Factors affecting rural health outcomes include health insurance coverage, socioeconomics, ready access to primary, preventive and other health care services, providers, infrastructure, and technology. Each rural community has unique strengths, opportunities and challenges in terms of the health of its population. In Arizona, key components of the rural health infrastructure include:

- **Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs):** There are 15 federally designated CAHs in Arizona. These are rural hospitals with 25 hospital beds or less, located 35 miles or more from another facility, and providing 24/7 emergency medicine services. In addition to providing essential health services in Arizona’s vast rural regions CAHs contribute to the local economy.

- **Rural Health Clinics (RHCs):** There are 24 federally certified RHCs in rural Arizona communities, most are affiliated with CAHs. RHCs increase access to primary, preventive and other health care services in rural communities using interprofessional, team approaches that include physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, certified nurse midwives, and staff.

- **Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs):** There are 160 FQHCs in Arizona, with 75 located outside of Arizona’s urban areas. FQHCs provide primary, preventive and other health services to all, regardless of ability to pay in areas with access to few health care providers. They are part of the health safety net providing health services to the uninsured, underserved, and those enrolled in Medicare, Medicaid (AHCCCS), and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP is KidsCare in Arizona).

**Health Insurance Coverage**

Arizona dramatically decreased its population without health insurance since 2013 in every county. In rural Arizona, Medicare, Medicaid (AHCCCS), and CHIP (KidsCare) are important sources of coverage. Source: U.S. Census American Community Survey

Decrease in percent uninsured from 2008 to 2017 in all counties. Largest decreases were in Santa Cruz & Graham counties

County populations have different rates of public and private health insurance*

Percent of Arizonans covered by AHCCCS, 2017

1 in 5 Arizonans are covered by AHCCCS

Percent of Arizona children (≤19) covered by AHCCCS, 2017

2 in 5 Children are covered by AHCCCS

*Percentages do not add to 100% due to individuals who are uninsured or have a mix of both private and public health insurance coverage.

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**The entire population in 7 of Arizona’s 15 counties live in Rural or Urban Clusters.**

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