

ASPE Rural Hospital Dashboard

User Guide Document, April 2026

Prepared by: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE), Office of Health Policy

Platform: Microsoft Power BI

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Dashboard Description

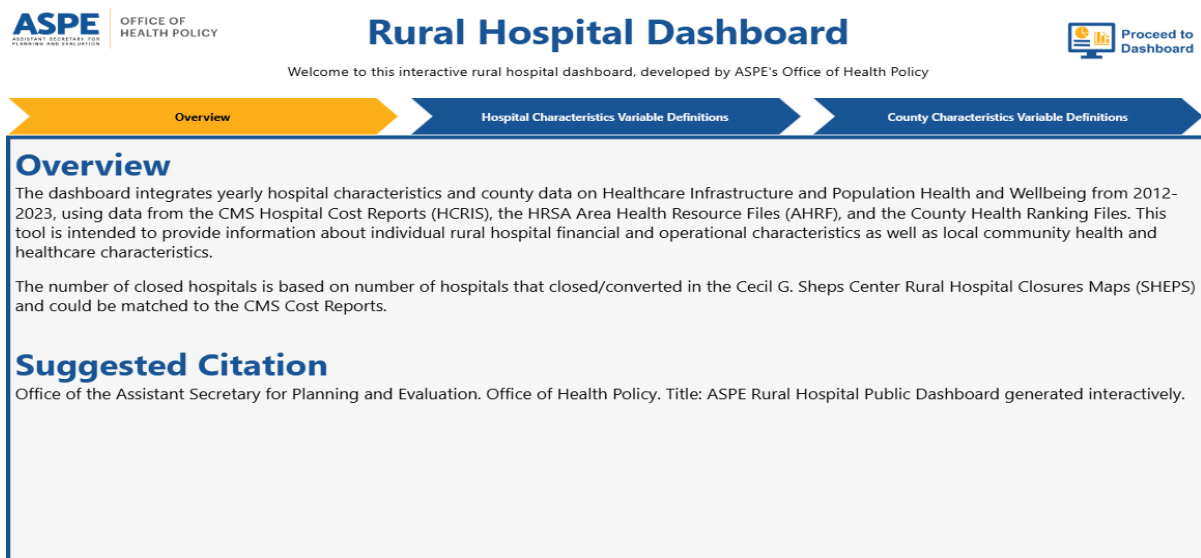
The Rural Hospital Dashboard was developed by ASPE’s Office of Health Policy to support analysis of trends in rural hospital operations and closures. The dashboard provides comprehensive information on rural hospitals, both open and closed, spanning 2012–2023. This tool can assist policymakers, researchers, analysts, and other stakeholders interested in rural health in their decision-making processes. It enables users to explore hospital characteristics, examine closure trends, and better understand the community context in which these hospitals operate.

The dashboard is accessible via a web link through [ASPE’s website](#). For optimal performance, users are encouraged to access the dashboard using web browsers such as Microsoft Edge or Google Chrome. While the dashboard may be viewed on mobile devices, a desktop or laptop is recommended for the best user experience.

Navigating the Dashboard

Upon opening the dashboard, users arrive at the **Overview** landing page. A three-tab navigation bar runs across the top of the content area.

Landing Page Structure



Tab	Contents
Overview	Purpose statement, data sources, and suggested citation
Hospital Characteristics Variable Definitions	Definitions for all hospital-level metrics
County Characteristics Variable Definitions	Definitions for all county-level metrics

Click any tab to navigate between informational pages before proceeding to the interactive dashboard.

Proceeding to the interactive Dashboard



Click the “**Proceed to Dashboard**” button in the upper-right corner of the landing page to enter the main interactive view.

Variable Definitions

Before exploring the data, users are encouraged to review the two variable definition tabs.

Hospital Characteristics Variables

The screenshot shows the 'Rural Hospital Dashboard' interface. At the top left is the ASPE logo (Arizona State Policy Evaluation) and 'OFFICE OF HEALTH POLICY'. The main title is 'Rural Hospital Dashboard'. Below the title is a welcome message: 'Welcome to this interactive rural hospital dashboard, developed by ASPE's Office of Health Policy'. A navigation bar contains three tabs: 'Overview', 'Hospital Characteristics Variable Definitions' (which is highlighted in yellow), and 'County Characteristics Variable Definitions'. The main content area is titled 'Hospital Characteristics Variable Definitions' and lists several variables with their definitions:

- Hospital ID:** AHA hospital identification number
- Occupancy Rate:** Inpatient occupancy rate (total inpatient days/total bed days)
- Profit Margin:** (Total revenue-total expenses)/Total Revenue, where total revenue is net patient revenue plus total other income. Net patient revenue is Total Patient Revenue minus Contractual Allowance and Discounts on Patients' Accounts. Contractual Allowance and Discounts on Patients' Accounts is defined as Provision for Bad Debts, Contractual Adjustments, Charity Discounts, Teaching Allowances, Policy Discounts, Administrative Adjustments, and Other Deductions from Revenue.
- Medicare Share of Hospital Discharges:** # of Medicare FFS and Managed Care discharges/total discharges
- Medicaid Share of Hospital Discharges:** # of Medicaid FFS and Managed Care discharges/total discharges
- Liability-to-Asset Ratio by Year:** Total Liabilities/Total Assets, where total liabilities include total long- and short-term liabilities. Total assets are the sum of current assets, fixed assets, and other assets.
- Critical Access Hospital (CAH):** Small, rural hospitals certified by CMS which must maintain 25 or fewer acute care beds, maintain an annual average length of stay of 96 hours or less, and provide 24/7 emergency services.
- Occupancy Rate Quartile:** Ranges from 1-4. Hospitals in Quartile 1 are in the bottom 25% of occupancy rates for a given year, while hospitals in Quartile 4 are in the top 75% of occupancy rates for a given year.

County Characteristics Variables

The screenshot shows the 'Rural Hospital Dashboard' interface with the 'County Characteristics Variable Definitions' tab selected. The main content area is titled 'County Characteristics Variable Definitions' and lists several variables with their definitions:

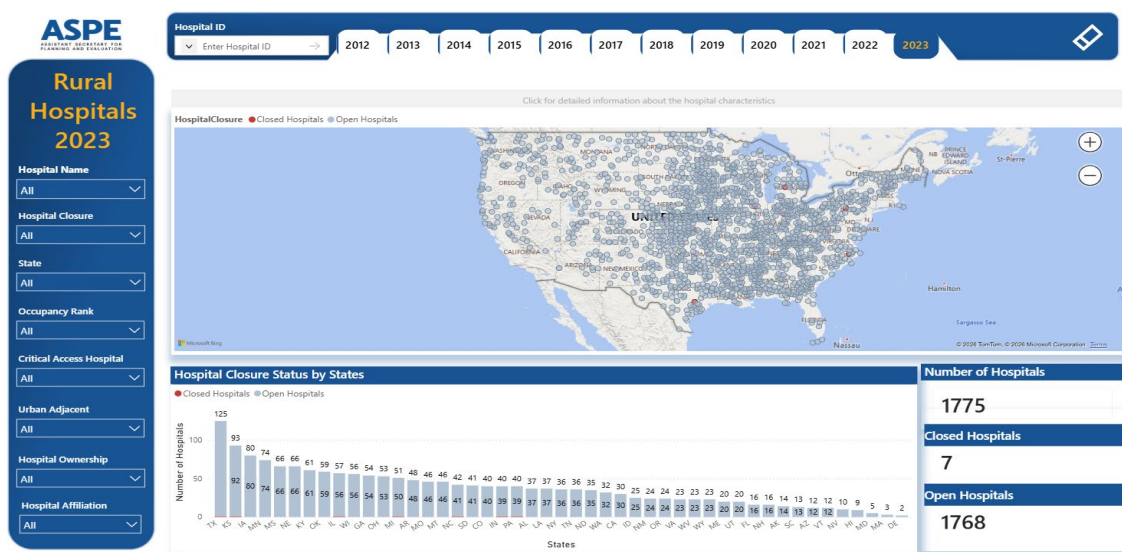
- Access to Healthcare Providers**
- Number of People Per Provider:** Primary Care Physicians (MDs/DOs), Physician Assistants (PAs), Nurse Practitioners (NPs), and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs)
- Access to Other Healthcare Facilities**
- Number of People Per Facility:** Rural Health Clinics (RHCs), Community Health Centers (CHCs), Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), Home Health Agencies (HHAs), Hospice Providers, Nursing Facilities, Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs), and Ambulatory Surgery Centers (ASCs)
- Standing on Health Outcome**
- Length of life:** A measure encompassing life expectancy, pre-mature age adjusted mortality, child and infant mortality
- Demographics:** Age Group, Household income, Population, Rurality, Sex

Main Dashboard

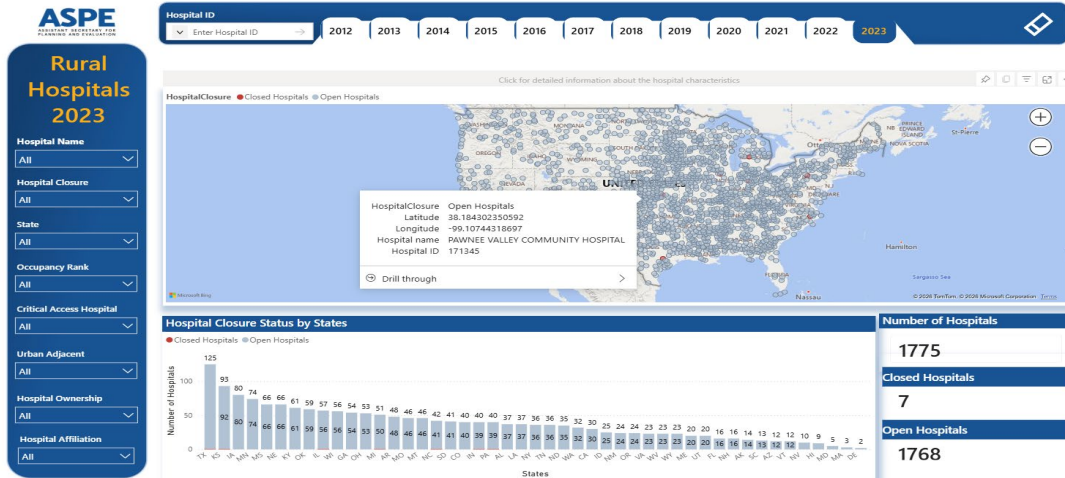
Layout Overview

The main interactive displays:

- A **year selector** (2012-2023) along the top
- A **U.S. map** showing hospital locations, color-coded by closure status
- A **Hospital closure status** by states
- **Summary Key Performance Indicators (KPI)** tiles on the lower right (Total hospitals, Closed Hospitals, Open Hospitals)
- A **filter panel** on the left sidebar




- Click a dot to select that hospital



Left Sidebar Filters

The left sidebar provides dropdown filters to narrow the dashboard view. Each filter contains several options.

Filters	Options
Hospital Name	All the hospitals listed alphabetically
Hospital Closure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closed Hospital • Open Hospital
State	U.S. States
Occupancy Rank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highest Occupancy • High Occupancy • Low Occupancy • Lowest Occupancy
Critical Access Hospital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical Access Hospital • Non-Critical Access Hospital
Urban Adjacent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjacent to an Urban County • Not Adjacent to an Urban County
Hospital Ownership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For Profit Hospital • Government Hospital • Non-Profit Hospital
Hospital Affiliation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent Hospital • System-Affiliated Hospital

To reset the dashboard to its default view, users can clear applied filters using the eraser icons on the upper right side of the dashboard. 

Tip: Combine multiple filters to identify hospitals with specific profiles. For example, closed hospitals in a given state that were critical hospitals access.

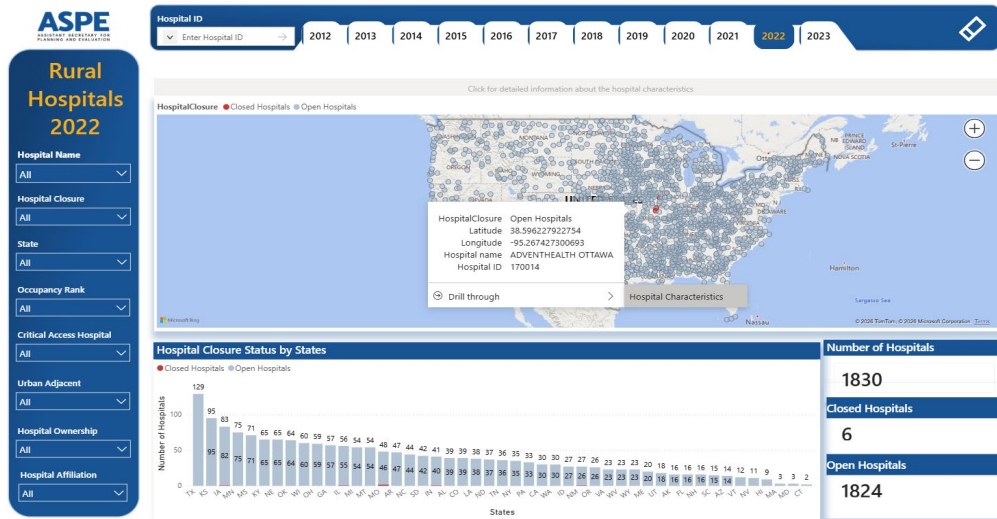
Hospital Closure Status by State bar Chart

The bar chart below the map shows the distribution of Open (Blue Grey) and Closed (Red) hospitals by states. States are arranged along the x-axis, and the number of hospitals on the y-axis. This chart updates dynamically based on active filters and the selected years. It can also be used as a filter.

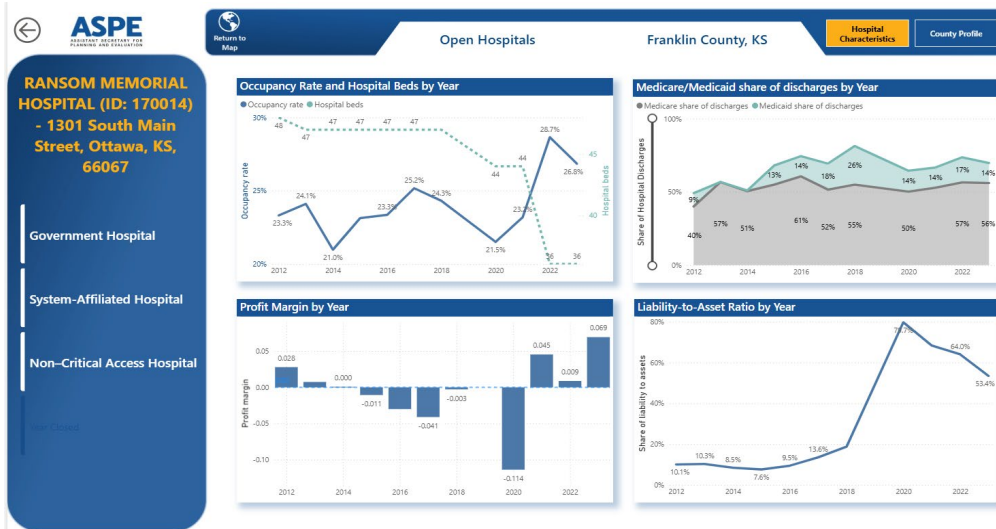
Hospital Characteristics

Accessing Hospital Profile

From the map, hover over a hospital dot, select “Drill Through”, click on “Hospital Characteristics” in the tooltip to navigate to that hospital’s detailed profile page.



Profile page layout



Left panel (Static hospital attributes): Hospital name, ID, Address Ownership type (e.g., Government Hospital), Affiliation status (e.g., System-Affiliated Hospital), CAH designation status (e.g., Non-Critical Access Hospital). For closed hospitals, the Year Closed also appears at the bottom of the panel.

Right panel (Longitudinal trends charts, 2012-2023): Occupancy rate and hospital beds by year, Medicare/Medicaid share of discharges by year, Profit margin by year, Liability-to-Assets Ratio by year

Navigating between hospital and County views

At the top right of the hospital characteristics page, two tabs allow switching between views

- **Hospital characteristics** (default, currently shown)
- **County Profile** (switches to county level data for the same location)



Use Back or “Return to Map” button (upper left) to return to the main map view.

County Profile

Accessing the county profile

From the hospital’s characteristics page, click the “**County Profile**” tab at the top right to view county-level characteristics for the county where the hospital is located.



County Profile Layout

Top Summary bar:

- Average county population
- Urban adjacency status

Left Panel (county static attributes):

- County name and state
- Population density per square mile (2010 and 2020)
- Rural-Urban Continuum code (RUCC Code)
- Urban adjacency classification description

Right panel (Longitudinal trend charts)

Charts: Access to Healthcare Providers, Access to Healthcare facilities, County Standing on health outcomes within the state, county demographic Information

Tips: Use the dropdown menu within each chart to switch between different provider types, facility types, and demographic variables without navigating away from the view.

Tips for effective use

Use case	Recommended workflow
Track a single hospital over time	Search by Hospital ID/Name → drill to Hospital Characteristics → review longitudinal charts
Compare closure patterns across states	Main dashboard → select year → review bar chart by state
Access community context for closure	Select closed hospital → drill to Hospital characteristics → select County Profile tab → review provider access and health outcomes
Focus on Critical Access hospitals	Filter: Critical Access Hospital = Yes → explore map and state chart

Suggested Citation

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. Office of Health Policy. Title: ASPE Rural Hospital Public Dashboard generated interactively from <https://aspe.hhs.gov/reports/rural-hospitals>

Contact

For questions about the dashboard or its underlying data, please contact APSE's Office of Health Policy: Jean Fredo Louis, jeanfredo.louis@hhs.gov or Sara Couture, Sara.Couture@hhs.gov