

Miners Campus Community Health Needs Assessment

Executive Summary

Background & Methodology:

As part of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, all non-profit hospitals are required to conduct a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) every three years in order to remain a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The goal of the assessment is to identify critical health disparities faced among residents within the community. The needs assessment must state every health priority addressed by community stakeholders, hospital professionals, or public health experts. Additionally, campus specific implementation plans have been crafted for each of the St. Luke's University Health Network (SLUHN) campuses in order to determine how resources will be allocated to address the specified health needs.

Our CHNA is comprised of both primary and secondary data. The primary data was collected through our community health surveys, where approximately 3,000 surveys were conducted in our seven campus geographic region. Primary data was also collected through 6 campus specific key stakeholder focus groups, where the main priority health needs were identified for each entity. Secondary data included the use of county level, state level, and national level data.

Description of service area:

- The service area was defined by the patient zip codes for the top 80% of the population served by St. Luke's Miners.
- The top two counties served by St. Luke's Miners: Carbon & Schuylkill.
- There are a total of 10 zip codes included.
- According to the US Census Bureau:
 - A total of 63,015 people live in the 288.98 square mile report area defined for this assessment
 - 51% are female and 49% are male
 - 21% are less than 18 years of age, 61% are 18-65, and 18% are 65 and over
 - 96% identify as White, and 4% identify as Non-White (approximately 2% identify as Black)
 - 97% identify as Non-Hispanic, and 3% identify as Hispanic
 - 35% fall at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) in the St. Luke's Miners service area. (30.51% of the population in PA and 34.24% of the U.S.)
- Translators are not required at the St. Luke's Miners campus based on the census bureau's language data.
- St. Luke's Miners patient (inpatient and outpatient) data indicates – 21% of all patients are on Medical Assistance and 41% are on Medicare.

There are various socioeconomic, cultural, and environmental factors that constitute the social determinants of health, and they undoubtedly influence the health and well-being of our St. Luke's Miners area population. We live in an area where poverty is a prevalent issue, and a large percentage of our patients utilize Medical Assistance. We were able to categorize the identified health needs into the following five major categories for the 2016-2019 CHNA cycle.

Health Priority #1: Improving Access to Care and Reducing Health Disparities

- The overall rate of primary care physicians per population for the St. Luke's Miners service area (51.03) is lower than the average for Pennsylvania (80) (Area Health Resource File, 2012).
- According to CHNA Survey data:
 - 81% of respondents saw their primary care provider in the past year; 81% of respondents with private insurance, 94% of respondents with Medicaid, 82% of respondents with Medicare, and 58% of uninsured respondents saw their primary care provider in the past year.
 - 67% of respondents saw a dentist in the past year; 79% of respondents with private insurance, 50% of respondents with Medicaid, and 33% of respondents who were uninsured for dental care saw a dentist in the past year.
 - 26% of respondents did not get eyeglasses due to high cost; 27% of respondents with private insurance, 28% of respondents with Medicaid, and 33% of uninsured respondents did not get eyeglasses due to high cost.
 - Postponement of care was strongly tied to insurance issues, with copay being too high (10%) and not having health insurance (10%) being in the top responses.
 - 13% of our respondents were unemployed; this unemployment rate is much greater than that reported for Pennsylvania (6%).
 - 29% of respondents have only a high school diploma and 7% did not finish high school.
 - 34% of respondents in the Miners service area reported household incomes less than \$24,999, according to the US Census Bureau, the median household income for 2010-2014 in Carbon County was \$49,913 and in Schuylkill County was \$45,020.

Health Priority #2: Promoting Healthy Lifestyles and Preventing Chronic Disease

- In Carbon and Schuylkill counties, accidents and suicide were the leading causes of death for people ages 25-44 in 2012. For people ages 45 and older, the top two leading causes of death were heart disease and cancer, with cancer as the number one leading cause of death for those ages 45-64. Cancer was the number two cause of death for those ages 65 and older (Pennsylvania Department of Health –Division of Health Informatics, 2014).
- According to 2015 RWJ County Health Rankings 20% of Carbon and Schuylkill County reported smoking, which is greater than the Healthy People 2020 target of 12%.
- According to CHNA Survey data:
 - Only 9% of respondents meet the FDA recommended 5 or more fruits/vegetables per day.
 - Only 17% are exercising 5 or more days per week, as recommended by the Healthy People 2020 target of exercising 30 minutes per day 5 days a week (set at 48%).
 - 50% of respondents were obese and 28% were overweight. Obesity rates are higher than national (28.3%) and state (30%) levels; additionally, 13% were recognized as being severely obese and 10% were morbidly obese. Overall, morbidly obese respondents had more chronic disease (77%) compared to those with healthy BMI's (49%).

Health Priority #3: Improving Mental/Behavioral Health

- Survey data revealed that 35% reported one or more days of poor mental health in the past month.
- The ratio of the county population to the number of mental health professionals in Carbon County (1,749:1) and Schuylkill County (592:1) are worse than the PA ratio (623:1). U.S. top performers are at 386:1 (RWJ County Health Rankings 2015).
- CHNA Survey data also revealed a staggering 25% reported 1 or more episodes of binge drinking in the past month (5 or more drinks in one occasion), compared to 2015 RWJ County Health Rankings which reports Pennsylvania at 17% and counties performing at the 90th percentile nationally at 10%.

Health Priority #4: Improving Child & Adolescent Health

- 47% of children under 18 are living at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Levels (FPL) (ACS 2009-13). This is greater than PA (40%) and the U.S. (44%): Living at 100% below FPL is \$24,250 for a family of 4.
- According to the 2015 RWJ County Health Rankings, Carbon County had an 8% Low Birth Weight rate, when compared to Pennsylvania (8%) and counties performing at the 90th percentile nationally (6%).
- In the St. Luke's Miners service area as a whole, 48% are eligible for free/reduced price lunch. This percentage is higher than the percent of children eligible for free or reduced lunch in PA which is 44%, but it is lower than the national average of 52% (National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data 2013-14).
- Lifetime usage of alcohol consumption amongst students in Carbon County was 42% and Schuylkill County was 48%. Lifetime usage of marijuana in Carbon County was 37% and Schuylkill County was 33%. Less than 1% of Carbon County students reported lifetime usage of crack, cocaine, and methamphetamines and approximately 1% of Schuylkill County students reported lifetime usage of cocaine and methamphetamines (PAYS, 2013).
- According to 2015 PSSA scores, the percentage of third graders reading below grade level ("Basic" or "Below basic" scores) was from 40% at Panther Valley Elementary School.

Health Priority #5: Improving Elder Health

- CHNA Survey data showed that 85% of our respondents over age 65 have a chronic disease.
 - 58% report having High Blood Pressure
 - 41% report having Arthritis
 - 37% report having High Cholesterol
 - 24% report having Diabetes
- When reviewing 2015 RWJ County Health Rankings, social associations per 10,000 population, Schuylkill County is at 14 and Carbon County is at 15 compared to 12 for Pennsylvania and 22 for the counties performing at the 90th percentile nationally.

We already have many valuable services available to help improve health in our region, but a concentrated and sustained effort will be necessary among all those who contribute to our community's health to create new programs and continue existing programs to improve health outcomes in our region. The needs discussed within the health categories will serve as our guide in creating an implementation plan to best address the needs of the St. Luke's Miners service area.