The Virginia Rural Health Data Portal

The One Stop Shop for Rural Health Data Needs in Virginia
Presented by

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The Beginning

- Rural Health Data Portal is an outgrowth of the Virginia Rural Health Plan
  - Plan originally developed to comply with Critical Access Hospital program requirements
  - HRSA required states to revise plan
  - Virginia chose to include all aspects of rural health
The Process

- Work began in the mid 2000s with the formation of workgroups:
  - Access, Workforce, Quality, Data/Rural Definitions

- Workgroups included over 50 partners to assist in the development of recommendations and objectives.

- Met over 18 month period
The Plan

- In mid-2008, the current plan was released
  - [www.va-srhp.org](http://www.va-srhp.org)
- Plan continues to be worked by formal rural health councils
- Some councils have divided into subcommittees
- Oversight committee has been formed to coordinate activities
Among charges was to develop on-line data tool that could be used to highlight Virginia’s rural health issues.

Defined 32 data points/sets that should be included.

Councils members created “dream” site features with goal to achieve in five years.
Desired Attributes

- Free to public
- Downloadable data sets in common format
- Commonly available public data
- Side-by-side comparisons
- Most current data possible
- Mapping capabilities
Rural Health Data Portal is Born

- Funds used from FLEX grant to provide seed money
- Technical Assistance sought from Virginia Economic Bridge (VEB) and VANGHR
- Website launched mid-November 2009
- Much of “dream” goals met
- Work in progress
Data Sources

- Virginia Department of Health (disease, vital statistics)
- Virginia Department of Health Professions (manpower)
- Virginia Health Information (facility, quality data)
- Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service (population, demographics)
- Virginia Employment Commission (demographics)
- Virginia Department of Education (educations, free lunches)
- US Census (poverty data, demographics)
- National Center for the Analysis of Health Data (manpower)
- HRSA (MUA/HPSA data)
Future Direction

- Expand geospatial layers and data sets for workforce, disease prevalence data
- Side by side comparisons
- Real time updates
- Improved quality data/geospatial presentation
- Add mental health, dental health, and EMS data
Web Address

- www.vrhrc.org/data-portal