

healthywomen

Rural Women's Health:
**Opportunities for
Innovation and Investment**

Welcome



Beth Battaglino, RN-C

President & CEO, HealthyWomen

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AANP

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BIO

Bristol Myers Squibb

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Eli Lilly

Hologic

Immunovant

Kenvue

Merck

Novartis

Novavax

Novo Nordisk

Organon

Pfizer

PhRMA

Sandoz

**Sumitomo Pharma America
(SMPA)**

Viatrix

Opening Remarks



Martha Nolan

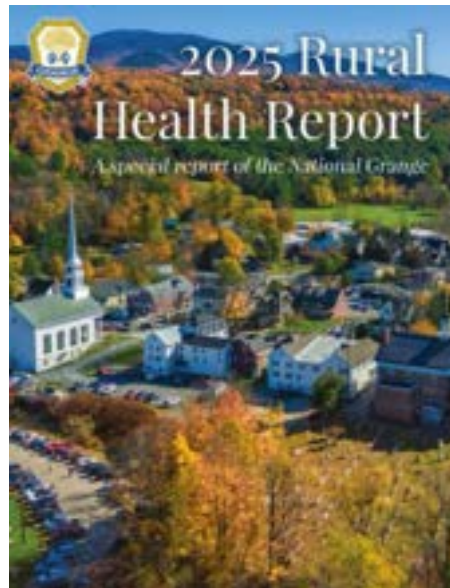
Senior Policy Advisor, HealthyWomen



Christine Hamp

President, The National Grange

2025 Rural Health Report



<https://www.nationalgrange.org/rural-health-report/>

Key Access Stats



- Since 2005, over **180 rural hospitals have closed** and, as of today, **over 700 are at risk of closing** or are facing significant cuts
- In rural areas, over **2.5 million women** of childbearing age live in areas without adequate prenatal and maternal care
- 67% of counties **lack a single obstetric hospital**
- 57% of rural counties have **no OB-GYN services**
- More than 60% of rural counties **don't have one single oncologist**

Key Access Stats



- Children in rural areas are **less likely** to receive the recommended preventive vaccines on schedule for their age compared to urban children
- Some counties have reported **vaccination rates below the 90%** threshold needed for herd immunity, putting them at risk for mass outbreaks
- Rural Americans experience higher depression and suicide rates, in fact, suicide rates in rural counties are **over 60% higher** than those living in urban areas
- Approximately 17%-20% of rural counties are classified as food deserts, **affecting over 2 million Americans**

Addressing the Challenges



- Maintain federal block grants and state matching funds for community health clinics
- Reform Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) practices to ensure transparency and prevent pricing manipulation that harms patients and hospitals
- Fix the IRA's "pill penalty" to keep affordable oral treatments on the market
- Incentivize rural healthcare careers with stipends, student loan forgiveness, and service-based education repayment
- Take steps to ensure all Americans have access to reliable internet
- Support community food programs and local agriculture to combat food insecurity
- Continue to support mobile and telehealth clinics that bring care directly to those who live far from hospitals



Joyce Knestrick, PhD, CRNP, FAANP

Professor, George Washington University School of Nursing; Family Nurse Practitioner, Wheeling Health Right

Gap in Mortality Rates in Rural Areas

- The gap between rural and urban mortality rates from natural causes is widening.
- Twenty-five years ago, natural-cause, or disease-related, mortality rates were similar for working-age adults in both rural and urban areas.
- However, by 2019, the natural-cause mortality rate for rural residents of prime working age (ages 25–54) was 43% higher than for those living in urban areas.
(Thomas, 2024)



This growing disparity reflects both an improvement in urban health and **a decline in rural health**, which has negative implications for rural families, communities, employment and the rural economy.



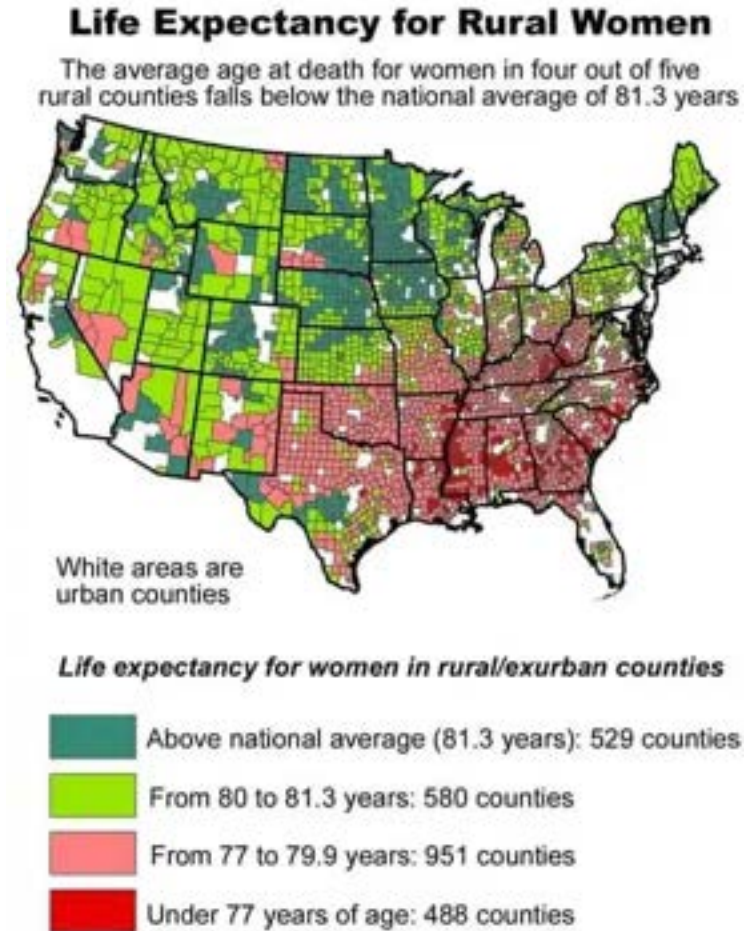
- Rural residents often encounter barriers to healthcare that limit their ability to obtain the care they need.
- Access to healthcare implies that healthcare services are available and obtainable in a timely manner. Even when an adequate supply of healthcare services exists in the community, there are other factors that may impede healthcare access.



- For instance, to have healthcare access, rural residents must also have:
 - **Financial means** to pay for services, such as health or dental insurance that is accepted by the provider
 - Means to reach and use services, such as **transportation to services** that may be located at a distance, and the ability to take **paid time off of work** to utilize services
 - Confidence in their **ability to communicate** with healthcare providers
 - Trust that they can use services without compromising **privacy**
 - Confidence that they will receive **quality care**



- **Barriers to healthcare result in:**
 - Unmet healthcare needs
 - a lack of preventive and screening services
 - Challenges in the treatment of chronic diseases
 - A reduced lifespan
- While access to healthcare does not guarantee good health, **access to healthcare is critical for a population's well-being and optimal health**



- **Medicaid funding is critical for sustaining rural healthcare systems,** including hospitals, clinics and community health centers.
- A strong relationship exists between Medicaid coverage levels and the financial viability of rural hospitals and providers. Medicaid expansion is associated with improved hospital financial performance and substantially lower likelihoods of closure, especially in rural markets and counties with large numbers of uninsured adults before Medicaid expansion.

Nearly 1 in 4 People in Rural Areas Have Medicaid Coverage

Health care coverage by geographic area, 2023



Nearly 50% of rural hospitals operate with negative margins and further reductions in Medicaid funding would force many facilities to:

- Reduce or eliminate essential services
- Delay much-needed equipment upgrades
- Close their doors entirely

Rural hospital closures would leave many residents without nearby healthcare access, forcing them to travel long distances for even basic treatments and emergency care.

- As a result, many patients may forgo preventive or routine care, leading to higher utilization of emergency departments, increasing costs to the larger healthcare system

Rural hospitals are the largest employers in many rural areas, creating further economic challenges for individuals living in rural communities.

"Rural hospitals aren't just providers—they're often the largest employers. When they close, pharmacies, stores, and entire communities collapse. That's why preserving them is critical..."

Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.



Amber's Story

- Amber is a patient from Appalachia.



Ariana McGee

Founder & CEO, Navigate Maternity

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Our Leadership



Ariana McGee
CEO and Founder

Mother of 4.

13 years in healthcare commercialization, sales, and reimbursement leadership for med device and biotech



Thea James, MHA

COO

13 years of experience in healthcare operations, managed care, data analytics and digital health



Dr. Elicia Harris MD, MBA

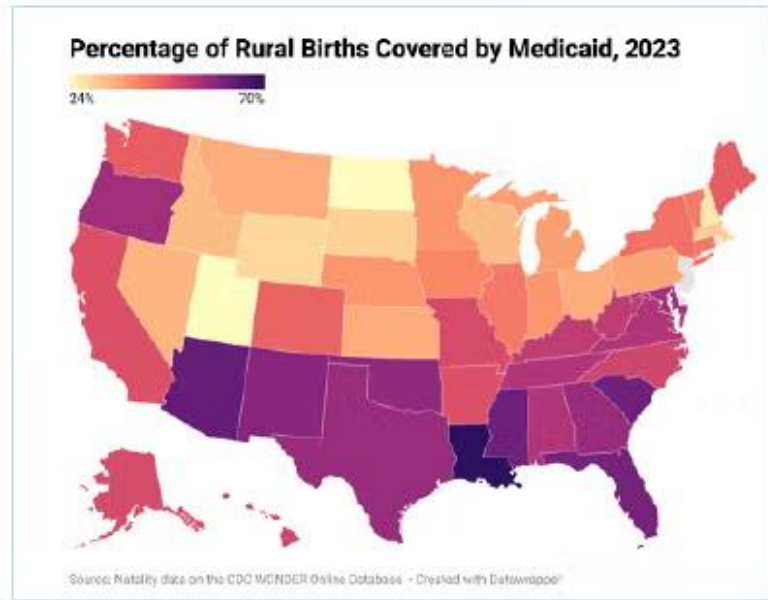
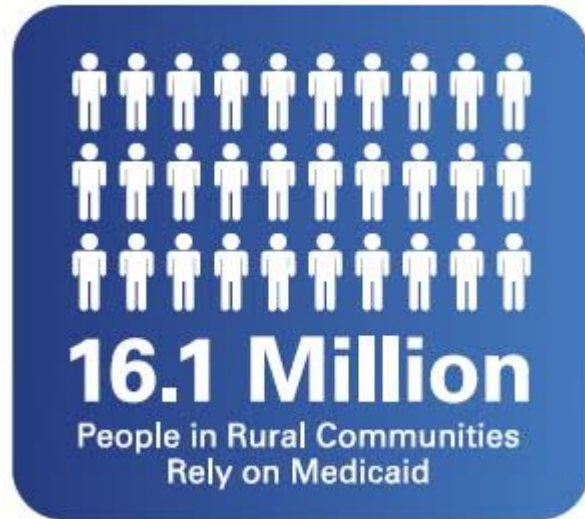
CMO – OB/GYN

15 years practice – certified OB/GYN with an executive MBA in healthcare



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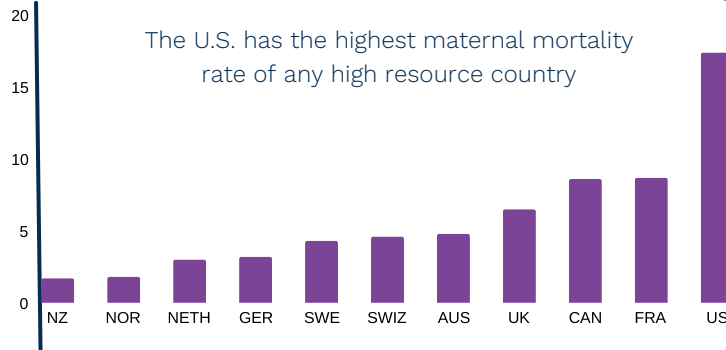
Lack of access to care and elimination of Medicaid service has **devastating consequences** not only for individuals but **for the entire rural community**.



Mothers Are Dying to Have a Baby

1

Maternal Mortality Ratio



2

Black women die from childbirth complications 3x the national average



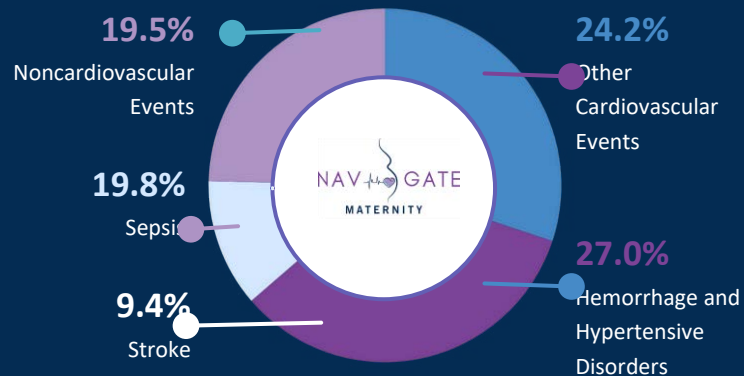
3

50% of rural counties lack OB services, and rural moms are 60% more likely to die from pregnancy complications



4

Per the CDC, more than 80% of the deaths are preventable.



Gaps in Key Clinical Data Lead to Inadequate Maternal Care



No or limited clinical data between prenatal appointments



Reactive vs. proactive patient care



Limited Social Determinants of Health (SDoH) data



HCP's implicit bias resulting in a lack of patient trust



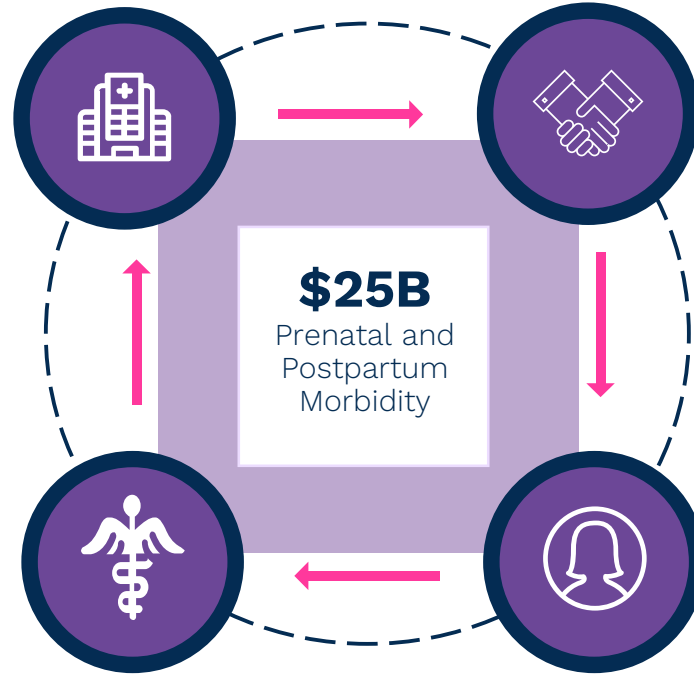
Stakeholder Problem

Hospital
Systems

Payers

Providers

Patients



Source: <https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/issue-briefs/2021/nov/high-costs-maternal-morbidity-need-investment-maternal-health>Data: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Severe Maternal Morbidity in the United States," last updated Feb. 2, 2021; Roosa Tikkanen et al., Maternal Mortality and Maternity Care in the United States Compared to 10 Other Developed Countries (Commonwealth Fund, Nov. 2020); Jiajia Chen et al., "Assessment of Incidence and Factors Associated with Severe Maternal Morbidity After Delivery Discharge Among Women in the US," JAMA Network Open 4, no. 2 (Feb. 2, 2021): e2036148

The Infrastructure for Maternal Care

Whole Mom Care — Not Just Vitals.

No extra burden. No added workflow. Just better outcomes.

Covered by most insurance plans.

- No upfront cost
- No heavy lift
- Just plug us in and we do the rest

Your patients get access to essentials like:

- Prenatal and postpartum compression
 - Breast pumps and lactation supplies
 - Posture support products
- Educational webinars

Let's close the gap in maternal care together.



Learn more at www.navigatematernity.com

NavigateHER — App

NavigatePRO — Platform



ONBOARDING and DATA REPORTING

Digitize the onboarding process with robust and granular data reporting.



SDoH and MENTAL HEALTH SCREENINGS

Pre-loaded and validated SDoH and mental health screenings. Screenings are customizable.



PATIENT NAVIGATORS and CARE COORDINATION

NM Patient Navigators engage patients and automate referrals to local partners, addressing SDoH and documenting interventions.



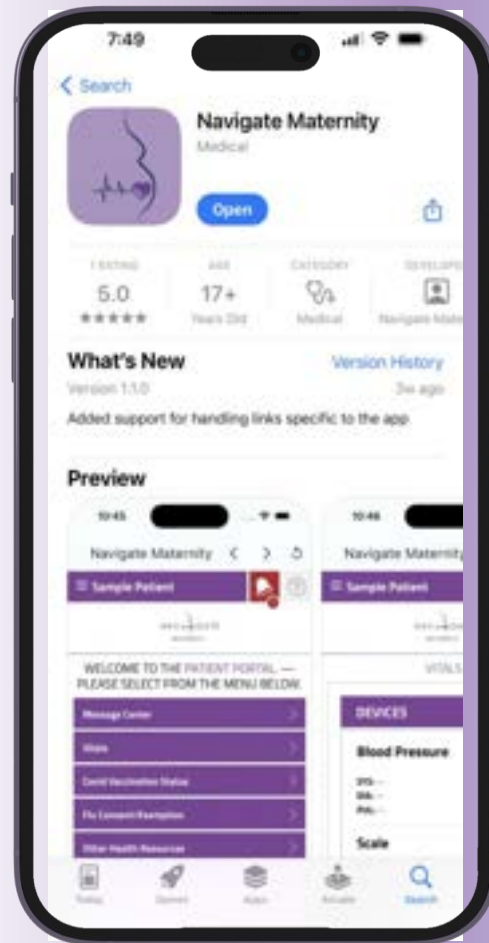
SMS TEXTS and INTEGRATED TELEHEALTH

Send SMS texts, in app messages and alerts. In-app telehealth allows you to triage patients from home.



CERTIFIED EHR SOFTWARE and

INTEGRATION
Software is backed by a certified EHR. Connect with Epic, Cerner, etc. via HL7 and/or FHR.



 Available on the
App Store

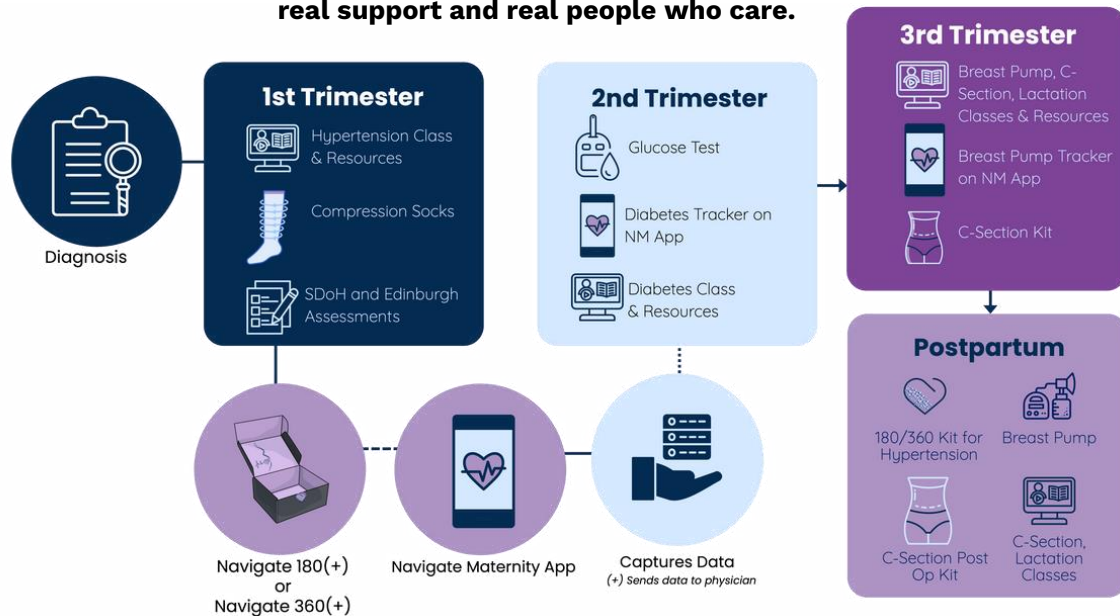
 GET IT ON
Google Play

Supporting Mom through Every Trimester

Moms are too often overlooked between appointments.

Too many symptoms are missed. Too many outcomes are preventable.

That's why we created a full-service solution that bridges the gap — with real tools, real support and real people who care.



For more information visit our website at navigategematernity.com

NEW Offerings and Expansion

Q2 2025

Breast Pumps and Disposables

Compression Garments

NM Podcast

NM Educational Library



Construct Phase II Winner

Q4 2025

National HSA/FSA Rollout

**2026 Midwest and Southern
Expansion – 18 NEW States**



Q4 2024

NavigateHER

NavigatePRO

Navigate180

NM Educational Webinars



Q3 2025

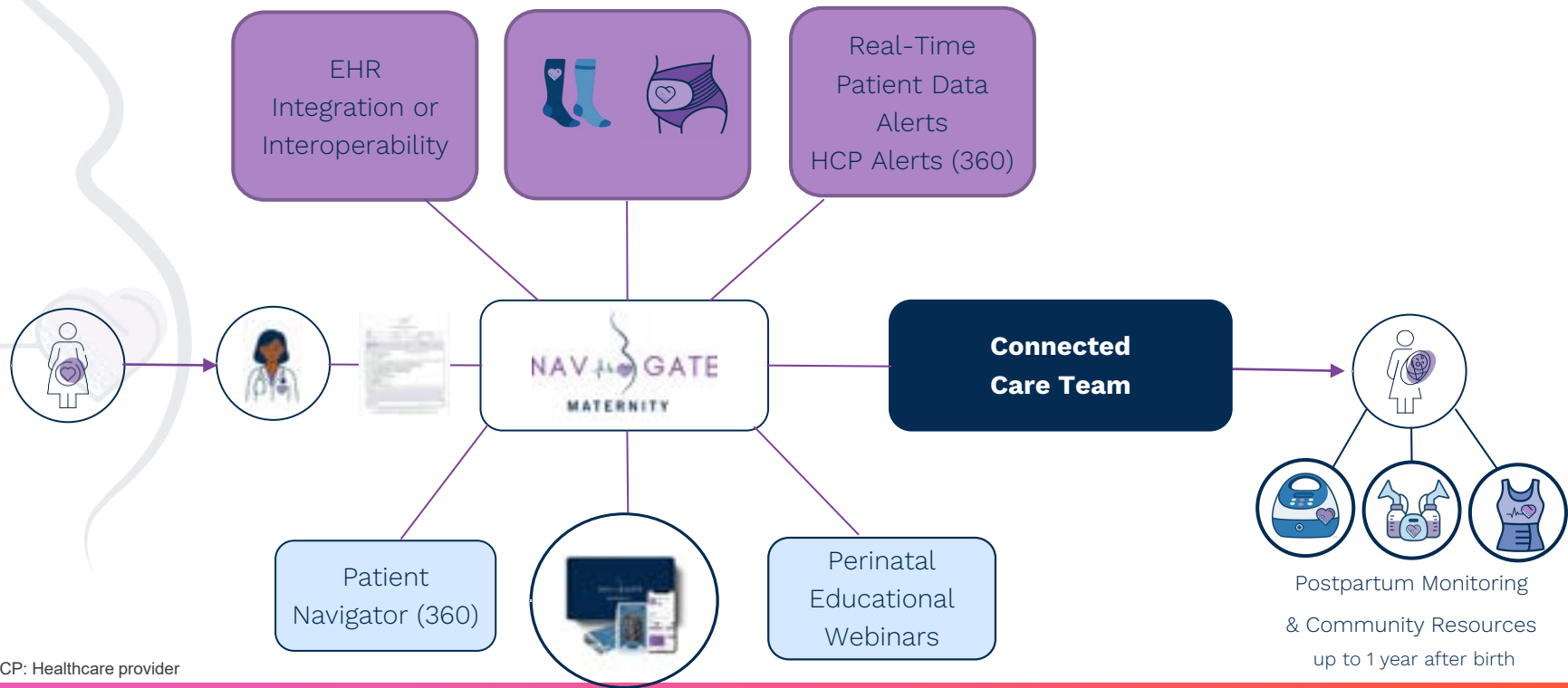
61 Active Indiana Prescribers in <1 year

Partnered with CoAction, AHA, HMB, etc.

**Passed CMS DME Accreditation = National
Expansion, 2 HRSA sites**

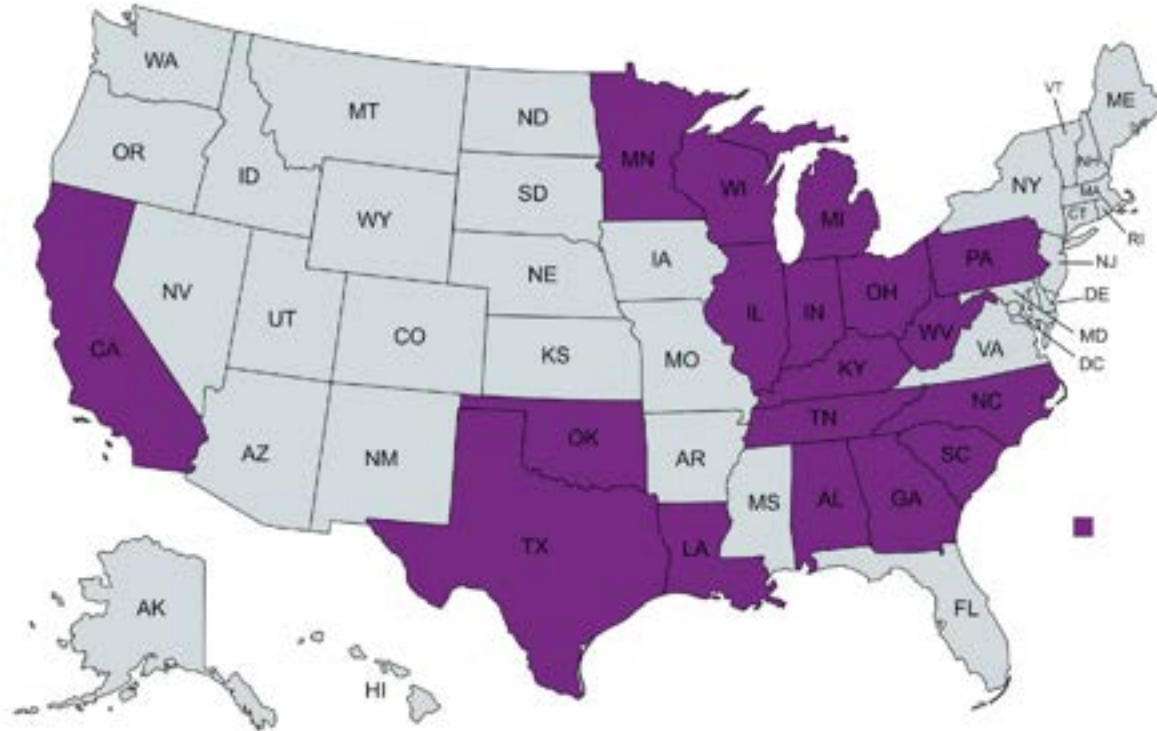


How Does Navigate Maternity Work?



*HCP: Healthcare provider

Multi-State Expansion in 2026



Navigate in the News 2025



Recognition

Competitions



Inaugural Pioneer of the Year

ARCHIMED

Innovation Grant

Innovation Challenge

Finalist

Pilot with CA Medicaid
Maternal Health Challenge

Challenge - \$100

Pilot with state of Kentucky, U of Louisville, & Humana

Startup Grand Prize

1ST Place - \$25k

Impact1 Maternal Health Competition

2nd Place - \$15k

3rd Place - \$25k



2022 Pitch Competition Winner



Women in Business Leadership Fellow Cohort



AHA's Empowered to Serve Business Accelerator Finalist



Inaugural Women's Health Cohort



Finalist Accelerator

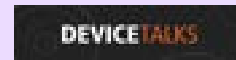


Texas Medical Center's Health Tech Cohort



Forward for Good Health Equity Accelerator \$50k

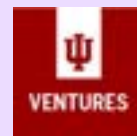
Features



DIGITAL HEALTH CEO SUMMIT



CANVAS REBEL



Join Navigate Maternity in the fight to end the maternal health crisis

For partnerships and investment:
amcgee@navigatematernity.com

Follow us

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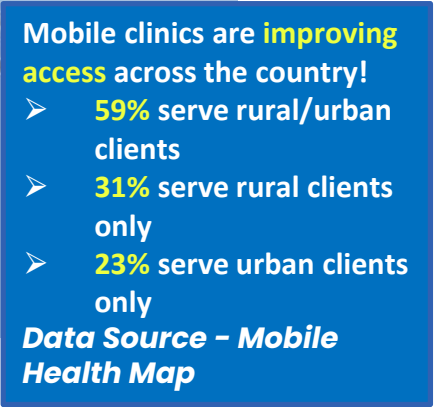


Elizabeth Wallace

Executive Director, Mobile Healthcare
Association

Mobile Healthcare Programs





Mobile Programs Reach Rural Populations

Meeting Patients Where They Are

Mobile units serving remote areas with no local clinics

Outcomes:

- Improved preventive care uptake
- Chronic care follow-up
- Reduced travel burden
- Increased access

Mobile Healthcare Lines of Service

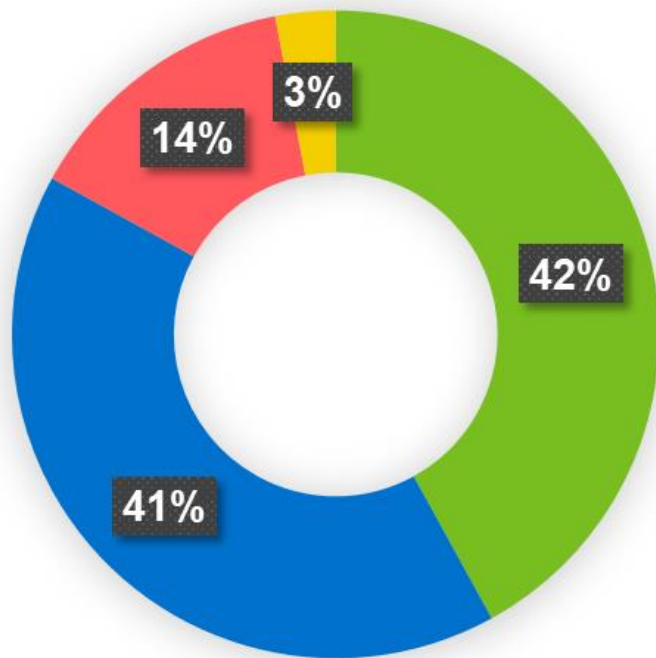
72%

Mobile Healthcare
Association members

**serve rural
communities.**

- Adult/Family Primary Care
- Cancer Screening
- Chronic Disease Management
- Harm Reduction
- Health Education
- Health Screening
- Immunizations
- Mammography
- Maternal and Infant Health
- Mental Health
- Oral Health
- Pediatrics
- Social Services
- Women's Health

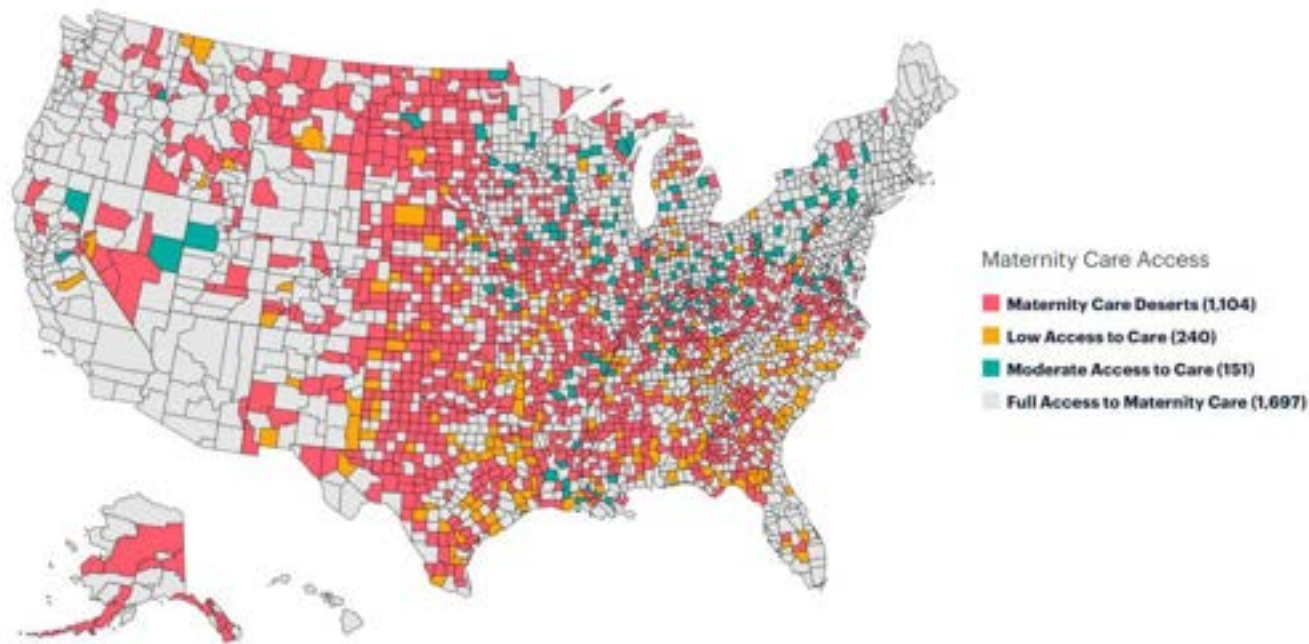
Insurance Coverage of Populations Served



- Uninsured
- Medicaid/Medicare
- Private Insurance
- Other

The Challenge: Maternal Health Deserts And Women's Health Disparities

Over **35%**
US counties
are **maternity care
deserts**.



Maternity care access designation by county, US

Innovations: Comprehensive Community Care Hubs



Knowledgeable Neighbor Model

Building long-term community relationships to improve:

- Chronic disease detection
- Self-management
- Adherence

This model includes **community health workers** and **social service navigators** embedded within mobile teams, linking patients with support:

- Food
- Housing
- Behavioral health

Impact of Mobile Healthcare on Breast Cancer

- Participation is **2x–4x higher among rural, minority and low-income women.**
- **Expands access and promotes earlier detection** without replacing facility-based services.
- Mobile clinics screen 800–4,000+ women per year and **help reduce diagnosis disparities for underserved groups.**



A Harvey L. Neiman Health Policy Institute 2024 study.



Questions?

Please type questions in the Q&A box

Key Takeaways

- Healthier women lead healthier families, healthier communities and a healthier nation!
- We must improve the healthcare infrastructure in our rural counties and where there are “care deserts.” Federally funded initiatives should:
 - Increase the number of rural health clinics and mobile health units offering women’s health services, including maternity services
 - Strengthen the rural women’s healthcare workforce
 - Expand access to improved care via telehealth, broadband and flexible service delivery/mobile health units and ensure reimbursement parity for these services
 - Extend postpartum coverage and improve continuity of care

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Astellas
Bayer
BIO
Bristol Myers Squibb
Daiichi Sankyo
Edwards Lifesciences

Eli Lilly
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Novartis
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Engage. Educate. Empower.

healthywomen.org