

2025 Rural West Community Health Needs Assessment Executive Summary

The Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) is conducted every three years as part of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. The established priority areas were determined based on CHNA findings and alignment with the social determinants of health,

Key Findings

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



Access to Care



Chronic Disease Prevention



Mental and Behavioral Health

The priorities established serve as a guide for our health initiatives that support our patients, community health workers, and communities. Findings from the 2025 CHNA highlight the differences within our communities that contribute to the prevalence of disease and poor health outcomes that can lead to a lack of optimal health, especially among socially disadvantaged populations.

Healthcare Access and Quality	Neighborhood and Built Environment	Social and Community Context	Economic Stability	Education Access and Quality
Primary Care Provider Ratios: PA: 1,260:1 Carbon County: 2,970:1 Schuylkill County: 1,990:1	Cost burdened households in the Rural West service area (2022): Renters: 42.5% Homeowners: 24.1%	By 2029, adults 65 years and older will account for 24.0% of the population compared to 18.9% under 18 years old	Service area median household income: 2024: \$61,564 2029 (est.): \$70,074	Students (grades 6-12) that reported feeling sad or depressed most days in the past 12 months: Carbon County: 38.4% Schuylkill County: 38.1%
Average annual out-of-pocket healthcare expenditures (service area): \$4,045	Public Transportation Use (to/from work): United States: 3.8% PA: 4.3% Carbon County: 0.3% Schuylkill County: 0.4%	Top Spanish speaking zip codes in the Rural West service area: 18201: 52.7% 18232: 9.2% 18210: 6.5%	Households with an income below the poverty level in the last 12 months: Carbon County: 10.2% Schuylkill County: 12.2%	Students (grades 6-12) that worried about running out of food one or more times in the past year: Carbon County: 25.6% Schuylkill County: 24.0%
Uninsured Rates: United States: 10% PA: 7% Rural West service area: 19 years and younger: 1.2% 19-64 years old: 6.1% 65 years and older: 0.1%	An average of 3.0% of people in the Rural West service area did not have access to a car	Food insecurity rates: PA: 7% Carbon County: 11% Schuylkill County: 11%	A family of four is at the federal poverty level if they make \$31,200 or less	Students (grades 6-12) that reported being bullied in the past year: Carbon County: 29.5% Schuylkill County: 28.2%

Sources: ACS 2018-2023, Esri, Pennsylvania Youth Survey, US Census

2025 CHNA Rural West Survey Respondent Data



Access to Care

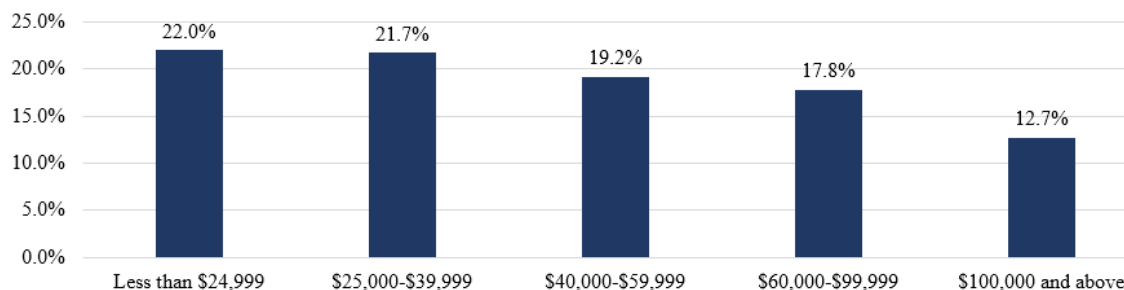
Health and Dental Insurance:

Private Insurance: 52.9%
Medicare: 41.3%
Medicaid: 12.7%
Uninsured/Don't Know: 3.4%
Veterans Administration: 2.0%
Dental Insurance: 20.2% uninsured

Vision:

30.5% postponed eye care/glasses due to cost

2025 CHNA Survey Respondent Reported Diabetes Diagnosis by Income Rural West Service Area



Rural West Service Area Demographics

Zip codes

(highest served)

18235: Carbon County
18252: Schuylkill County
18071: Carbon County

Race

White: 83.3%
Black: 6.4%
Asian: 2.3%
Other Race: 8.0%

Ethnicity

Hispanic/Latino: 17.4%

Age

Under 18: 20.3%
18-64: 61.0%
65 and older: 19.6%
Median Age: 44.0 years old

Sex

Male: 51.8%
Female: 48.2%

Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed (ALICE)

Carbon County: 34%
Schuylkill County: 28%

Households with one or more persons with a disability

19,238

Individuals Experiencing Homelessness

(Lehigh Valley, 2024)
2,262

Sources: ACS 2018-2022, Eastern PA CoC, Esri, United Way, US Census

2025 Rural West CHNA Survey Respondent Data

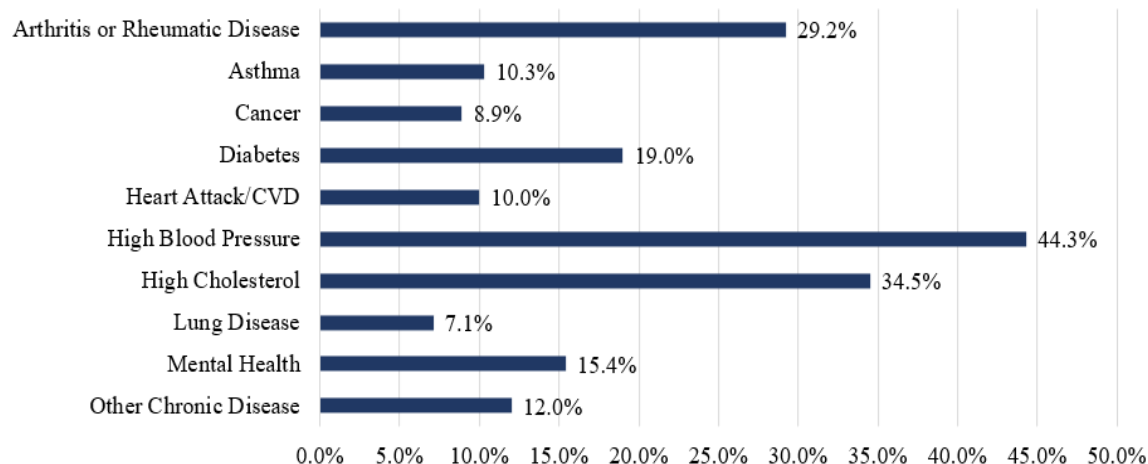
Prevention of Chronic Disease

- Of respondents ages 45 years and older, 87.2% reported having one or more chronic disease
- 20.4% of respondents with private health insurance did not have a routine colorectal cancer screening compared to 50.0% of respondents without insurance
- 18.3% of total respondents did not have routine breast cancer screening compared to 27.1% of respondents with Medicaid
- 24.0% of respondents making less than \$15,000 annually reported having asthma compared to 6.1% making \$60,000 or more

Mental and Behavioral Health

- 43.9% of respondents reported one or more poor mental health days in the last 30 days
- 21.6% of respondents reported being emotionally abused by their partner or someone else important to them
- Suicide rates in Veteran populations in the United States increased 11.6% between 2020-2021 compared to a 4.5% increase for the general population

2025 CHNA Survey Respondent Reported Chronic Disease
Rural West Service Area



2025 Rural West CHNA Survey Community Respondent Perspectives

What are priorities in your community?

Access to Care: 22.5%
Affordable Housing: 44.4%
Behavioral Health: 38.5%
Chronic Disease: 31.3%
Education Access/Quality: 10.1%
Food Access/Security: 14.4%
Jobs/Unemployment: 23.0%
Mental Health: 47.3%
Transportation: 29.4%

How would you rate your overall health?

Excellent: 5.5%
Very Good: 31.4%
Good: 54.0%
Poor: 8.7%
Very Poor: 0.4%

What are some of the things that keep you from maintaining healthy behaviors?

Family: 16.3%
Lack of Motivation: 39.0%
Money: 31.2%
Time: 42.2%
Work: 23.5%

How does your household decide where to shop for food?

Acceptance of SNAP: 8.4%
Cost: 59.0%
Delivery Option: 4.9%
Food is Prepared: 2.0%
Location: 57.3%
Meets Dietary Needs: 3.3%
Nutritional Value: 9.5%
Personal Preference: 33.9%
Walkability: 3.1%

State of Mental Health in America (2022), State Adult Rankings

	PA%	PA Rank	NJ%	NJ Rank	United States
Adults with any Mental Illness (AMI)	19.7%	17	16.4%	1	19.9%
Adults with Substance Use Disorder in the past year	7.3%	15	6.7%	6	7.7%
Adults with serious thoughts of suicide	4.8%	28	3.8%	1	4.6%
Adults with AMI who are uninsured	5.9%	10	10.6%	25	11.1%
Adults with AMI who do not receive treatment	51.9%	17	57.1%	38	55.9%
Adults with AMI reporting an unmet need	25.7%	31	21.6%	6	24.7%
Adults with cognitive disability who could not see a doctor due to costs	23.8%	13	25.2%	18	29.7%

Scan the QR Code to learn more about the St. Luke's University Health Network Department of Community Health and to read the full CHNA Report.

Sources: 2025 CHNA survey, ACS 2018-2022, Esri, Mental Health America, US Census

