



Ohio Rural
Health
Association

2025 REPORT

ohioruralhealth.org

YEAR OF REPORT 2025





Who We Are

The Ohio Rural Health Association is a statewide nonprofit dedicated to improving the health and wellness of rural Ohioans. We connect hospitals, clinics, universities, and community partners to advance access to quality care across all 88 counties.

What We Do

- Advocate: Build relationships with policymakers and amplify the rural health voice.
- Educate: Offer webinars, technical assistance, and the annual Ohio Rural Health Conference.
- Engage: Connect members through newsletters, social media, and collaboration.
- Support: Provide tools, resources, and connections for hospitals, clinics, and community programs.

Our Mission

Lead in promoting the health and well-being of the state's rural citizens and communities through dedicated advocacy, effective communication, and comprehensive education.

Our Impact

- Work in all 88 counties
- 600 + Members
- Educational events and webinars
- Collaborate with the Ohio Department of Health, State Office of Rural Health, and National Rural Health Association among others

Executive Summary

There are approximately 2,127,890 Ohioans—about 18.1 percent of the state’s population—who live in rural communities. The Ohio Rural Health Association is dedicated to improving access to care for these residents by promoting education, strengthening connections among healthcare and community partners, and advancing advocacy efforts that support quality, affordable, and sustainable healthcare across rural Ohio.

Through education, the Association continues to share knowledge and resources that empower providers, organizations, and communities to address rural health challenges with confidence and innovation. By fostering connection, we bring together members, partners, and leaders to collaborate on solutions that strengthen the rural health landscape. Our advocacy efforts ensure that the voices of rural Ohioans are heard at both the state and national levels, shaping policies that reflect the realities of rural healthcare delivery and access. Together, these pillars guide every initiative and partnership we pursue, reinforcing our commitment to healthier, stronger rural communities across Ohio.



Strategic Priorities and Progress

Advancing Awareness and Advocacy

The Ohio Rural Health Association (ORHA) continues to strengthen its advocacy presence across the state. Regular legislative committee meetings and annual advocacy updates have sustained meaningful member engagement. National Rural Health Day remains a cornerstone event for advancing awareness, offering valuable education and opportunities for public involvement each year.

Expanding Education Opportunities

ORHA's educational outreach continues to grow and diversify. Monthly continuing education webinars and targeted learning sessions, developed in partnership with the State Office of Rural Health, address emerging rural health priorities. The annual Ohio Rural Health Conference expanded its reach once again, offering specialized tracks for Critical Access Hospitals and Rural Health Clinics and welcoming more than 70 students at no cost. These initiatives reflect ORHA's ongoing commitment to education, leadership development, and lifelong learning.

Enhancing Member Engagement

Member engagement remains central to ORHA's mission. The Association's mission statement was reviewed and refined to better reflect its leadership in advocacy, communication, and education. Through consistent newsletters, active social media outreach, and the creation of a new online member platform, ORHA has enhanced connection and collaboration. The Rural Health Champion Program launched successfully, and participation across committees and events continues to grow, demonstrating a strong sense of community among members.

Building Alignment and Connection

Collaboration continues to define ORHA's statewide impact. Regular coordination with the State Office of Rural Health, along with partnerships with universities, hospitals, and community organizations, has strengthened alignment around shared goals. New partnerships have been established to expand ORHA's influence and amplify rural health priorities. Looking ahead, a member forum engagement platform will further enhance collaboration and is scheduled for release by the end of 2025.

Ohio Rural Health Conference 2025

Held August 7–8, 2025, at Miami University in Oxford, the Ohio Rural Health Conference brought together healthcare professionals, students, and community leaders from across the state to exchange ideas, share innovation, and strengthen collaboration in rural health.

Conference Highlights

- Over 70 students participated at no cost, reinforcing ORHA's commitment to supporting future rural health leaders.
- Featured tracks on rural hospital performance, tele-hospitalist models, behavioral health, and value-based care.
- Networking sessions and poster presentations fostered collaboration between providers, educators, and policymakers.
- Vendors and exhibitors showcased tools and programs enhancing rural health outcomes across Ohio.
- The event emphasized innovation, resilience, and connection—key drivers in advancing rural healthcare.

200 Rural
Professionals

25 Educational
Sessions

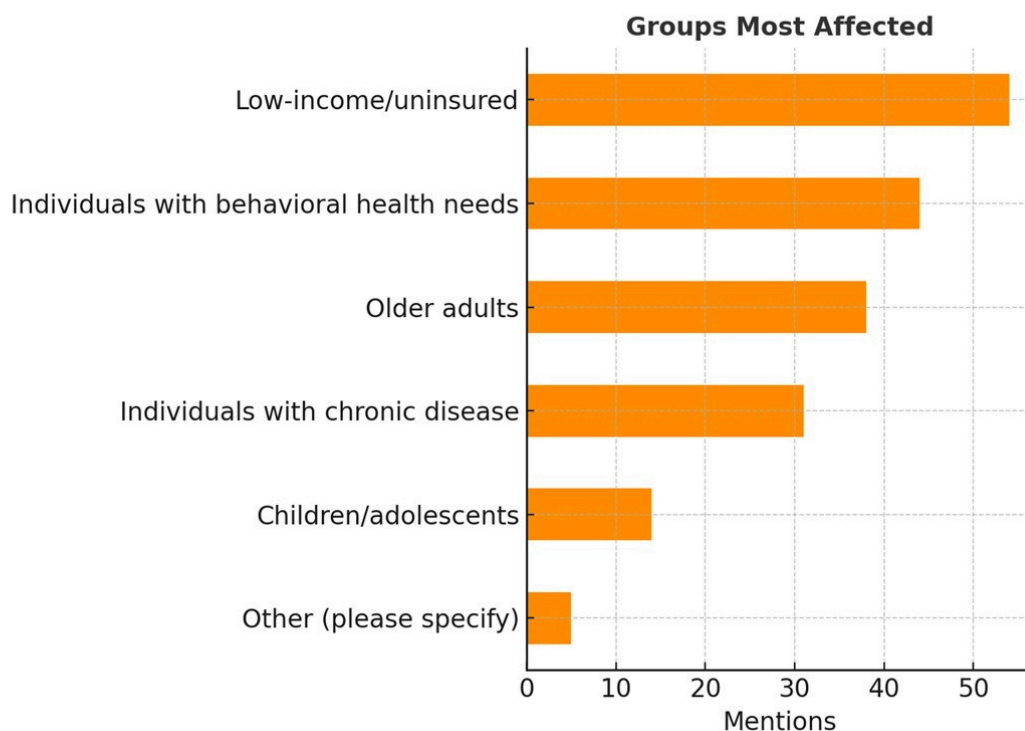
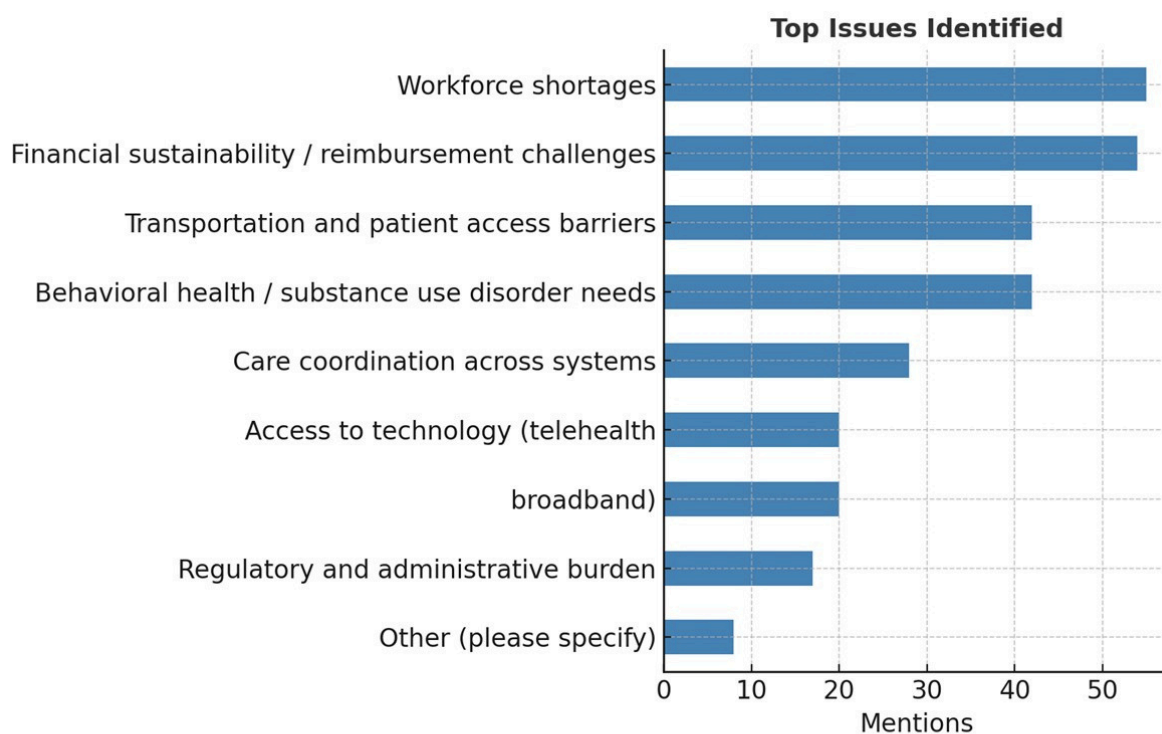
Networking
Opportunities





The following chart reflects the results
of the August, 2025 OSU/ORHA survey.

Key Issues Affecting Rural Ohio Health Professionals





Rural Health Champion 2025

Sharon Casapulla, EdD, MPH

**Director, Rural & Urban Scholars Pathways
(RUSP) Program**

Office of Rural and Underserved Programs

Clinical Adjunct Assistant Professor

Department of Primary Care

Heritage College of of Osteopathic Medicine

Ohio University

***2024 Award**

Miami University

Physician Associate Studies

****Award Program Established 2024***

Future Projects

MEMBER CONNECTION

Meaningful connection among members is essential to advancing rural health in Ohio. When members can easily share experiences, exchange ideas, and collaborate, the entire network becomes stronger and more responsive to community needs. To further enhance this collaboration, ORHA is launching a new Member Engagement Forum, an interactive online platform where members can connect directly with one another, ask questions, and share resources in real time. This new tool will strengthen relationships across the state, foster cross-sector dialogue, and create new opportunities for learning and partnership within the rural health community.

2026 OHIO RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

Hosted by Ohio State University,
Wooster Campus

August 6 & 7, 2026

For more information and details, visit
ohioruralhealth.org/2026-conference

EDUCATION

Ongoing monthly educational webinars, as well as resources and information available in the member portal

ADVOCACY

An in-person State Advocacy Day is planned for early spring 2026, bringing members and policymakers together to advance rural health priorities. Virtual advocacy updates will continue year-round to keep members informed and engaged.

For more information about the Ohio Rural Health Association, contact Executive Director, Rosanna Scott at executivedirector@ohioruralhealth.org

November 20, 2025

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