

SMP Health – St. Aloisius Service Area

2022 Community Health Needs Assessment

October 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 Harvey service area 2022 CHNA.

The St. Aloisius service area comprises Wells County. The service area's population decreased by 1.9% from 2020 to 2021. The percentage of residents ages 65 and older is 13% higher for Wells County (28.7%) than the North Dakota average (15.7%), and the rate of education for Wells County (91.5%) is slightly lower than the North Dakota average (93.3%). The median household income in Wells County (\$58,932) is much lower than the median household income for North Dakota (\$68,131).

Community Strengths

The top three assets identified in the community survey included people are friendly, helpful, and supportive; family-friendly; and it's a safe place to live. Other community assets include feeling connected to people who live here and active faith community. The community also reports better access to healthcare providers.

Health Outcomes and Factors

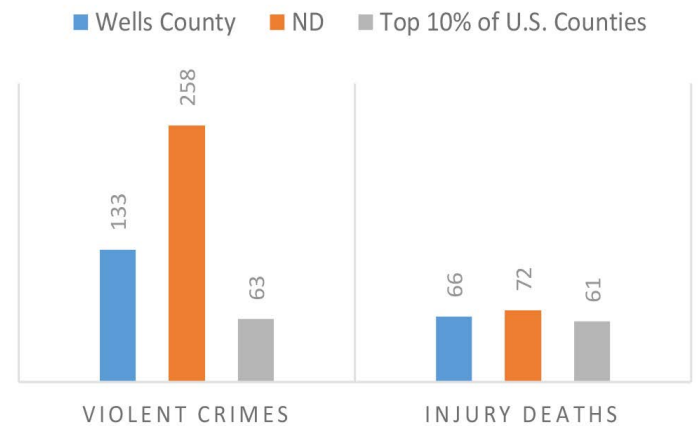
In review of secondary data, only 15% of Wells County residents reported poor or fair health. However, Wells County had a greater percentage of residents reporting excessive drinking, physical inactivity, adult smoking, and obesity than the top 10% of U.S. counties. See Table 1.

Table 1. Health Factors by % of Population, 2022

	Wells County	ND	Top 10% U.S.
Uninsured	7%	7%	6%
Excessive drinking	23%	24%	15%
Unemployment	4.4%	5.1%	4.0%
Physical inactivity	29%	28%	23%
Adult obesity	36%	36%	15%
Adult smokers	18%	17%	15%

Injury deaths were more prevalent in Wells County (66 deaths per 100,000 residents, respectively) than in the state overall (72 per 100,000 residents) and the top 10% of U.S. counties (61 per 100,000 residents). The same is true for incidence of violent crime. See Figure 1.

Figure 1. Cases per 100,000 Population, 2022



In 2022, data shows Medicaid recipients (% of population ages 0-20) was 34.6% for Wells County, which is much higher than the North Dakota average of 26.1%. See Table 2 for more information on children's health factors.

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

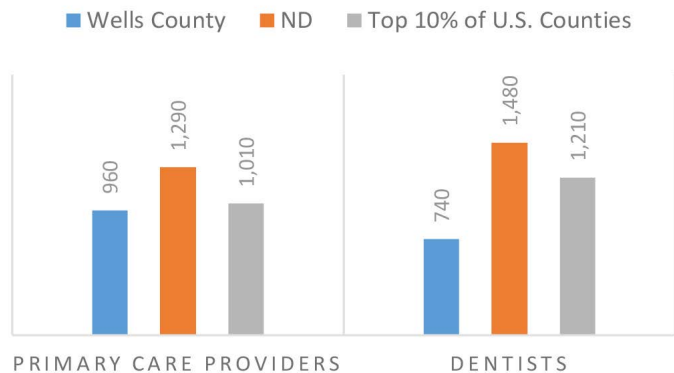
	Wells	ND
Victims of child abuse and neglect requiring services (rate per 1,000 children ages 0-17) (2020)	10.42	8.89
Child food insecurity (2019)	10.2%	9.6%
Medicaid recipients (2021)	34.6%	26.1%
Children enrolled in Healthy Steps (2021)	1.7%	2.1%
Receiving SNAP (2021)	21.8%	16.5%

In 2021, children in poverty was 14% in Wells County compared to the state average of 11% and 10% for the top 10% of U.S. counties.

Healthcare Access

Based on the provider to population ratio, Wells County had fewer residents per primary care provider (960:1) than the state's average (1,290:1) and the top 10% of U.S. counties (1,010:1). Wells County also had more residents per dentist (740:1) than the state's average (1,480:1) and the top 10% of U.S. counties (1,210:1). 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 depression/anxiety among adults (N=37) and bullying/cyberbullying (N=34). Depression/anxiety in youth, attracting and retaining young families, and alcohol use and abuse in adults made the top five. See Table 3.

Table 3. Community Concerns, 2022

Community Concerns	N*
Depression/anxiety – adult	37
Bullying/cyberbullying	34
Depression/anxiety – youth	28
Attracting and retaining young families	27
Alcohol use and abuse – youth	26
Alcohol use and abuse – adult	25
Not enough jobs with livable wages	24
Child abuse or neglect	24

*N= number of votes received out of 66 people voting

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

1. Depression/anxiety (all ages)
2. Assisted living options for seniors
3. Attracting and retaining young families
4. Smoking and tobacco use (youth)

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

1. No insurance/limited insurance (41% of respondents)
2. Not affordable (32%)
3. Concerns about confidentiality (27%)
4. Don't know about local services (25%)
5. Not enough specialists (23%)

Individuals also indicated which specific healthcare services, if any, they felt should be added locally. Majority of responses were focused on adding wellness programs and creating physical fitness opportunities.

Steps Undertaken Since 2019 CHNA

The strategies to increase access to mental health and addiction providers included the implementation of the Community Mental Health services to add counselors for adult mental health and addiction needs. The objective was to increase the number of practicing mental health primary care providers over a three-year period (FY19- FY21). Wells County District Health Unit (WCDHU) acquired a SOARS grant from the North Dakota Department of Health for addiction and recovery. Other needs were attracting and retaining young families, creating a community health program, and strengthening the relationship between the school, health services, and community leaders. The key objectives were for the City of Harvey, WCDHU, and St. Aloisius Medical Center to coordinate job openings in the community and for community health to be addressed with Governor Burgum's Main Street Initiative. One step to achieve objectives was to hire a human resources director, which was accomplished in September 2019.

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/report.

Full Report

Long, H. & Nissen, K. SMP Health – St. Aloisius Service Area: Community Health Needs Assessment, 2022.

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For More Information

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