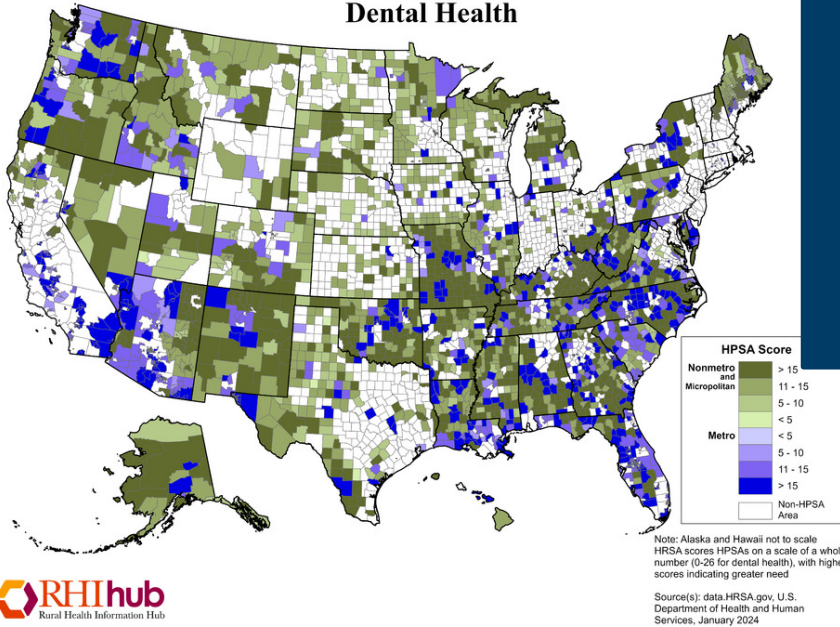


Rural Oral Health

Health Professional Shortage Areas
Dental Health



Barriers to Care

- Geographic isolation
- Lack of adequate transportation
- Higher rate of poverty in nonmetro areas
- Availability of providers willing to treat Medicaid patients
- Lack of dental insurance
- Acute provider shortages

57.6%
of rural adults

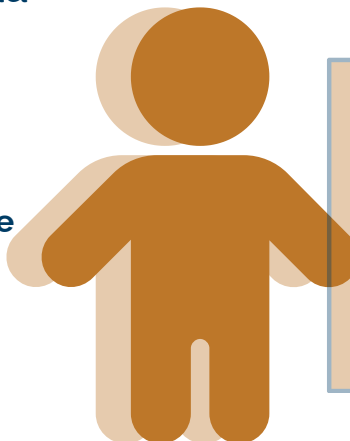
reported that they had visited the dentist in the past year, compared to 66.7% of urban adults

Rural counties have higher percentages of people with partial or full edentulism (having several or all teeth extracted) compared to urban counties



Oral Health Advocacy Agenda

- Comprehensive Medicare and Medicaid adult benefit
- “Grow your own” and pipeline workforce programs
- Recruiting and retaining workforce
- Benefits of fluoridation
- Eliminating discrimination
- Up-to-date and accurate data
- Addressing veterans oral health
- Innovative delivery systems



Rural children are known to have poorer dental health and are less likely to receive preventive dental care than urban children

NRHA Supported Legislation



Dental Loan Repayment Assistance Act S.403/H.R.994
Conduct a public education campaign to increase oral health literacy and awareness.



Medicaid Dental Benefit Act S. 570/H.R. 1342
Require Medicaid programs to cover dental and oral health services for all adults and increase the federal matching percentage for such services.



Expanding Childcare in Rural America Act
S. 1867/H.R. 3922
Improve the availability and quality of childcare in rural communities to help recruit dental professionals.



Medicare Dental, Vision, and Hearing Benefit Act H.R. 33 & Medicare Dental Benefit Act of 2023 S. 2012/H.R. 4146
Inclusion of dental care under Medicare coverage.



The Improving Whole Health for Veterans with Chronic Conditions Act S. 1954/H.R. 4150 Create a pilot program for comprehensive dental coverage for veterans.



Dental Care for Veterans Act H.R. 2413
Make all veterans who are enrolled in the VA health care system eligible for VA-provided dental services.