Maternal Health Begins Where Moms Live, Learn, and Work
Access to quality health-care is essential. Better health starts in homes, neighborhoods, and communities

BACKGROUND
- The U.S. has the highest maternal mortality rate of developed countries.
- Ensuring ready access to prenatal, labor and delivery, and post-partum care are maternal health priorities.
- To make childbirth safe for all, it is important to improve social and economic conditions and provide mothers with access to healthcare where they live.
- Mothers who struggle financially, live in rural areas, or experience chronic illness are at greater risk for delivery complications, preterm delivery, and maternal death.

DEFINITIONS:
Women’s Health
The promotion of well-being by improving the opportunities for health (e.g., education, poverty, housing) that affect women. The preservation of health and prevention of illness via screening and management of conditions that are unique, more common, and more serious in women.

Maternal Health & Health Care
The health of women and the services provided before and during pregnancy, childbirth and post-delivery.

Availability and access to providers are factors contributing to women’s and maternal health outcomes.

Reducing a mother’s social and economic hardships helps assure healthy moms and babies.

ARIZONA RURAL - URBAN DIFFERENCES IN HEALTH & OPPORTUNITY

Women Ages 15–44 in Rural Counties Have a Higher Poverty Rate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mostly Rural</th>
<th>Mostly Urban</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>32%</td>
<td>24.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Women Ages 15–44 in Rural Counties Have a Higher Rate of AHCCCS Coverage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mostly Rural</th>
<th>Mostly Urban</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>36.1%</td>
<td>24.9%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

A Higher Percentage of Births in Rural Counties are Covered by AHCCCS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mostly Rural</th>
<th>Mostly Urban</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>65.5%</td>
<td>51.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A Higher Percentage of Rural Women Had Less Than 8 Prenatal Visits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mostly Rural</th>
<th>Mostly Urban</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>34.4%</td>
<td>21.8%</td>
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A Lower Percentage of Rural Women Initiated Care by the 2nd Trimester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mostly Rural</th>
<th>Mostly Urban</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>81.7%</td>
<td>86.4%</td>
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For questions about this brief contact Bryna Koch, MPH at brynak@email.arizona.edu. For methods and references please visit crh.arizona.edu. Suggest Citation: Koch, B, Brady, B, Coates, S, Carter, H, and Derksen, D. Maternal Health Begins Where Moms Live, Learn, and Work. Arizona Center for Rural Health Policy Brief. October 2019.