

**Executive Summary:** The Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) is conducted every three years as part of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. The following primary and secondary data is compiled to support the St. Luke's Rural West Campuses (Miners, Lehighton, Carbon).

### Demographics\*

**Population:** 95,103  
**Population Density:** 217.11  
**Urban housing:** 56.5%  
**Zip codes (highest serving/county):**  
 18235- Carbon  
 18252- Schuylkill  
 18071- Carbon

### Race and Ethnicity

White: 95.6%  
 Black: 2.2%  
 Asian: 0.5%  
 Other Race: 1.7%  
 Hispanic: 5%

### Age

Under 18: 20%  
 18-64: 60.6%  
 65 and older: 19.4%

### Sex at Birth

Male: 49.7%  
 Female: 50.3%

### ALICE

In Schuylkill county, 29% of people (Coedale borough, 42%) are considered Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed

\*Data from ACS 5-year estimates

### Key Findings

Overall Network assessment results highlight three main priority focus areas for our community health initiatives:

 **Access to Care**    **Prevention of Chronic Illnesses**    **Mental and Behavioral Health**

These priority areas were determined based on the significant impact the social determinants of health place and provide a guide for our programs and other health initiatives that support our patients, care-workers, and communities. Findings from the 2022 CHNA highlight the differences within communities and systems that contribute to the prevalence of disease and poor health outcomes that contribute to a lack of optimal health for socially disadvantaged populations.

Economic Stability	Physical Environment	Education	Food	Community Safety
Employed: 46.3% Retired: 35.6% Unemployed: 13.7%	72.2% of respondents in the Rural West service area own/mortgage their home	29.9% of survey respondents have a high school degree	18% of children in Schuylkill county were projected to be food insecure in 2021*	85% agreed that their community was safe
35.7% of patients visiting the ED 5+ times made less than \$14,999 per year	Asthma disproportionately affects low-income survey respondents making less than \$14,999 (18.7%) compared to respondents making \$60,000 and above (8%)	3.7% of respondents have not completed a degree	Food insecurity rates: Carbon county: 14.8% in 2020, a 27% increase from 2019* Schuylkill county: 14.9% in 2020, a 24% increase from 2019	35% LGBT individuals in Carbon and Schuylkill counties reported ever being the victim of violence*
28.1% of Households in the Rural West service area live at 200% below the Federal Poverty Line *	29.2% LGBT individuals in Carbon and Schuylkill counties reported ever being homeless*	14.8% of respondents have a graduate degree	12% of households in the Rural West service area receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)*	10.3% of students in Schuylkill county reported being attacked on school property*

\*Indicates a secondary data source

### Access to Care

Health disparities are heavily influenced by social and economic factors. In the St. Luke's Rural West service area, significant factors contribute to the health disparities seen in the population.

Access to Care	Total	Income	Ethnicity	Insurance
Primary Care Physician (visit within the past year)	82.4%	Less than \$24,999: 80% \$60,000 and above: 84%	Hispanic: 81% Non-Hispanic: 83%	Private Insurance: 80% Medicare: 89% Medicaid: 83% Uninsured: 30%
Dental Visit (visit within the past year)	60.8%	Less than \$24,999: 41% \$60,000 and above: 73%	Hispanic: 52% Non-Hispanic: 61%	Private Insurance: 57% Medicaid: 13% Uninsured: 29%
Missed Medical Appointment	Share of cost was too high: 7% Thought problem wasn't serious: 7% Couldn't get appointment: 6%	5.1% missed an appointment because they couldn't get time off from work	14% of Hispanic respondents missed an appointment because the share of cost was too high	5% missed an appointment because insurance didn't cover what was needed

## COVID-19 IMPACT

The impacts of COVID-19 have yet to be fully realized, but the increase in health disparities is already seen in many aspects of care.

- While 19% of adults prior to COVID-19 experienced a mental illness (10.8% of those uninsured), during the pandemic this number grew to a reported 53% of adults.<sup>1,2</sup>
- More than 50 million people in the nation may experience food insecurity due to COVID-19.<sup>3</sup>
- The opioid epidemic and increased rates of substance use since the start of the pandemic are contributing to drastic increases in need for care and services for mental and behavioral health, with overdose rates increasing 18.2% since the start of the pandemic.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup><https://www.mhanational.org/issues/state-mental-health-america>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.kff.org/>

<sup>3</sup><https://www.feedingamerica.org/research/coronavirus-hunger-research>

<sup>4</sup><https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2020/han00438.asp>

## Prevention of Chronic Illness

The goal of our Healthy Living and Chronic Disease Prevention is to improve the nutritional status and physical activity levels while reducing the chronic disease burden. These initiatives are driven by the 2022 CHNA survey results below.

Chronic Illness	Percentage of Survey Respondents	Income	Ethnicity	Insurance
Diabetes	17%	Less than \$24,999: 21% \$60,000 and above: 15%	Hispanic: 17% Non-Hispanic: 17%	15% of respondents with Medicaid or are uninsured are diabetic
Hypertension	42.7%	Less than \$24,999: 48% \$60,000 and above: 41%	Hispanic: 40% Non-Hispanic: 43%	32% of respondents with Medicaid or are uninsured have hypertension
Hyperlipidemia	26.6%	Less than \$24,999: 26% \$60,000 and above: 26%	Hispanic: 14% Non-Hispanic: 27%	19% of respondents with Medicaid or are uninsured have hyperlipidemia
Obesity	50.1%	Less than \$24,999: 54% \$60,000 and above: 48%	Hispanic: 51% Non-Hispanic: 50%	59% of respondents with Medicaid or are uninsured live with obesity

## Mental and Behavioral Health

Mental and Behavioral Health are critical to the livelihood and welfare of our communities. Mental and Behavioral Health resources are insufficient across the nation. Our network continues to grow and address this need while working with community partners toward improving mental health ratios.

Mental Health	Percentage of Survey Respondents	Income	Ethnicity	Insurance
I have experienced at least one poor mental health day in the last 30 days	41.2%	Less than \$24,999: 53% \$60,000 and above: 37%	Hispanic: 62% Non-Hispanic: 41%	55% of respondents with Medicaid or are uninsured had at least one poor mental health day
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• According to PAYS, 40.6% of children in Northampton county report feeling sad or depressed MOST days in the past 12 months</li> <li>• The ratio of mental healthcare providers is 1210:1 in Schuylkill county (compared to 450:1 in PA and 270:1 for U.S. top performers)</li> </ul>				

