

Saint Francis Medical Center Community Health Needs Assessment Executive Summary

Saint Francis Medical Center, a not-for-profit hospital in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, partnered with many healthcare organizations for its 2016 Community Health Needs Assessment.

[Community Health Needs Assessment Process and Requirements](#)

A CHNA must be conducted every three years by not-for-profit hospitals in order to comply with federal tax-exemption requirements under the Affordable Care Act. Following the CHNA, the hospital must adopt an implementation strategy to meet the community health needs identified through the assessment, and it must report how it is addressing the needs identified in the CHNA and provide a description of needs that is not being addressed with the reasons why such needs are not being addressed. The ultimate purpose of the CHNA is to improve community health.

The Community Health Needs Assessment process consists of the following steps:

1. Define the community served by the hospital facility
2. Identify the partners and individuals representing the broad interests of the community
3. Gather available data and current assessments
4. Develop and conduct primary research
5. Aggregate primary and secondary research
6. Identify and prioritize the health needs in your community
7. Develop and implement a strategy to address the identified priority health issues
8. Widely disseminate the CHNA

Saint Francis Healthcare System implementation plan for 2016-2019 is attached.

[Primary Research](#)

Four focus groups were held in the four designated counties and the questions asked can be found below.

1. What do people in this community do to stay healthy? How do people get information about health?
2. In this group's opinion, what are the serious health problems in your community? What are some of the causes of these problems?
3. What keeps people in your community from being healthy?
4. What could be done to solve these problems?
5. Is there any group not receiving enough healthcare? If so, why?
6. Of all the issues we have talked about today, what issues do you think are the most important for your community to address?

161 surveys were completed by residents in the four designated counties. The survey was very extensive and consisted of four different sections. The survey demographics were representative of the area's population.

The four sections of the survey included:

1. **Demographics:** Multiple-choice questions to collect information about the population of the county.
2. **Social and Economic Factors:** Multiple-choice questions to collect information regarding the population's education, employment and income status.
3. **Health Behaviors:** Questions to collect information on the behaviors correlated to health of adults and children in the county.
4. **Medical Care and Services:** Multiple-choice, short-answer and ranked questions to collect information regarding healthcare access, health status, insurance coverage and opinions on health issues.

Key Findings

The following lists represent the key findings of this Community Health Needs Assessment by type of need:

Health Needs

- Cancer (leading cause of death)
- Diabetes (leading cause of death)
- High Blood Pressure/Strokes (leading cause of death)
- Heart Disease (leading cause of death)
- Overweight Adults
- Overweight Children
- Mental Health – anxiety and depression, poor mental health days, mental health providers
- Injuries/Poisonings (leading cause of death)
- Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease (leading cause of death)
- Alzheimer's (leading cause of death)
- High Cholesterol
- Chronic Pain
- Asthma/Respiratory Disorders (especially in children)
- Sexually Transmitted Infections (especially in adolescents)
- Allergies (especially food allergies in children)
- Health Status at Birth – low birth weight, preterm births, birth defects

Behavioral Needs

- Preventive Practices
- Smoking
- Alcohol/Drug Use
- Poor Diet
- No Exercise
- Poor Lifestyle
- Teen Substance Abuse – use of cigarettes, alcohol, prescription drugs, marijuana, heroin, bath salts and binge drinking

- Maternal Health – no prenatal care, living an unhealthy lifestyle and smoking and using drugs while pregnant

Priority Needs

Prioritization Process

Members of the CHNA Team analyzed survey data, focus group data and secondary data in the report to prioritize the community health needs for each county. The priority needs were first identified by the primary research or what the community finds most important. These high-priority needs were then validated by the secondary research – looking at the community’s statistics and trends against the state’s statistics and trends. The priority needs were also based on whether or not the hospital has the ability to have an impact on the need.

Top 5 Priority Needs (and Associated Behavioral Needs)

- Obesity (Adult and Children)
- Cancer (All Types)
- Chronic Disease
 - Stroke (Healthy Lifestyle)
 - Heart Disease (Smoking)
 - Diabetes (Diet and Exercise)
 - Chronic Respiratory Disease (Smoking)
- Substance Abuse/Mental Health (Drug and Alcohol, Anxiety and Depression)
- Healthcare Affordability