Decline of Access to OB Services in Rural Communities

February 2019

On the vanguard of thought. The future of healthcare requires nothing less.
Convergence of Multiple Pressure Points

Local and national pressure points creating downward pressure on rural providers.

- Health Disparities
- Population Migration
- Recruitment/Retention
- Healthcare Policies
- Economic Policy
46% of all Rural Providers have a Negative Operating Margin

State-level percentage of rural hospitals with negative operating margin.

Hospital Closures – 95 and counting

Number of rural hospitals closed since 2010.

1-2  3  4  5-8  15

Source: Sheps Center, UNC 1/14/19.
Rural Closures and Impact on Access to Care

With 95 rural hospitals closing since 2010, residents now face longer drives to receive care.

Communities impacted.

- 37: 20 MINS
- 45: 30 MINS
- 13: 30+ MINS

Drive time (up to) required to reach nearest hospital.
Offsetting Revenue Pressure:  
*The Decline of Access to OB Services in Rural America*

- Rural hospitals dropping OB since 2011: 134
- Rural hospitals offering OB that have closed: 18

Rural communities that have lost access to OB since 2011: 152
Offsetting Revenue Pressure:
The Decline of Access to OB Services in Rural America

46% of all rural hospitals offering OB have eliminated this service since 2011.

Today, less than half of the nation’s rural hospitals provide OB today.
Offsetting Revenue Pressure: 
*The Decline of Access to OB Services in Rural America*

Maternity Deserts
*States with the lowest access to OB services*

None of Florida’s rural hospitals provide OB services.
Offsetting Revenue Pressure: 
*Lowest Access Among Non-Expansion States*

Access in Virginia is ~3 OB providers per 100,000 prospective mothers.
Offsetting Revenue Pressure: 
*Lowest Access Among Non-Expansion States*
Offsetting Revenue Pressure:

*Highest Access Among Non-Expansion States*

Access in Nebraska is >31 OB providers per 100,000 prospective mothers.
Offsetting Revenue Pressure: 
*Highest Access Among Non-Expansion States*
Offsetting Revenue Pressure: 
Access Across Southern States
Offsetting Revenue Pressure:
Lowest Access Among Expansion States

Access in New York is ~4 OB providers per 100,000 prospective mothers.
Offsetting Revenue Pressure: 
*Lowest Access Among Expansion States*
Offsetting Revenue Pressure:
Highest Access Among Expansion States

Access in Alaska is ~21 OB providers per 100,000 prospective mothers.
Offsetting Revenue Pressure:

*Highest Access Among Expansion States*
Offsetting Revenue Pressure:  
The Decline of Access to OB Services in Rural America

-1.3%  
Median operating margin at time of dropping OB as a service offering.

76%  
of rural hospitals dropping OB experienced a reduction in nursery days in the 3 years leading up to service elimination.
Offsetting Revenue Pressure:
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Drive time to nearest OB provider.

- Women in **11** rural communities must now drive an additional 60 minutes or more.
- Added time (up to) for women in **89** rural communities.
- Added time (up to) for women in **52** rural communities.
Thank You