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# Nebraska Rural Health Works Health Economic Profile for Scotts Bluff County, Nebraska

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## ***Executive Summary on the Economic Impact of the Health Care Sector***

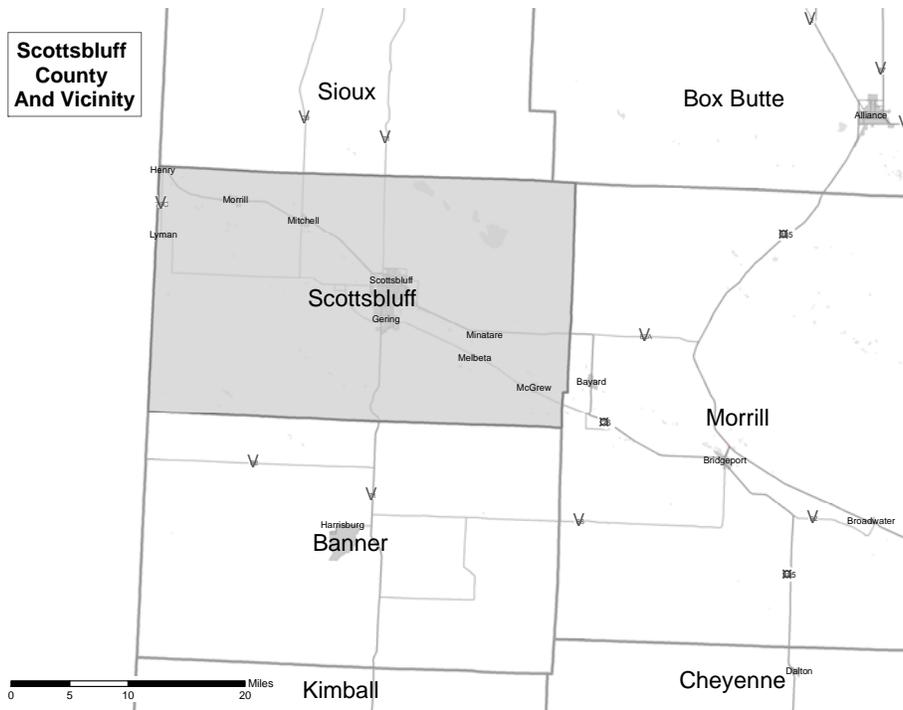
- ◆ One job created in the health care sector of Scotts Bluff County would lead to the creation of another 0.56 job in other sectors of the county's economy.
- ◆ One dollar of income earned in the health care sector of Scotts Bluff County would lead to another \$0.34 of income earned in other sectors of the county's economy.
- ◆ One dollar spent in the health care sector of Scotts Bluff County would lead to another \$0.53 spent in other sectors of the county's economy.
- ◆ The overall job creation due to health care (directly and indirectly) in Scotts Bluff County is estimated at 4,252 jobs, which accounts for 18.58% of the county's total employment.
- ◆ The overall income earned due to health care (directly and indirectly) in Scotts Bluff County is estimated at \$169.31 million, which accounts for 22.81% of the county's total income.
- ◆ The overall spending due to health care (directly and indirectly) in Scotts Bluff County is estimated at \$385.23 million, which accounts for 17.38% of the county's total economic output.

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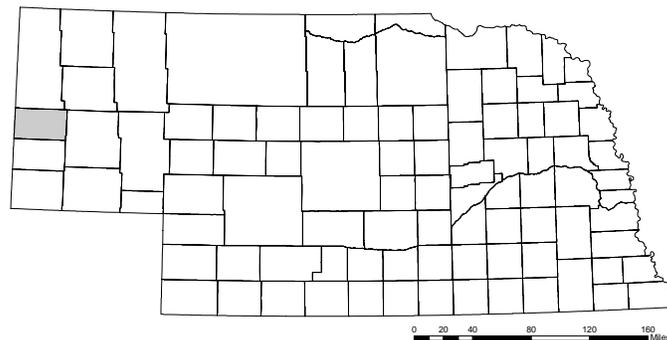
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## I. GEOGRAPHY

Scotts Bluff County is located on the western border of Nebraska. The county has a total of 739.27 square miles with a population density of 50.0 people per square mile (Nebraska: 22.3 per square mile). The county seat of Scotts Bluff County is Gering, Nebraska.



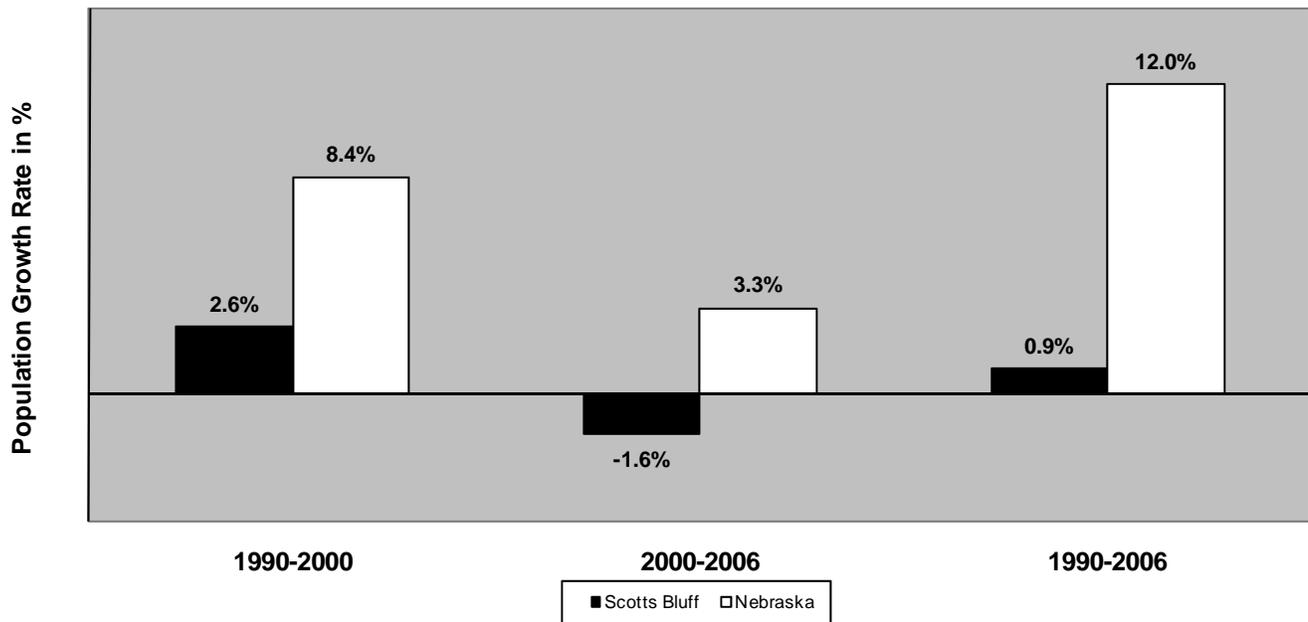
Scotts Bluff County, Nebraska



## II. POPULATION

The population for Scotts Bluff County was 36,364 in 2006. The county experienced a positive population change of 0.9% (compared to +12.0% statewide) during 1990-2006 (Figure 1). The white population represented the majority of county's population in 2006 (96.0% vs. 91.8% statewide, Table 1). In addition, the county's population is older than the state's, with the elderly (aged 65+) representing 17.3% (compared to 13.9% statewide) of the population in 2006 (Table 2).

**Figure 1. Population Growth Rate, Scotts Bluff County and Nebraska, 1990-2006**



Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census. Census 1990 and Census 2000, Summary Tape File 1. <http://factfinder.census.gov>. 2006 population: 2006 Estimates 2011 project by Geolytics Inc.

**Table 1. Population by Race for Scotts Bluff County and Nebraska, 2000 and 2006**

	Scotts Bluff County 2000	Nebraska 2000	Scotts Bluff County 2006	Nebraska 2006
<b>White</b>	87.6% (32,363)	89.6% (1,533,261)	96.0% (34,898)	91.8% (1,624,120)
<b>Black</b>	0.3% (98)	4.0% (68,541)	0.4% (134)	4.4% (77,379)
<b>American Indian Eskimo and Aleut</b>	1.9% (694)	0.9% (14,896)	2.1% (777)	1.0% (17,276)
<b>Asian or Pacific Islander</b>	0.6% (227)	1.3% (22,204)	0.7% (266)	1.7% (30,454)
<b>Other Race</b>	8.0% (2,965)	2.8% (47,845)	0.8% (295)	1.1% (20,321)
<b>Hispanic*</b>	17.2% (6,352)	5.5% (94,425)	19.7% (7,177)	7.5% (131,904)

\* Hispanic individuals were allowed to identify race alone or in combination with one or more other races, therefore totals will be more than 100  
 Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000 Census of Population and Housing, Summary Tape File 1. <http://factfinder.census.gov>. 2006 population: 2006 Estimates 2011 project by Geolytics Inc.

**Table 2. Population by Age for Scotts Bluff County and Nebraska, 2000 and 2006**

Age	Scotts Bluff County 2000	Nebraska 2000	Scotts Bluff County 2006	Nebraska 2006
0-4	6.5% (2,404)	6.8% (117,048)	6.8% (2,479)	7.1% (125,258)
5-24	27.9% (10,297)	29.7% (507,619)	27.0% (9,831)	28.0% (495,930)
25-64	48.4% (17,887)	49.9% (854,401)	48.9% (17,790)	51.1% (903,564)
65-84	14.8% (5,477)	11.6% (198,242)	14.4% (5,221)	11.5% (202,653)
85+	2.4% (886)	2.0% (33,953)	2.9% (1,046)	2.4% (42,308)
<b>TOTAL</b>	100.0% (36,951)	100.0% (1,711,263)	100.0% (36,367)	100.0% (1,769,713)

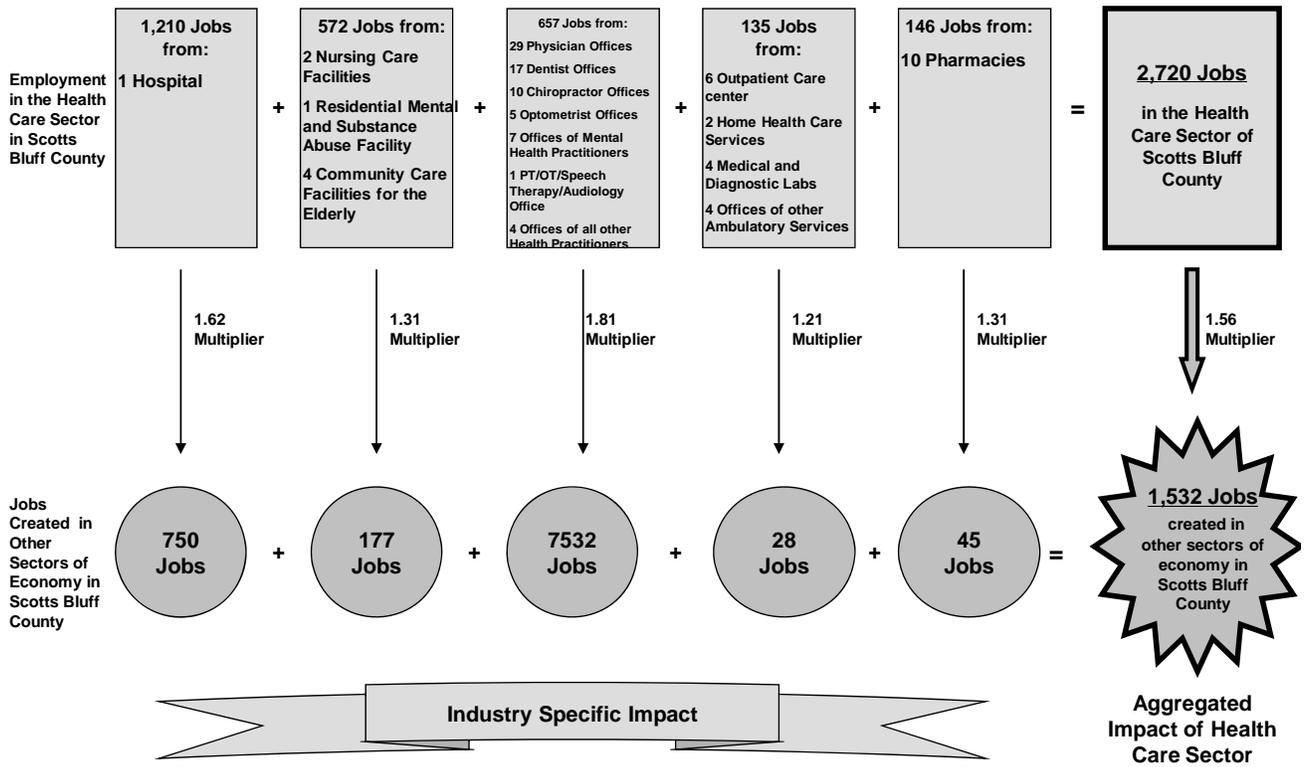
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census 2000, Summary Tape File 1. <http://factfinder.census.gov>. 2006 population: 2006 Estimates 2011 project by Geolytics Inc.

### III. ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE HEALTH CARE SECTOR

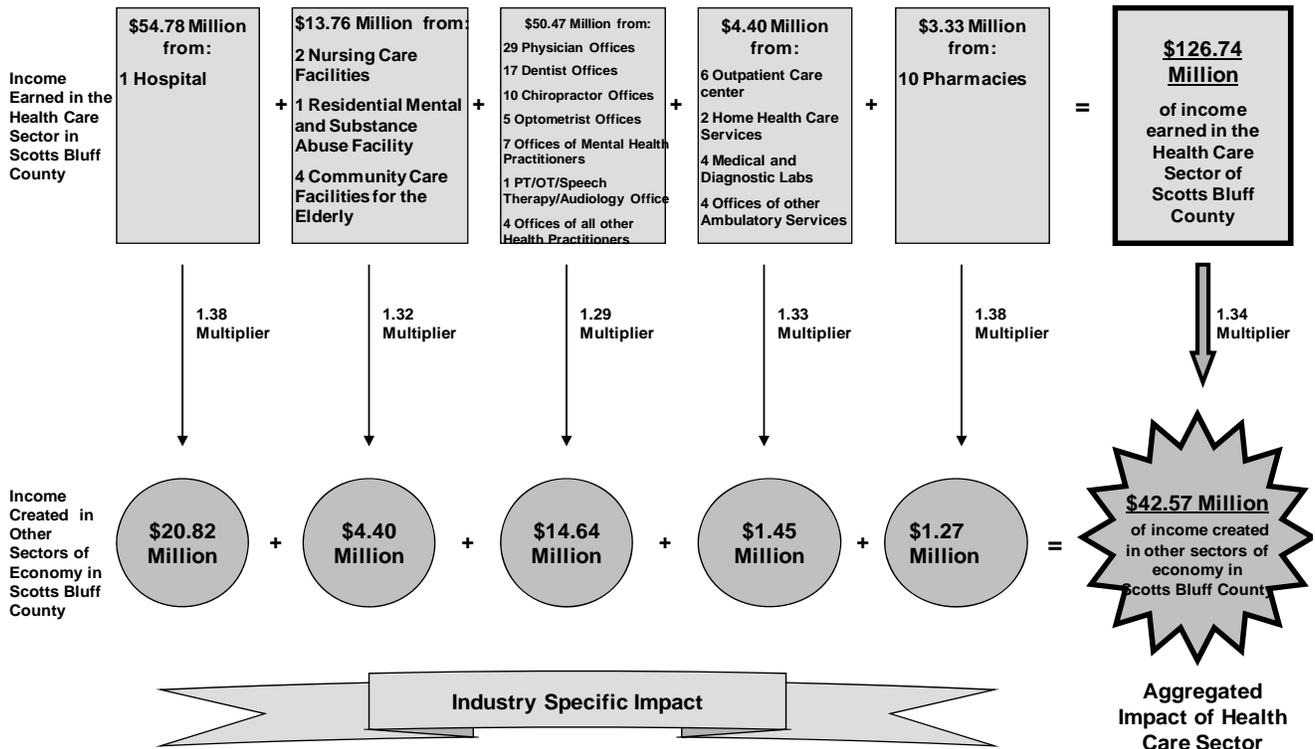
Health Care and Social Assistance is the largest employer within Scotts Bluff County, followed by retail trade, accommodation and food services, and manufacturing. The health care sector of Scotts Bluff County includes one hospital, two nursing care facilities, one residential mental health and substance abuse facilities, four community care facilities for the elderly, twenty-nine physician offices, seventeen dentist offices, ten chiropractor offices, five optometrist offices, seven office of mental health practitioners, one PT/OT/speech therapy/audiology office, four offices of all other health practitioners, six outpatient care centers, four medical and diagnostic laboratories, four offices of other ambulatory care services, two home health care services, and ten pharmacies.

- ◆ The 2,720 jobs in the health care sector of Scotts Bluff County created (through a 1.56 multiplier) another 1,532 jobs in other sectors of the county's economy (Figure 2). Therefore, the combined effect represents 18.58% of the county's total employment (i.e., 4,252 out of 22,880 jobs).
- ◆ The \$126.74 million of income earned in the health care sector of Scotts Bluff County has created (through a 1.34 multiplier) another \$42.57 million of income in other sectors of the county's economy (Figure 3). Therefore, the combined effect represents 22.81% of the county's total income (i.e., \$169.31 million out of \$742.12 million).
- ◆ The \$252.16 million spent in the health care sector of Scotts Bluff County created (through a 1.53 multiplier) another \$133.06 million of spending in other sectors of the county's economy (Figure 4). Therefore, the combined effect represents 17.38% of the county's total economic output (i.e., \$385.23 million out of \$2.22 billion).

**Figure 2. The Economic Impact of the Health Care Sector on Employment in Scotts Bluff County, Nebraska**

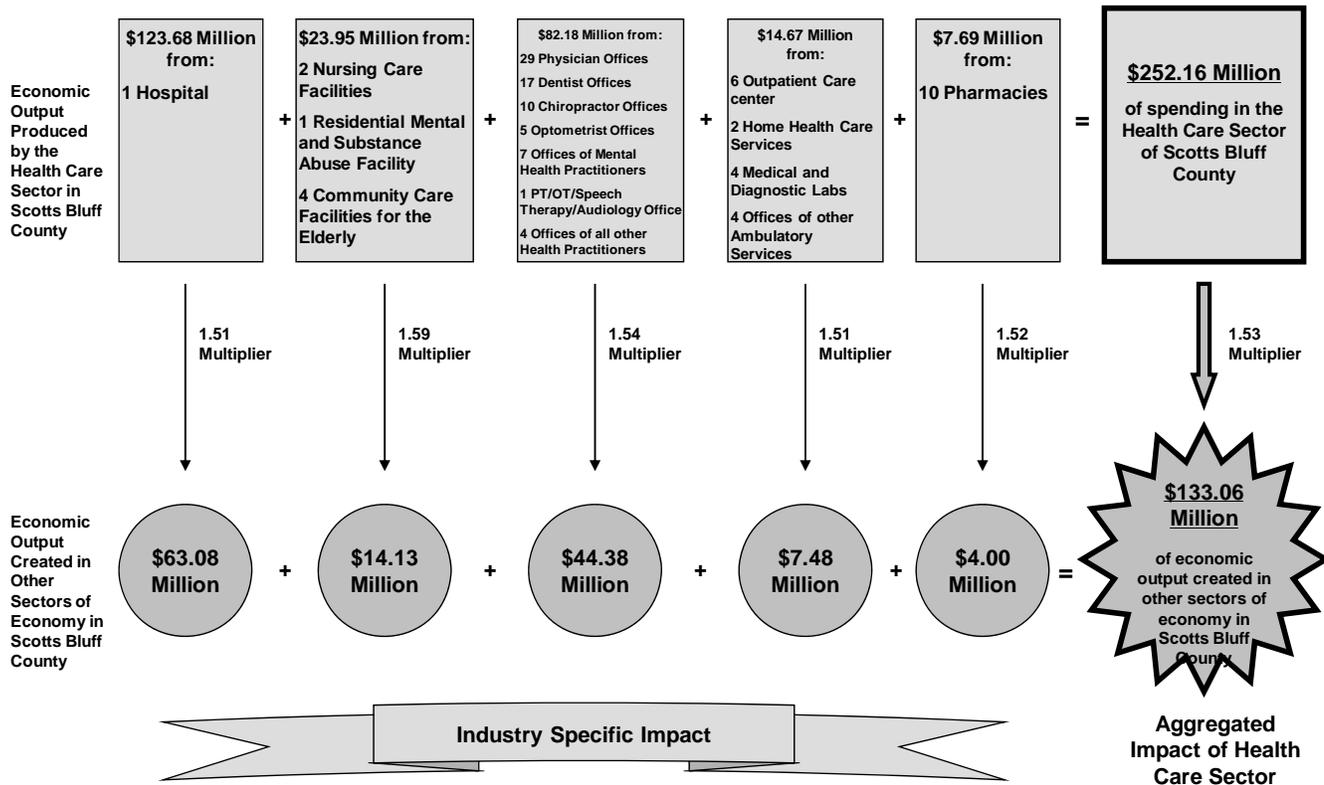


**Figure 3. The Economic Impact of the Health Care Sector on Income in Scotts Bluff County, Nebraska**



Sources: IMPLAN Data 2006 Minnesota IMPLAN Group, Inc. 2003. U.S. Census Bureau County Business Patterns, 2006. <http://www.census.gov/prod/www/abs/cbptotal.html>.

**Figure 4. The Impact of the Health Care Sector on Economic Output in Scotts Bluff County, Nebraska**

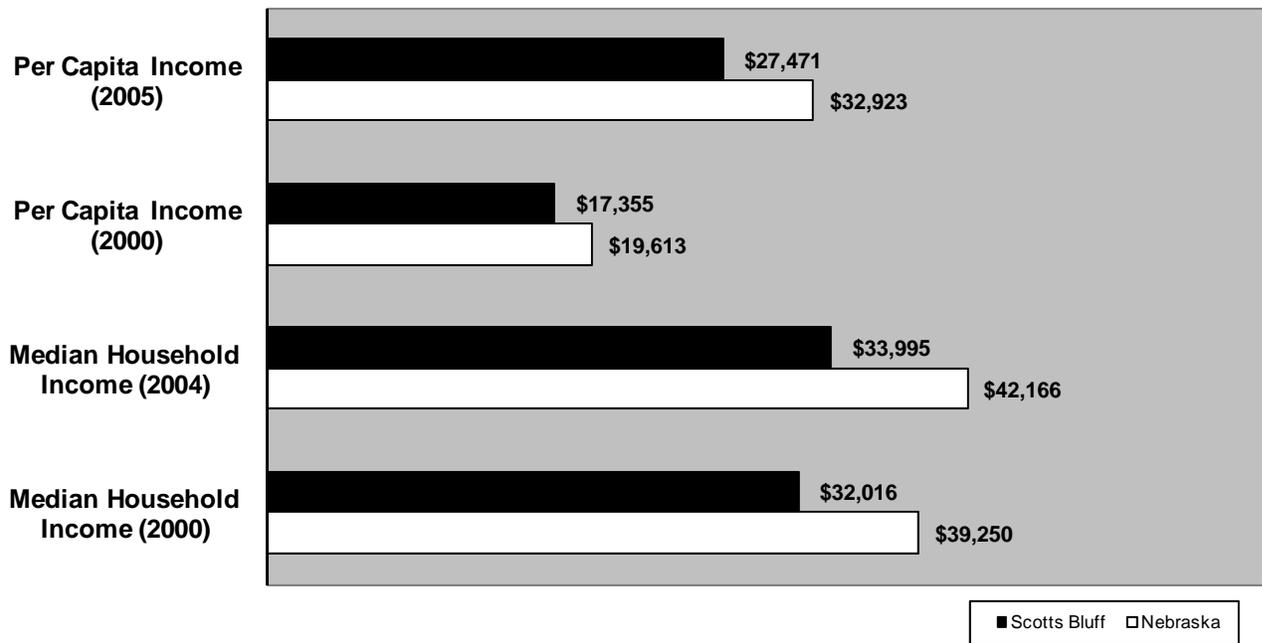


Sources: IMPLAN Data 20006 Minnesota IMPLAN Group, Inc. 2003. U.S. Census Bureau County Business Patterns, 2006. <http://www.census.gov/prod/www/abs/cbptotal.html>.

#### IV. SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS

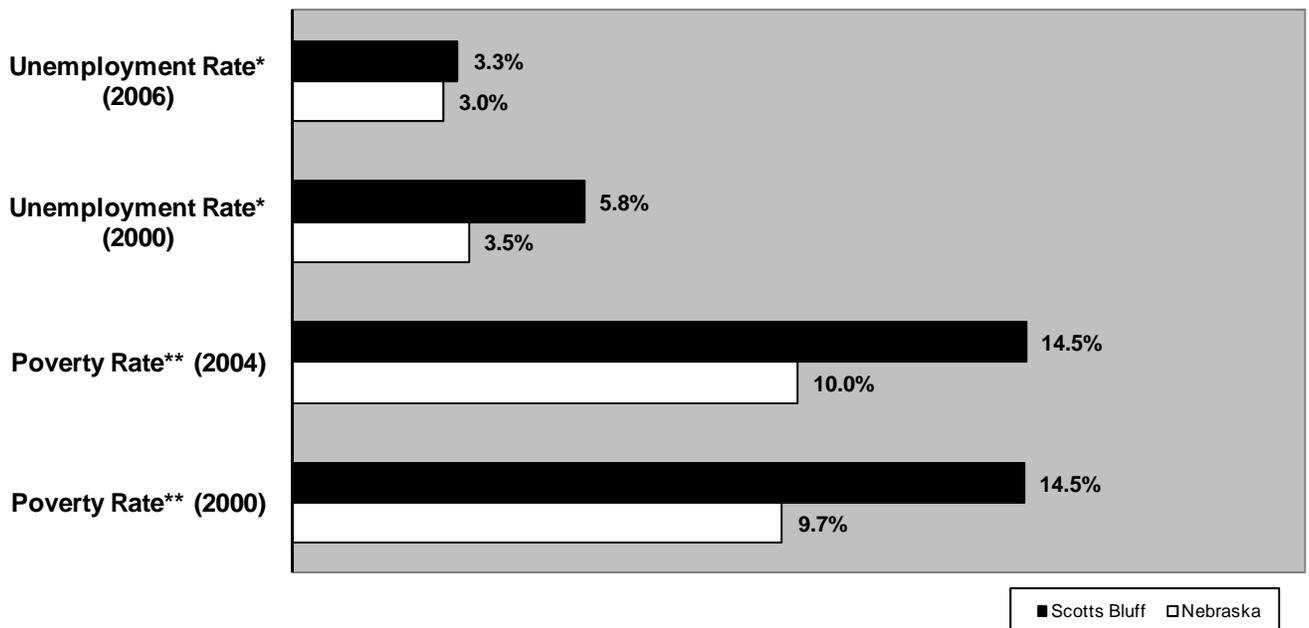
The median household income of the county increased since 2000 by 6.18% to \$33,995 in 2004 (compared to \$42,166 statewide), and the per capita income of the county increased since 2000 by 58.29% to \$27,471 in 2005 (compared to \$32,923 statewide) (Figure 5). Scotts Bluff County experienced a higher unemployment rate than the state in 2006 (3.3% vs. 3.0% statewide) and a higher poverty rate than the state in 2004 (14.5% vs. 10.0% statewide) (Figure 6). The state outperformed the county in all the four social indicators shown in Table 3.

**Figure 5. Income for Scotts Bluff County and Nebraska, 2000 , 2004 and 2005**



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 1999, 2004, and 2005, Summary File 3. <http://factfinder.census.gov>. Per capita income: U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of Economic Analysis. <http://www.bea.gov/bea/regional/reis/drill.cfm>.

**Figure 6. Economic Indicators for Scotts Bluff County and Nebraska, 2000, 2004, and 2006**



\* Percent of residents aged 16 and older in the labor force that are unemployed.

\*\* Percent of total population living below 100% of the Federal poverty threshold.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, 2004, and 2006, Summary File 3. <http://factfinder.census.gov>; U.S. Department of Labor, <ftp://ftp.bls.gov/pub/special.requests/la/laucnty06.txt>.

**Table 3. Selected Social Indicators for Scotts Bluff County and Nebraska**

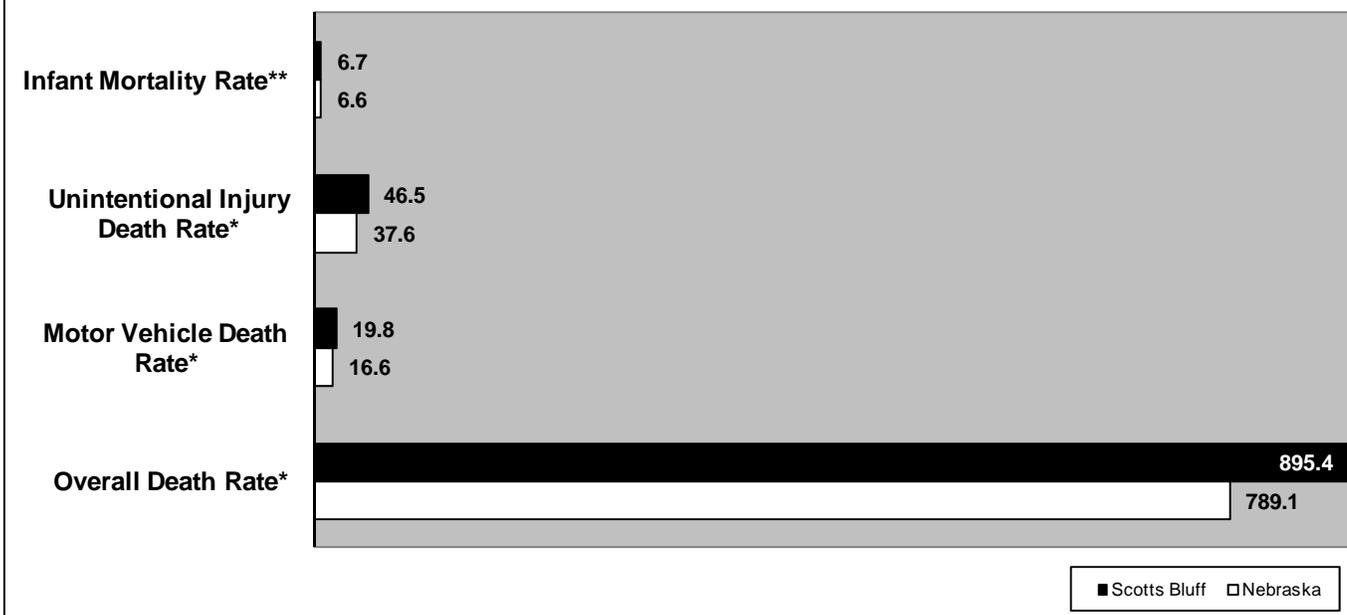
	Scotts Bluff County	Nebraska
Percent of residents aged 25 and older who did not graduate from high school (2000)	20.4%	13.4%
Percent of 7-12th graders who dropped out of school (2003-2004)	2.1%	1.9%
Percent of first births born to unmarried women, younger than 20, with less than a high school education (2000-2004)	15.8%	9.0%
Crime arrest rate per 1,000 population (2004)	57.2	54.2

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000. <http://factfinder.census.gov>; Nebraska Health and Human Services County Profiles. <http://www.hhs.state.ne.us/profiles/index.htm#County>.

## V. HEALTH STATUS INDICATORS

Scotts Bluff County had a higher infant mortality rate, unintentional injury death rate, motor vehicle death rate, and overall death rate compared with the state between 2000 and 2004 (Figure 7). The state out-performed the county in all the four selected maternal and child health indicators listed in Figure 8. Among the top 5 leading causes of death of Scotts Bluff County residents, the county had a higher rate of death due to heart disease, cerebrovascular disease, unintentional injuries and chronic lung disease than the state (Figure 9). Among the top 5 leading causes of hospitalization of Scotts Bluff County residents between 2003 and 2004, the county had a lower hospitalization rate than the state for all the causes listed in Figure 10.

**Figure 7. Selected Mortality Rates for Scotts Bluff County and Nebraska, 2000-2004**

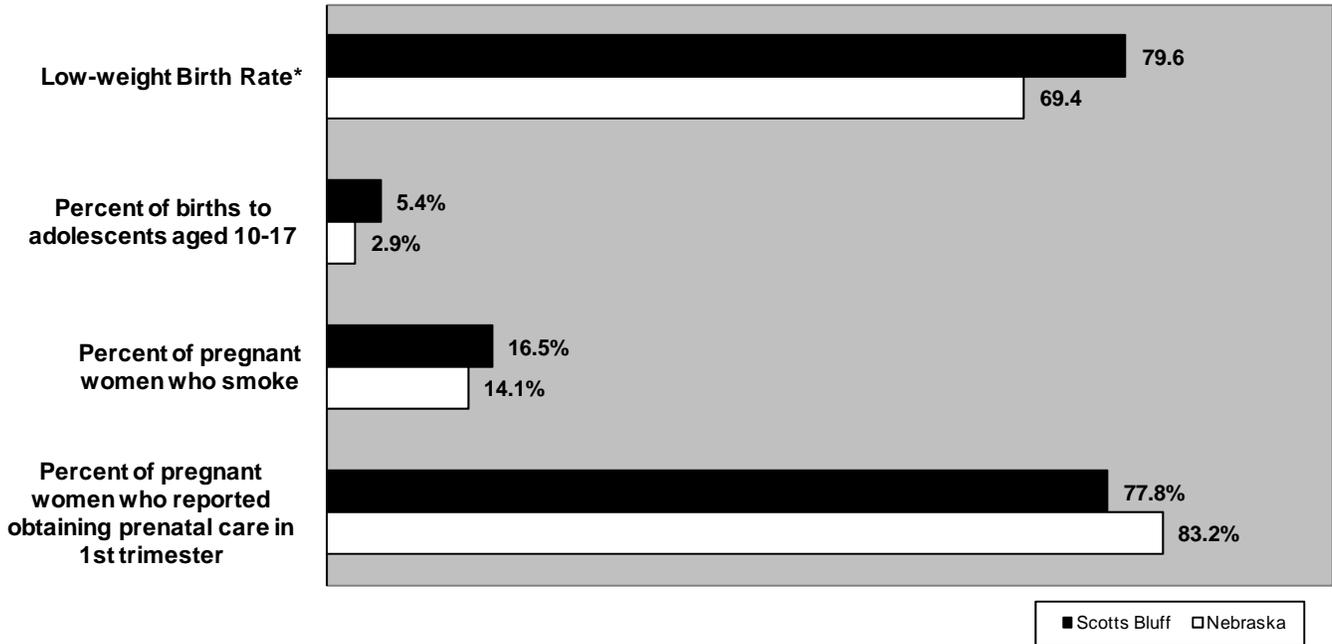


\*Number of deaths per 100,000 populations (age-adjusted).

\*\*Number of deaths per 1,000 live births.

Source: Nebraska Health and Human Services County Profiles. <http://www.hhs.state.ne.us/profiles/index.htm#County>.

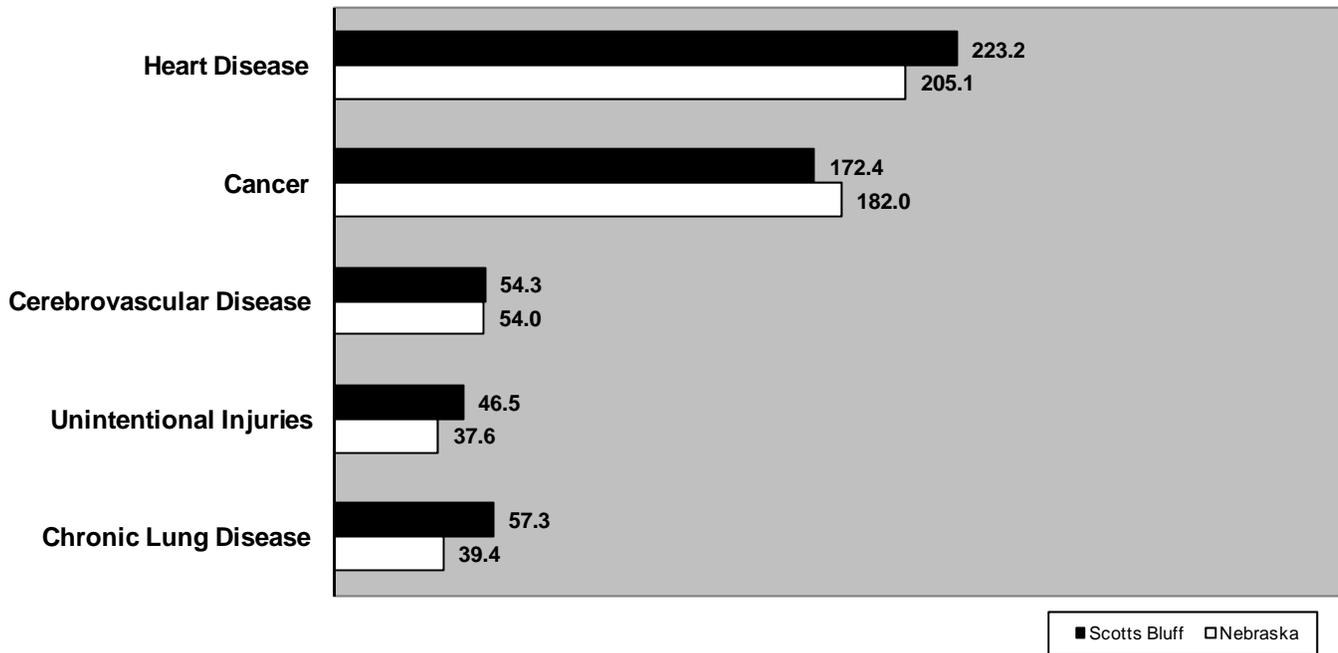
**Figure 8. Selected Maternal and Child Health Indicators, Scotts Bluff County and Nebraska, 2000-2004**



\* Number of babies born weighing less than 2500 grams (per 1,000 births).

Source: Nebraska Health and Human Services County Profiles. <http://www.hhs.state.ne.us/profiles/index.htm#County>.

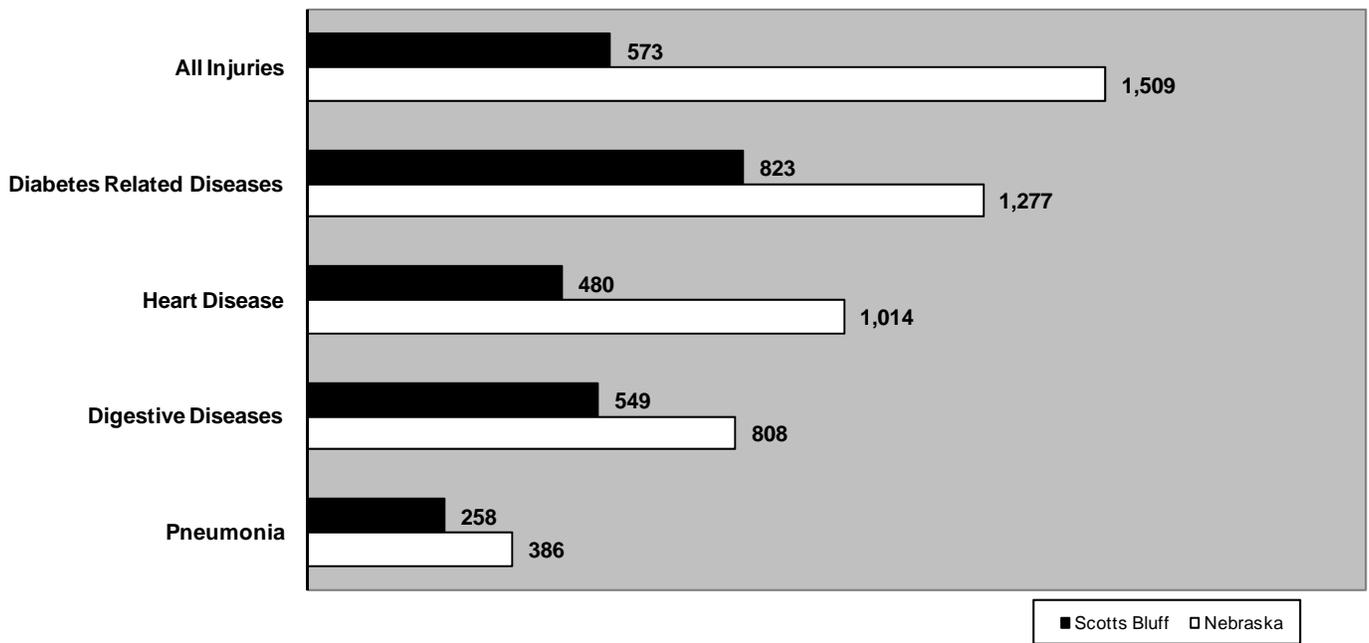
**Figure 9. Top 5 Leading Causes of Death for Scotts Bluff County and the Corresponding Mortality Rates\* for the County and Nebraska, 2000-2004**



\*Number of deaths per 100,000 population (age adjusted).

Source: Nebraska Health and Human Services County Profiles. <http://www.hhs.state.ne.us/profiles/index.htm#County>.

**Figure 10. Top 5 Leading Causes of Hospitalization\* for Scotts Bluff County and the Corresponding Hospitalization Rates\*\* for the County and Nebraska, 2003-2004**



\*Hospitalizations for pregnancy and childbirth were excluded from this analysis.

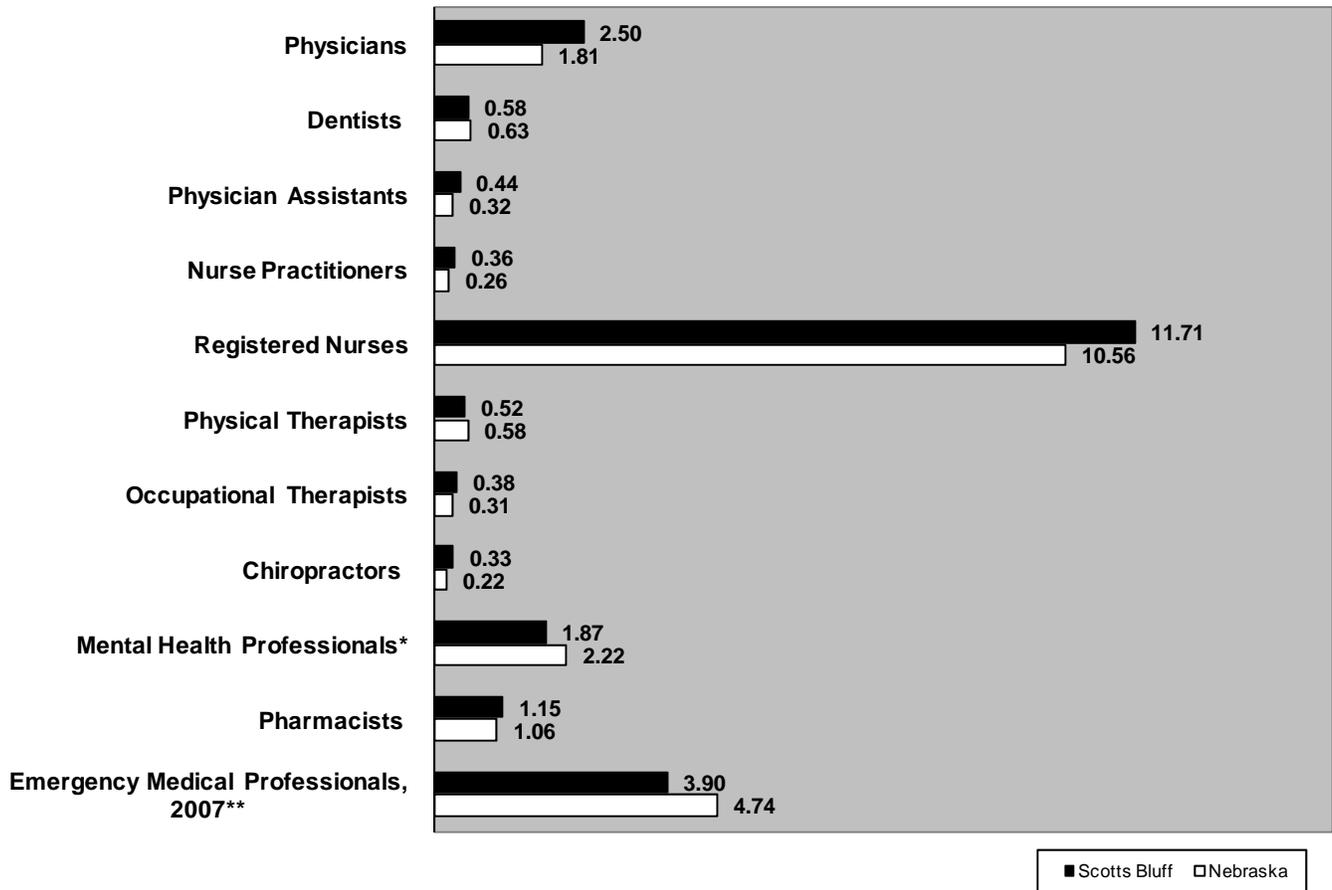
\*\*Defined as the proportion of inpatient hospital discharges to a population within clearly specified geographic boundaries, age adjusted per 100,000 population.

Source: Nebraska Health and Human Services County Profiles. <http://www.hhs.state.ne.us/profiles/index.htm#County>.

## VI. HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

Scotts Bluff County is federally designated as a primary care shortage area (partially), mental health professional shortage area, and dental shortage area. The state government has designated Scotts Bluff County as a health professional shortage area in the specialties of general surgery, internal medicine, and mental health. Scotts Bluff County has a higher professional-to-population ratio than the state for physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, registered nurses, occupational therapists, chiropractors, and pharmacists, and a lower professional-to-population ratio than the state for all other health professional areas shown in Figure 11.

**Figure 11. Number of Practicing Health Professionals Per 1,000 Population, Scotts Bluff County and Nebraska, 2005**



\*Mental Health Professionals include Psychiatrists, Licensed Psychologists, Master Social Workers, Certified Professional Counselors, Licensed Mental Health Practitioners, and Marriage and Family Therapists.

\*\* Emergency Medical Professionals include Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Paramedic, EMT-Intermediate, EMT-Basic, and First Responders.

Source: *The Nebraska Health Information Project: 2006 Databook*. (2007) Nebraska Center for Rural Health Research, University of Nebraska Medical Center

## VII. HOSPITAL AND LONG-TERM CARE BEDS

Table 4 shows that Scotts Bluff County’s hospital has a higher bed-to-population ratio than the state. As a result, the need for hospital inpatient care (for the general public) might be met within the county.

**Table 4. Selected Health Care Facility Bed-to-Population Ratios for Scotts Bluff County and Nebraska**

	Scotts Bluff County	Nebraska
Number of hospital beds per 1,000 population (2007)	4.51**	3.47*
Number of Long Term Care beds per 1,000 elderly population (65+) 2005	71.1*	73.9*

\*Source: *The Nebraska Health Information Project: 2006 Databook*. (2007) Nebraska Center for Rural Health Research, University of Nebraska Medical Center.

## Data Notes

Using IMPLAN software and IMPLAN data for Nebraska's five health-related economic subsectors, we predict changes in overall economic activity as a result of change in health care subsectors. The IMPLAN software is based on an economic input-output model. To improve the accuracy of the dataset in order to better estimate health sector impact, we also use information from the U.S. Census Bureau's *County Business Patterns 2006* and the *American Hospital Association Annual Survey Database: Fiscal Year 2006*. Analysis is only performed at the county level.

## Acknowledgments

We would like to thank Dennis Berens, at the Nebraska Office of Rural Health, for his enthusiastic support of the Nebraska Rural Health Works Project. We would also like to thank Nicole Van Osdel at the Nebraska Center for Rural Health Research for making the maps.

## About the Nebraska Rural Health Works Project

The Nebraska Rural Health Works Project is made possible with the financial support of the Nebraska Office of Rural Health and through additional personnel and resources provided by the College of Public Health at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. The brief reports are designed to inform opinion leaders (from general business, health care, and government) in rural communities about the contribution health care makes to the county economy, both directly and indirectly. We use IMPLAN software, which uses an economic input-output model, to predict changes in overall economic activity as a result of change in the health care sector. In addition to the analysis of the economic impact of the health sector on a specific county, other information, such as demographics, socio-economic and health status indicators, health care professionals and facility bed capacity, are reported for a county.

If you would like to view additional County Profiles for Nebraska, please visit our Nebraska Rural Health Works website: <http://www.unmc.edu/rural/NeRHW>.

If you would like additional information regarding Nebraska's health care financing, health professionals, health status and health care delivery systems, visit the Nebraska Health Information Project website: <http://www.unmc.edu/nebraska>.

County Health Economic Profiles can be prepared upon request. At this time, we only perform analysis at the county level. If you are interested in this project, you can request a profile by contacting the Project Director, Li-Wu Chen, Ph.D. ([liwuchen@unmc.edu](mailto:liwuchen@unmc.edu)), or Anh Nguyen, M.S.P.H. ([anguyen@unmc.edu](mailto:anguyen@unmc.edu)) at the Nebraska Center for Rural Health Research, College of Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center, (402)559-5260.

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