



- Rural Health Status Update
 - Background
 - Methods
 - Highlights from findings
- Care Coordination Evidence-Based Models
 - Background
 - Methods
 - Organization of the Toolkit
 - Promising Care Coordination Models
 - Examples of Rural Care Coordination Programs

2

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Examination of Trends in Rural and Urban Health: Establishing a Baseline for Health Reform

- CDC published Health United States, 2001 With Urban and Rural Health Chartbook
 - No urban/rural data update since 2001
- Purpose of this study:
 - Update of rural health status ten years later to understand trends
 Provide baseline of rural/urban differences in health status and access to care prior to ACA implementation

3

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Methods

- · Replicated analyses conducted in 2001 using most recent data available (2006-2011)
- · Used same data sources:
 - Compressed Mortality File, National Vital Statistics System Area Resource File, HRSA

4

- U.S. Census Bureau
- Applied same geographic definitions
 - Metropolitan Counties:
 Large central
 Large fringe
 Small

 - Nonmetropolitan Counties:
 With a city ≥ 10,000 population
 Without a city ≥ 10,000 population



























































































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Evidence-Based Toolkit Series

- Conducted on behalf of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (ORHP)
- A compilation of evidence-based practices and resources that can strengthen rural health programs
- New toolkits each year on different topics that target ORHP grantees, future applicants, and rural communities
- Applicable to organizations with different levels of knowledge and at different stages of implementation
- Hosted by the Rural Assistance Center on the Community Health Gateway

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Care Coordination Evidence-Based Toolkit

- The current toolkit focuses on evidence-based care coordination programs used in rural communities
- In 2003, care coordination was identified by the Institute of Medicine as a national priority area for improving the quality of health care
- Care coordination activities can help to bridge gaps in health care, improve quality, and contain costs
- Rural communities are implementing different types of care coordination programs



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 Health Homes: Allows states to create a comprehensive person-centered, coordinated system of care to Medicaid and Medicare-Medicaid eligible enrollees with chronic conditions. This strategy must be implemented at the state level.

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Promising Care Coordination Models

 Accountable Care Organizations: Groups of phycisians, hospitals, and other health care providers who come together to provide coordinated, quality care to Medicare patients

Partnerships and Network Model: Providers and health care organizations share resources and data, and exchange



Health Information Technology Model: Health care organizations use technology to facilitate information exchange and strengthen care coordination

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best practices

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Examples of Rural Care Coordination Programs

One grantee is a health department that works with six CAHs in a five-county district to serve underserved and uninsured individuals at risk for or with a diagnosis of chronic disease

- Portions of all five counties are designated HPSAs
- Unemployment, poverty, and a lack of health insurance limit access to care
- · Population over-utilizes local emergency departments
- Care coordination program activities include:
 - Improving referral rates and disease management by involving nurses and lay health workers in case management
 - Implementing an information system to strengthen communication

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Examples of Rural Care Coordination Programs

Grantee is a non-profit organization that works with a university and office of community health to improve access to primary care and social support services for uninsured individuals

- The program serves rural, isolated communities designated as HPSAs for medical, dental and mental health services
- Care coordination program activities include:
 - Care coordinators who address social service needs such as housing, medication assistance, health insurance, and transportation
 - Integration of care coordination services into the Patient Centered Medical Home model to improve communication between the patient and the treatment team

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Examples of Rural Care Coordination Programs

Grantee is a migrant health center that works with a community organization, hospital, and health department to improve access to health education for low-income, English and Spanishspeaking residents in rural communities

- Rural counties are HPSAs and MUAs
- Large migrant seasonal farm worker population
- Care coordination program activities include:
 - Integrating a community health worker into the Patient Centered Medical Home team
 - Community health worker delivers a health education curriculum to migrant farm workers and other members of the community focused on healthy eating, exercise, and stress management

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Implementation Considerations

- Identify staff to support care coordination program
- Conduct a community needs assessment
- Address the "whole person"
- · Establish a tracking system
- Develop relationships with partners
- Engage family members
- · Consider funding sources
- · Recognize liability issues
- Select performance metrics

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