Background

Arizona’s inequalities impact its people’s healthcare access
- Unequal geographical, population, and health workforce distributions.
  - 98% of the state is rural.¹
  - 80-90% of healthcare workforce works in urban Arizona³
  - 10% of population (650,000 people) lives in rural Arizona²
  - 60% of the total rural population (406,000 people) lives in the Arizona-Mexico Border Region.²

The border community is a unique part of Arizona
- Thriving economic, social region.
- Presents complex issues³:
  - Communicable diseases.
  - Lifestyle/habitual diseases.
  - Cultural hesitance to see healthcare providers.⁴
- Requires careful attention from healthcare providers.

HPSA & MUA/Ps: Definitions

Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA)
- May be rural or urban areas with a shortage of primary medical care, dental, or mental health providers.

Medically Underserved Areas (MUAs)
- May be a whole county or consecutive counties, a group of county or civil divisions, or urban census tracts in which residents have a shortage of personal health services.

Medically Underserved Populations (MUPs)⁴
- May include people who face barriers to health care due to economic, cultural, or linguistic barriers.

Number of primary care areas (PCAs) in each Arizona-Mexico border county, 2016⁷

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Total Primary Care Areas (PCAs)</th>
<th>Rural/ Indian PCAs</th>
<th>MUA/MUP PCAs (%)</th>
<th>Primary Care HPSA PCAs (%)</th>
<th>Dental Health HPSA PCAs (%)</th>
<th>Mental Health HPSA PCAs (%)</th>
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Loan Repayment & Workforce Programs

Loan Repayment Program⁷

| Service site located in rural area
| Service site’s highest HPSA score
| Percent of service site’s underserved encounters
| Distance of next Sliding Fee Scale Clinic
| (Initial applicant) Newly employed at service
| Providing services on-site
| Resident of Arizona
| Graduate of an Arizona graduate institution
| (Initial) Experience with the medically underserved
| Full-time or half-time at site

Workforce Programs⁷

Arizona State Loan Repayment Plan⁸

| National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Loan Repayment Program
| Nurse Corps Scholarship & Loan Repayment Program

Medical Shortage Surveillance

Distribution of Medical Providers By County and Specialty, 2016⁶

Policy Recommendations

1. Increase state and federal funding to strengthen border health systems.
2. Institute clinical rotations in MUAs/HPSAs in health professional pedagogies.
3. Expand eligible disciplines to the Arizona State Loan Repayment Program.
4. Promote the expansion of mental healthcare providers in the border region.

References

5. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, 2015

¹ National Rural Health Association. Addressing the Health Care Needs in the U.S.-Mexico Border Region, 2010
⁴ Bruijn J. Culture and Health Disparities: Evaluation of Interventions and Outcomes in the US-Mexico Border Region, Spring 2014
⁵ Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, 2015
⁸ Roscetti A. Expanding Arizona’s State Loan Repayment Program. Arizona Department of Health Services, 2016