

If Rural Counties Focus on Women's Healthcare, Will There Be Less Brain-Drain?

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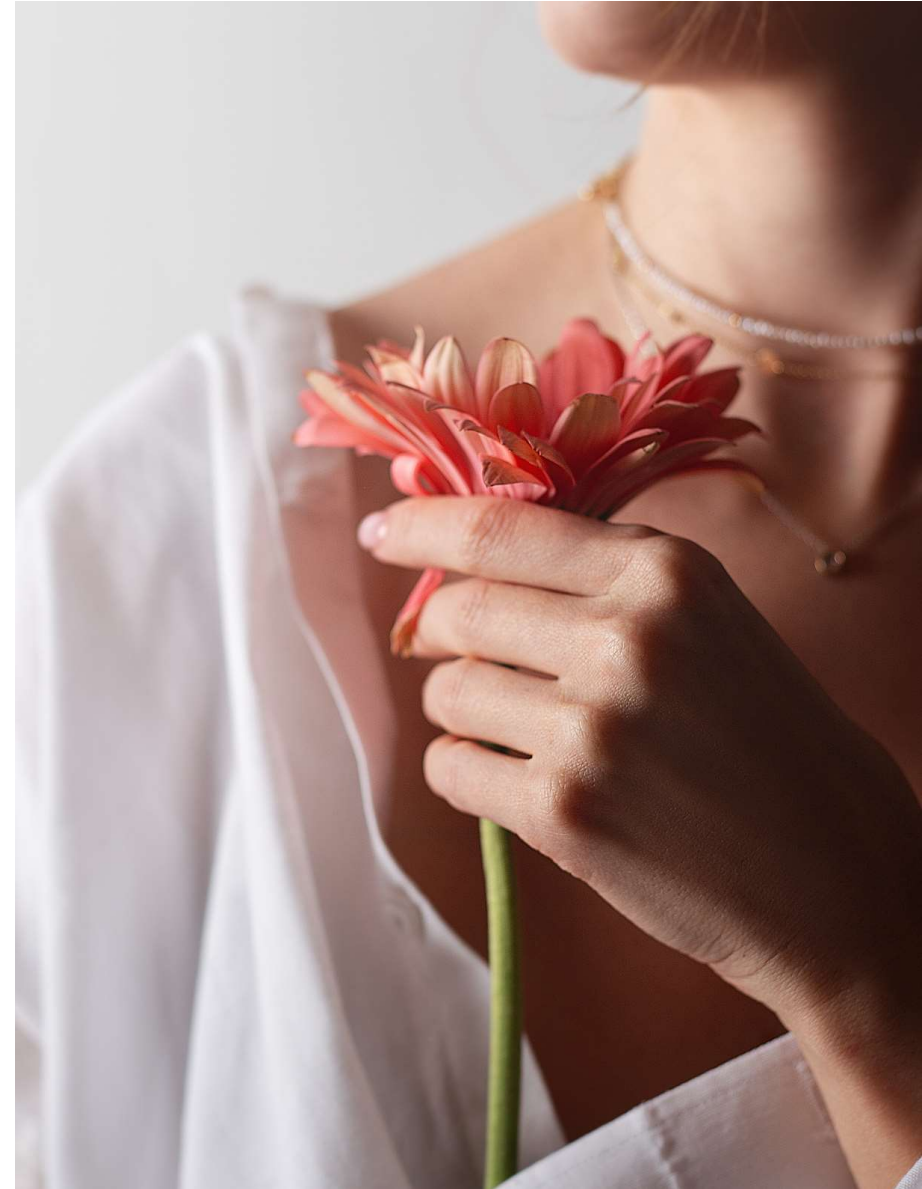
INTRODUCTION & PURPOSE

- "Brain-Drain" is a global challenge for rural communities that are drained of their educated and professional workers
- Incentives that address "Brain-Drain" in North Carolina neglect to factor the disparities in women's health in rural counties
- Without public health support in rural communities, there is little appeal for educated women to return or migrate to a rural region.



My Focus

Do public health systems support the health needs of educated women with a bachelor's degree or higher to stay and work in rural areas?



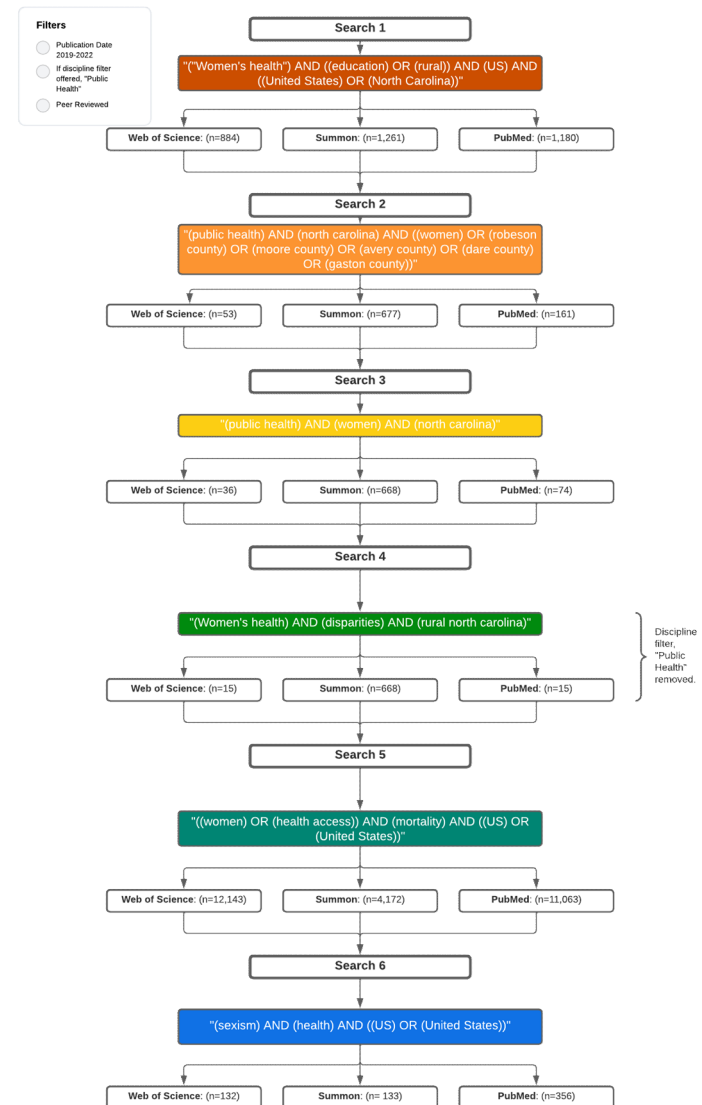
Methods

This was a combination of literature and publicly available data.

5 Counties were randomly selected by geographic region in North Carolina:
Robeson, Moore, Avery, Dare, and Gaston.

Filters for American Community Survey (ACS):
"Total Population" (A00001), "Sex" (A02001),
"Educational Attainment for Female Population
25 Years and Over" (A12001B), "Median
Earnings by Sex by Educational Attainment for
Population Age 25+" (A15001), and "Health
Insurance" (A20001).

Literature Search:



REVIEW & DEFINING THE PROBLEM

Global studies:

Gender diversity in the workplace increased financial returns by 15% in the U.K., Canada, Latin America, and the U.S. (Hunt, et. al. 2015)

Women's health is an indicator of community health in a study done in Sub-Saharan Africa (Ahinkora, et. al. 2021)

North Carolina:

Rural counties in N.C. have, on average, the lowest rankings for women's health and wellness (Status of Women in North Carolina, 2019)

Women are also less likely to have attained an educational degree of bachelor's or higher in rural N.C. (ACS, 2021)

Women are more likely to travel for specialized care (Sullivan, et. al. 2021)

Recommendations

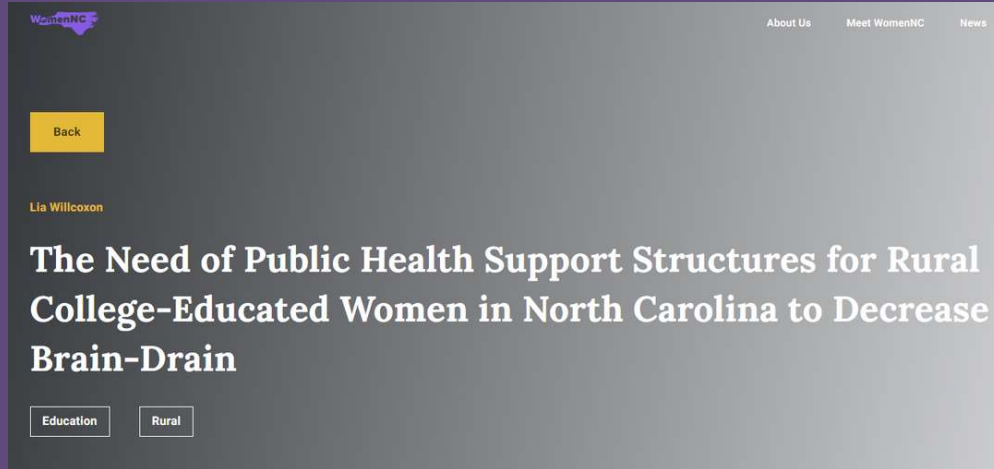


Develop robust women's health programs that cater to the specific needs of the rural region and make this information accessible via public platforms online and through traditional paper campaigns.

Incentivize clinics that provide specialized care for women (such as abortion care) to locate themselves within the most populous center of the rural community.

Outline health codes and regulations that equip women with access to personal and independent health insurance.

Questions?



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