

Meadville Medical Center

2022 Community Health Needs Assessment

Implementation Plan

The 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) was conducted in collaboration between Meadville Medical Center (MMC), Titusville Area Hospital, Allegheny College and various local community partners. Data was collected via internal data at MMC, publicly assessable health information, and more than 1,100 surveys.

An analysis of the data showed a need to support community members in leading a healthier lifestyle. Specifically, substance abuse, obesity, poor eating habits, a lack of access to healthy foods, and sedentary lifestyles were the main reasons why respondents believed individuals in Crawford County were struggling to lead healthy lifestyles.

Internal data and survey data aligned to identify longer than acceptable wait times for certain healthcare services. 7.1% of respondents stated they did not access medical care when they needed it because wait times were too long and wait times of up to many months for a next available appointment in certain offices makes this a priority focus.

Cost of healthcare, along with nationwide economic conditions, is a concern. MMC remains a low-cost healthcare provider in the region, according to the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council, however with rising insurance deductibles, co-pays and increasing labor and supply cost managing operational expenses is a priority.

In the 2016 CHNA, 73% of all respondents said they had an annual checkup in the prior year while in 2022 80% have received a check-up in the prior year. During the 2019 CHNA there was a decrease of 14% among respondents who stated they had a primary care physician. The goal is to connect individuals with a consistent care provider, but our hope is the most recent data shows there has been a positive improvement in individuals getting routine screenings.

In the 2016 CHNA 14% of respondents said they used tobacco, in 2019 35% reported smoking (current and former) and in 2022 9.2% reported using tobacco. This decrease reflects positive outcomes from prior strategies which will continue into the future.

The most important health issue in our community, selected by 63% of respondents, is mental health. Increasing access to behavioral health services by adding additional providers and connecting with individuals in remote areas of the County is critical. Pediatric counselors and support services across the County and in the schools needs to become a community-wide priority.

Priority Focus

- 1) Cost of Healthcare
 - a) Negotiate with insurance providers to maintain fair and affordable rates
 - b) Limit the number of contracted employees in order to mitigate excessively higher labor costs
 - c) Monitor pharmaceutical costs in order to identify most affordable options
 - d) Continue promoting and operating five Rural Health Centers while expanding capacity
 - e) Expand price transparency for options and comprehensive price calculators for patients

- 2) Substance Abuse Services
 - a) Enhance services in the Emergency Department to connect patients with services
 - i) Telehealth services to Crawford County Drug & Alcohol support services.
 - ii) Service navigator in the Emergency Department
 - iii) Offer short term suboxone
 - b) Expand telehealth services in the Rural Health Centers

- 3) Behavioral Health Services
 - a) MMC currently employees five psychiatrists which is more than ever in the past, however additional counselors are needed
 - b) Pediatric behavior health services are a priority but have been incredibly challenging to find
 - c) Work with local school districts and youth service agencies to provide the most effective level of support with current resources
 - d) Encourage and work with government agencies to commit more resources to these incredibly important needs

- 4) Healthy Lifestyle Support
 - a) Coordinate a community wide food access initiative
 - b) Centralize a service navigator position to support patients with finding the earliest and most affordable service
 - c) Expand nutrition education opportunities
 - d) Increase fitness and activity options to decrease sedentary lifestyles
 - e) Establish the Health Equity Initiative which will include multiple disciplines and agencies in the community to reduce the current health disparages in the community

Community Health Needs Assessment Survey Data

Source For Information (Choose two)

News:	75% (846)
Government:	54% (613)
Friends:	24% (269)
Social Media:	23% (259)
Community Organizations:	15% (174)
Doctors:	9% (105)
Internet:	2% (17)

Age

90+	1% (9)
80-89	4% (50)
70-79	13% (144)
60-69	19% (220)
50-59	20% (231)
40-49	16% (177)
30-39	12% (140)
20-29	9% (97)
14-19	2% (21)
Unknown	4% (40)

Highest Level of Education

I did not graduate from high school	3% (30)
I graduated high school or equivalent (for example, GED)	41% (458)
Bachelor's degree (for example, BA or BS)	30% (340)
Graduate degree (for example, master or doctorate degree)	25% (278)
Did Not Answer	2% (22)

Time Since Last Check Up

I have never been to a healthcare provider for a checkup or wellness visit	1% (10)
Within the last year	80% (908)
1-2 years ago	10% (118)
3-5 years ago	5% (56)
More than 5 years ago	3% (31)
Did Not Answer	0.4% (5)

% of people who received COVID vaccine: 84.7% (955)

% of people who use tobacco: 9.2% (104)

Were you unable to get medical care when you needed it?

Yes	149	13.2%
<i>I couldn't afford to pay my co-pay or deductible</i>	51	4.5%
<i>I didn't have any way to get to the doctor</i>	24	2.1%
<i>I was afraid</i>	17	1.5%
<i>The doctor or clinic refused to take my insurance (including Medicaid)</i>	15	1.3%
<i>The wait for an appointment was too long</i>	80	7.1%

Were you unable to get dental care when you needed it?

Yes	149	13.2%
<i>I could not afford to pay my co-pay or deductible</i>	34	3.0%
<i>I don't have any way to get to the dentist</i>	15	1.3%
<i>I was afraid</i>	17	1.5%
<i>The dentist refused to take my insurance (including Medicaid)</i>	30	2.7%
<i>The wait for an appointment was too long</i>	65	5.8%

Was there a time you were unable to get mental health services when you needed it?

Yes	116	10.3%
<i>I could not afford to pay my co-pay or deductible</i>	39	3.5%
<i>I didn't know how to find a provider or counselor</i>	31	2.7%
<i>The wait for an appointment was too long</i>	59	5.2%
<i>The provider or counselor refused to take my insurance (including Medicaid)</i>	21	1.9%
<i>I was afraid</i>	18	1.6%

Were you unable to get substance abuse services when you needed it?

Yes: 0.9% (10)

Was there a time when these children tried to access healthcare services but not get them?

Yes: 2.3% (26)

**What do you think are the most important health issues in our community?
Choose up to THREE.**

Mental health	63% (496)
Obesity	56% (442)
Aging issues, such as Alzheimer's disease, hearing loss, memory loss, or arthritis	36% (285)
Cancer	32% (251)
Chronic Pain	16% (130)
Diabetes	16% (125)
Heart Disease	13% (105)
Dental Health	13% (100)
infectious (contagious) diseases, such as influenza or pneumonia	11% (84)
Early sexual activity/teen pregnancy	10% (81)
Other	8% (66)
Lung disease	5% (38)
infectious (contagious) diseases, such as influenza or pneumonia	4% (34)
Stroke	2% (17)
STDs	1% (8)
HIV/AIDS	0% (3)

What do you think are the most important unhealthy behaviors impacting our community's health? Choose up to THREE.

Drug Abuse	74% (582)
Poor Eating	41% (327)
Alcohol Abuse	40% 314
Poverty	39% (304)
Lack of Exercise	32% (253)
Smoking	19% (149)
Not able to access Healthcare Services	16% (130)
Poor Health Education	14% (111)
Unsafe Housing	8% (61)
Risky Sexual Behavior	4% (28)
Elderly Abuse	2% (18)
Reckless Driving	2% (18)
Other	2% (15)

Which of the following is the most important action needed to improve our community's health?

Providing affordable health care	36% (382)
Promoting healthy lifestyles	21% (224)
Increasing the number of primary care providers in the county	13% (143)
Providing safe and affordable housing	12% (130)
Improvements and access to public facilities (including public parks or swimming pools)	9% (98)
Other	5% (50)
Improvements to public safety	3% (34)
None of the Above	2% (18)

Why were you unable to get medical care you needed? Select all that apply

The wait for an appointment was too long	54
I couldn't afford the co-pay	36
I didn't have health insurance	17
I didn't have any way to get to the doctor	11
Clinic refused my insurance	11
I was afraid	9
I didn't know how to find a doctor	4

Key words from comment section:

