



# The story of home health in rural Alabama

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For more information visit [ehab.com](https://ehab.com)

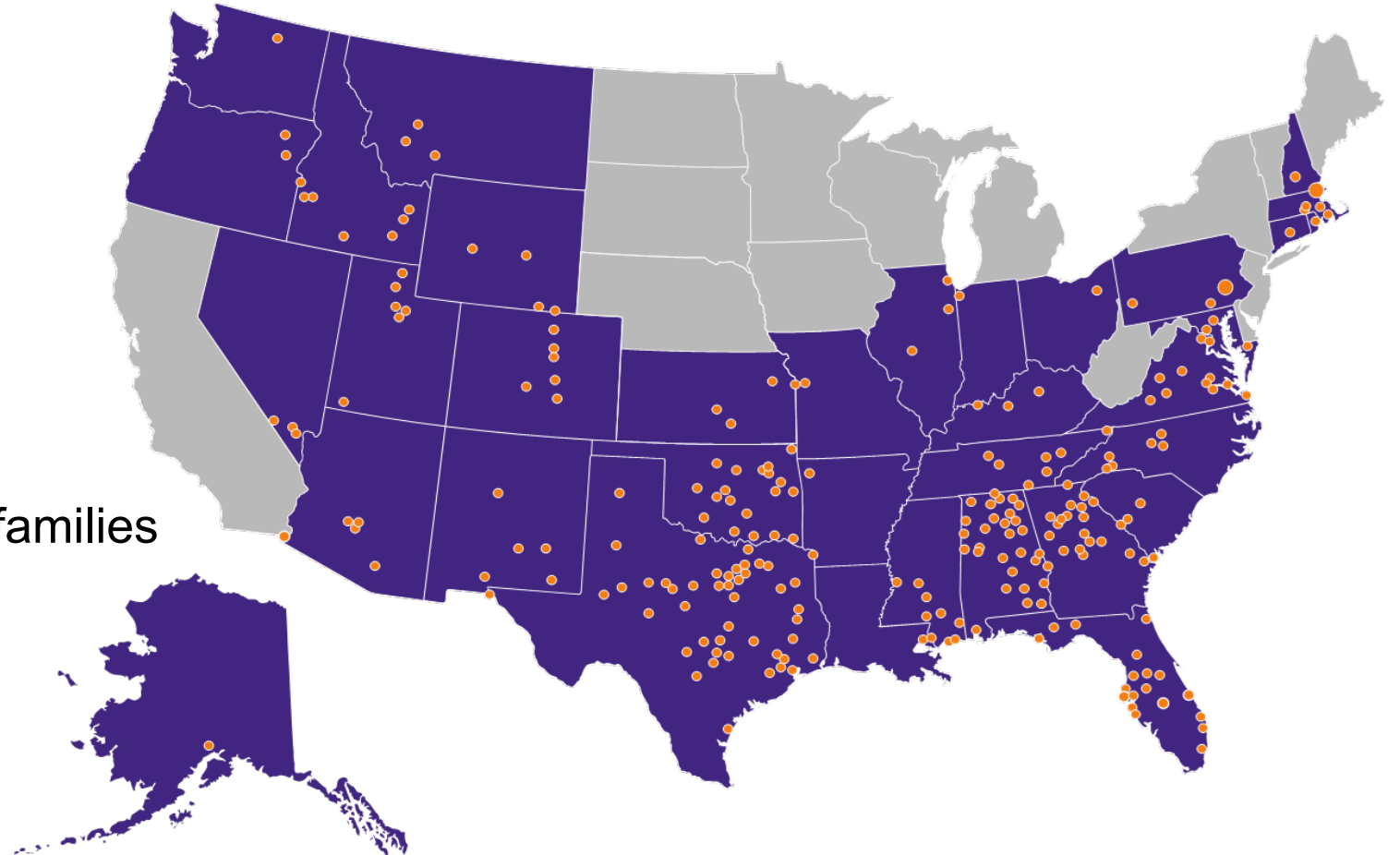
# Enhabit Home Health & Hospice

## About us:

- 34 states
- 11K employees
- 255 home health locations
- 109 hospice locations

## In 2022:

- We served 235,000 patients and families
- Performed 5.6 million visits
- Drove 41.5 million miles



# My story

- RN for over 23 years
- Associate degree in nursing in May of 2000
- First 8 years I worked in the hospital setting
- Last 15 years I have worked in home health and hospice
- Experience in multiple roles
- I felt called to Leadership
- Returned to school and graduated with my BSN in 2015
- Branch Director since December of 2015



# My experience in acute care vs home health

In acute care, I saw many patients who were re-hospitalized regularly due to uncontrolled chronic conditions. Most of the hospitalizations were preventable.



In home health, I saw firsthand the barriers to disease management and the drivers of hospitalization for my patients

- Financial barriers
- Educational barriers
- Emotional Barrier
- Psychosocial barriers



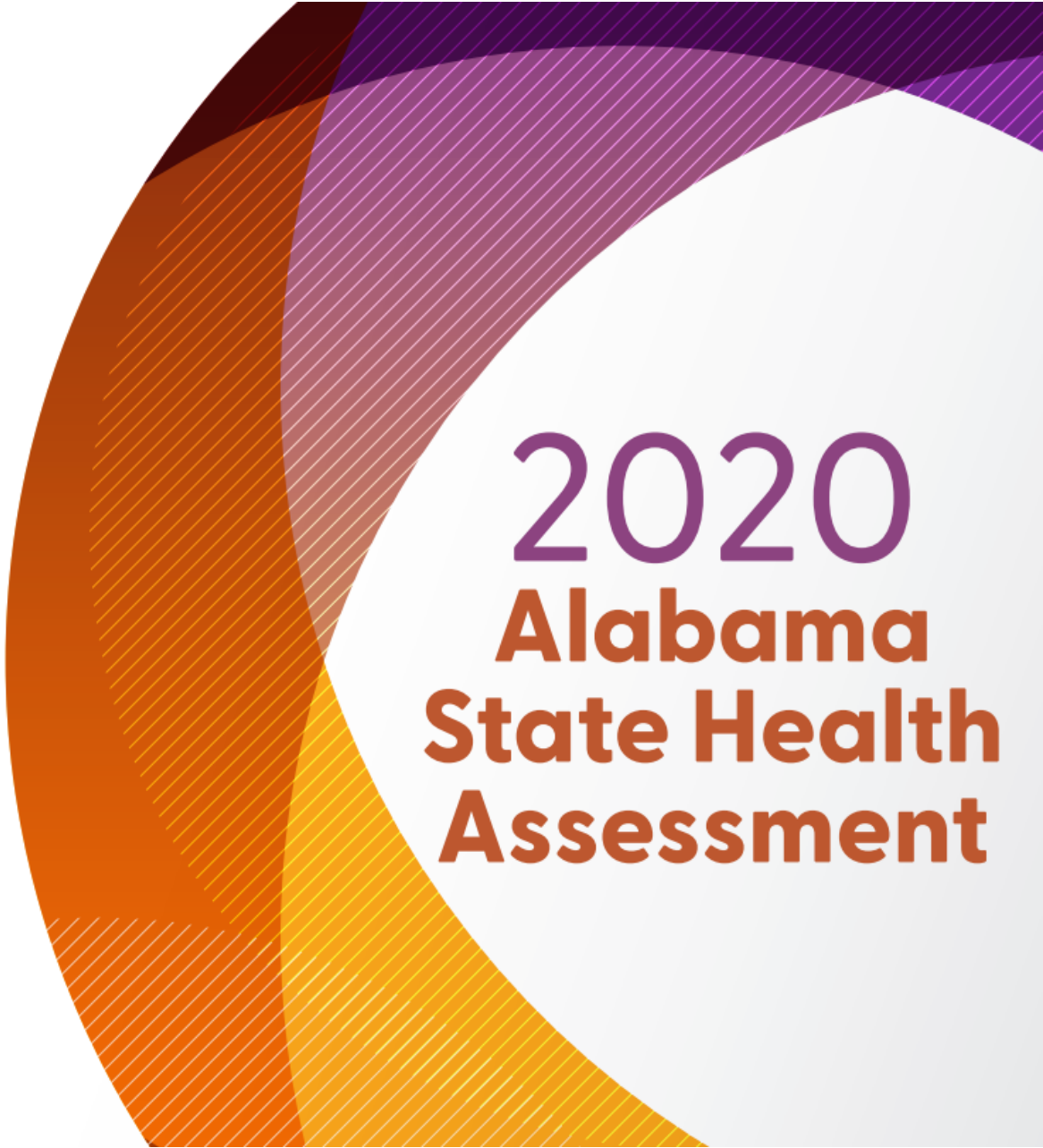
# Homebound



- COVID-19 allowed all of us to experience the feeling of being homebound
- Fortunately, most of us could return to our normal activities
- To be eligible for home health, a physician must determine that the patient is **homebound**, meaning there is a normal inability to leave the home and leaving home requires a significant and taxing effort
- Our patients are typically the very old, chronically ill, and frail

## Access to Care: Alabama's #2 Community Health Indicator

- Alabamians identified “access to care” as the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest health concern in Alabama
- Addressing access to health care services improves prevention of disease and reduces disability due to disease
- Rural individuals could carry a higher health risk for not having robust access to care
- Alabama's geography is considered 96% rural

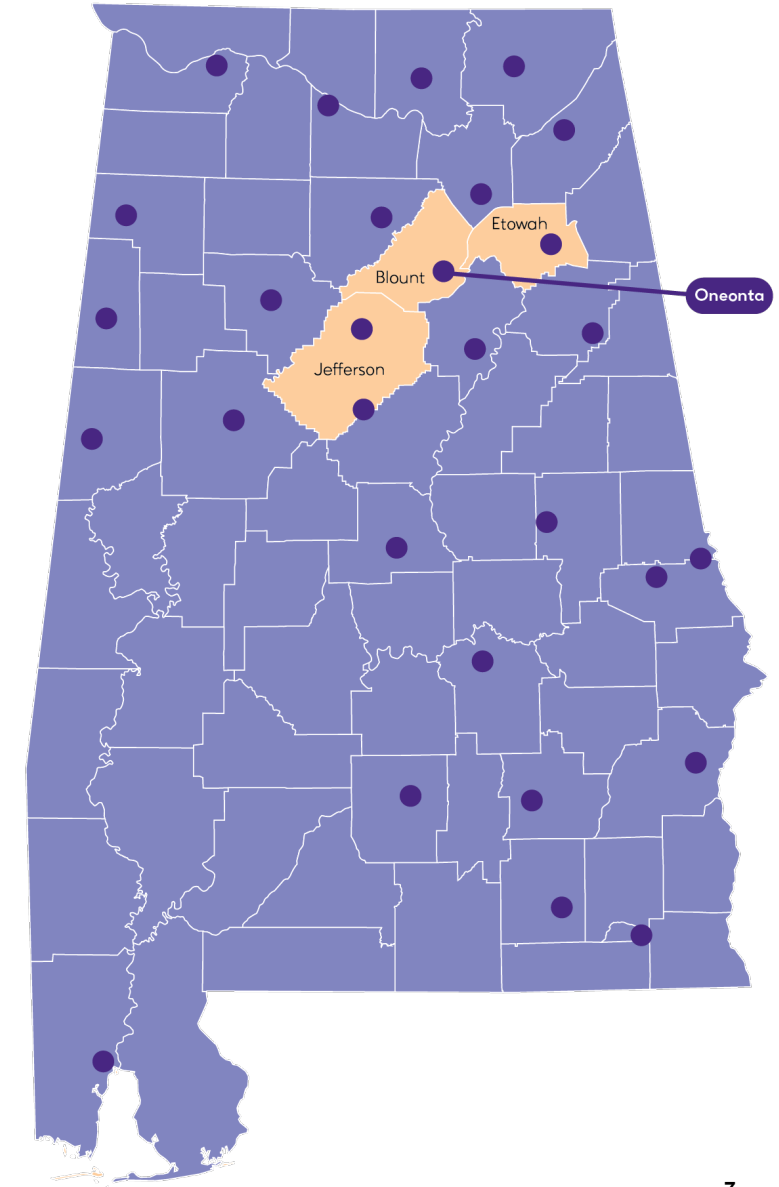


**2020**  
**Alabama**  
**State Health**  
**Assessment**



# Enhabit in Oneonta, Alabama

- Oneonta, AL population 6,938
- The county seat of Blount County
- We cover Blount, rural Jefferson and Etowah counties
- We cared for 635 patients in 2023
- We made more than 14,000 visits in 2023
- We drove more than 229,000 miles to provide care
- 14 full-time employees and 10 part-time employees



# Patient Impact from home health clinicians

## Nurses

Provide IV administration, wound care, catheter changes, teach medication and disease management and other skilled needs

## Physical Therapist

Home exercise program to improve strength and mobility and fall prevention

## Occupational Therapist

Improve functional status and ability to perform activities of daily living (ADL) safely

## Master of Social Work

Help identify psychosocial needs and connect patients with resources needed

## Speech Language Pathologist

Improve speech and swallowing and address cognitive deficits

Weekly calls and emails from patients telling me our staff have made a positive difference for them



# Operational Concerns and Challenges

- Staff shortages (aging workforce, not enough graduates, burnout)
- Increasing acuity and complexity of patient needs
- Rapid growth of Medicare advantage plans and member enrollment
- Inflationary pressures (fuel and transportation, supplies, payroll, etc.)
- Home health cuts reduce my ability to compete for high quality clinicians
- Home health cuts reduce my ability to innovate and invest in care at home
- Home health cuts limit my ability to retain and recruit staff

# I need your support

- Please don't forget me, my staff, and Medicare beneficiaries
- Home health is the most cost-effective solution for Medicare beneficiaries
- Thank you for your interest in the future of home health care
- Thank you for all the work you do for our country!
- God Bless the USA!

