



**A LEGISLATIVE AGENCY** OF THE PENNSYLVANIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

# Rural Health Care Access

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**Addendum to Testimony**

**Dr. Laura R. Dimino, Assistant Director**

Senate Majority Policy Committee

Waynesburg University Southpointe Center, Canonsburg, PA

March 19, 2025

**Center for Rural Pennsylvania**

[www.rural.pa.gov](http://www.rural.pa.gov)



## Center for Rural Pennsylvania

**Legislative research agency of the Pennsylvania General Assembly  
(Act 16, 1987 & Act 12, 2009)**

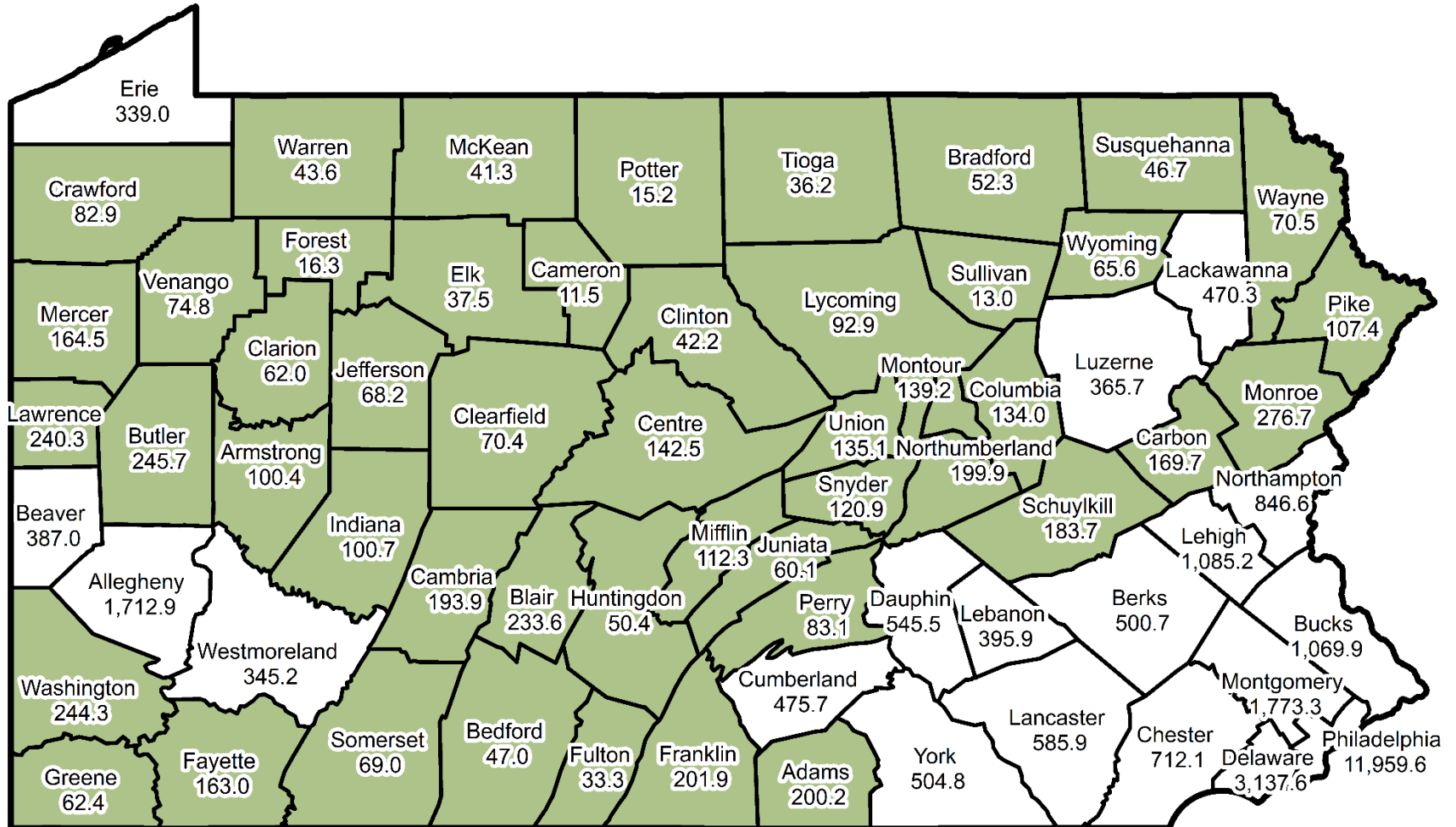
### Mandates

- Administer grants to conduct research on rural conditions.
- Maintain a database on rural conditions and needs.

### Recent Legislative Hearings:

**Rural Hospital and Health Care Sustainability, Rural Population Change, Child Care Access in Rural Pennsylvania, Opioid and Substance Use Disorder Crisis in Pennsylvania**

# Pennsylvania Rural and Urban Counties, 2020



**Statewide Population Density = 291 Persons per Square Land Mile, 2020**

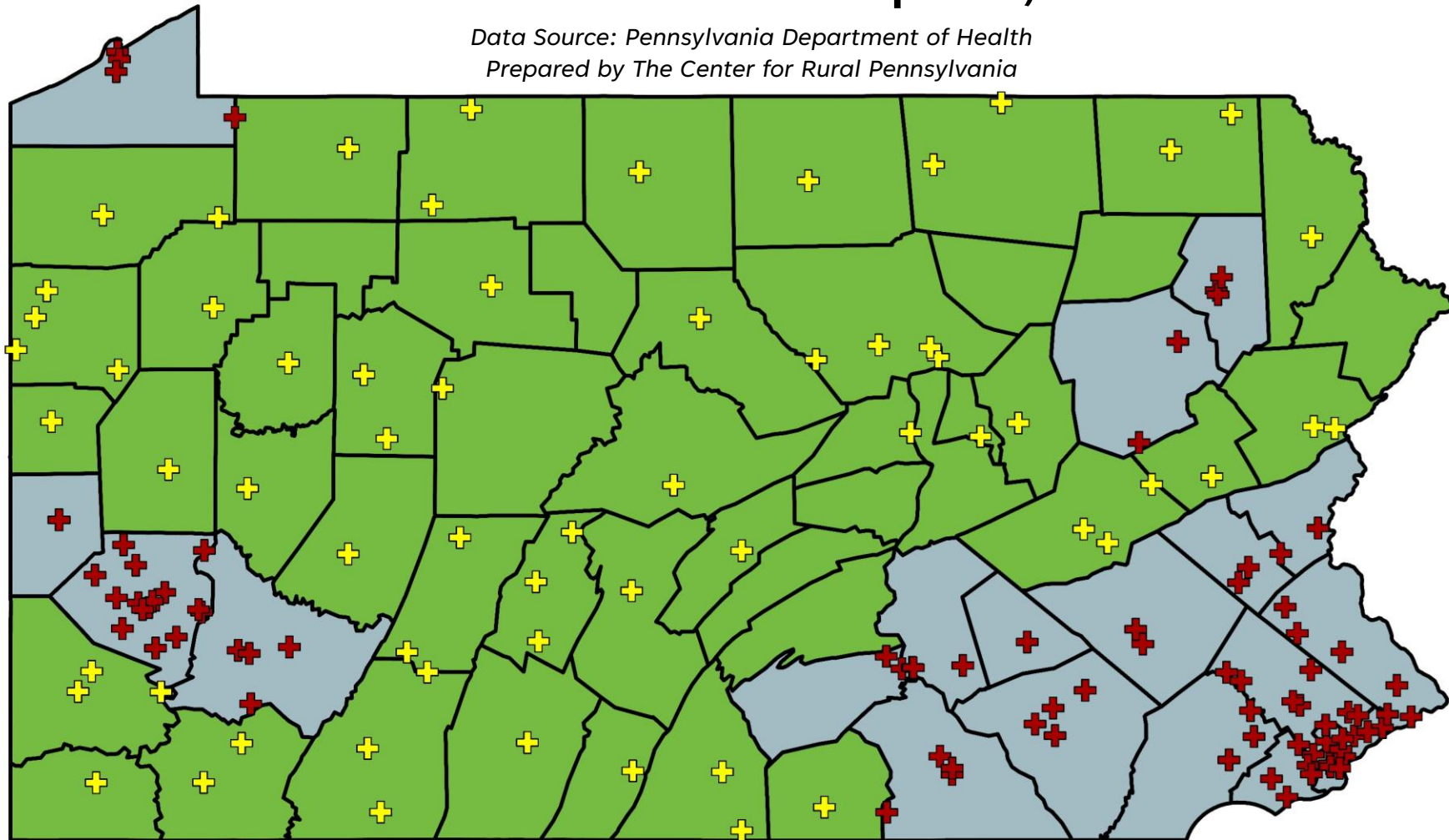
- 19 Urban Counties - Population Density At or Above Statewide Rate
- 48 Rural Counties - Population Density Below Statewide Rate

# **Statewide Health Services**

# General Acute Care Hospitals, 2024

Data Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health

Prepared by The Center for Rural Pennsylvania



**Statewide = 150 Hospitals**

- ✚ General Acute Care Hospitals - Rural
- ✚ General Acute Care Hospitals - Urban

- Rural
- Urban

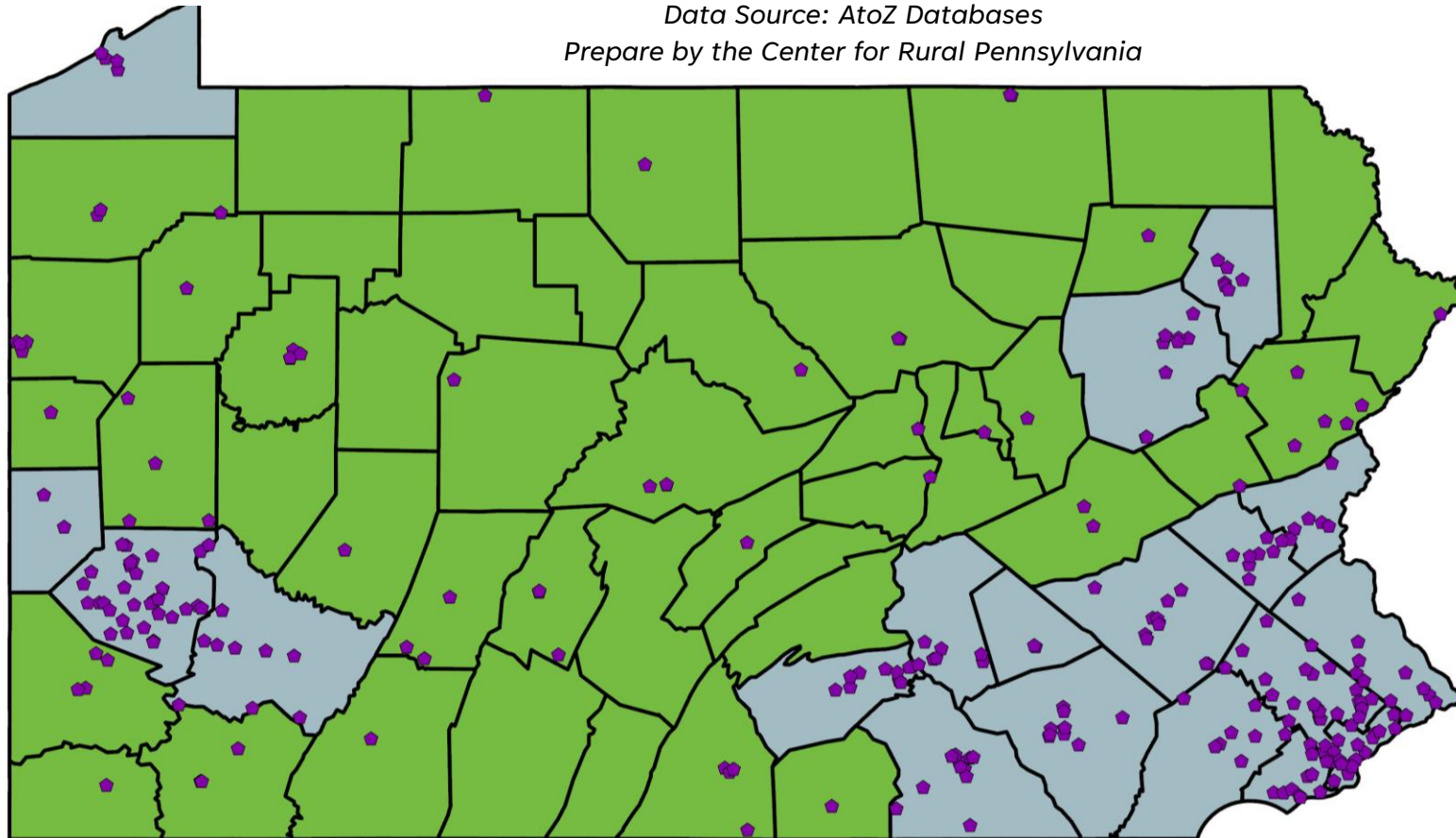
	Number of Hospitals
Rural	63
Urban	87

# Urgent Care (Hospital Associated, Health System Branch, and Privately-Owned), July 2024

Note: Newly opened urgent care facilities may not be in the database

Data Source: AtoZ Databases

Prepare by the Center for Rural Pennsylvania



Statewide = 288 Urgent Cares

◆ Urgent Cares

	# of Non-Hospital Associated Urgent Cares
Rural	67
Urban	221

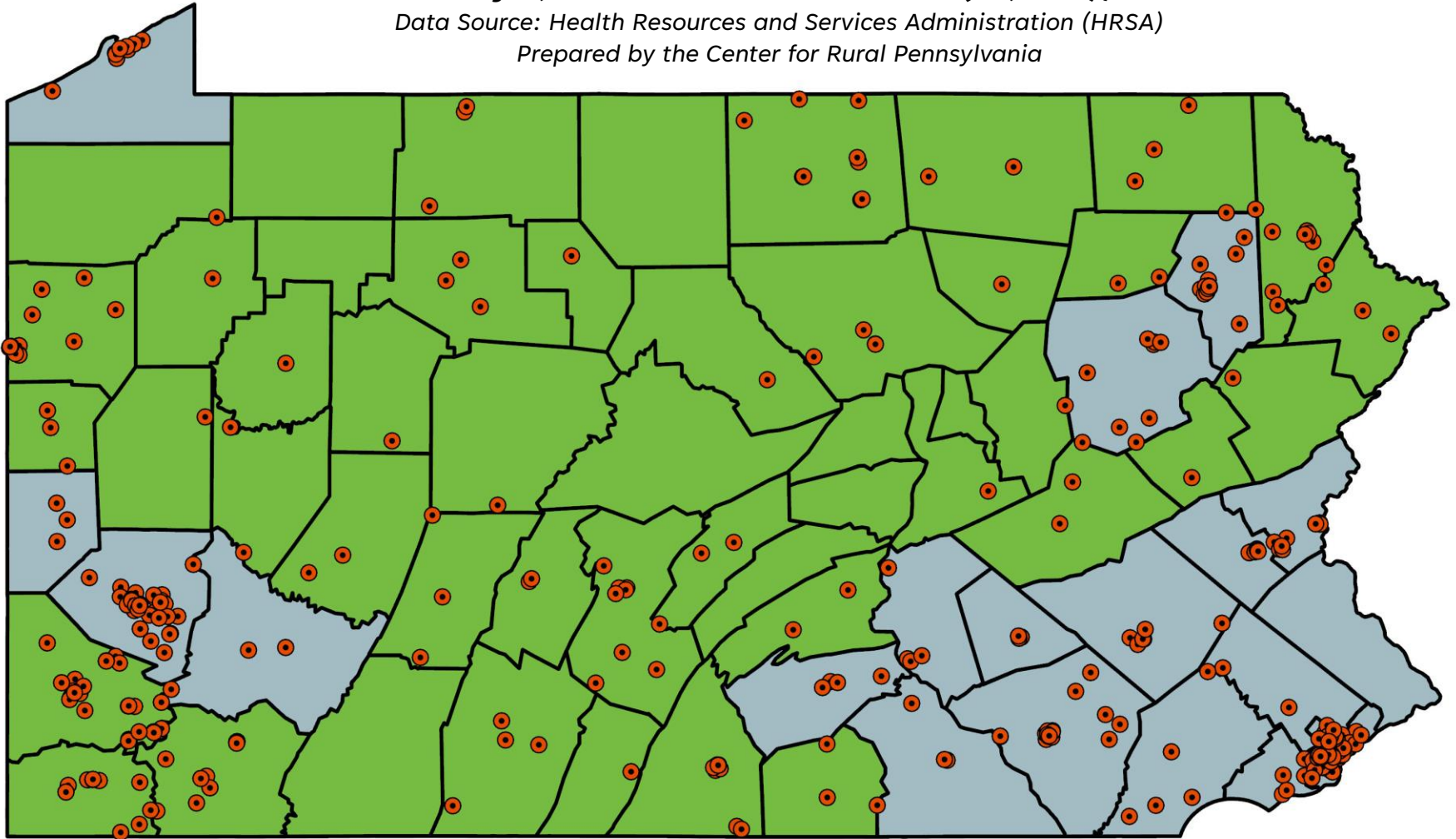
Top 5 Urgent Cares by Number of Locations:

1. MedExpress...54
2. Concentra Urgent Care...22
3. AFC Urgent Care...17
4. UPMC Urgent Care...17
5. Lehigh Valley Health Network...16

# Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), 2024

Data Source: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

Prepared by the Center for Rural Pennsylvania



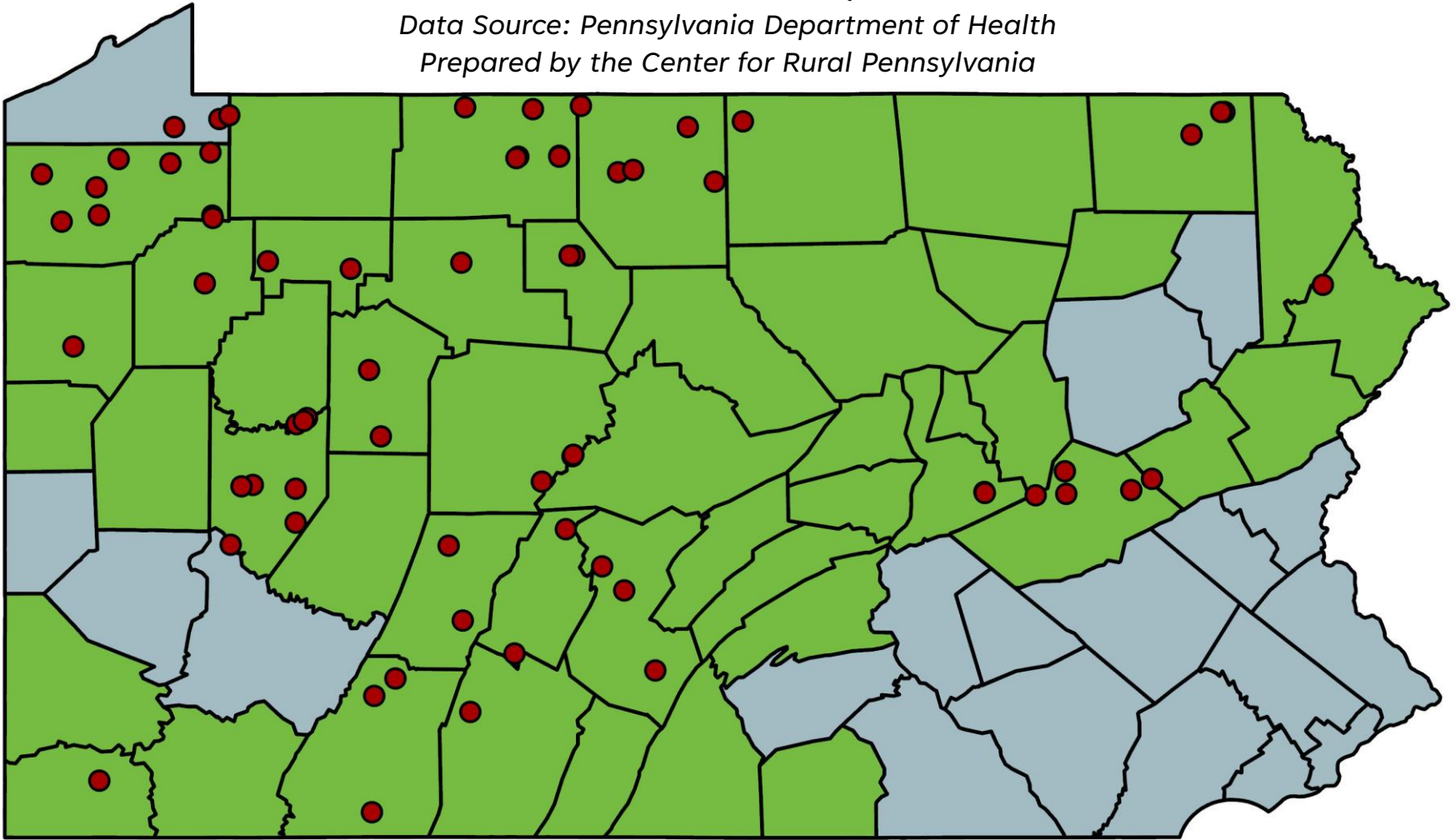
**Statewide = 460 FQHCs**

● Federally Qualified Health Centers

	# of FQHCs
Rural	191
Urban	269

# Rural Health Clinics, 2022

Data Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health  
Prepared by the Center for Rural Pennsylvania



**Statewide = 69 Rural Health Clinics**

● Rural Health Clinics



# **Rural Providers**

# Number of Rural Providers

Rural Population 2015: 3.42 Million

Rural Population 2021: 3.38 Million

	# (2015)	# per 100,000 (2015)	# (2021)	# per 100,000 (2021)
Total Active Physicians (MDs and DOs)	<i>N.D. by County</i>	<i>N.D. by County</i>	6,476	192
Total Active MDs	5,051	147	5,180	153
Total Active DOs	<i>N.D. by County</i>	<i>N.D. by County</i>	1,296	38
Primary Care Physicians (PCPs)	2,036	60	1,964	58
Pediatric Physicians	300	9	307	9
Emergency Medicine Physicians	<i>N.D. by County</i>	<i>N.D. by County</i>	337	10
OB/GYN Physicians	250	7	221	7

Average PCP Yearly Panel Size can range from 1,500 to 2,000.

However, it is often stated an average PCP panel size should be 2,500. At a panel size of 2,500, a physician would have to work 21.7 hours per day to provide proper care to each patient. Even at a panel size of 2,000, the number of PCPs in Rural PA (2021) could not adequately serve the entire rural population.

# Number of Rural Providers (Cont.)

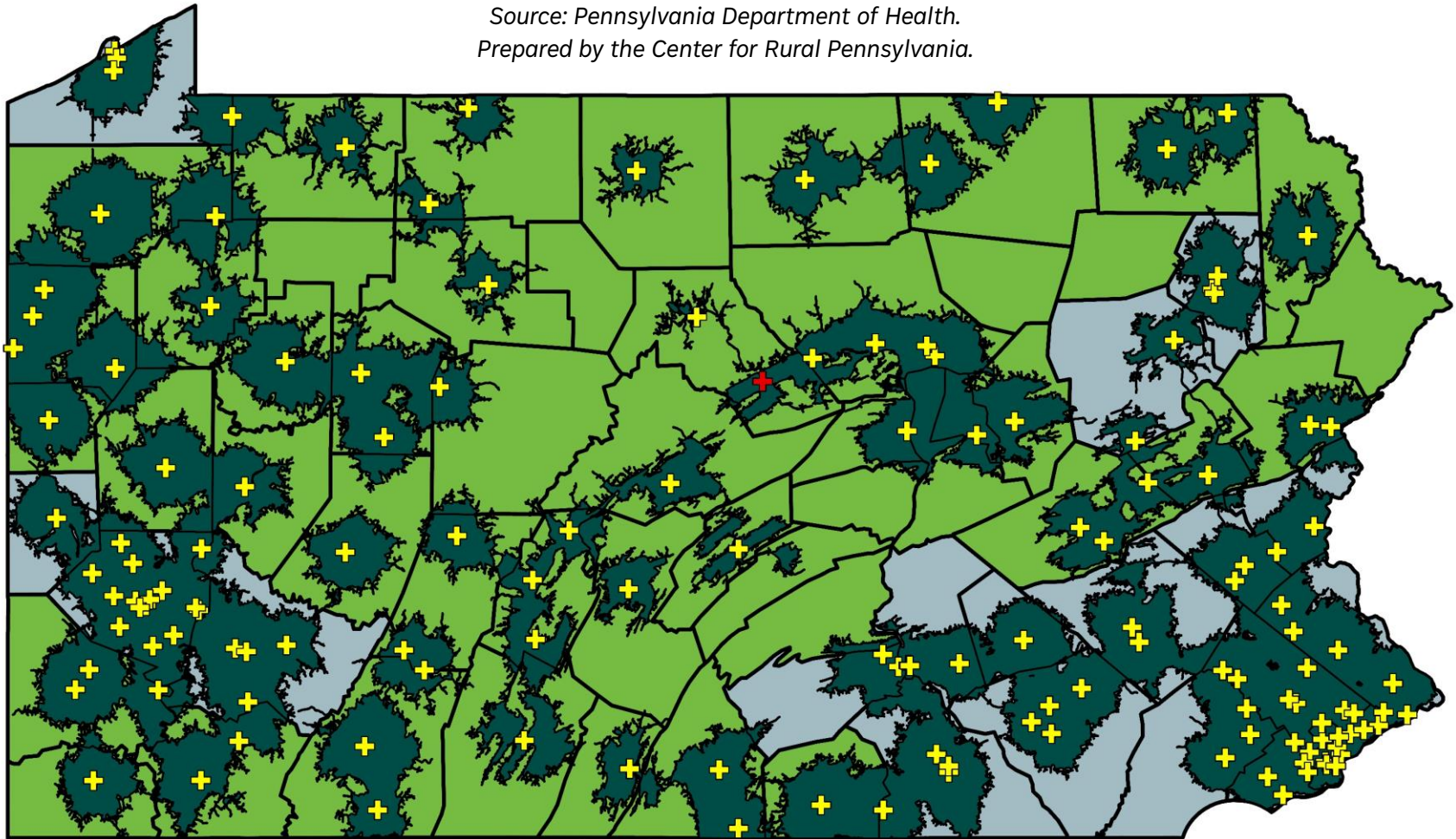
Rural Population 2022: 3.36 Million

	# 2021	# per 100,000 (2021)	# 2022	# per 100,000 (2022)
Dentists	1,678	50	1,682	50
Chiropractor	1,143	34	1,149	34
Optometrist	615	18	622	18
Podiatrist	239	7	240	7
Physician Assistants	2,452	73	2,517	75
Advanced Practice Registered Nurse	3,244	96	3,398	101
Nurse Practitioners	2,358	70	2,516	75
Clinical Nurse Specialist	28	1	27	1
Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist	770	23	759	23
Advanced Midwife	88	3	96	3

# **Drive Times to Hospitals**






# 20-Minute Drive Time to a Hospital

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health.  
Prepared by the Center for Rural Pennsylvania.



Population Located within a 20-minute drive to a Hospital = 10.8 million (~83%)

Population Located outside of a 20-minute drive to a Hospital = 2.2 million (~17%)

-  General Acute Care Hospitals
-  UPMC Lock Haven - Outpatient Emergency Room
-  Area Located with a 20 Minute Drive Time to a Hospital
-  Rural
-  Urban

# **Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas**

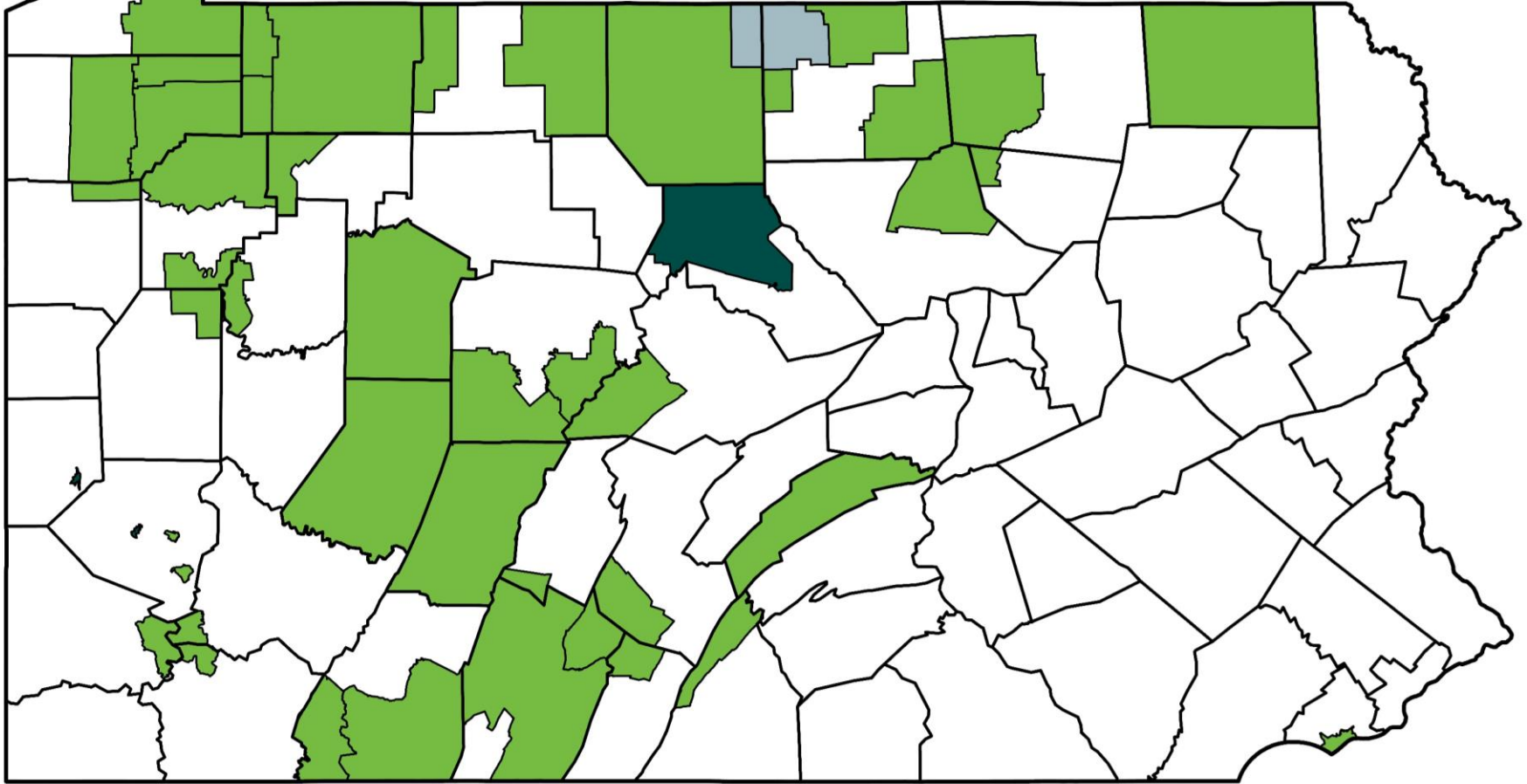
# Health Professional Shortage Area Definition

A Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) is a geographic area, population group, or health care facility that has been designated by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) as having a shortage of health professionals. There are three categories of HPSAs: 1. Primary Care 2. Dental Health 3. Mental Health

Type of HPSA	Definition
Geographic HPSA	A shortage of providers for an entire group of people within a defined geographic area
Population HPSA	A shortage of providers for a specific group of people within a defined geographic area. Examples include low-income populations, homeless populations, and migrant farmworker populations.
Facility HPSA	Correctional Facility, State/County Mental Hospital, FQHCs, FQHCs Look-Alikes, Certified Rural Health Clinics, etc.

# Health Professional Shortage Areas, Primary Care, 2025

Data Source: Health Resources & Services Administration



**Statewide Designated Primary Care HPSAs = 28**

- Geographic HPSA (n=1)
- HPSA Population (n=24)
- High Needs Geographic HPSA (n=3)

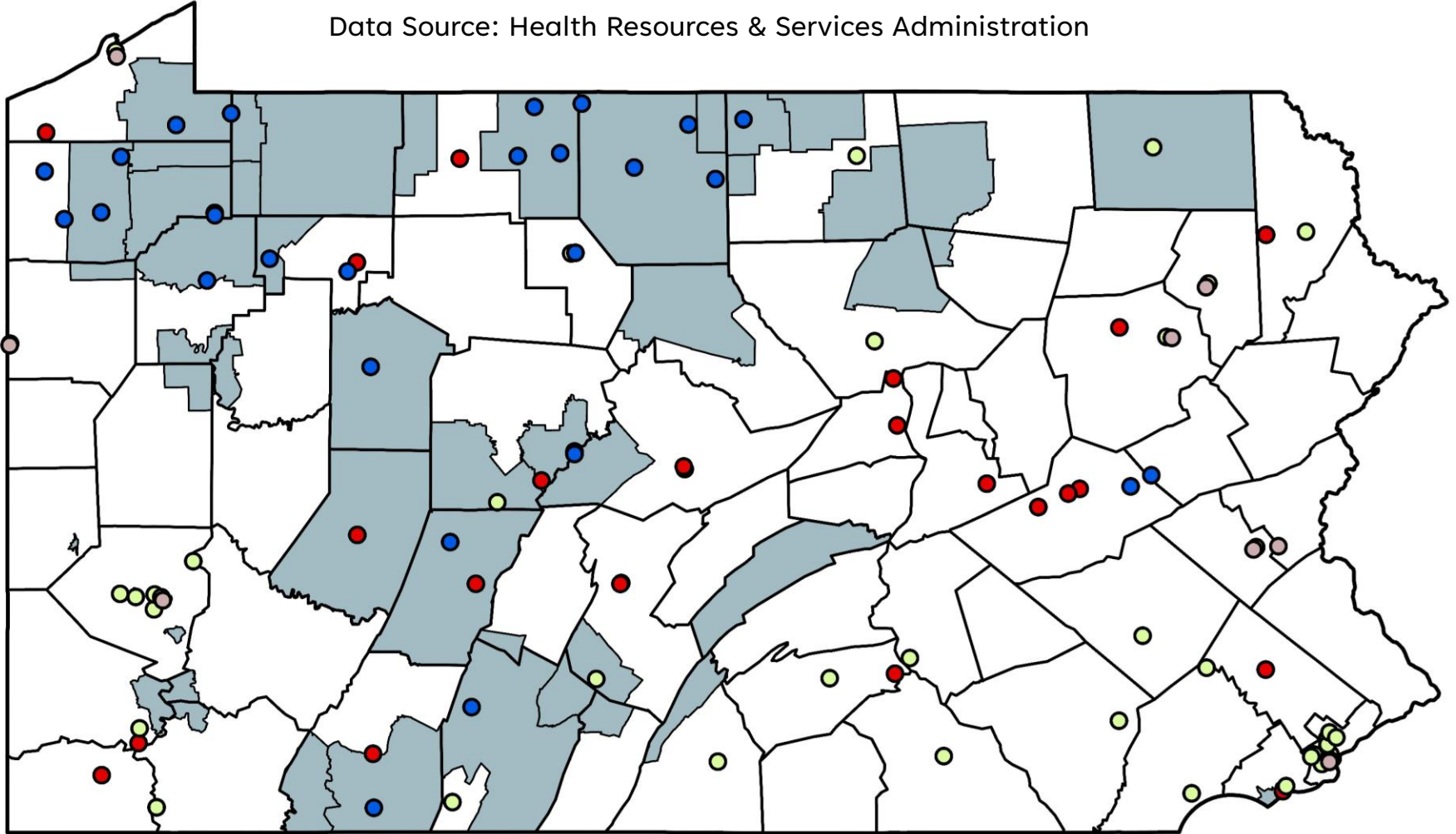
	# of HPSAs
Rural Counties	21
Urban Counties	7

Note: 2 HPSA areas overlap rural and urban counties.



# Health Professional Shortage Areas & Facilities, Primary Care, 2025

Data Source: Health Resources & Services Administration



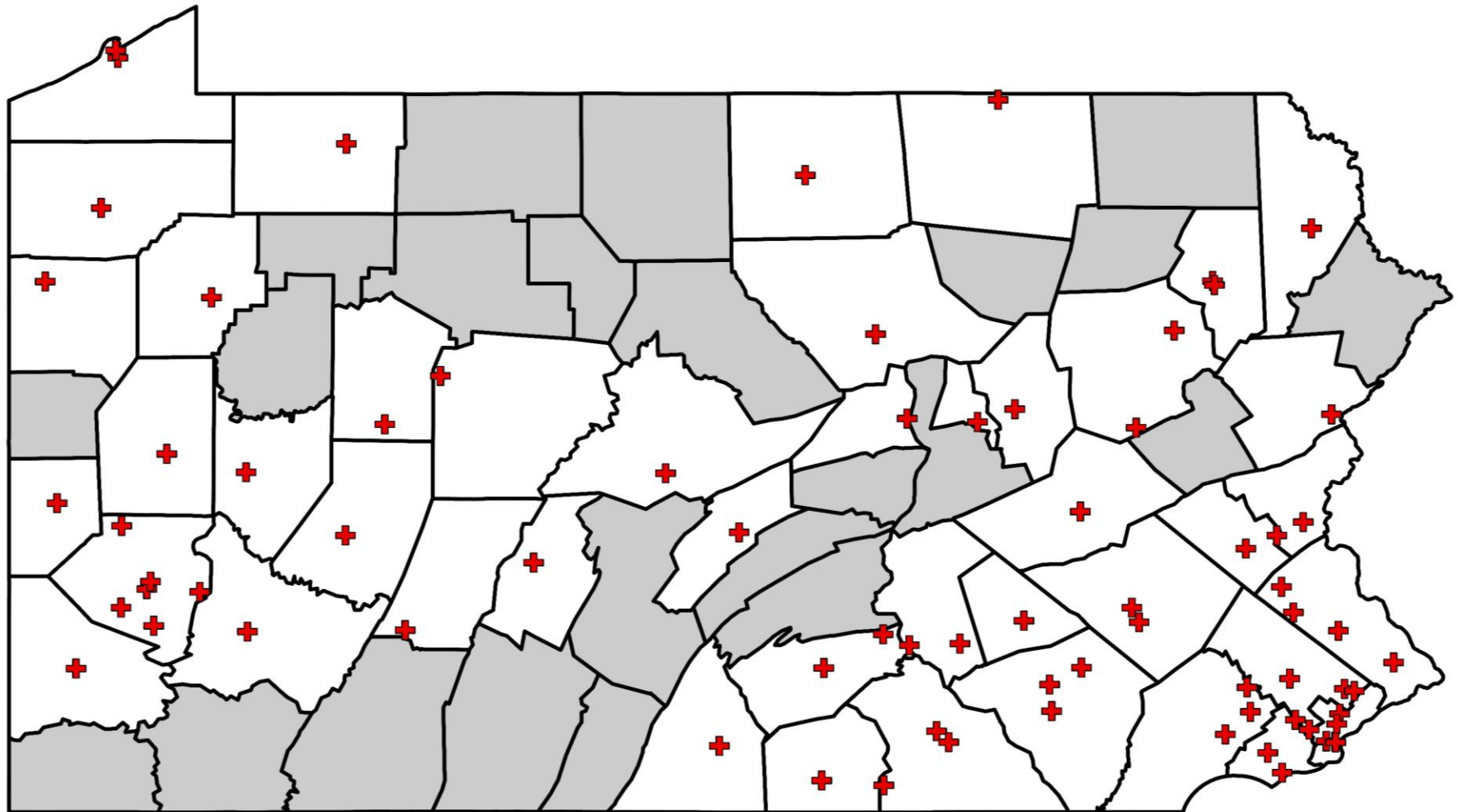
**Statewide Designated HPSA Facilities in Primary Care = 103**

- Correctional Facility (n=25)
- Federally Qualified Health Center (n=42)
- Federally Qualified Health Center Look A Like (n=8)
- Rural Health Clinic (n=28)
- HPSA Primary Care Areas (n=28)

	# of HPS Facilities
Rural Counties	56
Urban Counties	47

# Maternity Care

# Locations of Hospitals with Labor and Delivery Units, 2025



□ County with Labor and Delivery (n=44)  
■ County without Labor and Delivery (n=23)

✚ Hospitals with Labor and Delivery Units (n=75)