



# Transportation Shortages are Barriers to Child Health Access

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1. Children's Health Fund, New York, NY

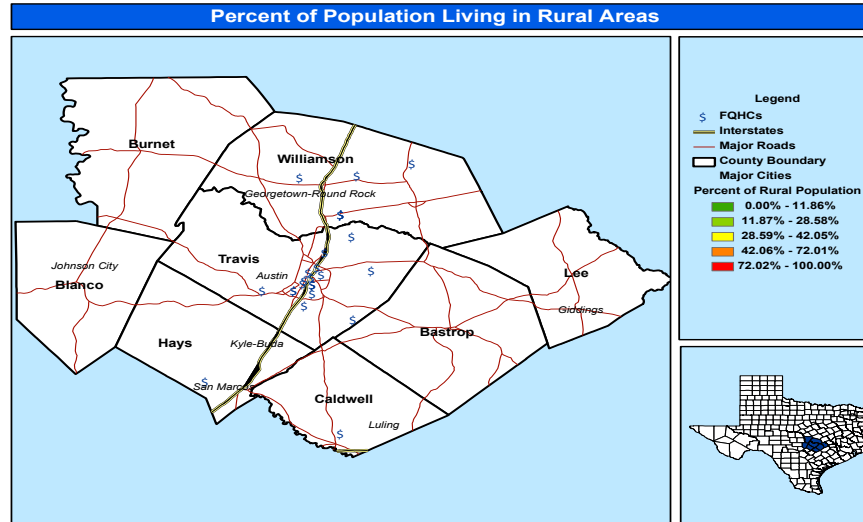
2. Grand Valley State University, Allendale MI

## BACKGROUND

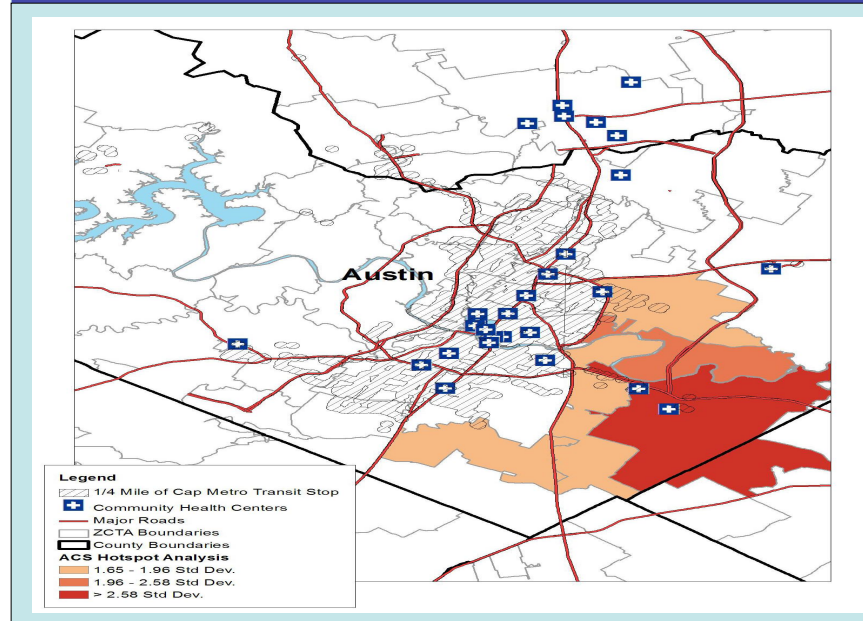
- The Affordable Care Act will benefit children primarily by reducing the number who are uninsured
- Insurance does not equal access
- 65 million Americans live in designated health professional shortage areas (HPSA)
- Fewer providers means longer travel distances to get care
- Availability of transportation is key to health care access..

## STUDY DESIGN: THREE DATA SETS

- National survey conducted by Children's Health Fund (CHF) and Marist College Institute for Public Opinion (2006). Random digit dial telephone methodology; N=1,819.
- Delta Regional Poll conducted by Mississippi State University & Delta State University (2011). Random sample of telephone numbers from 11 MS Delta counties; N=1,008.
- GIS-based, combining Census Bureau data with Texas Dept. of Health hospital pediatric discharge data for ambulatory care sensitive conditions. Public transit routes and federally qualified health centers were mapped. Focus on Austin and Houston, Texas.



## HIGH ED USE: RURAL, POOR, NO PUBLIC TRANSIT, FAR FROM FQHC



## KEY FINDINGS

- Each year 7% of children in households with annual income <\$50,000/year miss or do not schedule a child health appointment because transportation is unavailable
- In rural areas, 10% of children miss health care because of transportation
- In rural areas there are significantly longer travel distances and lack of available public transportation
  - Only 25% of rural residents reported public transit was available
- Families in rural areas have significantly more difficulty finding a usual source of pediatric care
  - Associated with higher emergency department (ED) use for routine care
- Automobile ownership did not vary significantly by type of community and was highest (91%) in rural areas
- At the zip code level, higher ED use was associated with not having a car