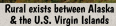




.....
In the U.S., rural is defined as a geographic area that is
populated with less than 50,000 people (or non-urban for
designated areas with less than 500,000 people).
.....



- have higher death rates (ages 1-24)
- 



and, late HIV diagnosis is more common particularly for males and older adults.

What makes treating PLWH in rural areas so challenging?^{1, 4, 5, 8}



Best practices for overcoming barriers in rural HIV care



Ask clients about their transportation needs. Utilize community planning groups to assess the need for services. Tap into existing resources like social service agencies and faith groups, or check into local and government funding support for transportation needs.

- 
- Box tickets
 - Vouchers
 - Gas cards
 - Ferry/boat tickets



Rural providers who want to learn about HIV care can utilize the AIDS Education and Training Center (AETC) Program's free clinical training services to build their capacity to deliver basic HIV care, or know where to turn for help or advice if needed. The AETC Program offers:

- In-person trainings
- Telehealth education
- Clinical consultations
- Conferences
- Preceptorships
- Skills-building workshops
- Technical assistance
- And more!

Visit the AETC National Resource Center website at <http://aidaetn.org> for more information about HIV case training opportunities, training materials, capacity building support, and more, that is tailored to rural primary care providers.

Address Stigma and Discrimination

Stigma around HIV persists because there are still misconceptions about how it is transmitted and who can become infected. Many providers would prefer not to deliver care to PLWH. Far PLWH in rural areas and small communities where "everyone knows you," fear of disclosure and feelings of isolation not present or delay one from seeking care. Here are some strategies to address HIV stigma:



Examples of AETC Program strategies for overcoming barriers to rural HIV care


 HIV care training is offered to rural healthcare providers in several regions nation-wide via the AETC. 800-458-5234


 A team of Kansas AETC faculty regularly travels to rural areas to provide HIV care & training

AETC Veterans Training Center Program

Florida/Caribbean AETC partners with the US Virgin Island Dept. of Health, Federally Qualified Health Centers, hospitals, community based organizations, and other primary care providers to address stigma associated with HIV testing in the US Virgin Islands.

Pacific AETC utilizes procedures & community health workers to deliver training and HIV care services in Arizona and on the U.S./Mexico border.



Georgia AETC & the Georgia Dept. of Public Health

SEATEC + DPH
Georgia Department of Public Health

Infographic references can be found here:
<http://aidswtc.org/resource/treating-people-living-hiv-natal-us-territories-infographic>

