

# 23 Million Children Out of Reach: Mapping Pediatric Dermatology Care Deserts and Building Bridges Through ECHO

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## ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

The University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) is a HRSA Center of Telehealth Excellence and is the ECHO Hub, which provides ECHO funding. \*SA physician lead of ECHO.

Pediatric Dermatology Research Alliance (PeDRA) is an independent non-profit organization supporting research efforts in pediatric dermatology. \*SA co-mentor for grant.

Hometown Pediatric Dermatology (Dr. Sarah Asch) is a solo pediatric teledermatology focused direct care practice dedicated to the rural Upper Midwest.

Rural medical students from the University of North Dakota and the University of Arkansas collaborated to visualize the reach of this Pediatric Dermatology ECHO to care deserts that were identified by this mapping project.

## EVALUATING PEDIATRIC DERMATOLOGY ECHO SUCCESS

The Pediatric Dermatology ECHO for the Upper Midwest has been presenting monthly sessions since March 2024.

### Evaluation of impact has unique challenges:

- Multistate delivery (multiple insurances/Medicoids)
- Clinics and schools (not all insurance or clinic captured care)
- Longitudinal nature (changing cohort for before/after assessments)
- Timelines for additional impacts are long (medical students choosing dermatology and rural practice is a minimum 6 year timeline from participation in this project)

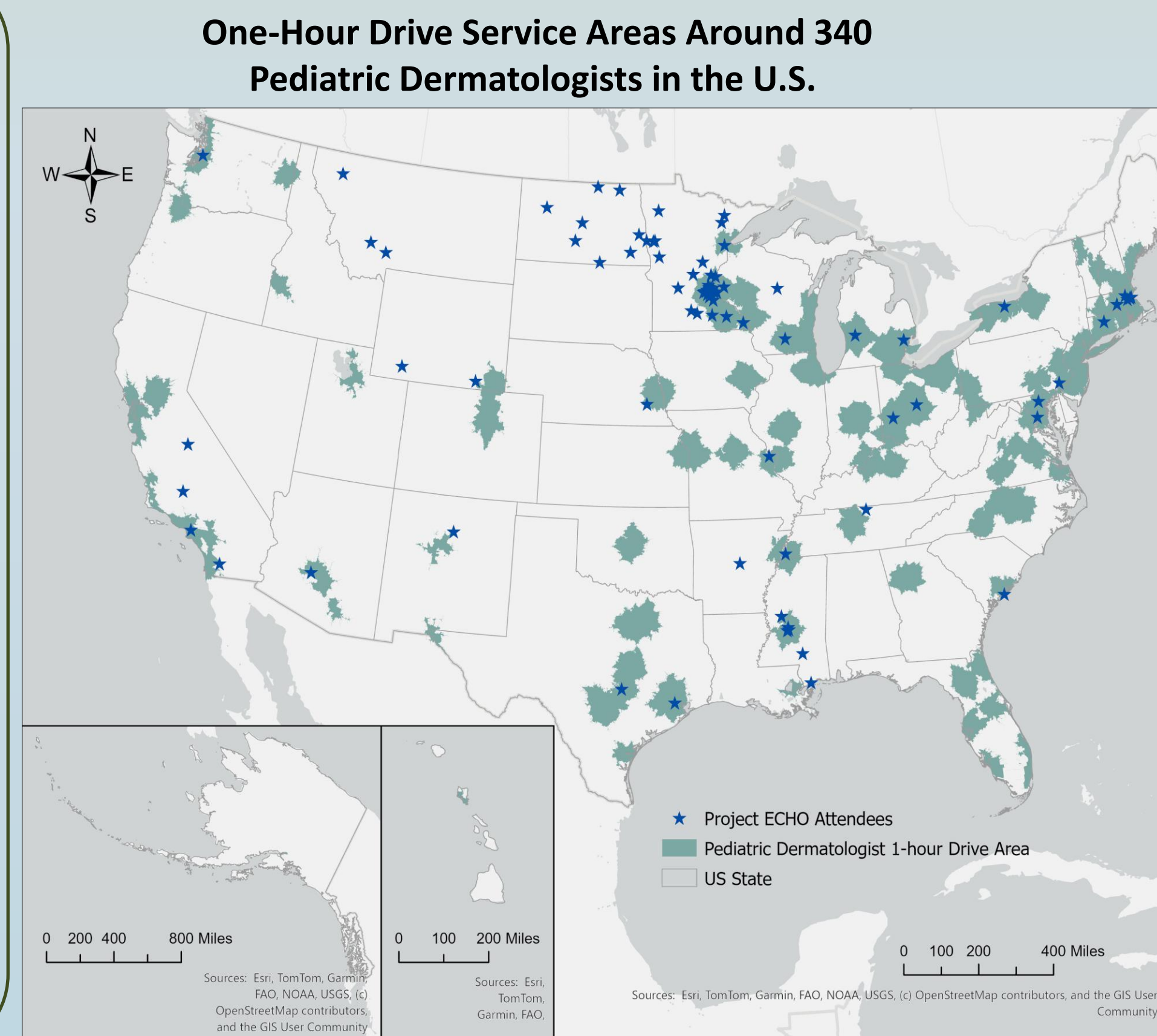
### PeDRA Emerging Investigator Grant was awarded to a medical student for geospatial mapping of true drive time service areas for children in the US.

- Dr. Asch was specifically invited into the PeDRA project as a private practice owner capable of facilitating across 2 distinct academic centers and as a member of the independent research organization.
- As a co-mentor for the PeDRA grant and ECHO physician lead, Dr. Asch facilitated the connection between these two bodies of work.

IS THIS PROJECT ECHO REACHING THE RURAL AREAS WITH GAPS IN CARE?

## Pediatric Dermatology ECHO participants are primarily outside of the physical one-hour service areas of practicing pediatric dermatologists.

- Identifying care gaps by mapping geographic access to pediatric dermatologists (Clayton Frazier)
- Provider data from Society for Pediatric Dermatology (SPD) public database
- 340 pediatric dermatologists identified; one-hour service areas around each provider was generated using road networks and speed limits
- 23+ million children (31.4%) reside beyond a one-hour drive from a provider



### Project ECHO: Pediatric Dermatology for the Upper Midwest (McKenzie Burian):

- **Who attends:** From 23 sessions, there have been 455 participants, of which 45% were physicians and 22% were school nurses.
- **Where:** 61% of participants are from the Upper Midwest, with other participants joining from across the US and beyond, including India, Ecuador, Tanzania, and Mexico
- **Clinical Impact:** From 10 sessions, of those who completed the survey and were repeat attendees, 75% report that a previous session helped at least one patient.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## OTHER TELEHEALTH AND PEDIATRIC DERMATOLOGY SERVICES

Highlighting the power of collaboration and individual successes of these distinct projects from unaffiliated sources.

Find Dr. Sarah Asch:

<https://hometownpediatricdermatology.com/>

Consulting, Direct Patient Care, Speaking, Teaching, Collaborations

Find this Project ECHO at:

<https://telehealthcoe.org/project/2111/>

Find PeDRA:

<https://pedraresearch.org>

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## FUTURE AND ON-GOING DIRECTIONS FOR PEDIATRIC DERMATOLOGY ACCESS EFFORTS

- Examining one-hour drive access in terms of race/rurality disparities; geospatial modeling to target a pediatric dermatologist in a physical clinic
- Incorporating teledermatology reach in terms of access and/or disparities for physical needs into geospatial mapping projects
- On-going sponsorship and mentorship in applications and residency Match for medical students from rural care deserts in pediatric dermatology
- Expanding access to ECHO sessions to audiences in gap areas

If you have groups that would like to join the ECHO sessions, provide us with your contact information or follow the link!

