

# Arkansas's Shifting Rural-Urban Divide

## HEALTHCARE ACCESS ISSUES

MAY 2025

### Healthcare Providers<sup>1,2</sup>

In Arkansas, there are fewer healthcare providers in rural counties than in urban counties.

#### Number of Primary Care Physicians\* per 10,000 Individuals, 2023



**77.4%** of Arkansas's primary care physicians practiced in urban counties in 2023.

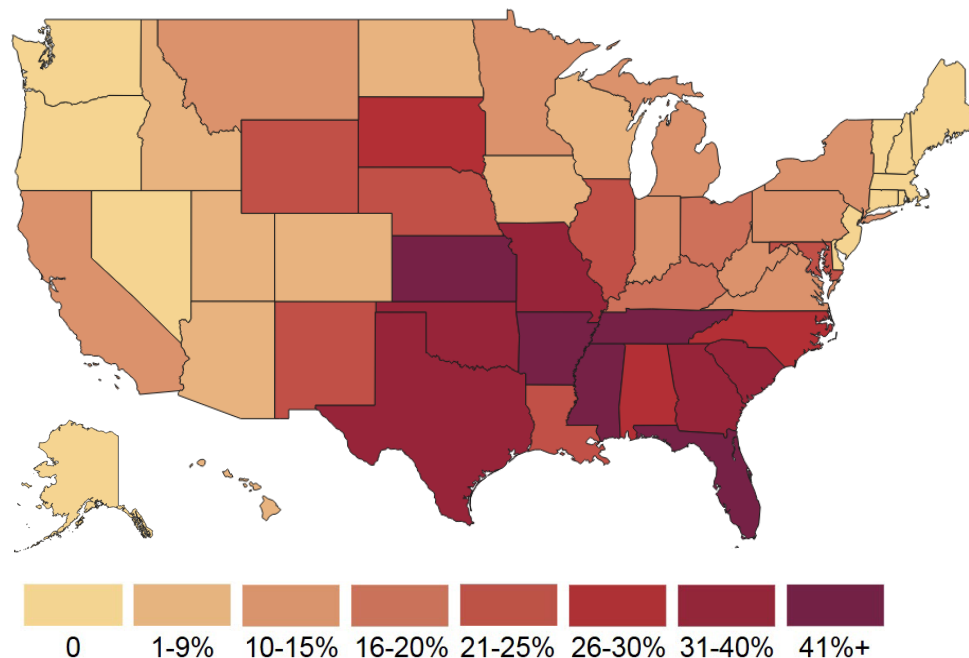
#### Number of Dentists per 10,000 Individuals, 2023



**5 of 75** counties had no dentists in 2023; all five were rural counties.

### High Financial Risk Among Rural Hospitals<sup>3</sup>

The out-migration of younger Arkansans leaves rural hospitals to care for older and sicker patients with fewer resources than urban hospitals. **Arkansas is the state with the highest percentage of rural hospitals vulnerable to closure.**



**50%**  
of Arkansas's rural  
hospitals  
are vulnerable to  
closure.

Adapted from NIHCM Foundation's *Rural Health in America: How Shifting Populations Leave People Behind* infographic.

\* Primary care physicians include physicians practicing in family practice, general practice, internal medicine, OB-GYN, and pediatrics.

<sup>1-3</sup> Visit [achi.net/publications/rural-health-access](https://achi.net/publications/rural-health-access) for references.