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RESEARCH & REPORTS



The National Gun Violence Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., in 2022. Bryan Olin Dozier/NurPhoto via AP

YOU'RE MORE LIKELY TO BE SHOT IN SELMA THAN IN CHICAGO

Around the country, more than 167,000 people were fatally shot between 2014 and 2023, according to Gun Violence Archive data, a decade of which is available for the first time. While the largest number of shootings took place in large cities, residents of smaller places with high per capita rates experience gun violence disproportionately. Rural areas and large and small towns in the South have much higher levels of gun violence than their counterparts in other regions. Less-populous places in the South have more shootings per capita than large cities that are commonly portrayed as among the most violent in America.

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND VIOLENT VICTIMIZATION IN THE HEARTLAND: RESULTS FROM THE FIRST PHASE OF THE WEST VIRGINIA COMMUNITY QUALITY OF LIFE SURVEY

Studies of violent victimization in rural and remote parts of the U.S. are in short supply, and the bulk of those focus mainly on man-to-woman violence in intimate relationships among people without disabilities. The objective of this study is to broaden the focus of rural victimological research to include violence against people with disabilities. Relying on original exploratory data generated by the first phase of the West Virginia Community Quality of Life Survey (WVCQLS), population estimates of four types of violent victimization are presented: stalking, sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and hate and bias assaults. The results show that a large number of rural West Virginia residents with disabilities experience these forms of victimization.



Michelle Gustafson for NPR

ADDRESSING RURAL AND NON-RURAL SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER STIGMA: EVIDENCE FROM A NATIONAL RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIAL

Individuals with substance use disorder (SUD) and recovery support services often face significant social stigma, especially in rural areas. One method of addressing stigma is through education and personal recovery stories, but it is unclear if such messages will work similarly across rural and non-rural areas. This study is an exploratory analysis of data from a national randomized controlled trial (N = 2,721) to determine if there are differences in the effectiveness of messages at reducing stigma across rurality. Specifically, the authors test four interventions to reduce stigma: education about the effectiveness of recovery housing and three versions of a personal recovery story that varied social distance and delivery medium (identified written story, anonymous written story, and video). Findings suggest that messages may affect stigma across rurality differently and that rural participants' beliefs may be particularly hard to change. Future research should examine what types of stigma reduction interventions are most effective in rural areas.

“Substance use disorder (SUD) continues to be a top concern in rural America as the rate of SUD incidence and associated drug overdose mortality in rural areas continues to increase.”

PROGRAM & INITIATIVE

REENTRY PROGRAM FOR THOSE INCARCERATED OFFERS ‘A MODEL FOR US TO FOLLOW’

The [First Day Forward](#) program offers support and assistance to people with substance use disorder who are reentering their community after incarceration. The program serves seven rural Eastern Kentucky counties: Carter, Clark, Greenup, Mason, Powell, Montgomery, and Rowan, and operates under the Northeast Kentucky Substance Use Response Coalition, a partnership of multiple organizations throughout the region. Participation in the program generally begins 60 to 90 days before release, with individual and group meetings. A needs assessment is conducted at the outset; a case plan is mapped to establish objectives and how to attain them.

WEBINAR

RETHINKING RURAL RECIDIVISM: SYSTEM NAVIGATION PROBLEMS AND THE MYTH OF THE REVOLVING DOOR

The STAR Criminal Justice Series highlights innovations, challenges, and opportunities in small, tribal, and rural (STAR) criminal legal systems. Drawing on the experience of people who live and work in STAR communities, this series also offers a networking platform for STAR practitioners, stakeholders, researchers, and policymakers nationwide. In this webinar, Dr. Jennifer Schwartz and Dr. Jennifer Sherman challenge the popular perception of jails as “revolving doors” for people who are addicted to drugs or convicted of violent felonies. Their research shows that a large proportion of people are in rural jails for missing court dates, noncompliance with release conditions, unpaid fines, driving with a suspended license, and other minor offenses.



RESOURCE

FROM OUR FEDERAL PARTNERS: RESOURCES TO SUPPORT HOUSING-RELATED SERVICES FOR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Many people experiencing homelessness benefit from interventions that package housing (rental) assistance with case management and other wraparound supportive services. Programs that could fund such wraparound services can include HUD’s Continuum of Care (CoC) and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) programs, including Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH), Treatment for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness (TIEH), and Grants for the Benefit of Homeless Individuals (GBHI). This resource provides an overview of federal health programs and resources that communities and housing providers can leverage to provide supportive services to help people experiencing homelessness transition to and sustain their housing.

ARTICLES

RURAL JUSTICE COLLABORATIVE

Rural communities face unique challenges that impact their ability to deliver fair and equitable justice. Despite these challenges, rural communities rely on their many strengths to address the needs of their residents.

The National Center for State Courts, in partnership with Rulo Strategies, launched the [Rural Justice Collaborative \(RJC\)](#) to showcase the strengths of rural communities and highlight the cross-sector collaboration that is a hallmark of rural justice systems.

The work under the RJC is supported by a cross-sector advisory council composed of rural judges along with additional stakeholders in the justice, child welfare, and behavioral health systems. The advisory council guides and identifies innovative programs and practices.

TAKING STOCK OF RURAL AMERICA'S 'HIDDEN' HOMELESS

Rural America has nearly 29 million homes, but experts say that's not enough to house the roughly 46 million people who live there. A [recent report](#) by the Housing Assistance Council, a nonprofit that supports affordable housing efforts throughout rural America, found that rural America is losing affordable housing at an alarming rate, fueling a growing housing crisis.

RURAL AMERICA IS IN THE MIDST OF AN EVICTION CRISIS

A new report shows that Southern Black counties have higher eviction filing rates than their white

counterparts. In four states—Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, and South Carolina—rural counties have rates near or above the national average. The rates are also higher than those of larger cities such as Chicago, Los Angeles, and New York. In nearly every rural county, Black renters were overrepresented in eviction filings — even in majority-white counties.

