



# TEN THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT TEXAS RURAL HOSPITALS

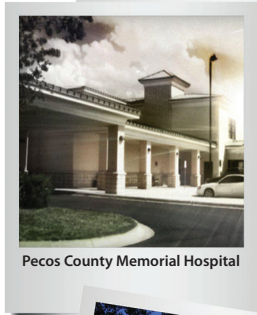
Prepared by the Texas Organization of Rural & Community Hospitals



Connally Memorial Medical Center



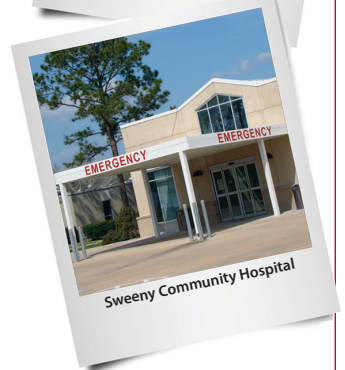
Muenster Memorial Hospital



Pecos County Memorial Hospital



Ballinger Memorial Hospital



Sweeny Community Hospital

1. Twenty-seven (27) rural hospital\* closures\*\* occurred in 22 communities in Texas between January 2010 and February 2020 with Texas leading the nation in closures.
2. Rural hospital closures in Texas have subsided in recent years because of substantial increases in Medicaid payments authorized by the Texas Legislature to address the closure crisis.
3. The 158 rural hospitals in Texas provide care to over 3.1 million Texans.
4. These rural hospitals serve 12% of the Texas population but cover emergency and local hospital care for 85% of the state's geography.
5. Only 64 of the 158 hospitals (40%) still provide obstetrical and baby delivery services because of financial loss from OB care – the remaining 94 hospitals provide deliveries on an emergency basis only.
6. Some parts of Texas are more than 75 miles away from the nearest hospital.
7. Rural hospitals are negatively impacted more than urban hospitals from Medicaid and Medicare cuts because of the higher levels of Medicaid and Medicare patients they have.
8. Rural areas in Texas have the highest levels of uninsured – some more than 30% – while the Texas average is 16% (dropping from its peak of 26% prior to the ACA).
9. Rural hospitals nationally comprise about 2% of the Medicare expenditures and Texas rural hospitals are 1.5% of the Texas Medicaid budget.
10. The average Texas rural hospital employs 170 people with an annual budget of \$30,000,000.

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\*Rural hospital defined by TORCH as Critical Access Hospital, Sole Community Hospital, Rural Referral Center in a non-MSA, or any other acute care hospital in a county of 60,000 or less.

\*\*A hospital is considered closed when it ceases inpatient services on a permanent or temporary basis, although other limited services may continue.