

Increasing Awareness on Strategies for Rural Healthcare

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Rural literature indicates a lack of consensus regarding a universal definition for the term rural. Descriptions of these settings focus on different elements. Some researchers discuss the process of exclusion as non-urban to define rural, while others emphasize population density and size. Despite existing imprecise definitions, literature indicates that rural and urban communities differ in healthcare opportunities.

Rural populations have been viewed as disadvantaged in terms of accessibility to healthcare due to poor infrastructures, high rates of chronic illnesses, socioeconomic factors, and barriers such as distance and transportation limitations. Researchers contend these social, cultural, economic, and environmental factors are interrelated. As a result of these multi related influences, it is vital for healthcare to increase awareness on approaches for promoting effective rural health. Initiatives are most productive when involving multiple stakeholders, in this situation, namely healthcare consumers, professionals, and organizations to capture the needs and preferences of the population.

Literature also suggests that a lack of partnerships between researchers and knowledge users represents a gap in healthcare policies and procedures. Partnerships are often utilized to further identify concerns and implement changes. Indeed, affiliations between different geographic locations could benefit strategic planning. Creating awareness on collaborative efforts could play a connecting role in advancing rural health research and delivery.

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