

Loss of Hospital-based Obstetric Services in Rural Counties in the United States, 2004-2018

Katy B Kozhimannil, PhD, MPA

Julia D Interrante, MPH

Mariana S Tuttle, MPH

Key Findings

- Access to maternity care in rural US counties continues to decline.
- The percent of micropolitan and noncore counties with obstetric services dropped significantly from 2004-2018.
- Rural noncore counties continue to be less likely to have hospital-based obstetric services than rural micropolitan counties, and this decline is steeper.

rhrc.umn.edu

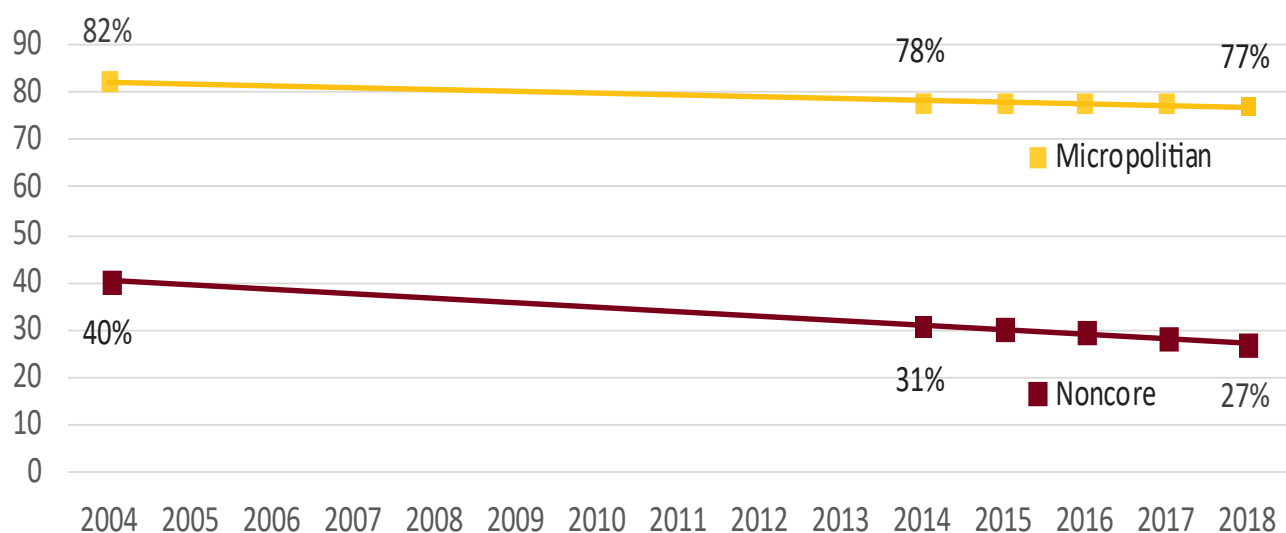
Purpose

Access to maternity care in rural US counties has been on the decline in recent years. The purpose of this infographic is to show the loss of hospital-based obstetric services from 2004-2018, and how this differs by county type (micropolitan vs. noncore).

Methods

Data came from the 2004-2014 and the 2014-2018 American Hospital Association (AHA) annual surveys, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Provider of Services File, and the Area Health Resources File. Rural (non-metropolitan) counties were categorized based on population (**micropolitan**, with a town of 10,000-50,000, and **noncore**, without a town of <10,000).

Percent of Rural Counties with Hospital-based Obstetric Care, 2004-2018



Support for this study was provided by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy, Health Resources and Services Administration, Cooperative Agreement U1CRH03717-13-00. The information, conclusions, and opinions expressed are those of the authors and no endorsement by FORHP, HRSA, or HHS is intended or should be inferred.