
Executive Summary

INTRODUCTION

This Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) was conducted on behalf of Genesis Medical Center –Aledo. This CHNA report yields information specific to the community, allowing for independent determination of health priorities.

Genesis Medical Center, Aledo (GMC-Aledo) has served Mercer County and surrounding communities with compassionate, high quality care since 1950. Throughout the years, the hospital has successfully responded to an evolving health care delivery system. GMC-Aledo is a nonprofit, charitable organization governed by the Genesis Health System board of trustees. As a member of Genesis Health System, GMC-Aledo patients have access to extended services that a community hospital otherwise may not provide. The hospital is accredited by The Joint Commission (TJC) which ensures that high standards of patient care are met.

Community Definition

The community defined for this assessment is Mercer County in Illinois. A demographic description of the targeted population can be found in the first set of tables of the “Detailed Health Indicators” section of this report.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Methods & Approach

To complete this CHNA, existing health-related data was collected via the online Community Commons Community Health Needs Assessment report tool at <http://www.communitycommons.org/maps-data>. This site allows for identification of 87 distinct health and social indicators at the county level, along with comparisons to state and national data. Once an indicator report was generated, relevant indicators were reviewed to determine how Mercer County compared to available state/national data. See the “Detailed Health Indicators” section of this document.

Information Gaps

Because this CHNA relies on existing datasets, it is limited in scope to those indicators currently available through database collection. It does not include a primary research component, and many important issues are unaddressed (e.g., mental health, children’s health, etc.), or only addressed minimally (e.g., access to healthcare). Another limitation is that most measures included in this assessment represent data that are several years old. Finally, given the small population of the County some results are suppressed (e.g. alcohol and tobacco data).

Community Stakeholder Input

As part of this CHNA, GMC-Aledo partnered with the Mercer County Public Health Department and sought input from public health representatives and other community stakeholders with an interest in the health of the community through a series of discussion meetings.

Organizations and sectors represented at these community stakeholder meetings include:

Private Sector: Business Owners and Representatives
Voluntary Sector: Ministerial and Non-Profit Service Agencies
Informal Sector: Foundation and Daycare
Policy Partners: Law Enforcement, Board of Health and 708 Board
Health practitioners: Home Health, Public Health, Assisted Living, Long-term Care, Primary Care, Pharmacy, Dental Care and Hospital Care
Beneficiaries: Insurance, Emergency Services, Coroner
Resource Partners: Search and Rescue, Extension Office
Public Sector: Schools and County Board

An important component to these meetings was a discussion of the primary and chronic disease needs and other health issues of uninsured persons, low-income persons, and minority groups. This qualitative input was used to further inform the prioritization process described later in this summary.

Existing Health Care Facilities & Resources

The following represent known existing health care facilities and resources that are available to respond to the health needs of the community. These lists are not exhaustive and are subject to change, but these organizations represent potential partners in improving health in Mercer County:

Advanced Rehab & Sports Medicine
Aledo Rehab and Healthcare (LTC)
American Red Cross
Brookstone of Aledo (ALC)
Mercer County Crisis Center
Mercer County School System
Mercer County YMCA
Mercer Manor (LTC)
Eagle View Community Health System
Mercer County Health Department
Genesis Ambulance
Genesis Health Group, Aledo
Genesis Medical Center, Aledo
Sherrard School System
University of Illinois Extension

IDENTIFIED HEALTH NEEDS

Upon reviewing existing health indicator data (see the Detailed Health Indicators section); health needs for the community were identified to include all indicators for which either Mercer County compares unfavorably to state data, national data, or any combination thereof. These indicators were

then grouped into the following health categories, which represent the identified health needs of the community:

Access to Healthcare Services
 Socio-Economic Barriers
 Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drugs
 Cancer
 Chronic Disease
 Heart Disease & Stroke
 Mental Health
 Nutrition, Physical Activity & Weight
 Oral Health

These health issues, and dispositions of the related health indicators, are outlined in the following table.

KEY	
IL	Compares unfavorably to statewide data
US	Compares unfavorably to national data.
N/A	Unknown: data not available or suppressed
ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE SERVICES	
	Mercer
Access to Primary Care	IL,US
Uninsured Population (Adults)	
Uninsured Population (Children)	
Uninsured Population (Total)	
Pneumonia Vaccinations (Age 65+)	N/A
Preventable Hospital Events	
Socio-Economic Barriers (Income, Housing, Education)	Mercer
Housing Cost Burden	IL
Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Price Lunch	
Children in Poverty	
Income Over \$75,000 (Family)	IL,US
Income per Capita	IL,US
Population in Poverty (200% FPL)	
Population With Associate's Level Degree or Higher	IL,US
Population With No High School Diploma	
ALCOHOL, TOBACCO & OTHER DRUGS	
	Mercer
Alcohol Consumption	N/A
Alcohol Expenditures	N/A
Tobacco Usage (Current Smokers)	N/A
Tobacco Usage (Former or Current Smokers)	IL,US
Tobacco Expenditures	N/A
Tobacco Usage (Quit Attempt)	IL,US
CANCER	
	Mercer
Cancer Mortality	IL,US

Lung Cancer Incidence	IL,US
Breast Cancer Incidence	IL,US
Colon and Rectum Cancer Incidence	IL,US
Breast Cancer Screening (Mammogram)	
Prostate Cancer	
CHRONIC DISEASE	Mercer
Lung Disease	IL
Asthma Prevalence	IL,US
Diabetes	IL,US
Diabetes Management (Hemoglobin A1c Test)	IL,US
HEART DISEASE & STROKE	Mercer
Heart Disease Mortality	IL,US
Heart Disease Prevalence	IL,US
Stroke Mortality	
High Blood Pressure Management	N/A
MENTAL HEALTH	Mercer
Mental Health Access	IL,US
Depression	IL,US
NUTRITION, PHYSICAL ACTIVITY & WEIGHT	Mercer
Food Insecurity	
Food Insecurity – Population not Eligible for	IL, US
Population With Low Food Access	IL,US
Low Income Population With Low Food Access	IL,US
SNAP-Authorized Food Store Access	
WIC-Authorized Food Store Access	US
Physical Inactivity (Adults)	IL,US
Overweight (Adults)	IL,US
Obesity (Adults)	IL,US
ORAL HEALTH	Mercer
Dental Care Access (Adults)	IL,US
Dental Care Utilization (Adults)	IL,US
Poor Dental Health (6+ Teeth Removed)	IL,US

Supportive Data

Public Health IPLAN. At least every five years, local boards of health lead a community-wide discussion with stakeholders and residents about their community’s health needs. After identifying needs in the community, the next step is to identify objectives and strategies to address those needs. This process - Illinois Project for Local Assessment of Needs (IPLAN) - is a fundamental element in statewide planning. IPLAN has more than a 20-year history in Illinois and represents local action to promote and protect the health of Illinoisans.

Recent IPLAN activities in Mercer County relate to several of the health needs identified in the quantitative data review described above. These include the following health issues:

Mental Health Disorders — Improve access to mental health care and develop resources for adolescents and families adversely affected by COVID-19.

Drug and Alcohol Use — Increase the percentage of people who receive substance use treatment in Mercer County and decrease the risk for acute binge drinking..

Access to Transportation — Create a transportation task force. Complete a needs assessment and action plan. Increase availability of local public transportation options.

COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS <i>(shows rank among 102 Illinois counties)</i>	Mercer County
HEALTH OUTCOMES	36
Length of Life	42
Quality of Life	31
HEALTH FACTORS	34
Health Behaviors <i>(e.g., smoking, drinking, weight)</i>	46
Clinical Care <i>(e.g., uninsured rate, provider ratio, preventable hospitalizations)</i>	29
Social & Economic Factors <i>(e.g. education, income, crime)</i>	30
Physical Environment <i>(e.g., air/water quality, access to health food)</i>	57

Prioritization of Health Needs

To prioritize the CHNA findings the community, the stakeholder group reviewed the CHNA data and prioritized the identified health needs to establish which would be best addressed. The group considered several criteria in deciding which of the health needs to focus on, including the following:

Magnitude — *How many people are affected by a given health issue? How do we vary from state or national benchmarks?*

Seriousness & Impact — *To what degree does this health issue lead to death or disability, or impair quality of life? To what degree does this health issue impact other quality of life and health-related issues?*

Feasibility — *What is the likelihood of impacting this health issue, given available resources?*

Consequences of Inaction — *What is the risk of exacerbating the problem by not addressing it at the earliest opportunity?*

Community Stakeholder Input — *Was this issue identified as a need in the community stakeholder meetings? What vulnerable populations were identified?*

The community stakeholder group met on May 11, 2021 to review the data and discuss the opportunities for improvement. The committee also reviewed the 2018 plan and progress to date on

the issues identified in 2018. The committee agreed to keep some of the same key areas with exploration of cancer in access to health care.

1. Nutrition, Physical Activity & Weight to reduce Chronic Disease
2. Mental Health and Substance Abuse
3. Access to Health Care including cancer screenings

Goals:

1. Mercer County residents will support, promote, and implement practices as it relates to healthy behaviors and wellbeing of individuals and families to reduce chronic disease
2. Mercer County will increase community access to mental health and substance abuse information, programs, resources and services
3. Ensure equal access to health care for all and encourage early detection of cancer through screenings

The remaining identified health needs were not deemed as significant, and a priority for these was not established for GMC-Aledo.

Environmental Health

Injury

Screening and Immunizations

STDs

Maternal/Infant Health & Family Planning

PUBLIC DISSEMINATION

This Community Health Needs Assessment will be made available to the public on the websites of the individual hospital facilities at www.genesishealth.com/community and <http://www.genesishealth.com/aledo/about-us/community-benefit/>

These sites:

Inform readers that the CHNA Report is available and provides instructions for downloading it;

Offers the CHNA Report document in a format that, when accessed, downloaded, viewed, and printed in hard copy, exactly reproduces the image of the report;

Grants access to download, view, and print the document without special computer hardware or software required for that format (other than software that is readily available to members of the public without payment of any fee) and without payment of a fee to the hospital organization or facility or to another entity maintaining the website.

Each hospital facility will provide any individual requesting a copy of the written report with the direct website address, or URL, where the document can be accessed. Each will also maintain at its facilities a hardcopy of the CHNA report that may be viewed by any who request.



COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Advancing Community Health and Well Being

Full Health Indicators Report

Demographics

Current population demographics and changes in demographic composition over time play a determining role in the types of health and social services needed by communities.

Data Indicators

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| • Total Population | • Population Age 65 | • Population Geographic Mobility |
| • Median Age | • Population with Any Disability | • Foreign-Born Population |
| • Population Under Age 18 | • Population in Limited English Households | • Hispanic Population |
| • Population Age 18-64 | • Population with Limited English Proficiency | • Urban and Rural Population |