



A Member of Trinity Health

St. Mary's Sacred Heart Hospital CHNA Implementation Strategy Fiscal Years 2019-2021

St. Mary's Sacred Heart Hospital completed a comprehensive Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) that was adopted by the Board of Directors on 5/20/2019. STMSHH performed the CHNA in adherence with certain federal requirements for not-for-profit hospitals set forth in the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The assessment took into account a comprehensive secondary data analysis of patient outcomes, community health status, and social determinants of health, as well as primary data including input from representatives of the community, community members, and various community organizations.

The complete CHNA report is available electronically at <https://www.stmaryssacredheart.org/about-us/mission-and-values/community-benefit/>, or printed copies are available at St. Mary's Sacred Heart Hospital.

Hospital Information

Sacred Heart Hospital is located in Franklin County in the city of Lavonia but also considers Hart County within its primary service area. Franklin County has a total land area of 262 square miles, while Hart County's land area is 232 square miles. Franklin County has a population of 22,048 and Hart County, which borders Franklin County, has a population of 25,217. Carnesville and Martin are less populated than Royston and Canon. The population distribution in Franklin County among rural and urban areas is 11.1 percent urban and 88.9 rural. In Hart County 25.5 percent of the population is urban and 74.5 percent is rural. Only .9 percent of Franklin County's land area is urban while 99.1 percent is rural. In Hart County 2.7 percent of the land is urban and 97.3 percent is rural. The city of Hartwell is the most populated part of the County.

Mission

We, St. Mary's Sacred Heart Hospital and Trinity Health, serve together in the spirit of the Gospel as a compassionate and transforming healing presence within our communities.

Health Needs of the Community

The CHNA conducted in 2018-2019 identified the top 10 significant health needs within the St. Mary’s Health Care System community. Those needs were then prioritized based on prevalence, severity, required length of hospitalization, whether vulnerable population were disproportionately impacted, community acknowledgement of this issue, etc. The top 10 significant health needs are listed below and the prioritized significant health needs are listed in the next section.

<p>1) Cardiovascular Health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More than 1 in 2 people surveyed in Sacred Heart’s service area reported hypertension in their household. - 1 in 3 people surveyed in Sacred Heart’s service area reported having high cholesterol.
<p>2) Nutrition, Obesity, and Diabetes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 31% of adults living in Sacred Heart’s service area are obese. - The prevalence of adults in Sacred Heart’s service area diagnosed with diabetes (13.2%) is higher than the state’s average (12%).
<p>3) Behavioral Health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sacred Heart’s service area’s age-adjusted opioid death rate (11.7) is higher than the state’s (8.2). - The age-adjusted rate of suicides (21.0) in Sacred Heart’s service area is almost double the state’s average (12.9)
<p>4) Maternal & Child Health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 counties in Sacred Heart’s service area do not have a practicing pediatrician. - The percentage of births from women using tobacco in Sacred Heart’s service area (16.5%) is over triple the state percentage of births from women using tobacco (4.7%).
<p>5) Healthcare Access</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Sacred Heart’s service area lacks adequate and affordable healthcare options in the areas of dental and mental health, especially for those without adequate insurance. - In Sacred Heart’s service area, access to dental care is a health need. For example, Banks County has only one practicing dentist in the county.
<p>6) Reproductive Health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High rates of teen pregnancy rates are reported in Franklin and Stephens County compared to the state. - The number of practicing OB-GYNs in all 5 counties is below the state rate.
<p>7) Cerebrovascular Health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sacred Heart Hospital’s service area has a higher rate of stroke-related emergency room visits compared to the state rate. - Every county in Sacred Heart’s service area has higher stroke death rates compared to the state

	rate.
8) Cancer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The age-adjusted death rate due to colon cancer is higher in all of St. Mary's service areas (15.9) compared to the state's rate (15.2.) - In Sacred Heart's service area, 1 in 20 deaths are caused by lung cancer.
9) Respiratory Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Almost 1 in 5 adults use tobacco in all 7 counties within Sacred Heart Hospital's service area. - Sacred Heart's pneumonia-related ER visits are over 50% higher than the state average.
10) Injuries & Accidents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The motor vehicle crash death rate (28) in Sacred Heart's Hospital service area is significantly worse than the state average (13.9). - Sacred Heart's rate of fall-related ER visits (2728.3) is also higher than the state average (1959.7).

Hospital Implementation Strategy

St. Mary's Sacred Heart Hospital resources and overall alignment with the hospital's mission, goals and strategic priorities were taken into consideration of the significant health needs identified through the most recent CHNA process.

Significant health needs to be addressed

St. Mary's Sacred Heart Hospital will focus on developing and/or supporting initiatives and measure their effectiveness, to improve the following health needs:

- **Cardiovascular** – page 5
- **Cerebrovascular** – page 6
- **Respiratory** – page 7
- **Nutrition, Obesity, and Diabetes** – page 8

Significant health needs that will not be addressed

St. Mary's Sacred Heart Hospital acknowledges the wide range of priority health issues that emerged from the CHNA process, and determined that it could effectively focus on only those health needs which it deemed most pressing, under-addressed, and within its ability to influence. St. Mary's Sacred Heart Hospital will not take action on the following health needs:

- **Reproductive Health** – St. Mary's Sacred Heart Hospital does not plan to directly address this particular need because the local Public Health

Department is addressing this need in the community. Sacred Heart hospital provides referrals.

- **Cancer** – St. Mary’s Sacred Heart Hospital does not plan to directly address this particular need because the hospital does not have the resources to become an oncology center; however, screening is available at the hospital.
- **Behavioral Health** – St. Mary’s Sacred Heart Hospital does not plan to directly address this particular need because Avita Community Partners addresses this need in the community. Sacred Heart evaluates and places ED patients through telepsych capabilities.
- **Maternal and Child** – St. Mary’s Sacred Heart Hospital does not plan to directly address this particular need because there is a strong local WIC office in the community addressing the needs.
- **Healthcare Access** – St. Mary’s Sacred Heart Hospital does not plan to directly address this particular need because the data points to dental provider shortages and transportation as main barriers to access and Sacred Heart does not have the resources to address those factors at this time.
- **Accidents and Injuries** – St. Mary’s Sacred Heart Hospital does not plan to directly address this particular need because the county Public Health Department provides car seats education and there is a GA State Patrol Office that also provides safety education. Additionally, Sacred Heart is not a trauma center.

This implementation strategy specifies community health needs that the hospital has determined to address in whole or in part and that are consistent with its mission. The hospital reserves the right to amend this implementation strategy as circumstances warrant. For example, certain needs may become more pronounced and require enhancements to the described strategic initiatives. During these three years, other organizations in the community may decide to address certain needs, indicating that the hospital then should refocus its limited resources to best serve the community.

CHNA IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY FISCAL YEARS 2020-2022

Hospital facility:	St. Mary's Sacred Heart Hospital		
CHNA significant health need:	Cardiovascular		
CHNA reference page:	21	Prioritization #:	1

Brief description of need:

More than 1 in 2 people surveyed in Sacred Heart's service area reported hypertension in their household. Also, 1 in 3 people surveyed in Sacred Heart's service area reported having high cholesterol.

Goal: Decrease the prevalence of high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and high triglycerides in Sacred Heart's service area

Objective:

By June 2022, increase the available community education & screening for cardiac risk factors & decrease BP & cholesterol, within the population reached by the A Healthier You program according to the Mayo Clinic's programmatic recommendations.

Actions the hospital facility intends to take to address the health need:

Strategies	Timeline			Committed Resources		Potential Partners
	Y1	Y2	Y3	Hospital	Other	
Explore the expansion of cardiac rehab	X	X	X	Wellness Center Staff		
Create new health program, A Healthier You, focused on nutrition, exercise, & chronic disease management	X	X	X	Wellness Center Staff		
Provide one cardiac screening and education event annually with carotid screening	X	X	X	Hospital Staff		Oconee Heart & Vascular Clinic, Healthworks
Create referral process for community members screened to Health Program	X	X	X	Case Management Dept. Staff		

Anticipated impact of these actions:

CHNA Impact Measures	CHNA Baseline	Target
Decrease in high BP	More than 1 in 2 reported hypertension in their household. Class baseline TBD	Reduce Systolic Blood Pressure in the class participants with BP>120 (target population) by 4mm Hg.
Decrease in high cholesterol	43% of respondents reported high cholesterol in their household. Class baseline TBD	5% reduction in Cholesterol level of class participants

Plan to evaluate the impact:

Participants enrolled in the A Healthier You class will receive a pre and post health screening. We will track progress for all enrolled participants. After 3 years, we will again complete a county-wide household survey and track the rate of high BP and high cholesterol reported within the household.

CHNA IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY FISCAL YEARS 2020-2022

Hospital facility:	St. Mary's Sacred Heart Hospital		
CHNA significant health need:	Cerebrovascular		
CHNA reference page:	33	Prioritization #:	2

Brief description of need:

Sacred Heart Hospital's service area has a higher rate of stroke-related emergency room visits compared to the state rate. Every county in Sacred Heart's service area has higher stroke death rates compared to the state rate.

Goal: Decrease the prevalence of high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and high triglycerides in Sacred Heart's service area

Objective:

By June 2022, increase the available community education and screening for cardiac risk factors and decrease BP and cholesterol, within the population reached by the A Healthier You chronic disease program according to the Mayo Clinic's programmatic recommendations.

Actions the hospital facility intends to take to address the health need:

Strategies	Timeline			Committed Resources		Potential Partners
	Y1	Y2	Y3	Hospital	Other	
Provide one screening and education event annually with carotid screening	X	X	X	Hospital Staff		OHVC, Healthworks
Create new health program focused on nutrition, exercise, and chronic disease management	X	X	X	Wellness Center, Health works		
Create referral process for community members referred to A Healthier You program	X	X	X			
2 annual EMS & community stroke education events	X	X	X	ED Staff		EMS
Create a referral process for BPCI stroke patients to A Healthier You	X	X	X	Case Management Dept.		Remedy, nursing homes, home health

Anticipated impact of these actions:

CHNA Impact Measures	CHNA Baseline	Target
Decrease in high BP	More than 1 in 2 reported hypertension in their household. Class baseline TBD	Reduce Systolic Blood Pressure in the class participants with BP>120 by 4mm Hg.
Decrease in high cholesterol	43% of respondents reported high cholesterol in their household. Class baseline TBD	5% reduction in Cholesterol level of class participants

Plan to evaluate the impact:

The number reached by the education and screening event will be tracked, as well as the number referred to the A Healthier You program. Pre & Post program biometrics will be tracked for all participants in the program. The BPCI patient referrals will also be tracked for remittance.

**CHNA IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY
FISCAL YEARS 2020-2022**

Hospital facility:	St. Mary’s Sacred Heart Hospital		
CHNA significant health need:	Respiratory Health		
CHNA reference page:	37	Prioritization #:	3

Brief description of need:

Almost 1 in 5 adults use tobacco in all 7 counties within Sacred Heart Hospital’s service area. Sacred Heart’s pneumonia-related ER visits are over 50% higher than the state average.

Goal: Reduce the prevalence of smoking within the Sacred Heart service area

Objective:

By June 2022, Increase the availability of cessation services in our area by adding a minimum of 2 more Freedom From Smoking sessions per year.

Actions the hospital facility intends to take to address the health need:

Strategies	Timeline			Committed Resources		Potential Partners
	Y1	Y2	Y3	Hospital	Other	
Get one staff member certified as a FFS facilitator	X	X	X	Respiratory staff		American Lung Association
Freedom From Smoking class offerings	X	X	X	Respiratory staff		American Lung Association
Create a referral process for BPCI COPD patients to Better Breathers Club	X	X	X	Case Management Dept		Remedy, nursing homes, home health
Annual offering of free FFS session for the housing authority	X	X	X	Respiratory staff		Royston, Lavonia, Hartwell Housing Authorities

Anticipated impact of these actions:

CHNA Impact Measures	CHNA Baseline	Target
Smoking Rate	14% of low income households have a smoker. Class baseline TBD	Decrease the percentage of low income households that have a smoker to 12% Maintain a quit rate of 50% by end of Freedom From Smoking program participants for 20 participants annually.

Plan to evaluate the impact:

The quit rate is assessed annually for each FFS class, both in the housing authorities and with the general patient and public population.

**CHNA IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY
FISCAL YEARS 2020-2022**

Hospital facility:	St. Mary’s Sacred Heart Hospital		
CHNA significant health need:	Nutrition, Obesity, and Diabetes		
CHNA reference page:	23	Prioritization #:	4

Brief description of need:

31% of adults living in Sacred Heart’s service area are obese. The prevalence of adults in Sacred Heart’s service area diagnosed with diabetes (13.2%) is higher than the state’s average (12%).

Goal: Reduce the rate of obesity and diabetes within the Sacred Heart service area

Objective:

By June 2022, provide low-income community members & patients with improved access to fresh food as well as a program resource for weight-loss and chronic disease management

Actions the hospital facility intends to take to address the health need:

Strategies	Timeline			Committed Resources		Potential Partners
	Y1	Y2	Y3	Hospital	Other	
Produce Prescription Program		X	X	Staffing, \$3,000 annually		Emmanuel College, Grocery stores
Enrollment for SNAP at housing authority	X	X	X	Staffing		Housing Authority, cooperative extension office
A Healthier You program for high BMI, DM, and high BP patients & community members	X	X	X	Wellness Center staff, Health Works staff		

Anticipated impact of these actions:

CHNA Impact Measures	CHNA Baseline	Target
Food Insecurity	25% of our CHNA survey respondents report experiencing food insecurity	Increase SNAP enrollment by 10% of the SNAP eligible population in Franklin and Hart Counties, provide community members & patients with access to fresh produce by 2022
Obesity	31% obesity prevalence in Franklin & Hart Counties; Class baseline TBD	Average of 5 pound weight loss per participant of A Healthier You.

Plan to evaluate the impact:

All participants of A Healthier You will have a pre and post program evaluation. We will also track the number of eligible community members enrolled in SNAP benefits and those reached with the produce prescription program.

Adoption of Implementation Strategy

On May 20th 2019, the Board of Directors for St. Mary's Sacred Heart Hospital, met to discuss the 2019-2021 Implementation Strategy for addressing the community health needs identified in the 2019 Community Health Needs Assessment. Upon review, the Board approved this Implementation Strategy and the related budget.