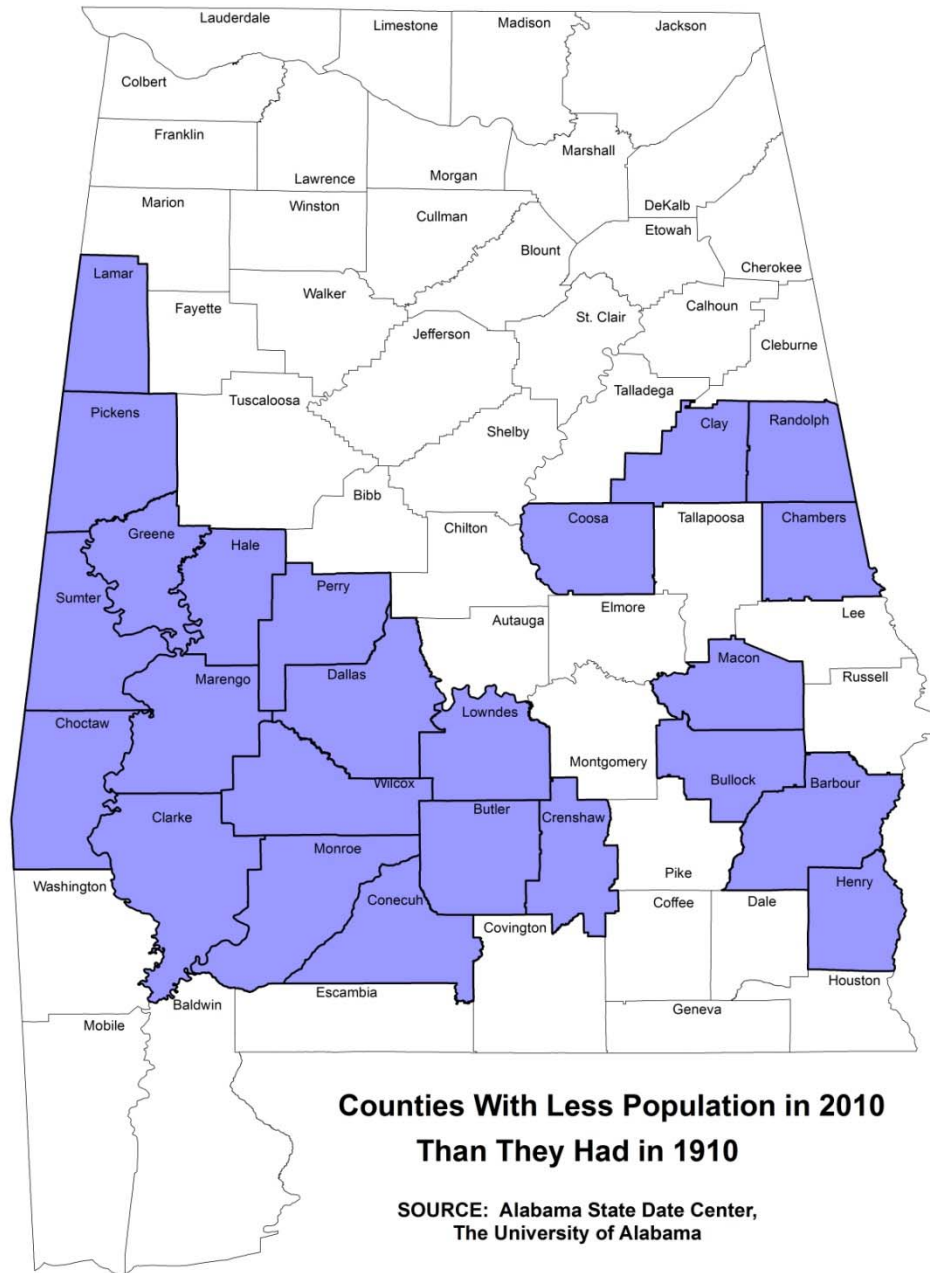


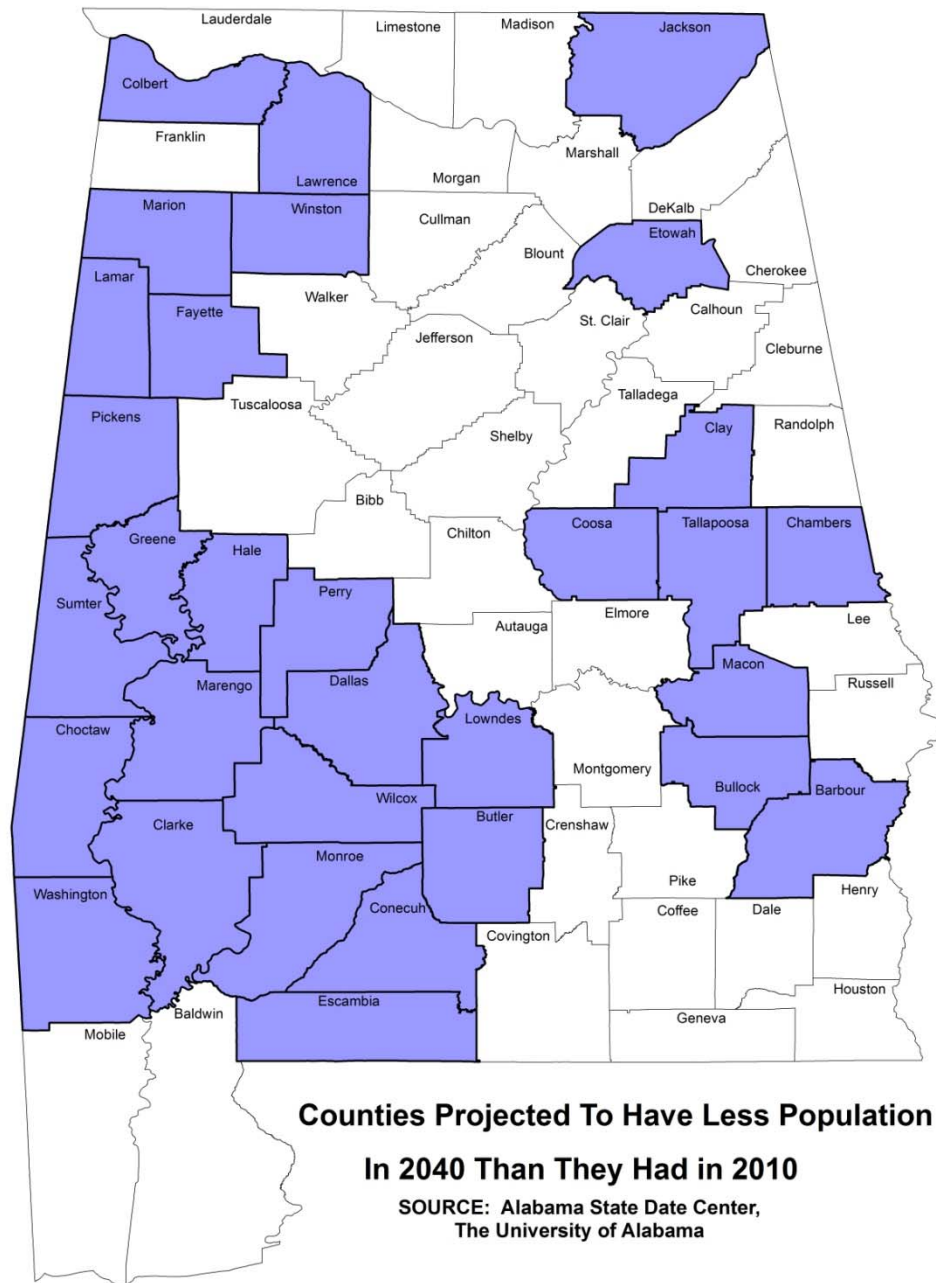
# **ALABAMA RURAL HEALTH CARE: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES**

**Dale E. Quinney, Executive Director  
Alabama Rural Health Association**

**arha@arhaonline.org  
(334)546-3502**

**46<sup>TH</sup> Annual Alabama County Government Institute  
June 24, 2016**





# GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF OUR RURAL POPULATION

Our Rural Population is

Older.

Less formally educated.

Reflective of greater ethnic diversity.

Less wealthy.

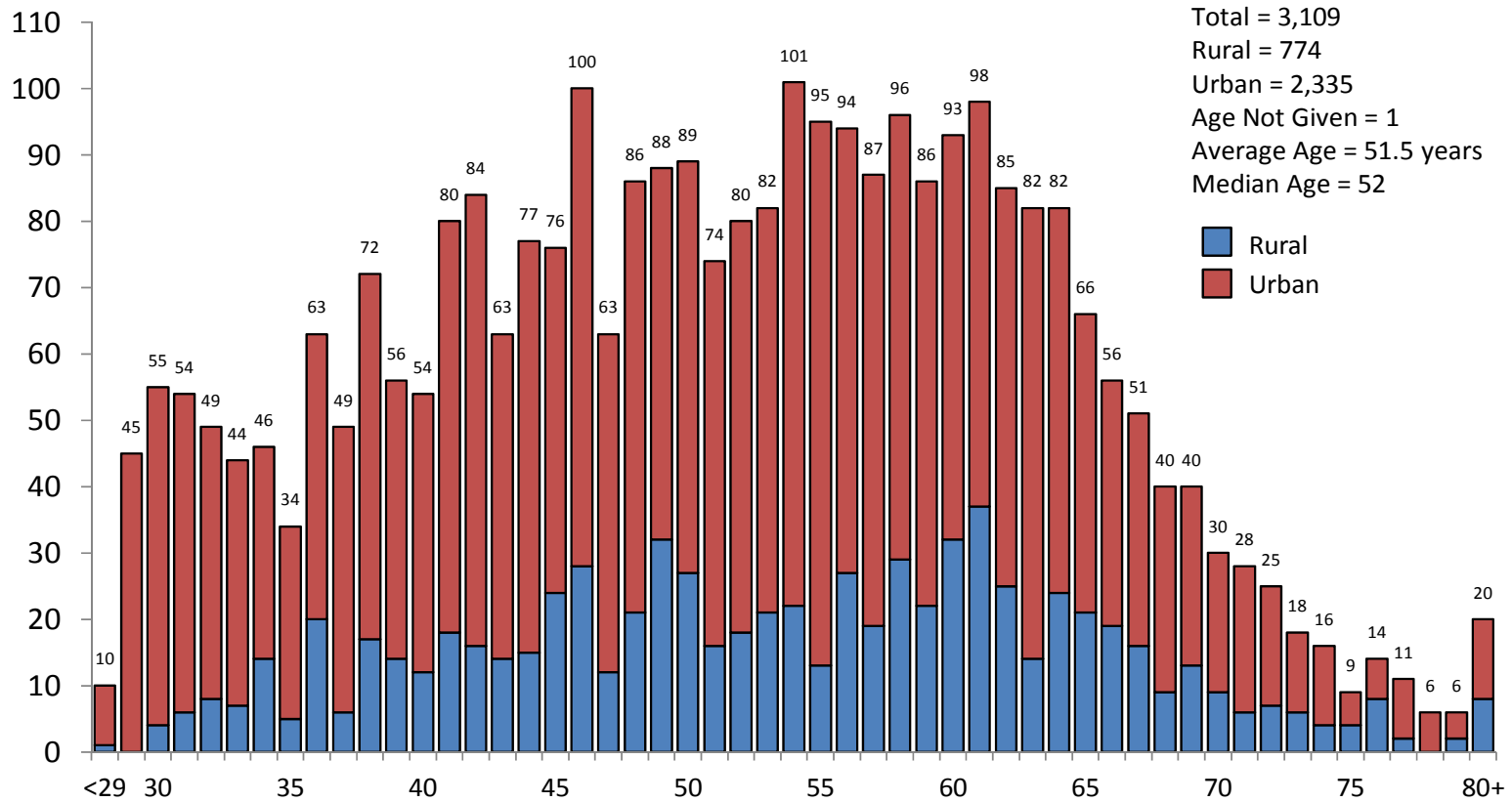
Of a less favorable general health status.

Has greater transportation concerns.

Has less health insurance.

Has higher unemployment.

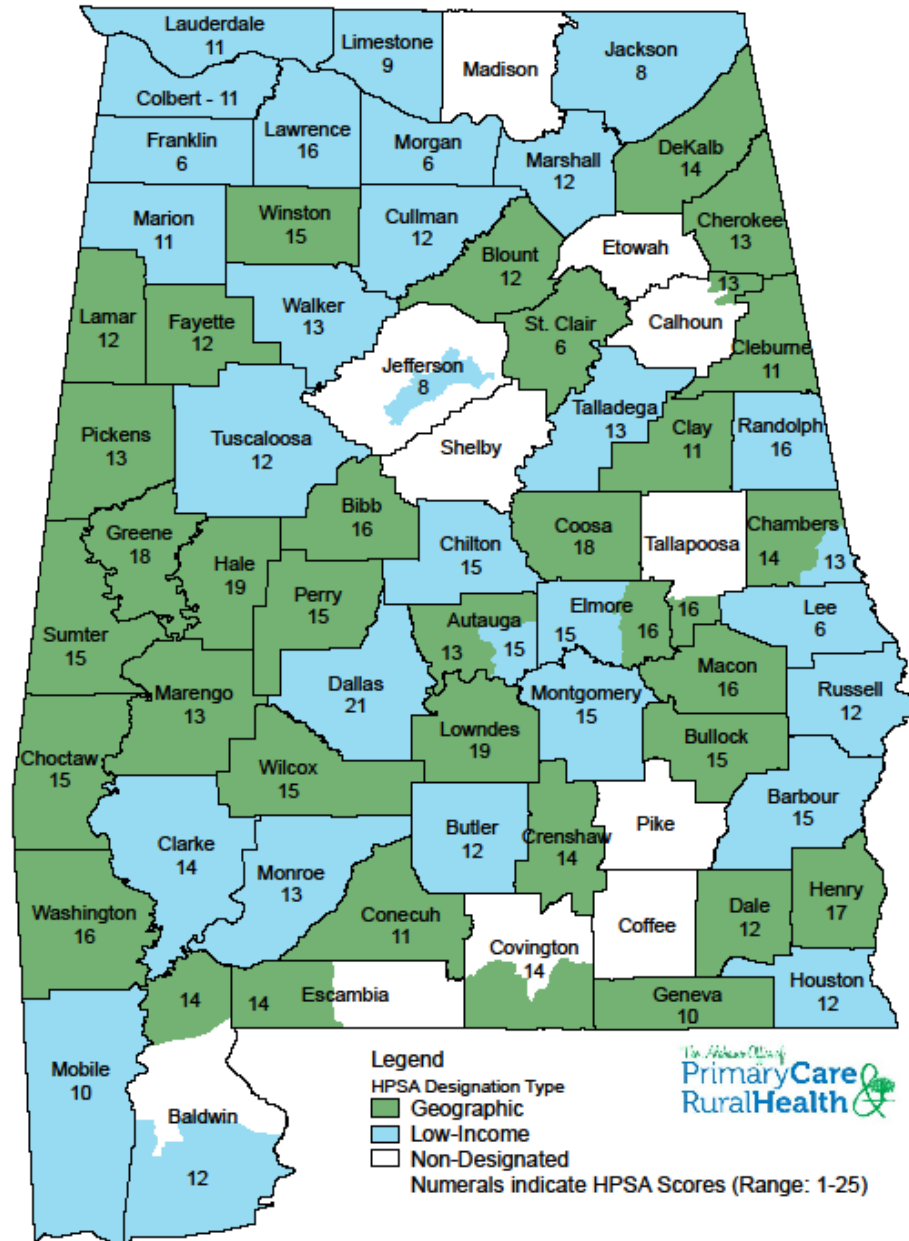
## Primary Care Physicians Actively Practicing in Alabama's Rural and Urban Counties by Age, 2015



SOURCE: Alabama Medical Licensure Commission's 2015 Licensed Physician Data Base.

# Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Areas May 2015

Debra Robbins (334) 206-5441 or Debra.Robbins@adph.state.al.us



### Legend

HPSA Designation Type

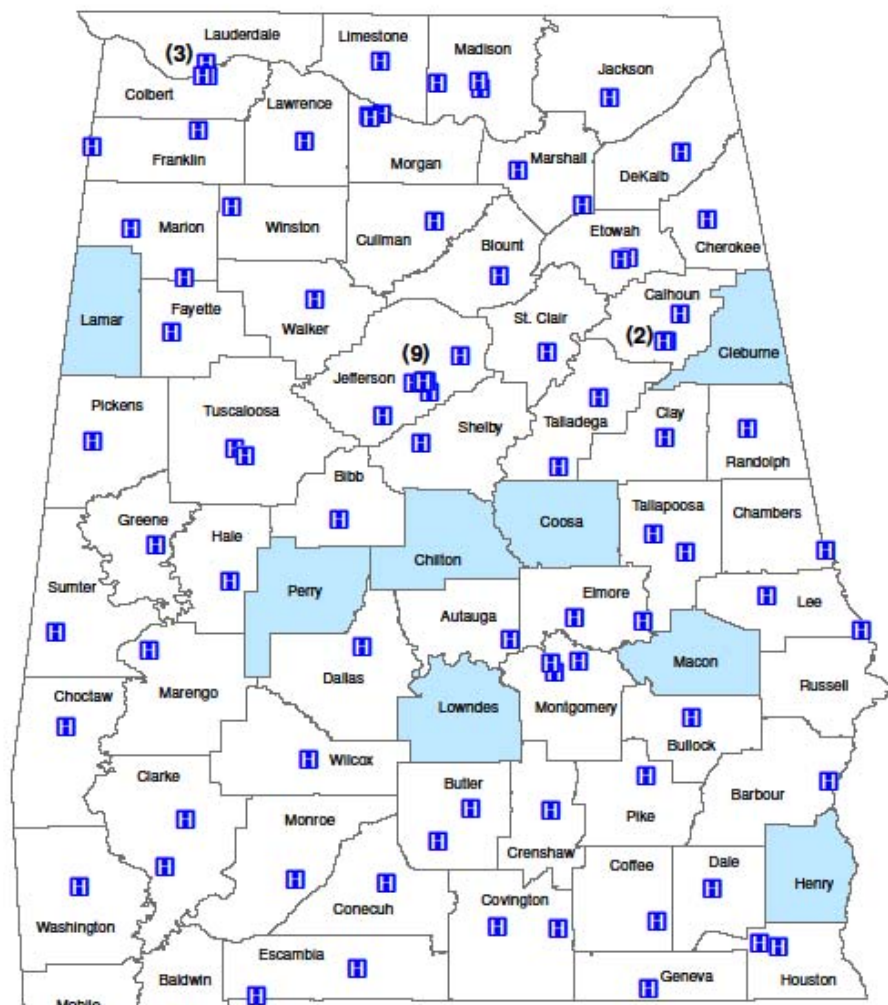
Geographic

Low-Income

Non-Designated



Numerals indicate HPSA Scores (Range: 1-25)



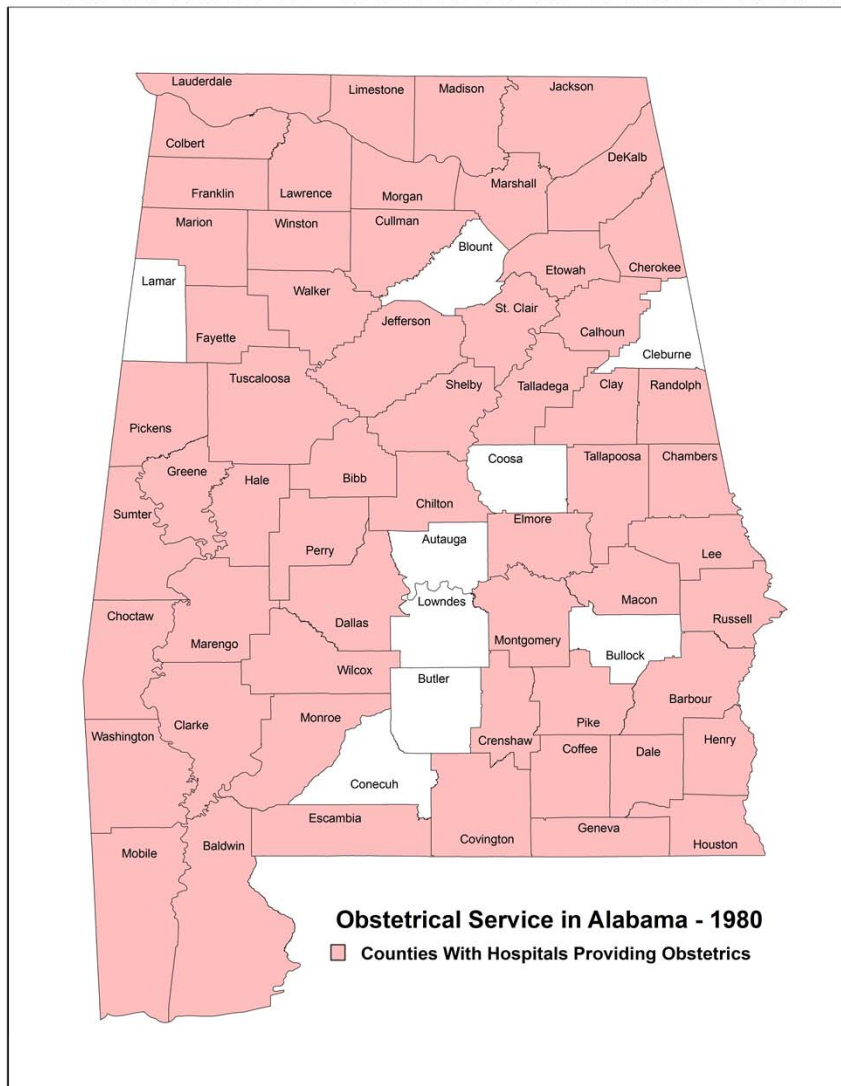


**General Hospitals in Alabama - September 2015**

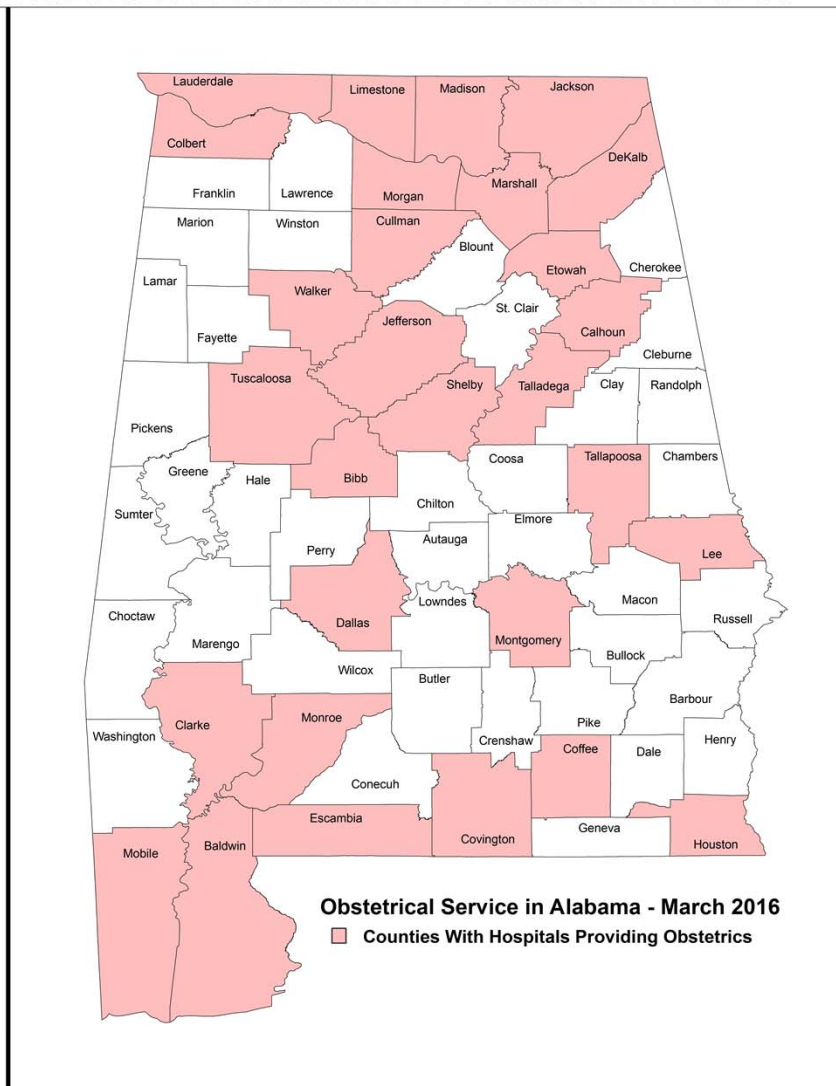
Totals in parentheses indicate the number of hospitals in urban areas where this is not clear.

-  General Hospitals
-  Counties With NO General Hospital

# A PICTURE OF THE LOSS OF RURAL OBSTETRICAL SERVICE IN ALABAMA SINCE 1980



**45 of the 54** counties currently considered **RURAL** had hospitals providing obstetrical service in **1980**



**16 of the 54** counties currently considered **RURAL** have hospitals providing obstetrical service **TODAY**



# **PART OF THE SOLUTION: TELEHEALTH / TELEMEDICINE**

**Increases access to health care**

**Improves health outcomes**

**Reduces health care and other costs**

**Assists in addressing shortages of healthcare  
providers**

**Supports clinical education programs**

**Better utilization of mid-level practitioners and nurses**