

## Background

- The National AHEC Organization (NAO) HPV Immunization Project conducted 'You Are The Key' trainings to health professionals utilizing Area Health Education Centers (AHECs) across 47 states starting in 2015.
- NAO represents a network of more than 300 AHEC program offices and centers that serve over 85% of United States counties and parishes.
- AHECs work to improve the supply, distribution, retention and quality of health professionals in rural and underserved communities.
- Specific program activities included a variety of continuing education programs meeting community needs.

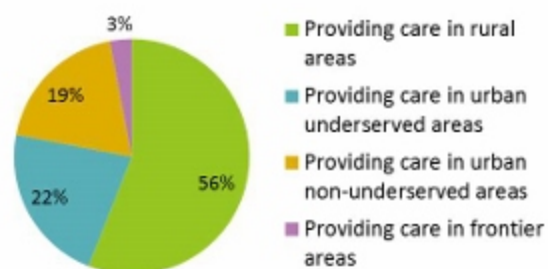
## Setting

- AHEC and NAO trained professionals in more than 750 locations, conducting face-to-face and online HPV trainings focusing on professionals serving rural and underserved populations across the country.
- Training locations many times were in smaller rural and frontier communities to meet professionals needs and limit travel and time away from their healthcare practices.
- Small community based trainings, lunch and learns, regional meetings, etc., were the norm compared to large scale HPV training programs.

## Population Served

- Over 30,000 health professionals and health professions students have participated in 750 continuing education trainings on HPV to date.
- 86% were practicing health professionals, 14% were health professions students.
- 74% of the health professionals attending national online trainings were from rural/frontier locations.
- National online HPV educational activities have reached participants in all 50 states and 8 foreign countries.

81% of the practicing professionals were from rural locations or serving locations focusing on underserved populations



***"These trainings allowed all of my staff to learn about HPV and the importance of a strong recommendation. Most of the time, trainings are only available to myself."*** - Rural Wyoming provider

## States participating in NAO HPV Immunization Project



## Conclusions

- Evaluation data show 90% or more of participants report an increase in HPV vaccine awareness, knowledge, and skills due to the trainings.
- A pilot project found that HPV vaccination rates increased from 36% in the patient population BEFORE the training to 59% AFTER the training.
- The AHECs have a strong relationship with the network of providers and health professions training programs, which helps increase the participation in training programs.
- AHECs utilize technology through webinars and telehealth systems to impact a greater number of providers.
- HPV programs provided training to all of the providers in a community, to providers serving multiple counties, and multiple solo providers in health profession shortage areas.