

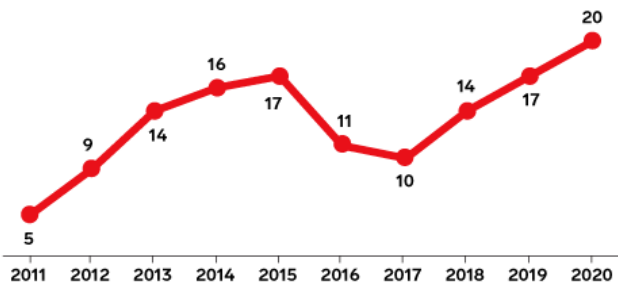
# Canceling care: Rural hospital closures peaked in 2020

Article

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During a year punctuated by pandemic, 20 rural hospitals closed in the US in 2020—more closures than any other year of the last decade.

## US Rural Hospital\* Closures\*\*, 2011-2020



Note: a hospital is not considered closed if it merged with, or was sold to, another hospital but the physical plant continued to provide inpatient acute care, converted to critical access status, or both closed and reopened during the same calendar year and at the same physical location; \*any short-term, general acute, nonfederal hospital that is not located in a metropolitan county, is located in a rural-urban commuting area (RUCA) type 4 or higher, or is a critical access hospital; \*\*a closed hospital facility that stopped providing general, short-term, acute inpatient care

Source: The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC), The Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research, March 1, 2021

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