Closing the Gap: Increasing Community Mental Health Services in Rural Indiana  
(Community Mental Health Journal)

This study examined the current strengths of the community and the barriers preventing mental health service delivery in Martin County, Indiana. The authors comprised a list of feasible and sustainable recommendations for Martin County and similar rural areas that incorporate the strengths in the community, address their identified challenges, and thus created a model for mental health service provision that can be replicated in other rural communities with similar strengths and similar challenges.

Perceived Barriers to Mental Health Services (N=82), Martin County, Indiana: 2019

- Availability of Services: 76.8%
- Knowledge of Where to Receive Services: 54.8%
- Financial Means: 53.6%

Source: Community Mental Health Journal

Current State of Child Health in Rural America: How Context Shapes Children’s Health  
(The Journal of Rural Health)

This descriptive report assesses the status of children in rural America to highlight key features of the rural environment that may affect health. Areas addressed include the economic characteristics, provider availability, uniquely rural health risks, health services use, and health outcomes among rural children.

Rural Suicide Prevention Toolkit  
(Rural Health Information Hub)

This comprehensive toolkit provides a clear picture of suicide in rural areas, challenges rural communities face, models for suicide prevention programs, and implementation and evaluation tips for said programming.

A Decade Undone: Youth Disconnection in the Age of Coronavirus  
(Measure of America of the Social Science Research Council)

This report highlights the distinct characteristics of the country’s urban, suburban, and rural areas, and explores how these factors affect youth disconnection rates.

Rural opportunity deserts have the highest disconnection rates, with an average of 25.5 percent.  
Source: Measure of America

Percentage of Students Enrolling in College within 1 Year of Graduating High School, Indiana: 2018 Cohort

- Rural: 57%
- Urban & Suburban: 62%
- State Average: 61%

Source: Indiana Commission for Higher Education
Strengthening Workforce Development in Rural Areas
(Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta)

This brief examines perspectives from listening sessions and research in the workforce development field to explore what challenges and strategies stakeholders face in building stronger rural economies.

Rural Communities Need Funding and Support to Address Rural Youth Homelessness and Missed Opportunities: Youth Homelessness in Rural America
(Chapin Hill at the University of Chicago)

These reports explore the unique challenges that rural communities in the U.S. face in addressing youth homelessness, recommendations for how to respond to those challenges, and opportunities to strengthen rural service delivery models.

Even though I was dealing with all this hardship, it took such an effort to like realize that I was indeed homeless and that, you know, I did indeed need help.

—YOUNG ADULT STAKEHOLDER

Source: Chapin Hill

Recommendations for Thriving Rural Communities
(Indiana University Public Policy Institute)

This resource outlines the common community challenges and opportunities from a Commission of 16 individuals from the public, private, and nonprofit sectors with an interest in small towns, rural communities, and unincorporated areas throughout Indiana. Recommendations and strategies to address these challenges over the next ten years are outlined.

Broadband Access in Rural Indiana
(Purdue Extension Center for Rural Development)

This resource assesses differences in access to broadband services across Indiana’s rural and urban areas. Discussed are a comparison of national trends to those in Indiana including data on broadband providers, connection speeds, and the variety of technologies available, and strategies for accelerating broadband access in rural communities.

Percentage of Population with Access to Fixed Residential Broadband Providers with Internet Speeds Greater than or Equal to 100Mbps, Indiana: June 2020