

Vital Infrastructure and Development of Rural Health

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DESCRIPTION

A rural general hospital is a small facility, comparable to a district general hospital, but it is staffed and trained specifically to offer medical care in outlying and rural areas. The interdisciplinary study of health and the provision of medical care in rural areas are known as rural health or rural medicine. Geographic, midwifery, nursing, sociology, economics, and telehealth or telemedicine are just a few of the disciplines that are included in the concept of rural health. The Scottish Highlands and Islands are home to all of the rural general hospitals, which are all located in communities with sparse or small populations that would otherwise require a long or challenging journey to reach larger settlements.

The rural general hospital model seeks to address some of the logistical challenges involved in providing care to residents of these areas. Gall bladder surgery and endoscopy are two cases of the planned operations that patients have at rural general hospitals that offer consultant-led general surgical services. A visiting surgeon may carry out specific specialized procedures at rural general hospitals. Rural general hospitals may have some travelling specialized staff. Rural general hospitals are staffed and furnished with the tools necessary to stabilize, resuscitate, and prepare patients who may need emergency surgery. The general hospital in a rural area can perform emergency surgery, such as to remove an appendix or treat an abdominal ailment.

Many offer general medical services under the direction of consultants. Hospital practitioners are general practitioners with additional training who provide healthcare services in a few hospitals. All rural general hospitals offer maternity care, which is typically delivered by doctors and midwives, though some also offer services under the direction of consultants. Other countries, there are rural general hospitals that are staffed and equipped to perform Caesarean sections.

When compared to urban residents, those who live in rural areas typically have worse socioeconomic circumstances, lower levels of education, higher rates of tobacco and alcohol use, and higher mortality rates. In many parts of the world, rural residents experience high rates of poverty, which is one of the major social determinants of health. Rural area definitions are not governed

by any international standards, and even national standards can differ. The most widely used practices can be divided into two categories: geography-based factors and population-based factors.

Population size, population density, distance from an urban center, settlement patterns, labor market influences, and postal codes are among the organizations are rural areas. Depending on which set of standards are used, the reported population of people living in rural areas can vary significantly. The proportion of the population who live in rural areas in Canada ranges from 22% to 38%. The range is wider in the US, where between 17% and 63% of the population is thought to reside in rural areas. The lack of consensus makes it difficult to identify the number of individuals who are in need of rural healthcare services.

In comparison to their metropolitan counterparts, people in rural areas typically have less access to healthcare. Less preventive treatment is frequently provided and emergency response times are prolonged in these locations due to the shortage of medical professionals, mental health services, and healthcare facilities. Due to a shortage of healthcare professionals, rural residents now receive healthcare in unusual methods, such as through telephone or online consultations with doctors and through mobile preventative care and treatment programs. Increased attempts have been made to draw medical professionals to remote areas, including raising the proportion of medical students from rural areas and enhancing financial incentives for rural practices.

The health and anticipated longevity of people in rural locations are also influenced by lifestyle and personal health decisions. Rural residents report greater rates of obesity, passive smoking exposure, and smoking than urban residents. People also have more sedentary lifestyles. Even in places where farming is common, rural areas frequently have low rates of fruit and vegetable intake.

Rural health suffers from a lack of vital infrastructure and development. For people who reside in these areas, getting to clinics and hospitals is becoming more and more difficult due to the physical isolation of some rural villages and the lack of infrastructure. Additional environmental issues for those living in rural areas include inadequate wastewater treatment, unpaved

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roads, and exposure to agricultural chemicals. Reduced water quality and more crowded housing are two variables that the

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare lists as having an impact on disease prevention in rural and remote areas.