

Executive Summary

1. Overview of Salem Health:

- Serves Marion and Polk Counties, as well as surrounding areas
- Includes Salem Hospital, West Valley Hospital in Dallas, and medical clinics
- Salem Hospital has the busiest emergency department between Seattle and San Francisco

2. Collaborative Approach:

- Partners with various organizations to conduct a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA)
- Uses the Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) framework
- Identified three main priority areas: substance use and prevention, housing, and behavioral health support

3. Impact:

- Responded to COVID-19, including setting up mass vaccination clinics
- Made strategic investments in services, outreach, prevention, education, and wellness opportunities

4. Priority Areas and Goals:

a) Substance Use and Prevention:

- Goal: Reduce abuse of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs
- Initiatives include law enforcement training, support groups, research, and community involvement

b) Housing:

- Goal: Support initiatives for affordable housing and access to health care
- Efforts include community grants, rural health fairs, transportation services, and health education

c) Behavioral Health Services:

- Goal: Support health care navigation and prevention services with trauma-informed practices
- Activities include grants for behavioral health access, community events, and educational classes

The executive summary highlights Salem Health's commitment to addressing community health needs through partnerships, strategic investments, and targeted initiatives in the identified priority areas.

Biggest Gaps in Service

1. Substance use and prevention: The report mentions that substance use and abuse, including alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs, remain primary sources of preventable death in the community.

2. Housing: The report recognizes housing as a social determinant of health, suggesting that lack of affordable housing is a significant gap affecting community health.

3. Behavioral health support: The report notes rising mental health risk factors in the community, with 1 in 4 adults diagnosed with depression and increasing suicide mortality rates in Marion and Polk counties.

Greatest Barriers to Care

1. Access to affordable housing:

The report identifies housing as a social determinant of health, stating "Housing and access to health care considered social determinants of health because they can have a significant impact on one's health, particularly if they are lacking." This suggests that lack of affordable housing is a significant barrier to good health and potentially to accessing health care.

2. Substance use and addiction:

The focus on substance use prevention and treatment indicates that substance abuse is a major barrier to health in the community.

3. Mental health issues:

The report highlights the prevalence of mental health risk factors, including depression and rising suicide rates, suggesting that mental health challenges are a significant barrier to overall health and well-being.

4. Transportation in rural areas:

The mention of the Connections Van service in Polk County, providing "Curb to curb transportation service for residents of Polk County to any medical appointment," suggests that lack of transportation is a barrier to accessing health care, particularly in rural areas.

5. Lack of health care navigation support:

The emphasis on providing health care navigation services, particularly for behavioral health, indicates that difficulty in navigating the health care system is a barrier for some community members.

6. Cultural and language barriers:

While not explicitly stated, the mention of efforts to connect with BIPOC communities for COVID-19 vaccination suggests that cultural and potentially language barriers may exist in accessing health care.

The Unique Needs of the Community

1. High emergency care demand:

The report mentions that Salem Hospital's emergency department is "the busiest between Seattle and San Francisco, with more than 105,000 visits in 2022." This indicates a unique and high demand for emergency services in the area.

2. Expanded hospital capacity:

The opening of a new inpatient building adding 150 beds at Salem Hospital and the ongoing construction for 19 additional beds at West Valley Hospital suggest a growing need for inpatient care in the community.

3. Substance use prevention and treatment:

This is identified as a priority area, indicating a significant need for services related to alcohol, tobacco, and other drug abuse prevention and treatment.

4. Affordable housing:

Housing is highlighted as a key social determinant of health, suggesting a unique need for affordable housing solutions in the community.

5. Behavioral health services:

The report notes rising mental health risk factors, including high rates of depression diagnosis and increasing suicide mortality rates, indicating a critical need for expanded behavioral health support.

6. Rural health care access:

Efforts like rural Polk County health fairs and the Connections Van service suggest a unique need to improve health care access for rural residents.

7. Support for marginalized communities:

The mention of initiatives targeting BIPOC communities and underrepresented individuals indicates a need for culturally appropriate health services and outreach.

8. Care coordination and navigation:

The emphasis on nurse navigators and community health workers suggests a need for assistance in navigating the health care system, particularly for complex conditions like cancer.

9. Community-based health education:

The various classes and support groups offered through the Community Health Education Center (CHEC) indicate a need for accessible health education and support services.

10. Diversion programs for low-level offenders:

The support for Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion training suggests a unique community need to address underlying addiction issues in the criminal justice system.

What the Hospital or CCO is Doing Well

1. Collaborative approach:

They've partnered with numerous organizations to conduct the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) and develop the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), demonstrating strong community engagement.

2. COVID-19 response:

Salem Health set up the first mass vaccination clinic in the state and initiated a mobile vaccine clinic to reach BIPOC communities.

3. Addressing priority areas:

They've implemented targeted initiatives for the three identified priority areas:

a) Substance use and prevention:

- Supported Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion training
- Provided space for support groups like AA and Al-Anon
- Conducted research on opioid use and addiction behaviors

b) Housing and healthcare access:

- Funded community investment grants supporting housing and healthcare access

- Organized rural health fairs in Polk County
- Provided transportation services for medical appointments in Polk County

c) Behavioral health services:

- Funded grants to improve access to behavioral health services
- Offered various classes and outreach programs through the Community Health Education Center

4. Community outreach:

Organized health fairs, school immunization clinics, and community events like the Polk County "Happy Dance" to destigmatize mental health.

5. Specialized services:

Provided nurse navigation services for cancer patients and first aid services at community events.

6. Health education:

Offered a wide range of health education classes and support services through the Community Health Education Center (CHEC).

7. Community involvement:

Salem Health experts served on multiple community and state boards related to the priority areas.

8. Capacity expansion:

Opened new facilities and expanded bed capacity to meet growing community needs.

Strengths of the Community

1. Collaborative spirit: The community seems to have a strong collaborative approach, with multiple organizations working together on the Community Health Needs Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan.

2. Engaged healthcare providers: The presence of active and engaged healthcare providers willing to participate in community initiatives suggests a strength in the local healthcare workforce.

3. Community involvement: The report mentions various community boards and events, indicating an engaged community willing to participate in health-related initiatives.

4. Support group culture: The presence of support groups like AA and Al-Anon suggests a community that values peer support and mutual aid.

5. Responsiveness to health initiatives: The community seems responsive to health education and outreach efforts, as evidenced by participation in various classes and events.

6. Rural resilience: The efforts to reach rural populations in Polk County suggest a resilient rural community willing to engage with health services when made accessible.

Priorities

1. Substance use and prevention

- The report states that substance use and abuse, including alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs, remain primary sources of preventable death in the community.
- The goal is to reduce the abuse of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.

2. Housing

- Housing is considered a social determinant of health that can significantly impact one's health.
- The goal is to support initiatives that create access to affordable housing and create avenues for citizens to access health care services.

3. Behavioral health support

- The report notes rising mental health risk factors in the community, with 1 in 4 adults diagnosed with depression and increasing suicide mortality rates in Marion and Polk counties.
- The goal is to support health care navigation and other prevention services delivered in trauma-informed practices to positively impact children, youth, and adults seeking to improve their behavioral health.