

# *"What's Going On In Rural Iowa?"*



Care Transition Workshop  
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# Today

1. National and state rural & agricultural data & facts
2. State rural health care information
3. Resources and links
4. Some nice photos of rural IA!



# Rural Iowa demographics, facts, and data

# Iowa Demographics

**Iowa (56,272 sq. miles)**

- Population - 3 million
- Rural population - 43.3%
- Age 65 or over - 17% rural (14.67% urban)
- Poverty Level - 14.5% rural (11.28% urban)
- Per capita income - \$30,011 rural (\$35,457)

Rural to Urban disparity affects access to health care.



# What is Rural?

2 common definitions: OMB and U.S. Census

- U.S. Census definition: "rural areas comprise open country and settlements with fewer than 2,500 residents. Urban areas comprise larger places and densely settled areas around them. Urban areas do not necessarily follow municipal boundaries."
  - In Iowa 82% of land mass and 43.3% of population with 20% involved in production agriculture
    - There are 92,856 farms in Iowa (3<sup>rd</sup> in the U.S),



# What is Rural?

OMB definition:

- Metropolitan areas contains a core urban area of 50,000 or more population (IA 20 counties)
- Micropolitan areas contains an urban core of at least 10,000 (but less than 50,000) population (IA 17 counties)
- Noncore are all other areas (IA 62 counties)

So-o depending on the definition, IA has either 89 or 67 "rural" counties- - -

Why does this matter to health?

# Suburbanization



Dallas County Court House

Example: Iowa is Dallas County. Between 2000 and 2010 Dallas County has a population change of 62.3% from rural to urban. The eastern section of Dallas County is well developed with businesses and high value homes. However, for residents in the western portion of the county life is much the same as it was in 1990.



# Iowa Data Sets

According to the recent U.S. Census Iowa's population is approximately 43% rural.

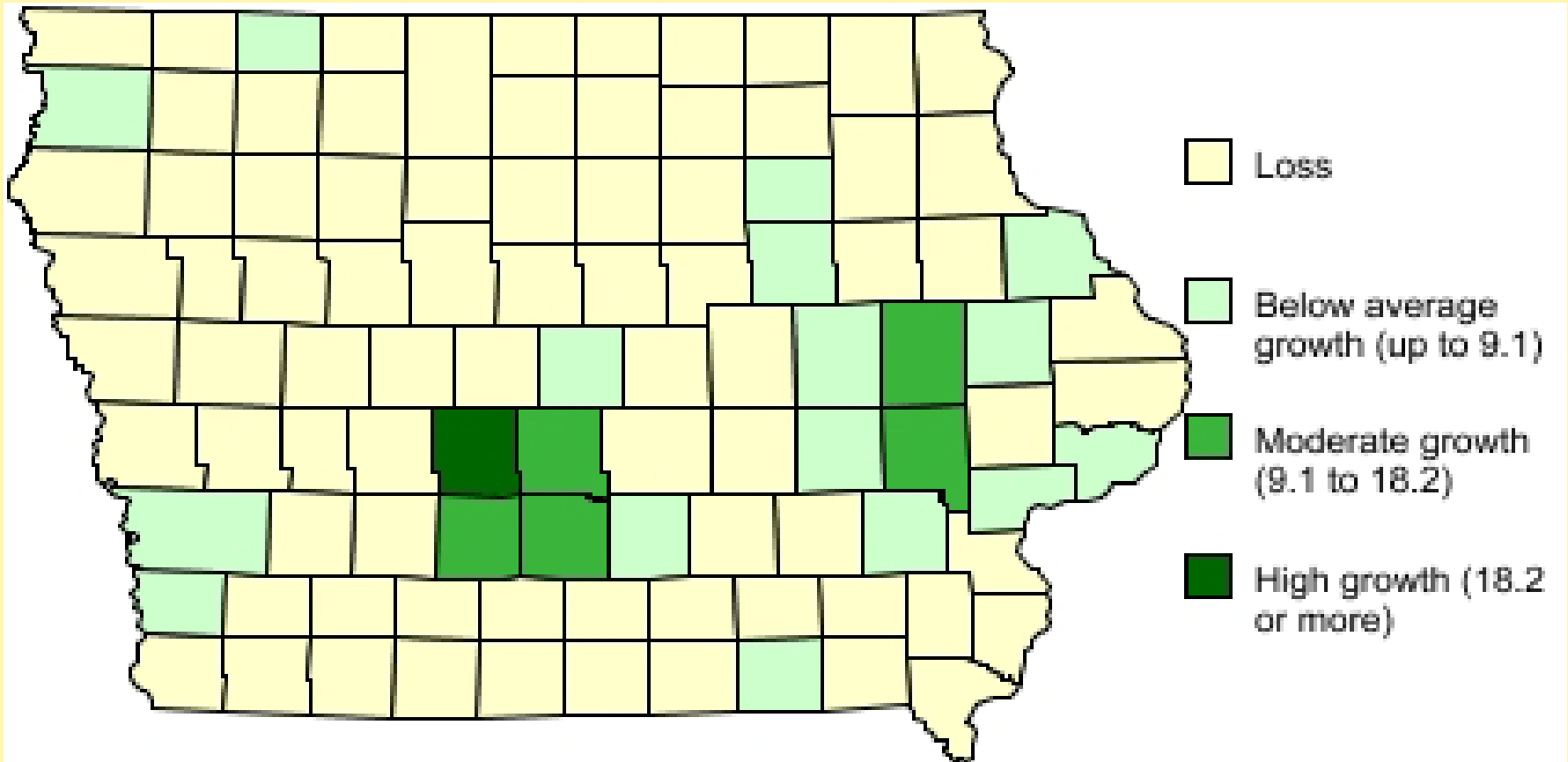
Source: USDA Economic Research Service <http://www.ers.usda.gov/StateFacts/>

| <b>Iowa Population:</b> | <b>Rural *</b> | <b>Urban *</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| <b>Year</b>             |                |                |              |
| 1980                    | 1,485,545      | 1,428,263      | 2,913,808    |
| 1990                    | 1,354,928      | 1,421,827      | 2,776,755    |
| 2000                    | 1,362,732      | 1,563,592      | 2,926,324    |
| 2009 (latest estimates) | 1,301,129      | 1,706,727      | 3,007,856    |



# Lost Population (rural)

77 counties (mostly non-core or rural), lost population between 2000 and 2009. Farmers— agricultural safety —and loss of population in rural counties are issues in rural health.



# Iowa River Bridge Swallow Small





# Iowa Certified Rural Health Clinics

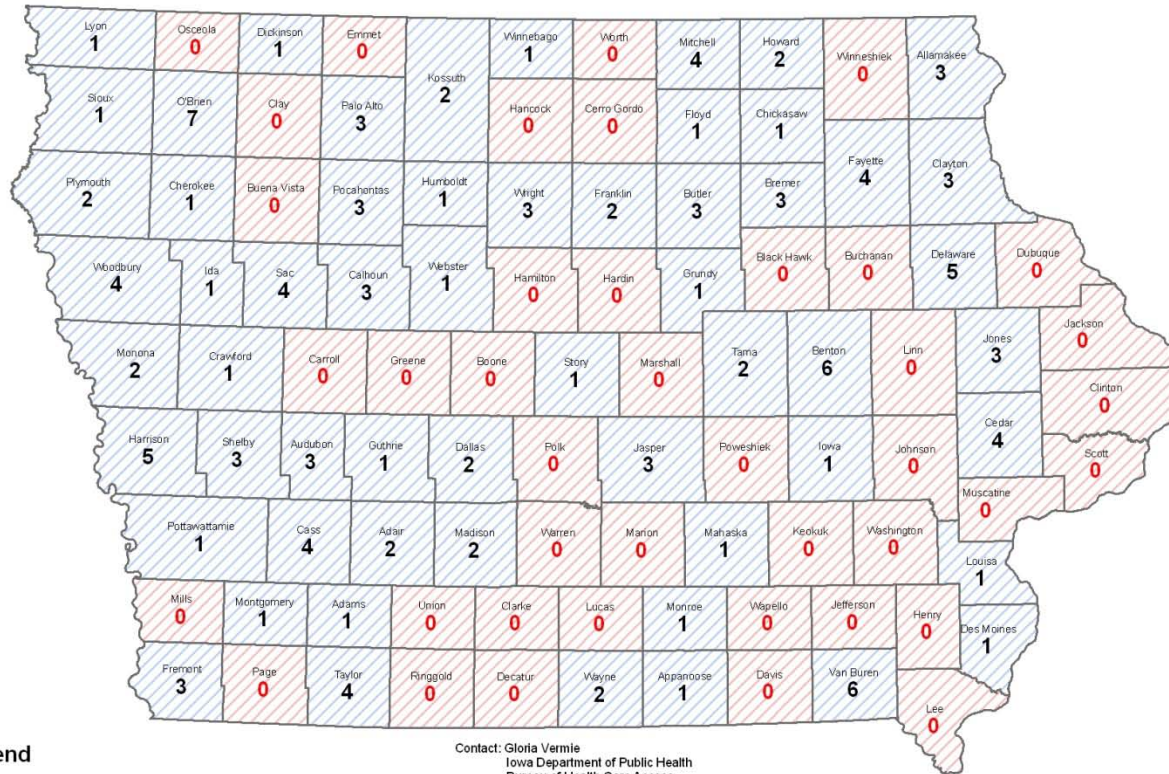
141 RHCs  
In 58  
counties.

Intended to  
serve in  
counties that  
have a health  
professional  
shortage.

78% are  
owned by  
hospitals. The  
Remaining  
22% are  
independent  
or free  
standing.

## IOWA RURAL HEALTH CLINICS\*

Number of Rural Health Clinics by County as of September 30, 2010



### Legend

#### Rural Health Clinics

- Contains Rural Health Clinics - 58
- No Rural Health Clinics - 41

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\* 139 Rural Health Clinics in Iowa  
Source: Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals  
Prepared by: Iowa Department of Public Health, State Office of Rural Health  
This map is updated quarterly



# A Rural Health Issue

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**Agriculture** is the most hazardous occupation in the U.S., with an occupational fatality rate 6 times higher than the general working population.

In Iowa, in 2009, 30 farmers lost their lives from occupational injuries. Farmers make up about 37% of all occupational fatalities in the state, even though they only comprise 7% of the total workforce. This does not include youth, child and family farm related deaths. (6 children in 2010)



# Ag Occupational Health

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**Trauma:** Fatalities caused by machinery - 50% by tractors with crushing injury, 25% vehicle

**Acute illness:** At increased risk for certain cancers due to chemicals (multiple myeloma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, prostate cancer, and brain cancer)

**Chronic illness** - Respiratory problems lead the illness conditions with 17% of grain farmers and 25% of pork producers suffering from respiratory conditions. Skin conditions, toxicity conditions, infections from livestock, hearing loss, arthritis, and behavioral health issues including psychological stress and depression are common (farmers die more frequently from suicide)



# Iowa Costs

**Each fatality costs \$442,769**

- For 30 fatalities we have experienced this would add up to \$16,364,670 annually.
- Studies have shown that a typical producer spends about \$512 annually on illnesses and injuries as a result of their work exposures. Multiplying this by our 92,000 farms, results in an estimated \$47.5 million expense.
- When combined with the expense of fatalities, Iowans experience a \$63.8 million loss in medical expenses and labor loss annually.



# Links & Resources

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- <http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash/about/welcome.html>
- [http://www.idph.state.ia.us/hpcdp/rural\\_health.asp](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/hpcdp/rural_health.asp)
  - [See the IA Rural & Agricultural Health & Safety Plan 2011](#)
- [http://www.idph.state.ia.us/hpcdp/hca\\_resources.asp](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/hpcdp/hca_resources.asp)
- <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/19000.html>

Center for Rural Health & Primary Care -  
2010 Annual Report CD available

- "Thank You" -

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