

Addressing rural health needs

Medicare for All vs. the public option

Key health problems	Medicare for All	Public option
People in rural communities are more likely to be uninsured or under-insured.	✓ Medicare for All provides seamless, life-long coverage for <u>everybody</u> , regardless of income, age, employment, or location. Patients get the care they need without copays, or deductibles to stand in the way.	✗ Public option plans would leave millions of rural Americans without coverage, and would not help people with expensive, low-quality private insurance that prevents them from getting the care they need.
People in rural communities are more likely to suffer and die from treatable illnesses.	✓ Medicare for All provides Americans with the care they need when they need it, by covering <u>all medically necessary care</u> , including preventive and primary care, maternal care, dental, mental health, prescriptions, and long-term care.	✗ Most public option plans require high copays and deductibles, which prevent patients from seeking regular care. A public option would not improve the quality or cost of private or job-based health plans.
Many rural hospitals have closed or are in danger of closing.	✓ Since everyone is covered, rural hospitals would no longer absorb the costs of treating uninsured patients. Medicare for All funds hospitals through global budgets that are based on community needs — not profits.	✗ Public option plans do nothing to support underfunded hospitals and clinics. Rural hospitals would continue to close, leaving communities without access to care.