




# IMPLICATIONS OF CORONAVIRUS: COVID-19's Impact on Rural Communities



## RURAL HOSPITALS: United States (Source: UNC Sheps Center; Becker's Hospital Review)



**1 in 5 Americans** live in rural areas and rely on local hospitals, yet rural hospitals have **shut down in 31 states** since 2010.

2019  
**18**   
Rural Hospitals closed in the last year

2015 - 2019  
**69**   
Rural Hospitals closed in the last 5 years

2010 - 2019  
**124**   
Rural Hospitals closed in the last 10 years

## RURAL HEALTH DISPARITIES: West Virginia (Source: Community Education Group)

Out of the **220 counties** identified by the CDC as being **vulnerable to an HIV outbreak**, **28 of West Virginia's 55 counties** were listed.

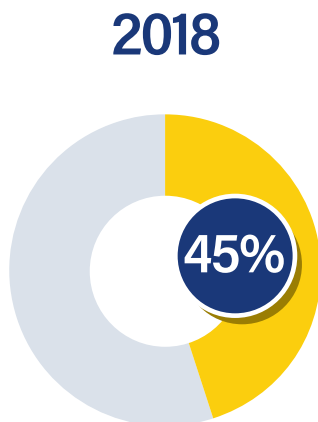
**The highest rate of Drug Overdose Deaths** in the nation (National Rate: 20.7; WV Rate: 51.5)

**The second-highest rate of Hepatitis C Virus** in the nation (National Rate: 1.2; WV Rate: 3.9)

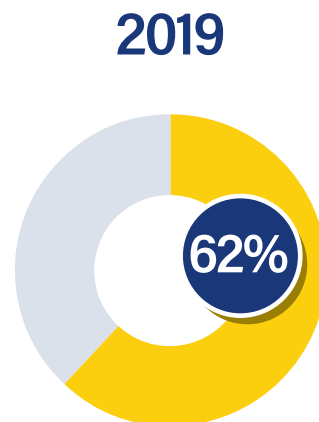
**A steadily increasing rate of new IDU-related HIV infections:**



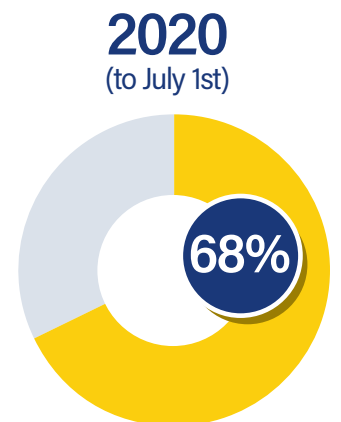
IDU-related HIV cases



Of the 87 newly diagnosed HIV cases, **39 (45%)** were IDU-related



Of the 146 newly diagnosed HIV cases, **91 (62%)** were IDU-related



Of the 50 newly diagnosed HIV cases, **34 (68%)** were IDU-related

## COVID-19 SNAPSHOT: West Virginia (Source: WV Department of Health & Human Resources)

As of September 30th, there were **15,848 COVID-19 cases** and **350 deaths in West Virginia**, with steady increases in **hospitalizations, ICU cases, and ventilator cases.**

**41.3% increase** in Emergency Medical Services Responses for Suspected Overdoses (Jan 2020 - June 2020)

**10.3% increase** in Hospital Emergency Room Incidents Related to Overdoses (Jan 2020 - June 2020)