

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 Devils Lake service area 2019 CHNA.

The Devils Lake service area is predominantly Ramsey County (population 11,519) but also serves patients from Benson, Eddy and Pierce counties. The Spirit Lake Indian Reservation is located in Benson County.

Community Strengths

The top three assets identified in a community survey included friendly people, family friendly community, and recreational sports and activities. Watersports and fishing remain popular activities in Devils Lake, including several fishing tournaments.

Health Outcomes and Factors

In review of secondary data, 17% of Devils Lake area residents reported poor or fair health. Additionally, 76% of traffic related deaths in the area in 2018 involved alcohol compared to only 13% in the top 10% of U.S. counties. Similarly, the area had a greater percentage of residents reporting excessive obesity, drinking, physical inactivity, and adult smoking. See Table 1.

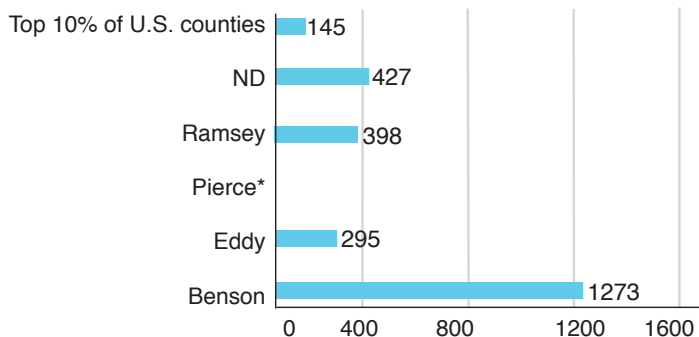
Table 1. Health Factors by % of Population, 2019

	Devils Lake Service Area*	ND	Top 10% U.S.
Uninsured	12%	9%	6%
Excessive drinking	21%	26%	13%
Access to exercise opportunities	71%	75%	91%
Physical inactivity	25%	24%	20%
Adult obesity	34%	32%	26%
Adult smokers	22%	20%	14%

*The Devils Lake Service Area is a weighted average of Benson, Eddy, Pierce, and Ramsey counties.

During 2018, injury deaths were more prevalent in the Devils Lake service area (104 deaths per 100,000 residents) than in the state overall and the top 10% of U.S. counties (57 per 100,000). However, violent crime rates were lower in this area than the North Dakota average. There was variability in the rates of chlamydia by county with Benson County reporting higher rates than any other county in the Devils Lake service area or the state average. See Figure 1.

Figure 1. Chlamydia Cases per 100,000 Pop., 2019



*No current data available for Pierce County.

In 2017, the Devils Lake service area had a higher percentage of children receiving SNAP benefits or Medicaid compared to the state average (Table 2). Furthermore, the Devils Lake service area reported a shortage of licensed daycare providers. In 2017, there were 1,442 licensed daycare spots for the 3,562 children ages 0-13 with both parents in the labor force.

Table 2. Health Factors by % of Pediatric Population

	Devils Lake Service Area*	ND
Children uninsured (2016)	10%	9%
Uninsured children below 200% of poverty (% of pop.) (2016)	46%	42%
Medicaid recipients (2017)	54%	28%
Children enrolled in Healthy Steps (2013)	4%	3%
Receiving SNAP (2017)	39%	20%

*The Devils Lake Service Area is a weighted average of Benson, Eddy, Pierce, and Ramsey counties.

In 2018, the teen birth rate for the Devils Lake service area was 50 births per 1,000 females (15-19 years old) compared to 25 per 1,000 in North Dakota.

Healthcare Access

Table 3 is the number of residents in each county per respective healthcare provider in 2018. Rates are compared to the state and the top 10% of U.S. counties.

Table 3. Residents per Single Provider, 2019

	Primary care	Dentist	Mental health
Ramsey	1,160	1,150	250
Benson	**	6,740	1,680
Pierce	1,420	1,020	**
Eddy	**	770	**
North Dakota	1,330	1,550	610
Top 10% U.S.	1,030	1,280	330

**2019 data not available.

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 (72%) and child abuse or neglect (64%). See Table 3.

Table 3. Community Concerns, 2018

Community Concerns	%
Bullying/cyber-bullying	72%
Child abuse or neglect	64%
Adult alcohol use and abuse	54%
Youth drug use and abuse	53%
Cost of long term care	53%
Adult drug use and abuse	48%
Adequate childcare services	48%
Jobs with livable wages	44%
Youth alcohol use and abuse	43%

In April 2019, a community focus group identified their top concerns as:

1. Substance use and abuse - all ages
2. Extra hours for appointments, such as evenings and weekends
3. Availability of mental health services
4. Having enough child daycare services

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 enough evening or weekend hours (43% of respondents)
2. No insurance/limited insurance (42%)
3. Not affordable (32%)
4. Not able to get an appointment (29%)
5. Not enough specialists (26%)

Individuals also indicated which specific healthcare services, if any, they felt should be added locally. The most often cited service was having an urgent care or extended evening and weekend clinic hours. This is congruent with 43% of survey respondents citing clinic operating hours as a barrier to accessing care.

Steps Undertaken Since 2016 CHNA

As a result of the previous (2016) CHNA there have been great advances for the Devils Lake community. Drug use and abuse was identified as a concern which prompted the formation of a prescription drug abuse campaign, formation of a multi-disciplinary drug abuse care team, community education sessions, and a drug take-back program. In January 2019 alone, over 340 lbs. of unused, unneeded, or expired prescription drugs were dropped off. The goal is to remove 2,000 lbs. of unneeded or expired prescriptions in the service area by the end of 2019. There is also a plan to apply for a Drug Free Communities grant from the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

Implementation Strategies

Hospitals and local public health units prepare implementation strategies as a blueprint for meeting 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

Nissen, K., & Reiten, J. Lake Region Area: Community Health Needs Assessment, 2019.

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For More Information

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