



## Rural vs Urban VIS / Quality Performance Study

**Purpose:** An assumption has been identified that rural primary care providers are unfairly represented in the Value Index Score VIS score compared to urban primary care providers. This document is a deep dive into that assumption.

**Background:**

The information contained below is a comparison study conducted by 3M that looked the VIS of 1,115 IME physicians and categorized them into two demographic categories Rural or Urban. A Providers demographic category was determined by comparing their primary practice zip code using MSA (Metropolitan Statistical Area).

The charts below compare the scores of each of the measures for each of the two geographical categories.

NOTES: This document looks at V scores, not percentile rankings. In all cases a higher VIS score is better than a lower VIS score.

**Chart 1: VIS Score Comparison**

Rural vs Urban	VIS Score		Panel Size
	N	Mean	Sum
rural	488	0.05	118768
urban	627	<b>0.2</b>	160725

At the VIS composite level, the mean between the rural and urban providers is not strategically significant, although urban providers do score higher, there does not appear to be enough difference to warrant a policy action.

Drilling down into each domain below, tells a more compelling story of the differences in the quality as measured by VIS between the two categories

### Chart 2: Primary & Secondary Domain Measures

Rural vs Urban	Dom: Prim. and Sec. Prev.		3-6 Month Well Child		Infant Well Child		Breast Cancer Screen		Colo-Rectal Cancer Screen	
	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean
rural	487	0.1	407	-0.2	157	<b>-0.14</b>	117	<b>0.92</b>	279	0.32
urban	624	<b>0.16</b>	473	<b>-0.1</b>	188	-0.59	160	0.86	348	<b>0.53</b>

Rural performs better in Infant Well Child Visits,

### Chart 3: Chronic & Follow Up Domain Measures

Rural vs Urban	Dom: Chronic and FU		PP Readmit.		Discharge Follow-up		Chronic Care Visits	
	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean
rural	488	<b>0.18</b>	257	0.09	300	0.01	485	<b>0.12</b>
urban	627	0.08	306	0.09	374	0.01	623	-0.03

Rural performs better in Chronic follow-up and Chronic Care Visits,

### Chart 4: Tertiary Prevention Domain Measures

Rural vs Urban	Dom: Tertiary Prevention		PP Admissions		PP Visits	
	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean
rural	488	-0.08	488	0.01	488	-0.05
urban	627	<b>-0.04</b>	627	0.01	627	<b>-0.01</b>

### Chart 5: Continuity of Care Domain Measures

Rural vs Urban	Dom: Continuity of Care		PCP Visit		Cont. of Care Index		Phys Visit	
	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean
rural	488	<b>0.38</b>	488	<b>0.47</b>	487	<b>-0.09</b>	488	<b>0.46</b>
urban	627	0.22	627	0.38	623	-0.3	627	0.38

Rural performs better in Continuity of Care, PCP Visits and Phys Visit,

**Chart 6: Efficiency Domain Measures**

Rural vs Urban	Dom: Efficiency		Generic Rx		PP Services	
	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean
rural	488	-0.24	488	<b>0.44</b>	488	-0.79
urban	627	<b>0.28</b>	627	0.31	627	<b>0</b>

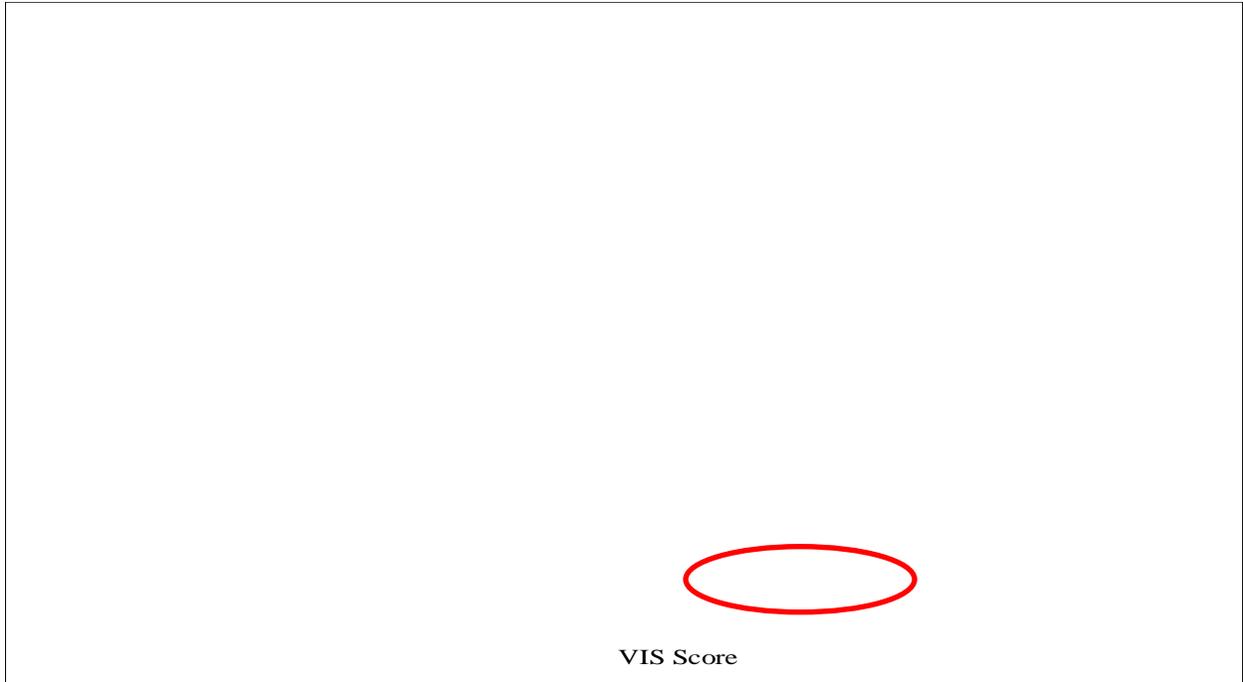
Urban performs significantly better in the prevention of potentially Preventable Services

**Chart 7: Panel Health Status Domain Measures**

Rural vs Urban	Dom: Panel Health Status		Severity Jumper		Status Jumper	
	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean
rural	132	0.04	131	0.17	130	0.12
urban	197	<b>0.1</b>	192	<b>0.18</b>	194	<b>0.21</b>

**Rural Providers vs Urban Mean VIS Percentile Ranking:**

Providers within a rural demographic had a mean VIS score of 0.055 and those in an urban area had a mean VIS score of 0.205. While there is a small amount of variation between the two groups, the rural providers remained constant with less variation between providers than the urban provider group. The outliers in the urban provider group pulled the overall VIS score down compared to that of the rural providers who had less outliers.



Drilling further into the circled outlines of this distribution of Urban providers found significant variation to the mean. A list of those providers for your ACO organization has been provided. You can use the 3M VIS dashboard to review these results and dig into trends and opportunities to improve your overall ACO score. Remember that the VIS dashboard is reflective of a percentile ranking.

\* NOTE: a low VIS score (percentile ranking or v score) is a reflection of the system in which a doctor is operating. Questions that providers might want to consider:

- Are there supports available to align processes with a physician with a higher score?
- Is Clinical Decision Support part of the system this provider operates within?
- Have we used the strategies mentioned in the "VIS Strategies" document to leverage and accelerate improvement strategies?