

Executive Summary

1. Harney County Health District conducted this 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) for Harney County, Oregon.

2. The assessment process included:

- Analysis of secondary data on demographics, socioeconomic factors, and health indicators
- A community survey with 178 respondents
- Input from community stakeholders and the Local Community Advisory Council

3. Key demographic/socioeconomic findings:

- Harney County population: 7,380 (decreasing and aging)
- Higher poverty rates compared to state averages
- Higher uninsurance rate (8.2%) compared to state (4.6%)

4. Four priority health needs were identified:

- Substance Abuse/Addiction (Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco)
- Mental Health (Mental Illness/Depression and Suicide Prevention)
- Child Abuse/Neglect/Trauma (Adverse Childhood Experiences)
- Obesity/Diabetes/Chronic Illness

5. An implementation plan was developed with strategies to address each priority area over the next three years.

6. The report also evaluated progress on priorities from the 2019 CHNA.

Biggest Gaps in Service

1. Mental health services - long wait times and insufficient providers
2. Substance abuse treatment services
3. Specialty care services - many residents have to travel outside the county
4. Dental care - especially emergency dental services
5. Pediatric care - lack of providers with pediatric experience
6. Access to primary care - difficulty getting appointments and seeing the same provider consistently
7. Chronic disease management
8. Preventive care services - lower rates of routine checkups and immunizations

The report also notes challenges with staffing, recruitment and retention of healthcare providers in this rural area.

Greatest Barriers to Care

1. Limited access to specialty care services
2. Long wait times for appointments
3. Shortage of healthcare providers, especially in mental health
4. Geographic isolation and distance to services
5. Transportation issues
6. Cost of healthcare services
7. Lack of insurance or underinsurance
8. Privacy concerns in a small community

9. Stigma around seeking mental health care
10. Lack of awareness about available services
11. Cultural barriers and resistance to change
12. Workforce shortages in healthcare

The Unique Needs of the Community

1. Substance abuse and addiction treatment services
2. Mental health services, especially for depression and suicide prevention
3. Addressing child abuse, neglect, and trauma (Adverse Childhood Experiences)
4. Obesity and diabetes prevention and management
5. Services for an aging population
6. Improved access to specialty care
7. Increased primary care capacity
8. Youth-focused prevention programs
9. Economic development and job opportunities
10. Affordable housing
11. Childcare services
12. Transportation services, especially for medical appointments
13. Preventive health services and health education
14. Support for caregivers
15. Addressing food insecurity

What the Hospital or CCO is Doing Well

1. Providing a wide range of services for a small rural facility
2. Offering 24/7 surgical coverage with permanent surgical staff
3. Collaborating with partners in Central Oregon to provide visiting specialist services
4. Implementing telehealth services, particularly telepsychiatry
5. Creating awareness campaigns for various health issues
6. Developing and promoting a Community Resource Directory
7. Implementing tobacco cessation programs and resources
8. Offering employee wellness programs and events
9. Maintaining strong community partnerships
10. Adapting services and outreach efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic

Strengths of the Community

1. Strong sense of community and social connection
2. Beautiful natural environment with outdoor recreational opportunities
3. Welcoming attitude towards new residents
4. Close-knit community where people look out for each other
5. Opportunities for meaningful community involvement
6. Potential for personal and community growth
7. Sense of physical safety
8. Strong emergency medical services
9. Community support for local healthcare institutions
10. Culture of volunteerism and serving others
11. Well-attended Farmer's Market
12. Resilience in facing challenges

Priorities

1. Substance Abuse/Addiction (Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco)
2. Mental Health (Mental Illness/Depression and Suicide Prevention)
3. Child Abuse/Neglect/Trauma (Adverse Childhood Experiences)
4. Obesity/Diabetes/Chronic Illness