The Web of Telehealth

March 2024

UPPER MIDWEST
Telehealth
RESOURCE CENTER
A program of the Indiana Rural Health Association

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Disclaimers

The Web of Telehealth

Agenda

What is the UMTRC?

Telehealth and Rural Communities

Rural Health and the Broadband

Introducing the UMTRC

Who We Are

The Upper Midwest Telehealth Resource Center (UMTRC) is a program of the Indiana Rural Health Association (IRHA). We are your primary contact for telehealth resources for the states of:
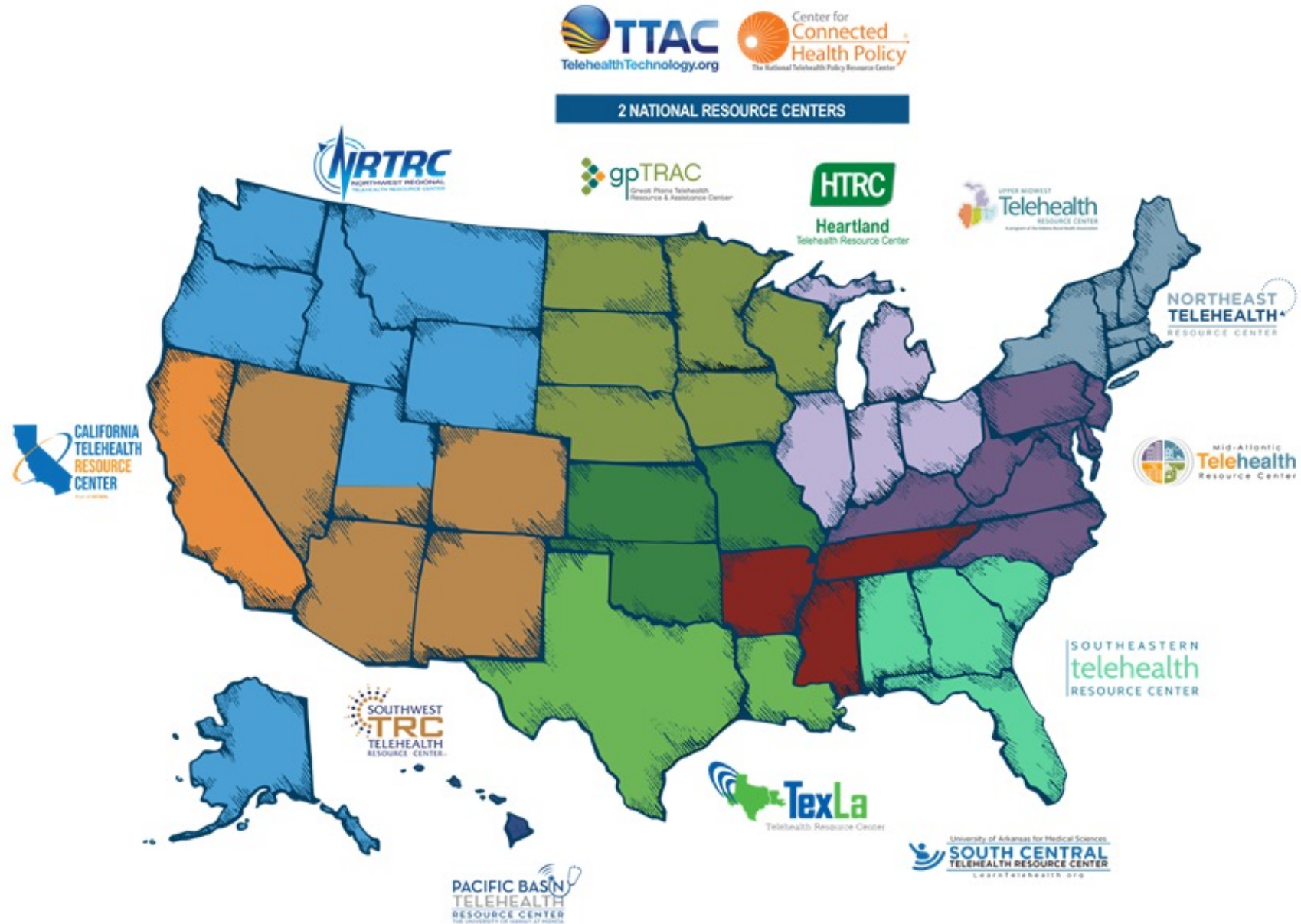
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Michigan
- Ohio

We are proud to be a part of the National Consortium of Telehealth Resource Centers (NCTRC). We are one of the 12 regional Telehealth Resource Centers (TRCs) that is committed to helping your organization advance telehealth education, overcome barriers, and provide you with resources to meet your telehealth program goals.

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TRC
NATIONAL CONSORTIUM OF
TELEHEALTH
RESOURCE CENTERS

National Consortium of Telehealth Resource Centers

What We Do

Technical Assistance

Virtual Office Hours

Webinars, Podcasts, and Resources

Latest Resources

Reimbursement Guides

Telehealth Toolkits

Telehealth Webinars

The Importance of Rural Telehealth

Types of Barriers

- Attitudinal
- Communication
- Physical
- Policy
- Programmatic
- Social
- Transportation

Source: https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/disability-

Considering Rural Barriers

 Provider Shortages

 Specialty Care

 Transportation Issues

 Higher Need

 Stigma

 Associated Costs

Overcoming Barriers with Telehealth

Overcoming Rural Barriers

More Providers

Specialist Access

Care At Home

RPM and More

Privacy

Lower Costs

Examples of Telehealth

Telebehavioral Health

SUD Treatment

Hospital at Home

Remote Patient Monitoring

E-Consults

Follow-Up Appointments

Teledentistry

Store and Forward

What are Telehealth Access Points?

"A Telehealth Access Point, or TAP, is a dedicated public space for individuals to access a telehealth appointment. These spaces consist of an adequate internet connection, a device with working camera, speaker and microphone, as well as privacy considerations in the form of a dedicated room or kiosk where the telehealth visit can be conducted. TAPs may also have support staff to assist an individual through a telehealth appointment if needed."

NCTRC, "TAP into Telehealth: Innovative Models of Telehealth Access Points (TAPs)"

Understanding Telehealth Access Points

Alternative Origination Sites

- Telehealth in Libraries

- School-based Telehealth

- Other Telehealth Sites
  - Senior centers, community centers, etc.

Telehealth in Libraries - Example

Because You Matter:
Rural Telehealth & Wellbeing

Rural Indiana residents seeking free and confidential support while managing stress, depression or anxiety, or resources for food, clothing, housing, and healthcare have access to telehealth wellbeing services in six rural Indiana counties.

Indiana University
School of Social Work

Rural Health and Broadband

The Digital Divide

The Digital Divide

Those within rural areas are less likely to have broadband access. This can prevent them from accessing telehealth.

72% vs 79%

The Digital Divide

Those within rural areas are less likely to own a smart phone or computer than those without. This can prevent them from accessing telehealth.

80% vs 89%

Statistics are according to Pew's Some digital divides persist between rural, urban and suburban America

Barriers for Rural Populations

Limited Access to Devices
Residents in rural areas may have limited access to smartphones, computers, or other devices required for telehealth consultations, preventing them from fully participating in remote healthcare.

Limited Internet Connectivity
Many rural areas lack reliable high-speed internet access, making it challenging for residents to engage in video consultations or access telehealth services that require a stable internet connection.

Inadequate Infrastructure
Rural regions may have limited technological infrastructure, including outdated hardware and insufficient network coverage, hindering the seamless functioning of telehealth platforms.

Ohio Population Breakdown

Houses without an internet subscription:

10.9%

Population over 65:

17.9%

Population without healthcare coverage:

7.8%

Information from the US Census Bureau

Telehealth and Accessibility

"The Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program, provides $42.45 billion to expand high-speed internet access by funding planning, infrastructure deployment and adoption programs in all 50 states, Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands." - National Telecommunications and Information Administration

Ohio will receive $793 million

BEAD funding for "unserved" and "underserved" communities

The Future of Telehealth

Increased Accessibility:
Telehealth is expected to become more accessible globally, overcoming geographical barriers and providing healthcare services to remote or underserved areas.

Integration of AI and Analytics:
The future of telehealth involves deeper integration of artificial intelligence and analytics, enabling more advanced diagnostic support, personalized treatment plans, and predictive health analytics.

Telehealth in Public Health Crisis Response:
Telehealth is expected to become an integral part of public health crisis responses, enabling rapid deployment of healthcare services during emergencies, pandemics, or natural disasters.

Connect with the UMTRC!

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A Virtual View

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