

Welcome to Reno!

Paul J Hauptman, MD

Dean, University of Nevada, Reno, School of Medicine

3RNET Annual Conference

August 26, 2025



University of Nevada, Reno

School of Medicine

University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine (UNR Med)

- Nevada's first medical school: research-intensive, community-based
- Traditional four-year program for approximately 280 medical students, plus 48 PA students, 30 graduate students in the biomedical sciences, 25 Masters level students in Speech Pathology
- Biomedical research enterprise with strengths in muscular dystrophy, infectious disease diagnostics, cardiac arrhythmias and smooth muscle biology

University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine (UNR Med)

- Sanford Center for Aging
- Office of Statewide Initiatives
- Nevada State Public Health Lab
- Student Health Center
- 100's of clinical trials with Renown Health
- International student exchange program for research: Institute of Science-Tokyo, Chosun University (Korea), Queens University, University of Manchester

University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine (UNR Med)

- Formal and comprehensive 50-year affiliation with Renown Health
- Other affiliations with the VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System, Community Health Alliance, Northern Nevada HOPES
- Collaborations with Orvis School of Nursing, School of Public Health, Reynolds School of Journalism and College of Business
- Top rated gross anatomy and simulation labs

And a beautiful campus as well!



Welcome to Nevada!

John Packham, PhD

Associate Dean, Office of Statewide Initiatives
University of Nevada, Reno, School of Medicine

3RNET Annual Conference

August 26, 2025



University of Nevada, Reno
School of Medicine
Office of Statewide Initiatives

A Snapshot of Rural and Frontier Nevada in Fifteen Maps



University of Nevada, Reno
School of Medicine
Office of Statewide Initiatives

Urban, Rural, and Frontier Nevada

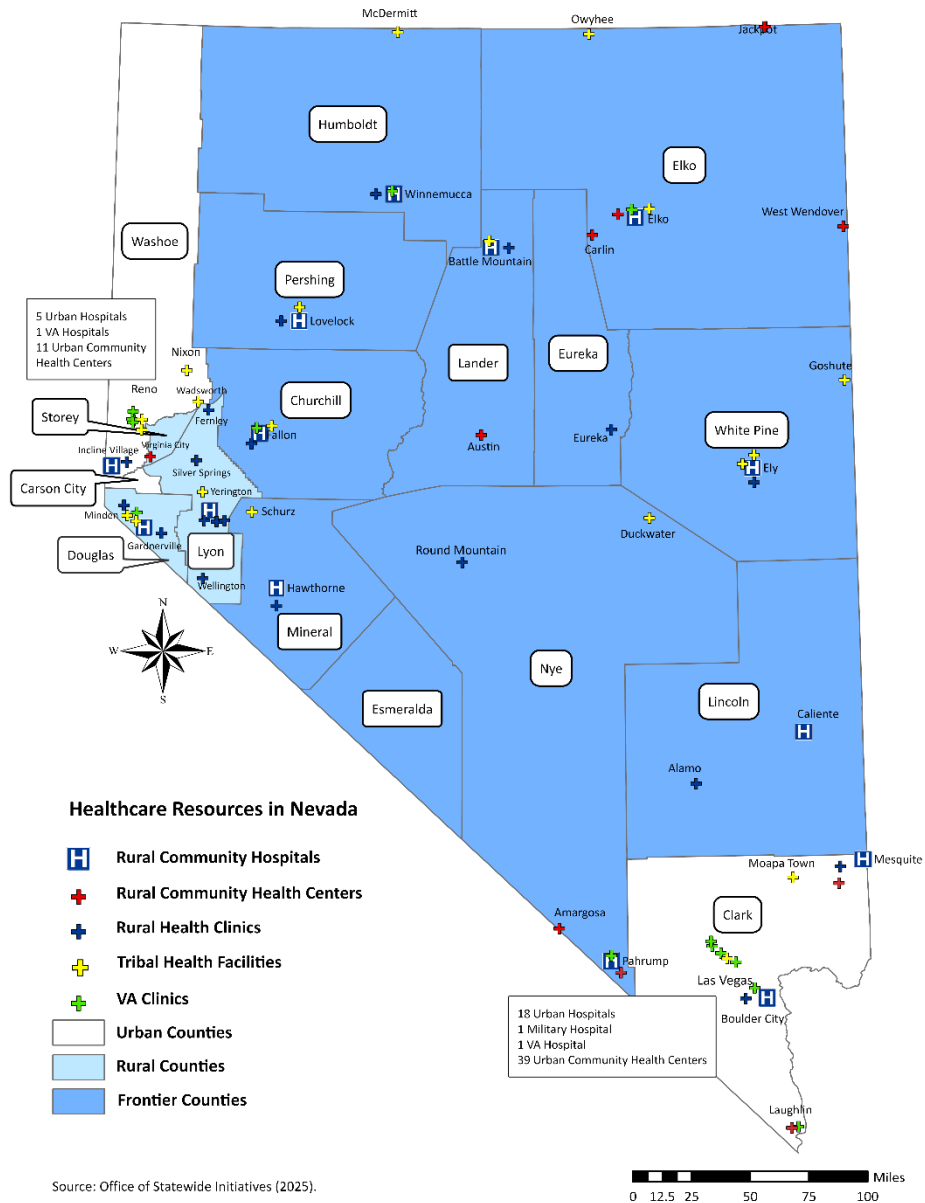
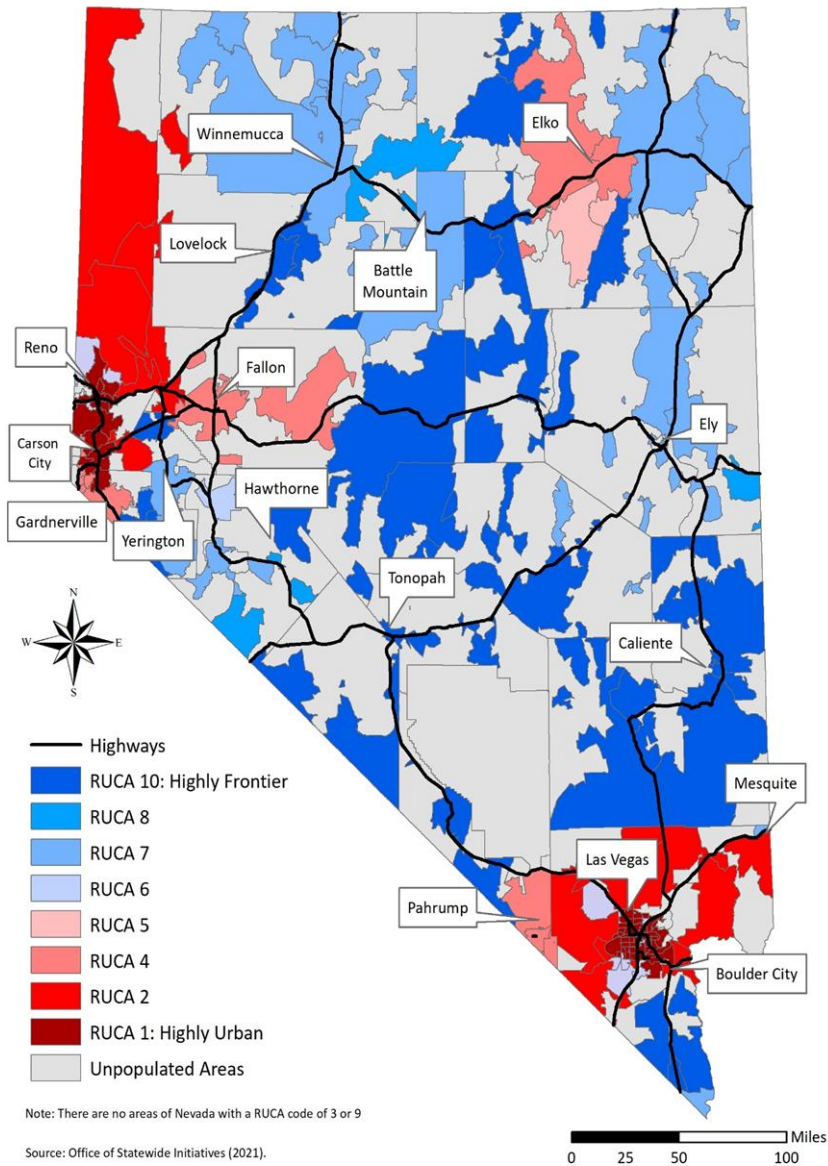
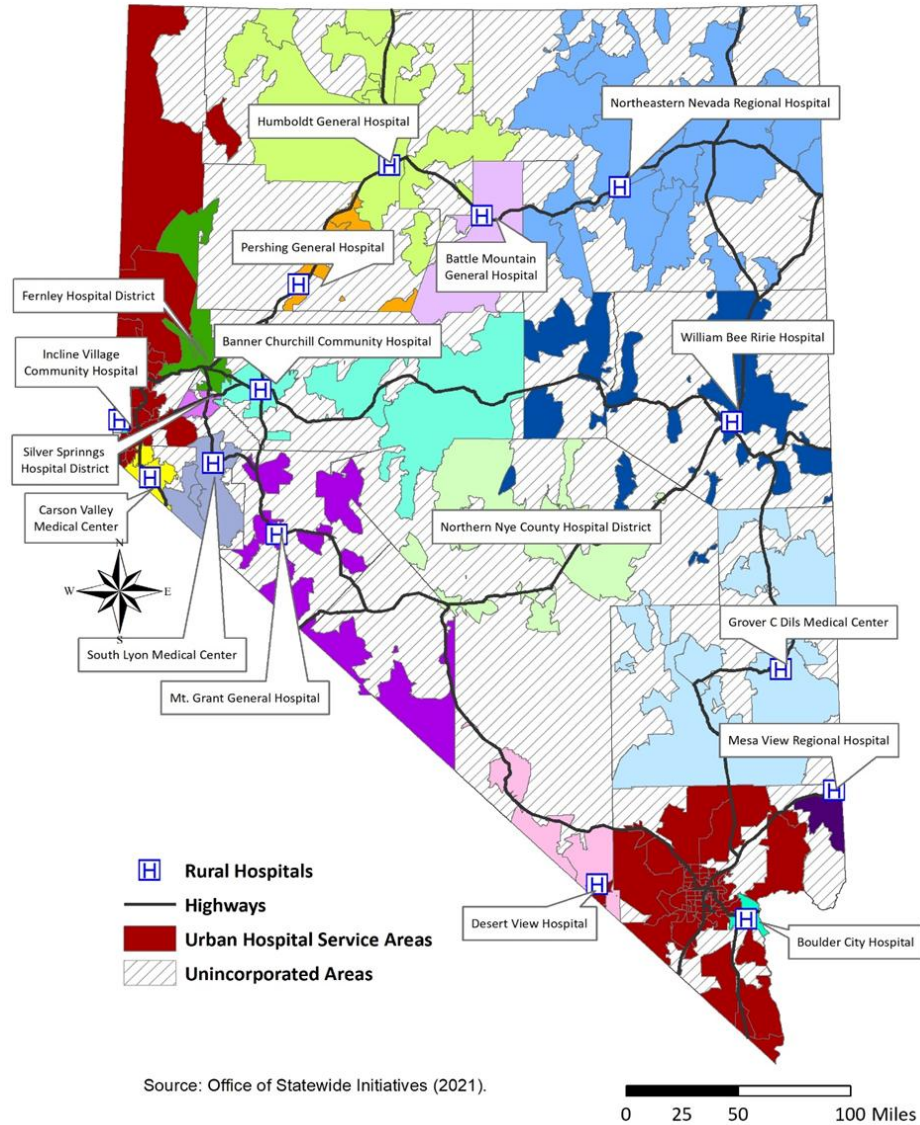


Photo courtesy of UNR Med/Brin Reynolds.

Lots of Frontier “RUCAs”!

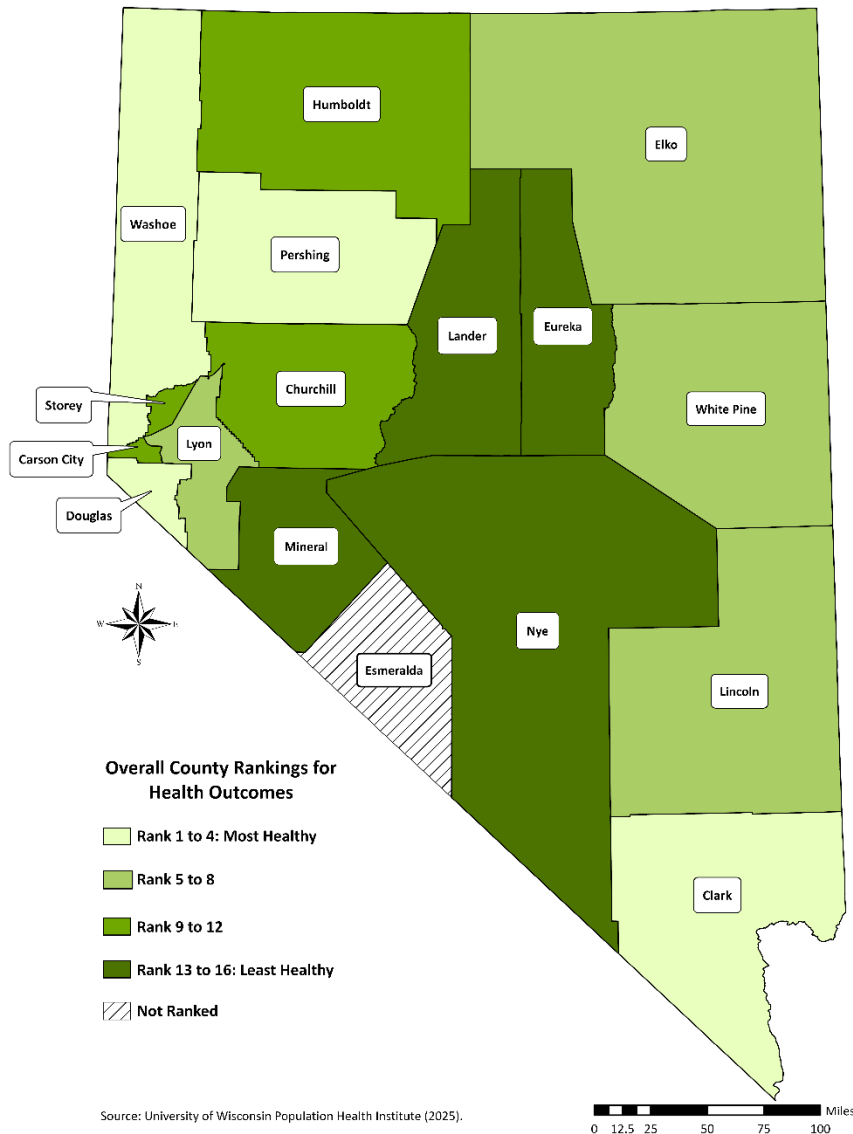


Rural Hospitals and Clinics

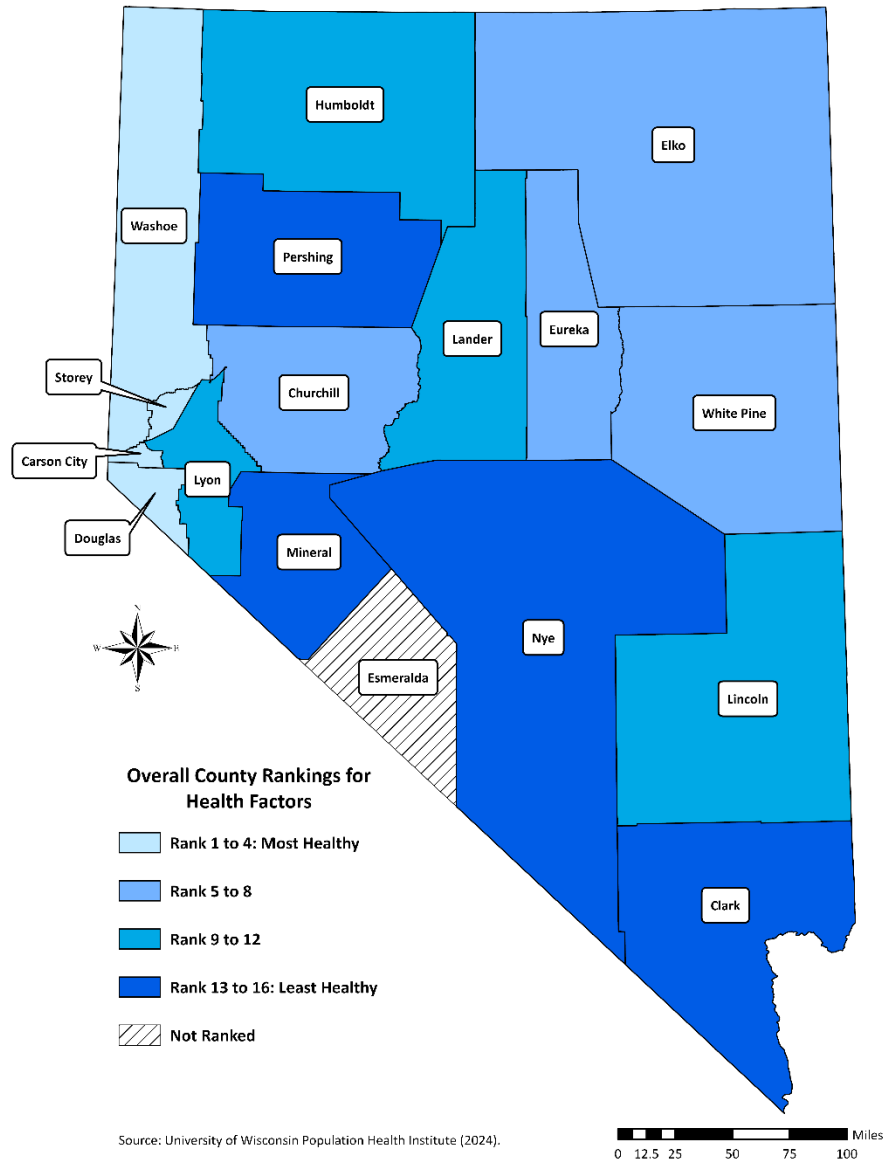


Health Outcomes – Today's Health

- Premature death
- Life expectancy
- Self-reported physical health
- Self-reported mental health
- Low birthweight babies
- Infant mortality
- Child mortality

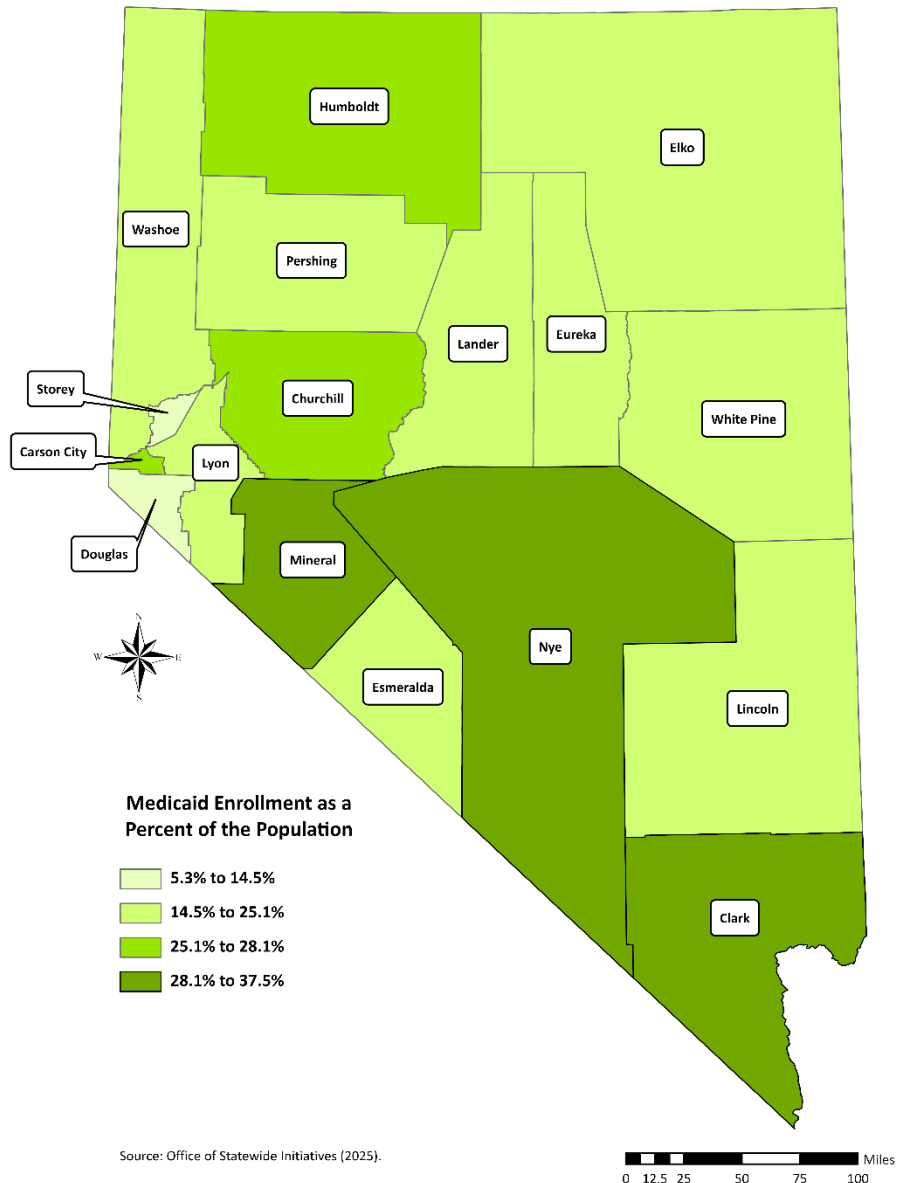


Health Factors – Tomorrow's Health



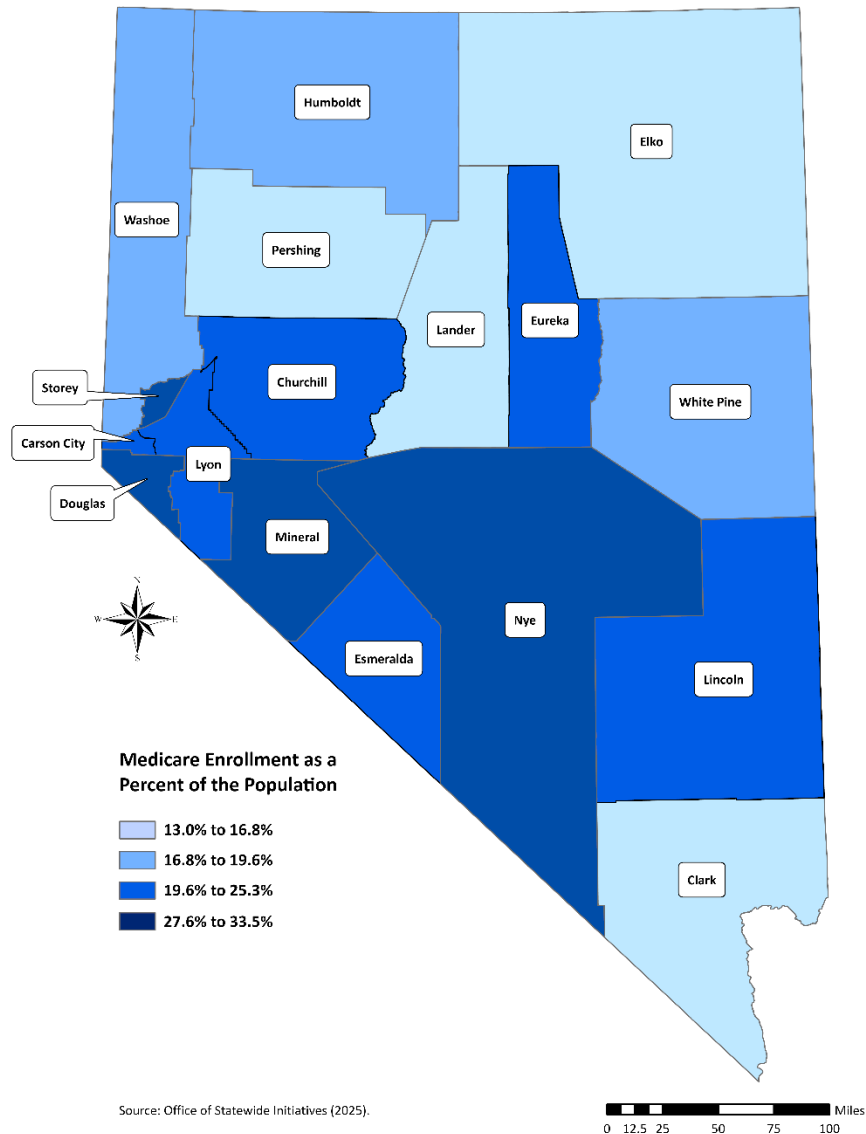
- Adult smoking
- Diet and exercise
- Alcohol and drug use
- Access to and quality of care
- Income and poverty
- Education and employment
- Family and social supports
- Community safety
- Housing

Medicaid



- As of late 2024, approximately 817,895 Nevadans were enrolled in Medicaid – this figure represents about one in four residents of the state
- Approximately 290,000 individuals were newly eligible under the ACA which covers adults with incomes up to 138% of the federal poverty rate
- 11.6% of inpatient admissions in rural hospitals are Medicaid beneficiaries
- 13.7% of outpatient encounters and 27.2% of ED visits in rural hospitals and clinics are Medicaid beneficiaries

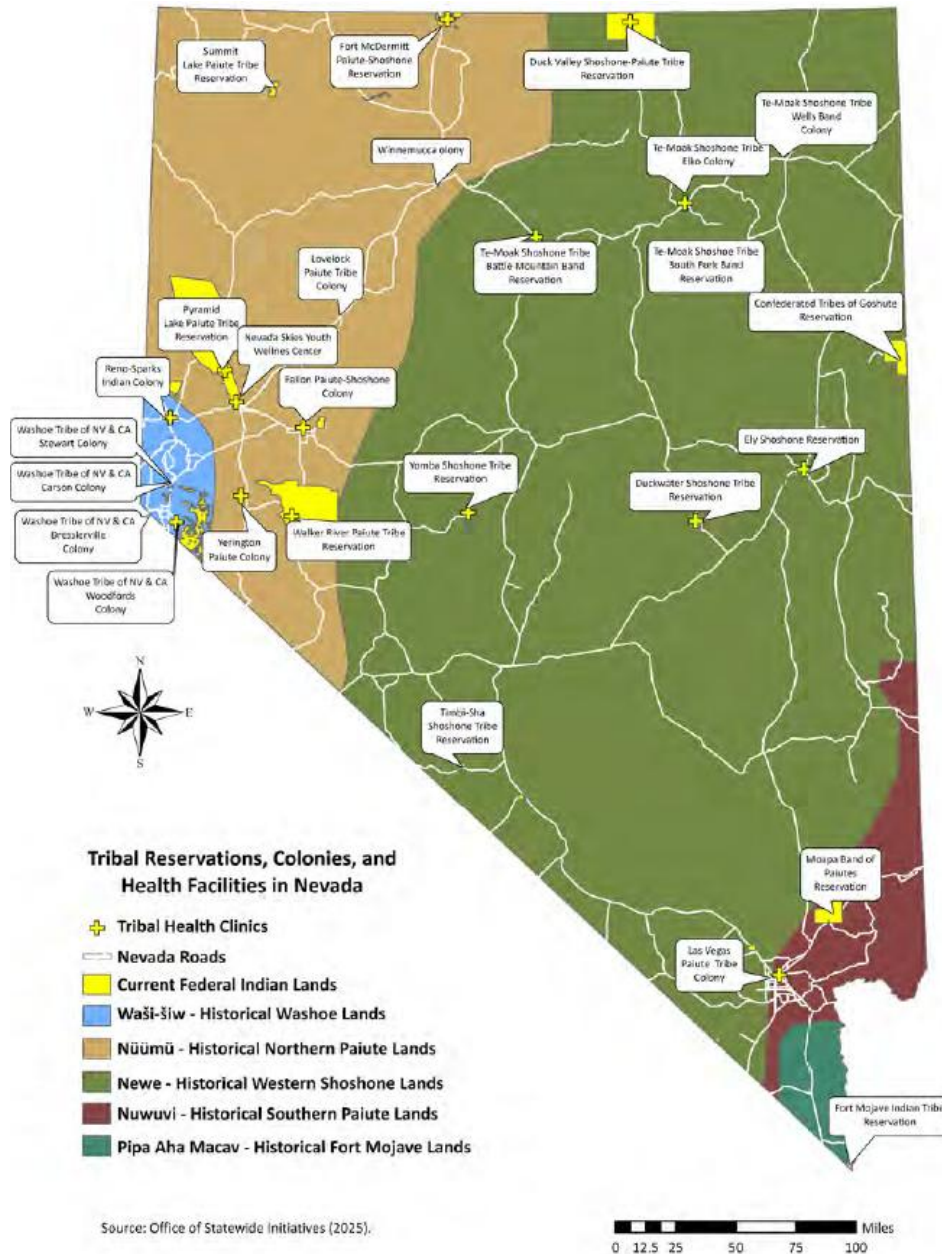
Medicare



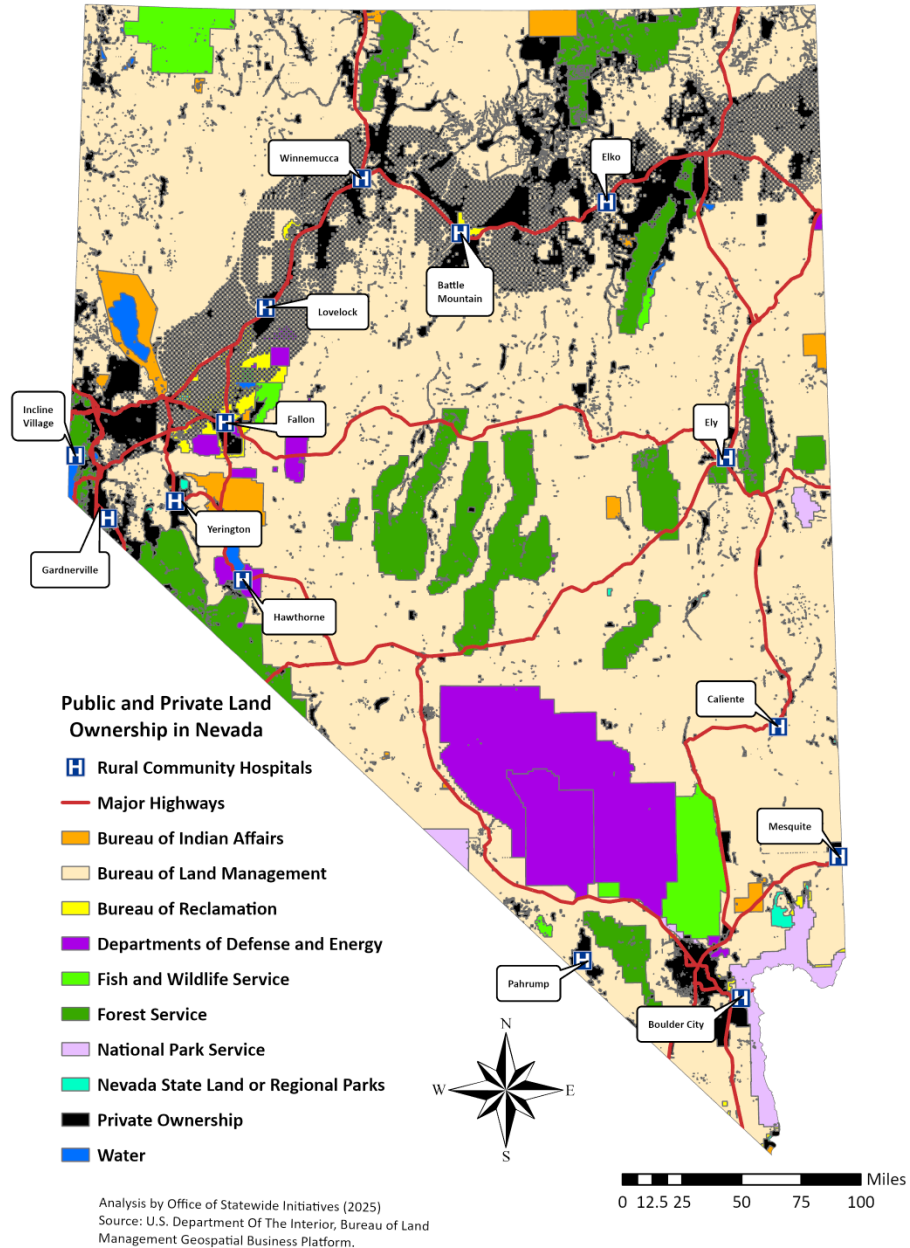
- Currently, there are 593,000 Nevadans enrolled in Medicare, including 77,000 rural residents
- Medicare Advantage enrollment in rural counties has nearly tripled in the past decade
- 61.9% of inpatient admissions in rural hospitals are Medicare beneficiaries
- 43.8% of outpatient encounters in rural hospitals and clinics are Medicare beneficiaries

Great Basin Tribes and Their Historical Lands

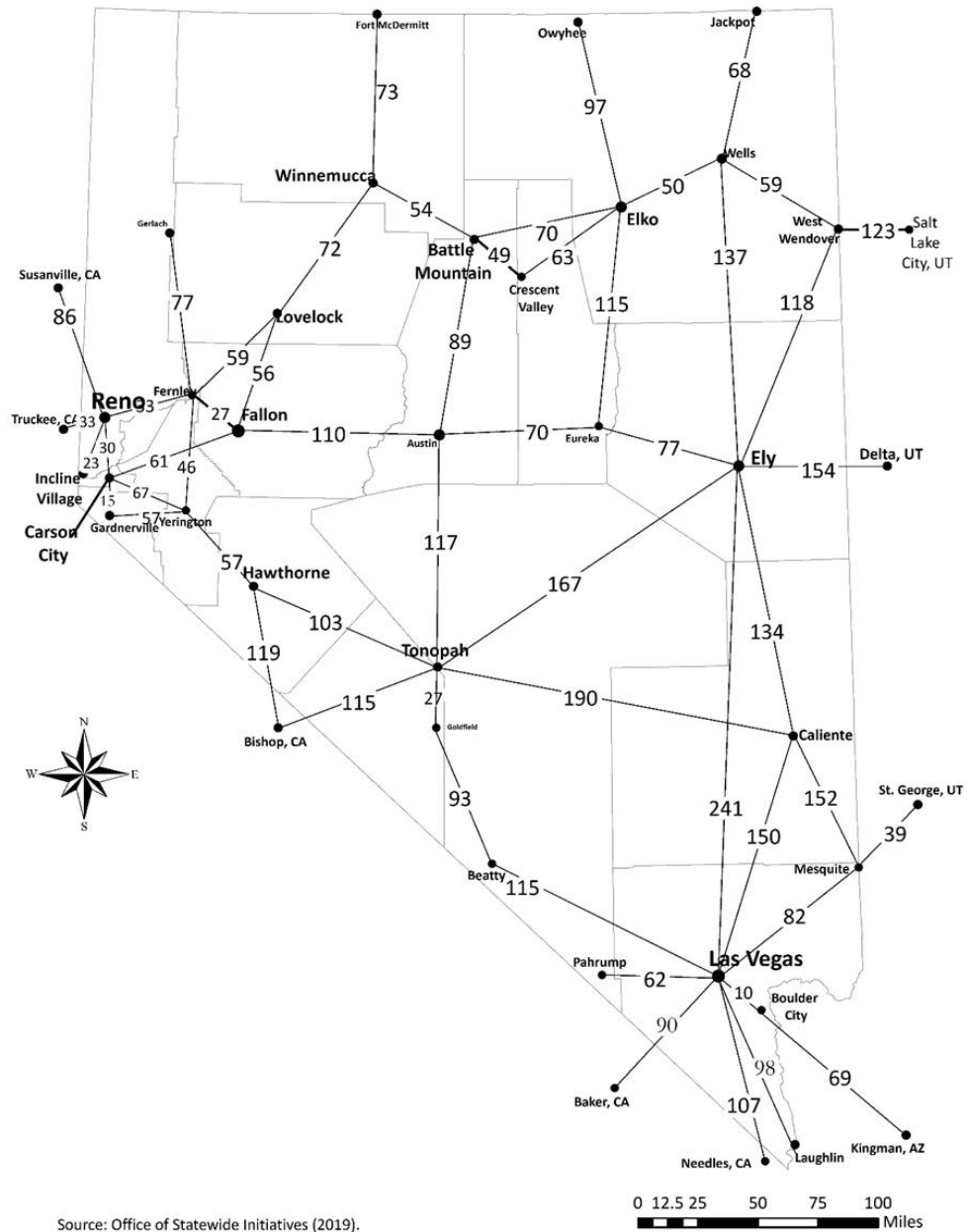
- Primary Indigenous groups in Nevada:
 - Washoe Tribe
 - Northern Paiute
 - Southern Paiute
 - Western Shoshone
 - Fort Mojave Tribe
- There are 15 tribal medical clinics and health centers in rural and frontier Nevada service approximately 20,000 tribal residents



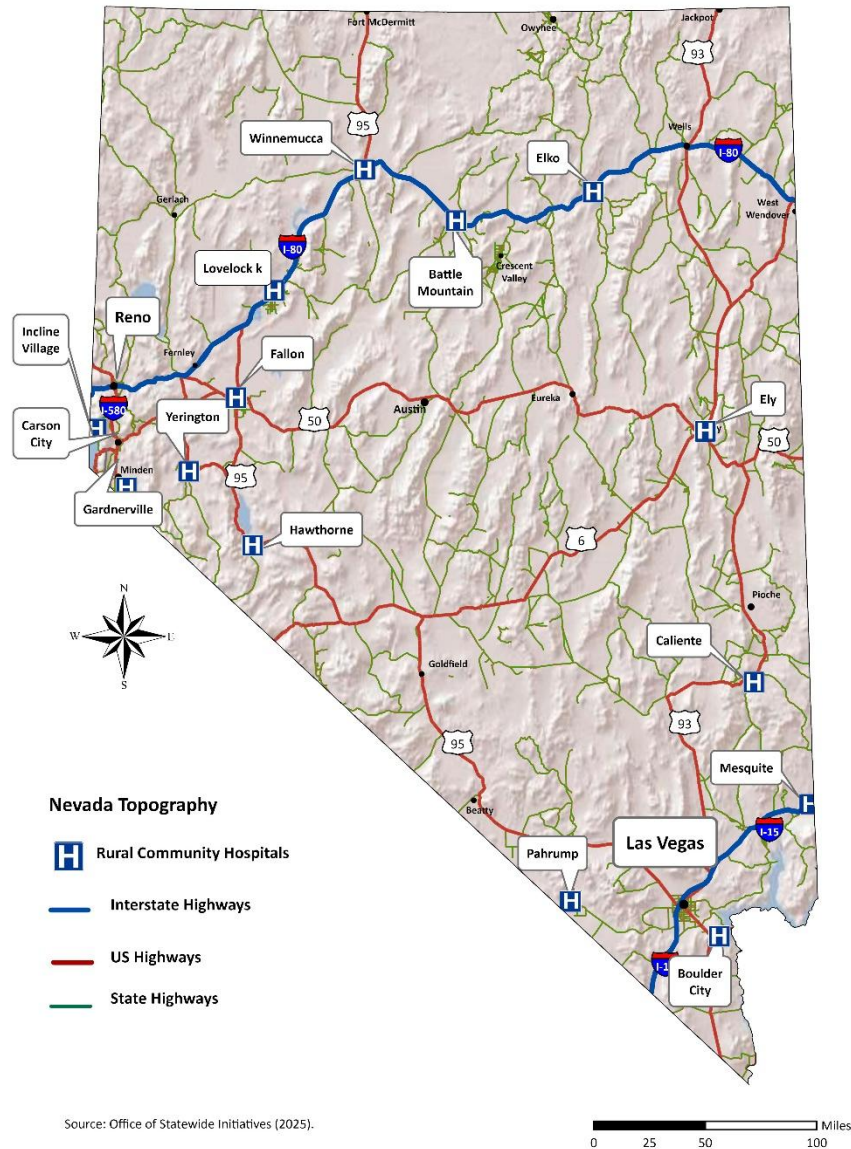
Land of Political Ironies



Time and Distance



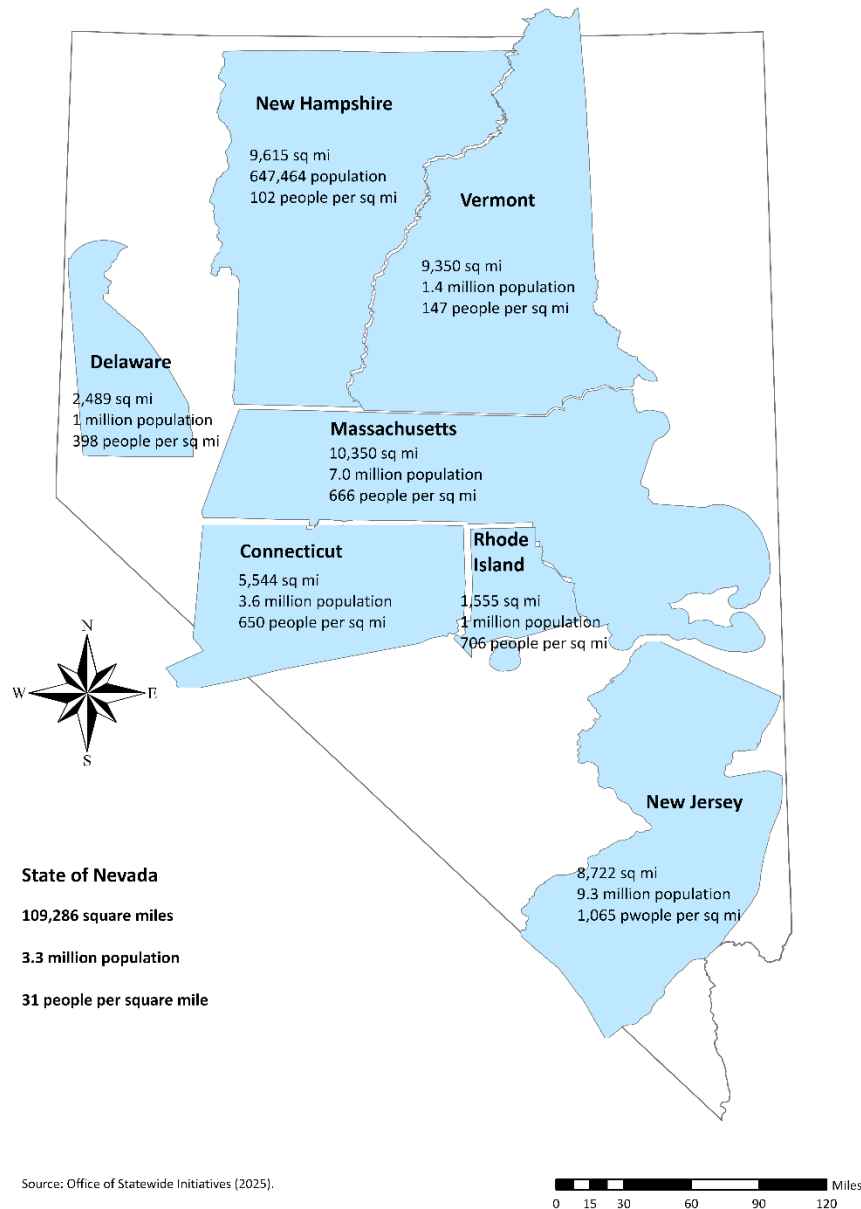
Topography and Terrain



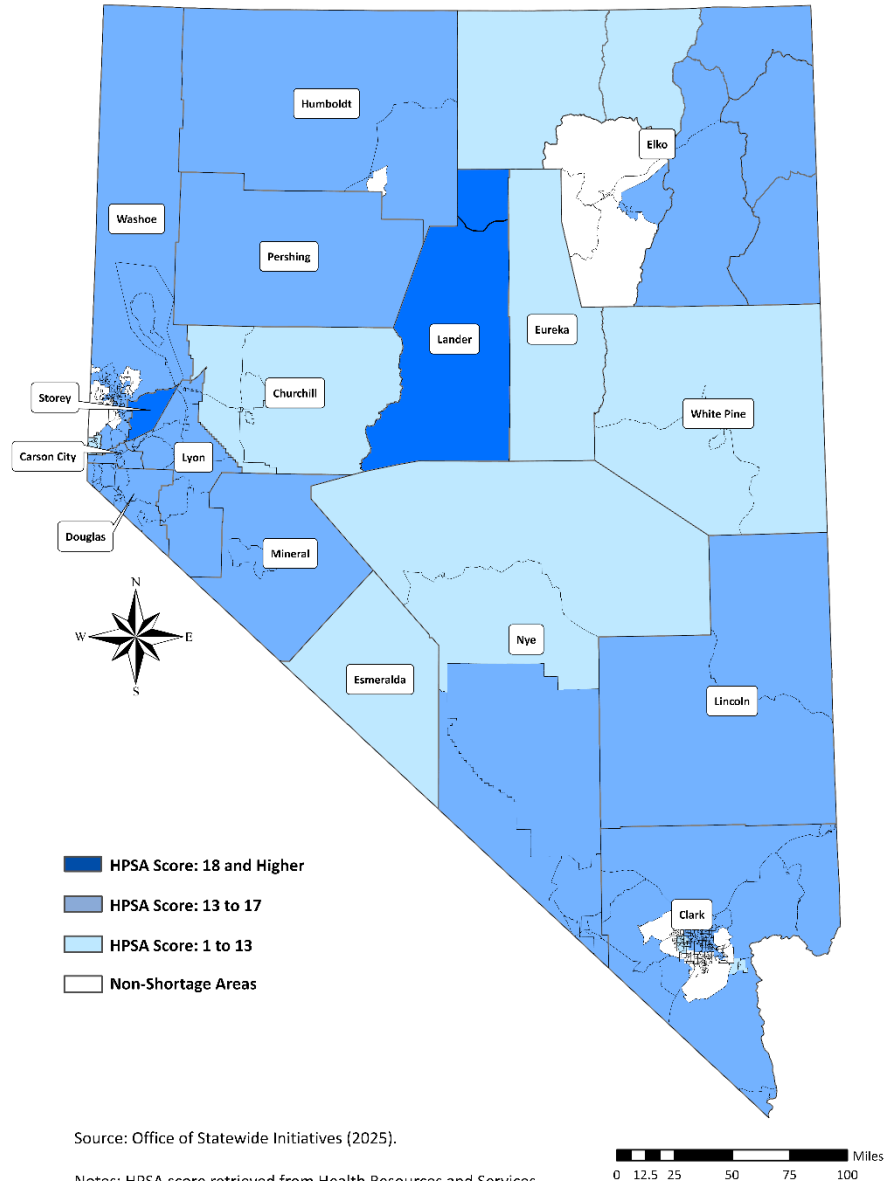
Did I Mention Time and Distance?!



Photo courtesy of UNR Med/Brin Reynolds.



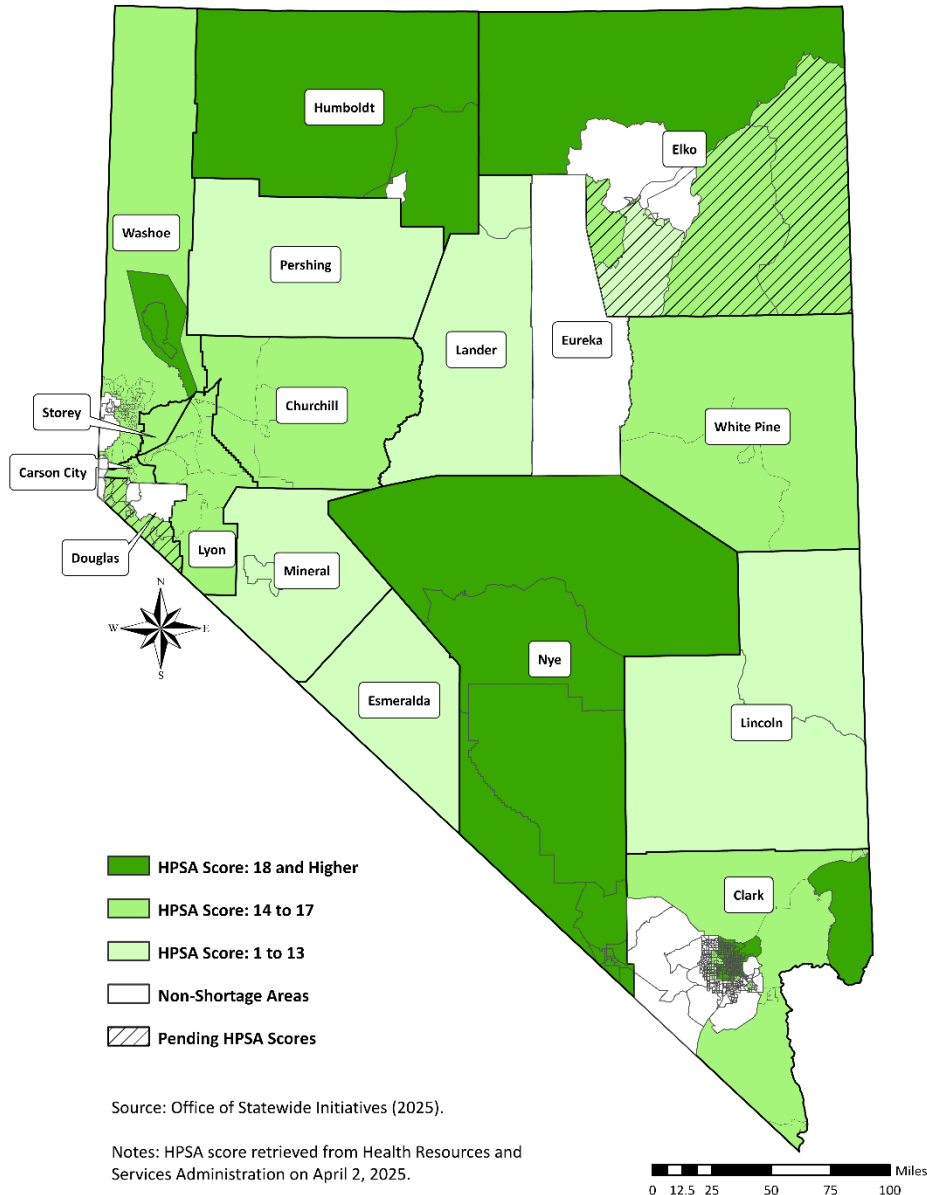
Primary Care Workforce Shortages



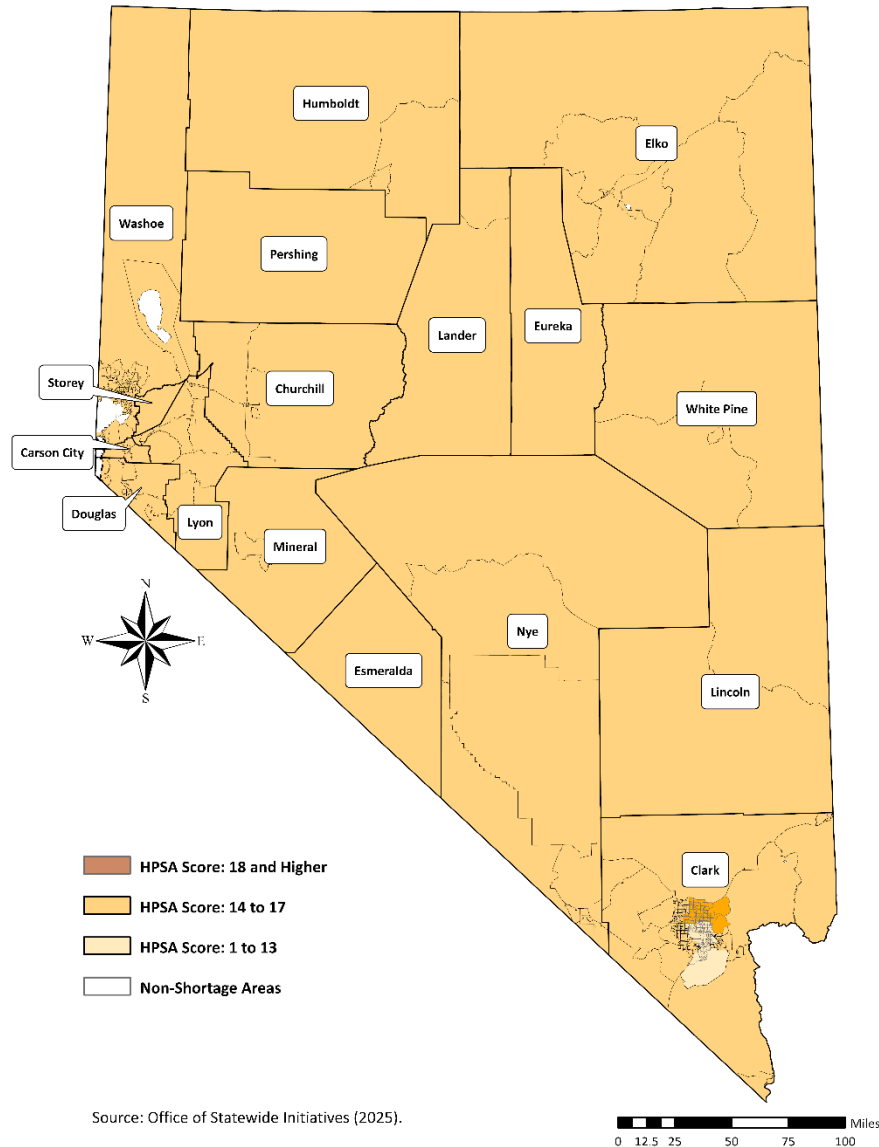
- An estimated 2.2 million Nevadans or 64.9% of the state's population reside in a federally designated primary care HPSA
- 13 of 17 counties are single-county primary care HPSAs, including 12 of the 14 rural and frontier counties
- 280,000 rural residents live in a primary care HPSA

Dental Workforce Shortages

- Nearly 2 million Nevadans or 58.2% of the state's population reside in a dental HPSA
- 13 of 17 counties are single-county dental HPSAs, including 12 of the 14 rural and frontier counties



Mental Health Workforce Shortages



- An estimated 3.1 million Nevadans or 91.3% of the state's population reside in a federally designated mental HPSA
- 315,000 (100%) of rural and frontier residents live in a mental HPSA
- 15 of 17 counties are single-county mental HPSAs, including all 14 rural and frontier counties

Additional Information

NEVADA INSTANT ATLAS Nevada's County-Level Health Database



med.unr.edu/statewide

Welcome to Nevada!

NEVADA SPOTLIGHT

University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine Office of Statewide Initiatives



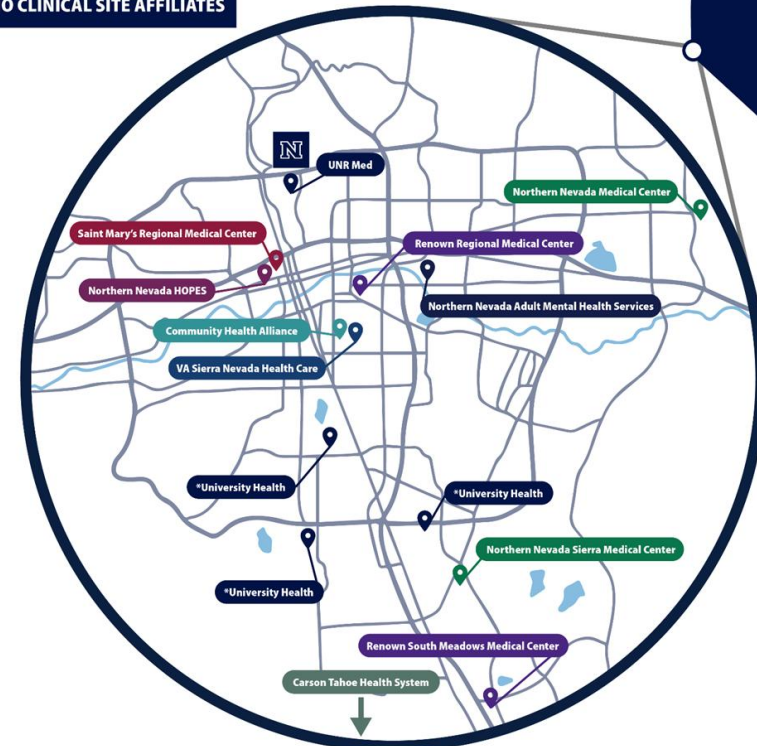
University of Nevada, Reno

School of Medicine

UNR MED CLINICAL TRAINING SITES



RENO CLINICAL SITE AFFILIATES



*University Health locations include Family and Community Medicine, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, and Psychiatry and Behavioral Health.

NEVADA STATE OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH (SORH)

The Nevada SORH supports vibrant, resilient rural communities by advancing access to healthcare, workforce development, and strategic partnerships across the state.

Focus Areas and Initiatives:

- **Community Engagement and Assessment**
 - Annual Rural Nevada Road Trip
- **Rural Healthcare Infrastructure and Workforce:** Promoting sustainability through residency program development, graduate medical education (GME) expansion, and hospital sustainability initiatives that strengthen the rural healthcare pipeline.
- **Health Workforce Support:** Administering the Nevada Health Service Corps State Loan Repayment Program (NHSC SLRP) to attract and retain healthcare professionals underserved communities.
- **Statewide Impact Events**
 - National Rural Health Day (Nov 20, 2025)
 - Rural Nevada EMS Conference (Sept 16-19, 2025)

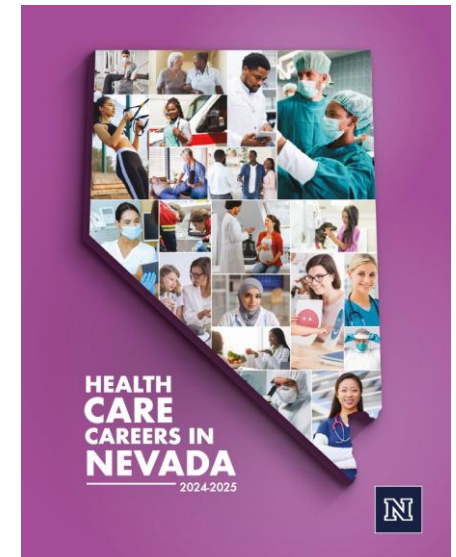


NEVADA AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER (AHEC)

Nevada AHEC is dedicated to strengthening the healthcare workforce by improving access to quality care – particularly in rural and underserved communities. Through outreach, education, and strategic partnerships, AHEC empowers students and professionals to explore and thrive in healthcare careers.

Key Programs and Initiatives:

- **Pipeline Programs:** Engaging students early, from grade school through college, with immersive experiences that support their health career aspirations.
- **Health Care Careers in Nevada Manual:** A user-friendly, comprehensive guide mapping out diverse career paths in health.
- **Educational Development:** Offering continuing education, professional growth opportunities, and workforce readiness support for current and aspiring health professionals. Emphasis on Interprofessional Education (IPE) which promotes healthcare disciplines to strengthen team-based care and improve health outcomes.
- **Initiatives AHEC Supports:**
 - IHEART: Indigenous Health Education and Resources Taskforce
 - Rural Outreach Clinics (ROC)
 - Health Professional Student Rural Rotations



University of Nevada, Reno
School of Medicine

FLEX, FLEX EMS & SHIP

- Flex (1999)
FY24 \$570,028
- Flex Supplemental (2024)
FY24 \$250,000
- SHIP (2002)
FY24 \$179,816

13 CAHs

7 EMS
Agencies

K-12
Schools
and
programs

Rural
Nevada
EMS
Conference

PROJECT ECHO NEVADA

- Project ECHO Nevada increases the capacity of health care and education professionals to support the health, well-being, & education of all Nevadans.
- Established in 2012 with four (4) programs and now currently offering twenty-four (24) programs across varying topic areas
- Uses a telehealth model to disseminate best practices, the latest medical research, and continuing education across Nevada
- Connects urban and rural healthcare and education professionals with interdisciplinary teams of specialists and subject matter experts for case review (i.e. virtual curbside consult)

NEVADA HEALTH WORKFORCE RESEARCH CENTER

- The purpose of the Nevada Health Workforce Research Center (NHWRC) is to improve the collection and analysis of data on health workforce supply and demand to enhance health workforce planning and development in Nevada.
- Flagship publications and reports
 - *Nevada Rural and Frontier Health Data Book* (12 editions)
 - *Health Care Careers in Nevada* (7 editions)
 - Annual reports on the physician workforce, nursing workforce, health care workforce, EMS workforce, primary care practice patterns, and graduate medical education in Nevada
- *Nevada Instant Atlas* – Interactive county-level health care and health workforce data base and mapping tool

CONTACTS

John Packham, PhD

Associate Dean, University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine Office of Statewide Initiatives

jpackham@med.unr.edu

Gerald Ackerman, MS

Assistant Dean, University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine Office of Statewide Initiatives

gackerman@med.unr.edu

Troy Jorgensen, BS, EMHA

Senior Program Manager, Project ECHO NV

tjorgensen@med.unr.edu

Laima Etchegoyhen, MPH

Senior Outreach and Technical Assistance Manager,
University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine Office of Statewide Initiatives

lamiae@med.unr.edu

Amanda Brown, MPH

Outreach and Technical Assistance Coordinator,
University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine Office of Statewide Initiatives

jpackham@med.unr.edu

Alexis Kirby

Manager-Rural and Frontier Program, University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine Office of Statewide Initiatives

alexissanchez@med.unr.edu