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Health Awareness for Rural Communities (HARC) Data Bank Improves Access to Rural and Frontier County-Level Health Data

The Health Awareness for Rural Communities (HARC) Data Bank comprises over 100 health measures, allowing users big picture insight into large population health trends from all 47 rural and frontier counties in Colorado.

Denver, CO – The Colorado Rural Health Center (CRHC) has launched the Health Awareness for Rural Communities (HARC) Data Bank, which enhances access to streamlined data sharing and collaboration for rural healthcare providers, communities and other interested stakeholders.

“As advancements toward a data-driven healthcare system continue, the need for aggregated and accurate rural health data is growing,” said Michelle Mills, CRHC’s chief executive officer.

The HARC Data Bank is a collective of over 100 population health measures. It contains demographics, health indicators and projections from all 47 rural and frontier counties in Colorado – everything from expected emergency room visits to the rate of colorectal cancer deaths and number of adults with high blood pressure.

As the State Office of Rural Health, CRHC serves not only as a valuable resource for rural health facilities, but the clearinghouse for information concerning rural health.

“HARC aligns with the mission of CRHC, while increasing the knowledge and understanding of rural population health,” says Mills. “Using data to tell the story of rural communities is a key component for understanding health, while also catalyzing change.”

“With so many data resources available, one may question the uniqueness of HARC,” added Mills. Through secondary analysis of publically available data, the HARC Data

Bank is the only known data bank dedicated solely for examining county-level health data for rural Colorado.

To learn more about the HARC Data Bank and the types of data available, read the HARC Issue Paper at <http://eepurl.com/T-v8H>. The HARC Data Bank is a low cost solution for presentations, raw analysis, infographics, or highly customized reports. CRHC's ability to analyze the data based on the user's customized interest also makes the HARC Data Bank a novel resource.

About The Colorado Rural Health Center

The Colorado Rural Health Center was established in 1991 as Colorado's State Office of Rural Health. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, CRHC's serves dual roles as the State Office of Rural Health with the mission of assisting rural communities in addressing healthcare issues; and as the State Rural Health Association, advocating for policy change to ensure that rural Coloradoans have access to comprehensive, affordable healthcare services of the highest quality. For more information visit www.coruralhealth.org, call 303-832-7493, or call toll free 800-851-6782 from rural Colorado.

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