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College of Public Health

Rural Health Equity in HHS Region 7

Region 7 Health Equity Learning Collaborative Meeting

July 25, 2024

Factors Affecting Health Equity



Social Determinants of Health



Social and Community Context



Healthcare Access and Use



Neighborhood and Physical Environment



Workplace Conditions



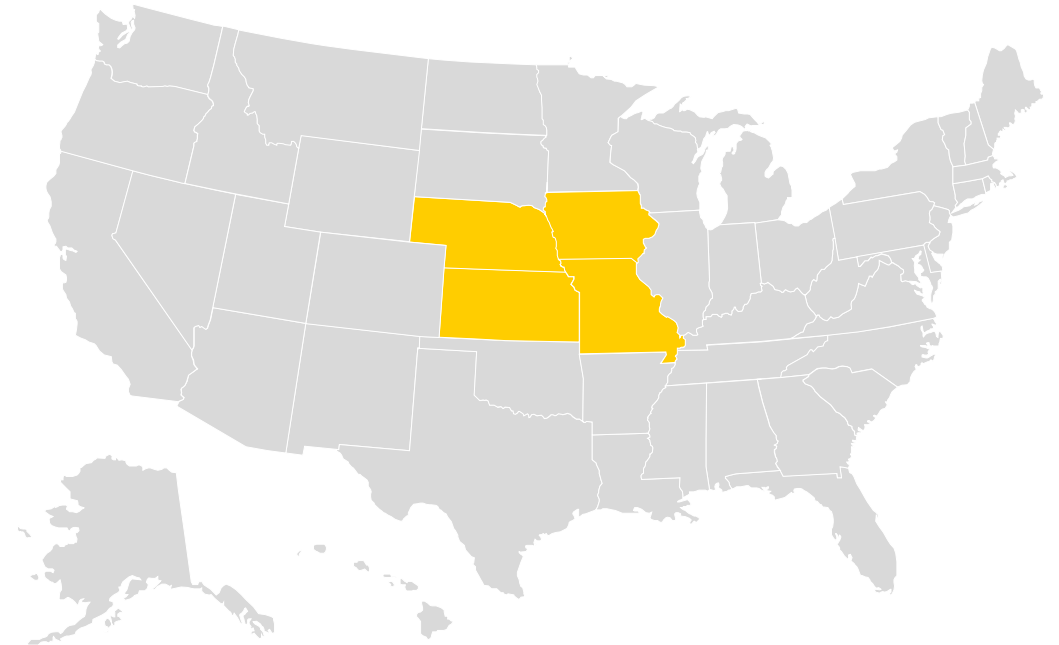
Education



Income and Wealth Gaps

HHS Region 7

- 4.3 million people live in non-metropolitan counties in Region 7
 - Ranging from 24.5% of Missourians to 38.6% of Iowans
- Rural per capita income tends to be a little bit higher in region 7, except for in Missouri
 - \$43,803 compared to \$49,895, nationally
 - All other HHS states rural per capita income is >\$51K
- Growth in the Hispanic population between 2000 and 2020
 - 97% in Kansas to 158% in Iowa (8-12% population growth overall during that time)

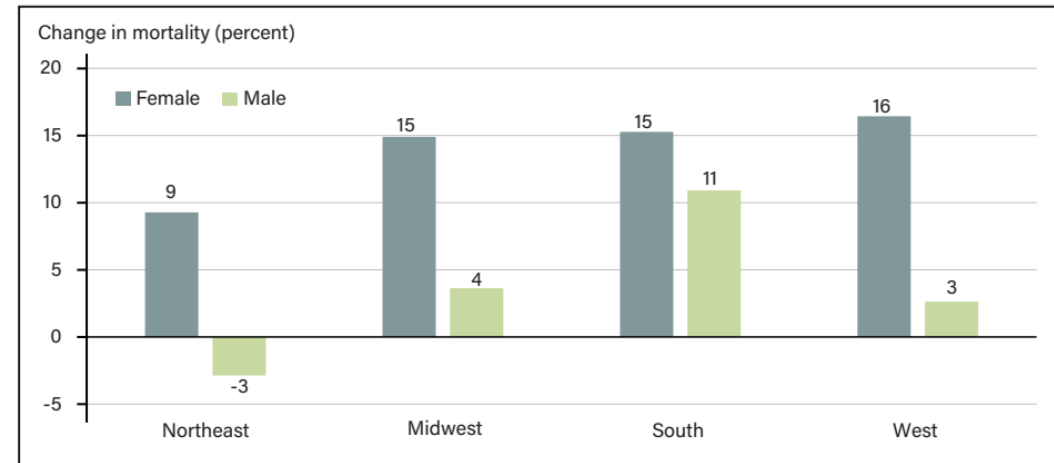


Source: RHIHub; UCLA

HHS Region 7

- Heavily agricultural
- Relatively recent expansions of Medicaid in Nebraska and Missouri
 - Recent expansions of Medicaid postpartum coverage
- Increases in rural-urban disparities in natural cause mortality among working age adults

Nonmetro change in age-adjusted, prime working-age natural-cause mortality rates by sex and region, 1999-2001 to 2017-2019



Note: Natural-cause mortality rates are deaths from disease per 100,000 residents. Prime working-age is 25-54 years of age. Regions are defined at the State-level by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. The Northeast includes Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania, and Vermont. The Midwest includes Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. The South includes Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia. The West includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Wide-ranging Online Data for Epidemiologic Research (WONDER).

COVID-19 Health Equity Funding in Iowa

- Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities
 - CDC → Iowa HHS → IRHA → “mini grant” program
- Health Determinants Rural Learning Collaborative
 - [City of Malvern](#) (built environment and food insecurity)
 - [Healthy Fayette County](#) (food insecurity, prevention, and mental health)
 - [Healthy Henry County](#) (brain health and food insecurity)
 - [Iowa Specialty Hospital](#) (food insecurity)

Addressing housing needs and community vitality in rural Iowa

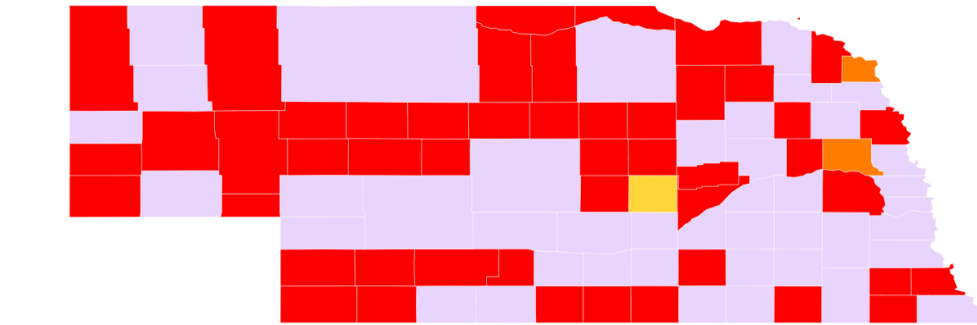
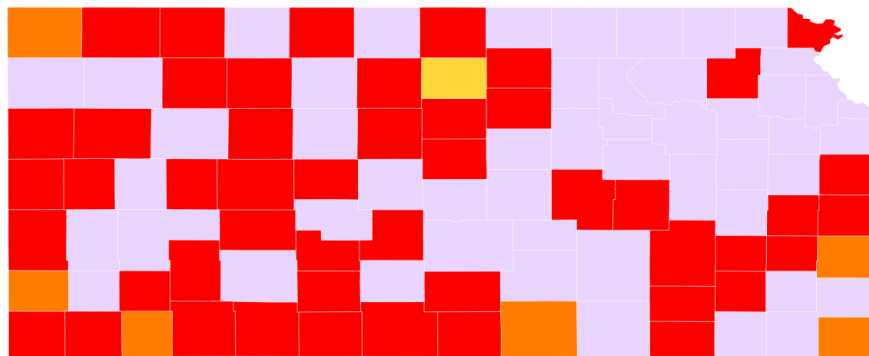
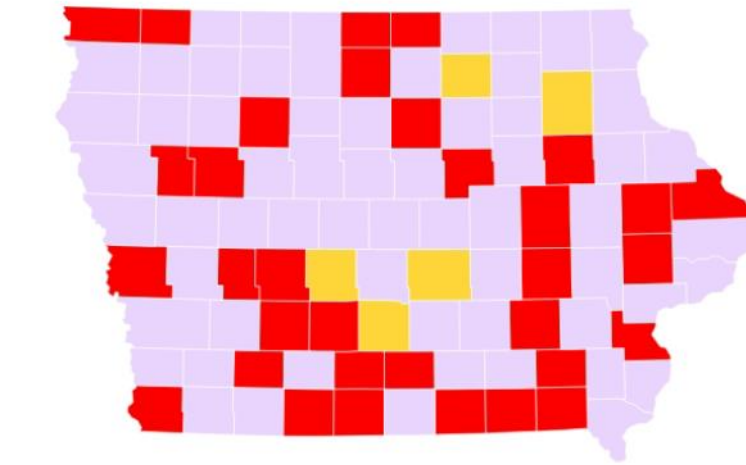
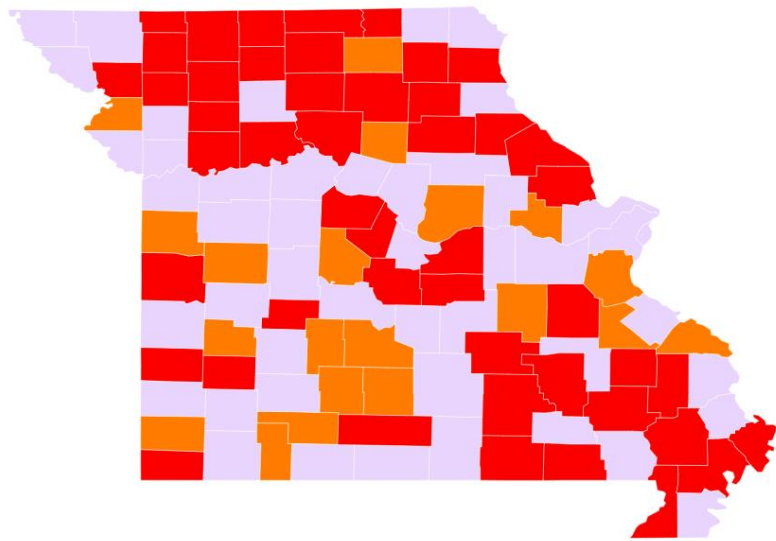
- Ottumwa Regional Legacy Foundation
 - Goal to build 500 new housing units by 2030
- Iowa Rural Vitality Coalition
 - Coalition includes Wellmark, Ulowa, ISU, Iowa Rural Development Council, Empower Rural Iowa Initiative
 - Pilot efforts in two rural communities

Farmworker and Immigrant Health

- Proteus
 - Serves farmworkers and their families in Iowa, Nebraska, and Indiana
 - Programs
 - National Farmworker Job Program
 - Agricultural Health Program
 - Brick and Mortar and Mobile Health Clinics through the HRSA FQHC Program
 - Health and Safety Training Program
 - Food Security Program
 - Farmworker Youth Leadership Program
 - Financial Empowerment for Farm and Meat Processing Workers



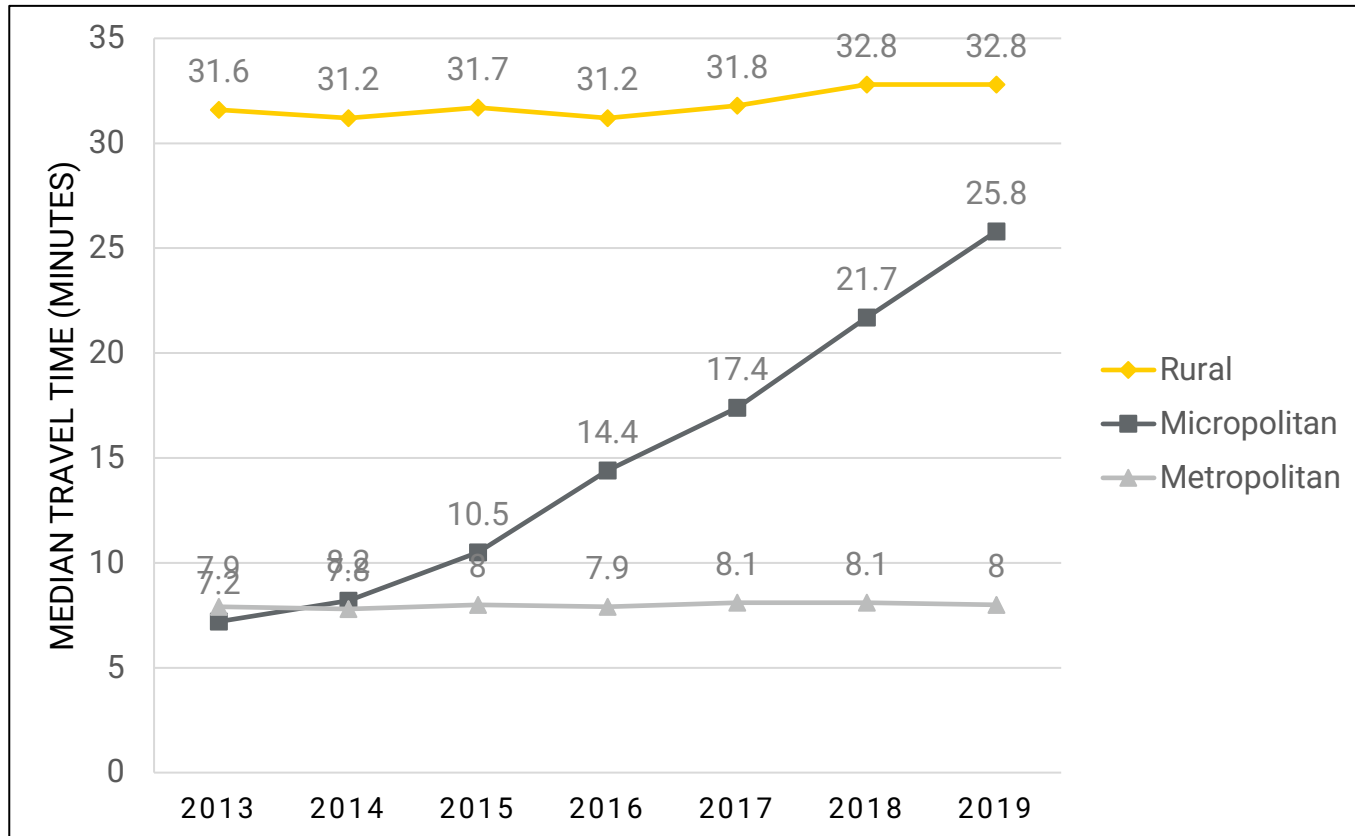
Access to Healthcare Services-Maternal Health



- Maternity care desert**
- Low access**
- Moderate access**
- Full access**

Source: [March of Dimes](#)

Access to Healthcare Settings-Maternal Health-Iowa



For those on Medicaid in 2019, median travel time:

- Rural-35.0 minutes
- Micropolitan-22.0 minutes
- Metropolitan-6.6 minutes

Source: [Carrel, 2023; Journal of Rural Health](#)

Access to Healthcare Settings-Maternal Health-Iowa

- HRSA Funded Nurse-Midwifery Education Program at UIHC
- Family Medicine Obstetric Fellowships
 - Wayne County Hospital ([Rural Expanded Surgical Skills Track](#))
 - Provides training in in c-section, D&C, etc. with the goal of supporting those who will ultimately practice in a Critical Access Hospital
 - Broadland Birthing Center

Opportunities

- Address food insecurity, housing, and other SDOH concerns in rural communities
- Address unique workforce safety needs for agricultural workers
- Improve access to maternal health services

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Questions?

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