ALABAMA RURAL HEALTH CARE:
ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

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Counties With Less Population in 2010 Than They Had in 1910

SOURCE: Alabama State Data Center, The University of Alabama
Counties Projected To Have Less Population
In 2040 Than They Had in 2010
SOURCE: Alabama State Data Center,
The University of Alabama
GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF OUR RURAL POPULATION

Our Rural Population is
  Older.
  Less formally educated.
  Reflective of greater ethnic diversity.
  Less wealthy.
  Of a less favorable general health status.

  Has greater transportation concerns.
  Has less health insurance.
  Has higher unemployment.
Primary Care Physicians Actively Practicing in Alabama’s Rural and Urban Counties by Age, 2015

- Total = 3,109
- Rural = 774
- Urban = 2,335
- Age Not Given = 1
- Average Age = 51.5 years
- Median Age = 52

A PICTURE OF THE LOSS OF RURAL OBSTETRICAL SERVICE IN ALABAMA SINCE 1980

45 of the 54 counties currently considered RURAL had hospitals providing obstetrical service in 1980

16 of the 54 counties currently considered RURAL have hospitals providing obstetrical service TODAY

Produced by the Alabama Department of Public Health, Office of Primary Care and Rural Health and the Alabama Rural Health Association, June 24, 2016. The defining of counties as being rural or urban is based upon a definition that is used for study purposes by these agencies.
PART OF THE SOLUTION:
TELEHEALTH / TELEMEDICINE

Increases access to health care

Improves health outcomes

Reduces health care and other costs

Assists in addressing shortages of healthcare providers

Supports clinical education programs

Better utilization of mid-level practitioners and nurses