

# 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, 14, 15, 16, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 32, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 46, 48, 49, 51, 52, 53, 54, 57, 60, 61**

- 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-category 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.
- More information on RUCAs is available here:  
<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, 45**

- 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:  
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/practice/schsac/index.html>

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

### Minnesota State Demographic Center/2013 to 2053

#### Slide 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: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest.html>
- More information on aging populations in Minnesota: <https://mn.gov/admin/demography/data-by-topic/aging/>
- More information on long-term population projections for Minnesota: <https://mn.gov/admin/demography/data-by-topic/population-data/our-projections/>

## American Community Survey

### U.S. Census Bureau/2015 to 2019

#### Slide 9, 10, 57

- 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.)
- Data tables are publicly available from the following U.S. Census Bureau website: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/data.html>
- More information on exploring the ACS and other Census data at the following website: [https://data.census.gov/cedsci/?intcmp=aff\\_cedsci\\_banner](https://data.census.gov/cedsci/?intcmp=aff_cedsci_banner)

## Minnesota Health 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

**Slides 13, 36, 38, 39**

- 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:  
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/data/economics/hasurvey/index.html>
- An interactive data tool that uses MNHA data is available here:  
<https://mnha.web.health.state.mn.us/Welcome.action>

## Hospital Annual Report

Minnesota Department of Health/1998 to 2020

**Slides 14, 29, 30, 31, 45, 46, 47, 48, 51, 52, 53, 54**

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

## Trauma Program

Minnesota Department of Health, Office of Rural Health and Primary Care

### Slide 17, 18

- Trauma System data come from all participating system hospitals, on patients who sustain major trauma. Data are used to facilitate the development of clinical and system quality improvement, injury prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation programs.
- Additional information can be found at:  
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/facilities/traumasystem/>

## Health Care Workforce Survey

Minnesota Department of Health, Office of Rural Health and Primary Care, Health Workforce Analysis Program/2019, 2020, 2021

### Slides 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 60

- 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: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/data/workforce/index.html>

## Minnesota Hospital Discharge Database

Minnesota Hospital Association/2016 to 2019

### Slide 37

- 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:  
<https://www.mnhospitals.org/data-reporting/data-products-services/administrative-claims-database>

## Minnesota Statewide Quality Reporting and Measurement System

Minnesota Department of Health/2017 and 2020

### Slides 15, 41

- 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: <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: <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/2012 to 2015; 2018 (PUFs)

### Slides 42, 49, 50

- 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.
- More information about the MN APCD is available on this website: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/data/apcd/index.html>
- To learn more about the MN APCD PUFs and get access, go here: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/data/apcd/publicusefiles/index.html>