

Improving Rural Health



Why Is Focusing on Rural Health Essential?

- People in rural communities often enjoy the benefit of long-standing social networks, but tend to be older, sicker, and poorer than in urban areas, without ready access to high-quality, patient-centered, coordinated care and support.
- Rural communities represent 15% of America's population and 23% of older adults, yet fewer than 10% of physicians practice here.
- There are more people in poverty in rural communities. The 20% of rural residents who are people of color or American Indians/Alaskan Natives experience some of the gravest disparities.
- Geographic isolation, socioeconomic status, health risk behaviors, and limited job opportunities contribute to health disparities in rural areas.

Why Stratis Health?

- The Stratis Health team is comprised of thought leaders and rural health quality improvement experts who, for more than 20 years, have been leading transformation of the rural health delivery system to improve the quality and value of care, including developing appropriate quality measures.
- We move rural health care organizations toward value-based care by facilitating care coordination, advancing health information exchange, fostering services for serious illness care, and improving patient safety.
- We offer technical assistance and resources to meet the needs of rural clinicians, health care organizations, and communities.
- Stratis Health rural health care experts are nationally recognized for their broad and deep experience in rural health improvement methods, implementation, and policy.

Contact Karla Weng to learn more: kweng@stratishealth.org

Explore the Stratis Health Transformation Framework at stratishealth.org

Stratis Health's Impact

- More than **45** rural communities in 6 states have increased access to community-based palliative care services that decrease unnecessary care and increase quality of life and patient satisfaction.
- Nearly **150,000** rural seniors have benefitted from efforts to improve care coordination and reduce unnecessary hospital readmissions.
- **1,350** critical access hospitals have increased quality data reporting and improved care.

Resources

- [Delivering Rural Health Value](#)
- [Strengthening Minnesota's Rural Critical Access Hospitals](#)
- [Understanding and facilitating Rural Health Transformation](#)
- [Rural Community-based Palliative Care](#)



Stratis Health is a nonprofit organization that leads collaboration and innovation in health care quality and safety, and serves as a trusted expert in facilitating improvement for people and communities.

www.stratishealth.org

twitter.com/StratisHealth

linkedin.com/company/StratisHealth

Stratis Health 2901 Metro Drive,
Suite 400, Bloomington, MN 55425
Phone 952-896-5186