

Left Behind

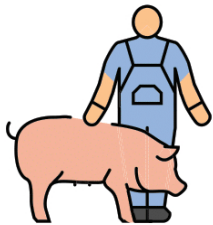
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Farmers in top ranking agricultural counties experience limited access to behavioral healthcare.

Since 2020, the hog industry faced unique stressors from hog depopulation due to processing disruptions, high-mortality hog diseases, and federal policy uncertainties.¹ These stressful challenges worsened mental health and highlighted the need for behavioral healthcare in regions where resources are limited.¹ In response, pork and ag associations made noteworthy investments to reduce geographic disparities in mental health resources.² To illustrate, we show the limitations in behavioral healthcare access for the ten counties that lead the nation in hog sales.

National Rank for Hogs and Market Value of Product Sold (USD) ³	Average Population per Behavioral Healthcare Provider ⁴ National Average = 320:1
1. Sampson County, NC - \$966,059,000	1,850:1
2. Duplin County, NC - \$940,950,000	1,260:1
3. Sioux County, IA - \$753,682,000	640:1
4. Washington County, IA - \$689,592,000	1,330:1
5. Lyon County, IA - \$578,858,000	6,090:1
6. Plymouth County, IA - \$458,117,000	600:1
7. Martin County, MN - \$445,664,000	940:1
8. Hardin County, IA - \$435,355,000	2,070:1
9. Texas County, OK <small>Withheld by USDA to avoid disclosing data for individual operation(s).</small>	570:1
10. Palo Alto, IA - \$396,146,000	880:1



Hog Farmers and Industry Professionals



Worsening Mental Health and Limited Access to Care



Increase in Farmer and Industry Professional Substance Abuse and Suicide

56,265 farms produced and sold hogs and pigs with 39% of those farms specializing in hog and pig production. Just 47% of all farms selling hogs and pigs reported positive net farm income in 2022, indicating challenging financials, another known stressor, on the remaining 53%.³

Research strongly supports the link between insufficient mental health resources, substance abuse, and suicide.⁵

- Schossow, M., Kampa, D., and Bender, J. 2022. Building Resilient Agricultural Communities: A Process for Addressing Mental Health Challenges in Agricultural Communities. *Journal of Agromedicine*, 28(1), 97-100.
- See <https://ahn.mnsu.edu/news/pork-producer-donates-to-crbh/> and [https://www.mnsu.edu/about-the-university/news-and-events/compeer-financial-pledges-\\$300000-to-center-for-rural-behavioral-health/](https://www.mnsu.edu/about-the-university/news-and-events/compeer-financial-pledges-$300000-to-center-for-rural-behavioral-health/)
- U.S. Department of Agriculture. 2024. *2022 United States Census of Agriculture*. "State and County Profiles" and "Hogs and Pigs Highlights." Washington, D.C.
- University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. 2024. *County Health Rankings and Roadmaps*. Madison, WI. www.countyhealthrankings.org.
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. 2020. *The Interplay of Substance Use Disorders and Mental Health Disorders*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Washington, D.C.

Need Help?

Nationally, the suicide & crisis prevention hotline, 988, is available 24/7, while 1-800-FARM-AID is available M-F. Many states also provide tailored farm & rural stress hotlines.



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