

TELEHEALTH & RURAL POLICY IN NEBRASKA

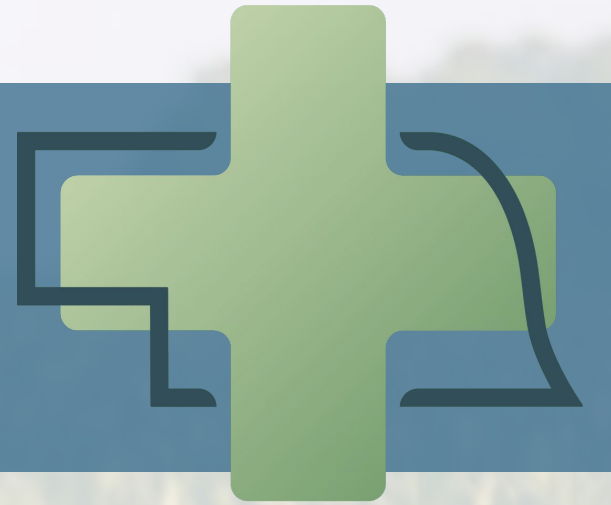


THE FUTURE OF RURAL HEALTH

Jed R Hansen
Executive Director

AGENDA

- ❑ Why Telehealth Matters
- ❑ Rural Veterans and Telehealth
- ❑ What's going on in Nebraska?
- ❑ Key Federal Work



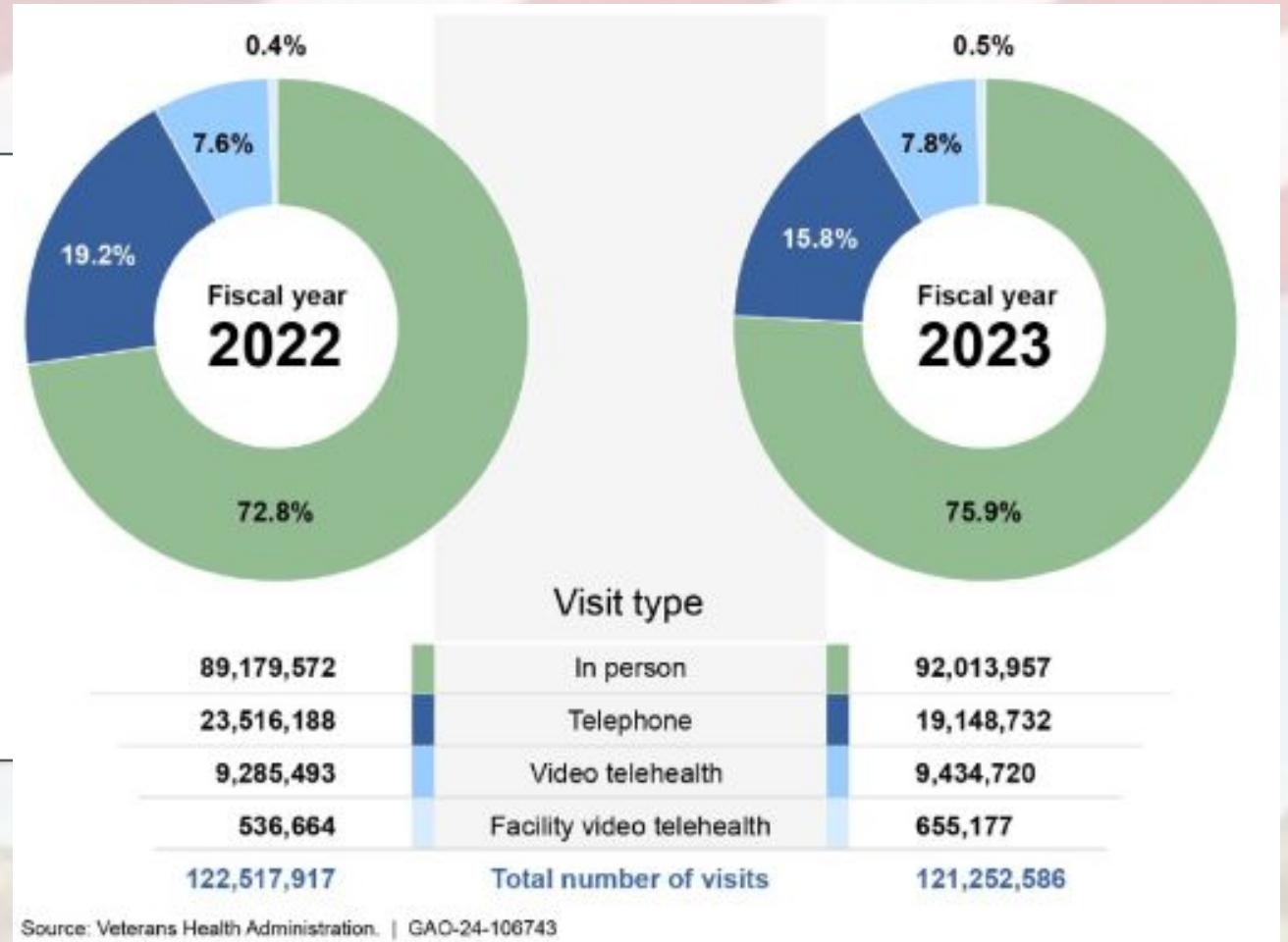
WHY TELEHEALTH MATTERS



Source: Connected Nation (2020)

REGIONAL VETERAN CONSIDERATIONS

- **Nebraska:** 62% rural | 39 min avg. travel | 10% broadband gap
 - 10% home telehealth use
- **North Dakota:** 58% rural | 32 min | 28% broadband gap
 - 3% telehealth use
- **South Dakota:** 54% rural | 33 min | 22% broadband gap
 - 7% telehealth use



TRENDS IN RURAL NEBRASKA

Adoption

- 90.5% report internet access, but only **20.8% have used telehealth**
- Most adoption: emergency care augmentation, mental health, neurology
- Greatest opportunities: remote patient monitoring, bio-wearables, chronic disease support

Hospital Success

- Chase County Hospital uses telehealth to replace months of backup physician coverage
- Gains access to pediatrics, neurology, cardiology



TELEHEALTH POLICY CHALLENGES



Bipartisan Policy Center Report:

- Recommend preserving Medicare flexibilities
- Caution: ensure local care is not displaced by virtual-only mega-providers

FEDERAL PROPOSALS TO WATCH

TELEHEALTH
COVERAGE ACT



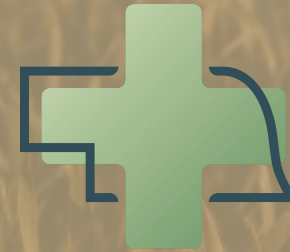
RURAL
TELEHEALTH
ENHANCEMENT
ACT



MENTAL
HEALTH
ACCESS ACT



TREATS ACT



CARDIAC
REHAB AT
HOME ACT





THANK YOU

Jed Hansen

jed.hansen@neruralhealth.org

www.iloveruralhealth.com

www.nebraskaruralhealth.org

