What is the definition of rural?

The UW Madison Applied Population Lab created 7 different maps to visualize urban versus rural areas in the state noting that there is no official definition across sectors: proximity to urban centers/urbanized areas/urbanized clusters, population density, metropolitan statistical area, rural-urban commuting area codes, frontier and remote areas classification, major land use, and even cows and deer per capita (pictured here).

Using Data to Identify Local Disparities:

ECQuIP site “discovery phase” provided data to determine barriers to getting services in 3 geographically diverse areas in Wisconsin (urban Milwaukee, Northwoods and Southwest).

QI Methods:

PDSAs/BAR-AARs/flowcharts

Drive change by mobilizing community partners to address barriers to access

Help families navigate access to services

Continuously collect data on service availability as well as enablers and barriers

Engaging Communities:

- Family Navigators (FNs) are identified as local family leaders
- FNs get training and experience
- FNs connect other families to what they need, and support the development of their self-efficacy
- FNs and some families receiving FN support take their leadership to new community efforts
- Other local family leaders identified, supported and connected to grant efforts

+ Increased ability to target interventions to community needs
+ Heard directly from parents of children with ASD/DD
- Was time consuming to implement and analyze a variety of data gathering approaches within numerous communities
- Participation varied: Did we hear from most impacted?