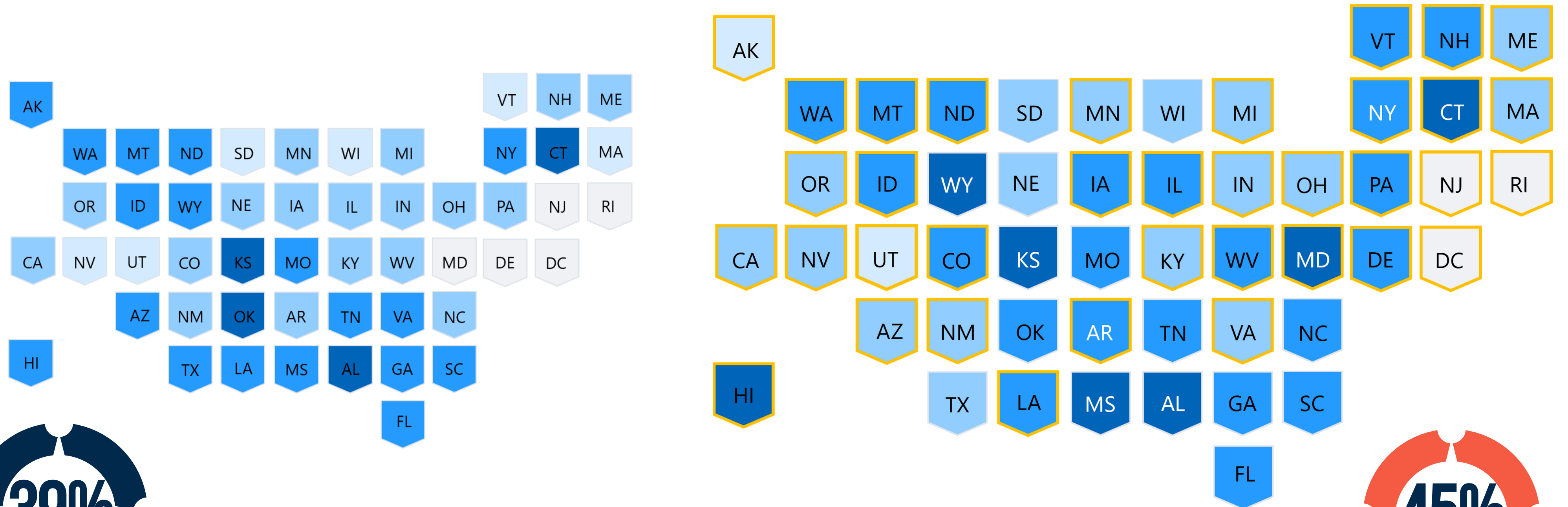


Stability of the Rural Health Safety Net: *Operating Margin*

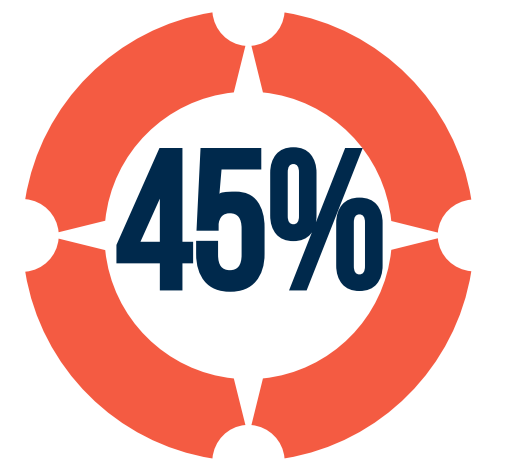
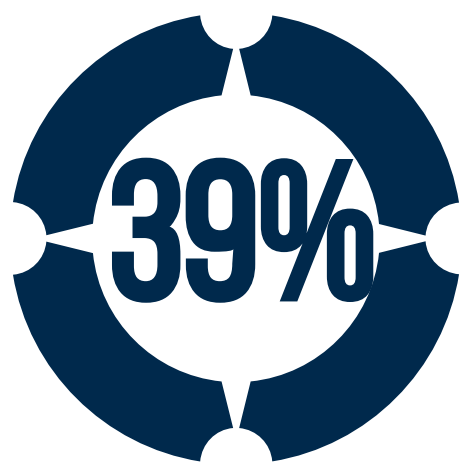
In 2015, 39% of America's rural hospitals were operating in the red. Pandemic-related relief funds certainly helped to provide stability to the rural health safety net last year - albeit temporary. If we exclude those payments from our analysis we find that 45% of rural hospitals are in the red which is consistent with previous analysis.



State-level percentage of rural hospitals with negative operating margin.

Legend: Medicaid Expansion State (yellow border)

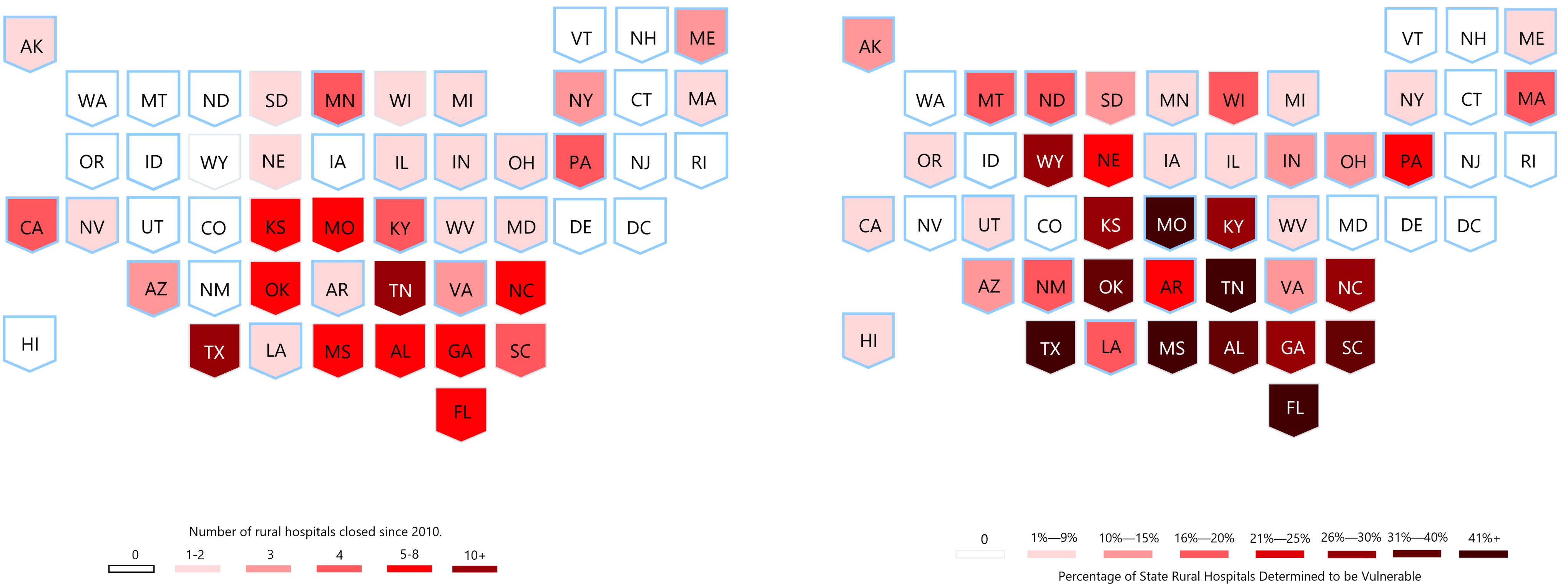
Color scale: NA, 0-20, 21-40, 41-60, 61-80, 81-100



Stability of the Rural Health Safety Net: **Closures & vulnerability**



Over the course of the last 12 years, 138 rural hospitals have closed leaving communities with significantly less access to care. Compounding the closure crisis is our analysis which identified another 453 facilities vulnerable to closure.



*As of February 1, 2022. Source: Sheps Center, UNC

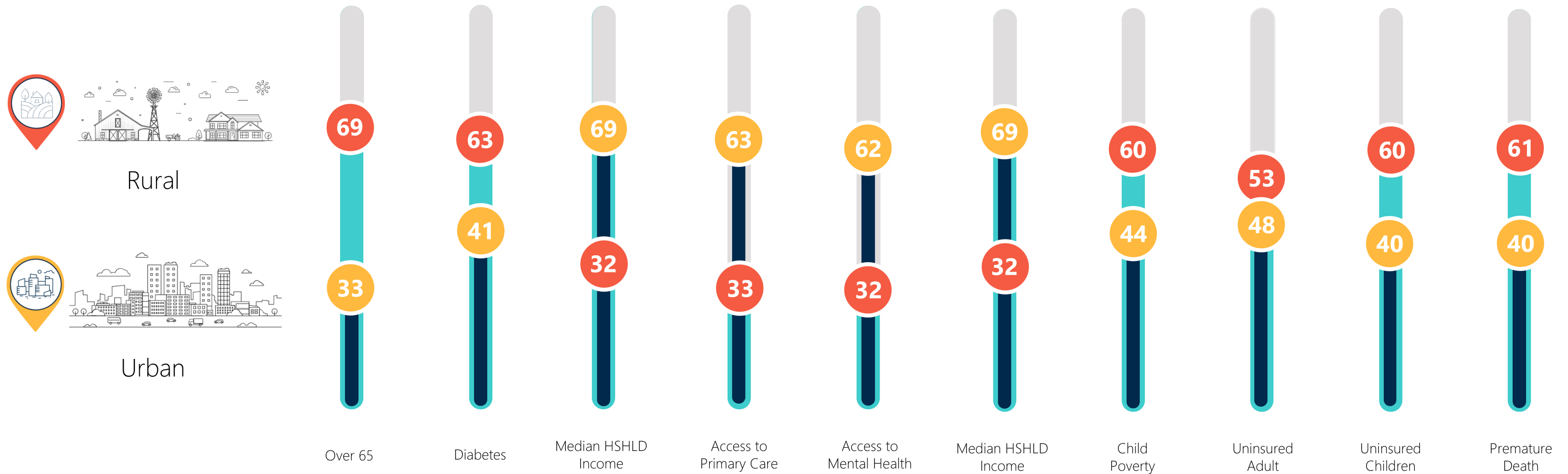
Medicaid Expansion State

Closures: 138

Vulnerable: 453

Health Disparities in Rural Communities

Rural communities are vulnerable. According to research conducted by The Chartis Center for Rural Health, rural hospitals serve populations that are older, less healthy and less affluent than their urban counterparts. Our analysis indicates that these disparity gaps may be widening, particularly in communities where the local rural hospital is vulnerable to closure.

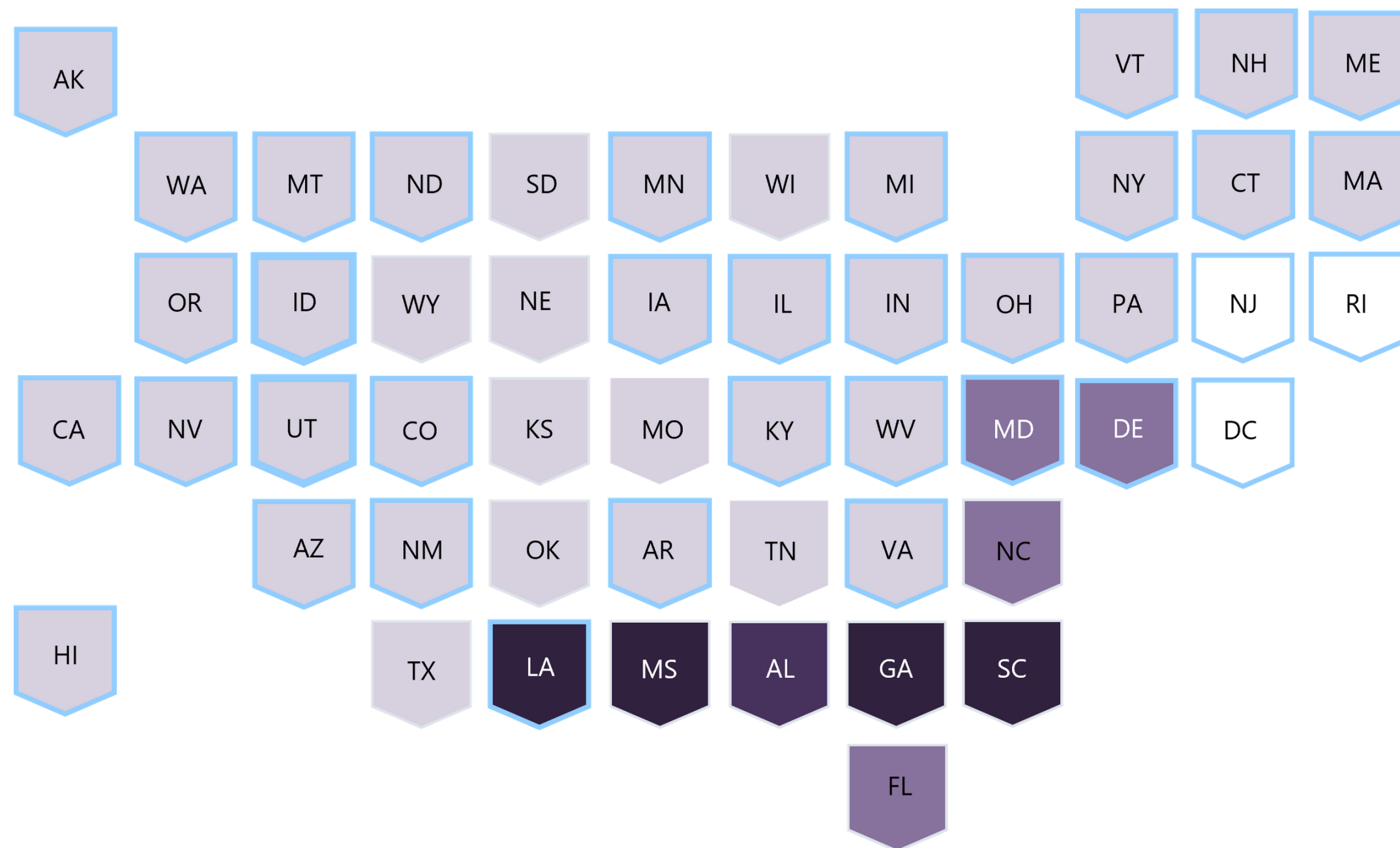


Percentile Ranking for Each Disparity Measure

Health Inequity in Rural Communities



In rural communities, people of color face even wider health disparities and inequity. Our analysis of health disparities and inequity across rural America uncovered gaps across metrics such as child poverty and premature death for Black Americans in states where the population of Black Americans living in rural communities is greater than 15 percent.



Percentage of population served by rural hospitals that is non-Hispanic Black or African American.

0-5% 6%-10% 11%-15% 16%-20% 21%-25% >25%

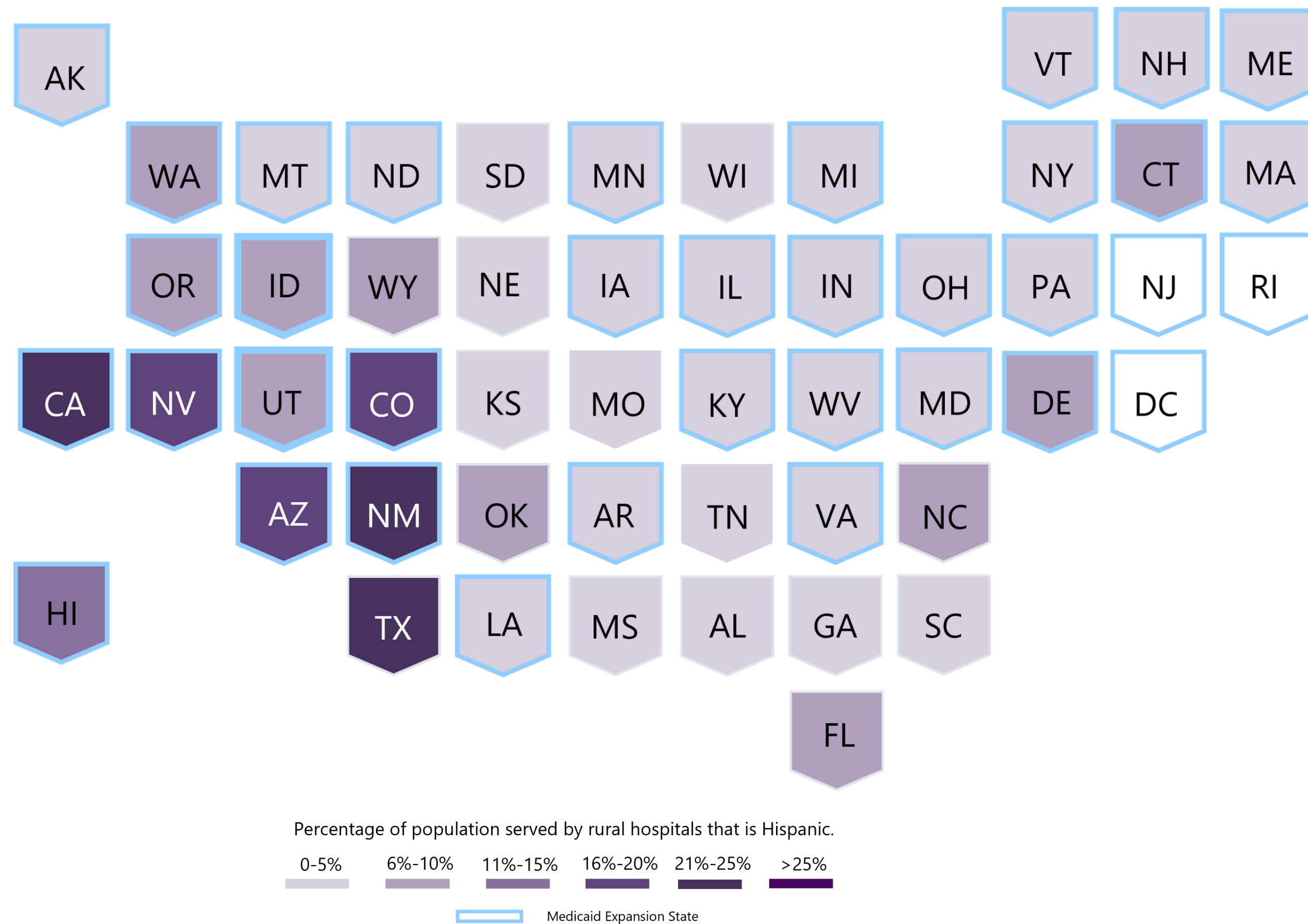
Medicaid Expansion State

STATE	PREMATURE DEATH (BLACK AMERICANS) URBAN	PREMATURE DEATH (BLACK AMERICANS) RURAL	CHILD POVERTY (BLACK AMERICANS) URBAN	CHILD POVERTY (BLACK AMERICANS) RURAL
	PERCENTILE RANKING	PERCENTILE RANKING	PERCENTILE RANKING	PERCENTILE RANKING
Alabama	70	86	72	79
Georgia	46	76	54	80
Louisiana	78	86	80	88
Mississippi	68	87	76	88
South Carolina	65	79	63	75

Health Inequity in Rural Communities



Our research also found similar inequity for Hispanics in states where the percentage of Hispanics living in rural communities was above 15 percent. That is higher rates of premature death and child poverty. As was the case in our analysis of Black Americans, these are states in which the rural safety net is already weakened.



STATE	PREMATURE DEATH (HISPANICS) URBAN	PREMATURE DEATH (HISPANICS) RURAL	CHILD POVERTY (HISPANICS) URBAN	CHILD POVERTY (HISPANICS) RURAL
	PERCENTILE RANKING	PERCENTILE RANKING	PERCENTILE RANKING	PERCENTILE RANKING
Arizona	79	89	65	70
California	55	71	36	46
Colorado	80	87	23	43
New Mexico	97	99	58	72
Nevada	48	62	45	19
Texas	56	85	44	57