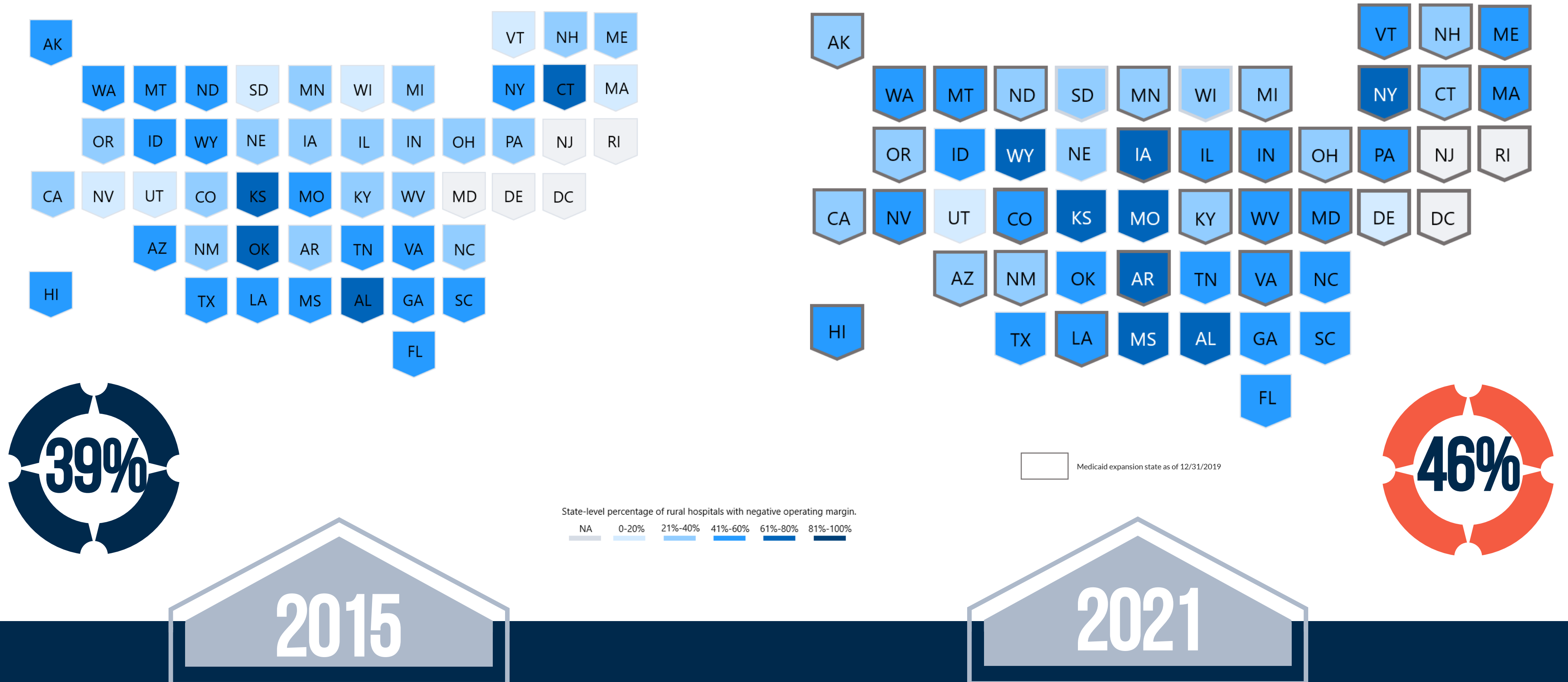


Stability of the Rural Health Safety Net: *Operating Margin*

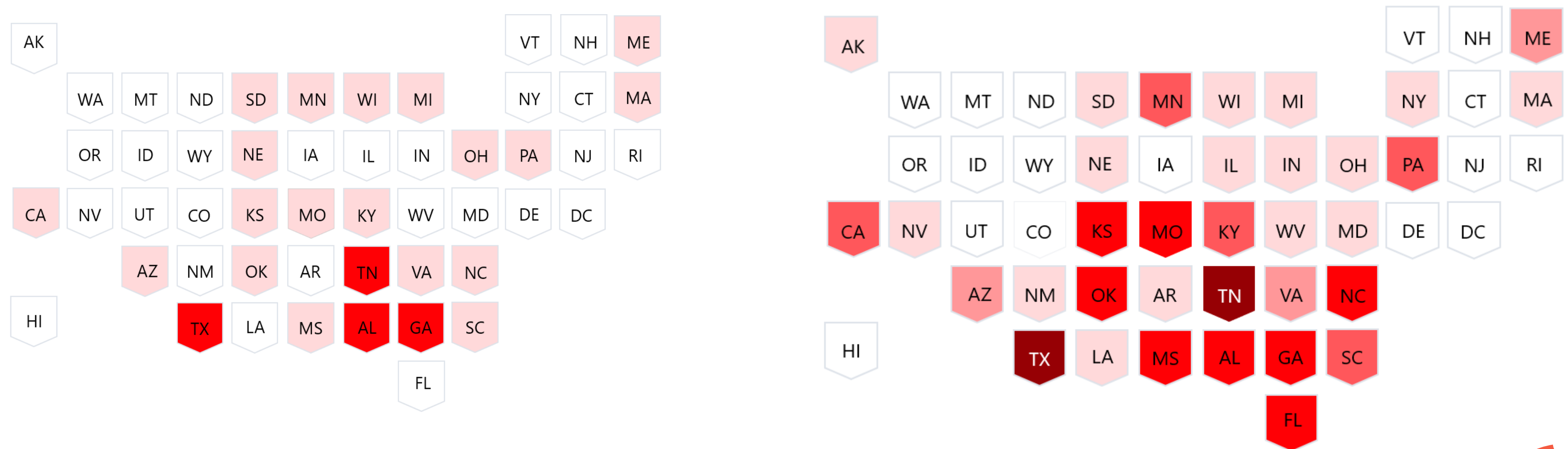


In 2015, 39% of America's rural hospitals were operating in the red. Today, the number of rural hospitals with a negative operating margin has risen to 46%. Factors contributing to downward pressure on hospital revenues range from healthcare policies, economic policy and health disparities to population migration and recruitment/retention of healthcare professionals.



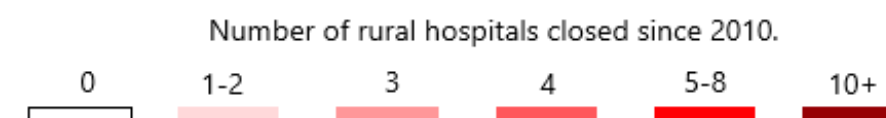
Stability of the Rural Health Safety Net: **Closure Crisis**

While 135 rural hospitals have ceased operations since 2010*, the number of closures has accelerated significantly in the last six years. Of the 135 closures, 88 have occurred since the start of 2015.



47

2015



*As of February 8, 2021. Source: Sheps Center, UNC

135

2021

Stability of the Rural Health Safety Net: **Vulnerability**



Based on new research by The Chartis Center for Rural Health, more than 450 rural hospitals are performing at levels similar to rural hospitals at the time of their closure. Among this group of 453 vulneable hospitals, there are 216 rural providers that can be considered 'Most Vulnerable' based on their performance.

