

Executive Summary

The report outlines Tillamook County's plan to address the top health needs identified in their 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment over the next 3 years (2023-2025).

- The three high priority health needs identified are:

- 1) Access to Care
- 2) Financial Stability
- 3) Housing

- For each priority area, the report lays out specific goals, strategies, and action plans, including:

Access to Care:

- Improve language translation services
- Increase health literacy
- Adopt culturally responsive policies
- Screen for and address social determinants of health

Financial Stability:

- Develop a nursing program to increase healthcare workforce
- Increase childcare availability to boost workforce participation
- Improve financial literacy
- Support employment for those with substance use disorders

Housing:

- Increase affordable/workforce housing
- Connect people to housing resources and repairs
- Provide low-barrier shelters for unhoused individuals

- The plan was developed collaboratively with community partners and will be implemented through partnerships between Adventist Health Tillamook and local organizations.

- Progress will be monitored and evaluated regularly over the 3-year period, with adjustments made as needed.

- The strategy aims to make measurable improvements in these priority health areas for Tillamook County residents by 2025.

Biggest Gaps in Service

1. Access to care: The report mentions difficulties in getting basic medical appointments, and anything beyond primary care requires extensive travel time. There are also challenges related to language barriers, with limited availability of Spanish-speaking doctors and interpreters.

2. Mental health services: The report notes there is a shortage of mental health providers compared to Oregon as a whole, with 169 providers per 100,000 people in Tillamook compared to 312 in Oregon.

3. Specialty care: The report indicates there is a shortage of specialty providers, specifically mentioning pediatrics and OB/GYN as being in short supply.

4. Transportation: Limited public transportation infrastructure makes it difficult for people to get to medical appointments, especially for those without personal vehicles.

5. Cultural and linguistic responsiveness: The report highlights a need for more culturally and linguistically responsive services, particularly for non-English speaking populations.

6. Health literacy: There's an emphasis on improving health literacy among residents, suggesting gaps in understanding and navigating health care services.

7. Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment: The report mentions plans to support individuals with SUD, implying there may be gaps in these services.

8. Affordable care: While not explicitly stated as a gap, the report mentions efforts to provide financial assistance for medical care, suggesting affordability may be an issue for some residents.

Greatest Barriers to Care

1. Language barriers: There's a lack of translation and interpretation services, with the report noting that only one doctor in the emergency medical plaza speaks Spanish.

2. Transportation issues: Limited public transportation infrastructure, including paid car options like taxis and Uber, makes it difficult for people to get to medical appointments.

3. Shortage of providers: There's a particular shortage of mental health providers compared to Oregon as a whole (169 providers per 100k people in Tillamook vs 312 in Oregon).

4. Lack of specialty care: The report mentions that securing appointments beyond primary care often requires extensive travel time, suggesting a lack of local specialty care providers.

5. Health insurance coverage gaps: While 6.1% of residents are uninsured overall, this rate is much higher for certain groups (17.7% for Black people and 13.8% for Native Americans or Alaska Natives).

6. Difficulty managing healthcare appointments: This was noted as a source of stress for community residents.

7. Health literacy: The report identifies a need to increase health literacy among Tillamook County residents to improve awareness, knowledge, provider relationships, and health outcomes.

8. Cultural and linguistic barriers: The report emphasizes the need for more culturally and linguistically responsive services.

The Unique Needs of the Community

1. Rural healthcare access: As a rural coastal area, there are challenges in accessing healthcare, especially specialty care, without extensive travel.

2. Language services: There's a significant need for more bilingual healthcare providers and interpreters, especially for Spanish-speaking residents.

3. Affordable housing: The community faces a housing crisis, with limited availability and high costs affecting residents' financial stability and health.
4. Childcare: There's a critical need for more affordable and accessible childcare options to support workforce participation.
5. Financial literacy: The community needs more culturally relevant financial education programs to improve overall financial stability.
6. Mental health services: There's a shortage of mental health providers compared to state averages.
7. Substance use disorder support: The community needs programs to help individuals with SUD regain stable employment.
8. Workforce development: There's a need for local career pathways, particularly in healthcare (e.g., nursing programs).
9. Support for unhoused population: The community has a higher rate of homelessness than state and national averages, particularly among students.
10. Cultural competence: There's a need for more culturally and linguistically responsive services across various sectors.
11. Transportation: The limited public transportation infrastructure affects access to healthcare and other essential services.
12. Health literacy: There's a need to improve overall health literacy among residents to better navigate healthcare systems and improve health outcomes.

What the Hospital or CCO is Doing Well

1. Collaborative approach: The hospital and CCO are actively collaborating with various community organizations to address health needs. This suggests a strong commitment to community engagement and partnership.
2. Comprehensive planning: They have developed a detailed Community Health Implementation Strategy (CHIS) to address the identified high-priority needs, indicating a proactive approach to community health improvement.
3. Focus on social determinants of health: The plan includes strategies to address root causes of health disparities, such as financial stability and housing, showing a holistic approach to health care.
4. Cultural responsiveness: There are plans to improve language translation services and adopt culturally responsive policies, indicating awareness of and commitment to serving diverse populations.

5. Workforce development: Plans to develop a nursing program suggest a commitment to addressing local healthcare workforce needs.
6. Use of technology: The mention of using the Connect Oregon Network for referrals suggests an embrace of technological solutions to improve care coordination.
7. Financial assistance: The hospital has a commitment to providing financial assistance for medically necessary care, showing dedication to making healthcare more accessible.
8. Regular evaluation: The plan includes ongoing monitoring and evaluation of initiatives, indicating a commitment to continuous improvement.

Strengths of the Community

1. Collaborative spirit: There's a strong emphasis on collaboration between various community organizations, healthcare providers, educational institutions, and local government to address health needs.
2. Engaged stakeholders: The community has active participation from diverse stakeholders in health improvement initiatives, as evidenced by the broad coalition involved in developing the Community Health Implementation Strategy.
3. Cultural diversity: The community recognizes and values its diverse population, including a significant Hispanic community.
4. Educational partnerships: There are strong connections between healthcare providers and educational institutions, as seen in efforts to develop nursing programs and improve workforce development.
5. Community-based organizations: The presence of various CBOs working on different aspects of community health and well-being is a significant asset.
6. Rural resilience: The community shows adaptability in addressing challenges unique to its rural, coastal setting.
7. Focus on youth: There's attention given to supporting youth through education and addressing issues like homelessness among students.
8. Economic drivers: The presence of industries like dairy farming and tourism provide economic opportunities.
9. Natural resources: The report mentions the area's natural beauty, including coastline, bays, and rivers, which can contribute to quality of life and community vitality.
10. Small-town community feel: The report notes the "small-town rural feel" as a positive aspect of the community.
11. Community events: Activities like the Tillamook County Fair, summer parades, and rodeos contribute to community cohesion.

Priorities

1. Access to Care

2. Financial Stability

3. Housing

These three areas were established as the top priorities based on several factors:

- They demonstrated the greatest need based on severity and prevalence
- There was intentional alignment around common goals
- They offered feasibility of potential interventions
- They presented opportunities to maximize available resources over a three-year period

The report outlines specific goals, strategies, and action plans for each of these priority areas. For example:

Access to Care:

- Improving language translation services
- Increasing health literacy
- Adopting culturally responsive policies
- Screening for and addressing social determinants of health

Financial Stability:

- Developing a nursing program to increase the healthcare workforce
- Increasing childcare availability to boost workforce participation
- Improving financial literacy
- Supporting employment for those with substance use disorders

Housing:

- Increasing affordable/workforce housing
- Connecting people to housing resources and repairs
- Providing low-barrier shelters for unhoused individuals

These priorities guide the Community Health Implementation Strategy for 2023-2025, with the aim of making measurable improvements in these areas for Tillamook County residents.