

So far away: Rural individuals' access to a cognitive care specialty program

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INTRODUCTION

- Rural individuals are less likely to be diagnosed with dementia
- Rural patients are less likely to access specialty care including cognitive disorder clinics
- Utah has a high proportion of rural counties
- University of Utah's Aging Brain Care (ABC) Program is a cognitive specialty clinical program caring for older adults and their care partners with cognitive concerns

METHODS

We evaluated data using patient demographics and rural zip codes from the Office of Rural Health seen in ABC between July 2020-June 2021.

RESULTS

- 211 patients aged 65 and older seen in ABC over first 12 months
- 14.7% were considered rural dwelling
- Of those rural patients, 39% were seen by video
- 42% of all patients were seen by video

DISCUSSION

- ABC is successfully providing specialty care to rural individuals with cognitive concerns
- Living in a rural area is not a barrier to virtual visit access and is feasible for cognitive evaluation

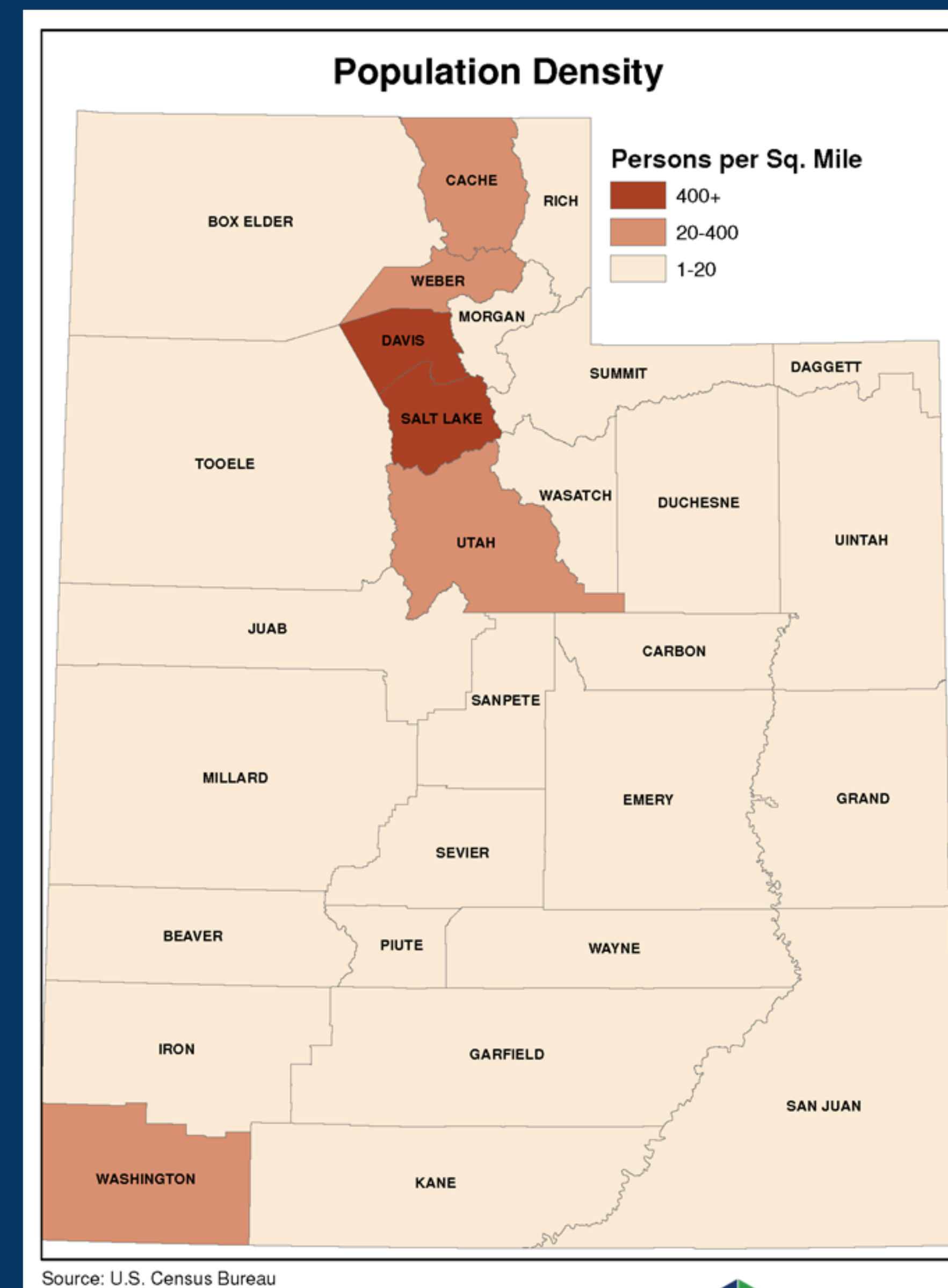
FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

None

Rural individuals are just as likely as those in non-rural areas to access cognitive specialty care using telehealth.

- 211 patients were seen in the Aging Brain Care clinic from July 2020 to June 2021
- 14.7% (N=31) reside in a rural county
- 39% of rural patients were seen by telehealth vs. 42% of non-rural patients

How seen	Rural#	Rural%	Non-Rural#	Non-Rural%
In Person	19	61	104	58
Virtual	12	39	76	42



Utah's rural and frontier counties