

2026-2030

# Virginia State Telehealth Plan

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Advisory Group Kickoff | 19 Feb 2025



# Today's Agenda

Welcome & Introductions	12:00 to 12:05
Advisory Group's Role	12:05 to 12:10
Background: Learnings To Date	12:10 to 12:25
Review of 2021 STHP	12:25 to 12:35
Discussion of Emerging Themes	12:35 to 12:55
Next Steps	12:55 to 1:00

# State Telehealth Plan Advisory Group

- Broad stakeholder representation
- Review data & share your telehealth experience
- Participate in 4 meetings; provide perspective and representative feedback
  - 02/19/2025 at 12 to 1P
  - 02/25/2025 at 12 to 1P
  - 03/05/2025 at 12 to 1P
  - 03/19/2025 at 12 to 1P

## Today's objectives:

- Identify any additional research needs
- Identify components of 2021 plan that should be retained
- Provide comment on proposed plan themes

**Question for the Chat:**

*Who's missing that should be invited?*

# Research Background

- [Benchmarking Telehealth Usage in the Commonwealth](#): 2024 . 2023 . 2021 . 2024 EMS Agencies
- VTN Summit strategy discussions: 2024 . 2023
- Stakeholder interviews
- Compilation of recent recommendations and proposed legislation
  - [Inventory of interstate licensure compacts](#)
- Inventory of relevant state plans and data sets (e.g., [Virginia Rural Health Plan](#); [Virginia Digital Opportunity Plan](#))
- Inventory of other states' plans
- Inventory of emerging quality standards (e.g., NCQA)
- [Telehealth mapping project with MATRC](#)
- [ATA Policy Priorities](#) (2025)
- [2021 Virginia State Telehealth Plan](#)

## **Question for the Chat:**

*What other information would be helpful?*

# Research Background: Your Job

As we review highlights from research to-date, we invite you to document concepts and proposals that resonate with you. Use this link to share your thoughts for inclusion in the revised State Telehealth plan.

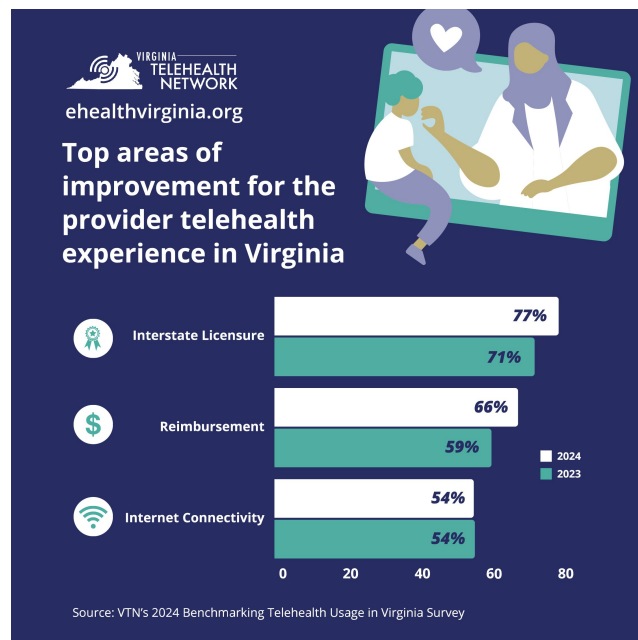
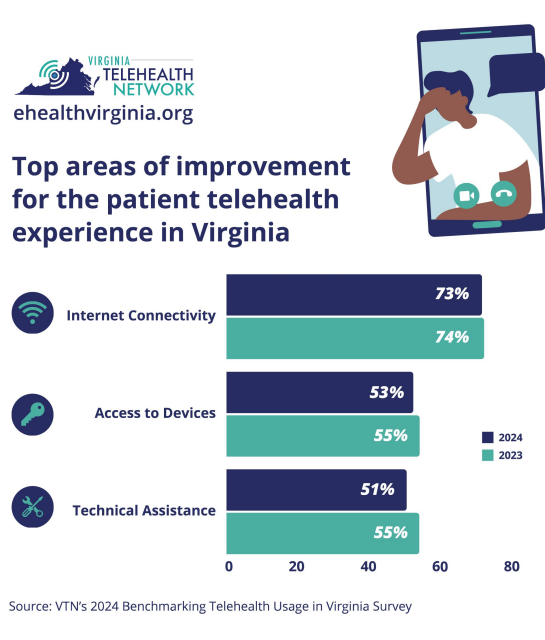
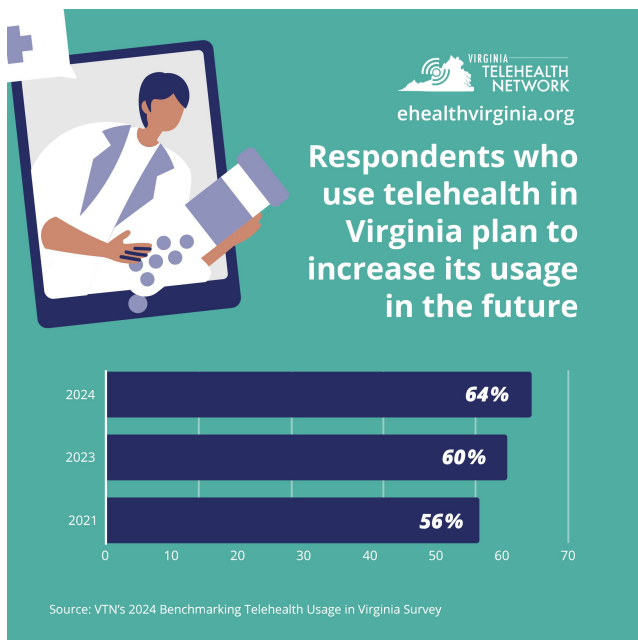
***Contribute as we go!***

***Visit [slido.com](https://www.slido.com)***

***At the “joining as a participant?”  
section enter the code: 1691844***



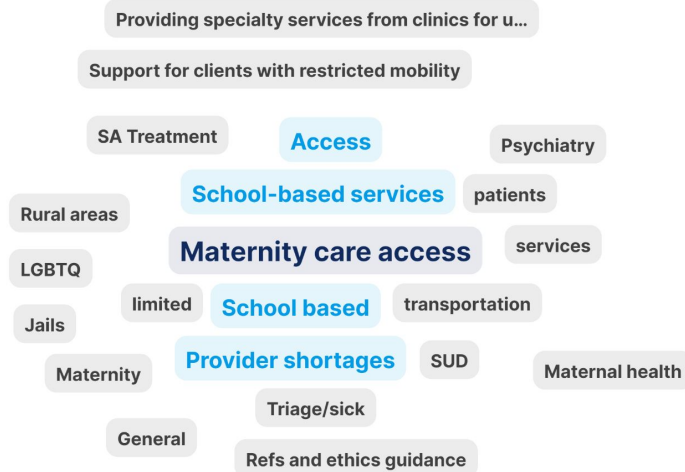
# Research Highlights: Benchmarking Telehealth



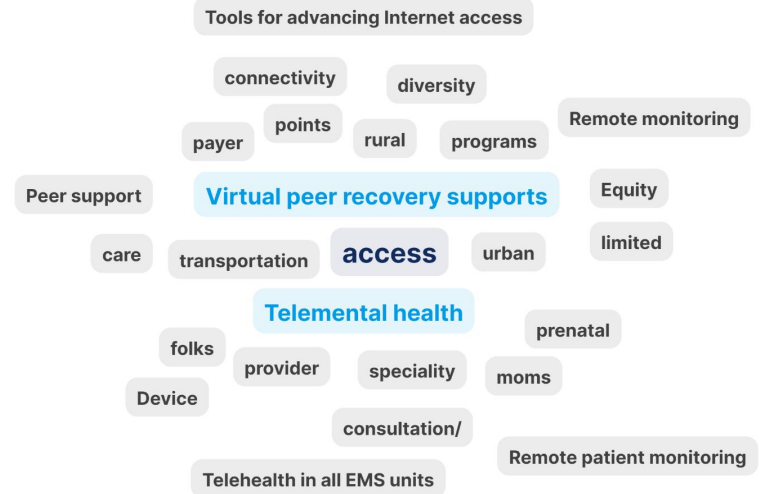
[ehealthvirginia.org/telehealth-survey](https://ehealthvirginia.org/telehealth-survey)

# Research Highlights: VTN Summit Discussions

*What are one or two health care challenges telehealth can help with in Virginia?*



*What is one telehealth-related innovation you think Virginia should replicate and grow?*



# Research Highlights: VTN Summit Discussions

*TELEHEALTH AS A SOLUTION...*

*In two to three words, how would you define **high quality, accessible telehealth**?*





# Research Highlights: Recent Recommendations

- During the 2025 session, numerous bills and budget items relating to telehealth were introduced by both members of the State Senate and House of Delegates.
- The increased interest in telehealth was due to the work of the Joint Commission of Health Care, the House Select Committee on Rural Health and other legislative committees and commissions throughout 2024.
- While, unfortunately, not every initiative expanding telehealth services was possible due to budget concerns, the legislative items below are likely to pass the General Assembly:
  - [SB 843](#): Study to expand remote patient monitoring for patients with chronic conditions
  - [HB 1945](#): Remote patient monitoring during pregnancy, pilot program
  - [SB 1038](#): DBHDS to develop best practices for telehealth when serving patients with disabilities

# Research Highlights: ATA's 2025 Policy Priorities

- Withdraw “Special Registration for Telemedicine and Limited State Telemedicine Registrations” proposed rule
- Permanently allow for the remote prescribing of controlled substances
- For the commercially insured: pre-deductible coverage for telehealth services
- For workers who don't qualify for coverage:  
employers can provide telehealth or other remote care services (IRS excepted benefit)
- Ensure all provider home addresses remain confidential
- Expand Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program
- Reinstate virtual cardiopulmonary rehab programs

# Research Highlights: ATA's 2025 Policy Priorities

- Make permanent the Medicare Telehealth Flexibilities:
  - Remove geographic and originating-site restrictions
  - Ensure FQHCs and RHCs continue telehealth with fair reimbursement
  - Expand the list of eligible Medicare providers
  - Maintain audio-only coverage
  - Repeal the telemental health in-person requirement
  - Acute Hospital Care at Home Program

# 2021 Virginia State Telehealth Plan

## CORE STRATEGY 1 – INCLUSION OF TELEHEALTH SERVICES IN OPERATING PROCEDURES

- Hospitals and primary care facilities
- Public primary and secondary schools and state funded post-secondary schools
- Emergency medical services agencies
- State agencies

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## CORE STRATEGY 2 – REMOTE PATIENT MONITORING

- Promote use of RPM and store-and-forward technologies, including with patients with chronic illness
- Assess cost of telehealth and broadband access
- Assess access for individuals with disabilities
- Data monitoring and management

# 2021 Virginia State Telehealth Plan

## CORE STRATEGY 3 – UNIFORM AND INTEGRATED CRITERIA

- Review of State EMS Formulary to rule in/rule out procedures that may be telehealth appropriate
- Revision criteria for the Board of Health to incorporate accepted changes in medical practice and appropriate use of new and effective innovations in telehealth technologies, or to respond to needs indicated by analysis of data on patient outcomes

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## CORE STRATEGY 4 – INTEGRATION INTO OTHER PLANS

- State Health Plan
- Statewide Emergency Medical Services Plan
- Statewide Trauma Triage Plan
- Stroke Triage Plan
- Other state plans

# 2021 Virginia State Telehealth Plan

**CORE STRATEGY 5 – MAINTENANCE OF THE PLAN** through the development of...

- An innovative payment model for emergency services that covers patient transport to a destination providing services of appropriate patient acuity and facilitates in-place treatment services
- Uniform procedures for establishing and recording patient informed consent for the use of telehealth services
- Appropriate liability protection for providers involved in such telehealth consultation and treatment

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## **CORE STRATEGY 6 – DATA COLLECTION**

- Establish minimum documentation requirements and a registry of telehealth businesses
- Potential for reducing unnecessary: in-patient hospital stays; pre- and inter-hospital transfers
- Impact of the use of telehealth services on patient morbidity, mortality, and the quality of life
- Impact on annual expenditures for health care services for all payers, including expenditures by third-party payers and out-of-pocket expenditures by patients

# Telehealth in the Commonwealth

- Following surveys, focus groups, and stakeholder interviews, several themes have emerged regarding the current impact and future potential of telehealth in Virginia.
- These themes coalesced into a central question of:

***How can we best utilize TELEHEALTH as a solution to achieve the priorities of the Commonwealth of Virginia?***

- This doesn't limit its potential to only physical wellness – but rather, creates a framework for exploring how telehealth can benefit the educational, workforce, connectivity, public safety, infrastructure objectives that create a **healthier Virginia**.

# Telehealth Themes: From Stakeholder Perspectives

## **Broadband and technology access**

Leverage infrastructure opportunities to achieve cross-sector gains

*What this could look like...*

- Collaboration between health and education on e-learning and telehealth access points
- Partnership with public libraries to train technology navigators that can support multiple citizen needs - including telehealth

## **Care innovations**

Deploying proven models that can positively impact the health of Virginia's communities

*What this could look like...*

- Mobile integrated health care
- Virtual SUD supports
- Prioritize maternity care deserts for technology infrastructure support
- Child protection opportunities including virtual parenting supports



# Telehealth Themes: From Stakeholder Perspectives

## Person-centered accommodations

Care that supports our wonderfully diverse communities

*What this could look like...*

- Assistive technology collaborations with local community centers
- Establish best practice guidance for telehealth access points in affordable housing developments
- Network of virtual medical interpreters

## Solutions tailored for high-need areas

Improving network adequacy in HPSAs and MUAs with an emphasis on improving access to care

*What this could look like...*

- Audio-only options when video feeds are unstable
- Address barriers to loan repayment options for telehealth providers

# Telehealth Themes: From Stakeholder Perspectives

## **Sustainability, quality & efficacy**

Aligning in-person, virtual, and technology standards

*What this could look like...*

- Licensing board guidance on telehealth certification requirements and best practices
- Development of device standards and best practices
- Payment parity

## **Workforce development & optimization**

Expanding telehealth capacity to achieve Virginia's workforce goals

*What this could look like...*

- Virtual medical interpreter training
- Digital navigator training partnership with state community colleges
- Interstate compact "state of the state"
- Military medics training partnership with Veterans Services

# Discussion

- Thoughts on emerging themes?
- How can we in Virginia be nimble and responsive in the midst of rapid change?
- Telehealth looks very different NOW than it did in 2020-21...
  - What will it look like 5 years from now?
  - What role will telehealth continue to play in the health care sphere?
  - How will emerging technology (e.g., AI) impact the future of telehealth?

# Next Steps

Meeting summary sent to group	02/21/2025
Submit comments before 2/24	tom@ehealthvirginia.org
Meeting #2	02/25/2025 at 12 to 1P
Meeting #3	03/05/2025 at 12 to 1P
Meeting #4	03/19/2025 at 12 to 1P
Plan posted for comment	04/21/2025 to 05/05/2025