**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

# Data Sources Used in Rural Health Care in Minnesota: Data Highlights

## Rural-Urban Commuting Area (RUCA) Codes

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service and the University of Washington's WWAMI Rural Health Research Center

**Slides 4, 9, 10, 13, 22, 23, 24, 25, 32, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 44, 48, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56**

- Rural-Urban Commuting Area (RUCA) codes were developed as a way to measure rurality based on how people move around. They are based on census tracts or zip codes. While there are hundreds of RUCA codes, they can be rolled up into different levels of rurality. This chartbook primarily uses the 4-category designation of Metropolitan, Large Town, Small Town Rural, and Isolated Rural. At times, a 2-cateogry designation, which combines Large Town, Small Town Rural, and Isolated Rural into a single category of Rural, is used. Unless otherwise noted, RUCAs are the primary definition of rurality used. RUCAs are currently based on 2010 census tracts, and have not been updated to 2020 census tracts at this time.

- More information on RUCAs is available here: [Rural-Urban Commuting Area Codes | Economic Research Service (https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/rural-urban-commuting-area-codes)](https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/rural-urban-commuting-area-codes)

## State Community Health Services Advisory Committee (SCHSAC) Regions

Minnesota Department of Health

**Slides 5, 47**

- State Community Health Services Advisory Committee (SCHSAC) Regions were developed by MDH to help better organize the relationship between local community health organizations and MDH. These eight regions, based on county boundaries, have an advisory committee that works with the Commission of Health, focusing on developing, maintaining, and financing community health services in their area.

- More information the SCHSAC and SCHSAC regions is available here: [SCHSAC: State Community Health Services Advisory Committee (https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/practice/schsac/index.html)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/practice/schsac/index.html)

## U.S. Census Bureau's Population Estimates

## Minnesota State Demographic Center/2024 to 2055

### Slides 7, 8

- The Minnesota State Demographic Center, part of the Minnesota Department of Administration, is the main provider of demographic data and analysis for the state of Minnesota. The Minnesota State Demographic Center assists policymakers, state and local governments, businesses, nonprofits, the media, and all Minnesotans locate and understand the demographic data they need to make smart decisions.

- Data tables are publicly available from the following U.S. Census Bureau website: Population and Housing Unit Estimates (https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest.html)

- More information on aging populations in Minnesota: Data by Topic: Aging (https://mn.gov/admin/demography/data-by-topic/aging/)

- More information on long-term population projections for Minnesota: Data by Topic: Our Projections / MN State Demographic Center (https://mn.gov/admin/demography/data-by-topic/population-data/our-projections/)

## American Community Survey

## U.S. Census Bureau/2018 to 2022

### Slides 9, 10

- The American Community Survey (ACS) replaced the decennial census "long form." Each year, the ACS interviews 3.5 million households in the United States. The ACS provides demographic information at various geographic levels (e.g. census tract, ZIP code tabulation area, county, etc.). RUCA codes have not been updated using 2020 census tracts, so newer census data could not be used.

- Data tables are publicly available from the following U.S. Census Bureau website: American Community Survey Data (https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/data.html)

- More information on exploring the ACS and other Census data at the following website: United States Census Bureau (https://data.census.gov/cedsci/?intcmp=aff_cedsci_banner

## Primary Clinics certified as patient-centered Medical Homes

### Slide 16

- MDH certifies primary care clinics and clinicians as health care homes, known nationally as a patient centered medical home.

- The health care home clinic team coordinates care with the patient and their family to ensure whole person care and to improve health and well-being

- Source: https://www.health.state.mn.us/facilities/hchomes/hchmap/index.html

## Health Professional Shortage Areas

### Slides 27

As of September 30, 2025, Minnesota has 557 Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs). These include mental health, dental health and primary care HPSAs. These HPSAs are developed to help prioritize and focus resources to help meet the health care needs of the medically underserved rural and urban areas of the state. More information on Minnesota's Health Professional Shortage Areas is available at: Shortage Designations (https://www.health.state.mn.us/facilities/underserved/designation.html)

## Minnesota Health Access Survey/Minnesota Telehealth and Access Survey

### Minnesota Department of Health and University of Minnesota School of Public Health State Health Access Data Assistance Center (SHADAC)/2001, 2004, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021, 2023

### Slides 13, 37, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43

- The Minnesota Health Access Survey is a large-scale telephone and mail survey that collects information on the health of Minnesotans and how they access health insurance and health care services. The survey measures how many people in Minnesota have health insurance and how easy it is for them to get health care. Results from the survey inform policy that can help improve access to health care and health insurance for all Minnesotans.

- More information on the MNHA is available on this website: Minnesota Health Access Survey (https://www.health.state.mn.us/data/economics/hasurvey/index.html)

- An interactive data tool that uses MNHA data is available here: Minnesota Health Access Survey Interactive Data Tool (https://mnha.web.health.state.mn.us/Welcome.action)

## Hospital Annual Report

### Minnesota Department of Health/1998 to 2023

### Slides 14, 30, 31, 32, 47, 48, 49, 50, 53, 54, 55, 56

- The Hospital Annual Report (HAR) is collected by MDH under MN Statutes, sections 144.695 – 144.703. All community hospitals (an acute care facility and licensed under MN Statutes, section 144.50) are required to report to MDH annually. The HAR includes information on hospital finances, utilization, service availability, employment and community benefit. Certain data are classified as public and other nonpublic data are only provided on a

summary basis unless granted permission of affected organizations or permitted by MN Statutes.

- More information on the HAR can be found here: HCCIS Forms and Reporting (https://www.health.state.mn.us/data/economics/hccis/forms/index.html)

- Hospital data is also presented in Minnesota Health Care Markets Chartbook Section 8 at the following website: Minnesota Health Care Markets Chartbook (https://www.health.state.mn.us/data/economics/chartbook/index.html)

# Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Workforce Data

## Minnesota Office of Emergency Medical Services

### Slide 17

- EMS workforce certification and licensure data is collected and reported by the Minnesota Office of Emergency Medical Services

- More information about this workforce and other related data are available at: EMS Workforce Dashboard (https://mn.gov/oems/data-center/ems-workforce-dashboard.jsp)

# Trauma and Stroke Programs

## Minnesota Department of Health

### Slide 18

- Trauma and stroke data are collected and reported by MDH.

- More information is available at: Trauma System (https://www.health.state.mn.us/facilities/traumasystem/)

- Stroke Program (https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/cardiovascular/stroke/index.html)

# Health Care Workforce Survey

## Minnesota Department of Health, Office of Rural Health and Primary Care, Health Workforce Analysis Program 2025

### Slides 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 43

- The Minnesota Health Care Workforce Survey is designed and administered by MDH ORHPC in partnership with the state health licensing boards. MDH surveys licensed health care providers at the time of license renewal/re-registration, and uses the data to inform workforce policies.

- More information about the workforce survey instrument, methodology, publications is available at: Health Care Workforce Data and Analysis (https://www.health.state.mn.us/data/workforce/index.html)

- The current dashboard is available at Health Care Workforce Data Portal (https://www.health.state.mn.us/data/workforce/hcwdash/index.html)

# Minnesota Hospital Discharge Database

## Minnesota Hospital Association/2020 to 2022

### Slide 38

- The Minnesota Hospital Administrative Claims Database (otherwise known as the 'Minnesota Hospital Discharge Database' or MNHDD) is a standardized set of inpatient and outpatient pre-adjudicated claim records maintained by the Minnesota Hospital Association (MHA).

- The Minnesota Department of Health is authorized to collect these not public data from MHA pursuant to MN Statutes, Section 62J.301.

- More information on the MNHDD is available on the following MHA website: Administrative Claims Database (https://www.mnhospitals.org/data-reporting/data-products-services/administrative-claims-database)

# Minnesota Statewide Quality Reporting and Measurement System

## Minnesota Department of Health/2022 and 2023

### Slides 15, 44

- The Minnesota Statewide Quality Reporting and Measurement System (Quality Reporting System) is a standardized set of quality measures for health care providers across the state. It was created as part of Minnesota's 2008 health reform law. The goal of the Quality Reporting System is to create a uniform approach to quality measurement to enhance market transparency and drive health care quality improvement through an evolving measurement and reporting strategy.

- More information on the Quality Reporting System is available on this website: Health Care Quality Measures (https://www.health.state.mn.us/data/hcquality/index.html)

- In response to recommendations from Voices for Racial Justice, the Minnesota Department of Health created a first set of Quality Reporting System public use files (PUFs) that focus on geographic, health insurance type, and gender breakdowns of the data. More information and the PUF request form are available here: Public Use Files (https://www.health.state.mn.us/data/hcquality/pufs.html)

# Minnesota All Payer Claims Database (APCD) & Minnesota APCD Public Use Files (PUFs)

## Minnesota Department of Health, 2020 (PUFs)

### Slides 51, 52

- The Minnesota All Payer Claims Database (MN APCD) is a state repository of deidentified health care claims data that is derived from medical providers' billing records sent to insurance companies, plan administrators and public payers. Minnesota state law (MN Stat. 62U.04) authorizes the Minnesota Department of Health to collect these data, and specifies the authorized uses of the MN APCD. Because of the completeness of data and its geographic richness for the state, these data offer an unprecedented opportunity for Minnesota to learn more about what types of services are provided across the state, how much they cost, and what outcomes are achieved.

- The MN APCD also has public use files (PUFs) available. The PUFs make summary information from the APCD available to the general public, including through an interactive dashboard.

- More information about the MN APCD is available on this website: Minnesota All Payer Claims Database (https://www.health.state.mn.us/data/apcd/index.html)

- To learn more about the MN APCD PUFs and get access, go here: MN APCD Public Use Files (https://www.health.state.mn.us/data/apcd/publicusefiles/index.html)

- To use the MN APCD PUF Interactive Dashboard, go here: Minnesota All Payer Claims Database Public Use File Dashboards (https://www.health.state.mn.us/data/apcd/publicusefiles/dashboards/index.html)