

# Rural Health Issues 2006



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# Maryland's Rural Population General Characteristics

- One-Fifth of the Population
- Lower Population Density
- Higher Proportion of Elderly
- Poorer than Average
- Poorer Level of Health



# Maryland's Rural Population General Characteristics

- Higher Proportion of Uninsured/Underinsured
- Lower Level of Educational Attainment
- Higher Unemployment
- Poor Health Outcomes
- Higher Death Rates (All Causes)



# Rural Health Issues

- Transportation
- Dental Care
- Workforce/Manpower Issues
- Accessing Care (Primary & Specialty Care)
- Immigrant/Migrant Workers



# Rural Health Issues

- Poor Health Status
- Mental Health & Substance Abuse
- Chronic Disease Incidence
- Environmental Issues  
(Ground Water Contamination)



# Things to Consider...

- Provide assistance to rural areas in developing telemedicine initiatives.
- Provide assistance for the development of community health networks



# Things to Consider...

- Provide assistance to enhance the human resource capacity of rural communities, including the education, training, and deployment of health care professionals, and the preparedness of rural residents to engage actively in improving their health and health care.
- Provide assistance to improve access to dental care/mental health and addiction needs, and specialty services.

