


# SERA 19 Rural Health



## Who we are...

SERA-19 Rural Health is a multi-state information exchange group comprised of professionals that are concerned about the health and well-being of communities across the Southern region. The representatives, including professionals in the land-grant system, offices of rural health, medical and nursing schools, and state health departments, promote collaboration among the disciplines involved.

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## What we do...

- ❑ Conduct collaborative research and program development
- ❑ Sponsor conferences
- ❑ Publish position papers, reviews
- ❑ Develop multi-state projects
- ❑ Develop curricula (Southern Rural Health Institute)
- ❑ Hold regular meetings to network, share resources and generate ideas and partnerships

## Why we're here...

Health and health care is the leading challenge facing communities across the Southern United States. Increasing chronic disease coupled with mounting fiscal pressure threatens communities' access to care, the economic viability of the health care system, and the health and well-being of individuals, families and communities. In the mid-1980s, a group of individuals from multiple disciplines and states came together to exchange ideas and experiences in response to the growing complexity of health care infrastructure, access and policy issues, and the resulting economic impact. In 1990, this group formally organized as the Southern Extension and Research Activity Information Exchange Group (SERA-IEG) 19, focusing on rural health. This network of research, Extension and health professionals is building collaborative partnerships to improve community health and well-being and welcomes new members.

## Our Goal...

To exchange information and resources to improve the health of Southern rural populations and communities through:

- ❑ New community-based participatory research
- ❑ Translation of research into practice
- ❑ Health programs and evidence-based practices
- ❑ Health care policy and advocacy
- ❑ Southern regional perspective of health issues
- ❑ Public-private coalition development
- ❑ Health care services planning tools
- ❑ Health care financing issues and education
- ❑ Community-based health education and promotion programming addressing:
  - Maternal, child, adolescent and adult health
  - Rural occupational safety and health
  - Health disparities

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**SERA-IEG**

**Southern Extension and Research Activity Information Exchange Group**  
<http://srdc.msstate.edu/sera19>