Broadband Delivers Telehealth in Rural Communities

Did you know?

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), rural Americans are older and face more adverse health disparities than their counterparts in urban areas. These include a greater likelihood of: heart disease, cancer, unintentional injury, chronic lower respiratory disease and stroke.

Of those children who face mental, behavioral and developmental disorders, those in rural areas face more community and family challenges than their urban counterparts.

Fatalities from unintentional injury are about 50% higher in rural areas, partly due to a greater risk of death from motor vehicle crashes and opioid overdoses.

The Bottom Line

These challenges highlight the need for additional attention and resources to improve health in rural America.

Rural health by the numbers

- 17% of U.S. residents live in rural areas.
- 66% of primary health care provider shortage areas are in rural counties.

Transforming care through telehealth

- 59% of consumers have used telehealth, of which 80% report satisfaction with their experiences.
- 62% of mental health patients completed recent appointments virtually.

Going the distance for health care

Rural Americans travel approximately 20 miles for primary care and more than 40 miles for specialty care following rural hospital closures.

Data Supports More Telehealth

Rural telehealth can deliver real savings for medical facilities.

On average, each medical facility stands to save over $37,500 annually. This significant figure encompasses avoiding travel expenses, lost wages, and hospital costs.

The telehealth industry is expected to grow to $787B by 2028.

Ensure your community has access to this valuable tool. Visit www.smartruralcommunity.org for more information and details.