

WHY DOES ALABAMA NEED TO EXPAND TELE-MEDICINE OR TELE-HEALTH?

Many Alabama residents have inadequate or no transportation available to get to needed healthcare:

	11 rural counties have NO public transportation agency. All 67 counties have inadequate public transportation. (SOURCE: American Public Transportation Association verified by telephone calls.)
	6.6% of all Alabama households have NO vehicle. In 13 rural Alabama counties, more than 10% of all households have NO vehicle. (SOURCE: American Community Survey, 2005-2009, Table B08201.)

Many Alabamians do not have access to needed health care:

	61 of Alabama's 67 counties are currently entirely or partially designated as having a shortage of primary care physician service. 132 strategically-placed primary care physicians are needed to provide minimal acceptable care and 386 are needed to provide optimal care. (SOURCE: Health Resources and Services Administration data.)
	66 of Alabama's 67 counties are currently entirely designated as having a shortage of psychiatrist services for the entire or low income population. 43 strategically-placed psychiatrists are needed to provide minimal acceptable care and 185 are needed to provide optimal care. (SOURCE: Health Resources and Services Administration data.)
	Alabama currently has only 22 actively practicing child or adolescent psychiatrists with all except two being in urban counties. (SOURCE: Alabama Medical Licensure Commission's Licensed Physician Database for 2011.)
	Alabama currently has only 298 actively practicing psychiatrists with only 31 practicing in 9 of the 55 rural counties. (SOURCE: Alabama Medical Licensure Commission's Licensed Physician Database for 2011.)
	7 rural Alabama counties do not currently have a hospital. 36 of the 55 rural counties do not have a hospital providing obstetrical service. (SOURCE: Alabama Department of Public Health data sources.)
	4 Alabama counties are currently classified as "frontier counties" by the National Center for Frontier Communities, based upon low population density, distance from major cities and driving time to major cities. (SOURCE: National Center for Frontier Communities.)

Alabama's population is aging rapidly with health care needs increasing and ability to seek this care decreasing:

	The elderly (age 65+) population is projected to more than double in 19 Alabama counties by the year 2035. 15 of these counties are rural with more limited access to health care. (SOURCE: Alabama State Data Center, The University of Alabama)
	Only 5 Alabama counties (all urban) have death rates due to heart diseases lower than that for the nation. 41 counties (38 rural) have rates that are more than 50 percent higher than that for the nation. 3 rural counties have rates that are more than double the national rate. (SOURCE: Center for Health Statistics, Alabama Department of Public Health)

	Only 6 Alabama counties (4 urban) have death rates due to cancer that are lower than that for the nation. 8 counties (all rural) have rates that are more than 50 percent higher than that for the nation. (SOURCE: Center for Health Statistics, Alabama Department of Public Health)
	Only 8 Alabama counties (3 urban) have death rates due to stroke that are lower than that for the nation. 30 counties (27 rural) have rates that are more than 50 percent higher than that for the nation. 5 rural counties have rates that are more than double the national rate. (SOURCE: Center for Health Statistics, Alabama Department of Public Health)

Many Alabamians suffering from chronic low income delay early treatment or cannot afford the additional cost of traveling to receive needed care:

	Over 21% of all Alabamians are eligible for Medicaid. This is greater than 25% in 27 counties with 25 being rural. (Source: Alabama Medicaid Agency published data)
	Nearly 44% of all Alabama children under age 21 are eligible for Medicaid. This is greater than 50% in 29 counties with 27 being rural. This is greater than 60% in 5 rural counties. (Source: Alabama Medicaid Agency published data)
	Only 3 Alabama counties (all urban) have per capita personal income that exceed that for the nation. Alabama's urban county residents have a per capita income more than 24% higher than rural residents. The 25 counties with the lowest per capita income are all rural. 4 rural Alabama counties have per capita incomes that are among the 250 lowest among all 3,113 U.S. counties. (SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis online data)

Many Alabamians have great difficulty seeking needed health care due to disabilities:

	24.0% of all Alabama residents aged 65 years or more have a home-bound disability compared to 19.4% nationally. The 36 counties with the highest percentages of home-bound elderly are rural counties. (SOURCE: 2000 Census of Population)
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Many Alabamians could benefit from expanded tele-medicine because

IT WORKS:

	The Georgia Partnership for Tele-Health started in 2006. In 2011 there were over 40,000 tele-medicine encounters involving more than 40 different medical specialties. (SOURCE: Georgia Partnership for Tele-Health Web site)
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