# 5 Ways Telehealth is Democratizing Access to Healthcare

Healthcare access doesn't always mean equal access. Here are five examples of how telehealth increases access to care, during the pandemic and beyond.

Socioeconomic, environmental, and health-related behavioral factors account for **80% of a population's health outcomes.**[1]

01: Remove distance as a barrier to care

8.6M Americans live outside a 30-minute drive to a hospital.[2] A virtual visit is a single click away.
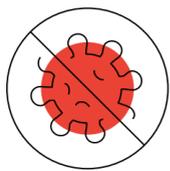
02: Eliminate the risk of COVID transmission

No exposure while in transit, waiting rooms, or from direct interactions. Telehealth happens in the safety of the home.

03: Extend access to specialized care

55% of preventable hospitalization or mortality in rural settings is due to lack of access to specialty care.[3] With telehealth, everyone can access top specialists.
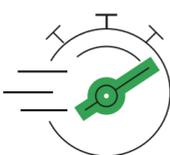
04: Less wasted time and money

Providers and patients benefit from greater efficiencies in scheduling and workday flexibility. With less time needed for travel and childcare, patients can save $35 to $690 per visit.[4]
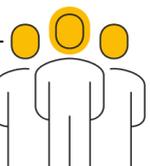
05: Fewer doctors to serve more people

By 2030, there will be a shortage of more than 100,000 doctors in the U.S.[5] Telehealth increases the doctor-to-patient ratio so more people can access care.

> "We're going to have to rely on technology to help us take care of an even larger number of people with fewer resources."

Esteban López
MD, Americas Market Lead of Healthcare and Life Sciences with Google Cloud

> "Technology's ability to help us care for our most vulnerable patients by seamlessly stitching together all care interactions, regardless of setting, holds great promise for us all."

Roy Schoenberg
MD, MPH, President and co-CEO, Amwell

Did you know?

The US Department of Agriculture can award up to $500M in rural healthcare grants which can be applied toward increasing capacity for telehealth capabilities. Learn more.

Read the whitepaper: "COVID-19 and Healthcare's Virtual Transformation" to learn more about the benefits of telehealth and virtual care.

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1. "Social Determinants of Health 101 for Health Care: Five Plus Five" National Academy of Medicine, October 2017
2. "Where Americans live far from the emergency room." New York Times, April 2020
3. "Telehealth's untapped potential in rural America." Medical Economics, February 2020
4. "4 ways telehealth can save you money." U.S. News World Report, April 2020
5. AAMC: Research Shows Shortage of More than 100,000 Doctors by 2030