



The Texas Real Estate Advocacy & Defense (TREAD) Coalition

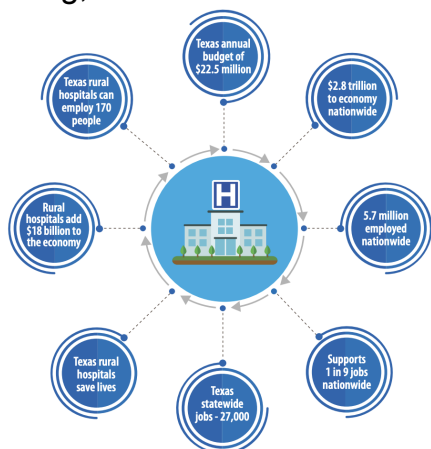
Rural Health & Telemedicine

RURAL HEALTH IN TEXAS

In the last decade, access to healthcare in rural areas has been rapidly declining. Texas leads the nation in rural hospital closures, and when hospitals close it not only leaves residents without health care but results in the slow decay of local communities. Nationally, rural communities have higher rates of disease, yet access to healthcare is lower than non-rural communities. Every Texan should be able to access quality healthcare services regardless of location.

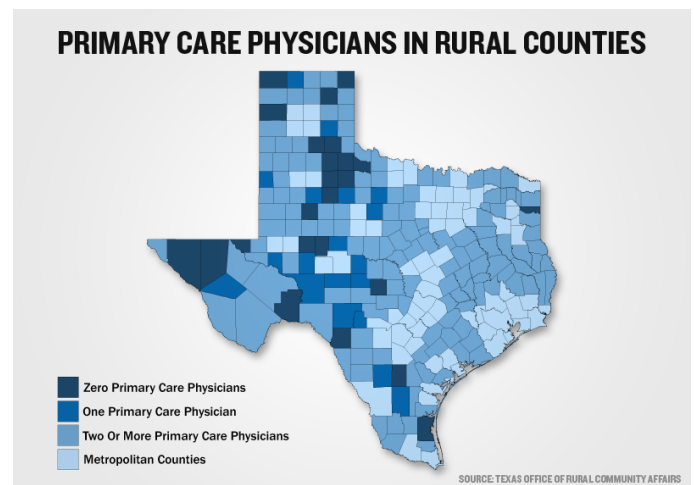
FAST FACTS ON RURAL HEALTH:

- The average age of adults in rural areas is older than non-rural areas.
- A greater percentage of our nation's veterans live in rural areas.
- Texas rural hospitals declined from 300 in the 1960s to 158 rural hospitals.
- Typically, a rural hospital closure costs 170 jobs and an annual payroll of \$22 million.
- Rural hospital closures reduce sales tax revenue to local governments, reduces enrollment in schools leading to less funding, and harms local businesses.



TELEMEDICINE IN TEXAS

Access to healthcare in rural communities has been on the decline in the last decade. Now more than ever, rural communities are looking to services like telehealth to make up for that decline. Telehealth services offer access to healthcare professionals, who are often drawn away from rural communities due to hospital closures and poor funding. Telehealth services would eliminate long drives that rural residents currently face to reach adequate healthcare, and could provide rural physicians with educational resources when completing difficult procedures. Expanding telehealth services in rural communities is needed to supply rural communities with the healthcare they need.



ONLINE OUTREACH

Visit @treadcoalition on all social media sites, our website: www.treadcoalition.org, and telephone: (512) 523-5565.