

RURAL HEALTH IN THE SOUTH

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OBJECTIVES

- ✓ Describe how interprofessional teams are improving health access and outcomes in rural health.
- ✓ Discuss the importance of a philanthropic partnership in meeting the rural health care needs.
- ✓ Formulate a plan to implement academic-practice partnerships to assist in developing and sustaining a healthcare workforce for rural areas.

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MY STORY

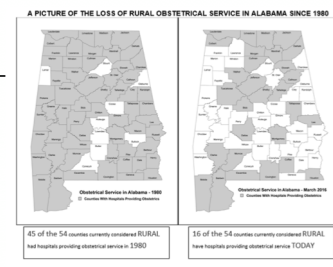
A RURAL LITTLE LADY



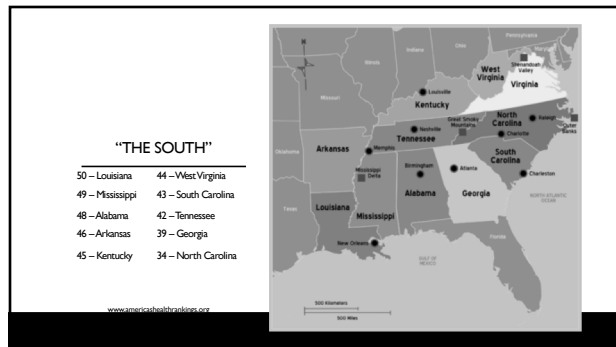
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THEN & NOW

- One family physician
- Two local pharmacies
- One dentist
- A single grocery store
- One hospital in the county



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COMMON CHARACTERISTICS FOR THOSE IN THE RURAL SOUTH

- Older population
- Less people formally educated
- Higher unemployment rates
- Less wealthy
- Poorer health status
- Less health insurance
- Less public transportation

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THINGS ARE NOT ALWAYS AS THEY APPEAR

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CHALLENGES IN RURAL HEALTH

- Rural residents have an age-adjusted mortality rate that is 10% higher than urban residents and 33% higher than the U.S. average
- Many rural counties do not have hospitals and several that do are running an average 12% deficit
- Lack of access to care

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WHERE DID IT/THEY ALL GO

- **2,646** primary care physicians (45th in primary care physician to population ratio) – an aging population
- **3,591** NPs in collaborative practice in AL (most in primary care) – 5th fastest growing job in AL!
- **565** physician assistants in AL (most not in primary care)
- **13** certified nurse midwives in AL (most not providing delivery services)

According to Hooker and Muchow (2015), Alabama has the lowest state ratio of NPs and PAs to population (40 and 8 per 100,000, respectively)

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HOW DO WE FILL THESE GAPS

INTERPROFESSIONAL
TEAMS
PHILANTHROPIC
PARTNERSHIPS
ACADEMIC-PRACTICE
PARTNERSHIPS

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INTERPROFESSIONAL TEAMS

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PHILANTHROPIC PARTNERSHIPS

12

ACADEMIC-
PRACTICE
PARTNERSHIPS



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HOW DO YOU HELP
PAVE THIS ROAD?

- Teamwork
- Communication
- Advocate
- Patients First!

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QUESTIONS OR
COMMENTS?

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