

Executive Summary

- The assessment was conducted by the Douglas County Communities' Network of Care to identify and prioritize significant health needs in the county.

- Douglas County has a population of approximately 109,114. The population skews older than Oregon overall and is predominantly white (92.4%).

- Methods included reviewing secondary data indicators as well as collecting primary data through community surveys and key informant interviews.

- Through analysis of the data, the following top health needs were identified:

1. Behavioral Health - Mental Health and Substance Abuse
2. Economy and Poverty
3. Access to Health Care Services
4. Healthy Food, Nutrition, and Physical Activity
5. Education
6. Built Environment
7. Domestic Violence
8. Crime and Neighborhood Safety
9. Tobacco Use

- The Network of Care prioritized three areas to focus on:

1. Behavioral Health
2. Access to Health Care Services
3. Healthy Food, Nutrition, and Physical Activity

- The report notes disparities based on geographic location, with unique challenges for those outside the Roseburg metro area. The Hispanic/Latino population was identified as potentially underserved.

- The assessment was conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic, so impacts of COVID-19 were incorporated throughout the findings.

- The prioritized needs will guide community health improvement efforts and development of an implementation plan to address the top needs.

Biggest Gaps in Service

1. Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services: There's a lack of behavioral health resources to meet community needs. The Mental Health Provider Ratio is 360:1, compared to 190:1 for Oregon overall.

2. Primary Care Access: The Primary Care Physician Ratio is 1,660:1, significantly higher than Oregon's 1,060:1 ratio.

3. Dental Care: The Dentist Ratio is 1,450:1, compared to Oregon's 1,250:1.

4. Specialty Care: The report suggests a lack of specialty care availability locally, as residents often need to travel for these services.

5. Preventive Care: Lower rates of preventive care are noted, such as only 44% of Medicare enrollees aged 65-74 receiving mammography screenings, and only 35% receiving flu vaccinations.

6. Care for Rural Areas: There are challenges in providing services to rural/less connected parts of the county.

7. Coordinated Care: There's a need for improved referral processes and comprehensive case management across organizations.

8. Services for Vulnerable Populations: Gaps exist in services for specific groups like the Hispanic/Latino population, families with complex needs, older adults, veterans, and low-income individuals.

9. Childcare Services: While not strictly healthcare, the severe lack of childcare services impacts access to healthcare for families.

10. In-home Services for Seniors: There's a noted lack of in-home caregivers for the aging population.

11. Substance Abuse Treatment: The report indicates a need for more substance abuse treatment options.

Greatest Barriers to Care

1. Cost: Many residents find healthcare services too expensive or unaffordable. This was cited as the top reason for not accessing needed healthcare services in the community survey.

2. Long Wait Times: Extended waiting periods for appointments were frequently mentioned as a barrier to accessing care.

3. Geographic Access: The rural nature of much of Douglas County creates distance and transportation barriers, especially for those living outside the Roseburg metro area.

4. Provider Shortages: There are significant shortages in primary care, dental care, and mental health providers compared to state averages.

5. Transportation: Lack of reliable transportation was noted as a significant barrier, particularly for older adults and rural residents.

6. Limited Specialty Care: Residents often need to travel outside the county for specialized medical services.

7. Lack of Health Insurance: While the uninsured rate is slightly lower than the state average, it still presents a barrier for some residents.

8. Navigation Challenges: Many residents struggle to navigate the complex healthcare system, especially those with multiple or complex needs.

9. **Language and Cultural Barriers:** These were noted as particular challenges for the Hispanic/Latino population, especially for those whose first language is not English.
10. **Lack of Childcare:** The severe shortage of childcare services indirectly impacts healthcare access, making it difficult for parents to attend medical appointments.
11. **COVID-19 Impact:** The pandemic has created new barriers, including service closures and increased isolation from the healthcare system.
12. **Mental Health Stigma:** While improving, stigma still presents a barrier to seeking mental health services, especially among certain populations like older veterans.
13. **Limited Awareness of Available Services:** There's a need for more communication and education about available healthcare resources.
14. **Economic Factors:** High unemployment and poverty rates in the county contribute to difficulties in accessing healthcare.

The Unique Needs of the Community

1. **Behavioral Health Services:** There's a significant need for improved mental health and substance abuse services, including better integration with other health services.
2. **Services for an Aging Population:** With over 25% of residents aged 65 and older, there's a growing need for specialized healthcare, housing, transportation, and support services for seniors.
3. **Rural Healthcare Access:** Many residents live in rural areas, creating unique challenges in accessing healthcare and other services.
4. **Economic Development and Poverty Alleviation:** The county has lower income levels and higher poverty rates than state averages, necessitating economic improvement strategies.
5. **Improved Access to Healthcare Services:** This includes addressing provider shortages and improving coordination of care across organizations.
6. **Healthy Food Access and Nutrition Education:** Food insecurity and limited access to healthy foods are significant issues in the community.
7. **Physical Activity Promotion:** There's a need for more safe spaces for exercise and recreation, particularly in rural areas.
8. **Education and Workforce Development:** The county has lower educational attainment rates than the state average, indicating a need for improved educational opportunities and job training.
9. **Housing Support:** There are concerns about housing availability, affordability, and quality.
10. **Transportation Services:** Improved public transportation options are needed, particularly for accessing healthcare and other essential services.

11. Childcare Services: There's a severe shortage of affordable, quality childcare options.
12. Services for Hispanic/Latino Population: As a growing demographic group, there's a need for culturally appropriate services and language support.
13. Veterans Services: The county has a higher-than-average veteran population, necessitating specialized services for this group.
14. Domestic Violence Prevention and Support: This was identified as a significant community issue.
15. Crime and Neighborhood Safety Initiatives: Community safety was ranked as the second-highest community issue in the survey.
16. Tobacco Use Prevention: Smoking rates are higher than the state average, indicating a need for enhanced prevention and cessation programs.
17. Chronic Disease Management: Particularly for conditions like diabetes, which was highlighted as a concern.
18. Disaster Preparedness: Given recent experiences with wildfires, there's a need for planning around natural disasters and their health impacts.

What the Hospital or CCO is Doing Well

1. Behavioral Health Programs: There have been successes with school-based behavioral health programs for youth, although these have been impacted by COVID-19.
2. Telehealth Implementation: During the COVID-19 pandemic, the health care system in Douglas County has made major advances and had much success with implementing Telehealth.
3. Community Engagement: The Network of Care, which includes the hospital and CCO, has demonstrated strong community engagement through the comprehensive needs assessment process, including community surveys, key informant interviews, and prioritization sessions.
4. Collaborative Approach: The report highlights the multi-sector coalition of organizations that make up the Network of Care, suggesting good collaboration between the hospital, CCO, and other community organizations.
5. Addressing Social Determinants of Health: The inclusion of social determinants of health in the assessment and prioritization process indicates that the hospital and CCO recognize the importance of these factors in overall community health.
6. Comprehensive Assessment: The thorough nature of this Community Health Needs Assessment demonstrates a commitment to understanding and addressing community health needs.
7. COVID-19 Response: While specific details aren't provided, the report acknowledges that the health system has had to adapt significantly during the pandemic, suggesting some level of successful crisis response.

Strengths of the Community

1. Strong Community Engagement: There was active participation in community forums and surveys, indicating an engaged population that cares about community health issues.
2. Diverse Leadership Involvement: Various local leaders, including state representatives, county commissioners, city council members, the mayor, and school board members, participated in the assessment process.
3. Collaborative Spirit: The existence of the Douglas County Communities' Network of Care, a multi-sector coalition, demonstrates a collaborative approach to addressing community needs.
4. Educational Resources: The local Community College is mentioned as a great resource for job training and services.
5. Progress in Mental Health Awareness: There's increasing awareness about the importance of mental health, which is reducing stigma related to seeking support.
6. School Focus on Mental Health: Schools in Douglas County are increasingly focusing on mental and behavioral health.
7. Resilience: Despite facing various challenges, the community continues to work towards improving its situation.
8. Natural Resources: The county's geography, stretching from the Pacific Ocean to the Umpqua National Forest, suggests a wealth of natural resources and outdoor recreation opportunities.
9. Relatively Low Uninsured Rate: The uninsured rate in Douglas County (6.3%) is slightly lower than the state average (7.2%).
10. Community Resource Center: The existence of a Family Resource Center providing various services indicates community support infrastructure.
11. Veteran Population: The higher-than-average veteran population could be seen as a community asset in terms of experience and potential volunteers.
12. Growing Diversity: The growing Hispanic/Latino population is noted as potentially bringing cultural richness and new perspectives to the community.

These strengths, while not explicitly stated as such in the report, suggest a community with potential for resilience, engagement, and improvement in addressing its health needs.

Priorities

1. Behavioral Health

This includes both mental health and substance abuse issues. The report highlights significant needs in this area, including a shortage of mental health providers and high rates of substance abuse among youth.

2. Access to Health Care Services

This priority addresses the challenges in accessing healthcare, including provider shortages, geographic barriers, and coordination of care issues.

3. Healthy Food, Nutrition, and Physical Activity

This priority focuses on improving access to healthy foods, addressing food insecurity, and promoting physical activity. It also incorporates diabetes indicators, which were a concern in the community.

These three priorities were selected from a longer list of significant health needs identified in the community, which included:

1. Behavioral Health - Mental Health and Substance Abuse
2. Economy and Poverty
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