Community Health Needs Assessment

Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center Service Area

Elgin, North Dakota

2026

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Executive Summary

To help inform future decisions and strategic planning, Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center (JMHCC) conducted a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) in 2026, the previous CHNA having been conducted in 2023. The Center for Rural Health (CRH) at the University of North Dakota (UND) School of Medicine & Health Sciences (SMHS) facilitated the assessment process, which solicited input from area community members and healthcare professionals, as well as analysis of community health-related data.

To gather feedback from the community, residents of the area were given the opportunity to participate in a survey. One hundred and two JMHCC service area residents completed the survey. Additional information was collected through five key informant interviews with community members. The input from the residents, who primarily reside in Grant County, represented the broad interests of the communities in the service area. Together with secondary data gathered from a wide range of sources, the survey presents a snapshot of the health needs and concerns in the community.

With regard to demographics, Grant County's population from 2020 to 2024 decreased by 2.5%. The average number of residents younger than age 18 (21.3%) for Grant County comes in 2.0 percentage points lower than the North Dakota average (23.3%). The percentage of residents ages 65 and older is almost 14% higher for Grant County (31.2%) than the North Dakota average (17.3%), and the rate of education is slightly lower for Grant County (89.4%) than the North Dakota average (93.8%). The median household income in Grant County ($57,875) is much lower than the state average for North Dakota ($76,657).

Data compiled by County Health Rankings show Grant County is doing better than North Dakota in health outcomes/factors for six categories.

Grant County, according to County Health Rankings data, is performing poorly relative to North Dakota in 18 outcome/factor categories.

Of 106 potential community and health needs set forth in the survey, the 102 JMHCC service area residents who completed the survey indicated the following 10 needs as the most important:

- Ability to retain primary care providers in the community
- Alcohol use and abuse – youth and adult
- Attracting and retaining young families
- Availability of home health
- Availability of resources to help the elderly stay in their homes

- Cost of long-term/nursing home care
- Depression/anxiety – youth and adult
- Not enough activities for children and youth
- Not enough jobs with livable wages
- Not getting enough exercise/physical activity

The survey also revealed the biggest barriers to receiving healthcare (as perceived by community members). They included not being able to see the same provider over time (N=30), not enough specialists (N=24), and no insurance or limited insurance (N=22).

When asked what the best aspects of the community were, respondents indicated the top community assets were:

- Safe place to live, little/no crime
- Local events and festivals
- Family-friendly, good place to raise kids
- People who live here are involved in their community
- People are friendly, helpful, and supportive
- Informal, simple, laidback lifestyle

Input from community leaders, provided via key informant interviews, and the community focus group echoed many of the concerns raised by survey respondents. Concerns emerging from these sessions were:

- Ability to retain primary care providers (MD, DO, NP, PA) and nurses
- Alcohol use and abuse
- Attracting and retaining young families
- Cost of long-term/nursing home care
- Depression/anxiety
- Not enough public transportation options, cost of public transportation

Overview and Community Resources

With assistance from CRH at the UND SMHS, JMHCC completed a CHNA of the JMHCC service area. The hospital identifies its service area as Grant County in its entirety, plus portions of Morton, Stark, Hettinger, Adams, and Sioux Counties. Many community members and stakeholders worked together on the assessment.

JMHCC is located in a frontier area and is licensed as a Critical Access Hospital with three provider-based Rural Health Clinics. One clinic is attached to the Elgin hospital, one is located 32 miles to the north in Glen Ullin, and one is located 57 miles to the northwest in Richardton. Elgin is located in southwestern North Dakota, just over an hour from Bismarck and Dickinson.

Along with the hospital, the economy is based on farming and ranching, agribusiness, service industries, and retail trade. Grant County is 1,672 square miles of land located in southwestern North Dakota. With a population of 2,247, the county has 47 townships, of which 10 are organized. The three largest cities are Elgin, Carson, and New Leipzig. Carson is the county seat.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau estimated census for 2024, the population decreased slightly from 2,304 in 2020 to 2,247 in 2024. The racial makeup of Grant County was 92.7% White. Persons in poverty was 16.3%.

Other healthcare facilities and services in Grant County include: a vision clinic, a basic care facility, a pharmacy, a clinic in Carson, and a visiting chiropractor, along with services provided by Western Plains Public Health and Grant County Social Services.

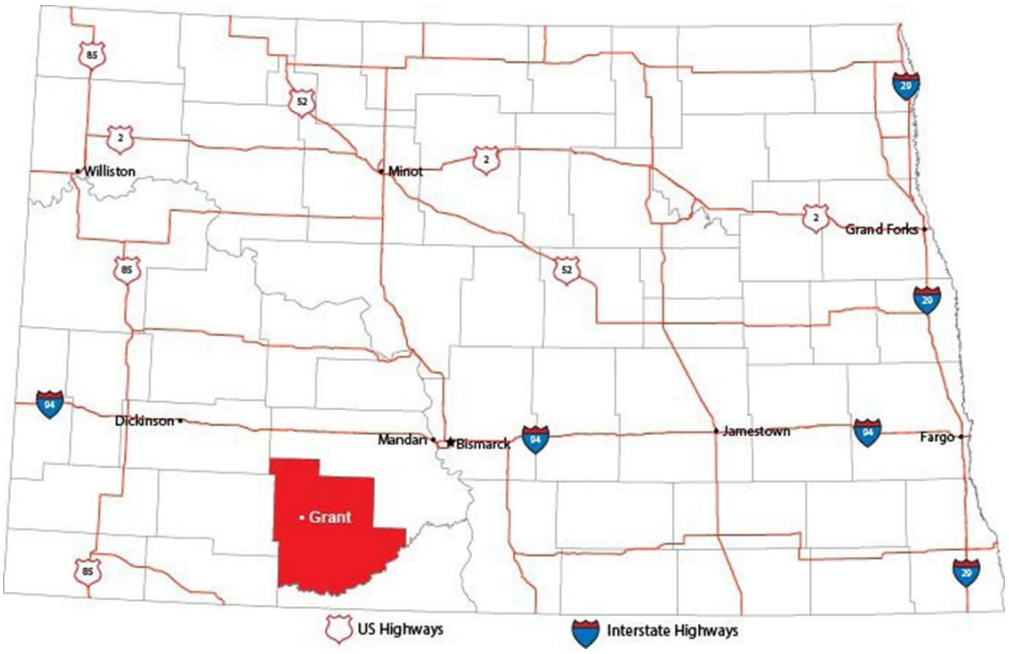
Elgin has a number of community assets and resources that can be mobilized to address population health improvement. In terms of physical assets and features, the community includes an indoor swimming pool, a nine-hole golf course, softball diamonds, a city park, and a high school weight area and football field. About 15 miles north of Elgin, Lake Tschida includes a public swimming beach, boating, camping, and fishing. Sheep Creek Dam, south of Elgin offers camping and fishing opportunities.

The Elgin-New Leipzig Public School District offers a comprehensive program for students K-12, along with a preschool program.

Grant County has public transportation through West River Transit. Elgin also has a grocery store with delivery services and a pharmacy. Two licensed day cares serve the community. A senior meals program and Meals on Wheels are available.

Figure 1 illustrates the location of the counties.

Figure 1: Grant County



Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center

Opened in 1977, JMHCC is a 30-bed Critical Access Hospital (CAH). Located in Elgin, JMHCC includes a 24/7 emergency room and three affiliated clinics: the Elgin Community Clinic, the Glen Ullin Family Medical Clinic and the Richardton Clinic. JMHCC has earned a national Performance Leadership Award for quality in both 2020 and 2021. JMHCC was also among the top 100 CAHs in 2020 and 2022. JMHCC manages the New Leipzig/Elgin Ambulance Service through the Frontier Community Health Integration Project (FCHIP). The CAH Profile for Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center, which includes a summary of hospital-specific information is available in Appendix A.

With 120 employees, JMHCC is the largest employer in Grant County and is one of the most important assets in the county. As a hospital and designated Level V trauma center, the hospital provides comprehensive care for a wide range of medical and emergency situations. JMHCC provides comprehensive medical care with physician and mid-level medical providers and consulting/visiting medical providers.

An economic impact study estimated that JMHCC had a total economic impact on Grant County of slightly over $5.2 million.

Mission

The mission of JMHCC is:

"Provide the highest quality healthcare delivered by a dedicated and compassionate team that treats the community like family."

Vision

The vision of JMHCC is:

"Create a financially sustainable rural critical access hospital that is trusted by its team and community."

Services offered locally by JMHCC include:

General and Acute Services

- Acne treatment
- Acute care
- Allergy, flu and pneumonia shots
- Ambulance service (BLS and ALS Care)
- Blood pressure checks
- Childhood vaccines
- Clinics
- Diabetes care
- Emergency room
- Family medicine and primary care
- Hospital (acute care)
- Mole/wart/skin lesion removal
- Nutrition counseling
- Observation
- Outpatient services
- Pain medication addiction treatment
- Pharmacy
- Preventive visits
- Physicals: annuals, D.O.T., sports and insurance
- Pulmonary function tests
- Respite Care
- Restorative nursing
- Smoking cessation
- Skilled nursing services
- Social work services
- Sports medicine
- Swing bed services
- Visiting nurse
- Wellness exam

Screening/Therapy Services

- Cardiac rehab
- Cardiology (visiting provider)
- Chronic disease management
- Holter monitoring
- Laboratory services
- Lower extremity circulatory assessment
- Occupational physicals
- Occupational therapy
- Pediatric services
- Physical therapy
- Psychiatry and psychotherapy services (telehealth)
- Social services
- Speech therapy

Radiology Services

- CT scans
- Echocardiograms
- EKG
- General X-ray
- MRI (mobile unit)
- Ultrasound (mobile unit)
- Mammograms (mobile unit)

Laboratory Services

- Chemistry (CMP, BMP, renal function panel, electrolytes panel, lipid profile, HbA1c or hemoglobin A1c, routine chemistry)
- Cardiac profile
- Immunoassay (PSA)
- Endocrinology (TSH)
- Toxicology (blood alcohol, urine drug testing)
- Urinalysis, urine pregnancy test
- Therapeutic drug monitoring (Vancomycin)
- Blood gas
- Hematology
- Coagulation
- Microbiology (Covid-19, Influenza A, Influenza B, RSV, Streptococcus A, C. diff)
- General immunology (monospot test, CRP, occult blood)

Services offered by OTHER providers/organizations

- Chiropractic services
- Dental services
- Drug takeback program at pharmacy
- Durable medical equipment
- Massage therapy
- Optometric/vision services
- Organ procurement
- Vision care

Western Plains Public Health

Western Plains Public Health (WPPH) is a five-county multi-district health unit providing services to people of Mercer, Oliver, Grant, Morton and Sioux Counties. It provides public health services that include environmental health, nursing services, the Women, Infants and Children program, health screenings and educational services. Each of these programs provides a wide variety of services to accomplish the mission of public health, which is to assure North Dakota is a healthy place to live and each person has an equal opportunity to enjoy good health. To accomplish this mission, Western Plains Public Health is committed to the promotion of healthy lifestyles, protection and enhancement of the environment, and provision of quality healthcare services for the people of North Dakota.

Specific services that Western Plains Public Health provides are:

- Blood pressure check
- Breastfeeding resources
- Car seat program
- Child health (well baby)
- CPR and first aid
- Emergency response and preparedness program
- Environmental health services (water, sewer, health hazard abatement)
- Health maintenance for seniors (foot care, blood pressure)
- Hepatitis C/HIV/STI testing
- Home visits (maintenance in- home care)
- Immunizations (all ages)
- Mandan Good Neighbor Project
- Member of the Child Protection Team and County Interagency Team
- Newborn home visits
- Nurse family partnership
- Nutrition education
- Preschool screening
- School health – vision, hearing, health education and resources to schools
- Substance abuse
- Tobacco prevention and control
- Tuberculosis testing and management
- WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) Program
- Youth education programs (first aid, bike safety, bicycle helmet safety education

Assessment Process

The purpose of conducting a CHNA is to describe the health of local people, identify areas for health improvement, identify use of local healthcare services, determine factors that contribute to health issues, identify and prioritize community needs, and help healthcare leaders identify potential actions to address the community's health needs.

A CHNA benefits the community by:

1. Collecting timely input from the local community members, providers, and staff.
2. Providing an analysis of secondary data related to health-related behaviors, conditions, risks, and outcomes.
3. Compiling and organizing information to guide decision making, education, and marketing efforts, and to facilitate the development of a strategic plan.
4. Engaging community members about the future of healthcare.
5. Allowing the community hospital to meet the federal regulatory requirements of the Affordable Care Act, which requires not-for-profit hospitals to complete a CHNA at least every three years, as well as helping the local public health unit meet accreditation requirements.

This assessment examines health needs and concerns in Grant County. In addition to Elgin, located in the service area are the communities of Carson and New Leipzig.

CRH, in partnership with JMHCC and WPPH, facilitated the CHNA process. Community representatives met regularly in person, by telephone conference, and by email. A CHNA liaison was selected locally who served as the main point of contact between CRH and JMHCC. A steering committee (see Figure 2) was formed that was responsible for planning and implementing the process locally. Representatives from CRH met and corresponded regularly by videoconference and/or via the eToolkit with the CHNA liaison. The community group (described in more detail below) provided in-depth information and informed the assessment process in terms of community perceptions, community resources, community needs, and ideas for improving the health of the population and healthcare services. People representing a cross section demographically attended the focus group meeting. The meeting was highly interactive with good participation. JMHCC staff and board members were in attendance as well, but largely played a role of listening and learning.

Figure 2: Steering Committee

- Stephanie LaBrie, CFO, JMHCC
- Dennis Rivinius, Director, JMHCC
- Megan Maier, Teacher, Elgin/New Leipzig Public School
- Kristin Heid, Administrator, JMHCC
- Bridget Winkler, Public health nurse, WPPH
- Luann Dart, CHNA liaison, JMHCC

The original survey tool was developed and used by CRH. In order to revise the original survey tool to ensure the data gathered met the needs of hospitals and public health, CRH worked with the North Dakota Department of Health's public health liaison. CRH representatives also participated in a series of meetings that garnered input from the state's health officer, local North Dakota public health unit professionals, and representatives from North Dakota State University.

As part of the assessment's overall collaborative process, CRH spearheaded efforts to collect data for the assessment in a variety of ways:

- A survey solicited feedback from area residents
- Community leaders representing the broad interests of the community took part in one-on-one key informant interviews
- The community group, comprised of community leaders and area residents, was convened to discuss area health needs and inform the assessment process
- A wide range of secondary sources of data were examined, providing information on a multitude of measures, including demographics, health conditions, indicators, outcomes, rates of preventive measures, rates of disease, and at-risk behavior

CRH is one of the nation's most experienced organizations committed to providing leadership in rural health. Its mission is to connect resources and knowledge to strengthen the health of people

in rural communities. CRH is the designated State Office of Rural Health, which is funded by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy, Health Resources and Services Administration, and Department of Health and Human Services. CRH connects the UND SMHS and other necessary resources to rural communities and other healthcare organizations in order to maintain access to quality care for rural residents. In this capacity, CRH works at a national, state, and community level.

Detailed below are the methods undertaken to gather data for this assessment by convening a community group, conducting key informant interviews, soliciting feedback about health needs via a survey, and researching secondary data.

Community Group

A community group consisting of 17 community members was convened and first met on December 15, 2025. During this first community group meeting, group members were introduced to the needs assessment process, reviewed basic demographic information about the community, and served as a focus group. Focus group topics included community assets and challenges, the general health needs of the community, community concerns, and suggestions for improving the community's health.

The community group met again on March 25, 2026, with 18 community members in attendance. At this second meeting, the community group was presented with survey results, findings from key informant interviews and the focus group, and a wide range of secondary data relating to the general health of the population in Grant County. The group was then tasked with identifying and prioritizing the community's health needs.

Members of the community group represented the broad interests of the community served by JMHCC and WPPH. They included representatives of the health community, business community, political bodies, law enforcement, education, agricultural community, and public health. Not all members of the group were present at both meetings.

Interviews

One-on-one interviews with five key informants were conducted in person in Elgin on December 15, 2025. A representative from CRH conducted the interviews. Interviews were held with selected members of the community who could provide insights into the community's health needs.

Topics covered during the interviews included the general health needs of the community, the general health of the community, community concerns, delivery of healthcare by local providers, awareness of health services offered locally, barriers to receiving health services, and suggestions for improving collaboration within the community.

Survey

A survey was distributed to solicit feedback from the community and was not intended to be a scientific or statistically valid sampling of the population. It was designed to be an additional tool for collecting qualitative data from the community at large – specifically, information related to community-perceived health needs. A copy of the survey instrument is included in Appendix B, and a full listing of direct responses provided for the questions that included "Other" as an option is included in Appendix F.

The community member survey was distributed to various residents of Grant County, who are all included in the JMHCC service area. The survey tool was designed to:

- Learn about the good things in the community and the community's concerns.
- Understand perceptions and attitudes about the health of the community and hear suggestions for improvement.
- Learn more about how local health services are used by residents.

Specifically, the survey covered the following topics:

- Residents' perceptions about community assets
- Broad areas of community and health concerns
- Awareness of local health services
- Barriers to using local healthcare
- Basic demographic information
- Suggestions to improve the delivery of local healthcare

To promote awareness of the assessment process, press releases led to published articles in two newspapers in Grant County, including in the communities of Elgin, Carson, and New Leipzig. Additionally, information was published on JMHCC's website and Facebook pages.

Approximately 50 community member surveys were available for distribution in Grant County. The surveys were available through JMHCC.

To help ensure anonymity, a postage-paid return envelope was included with each survey to CRH. In addition, to help make the survey as widely available as possible, residents also could request a survey by calling JMHCC or WPPH. The survey period ran from December 5, 2025, to December 19, 2025. No completed paper surveys were returned.

Area residents were also given the option of completing an online version of the survey, which was publicized in two community newspapers, emailed to all JMHCC employees and directors, shared with school staff, and placed on the websites and Facebook pages of both JMHCC and WPPH. One hundred and two online surveys were completed. Forty-five of those online respondents used the

QR code to complete the survey. In total, equating to a 11% response rate. This response rate is on par for this type of unsolicited survey methodology and indicates an engaged community.

Secondary Data

Secondary data was collected and analyzed to provide descriptions of: (1) population demographics, (2) general health issues (including any population groups with particular health issues), and (3) contributing causes of community health issues. Data was collected from a variety of sources, including the U.S. Census Bureau; Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's County Health Rankings, which pulls data from 20 primary data sources; the National Survey of Children's Health, which touches on multiple intersecting aspects of children's lives; North Dakota KIDS COUNT, which is a national and state-by-state effort to track the status of children, sponsored by the Annie E. Casey Foundation; and Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) data, which is published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Social Determinants of Health

Social determinants of health are, according to the World Health Organization,

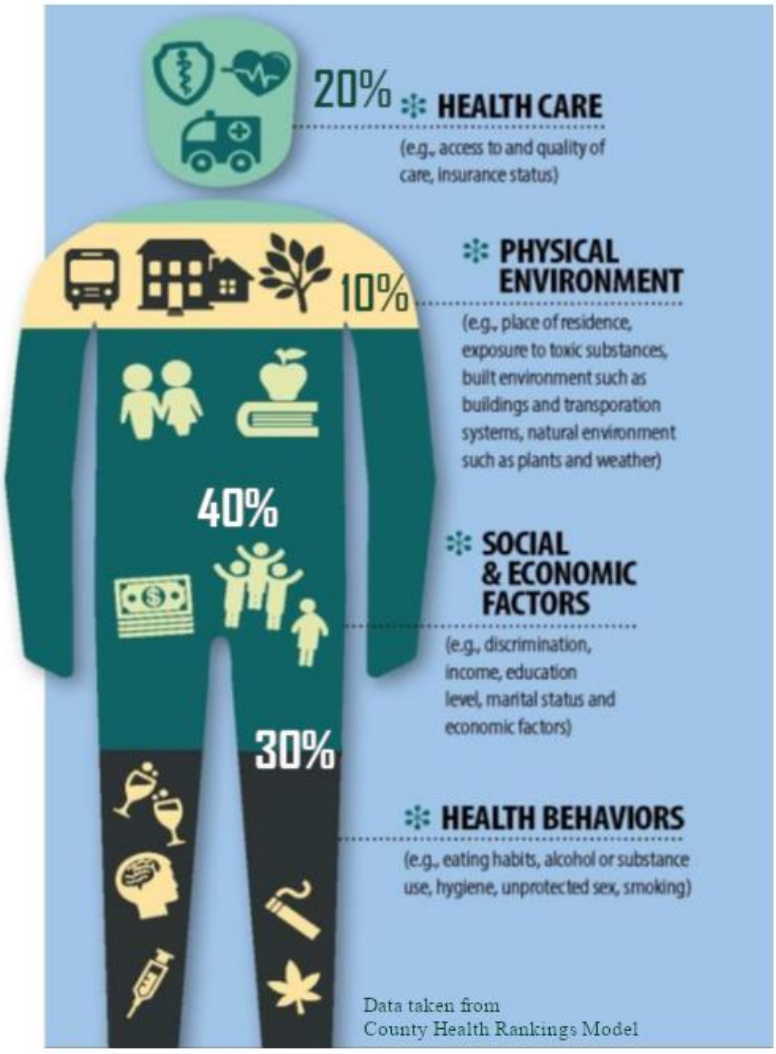
> "The circumstances in which people are born, grow up, live, work, and age and the systems put in place to deal with illness. These circumstances are in turn shaped by wider set of forces: economics, social policies, and politics."

Income level, educational attainment, race/ethnicity, and health literacy all impact the ability of people to access health services. Basic needs, such as clean air and water and safe and affordable housing, are all essential to staying healthy and are also impacted by the social factors listed previously. The barriers already present in rural areas, such as limited public transportation options and fewer choices to acquire healthy food, can compound the impact of these challenges.

There are numerous models that depict the social determinants of health. While the models may vary slightly in the exact percentages that they attribute to various areas, the discrepancies are often because some models have combined factors when other models have kept them as separate factors.

For Figure 3, data has been derived from the County Health Rankings Model and it illustrates that healthcare, while vitally important, plays only one small role (approximately 20%) in the overall health of individuals and ultimately of a community. Physical environment, social and economic factors, and health behaviors play a much larger part (80%) in impacting health outcomes. Therefore, as needs or concerns were raised through this Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) process, it was imperative to keep in mind how they impact the health of the community and what solutions can be implemented.

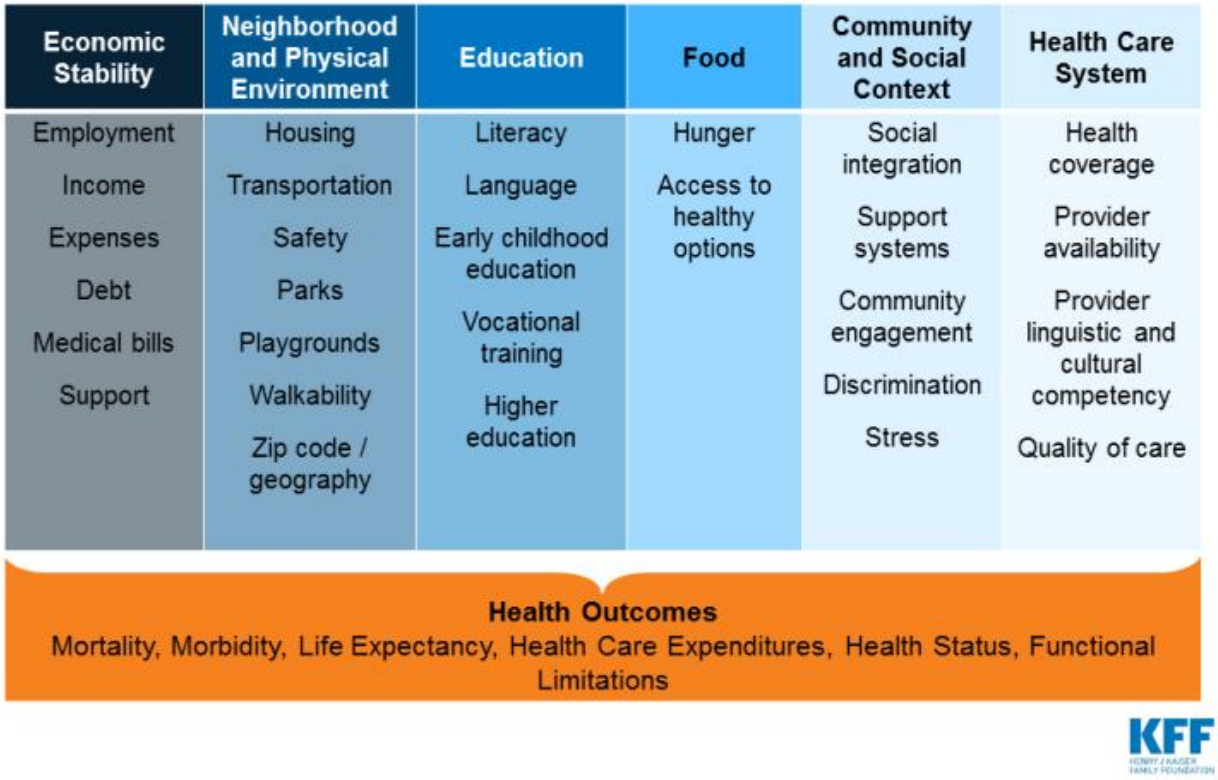
Figure 3: Social Determinants of Health



In Figure 4, the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, provides examples of factors that are included in each of the social determinants of health categories that lead to health outcomes.

For more information and resources on social determinants of health, visit the Rural Health Information Hub website.

Figure 4: Social Determinants of Health



Demographic Information

Table 1 summarizes general demographic and geographic data about Grant County.

Table 1: Grant County Information and Demographics

From 2020 Census/2020 American Community Survey; more recent estimates used where available

Demographics	Grant County	North Dakota
Population (2024)	2,247	796,568
Population change (2020-2024)	-2.5%	2.2%
People per square mile (2020)	1.4	11.3
Persons 65 years or older (2024)	31.2%	17.3%
Persons younger than 18 years (2024)	21.3%	23.3%
Median age (2024)	48.8	36.7
White persons (2024)	92.7%	85.7%
High school graduates (2019-2023)	89.4%	93.8%
Bachelor's degree or higher (2019-23)	21.2%	32.3%
Live below poverty line (2024)	16.3%	11.1%

Persons without health insurance, younger than 65 years (2024)	7.9%	7.2%
Households with a broadband internet subscription (2019-2023)	80.2%	87.5%

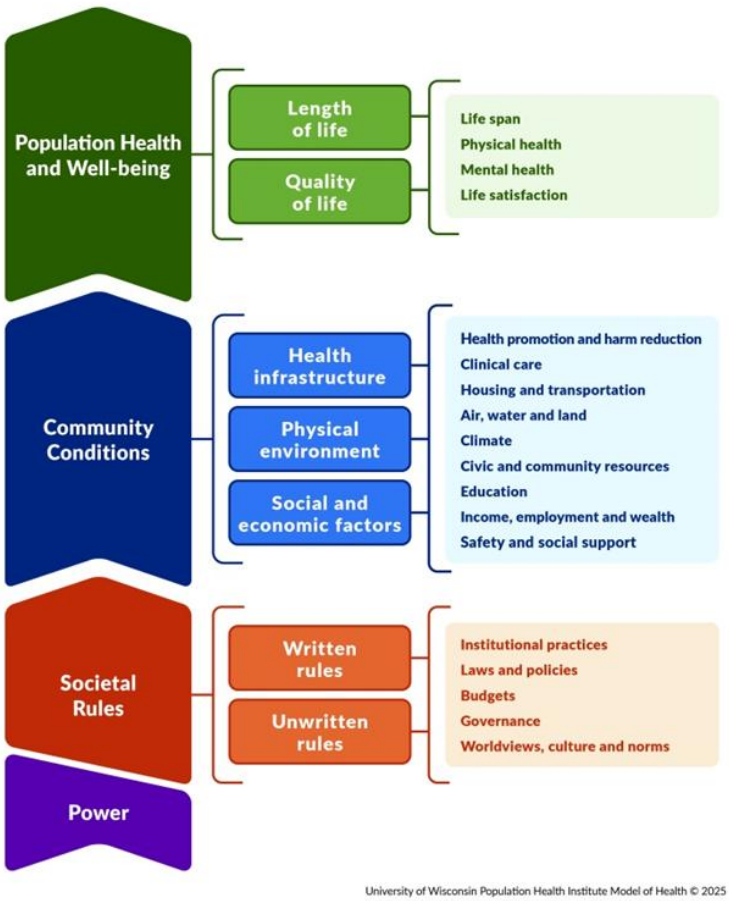
Source: https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/ND,US/INC910216#viewtop and https://data.census.gov/cedsci/profile?g=0400000US38&q=North%20Dakota

While the population of North Dakota has grown in recent years, Grant County has seen a decrease in population since 2020. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates show that Grant County's population decreased from 2,304 (2020) to 2,247 (2024).

County Health Rankings

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, in collaboration with the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, has developed County Health Rankings to illustrate community health needs and provide guidance for actions toward improved health. In this report, Grant County is compared to North Dakota rates and national benchmarks on various topics ranging from individual health behaviors to the quality of healthcare.

The data used in the 2024 County Health Rankings are pulled from more than 20 data sources and are compiled to create county rankings. Counties in each of the 50 states are ranked according to summaries of a variety of health measures. In 2024, County Health Rankings moved away from having ranks, such as 1 or 2, which would be considered the "healthiest." Their focus now is on allowing users to find counties who are experiencing similar conditions, whether it be across state lines or across the county, to collaborate and create solutions.



A model of the 2024 County Health Rankings – a flow chart of how a county's rank is determined – may be

found in Appendix C. For further information, visit the County Health Rankings website at www.countyhealthrankings.org.

Table 2 summarizes the pertinent information gathered by County Health Rankings, as it relates to Grant County. It is important to note that these statistics describe the population of a county, regardless of where county residents choose to receive their medical care. In other words, all of the following statistics are based on the health behaviors and conditions of the county's residents, not necessarily the patients and clients of Western Plains Public Health (WPPH) and Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center (JRMCC) or of any particular medical facility.

For most of the measures included in the rankings, the County Health Rankings' authors have calculated the "Top U.S. Performers" for 2022. The Top Performer number marks the point at which only 10% of counties in the nation do better, i.e., the 90th percentile or 10th percentile, depending on whether the measure is framed positively (such as high school graduation) or negatively (such as adult smoking).

The data from County Health Rankings shows that Grant County is doing poorly in three of the five outcome rankings compared to the rest of the state on all but two of the outcomes. However, Grant County is doing better in two areas when it comes to the U.S. Top 10% ratings.

On health factors, Grant County performed below the North Dakota average for counties in several areas as well.

Data compiled by County Health Rankings show Grant County is doing better than North Dakota in health outcomes and factors for the following indicators:

- Uninsured
- Unemployed
- Severe housing problems
- Mental health provider to patient ratio
- Air pollution – particulate matter

Outcomes and factors in which Grant County was performing poorly compared to the rest of the state include:

- Poor or fair health
- Poor physical health days (in past 30 days)
- Poor mental health days (in past 30 days)
- Adult smoking
- Adult obesity
- Food environment index
- Physical inactivity
- Access to exercise opportunities
- Alcohol-impaired driving deaths
- Dentists per capita
- Preventable hospital stays
- Mammography screening percentage
- Flu vaccination percentage
- Children in poverty
- Income inequality
- High school completion rate
- Social associations
- injury deaths

Table 2: Selected Measures from County Health Rankings 2025

Measures	Grant County	U.S. Top 10%	North Dakota
Ranking: Outcomes			
Premature death		8,100	7,800
Poor or fair health	19%	17%	14%
Poor physical health days (in past 30 days)	3.8	3.9	3.4
Poor mental health days (in past 30 days)	4.7	5.1	4.5
Low birth weight		8%	7%
Ranking: Factors			
Health Behaviors			
Adult smoking	20%	13%	16%
Adult obesity	41%	34%	36%
Food environment index (10=best)	7.8	7.4	8.9
Physical inactivity	29%	23%	24%
Access to exercise opportunities	27%	84%	76%
Excessive drinking	23%	19%	25%
Alcohol-impaired driving deaths	100%	19%	39%
Sexually transmitted infections		495.0	475.3
Teen birth rate		16	14
Clinical Care			
Uninsured	11%	16%	13%
Primary care physicians		1,310:1	1,260:1
Dentists	2,220:1	1,340:1	1,430:1
Mental health providers	250:1	290:1	380:1
Preventable hospital stays	8,361	2,666	2,944
Mammography screening (% of Medicare enrollees ages 65-74 receiving screening)	31%	44%	53%
Flu vaccinations (% of fee-for-service Medicare enrollees receiving vaccination)	22%	48%	49%
Social and Economic Factors			
Unemployment	1.6%	3.6%	1.9%

Children in poverty	23%	16%	10%
Income inequality	5.6	4.9	4.5
High school completion	89%	89%	94%
Social associations	13.4	9.1	15.6
Injury deaths	133	87	80
Physical Environment			
Air pollution – particulate matter	4.8	7.3	5.5
Drinking water violations	No		
Severe housing problems	9%	17%	12%

Source: https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/health-data/north-dakota?year=2025

Children's Health

The National Survey of Children's Health touches on multiple intersecting aspects of children's lives. Data are not available at the county level; listed below is information about children's health in North Dakota. The full survey includes physical and mental health status, access to quality healthcare, and information on the child's family, neighborhood, and social context. Data is from 2023-24. Key measures of the statewide data are summarized below.

Table 3: Select Measures Regarding Children's Health
(For children aged 0-17 unless noted otherwise), 2023/24

Measures	North Dakota	National
Health Status		
Children born premature (3 or more weeks early)	10.4%	11.2%
Children 6-17 overweight or obese	29.6%	31.3%
Children 0-5 who were ever breastfed	79.7%	82.7%
Children 6-17 who missed 11 or more days of school	4.8%	6.1%
Healthcare		
Children currently insured	93.8%	92.5%
Children who spent less than 10 minutes with the provider at a preventive medical visit	14.9%	18.8%
Children (1-17 years) who had a preventive a dental visit in the past year	75.2%	76.4%
Children (3-17 years) received mental healthcare	13.5%	12.5%

Children (3-17 years) with problems requiring treatment did not receive mental healthcare	4.5%	4.6%
Young children (9-35 mos.) receiving standardized screening for developmental problems	41.4%	36.5%
Family Life		
Children whose families eat meals together four or more times per week	74.0%	73.5%
Children who live in households where someone smokes	11.6%	10.2%
Neighborhood		
Children who live in neighborhoods with parks or playgrounds	91.3%	89.3%
Children living in neighborhoods with poorly kept or rundown housing	19.0%	24.7%
Children living in a neighborhood that's usually or always safe	97.2%	95.2%

Source: https://www.childhealthdata.org/browse/survey

The data on children's health and conditions reveal that while North Dakota is doing better than the national averages on a few measures, it is not measuring up to the national averages with respect to:

- Children 0-5 years who were ever breastfed
- Children (1-17 years) who had a preventive dental visit in the past year
- Children who live in households where someone smokes

Table 4 includes selected county-level measures regarding children's health in North Dakota. The data come from North Dakota KIDS COUNT, a national and state-by-state effort to track the status of children, sponsored by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. KIDS COUNT data focuses on the main components of children's well-being; more information about KIDS COUNT is available at www.ndkidscount.org.

The data show Grant County is performing more poorly than the North Dakota average in the following areas:

- Child food insecurity
- Medicaid recipient (% of population age 0-20)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients (% of population ages 0-20)
- Victims of child abuse and neglect requiring services (rate per 1,000 children ages 0-20)

Table 4: Selected County-Level Measures Regarding Children's Health

Measures	Grant County	North Dakota
Child food insecurity, 2023	17.1%	13.6%
Medicaid recipient (% of population age 0-20), 2025	38.1%	29.9%
Children enrolled in Healthy Steps (CHIP) (% of population age 0-18), 2025	4.2%	4.3%
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients (% of population age 0-18), 2025	22.0%	21.2%
Licensed childcare capacity (# of children), 2025	98	35,310
Four-Year High School Cohort Graduation Rate, 2023/2024	NA	82.4%
Victims of child abuse and neglect requiring services (rate per 1,000 children ages 0-17), 2024	3.1%	3.0%

Source: https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data#ND/5/0/char/0

Another means for obtaining data on the youth population is through the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). The YRBS was developed in 1990 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to monitor priority health risk behaviors that contribute markedly to the leading causes of death, disability, and social problems among youth and adults in the U.S. The YRBS was designed to monitor trends, compare state health risk behaviors to national health risk behaviors, and intended for use to plan, evaluate, and improve school and community programs. North Dakota began participating in the YRBS survey in 1995. Students in grades 7-8 and 9-12 are surveyed in the spring of odd years. The survey is voluntary and completely anonymous.

North Dakota has two survey groups, selected and voluntary. The selected school survey population is chosen using a scientific sampling procedure, which ensures that the results can be generalized to the state's entire student population. The schools that are part of the voluntary sample, selected without scientific sampling procedures, will only be able to obtain information on the risk behavior percentages for their school and not in comparison to all the schools.

Youth Risk Behavior Survey

Table 5 depicts some of the YRBS data that have been collected in 2019, 2021, and 2023. They are further broken down by rural and urban percentages. The trend column shows "no change" for statistically insignificant change, "increased" for an increased trend in the data changes from 2021 to 2023, and "decreased" for a decreased trend in the data changes from 2021 to 2023. The final column shows the 2023 national average percentage. For a more complete listing of the YRBS data, see Appendix D.

Table 5: Youth Risk Behavior Survey Results

North Dakota High School Survey

Rate Increase, rate decrease, or no statistical change in rate from 2019-2021.

Behavior	ND 2019	ND 2021	ND 2023	ND Trend	Rural ND Town Average	Urban ND Town Average	National Average 2023
Injury and Violence							
% of students who rarely or never wore a seat belt (when riding in a car driven by someone else)	5.9	49.6	47.3	Decreased	62.9	42.2	39.6
% of students who rode in a vehicle with a driver who had been drinking alcohol (one or more times during the 30 prior to the survey)	14.2	13.1	14.3	Increased	17.9	12.5	15.7
% of students who talked on a cell phone while driving (on at least one day during the 30 days before the survey)	59.6	64.4	66.4	Increased	66.1	66.5	NA
% of students who texted or emailed while driving a car or other vehicle (on at least one day during the 30 days before the survey)	53.0	55.4	56.5	Increased	60.3	55.7	42.3
% of students who were in a physical fight on school property (one or more times during the 12 months before the survey)~2017/2019~ *in 2021 replaced by* % of students who carried a weapon on school property (such as a gun, knife, or club, on at least one day during the 30 days before the survey)	7.1	5.0	4.0	Decreased	4.9	3.5	4.2
% of students who experienced sexual violence (being forced by anyone to do sexual things [counting such things as kissing, touching, or being physically forced to have sexual intercourse] that they did not want to, one or more times during the 12 months before the survey)	9.2	9.4	9.5	No change	9.1	10.5	11.4
% of students who were bullied on school property (during the 12 months before the survey)	19.9	15.8	20.7	Increased	23.5	20.8	19.2

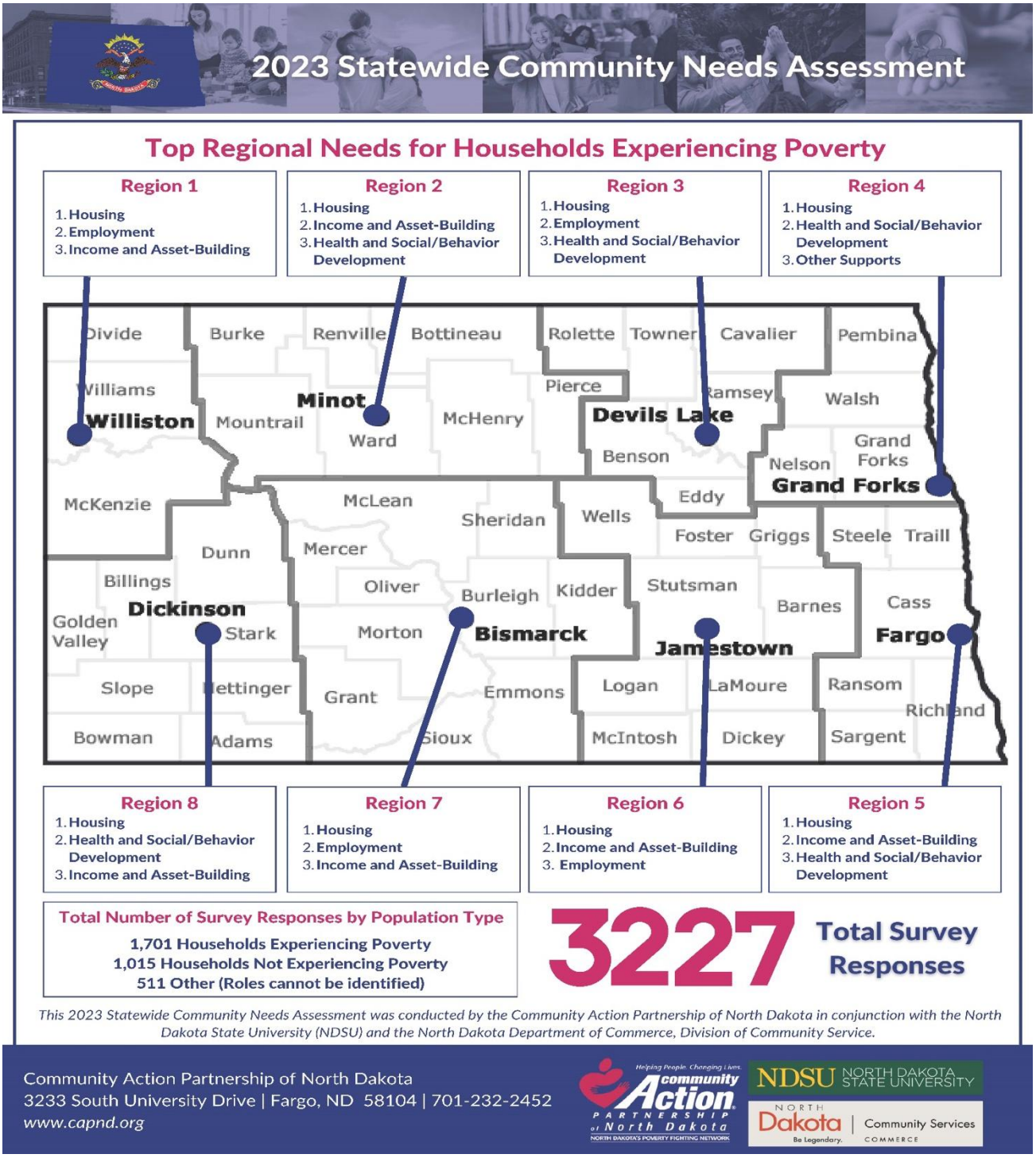
% of students who were electronically bullied (includes texting, Instagram, Facebook, or other social media ever during the 12 months before the survey)	14.7	13.6	15.4	Increased	12.5	13.3	16.3
% of students who made a plan about how they would attempt suicide (during the 12 months before the survey)	15.3	14.8	15.5	Increased	15.0	15.0	16.4
Tobacco, Alcohol, and Other Drug Use							
% of students who currently use an electronic vapor product (e-cigarettes, vape e-cigars, e-pipes, vape pipes, vaping pens, e-hookahs, and hookah pens at least one day during the 30 days before the survey)	20.6	33.1	31.6	Decreased	21.7	16.6	16.8
% of students who currently used cigarettes, cigars, or smokeless tobacco (on at least one day during the 30 days before the survey)	18.1	12.2	5.4	Decreased	7.0	4.8	17.9
% of students who currently were binge drinking (four or more drinks for female students, five or more for male students within a couple of hours on at least one day during the 30 days before the survey)	16.4	15.6	10.3	Decreased	13.2	10.1	8.8
% of students who currently used marijuana (one or more times during the 30 days before the survey)	15.5	12.5	11.4	Decreased	12.0	11.4	17.0
% of students who ever took prescription pain medicine without a doctor's prescription or differently than how a doctor told them to use it (counting drugs such as codeine, Vicodin, OxyContin, Hydrocodone, and Percocet, one or more times during their life)	14.4	14.5	9.2	Decreased	10.6	8.8	11.6
Weight Management, Dietary Behaviors, and Physical Activity							
% of students who were overweight (>= 85th percentile but <95th percentile for body mass index)	16.5	15.6	14.7	Decreased	15.6	15.2	14.7
% of students who had obesity (>= 95th percentile for body mass index)	14.0	16.3	16.3	No change	18.1	14.3	15.9

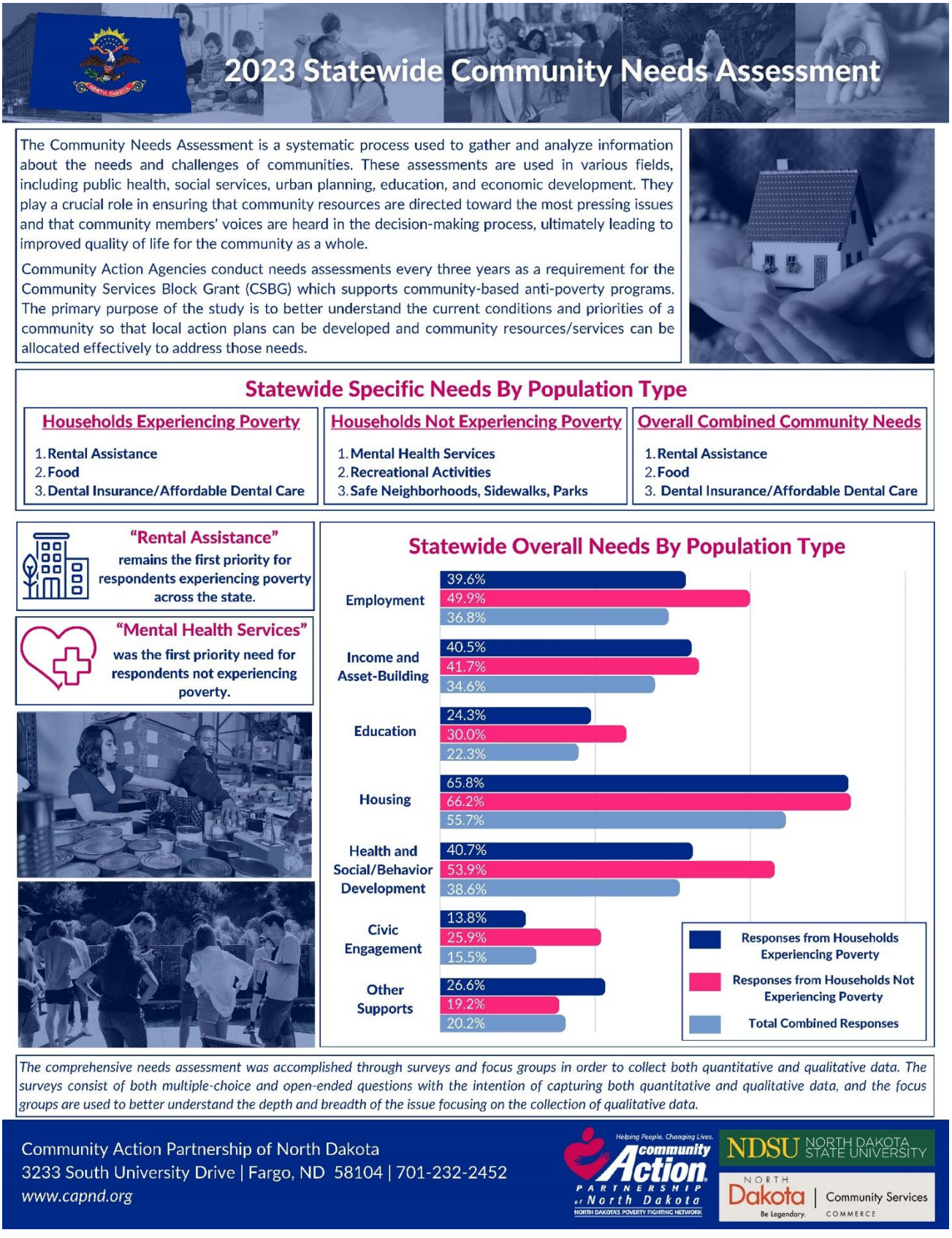
% of students who did not eat fruit or drink 100% fruit juices (during the seven days before the survey)	6.1	5.0	4.7	No change	6.0	6.1	6.7
% of students who did not eat vegetables (green salad, potatoes [excluding French fries, fried potatoes, or potato chips], carrots, or other vegetables, during the seven days before the survey)	6.6	5.9	6.8	Increased	6.5	7.2	6.8
% of students who drank a can, bottle, or glass of soda or pop one or more times per day (not including diet soda or diet pop, during the seven days before the survey)	15.9	16.6	18.5	Increased	18.0	16.8	14.5
% of students who did not eat breakfast (during the seven days before the survey)	14.4	15.1	16.7	Increased	16.5	17.1	17.9
% of students who most of the time or always went hungry because there was not enough food in their home (during the 30 days before the survey)	2.8	2.1	2.3	No change	2.7	2.8	NA
% of students who were physically active at least 60 minutes per day on five or more days (doing any kind of physical activity that increased their heart rate and made them breathe hard some of the time during the seven days before the survey)	49.0	56.5	54.5	Decreased	54.7	54.3	46.3
% of students who watched television three or more hours per day (on an average school day) *In 2021 replaced by *Percentage of students who spent three or more hours per day on screen time (in front of a TV, computer, smart phone, or other electronic device watching shows or videos, playing games, accessing the internet, or using social media, not counting time spent doing schoolwork, on an average school day)	18.8	75.7	77.2	Decreased	74.8	77.4	77.0
Other							
% of students who ever had sexual intercourse	38.3	36.6	35.2	Decreased	34.5	33.7	31.6
% of students who had eight or more hours of sleep (on an average school night)	29.5	24.5	27.5	Increased	29.8	27.5	23.2

Sources: https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrbs/results.htm;
https://www.nd.gov/dpi/districtsschools/safety-health/youth-risk-behavior-survey

Low Income Needs

The North Dakota Community Action Agencies (CAAs), as nonprofit organizations, were originally established under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 to fight America's war on poverty. CAAs are required to conduct statewide needs assessments of people experiencing poverty. The more recent statewide needs assessment study of low-income people in North Dakota sponsored by the CAAs was performed in 2023. The needs assessment study was accomplished through the collaboration of the CAAs and North Dakota State University (NDSU) by means of several kinds of surveys (such as online or paper surveys, etc., depending on the suitability of these survey methods to different respondent groups) to low-income individuals and families across the state of North Dakota. In the study, the survey data were organized and analyzed in a statistical way to find out the priority needs of these people. The survey responses from low-income respondents were separated from the responses from non-low-income participants, which allows the research team to compare them and then identify the similarity, difference, and uniqueness of them in order to ensure the validity and accuracy of the survey study and avoid bias. Additionally, two comparison methods were used in the study, including cross-sectional and longitudinal comparisons. These methods allow the research team not only to identify the top specific needs under the seven need categories, including Employment, Income and Asset-Building, Education, Housing, Health and Social/Behavior Development, Civic Engagement, and Other Supports, through the cross-sectional comparison, but also to be able to find out the top specific needs regardless of which categories these needs belong to through the longitudinal comparison.





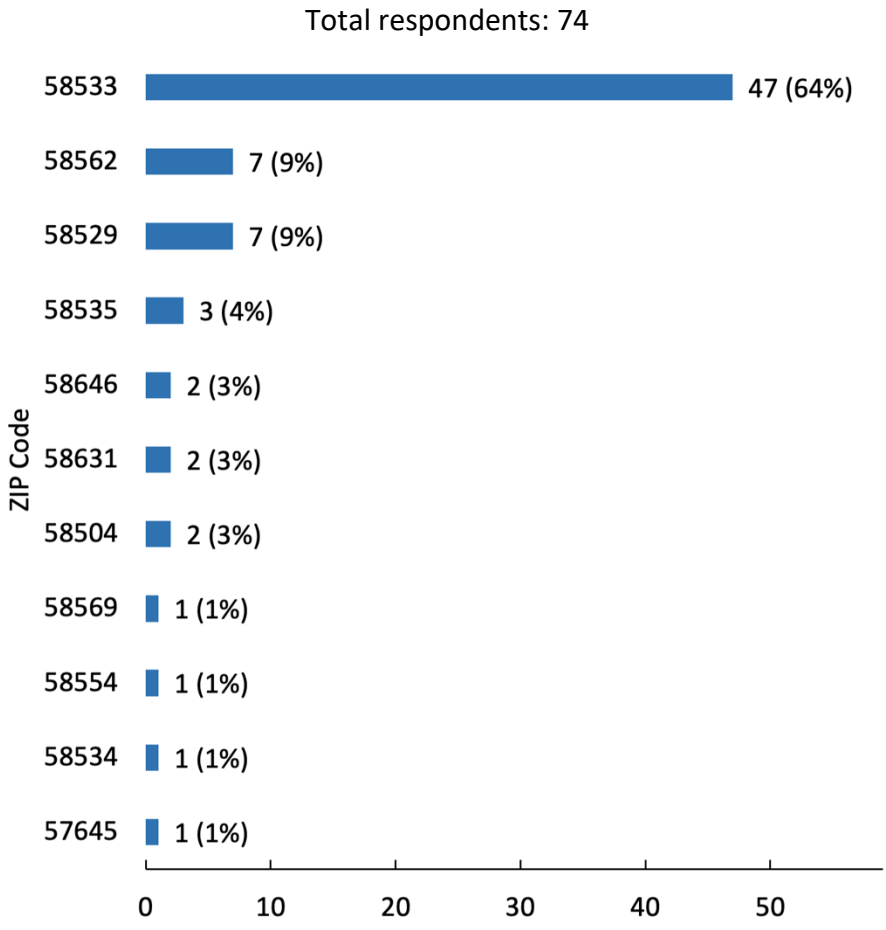
Source: [Community Action Partnership of North Dakota]

Survey Results

As noted previously, 102 community members completed the survey in communities throughout the counties in the Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center (JMHCC) service area. For all questions that contained an "Other" response, all of those direct responses may be found in Appendix F. In some cases, a summary of those comments is additionally included in the report narrative. The "Total respondents" number under each heading indicates the number of people who responded to that particular question, and the "Total responses" number under the heading depicts the number of responses selected for that question (some questions allow for selection of more than one response).

The survey requested that respondents list their home ZIP code. While not all respondents provided a ZIP code, 74 did, revealing that a large majority of respondents (64%, N=47) lived in Elgin. These results are shown in Figure 5.

Figure 5: Survey Respondents' Home ZIP Code



Survey results are reported in six categories: demographics; healthcare access; community assets, challenges; community concerns; delivery of healthcare; and other concerns or suggestions to improve health.

Survey Demographics

To better understand the perspectives being offered by survey respondents, survey-takers were asked a few demographic questions. Throughout this report, numbers (N) instead of just percentages (%) are reported because percentages can be misleading with smaller numbers. Survey respondents were not required to answer all questions.

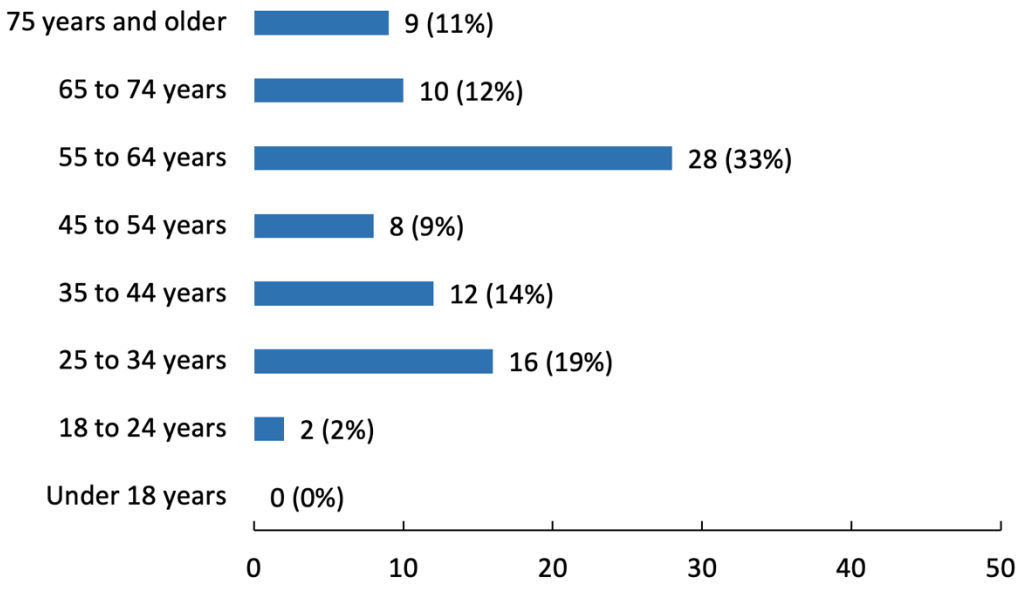
With respect to the demographics of those who chose to complete the survey:

- Fifty-six percent (N=47) were age 55 or older.
- The majority (73%, N=62) were female.
- Slightly more than half of the respondents (53%, N=45) had bachelor's degrees or higher.
- The number of those working full time (64%, N=54) was about three times higher than those who were retired (21%, N=18).
- Ninety-four percent (N=78) of those who reported their ethnicity/race were white/Caucasian.
- Twenty-five of the population (N=20) had household incomes of less than $50,000.

Figures 6 through 12 show these demographic characteristics. It illustrates the range of community members' household incomes and indicates how this assessment took into account input from parties who represent the varied interests of the community served, including a balance of age ranges, those in diverse work situations, and community members with lower incomes.

Figure 6: Age Demographics of Survey Respondents

Total respondents = 85



People younger than age 18 are not questioned using this survey method.

Figure 7: Gender Demographics of Survey Respondents

Total respondents = 85

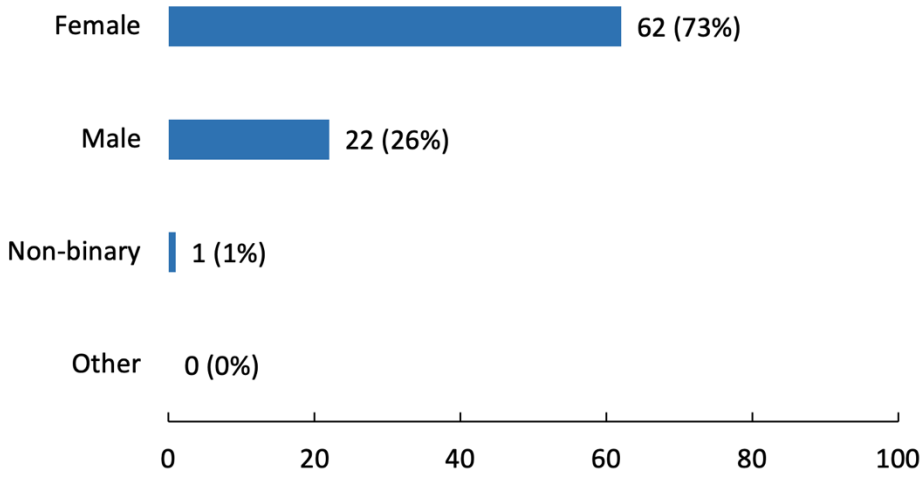


Figure 8: Educational Level Demographics of Survey Respondents

Total respondents = 85

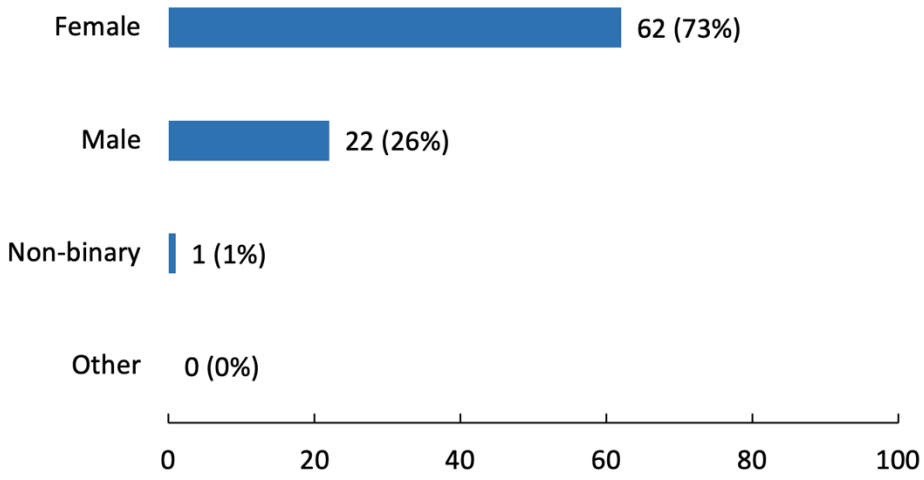
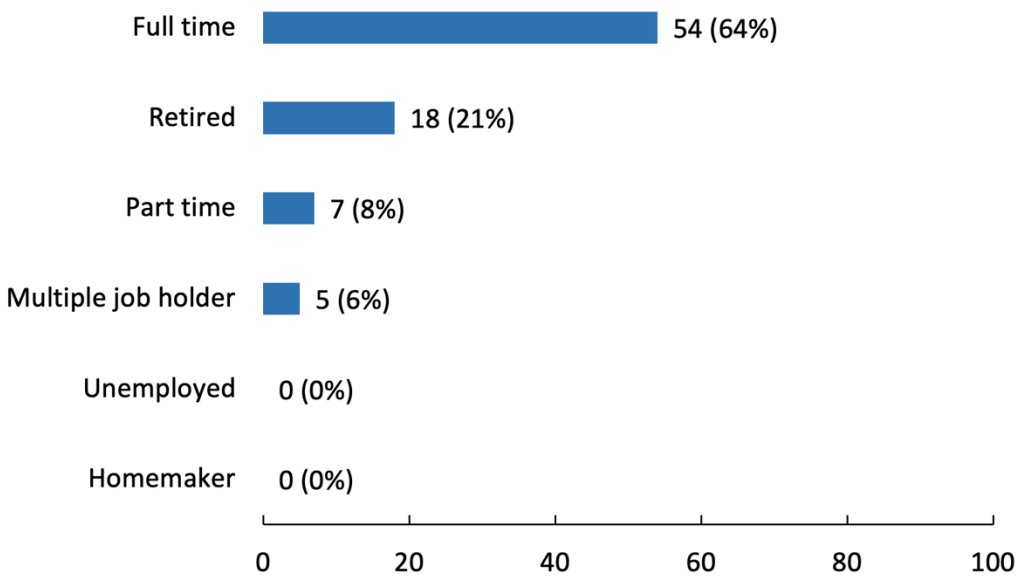


Figure 9: Employment Status Demographics of Survey Respondents

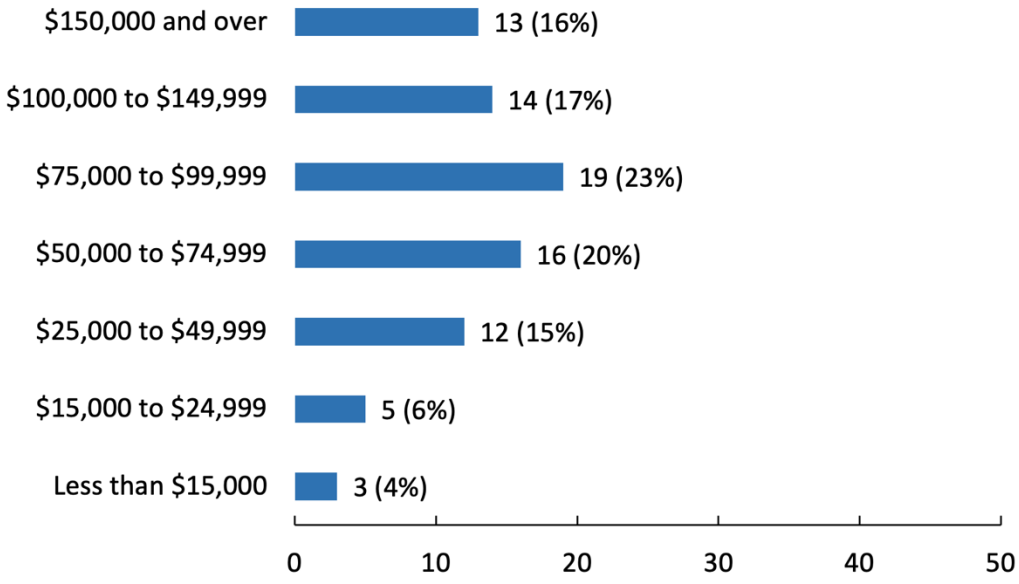
Total respondents = 84



Of those who provided a household income, 10% (N=8) community members reported a household income of less than $25,000. Thirty-three percent (N=27) indicated a household income of $100,000 or more. This information is shown in Figure 10.

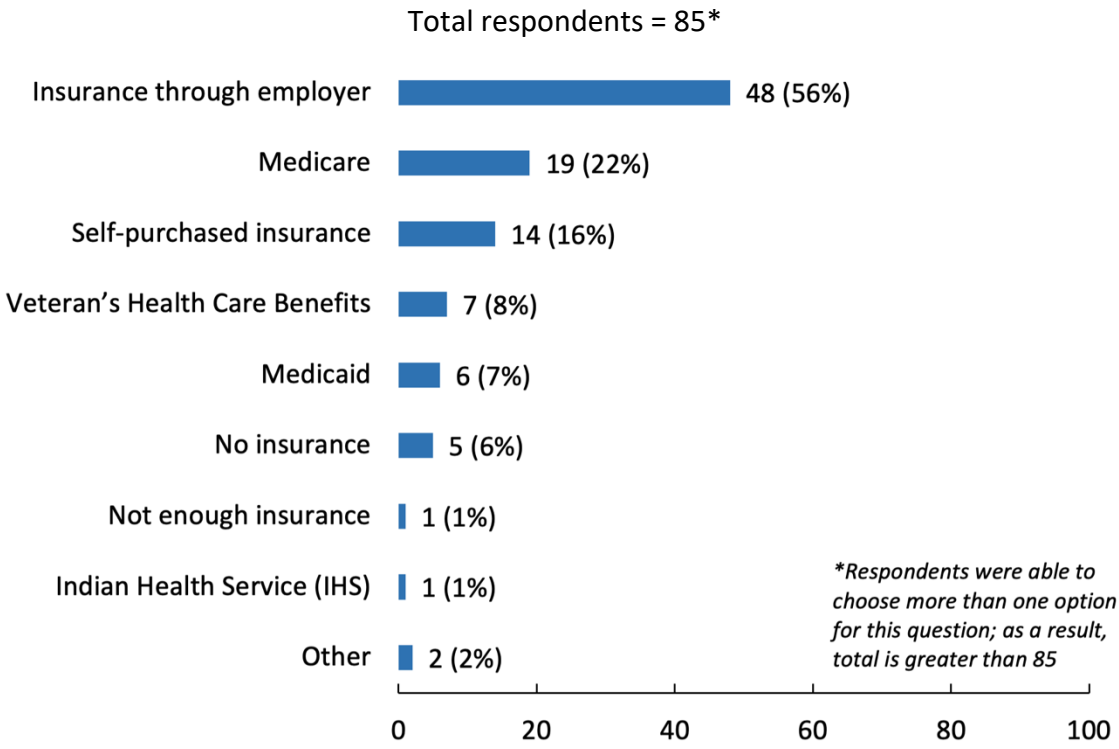
Figure 10: Household Income Demographics of Survey Respondents

Total respondents = 82



Community members were asked about their health insurance status, which is often associated with whether people have access to healthcare. Seven percent (N=6) of the respondents reported having no health insurance or being under-insured. The most common insurance types were insurance through one's employer (N=48), followed by Medicare (N=19), and self-purchased (N=14).

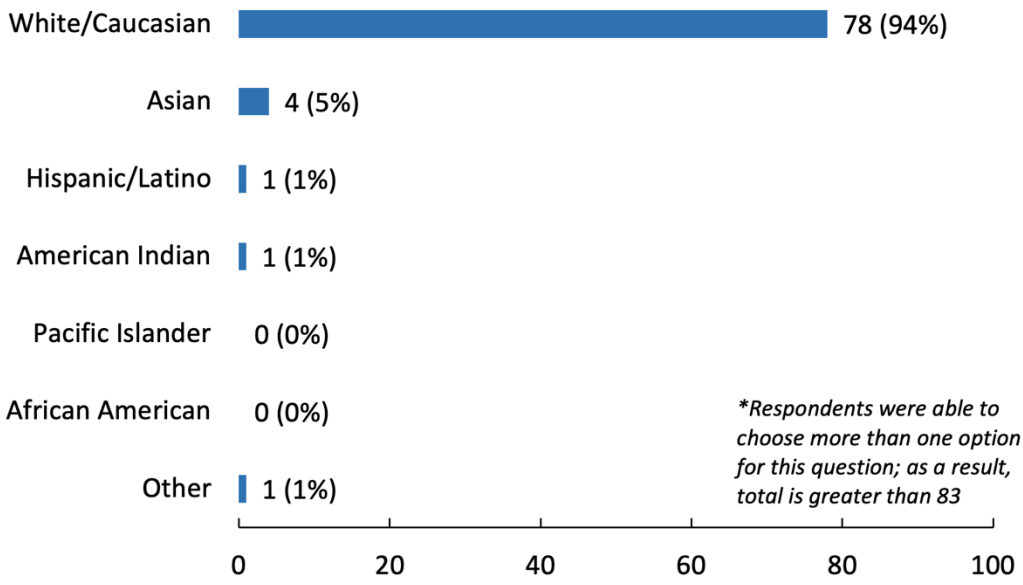
Figure 11: Health Insurance Coverage Status of Survey Respondents



As shown in Figure 12, nearly all of the respondents were White/Caucasian (94%). This was in line with the race/ethnicity of the overall population of Grant County; the U.S. Census indicates that 92.7% of the population is White in Grant County.

Figure 12: Race/Ethnicity Demographics of Survey Respondents

Total respondents = 83*



Community Assets and Challenges

Survey respondents were asked what they perceived as the best things about their community in four categories: people, services and resources, quality of life, and activities. In each category, respondents were given a list of choices and asked to pick the three best things. Respondents occasionally chose fewer than three or more than three choices within each category. If more than three choices were selected, their responses were not included. The results indicate there is consensus (with at least 55 respondents agreeing) that community assets include:

- Safe place to live, little/no crime (N=78)
- People are friendly, helpful, supportive (N=77)
- Family-friendly (N=76)
- Informal, simple, laidback lifestyle (N=60)
- Local event and festivals (N=59)
- People who live here are involved in their community (N=59)
- Healthcare (N=58)

Figures 13 to 16 illustrate the results of these questions.

Figure 13: Best Things About the PEOPLE in Your Community

Total responses = 99*

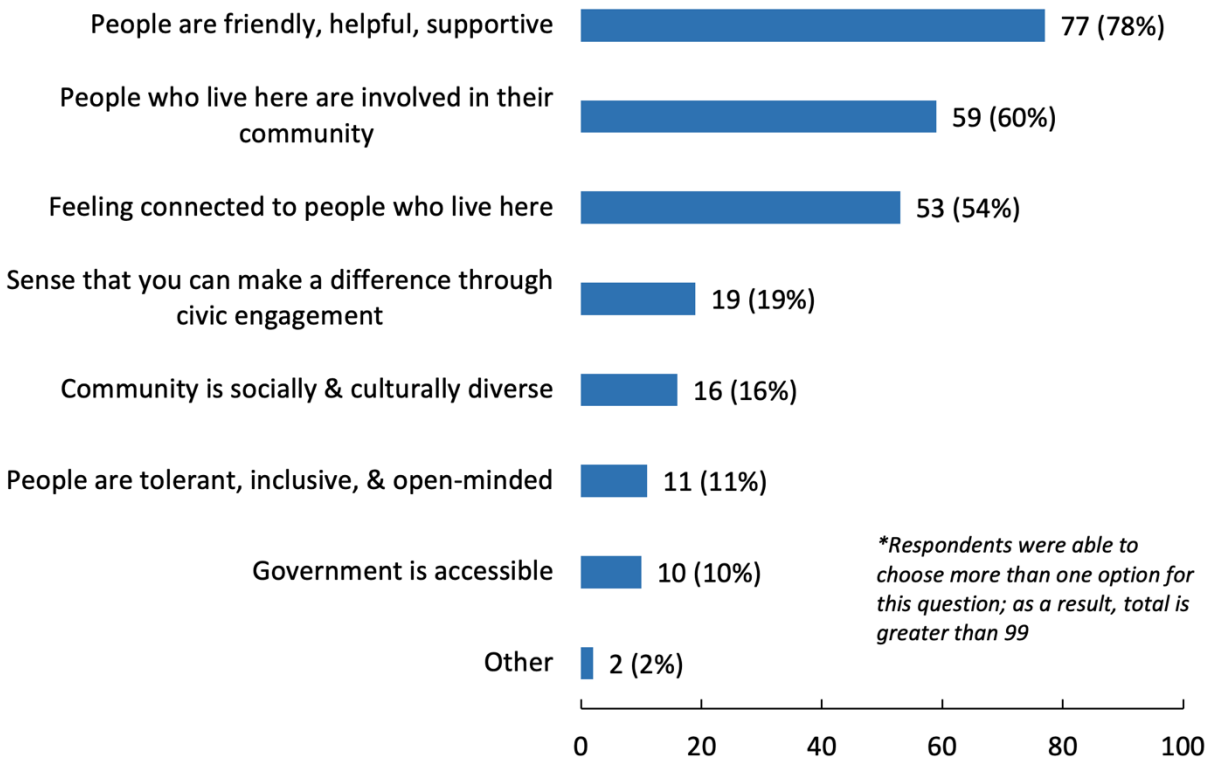
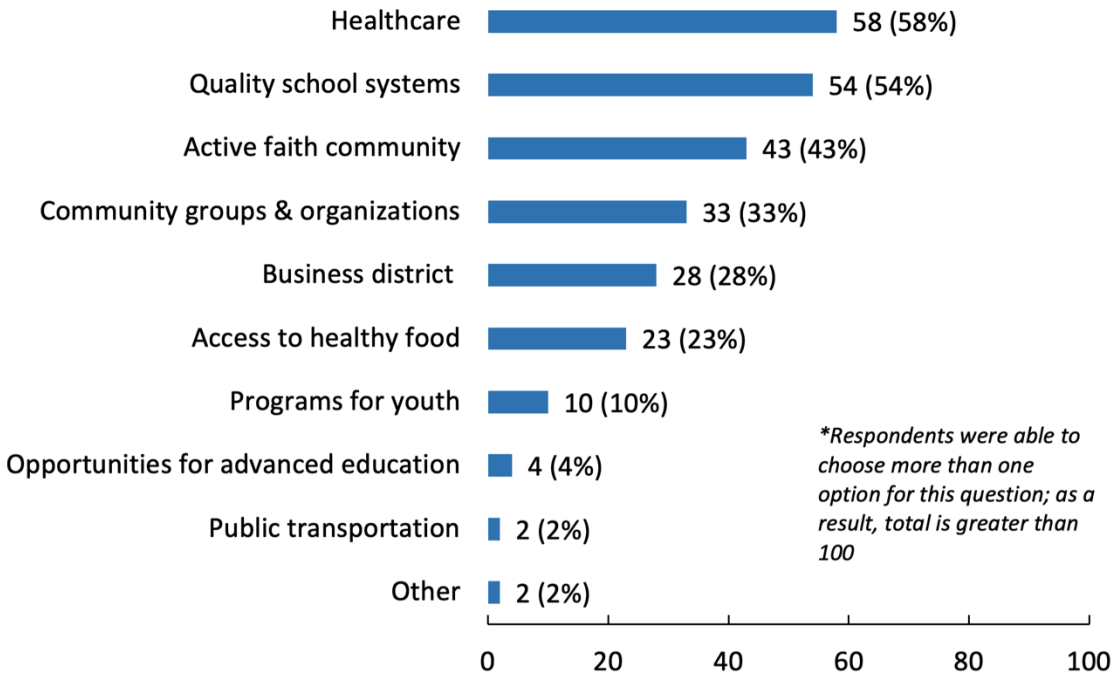


Figure 14: Best Things About the SERVICES AND RESOURCES in Your Community

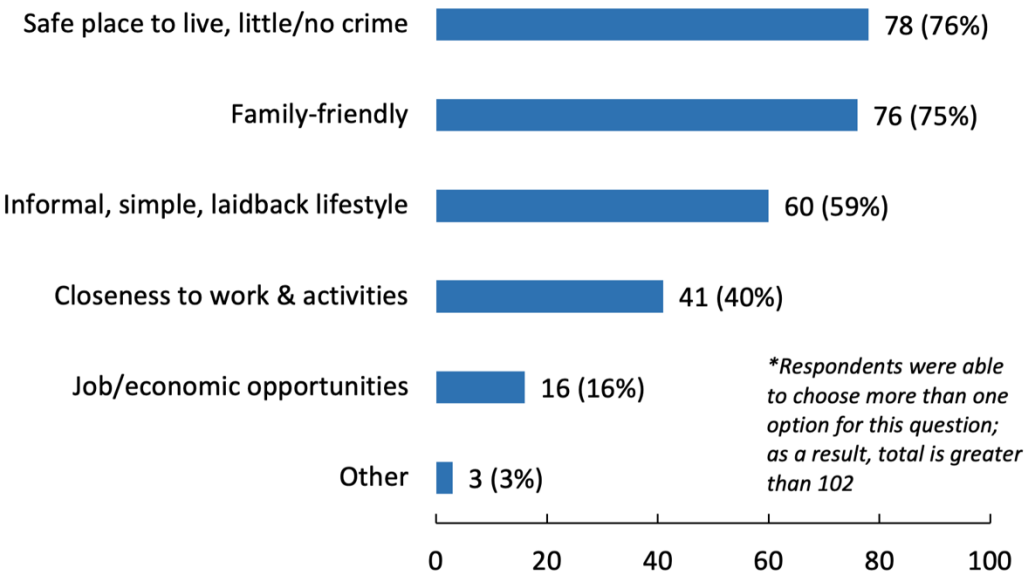
Total responses = 100*



Respondents who selected "Other" specified that the best things about services and resources included cheap housing.

Figure 15: Best Things About the QUALITY OF LIFE in Your Community

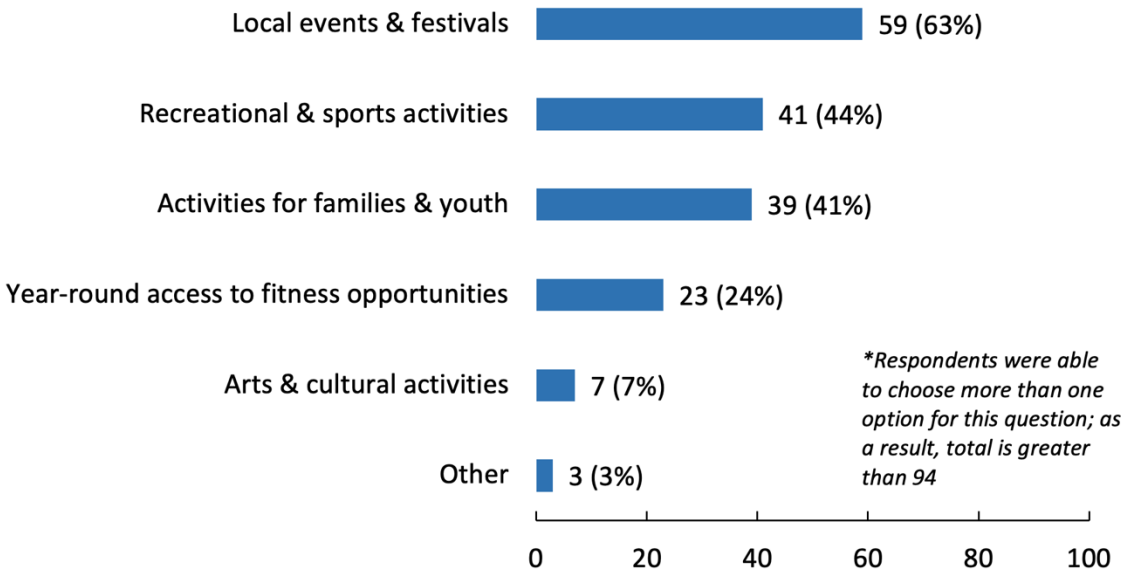
Total responses = 102*



"Other" responses regarding the best things about the quality of life in the community included the ability to work from home, clean air and water, and close proximity to the workplace.

Figure 16: Best Thing About the ACTIVITIES in Your Community

Total responses = 94*



Respondents who selected “Other” specified that the best things about the activities in the community included the ability to be outdoors, cattle exercise, and plenty of bars.

Community Concerns

At the heart of this CHNA was a section on the survey asking respondents to review a wide array of potential community and health concerns in five categories and pick their top three concerns. The five categories of potential concerns were:

- Community/environmental health
- Availability/delivery of health services
- Youth population
- Adult population
- Senior population

With regard to responses about community challenges, the most highly voiced concerns (those having at least 35 respondents) were:

- Attracting and retaining young families (N=57)
- Not enough jobs with livable wages (N= 43)
- Depression/anxiety – Adult (N=41)
- Alcohol use and abuse – Adults (N=40)
- Ability to retain primary care providers in the community (N=37)
- Availability of resources to help the elderly stay in their homes (N=36)
- Depression/anxiety – youth (N=35)

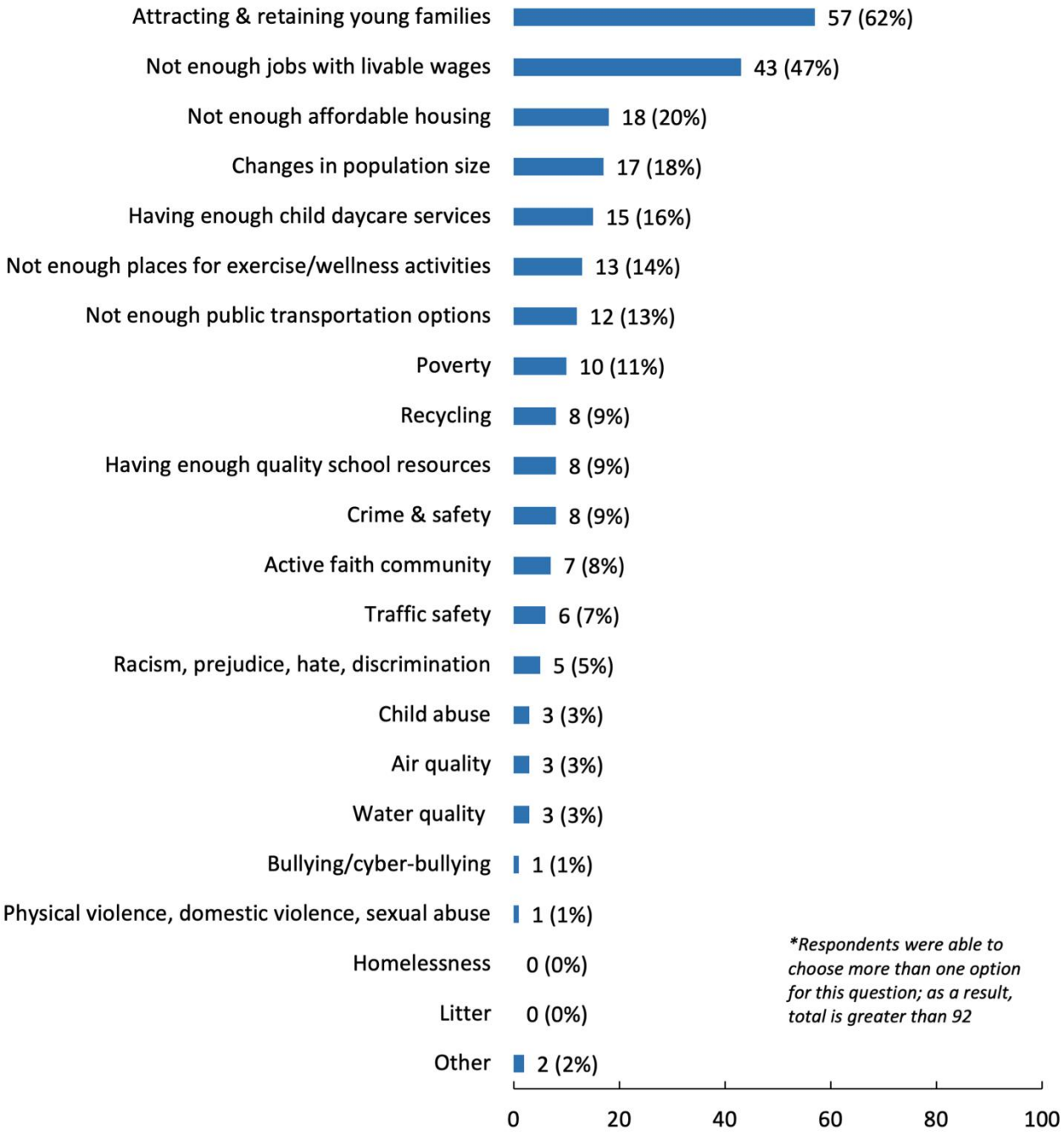
The other issues that had at least 25 votes included:

- Not getting enough exercise/physical activity – adult (N=33)
- Not enough activities for children and youth (N=31)
- Alcohol use and abuse (N=30)
- Availability of home health (N=29)
- Cost of long-term/nursing home care (N=29)

Figures 17 through 21 illustrate these results.

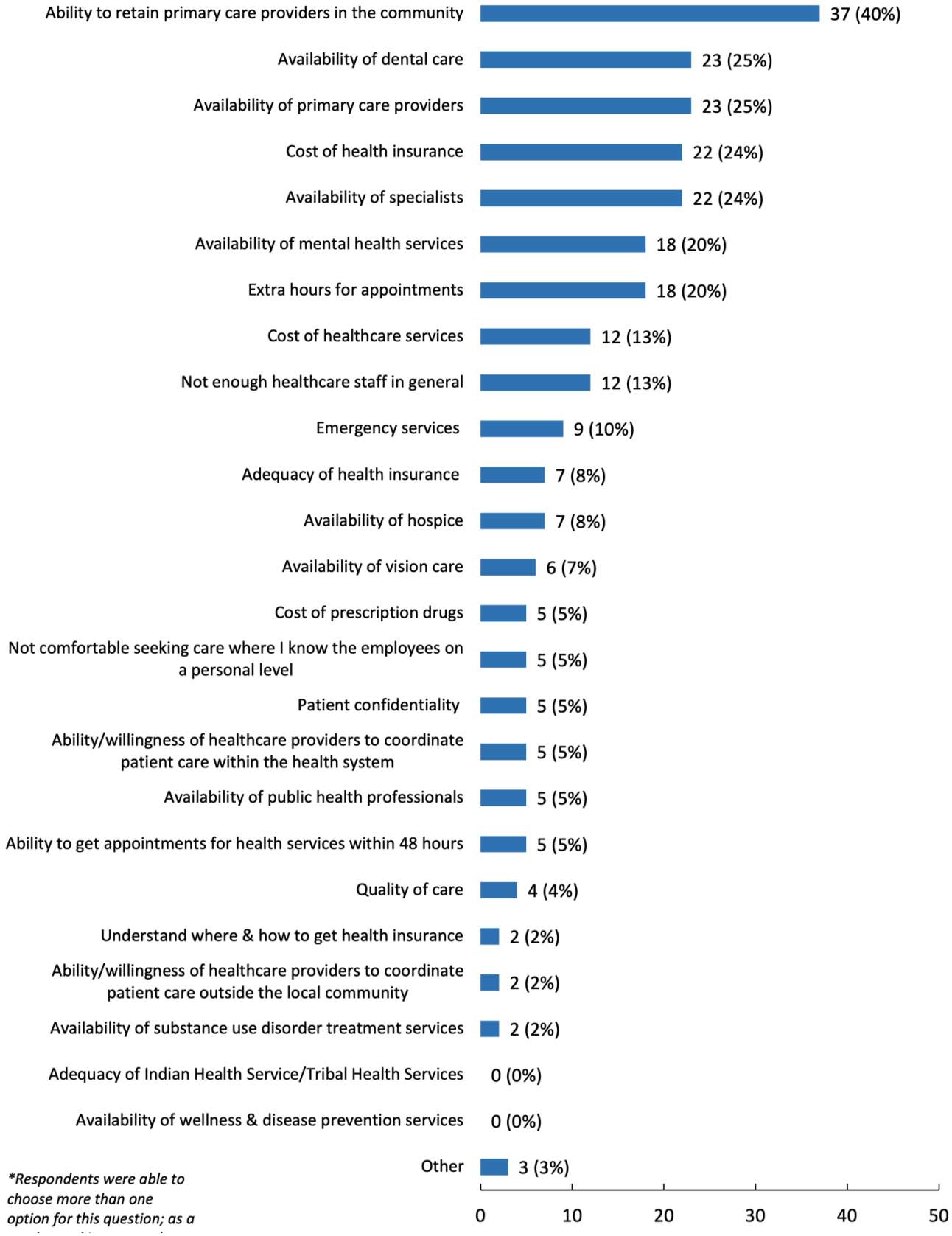
Figure 17: Community/Environmental Health Concerns

Total responses = 92*



In the "Other" category for community and environmental health concerns, the following were listed: lack of community involvement and not enough community events.

Figure 18: Availability/Delivery of Health Services Concerns (n = 92*)

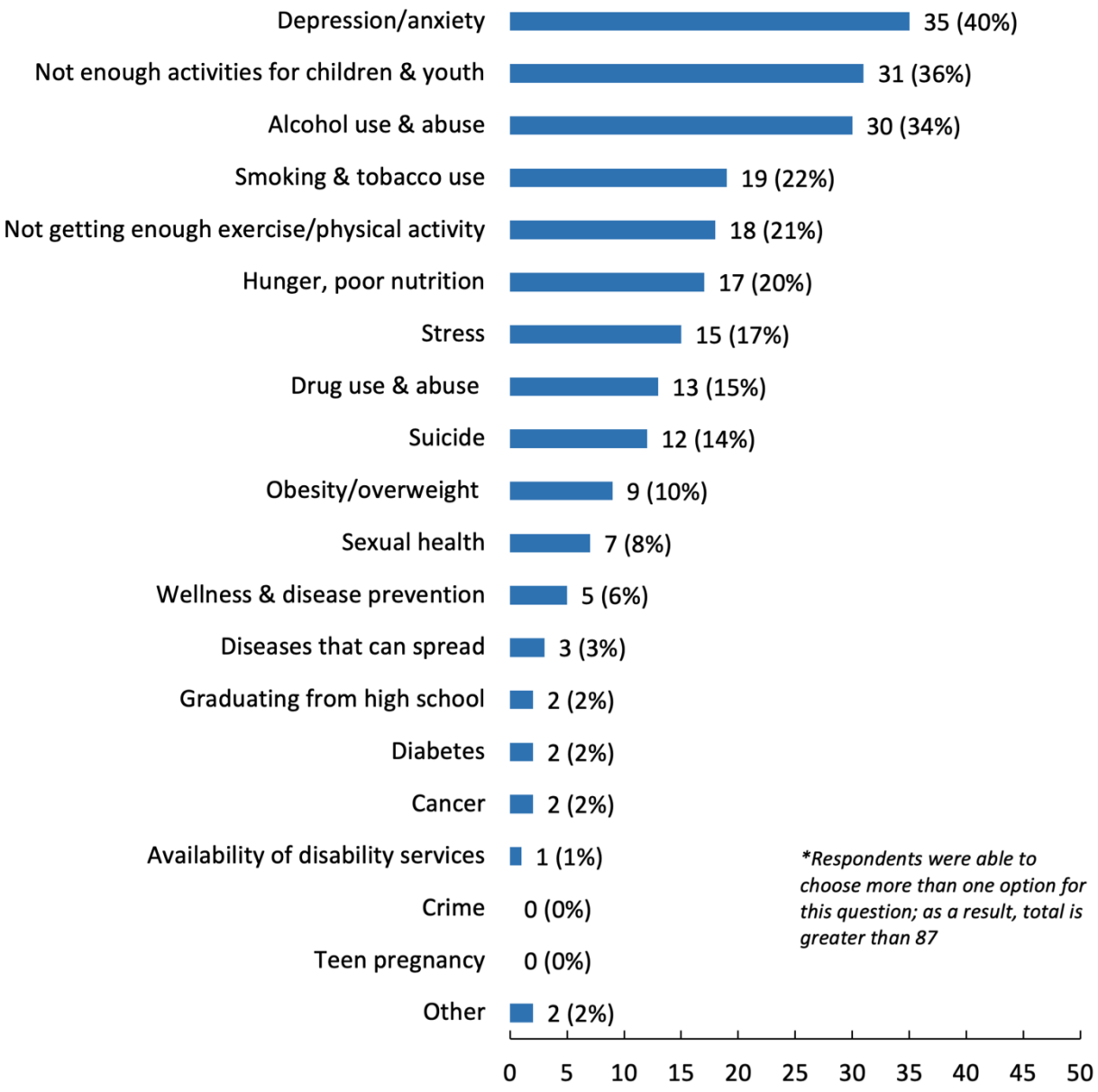


**Respondents were able to choose more than one option for this question; as a*

Respondents who selected "Other" identified concerns in the availability/delivery of health services, such as home health assistance covered by insurance for those on a limited budget.

Figure 19: Youth Population Health Concerns

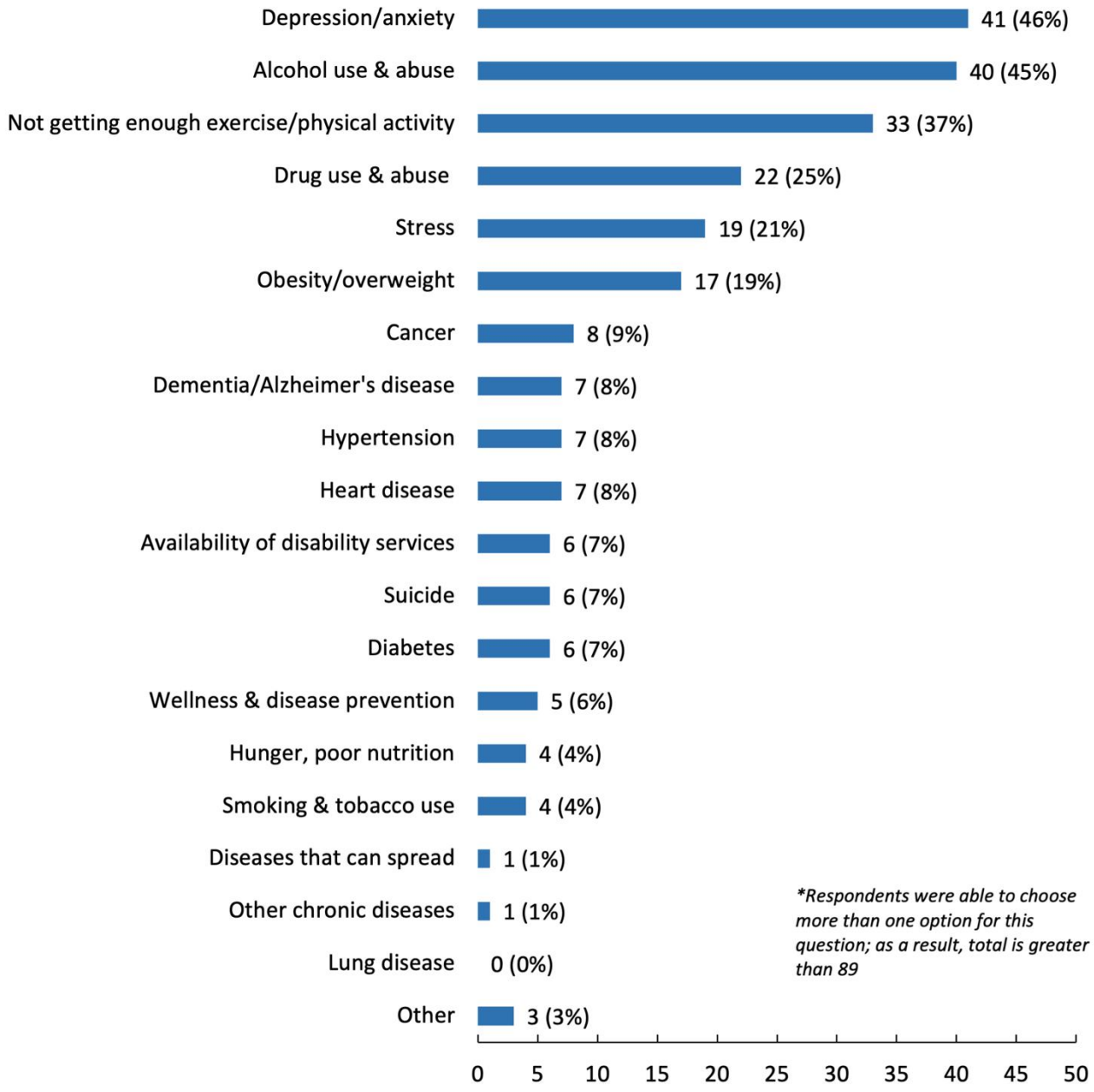
Total responses = 87*



Listed in the "Other" category for youth population concerns was the need for youth groups.

Figure 20: Adult Population Concerns

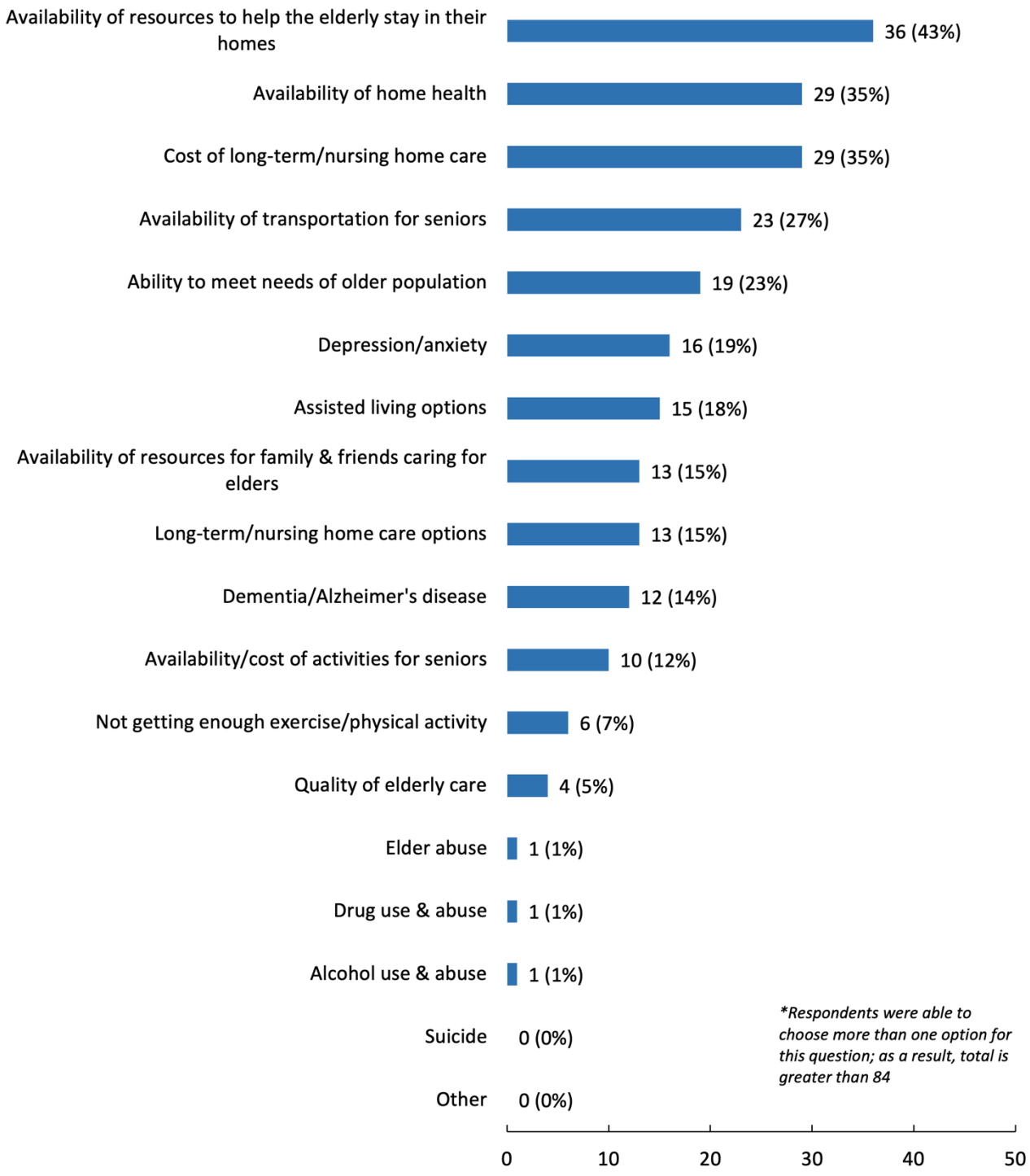
Total responses = 89*



Lack of in-home services was indicated in the "Other" category for adult population concerns.

Figure 21: Senior Population Concerns

Total responses = 84*



In an open-ended question, respondents were asked what single issue they feel is the biggest challenge facing their community. Four categories emerged above all others as the top concerns:

1. Ability to retain primary care providers and nurses
2. Ability to meet the needs of elders
3. Attracting and retaining young families
4. Availability of transportation options

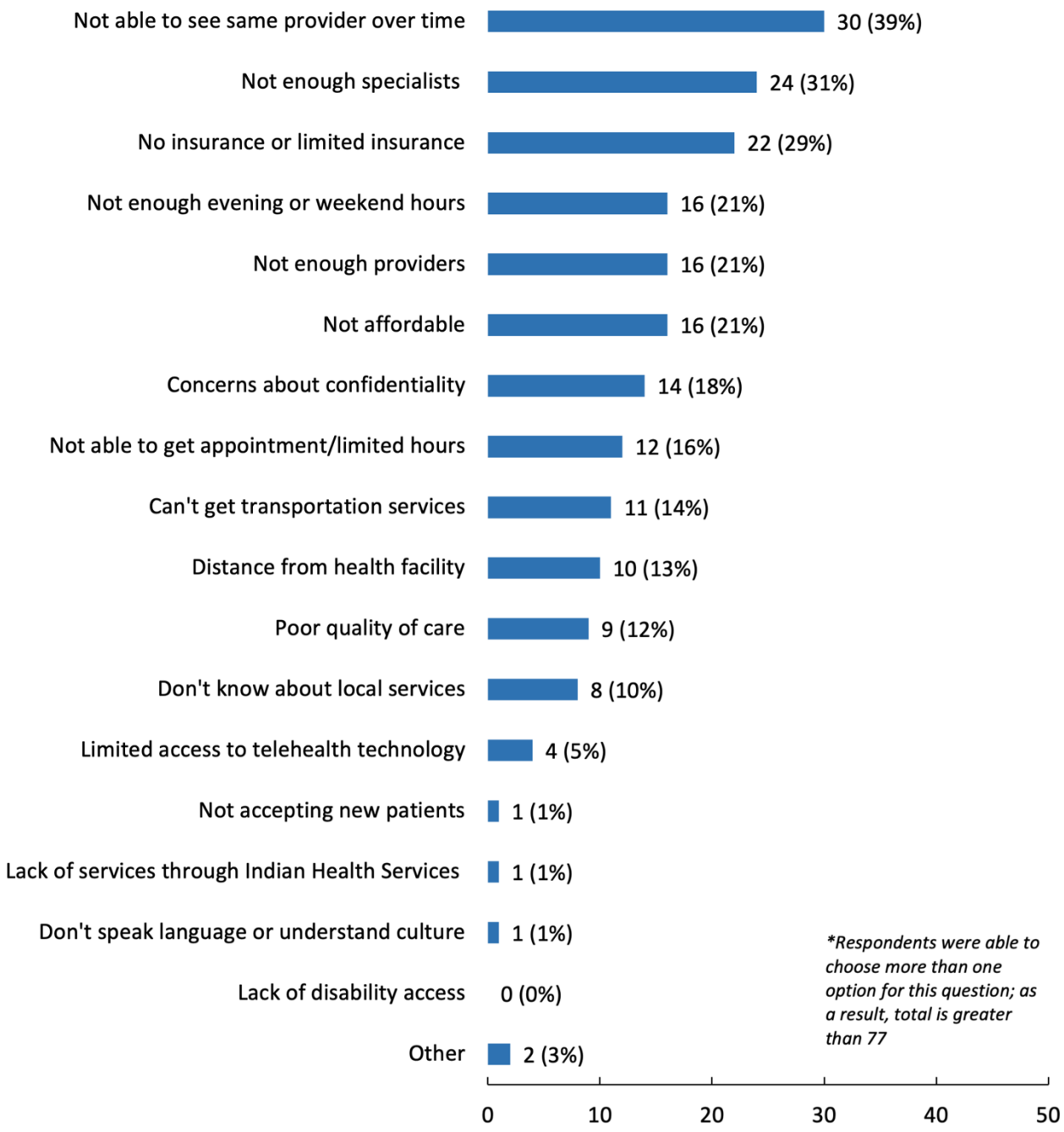
Other biggest challenges that were identified were changes in population size, depression/anxiety in all ages, substance abuse (alcohol and drugs), availability of mental health services, cost of health services, availability of home health, lack of jobs, low community involvement, lack of housing, and poverty.

Delivery of Healthcare

The survey asked residents what they see as barriers that prevent them, or other community residents, from receiving healthcare. The most prevalent barrier perceived by residents was not being able to see the same provider over time (N=30), with the next highest being not enough specialists (N=24). After these, the next most commonly identified barriers were no insurance or limited insurance (N=22), not enough evening or weekend hours (N=16), and not enough providers (N=16, and not affordable (N=16). The “Other” category specified billing issues as a hinderance. Figure 22 illustrates these results.

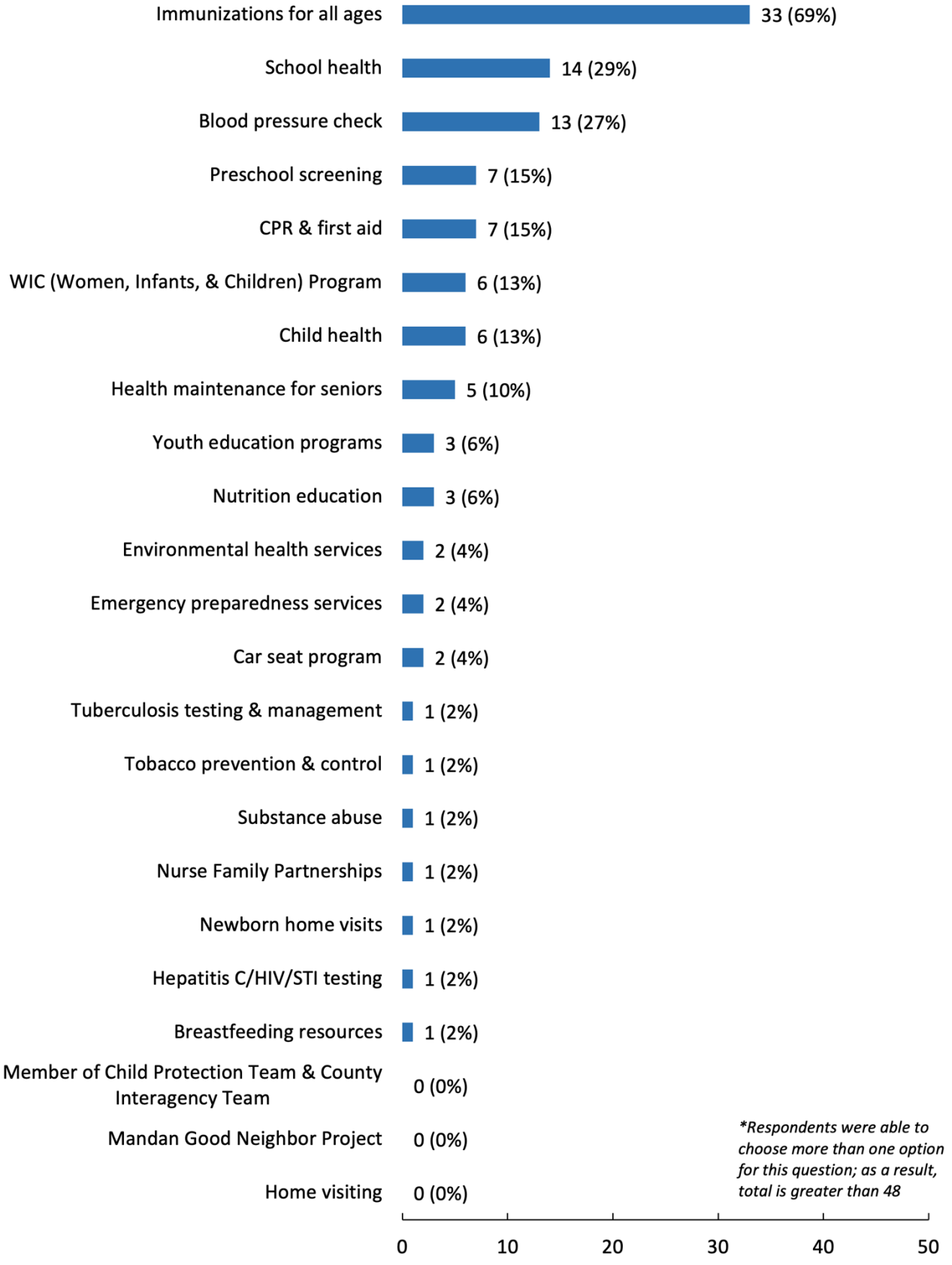
Figure 22: Perceptions about Barriers to Care

Total responses = 77*



Considering a variety of healthcare services offered by Western Plains Public Health (WPPH), respondents were asked to indicate if they were aware that the healthcare service is offered through WPPH and to also indicate what, if any, services they or a family member have used at WPPH, at another public health unit, or both (See Figure 23).

Figure 23: Awareness and Utilization of Public Health Services (n = 48*)



In an open-ended question, respondents were asked what specific healthcare services, if any, they think should be added locally. The responses of requested services included:

- Cardiology
- Dentist
- Diabetes care
- Dialysis
- General surgery
- OBGYN
- Optometrist
- Mental health services
- Nutritionist
- Pediatrics
- Ultrasound
- Cardiac rehab
- Hospice
- Pain management

The key informant and focus group members felt that community members were aware of the majority of the health system and public health services.

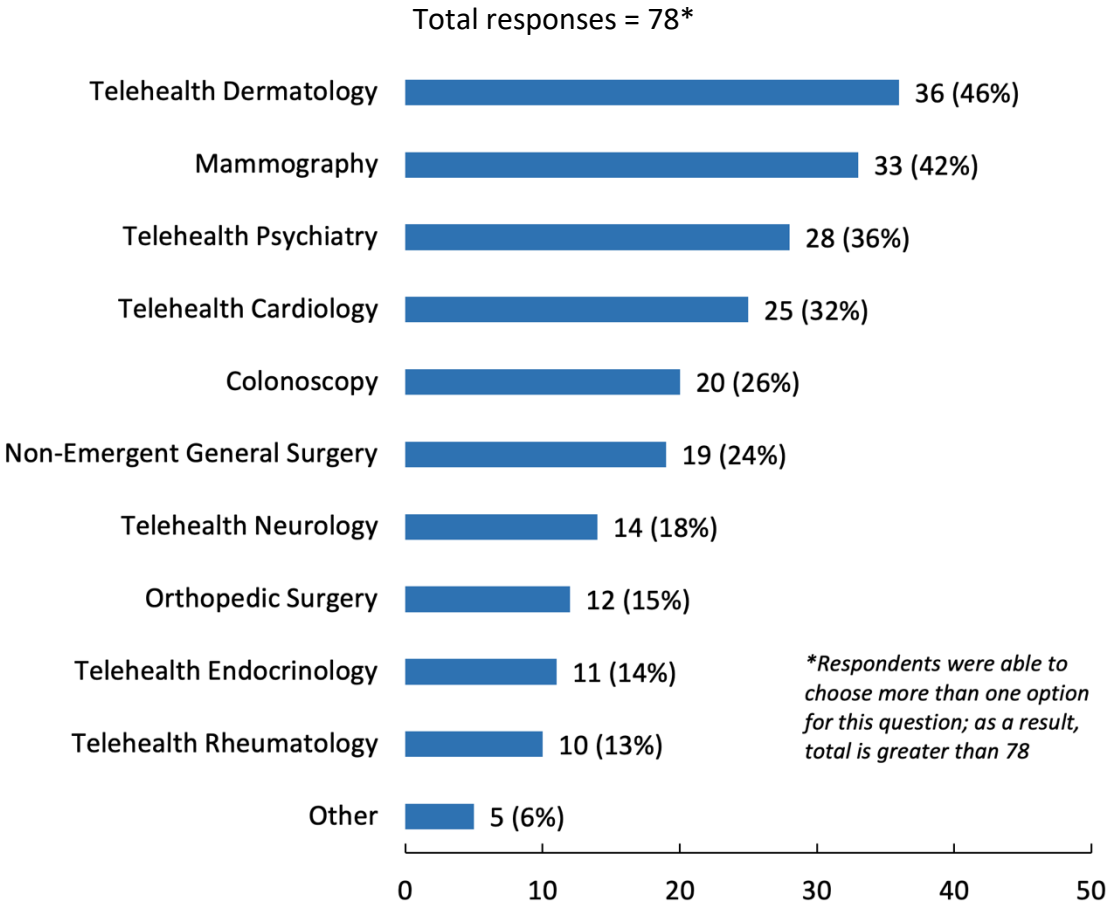
Participants expressed a strong interest in increasing the availability of providers. A recurring theme was the desire for increased access to physicians, with several participants noting that while nurse practitioners are valued, there is a perceived need for more medical doctors in the community. Residents also highlighted the importance of visiting specialists, emphasizing that more consistent access to specialty care locally would reduce the need to travel to larger regional centers such as Bismarck. A few participants stated they were concerned that limited specialist outreach contributes to outmigration for care.

Some respondents acknowledged interest in more advanced procedures and services, such as dialysis, hyperbaric therapy, and cardiac rehabilitation, while also demonstrating an understanding of the operational and financial constraints that may limit a small rural hospital's ability to offer these services, including equipment costs and staffing challenges.

Overall, the feedback reflects a balance between aspiration for expanded services and recognition of rural healthcare realities, alongside an important need to address community perceptions and improve local utilization of existing services.

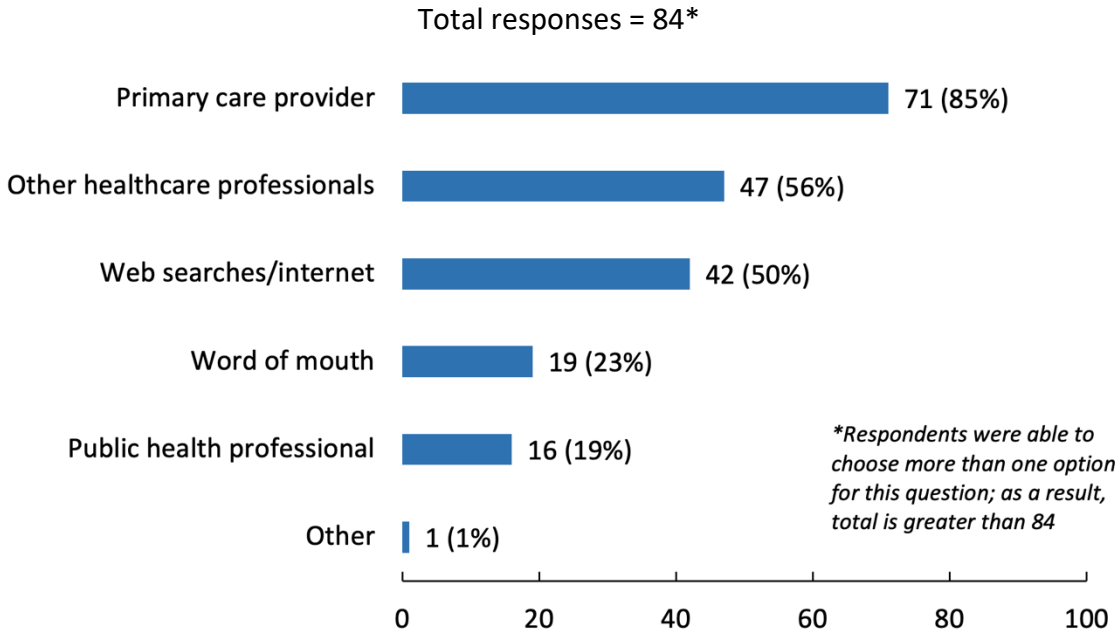
The online survey asked participants which future services they would be most likely to utilize. The top selections were telehealth dermatology (N=36), mammography (N=33), and telehealth psychiatry (N=28). Diabetes specialists, nutritionists, obstetricians, and pediatricians in the ER were indicated in the "Other" category. See Figure 24 below.

Figure 24: Potential Use of Future Services



Respondents were asked where they go for trusted health information. Primary care providers (N=71) received the highest response rate, followed by other healthcare professionals (N=47), and then web/internet searches (N=42). Results are shown in Figure 25.

Figure 25: Sources of Trusted Health Information



As part of the CHNA process, community members were asked to identify concerns and provide suggestions to improve the delivery of local healthcare services. Responses revealed several key themes related to workforce, access to care, service availability, and community perception.

A primary need identified by respondents was the recruitment and retention of qualified healthcare professionals. Community members expressed a desire for physicians, nurses, and clinical staff, as well as greater continuity of care. Concerns were raised regarding provider turnover and the reliance on temporary or traveling staff. Respondents indicated a preference for providers who reside full-time in the community, noting that long-term presence may improve both continuity and quality of care. Other identified needs related to access to dental care and specialty services. These gaps contribute to residents seeking care outside the community.

Emergency medical services, including ambulance and emergency care, were identified as critical community assets. However, concern was expressed regarding the potential loss of these services. Respondents emphasized the importance of maintaining local access to emergency stabilization and transport services, particularly given the rural geography.

Some respondents noted the importance of services that support aging in place, including access to care that allows older adults to remain in their homes and communities.

Feedback indicated an opportunity to strengthen community engagement by healthcare providers and staff. Respondents suggested that increased involvement in community activities may enhance trust, familiarity, and patient-provider relationships, which may also support

retention efforts. While many respondents expressed satisfaction with the care received, some indicated that past experiences or perceptions of quality have led them to seek care outside the community. Additionally, respondents noted that awareness of available local services may be limited, suggesting an opportunity for improved communication and outreach.

Despite identified needs, many respondents described local healthcare services as accessible, reliable, and valuable to the community. There was strong recognition of the importance of having a local hospital and clinic, with several individuals expressing appreciation for the care they have received. Emergency services, in particular, were highlighted as a vital community resource.

Findings from Key Informant Interviews and the Community Meeting

Questions about the health and well-being of the community, similar to those posed in the survey, were explored during key informant interviews with community leaders and health professionals, and also with the community group at the first meeting. The themes that emerged from these sources were wide-ranging, with some directly associated with healthcare and others more rooted in broader social and community matters.

Generally, overarching issues that developed during the interviews and community meeting can be grouped into five categories (listed in alphabetical order):

- Ability to retain primary care providers (MD, DO, NP, PA) and nurses in the community
- Alcohol use and abuse
- Attracting and retaining young families
- Cost of long-term/nursing home care
- Depression/anxiety

To provide context for the identified needs, the following are some of the comments made by those interviewed about these issues:

Ability to retain primary care providers (MD, DO, NP, PA) and nurses in the community

- Cannot see the same doctor overtime, so when you go in for an appointment, you have to start all over with providing information.
- Some community members choose to go to other facilities to see physicians or other specialty services.
- Need more MDs, not just NPs.

Alcohol use and abuse

- Alcohol use and abuse is heavy in youth and adults.
- People say “that’s just the way it is," and it is hard to make changes when their mentality is stuck like that.
- Many people in the community are suffering from alcohol and substance abuse issues.

Attracting and retaining young families

- As a community and whole, we need to figure out how to bring people in.
- If no patients, no hospital.
- We need more jobs with livable wages and that’ll attract others to live here.
- It’s an aging community; we can talk about all the services we have, but it doesn’t matter if people are not staying or moving here.

Cost of long-term/nursing home care

- We need more options for the elderly that are affordable.
- Elgin has an aging population, and we are going to need more help caring for them.
- Depression/anxiety
- Top concern is addressing depression/anxiety.
- Teens don’t have connections like in the old days.
- Not enough resources locally.

Depression/anxiety

- Top concern is addressing depression/anxiety.
- Teens don’t have connections like in the old days.
- Not enough resources locally.

Community Engagement and Collaboration

Key informants and focus group participants were asked to weigh in on community engagement and collaboration of various organizations and stakeholders in the community. Specifically, participants were asked, “On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being no collaboration/community engagement and 5 being excellent collaboration/community engagement, how would you rate the collaboration/engagement in the community among these various organizations?” This was not intended to rank services provided. They were presented with a list of 13 organizations or community segments to score. According to these participants, the hospital, pharmacy, public health, and other long-term care

(including nursing homes/assisted living) are the most engaged in the community. The averages of these scores (with 5 being "excellent" engagement or collaboration) were:

- Emergency services, including ambulance and fire (4.75)
- Hospital (healthcare system) (4.5)
- Business and industry (4.0)
- Economic development organizations (4.0)
- Schools (4.0)
- Law enforcement (3.75)
- Long-term care, including nursing homes and assisted living (3.75)
- Public health (3.5)
- Faith-based (3.25)
- Pharmacy (3.0)
- Social services/human services agencies (3.0)
- Other local health providers, such as dentists and chiropractors (2.75)
- Clinics not affiliated with the main hospital system (2.25)

Priority of Health Needs

A community group met on March 25, 2026. Eighteen community members attended the meeting. Representatives from the Center for Rural Health (CRH) presented the group with a summary of this report's findings, including background and explanation about the secondary data, highlights from the survey results (including perceived community assets and concerns, and barriers to care), and findings from the key informant interviews.

Following the presentation of the assessment findings, and after considering and discussing the findings, all members of the group were asked to identify what they perceived as the top four community health needs. All of the potential needs were listed on large poster boards, and each member was given four stickers to place next to each of the four needs they considered the most significant.

The results were totaled, and the concerns most often cited were:

- Attracting and retaining young families (12 votes)
- Availability of home health (12 votes)
- Depression/anxiety – youth (9 votes)
- Alcohol use and abuse – adult (7 votes)
- Availability of dental care (7 votes)

From those top four priorities, each person put one sticker on the item they felt was the most important. The rankings were:

1. Availability of home health (8 votes)
2. Attracting and retaining young families (7 votes)
3. Alcohol use and abuse – adult (2 votes)
4. Depression/anxiety – youth (1 vote)
5. Availability of dental care (0 votes)

Following the prioritization process during the second meeting of the community group and key informants, the number one identified need was the availability of home health. A summary of this prioritization may be found in Appendix E.

Comparison of Needs Identified Previously

Top Needs Identified 2023 CHNA Process	**Top Needs Identified 2026 CHNA Process**
Availability of home health	Availability of home health
Ability to recruit and retain primary care providers and nurses	Attracting and retaining young families
Attracting and retaining young families	Alcohol use and abuse – adult
Alcohol use and abuse (all ages)	Depression/anxiety – youth
	Availability of dental care

The current process identified three identical common needs from 2023. Availability of home health, attracting and retaining young families, and alcohol use and abuse were identified in 2023 and 2026. Two new needs that were identified were the availability of dental care and depression/anxiety for youth.

Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center (JMHCC) invited written comments on the most recent CHNA report and implementation strategy, both in the documents and on the website, where they are widely available to the public. No written comments have been received.

Upon adoption of this CHNA report by the JMHCC board vote, a notation will be documented in the board minutes reflecting the approval, and then the report will be widely available to the public on the hospital's website, and a paper copy will be available for inspection upon request at the hospital. Written comments on this report can be submitted to JMHCC.

Hospital and Community Projects and Programs Implemented to Address Needs Identified in 2023

In response to the needs identified in the 2023 CHNA process, the following actions were taken:

Need 1: Availability of home health care – JMHCC initially worked with Hospice of the Red River Valley, hosting an informational meeting in June 2023. However, expansion of hospice services into Grant County did not come to fruition. JMHCC continues to educate patients on Medicaid and long-term care planning. Western Plains Public Health continues to offer limited visiting nurse care. The Elgin Community Clinic also offers a visiting nurse to Medicare patients who are homebound.

Need 2: Ability to recruit and retain primary care providers and nurses – JMHCC has a full contingent of providers and continues to work with agencies to recruit nursing staff. An Employee Engagement Committee has been established to boost morale within the facility and recognize employees. JMHCC will continue to provide competitive salaries and benefits, incentives such as sign-on bonuses and student loan repayment, and a strong work/life balance. JMHCC has recently completed a strategic planning , which will focus on an employee engagement program and team building. Seminars will be held in January and February focusing on leadership, team building, and igniting the patient experience.

Need 3: Attracting and retaining young families – JMHCC continues to work with employee hiring and encouraging families to relocate to the community.

Need 4: Alcohol use and abuse – JMHCC has begun a three-year behavioral health cohort focusing on the youth of the community. A brochure was developed and shared with area schools for each student regarding the availability of local mental health resources.

The above implementation plan is posted on the Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center's website.

Next Steps – Strategic Implementation Plan

Although a CHNA and strategic implementation plan are required by hospitals and local public health units considering accreditation, it is important to keep in mind that the needs identified, at this point, will be broad community-wide needs, along with healthcare system-specific needs. This process is simply a first step to identify needs and determine areas of priority. The second step will be to convene the steering committee, or other community group, to select an agreed-upon prioritized need on which to begin working. The strategic planning process will begin with identifying current initiatives, programs, and resources already in place to address the identified community need(s). Additional steps include identifying what is needed and feasible to address (taking community resources into consideration) and what role and responsibility the hospital,

clinic, and various community organizations play in developing strategies and implementing specific activities to address the community health need selected. Community engagement is essential for successfully developing a plan and executing the action steps for addressing one or more of the needs identified.

"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." Proverb

Community Benefit Report

While not required, CRH strongly encourages a review of the most recent Community Benefit Report to determine how/if it aligns with the needs identified through the CHNA, as well as the implementation plan.

The community benefit requirement is a long-standing requirement of nonprofit hospitals and is reported in Part I of the hospital's Form 990. The strategic implementation requirement was added as part of the ACA's CHNA requirement. It is reported on Part V of the 990. Not-for-profit healthcare organizations demonstrate their commitment to community service through organized and sustainable community benefit programs providing:

- Free and discounted care to those unable to afford healthcare.
- Care for low-income beneficiaries of Medicaid and other indigent care programs.
- Services designed to improve community health and increase access to healthcare.

Community benefit is also the basis of the tax-exemption of not-for-profit hospitals. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS), in its Revenue Ruling 69–545, describes the community benefit standard for charitable tax-exempt hospitals. Since 2008, tax-exempt hospitals have been required to report their community benefit and other information related to tax-exemption on the IRS Form 990 Schedule H.

What Are Community Benefits?

Community benefits are programs or activities that provide treatment and/or promote health and healing as a response to identified community needs. They increase access to healthcare and improve community health.

A community benefit must respond to an identified community need and meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Improve access to healthcare services
- Enhance the health of the community
- Advance medical or health knowledge
- Relieve or reduce the burden of government or other community efforts

A program or activity should not be reported as a community benefit if it is:

- Provided for marketing purposes
- Restricted to hospital employees and physicians
- Required of all healthcare providers by rules or standards
- Questionable as to whether it should be reported
- Unrelated to health or the mission of the organization

Appendix A – Critical Access Hospital Profile

Available online at https://ruralhealth.und.edu/assets/2068-31116/elgin-cah-profile.pdf

Critical Access Hospital Profile
Spotlight on: Elgin, North Dakota

Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center

Administrator:
Kristin Heid, CEO

Chief of Medical Staff:
Dr. Steve Inglish

Board Chair:
Matt Hager

City Population:
543 (2020 estimate)*

County Population:
2,301 (2020 estimate)*

County Median Household Income:
$56,750 (2023 estimate)*

County Median Age:
48.8 years (2023 estimate)*

Service Area: 2,000 square miles

Owned by: Non-Profit

Hospital Beds: 30

Trauma Level: V

Critical Access Hospital Designation: 2001

Economic Impact on the Community**
Jobs:
Direct- 64, Secondary - 24, Total - 88

Financial Impact
Direct – $4.5 million

Secondary – $750,000 million

Total – $5.2 million

**Source: US Census Bureau; American Factfinder; Community Facts*

Mission

Advance the health of the communities with respect and accountability, providing peace of mind close to home.

County: Grant
Address: 601 East Street North, PO Box 367
Elgin, ND 58533
Phone: (701) 584-2792
Fax: (701) 584-3348
Web: www.jacobsonhospital.org

Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center (JMHCC) has served the healthcare needs of the region since 1977. JMHCC continues to be dedicated to the healthcare needs of the residents of Elgin and the surrounding area. Funded by patient revenue and philanthropy, JMHCC is one of the most important assets of this community. It continues, as it was established, with a tradition of excellence and a rich heritage of personal attention to its patients. JMHCC operates clinics in Elgin, Glen Ullin, and Richardton.

Services

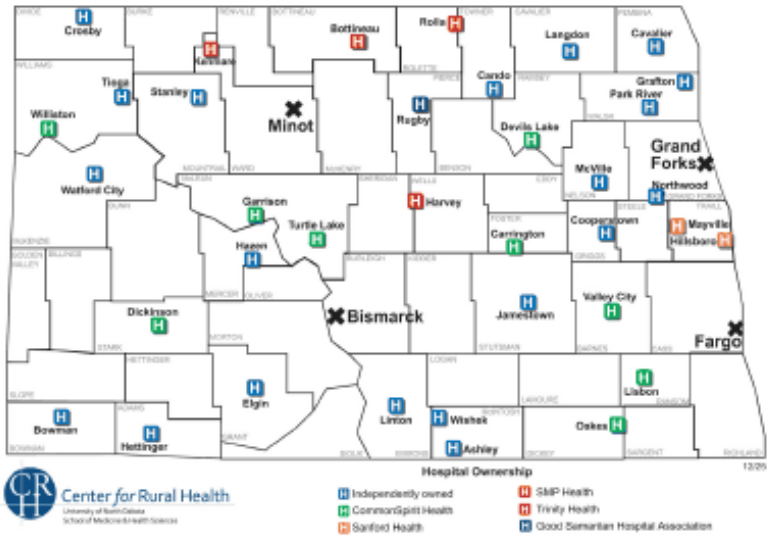
JMHCC provides the following services directly:

- Chronic disease management
- Clinical laboratory services
- Radiology
- Emergency department
- Rehabilitation
- Skilled swing bed program
- Primary care
- Hospital services
- Ambulance services
- Visiting nurse
- Respite care
- Outpatient services
- Long-term swing bed
- MRI
- Ultrasound
- Mammography

JMHCC provides the following services directly:

- Cardiology speciality care
- Dietary instruction/consultation
- Psychiatric counseling
- Physical therapy
- Occupational therapy

North Dakota Critical Access Hospitals



History

Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center (JMHCC) opened its doors in March 1977. The facility, offering both hospital and nursing home care, was built with a combination of Federal Housing Administration loan dollars, a Hill-Burton government grant, and gifts of cash, pledges, and memorials. The facility was named to honor Dr. M. S. Jacobson for his long-term commitment, dedication, and support to healthcare services in the region. This hospital follows a history of community healthcare in Elgin beginning in 1915, as the Elgin Hospital from 1915 to 1948, then through Lorenzen Memorial Hospital from 1948 to 1977.

JMHCC provides comprehensive medical care with physician and mid-level medical providers and consulting/visiting medical providers. The not-for-profit healthcare corporation is governed by a local board of directors. JMHCC has a professional and support staff of approximately 120 full and part-time employees. The hospital has 35 licensed beds for acute care or swing beds, and clinics in Elgin, Glen Ullin, and Richardton. Patients are also served by the hospital's well-developed referral systems to nearby medical specialists.

Recreation

The city of Elgin is in southwestern North Dakota, 88 miles southwest of Bismarck. JMHCC is the largest employer in the area, and one of the most important assets in the community. Along with the hospital, agricultural operations provide the economic base for Elgin.

Elgin has an indoor Olympic-sized pool, a nine-hole golf course, tennis courts, softball diamonds, a lighted football field, and rodeo facilities. The Elgin-New Leipzig School District offers a comprehensive program for all students including foreign languages, advanced science, math electives, computer education programs, and special education services. Eighteen miles north on Highway 49, Heart Butte Dam and Lake Tschida offer swimming, boating, camping, and fishing. The Cannonball River runs just a few miles south of Elgin. Sheep Creek Dam, just seven miles south of Elgin, also provides excellent camping and fishing. The area has ideal terrain for cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, hunting, and hiking. Pheasant, grouse, turkey, antelope, and deer abound in the area, as well as a variety of raptors, waterfowl, and songbirds.

Staff

Physicians: 1
Advanced Practice Provider: 16
RNs: 14
LPNs: 3
Ancillary Personnel: 84
Total Employees: 101

Local Sponsors and Grant Funding Source

Jacobson Memorial Hospital Foundation

State of North Dakota

Private and organizational donors

Center for Rural Health

- SHIP Grant (Small Hospital Improvement Program
- Flex Grant (Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Grant Program)

Provider Relief Funds

Center for Rural Health
University of North Dakota
School of Medicine & Health Sciences
ruralhealth.und.edu

Updated 5/2026

Appendix B – CHNA Survey Instrument

Elgin Area Health Survey

Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center and Custer Health are interested in hearing from you about community health concerns.

The focus of this effort is to:

- Learn of the good things in your community as well as concerns in the community
- Understand perceptions and attitudes about the health of the community, and hear suggestions for improvement
- Learn more about how local health services are used by you and other residents

If you prefer, you may take the survey online at http://tinyurl.com/Elgin23 or by scanning on the QR Code at the right.

Surveys will be tabulated by the Center for Rural Health at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences. Your responses are anonymous, and you may skip any question you do not want to answer. Your answers will be combined with other responses and reported only in total. If you have questions about the survey, you may contact Kylie Nissen at 701.777.5380.

Surveys will be accepted through March 15, 2023. Your opinion matters – thank you in advance!

Community Assets: Please tell us about your community by **choosing up to three options** you most agree with in each category below.

1. Considering the **PEOPLE** in your community, the best things are (choose up to THREE):

- ☐ Community is socially and culturally diverse or becoming more diverse
- ☐ Feeling connected to people who live here
- ☐ Government is accessible
- ☐ People are friendly, helpful, supportive
- ☐ People who live here are involved in their community
- ☐ People are tolerant, inclusive, and open-minded
- ☐ Sense that you can make a difference through civic engagement
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

2. Considering the **SERVICES AND RESOURCES** in your community, the best things are (choose up to THREE):

- ☐ Access to healthy food
- ☐ Active faith community
- ☐ Business district (restaurants, availability of goods)
- ☐ Community groups and organizations
- ☐ Healthcare
- ☐ Opportunities for advanced education
- ☐ Public transportation
- ☐ Programs for youth
- ☐ Quality school systems
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

3. Considering the **QUALITY OF LIFE** in your community, the best things are (choose up to THREE):

- ☐ Closeness to work and activities
- ☐ Family-friendly; good place to raise kids
- ☐ Informal, simple, laidback lifestyle
- ☐ Job opportunities or economic opportunities
- ☐ Safe place to live, little/no crime
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

4. Considering the **ACTIVITIES** in your community, the best things are (choose up to THREE):

- ☐ Activities for families and youth
- ☐ Arts and cultural activities
- ☐ Local events and festivals
- ☐ Recreational and sports activities
- ☐ Year-round access to fitness opportunities
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

Community Concerns: Please tell us about your community by choosing up to three options you most agree with in each category.

5. Considering the **COMMUNITY/ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH** in your community, concerns are (choose up to THREE):

- ☐ Active faith community
- ☐ Attracting and retaining young families
- ☐ Not enough jobs with livable wages, not enough to live on
- ☐ Not enough affordable housing
- ☐ Poverty
- ☐ Changes in population size (increasing or decreasing)
- ☐ Crime and safety, adequate law enforcement personnel
- ☐ Water quality (well water, lakes, streams, rivers)
- ☐ Air quality
- ☐ Litter (amount of litter, adequate garbage collection)
- ☐ Having enough child daycare services
- ☐ Having enough quality school resources
- ☐ Not enough places for exercise and wellness activities
- ☐ Not enough public transportation options, cost of public transportation
- ☐ Racism, prejudice, hate, discrimination
- ☐ Traffic safety, including speeding, road safety, seatbelt use, and drunk/distracted driving
- ☐ Physical violence, domestic violence, sexual abuse
- ☐ Child abuse
- ☐ Bullying/cyber-bullying
- ☐ Recycling
- ☐ Homelessness
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

6. Considering the **AVAILABILITY/DELIVERY OF HEALTH SERVICES** in your community, concerns are (choose up to THREE):

- ☐ Ability to get appointments for health services within 48 hours.
- ☐ Extra hours for appointments, such as evenings and weekends
- ☐ Availability of primary care providers (MD,DO,NP,PA) and nurses
- ☐ Ability to retain primary care providers (MD,DO,NP,PA) and nurses in the community
- ☐ Availability of public health professionals
- ☐ Availability of specialists
- ☐ Not enough health care staff in general
- ☐ Availability of wellness and disease prevention services
- ☐ Availability of mental health services
- ☐ Availability of substance use disorder treatment services
- ☐ Availability of hospice
- ☐ Availability of dental care
- ☐ Availability of vision care
- ☐ Emergency services (ambulance & 911) available 24/7
- ☐ Ability/willingness of healthcare providers to work together to coordinate patient care within the health system.
- ☐ Ability/willingness of healthcare providers to work together to coordinate patient care outside the local community.
- ☐ Patient confidentiality (inappropriate sharing of personal health information)
- ☐ Not comfortable seeking care where I know the employees at the facility on a personal level
- ☐ Quality of care
- ☐ Cost of health care services
- ☐ Cost of prescription drugs
- ☐ Cost of health insurance
- ☐ Adequacy of health insurance (concerns about out-of-pocket costs)
- ☐ Understand where and how to get health insurance
- ☐ Adequacy of Indian Health Service or Tribal Health Services
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

7. Considering the **YOUTH POPULATION** in your community, concerns are (choose up to THREE):

- ☐ Alcohol use and abuse
- ☐ Drug use and abuse (including prescription drug abuse)
- ☐ Smoking and tobacco use, exposure to second-hand smoke or vaping (juuling)
- ☐ Cancer
- ☐ Diabetes
- ☐ Depression/anxiety
- ☐ Stress
- ☐ Suicide
- ☐ Not enough activities for children and youth
- ☐ Teen pregnancy
- ☐ Sexual health
- ☐ Diseases that can spread, such as sexually transmitted diseases or AIDS
- ☐ Wellness and disease prevention, including vaccine-preventable diseases
- ☐ Not getting enough exercise/physical activity
- ☐ Obesity/overweight
- ☐ Hunger, poor nutrition
- ☐ Crime
- ☐ Graduating from high school
- ☐ Availability of disability services
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

8. Considering the **ADULT POPULATION** in your community, concerns are (choose up to THREE):

- ☐ Alcohol use and abuse
- ☐ Drug use and abuse (including prescription drug abuse)
- ☐ Smoking and tobacco use, exposure to second-hand smoke
- ☐ Cancer
- ☐ Lung disease (i.e. emphysema, COPD, asthma)
- ☐ Diabetes
- ☐ Heart disease
- ☐ Hypertension
- ☐ Dementia/Alzheimer's disease
- ☐ Other chronic diseases: _____
- ☐ Depression/anxiety
- ☐ Stress
- ☐ Suicide
- ☐ Diseases that can spread, such as sexually transmitted diseases or AIDS
- ☐ Wellness and disease prevention, including vaccine-preventable diseases
- ☐ Not getting enough exercise/physical activity
- ☐ Obesity/overweight
- ☐ Hunger, poor nutrition
- ☐ Availability of disability services
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

9. Considering the **ELDERY POPULATION** in your community, concerns are (choose up to THREE):

- ☐ Ability to meet needs of older population
- ☐ Long-term/nursing home care options
- ☐ Assisted living options
- ☐ Availability of resources to help the elderly stay in their homes
- ☐ Cost of activities for seniors
- ☐ Availability of activities for seniors
- ☐ Availability of resources for family and friends caring for elders
- ☐ Quality of elderly care
- ☐ Cost of long-term/nursing home care
- ☐ Availability of transportation for seniors
- ☐ Availability of home health
- ☐ Not getting enough exercise/physical activity
- ☐ Dementia/Alzheimer's disease
- ☐ Depression/anxiety
- ☐ Suicide
- ☐ Alcohol use and abuse
- ☐ Drug use and abuse (including prescription drug abuse)
- ☐ Availability of activities for seniors

Elder abuse

- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

10. What single issue do you feel is the biggest challenge facing your community?

_____

_____

Delivery of Healthcare

11. What **PREVENTS** community residents from receiving healthcare? (Choose ALL that apply)

- ☐ Can't get transportation services
- ☐ Concerns about confidentiality
- ☐ Distance from health facility
- ☐ Don't know about local services
- ☐ Don't speak language or understand culture
- ☐ Lack of disability access
- ☐ Lack of services through Indian Health Services
- ☐ Limited access to telehealth technology (patients seen by providers at another facility through a monitor/TV screen)
- ☐ No insurance or limited insurance
- ☐ Not able to get appointment/limited hours
- ☐ Not able to see same provider over time
- ☐ Not accepting new patients
- ☐ Not affordable
- ☐ Not enough providers (MD, DO, NP, PA)
- ☐ Not enough evening or weekend hours
- ☐ Not enough specialists
- ☐ Poor quality of care
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

12. Considering **GENERAL and ACUTE SERVICES** at Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center, which services are you aware of (or have you used in the past year)? (Choose ALL that apply)

- ☐ Acne treatment
- ☐ Acute care
- ☐ Allergy, flu, & pneumonia shots
- ☐ Ambulance service (BLS & ALS care)
- ☐ Blood pressure checks
- ☐ Childhood vaccines
- ☐ Clinics
- ☐ Diabetes care
- ☐ Emergency room
- ☐ Family medicine & primary care
- ☐ Hospital (acute care)
- ☐ Mole/wart/skin lesion removal
- ☐ Nutrition counseling
- ☐ Observation
- ☐ Outpatient services
- ☐ Pain medication addiction treatment
- ☐ Pharmacy
- ☐ Prenatal care up to 32 weeks
- ☐ Preventive visits
- ☐ Physicals: annuals, D.O.T., sports, & insurance)
- ☐ Restorative nursing
- ☐ Smoking cessation
- ☐ Skilled nursing services
- ☐ Social work services
- ☐ Sports medicine
- ☐ Swing bed services
- ☐ Visiting nurse
- ☐ Wellness exams

13. Considering **SCREENING/THERAPY SERVICES** at Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center, which services are you aware of (or have you used in the past year)? (Choose ALL that apply)

- ☐ Cardiac rehab
- ☐ Chronic disease management
- ☐ Cognitive Assessment
- ☐ Holter monitoring
- ☐ Laboratory services
- ☐ Lower extremity circulatory assessment
- ☐ Occupational physicals
- ☐ Occupational therapy
- ☐ Pediatric services
- ☐ Physical therapy
- ☐ Psychiatry & psychotherapy (visiting therapist)
- ☐ Social services
- ☐ Speech therapy

14. Considering **RADIOLOGY SERVICES** at Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center, which services are you aware of (or have you used in the past year)? (Choose ALL that apply)

- ☐ Bone density (mobile unit)
- ☐ CT scans (in-house & mobile unit)
- ☐ Echocardiograms (mobile unit)
- ☐ EKG
- ☐ General x-ray
- ☐ MRI (mobile unit)
- ☐ Teleradiology
- ☐ Ultrasound (mobile unit)

15. Considering **LABORATORY SERVICES** at Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center, which services are you aware of (or have used in the past year? (Choose ALL that apply)

- ☐ Hematology
- ☐ Blood types
- ☐ Cardiac profile
- ☐ Clot times
- ☐ Chemistry
- ☐ Serology
- ☐ Urinalysis
- ☐ Urine drug testing

16. Considering services offered locally by **OTHER PROVIDERS/ORGANIZATIONS** in your community, which services are you aware of (or have you used in the past year)? (Choose ALL that apply)

- ☐ Chiropractic services
- ☐ Dental services
- ☐ Drug take-back program at local pharmacy
- ☐ Durable medical equipment
- ☐ Massage therapy
- ☐ Optometric/vision services
- ☐ Organ procurement
- ☐ Vision care

17. Which of the following **SERVICES** provided by **CUSTER HEALTH** unit have you or a family member used in the past year? (Choose ALL that apply)

- ☐ Blood pressure check
- ☐ Breastfeeding resources
- ☐ Car seat program
- ☐ Child health (well baby checks)
- ☐ CPR & first aid
- ☐ Emergency preparedness services – work with partners as part of local emergency response team
- ☐ Environmental health services (water, sewer, health hazard abatement)
- ☐ Health maintenance for seniors (foot care, blood pressure)
- ☐ Hepatitis C/HIV/STI testing
- ☐ Home visiting (maintenance in home care)
- ☐ Immunizations (including flu shots) for all ages
- ☐ Mandan Good Neigbor Project
- ☐ Member of Child Protection Team & County Inter-agency Team
- ☐ Newborn home visits
- ☐ Nurse Family Partnerships
- ☐ Nutrition education
- ☐ Preschool screening
- ☐ School health (vision, hearing, health education)
- ☐ Substance abuse
- ☐ Tobacco prevention & control
- ☐ Tuberculosis testing & management
- ☐ WIC (Women, Infants & Children) Program
- ☐ Youth education programs (first aid, bike safety, bicycle helmet safety education)

18. What specific healthcare services, if any, do you think should be added locally?

_____

_____

19. Are you aware of JMHCC's adult day care services?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

20. If "Yes" to the previous question, do you foresee using these services for family?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

21. Would you utilize child day care services offered by JMHCC?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

22. Where do you find out about **LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES** available in your area? (Choose ALL that apply)

- ☐ Advertising
- ☐ Posters
- ☐ Employer/worksite wellness
- ☐ Health care professionals
- ☐ Newspaper
- ☐ Public health professionals
- ☐ Website
- ☐ Social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)
- ☐ Web searches
- ☐ Word of mouth, from others (friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc.)
- ☐ Other: (please specify) _____

23. Where do you turn for trusted health information? (Choose ALL that apply)

- ☐ Other healthcare professionals (nurses, chiropractors, dentists, etc.)
- ☐ Primary care provider (doctor, nurse practitioner, physician assistant)
- ☐ Public health professional
- ☐ Web searches/internet (WebMD, Mayo Clinic, Healthline, etc.)
- ☐ Word of mouth, from others (friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc.)
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

Demographic Information: Please tell us about yourself.

24. Do you work for the hospital, clinic, or public health unit?
☐ Yes ☐ No

25. Health insurance or health coverage status (choose ALL that apply):
☐ Indian Health Service (IHS)
☐ Insurance through employer (self, spouse, or parent)
☐ Self-purchased insurance
☐ Medicaid
☐ Medicare
☐ No insurance
☐ Veteran's Healthcare Benefits
☐ Other (please specify): _____

26. Age:
☐ Less than 18 years
☐ 18 to 24 years
☐ 25 to 34 years
☐ 35 to 44 years
☐ 45 to 54 years
☐ 55 to 64 years
☐ 65 to 74 years
☐ 75 years and older

27. Highest level of education:
☐ Less than high school
☐ High school diploma or GED
☐ Some college/technical degree
☐ Associate's degree
☐ Bachelor's degree
☐ Graduate or professional degree

28. Sex:
☐ Female
☐ Male
☐ Non-binary
☐ Other (please specify): _____

29. Employment status:
☐ Full time
☐ Part time
☐ Homemaker
☐ Multiple job holder
☐ Unemployed
☐ Retired

30. Your zip code: _____

31. Race/Ethnicity (choose ALL that apply):
☐ American Indian
☐ African American
☐ Asian
☐ Hispanic/Latino
☐ Pacific Islander
☐ White/Caucasian
☐ Other: _____

32. Annual household income before taxes:
☐ Less than $15,000
☐ $15,000 to $24,999
☐ $25,000 to $49,999
☐ $50,000 to $74,999
☐ $75,000 to $99,999
☐ $100,000 to $149,999
☐ $150,000 and over

33. Overall, please share concerns and suggestions to improve the delivery of local healthcare.
_____
_____

Thank you for assisting us with this important survey!

Appendix C – County Health Rankings Explained

Source: http://www.countyhealthrankings.org

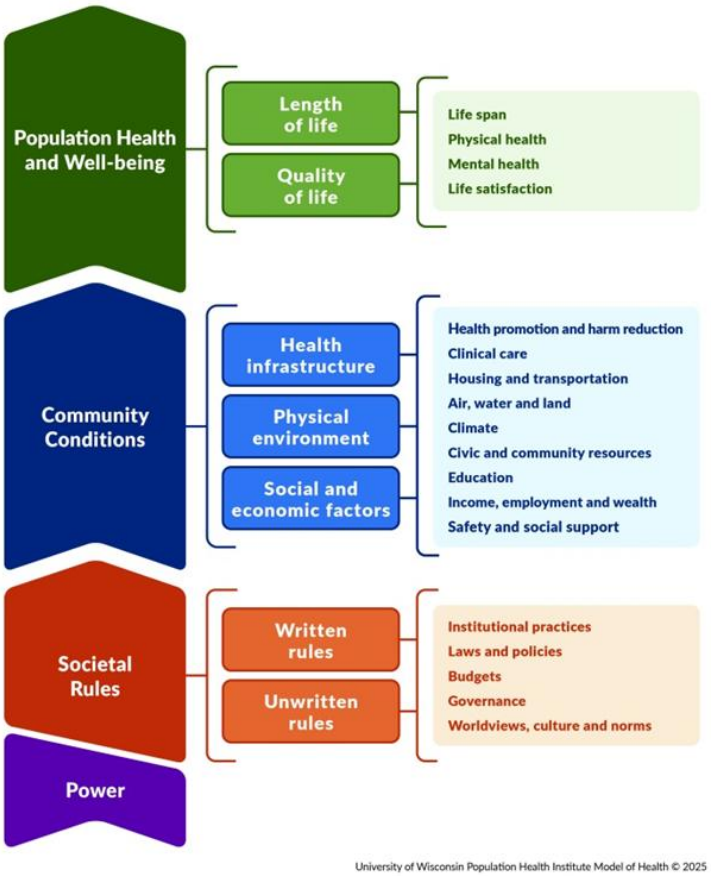
Methods

The County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, a collaboration between the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, applies a cluster analysis approach to summary measures (also referred to as composite indicators or indices) of population health, specifically the composite Community Conditions and Population Health and Well-being z-score values for each county.

What is Ranked

The County Health Rankings and Roadmaps are based on counties and county equivalents. Any entity that has its own Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) county code is included in the Rankings and Roadmaps. In the prior model, County Health Rankings and Roadmaps only rank counties and county equivalents within a state.

Model of Health (2025-Present)



The County Health Rankings model (shown above) provides the foundation for the entire ranking and roadmaps process.

The goal is for counties that are similar in Population Health and Wellbeing or Community Conditions within and across states may be inspired to work together to advance health and equity under the new approach. Instead of communicating merely a frame of competition based on ordinal rankings within states, the updated approach to comparing counties may encourage partnership and solidarity, leading to resource allocation according to need.

County Health Rankings collect of over 80 measures of health is organized within topic areas according to the UW Population Health Institute Model of Health. Select measures are used to generate their Health Groups, they calculate and rank eight summary composite scores:

Population Health and Well-being includes:

- Length of life
- Quality of life

Community Conditions includes:

- Health Infrastructure
- Social and economic factors
- Physical environment

Data Sources and Measures

The County Health Rankings team synthesizes health information from a variety of national data sources to create the rankings and roadmaps. Most of the data used are public data available at no charge. Measures based on vital statistics, sexually transmitted infections, and Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey data were calculated by staff at the National Center for Health Statistics and other units of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Measures of healthcare quality were calculated by staff at The Dartmouth Institute.

Data Quality

The County Health Rankings team draws upon the most reliable and valid measures available to compile the rankings. Where possible, margins of error (95% confidence intervals) are provided for measure values. In many cases, the values of specific measures in different counties are not statistically different from one another; however, when combined using this model, those various measures produce the different rankings and roadmaps.

Calculating Scores and Ranks

The County Health Rankings are compiled from many different types of data. To calculate the population health and well-being and community conditions, they first standardize each of the measures. The ranks are then calculated based on weighted sums of the standardized measures within each state.

Health Outcomes and Factors

Source: http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings/what-and-why-we-rank

Health Outcomes

Premature Death (YPLL)

Premature death is the years of potential life lost before age 75 (YPLL-75). Every death occurring before the age of 75 contributes to the total number of years of potential life lost. For example, a person dying at age 25 contributes 50 years of life lost, whereas a person who dies at age 65 contributes 10 years of life lost to a county's YPLL. The YPLL measure is presented as a rate per 100,000 population and is age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. population.

Reason for Ranking

Measuring premature mortality, rather than overall mortality, reflects the County Health Rankings' intent to focus attention on deaths that could have been prevented. Measuring YPLL allows communities to target resources to high-risk areas and further investigate the causes of premature death.

Poor or Fair Health

Self-reported health status is a general measure of health-related quality of life (HRQoL) in a population. This measure is based on survey responses to the question: "In general, would you say that your health is excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor?" The value reported in the County Health Rankings is the percentage of adult respondents who rate their health "fair" or "poor." The measure is modeled and age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. population. Note that the methods for calculating this measure changed in the 2016 rankings.

Reason for Ranking

Measuring HRQoL helps characterize the burden of disabilities and chronic diseases in a population. Self-reported health status is a widely used measure of people's health-related quality of life. In addition to measuring how long people live, it is important to also include measures that consider how healthy people are while alive.

Poor Physical Health Days

"Poor physical health days" are based on survey responses to the question: "Thinking about your physical health, which includes physical illness and injury, for how many days during the past 30 days was your physical health not good?" The value reported in the County Health Rankings is the average number of days a county's adult respondents report that their physical health was not good. The measure is age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. population. Note that the methods for calculating this measure changed in the 2016 rankings.

Reason for Ranking

Measuring health-related quality of life (HRQoL) helps characterize the burden of disabilities and chronic diseases in a population. In addition to measuring how long people live, it is also important to include measures of how healthy people are while alive – and people's reports of days when their physical health was not good are a reliable estimate of their recent health.

Poor Mental Health Days

"Poor mental health days" are based on survey responses to the question: "Thinking about your mental health, which includes stress, depression, and problems with emotions, for how many days during the past 30 days was your mental health not good?" The value reported in the County Health Rankings is the average number of days a county's adult respondents report that their mental health was not good. The measure is age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. population. Note that the methods for calculating this measure changed in the 2016 rankings.

Reason for Ranking

Overall health depends on both physical and mental well-being. Measuring the number of days when people report that their mental health was not good, i.e., poor mental health days, represents an important facet of health-related quality of life.

Low Birth Weight

Birth outcomes are a category of measures that describe health at birth. These outcomes, such as low birthweight (LBW), represent a child's current and future morbidity — or whether a child has a "healthy start" — and serve as a health outcome related to maternal health risk.

Reason for Ranking

LBW is unique as a health outcome because it represents multiple factors: infant current and future morbidity, as well as premature mortality risk, and maternal exposure to health risks. The health associations and impacts of LBW are numerous.

In terms of the infant's health outcomes, LBW serves as a predictor of premature mortality and/or morbidity during the life course. LBW children have greater developmental and growth

problems, are at higher risk of cardiovascular disease later in life, and have a greater rate of respiratory conditions.

From the perspective of maternal health outcomes, LBW indicates maternal exposure to health risks in all categories of health factors, including her health behaviors, access to healthcare, the social and economic environment the mother inhabits, and environmental risks to which she is exposed. Authors have found that modifiable maternal health behaviors, including nutrition and weight gain, smoking, and alcohol and substance use or abuse, can result in LBW.

LBW has also been associated with cognitive development problems. Several studies show that LBW children have higher rates of sensorineural impairments, such as cerebral palsy, and visual, auditory, and intellectual impairments. As a consequence, LBW can "impose a substantial burden on special education and social services, on families and caretakers of the infants, and on society generally."

Health Factors

Adult Smoking

Adult smoking is the percentage of the adult population that currently smokes every day or most days and has smoked at least 100 cigarettes in their lifetime. Please note that the methods for calculating this measure changed in the 2016 rankings.

Reason for Ranking

Each year approximately 443,000 premature deaths can be attributed to smoking. Cigarette smoking is identified as a cause of various cancers, cardiovascular disease, and respiratory conditions, as well as low birthweight and other adverse health outcomes. Measuring the prevalence of tobacco use in the population can alert communities to potential adverse health outcomes and can be valuable for assessing the need for cessation programs or the effectiveness of existing programs.

Adult Obesity

Adult obesity is the percentage of the adult population (age 20 and older) that reports a body mass index (BMI) greater than or equal to 30 kg/m2.

Reason for Ranking

Obesity is often the result of an overall energy imbalance due to poor diet and limited physical activity. Obesity increases the risk for health conditions such as coronary heart disease, type 2 diabetes, cancer, hypertension, dyslipidemia, stroke, liver and gallbladder disease, sleep apnea and respiratory problems, osteoarthritis, and poor health status.

Food Environment Index

The Food Environment Index ranges from 0 (worst) to 10 (best) and equally weights two indicators of the food environment:

1. Limited access to healthy foods estimates the percentage of the population that is low income and does not live close to a grocery store. Living close to a grocery store is defined differently in rural and nonrural areas; in rural areas, it means living less than 10 miles from a grocery store, whereas in nonrural areas, it means less than 1 mile. "Low income" is defined as having an annual family income of less than or equal to 200% of the federal poverty threshold for the family size.
2. Food insecurity estimates the percentage of the population that did not have access to a reliable source of food during the past year. A two-stage fixed effects model was created using information from the Community Population Survey, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and American Community Survey.

More information on each of these can be found among the additional measures.

Reason for Ranking

There are many facets to a healthy food environment, such as the cost, distance, and availability of healthy food options. This measure includes access to healthy foods by considering the distance an individual lives from a grocery store or supermarket. There is strong evidence that food deserts are correlated with high prevalence of overweight, obesity, and premature death. Supermarkets traditionally provide healthier options than convenience stores or smaller grocery stores.

Additionally, access in regard to a constant source of healthy food due to low income can be another barrier to healthy food access. Food insecurity, the other food environment measure included in the index, attempts to capture the access issue by understanding the barrier of cost. Lacking constant access to food is related to negative health outcomes, such as weight gain and premature mortality. In addition to asking about having a constant food supply in the past year, the module also addresses the ability of individuals and families to provide balanced meals, further addressing barriers to healthy eating. It is important to have adequate access to a constant food supply, but it may be equally important to have nutritious food available.

Physical Inactivity

Physical inactivity is the percentage of adults ages 20 and older reporting no leisure-time physical activity. Examples of physical activities provided include running, calisthenics, golf, gardening, or walking for exercise.

Reason for Ranking

Decreased physical activity has been related to several disease conditions such as type 2 diabetes, cancer, stroke, hypertension, cardiovascular disease, and premature mortality, independent of obesity. Inactivity causes 11% of premature mortality in the U.S. and caused more than 5.3 million of the 57 million deaths that occurred worldwide in 2008. In addition, physical inactivity at the county level is related to healthcare expenditures for circulatory system diseases.

Access to Exercise Opportunities

Change in measure calculation in 2018: Access to exercise opportunities measures the percentage of individuals in a county who live reasonably close to a location for physical activity. Locations for physical activity are defined as parks or recreational facilities. Parks include local, state, and national parks. Recreational facilities include YMCAs as well as businesses identified by the following Standard Industry Classification (SIC) codes and are comprised of a wide variety of facilities including gyms, community centers, dance studios, and pools: 799101, 799102, 799103, 799106, 799107, 799108, 799109, 799110, 799111, 799112, 799201, 799701, 799702, 799703, 799704, 799707, 799711, 799717, 799723, 799901, 799908, 799958, 799969, 799971, 799984, or 799998.

Individuals who reside in a census block within a half mile of a park; in urban census blocks: reside within one mile of a recreational facility; and in rural census blocks: reside within three miles of a recreational facility are considered to have adequate access for opportunities for physical activity.

Reason for Ranking

Increased physical activity is associated with lower risks of type 2 diabetes, cancer, stroke, hypertension, cardiovascular disease, and premature mortality, independent of obesity. The role of the built environment is important for encouraging physical activity. Individuals who live closer to sidewalks, parks, and gyms are more likely to exercise.

Excessive Drinking

Excessive drinking is the percentage of adults that report either binge drinking, defined as consuming more than four (women) or five (men) alcoholic beverages on a single occasion in the past 30 days, or heavy drinking, defined as drinking more than one (women) or two (men) drinks per day on average. Please note that the methods for calculating this measure changed in the 2011 rankings and again in the 2016 rankings.

Reason for Ranking

Excessive drinking is a risk factor for a number of adverse health outcomes, such as alcohol poisoning, hypertension, acute myocardial infarction, sexually transmitted infections,

unintended pregnancy, fetal alcohol syndrome, sudden infant death syndrome, suicide, interpersonal violence, and motor vehicle crashes. Approximately 80,000 deaths are attributed annually to excessive drinking. Excessive drinking is the third leading lifestyle-related cause of death in the U.S.

Alcohol-Impaired Driving Deaths

Alcohol-impaired driving deaths are the percentage of motor vehicle crash deaths with alcohol involvement.

Reason for Ranking

Approximately 17,000 Americans are killed annually in alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes. Binge/heavy drinkers account for most episodes of alcohol-impaired driving.

Sexually Transmitted Infection Rate

Sexually transmitted infections (STI) are measured as the chlamydia incidence (number of new cases reported) per 100,000 population.

Reason for Ranking

Chlamydia is the most common bacterial STI in North America and is one of the major causes of tubal infertility, ectopic pregnancy, pelvic inflammatory disease, and chronic pelvic pain. STIs are associated with a significantly increased risk of morbidity and mortality, including increased risk of cervical cancer, infertility, and premature death. STIs also have a high economic burden on society. The direct medical costs of managing STIs and their complications in the U.S., for example, was approximately $15.6 billion in 2008.

Teen Births

Teen births are the number of births per 1,000 female population, ages 15-19.

Reason for Ranking

Evidence suggests teen pregnancy significantly increases the risk of repeat pregnancy and of contracting a sexually transmitted infection (STI), both of which can result in adverse health outcomes for mothers, children, families, and communities. A systematic review of the sexual risk among pregnant and mothering teens concludes that pregnancy is a marker for current and future sexual risk behavior and adverse outcomes. Pregnant teens are more likely than older women to receive late or no prenatal care, have eclampsia, puerperal endometritis, systemic infections, low birthweight, preterm delivery, and severe neonatal conditions. Preterm delivery and low birthweight babies have increased risk of child developmental delay, illness, and mortality. Additionally, there are strong ties between teen birth and poor socioeconomic, behavioral, and mental outcomes. A teenage woman who bears a child is much less likely to

achieve an education level at or beyond high school, much more likely to be overweight/obese in adulthood, and more likely to experience depression and psychological distress.

Uninsured

Uninsured is the percentage of the population younger than age 65 that has no health insurance coverage. The Small Area Health Insurance Estimates uses the American Community Survey (ACS) definition of insured: Is this person CURRENTLY covered by any of the following types of health insurance or health coverage plans: insurance through a current or former employer or union, insurance purchased directly from an insurance company, Medicare, Medicaid, Medical Assistance, or any kind of government-assistance plan for those with low incomes or a disability, TRICARE or other military healthcare, Indian Health Services, VA, or any other type of health insurance or health coverage plan? Note that the methods for calculating this measure changed in the 2012 rankings.

Reason for Ranking

Lack of health insurance coverage is a significant barrier to accessing needed healthcare and to maintaining financial security.

The Kaiser Family Foundation released a report in December 2017 that outlines the effects insurance has on access to healthcare and financial independence. One key finding was that "going without coverage can have serious health consequences for the uninsured because they receive less preventative care, and delayed care often results in serious illness or other health problems. Being uninsured can also have serious financial consequences, with many unable to pay their medical bills, resulting in medical debt."

Primary Care Physicians

Primary care physicians is the ratio of the population to total primary care physicians. Primary care physicians include nonfederal, practicing physicians (MDs and DOs) younger than age 75 specializing in general practice medicine, family medicine, internal medicine, and pediatrics. Note this measure was modified in the 2011 rankings and again in the 2013 rankings.

Reason for Ranking

Access to care requires not only financial coverage, but also access to providers. While high rates of specialist physicians have been shown to be associated with higher (and perhaps unnecessary) utilization, sufficient availability of primary care physicians is essential for preventive and primary care, and, when needed, referrals to appropriate specialty care.

Dentists

Dentists are measured as the ratio of the county population to total dentists in the county.

Reason for Ranking

Untreated dental disease can lead to serious health effects, including pain, infection, and tooth loss. Although lack of sufficient providers is only one barrier to accessing oral healthcare, much of the country suffers from shortages. According to the Health Resources and Services Administration, as of December 2012, there were 4,585 Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs), with 45 million people total living in them.

Mental Health Providers

Mental health providers is the ratio of the county population to the number of mental health providers, including psychiatrists, psychologists, licensed clinical social workers, counselors, marriage and family therapists, mental health providers who treat alcohol and other drug abuse, and advanced practice nurses specializing in mental healthcare. In 2015, marriage and family therapists and mental health providers who treat alcohol and other drug abuse were added to this measure.

Reason for Ranking

Thirty percent of the population lives in a county designated as a Mental Health Professional Shortage Area. As the mental health parity aspects of the Affordable Care Act create increased coverage for mental health services, many anticipate increased workforce shortages.

Preventable Hospital Stays

Preventable hospital stays is the hospital discharge rate for ambulatory care-sensitive conditions per 1,000 fee-for-service Medicare enrollees. Ambulatory care-sensitive conditions include convulsions, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, bacterial pneumonia, asthma, congestive heart failure, hypertension, angina, cellulitis, diabetes, gastroenteritis, kidney/urinary infection, and dehydration. This measure is age adjusted.

Reason for Ranking

Hospitalization for diagnoses treatable in outpatient services suggests that the quality of care provided in the outpatient setting was less than ideal. The measure may also represent a tendency to overuse hospitals as a main source of care.

Mammography Screening

Mammography screening is the percentage of female fee-for-service Medicare enrollees ages 67-69 who had at least one mammogram during a two-year period.

Reason for Ranking

Evidence suggests that mammography screening reduces breast cancer mortality, especially among older women. A physician's recommendation or referral—and satisfaction with

physicians—are major factors facilitating breast cancer screening. The percent of women ages 40-69 receiving a mammogram is a widely endorsed quality of care measure.

Flu Vaccinations

Flu vaccinations are Percentage of fee-for-service (FFS) Medicare enrollees that had an annual flu vaccination.

Reason for Ranking

Influenza is a potentially serious disease that can lead to hospitalization and even death. Every year there are millions of influenza infections, hundreds of thousands of flu-related hospitalizations, and thousands of flu-related deaths. An annual flu vaccine is the best way to help protect against influenza and may reduce the risk of flu illness, flu-related hospitalizations, and even flu-related death. It is recommended that everyone 6 months and older get a seasonal flu vaccine each year, and those over 65 are especially encouraged because they are at higher risk of developing serious complications from the flu.

Unemployment

Unemployment is the percentage of the civilian labor force, age 16 and older, that is unemployed but seeking work.

Reason for Ranking

The unemployed population experiences worse health and higher mortality rates than the employed population. Unemployment has been shown to lead to an increase in unhealthy behaviors related to alcohol and tobacco consumption, diet, exercise, and other health-related behaviors, which in turn can lead to increased risk for disease or mortality, especially suicide. Because employer-sponsored health insurance is the most common source of health insurance coverage, unemployment can also limit access to healthcare.

Children in Poverty

Children in poverty is the percentage of children younger than age 18 living in poverty. Poverty status is defined by family; either everyone in the family is in poverty or no one in the family is in poverty. The characteristics of the family used to determine the poverty threshold are number of people, number of related children younger than age 18, and whether the primary householder is older than age 65. Family income is then compared to the poverty threshold; if that family's income is below that threshold, the family is in poverty. For more information, please see Poverty Definition and/or Poverty.

In the data table for this measure, we report child poverty rates for Black, Hispanic and White children. The rates for race and ethnic groups come from the American Community Survey, which is the major source of data used by the Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates to

construct the overall county estimates. However, estimates for race and ethnic groups are created using combined five-year estimates from 2012-2016.

Reason for Ranking

Poverty can result in an increased risk of mortality, morbidity, depression, and poor health behaviors. A 2011 study found that poverty and other social factors contribute a number of deaths comparable to leading causes of death in the U.S., such as heart attacks, strokes, and lung cancer. While repercussions resulting from poverty are present at all ages, children in poverty may experience lasting effects on academic achievement, health, and income into adulthood. Low-income children have an increased risk of injuries from accidents and physical abuse and are susceptible to more frequent and severe chronic conditions and their complications, such as asthma, obesity, and diabetes, than children living in high-income households.

Beginning in early childhood, poverty takes a toll on mental health and brain development, particularly in the areas associated with skills essential for educational success such as cognitive flexibility, sustained focus, and planning. Low-income children are more susceptible to mental health conditions such as ADHD, behavior disorders, and anxiety, which can limit learning opportunities and social competence, leading to academic deficits that may persist into adulthood. The children in poverty measure is highly correlated with overall poverty rates.

Income Inequality

Income inequality is the ratio of household income at the 80th percentile to that at the 20th percentile (i.e., when the incomes of all households in a county are listed from highest to lowest, the 80th percentile is the level of income at which only 20% of households have higher incomes, and the 20th percentile is the level of income at which only 20% of households have lower incomes). A higher inequality ratio indicates greater division between the top and bottom ends of the income spectrum. Note that the methods for calculating this measure changed in the 2015 rankings.

Reason for Ranking

Income inequality within U.S. communities can have broad health impacts, including increased risk of mortality, poor health, and increased cardiovascular disease risks. Inequalities in a community can accentuate differences in social class and status and serve as a social stressor. Communities with greater income inequality can experience a loss of social connectedness, as well as decreases in trust, social support, and a sense of community for all residents.

Children in Single-Parent Households

Children in single-parent households is the percentage of children in families where the household is headed by a single parent (male or female head of household with no spouse present). Note that the methods for calculating this measure changed in the 2011 rankings.

Reason for Ranking

Adults and children in single-parent households are at risk for adverse health outcomes, including mental illness (e.g. substance abuse, depression, suicide) and unhealthy behaviors (e.g. smoking, excessive alcohol use). Self-reported health has been shown to be worse among lone parents (male and female) than for parents living as couples, even when controlling for socioeconomic characteristics. Mortality risk is also higher among lone parents. Children in single-parent households are at greater risk of severe morbidity and all-cause mortality than their peers in two-parent households.

Violent Crime Rate

Violent crime rate is the number of violent crimes reported per 100,000 population. Violent crimes are defined as offenses that involve face-to-face confrontation between the victim and the perpetrator, including homicide, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Note that the methods for calculating this measure changed in the 2012 rankings.

Reason for Ranking

High levels of violent crime compromise physical safety and psychological well-being. High crime rates can also deter residents from pursuing healthy behaviors, such as exercising outdoors. Additionally, exposure to crime and violence has been shown to increase stress, which may exacerbate hypertension and other stress-related disorders and may contribute to obesity prevalence. Exposure to chronic stress also contributes to the increased prevalence of certain illnesses, such as upper respiratory illness and asthma in neighborhoods with high levels of violence.

Injury Deaths

Injury deaths is the number of deaths from intentional and unintentional injuries per 100,000 population. Deaths included are those with an underlying cause of injury (ICD-10 codes *U01-*U03, V01-Y36, Y85-Y87, Y89).

Reason for Ranking

Injuries are one of the leading causes of death; unintentional injuries were the 4th leading cause, and intentional injuries the 10th leading cause, of U.S. mortality in 2014. The leading causes of death in 2014 among unintentional injuries, respectively, are: poisoning, motor vehicle traffic, and falls. Among intentional injuries, the leading causes of death in 2014,

respectively, are: suicide firearm, suicide suffocation, and homicide firearm. Unintentional injuries are a substantial contributor to premature death. Among the following age groups, unintentional injuries were the leading cause of death in 2014: 1-4, 5-9, 10-14, 15-24, 25-34, 35-44. Injuries account for 17% of all emergency department visits and falls account for more than 1/3 of those visits.

Air Pollution-Particulate Matter

Air pollution - particulate matter is the average daily density of fine particulate matter in micrograms per cubic meter (PM2.5) in a county. Fine particulate matter is defined as particles of air pollutants with an aerodynamic diameter less than 2.5 micrometers. These particles can be directly emitted from sources such as forest fires or they can form when gases emitted from power plants, industries, and automobiles react in the air.

Reason for Ranking

The relationship between elevated air pollution (especially fine particulate matter and ozone) and compromised health has been well documented. Negative consequences of ambient air pollution include decreased lung function, chronic bronchitis, asthma, and other adverse pulmonary effects. Long-term exposure to fine particulate matter increases premature death risk among people age 65 and older, even when exposure is at levels below the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

Drinking Water Violations

Change in measure calculation in 2018: Drinking water violations is an indicator of the presence or absence of health-based drinking water violations in counties served by community water systems. Health-based violations include Maximum Contaminant Level, Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level, and Treatment Technique violations. A "Yes" indicates that at least one community water system in the county received a violation during the specified time frame, while a "No" indicates that there were no health-based drinking water violations in any community water system in the county. Note that the methods for calculating this measure changed in the 2016 rankings.

Reason for Ranking

Recent studies estimate that contaminants in drinking water sicken 1.1 million people each year. Ensuring the safety of drinking water is important to prevent illness, birth defects, and death for those with compromised immune systems. A number of other health problems have been associated with contaminated water, including nausea, lung and skin irritation, cancer, and kidney, liver, and nervous system damage.

Severe Housing Problems

Severe housing problems is the percentage of households with at least one or more of the following housing problems:

- Housing unit lacks complete kitchen facilities;
- Housing unit lacks complete plumbing facilities;
- Household is severely overcrowded; or
- Household is severely cost burdened.

Severe overcrowding is defined as more than 1.5 persons per room. Severe cost burden is defined as monthly housing costs (including utilities) that exceed 50% of monthly income.

Reason for Ranking

Good health depends on having homes that are safe and free from physical hazards. When adequate housing protects individuals and families from harmful exposures and provides them with a sense of privacy, security, stability, and control, it can make important contributions to health. In contrast, poor quality and inadequate housing contributes to health problems, such as infectious and chronic diseases, injuries, and poor childhood development.

Appendix D – Youth Risk Behavior Survey Results

Youth Risk Behavior Survey Results

North Dakota High School Survey

Rate Increase, rate decrease, or no statistical change in rate from 2019-2021

Risk Behavior	ND 2019	ND 2021	ND 2023	ND Trend	Rural ND Town Average	Urban ND Town Average	National Average
Injury and Violence							
% of students who rarely or never wore a seat belt (when riding in a car driven by someone else)	5.9	49.6	47.3	Decreased	62.9	42.2	39.6
% of students who rode in a vehicle with a driver who had been drinking alcohol (one or more times during the 30 prior to the survey)	14.2	13.1	14.3	Increased	17.9	12.5	15.7
% of students who talked on a cell phone while driving (on at least one day during the 30 days before the survey)	59.6	64.4	66.4	Increased	66.1	66.5	NA
% of students who texted or e-mailed while driving a car or other vehicle (on at least one day during the 30 days before the survey)	53.0	55.4	56.5	Increased	60.3	55.7	42.3
% of students who were in a physical fight on school property (one or more times during the 12 months before the survey)~2017/2019~ *in 2021 replaced by* % of students who carried a weapon on school property (such as a gun, knife, or club, on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey)	7.1	5.0	4.0	Decreased	4.9	3.5	4.2
% of students who experienced sexual violence (being forced by anyone to do sexual things [counting such things as kissing, touching, or being physically forced to have sexual intercourse] that they did not want to, one or more times during the 12 months before the survey)	9.2	9.4	9.5	No change	9.1	10.5	11.4
% of students who were bullied on school property (during the 12 months before the survey)	19.9	15.8	20.7	Increased	23.5	20.8	19.2
% of students who were electronically bullied (includes texting, Instagram, Facebook, or other social media ever during the 12 months before the survey)	14.7	13.6	15.4	Increased	12.5	13.3	16.3
% of students who made a plan about how they would attempt suicide (during the 12 months before the survey)	15.3	14.8	15.5	Increased	15.0	15.0	16.4
Percentage of students who have been the victim of teasing or name calling because someone thought they were gay, lesbian, or bisexual (during the 12 months before the survey)	11.6	11.0	12.2	No change	12.5	13.5	NA

Percentage of students who felt sad or hopeless (almost every day for two or more weeks in a row so that they stopped doing some usual activities during the 12 months before the survey)	28.9	30.5	36.0	Increased	33.5	35.8	39.7
Tobacco Use							
Percentage of students who ever tried cigarette smoking (even one or two puffs)	29.3	22.3	20.1	Decreased	23.1	16.1	14.4
Percentage of students who currently smoked cigarettes (on at least one day during the 30 days before the survey)	8.3	5.9	5.4	Decreased	7.0	4.8	3.5
Percentage of students who currently smoked cigarettes daily (on all 30 days during the 30 days before the survey)	1.4	0.7	0.5	Decreased	1.0	0.8	0.5
Percentage of students who currently use an electronic vapor product (e-cigarettes, vape e-cigars, e-pipes, vape pipes, vaping pens, e-hookahs, and hookah pens at least one day during the 30 days before the survey)	33.1	21.2	18.2	Decreased	21.7	16.6	16.8
Percentage of students who currently used smokeless tobacco (chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip on at least one day during the 30 days before the survey)	4.5	4.3	3.8	Decreased	4.5	3.0	2.3
Percentage of students who currently smoked cigars (cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars on at least one day during the 30 days before the survey)	5.2	2.8	4.2	Increased	5.5	3.6	3.1
Percentage of students who currently used cigarettes, cigars, or smokeless tobacco (on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey)	12.2	8.9	7.6	Decreased	10.6	7.3	17.9
Alcohol and Other Drug Use							
Percentage of students who ever drank alcohol (at least one drink of alcohol on at least one day during their life)	56.6	50.4	46.2	Decreased	50.4	45.3	NA
Percentage of students who drank alcohol before age 13 years (for the first time other than a few sips)	12.9	12.1	11.4	No change	14.2	11.0	13.3
Percentage of students who currently drank alcohol (at least one drink of alcohol on at least one day during the 30 days before the survey)	27.6	23.7	19.5	Decreased	21.7	17.9	22.1
Percentage of students who currently were binge drinking (four or more drinks of alcohol in a row for female students, five or more for male students within a couple of hours on at least one day during the 30 days before the survey)	15.6	14.0	10.3	Decreased	13.2	10.1	8.8
Percentage of students who tried marijuana before age 13 years (for the first time)	5.6	5.0	4.1	No change	3.7	3.3	4.8

Percentage of students who currently used marijuana (one or more times during the 30 days before the survey)	12.5	10.7	3.8	Decreased	5.3	3.4	17.0
Percentage of students who ever took prescription pain medicine without a doctor's prescription or differently than how a doctor told them to use it (counting drugs such as codeine, Vicodin, OxyContin, Hydrocodone, and Percocet, one or more times during their life)	14.5	10.2	9.2	Decreased	10.6	8.8	11.6
Sexual Behaviors							
Percentage of students who ever had sexual intercourse	38.3	36.6	35.2	No change	34.5	33.7	31.6
Percentage of students who have had sex education in school	NA	NA	64.1	NA	63.9	63.5	NA
Weight Management and Dietary Behaviors							
Percentage of students who were overweight (>= 85th percentile but <95th percentile for body mass index, based on sex and age-specific reference data from the 2000 CDC growth chart)	16.5	15.6	16.3	No change	15.6	15.2	14.7
Percentage of students who had obesity (>= 95th percentile for body mass index, based on sex- and age-specific reference data from the 2000 CDC growth chart)	14.0	16.3	16.3	No change	18.1	14.3	15.9
Percentage of students who described themselves as slightly or very overweight	32.6	31.7	32.8	No change	34.9	32.0	30.8
Percentage of students who were trying to lose weight.	44.7	21.6	43.2	Increased	44.6	42.4	44.5
Percentage of students who did not eat fruit or drink 100% fruit juices (during the seven days before the survey)	6.1	5.0	4.7	No change	60.	6.1	6.7
Percentage of students who ate fruit or drank 100% fruit juices one or more times per day (during the seven days before the survey)	54.1	25.4	53.8	Increased	52.6	54.5	55.5
Percentage of students who did not eat vegetables (green salad, potatoes [excluding French fries, fried potatoes, or potato chips], carrots, or other vegetables, during the seven days before the survey)	6.6	5.9	6.8	No change	6.5	7.2	6.8
Percentage of students who ate vegetables one or more times per day (green salad, potatoes [excluding French fries, fried potatoes, or potato chips], carrots, or other vegetables, during the seven days before the survey)	57.1	61.3	58.9	Decreased	58.3	57.5	57.5
Percentage of students who did not drink a can, bottle, or glass of soda or pop (such as Coke, Pepsi, or Sprite, not including diet soda or diet pop, during the seven days before the survey)	28.1	27.7	27.0	No change	25.9	27.3	30.9

Percentage of students who drank a can, bottle, or glass of soda or pop one or more times per day (not including diet soda or diet pop, during the seven days before the survey)	15.9	16.6	18.5	Increased	18.0	16.8	14.5
Percentage of students who did not eat breakfast (during the 7 days before the survey)	14.4	15.1	16.7	Increased	16.5	17.1	17.9
Percentage of students who most of the time or always went hungry because there was not enough food in their home (during the 30 days before the survey)	2.8	2.1	2.3	No change	2.7	2.8	NA
Physical Activity							
Percentage of students who were physically active at least 60 minutes per day on 5 or more days (doing any kind of physical activity that increased their heart rate and made them breathe hard some of the time during the 7 days before the survey)	49.0	56.5	54.5	Decreased	54.7	54.3	46.3
Percentage of students who watched television three or more hours per day (on an average school day) *In 2021, % of students who played video or computer games was combined with % of students who watch television 3 or more hours per day.	18.8	18.8	75.7	NA	75.8	78.6	75.9
Percentage of students who played video or computer games or used a computer three or more hours per day (counting time spent on things such as Xbox, PlayStation, an iPad or other tablet, a smartphone, texting, YouTube, Instagram, Facebook, or other social media, for something that was not school work on an average school day). ~2021~ questioned combined with previous question regarding television.	43.9	45.3	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Other							
Percentage of students who had eight or more hours of sleep (on an average school night)	29.5	24.5	27.5	Increased	29.8	27.5	23.2
Percentage of students who used an indoor tanning device (such as a sunlamp, sunbed, or tanning booth [not including getting a spray-on tan] one or more times during the 12 months before the survey)	7.0	7.4	5.5	Decreased	5.8	6.2	NA

Sources: https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrbs/results.htm; https://www.nd.gov/dpi/districtsschools/safety-health/youth-risk-behavior-survey

Appendix E – Prioritization of Community's Health Needs

Community Health Needs Assessment
ELGIN, North Dakota
Ranking of Concerns

The top concerns for each of the five topic areas, based on the community survey results, were listed on flipcharts. The numbers below indicate the total number of votes (dots) by the people in attendance at the second community meeting. The "Priorities" column lists the number of yellow/green/blue dots placed on the concerns indicating which areas are felt to be priorities. Each person was given four dots to place on the items they felt were priorities. The "Most Important" column lists the number of red dots placed on the flipcharts. After the first round of voting, the top five priorities were selected based on the highest number of votes. Each person was given one dot to place on the item they felt was the most important priority of the top five highest ranked priorities.

	Priorities	Most Important
COMMUNITY/ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CONCERNS		
Attracting & retaining young families	**12**	7
Changes in population size	0	
Not enough affordable housing	0	
Not enough jobs with livable wages	0	
Not enough public transportation options	0	
AVAILABILITY/DELIVERY OF HEALTH SERVICES CONCERNS		
Availability of dental care	**7**	0
Ability to retain primary care providers(MD, DO, NP, PA) and nurses	6	
Availability of primary care providers (MD, DO, NP, PA) and nurses	0	
Availability of specialists	2	
YOUTH POPULATION HEALTH CONCERNS		
Alcohol use and abuse	1	
Depression/Anxiety	**9**	1
Not enough activities for children and youth	1	
Smoking and tobacco use, exposure to second-hand smoke, juuling/vaping	0	
ADULT POPULATION HEALTH CONCERNS		
Alcohol use and abuse	**7**	2
Depression/Anxiety	3	
Not getting enough exercise/physical activity	4	
Stress	0	
SENIOR POPULATION HEALTH CONCERNS		
Availability of home health	**12**	**8**
Availability of resources to help elderly stay in their homes	5	
Availability of transportation for seniors	0	
Cost of long-term/nursing home care	0	

Appendix F – Survey "Other" Responses

The number in parenthesis () indicates the number of people who indicated that EXACT same answer. All comments below are directly taken from the survey results and have not been summarized.

Community Assets

Please tell us about your community by **choosing up to three options** you most agree with in each category below.

1. Considering the PEOPLE in your community, the best things are: "Other" responses:
   - Some are not so friendly
   - Too much gossip

2. Considering the **SERVICES AND RESOURCES** in your community, the best things are: "Other" responses:
   - Cheap housing
   - Healthcare is expensive

3. Considering the **QUALITY OF LIFE** in your community, the best things are: "Other" responses:
   - Ability to work from home
   - Clean air and water
   - Some jobs are close others are not

4. Considering the **ACTIVITIES** in your community, the best things are: "Other" responses:
   - Ability to be outdoors
   - Cattle exercise
   - Plenty of bars

Community Concerns

Please tell us about your community by choosing up to three options you most agree with in each category.

5. Considering the **COMMUNITY/ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH** in your community, concerns are: "Other" responses:
   - Lack of general community involvement by residents
   - Not enough community events

6. Considering the **AVAILABILITY/DELIVERY OF HEALTH SERVICES** in your community, concerns are: "Other" responses:
   - Home Health assistance covered by insurance for those on limited budget

- None
- Service needs not right fit for demographics

8. Considering the **YOUTH POPULATION** in your community, concerns are: “Other” responses:
   - Need a youth group
   - None

9. Considering the **ADULT POPULATION** in your community, concerns are: “Other” responses:
   - Lack of in-home services
   - Loneliness of elders
   - Need more to do

10. What single issue do you feel is the biggest challenge facing your community?
   - Population to support the continuation of services.
   - Attracting young families to move here and stay.
   - Attracting younger families with children to increase the numbers in the school. Also, the availability of jobs that provide a sufficient wage. We seem to be in an area that is on its own having to drive miles to shop etc. Thank goodness we have had some young people venture out and start businesses in our community. I hope everyone supports them. Often this community enjoys seeing people fail rather than lift them up. People are reluctant to try something new - like keeping it 'the way it always has been'. I also think that some businesses and homes need to be cleaned up as they are an eyesore when people visit out community.
   - (2) Availability of home health
   - Availability of services in the elderly home
   - Community confidence in hospitals delivery of services seems to be a long standing challenge and consistency to staff intended services.
   - Cost
   - Cost of Healthcare
   - Cost of long term care
   - Declining population
   - Division and people gossiping
   - Drugs and alcohol
   - Dwindling Population - lack of businesses in the community prevent new families from moving to the area as population continues to decline.
   - Ensuring that we keep quality EMS professionals in order to serve the emergency needs of the community.
   - family involvement with health care needs of elderly that lives alone

- Getting young families that are not from the area to make Elgin home for long term
- Growth of the community
- Home health needs and assistance for those who need a little bit of assistance to stay awhile longer in their home.
- I feel that there are a number of people who use and sell drugs in and around our surrounding area, and more than just pot.
- Job availability and the ability to attract and retain young people.
- Keeping our hospital open
- Lack of an industry which can draw more productive citizens to the community.
- Lack of jobs for young people to move here
- Lack of quality assisted living for elderly patients
- Lack of resources
- Low population, low workers
- (2) No doctors
- No involvement
- People now a days don't seem to volunteer like years ago and there is less people now than years ago. My thought that is the biggest single issue is that families don't want to move to our community because usually only the husband or wife can find work because our town or neighboring towns don't have a need for the profession a spouse may be doing, so they will just live in a bigger city or closer to a bigger city and not even think about working in a small town or commuting from a small town.
- Poverty
- Resources for elderly
- Retaining health care
- The community doesn't come together for events, for the students, events going on around town. I wish we had more things to do for younger adults.
- the fact that there's basically no privacy
- The hospitals ability to aquire and retain quality individuals.
- The lack of community engagement by residents. People don't support organizations or events like they should.
- There are no rental places available for young families to move into our community.
- We have sent our best and brightest away for 50 years. The infracture both socially and literally is crumbling around us.
- Welfare

Delivery of Healthcare

11. What **PREVENTS** community residents from receiving healthcare? "Other" responses:

- Being sent to collections even though bill was paid from the hospital
- None

12. Should grant funding become available in the future for additional services, which services would you most likely use should they become available at JMHCC? "Other" responses:

- Diabetes specialists
- Nutritionist
- Obstetrics
- Pediatrician
- Pediatrics in the ER

14. What specific healthcare services, if any, do you think should be added locally?

- All of them
- Cardiology
- Dental
- Dentist
- Diabetes care
- Dialysis
- Home health care
- I have been fortunate not to have to use any of the above services.
- Mental Health
- Minor and general surgery
- Nutritionist, fitness/wellness coach
- Obgyn
- Optometrist
- Pediatrics
- Skilled home visits
- Telehealth Obstetrics or even an OB once or twice a month
- Women's health care for perimenopause and menopause
- Would be nice to have an ultrasound at the hospital

15. Where do you turn for trusted health information? "Other" responses:

- None

17. Health insurance or health coverage status? "Other" responses:

- Always re-entering between none and Medicaid

- Blue Cross of North Dakota

25. Overall, please share concerns and suggestions to improve the delivery of local healthcare.
    - Add or supply incentives for Healthcare individuals to be recruited and retained that are of higher quality.
    - Adequately educated medical professionals and nurses.
    - Consistent providers who live here full time
    - Dental care and retaining medical staffing
    - get better doctors
    - I am very concerned about possibly losing the ambulance service and emergency care
    - I feel more providers would stick around longer if they actually lived and were a part of the community. Also I feel more hospital employees should be more engaged in volunteering in the community.
    - I feel that the amount of turnover is a concern
    - I think overall we have great local healthcare
    - in need of a dentist, access to specialists,
    - Jacobson memorial had a good doctor and they did them wrong. I will not go b as ck there because of it. Go to Bismarck even for ER services
    - Knowledgeable, reliable, consistent
    - Need more local employees out in the community at events
    - People are always amazed when they discover we have a hospital and clinic. I cannot say how many times my family has utilized the ER and clinic. I cannot imagine having to drive miles for healthcare. The availability of ambulance service, critical care stabilization and then helicopter transport are vital. We are very fortunate to have the facility in our community.
    - Right size the hospital services to needs of the community
    - The traveling nurses and doctors are mostly great, but they are a very poor band aid. We need a hospital staff that is invested in both their patients and the local community.
    - They are okay, doesn't really concern me
    - They have always been available for us during our given needs of concern. We have utilized the clinic, ER, as well as the ambulance. We are grateful for the care which has been provided to us.
    - Thing most needed at my age is help available to stay in my own home.
    - We need a doctor to live and work in our community
    - Would be nice for the PA's/doctors/nurses etc to be more involved in the community so they can build rapport with the community to give the community a sense of knowing and comfort.