

Southwest Healthcare Services Service Area

2019 Community Health Needs Assessment

January 2020

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 Southwest Healthcare Services (SWHS) service area 2019 CHNA.

The SWHS service area comprises of Bowman and Slope counties, as well as portions of Harding County in South Dakota. For the purposes of this fact sheet, Bowman County (population 3,076) will be the primary focus.

Community Strengths

The top three assets identified in the community survey included that the people are friendly, helpful and supportive; the community is family friendly; and it is a safe place to live with little-to-no crime. Other community assets include two fitness centers, city parks, a recreation center, museum, and a golf course. The community also reports a lower percentage of adult smokers (14%) than the state average (20%).

Health Outcomes and Factors

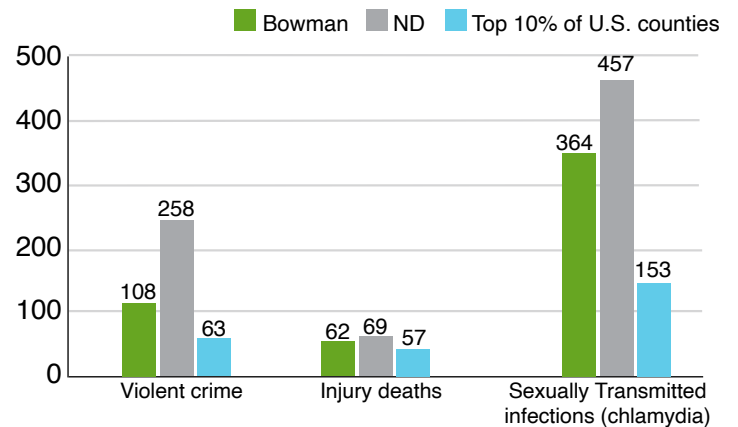
In review of secondary data, only 11% of Bowman County residents reported poor or fair health. However, the county had a greater percentage of residents reporting excessive drinking, physical inactivity, and obesity than the top 10% of U.S. counties. See Table 1.

Table 1. Health Factors by % of Population, 2019

	Bowman County	ND	Top 10% U.S.
Uninsured	9%	8%	6%
Excessive drinking	23%	26%	13%
Access to exercise opportunities	74%	74%	91%
Physical inactivity	26%	22%	19%
Adult obesity	30%	32%	26%
Adult smokers	14%	20%	14%

Injury deaths were less prevalent in Bowman County (62 deaths per 100,000 residents, respectively) than in the state overall (66 per 100,000 residents), but more than the top 10% of U.S. counties (57 per 100,000 residents). The same is true for incidence of violent crime and incidence of chlamydia. See Figure 1.

Figure 1. Cases per 100,000 Population, 2019



In Bowman County in 2018 there were 148 licensed daycare spots for the 526 children ages 0-13 with both parents in the labor force. See Table 2 for more information on children's health.

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

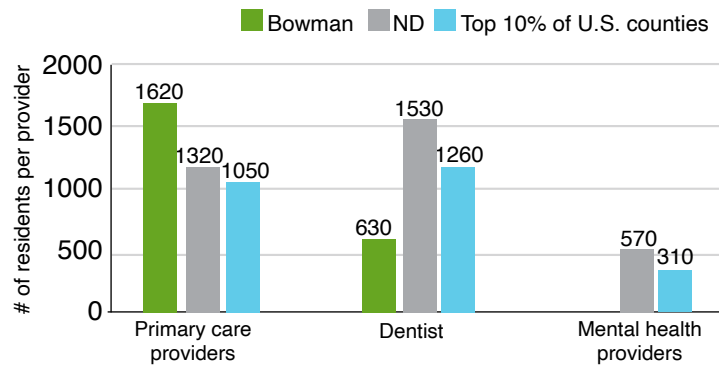
	Bowman	ND
Children uninsured (2017)	13%	8%
Uninsured children below 200% of poverty (% of pop.) (2017)	34%	44%
Medicaid recipients (2018)	18%	27%
Children enrolled in Healthy Steps (2013)	2%	2%
Receiving SNAP (2018)	10%	20%

In 2019, the teen birth rate for Bowman County was 34 births per 1,000 females (15-19 years old). This is both higher than the state average of 23 per 1,000 and the top 10% of U.S. counties (14 per 1,000).

Healthcare Access

Based on the provider to population ratio, Bowman County has fewer residents per single dentist than the state's average and the top 10% of U.S. counties (1,260 residents per one dentist). However, the county has more residents per primary care provider than the state's average (1,320 residents per primary care provider) and the top 10% of U.S. counties. See Figure 2.

Figure 2. Provider to Population Ratios, 2019



Community Concerns

In a survey conducted by the CRH, residents identified up to three primary community concerns. The top two concerns were bullying/cyberbullying (73%) and attracting and retaining young families (59%). Youth smoking & tobacco use (including vaping), youth alcohol use & abuse, and cost of long-term/nursing home care made the top five. See Table 3.

Table 3. Community Concerns, 2019

Community Concerns	%
Bullying/Cyberbullying	73%
Attracting & Retaining Young Families	59%
Smoking & Tobacco Use, Vaping – Youth	58%
Alcohol Use & Abuse – Youth	55%
Cost of Long-Term/Nursing Home Care	49%
Child Abuse or Neglect	48%
Availability of Resources to Help the Elderly Stay in Their Homes	45%
Ability to Retain Primary Care Providers	43%

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

1. Ability to retain primary care providers
2. Attracting and retaining young families
3. Availability of mental health services
4. Depression/anxiety

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 (52% of respondents)
2. No/limited insurance (49%)
3. Not enough providers (35%)
4. Not enough specialists (35%)
5. Don't know about local services (33%)

Individuals also indicated which specific healthcare services, if any, they felt should be added locally. The most often cited service was mental health, which was also identified as a top need by the community focus group.

Steps Undertaken Since 2016 CHNA

Since the last CHNA process, SWHS has taken notable steps to address the top identified concerns. Two physicians and one visiting specialist have been brought on to answer concerns over the ability to recruit and retain providers. In 2017 SWHS began to provide mental health treatment via telemedicine services and has continued to increase awareness of these services for not only mental health but also treatment for drug and alcohol use and abuse, both of which were identified as a need. With the last top need being attracting and retaining young families, the facility implemented sign-on bonuses for certain positions in the hospital, as well as referral bonuses for current employees. SWHS's CEO also serves on the board of directors for the Economic Development Corporation to help stimulate growth in this area.

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

Larson, S. & Breigenzer, A. Bowman Service Area: Community Health Needs Assessment, 2019.

For More Information

Visit the website, ruralhealth.und.edu/projects/community-health-needs-assessment or contact:

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