Southwest Rural Health Research Center

The Southwest Rural Health Research Center (SRHRC) was established, and originally funded, in 2000 as a Rural Health Research Center by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP). The mission of the SRHRC is to conduct policy-relevant research focused on understanding and addressing the health needs of rural and underserved populations, including reducing health disparities and improving capacity of rural health systems to deliver services.

Current FORHP-funded projects include:

- Trends and Predictors of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) in Light of the Opioid Crisis
- Predictors and Barriers to Achieving Immunization in Rural and Urban Areas
- Variations in Travel Burdens Associated with Access to Care Between Rural and Urban Residents
- Trends in Preterm Birth by Rural Status in the U.S.

Other SRHRC research projects have focused on chronic disease (including diabetes), mental health and substance abuse services, community health workers in rural and border regions, Medicaid policy, quality differences in rural and urban nursing homes and assisted living centers, health professional shortages, patient-centered medical homes, and reducing barriers to cancer screenings such as colonoscopy. Since 2010, the SRHRC has supported nearly 100 research publications on these topics and related issues.

The SRHRC was responsible for producing the historic Rural Healthy People 2010, a companion document to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s Healthy People 2010, establishing significant rural health priorities for the first decade of the 21st century. The SRHRC website has been a popular tool for graduate students, scientists and health care professionals. In 2012, SRHRC conducted a nationwide survey of rural stakeholders, which served as the basis for the updated Rural Healthy People 2020. The two volume Rural Healthy People 2020 was published in 2015 and is available free-of-charge from https://srhrc.tamhsc.edu.

Research Focus

- Chronic Disease Management
- Rural and Minority Disparities
- Health Law and Ethics Issues
- Cancer Screening, Training, Education and Prevention
- Women’s Health Issues
- Long-term Care
- U.S.-Mexico Border Region Health Disparities
- Obesity and Disability
- Community-based Participatory Research
- Intimate Partner Violence
- Opioid Misuse Epidemic

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