

Research!America Alliance Meeting

September 26, 2023

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University of Illinois Health Sciences Campus-Rockford

Defining Rural & Rural Illinois

- Census Bureau: population < 2,500 people
- Office of Management & Budget and 2002 Farm Bill: one city with population < 50,000 people
- Dept. of Veteran Affairs: population density < 1,000 people per square mile
- RUCA Codes: Based on the population and functional relationships between places as measured by work commuting data



84 Rural
Counties



75 Medically
Underserved
Counties



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1971
Regional Campus
Established



1993
Rural Medical
Education Program



2010
Rural Health
Professions Program



2010
Rural Pharmacy
Education Program



2003
National Center for
Rural Health Professions



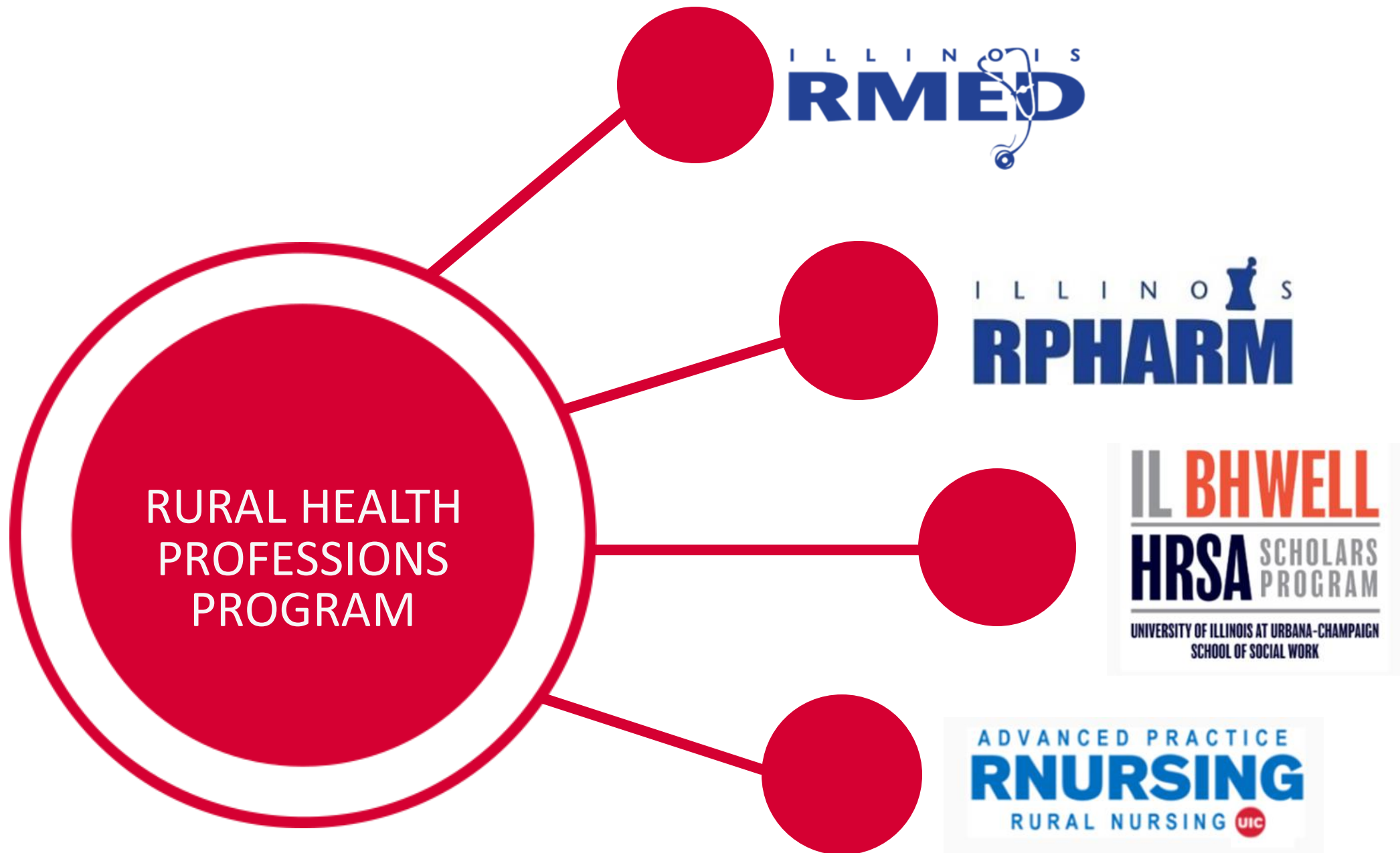
2010
IL Area Health
Education Center
Network Program



2015
Behavioral Health Workforce
Education, Leadership &
Learning Program



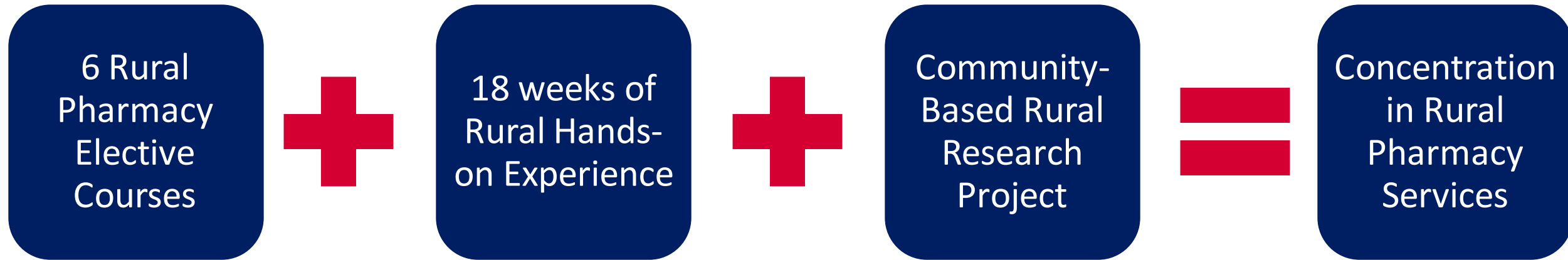
2017
Rural Nursing
Education Program



RPHARM Program Goals

- Recruit students from rural and underrepresented minority populations and prepare them for practice in rural communities
- Create and implement interprofessional teaching models
- Promote quality programs and services for rural populations
- Impact the rural workforce through retention of rural health profession graduates

RPHARM Program Overview



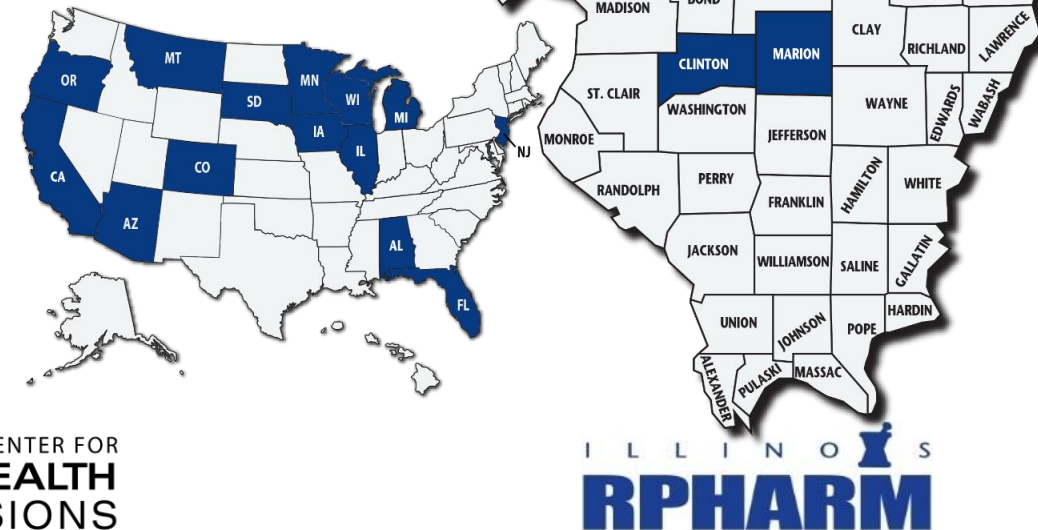
RPHARM Graduates

- 61 graduates to date
- 44% practicing in community pharmacy
- 37% practicing in health system pharmacy
- 70% practicing in rural locations
- 70% working w/in 100 miles of hometown
- 71% working in Illinois

RPHARM GRADUATES

Classes of
2014 – 2023

■ Graduates
□ No Graduates



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PROMOTING HEALTHY RURAL COMMUNITIES THROUGH
EDUCATION, SERVICE, RESEARCH AND POLICY



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ILLINOIS
RPHARM

EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- Pipeline and pathways programs
- Rural undergraduate and graduate health professions education
- Continuing education for rural providers in practice



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ILLINOIS
RPHARM

30 Years of RMED

Celebrating Three Decades of
Success!

Rural Medical Education Program



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
ROCKFORD



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Rural Medical Education Program

407

Graduates since start of program in 1993

65%

Are practicing in a **Rural** area in the U.S.

56%

Are practicing in **Illinois**

94%

Of those in IL practice **Downstate**

78%

Of RMED graduates matched to a **Primary Care** residency program



19 OUT OF 20

RMED physicians practice **Primary Care**

88%

Of those practicing in-state are providing **Primary Care** to **Rural IL** residents



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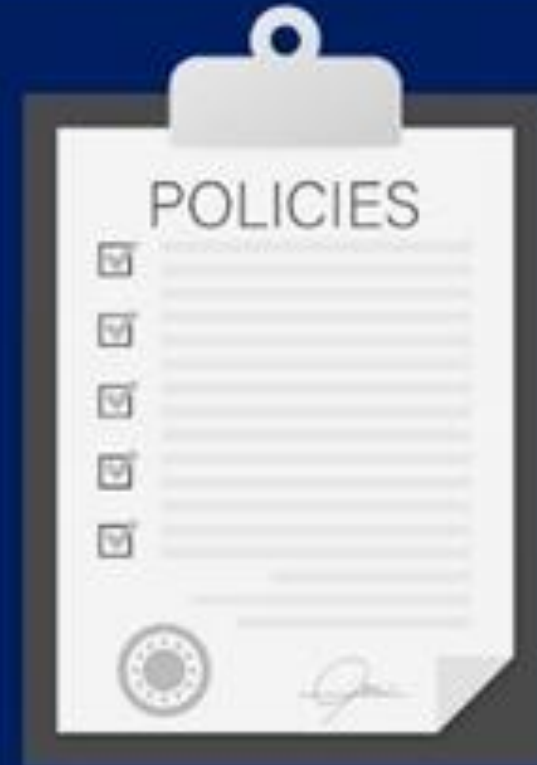


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RPHARM

POLICY IN ACTION

- Rural healthcare workforce development road mapping
- Policy briefs, essays, and op-eds
- Associations and working committees



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TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH

- Equity in access to training programs
- Social accountability and community-based interprofessional training
- Community-oriented primary care research
- Factors that predict rural practice
- Retention of rural health professionals



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The Role of Research in Advancing Rural Health

“Research is really important for **decision-making**. If you don’t know what the situation is, it’s awfully hard to make decisions and educate others.”

-Kristine Sande, MBA, Program Director
Rural Health Information Hub

“Achieving **health equity** in rural communities requires assessment, collaboration, education, and targeted activities.

-National Rural Health Resource Center



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Defining Rural for Research

Medical Care • Volume 59, Number 10 Suppl 5, October 2021

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

OPEN

Which Definition of Rurality Should I Use?

The Relative Performance of 8 Federal Rural Definitions in Identifying Rural-Urban Disparities

Julianna C. Long, BSPH,† Paul L. Delamater, PhD,†‡ and George M. Holmes, PhD*†*

- Rural Urban Commuting Codes
- Rural Health Eligibility Analyzer
- Core-Based Statistical Areas
- Rural Urban Continuum Codes
- Urban Influence Codes
- Urban Areas & Urban Clusters
- Frontier and Remote Access Codes



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Rural Health Challenges

- Lack of data about rural students in pharmacy school and predictors of rural pharmacy practice
- In 2017, <5% of all incoming medical students were from rural areas
- Number of retail pharmacies in rural areas *decreased* by almost 10% while the number of retail pharmacies *increased* by 15% during the same time period (2003 – 2021)
- Hospital closures and risks
- Mortality rates between rural and urban residents **widened by >12%** between 1999 and 2019



Federal Funding for Rural Research

- Appalachian Regional Commission
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
- Health Resources and Services Administration
- Indian Health Services
- National Institutes of Health
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
- United States Department of Agriculture



Building a Strong Rural Health Network

- UIC Rockford Rural Health Sciences Center
- Consortium of rural pharmacy training programs
- Workforce Data
- Expansion of rural health research networks regionally, nationally, and globally
 - Appalachian Translational Research Network
 - Practice-Based Research Network Special Interest Groups
 - National Rural Health Association connections and collaborations
 - Pan American Organization/World Health Organization Primary Care Collaborating Centre



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