

Rural Availability of the Obstetrics & Gynecology Physician Workforce

A high-quality women's health care system depends on the availability and access to well-trained women's health providers

BACKGROUND

- The U.S. has the highest maternal mortality rate of developed countries.
- In Arizona, the maternal mortality rate increased from **1.8 per 10,000** live births in 2013 to **2.4** in 2015.
- The maternal mortality rate for **American Indian women is 3 times the rate of Latina women and 4 times the rate of White women.**

RURAL ARIZONA MATERNAL HEALTH WORKFORCE

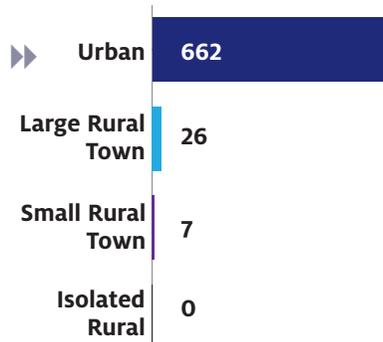


4.7% of Ob-gyn physicians work in rural areas

8% of Arizonans live in rural areas

The Ratio of Ob-gyn Physicians per 10,000 Women is **Lower in Rural Areas**

Arizona	2.03
Urban	2.09
Large Rural Town	1.45
Small Rural Town	1.12
Isolated Rural	0



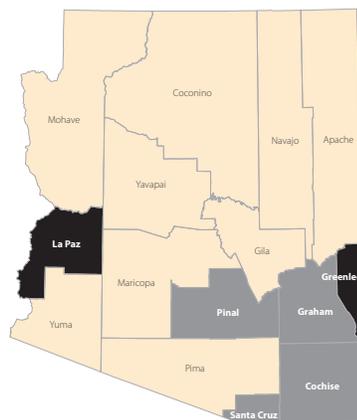
ARIZONA'S HEALTH SYSTEM & WORKFORCE

Counties with **NO** maternal care:

La Paz, Greenlee

Counties with **limited access** to maternal care: Pinal, Graham, Cochise, Santa Cruz

No maternal care = zero hospitals offering obstetric care, zero OB providers & any percentage of women ages 18-64 uninsured. **Limited Access (level 1 or 2)** = Less than 2 hospitals offering obstetrics care, less than 60 OB providers per 10,000, and greater or less than 10% women ages 18-64 uninsured.



EDUCATIONAL TRAINING AND BACKGROUND OF OB-GYN PHYSICIANS IN ARIZONA



- 87.2% are MDs; 12.8% are DOs
- 17.0% completed their undergraduate education in Arizona
- 28.3% completed their graduate medical education in Arizona
- Of those who completed their undergraduate education in Arizona, 57.2% also completed their graduate training in Arizona
- Of Ob-gyn physicians who completed their undergraduate education outside of Arizona – One in FOUR completed their graduate training in Arizona

DEFINITIONS:

Access to Maternal Health Care

Access to hospitals & providers offering women's health and obstetric care. Barriers to accessing care include lack of health insurance coverage, affordability, and travel time.

Maternal Health Workforce

Obstetrics & Gynecology (Ob-gyn) Physicians, Family Physicians, Nurse Midwives, Women's Health Nurse Practitioners and Physicians Assistants. General Surgeons are sometimes considered part of the maternal health workforce (e.g., for cesarean delivery).

HOW WORKFORCE SHORTAGES AFFECT RURAL MOTHERS:

Rural women have less access to health care, prenatal, obstetric and post-partum services – One in FOUR rural women give birth at a non-local hospital.

Access to prenatal and obstetric services are decreasing in rural areas due to closures of obstetric units and rural and critical access hospitals.

In some areas, almost half of rural women travel over 30 minutes for maternity care.

Travel may delay prenatal care and increase the risk of premature delivery.

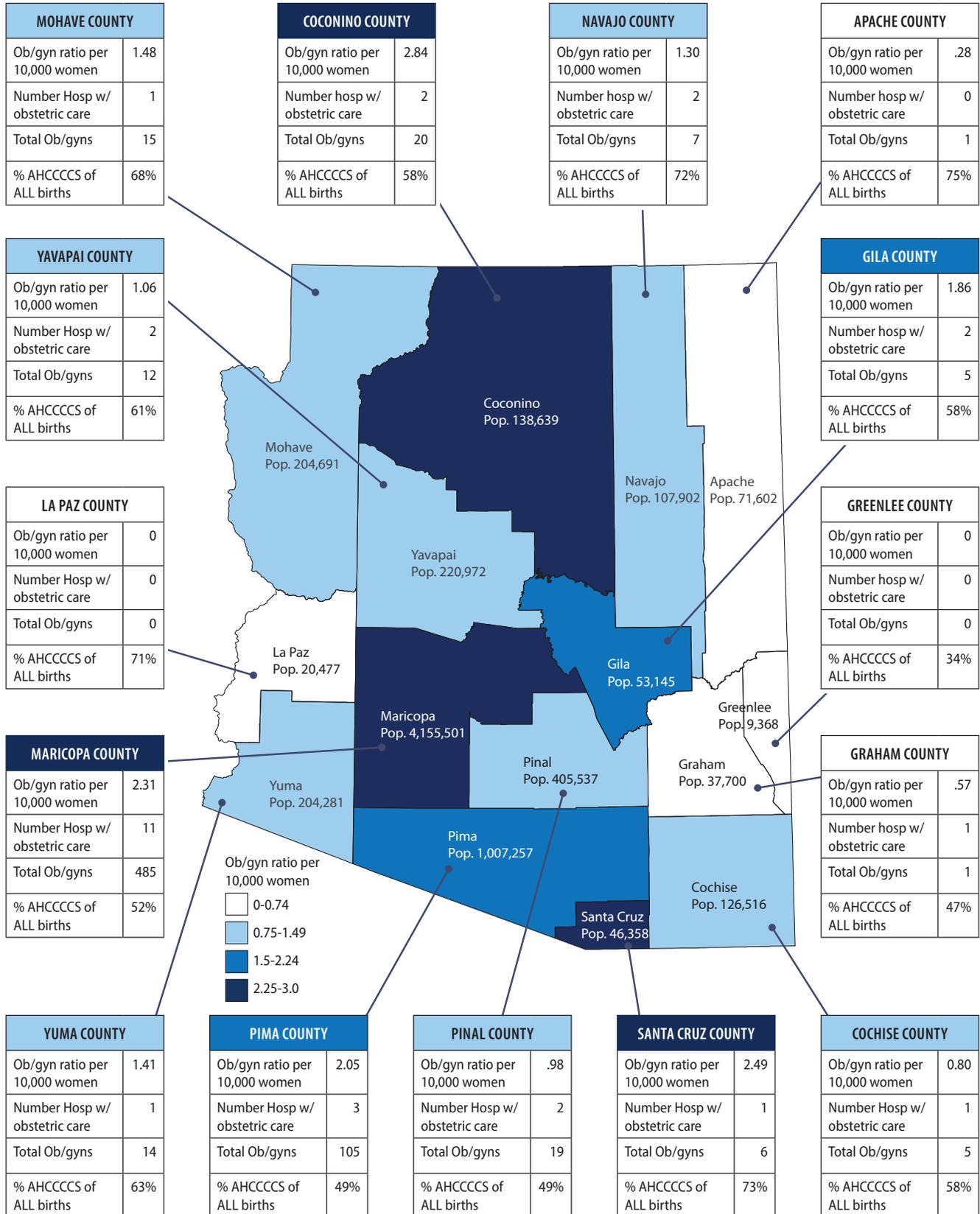


THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
MEL & ENID ZUCKERMAN COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Center for Rural Health

For questions about this brief contact Bryna Koch, MPH at brynak@email.arizona.edu. For methods and references visit crh.arizona.edu. Suggested Citation: Koch, B, Coates, S, Brady, B, Carter H, and Derksen D. Rural Availability of the Obstetrician and Gynecologist Physician Workforce. Arizona Center for Rural Health Policy Brief. October, 2019.

RATIO OF OB-GYN PHYSICIANS PER 10,000 WOMEN BY COUNTY

ARIZONA EST. POP. 7.1 MILLION | 695 OB-GYN PHYSICIANS | 2.03 OB-GYN PHYSICIANS PER 10,000 WOMEN



Total and ratio of Ob-gyn physicians by county rely on Arizona licensure data. Hospitals with obstetrics care uses data from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Area Health Resource File (AHRF) count of hospital facilities with obstetric care 2017. There are some cases (e.g., Apache county) where the AHRF lists zero hospitals with obstetrics care, but vital statistics from the Arizona Department of Health Services show hospitals reporting births in 2018. Data limitations: does not include Certified Nurse Midwives, fAmilexy Physicians who provide prenatal, obstetric, and post-partum care.