

Executive Summary

This is the 2023-2026 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) for Samaritan Albany General Hospital (SAGH), which serves western Linn County, Oregon.

- The assessment identified the following top health priorities for the community:

1. Access to health care (medical, dental, mental/behavioral)
2. Suicide prevention
3. Substance use disorders
4. Anxiety and depression
5. Food insecurity
6. Child care
7. Child abuse/neglect
8. Domestic violence
9. Housing costs and homelessness
10. Poverty
11. Culturally and linguistically appropriate services

- Key social determinants of health identified include access to housing, mental health care, transportation, healthy food, and addressing racism/inequity.

- Linn County faces challenges with mental health, substance abuse, child abuse rates, food insecurity, and homelessness. It has higher poverty rates for some minority groups and people with disabilities.

- COVID-19 had significant impacts, with 274 deaths in Linn County as of March 2022. The pandemic exacerbated many existing health issues.

- SAGH provided over \$350,000 in community funding and continued providing essential services throughout the pandemic.

- The hospital will use this CHNA to guide its community health improvement efforts over the next 3 years, working in collaboration with community partners to address the identified priorities.

Biggest Gaps in Service

1. Mental and behavioral health services, especially for children, youth, and adults. This includes services for substance use disorders, depression, anxiety, and suicidality.

2. Workforce and capacity shortages. For example, Brownsville and Scio have no mental health providers, while the rest of the county has fewer than 1 provider per 1,000 people.

3. Access to health care for uninsured individuals. Approximately 8.3% of people in Linn County are uninsured.

4. Lack of navigation services and patient advocates, especially for low-income individuals, people with mental health issues, migrant workers, and those with specific linguistic or cultural needs.

5. Culturally appropriate facilities, policies, and workforce. There's a lack of culturally competent providers, which can make care less effective and more traumatic for marginalized populations.
6. Workforce diversity, particularly a shortage of trans or trans-friendly providers and mental health providers of color who have lived experience with racism and discrimination.
7. Transportation services, especially for rural communities, people of color, those in poverty, people with disabilities, and individuals with language barriers.
8. Dental care access, though specific details are not provided in the given excerpt.

Greatest Barriers to Care

1. Lack of workforce and capacity: There's a shortage of healthcare providers, especially in mental health. For example, some areas have no mental health providers, while others have fewer than 1 per 1,000 people.
2. Insurance issues: About 8.3% of people in Linn County are uninsured. The report also mentions a lack of insurance literacy as a barrier.
3. Lack of navigation and patient advocates: The complexity of the healthcare system can be overwhelming, especially for lower-income people, those with mental health issues, migrant workers, and people with specific linguistic or cultural needs.
4. Cultural barriers: There's a lack of culturally appropriate facilities, policies, and workforce. This can lead to mistrust and reluctance to seek care among marginalized populations.
5. Workforce diversity: There's a shortage of diverse providers, such as trans or trans-friendly providers and mental health providers of color who understand the stresses related to racism and discrimination.
6. Transportation: This is a significant barrier, especially for rural communities, people of color, those in poverty, people with disabilities, and individuals with language barriers.
7. Long wait times for appointments: The report mentions that provider turnover/retirement rates increased after COVID, leading to longer wait times.
8. Language barriers: People with limited English skills face additional challenges in receiving one-on-one care and navigating the healthcare system.
9. Accessibility issues for people with disabilities.

The Unique Needs of the Community

1. Mental and behavioral health services: There's a high demand for these services, especially for children, youth, and adults, including substance use disorder treatment.
2. Suicide prevention: Linn County had the highest suicide rate among ages 25-44 in the tri-county region.

3. Childcare: There's a need for safe, affordable, and developmentally appropriate child care. The county has only 23 childcare centers per 1,000 children under 5.
4. Child abuse prevention: Linn County has consistently higher child abuse rates than the state average.
5. Food security: The county has an estimated food insecurity rate of 23%.
6. Housing: There's a need for affordable housing and services for the unhoused population. About 14% of households were affected by severe housing problems.
7. Poverty alleviation: Especially for certain minority groups and people with disabilities who have higher poverty rates.
8. Culturally and linguistically appropriate services: There's a need to build trust with marginalized communities and provide more culturally competent care.
9. Substance use disorder treatment: The county has high rates of drug and alcohol use, especially among youth.
10. Domestic violence services: The county had 240 arrests for reported domestic violence in 2021, but many incidents go unreported.
11. Transportation services: Especially for rural residents, low-income individuals, and those with disabilities.
12. Services for an aging population: The county has a high percentage of residents over 65 with disabilities.
13. Long-term COVID-19 support: Including mental health services and support for those with "Long COVID" symptoms.

What the Hospital or CCO is Doing Well

1. Community Engagement: SAGH conducted a comprehensive Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) involving various stakeholders and community partners.
2. Diverse Services: SAGH provides a wide range of services, including specialized surgical services, 23 outpatient clinics offering specialty care, family medicine, obstetrics/gynecology, pediatrics, and urgent/walk-in care.
3. COVID-19 Response: During the pandemic, SAGH was a first responder for many medical, mental/behavioral, dental, and social needs. They continued providing emergency care, birthing services, and urgent surgeries while also treating thousands of COVID patients.
4. Community Support: SAGH provided \$350,000 to 20 agencies through social accountability funding, as well as additional funding, food, clothing, and other resources to support local communities through the pandemic and 2021 wildfires.

5. Outreach Services: They provided transportation, telehealth, and home visits to over 2,000 people in west Linn County.
6. Health Education: SAGH offered in-person and virtual education through health fairs, workshops, and classes on topics like Adverse Childhood Experiences, Understanding Stigma for Substance Use Disorder, Implicit Bias, and Addressing Homelessness.
7. Partnerships: SAGH has strong partnerships with organizations and agencies in east Linn County and across the region.
8. Improved Health Rankings: Linn County's health rankings improved from 2019 to 2022, suggesting positive impacts from community health efforts.
9. Diverse Input: The CHNA process included input from diverse racial/ethnic groups, LGBTQIA2S+ community members, veterans, non-English speaking people, and other marginalized populations.

Strengths of the Community

1. Collaborative Spirit: The region has a long history of collaboration, coordination, and partnerships to promote health.
2. Strong Social Support Networks: Linn County has a robust network of social supports and opportunities.
3. Focus on Youth and Families: There's a strong commitment to the health and well-being of children and youth, including a focus on family stability and kindergarten readiness.
4. Community Organizations: Several organizations provide nutrition, healthy lifestyles, and social supports for youth, such as the Boys & Girls Club of Albany.
5. Educational Resources: The College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific-Northwest provides valuable resources and support to the community.
6. Public Health Initiatives: Linn County has programs like the Tobacco Prevention and Education Program aimed at reducing tobacco-related illness and death.
7. Community Action Agencies: Organizations like Community Services Consortium serve the most vulnerable community members.
8. Transportation Services: Despite challenges, there are some transportation options available for low-income community members, elderly, and people with disabilities.
9. Proactive Approach to Homelessness: Albany and Linn County are working on a comprehensive plan to address unhoused populations in the community.
10. Diverse Health Promotion Services: The community has various organizations offering health promotion services, including food banks, shelters, religious institutions, community gardens, farmers markets, and recreation events.

11. Improving Health Outcomes: Linn County's health rankings improved from 2019 to 2022, suggesting positive community health trends.

12. Resilience: The community has shown resilience in facing challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic and wildfires.

13. Engaged Community: The community actively participated in the health needs assessment process, providing diverse input.

Priorities

1. Access to health care

- Increase community access to medical, dental, and mental/behavioral health services

2. Suicide prevention

3. Substance use disorders

4. Anxiety and depression

5. Food insecurity

6. Child care

- Increase access to safe, affordable, and developmentally appropriate child care

7. Child abuse/neglect

8. Domestic violence

9. Housing costs and homelessness

- Increase housing, employment, and supportive services in the community

10. Poverty

11. Culturally and linguistically appropriate care

- Provide respectful, welcoming, medically appropriate and trauma-informed care to everyone
- Build trust and collaboration with community leaders and organizations serving marginalized and stigmatized people

These priorities are grouped under three main objectives:

1. Greater Access: Increase community access to medical, dental, and mental/behavioral health services.

2. Healthy Families: Increase community access to healthy food, child care, and safety.

3. Healthy Communities: Increase housing, employment, and supportive services in the community.