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Understanding the rural landscape

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UNDERSTANDING THE RURAL LANDSCAPE

Key Themes and Learning Opportunities



The Georgia Health Policy Center (GHPC) has a longstanding history working with and in rural communities. Recently, we developed two learning opportunities based on our field experience and conversations with health leaders across the country. GHPC has learned that rural communities share common characteristics, including:

- There is a **fundamental difference** in the structure and context of health care in rural versus urban communities.
- The issues facing rural health care are **not commonly defined** and vary region to region and state to state.
- Rural communities generally face **similar challenges**, such as limited access to health care services, workforce shortages, lack of transportation infrastructure, and geographic isolation.
- Rural communities provide an interesting **opportunity for innovation** and research in health care.

Rural Module and Workshop

GHPC developed hands-on learning opportunities to better understand the challenges and opportunities for rural health. The learning opportunities include two distinct experiences – a one-hour overview module and a three-hour interactive workshop. They are designed to promote rural-relevant research, policies and programs, and can be delivered to federal, state, and/or local stakeholders. If your organization is interested in participating in one or both, please contact ghpc@gsu.edu or 404.413.0314 for more information.

One-Hour Overview Module

In this experience, participants will:

- Build a shared understanding of the rural landscape in health;
- Define the key challenges and opportunities of conducting health research, policy, and program development in rural communities; and
- Identify the resources needed to support new efforts and initiatives to work in the context of rural communities.

Three-Hour Workshop

In this experience, participants will:

- Review case studies of attempted health care interventions in rural communities;
- Complete a self-assessment of your organization's competency in describing the rural landscape for health;
- Review and discuss models and key strategies for health research, policy, and program development in rural communities;
- Develop a plan of action for knowledge transfer; and
- Identify opportunities for your team to leverage the opportunities to impact rural health.