

Gap Calculations

Clinical Access Subindicators	Virginia Urban	Virginia Rural	VA Rural/Urban Gap
Primary Care Provider Rate (Per 100,000)	80.80	38.7	-42.10
Mental Health Provider Rate (Per 100,000)	303.6	135.2	-168.40
Dental Health Provider Percentage	80.20%	76.82%	-3.38%

Margin of Error	Standard Error	Z-test	P-value	Significance	Practical Significance
4.298529468	1.027786399	-19.19633228	0	Significant	Practically Significant
8.067077878	1.9773519	-40.91493909	0	Significant	Practically Significant
0.001275076	0.000650549	-53.82039376	0	Significant	Not Practically Significant

1

Rural–Urban Difference

Subtracted the urban value from the rural value to show direction + magnitude of the gap.

2

Practical Significance Test

= IF(ABS(E2)>=5,"Practically Significant","Not Practically Significant")

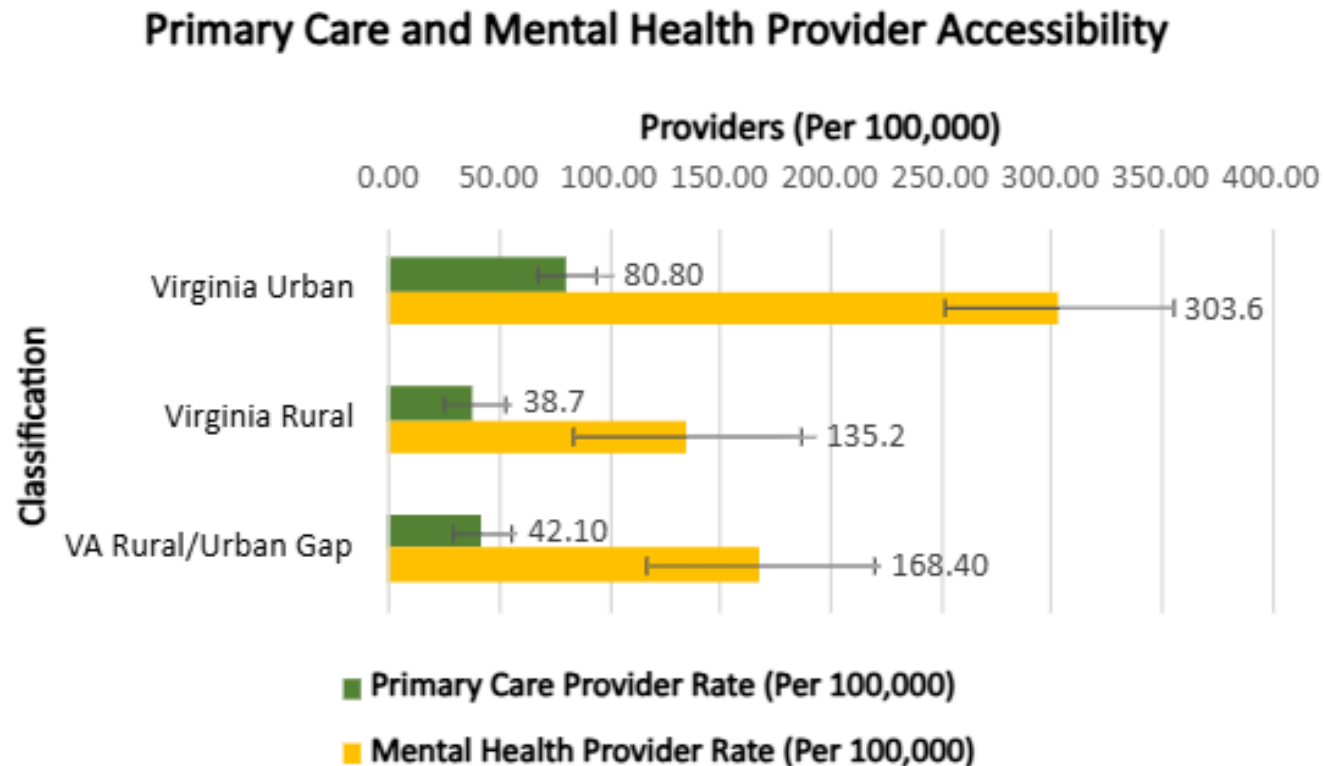
If the gap is ≥ 5 , it's considered practically significant in the real world.

3

Priority Gaps

Indicators with high practical significance were flagged as priority gaps needing targeted strategies.

Provider Access



Primary Care Providers

42.1

less providers in rural areas vs urban (per 100,000)

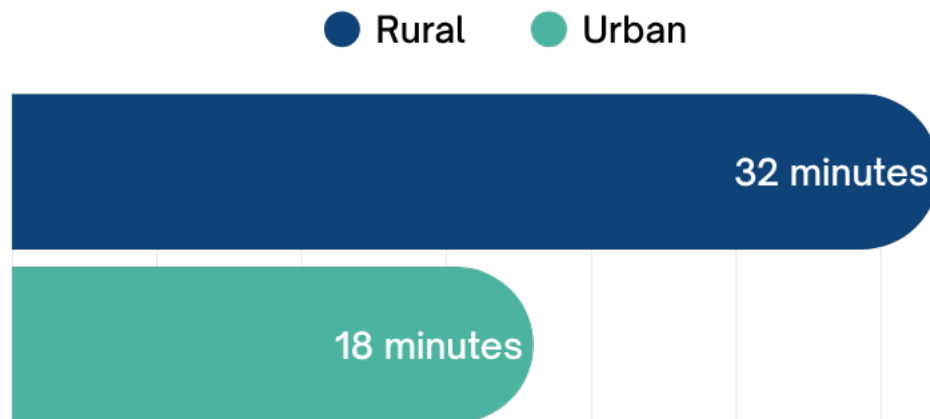
Mental Health Providers

168.4

less providers in rural areas vs urban (per 100,000)

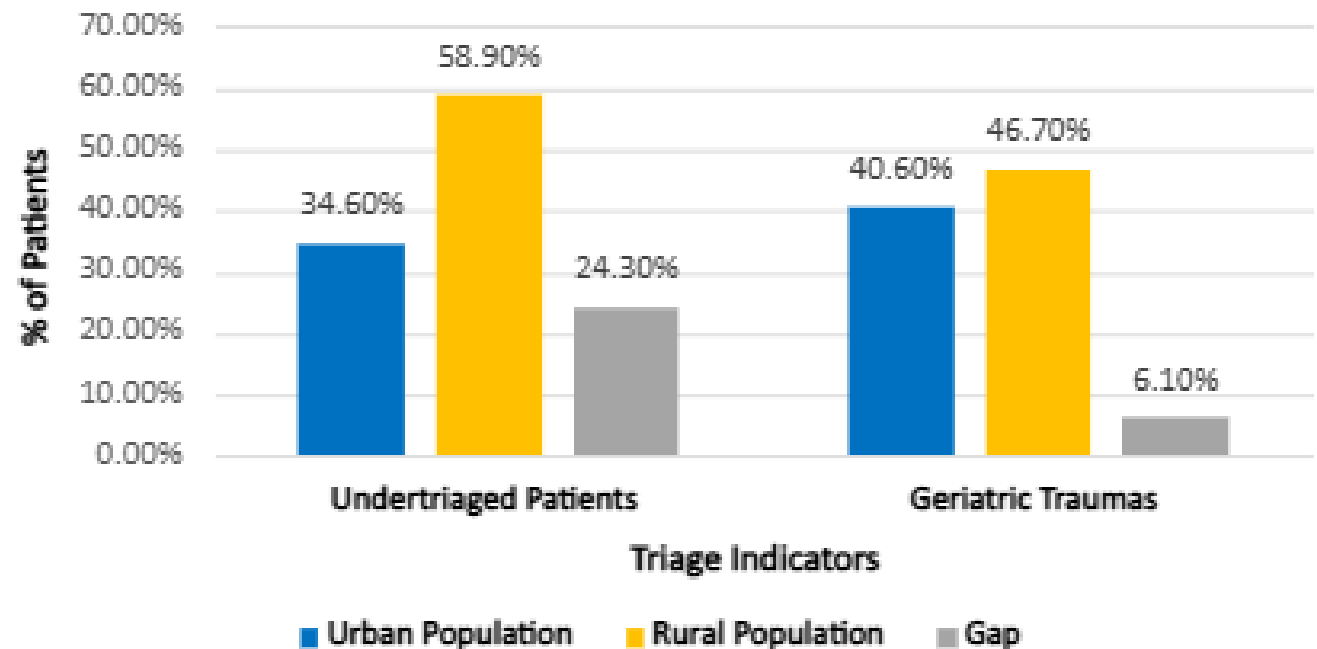
Emergency Medical Services

EMS Response Times

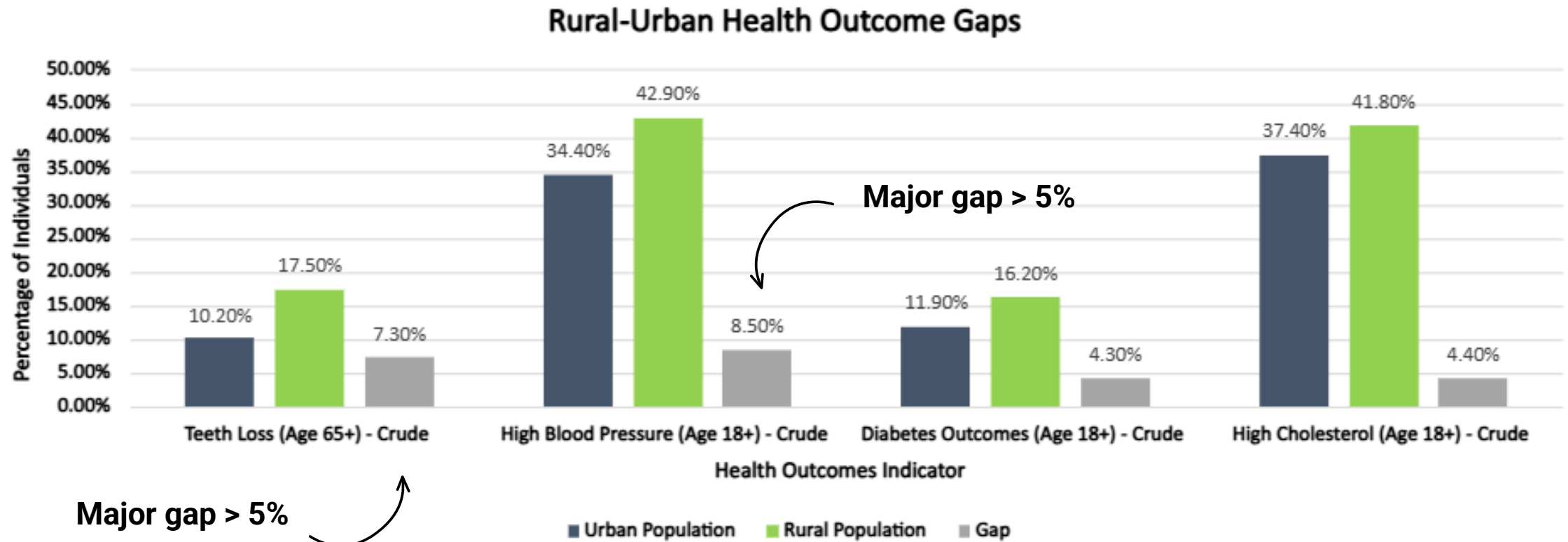


Larger geriatric population + under triaged patients + longer EMS response rates =
lower quality of patient care

Urban-Rural Triage Gaps



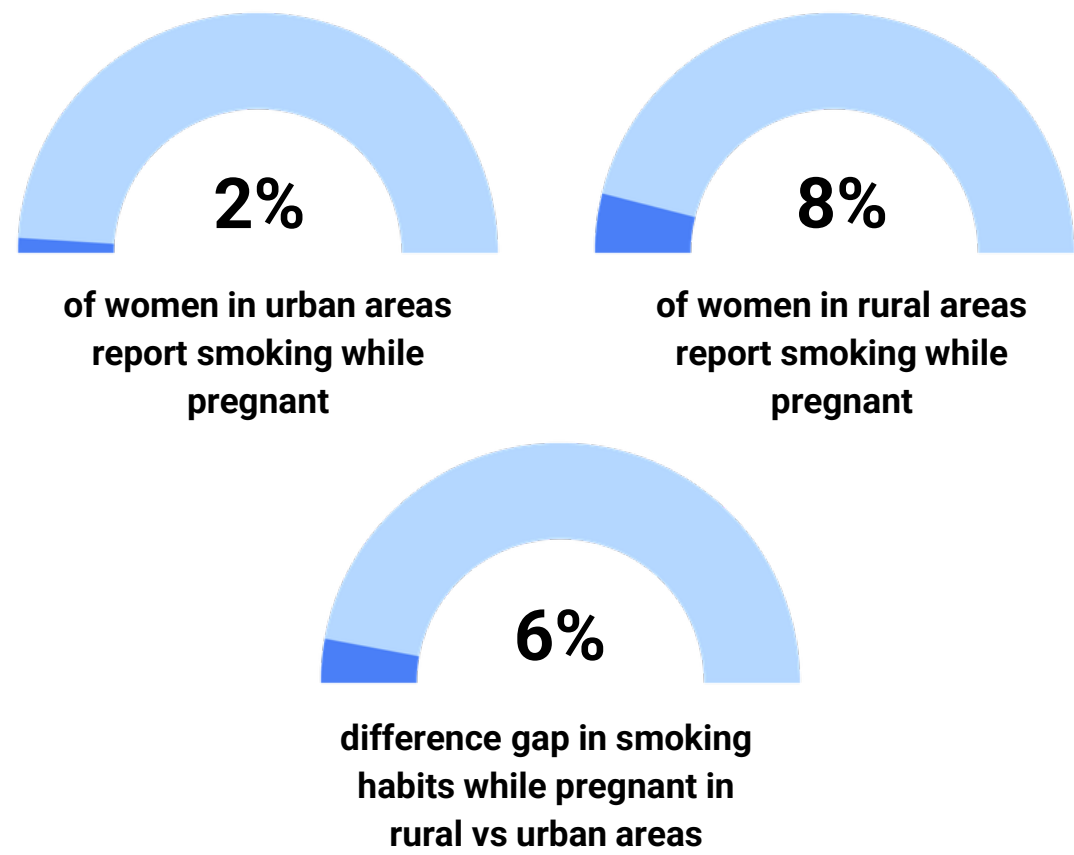
Health Outcomes



Maternal Health

Health Outcomes Indicator	Urban Population	Rural Population	Gap
Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (Per 1,000 Birth Hospitalizations)	4.33	11.5	7.17
Maternal Opioid Use Disorder (Per 1,000 Delivery Hospitalizations)	4.6	11.6	7

Smoking During Pregnancy



Mental Health and Substance Abuse

Drug Overdose Deaths

Rural

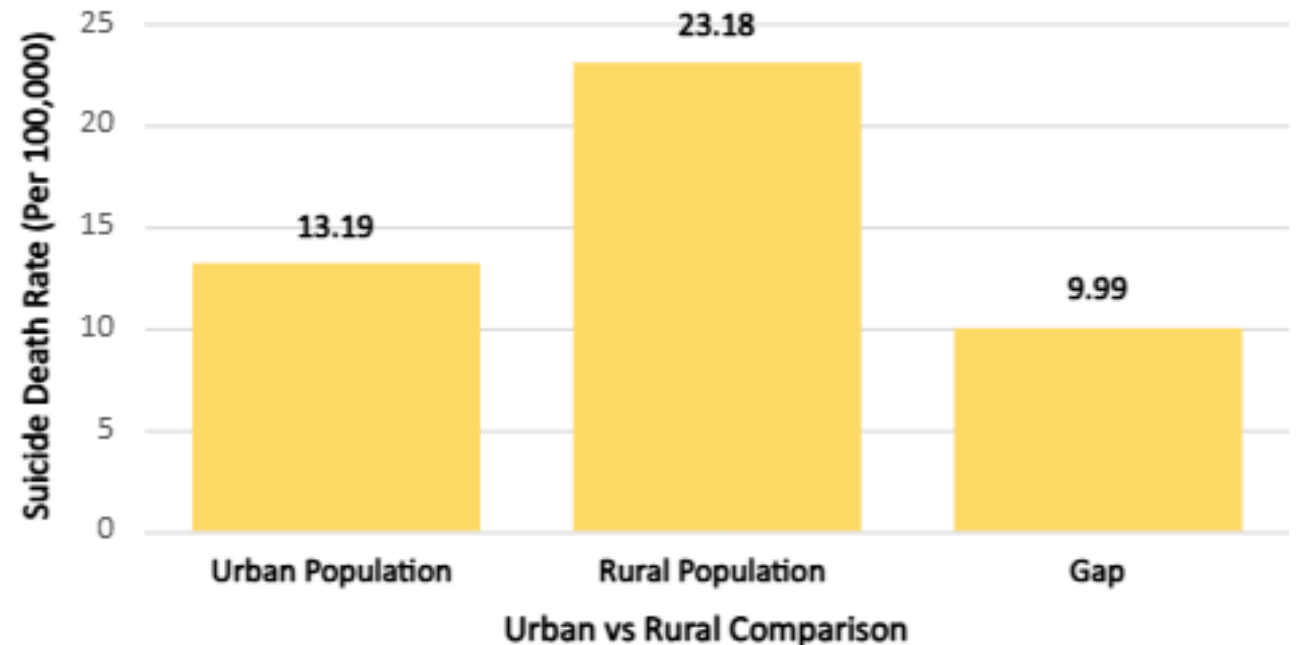
34.3 deaths

Urban

25.5 deaths

Gap: 8.8 deaths

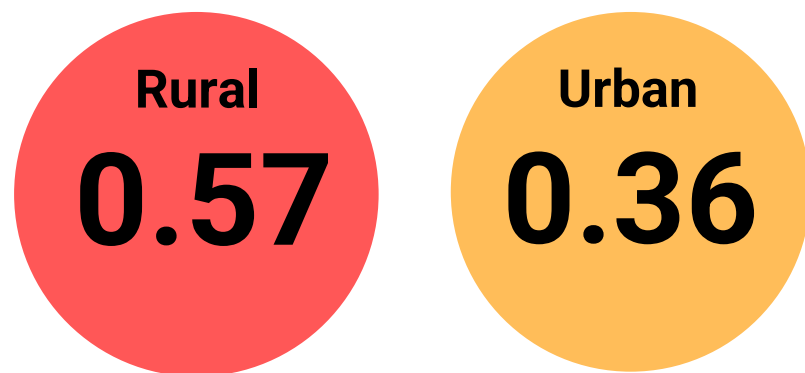
Suicide Deaths Outcome Gaps



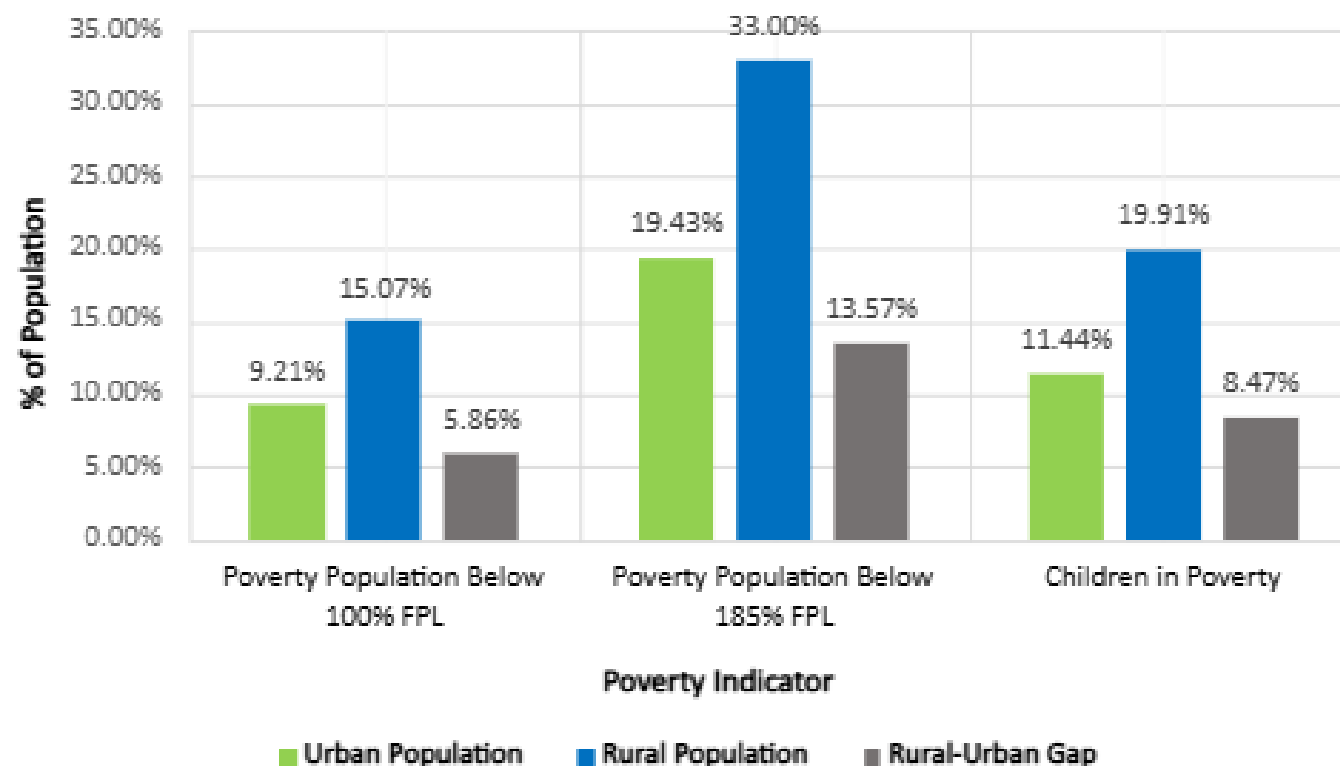
Social Determinants of Health

Social Vulnerability Index

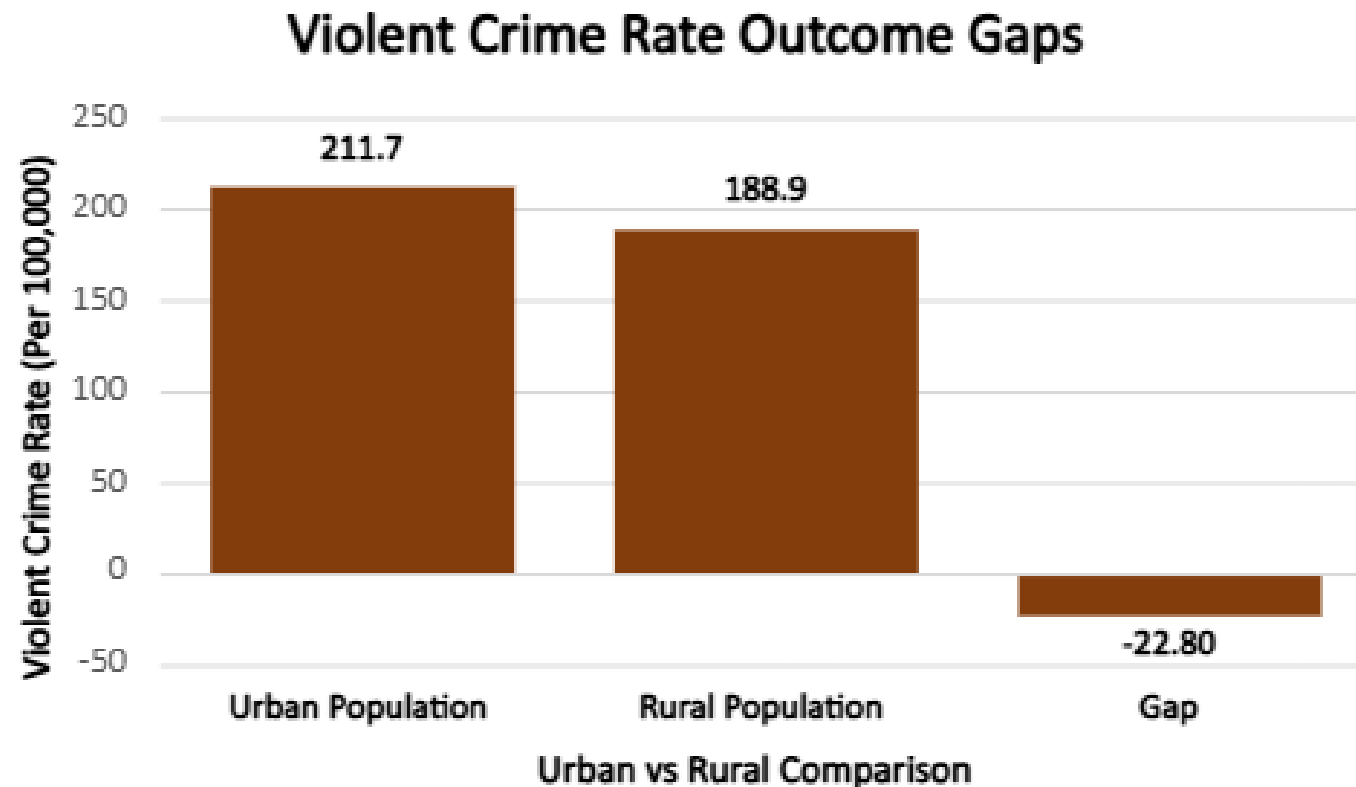
- SVI combines social and economic challenges into one score for each community.
- Higher SVI = greater vulnerability and more barriers to health and recovery.



Rural-Urban Poverty Population Gaps



Violence and Injury



Motor Vehicle Crash Deaths (Per 100,000)

Rural

24.1 deaths

Urban

9.6 deaths

Gap: 14.5 deaths



Virginia's Plan for Well-Being

What is the VPfWB?

- The VPfWB, covering 2025–2029, is a collaborative initiative led by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) and the Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association (VHHA).
- It builds on data and community input to address the most pressing health issues in Virginia, serving as a blueprint for targeted action to improve health outcomes across the state
- **6 priority areas: infant mortality, obesity, mental health, substance abuse, firearm-related deaths, housing/transportation/economic stability.**

6 Priority Areas Analysis



more babies are born with neonatal abstinence syndrome in rural areas than in urban.



more adults die from suicide in rural areas compared to urban



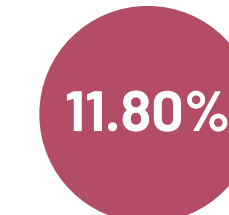
more motor vehicle crash deaths occur in rural areas compared to urban.



more people die from drug overdoses in rural areas compared to urban



higher obesity prevalence among adults in rural areas compared to urban



higher rate of solo commuting in rural areas than in urban.