

## **Executive Summary**

1. SNLH conducted this CHNA in partnership with other local organizations to identify significant health needs in north Lincoln County, Oregon.
2. Data was collected through surveys, focus groups, interviews, and secondary sources.
3. Key health priorities identified include:
  - Access to healthcare (medical, dental, mental/behavioral)
  - Suicide prevention
  - Substance use disorder
  - Anxiety and depression
  - Food insecurity
  - Child care, abuse and neglect
  - Domestic violence
  - Housing costs and homelessness
  - Poverty
  - Culturally and linguistically appropriate services
4. The assessment found disparities in health outcomes based on factors like race/ethnicity, income, and geographic location within the county.
5. SNLH serves a rural, coastal area with a population of about 50,862. The county is designated as a health provider shortage area.
6. COVID-19 has had significant impacts on healthcare access and community health in the region.
7. SNLH will use this assessment to guide its community benefit activities and partnerships to address the identified health needs over the next three years.

## **Biggest Gaps in Service**

1. Mental and behavioral health services, especially for children, youth, and adults. This includes services for substance use disorder, depression, anxiety, and suicidality.
2. Access to medical, dental, and mental/behavioral health care in general.
3. Culturally and linguistically appropriate care, particularly for marginalized and stigmatized populations.
4. Workforce shortages and capacity issues, especially in recruiting and retaining culturally competent providers and staff in this isolated coastal area.
5. Services for unhoused community members, including wraparound support services.
6. Affordable and quality child care, which impacts both child health and family access to healthcare.
7. Substance use disorder treatment, with the report noting that a new 16-bed alcohol and drug residential treatment facility is planned to open in 2023.

8. Navigation and patient advocacy services, especially for lower-income people, those with mental health issues, migrant workers, and people with specific linguistic or cultural needs.
9. Transportation services, particularly for rural communities, people of color, people in poverty, people with disabilities, and those with language barriers.
10. Preventive care services, as 15% of survey respondents had not seen a doctor in the last year for a routine checkup.

### **Greatest Barriers to Care**

1. Lack of workforce and capacity: The area struggles with recruiting and retaining culturally competent providers and staff, leading to increased wait times for appointments.
2. Lack of insurance and/or insurance literacy: Approximately 12% of people in Lincoln County are uninsured.
3. Complexity of the healthcare system: The report notes a lack of navigation and patient advocates to help people, especially lower-income individuals, those with mental health issues, migrant workers, and people with specific linguistic or cultural needs.
4. Lack of culturally appropriate facilities, policies, and workforce: This leads to mistrust and reluctance to seek care among marginalized populations.
5. Transportation: Particularly for rural communities, people of color, those in poverty, people with disabilities, and individuals with language barriers.
6. Lack of workforce diversity: There's a shortage of providers who reflect the diversity of the community (e.g., trans or trans-friendly providers, mental health providers of color).
7. Cost: The report mentions that dental care, prescription medications, eyeglasses, and mental health care or counseling were services that respondents needed but couldn't access due to cost.
8. Cultural and linguistic barriers: The need for culturally and linguistically appropriate care is emphasized throughout the report.
9. Geographic isolation: Being a rural coastal area, access to specialized care can be limited.
10. Mistrust and trauma: Especially among marginalized populations, leading to reluctance in seeking care.
11. COVID-19 impacts: The pandemic has led to longer wait times, postponed care, and related access issues.

### **The Unique Needs of the Community**

1. Mental and behavioral health services: Particularly for children, youth, and adults, including substance use disorder treatment.

2. Affordable housing and support for unhoused populations: The community has a high rate of severe housing problems and homelessness.
3. Access to medical, dental, and mental health care: The area is designated as a health provider shortage area.
4. Culturally and linguistically appropriate care: Especially for marginalized and stigmatized populations.
5. Suicide prevention: Lincoln County has high suicide rates, particularly among certain age groups.
6. Food security: The county has a food insecurity rate of 14%.
7. Child care: There are only two child care centers per 1,000 children under 5 in the county.
8. Services addressing child abuse and neglect: The county has higher rates of child abuse reports than the state average.
9. Domestic violence services: Including safe housing for survivors.
10. Poverty alleviation: The county has high poverty rates, especially for children, youth, and people with disabilities.
11. Services for an aging population: The county has a higher percentage of residents over 65 compared to state averages.
12. Substance use disorder treatment: A new 16-bed facility is planned to open in 2023.
13. Transportation services: Especially for rural residents, low-income individuals, and those with disabilities.
14. Economic development and job opportunities: To address multigenerational poverty.
15. Services for veterans: The county has a high percentage of unhoused veterans experiencing chronic homelessness.
16. Cultural competency in healthcare: To build trust with marginalized communities and improve health outcomes.
17. Support for those affected by wildfires and other climate-related events.

### **What the Hospital or CCO is Doing Well**

1. Collaborative efforts: SNLH works closely with various community partners, agencies, and organizations to address health needs.
2. Comprehensive services: SNLH provides a wide range of services including emergency care, birthing services, urgent surgeries, and specialized surgical services.

3. Outpatient care: The hospital operates 23 outpatient clinics offering specialty care, family medicine, obstetrics/gynecology, pediatrics, and urgent/walk-in care.
4. COVID-19 response: SNLH was a first responder for many medical, mental/behavioral, dental, and social needs during the pandemic, treating thousands of COVID patients while maintaining essential services.
5. Community support: SNLH provided \$150,000 to six local agencies through social accountability funding, plus an additional \$109,000 in funding, food, clothing, and other resources during COVID-19 and the 2021 wildfires.
6. Accessibility efforts: The hospital offered transportation, telehealth, and home visits to over 1,500 people in south Lincoln County.
7. Health education: SNLH offered in-person and virtual education through health fairs, workshops, and classes on various topics including Adverse Childhood Experiences, Understanding Stigma for Substance Use Disorder, Implicit Bias, and Addressing Homelessness.
8. Diverse community engagement: For the CHNA, SNLH ensured input from diverse racial/ethnic groups, LGBTQIA2S+ community members, veterans, non-English speaking people, and other marginalized populations.
9. Regional collaboration: SNLH participates in regional health improvement efforts through partnerships like the Coast to Cascades Community Wellness Network.
10. New facility: In February 2020, SNLH opened a new, state-of-the-art hospital facility, improving its capacity to serve the community.

### **Strengths of the Community**

1. Strong partnerships and collaborations between organizations to address community health issues. The report mentions SNLH has "strong partnerships with organizations and agencies in north Lincoln County and across the region."
2. A commitment to improving health and well-being of children and youth, with a focus on family stability, kindergarten readiness, and equitable services.
3. Several organizations providing nutrition, healthy lifestyle programs, and social supports for youth, like Neighbors for Kids.
4. Active coalitions working to address health priorities, like the Lincoln County Community Club.
5. Community action agencies serving vulnerable populations, like Community Services Consortium.
6. Transportation assistance programs for medical appointments and other needs, through organizations like Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments and Volunteer Caregivers.

7. Plans to open a 16-bed alcohol and drug residential treatment facility in 2023.
8. Community leadership working on a comprehensive plan to assist unhoused populations, including emergency shelters, transitional housing and affordable housing initiatives.
9. Support for programs like Project Turnkey to provide supportive and transitional housing.
10. A variety of community-based organizations offering health promotion services, including food banks, shelters, community gardens, farmers markets, etc.
11. Educational resources like Oregon Coast Community College providing training in healthcare and community health fields.

### **Priorities**

#### **1. Greater Access**

Objective: Increase community access to medical, dental and mental/behavioral health services.

Priorities:

- Access to health care
- Suicide prevention
- Substance use disorder
- Anxiety and depression

#### **2. Healthy Families**

Objective: Increase community access to healthy food, child care and safety.

Priorities:

- Food insecurity
- Child care
- Child abuse/neglect
- Domestic violence

#### **3. Healthy Communities**

Objective: Increase housing, employment and supportive services in the community.

Priorities:

- Housing costs and houselessness
- Poverty
- Culturally and linguistically appropriate services