



How to be a Rural Health CHAMPION in 2017:

Promote stability by developing a replacement plan before repealing the Affordable Care Act!

The Rural Impact of the Affordable Care Act in Colorado

The Good



- The Affordable Care Act reduced uninsurance in rural Colorado from 20% to 12% between 2008 and 2014
- Because so many more rural Coloradans gained healthcare insurance through Medicaid expansion, uncompensated care in 2009 for Colorado was nearly \$2.3 billion, by 2015 that cost fell to about \$1.1 billion
- Significant increases in primary care visits have translated to a decrease in chronic conditions like diabetes, heart disease and obesity

The Bad



- While the Affordable Care Act has been generally positive for the health of rural Coloradans, it has had a mixed impact on the financial sustainability of rural Colorado's healthcare facilities
- Premiums for some rural Coloradans rose at a rate that made healthcare coverage inaccessible
- Insurance Coverage does not always translate to healthcare access. High deductible prevented some rural Coloradans from utilizing their insurance and gave rise to the issue of "underinsurance"

Significant Changes are Already Coming at an Already Difficult Time

- Value-based payment reform initiatives
- Data/Reporting requirements
- EHR and Meaningful Use requirements
- MACRA and MIPS Requirements



1 in 5 rural Colorado hospitals are already at risk for closure (8 hospitals at risk)

If all 8 hospitals are allowed to close, here's just a sampling of the effects*:

*According to 2016 iVantage Data Analytics



Jobs at risk



1,159

\$1.3 BILLION



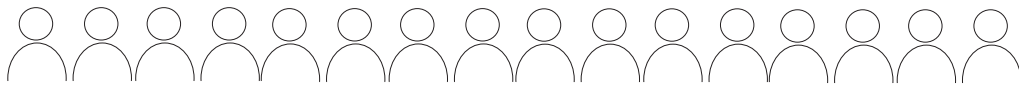
GDP loss in affected communities over 10 years

Patient encounters at risk



82,169

COVERAGE AND CARE FOR RURAL COLORADO



184,986

Rural Coloradans on Medicaid

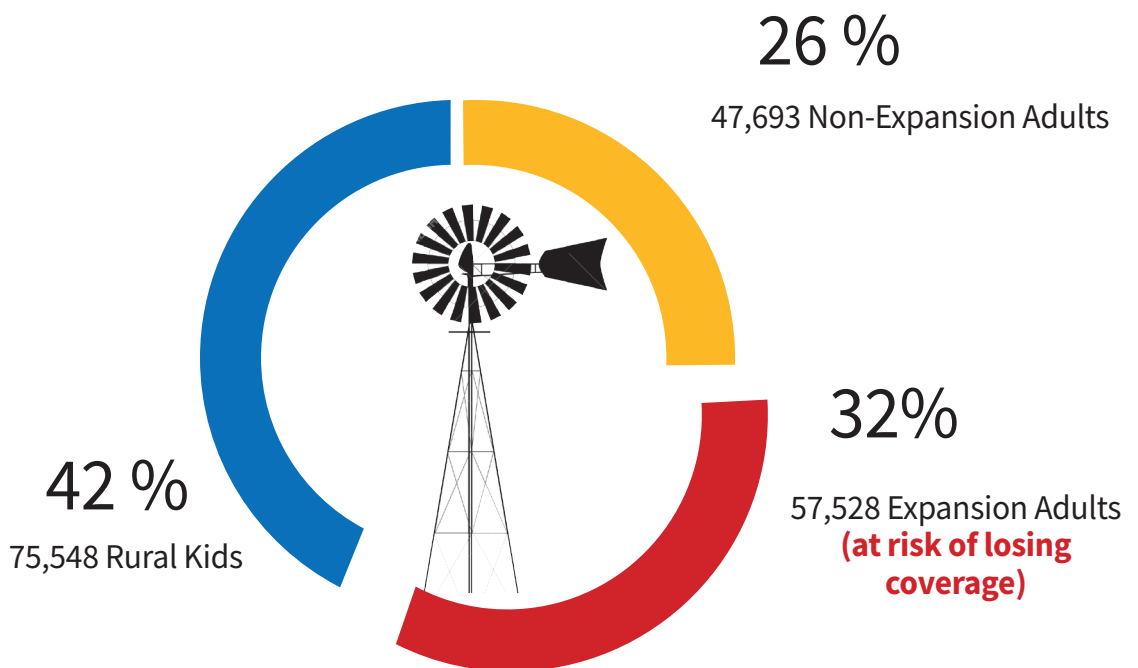
124,078

Rural Coloradans on Medicare

Rural Colorado Medicaid Enrollment

Bottom Line:

Any significant changes to payment and administration of Medicare or Medicaid will have a disproportionate impact on rural Coloradans and rural healthcare providers alike.



Colorado's State Healthcare Exchange

39,950



Rural Coloradans purchased health insurance through the state exchange (Not eligible for Medicaid and not insured through their employers).

These people may need to find coverage elsewhere.



55% of Coloradans enrolled in the Exchange qualified to receive financial assistance through tax credits

25%



of Coloradans who purchased coverage through the Exchange are between the ages of 55-60

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