

# Changes in the Supply and Rural-Urban Distribution of Psychiatrists in the U.S., 1995-2019

## KEY FINDINGS

- The number of psychiatrists per 100,000 population in rural U.S. counties (3.5) was about one fourth that of urban counties (13.0).
- The ratio of psychiatrists to population decreased by 5.4% in rural counties and 11.6% in urban counties from 1995 to 2019.
- The 2019 supply of psychiatrists per 100,000 population varied substantially across different types of rural places, from 5.6, in micro counties nonadjacent to metro counties, to 1.5, in small and remote adjacent to micro counties.
- Nearly three quarters (70.2%) of rural counties did not have a psychiatrist in 2019 compared to 27.1% of urban counties.

This report describes the rural-urban distribution of psychiatrists with an M.D. or D.O. degree (unless otherwise specified) in U.S. counties from 1995 to 2019. Counties were categorized using the U.S. Department of Agriculture Urban Influence Codes (UIC). For detailed county designations, see page 4.

Figure 1. Psychiatrists per 100,000 Population in U.S. Rural and Urban Counties, 1995, 2005\*, 2015 and 2019

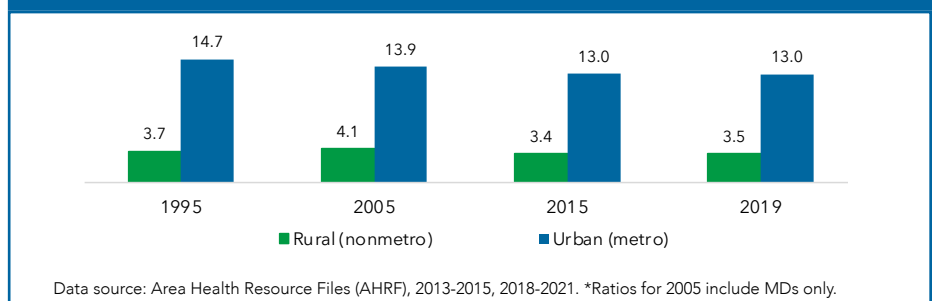
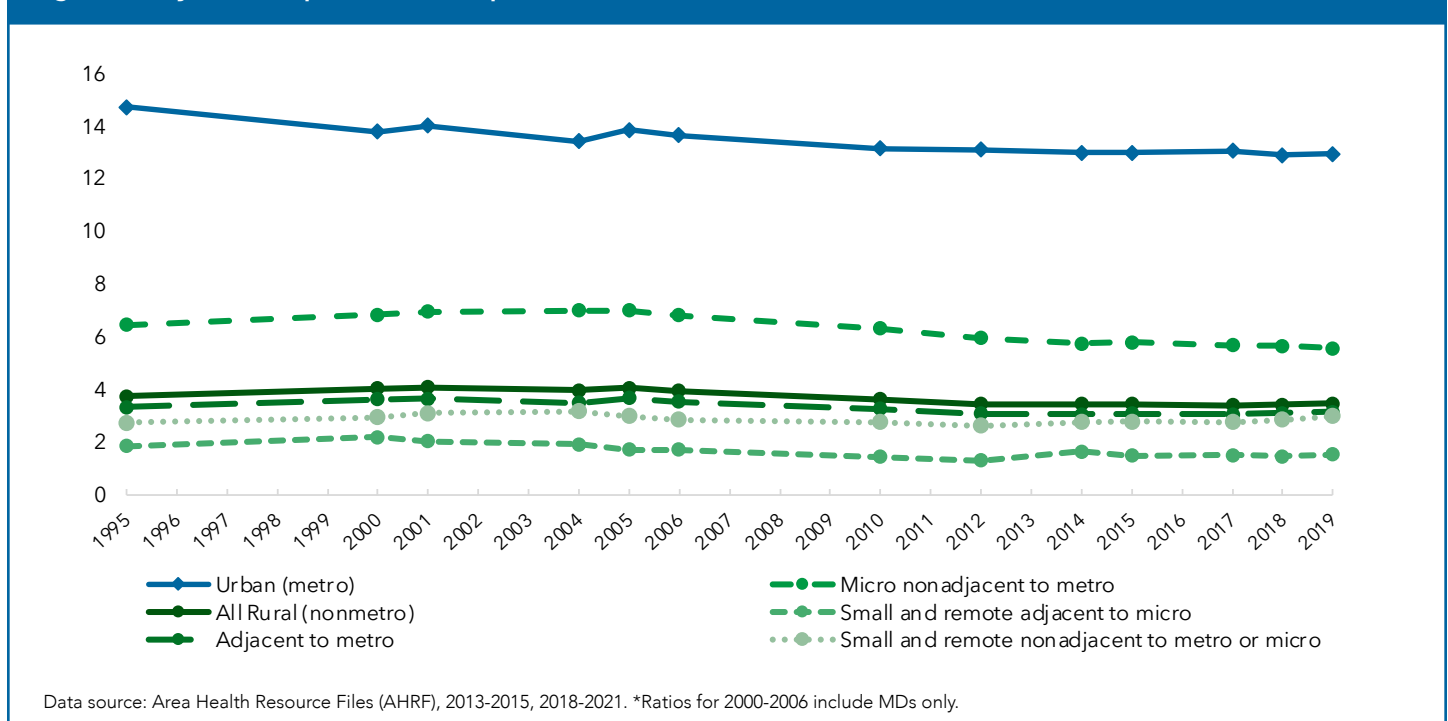


Figure 2. Psychiatrists per 100,000 Population in U.S. Rural and Urban Counties, 1995-2019\*

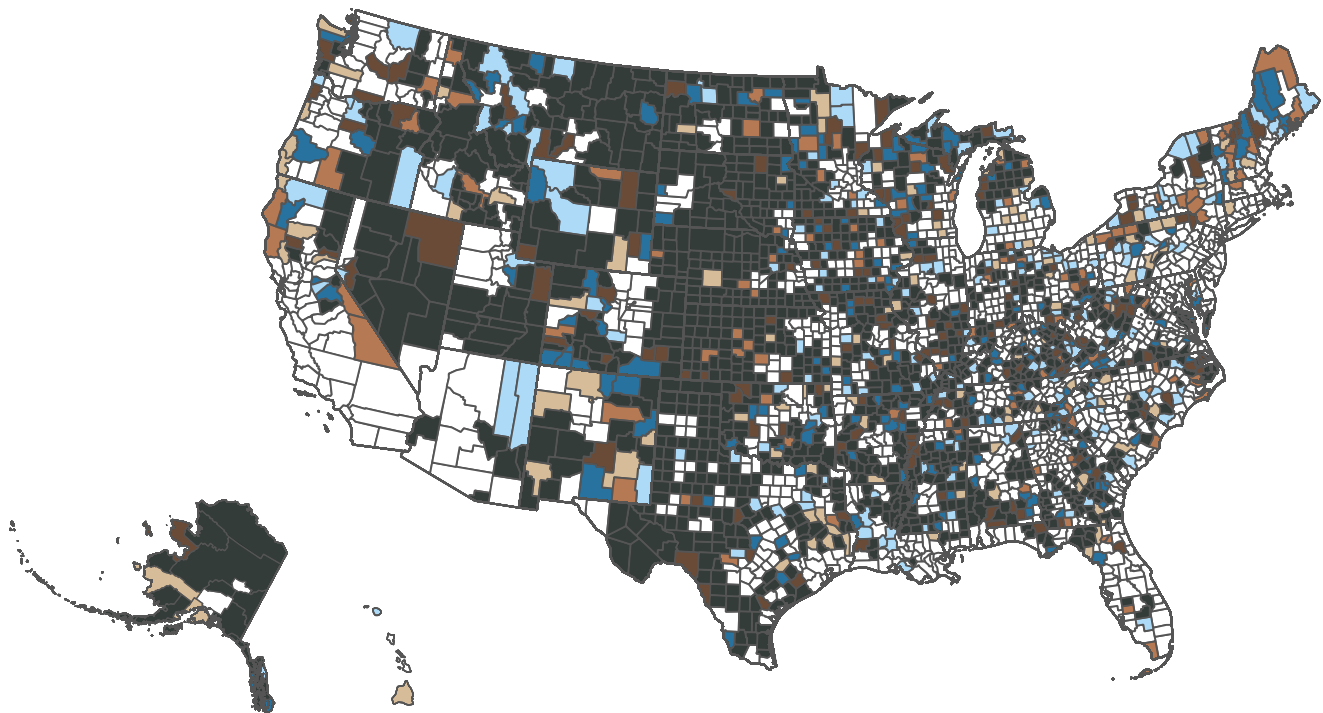


**Table 1. Psychiatrists per 100,000 Population in U.S. Rural and Urban Counties, 1995-2019\***

	1995	2000	2001	2004	2005	2006	2010	2012	2014	2015	2017	2018	2019
Urban (metro)	14.7	13.8	14.0	13.4	13.9	13.7	13.1	13.1	13.0	13.0	13.1	12.9	13.0
All Rural (nonmetro)	3.7	4.0	4.1	4.0	4.1	3.9	3.6	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.5
Adjacent to metro	3.3	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.7	3.5	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1
Micro nonadjacent to metro	6.5	6.8	7.0	7.0	7.0	6.8	6.3	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.6
Small and remote adjacent to micro	1.8	2.2	2.0	1.9	1.7	1.7	1.4	1.3	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
Small and remote nonadjacent to micro or metro	2.7	2.9	3.1	3.2	3.0	2.8	2.8	2.6	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	3.0

Data source: Area Health Resource Files (AHRF), 2013-2015, 2018-2021. \*Ratios for 2000-2006 include MDs only.

**Figure 3. Change in Psychiatrists per 100,000 Population in U.S. Rural Counties, 1995-2019**



- Rural county without any psychiatrists in both 1995 and 2019
- Rural county with one or more psychiatrists in 1995 but none in 2019
- Rural county with a **decrease** in psychiatrists per capita from 1995 to 2019; decrease is **less** than the median county per capita decrease
- Rural county with a **decrease** in psychiatrists per capita from 1995 to 2019; decrease is **more** than the median county per capita decrease
- Rural county with an **increase** in psychiatrists per capita from 1995 to 2019; increase is **less** than the median county per capita increase
- Rural county with an **increase** in psychiatrists per capita from 1995 to 2019; increase is **more** than the median county per capita increase
- Urban county

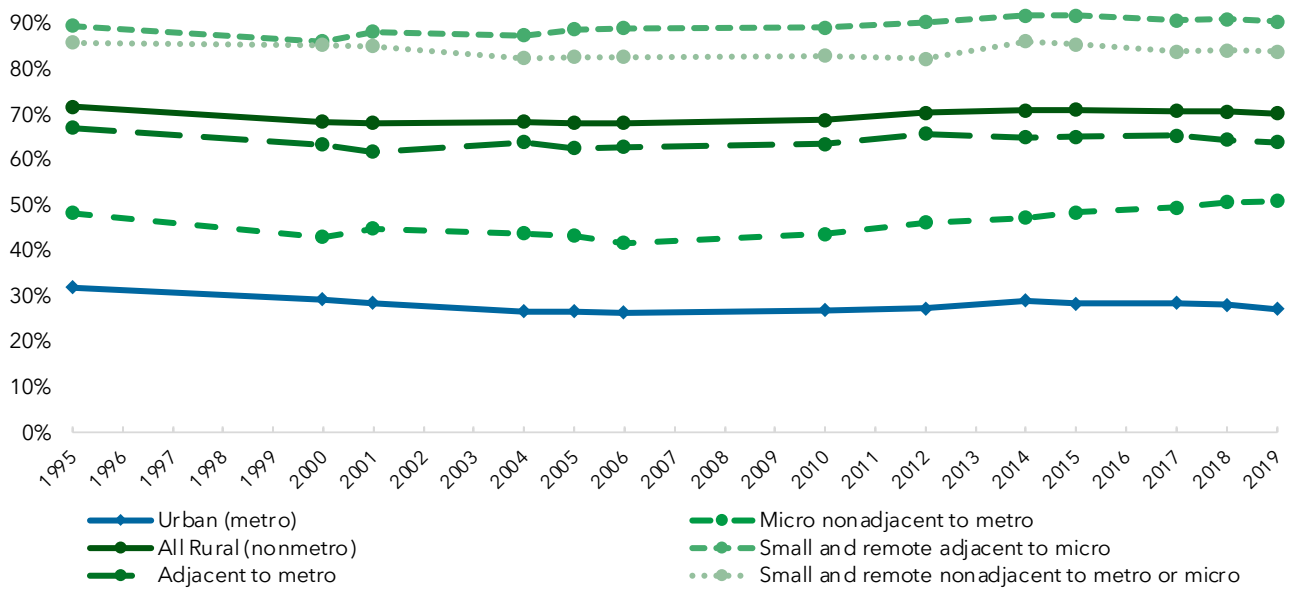
Data source: Area Health Resource Files (AHRF), 2013-2015, 2018-2021.

**Table 2. Psychiatrists per 100,000 Population in U.S. Counties by Rural-Urban Location and Census Division†, 1995 and 2019**

	Urban		All Rural		Rural							
	Metro		Nonmetro		Adjacent to metro		Micropolitan nonadjacent to metro		Small and remote adjacent to micro		Small and remote nonadjacent to metro or micro	
	1995	2019	1995	2019	1995	2019	1995	2019	1995	2019	1995	2019
Total U.S.	14.7	13.0	3.7	3.5	3.3	3.1	6.5	5.6	1.8	1.5	2.7	3.0
New England	25.4	24.4	14.3	14.6	12.0	10.3	26.6	36.0	7.3	22.2	10.6	7.4
Middle Atlantic	22.7	19.0	5.2	4.5	4.7	4.4	10.5	7.0	2.4	2.7	**	**
East North Central	11.7	11.2	3.1	2.9	2.8	2.4	5.2	6.6	2.2	1.0	3.3	3.9
West North Central	12.6	12.0	3.7	2.9	3.0	3.1	6.5	3.7	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.9
South Atlantic	13.5	11.4	3.6	3.2	3.6	3.2	6.3	3.7	2.5	1.0	1.7	6.9
East South Central	10.3	9.4	2.2	2.3	1.8	1.9	3.4	4.3	1.1	0.5	4.0	3.1
West South Central	10.1	9.1	2.1	2.1	1.9	2.3	4.1	2.8	0.3	0.7	1.1	0.0
Mountain	11.1	9.4	3.5	3.7	2.7	3.5	5.4	4.8	4.1	1.9	1.8	2.2
Pacific	14.0	13.8	5.4	4.3	4.1	3.7	8.4	6.2	3.2	0.0	4.3	2.0

Data source: Area Health Resource Files (AHRF), 2013-2015, 2018-2021. \*\*There are no small and remote nonadjacent to metro or micro counties in the Middle Atlantic Census Division. †Census Divisions: New England—CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT; Middle Atlantic—NJ, NY, PA; East North Central—IL, IN, MI, OH, WI; West North Central—IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD; South Atlantic—DE, DC, FL, GA, MD, NC, SC, VA, WV; East South Central—AL, KY, MS, TN; West South Central—AR, LA, OK, TX; Mountain—AZ, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, UT, WY; Pacific—AK, CA, HI, OR, WA.

**Figure 4. Percentage of U.S. Rural and Urban Counties Without a Psychiatrist, 1995-2019\***



Data source: Area Health Resource Files (AHRF), 2013-2015, 2018-2021. \*Percentages for 2000-2006 include counties without an MD only.

**Table 3. Percentage of U.S. Rural and Urban Counties Without a Psychiatrist, 1995-2019\***

	1995	2000	2001	2004	2005	2006	2010	2012	2014	2015	2017	2018	2019
Urban (metro)	32.0%	29.3%	28.5%	26.6%	26.6%	26.3%	26.6%	27.0%	29.0%	28.4%	28.4%	28.0%	27.1%
All Rural (nonmetro)	71.6%	68.1%	67.9%	68.3%	67.9%	67.9%	68.6%	70.2%	70.8%	70.9%	70.7%	70.5%	70.2%
Adjacent to metro	67.0%	63.2%	61.7%	63.8%	62.4%	62.8%	63.5%	65.7%	64.9%	65.0%	65.2%	64.3%	63.8%
Micro nonadjacent to metro	48.2%	42.9%	44.7%	43.6%	43.3%	41.5%	43.6%	46.1%	47.2%	48.3%	49.4%	50.6%	50.9%
Small and remote adjacent to micro	89.4%	85.9%	87.9%	87.2%	88.4%	88.7%	88.9%	90.2%	91.7%	91.7%	90.6%	90.9%	90.3%
Small and remote nonadjacent to micro or metro	85.8%	85.1%	84.8%	82.2%	82.5%	82.5%	82.8%	82.2%	85.9%	85.3%	83.7%	84.0%	83.7%

Data source: Area Health Resource Files (AHRF), 2013-2015, 2018-2021. \*Percentages for 2000-2006 include counties without an MD only.

**Table 4. Percentage of U.S. Rural Counties Without a Psychiatrist by Census Division<sup>†</sup>, 1995-2019\***

	1995	2000	2001	2004	2005	2006	2010	2012	2014	2015	2017	2018	2019
Total U.S.	71.6%	68.1%	67.9%	68.3%	67.9%	67.9%	68.6%	70.2%	70.8%	70.9%	70.7%	70.5%	70.2%
New England	9.1%	9.1%	9.1%	6.1%	6.1%	3.0%	3.0%	6.1%	12.1%	9.1%	12.1%	9.1%	9.1%
Middle Atlantic	19.7%	23.0%	19.7%	24.6%	24.6%	23.0%	23.0%	27.9%	22.2%	22.2%	22.2%	24.1%	25.9%
East North Central	61.0%	56.1%	55.7%	57.6%	56.1%	55.7%	60.2%	63.3%	63.5%	62.7%	65.0%	64.3%	63.9%
West North Central	82.4%	80.8%	80.8%	81.6%	82.6%	81.6%	79.4%	80.8%	80.6%	80.6%	80.0%	80.8%	81.0%
South Atlantic	66.4%	61.0%	58.0%	57.6%	56.9%	60.7%	61.4%	63.4%	65.2%	64.4%	63.3%	63.0%	62.2%
East South Central	77.6%	72.8%	74.8%	74.0%	72.0%	70.7%	70.3%	72.0%	73.0%	73.0%	72.6%	71.8%	70.5%
West South Central	82.8%	78.5%	79.1%	78.8%	78.5%	76.7%	82.2%	83.1%	81.8%	82.8%	82.2%	80.3%	79.6%
Mountain	75.3%	71.7%	72.6%	72.6%	72.1%	73.5%	70.3%	71.2%	73.1%	74.1%	73.6%	74.1%	74.1%
Pacific	51.6%	49.5%	48.4%	49.5%	48.4%	51.6%	53.8%	52.7%	56.7%	58.9%	57.8%	60.0%	58.9%

Data source: Area Health Resource Files (AHRF), 2013-2015, 2018-2021. \*Percentages for 2000-2006 include counties without an MD only. <sup>†</sup>Census Divisions: New England—CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT; Middle Atlantic—NJ, NY, PA; East North Central—IL, IN, MI, OH, WI; West North Central—IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD; South Atlantic—DE, DC, FL, GA, MD, NC, SC, VA, WV; East South Central—AL, KY, MS, TN; West South Central—AR, LA, OK, TX; Mountain—AZ, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, UT, WY; Pacific—AK, CA, HI, OR, WA.

**County Category Designations**

Urban: Metropolitan, i.e., counties with an urban core with a population of at least 50,000 residents (UIC 1-2).

All rural: Nonmetropolitan, i.e., counties without an urban core population of at least 50,000 residents (UIC 3-12).

Adjacent to metro: Counties next to a metropolitan county whose largest town has up to 49,999 residents (UIC 3-7).

Micro nonadjacent to metro: Micropolitan counties not next to a metropolitan county whose largest town has 10,000-49,999 residents (UIC 8).

Small and remote adjacent to micro: Counties next to a micropolitan county whose largest town has less than 10,000 residents (UIC 9-10).

Small and remote nonadjacent to metro or micro: Counties not next to a metropolitan or micropolitan county whose largest town has less than 10,000 residents (UIC 11-12).

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