In prenatal care, labor and delivery and postpartum care in Montana, address the lack of patient access to care, distance to care.

### Strengths
What do you do well?  
What unique resources can you draw on?  
What do others see as your strengths?

- Riverstone residency program, as well as Western Montana residency program, places family practice providers in Montana, stay local. Many interested in OB.  
- Strong midwifery programs, both lay and certified.  
- Most women have access to insurance, including Medicaid, private insurance, or IHS. Most providers take Medicaid patients.

### Weaknesses
What could you improve?  
Where do you have fewer resources than others?  
What are others likely to see as weaknesses?

- Distance patients have to travel.  
- Lack of transportation, cost of transportation.  
- Counties where the birthrate is the highest are the counties that have the greatest need, economically, medically, etc. Higher need → less resources.  
- Loss of OB at Crow hospital (could be opportunity).

### Opportunities
What opportunities are open to you?  
What trends could you take advantage of?  
How can you turn your strengths into opportunities?

- Leveraging midwife programs. Other countries, such as Canada and Australia, rely heavily on lay midwife model. Look at inviting midwives to the table to discuss access.  
- Look at safe handoff protocols from other countries, states.  
- Train indigenous midwives… look at Canada, Australia, Afghanistan models.  
- Increase confidence and skill level of OB providers and related care, such as urgent care, ED.  
- Investigate role of EMS services and transfer in terms of rural hospitals  
- Look at number of births occurring outside of hospitals

### Threats
What threats could harm you?  
What is your competition doing?  
What threats do your weaknesses expose you to?

- General trend of reduction in OB services in rural communities, including in IHS hospitals.