

# Policy Improvements and Legislative Impact on Rural Maternal Health



# AMCHP Mission and Vision

AMCHP leads and supports programs nationally to protect and promote the optimal health of women, children, youth families, and communities.



AMCHP envisions a nation that values and invests in the health and wellbeing of all women, children, youth, families, and communities so that they may thrive.

# Who are our members?

- State public health leaders
- High-level state government officials
- Directors of MCH programs (Title V directors)
- Directors of CSHCN programs
- Adolescent health coordinators
- Families
- Academic, advocacy and community-based family health professionals

## AMCHP Embraces the Core Values:

Leadership • Collaboration • Health Equity and Social Justice  
Inclusion • Integrity • Excellence • Stewardship

# The Challenge



18 million women of reproductive age live in rural America



45% of rural U.S. counties had no hospital obstetric services from 2004-14; during this same period, an additional 9% of rural counties lost all hospital obstetric services



Pregnant women in rural counties must drive hours to deliver their babies due to local hospital closures



Women in rural areas experience higher rates of hospitalizations with complications during pregnancy vs. women living in metro areas

# The Challenge



Increasing population and demand for obstetric care is outpacing the supply of providers.



106 Hospital closures since 2010; disproportionate amount in non-Medicaid expansion states



The median education debt for all medical school graduates in 2016 was \$190,000



Total annual compensation for general ob-gyns is among the lowest of the the surgical subspecialties.

# A Suggested Path Forward



Policies that support expansion of telehealth services/state QI initiatives...i.e. Utah ECHO



Improving Access to Maternity Care Act – collect data and direct resources



Policies/funding that will incentivize work in under-resourced communities



Policies/reimbursement models that support non-physician healthcare professionals (CNMs)...birthing centers); obstetric collaborative/team based models



Rising malpractice premiums

# Thank You!!!

Let's discuss...