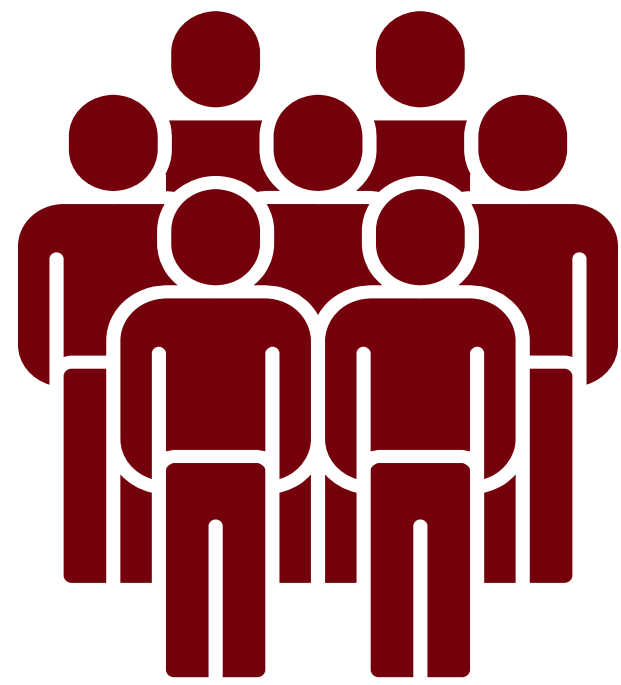


KEY FACTS SHEET

August 2020

CERVICAL CANCER AND HPV VACCINATION DISPARITIES IN SOUTH CAROLINA



ABOUT US

Our mission is to illuminate and address the health and social inequities experienced by rural and minority populations in order to promote the health of all through policy-relevant research and advocacy.

#1

Project Overview

To identify existing initiatives targeting cervical cancer prevention and control in rural South Carolina (SC)

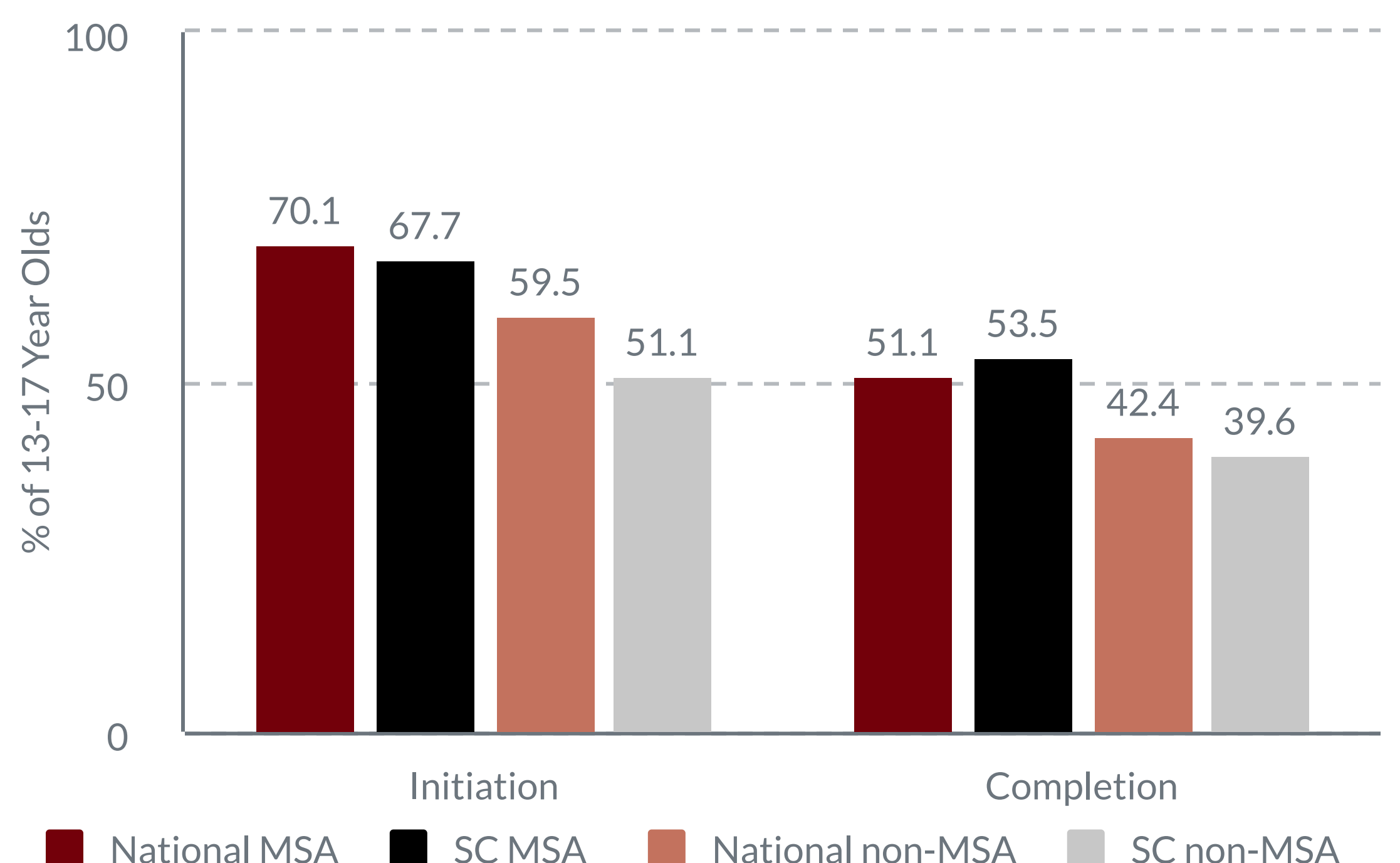
OPPORTUNITIES FOR HPV-VACCINATION IN RURAL SC

- According to 2013-2017 data, SC ranked 16th in cervical cancer incidence in the USA, and ranks 11th highest in cervical cancer death rate.
- Nationally, rural areas have disproportionately lower HPV vaccination rates and higher cervical cancer incidence & death rates than their urban counterparts.
- Provider shortages in rural areas can be a barrier to accessing prevention, diagnosis & treatment services. It is unknown, however, whether rural South Carolinians have lower access to HPV vaccination.

SC VACCINATION STATISTICS

- The HPV vaccination rate among 13-17 year olds in SC was 43% (U.S. average, 48.6% in 2017).
- 38% of boys completed their HPV vaccination series in 2017 versus 47% of girls.
- HPV vaccination initiation and completion (all doses) is lower in non-metropolitan versus metropolitan areas of the state (Figure A).

Figure A. HPV vaccination initiation and completion among SC residents aged 13-17 years, by metropolitan status



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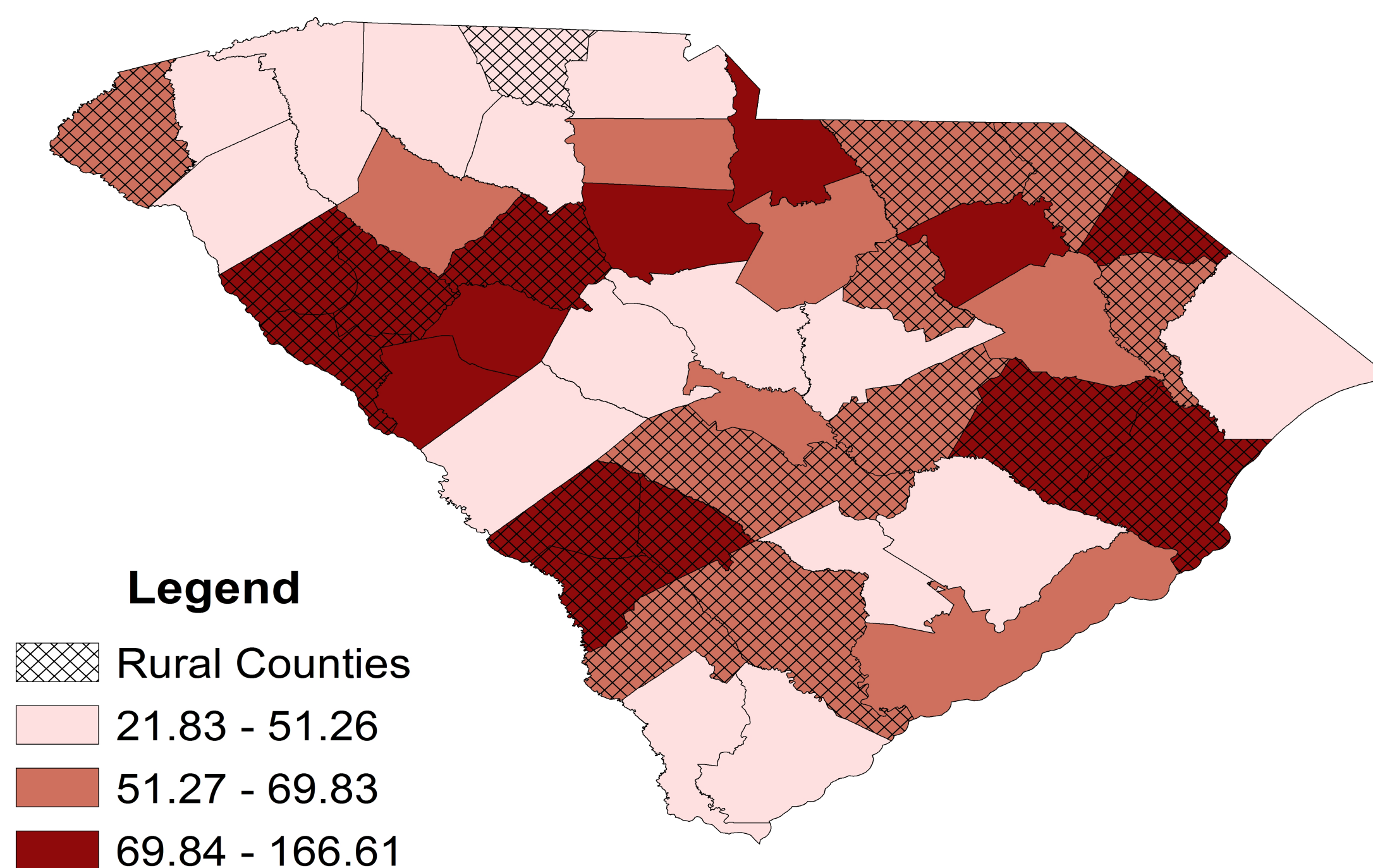
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Research Team: Whitney Zahnd (lead), Victor Kirksey, Swann Adams, Radhika Ranganathan, Claire Biesecker, and Jan Eberth

VACCINE FOR CHILDREN PROGRAMMING IN RURAL SC

- The Vaccines for Children (VFC) program is a federally-funded program through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention providing free vaccinations, including HPV, for children and adolescents 18 years of age or under who are low-income or uninsured, enrolled in Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), or American Indian/Alaska Native.
- Utilization of the VFC program is an important approach to improve HPV vaccination in rural communities.

Figure B. Number of VFC Program Locations per 100,000 Children 17 and under in SC Counties

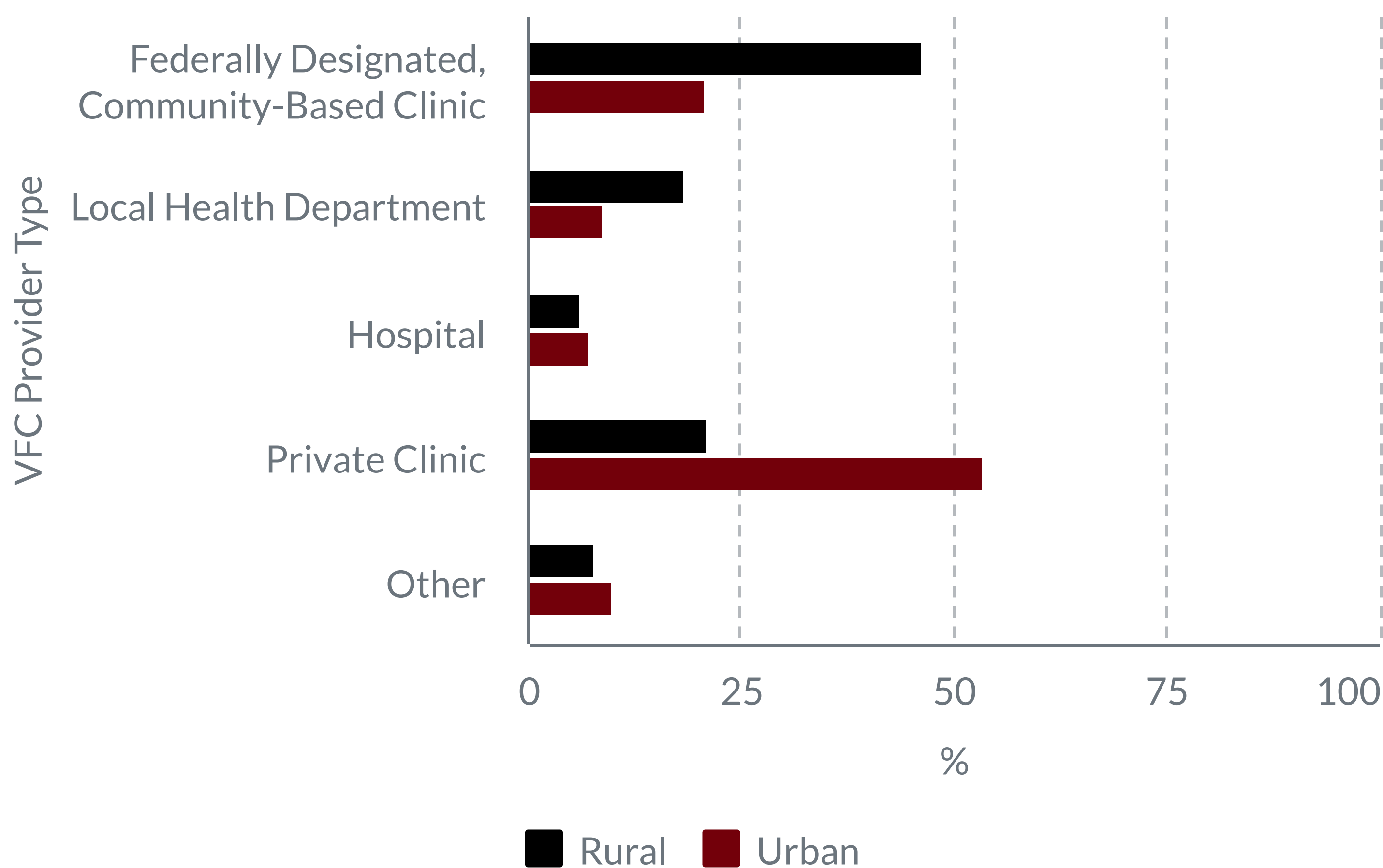


In 2019, rural counties had better access to VFC programs per capita than urban counties.

Rural counties had 81 VFC locations per 100,000 persons on average, while urban counties had only 54 per 100,000.

- 114 VFC providers (23% of all providers) are located in rural counties.
- 46.5% of rural VFC providers are federally designated, community-based clinics (e.g., rural health clinics, federally qualified health clinics).
- 18.5% of rural VFC providers are local health departments.
- The availability of VFC programs at community-based clinics, such as community health centers and local health departments, are important to continue providing access to vaccines in rural communities.

Figure C. VFC Provider Type across SC Counties



*Federally designated community-based clinics include rural health clinics, federally qualified health centers, and other community health clinics.