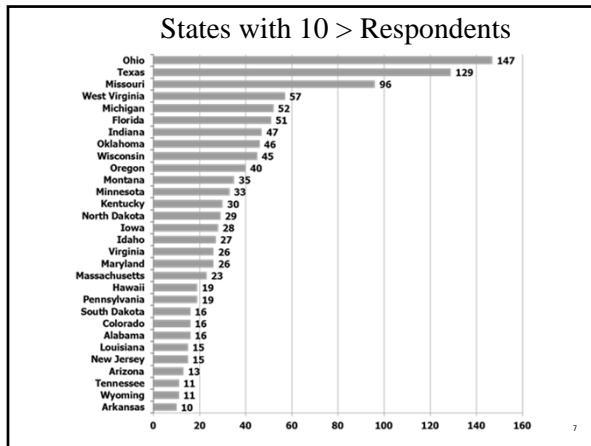
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### RHP 2020 Survey: Methods

- ❖ Survey originally fielded in December 2010 755 respondents.
- ❖ Survey fielded again in Spring 2012 preceded by:
  - ❖ Webinar on RHP2020 sponsored by NOSORH
  - ❖ Letters to select State Health Officers
- ❖ Resulted in a total of 1,214 respondents

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### RHP 2020: Top 20 Rural Health Priorities

Top 20 Priorities 10 yrs. later		Priorities 17-20	
Rank	Objective	Rank	Objective
1	Access to Quality Health Care	17	Injury and Violence Prevention (13)
2	Nutrition & Weight Status (10)	18	Social Determinants of Health
2	Diabetes	19	Health Comm. & Health IT
4	Mental Health and Mental Disorders	20	Environmental Health (15)
5	Substance Abuse (6)		
6	Heart Disease & Stroke (2)		
7	Physical Activity & Health		
8	Older Adults		
9	Tobacco Use (6)		
10	Cancer		
11	Educ. & Comm. Based Programs (6)		
12	Oral Health (5)		
13	Quality of Life & Well-Being		
14	Immunizations & Infectious Dis. (13)		
15	Public Health Infrastructure (10)		
16	Family Planning & Sexual Health (15)		

\*Priority rankings based on average percentages of four groups of state and local rural health leaders choosing objectives as a priority. There are virtual ties among some priorities.

### RHP 2010 to 2020: How have Priorities Changed?

Top 20 Priorities 10 Yrs. later	
Change?	Objective
1	Access to Quality Health Care
2	Nutrition & Weight Status
3	Diabetes
4	Mental Health and Mental Disorders
5	Substance Abuse
6	Heart Disease & Stroke
7	Physical Activity & Health
8	Older Adults
9	Tobacco Use
10	Cancer
11	Educ. & Comm. Based Programs
12	Oral Health
13	Quality of Life & Well-Being
14	Immunizations & Infectious Diseases
15	Public Health Infrastructure
16	Family Planning & Sexual Health

= Stayed Same

= Moved Up

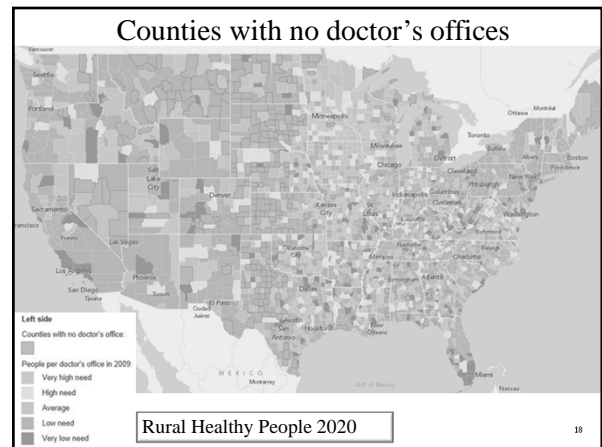
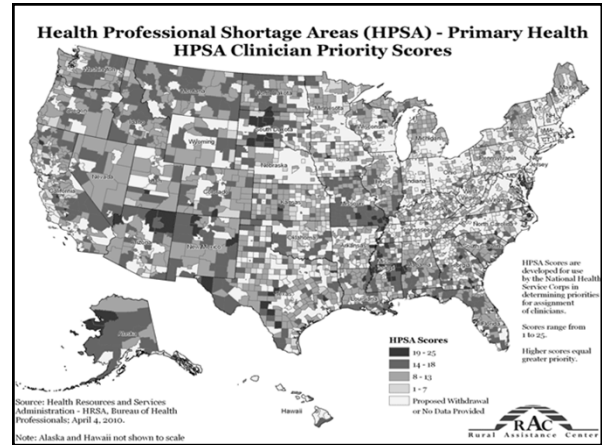
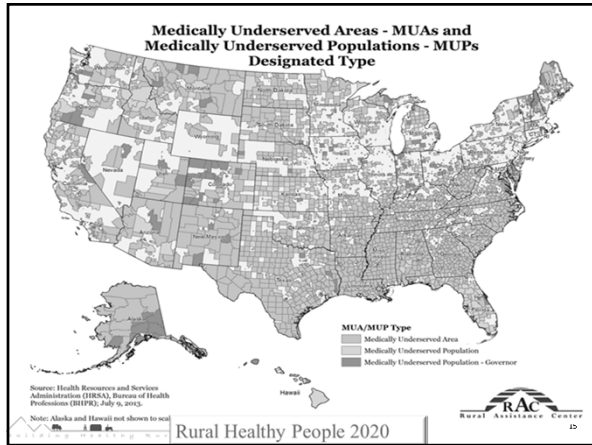
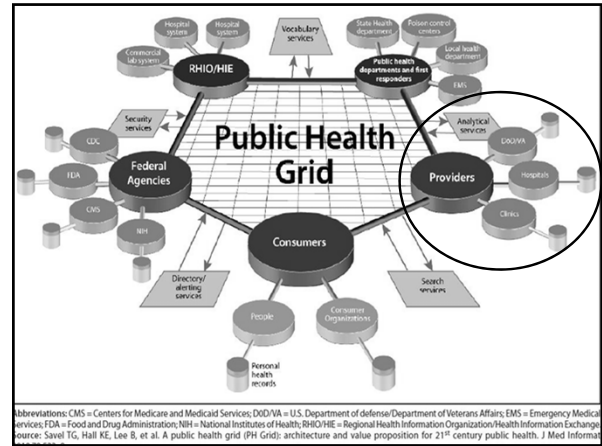
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### RHP2020 Work Force Priorities?

- ❖ Access to care has been and continues to be the top priority for rural America
- ❖ Prevention and care management models are needed in rural areas
- ❖ Model programs & practices, i.e., proven effective, are needed

### Public Health Workforce Shortages

❖ “Drastic budget cuts and workforce shortages have forced difficult decisions at state, local, territorial, and tribal public health agencies, often resulting in fewer services. Among state health agencies, nearly nine out of 10 (89%) reduced services between 2008 and 2010, especially programs related to health promotion, disease-specific intervention, and laboratory services.” (APHA, 2011)



### HHS-Workforce Objectives

- ❖ Objective A: Invest in the HHS workforce to meet America's health and human service needs today and tomorrow
- ❖ Objective B: Ensure that the Nation's healthcare workforce can meet increased demands
- ❖ Objective C: Enhance the ability of the public health workforce to improve public health at home and abroad
- ❖ Objective D: Strengthen the Nation's human service workforce
- ❖ Objective E: Improve national, state, local, and tribal surveillance and epidemiology capacity

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### Which areas require more HC & PH Workers?

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### What will the ACA provide?



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### Prevention and public health; workforce and infrastructure provisions


- Prevention and Public Health Fund
- National Prevention Council & Strategy
- Community health needs assessments
- Community and school-based health center funding
- Public health and primary care workforce development
- Health equity promotion
- Public health research
- Public education campaigns
- Menu labeling

APHA Issue Brief, 2012

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### Prevention and Public Health Fund

- ❖ A much needed investment in prevention
- ❖ The U.S.'s first *mandatory* funding for public health
- ❖ Meant to supplement, not supplant, existing funding
- ❖ Public health system still underfunded, but this is a start



More information: APHA: Prevention and Public Health Fund

APHA Issue Brief, 2012

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### Discussion

- ❖ NRHA recently published a policy brief documenting specific shortages:
  - ❖ Shortage of 124,000 FT physicians by 2025 (AMA);
  - ❖ Aging of the nursing workforce: 51% are older than 40 years of age.
  - ❖ *Extremely severe* shortage of mental health professionals and adequate in-patient care.
  - ❖ *Severe shortage* of rural pharmacies;
  - ❖ *Extremely severe* shortage of rural dentists.
  - ❖ Poor recruitment and retention of rural workforce

### Discussion

- ❖ Public Health Stakeholders face a more significant and formidable challenge in rural areas.
- ❖ Public Health infrastructure is still behind urban health infrastructure.
- ❖ Identification of rural public health needs through the mechanism of RHP2020 helps support and document these needs for rural states and counties seeking funding streams.
- ❖ Continued efforts by states and local rural stakeholders are needed.



Question?  
Comments?



## Thank You

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2. NRHA, 2012. *Health Care Workforce Distribution and Shortage Issues in Rural America*, Policy Brief.
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