



# Institute of Medicine

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- Dramatic changes occurring in nation's suburbs:
  - Population growth outstripping emergency care capacity in many suburbs
  - More affluent suburbs are target of hospital growth, especially for specialty care
- Federal-state leadership must support local providers and communities in creating a regional system of emergency care that ensures equitable access across urban, suburban and rural areas:
  - Develop or maintain a viable regional health care safety net for underserved populations.
  - Explicitly include suburban facilities in transfer protocols, referral networks, and centralized inventory of emergency capabilities.
  - Incentivize suburban specialists to support EDs with inadequate on-call specialty physicians
  - Link expertise, staff and resources of *urban* EDs to suburban/exurban/rural facilities to enhance regional coordination of emergency care supportive services and protocols, e.g., interpreter services
  - Promote collaboration on public policy that integrates regional planning for transportation, sprawl, zoning and other factors that impact the effectiveness of regional emergency care systems.