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HOSPITAL BED CAPACITY IN NEVADA COUNTIES

Health Fact Sheet No. 5 | April 2020

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PURPOSE:

This Fact Sheet shows data on hospital bed capacity within Nevada's 17 counties, as originally published by *High Country News* on March 19, 2020.¹ The original data source includes maps and charts compiled by Megan Lawson of Headwater Economics. The data include information from the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Commerce.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

1. On an average, "rural areas in the West actually have more hospital beds per person than urban areas."²
2. In Nevada, Esmeralda County, Eureka County, and Storey County list no hospital beds within their boundaries; Lander County reports just 7 hospital beds and White Pine County reports 12 hospital beds.
3. In Washoe County (Reno) there are .003 hospital beds per person; in Clark County (Las Vegas) there are .002 beds per person.
4. In Storey County, 29.8% of the population is over 65 years of age, the highest percentage in Nevada. 26.4% of residents in Douglas County are over 65 years of age.
5. Of the 11 western states included in this report, Nevada ranks 10th with 6,752 residents in counties without a hospital; 1,728 of those individuals are 65+ years old

ABOUT THE DATA:

Table 1 displays current hospital bed capacity in Nevada counties, adapted from the original report by Headwater Economics. Urban counties (Clark and Washoe) are shown separately from rural counties. Within each county category, counties are organized alphabetically within the table. Data are presented for the total resident population per county, in addition to the number of individuals aged 65 and older (seniors) in the total resident population. The percent of seniors within a county population is also offered. Then, data are presented on the number of hospital beds available in each county, and the number of beds therefore available per resident. Finally, the table shows the number of hospital beds available per resident aged 65 and older.

Among Nevada's urban counties, there are more hospital beds per resident in Washoe County (0.003) than in Clark County (0.002). Despite this, Clark and Washoe counties have proportionally similar-sized populations of residents 65 and older (Clark, 14.10%; Washoe, 15.50%).

¹ Segerstrom, C. (2020, March 19). "Crowded cities and lonely country: See your county's hospital bed capacity," *High Country News*. Retrieved from www.hcn.org/articles/north-covid19-crowded-cities-and-lonely-country-see-your-countys-hospital-bed-capacity

² Ibid.

TABLE 1: HOSPITAL BED CAPACITY IN NEVADA COUNTIES

Urban/ Rural	Nevada County	Total Resident Population	Population 65 and Older	Percent of Population 65 and Older	Number of Hospital Beds	Hospital Beds per Resident	Hospital Beds per Resident 65 and Older
Urban	Clark	2,141,574	301,845	14.10%	3,756	0.002	0.012
	Washoe	450,486	69,819	15.50%	1,137	0.003	0.016
Rural	Carson City	54,467	10,667	19.60%	200	0.004	0.019
	Churchill	24,010	4,446	18.50%	40	0.002	0.009
	Douglas	47,828	12,611	26.40%	23	0	0.002
	Elko	52,252	5,477	10.50%	50	0.001	0.009
	Esmeralda	981	269	27.40%	0	0	0
	Eureka	1,830	283	15.50%	0	0	0
	Humboldt	16,904	2,083	12.30%	52	0.003	0.025
	Lander	5,746	822	14.30%	7	0.001	0.009
	Lincoln	5,174	1,225	23.70%	20	0.004	0.016
	Lyon	53,155	10,937	20.60%	63	0.001	0.006
	Mineral	4,448	1,099	24.70%	11	0.002	0.01
	Nye	43,705	12,644	28.90%	25	0.001	0.002
	Pershing	6,611	1,061	16.00%	38	0.006	0.036
	Storey	3,941	1,176	29.80%	0	0	0
White Pine	9,737	1,587	16.30%	12	0.001	0.008	

* Adapted from original data source: Segerstrom, C. (2020, March 19). "Crowded cities and lonely country: See your county's hospital bed capacity," *High Country News*. Retrieved from www.hcn.org/articles/north-covid19-crowded-cities-and-lonely-country-see-your-countys-hospital-bed-capacity

In Nevada’s rural counties, Esmeralda County, Storey County and Eureka County do not have any hospital beds within their boundaries. Esmeralda and Storey Counties have two of the highest shares of senior populations, who are often most vulnerable to disease and ailing health. Segerstrom notes that a lack of accessible healthcare facilities “can be especially challenging for people over 65 who often face additional challenges reaching the nearest hospital even as they face higher risk of extended hospitalization and death from COVID-19.”³ Eureka County has a lower share of senior residents, but it is still important to note that there are no hospital beds within county limits. Residents in these counties must seek medical care elsewhere.

Nye County has the second highest county percentage of seniors within its population (28.9%) and has 0.002 hospital beds per resident 65 and older, and only 0.001 hospital beds per resident overall. In rural counties, residents may be more susceptible to disease without access to appropriate medical care within their own county of residence.

Pershing County has the greatest hospital bed capacity of all Nevada counties, with 0.006 hospital beds per resident, and 0.036 hospital beds per resident 65 and older. Lincoln County and Carson City rank second, each with 0.004 hospital beds per resident.

³ Segerstrom, C. (2020, March 19). "Crowded cities and lonely country: See your county's hospital bed capacity," *High Country News*. Retrieved from www.hcn.org/articles/north-covid19-crowded-cities-and-lonely-country-see-your-countys-hospital-bed-capacity