



# Lack of Access to Pre & Post-Natal Care in Forest County, Wisconsin

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## Overview of Forest County

- Population 9,003 (2020 Census).
- County seat is Crandon.
- Reservations for The Forest County Potawatomi Community and the Sokaogon Chippewa Community
- Median household income 2016-2020 - \$48,394
- Population density - 9.2 people per sq mile
- Main towns of Forest County - Crandon, Laona, Wabeno
- Local economy includes manufacturing, service industries, health care, marine services, tourism, agriculture, and small businesses

## Forest County Healthcare

- Defining the problem - County health rankings:
  - Ranked in the lowest quartile among Wisconsin counties for both health outcomes and health factors
  - Teen Birth Rate overall - 26/1000 (age 15-19)
  - American Indian & Alaska Native - 62
  - White - 17
  - Limited access to healthy foods - 14% vs WI avg 5% vs US avg 2%
- One clinic in Crandon, no hospitals
- Pharmacies in Crandon and Laona
- Grocery store in Crandon, Family Dollar in Laona
- Tribal health and wellness center
- Parks in each town

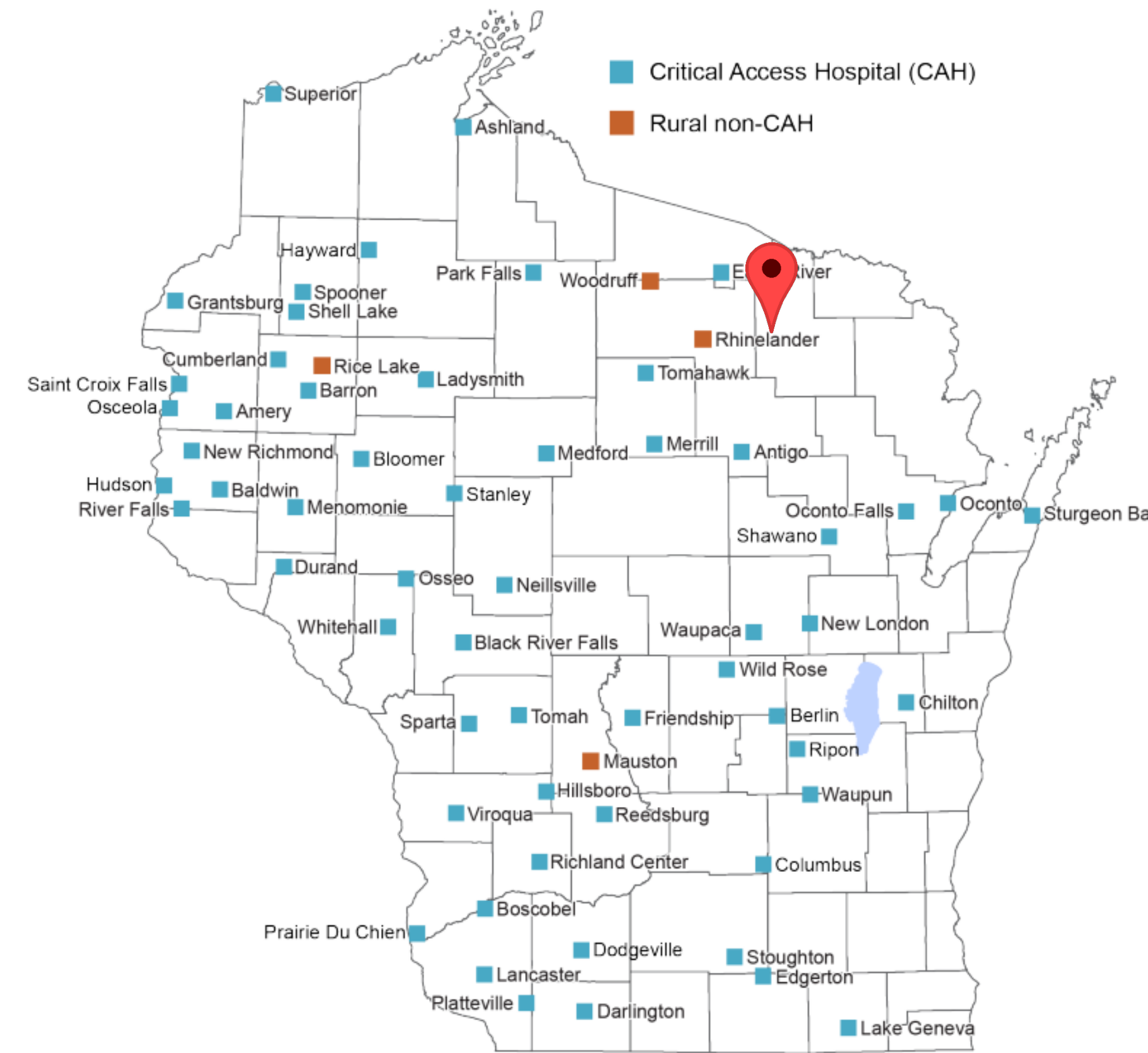
## Community interviews & major takeaways

- Sami Hoffman - County Health Director
- Steffany Weber - WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counselor
- Sarah Genke - Clinic Services Administrator at Forest County Potawatomi Health Center
- No OB/GYN in the county, no pediatricians
  - Hard time finding pediatrician or OB that they like or trust in Rhinelander or Antigo
- Clinic in Crandon regular NPs, MD/DO that visits once a week
  - Community perception = clinic does not provide prenatal care
- No public transportation
- Effects: Many premature births, struggle with immunization
- County maternal and child health nurse

## References

1. Cochrane-Lewin 2010
2. Andrews 2004
3. Forest County, Wisconsin | County Health Rankings & Roadmaps
4. Obstetric Delivery Services and Workforce in Rural Wisconsin Hospitals, <https://worh.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/ObstetricServicesReport2018Revised.p>

Map 1. CAHs and Rural Non-CAHs in Wisconsin



## Potential Interventions

- CenteringPregnancy groups
  - Partner with NPs at Crandon Clinic
  - Train community health workers
  - Could be relatively inexpensive with donation of space
- Leveraging workforce groups such as: Community health workers, midwives and nurses
  - Provide outreach, education, referral and follow-up, case management, advocacy, and home visiting services
- Increasing maternal health workforce sustainability
  - Programs such as University of Wisconsin-Madison's Rural OB-GYN Residency, which provides the opportunity for medical students and residents in rural hospitals and clinics
- Home visiting programs
  - Home visits from community health workers or health nurses provide families with information supports and access to early childhood support
- Community-based mobile reproductive health clinics
  - Provide reproductive health services such as screening tests, pre- and post-natal care, health education, and referrals

Map 3. Drive Times to Obstetric Delivery Services

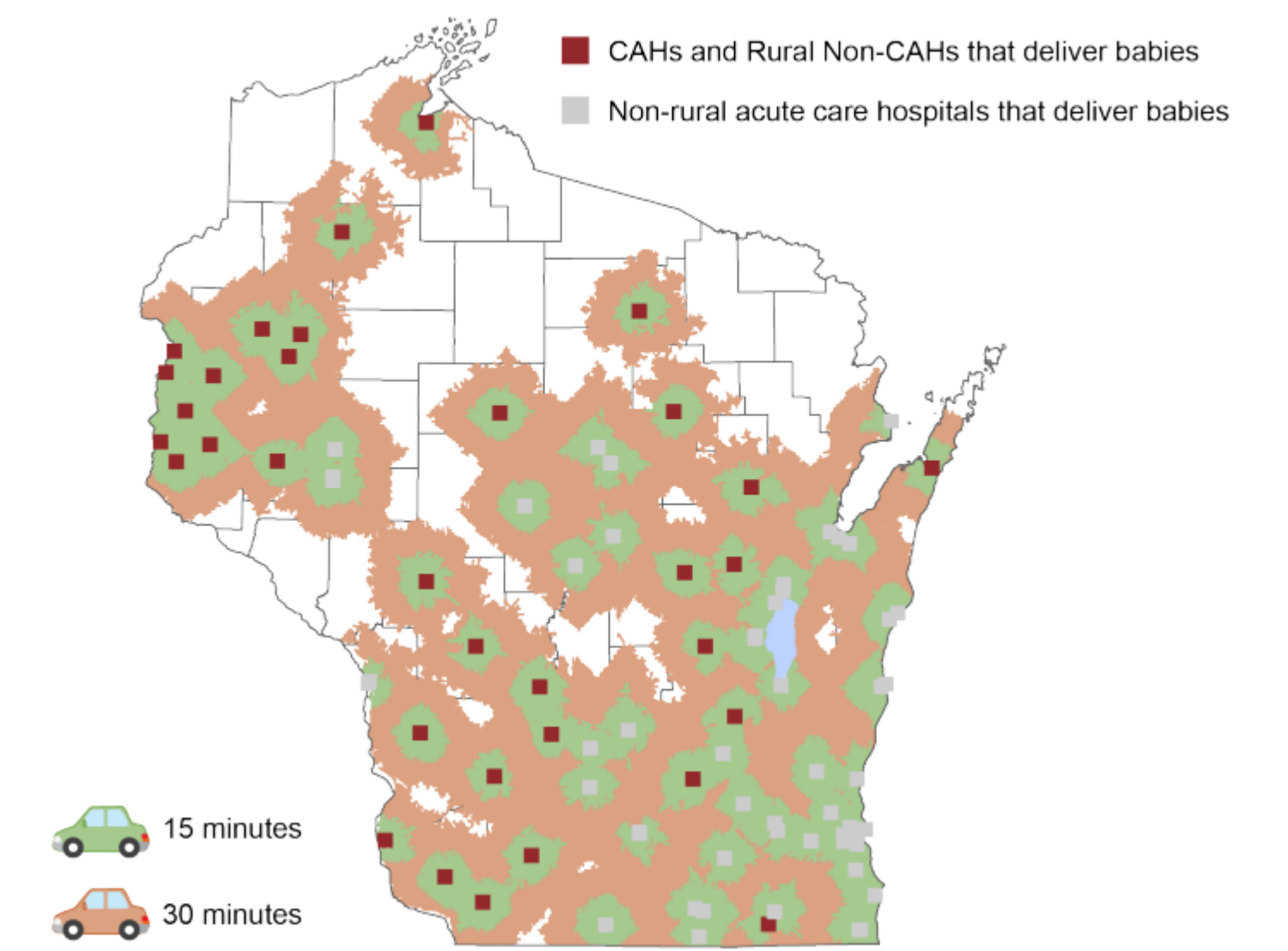
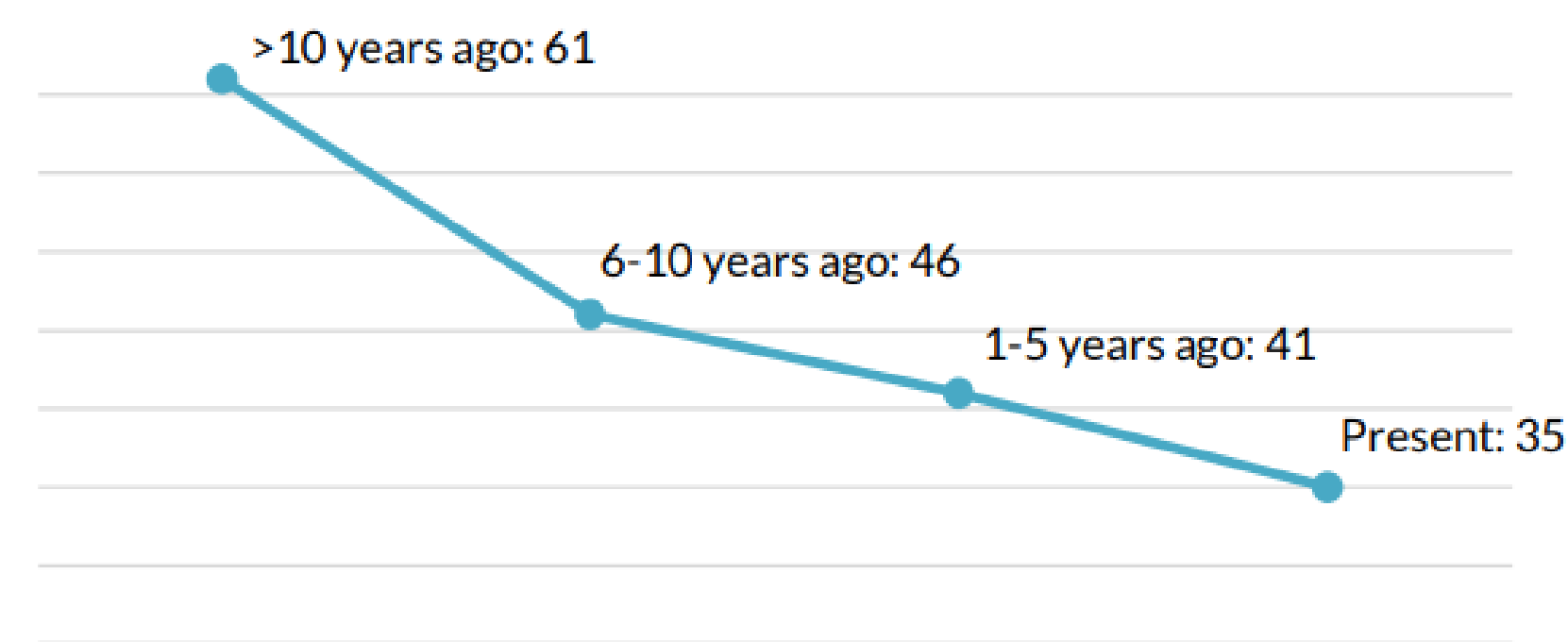


Figure 3. Number of Rural Hospitals Providing Obstetric Deliveries



## Funding

- Title V MCH Services Block Grant program
- Maternal & Child Health, Health & Human Services on Women's Health, and Indian Health Service
  - Rural Specific:
  - Federal Office of Rural Health Policy
  - Rural Maternity and Obstetrics Management Strategies (RMOMS) Program
- Medicaid Program