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## **National Rural Health Association**

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### **Journal of Rural Health recognizes 2025 Article of Year**

The Journal of Rural Health (JRH) will recognize its 2025 Article of the Year during the National Rural Health Association's (NRHA) 48th Annual Rural Health Conference May 20-23 in Atlanta.

The JRH Editorial Board selected the winner from all JRH articles published online last year. The 2025 Article of the Year is "Nursing home closures and access to post-acute care and long-term care services in rural areas" by Hari Sharma, PhD, Redwan Bin Abdul Baten, PhD, Fred Ullrich, A. Clint MacKinney, MD, and Keith J. Mueller, PhD.

Nursing home closures have raised concerns about access to post-acute care (PAC) and long-term care (LTC) services. This study estimates the additional distance rural residents had to travel to access PAC and LTC services because of nursing home closures, finding that nursing home closures increased distances to nursing homes, home health agencies, and hospitals with swing beds for rural residents. Access to PAC and LTC services is also a concern, especially for rural areas with no nursing homes.

Selection criteria for the Article of the Year include average downloads per month and evaluation by the JRH Editorial Board regarding methodology and importance.

"Our rural research community serves a key role in the development of good public policy," says NRHA CEO Alan Morgan. "NRHA is proud to select this vital and timely research as our Article of the Year."

#### **About JRH**

JRH is a quarterly peer-reviewed journal published by NRHA. It is devoted to advancing professional practice, research, theory development, and public policy related to rural health.

#### **About NRHA**

NRHA is a nonprofit organization working to improve the health and well-being of rural Americans and provide leadership on rural health issues through advocacy, communications, education, and research. NRHA's membership is made up of a wide variety of individuals and organizations that share the common bond of an interest in rural health.