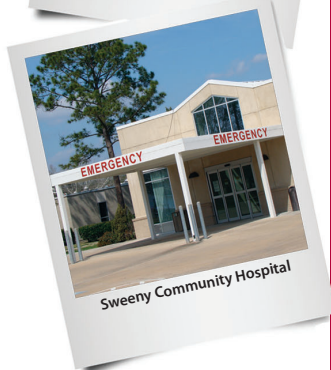
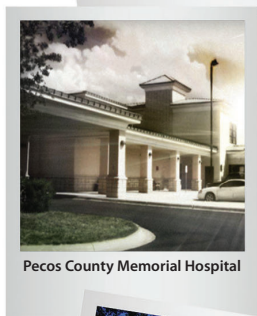


# TEN THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT TEXAS RURAL HOSPITALS

Prepared by the Texas Organization of Rural & Community Hospitals (TORCH)



1. Twenty (20) rural hospital closures occurred between 2010–2020 (more than any other state), but there has been only one (1) additional in the 4+ years since. In related development, four (4) rural Texas hospitals have transitioned to the new federal designation of Rural Emergency Hospital (REH), ceasing inpatient care to avoid closure.
2. Rural hospital closures in Texas have eased in recent years because of substantial increases in Medicaid payments authorized by the Texas Legislature to address the closure crisis.
3. Many factors drive rural hospital closures, but low volume due to declining population and increasing cost/inflationary pressure are among the most common. Operating costs in a rural hospital can be higher per patient because of staffing requirements, recruiting costs, and a lack of economy of scale as it relates to contracting/purchasing/procurement.
4. Texas' 158 rural hospitals provide care to almost 4 million Texans. This is 13% of the Texas population but access to care for 85% of the state's geography. The most isolated parts of Texas are more than 75 miles from the nearest hospital.
5. Only 63 of the 158 hospitals (40%) still provide obstetrical care and deliver babies because of workforce and reimbursement pressure – the remaining 95 hospitals provide deliveries on an emergency basis only.
6. Rural areas in Texas have the highest levels of uninsured – some more than 30% - while the Texas average of 17% is the highest of any state.
7. Rural hospitals are more negatively impacted than urban hospitals by Medicaid and Medicare cuts because they serve a greater proportion of the poor and senior communities.
8. Rural hospitals nationally comprise about 2% of Medicare expenditures, and payments to Texas rural hospitals are <2% of the Texas Medicaid budget.
9. The average rural Texas hospital provides 184 good jobs with an annual budget of \$52,672,530.
10. Every Texan should be concerned about rural health. Rural areas are an economic engine for the state, and the trauma system serves all Texans who travel.

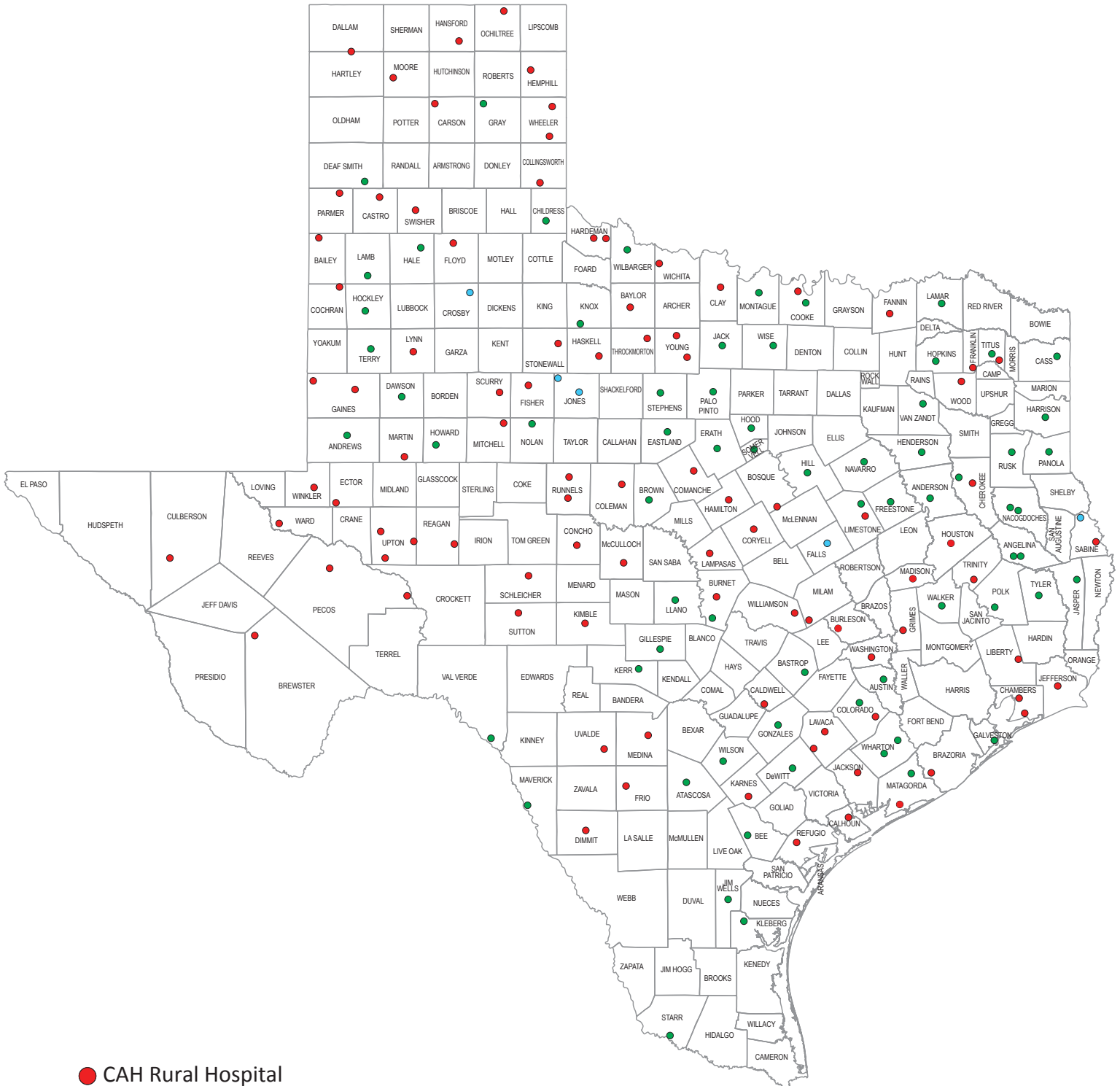
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*Texas Medicaid defines a rural hospital as a Critical Access Hospital, Sole Community Hospital, Rural Referral Center in a non-MSA, or any other hospital in a county of 68,750 population or less.*



# Map of Rural Texas Hospitals



- CAH Rural Hospital
- Rural Hospital
- REH

For purposes of this map, TORCH defines a rural hospital as a Critical Access Hospital, Sole Community Hospital, Rural Referral Center in a non-MSA, or any other hospital in a county of 68,750 population or less.