

RURAL HEALTH CONNECT

Improving the Health of Rural Communities

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What's New

SAMSHA Launches Findtreatment.gov

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has launched a newly-designed website that will help connect those who are looking for substance abuse treatment with approximately 13,000 locations across the United States. Visitors can enter a ZIP Code to find nearby locations of state-licensed facilities, treatment options, payment and insurance information, and what to expect on the first call. Providers may [fill out an application to list their facility](#).

[To view the website, please click here.](#)

The Chartis Group Top-100 Critical Access Hospitals

Each year The Chartis Group releases its Top-100 for Critical Access Hospitals and Rural & Community Hospitals. We are proud to present Utah's top performers for providing comprehensive, high quality care to rural communities. For this year's Top 100 Critical Access Hospitals and Top 100 Rural & Community Hospitals, the Office of Primary Care and Rural Health is proud announce CAH Hospitals *Moab Regional Hospital, Sanpete Valley Hospital*, and Rural & Community Hospitals *Ashley Regional Medical Center, Cedar City Hospital, and Sevier Valley Hospital* for their service to their community!

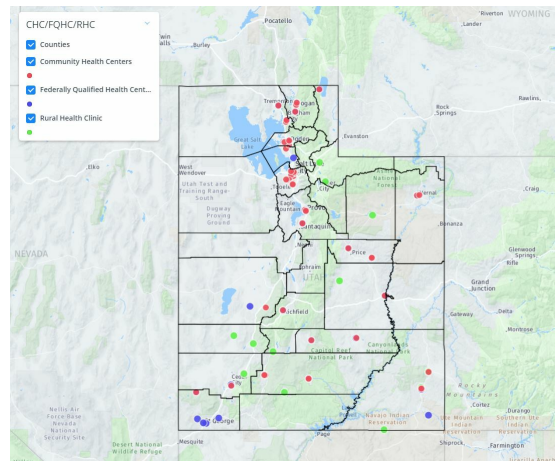
[To view the list, please follow the link here.](#)

CDC Releases Two New Reports on Rural and Urban Disparities

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released two new reports comparing health disparities between rural and urban communities throughout the U.S. In the first study, *Potentially Excess Deaths from the Five Leading Causes of Death*, researchers found the gap in the percentages of preventable deaths between rural and urban counties widened over the eight-year study period for cancer, heart disease, and chronic lower respiratory disease, remained relatively stable for stroke, and decreased for unintentional injuries. In study two, *Lung Cancer Incidence*, researchers found rates decreased in both urban and rural areas during the ten year period from 2007-2016, but the smallest decrease occurred among females living in nonmetropolitan counties.

OPCRH Office Highlight:

Each month the OPCRH team highlights a map or project in our office. This month, we're highlighting our Health Centers (CHC, RHC, FQHC) Map for the State of Utah! We are proud to partner with our local community health centers and all the great work they do.



Rural Health Association Conference



"Building Partnerships for Rural Well-Being"

The well-being of communities and individuals is complex and requires collaboration through effective partnerships that address multiple factors that affect health such as social, financial, and environmental. Rural communities have unique challenges, yet great opportunities to foster partnerships and collaborations for improved health and well-being.

Hospitals, clinics, and providers often need community resources to support their patients to improve health. Some examples include: pre-diabetes and diabetes education, opioid dependency resources, access to fresh fruits and vegetables, or physical activity and social connections. This conference will address how to connect community resources, engage the community at large, and develop effective partnerships.

April 10, 2020
St. George, Utah

[For more information and registration, please click here.](#)

OPCRH Program Updates

HEALTH SYSTEMS SUPPORT

- The OPCRH team is establishing the *Utah Rural Veteran Coalition (URVC)* to collaborate on care coordination and share resources for Utah's rural veterans. If you would like more information on the URVC, please email opcrh@utah.gov.
- **Save the Date: April 9, 2020.** OPCRH is sponsoring a workshop for **Rural Health Clinics** and will cover survey preparedness,

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- We are still accepting applications for the Rural Physician Loan Repayment Program. For more information, please click [here](#).
- The **auto-HPSA update** is complete and the portal for all auto-HPSA points of contact is live. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact **Holli Mills** hmills@utah.gov.

billing, and coding. This is in conjunction with the RHAU conference on April 10 in St. George, Utah.

- **Save the Date: *June 11-12, 2020*** the OPCRH is hosting our annual **FLEX Summit** at Ruby's Inn in Bryce Canyon, UT.

Statewide Announcements

Rise of Urgent Care and Telehealth

The Utah Department of Health has released a report analyzing the increasing utilization and need of telehealth as a tool to reduce the rising cost of health care. The report discusses reducing the cost by limiting low-value or unnecessary care, and the leading causes of avoidable high medical cost in unnecessary emergency visits.

[To view the report, please follow the link here.](#)

Enrollment for the Health Insurance Marketplace Closes December 15, 2019

The six-week period during which consumers may enroll in a health insurance plan using the Federal Health Insurance Marketplace began Friday, November 1 and ends on Sunday, December 15. Those without an employer-based plan may visit Healthcare.gov and CuidadodeSalud.gov to shop for plans that will begin coverage on January 1, 2020. Some consumers may qualify for [Medicaid coverage](#) or a lower cost Marketplace plan depending on their state of residence and household size.

Utah Marketplace Updates:

Beginning January 1, 2020, Utah's Health Insurance Marketplace will experience some changes. Molina is planning to expand coverage to 13 counties in 2020 including Rich, Box Elder, Wasatch, and Morgan. BridgeSpan and Cigna will also expand their exchange offers into more counties. The additions are expected to decrease rates by an average of 6%.

Utah' National Rural
Health Day
Community Star

The Office of Primary Care and Rural Health is happy to announce our friend, partner, and rural health advocate, Rita Osborn, has been awarded the National Rural Health Day Community Star award! We appreciate your service to rural communities throughout Utah. Thank you for all you do, Rita!



Utah Department of Health Campaigns

PROTECT YOURSELF. DON'T VAPE THC.

More than 90% of Utahns affected by the severe lung illness outbreak reported vaping THC cartridges.

The risks of vaping THC cartridges include severe lung damage and death.

UTAH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Webinars

Financial and Operational Benchmarking



Trends and Techniques

How do you assess your performance by looking at your financial metrics? Which metrics are important? How can you benchmark your performance to your peers? In this session, health centers will learn how to assess their health center's financial and operational performance using benchmarking and comparative metrics from Capital Link's audited financial database and data from the federal UDS reporting system and referencing Capital Link's recently updated Federally Qualified Health Centers Financial and Operational Performance Analysis and Performance Benchmarking Toolkit.

Presenters: Susan Petrie, COO, Capital Link; Adrienne Cooksey, Associate Project Consultant, Capital Link; and Jose Fonseca, Associate Project Consultant, Capital Link

Date: Thursday, December 12, 2-3 p.m. ET

[To register, please follow the link here.](#)

Addressing Revenue Cycle Management Challenges in Rural Hospitals

Key elements of this one hour webinar include the critical role each department plays in the revenue cycle, identifying RCM champions, and addressing over and under payments. Time for Q&A will be available following the presentation. Sylvia Alcalá, MA, RHIA, CDIP, CCS, CPC-I will be the guest presenter. Ms. Alcalá is an approved ICD-10 trainer and AAPC approved instructor more than 30 years of experience as a leader in HIM.



Ms. Alcala is an adjunct coding instructor at Texas State University and the Director of HIM at Connally Memorial Medical Center. In addition to having served as president of the ALAMO Health Information Association (AAHIMA) she has also served on the AHIMA committee for accrediting coding exam questions. If you have questions or wish to submit a question prior to the webinar, please email: cavila@tamu.edu.

[To register, please follow the link here.](#)

Update on the UDS Sealant Measure



This webinar will highlight the most successful strategies to increase the percentage of children receiving sealants and increase the HRSA UDS Sealants Measure percentage. Results and trends from the first four years of data for the measure will be shared. Work-arounds to address data collection and reporting will be briefly described for those health centers not yet using an EDR vendor-developed solution to collect the data elements of the measure (age, patient of record, risk status, exclusions, and sealants placed). Commwell Health, an FQHC, will also discuss how they have improved their UDS Sealants Measure through their work in the NNOHA Sealants Improvement Collaborative.

Learning Objectives:

- 1) Review national and state-level results for the 2018 HRSA UDS Sealants Measure
- 2) Recognize how your health center can improve the accuracy of the denominator for the UDS Sealants Measure
- 3) Describe strategies for improving UDS Sealants Measure outcomes
- 4) Learn the strategies one health center has developed to increase its UDS Sealants Measure percentage

When: December 6, 11-12 p.m. MST

[Registration Link](#)

What's at Stakes as Rural America Loses

Its Hospitals



This webinar will provide a fresh overview of the trend, and explain the forces driving closures and what they mean for health. Reporters will gain crucial context and insights that will deepen their coverage of imperiled health centers and the communities who rely on them.

When: January 22, 10-11 a.m. PT/ 1-2 p.m. ET.

[For more information, please follow the link here.](#)

Connecting with Underserved and Understudied Populations Through Research



Although clinicians and researchers may struggle with defining underserved and understudied populations, it is clear that certain groups of patients, especially in rural communities, bring unique experiences to patients, clinicians, and researchers alike. The presenters will address strategies for better understanding three groups – patients from the homeless community, the LGBTQ+ community, and the Amish. These presenters have successfully engaged these populations in positive ways and have acquired important insight. They will describe what they've learned and how other clinicians, faculty, and researchers may benefit from their work.

When:
Thursday, December 19, 2019

[To register, please follow the link here.](#)

Dissemination of Rural Health Research: A Toolkit



The emphasis of knowledge translation is to ensure health providers, consumers, researchers, advocates, and policymakers

are aware of, can access, and are able to use health research findings to inform decision-making. Differences among audiences make it imperative to know when and how to utilize various modes of dissemination for health research.

This toolkit aims to assist researchers with step four in the knowledge translation process, reaching their target audiences. By developing appropriate, timely, accessible, and applicable products, researchers have the opportunity to inform step five, a change in policy or practice. This toolkit provides descriptions for multiple modes of dissemination and includes discussions of the purpose of each product, which product is appropriate given the topic and audience, and how to develop each. Effective examples are also provided.

[To access the toolkit, please follow the link here.](#)

Rural Suicide Prevention Toolkit

The Rural Suicide Prevention Toolkit compiles evidence-based and promising models and resources to support organizations implementing suicide prevention programs in rural communities across the United States.

The modules in the toolkit contain resources and information focused on developing, implementing, evaluating, and sustaining rural suicide prevention programs. There are more resources on general community health strategies available in the [Rural Community Health Toolkit](#).

[To access the toolkit, please follow the link here.](#)

Utah Medical Cannabis Program 4-Hr Required Course

This course introduces the endocannabinoid system and its interaction with the components of the cannabis plant, and addresses administration, therapeutic use, drug



metabolism, physiologic and cognitive effects, potential risks, and drug interactions.

The use of marijuana in obstetric patients, pediatric patients, adolescent patients, and elderly patients is discussed in detail. In addition, the health effects of marijuana and cannabinoids in epilepsy are reviewed. Important considerations for patients with ischemic heart disease, hepatic disease, psychotic illness, and those with a history of drug dependence are provided.

This course also informs the reader about the legal and medical considerations in the recommendation of medical marijuana, and addresses the parts of H.B. 3001, including the Utah Medical Cannabis Act, that would be of interest to a Utah healthcare provider.

For more information about the course, please follow the link [here](#).

Funding Opportunities

Please check our website for updated funding opportunities. You can find the table by following the link [here](#).

National Organizations

[Human Services to Support Rural Health](#)

[Oral Health in Rural Communities](#)

[Overdose Data to Action \(RFA-CE19-1904\)](#)

[HRSA US Fact Sheet by State](#)

[Rural Health Care Professional Job Posting](#)



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The OPCRH provides support to our stakeholders and clients in the form of hands-on support, economic impact analysis, research, community health needs assessments, and healthcare workforce needs assessment. We also provide technical assistance and pertinent information on student loan repayment programs and grant opportunities

If you would like to be a part of our newsletter in the future and/or would like to submit a success story, announcement, or communicate any other information to us or your rural health partners, please contact Colton Gordon Program Specialist 801-273-6618, coltongordon@utah.gov

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