

# Towner County Medical Center, Cando Service Area

## 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment

July 2022

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 Cando service area 2022 CHNA.

The Towner County Medical Center (TCMC) service area's population decreased by 1% from 2020 to 2021. The percentage of residents ages 65 and older is almost 10% higher for Towner County (25.3%) than the North Dakota average (15.7%), and the rate of education for Towner County (89.1%) is slightly lower than the North Dakota average (93.1%). The median household income in Towner County (\$49,464) is much lower than the median household income for North Dakota (\$65,315).

### Community Strengths

The top three assets identified in the community survey included people being friendly, helpful, and supportive; a safe place to live with little to no crime; and it being family friendly. Other community assets include people who live here are involved in their community, healthcare, and its quality school systems.

### Health Outcomes and Factors

In review of secondary data, 17% of Towner County residents reported poor or fair health. They also reported having a greater percentage of residents reporting physical inactivity, adult smoking, and alcohol impaired driving deaths than the top 10% of U.S. counties. See Table 1.

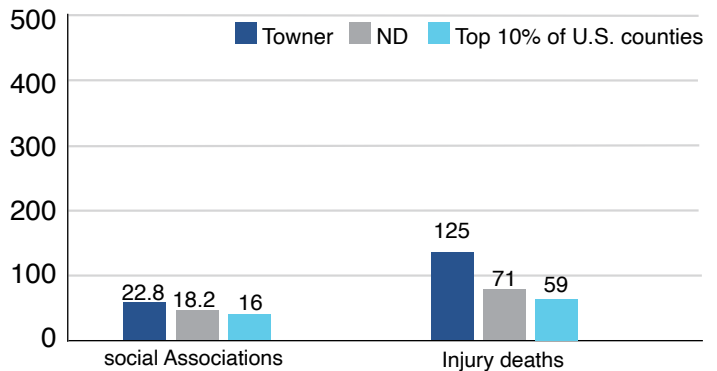
**Table 1. Health Factors by % of Population, 2021**

	Towner	ND	Top 10% U.S.
Uninsured	9%	8%	6%
Excessive drinking	23%	24%	15%
Alcohol impaired driving deaths	50%	42%	11%
Physical inactivity	35%	23%	19%
Adult obesity	30%	34%	26%
Adult smokers	22%	20%	16%

Injury deaths were more prevalent in Towner County (125 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). Social associations exceeded the state and top 10% of U.S. counties. See Figure 1.

**Figure 1. Cases per 100,000 Population, 2022**



In 2020, data shows Medicaid recipients (% of population ages 0-20) was 25.6% for Towner County, which is lower than the North Dakota average of 26.0%. See Table 2 for more information on children's health factors.

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

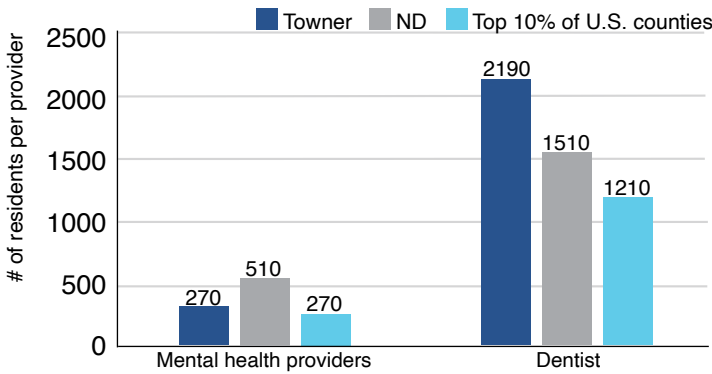
	Towner	ND
Victims of child abuse and neglect requiring services (2019)	16.88	9.98
Child food insecurity, (2019)	10.4%	9.6%
Medicaid recipients (2020)	25.6%	26.0%
Children enrolled in Healthy Steps (2020)	0.4%	1.7%
Receiving SNAP (2020)	14.7%	17.0%

In 2021, 16% of children in Towner 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, Towner County has more residents per single dentist. Mental health providers are meeting the top 10% of U.S. counties and exceeding the state average. No data was reported for primary care physicians. See Figure 2.

**Figure 2. Provider to Population Ratios, 2022**



## Community Concerns

In a survey conducted by CRH, residents identified up to three primary community concerns. The top two concerns were bullying/cyberbullying and depression/anxiety in youth. Making the top five list were attracting and retaining young families, having enough child daycare services, and adult depression/anxiety. See Table 3.

**Table 3. Community Concerns, 2022**

Community Concerns	%
Bullying/cyberbullying	77%
Depression/anxiety – youth	56%
Attracting and retaining young families	52%
Having enough child daycare services	52%
Depression/anxiety – adult	50%
Alcohol use and abuse – adult	49%
Child abuse or neglect	49%
Availability of resources to help elderly stay in their homes	45%

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

1. Availability of mental health services
2. Attracting and retaining young families
3. Cost of health insurance

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

1. Concerns about confidentiality (36% of respondents)
2. Not affordable (34%)
3. Not enough evening/weekend hours (29%)
4. No insurance/limited insurance (24%)
5. Distance from health facility (14%)

Individuals also indicated which specific healthcare services, if any, they felt should be added locally. The most often cited services were mental health services and dental care.

## Steps Undertaken Since 2019 CHNA

TCMC has taken steps to address the top concerns identified in the 2019 assessment. Having enough child daycare services was a need and attracting and retaining young families were both established as priorities. TCMC daycare continues to provide services (licensed for 26 children) ages newborn to age 12. Two other daycares are offering services and are four level care certified. TCMC has added a fourth medication-assisted treatment (MAT) provider to address the adult drug use and abuse (including prescription drug abuse) issue and the increase in MAT visits. They continue to work with Heartview Treatment Center. TCMC also provides injectable buprenorphine and continues to work with Towner County Public Health on the State Opioid Response grant. TCMC expanded its services by providing telehealth services to patients when appointments can't be made in person in a timely manner. In regard to bullying/cyberbullying, this need was unable to directly be addressed during this cycle due to a change in focus to address COVID-19. The TCMC board chose not to address the cost of health insurance.

## 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](http://ruralhealth.und.edu/projects/community-health-needs-assessment/reports).

### Full Report

Nissen, K., Breigenzer, A. & Walter, A. Cando Service Area: Community Health Needs Assessment, 2022.

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### For More Information

Visit the website, [ruralhealth.und.edu/projects/community-health-needs-assessment](http://ruralhealth.und.edu/projects/community-health-needs-assessment) or contact:

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### Community Liaison

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*CHNAs are supported in part by the health facilities and under the State Office of Rural Health grant, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration Federal Office of Rural Health Policy.*