



The State Office of Rural Health

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**Colorado Rural Health Center Snapshot of Rural Health Examines Population
Health Data, Workforce Trends, and Rural Health Innovations**

*The 2016 Edition Snapshot of Rural Health explores why a strong statewide healthcare
delivery system must be inclusive of the unique needs in rural areas*

Denver, Colo – February 1, 2016 – Today, the Colorado Rural Health Center (CRHC) released its 2016 edition *Snapshot of Rural Health*. The report highlights rural health data such as demographic trends, economic impact analysis, health risk indicators, county-level health disparities and rural practice transformation initiatives.

According to Michelle Mills, CRHC’s CEO, this annual publication provides accurate and up-to-date information about the state of rural healthcare in Colorado and provides analysis of over 40 rural-specific data measures. “The snapshot is a crucial document referenced throughout the year, and is also distributed – in accompaniment with legislative district data – to policymakers,” explains Mills.

Mills, alongside other CRHC staff, healthcare experts and rural providers, are attending the National Rural Health Association’s [27th Rural Health Policy Institute](#) in Washington DC this week – the largest rural advocacy event in the country.

The [report](#) and [legislative district data](#) will be distributed directly to state and federal policymakers.

Examples of featured data include:

- 17% of Colorado's population aged 65-84 and 40% of the population over 80 lives in rural areas
- Healthcare is part of the backbone of local economies and is one of the top three industries in rural Colorado
- One rural physician's employment creates approximately 23 additional jobs and \$889,000 in secondary local revenue
- Recruitment of primary care providers in rural Colorado can take more than three years and cost a facility upwards of \$50,000
- Thirteen counties in Colorado do not have a hospital and two counties do not have access to a hospital or rural health clinic

As Colorado's State Office of Rural Health and member-based association for rural health facilities, CRHC is a clearinghouse for rural health information and resources, helping providers throughout Colorado enhance healthcare services available in rural communities.

The Snapshot of Rural Health is available for download at <http://coruralhealth.org/?resources=2016-snapshot-of-rural-health>. For additional resources, visit the CRHC resource center at <http://coruralhealth.org/resources>.

About The Colorado Rural Health Center

The Colorado Rural Health Center was established in 1991 as Colorado's State Office of Rural Health. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, CRHC serves dual roles as the State Office of Rural Health with the mission of assisting rural communities in addressing healthcare issues; and as the State Rural Health Association, advocating for policy change to ensure that rural Coloradans have access to comprehensive, affordable healthcare services of the highest quality. For more information visit www.coruralhealth.org, call 303-832-7493, or call toll free 800-851-6782 from rural Colorado.

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