

Ashley Medical Center Service Area

Community Health Needs Assessment

April 2022

Each Critical Access Hospital (CAH) 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 Ashley service area 2022 CHNA.

The Ashley Medical Center (AMC) service area is comprised of McIntosh County in its entirety. The county's percentage of residents ages 65 and older is almost 17% higher for McIntosh County (32.2%) than the North Dakota average (15.3%). The median household income in McIntosh County (\$52,587) is much lower than the state average for North Dakota (\$64,894).

Community Strengths

The top three assets identified in the community survey included it was a safe place to live, people are friendly, helpful, and supportive, and family-friendly. Other community assets included healthcare, local events and festivals, and the community being an active faith community.

Health Outcomes and Factors

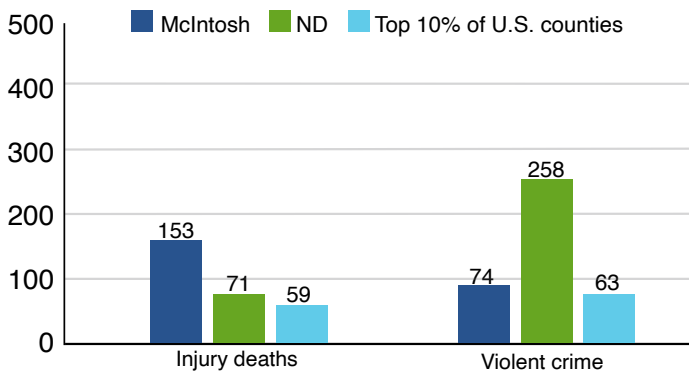
In review of secondary data, only 17% of McIntosh County residents reported poor or fair health. It also had a greater percentage of residents reporting physical inactivity and adult smoking than the rest of the state and the top 10% of U.S. counties. See Table 1.

Table 1. Health Factors by % of Population, 2021

	McIntosh	ND	Top 10% U.S.
Uninsured	13%	8%	6%
Excessive drinking	22%	24%	15%
Access to exercise opportunities	73%	74%	91%
Physical inactivity	31%	23%	19%
Adult obesity	26%	34%	26%
Adult smoking	22%	20%	16%

Injury deaths were more prevalent in McIntosh County (153 deaths per 100,000 residents, respectively) than in the state overall (71 per 100,000 residents) and the top 10% of U.S. counties (59 per 100,000 residents). See Figure 1.

Figure 1. Cases per 100,000 Population, 2021



In 2020, data shows Medicaid recipients (% of population ages 0-20) was 37.6% for McIntosh County, which is higher than the North Dakota average of 26.0%. Child food insecurity reported in 2019 was 10.6% for McIntosh County, while North Dakota was 9.6%. See Table 2 for more information on children's health factors.

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

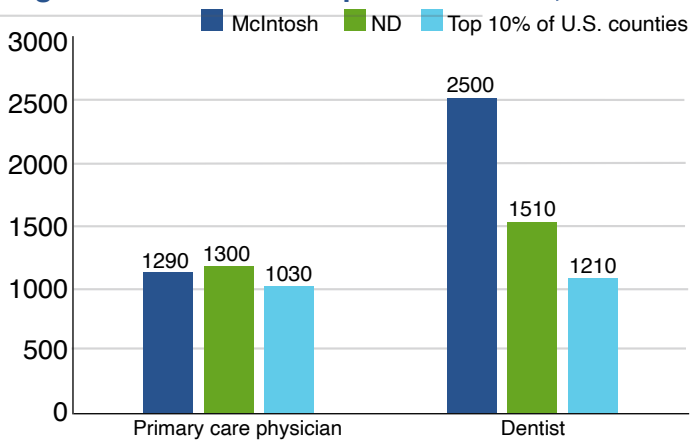
	McIntosh	ND
Child food insecurity, (2019)	10.6%	9.6%
Medicaid recipients (2020)	37.6%	26.0%
Children enrolled in Healthy Steps (2020)	1.5%	1.7%
Receiving SNAP (2020)	15.8%	17.0%
4-Year High School Cohort Graduation Rate, 2019/2020	>=80%	89.0%

In 2021, 16% of children in McIntosh County were living in poverty. This is higher than both the state (11%) and the top 10% of U.S. counties (10%).

Healthcare Access

Based on the provider to population ratio, McIntosh County has far more residents per single dentist than the state's average and the top 10% of U.S. counties (2,500 residents per one dentist). However, McIntosh County had less residents per primary care provider (1,290) than the state's average (1,300). See Figure 2.

Figure 2. Provider-to-Population Ratios, 2021



**No data for McIntosh County in 2021 for Mental Health Providers to population ratio.*

Community Concerns

In a survey conducted by CRH, residents identified up to three primary community concerns. The top two concerns were attracting and retaining young families (65%) and not enough jobs with livable wages (58%). Having enough child daycare services, assisted living options, and depression/anxiety in adults made the top five. Bullying/cyberbullying and emotional abuse were also concerns but had fewer respondents. See Table 3.

Table 3. Community Concerns, 2021

Community Concerns	%
Attracting and retaining young families	65%
Bullying/cyberbullying	63%
Not enough jobs with livable wages	58%
Assisted living options	57%
Having enough child daycare services	55%
Emotional abuse	53%
Availability of home health	50%
Depression/anxiety in adults	48%

In February 2022, a community focus group identified their top concerns as:

1. Not enough healthcare staff in general
2. Attracting and retaining young families
3. Changes in population size
4. Not enough jobs with livable wages

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

1. Not able to get appointment/limited hours (53%)
2. Concerns about confidentiality (47%)
3. Not enough evening/weekend hours (47%)
4. Not being able to see same provider of time (42%)

Individuals also indicated which specific healthcare services, if any, they felt should be added locally. The number one desired service to add locally was an optometrist/eye doctor.

Steps taken Since 2019 CHNA

AMC has taken steps to address the top concerns identified in the 2019 assessment. In regard to attracting and retaining young families to the community, AMC cannot address local economical attractions other than maintaining financial viability. They offer competitive wages at the medical center. The need for adequate childcare services has been minimal, but one daycare has made modifications to enable housing additional children. The third need, assisted living options, continues to be on the radar of AMC. The board has discussed this concern again recently. There continues to be issues with staffing assisted living, as the facility struggles to staff the acute and long-term care facilities that currently exist. In regard to lack of jobs with livable wages, they continue to review and adjust wages. AMC is competitive with wages in the 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

Nissen, K., Folarin, A., and Bosch, J. Ashley Medical Center Service Area: Community Health Needs Assessment, 2022.

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For More Information

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