



NURSE PRACTITIONERS CARE FOR RURAL AREAS OF VIRGINIA

“Advocacy for rural health is very important – you are the voice for your community and it is your efforts that can assist in improving their health.”

– Virginia Rural Health Association. ⁱ

- Virginia covers 35,594 square miles, with a 2016 estimated population of 8,411,808 people – with 1,047,235 people living in rural areas. ⁱⁱ
- There are 30 Rural Health Clinics in Virginia. ⁱⁱⁱ

NURSE PRACTITIONERS ARE MORE LIKELY TO SERVE RURAL COMMUNITIES.

- **Kaiser Family Foundation:** “Primary care NPs are significantly more likely than primary care physicians to practice in urban and rural areas, provide care in a wider range of community settings, and serve a high proportion of uninsured patients and other vulnerable populations.” ^{iv}
- Nurse practitioners in states with full practice authority are more likely to practice in rural areas compared to nurse practitioners in states like Virginia without full practice authority. ^v

CURRENT STATE LAW LIMITS ACCESS TO CARE IN RURAL COMMUNITIES.

- **Federal Trade Commission:** “FTC staff have seen some evidence that the costs of collaborative practice agreements, including prices paid by ARPNs to physicians, may be especially high in markets exhibiting certain characteristics. For example, ARPNs may find it particularly difficult to form such contracts in rural or other underserved areas where collaborating physicians are in short supply.” ^{vi}
- Rural residents experience many difficulties in accessing health care services. These disadvantages result in higher mortality rates compared to urban communities. ^{vii}

OTHER STATES ENACTED FULL PRACTICE AUTHORITY AS A WAY TO EXPAND ACCESS TO RURAL AREAS.

- Arizona retired the legal condition of physician involvement in NP practice in 2001. Over the following 6 years, Arizona’s rural areas saw a 73% increase in NPs practice. ^{viii}
- Nevada, a predominantly rural state, retired their condition of physician collaborative agreements in 2012. The Nevada Board of Nursing has reported an increase of over 20% in the number of advanced practice nurses seeking licensure in Nevada. ^{ix}

ⁱ Virginia Rural Health Association, Jan. 11, 2017.

ⁱⁱ Rural Health Information Hub, Virginia, from <https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/states/virginia>.

ⁱⁱⁱ Rural Health Information Hub, Virginia, from <https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/states/virginia>.

^{iv} Kaiser Family Foundation, “Tapping Nurse Practitioners to Meet Rising Demand for Primary Care,” Jan. 2015.

^v Washington and Wyoming, Alaska, Montana and Idaho Rural Health Research Center, “Understanding Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Distribution in Urban and Rural Areas of the United States Using National Provider Identifier Data,” April 2012.

^{vi} Federal Trade Commission, “The doctor (or nurse practitioner) will see you now: Competition and the regulation of advanced practice nurses,” Jan. 11, 2017.

^{vii} Stanford Medicine, Healthcare Disparities & Barriers to Healthcare, from <http://ruralhealth.stanford.edu/health-pros/factsheets/disparities-barriers.html>.

^{viii} Arizona Rural Health Office, “Arizona Rural Health Workforce Trend Analysis,” April 2011

^{ix} Nevada State Board of Nursing