



Rural Healthcare: Invisible Crisis

Judy Esterquest — Pt Washington/Manhasset

June 10, 2021
Caucus on Rural Places Matter
2021 NYS Convention

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Agenda

- ◆ LWVNY Position: Healthcare Goals
- ◆ Rural New York: Context
- ◆ Rural Health Today
- ◆ Underlying Issues
- ◆ Paths Forward

With appreciation to **Barbara Harrison** for her research on rural issues and suggestions for slides, and **Lianne Hirabayashi** for her tech advice.

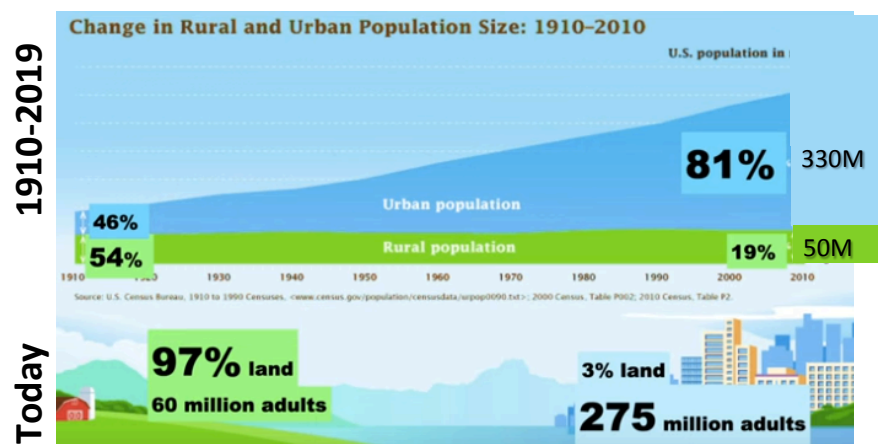
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The LWV NY Position: Healthcare Goals

- **Affordable & accessible — stable, sustainable & fair**
 - Insurance access **independent of employment status**
 - Funded through **progressive public financing**
- **Equitable — high-quality & comprehensive**
 - Reimbursed preventive care, health education, primary care
 - Ideally, vision, dental, hearing, and long-term care
- **Universal — to protect our most vulnerable NY'ers, urban and rural — to protect everyone**

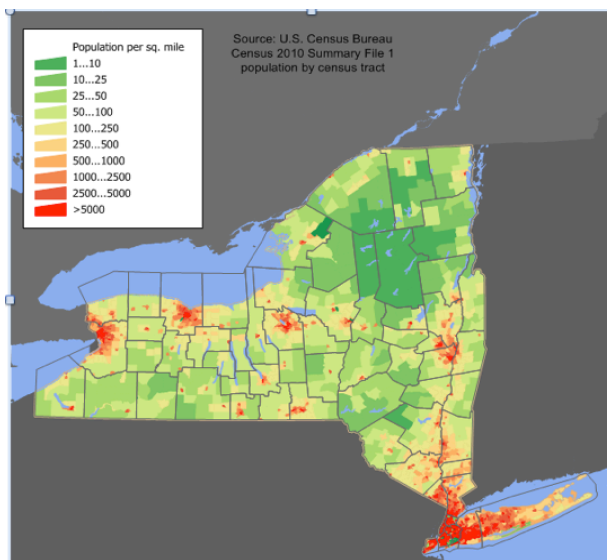
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A Century of Change



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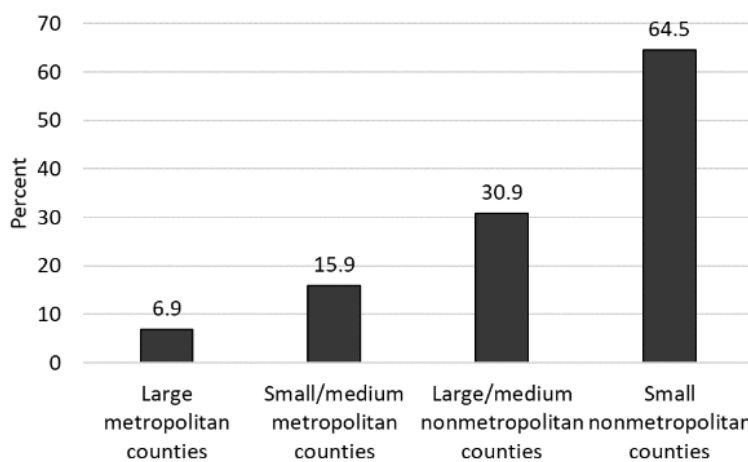
Rural NYS: over 86% of land mass — 3.5M people



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_New_York_\(state\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_New_York_(state)) Accessed October 29, 2020

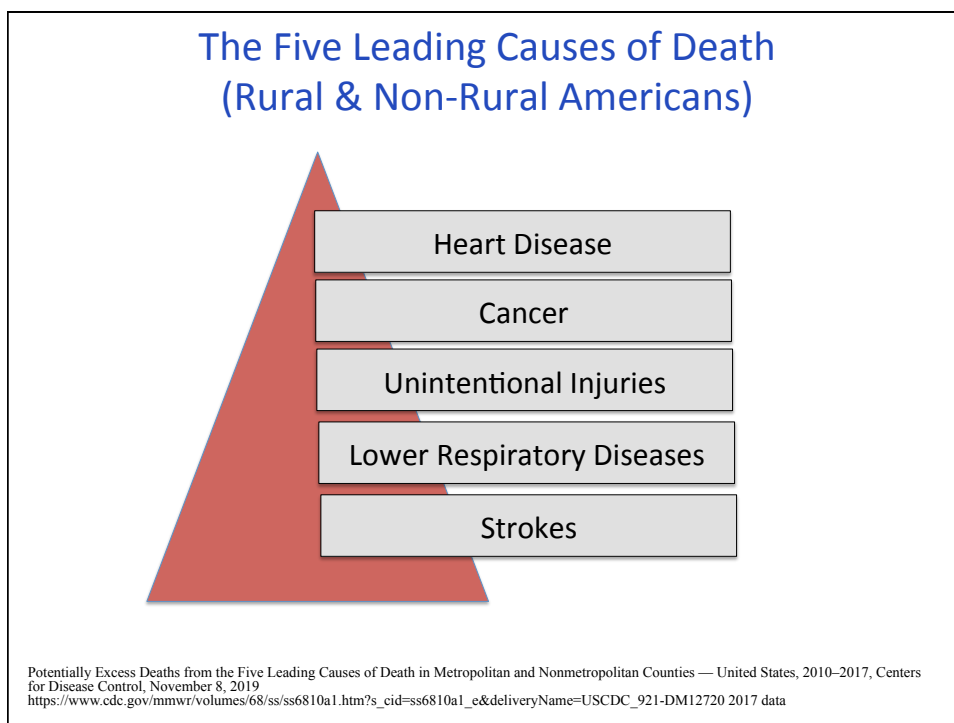
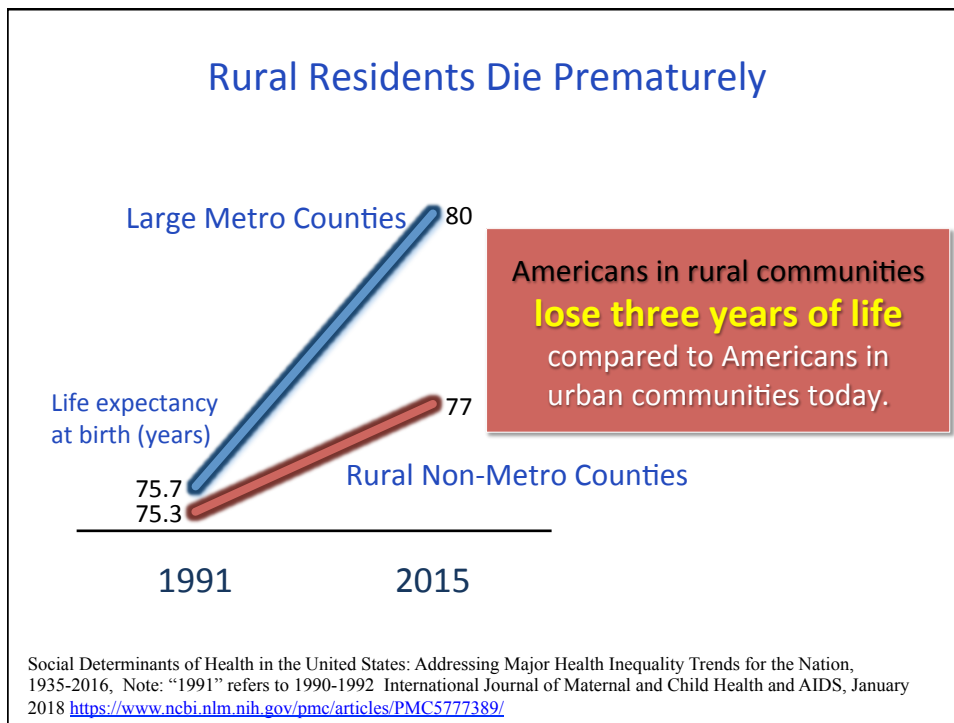
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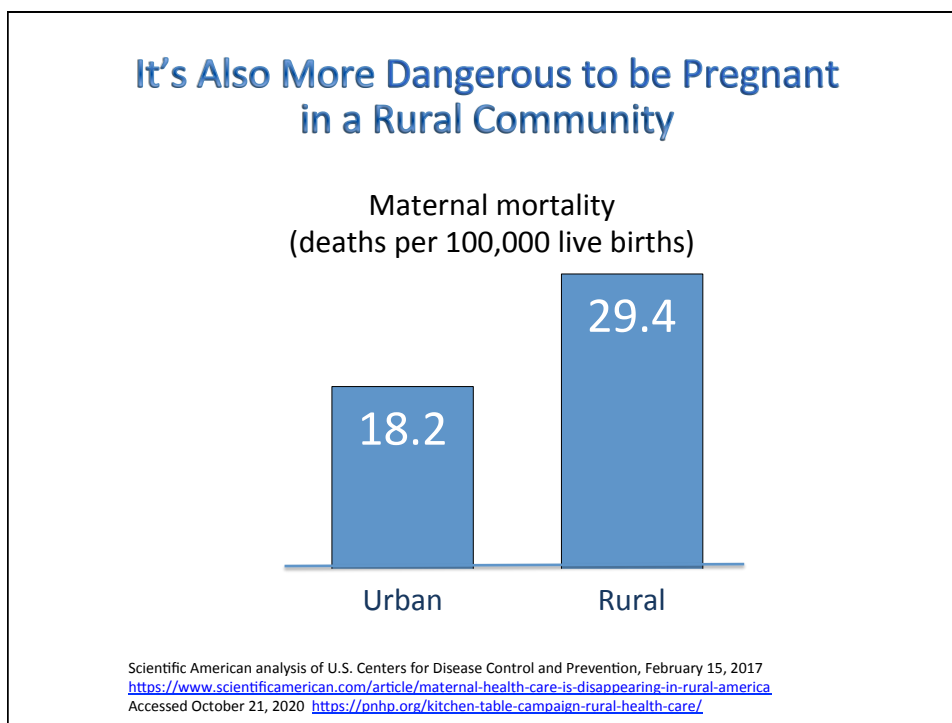
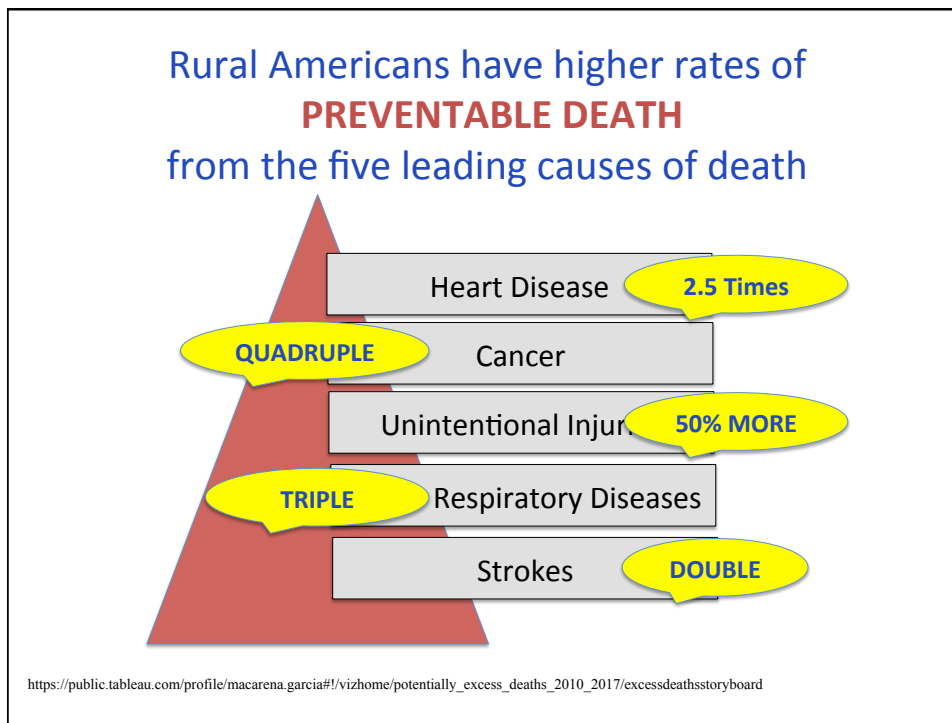
Rural areas have more elderly residents

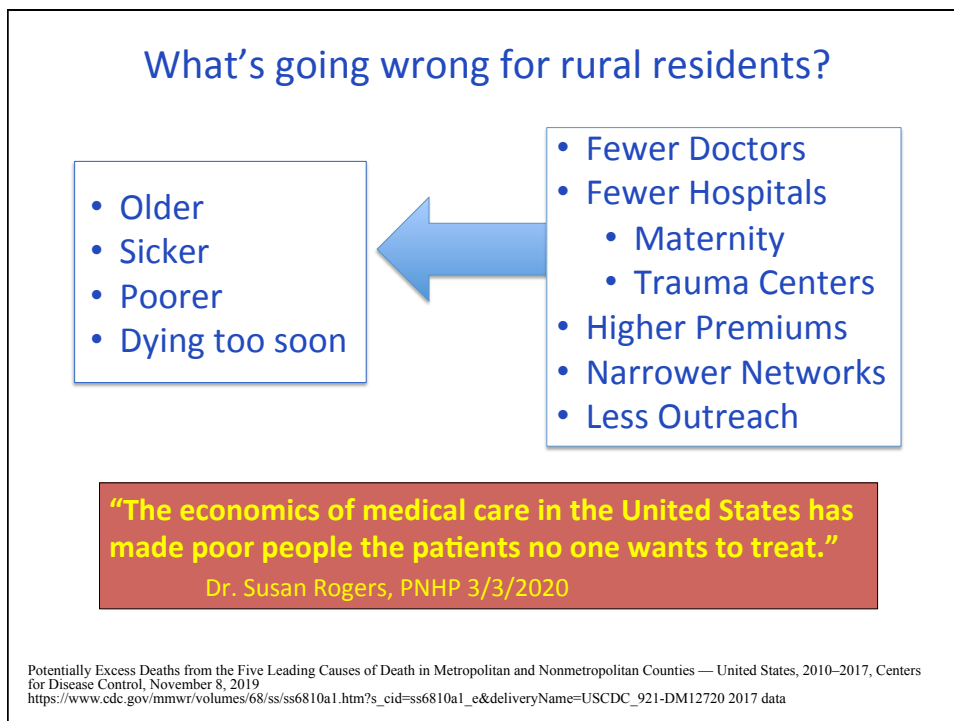
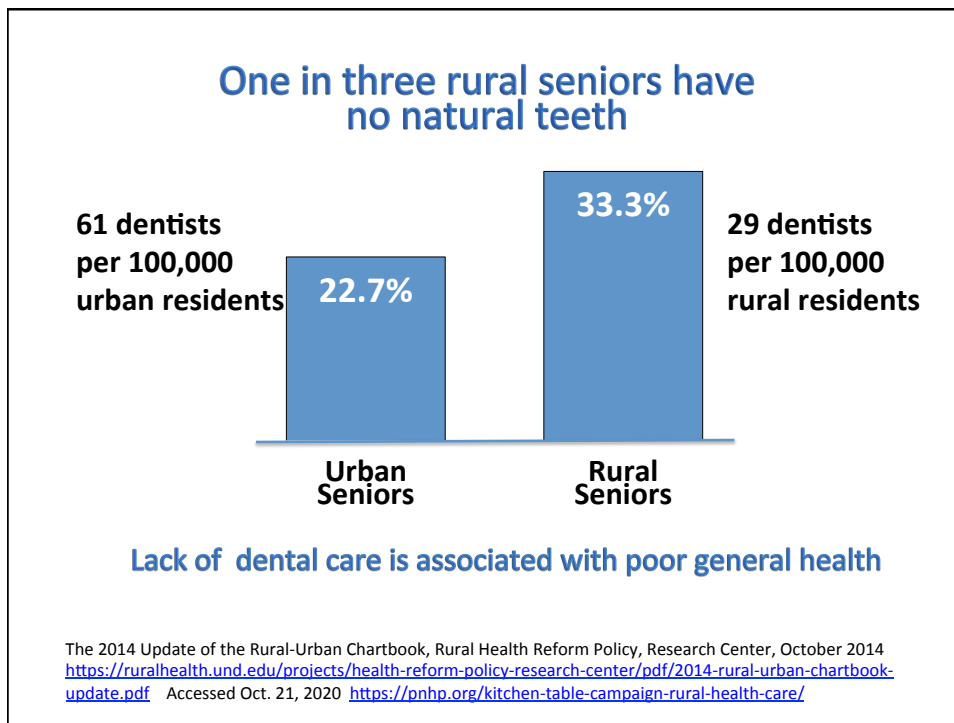


Percentage of counties categorized as 'older-age counties' (20% of population is age 65+) by metropolitan status, 2014-2018

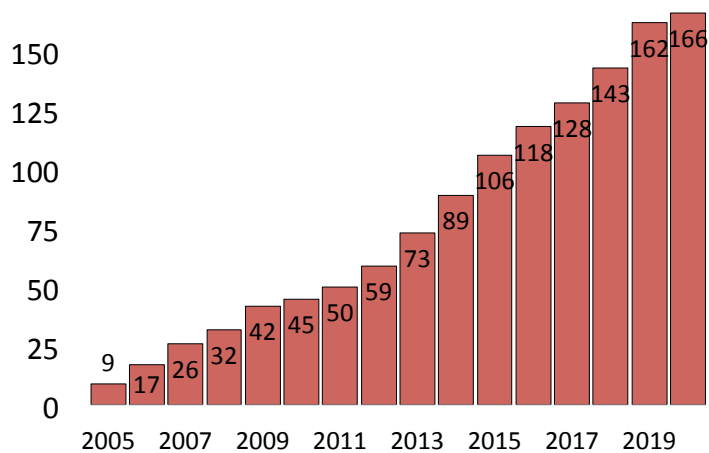
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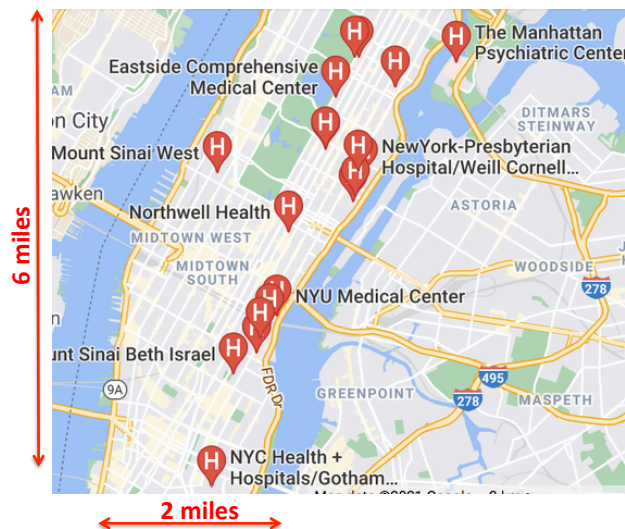


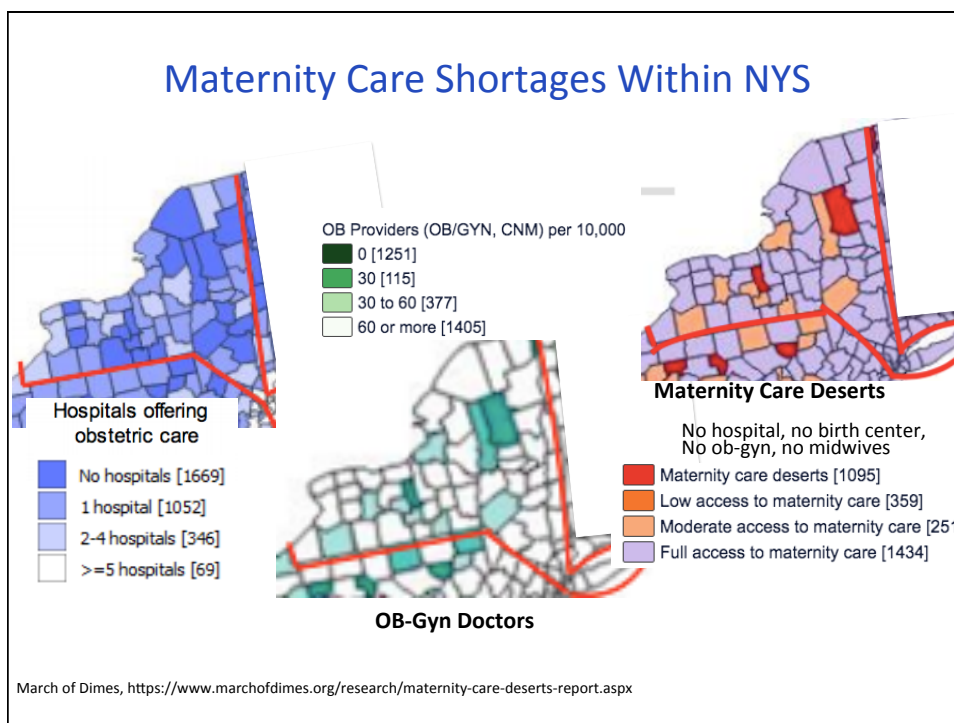
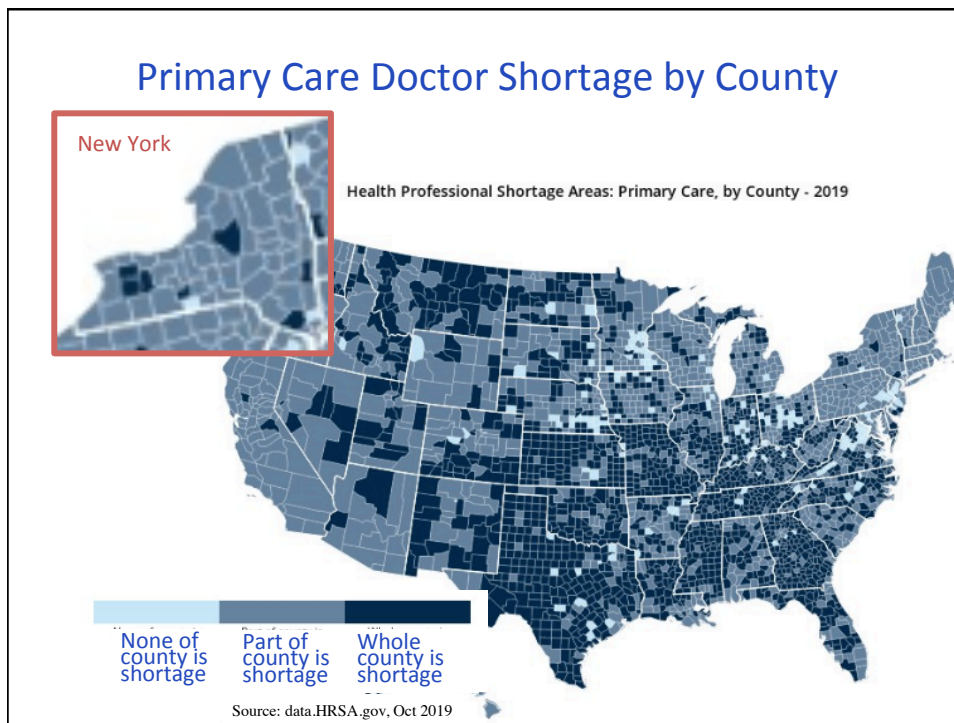
Between 2005 and 2020, 166 rural hospitals have closed

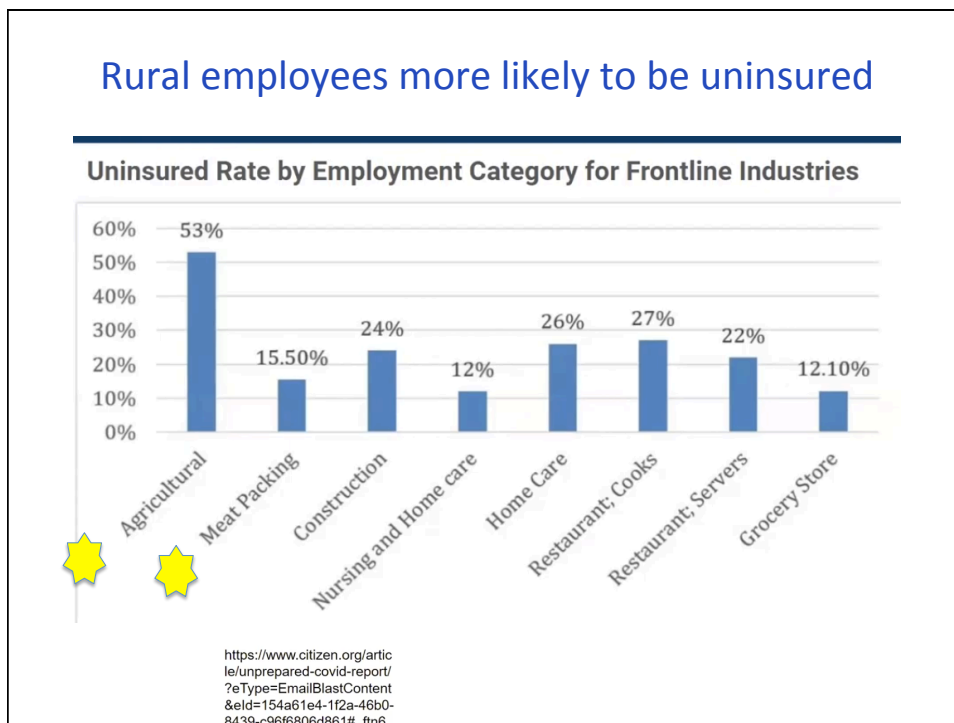
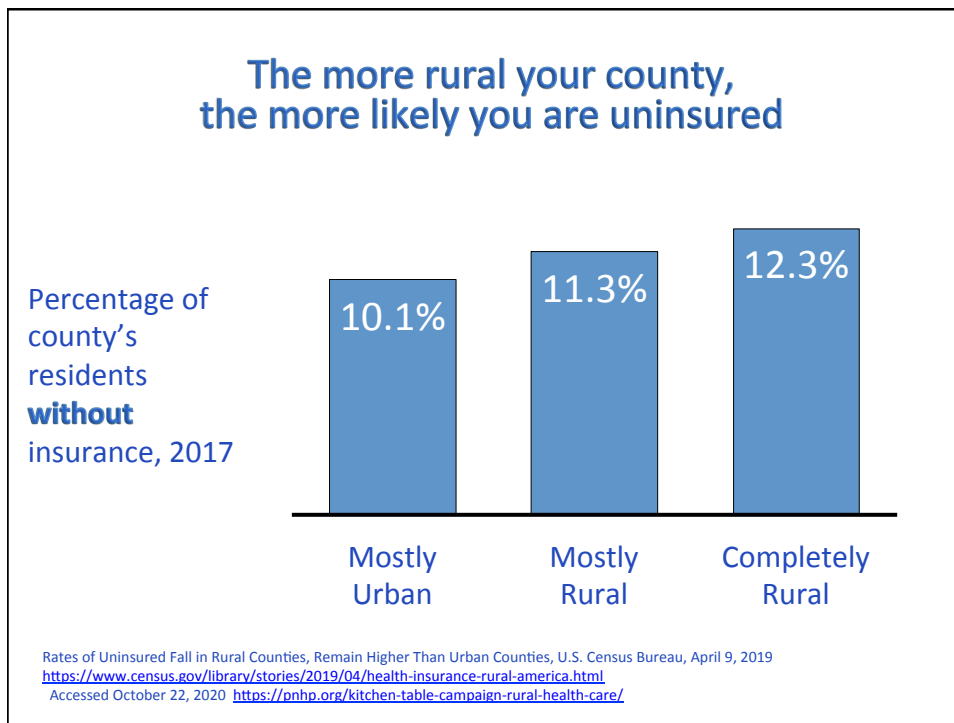


<https://www.shepscenter.unc.edu/programs-projects/rural-health/rural-hospital-closures/>
 Accessed October 21, 2020 <https://pnhp.org/kitchen-table-campaign-rural-health-care/>

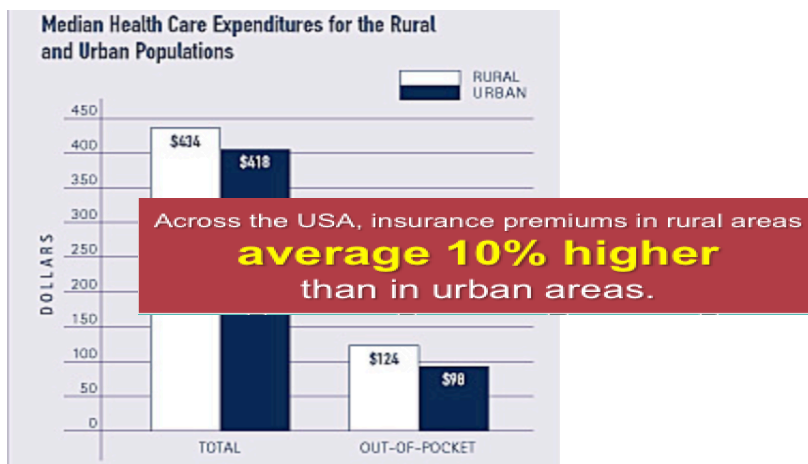
15 Manhattan hospitals: after recent closings, mergers, and service reductions





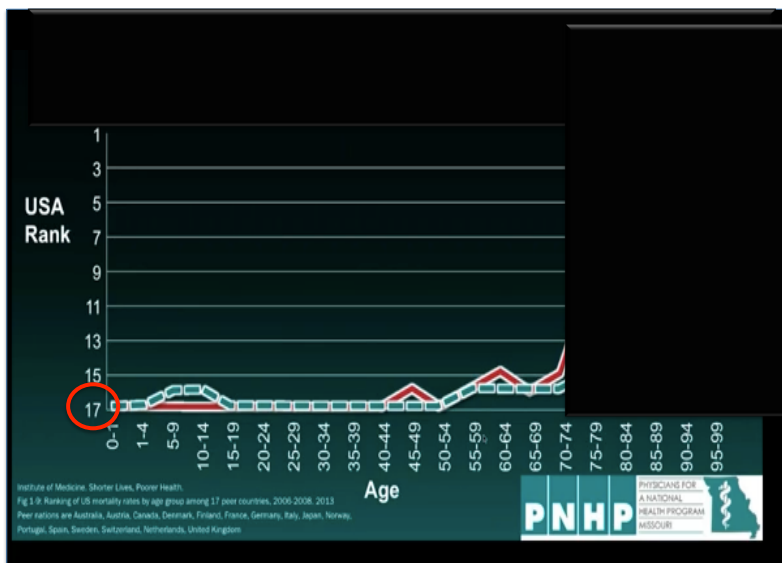


Fewer rural residents, fewer providers, fewer services means higher premiums



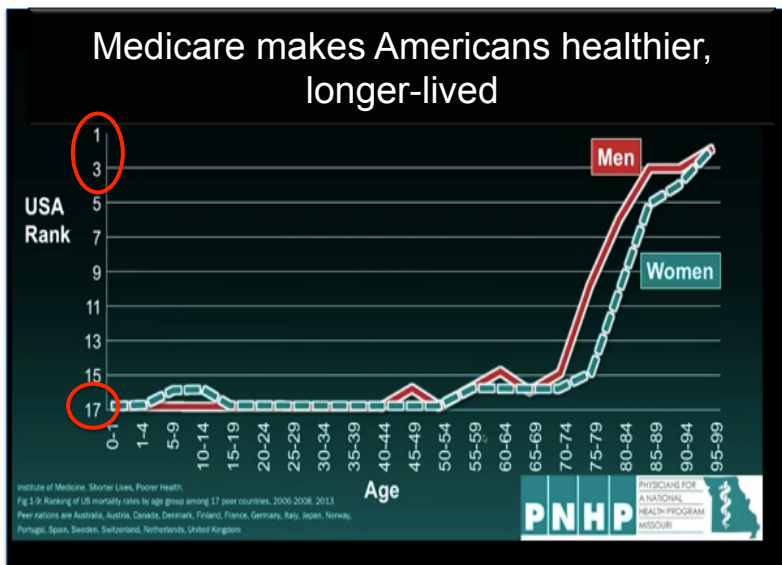
SOURCE: Center on an Aging Society analysis of data from the 7998 Medical Expenditure Panel Survey.
<https://www.rwjf.org/en/library/research/2018/11/are-marketplace-premiums-higher-in-rural-than-in-urban-areas.html>

At birth, American life expectancy ranks 17th out of 17 OECD nations — and then ...



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After five years on Medicare, Americans begin living longer, by age 85 as long as the best OEDC



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What must be done?

Protect Rural Lives

Much of the difference in rural/urban life expectancy is preventable.

Protect Rural Hospitals

Predictable, reliable funding based on community health needs.

Protect Rural Communities

Hospitals are often a rural community's largest employer.

PNHP PHYSICIANS FOR A NATIONAL HEALTH PROGRAM

Dr. Bob Devereux, Rural Health Care, March 17, 2020, PNHP YouTube Channel

What is required to achieve healthcare equity
for rural New York?

- ✓ Affordable access — regardless of wealth
- ✓ Available providers — state-wide
- ✓ “Standard of Care”— regardless of wealth

Which require

- ✓ Removing profits from healthcare funding—
healthcare is not a market
- ✓ Regarding healthcare as a human right or,
at least, a civic good
- ✓ Ensuring the health/well-being of both providers and
patients in rural areas

The NYS League supports the **New York Health Act**
A-6058 (Gottfried) / S-5474 (Rivera)

- Universal
- Comprehensive
- Affordable
- High-quality
- Fiscally responsible,
- **Equitable for all New Yorkers**

Learn more at

LWVNY.org ... Our Work ... Healthcare

NYHCampaign.org

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e0bthHQ7uAQ>

Thank you!