

How healthy is Alabama's health care system?

Arise Citizens' Policy Project is holding listening sessions around the state to find out.



- What do people think about the availability, effectiveness and cost of health care and health coverage?
- How well does the network of doctors, clinics, hospitals, pharmacies and insurance providers serve Alabamians' needs?
- What are the large and small barriers to health care access?
- What changes could make a real difference, and how can we achieve those changes?

Access to health care is a matter of life and death.

- More than 600,000 Alabamians lack health insurance.
- One out of every five working-age Alabamians is uninsured.
- Alabamians without insurance are sicker and die younger than those who are insured.
- Families USA estimates that 12 Alabamians die every week because lack of insurance reduces their access to medical care. That's 600 people every year. Nationwide, lack of health insurance kills people at twice the rate of homicide.
- Alabama is experiencing a critical shortage of doctors. According to the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, Alabama needs at least 132 more primary care physicians in strategic locations for minimum and crisis care. We need 474 more primary care doctors to provide the state with regular, preventive medical care.

Arise wants to hear how these and other health-care issues are affecting you and your community. To arrange an Arise health care access listening session for your congregation, club, civic group, neighborhood or other gathering, call (800) 832-9060 or e-mail pres@alarise.org.



And mark your calendar —

Feb. 10, 2009! Arise Health Care Access Conference, Birmingham-Southern College. The full-day conference will bring consumers, advocates, health-care professionals, faith leaders and policymakers together to consider the most pressing health care issues facing our state today.