SEEKING A CURE
The quest to save rural hospitals

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The "Seeking a Cure" collaboration logo, designed by William Lager of MPR News.

https://hospitals.iowawatch.org/
172 Rural Hospital Closures: January 2005 – Present (130 since 2010)

What is a closed rural hospital? (click for definition)

Number of Rural Hospital Closures by Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Closures</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>18</td>
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<td>2018</td>
<td>14</td>
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https://www.shepscenter.unc.edu/programs-projects/rural-health/rural-hospital-closures/
“It’s not really a question of how we keep rural hospitals open. It’s a question of ‘how do we keep rural Americans alive?’

Alan Morgan
CEO of the National Rural Health Assoc.

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Amplify News Project

The Amplify News Project is an effort to expand distribution and collaboration within nonprofit news organizations. From a base within our Midwest member newsrooms, this project has three main goals:

- To test the limits of nonprofit partnerships within INN itself through editorial collaborations;
- To create external partnerships to test distribution collaborations;
- To provide audience development support and measurement strategies to our members.

Amplify also manages editorial collaborations for INN members, often in collaboration with non-members. Amplify collaborations so far have included:

- Seeking a Cure: The quest to save rural hospitals
- Lens on Lightfoot: Seven independent newsrooms report on Mayor Lori Lightfoot’s first year
- From Rust to Resilience: What climate change means for Great Lakes cities
Seeking a Cure: The quest to save rural hospitals

A collaborative project including the Institute for Nonprofit News and INN members IowaWatch, KCUR, Bridge Magazine, Wisconsin Watch, Side Effects Public Media and The Conversation; as well as Iowa Public Radio, Minnesota Public Radio, Wisconsin Public Radio, The Gazette (Cedar Rapids, IA), Iowa Falls Times Citizen and N’west Iowa REVIEW.

The Solutions Journalism Network, a nonprofit organization dedicated to rigorous and compelling reporting about responses to social problems, supported this project.

https://hospitals.iowawatch.org/
Slammed: Rural health care and COVID-19

Rural communities are particularly vulnerable to the ravages of COVID-19. Residents of these areas tend to be poorer, older and have more chronic health conditions than those in urban areas and they have to travel farther for access to health care. As the number of COVID-19 cases increases all over rural America, the already financially strapped health care systems and medical professionals are being slammed.

Downtown Neillsville, Wisconsin, on Sept. 19, 2019. (Coburn Dukehart/Wisconsin Watch)
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