Az CRH Highlights

See you at Arizona Rural Health Conference!

Thursday, July 26 & Friday, July 27, 2018
High Country Conference Center, Flagstaff, Arizona

We have a terrific program lined up, with speakers eager to share successful strategies, best practice models, and ideas on a variety of topics. The conference provides opportunities for networking, partnering, and disseminating information, research and data, and visiting with vendors showcasing their products and/or services.

The Program Booklet with agenda, presentation descriptions and more is now available for download!
Rural Hospital Closures in the News

Arizona 360 Host Vanessa Barchfield interviewed Dr. Daniel Derksen, Director of the Arizona Center for Rural Health about rural hospital closures. » Video (From 22 min:35 sec to 28 min) | PDF synopsis

“Across the country there have been 85 rural hospital closures since 2010,” Dr. Derksen explained. “I’d say our most vulnerable hospitals are the smaller hospitals. These are the ones with a federal designation of critical access hospital…25 beds or less… 35 miles or more from another facility… having a 24-hours a day, 7 days a week emergency department. These often form the critical infrastructure in our smallest, most rural communities in Arizona.”

Arizona Prevention and Research Center Honored For Improving Quality of Life in the Arizona-Mexico Border Region

The Arizona Prevention Research Center (AZPRC) at the University of Arizona Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health, received the Senator Andy Nichols Award from the Arizona-Mexico Commission for improving the quality of life in the Arizona-Mexico border region.

Andrew W. Nichols, MD, former director of the UA Rural Health Office (now the UA Center for Rural Health), was a state legislator who spearheaded legislation to expand the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) healthcare program for the poor. He spent his life working for justice in healthcare and generated numerous programs that provide access to high-quality health care for all, particularly in rural and border communities. He died in 2001. » Read more.
AzCRH News and Updates: https://crh.arizona.edu/news

Jul 17, 2018: It’s 4 A.M. The Baby's Coming. But the Hospital Is 100 Miles Away.

Jul 03, 2018: The Arizona Prevention and Research Center Honored For Improving Quality of Life in the Arizona-Mexico Border Region

Jul 02, 2018: UA panel discusses ways to help separated migrant families

Jul 02, 2018: New Tucson police program will refer opioid addicts to treatment, not jail

Upcoming Rural Events

Jul 17 2018: Naloxone Presentation
Jul 26 2018: Arizona Rural Health Conference
Jul 28 2018: Medication Assisted Treatment Training for Opioid Use Disorders
Jul 31 2018: 2018 Rural Health Data Summit
Aug 7 2018: Third Annual Rural Women's Health Symposium
Aug 23 2018 : 2nd Annual Explore the World of Resources Providers’ Summit
Aug 25 2018 : Tackling the Opioid Crisis: A Practical Approach to Understanding And Addressing the Problem
Sep 21 2018 : MEZCOPH 2018 Internship & Career Showcase
Sep 28 2018 : 2nd Annual Southern Arizona Opioid Misuse Prevention Symposium

Funding Opportunities

Rural Housing Preservation Grants – August 9. Rural Development at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides grants to sponsoring organizations for the repair or rehabilitation of housing occupied by low and very low income people. Eligible applicants include most state and local governmental entities, federally recognized tribes and nonprofit organizations. Individual homeowners are not eligible.

Recommended Resources

New in the Rural Monitor:

Strengthening the Workforce to Improve Pregnancy Outcomes in Rural Areas
Obstetric services were available in 205 fewer rural hospitals in 2014 than in 2004. Realizing the importance of maternity and childbirth services, a CAH in Alaska works to keep its providers’ skills sharp and a rural OB-GYN residency program in Wisconsin is beginning to train a new generation of physicians.

Economic Opportunity and the Opioid Crisis: Geographic and Economic Trends. The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) advises the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services on effective policy through policy research, evaluation and economic analysis. Recently, ASPE released this report that examines relationships between indicators of economic opportunity and the prevalence of prescription opioids and substance use in the United States. The report’s findings support previous claims that rural areas have been more heavily impacted by the drug overdose deaths. The report also finds that communities with worse economic prospects in general had much higher rates of opioid prescriptions, opioid-related hospitalizations, and drug overdose deaths for the timeframe investigated, but that some high poverty regions
of the country were relatively isolated from the opioid epidemic.

**Updated: Health Professional Shortage Areas.** FORHP’s parent agency, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) announced the availability of the complete lists of all geographic areas, population groups, and facilities designated as primary medical care, mental health, and dental health professional shortage areas (HPSAs) as of May 1, 2018. The lists are available on [HRSA’s HPSA Find website](https://www.hrsa.gov). Rural health programs that depend on HPSA designation include the National Health Service Corps, Community Health Centers and look-alikes, and Rural Health Clinics.