Health Disparities Between Rural and Urban Counties in Idaho

Introduction
In order to address the disparities between health outcomes in rural and urban areas across the state of Idaho, the team collected and analyzed data on health trends across rural communities. To synthesize and identify trends within the data, the team explored multiple indicators provided by Idaho Rural Partnership. This presentation is a high-level overview of key data to be used as a foundation for further analysis. Recommendations for future research have been provided.

Defining Rural and Urban Counties
For the purpose of this study, "urban" is defined as counties that have at least one city with 20,000 people and "rural" as all counties with no cities that have a population of 20,000.
### Disparities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Rural Counties</th>
<th>Urban Counties</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Teen Pregnancy</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Obesity</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Intimate Partner Violence</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Heart Disease Death</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Food Insecurity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Education: High School Diploma or...</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education: Bachelor's or Higher</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Divorce</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Crime</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completed Suicide</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer</td>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>Rural</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Based on the indicators included in the chart, **rural counties in Idaho are 2% more likely to have positive health outcomes than urban counties.**

To determine this, the indicators were given a ranking and the sum of the rankings were used to provide an average score for rural and urban counties. Rural county scores ranged from 134 to 438 and urban county scores ranged from 148 to 365.

This ranking did not include vacancy, mortality, or SSI/SSDI data because these indicators are not necessary negative. Drug death rates was not included because many Idaho counties lack the resources to consistently identify drug-related deaths.

Attachment A provides an in-depth analysis. To view interactive maps for all for indicators, please visit:

[Tableau Public 1](#) & [Tableau Public 2](#)
Key Findings

Correlation Between Obesity and Diabetes

- % of Diabetes Urban  - % of Diabetes Rural
- % of Obesity Urban  - % of Obesity Rural

Source: Diabetes 2004-2013, Obesity 2004-2013

Intimate Partner Violence

Rate of Intimate Partner Violence per 1,000.

2008-2011  2012  2013  2015

— Urban — Rural

Source: Domestic Violence in Idaho

Teen Pregnancy

Number of pregnancies per 1,000.

Source: Teen Pregnancy
### Key Findings, cont.
#### Education: Bachelor's Degree or Higher

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>19.00%</th>
<th>20.00%</th>
<th>21.00%</th>
<th>22.00%</th>
<th>23.00%</th>
<th>24.00%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
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<td>Rural</td>
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</table>

Percentage of the population with at least a Bachelor's degree.

Source: [Educational Attainment 2012-2016](#).

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#### Homeowner Vacancy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>0.00%</th>
<th>0.50%</th>
<th>1.00%</th>
<th>1.50%</th>
<th>2.00%</th>
<th>2.50%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Rural</td>
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</table>

Percentage of single family dwellings that are available, vacant, or for sale.

Source: [Home Ownership in Idaho 2012-2016](#).

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#### Cancer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>8.00%</th>
<th>8.50%</th>
<th>9.00%</th>
<th>9.50%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Rural</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Percentage of the population diagnosed with cancer.

Source: [Heart Disease & Cancer Data 2016](#).

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#### Completed Suicide

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Number of suicides per 1,000.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

19 19.5 20 20.5 21 21.5

Source: [Idaho Resident Suicide Deaths](#).
- Created by executive order in 1991.
- Structured as an "Independent Public Body Corporate and Politic"
- Idaho Department of Labor currently serves as IRP’s host agency.
- 35-member board includes legislators; local, state and federal government reps.; tribes; private and nonprofit sectors; higher education; and INL.
- Current board co-chairs are Art Beal from the Idaho RC & D Association and Roy Valdez from the Dept. of Labor.
- Funding currently comes from federal grants, private sector sponsorships, and contributions from businesses and organizations in the individual rural communities we work with most directly.

IRP brings multiple agencies and organizations together to help rural communities clarify and work toward their desired future.

Outcomes are produced by our collaborative efforts.

- Increased community to prioritize actions, identify resources, and complete community and economic development projects.
- Increased efficiency and reduced duplication among agencies and organizations that support rural Idaho.
- Increased awareness of funding and other resources available to rural communities.
- Increased understanding of conditions, opportunities, and successful models in rural Idaho.
- Identification of unnecessary impediments to rural development.
Idaho Community Review Program

**Phase I**
Survey of residents
Listening sessions
Demographic & economic profile

**Phase II**
Larger team of visiting professionals work with community
develop actions plan for three focus areas identified
during Phase I.

**Phase III**
Coaching to support implementation of action plans
developed during Phase II.

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[Map of Idaho showing various locations and markers]
IDAHO'S COMMUNITY REVIEW PROGRAM REACHES STATEWIDE

The Idaho Rural Partnership implemented the Idaho Community Review Program in 2000. A community review is an assessment and strategic planning process designed for towns with fewer than 10,000 people. The program brings together community members and local leaders with experts in rural community and economic development to identify local priorities and resources to achieve them.

Community reviews are co-developed with local leaders, business owners, and residents. Each review is unique, focuses on a wide range of community issues, and is tailored to the community. This process helps communities move from assessment to action to results.

"The community review gave the us more confidence that future projects would succeed."

UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO IS STUDYING WAYS TO IMPROVE THE COMMUNITY REVIEW PROGRAM

University of Idaho and a USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture research grant are helping us identify ways communities benefit from participating in the IRP Community Review program.

To date, five communities have participated in the evaluation process called "Ripple Effects Mapping," which helps communities identify the chain of effects resulting from the review and their implementation efforts. Another 10 communities, at least, will be evaluated before the grant ends in 2020.

Participating communities receive up to $1,000 to implement a project identified as a need by their review.

"Funding sources want to know have you done a community review. They want to know you've done the planning. They want to know you didn't throw a funding request together at the last minute."
IDAHO'S COMMUNITY REVIEW PROGRAM HAS POSITIVE IMPACTS ON RURAL COMMUNITIES

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Ashton
New office building opened
Fairfield
$375,000 for Soldier Road main street improvement: sidewalks, curbs, traffic calming, and beautification

IMPROVEMENTS IN INFRASTRUCTURE
American Falls
$2.5 million for water infrastructure

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER
Glenns Ferry
ArtWalk with historical art contest
Meadows Valley
Community Dinner

IDAHO'S COMMUNITY REVIEW PROGRAM HAS POSITIVE IMPACTS ON RURAL COMMUNITIES

NEW PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH
American Falls
$150,000 for skatepark
$2 million for safe routes to school

INCREASING TOURISM
Ashton
$1,500 YTT to connect to Tetonia Trail
Glenns Ferry
Ghost Tour funding (DOC Travel Council grant)

INCREASING PUBLIC SAFETY
New Meadows
$300,000 for sidewalks and ADA ramps (GEM)
Fairfield
$980,000 for walking path (ITD)
Our other activities

- Statewide Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
- Broadband
- Rural health

Rural Health

Summer 2018
IRP partners with Idaho Policy Institute and students in Boise State's MPA program, who completed analysis of existing data to identify health trends comparing rural and urban counties. (see related handout)

Fall/winter 2018
IRP enters into partnership with Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health and Idaho Community Foundation to conduct health-related community outreach in a number of rural counties in 2019.
What we’re hearing in rural communities

- Growth and change is okay, but not at the expense of small town values.
- Communities want young people to have the option of returning ("rural returners").
- Social and cultural divisions limiting collaboration among community groups, getting in the way of forward progress.
- Community pride in first responders and libraries.
- Desire for arts, cultural, and recreation opportunities.
- How do we increase people volunteering for community organizations and projects?
- Housing.
- Broadband.

THANK YOU!

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Contact the Idaho Rural Partnership to learn more about, or participate in, the Community Review Program:
http://irp.idaho.gov/home/community_review/
irpcommunityreview@irp.idaho.gov

Watch comprehensive reports on:
www.communityreview.org
over the next year.