



**Department  
of Health**

# **From Roots to Horizons: The Journey of Rural Health in New York State**

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# Presentation Outline

## Roots

- Why the Focus?
- What is Rural

# Presentation Outline

- **Trees**
  - Rural Health Programs
  - Rural Provider Landscape
  - Workforce Programs

# Presentation Outline

## Horizons

- Moving Forward

## Questions

# Roots

# Why the Focus on Rural Health

- **Federal and State Response to hospital closures in rural communities in the mid 1980's**
- **Initial policy formulation in New York was a result of the Legislative Commission on Rural Resources and the State Hospital Review and Planning Council Rural Health Workgroup**

# Why the Focus on Rural Health

- **Legislation created the Office of Rural Health, the Rural Health Council, and defined rural area**
- **Rural Health Network Demonstration Program and Rural Health Care Diversification Program created to begin funding grants for rural communities**
- **Consistent with the Federal response, which included the Office of Rural Health Policy, HRSA and funding for State Offices of Rural Health**

# Why the Focus on Rural Health

- **“There is a necessity to address different approaches to rural health care delivery in the state. These approaches need to support diverse community and individual needs including unique rural conditions such as low population density, a large proportion of elderly, geographic isolation, inadequate transportation, absence of economies of scale, as well as fluctuating and limited service demands.”**
- **“Rural health care providers would greatly benefit if there were a single office within the department which would coordinate the administration and flow of information on rural health programs by promoting innovative and improved approaches to rural health care delivery.”**



# What is Rural?

- **State Definition:** county with a population of two hundred thousand persons or less, or a town with a population density of one hundred fifty persons or less per square mile. 44 Counties, 10 Counties with Rural Towns
- **Federal (Office of Rural Health Policy) Definition: Non-MSAs + RUCAs**
  - Developed with the Economic Research Service, USDA: Rural-Urban Community Area Codes (RUCAs) are census-tract based and consider urbanization, population density, commuting patterns
- **Am I Rural? Tool:** <https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/am-i-rural>

# Roots

Looking back, what change in healthcare has made the largest impact in your communities?

# Trees

# Mission, Vision and Values



## Mission

To protect and promote health and well-being for all, building on a foundation of health equity.

## Vision

New York is a healthy community of thriving individual and families.

## Values

Public Good • Integrity • Innovation • Collaboration • Excellence • Respect • Inclusion

## Health

Health is a state of optimal physical, mental and social well-being.

## Statement on Health Equity

Health equity is foundational to everything we do to help all people achieve optimal physical, mental and social well-being. Everyone at the Department of Health shares responsibility for achieving health equity and eliminating health disparities.

# Equality doesn't mean Equity



# Charles D. Cook Office of Rural Health

- Office of Primary Care and Health Systems Management
  - Center for Health Care Policy and Resource Development
    - Office of Health Care Workforce Innovation, Division of Workforce Transformation, Bureau of Policy and Standards
- Created in 1991
- Administer \$15 million in state and federal funding
- 1 of 50 State Offices of Rural Health

# Rural Health Landscape

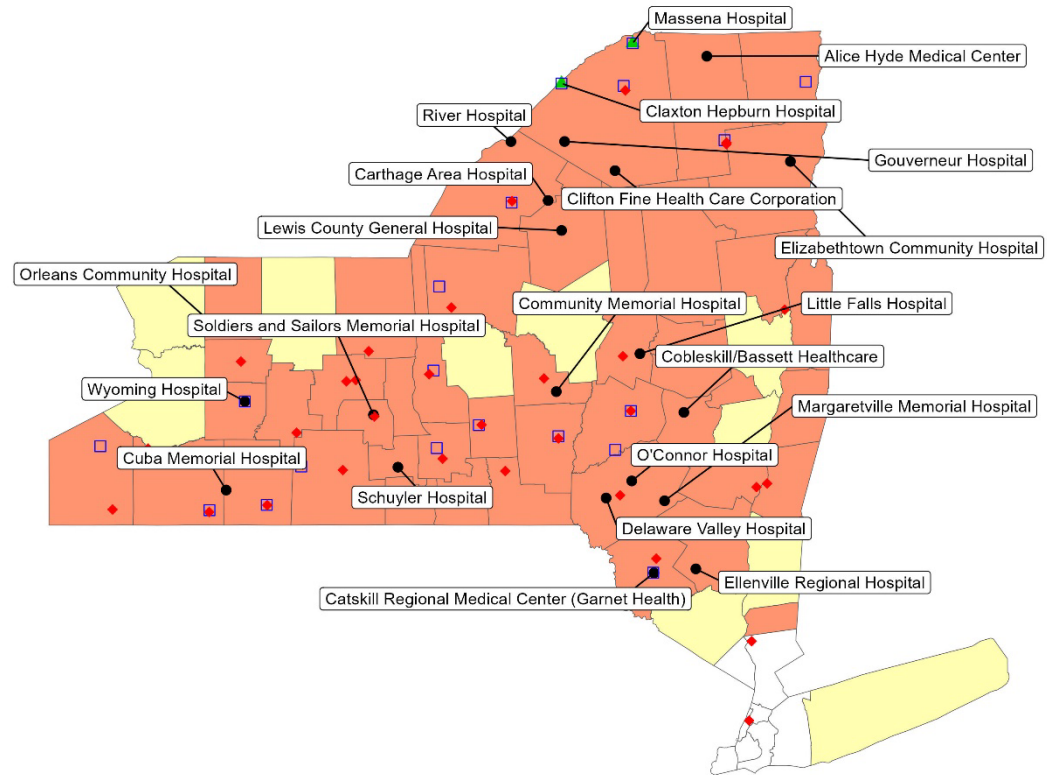
- **43 State Defined Rural Hospitals**
  - **21 Critical Access Hospitals, 1 in process**
  - **17 Sole Community Hospitals**
  
- **31 Rural Health Networks**

# Rural Health Landscape

- **Federally Qualified Health Centers, 107 Sites**
- **53 Rural Health Clinics**
- **72 Primary Care, 82, Mental Health, and 54 Dental Health HPSAs**
- **No rural counties without at least 1 HPSA**



# Rural New York (state defined)



# Rural Health Council

- Provide advice to the Commissioner of Health on matters impacting the health of communities located in rural areas.
- Established in 1988, legislation revised in 2018
- 21 members appointed by the Governor

# Current ORH Programming

## State

- Rural Health Network Development Program
- Rural Health Care Access Development Program

## Federal

- Rural Hospital Flexibility Program
- Small Hospital Improvement Program

# Workforce Challenges

- How are we different than other states?  
Are we playing soccer uphill?
- 49 states allow a medical assistant to administer a vaccine
- How we look at Physician Assistants
- How we look at Anesthesia services
- How we approach oral health: dental hygienists, dental therapists
- How we approach license compacts
- Medication aids in nursing homes
- Malpractice in New York...

## Workforce Programming

- **Doctors Across New York**
- **Nurses Across New York**
- **Primary Care Service Corps**
- **Diversity in Medicine**
- **Area Health Education Center**

## Workforce Programming – New Initiatives

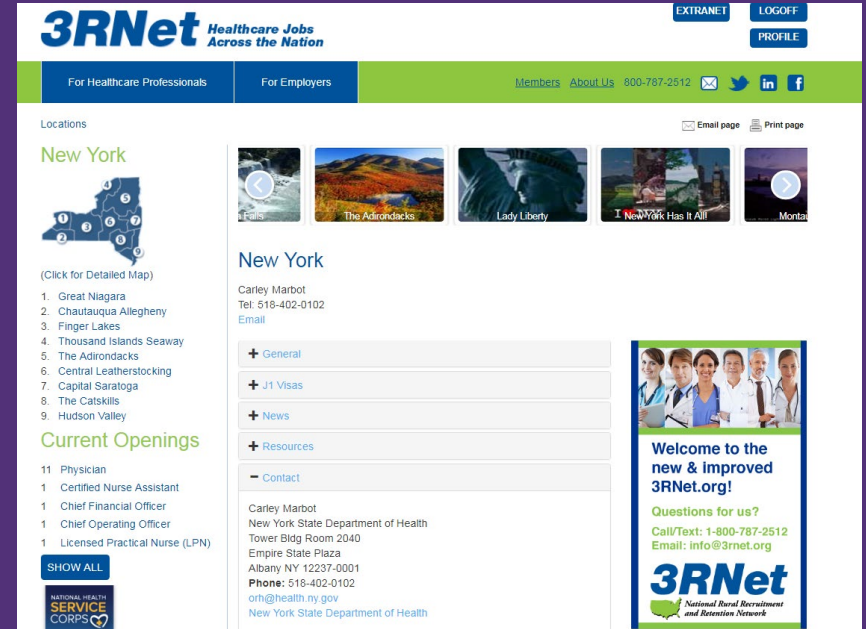
- Increasing Training Capacity
- Healthcare Education and Life-Skills Program (HELP)
- Health Workforce Connects

## Workforce Programming – Outside of DOH

- **Healthcare Workers for Our Future**
- **Nurses for Our Future**
- **SUNY Pre-Med Opportunity Program**

# 3RNet

- State contact for 3RNet, a recruitment and retention tool that helps health professionals find practice opportunities in rural areas
- By registering with 3RNet, rural facilities can post available job opportunities at no cost and candidates can register and view any active job opportunities in New York
- 3RNet provides access to resources related to community-based recruitment and retention.



**3RNet** Healthcare Jobs Across the Nation

LOGOFF PROFILE

For Healthcare Professionals For Employers Members About Us 800-787-2512

Locations Email page Print page

**New York**

(Click for Detailed Map)

1. Great Niagara
2. Chautauque Allegheny
3. Finger Lakes
4. Thousand Islands Seaway
5. The Adirondacks
6. Central Leatherstocking
7. Capital Saratoga
8. The Catskills
9. Hudson Valley

**Current Openings**

- 11 Physician
- 1 Certified Nurse Assistant
- 1 Chief Financial Officer
- 1 Chief Operating Officer
- 1 Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)

[SHOW ALL](#)

**New York**

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New York State Department of Health

**Welcome to the new & improved 3RNet.org!**

Questions for us?  
Call/Text: 1-800-787-2512  
Email: [info@3rnet.org](mailto:info@3rnet.org)

**3RNet**  
National Rural Recruitment and Retention Network

<https://www.3rnet.org/>



# ORH Role in 3RNet

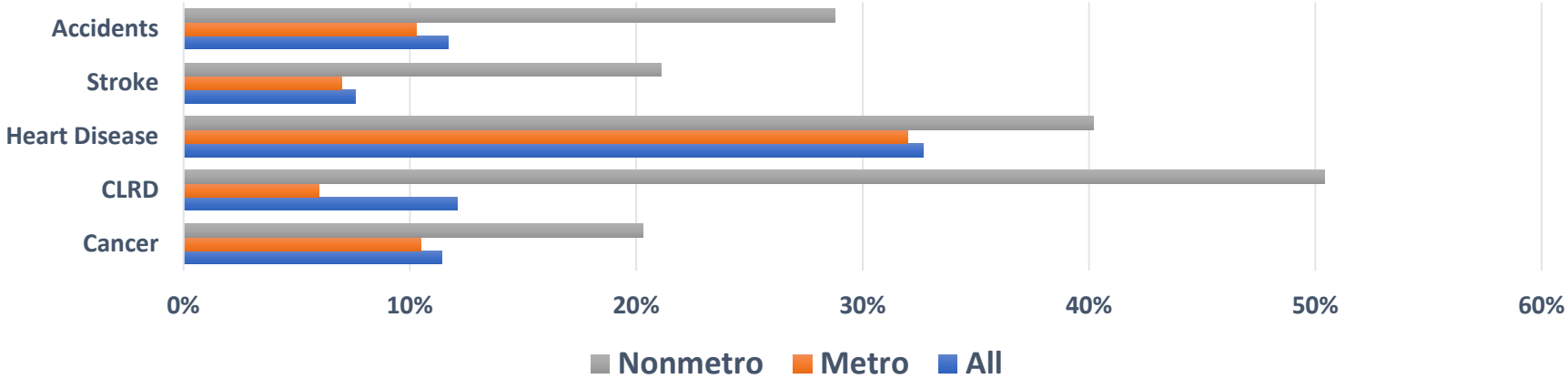
- **Technical Assistance:** Help with facility registration on 3RNet, with job postings, and more.
- **Facility and Opportunity Approval:** Review any new facility registrations or job postings.
- **Candidate Referrals:** Access and share information on any active candidates that have selected New York as a State of Interest.

The screenshot displays the 3RNet website interface. At the top, the logo reads "3RNet Healthcare Jobs Across the Nation". A navigation bar includes links for Candidates, Facilities, Opportunities, Locations, Resources, Reports, and Help. Below the navigation, there are buttons for "Add a Candidate" and "Search Candidates". The main content area is titled "Your Saved Searches" and contains a paragraph of instructions: "Below you will find a list of your saved searches. Simply click the name of a saved search to have the default values populated to the right. After selecting a saved search you may modify any query parameters and press the 'Search' button to execute the search. You may also click 'Delete' next to any of your saved searches to remove them from this listing." To the right of the text is a list of filter categories, each with a dropdown menu:

- Profession Sought: Any Profession
- Speciality Sought: Any Speciality
- Candidate Status: Active
- NHSC Scholar: Not Applicable
- Residency Completed: Any Year
- Fellowship Completed: Any Year
- Board Status: All
- Contacted?: Not Applicable
- Placed: No
- Loan Repayment: All
- Interested in OB: Not Applicable
- Language Spoken: Any
- Visa Status: Any
- Professional Status: Any
- Licensed In: Any
- Interested In:  Alabama,  Alaska,  Arizona

# New York State Rural – Urban Mortality Gap

Potentially Excess Deaths from the Five Leading Causes of Death in Nonmetropolitan and Metropolitan Areas in New York State



# Rural – Urban Mortality Gap

**USDA** Economic Research Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Economic  
Research  
Service  
Economic  
Information  
Bulletin  
Number 265  
March 2024

## The Nature of the Rural-Urban Mortality Gap

Kelsey L. Thomas, Elizabeth A. Dobis, and  
David A. McGranahan



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## Rural – Urban Mortality Gap

- “Comparing natural-cause mortality (NCM) rates, defined as disease-related deaths per 100,000 residents, between 1999 and 2019 have indicated an increasing mortality gap between rural and urban areas in the United States.”
- “The difference between age-adjusted NCM rates for the overall population in rural and urban areas grew from being 6 percent higher in rural areas than urban areas in 1999 to 20 percent higher in rural areas than urban areas in 2019.”

# Trees

What are you seeing that is impacting the people in your communities?

# Horizon

# Horizon

What are you seeing that is impacting the people in your communities?

## Looking Towards the Horizon

- **Rural Health Technical Assistance and Information Series**
- **Grant Writing Institute**
- **ConnectAll**
- **Workforce Summit**



## Looking Towards the Horizon

- **Collaboration, Collaboration, Collaboration**
- **Leadership Development**
- **New Models of Care to Meet Specific Community Need**

# Definition of Health

"Health is a state of optimal physical, mental and social well-being."

# Questions?

# Thank You!

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