

How Much Do You Know About Health Equity?

Exploring Publicly Available Health Outcomes Data to Address Social Determinants of Health

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Objectives

1. Describe health equity and rural health disparities
2. Identify multiple definitions of rurality
3. Learn how to access health data for your county
4. Identify evidence-based tools that can be used to improve health equity in your local community



Health Equity

- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) provides the following definition:
 - “Health equity means that everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible. This requires removing obstacles to health such as poverty, discrimination, and their consequences, including powerlessness and lack of access to good jobs with fair pay, quality education and housing, safe environments, and health care.”

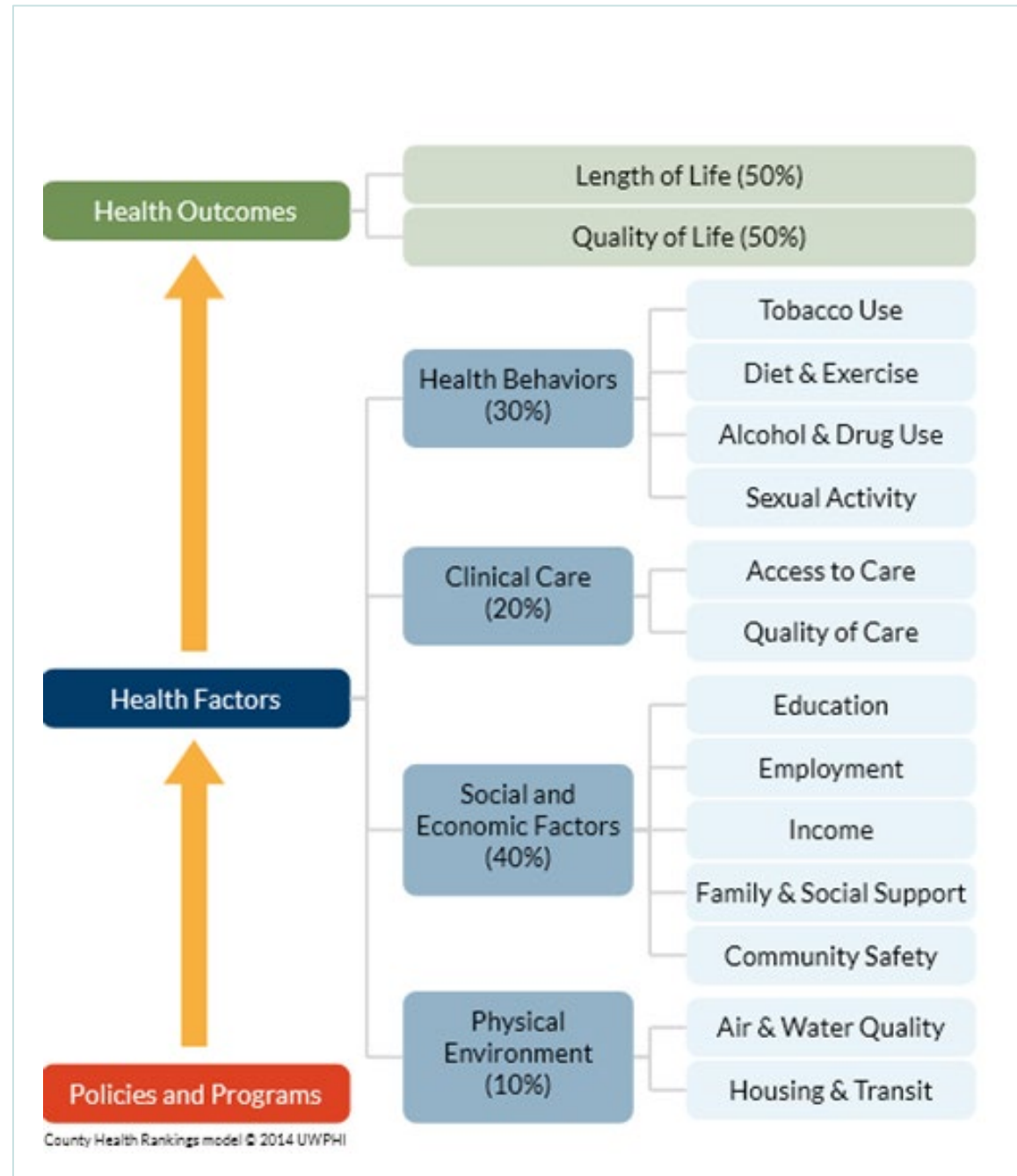


Health Disparity

- “...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.”

<https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/about/foundation-health-measures/Disparities>

Drivers of Health



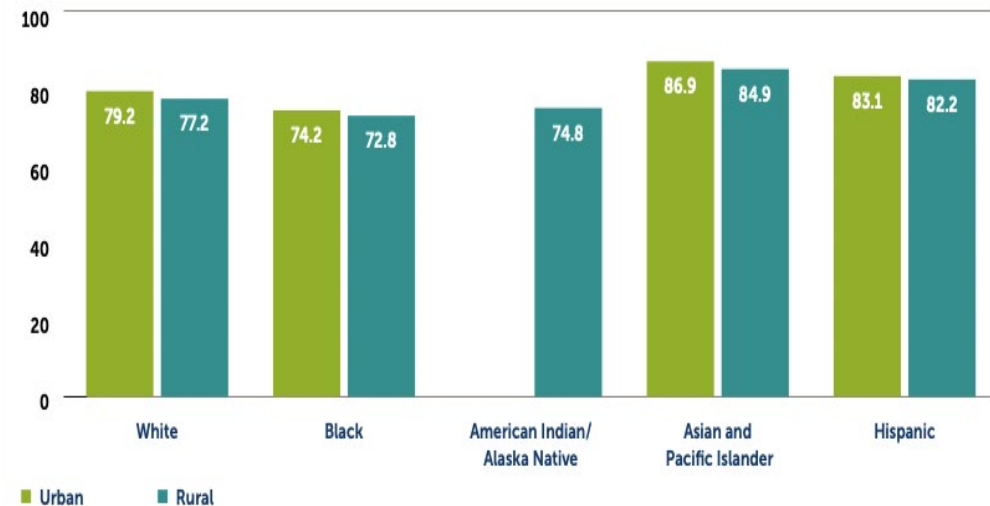
▼ Rural Health Disparities

- Rural residents generally fair worse on most health indicators
 - Life expectancy
 - Preventable cancers
 - Severe maternal morbidity
 - Obesity
 - Opioid misuse
 - Dementia
 - Cognitive impairment

Inequities *within* rural areas

- Socioeconomic
- Race
- Disability
- Gender
- Sexual orientation

Life Expectancy Disparities by Race/Ethnicity Among Rural Residents Are at Least as Striking as Disparities by Urban/Rural Residence (2005-2009)



Note: The life expectancy rate for urban American Indians/Alaska Natives is not displayed due to concerns about data reliability for that subgroup, which includes relatively small numbers. The absence of reliable data on small subgroups is a frequently encountered problem that results in lack of information on urban Indigenous people and other particularly disadvantaged population subgroups, rendering them and their needs invisible.

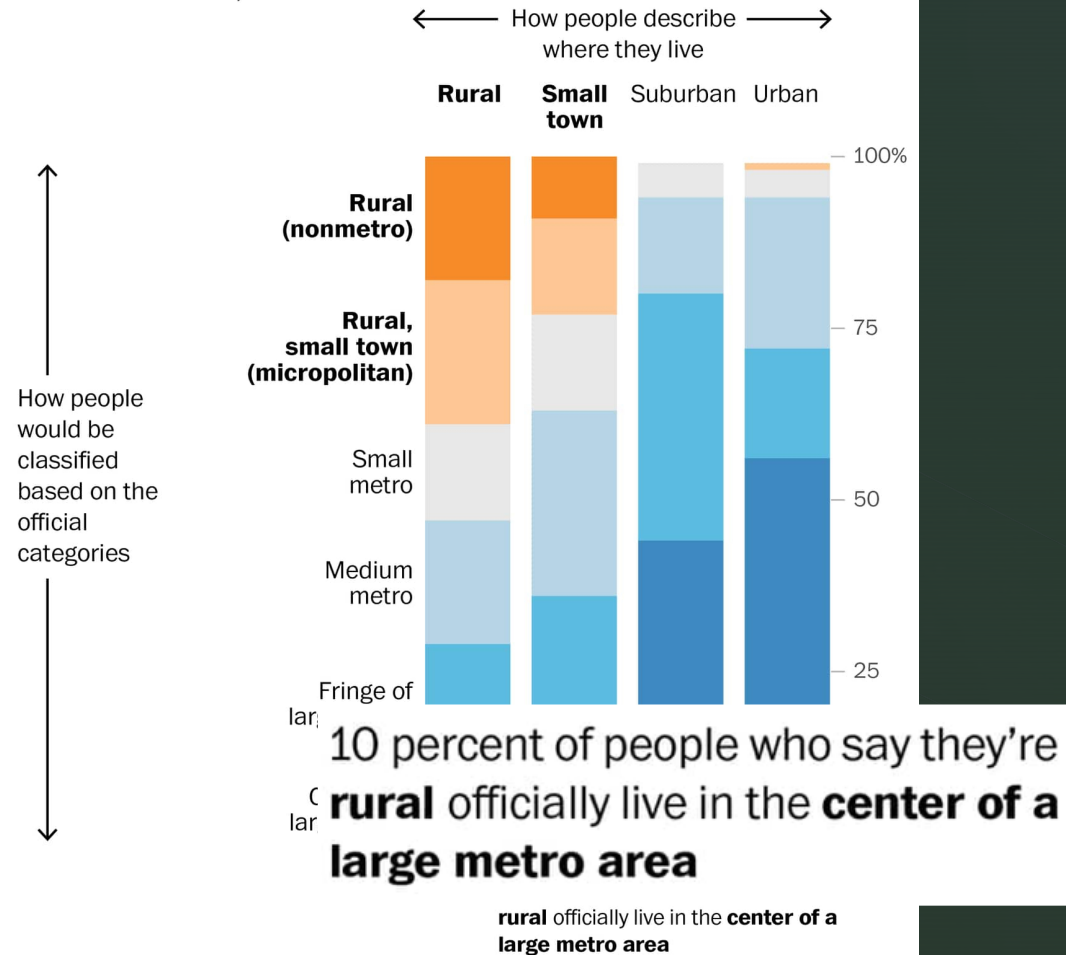
Source: The figure is adapted from Singh GK, Siahpush M. Widening rural-urban disparities in life expectancy, U.S., 1969-2009. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*. 2014;46(2):e19-e29.

But wait...what is rural?

1. More than 75 definitions across all federal agencies
2. More than 20 federal definitions used in the area of rural health
3. The most common in use in rural health:
 - Metro and Non-metro (CBSA and Non-CBSA) – Not urban
 - FORHP (Federal Office of Rural Health Policy)
 - RUCA (Rural-Urban Commuting Area codes)
 - FAR (Frontier and Remote codes)

Official classifications vs. people's perceptions

Where people who describe themselves as “rural” or “suburban” in a poll actually live, according to official statistics. (Percentages are based on columns)



Note: Percentages may not total to 100 due to rounding. Official categories are based on classifications from the National Center for Health Statistics

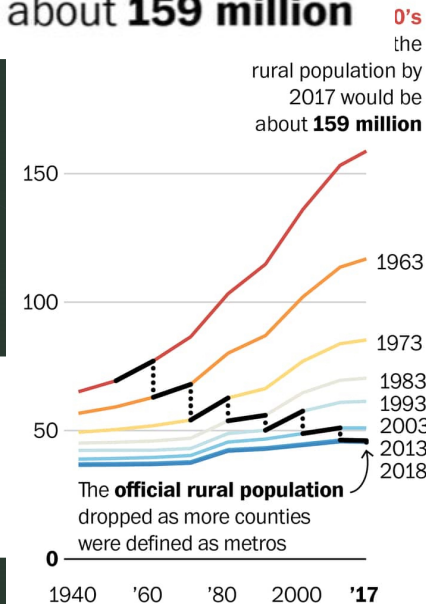
Source: Washington Post-Kaiser Family Foundation poll conducted in 2017
THE WASHINGTON POST

Where rural America would be under prior definitions

When we break the United States down by older county classifications, we see the entire population shift from rural to urban comes from fast-growing counties being redefined as metropolitan statistical areas.

Rural (nonmetropolitan)

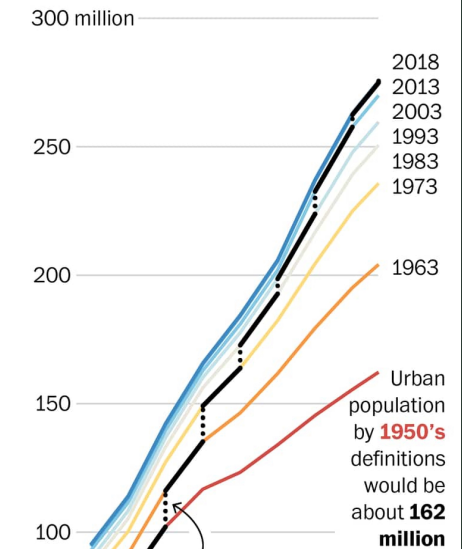
If we used **1950's** definitions, the rural population by 2017 would be about **159 million**



Note: This is an update of a chart published in Department's Economic Research Service.


Sources: Office of Management and Budget; Census Bureau via NHGIS
THE WASHINGTON POST

Urban (metropolitan areas)



The official urban population jumped when metros were redefined

Am I rural?

 **RHIhub**
Rural Health Information Hub

[Updates & Alerts](#) |

Online Library ▾

Topics & States ▾

Rural Data Visualizations ▾


Case Studies & Conversations ▾

Tools for Success ▾

Am I Rural? – Tool

[Help ?](#)

Determine whether your specific location is considered rural based on [various definitions of rural](#), including definitions that are used as eligibility criteria for federal programs.



<https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/am-i-rural>

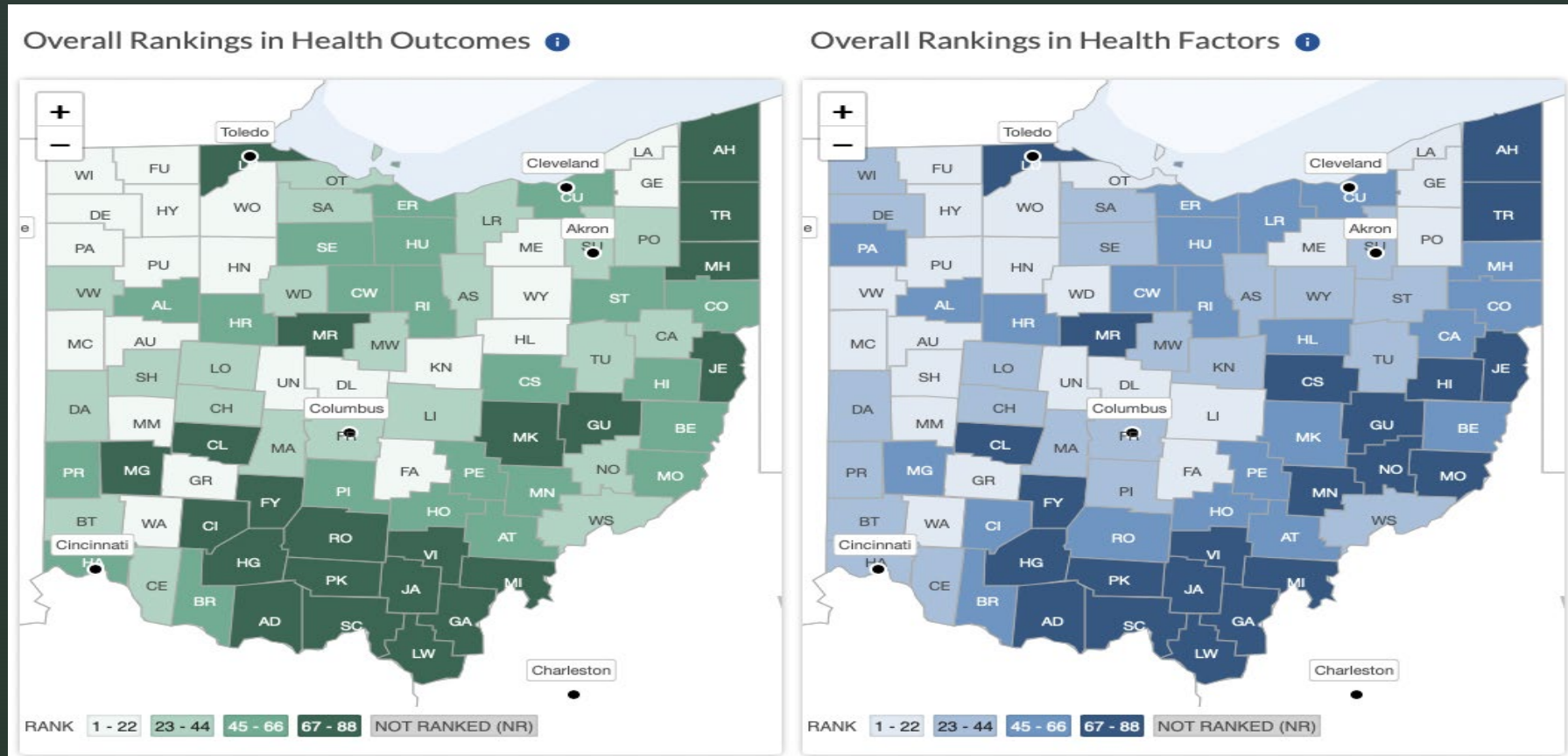
Why does it matter?

1. When it comes to variations of population density and geographic relationships in training and in practice, the **context** matters
2. **Rules and regulations, and policies** around health and healthcare, are based upon rural definitions

National Data Sources




County Health Rankings and Roadmaps





<https://www.countyhealthrankings.org>

American Community Survey





Search




AllTablesMapsPagesMicrodata

Advanced Search


 Table ID (e.g., DP05)


0 Filters 


Find a Filter

 Search

123 Codes >


 **Geography >**

 Surveys >










 Topics >

Select Geography

Geographic EntitiesSummary Levels

 Search Geography

Most Commonly Used Geographies

Nation 	State 	County 
Place 	Zip Code Tabulation Area 	Metropolitan Statistical Area 
Tract 	Block 	Block Group 

<https://data.census.gov>

State Data Sources



State Health Assessment

ODH / Explore Data & Stats / Interactive Applications / 2019 Online State Health Assessment

2019 Online State Health Assessment

The 2019 State Health Assessment (SHA) is a comprehensive and actionable picture of health and wellbeing in Ohio. This interactive website displays state and county-level data on topics such as demographic trends, leading causes of death, population health, healthcare spending, access to health care, public health and prevention, social and economic environment, and physical environment. Please submit any questions or feedback to informatics@odh.ohio.gov.

Select a Domain

To reveal related subdomains

Summary

Demographic Characteristics

Leading Causes of Death

Subdomain

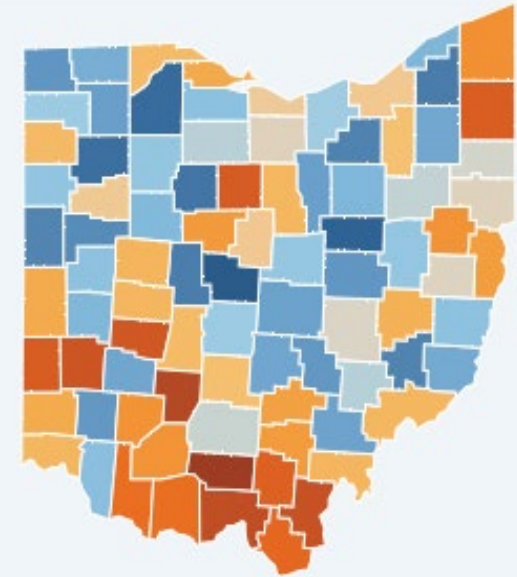
This links to an interactive dashboard

Premature Death

Top 15 Leading Causes of Death



Years of Potential Life Lost, 2017 | County Comparison

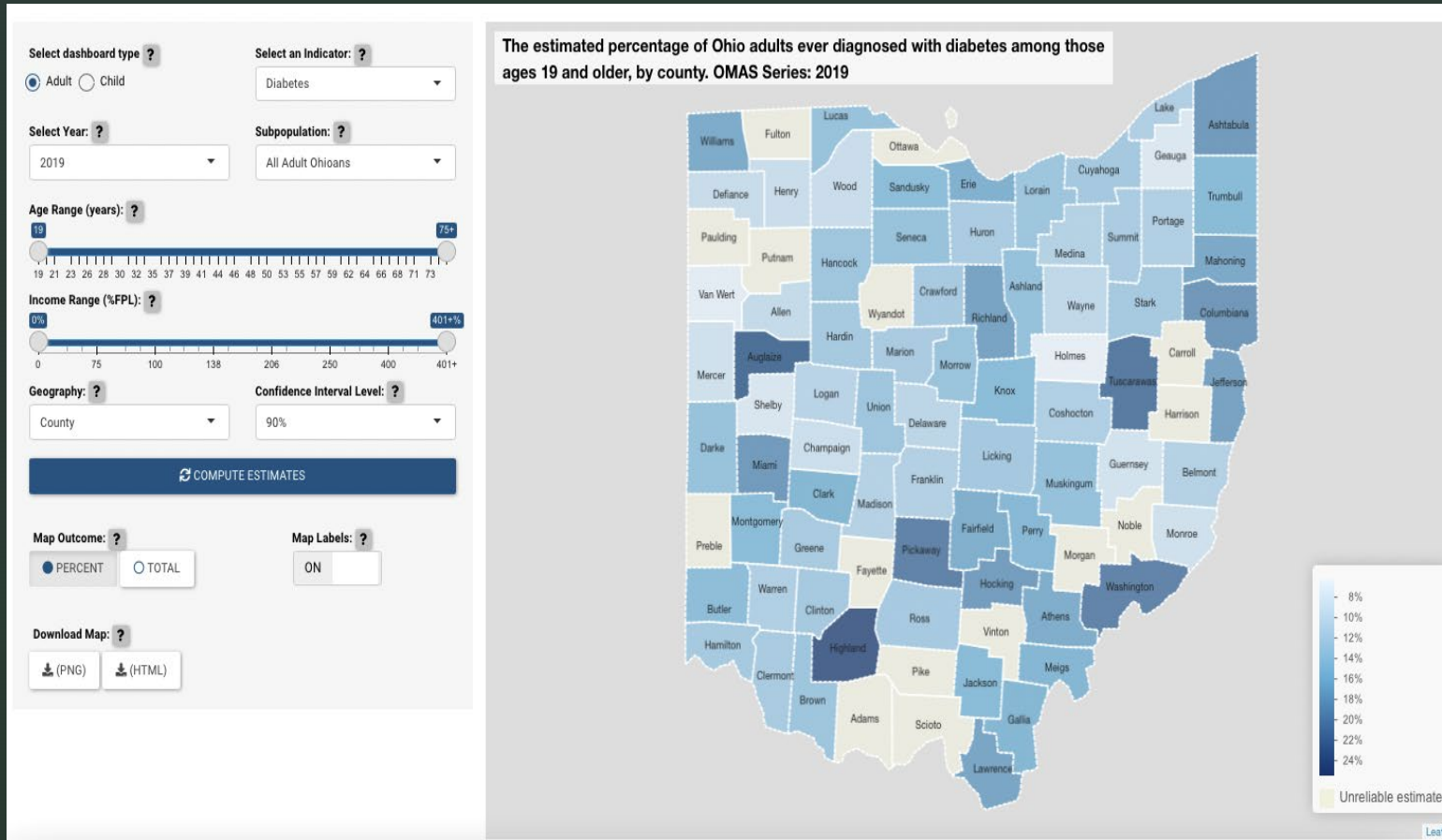


Best to Worst



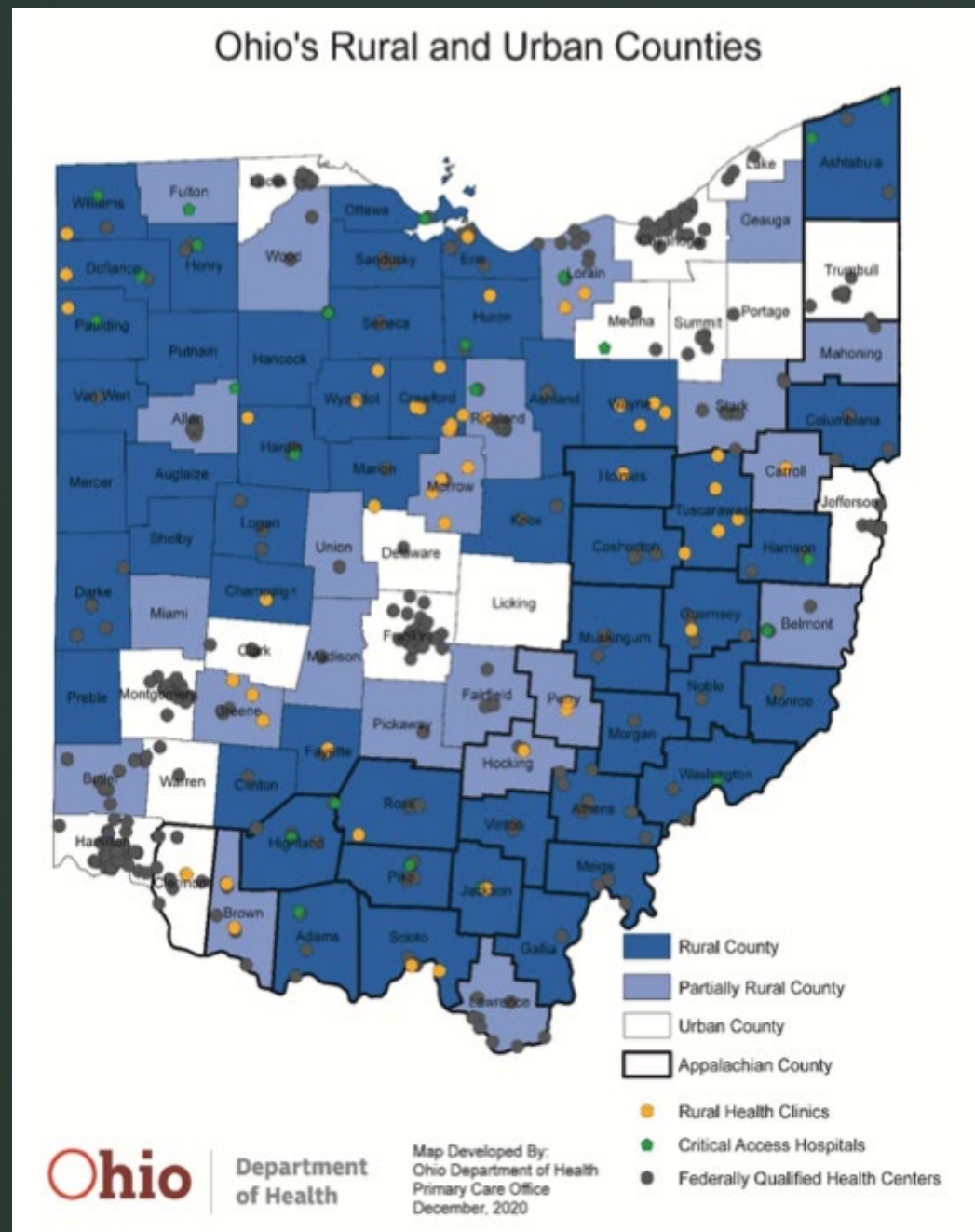
<https://odh.ohio.gov/about-us/State-Health-Assessment>

Ohio Medicaid Assessment Survey

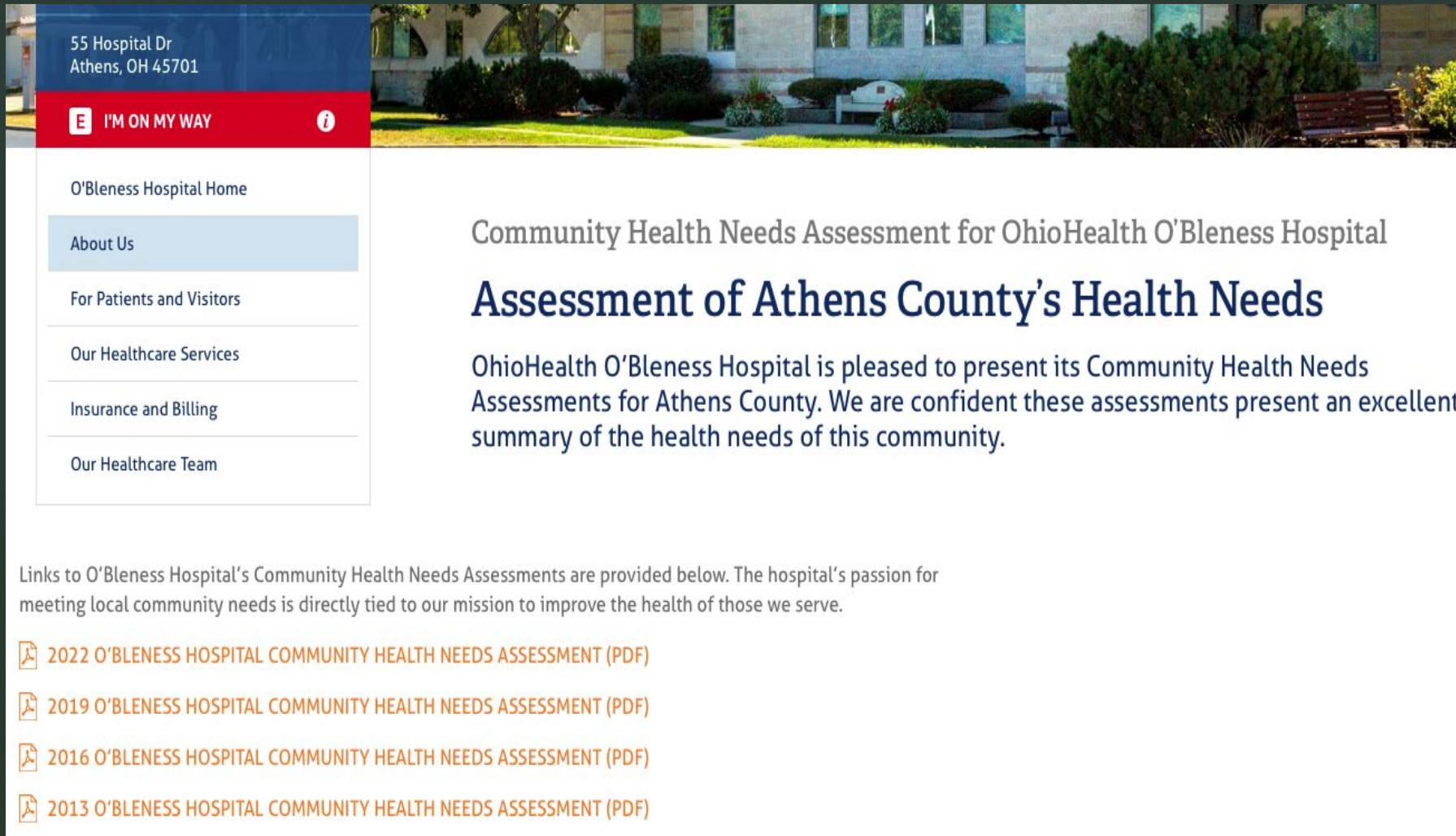


<https://grc.osu.edu/OMAS>

County Data Sources



Community Health Needs Assessments



55 Hospital Dr
Athens, OH 45701

E I'M ON MY WAY

O'Bleness Hospital Home

About Us

For Patients and Visitors

Our Healthcare Services

Insurance and Billing

Our Healthcare Team

Community Health Needs Assessment for OhioHealth O'Bleness Hospital

Assessment of Athens County's Health Needs

OhioHealth O'Bleness Hospital is pleased to present its Community Health Needs Assessments for Athens County. We are confident these assessments present an excellent summary of the health needs of this community.

Links to O'Bleness Hospital's Community Health Needs Assessments are provided below. The hospital's passion for meeting local community needs is directly tied to our mission to improve the health of those we serve.

- [2022 O'BLENESS HOSPITAL COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT \(PDF\)](#)
- [2019 O'BLENESS HOSPITAL COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT \(PDF\)](#)
- [2016 O'BLENESS HOSPITAL COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT \(PDF\)](#)
- [2013 O'BLENESS HOSPITAL COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT \(PDF\)](#)

Community Health Assessment

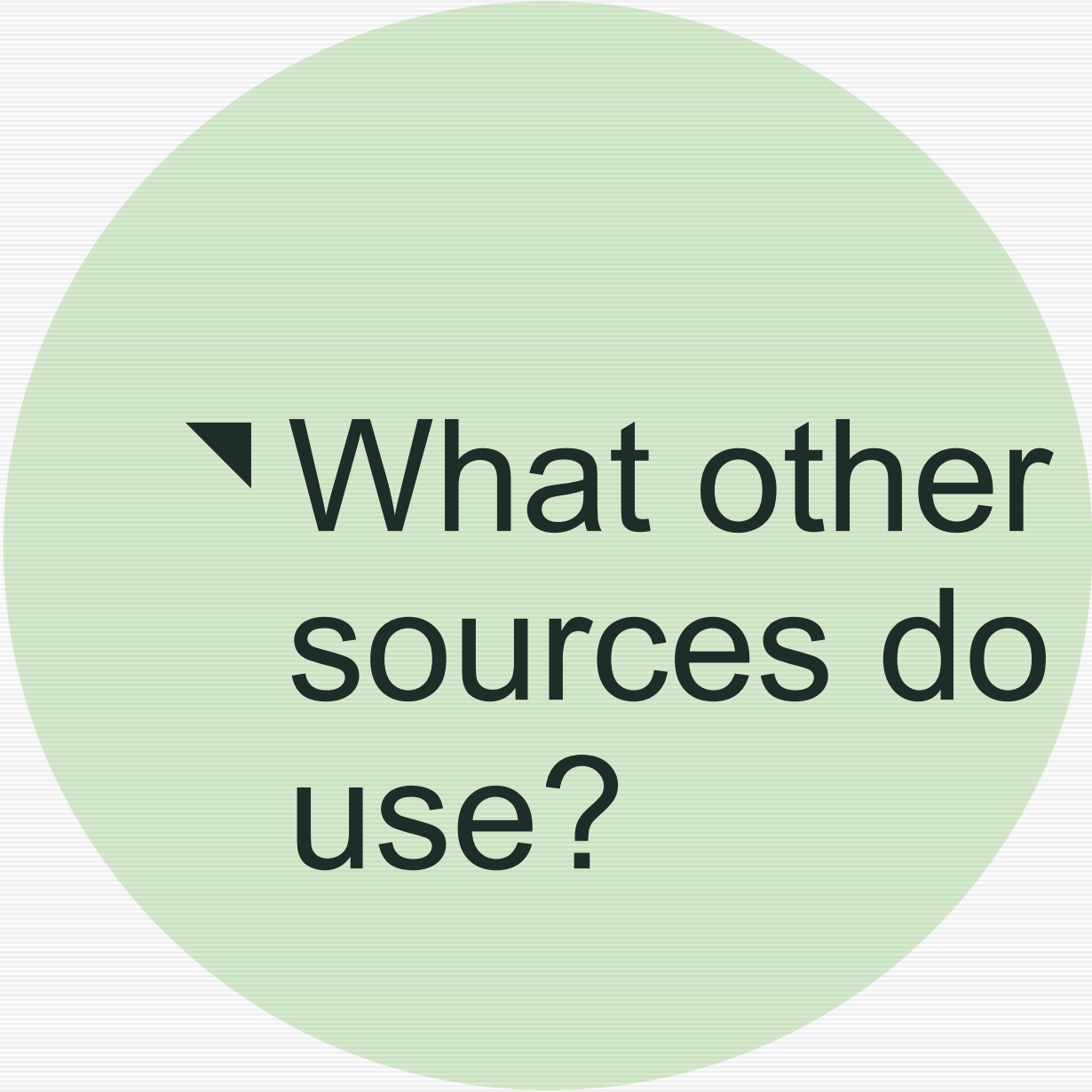
Belmont County Community Health Needs Assessment

Prepared by: Jaclyn Yahn and Linda Mehl

2014-15

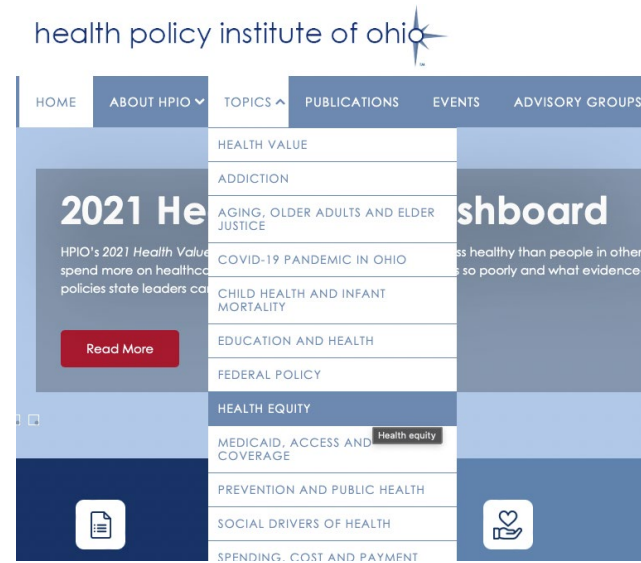
Belmont County Health Department





▼ What other
sources do you
use?

Resources for Improving Health Equity in Ohio



State Health Improvement Plan HPIO Publications

2017

Community Health
Improvement Plan
(CHIP)

Belmont County Health Department



Community Health Improvement Plan
(CHIP)

Resources for Improving Rural Health and Health Equity

OHIO RURAL HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN

June 2021



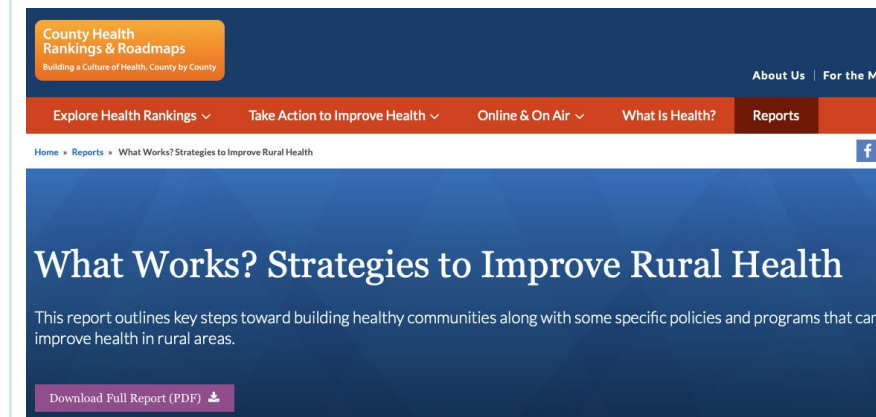
NORC Walsh
Center for
Rural Health
Analysis

FINAL REPORT

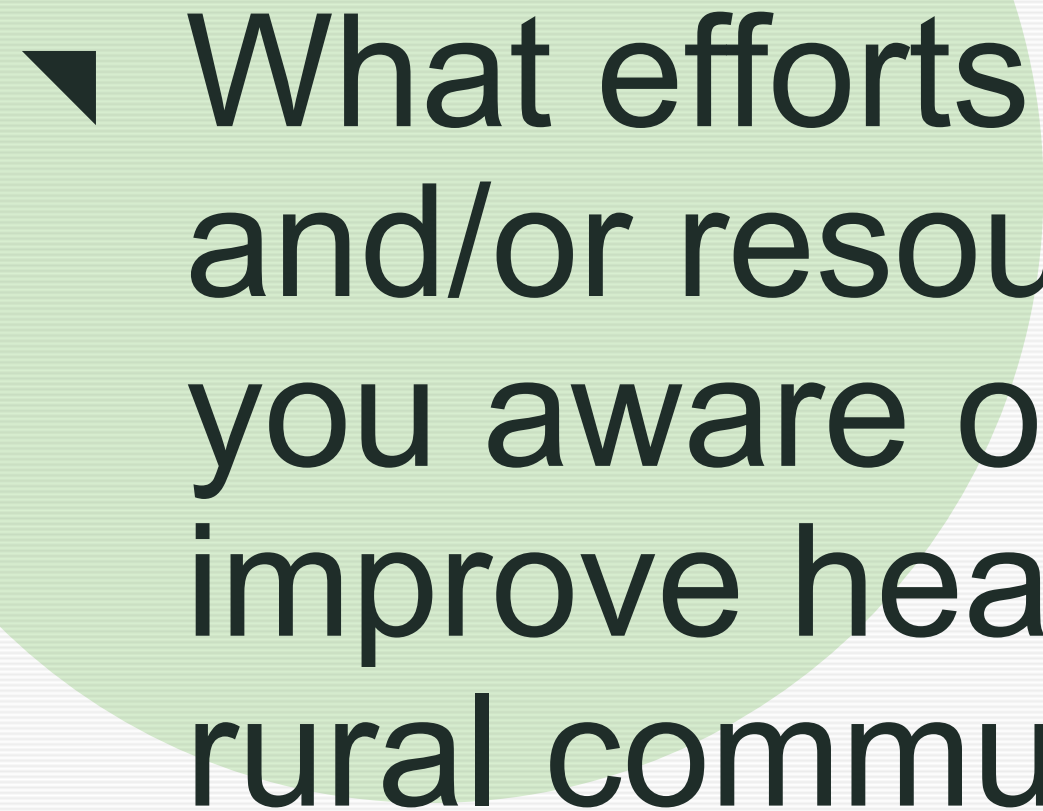
Exploring Strategies to Improve Health and
Equity in Rural Communities

FEBRUARY 2018

PREPARED BY:
NORC Walsh Center for Rural Health
Analysis



Robert Wood Johnson Foundation & County Health Rankings

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- ▼ What efforts, programs and/or resources are you aware of that aim to improve health equity in rural communities?

■ Thank you!

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