

BARRIERS TO HEALTHCARE IN ARIZONA

Health Workforce Issues

- Unequal patient to primary care provider ratios
- Long travel distance to clinic
- Telemedicine availability & technology capability
- Time constraints during visit

Socioeconomic Factors

- Uninsured-13.5% of Arizona
- Poverty level- 14% of Arizona
- Lack of transportation

Health Profession Shortage Areas

- Primary care
- Mental health
- Dental
- Lack of Medicare-certified rural health clinics
- Developmental delay specialist.

Cultural Discrimination

- Provider lack of understanding of health beliefs, practices, and needs of diverse cultures/populations.
- Language barrier

Economic Stability

- Poverty-14% of Arizona
- Unemployment
- Lack of high school education
- Medical cost

Geographic Isolation

- Rural and frontier communities
- Long travel times
- Border patrol checkpoints

Strategies for Improving Health Access

- Incentivize providers to work in designated healthcare shortage areas and specialties.
- Develop more discounted/sliding scale clinics, mobile clinics, and programs to assist individuals with financial barriers.
- Leverage telehealth availability in all communities.
- Develop community-based initiatives to educate and engage people in healthcare services.
- Provide healthcare professionals with cultural competency training.
- Implement health literacy campaigns for patients to navigate the healthcare system.
- Implement interventions that increase high school graduation rates.
- Develop and implement programs and policies that make food, housing, healthcare, and education more affordable.
- Employment program, career counseling, jobs, education opportunities to low-income and unemployed populations.

References:

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