Az CRH Highlights

AzCRH Annual Report
The Arizona Center for Rural Health FY21 Annual Report is now available for download! The report summarizes AzCRH activities from 07/01/20 to 06/30/21 related to its mission to improve the health & wellness of Arizona’s rural & vulnerable populations. The Center for Rural Health housed a new record of more than $15 million in federal and state funded rural programs awarded in FY 2021. 
» Click to download PDF.
Join Us for a Hybrid Conference, Oct 8 & 9!
Teaching Health Center: Is it the Right Fit for your Organization?

If you are considering becoming a Teaching Health Center, please join us for this educational event and learn what it takes to become one. Hear from individuals who have been involved in implementing Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education (THC GME) Programs to gain valuable insights on requirements, and other important considerations when establishing and operating primary care, dental or behavioral health residency programs. This conference will provide an opportunity to better understand THC GME, gain valuable resources, and opportunity to network and ask questions. We are applying for CE/CME credits.

» At the High Country Conference Center, Flagstaff, AZ & Via Zoom

Click to register!

ADHS-CDC COVID Disparities Initiative – MOVE UP and AHEAD in Arizona

Under this grant, AzCRH will work through its State Office of Rural Health program critical access hospitals, rural health clinics, community health centers and community health workers to reduce COVID-19 related disparities. The center will work with the Area Health Education Center Program and its five AHEC Regional Centers, targeted multimodal messaging using the Arizona Telemedicine Program platform, county and tribal health departments, the Mobile Outreach Vaccine Education for Underserved Populations (MOVE UP) and the Advancing Health Equity, Addressing Disparities in Arizona (AHEAD). The latter two create the initiative’s key areas of focus and its motto: “MOVE UP and AHEAD in Arizona.”

Click for more information
AzCRH to work with the Arizona Association of Community Health Centers (AACHC) on new Navigator Initiative

The number of Health Care Navigators has been quadrupled ahead of the HealthCare.gov Open Enrollment Period and AzCRH is a subawardee to the AACHC grant. Through $80 million in grant awards for the 2022 plan year, 60 Navigator awardee organizations will be able to train and certify more than 1,500 Navigators to help uninsured consumers find coverage in 30 states with a Federally-Facilitated Marketplace. Navigators can assist with enrollment applications and help consumers receive financial assistance through HealthCare.gov. Earlier this year, the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services reported that Medicaid expansion played a key role in expanding health insurance coverage; Medicaid coverage rates increased from 12.2 percent of the rural population in 2010 to 17.1 percent in 2019. With the additional funding for Navigator assistance, organizations can help more uninsured individuals and families get coverage.

Click for more information

Join us for our next webinar on September 16!

The Behavioral Healthcare Workforce and Access to Medication for Opioid Use Disorder Treatment in Rural Arizona

Presenters: Bryna Koch, MPH and Benjamin Brady, DrPH

Learning objectives:

1. Describe the behavioral health needs in rural Arizona
2. Describe the distribution of the behavioral healthcare workforce and shortages in rural Arizona
3. Describe the current context and need for access to Medication for Opioid Use
Disorder (MOUD) Treatment in rural Arizona

4. Identify opportunities for improving access to behavioral health care and MOUD treatment in rural Arizona

Click for more information

Related Read:

**Federally Qualified Health Centers Can Expand Rural Access to Buprenorphine for Opioid Use Disorder in Arizona**

Published Aug 6, 2021 in SAGE Journals, an excellent paper authored by Benjamin R Brady, Rachel Gildersleeve, Bryna D Koch, Doug E Campos-Outcalt & Daniel J Derksen:

Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) is recommended, but not always accessible to those who desire treatment. This study assessed the impact of expanding access to buprenorphine through federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) in Arizona.

» Read more

Title V Maternal Health Needs Assessment

Would you like to help shape services for mothers and infants over the next 5 years? You are invited to participate in a maternal health needs assessment that our team from the University of Arizona is carrying out for the Arizona Department of Health Services.

The interview will be conducted either via Zoom, in-person, or phone depending on your preference. It may take up to 1 hour. You will be compensated with $20 once the interview has been completed.

You are eligible if you:

- Are pregnant or gave birth to a baby in the last 3 years; AND
- Live in La Paz, Gila, Greenlee, Graham counties in Arizona; OR
- Are a Black/African American mother resident in any county in Arizona.
Az CRH NEWS

Sep 09, 2021 : Moonshot, Upshot, Hot Spot, Bullshot
Aug 18, 2021 : Chat About MAT Podcast - AzMAT Mentors Program and Center For Rural Health
Aug 04, 2021 : UA receives $4M grant to support health services in rural Arizona
Jul 23, 2021 : Video: Addressing Vaccines and other COVID Issues in Rural Arizona
Jul 12, 2021 : Arizona and COVID-19: Returning to Normal
Jul 06, 2021 : Center for Rural Health Receives $4.4M Federal Grant to Continue Health Services to Rural Arizona
Jul 06, 2021 : Vax backtracks: State, U.S. miss goal of 70% vaccinated by July Fourth
Jun 25, 2021 : Letter from a heat-parched West: How times and temps have changed

UPCOMING RURAL EVENTS

Sep 16 2021 : The Behavioral Healthcare Workforce and Access to Medication for Opioid Use Disorder Treatment in Rural Arizona
Sep 28 2021 : Arizona Maternal and Infant Mortality Summit 2021
Oct 14 2021 : 2021 Arizona Health Equity Conference
Feb 6 2022 : 2022 Rural Health Care Leadership Conference
Apr 20 2022 : 2022 12th Annual Statewide Symposium in Support of Service Members, Veterans & Their Families

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES
The Arizona Partnership for Healthy Communities and Vitalyst Health Foundation are pleased to announce that applications for the 2022 Live Well Arizona Incubator are now open. The Live Well Arizona Incubator is looking for teams interested in collaboration to address health and well-being in their community.

We don't expect teams to have everything figured out when they apply; in fact, we developed this capacity building program specifically for groups who are in the early stages of community-driven collaboration. The Live Well Arizona Incubator pairs teams with a coach to guide them over ten months. Workshops and coaching will focus on how to expand and strengthen the team, cultivate community engagement, establish shared goals and objectives, and develop an action plan.

Interested in learning from a past participant about their experience in the Live Well Arizona Incubator? Want to hear from an experienced Incubator coach? Have questions about the application form? Join us on Thursday, September 9 from 3:00-4:00pm MST for an informational webinar.

» Applications are due October 15, 2021 by 11:59 pm MST. More information and application instructions are available on our website.

3RNET Recruiting for Retention Academy – October 4. The National Rural Recruitment and Retention Network (3RNET) designed this learning opportunity for recruiters, medical directors, and others seeking to employ health professionals in underserved areas. A series of live webinars lasting up to 90 minutes each will take place between October 5 and December 14. Attendees will get access to national experts on rural/underserved recruiting and retention.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

HHS: What Works and What Doesn’t in COVID-19 Vaccine Outreach. The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) provides an overview of lessons learned from vaccine programs and gives several examples of federal and state programs that could serve as models for new strategies.
**Interactive Map Shows Results of 2020 Census.** The map allows users to zoom in and find population data for each county in the country. State profiles give more detail on demographic changes between 2010 and 2020. Other infographics and visualizations show information topics such as population change by county, food assistance eligibility, and more detailed breakdown of race and ethnicity. Population counts from the U.S. Census are used to allocate federal funding, provide data for policymaking, plan economic development, and provide data for research, among countless other needs for quality of life.

**HHS Coronavirus Data Hub.** The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) website includes estimated and reported hospital capacity by state, with numbers updated daily.

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You are receiving this e-mail because you are a valued partner of the Az Center for Rural Health by attending the AZ Rural Health Conference or other event.

Cover photo by Melissa Quezada

Please send your comments and suggestions regarding this newsletter to Jennifer Peters, Arizona State Office of Rural Health Program Manager (petersjs@email.arizona.edu).

Thank you.

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