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Journal of Rural Health Recognizes 2017 Article of Year

The [Journal of Rural Health \(JRH\)](#) will recognize its 2017 article of the year at the National Rural Health Association's (NRHA) Annual Rural Health Conference May 10 in New Orleans. The JRH Editorial Board selected the winner from all JRH articles published last year.

The 2017 article of the year is "[Polysubstance Use Among Adolescents in a Low-Income, Rural Community: Latent Classes for Middle- and High-School Students](#)" by Roderick A. Rose, Caroline B. R. Evans, Paul R. Smokowski, Matthew O. Howard, and Katie C. Stalker (*J Rural Health*. September 18, 2017).

"Using latent class analysis to identify subtypes of polysubstance use among rural middle- and high-school youth, we showed that although the middle-school youth had lower overall use rates, some subtypes of users had greater predicted inhalant and prescription drug use than their high-school peers. This suggested a disturbing trend in light of ongoing efforts to curtail opioid misuse in these communities," says Roderick Rose, lead author and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Social Work research assistant professor.

The article was published online Sept. 18, and it is scheduled for print publication this summer. Selection criteria included average downloads per month and evaluation by the JRH Editorial Board regarding methodology and importance. "The editor of the Journal of Rural Health and its editorial board believe that this article addresses a growing concern within rural America, that of substance abuse. This type of research is vital to better understanding how these issues arise and how we can improve in this area. Our journal is pleased to disseminate these important findings," says Kevin Bennett, Editorial Board chairman.

"Our rural research community serves a key role in the development of good public policy," says NRHA CEO Alan Morgan. "NRHA is proud to select this vital and timely research as our article of the year."

JRH is a quarterly peer-reviewed journal published by NRHA. It is devoted to advancing professional practice, research, theory development, and public policy related to rural health. Ty Borders, PhD, is editor and Kevin Bennett, PhD, is chair of the 12-member Editorial Board.

NRHA is a national nonprofit membership organization that provides leadership on rural health issues. The association's mission is to improve the health of rural Americans and provide leadership on rural health issues through advocacy, communications, education, and research. NRHA membership is made up of a diverse collection of individuals and organizations, all of whom share the common bond of an interest in rural health.