

CHI St. Alexius Health Turtle Lake Hospital and Service Area

2019 Community Health Needs Assessment

August 2019

Each Critical Access Hospital must conduct a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) once every three years, as mandated by law. Local public health units seeking to gain/maintain accreditation conduct an assessment every five years. CHNAs completed by the Center for Rural Health (CRH) include secondary data review, community focus groups, key informant interviews, and a community survey. This fact sheet presents key community strengths and opportunities from the Turtle Lake service area 2018/2019 CHNA.

The Turtle Lake service area is primarily McLean County (population 9,685) but also serves patients from Sheridan County. In 2018, 23% of McLean County residents were 65 years old or older, compared to 15% of North Dakotans. The median age in McLean was 11 years older than the state's median age.

Community Strengths

The top three assets identified in a community survey included friendly people, family friendly community, and little/no crime. Other community assets include a city park, several area lakes, a softball complex, and the annual Turtle Days celebration in July.

Health Outcomes and Factors

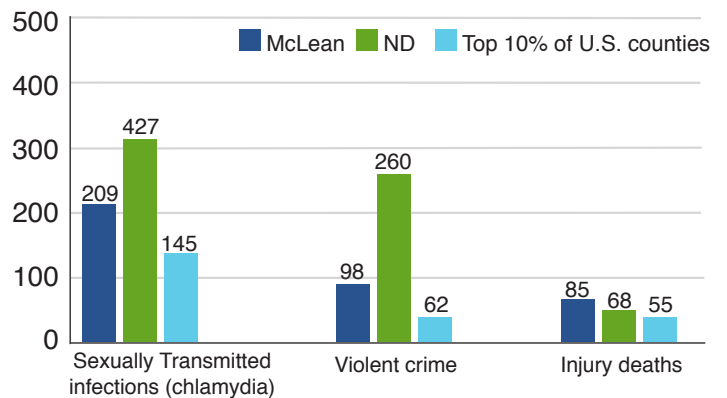
In review of secondary data, only 13% of McLean County residents reported poor or fair health. However, the county had a greater percentage of residents reporting excessive drinking, physical inactivity, adult smoking, and obesity than the top 10% of U.S. counties. See Table 1. Additionally, 37% of driving deaths in 2017 in McLean County involved alcohol compared to only 13% in the top 10% of U.S. counties.

Table 1. Health Factors by % of Population, 2018

	McLean	ND	Top 10% U.S.
Uninsured	10%	9%	6%
Excessive drinking	22%	25%	13%
Physical inactivity	46%	24%	20%
Adult obesity	26%	32%	26%
Adult smokers	36%	20%	14%
Adult smokers	18%	20%	14%

Injury deaths were more prevalent in McLean County than the top 10% of U.S. counties (55 per 100,000 residents). See Figure 1.

Figure 1. Cases per 100,000 Population, 2018



In 2017, McLean County had 270 licensed daycare spots for the 1,076 children ages 0-13 with both parents in the labor force, indicating a shortage of licensed daycare facilities. However, only 15% of McLean County children received SNAP benefits compared to 20% of North Dakota children. See Table 2.

Table 2. Children's Health Factors by % of Population

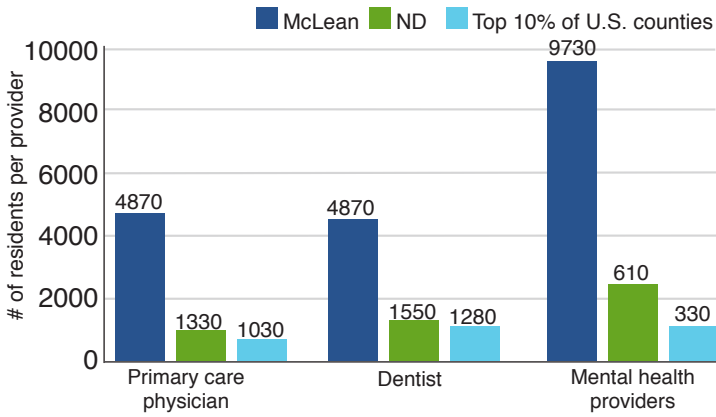
	McLean	ND
Children uninsured (2016)	11%	9%
Uninsured children below 200% of poverty (% of pop.) (2016)	40%	42%
Medicaid recipients (2017)	28%	28%
Children enrolled in Healthy Steps (2013)	3%	3%
Receiving SNAP (2017)	15%	20%
Adult smokers	20%	14%

In 2017, the teen birth rate for McLean County was 24 births per 1,000 females (15-19 years old) which was comparable to 25 per 1,000 in the state. However, these are both higher than the top 10% of U.S. counties (15 per 1,000).

Healthcare Access

Based on the provider to population ratio, McLean County had more residents per single mental health provider (9,730) than the state's average (610) and the top 10% of U.S. counties (330). Similar trends were seen for primary care physicians and dentists. See Figure 2.

Figure 2. Provider to Population Ratios, 2018



Community Concerns

In a survey conducted by the CRH, residents identified up to three primary community concerns. The top two concerns were bullying/cyber-bullying (79%) and youth alcohol use and abuse (51%). See Table 3.

Table 3. Community Concerns, 2018

Community Concerns	%
Bullying/cyber-bullying	79%
Youth alcohol use/abuse	51%
Attracting and retaining young families	50%
Youth drug use/abuse	48%
Adult drug use/abuse	43%
Adult alcohol use/abuse	43%
Resources to help the elderly stay in their homes	42%
Ability to recruit and retain primary care providers	41%
Child abuse/neglect	41%

In November, 2018, a community focus group identified their top concerns as:

1. Ability to recruit and retain primary care providers
2. Not having jobs with livable wages
3. Not enough places for exercise/wellness activities
4. Availability of resources to help elderly stay in their homes

In the survey, community members also identified perceived barriers (up to three) specifically related to accessing local healthcare. The top five barriers were:

1. Not able to see same provider over time (49% of respondents)
2. Not enough providers (32%)
3. No insurance/limited insurance (30%)
4. Can't get transportation services (24%)
5. Not enough evening or weekend hours (22%)

Individuals also indicated which specific healthcare services, if any, they felt should be added locally. The most often cited services were mental healthcare and an urgent care clinic/expanded clinic hours.

Steps Undertaken Since 2016 CHNA

A concern raised in the previous CHNA (2016) was the cost of health insurance. To address this, the hospital offers a sliding fee scale based on patient income. To address the shortage of primary care providers, CHI St. Alexius Health Turtle Lake is working to maintain its National Health Services Core site status to be able to allow for student loan repayment options for providers in exchange for service to the community. To help the elderly stay in their own homes, a fall prevention program was implemented to be held annually. In addition, a partnership between CHI St. Alexius Health Turtle Lake Hospital and CHI St. Alexius Health at Home was pursued in order to provide assistance to those in need to be able to stay in their homes. They also began providing more information on services for the elderly such as Meals-on-Wheels.

Implementation Strategies

Hospitals and local public health units prepare implementation strategies as a blueprint for meeting the needs identified in a CHNA. Access the complete and community-specific CHNA Reports and Implementation Strategies at, ruralhealth.und.edu/projects/community-health-needs-assessment/reports.

Full Report

Howe, M. Turtle Lake Service Area: Community Health Needs Assessment, 2019.

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For More Information

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