Healthcare Disparities in Rural Areas

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Abstract

For my practicum project I chose to focus on those living in rural communities and the unique challenges they encounter to meeting their healthcare needs. While rural communities are often smaller than big cities and further away, there is an obvious lack of access to Primary Care. This lack of primary care can lead to overuse of emergency rooms for all aspects of healthcare. Access to healthcare for those suffering from psychiatric or addiction health problems is an even bigger challenge. My research topic aims to identify the needs for small rural communities to support residents with all aspects of healthcare. I also review the gaps in healthcare and consequences associated with the lack of primary care and the effects on the homeless population. I also aimed to relate the effects of minimal resources and the rates of addiction and homelessness.