

Executive Summary

Key Context:

- Every five years, Marion and Polk Counties partner with local health professionals and community organizations to assess community health through a Community Health Assessment (CHA)
- The CHA was published in 2019 and updated annually through 2024 to provide current data
- The CHA informs the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) which focuses efforts on priority areas

Key Improvements:

- Increased prenatal care access in first trimester
- Increased immunization rates among two-year-olds
- Lower rates of suicide mortality
- Lower rates of tobacco smoking in adults and teens
- Lower rates of adult binge drinking and teen alcohol use

Ongoing Challenges:

- Continuing shortage of healthcare providers
- Increasing chronic conditions like diabetes and obesity
- Year-over-year increases in sexually transmitted infections (gonorrhea, syphilis, HIV, Hepatitis B)
- Increase in opioid-related deaths and hospitalizations
- Increase in homelessness

Social Determinants of Health:

- Many health outcomes are influenced by social determinants like education, transportation, housing affordability, economic stability, and food access
- The community faces challenges with lower educational achievement, higher poverty rates, food insecurity, and unaffordable housing
- The community has natural resources and economic opportunities but access is not equitable

Community Input & Priorities:

- Over 600 people participated in community forums or surveys in 2018
- In 2022, 1,181 participants took a follow-up survey
- Three priority areas were identified for the 2021-2025 CHIP:
 1. Behavioral Health Supports
 2. Housing
 3. Substance Use

COVID-19 Impact:

- The pandemic highlighted existing health disparities
- Early signs show community recovery but impacts were not equally distributed
- Underlying chronic conditions that increase COVID-19 risk existed pre-pandemic
- Working on social determinants of health can help build community resilience

The executive summary notes that this 2024 update focuses on health indicators informing the CHIP priority areas, with some data impacted or delayed due to the pandemic.

Biggest Gaps in Service

Healthcare Provider Shortages:

- The community has fewer primary care and mental health providers relative to population size compared to the state average
- In Polk County, dentists and specialists have to serve a larger number of people than in Marion County and the state
- Providers practicing in rural regions have more people to serve than those in urban areas

Geographic Disparities:

- The Detroit Lake area was identified in a 2018 statewide study as having one of the greatest unmet healthcare needs in the state
- Rural residents have greater difficulty accessing providers, with longer travel times:
 - Urban areas: 10 minutes average travel time to care
 - Rural areas: 13 minutes average travel time
 - Frontier areas: 19 minutes average travel time

Provider-to-Population Ratios:

- Dental, primary care, and psychiatric/mental health providers in rural and frontier areas had to serve significantly more people than providers in urban areas
- Polk County providers generally have to serve a larger number of people than providers in Marion County or the state average
- Some specialties have extremely high patient-to-provider ratios, for example:
 - One dietician for every 76,663 people in Polk County
 - One podiatrist for every 199,325 people in Polk County

Cultural Responsiveness Gaps:

- The community identified needs for:
 - More culturally responsive care
 - Linguistically appropriate services
 - Trauma-informed care
 - Greater diversity in the healthcare workforce

Greatest Barriers to Care

Cost and Insurance Barriers:

- About 1 in 5 adult community members reported they couldn't see a provider in the last year due to cost
- Adults with disabilities were more likely to report being unable to see a provider due to cost
- While about 94% of community members had health insurance, those who were younger, lived in rural areas, or identified as Latino/a were less likely to be insured

Appointment and Time Barriers:

According to the 2022 community survey, the main reasons people went without care were:

1. Inability to get appointments fast enough
2. Cost of care
3. No regular provider
4. Cannot take time off work
5. Offices not open when they can go

Provider Shortages:

- Fewer primary care and mental health providers relative to state average

- Dentists and specialists in Polk County have to serve a larger population than Marion County and state
- Rural providers have to serve more people than urban providers

Geographic Access:

- Rural residents face longer travel times to care
- Limited public transportation options in rural areas
- Detroit Lake area identified as having one of the greatest unmet healthcare needs

Cultural and Language Barriers:

- Need for more culturally responsive care
- Need for linguistically appropriate services
- Need for trauma-informed care
- Lack of diversity in healthcare workforce

The Unique Needs of the Community

Demographic Characteristics:

- A younger population than Oregon overall, with a greater percentage under age 25
- Higher Hispanic/Latino population (27% in Marion, 14% in Polk) compared to state (13%)
- More households speaking languages other than English (25% in Marion, 12% in Polk) than state average
- Most common non-English languages are Spanish, Asian/Pacific Islander languages, and Russian

Social and Economic Needs:

- Lower household incomes and higher poverty rates in Marion compared to Polk and state average
- Higher food insecurity rates, with 41% of Marion residents and 18% of Polk residents living in food deserts
- Significant housing affordability challenges, with about 50% of renters paying more than 30% of income on rent
- Lower educational achievement, particularly in Marion County

Healthcare Needs:

- Provider shortages, especially in rural areas
- Need for culturally responsive and linguistically appropriate care
- Greater reliance on Medicaid in Marion County (32%) compared to Polk (26%) and state (26%)
- Higher rates of chronic diseases and risk factors in Marion County

Geographic Considerations:

- Large rural population (33% in Marion, 16% in Polk live outside major cities)
- Transportation challenges, especially in rural areas
- Limited access to healthy food options in certain areas
- Different needs between urban and rural communities

Priority Areas Identified by Community:

1. Behavioral Health Support
2. Housing
3. Substance Use
4. Obesity prevention (identified as potential future priority if resources available)

What the Hospital or CCO is Doing Well

CCO Quality Improvements (from previous CCO, WVCH 2015-2019):

- Improved rates of early prenatal care access
- Increased childhood immunization rates
- Steady improvements in diabetes control
- Increased colon cancer screening rates
- Significant improvements in depression screening and follow-up
- Improved rates of drug and alcohol screening
- Increased dental sealant rates for children
- Improved adolescent well-care visit rates

Hospital Performance:

- Several hospitals met the Health and Human Services (HHS) 2020 targets for certain healthcare-associated infections:
 - Silverton Hospital met the target for Clostridium Difficile infections
 - Salem Hospital and Oregon facilities met the target for laminectomy surgical site infections

Care Coordination:

- By 2022, about 137,559 community members were enrolled in the CCO (approximately one-third of the community population)
- The CCO has systems in place to support diverse populations:
 - Services available in multiple languages
 - Support for members with disabilities (about 11.9% of CCO membership)

Strengths of the Community

Natural and Environmental Assets:

- Abundance of natural resources
- Local produce availability at farmers' markets and "You Pick" opportunities
- Parks and recreational areas that help support community health
- Green spaces and hiking trails
- Good air quality (met national standards with "good" AQI for most measured days)

Community Resources:

- Community organizations providing support services
- Faith-based organizations
- Neighborhood support systems
- Local sports teams
- Community events

Economic Strengths:

- Growing population and improving economy
- Opportunities for advancement and expansion
- Local produce sold at farmers' markets
- Strong agricultural sector

Healthcare Infrastructure:

- 94% of community members have health insurance

- Improving vaccination rates
- School-Based Health Centers providing services
- Multiple hospitals serving the region

Cultural Strengths:

- Diverse community with multiple languages and cultures
- Growing community that is becoming more diverse
- Strong Hispanic/Latino community (27% in Marion County)
- Cultural and linguistic diversity adding to community richness

Priorities

1. Behavioral Health Support

- Focused on upstream interventions
- Aims to improve infrastructure, resilience, and community well-being
- Separate from substance use focus

2. Housing

- Addressing housing affordability
- Tackling homelessness
- Working on safe housing conditions

3. Substance Use

- Addressing alcohol and drug abuse
- Focusing on prevention and treatment

These priorities were:

- Initially selected in 2018 through community input
- Reaffirmed in 2022 through a follow-up survey with 1,181 participants
- Obesity prevention was identified as a potential fourth priority if resources become available

The organization's vision statement is:

"A diverse and inclusive community with a physical environment that facilitates optimal physical and social health, infrastructure that supports economic growth and stability, and an integrated health care system that promotes equitable access to whole person care."

Core Values include:

- Inclusive engagement and participation
- Using data meaningfully
- Common goals that are SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, time-based)
- Shared commitment and accountability
- Clear communication, collaboration, and shared definitions
- Safe environment where diverse opinions are respected