

Linton Hospital Service Area

2021 Community Health Needs Assessment

October 2021

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 Linton Hospital service area 2021 CHNA.

The Linton Hospital service area is comprised of Emmons County whose population is 3,310 as of 2019 census. The population has decreased by 8.6% from 2010 to 2019. The percentage of residents, ages 65 and older, is almost 12.4% higher for Emmons County (28.1%) than the North Dakota average (15.7%).

Community Strengths

The top three assets identified in the community survey included that it was a safe place to live; family friendly; and people are friendly, helpful, and supportive. Other community assets included quality school systems, and people who lived here are involved in their community and healthcare.

Health Outcomes and Factors

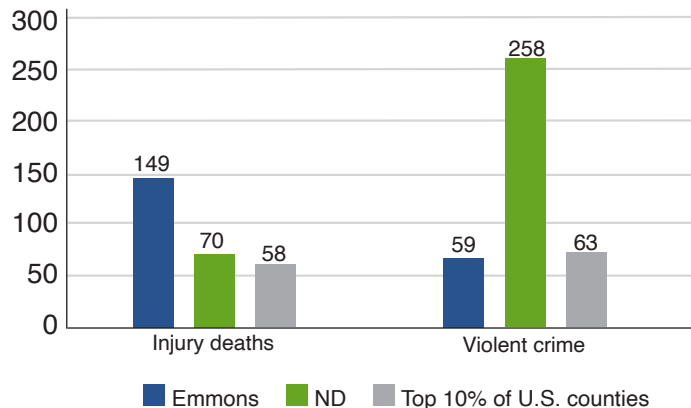
In review of secondary data, only 15% of Emmons County residents reported poor or fair health. However, the county had a greater percentage of residents reporting excessive drinking, physical inactivity, adult smoking, and obesity than the top 10% of U.S. counties. See Table 1.

Table 1. Health Factors by % of Population, 2021

	Emmons	ND	Top 10% U.S.
Uninsured	12%	9%	6%
Excessive drinking	19%	24%	13%
Access to exercise opportunities	3%	74%	91%
Physical inactivity	24%	24%	20%
Adult obesity	27%	33%	26%
Adult smokers	15%	18%	14%

Injury deaths were more prevalent in Emmons County (149 deaths per 100,000 residents) than in the state overall (70 per 100,000 residents) and the top 10% of U.S. counties (58 per 100,000 residents), but the county did have a lower violent crime rate than both. See Figure 1.

Figure 1. Cases per 100,000 Population, 2020



In 2019, Emmons County had 155 licensed daycare spots, while from 2015-2019 there were an average of 362 children, ages 0-13, with both parents in the labor force. See Table 2 for more information on children's health factors.

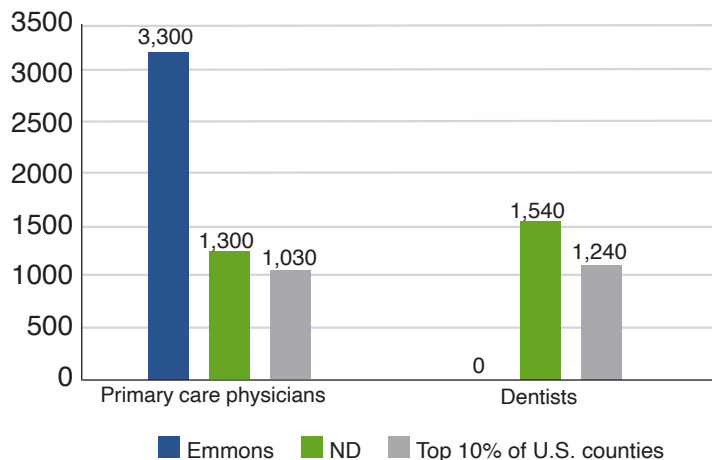
Table 2. Children's Health Factors by % of Population

	Emmons	ND
Children uninsured (2018)	14.4%	6.3%
Children in poverty (ages 0-17) (% of pop.) (2019)	17.7%	10.9%
Medicaid recipients (2019)	29.9%	26.6%
Children enrolled in Healthy Steps (2019)	1.6%	1.6%
Receiving SNAP (2019)	10.6%	16.9%

Healthcare Access

Based on the provider to population ratio, Emmons County has more residents per single dentist than the state's average and the top 10% of U.S. counties. North Dakota has 1,280 residents per one dentist. The same is true for the ratio of population to primary care providers. According to County Health Rankings, there are no dentists in the area. See Figure 2.

Figure 2. Provider to Population Ratios, 2020



In a survey conducted by CRH, residents identified up to three primary community concerns. The top two concerns were attracting and retaining young families to the area (65%) and the ability to retain primary care providers and nurses (44%). Alcohol use and abuse with youth, depression/anxiety among adults, and cost of long-term /nursing home care made the top five. See Table 3.

Table 3. Community Concerns, 2021

Community Concern	%
Bullying/cyberbullying - youth	74%
Attracting and retaining young families	50%
Alcohol use and abuse - adult	49%
Child abuse or neglect	49%
Alcohol use and abuse - youth	47%
Activities for children and youth	45%
Help for elderly to stay in their home	45%
Having enough child daycare service	45%
Depression/anxiety – adult	38%

In January 2021, a community focus group identified their top concerns as:

1. Alcohol use and abuse – adults
2. Having enough child daycare services
3. Availability of mental health 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 being able to see the same provider over time (39% of respondents)
2. No insurance or limited insurance (33%)
3. Not having enough specialists (30%)
4. Not enough evening or weekend hours (27%)
5. Concerns about confidentiality (24%)

Individuals also indicated which specific healthcare services, if any, they felt should be added locally. The most often cited service was mental health services.

Steps Undertaken Since 2018 CHNA

Linton Hospital has made significant progress in order to respond to needs identified during the previous CHNA. Jobs and livable wages had been addressed by Linton Hospital by continuing to offer life-sustaining wages and benefits to staff. Representatives of the hospital attend Linton Industrial Development Corporation (LIDC) and Linton Chamber of Commerce meetings. A hospital representative is now a board member of the Little Lion’s Daycare that opened in May 2019 to address limited child daycare services in the area. Cancer was the highest ranked physical health concern for the community. Continued education and new efforts have included a wellness clinic that is held annually during hospital week that provides labs and prostate-specific antigen tests at discounted cost without having to make an appointment. A second surgeon was acquired to double the number of colonoscopies able to be performed. Linton Hospital has continued to maintain specialty providers and has been able fill two nurse practitioner positions as well as hire a full-time physician. This action has allowed the return of the Cardiac Rehab program. To address alcohol use among area youth, Linton Hospital has partnered with public health and has taken steps in regard to free Narcan and the disposal of old medications to prevent drug diversion.

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. & Breigenzer, A. Linton Hospital Service Area: Community Health Needs Assessment, 2021.

For More Information

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

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