Community Health Needs Assessment

Dakota Regional Medical Center – Service Area
Cooperstown, North Dakota

2025

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Executive Summary

To help inform future decisions and strategic planning, Dakota Regional Medical Center (DRMC) conducted a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) in 2025, the previous CHNA having been conducted in 2022. The Center for Rural Health (CRH) at the University of North Dakota (UND) School of Medicine & Health Sciences (SMHS) facilitated the assessment process, which solicited input from area community members and healthcare professionals as well as analysis of community health-related data.

To gather feedback from the community, residents of the area were given the opportunity to participate in a survey. Eighty-six DRMC service area residents completed the survey. Additional information was collected through eight key informant interviews with community members. The input from the residents, who primarily reside in Griggs County, represented the broad interests of the communities in the service area. Together with secondary data gathered from a wide range of sources, the survey presents a snapshot of the health needs and concerns in the community.

With regard to demographics, Griggs County's population from 2020 to 2023 decreased by 2.3 percent. The average number of residents younger than age 18 (16.7%) for Griggs County comes in 6.8 percentage points lower than the North Dakota average (23.5%). The percentage of residents ages 65 and older is over 13 percent higher for Griggs County (29.9%) than the North Dakota average (16.7%), and the rate of education is slightly lower for Griggs County (91.2%) than the North Dakota average (93.5%). The median household income in Griggs County ($65,315) is much lower than the state average for North Dakota ($75,949).

Data compiled by County Health Rankings show Griggs County is doing better than North Dakota in health outcomes/factors for 14 categories.

Griggs County, according to County Health Rankings data, is performing poorly relative to the rest of the state in nine outcome/factor categories.

Of 106 potential community and health needs set forth in the survey, the 86 DRMC service area residents who completed the survey indicated the following ten needs as the most important:

- Stress – adult
- Alcohol use and abuse – youth and adult
- Attracting and retaining young families
- Availability of resources to help the elderly stay in their homes
- Availability of dental care
- Cost of long-term/nursing home care
- Depression/anxiety – youth and adult
- Drug use and abuse – youth
- Not enough affordable housing
- Bullying/cyberbullying

The survey also revealed the biggest barriers to receiving healthcare (as perceived by community members). They included not able to see same provider over time (N=27), not enough providers (N=14), not affordable (N=10), and concerns about confidentiality (N=10).

When asked what the best aspects of the community were, respondents indicated the top community assets were:

- Safe place to live, little/no crime
- Healthcare

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- Family-friendly, good place to raise kids
- People who live here are involved in their community
- People are friendly, helpful, and supportive
- Active faith community

Input from community leaders, provided via key informant interviews, and the community focus group echoed many of the concerns raised by survey respondents. Concerns emerging from these sessions were:

- Ability to retain primary care providers (MD, DO, NP, PA) and nurses in the community
- Alcohol use and abuse – all ages
- Attracting and retaining young families
- Availability of specialists
- Availability of home health
- Bullying/cyberbullying
- Cost of long term/nursing home care
- Depression/anxiety – all ages
- Smoking and tobacco use – youth

Overview and Community Resources

With assistance from the Center for Rural Health (CRH) at the University of North Dakota (UND) School of Medicine & Health Sciences (SMHS), the Dakota Regional Medical Center (DRMC) completed a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) of the DRMC service area. The hospital identifies its service area as Griggs County and Steele County in their entirety, plus portions of Foster and Nelson Counties – the last two have a medical center in their county. Many community members and stakeholders worked together on the assessment.

DRMC is located in a rural area and is licensed as a Critical Access Hospital with three provider-based Rural Health Clinics. One clinic is attached to the DRMC hospital. The second clinic is located 52 miles to the north in Lakota, North Dakota, and the third clinic is located 63 miles northwest in New Rockford, North Dakota. Cooperstown is the county seat of Griggs County, located in east central North Dakota near the scenic Sheyenne River Valley. It is less than a 90-minute drive to either Fargo or Grand Forks; North Dakota's two largest cities.

Additional healthcare services provided in our community are: county social services, a pharmacy, county-wide EMT/first responder volunteer ambulance services, a two-day per week clinic in Binford, massage therapy, and a chiropractor. The Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC) and hospice provide services county-wide. Nelson-Griggs District Health Unit (NGDHU) serves Nelson and Griggs Counties, with offices located in Lakota. Mobile mammography and diagnostic services are routinely provided through DRMC.

Cooperstown is home to the Bread of Life Food Pantry; for senior citizens, meal and transportation services are provided by South Central Adult Regional Services.

The community is dedicated to maintaining the charm and values of a rural American town while being progressive with technology and savvy business expansions. Agricultural-related businesses abound in the rural area. The community is proud of these accomplishments:

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- Ashtabula II Wind Farm, consisting of 113 wind turbines in southern Griggs and Steele counties
- The Central Plains Grain terminal in Hannaford, situated on the Burlington Northern rail line
- A new Griggs County Courthouse was built in 2017, replacing the still-standing 100-year-old historical building. The new courthouse is also the home for Griggs County Social Services, the Emergency Management Center, and the Griggs County Sheriff's Department.
- New businesses in Cooperstown include Dollar General and Nelson Electric.
- A building project has been completed to replace the existing Cooperstown Medical Center Critical Access Hospital, clinic, and Griggs County Care Center skilled nursing care facility. The new building is located at 107 12th St. S and has been open since June of 2023. New services include a 24/7 onsite CT scanner and inpatient dialysis. The facility continues to plan to start out-patient services including colonoscopies. DRMC has also recently hired a full time physician who will be onsite at the medical center to help fill administrative roles as well as see patients.
- Up-to-date and recently renovated school systems in Cooperstown (Griggs County Central Schools) and in Binford/Glenfield (Midkota Schools) offer comprehensive programs for Pre-K through high school. Both schools offer several college-level courses via online technology.

In terms of physical assets and features, the community includes a fitness center, bike path, swimming pool, city park, tennis courts, 18-hole golf course, a baseball complex, skating rink, and movie theatre. The Sheyenne River Valley area offers multi-use trails for biking, hiking, cross-country skiing, canoeing, boating, fishing, and ATV riding. Additional valuable assets include local realtors, several churches, local attorneys, grocery, hardware, floral and variety stores, manufacturing businesses, and the Griggs County Library.

An Area Rich in History and Culture

The Griggs County Museum contains a wealth of historical information and artifacts to peruse at your leisure thanks to the dedication of the Griggs County Historical Society. A visual history of Cooperstown is depicted through the Compass on the Prairies site located on the east side of Cooperstown. The Ronald Reagan Minuteman Missile site, located just north of Cooperstown, tells the story of the Cold War years. Tours are given year-round. Fossils can be found at the Pierre Shale rock formation site located along the Sheyenne River southeast of Cooperstown, in a place referred to locally as the "Indian mounds."

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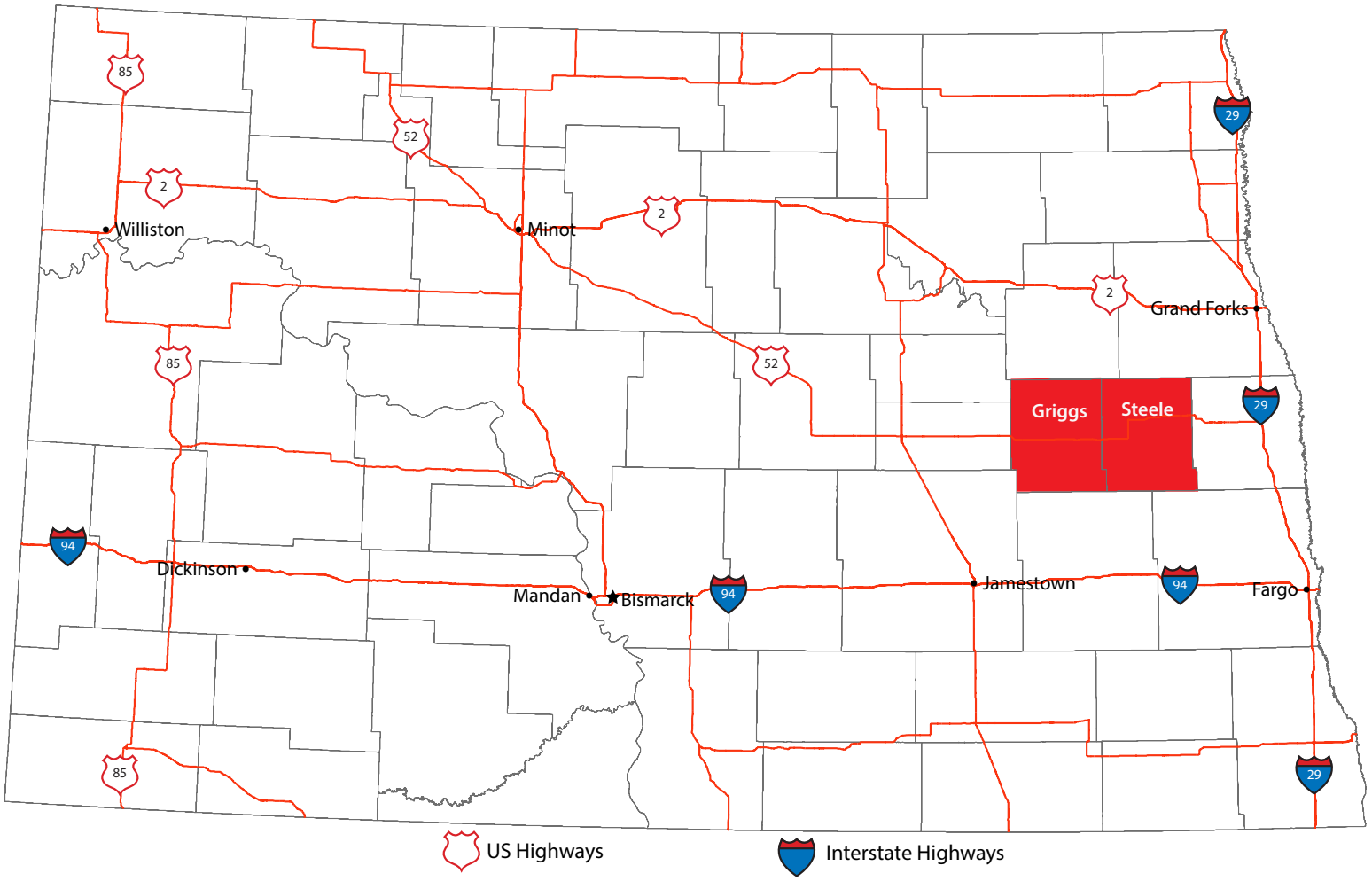
Figure 1: Griggs and Steele Counties



Dakota Regional Medical Center - DRMC

Dakota Regional Medical Center (DRMC) opened in 1951. It is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit community-owned corporation located in Cooperstown, Griggs County, North Dakota. It comprises of a nine-bed Critical Access Hospital (CAH); a level V designated trauma emergency department, one physician, five nurse practitioners and two physician assistants, a certified Rural Health Clinic designated as a Qualified Health Service Corps location; Park Place, a 12-unit assisted living housing complex; and the affiliated Griggs County Care Center, a 40-skilled bed nursing facility. Service emphasis is on primary and preventive healthcare services within a 30-mile radius of Cooperstown, North Dakota. The CAH Profile for DRMC includes a summary of hospital-specific information and is available in Appendix A.

In an effort to meet the mission of the organization, the DRMC has tertiary affiliations with Altru telehealth, Sanford Health, and Essentia Health, to ensure patients have access to specialists and advanced medical technology. The DRMC emergency room is equipped with an eCare system, linked to Avel Hospital in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. This system gives DRMC 24-hour immediate access to emergency trained physicians, nurses, and specialists such as cardiologists, neurologists, and obstetrics.

DRMC is fortunate to work with a group of dedicated area ambulance and first responder units in Cooperstown, Binford, and Hannaford. Lifeflight is available through several organizations, ensuring that patients with the most critical needs receive immediate access to care. The local EMS volunteers are to be credited for their first response efforts in the delivery of exemplary patient care service.

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The combined effort of these associations along with the efforts of a well-qualified and dedicated staff of 126 employees are key to meeting our mission of providing efficient, quality healthcare services.

Mission: DRMC is dedicated to providing high quality healthcare services in a personalized, compassionate, and professional manner.

Vision: DRMC will be the preferred healthcare provider for the people of this area. Patient care and satisfaction will be our highest priority. We will be responsive, innovative, and effective at meeting and exceeding the expectation as of those we serve.

DRMC is the choice employer for quality employees. Our team strives to be knowledgeable, flexible, and accountable in our performance. We value those we serve, and treat our customers, and each other, with respect, empathy, courtesy, and compassion.

Services offered locally by DRMC include:
General and Acute Services

- Acne treatment
- Allergy, influenza, and pneumonia shots
- Blood pressure checks
- Cardiac rehab
- Cardiology (visiting physician)
- Clinic
- Emergency room
- Gynecology (visiting physician)
- Hospital (acute care)
- Independent senior housing
- Inpatient hemodialysis
- Mole/Wart/Skin lesion removal
- Nutrition counseling
- Obstetrics (visiting physician)
- Pharmacy
- Prenatal care up to 32 weeks
- Physicals: annuals, D.O.T., sports, and insurance
- Respite care services
- Sports medicine
- Surgical services – biopsies
- Swing bed service

Screening/Therapy Services

- Chronic disease management
- Holter monitoring
- Infusion therapy
- Laboratory services
- Lower extremity circulatory assessment
- Occupational physicals
- Occupational therapy
- Pediatric services
- Physical therapy
- Respiratory care
- Sleep studies

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- Social services
- Speech therapy

Radiology Services

- CT scan
- Digital mammography (mobile unit)
- Echocardiograms
- EKG
- General X-ray
- MRI (mobile unit)
- Ultrasound (mobile unit)

Laboratory Services

- Arterial blood gases
- Blood types
- Clot times
- Chemistry
- Hematology
- Immunology
- Urine testing

Services Offered by OTHER Providers/Organizations

- Ambulance
- Central services transportation
- Chiropractic services
- Massage therapy

Nelson Griggs District Health Unit - NGDHU

Nelson-Griggs District Health Unit (NGDHU) provides public health services that include environmental health, nursing services, health screenings, and education services. NGDHU utilizes evidence-based practices as public health transitions to population-based services. This means there is a shift to changing systems and the environment by implementing good public health policies. There is still a wide variety of services to accomplish the mission of public health, which is to ensure that North Dakota is a healthy place to live, and each person has an equal opportunity to enjoy good health. To accomplish this mission, NGDHU is committed to the promotion of healthy lifestyles, protection and enhancement of the environment, and provision of quality healthcare services for the people of North Dakota.

Specific services that NGDHU provides are:

- Baby and child health (Cribs for Kids program)
- Blood pressure checks
- Car seat program (certified car seat technician on staff)
- Yearly community respiratory immunization clinics in October
- Emergency preparedness and response program (work with community partners)
- Environmental health services (water, sewer, health hazard abatement referred to regional Environmental Health staff)
- Health education programs

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- Immunizations (infants, youth, and adults)
- Office visits (consultation and referrals)
- School health (vision screening, health education, school immunizations)
- Substance use prevention (targeting underage drinking and overdose prevention)
- Pandemic response, including education, case investigation, contact tracing, and vaccinations
- Preschool screenings
- Tobacco prevention and control program (signage, policies, youth activities, newsletters)
- Tobacco treatment specialist (cessation services)
- Tuberculosis case management
- Head lice screening and education for individuals and families as needed/requested
- Worksite Wellness program
- Maternal child health (working to increase physical activity/healthy nutrition options for youth)

Assessment Process

The purpose of conducting a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) is to describe the health of local people, identify areas for health improvement, identify the use of local healthcare services, determine factors that contribute to health issues, identify and prioritize community needs, and help healthcare leaders identify potential actions to address the community's health needs.

A CHNA benefits the community by:

1. Collecting timely input from the local community members, providers, and staff.
2. Providing an analysis of secondary data, related to health-related behaviors, conditions, risks, and outcomes.
3. Compiling and organizing information to guide decision making, education, and marketing efforts, and to facilitate the development of a strategic plan.
4. Engaging community members about the future of healthcare.
5. Allowing the community hospital to meet the federal regulatory requirements of the Affordable Care Act, which requires not-for-profit hospitals to complete a CHNA at least every three years as well as helping the local public health unit meet accreditation requirements.

This assessment examines health needs and concerns in Griggs County and Steele County as well as Foster and Nelson Counties, which are all included in the Dakota Regional Medical Center (DRMC) service area. In addition to Cooperstown, located in the services area, are the communities of Binford, Hannaford, Sutton, Jessie, Glenfield, Finley, Hope, Lakota, and New Rockford.

The Center for Rural Health (CRH), in partnership with DRMC and Nelson-Griggs District Health Unit (NGDHU), facilitated the CHNA process. Community representatives met regularly in-person, by telephone conference, and email. A CHNA liaison was selected locally, who served as the main point of contact between CRH and DRMC. A steering committee (see Figure 2) was formed that was responsible for planning and implementing the process locally. Representatives from CRH met and corresponded regularly by videoconference and/or via the eToolkit with the CHNA liaison. The community group (described in more detail below) provided in-depth information and informed the assessment process in terms of community perceptions, community resources, community needs, and ideas for improving the health of the population and healthcare services. Nine people, representing a cross section demographically, attended the focus group meeting. The meeting was highly interactive with good participation. DRMC staff and board members were in attendance as well but largely played a role of listening and learning.

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Figure 2: Steering Committee

Nikki Lindsey	CEO, DRMC
Judy Monson	CFO, DRMC
Amber Wogsland	Foundation Director, DRMC
Kelley Shawn	CHNA Project Coordinator, DRMC
Ben Halvorson	Board Member/Community Representative, DRMC
Cassondra Schock	Public Health Administrator, NGDHU
Torry Reutter	Business Owner, Millers Fresh Foods
Chris Olson	City Auditor, City of Cooperstown
Hannah Zaun	CNO/Community Business Owner, DRMC/Zaun Rolloff

The original survey tool was developed and used by CRH. In order to revise the original survey tool to ensure the data gathered met the needs of hospitals and public health, CRH worked with the North Dakota Department of Health's public health liaison. CRH representatives also participated in a series of meetings that garnered input from the state's health officer, local North Dakota public health unit professionals, and representatives from North Dakota State University.

As part of the assessment's overall collaborative process, CRH spearheaded efforts to collect data for the assessment in a variety of ways:

- A survey solicited feedback from area residents
- Community leaders representing the broad interests of the community took part in one-on-one key informant interviews
- The community group, comprised of community leaders and area residents, was convened to discuss area health needs and inform the assessment process
- A wide range of secondary sources of data were examined, providing information on a multitude of measures, including demographics, health conditions, indicators, outcomes, rates of preventive measures, rates of disease, and at-risk behavior

CRH is one of the nation's most experienced organizations committed to providing leadership in rural health. Its mission is to connect resources and knowledge to strengthen the health of people in rural communities. CRH is the designated State Office of Rural Health, funded by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy, Health Resources Services Administration, and Department of Health and Human Services. CRH connects the University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Sciences and other necessary resources, to rural communities and other healthcare organizations in order to maintain access to quality care for rural residents. In this capacity, CRH works at a national, state, and community level.

Detailed below are the methods undertaken to gather data for this assessment by convening a community group, conducting key informant interviews, soliciting feedback about health needs via a survey, and researching secondary data.

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Community Group

A community group consisting of nine community members was convened and first met on January 18, 2025. During this first community group meeting, group members were introduced to the needs assessment process, reviewed basic demographic information about the community, and served as a focus group. Focus group topics included community assets and challenges, the general health needs of the community, community concerns, and suggestions for improving the community's health.

The community group met again on March 24, 2025, with 24 community members in attendance. At this second meeting, the community group was presented with survey results, findings from key informant interviews and the focus group, and a wide range of secondary data relating to the general health of the population in Griggs and Steele Counties. The group was then tasked with identifying and prioritizing the community's health needs.

Members of the community group represented the broad interests of the community served by DRMC and NGDHU. They included representatives of the health community, business community, political bodies, law enforcement, education, and faith community. Not all members of the group were present at both meetings.

Interviews

One-on-one interviews with eight key informants were conducted via virtual meeting in January 2025. A representative from CRH conducted the interviews. Interviews were held with selected members of the community who could provide insights into the community's health needs. Included among the informants were public health professionals with special knowledge in public health acquired through several years of direct experience in the community, including working with medically-underserved, low-income, and minority populations as well as with populations with chronic diseases.

Topics covered during the interviews included the general health needs of the community, the general health of the community, community concerns, delivery of healthcare by local providers, awareness of health services offered locally, barriers to receiving health services, and suggestions for improving collaboration within the community.

Survey

A survey was distributed to solicit feedback from the community and was not intended to be a scientific or statistically valid sampling of the population. It was designed to be an additional tool for collecting qualitative data from the community at large – specifically, information related to community-perceived health needs. A copy of the survey instrument is included in Appendix B and a full listing of direct responses provided for the questions that included "Other" as an option are included in Appendix F.

The community member survey was distributed to various residents of Mountrail County. The survey tool was designed to:

- Learn of the good things in the community and the community's concerns.
- Understand perceptions and attitudes about the health of the community and hear suggestions for improvement.
- Learn more about how local health services are used by residents.

Specifically, the survey covered the following topics:

- Residents' perceptions about community assets
- Broad areas of community and health concerns
- Awareness of local health services
- Barriers to using local healthcare
- Basic demographic information
- Suggestions to improve the delivery of local healthcare

To promote awareness of the assessment process, advertisements were placed in the Griggs County Sentinel Courier and Steele County, posters were distributed throughout the service area. Additionally, information was available on the DRMC, CMC Foundation, Griggs County Care Center, and NGDHU's Facebook pages.

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Approximately 50 community member surveys were available for distribution in Griggs County. The surveys were distributed by community group members and at DRMC, NGDHU, and local businesses.

To help ensure anonymity, included with each survey was a postage-paid return envelope to CRH. In addition, to help make the survey as widely available as possible, residents also could request a survey by calling DRMC or NGDHU. The survey period ran from December 6, 2024, to December 20, 2024. No completed paper surveys were returned.

Area residents were also given the option of completing an online version of the survey, which was publicized in two community newspapers, distributed posters, emailed community groups, and on the websites and Facebook pages of both DRMC and NGDUH. Eighty-six online surveys were completed, equating to a 10% response rate. This response rate is on par for this type of unsolicited survey methodology and indicates an engaged community.

Secondary Data

Secondary data were collected and analyzed to provide descriptions of: (1) population demographics, (2) general health issues (including any population groups with particular health issues), and (3) contributing causes of community health issues. Data were collected from a variety of sources, including the U.S. Census Bureau; Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's County Health Rankings, which pulls data from 20 primary data sources; the National Survey of Children's Health, which touches on multiple intersecting aspects of children's lives; North Dakota KIDS COUNT, which is a national and state-by-state effort to track the status of children, sponsored by the Annie E. Casey Foundation; and Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) data, which is published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Social Determinants of Health

Social determinants of health are, according to the World Health Organization, *"The circumstances in which people are born, grow up, live, work, and age and the systems put in place to deal with illness. These circumstances are in turn shaped by wider set of forces: economics, social policies, and politics."*

Income-level, educational attainment, race/ethnicity, and health literacy all impact the ability of people to access health services. Basic needs, such as clean air and water and safe and affordable housing, are all essential to staying healthy and are also impacted by the social factors listed previously. The barriers already present in rural areas, such as limited public transportation options and fewer choices to acquire healthy food, can compound the impact of these challenges.

There are numerous models that depict the social determinants of health. While the models may vary slightly in the exact percentages that they attribute to various areas, the discrepancies are often because some models have combined factors when other models have kept them as separate factors.

For Figure 3, data have been derived from the County Health Rankings model, (https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/resources/county-health-rankings-model), and it illustrates that healthcare, while vitally important, plays only one small role (approximately 20%) in the overall health of individuals and, ultimately, of a community. Physical environment, social and economic factors, and health behaviors play a much larger part (80%) in impacting health outcomes. Therefore, as needs or concerns were raised through this CHNA process, it was imperative to keep in mind how they impact the health of the community and what solutions can be implemented.

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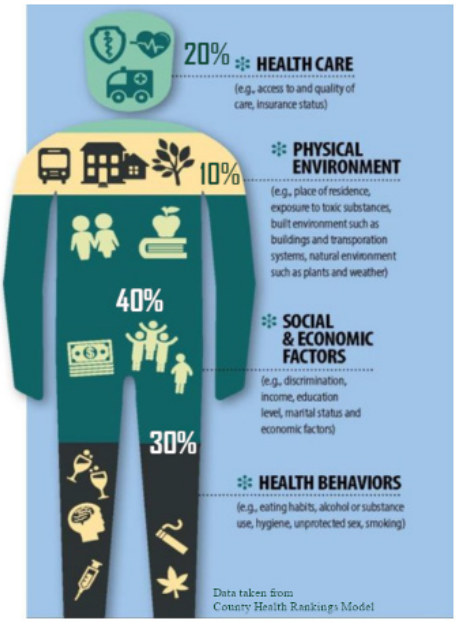
Figure 3: Social Determinants of Health



In Figure 4, the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation (https://www.kff.org/disparities-policy/issue-brief/beyond-health-care-the-role-of-social-determinants-in-promoting-health-and-health-equity/), provides examples of factors that are included in each of the social determinants of health categories that lead to health outcomes.

For more information and resources on social determinants of health, visit the Rural Health Information Hub website, at https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/topics/social-determinants-of-health.

Figure 4: Social Determinants of Health

Economic Stability	Neighborhood and Physical Environment	Education	Food	Community and Social Context	Health Care System
Employment	Housing	Literacy	Hunger	Social integration	Health coverage
Income	Transportation	Language	Access to healthy options	Support systems	Provider availability
Expenses	Safety	Early childhood education		Community engagement	Provider linguistic and cultural competency
Debt	Parks	Vocational training		Discrimination	Quality of care
Medical bills	Playgrounds	Higher education		Stress	
Support	Walkability				
	Zip code / geography				

Health Outcomes
Mortality, Morbidity, Life Expectancy, Health Care Expenditures, Health Status, Functional Limitations

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Demographic Information

TABLE 1: Summarizes general demographic and geographic data about Griggs County.
(From 2020 Census/2020 American Community Survey; more recent estimates used where available)

	Griggs County	North Dakota
Population (2023)	2,248	783,926
Population change (2020-2023)	-2.3%	0.6%
People per square mile (2020)	3.3	11.3
Persons 65 years or older (2023)	29.9%	16.7%
Persons under 18 years (2023)	16.7%	23.5%
Median age (2022)	36.2	36.2
White persons (2023)	98.0%	86.6%
High school graduates (2018-2022)	91.2%	93.5%
Bachelor's degree or higher (2018-2022)	26.7%	31.4%
Live below poverty line (2022)	12.0%	11.5%
Persons without health insurance, under age 65 years (2022)	6.2%	7.5%
Households with a broadband Internet subscription (2022)	90.6%	93.2%

Source: https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/ND,US/INC910216#viewtop
Source: https://data.census.gov/cedsci/profile?g=0400000US38&q=North%20Dakota

While the population of North Dakota has grown in recent years, Griggs County has seen a decrease in population since 2020. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates show that Griggs County's population decreased from 2,306 (2020) to 2,248 (2023).

County Health Rankings

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, in collaboration with the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, has developed County Health Rankings to illustrate community health needs and provide guidance for actions toward improved health. In this report, Griggs County is compared to North Dakota rates and national benchmarks on various topics, ranging from individual health behaviors to the quality of healthcare.

The data used in the 2024 County Health Rankings are pulled from more than 20 data sources and then are compiled to create county rankings. Counties in each of the 50 states are ranked according to summaries of a variety of health measures. In 2024, County Health Rankings moved away from having ranks, such as 1 or 2, which would be considered the "healthiest." Their focus now is allowing users to find counties that are experiencing similar conditions, whether it is across state lines or across the county, to collaborate and create solutions.

A model of the 2024 County Health Rankings – a flow chart of how a county's rank is determined – may be found in Appendix C. For further information, visit the County Health Rankings website at www.countyhealthrankings.org.

Table 2 summarizes the pertinent information gathered by County Health Rankings as it relates to Griggs County. It is important to note that these statistics describe the population of a county, regardless of where county residents choose to receive their medical care. In other words, all of the following statistics are based on the health behaviors and conditions of the county's residents, not necessarily the patients and clients of NGDHU and DRMC or of any particular medical facility.

For most of the measures included in the rankings, the County Health Rankings' authors have calculated the "Top U.S. Performers" for 2022. The Top Performer number marks the point at which only 10 percent of counties in the nation do better, i.e., the 90th percentile or 10th percentile, depending on whether the measure is framed positively (such as high school graduation) or negatively (such as adult smoking).

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Health Outcomes

- Length of life
- Quality of life

Health Factors

- Health behavior
  - Smoking
  - Diet and exercise
  - Alcohol and drug use
  - Sexual activity

Health Factors (continued)

- Clinical care
  - Access to care
  - Quality of care
- Social and Economic Factors
  - Education
  - Employment
  - Income
  - Family and social support
  - Community safety
- Physical Environment
  - Air and water quality
  - Housing and transit

Griggs County rankings within the state are included in the summary following. The measures marked with a bullet point (•) are those where a county is not measuring up to the state rate/percentage; a square (■) indicates that the county is not meeting the U.S. Top 10% rate on that measure. Measures that are not marked with a colored shape but are marked with a plus sign (+) indicate that the county is doing better than the U.S. Top 10%.

The data from County Health Rankings show that Griggs County is doing better than many counties compared to the rest of the state on all of the outcomes that have data for Griggs County. When it comes to the U.S. Top 10% ratings, Griggs County is also exceeding in all outcome areas. The two outcomes that do not have enough data to be able to rank Griggs County are premature death ranking and low birth weight ranking.

On health factors, Griggs County performs below the North Dakota average for counties in several areas as well.

Data compiled by County Health Rankings show Griggs County is doing better than North Dakota in health outcomes and factors for the following indicators:

- Poor or fair health
- Poor physical health days (in past 30 days)
- Poor mental health days (in past 30 days)
- Adult smoking
- Food environment index (10=best)
- Physical inactivity
- Excessive drinking
- Uninsured rate
- Preventable hospital stays
- Mammography screening for Medicare enrollees
- Unemployment
- Children in single-parent households
- Social associations
- Severe housing problems

Outcomes and factors in which Griggs County is performing poorly, relative to the rest of the state, include:

- Adult obesity
- Access to exercise opportunities
- Primary care physicians per capita
- Dentists per capita

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- Flu vaccinations
- Unemployment rate
- Children in poverty
- Income inequality
- Injury deaths
- Air pollution – particulate matter

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Table 2: SELECTED MEASURES FROM COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS 2024 – GRIGGS COUNTY

COUNTY• = Not meeting North Dakota Average, ■ = Not meeting U.S. Top 10 % Performers + = Meeting or exceeding U.S. Top 10% performers.

	Griggs County	U.S. Top 10%	ND
Ranking: Outcomes			
Premature death		8,000	7,600
Poor or fair health	12%+	14%	13%
Poor physical health days (in past 30 days)	2.8 +	3.3	3.1
Poor mental health days (in past 30 days)	3.7 +	4.8	4.0
Low birth weight		8%	7%
Ranking: Factors			
Health Behaviors			
Adult smoking	15%+	15%	16%
Adult obesity	39% •■	34%	36%
Food environment index (10=best)	9.8+	7.7	9.1
Physical inactivity	23% •■	23%	25%
Access to exercise opportunities	46% •■	84%	76%
Excessive drinking	19%■	18%	23%
Alcohol-impaired driving deaths		26%	39%
Sexually transmitted infections		495.5	511.5
Teen birth rate		17	15
Clinical Care			
Uninsured	9%+	10%	9%
Primary care physicians	2,280:1•■	1,330:1	1,290:1
Dentists	2,250:1•■	1,360:1	1,420:1
Mental health providers		320:1	450:1
Preventable hospital stays	2,748 ■	2,681	2,945
Mammography screening (% of Medicare enrollees aged 65-74 receiving screening)	55%+	43%	53%
Flu vaccinations (% of fee-for-service Medicare enrollees receiving vaccination)	43% •■	46%	49%
Social and Economic Factors			
Unemployment	2.2% •+	3.7%	2.1%
Children in poverty	15% +•	16%	12%
Income inequality	5.1 +	4.9	4.4
Children in single-parent households	16%+	25%	18%
Social associations	48.2 +	15.5	9.1
Injury deaths	107 •■	80	75
Physical Environment			
Air pollution – particulate matter	5.1 +•	7.4	5.0
Drinking water violations	No		
Severe housing problems	7% +	17%	12%

Source: https://www.childhealthdata.org/browse/survey

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Children's Health

The National Survey of Children's Health touches on multiple intersecting aspects of children's lives. Data are not available at the county level; listed below is information about children's health in North Dakota. The full survey includes physical and mental health status, access to quality healthcare, and information on the child's family, neighborhood, and social context. Data are from 2022-23. More information about the survey may be found at www.childhealthdata.org/learn/NSCH.

Key measures of the statewide data are summarized below. The rates highlighted in red signify that the state is faring worse on that measure than the national average.

Table 3: Selected Measures Regarding Children's Health

(For children ages 0-17 unless noted otherwise), 2021/2022

Health Status	North Dakota	National
Children born premature (three or more weeks early)	11.8%	11.3%
Children aged 6-17 who were overweight or obese	28%	32.2%
Children aged 0-5 who were ever breastfed	80.7%	82%
Children aged 6-17 who missed 11 or more days of school	6.2%	6.8%
Healthcare		
Children currently insured	94.6%	93.4%
Children who spent less than 10 minutes with the provider at a preventive medical visit	13.6%	19.1%
Children (1-17 years) who had preventive a dental visit in the past year	79.7%	79.2%
Children (3-17 years) received mental healthcare	14.2%	12.2%
Children (3-17 years) with problems requiring treatment did not receive mental healthcare	2.7%	3.0%
Young children (9-35 mos.) receiving standardized screening for developmental problems	45%	35.6 %
Family Life		
Children whose families eat meals together four or more times per week	74.8%	72.9%
Children who live in households where someone smokes	13.7%	11.5%
Neighborhood		
Children who live in neighborhoods with parks, recreation centers, sidewalks, and a library	90.8%	89.6%
Children living in neighborhoods with poorly kept or rundown housing	18%	23.9%
Children living in neighborhood that's usually or always safe	97.3%	95%

Source: https://www.childhealthdata.org/browse/survey

The data on children's health and conditions reveal that while North Dakota is doing better than the national averages on a few measures, it is not measuring up to the national averages with respect to:

- Children born premature (three or more weeks early)
- Children aged 0-5 who were ever breastfed
- Children who live in households where someone smokes

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Table 4 includes selected county-level measures regarding children's health in North Dakota. The data come from North Dakota KIDS COUNT, a national and state-by-state effort to track the status of children, sponsored by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. KIDS COUNT data focus on the main components of children's well-being; more information about KIDS COUNT is available at www.ndkidscount.org. The measures highlighted in blue in the table are those in which the counties are doing worse than the state average. The year of the most recent data is noted.

The data show Griggs County is performing more poorly than the North Dakota average on three of the examined measures including the percentage of Medicaid recipients, the percentage of children enrolled in Health Steps (CHIP), and the rate of children in poverty. The most marked difference was on the measure of Medicaid recipients (over 9% higher rate in Griggs County).

Table 4: Selected County-Level Measures Regarding Children's Health

	Griggs County	North Dakota
Child food insecurity, 2022	9.9%	13.5%
Medicaid recipient (% of population age 0-20), 2023	**38.6%**	29.4%
Children enrolled in Healthy Steps (CHIP) (% of population age 0-18), 2023	**3.3%**	2.4%
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients (% of population age 0-18), 2023	13.6%	15.6%
Licensed childcare capacity (# of children), 2024	113	35,367
Four-year high school cohort graduation rate, 2022/2023	82.1%	82.7%
Victims of child abuse and neglect requiring services (rate per 1,000 children ages 0-17), 2023	**15.6%**	10.1%

Source: https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data#ND/5/0/char/0

Another means for obtaining data on the youth population is through the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). The YRBS was developed in 1990 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to monitor priority health risk behaviors that contribute markedly to the leading causes of death, disability, and social problems among youth and adults in the U.S. The YRBS was designed to monitor trends, compare state health risk behaviors to national health risk behaviors, and intended for use to plan, evaluate, and improve school and community programs. North Dakota began participating in the YRBS survey in 1995. Students in grades 7-8 and 9-12 are surveyed in the spring of odd years. The survey is voluntary and completely anonymous.

North Dakota has two survey groups, selected and voluntary. The selected school survey population is chosen using a scientific sampling procedure, which ensures that the results can be generalized to the state's entire student population. The schools that are part of the voluntary sample, selected without scientific sampling procedures, will only be able to obtain information on the risk behavior percentages for their school and not in comparison to all the schools.

Table 5 depicts some of the YRBS data that have been collected in 2017, 2019, and 2021. They are further broken down by rural and urban percentages. The trend column shows a "=" for statistically insignificant change (no change), "↑" for an increased trend in the data changes from 2019 to 2021, and "↓" for a decreased trend in the data changes from 2019 to 2021. The final column shows the 2021 national average percentage. For a more complete listing of the YRBS data, see Appendix D.

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Table 5. Youth Risk Behavior Survey Results

North Dakota High School Survey

Rate Increase ↑, rate decrease ↓, or no statistical change = in rate from 2017-2019.

	ND 2017	ND 2019	ND 2021	ND Trend ↑, ↓, =	Rural ND Town Average	Urban ND Town Average	National Average 2021
Injury and Violence							
% of students who rarely or never wore a seat belt (when riding in a car driven by someone else)	8.1	5.9	49.6	↑	9.2	5.5	5.9
% of students who rode in a vehicle with a driver who had been drinking alcohol (one or more times during the 30 prior to the survey)	16.5	14.2	13.1	=	18.2	13.7	14.1
% of students who talked on a cell phone while driving (on at least one day during the 30 days before the survey)	56.2	59.6	64.4	↑	64.9	64.2	NA
% of students who texted or emailed while driving a car or other vehicle (on at least one day during the 30 days before the survey)	52.6	53.0	55.4	=	59.9	55.9	36.1
% of students who were in a physical fight on school property (one or more times during the 12 months before the survey)~2017/2019~ *in 2021 replaced by* % of students who carried a weapon on school property (such as a gun, knife, or club, on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey)	7.2	7.1	5.0	↓	6.2	4.4	3.0
% of students who experienced sexual violence (being forced by anyone to do sexual things [counting such things as kissing, touching, or being physically forced to have sexual intercourse] that they did not want to, one or more times during the 12 months before the survey)	8.7	9.2	9.4	=	9.7	11.6	11
% of students who were bullied on school property (during the 12 months before the survey)	24.3	19.9	15.8	↓	19.8	15.0	15.0
% of students who were electronically bullied (includes texting, Instagram, Facebook, or other social media ever during the 12 months before the survey)	18.8	14.7	13.6	↓	16.2	14.5	15.9
% of students who made a plan about how they would attempt suicide (during the 12 months before the survey)	14.5	15.3	14.8	=	15.1	17.2	17.6
Tobacco, Alcohol, and Other Drug Use							
% of students who currently use an electronic vapor product (e-cigarettes, vape e-cigars, e-pipes, vape pipes, vaping pens, e-hookahs, and hookah pens at least one day during the 30 days before the survey)	20.6	33.1	21.2	↓	24.2	23.6	18.0
% of students who currently used cigarettes, cigars, or smokeless tobacco (on at least one day during the 30 days before the survey)	18.1	12.2	5.9	↓	8.0	6.1	3.8

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% of students who currently were binge drinking (four or more drinks for female students, five or more for male students within a couple of hours on at least one day during the 30 days before the survey)	16.4	15.6	14.0	=	17.8	14.6	10.5
% of students who currently used marijuana (one or more times during the 30 days before the survey)	15.5	12.5	10.7	=	10.2	12.9	15.8
% of students who ever took prescription pain medicine without a doctor's prescription or differently than how a doctor told them to use it (counting drugs such as codeine, Vicodin, OxyContin, Hydrocodone, and Percocet, one or more times during their life)	14.4	14.5	10.2	↓	9.7	11.0	12.2
Weight Management, Dietary Behaviors, and Physical Activity							
% of students who were overweight (>= 85th percentile but <95th percentile for body mass index)	16.1	16.5	15.6	=	15.5	14.2	16.0
% of students who had obesity (>= 95th percentile for body mass index)	14.9	14.0	16.3	=	17.4	15.0	16.3
% of students who did not eat fruit or drink 100% fruit juices (during the seven days before the survey)	4.9	6.1	5.0	=	5.7	4.6	7.7
% of students who did not eat vegetables (green salad, potatoes [excluding French fries, fried potatoes, or potato chips], carrots, or other vegetables, during the seven days before the survey)	5.1	6.6	5.9	=	5.3	6.2	9.3
% of students who drank a can, bottle, or glass of soda or pop one or more times per day (not including diet soda or diet pop, during the seven days before the survey)	16.3	15.9	16.6	=	17.5	13.8	14.7
% of students who did not drink milk (during the seven days before the survey)	14.9	20.5	26.2	↑	21.2	29.4	35.7
% of students who did not eat breakfast (during the seven days before the survey)	13.5	14.4	15.1	=	14.5	17.3	22.0
% of students who most of the time or always went hungry because there was not enough food in their home (during the 30 days before the survey)	2.7	2.8	2.1	=	2.2	2.1	NA
% of students who were physically active at least 60 minutes per day on five or more days (doing any kind of physical activity that increased their heart rate and made them breathe hard some of the time during the seven days before the survey)	51.5	49.0	56.5	↑	58.0	55.3	NA
% of students who watched television three or more hours per day (on an average school day) *In 2021 replaced by*Percentage of students who spent three or more hours per day on screen time (in front of a TV, computer, smart phone, or other electronic device watching shows or videos, playing games, accessing the Internet, or using social media, not counting time spent doing schoolwork, on an average school day)	18.8	18.8	75.7	↑	75.8	78.6	75.7

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% of students who played video or computer games or used a computer three or more hours per day (for something that was not schoolwork on an average school day) *In 2021, % of students who played video or computer games was combined with % of students who watch television three or more hours per day.	43.9	45.3	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Other							
% of students who ever had sexual intercourse	36.6	38.3	36.6	=	36.5	37.0	30
% of students who had eight or more hours of sleep (on an average school night)	31.8	29.5	24.5	↓	28.3	23.2	22.7
% of students who brushed their teeth on seven days (during the seven days before the survey)	69.1	66.8	67.9	=	64.5	69.9	NA

Sources: https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrbs/results.htm; https://www.nd.gov/dpi/districtsschools/safety-health/youth-risk-behavior-survey

Low Income Needs

The North Dakota Community Action Agencies (CAAs), as nonprofit organizations, were originally established under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 to fight America's war on poverty. CAAs are required to conduct statewide needs assessments of people experiencing poverty. The more recent statewide needs assessment study of low-income people in North Dakota, sponsored by the CAAs, was performed in 2023. The needs assessment study was accomplished through the collaboration of the CAAs and North Dakota State University by means of several kinds of surveys (such as online or paper surveys, etc., depending on the suitability of these survey methods to different respondent groups) to low-income individuals and families across the state of North Dakota. In the study, the survey data were organized and analyzed in a statistical way to find out the priority needs of these people. The survey responses from low-income respondents were separated from the responses from non-low-income participants, which allows the research team to compare them and then identify the similarity, difference, and uniqueness of them in order to ensure the validity and accuracy of the survey study and avoid bias. Additionally, two comparison methods were used in the study, including cross-sectional and longitudinal comparisons. These methods allow the research team not only to identify the top specific needs under the seven need categories, including Employment, Income and Asset-Building, Education, Housing, Health and Social/Behavior Development, Civic Engagement, and Other Supports, through the cross-sectional comparison but also to be able to find out the top specific needs, regardless of which categories these needs belong to through the longitudinal comparison.

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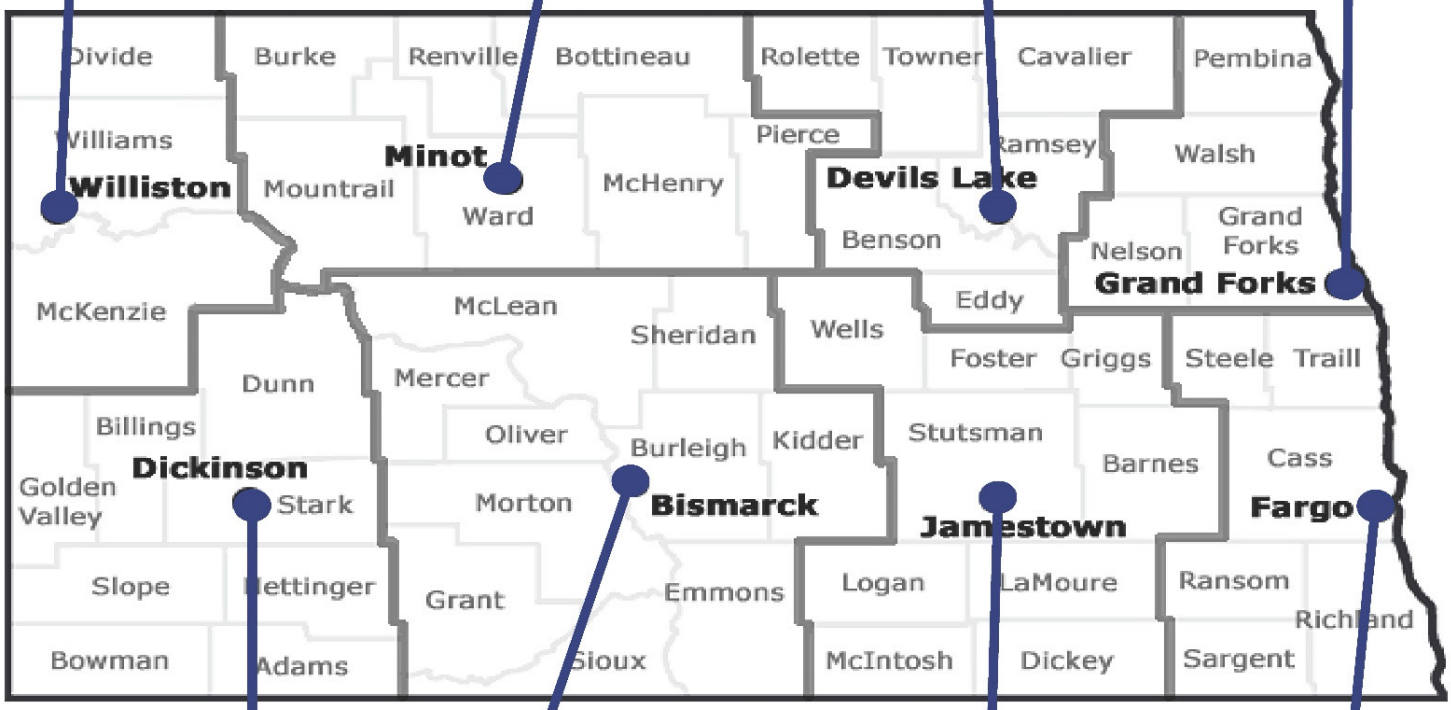
Top Regional Needs for Households Experiencing Poverty

Region 1
1. Housing
2. Employment
3. Income and Asset-Building

Region 2
1. Housing
2. Income and Asset-Building
3. Health and Social/Behavior Development

Region 3
1. Housing
2. Employment
3. Health and Social/Behavior Development

Region 4
1. Housing
2. Health and Social/Behavior Development
3. Other Supports



Region 8
1. Housing
2. Health and Social/Behavior Development
3. Income and Asset-Building

Region 7
1. Housing
2. Employment
3. Income and Asset-Building

Region 6
1. Housing
2. Income and Asset-Building
3. Employment

Region 5
1. Housing
2. Income and Asset-Building
3. Health and Social/Behavior Development

Total Number of Survey Responses by Population Type

1,701 Households Experiencing Poverty
1,015 Households Not Experiencing Poverty
511 Other (Roles cannot be identified)

3227 Total Survey Responses

This 2023 Statewide Community Needs Assessment was conducted by the Community Action Partnership of North Dakota in conjunction with the North Dakota State University (NDSU) and the North Dakota Department of Commerce, Division of Community Service.

Community Action Partnership of North Dakota
3233 South University Drive | Fargo, ND 58104 | 701-232-2452
www.capnd.org

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2023 Statewide Community Needs Assessment

The Community Needs Assessment is a systematic process used to gather and analyze information about the needs and challenges of communities. These assessments are used in various fields, including public health, social services, urban planning, education, and economic development. They play a crucial role in ensuring that community resources are directed toward the most pressing issues and that community members' voices are heard in the decision-making process, ultimately leading to improved quality of life for the community as a whole.

Community Action Agencies conduct needs assessments every three years as a requirement for the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) which supports community-based anti-poverty programs. The primary purpose of the study is to better understand the current conditions and priorities of a community so that local action plans can be developed and community resources/services can be allocated effectively to address those needs.

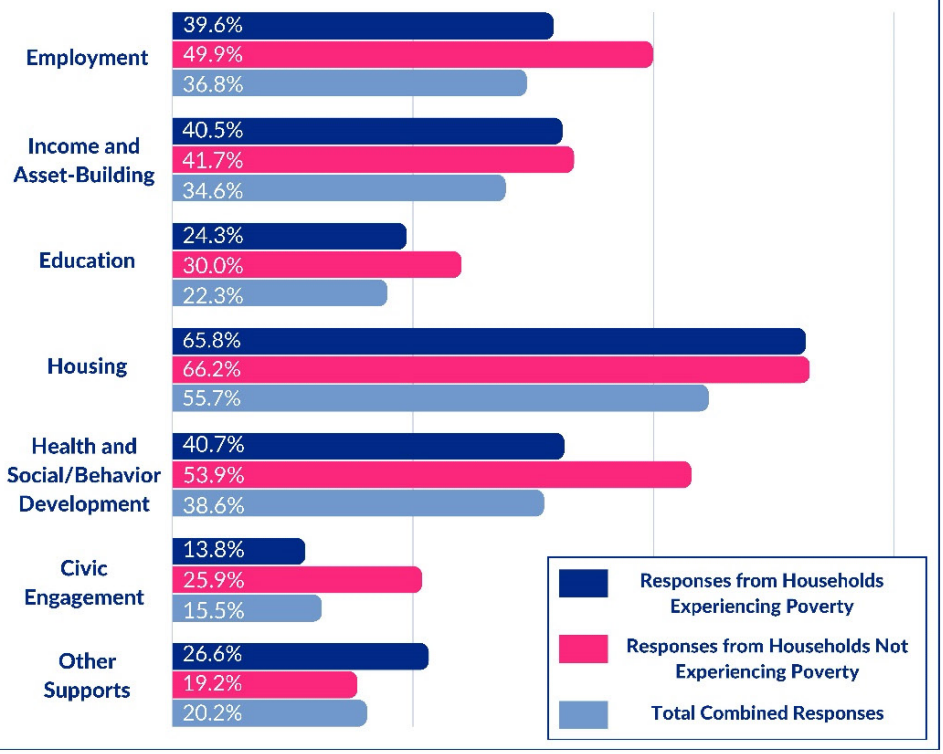
Statewide Specific Needs By Population Type

Households Experiencing Poverty	Households Not Experiencing Poverty	Overall Combined Community Needs
1. Rental Assistance	1. Mental Health Services	1. Rental Assistance
2. Food	2. Recreational Activities	2. Food
3. Dental Insurance/Affordable Dental Care	3. Safe Neighborhoods, Sidewalks, Parks	3. Dental Insurance/Affordable Dental Care

"Rental Assistance" remains the first priority for respondents experiencing poverty across the state.

"Mental Health Services" was the first priority need for respondents not experiencing poverty.

Statewide Overall Needs By Population Type



The comprehensive needs assessment was accomplished through surveys and focus groups in order to collect both quantitative and qualitative data. The surveys consist of both multiple-choice and open-ended questions with the intention of capturing both quantitative and qualitative data, and the focus groups are used to better understand the depth and breadth of the issue focusing on the collection of qualitative data.

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Helping People. Changing Lives. Community Action Partnership of North Dakota — North Dakota's Poverty Fighting Network

NDSU North Dakota State University

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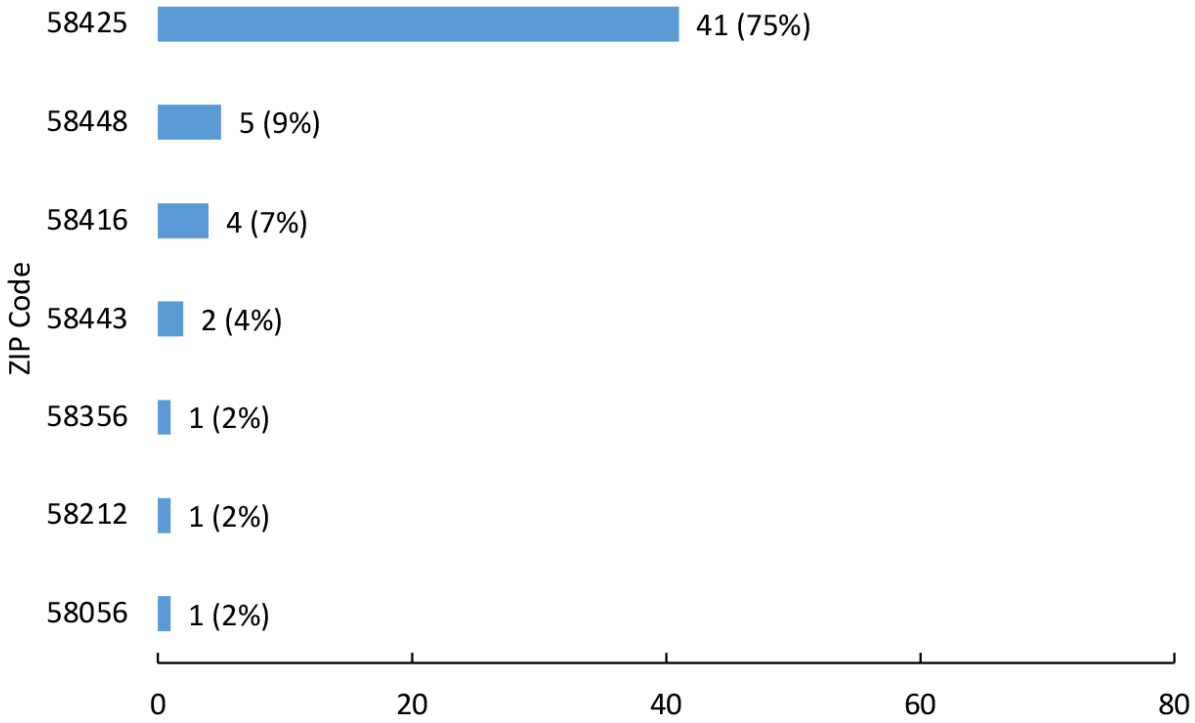
Survey Results

As noted previously, 86 community members completed the survey in communities throughout the counties in the Dakota Regional Medical Center (DRMC) service area. For all questions that contained an "Other" response, all of those direct responses may be found in Appendix F. In some cases, a summary of those comments is additionally included in the report narrative. The "Total respondents" number under each heading indicates the number of people who responded to that particular question, and the "Total responses" number under the heading depicts the number of responses selected for that question (some questions allow for selection of more than one response).

The survey requested that respondents list their home ZIP code. While not all respondents provided a ZIP code, 55 did, revealing that a large majority of respondents (75%, N=41) lived in Cooperstown. These results are shown in Figure 5.

Figure 5: Survey Respondents' Home ZIP Code
Total respondents: 55



Survey results are reported in six categories: demographics; healthcare access; community assets, challenges; community concerns; delivery of healthcare; and other concerns or suggestions to improve health.

Survey Demographics

To better understand the perspectives being offered by survey respondents, survey-takers were asked a few demographic questions. Throughout this report, numbers (N) instead of just percentages (%) are reported because percentages can be misleading with smaller numbers. Survey respondents were not required to answer all questions.

With respect to demographics of those who chose to complete the survey:

- Thirty-two percent (N=19) were age 55 or older.
- The majority (75%, N=46) were female.
- Nearly half of the respondents (45%, N=28) had bachelor's degrees or higher.
- The number of those working full time (77%, N=46) was more than nine times higher than those who were retired (8%, N=5).
- Ninety-eight percent (N=59) of those who reported their ethnicity/race were White/Caucasian.
- Twenty-four percent of the population (N=13) had household incomes of less than $50,000.

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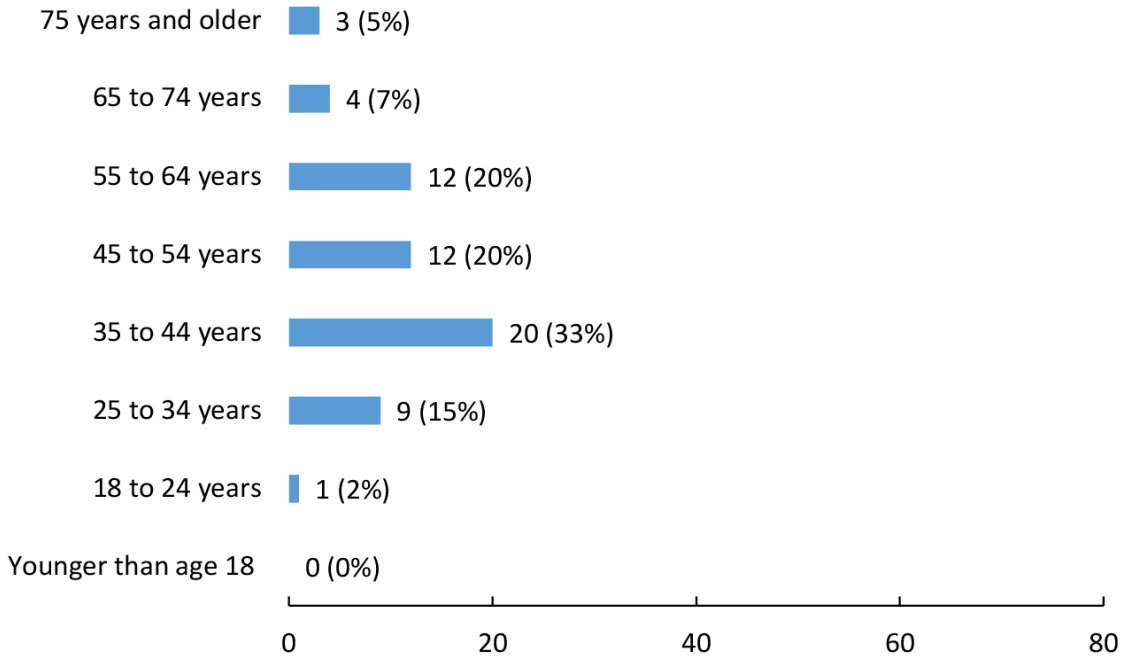
Figures 6 through 12 show these demographic characteristics. It illustrates the range of community members' household incomes and indicates how this assessment took into account input from parties who represent the varied interests of the community served, including a balance of age ranges, those in diverse work situations, and community members with lower incomes.

Figure 6: Age Demographics of Survey Respondents
Total respondents = 61



People younger than age 18 are not questioned using this survey method..

Figure 7: Gender Demographics of Survey Respondents
Total respondents = 61

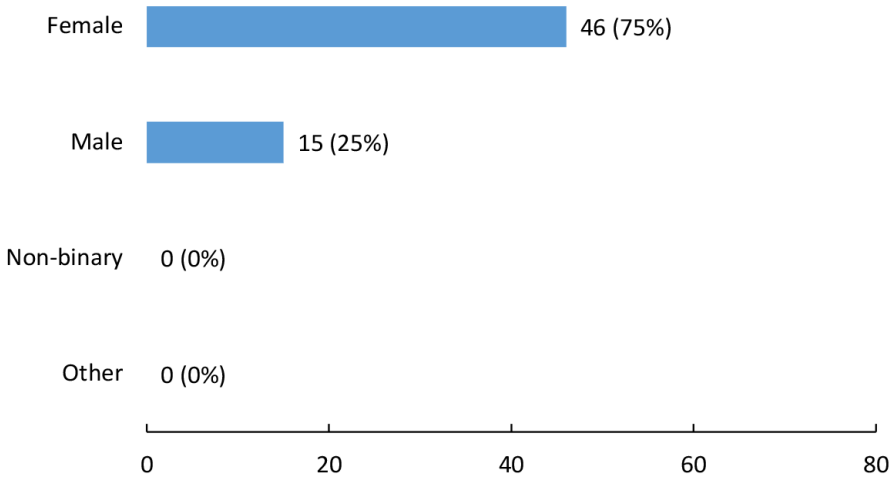


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Figure 8: Educational Level Demographics of Survey Respondents
Total respondents = 61

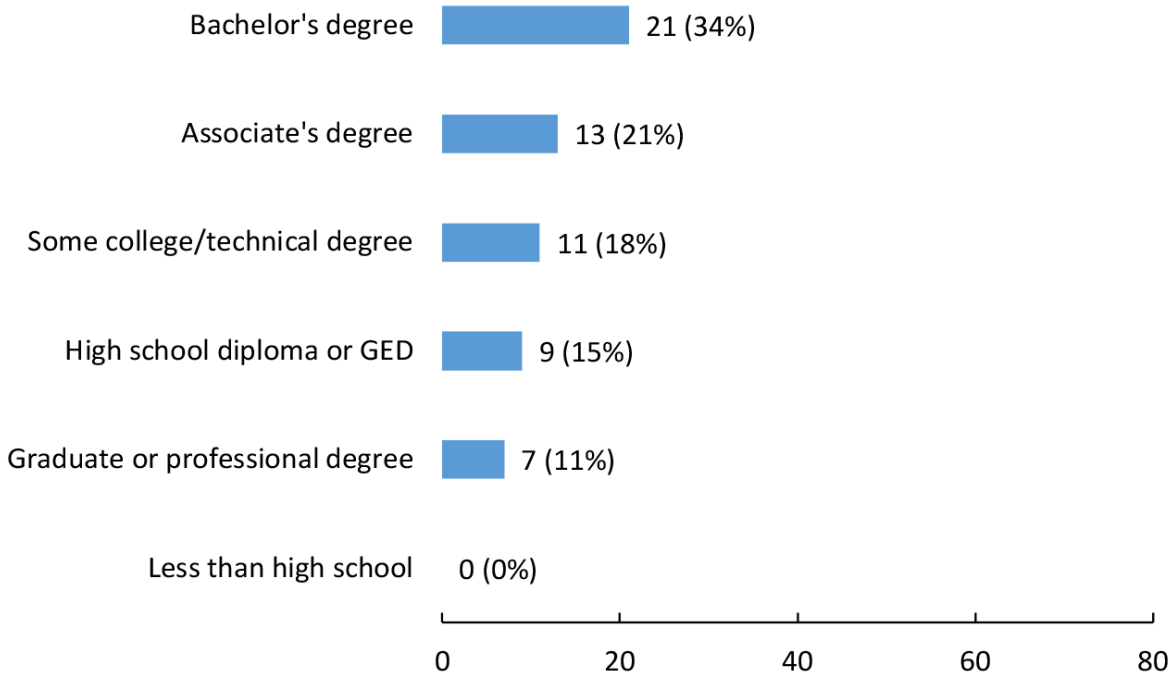
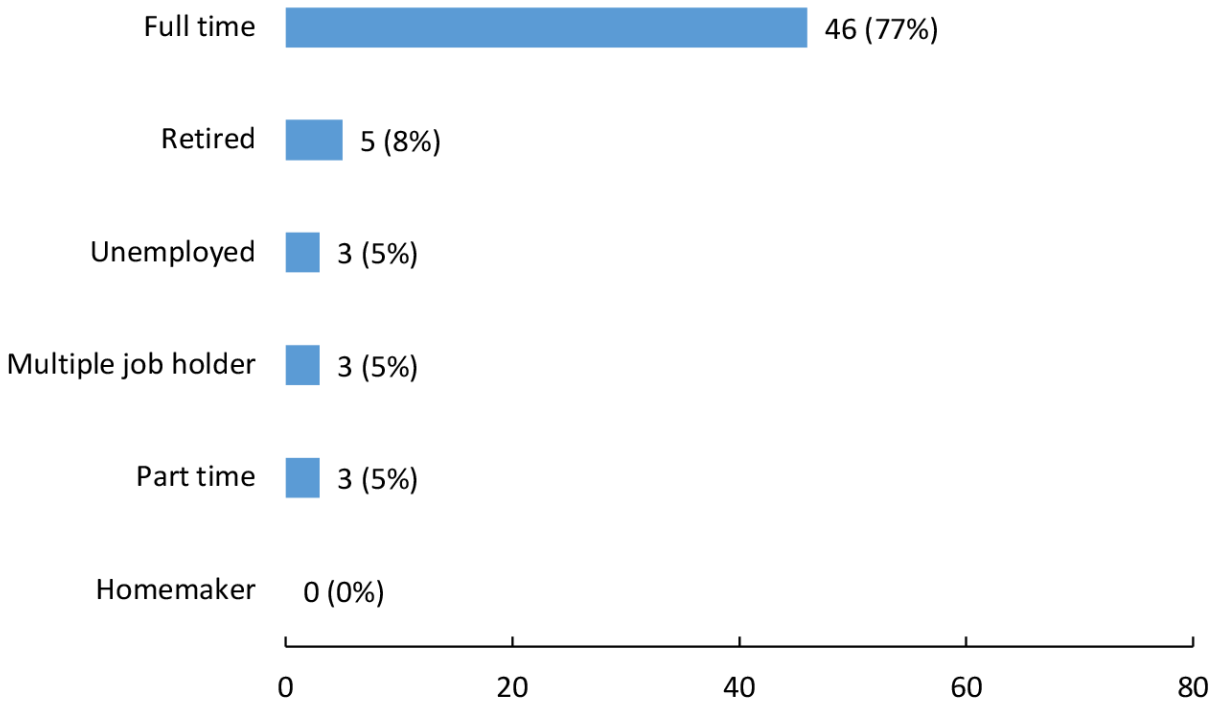


Figure 9: Employment Status Demographics of Survey Respondents
Total respondents = 60



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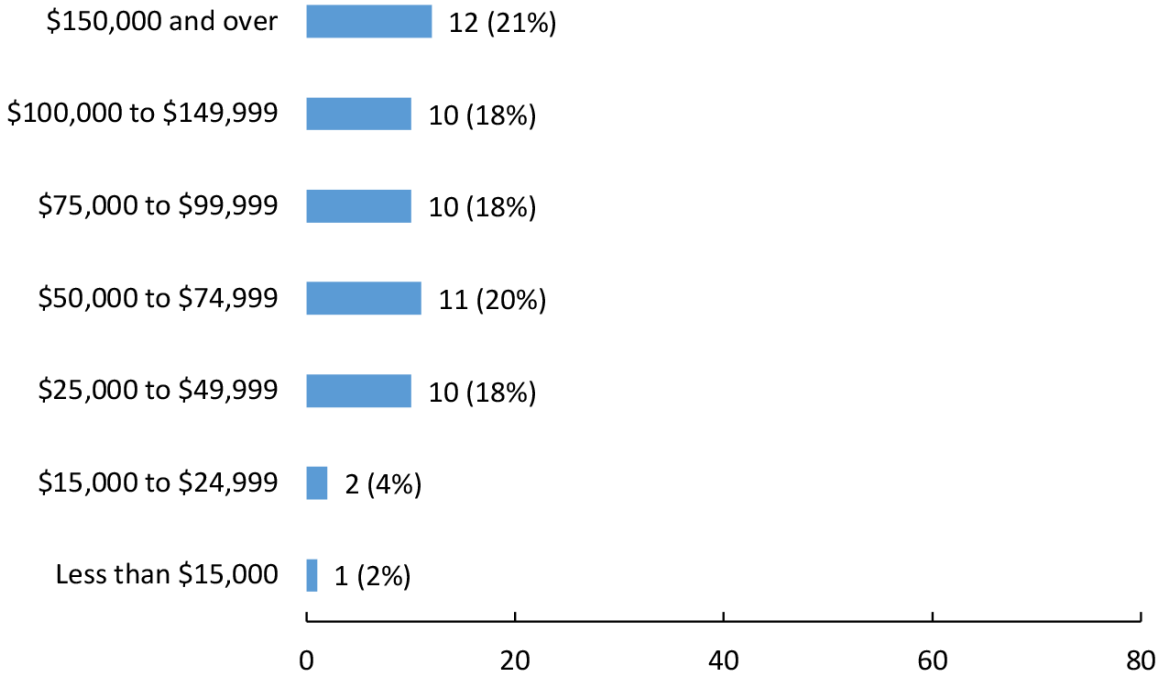
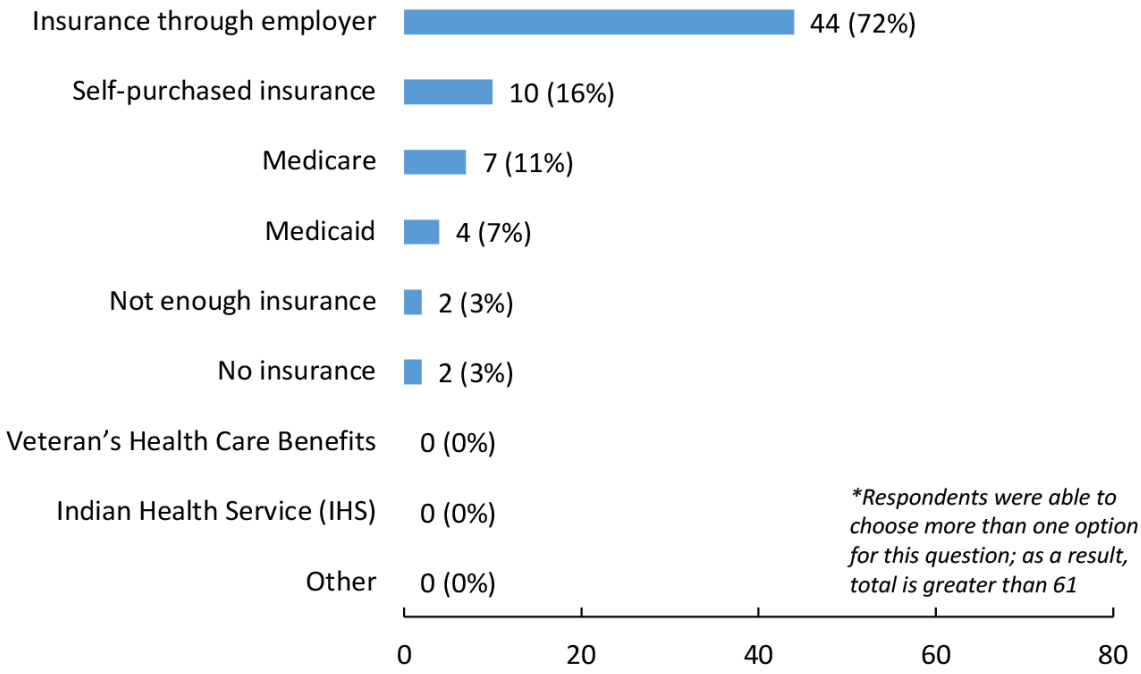
Of those who provided a household income, six percent (N=3) of the community members reported a household income of less than $25,000. Thirty-nine percent (N=22) indicated a household income of $100,000 or more. This information is shown in Figure 10.

Figure 10: Household Income Demographics of Survey Respondents
Total respondents = 56



Community members were asked about their health insurance status, which is often associated with whether people have access to healthcare. Six percent (N=4) of the respondents reported having no health insurance or being under-insured. The most common insurance types were insurance through one's employer (N=44), followed by self-purchased (N=10), and Medicare (N=7).

Figure 11: Health Insurance Coverage Status of Survey Respondents
Total respondents = 61*



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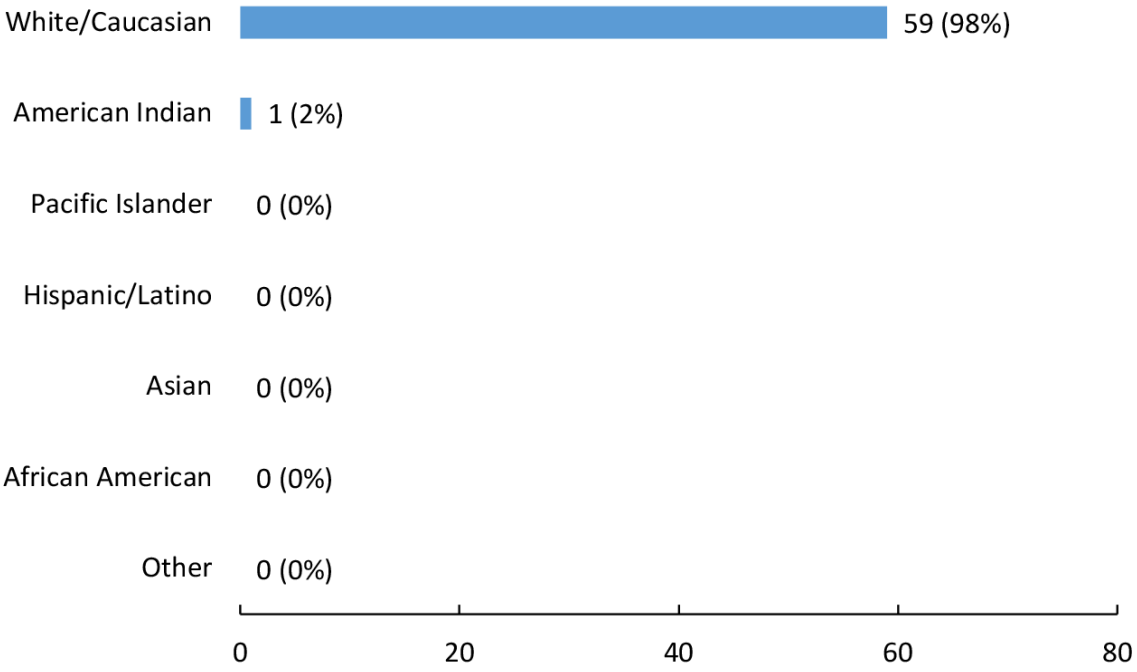
As shown in Figure 12, nearly all of the respondents were White/Caucasian (98%). This was in line with the race/ethnicity of the overall population of Griggs County; the U.S. Census indicates that 98.0% of the population is White in Griggs County.

Figure 12: Race/Ethnicity Demographics of Survey Respondents
Total responses = 60



Community Assets and Challenges

Survey-respondents were asked what they perceived as the best things about their community in four categories: people, services and resources, quality of life, and activities. In each category, respondents were given a list of choices and asked to pick the three best things. Respondents occasionally chose less than three or more than three choices within each category. If more than three choices were selected, their responses were not included. The results indicate there is consensus (with at least 50 respondents agreeing) that community assets include:

- Safe place to live, little/no crime (N=68)
- Family-friendly (N=62)
- People are friendly, helpful, supportive (N=62)
- Healthcare (N=59)
- Active faith community (N=52)
- People who live here are involved in their community (N=52)
- Local events and festivals (N=50)

Figures 13 to 16 illustrate the results of these questions.

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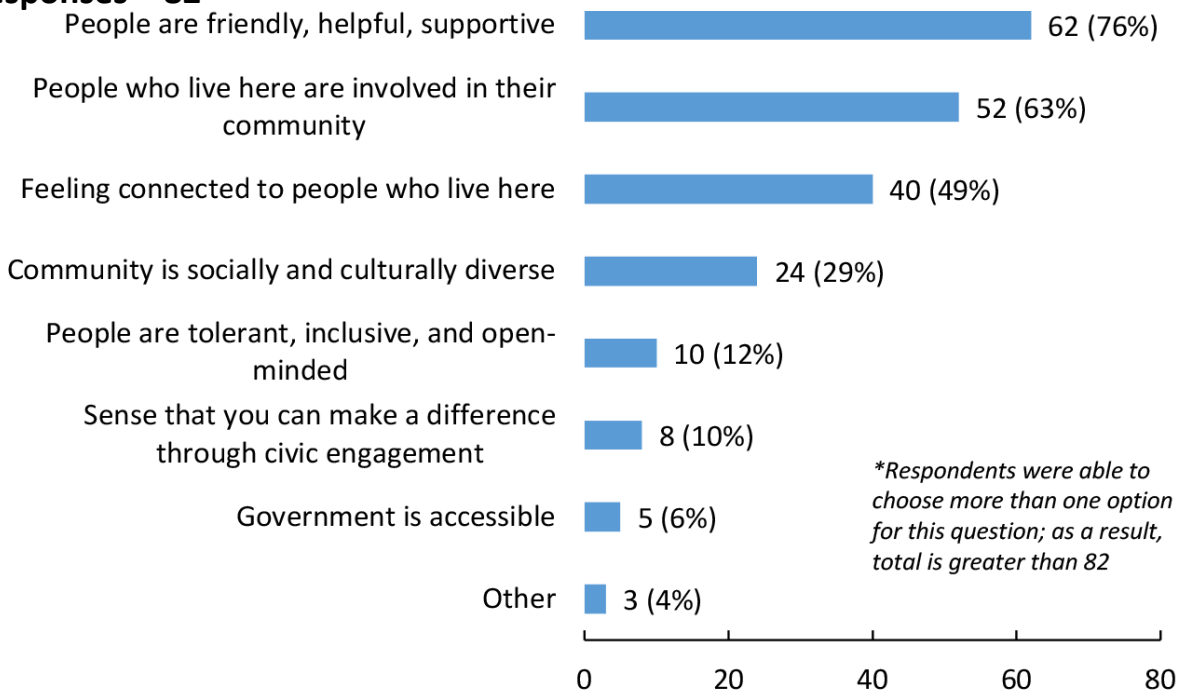
Figure 13: Best Things About the PEOPLE in Your Community
Total responses = 82*



Included in the "Other" category of the best things about the people was that the community is growing.

Figure 14: Best Things About the SERVICES AND RESOURCES in Your Community
Total responses = 85*

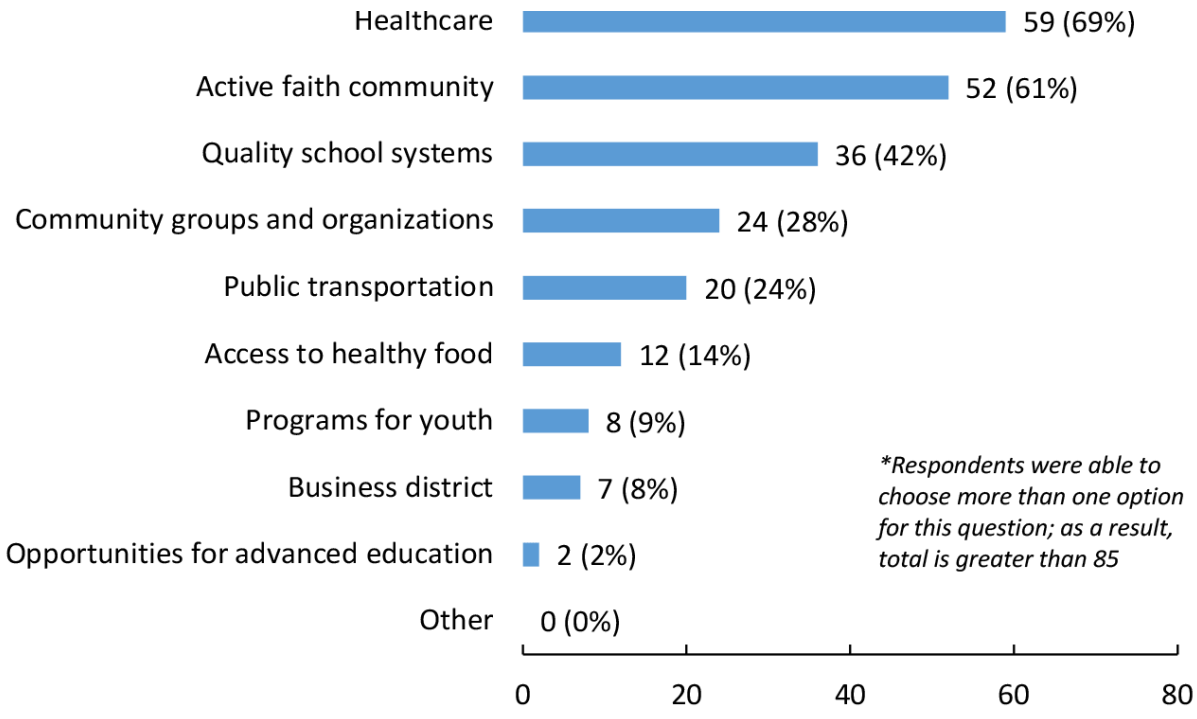


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Figure 15: Best Things About the QUALITY OF LIFE in Your Community
Total responses = 84*

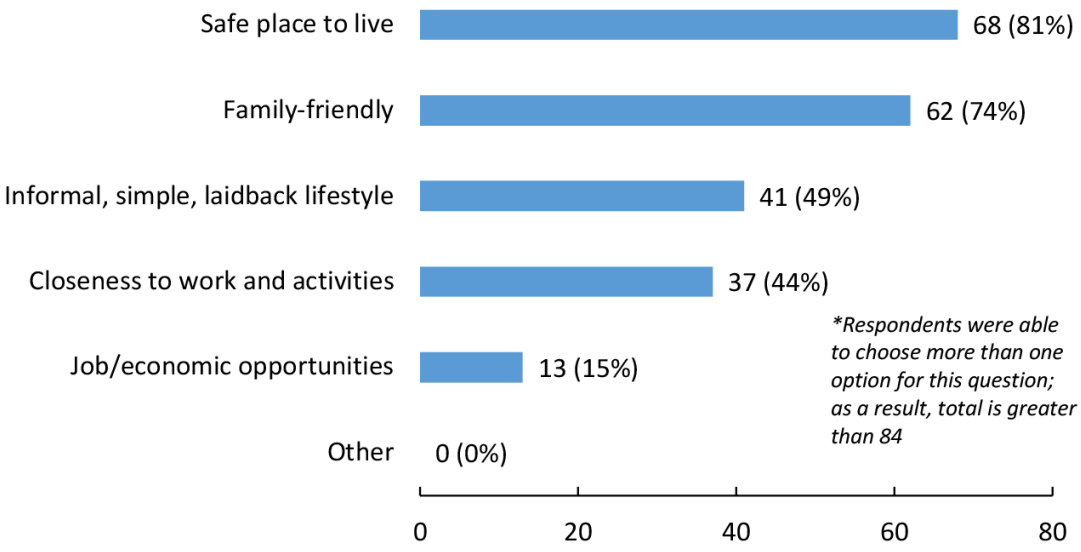
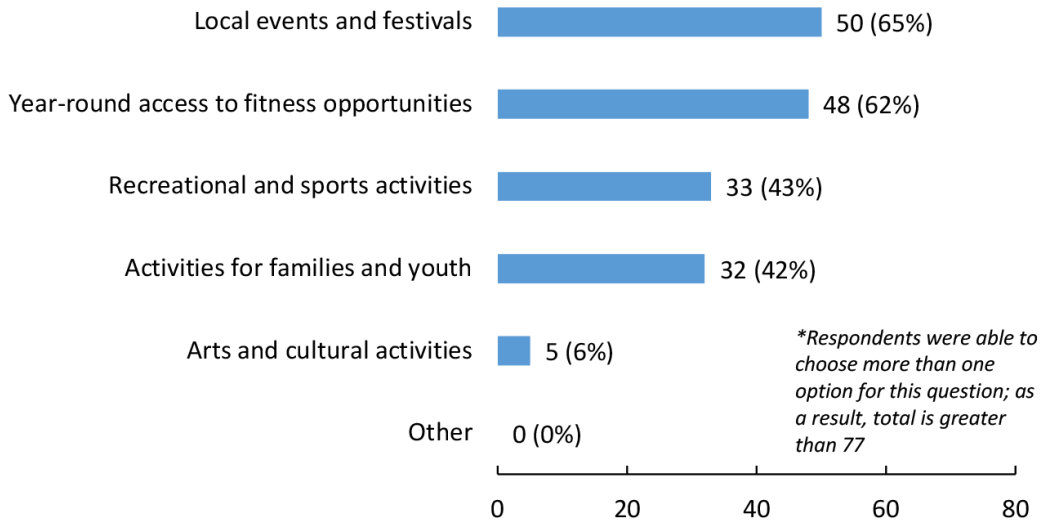


Figure 16: Best Thing About the ACTIVITIES in Your Community
Total responses = 77*



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Community Concerns

At the heart of this CHNA was a section on the survey asking survey respondents to review a wide array of potential community and health concerns in six categories and pick their top three concerns. The six categories of potential concerns were:

- Community/environmental health
- Availability/delivery of health services
- Youth population
- Adult population
- Senior population
- Violence.

With regard to responses about community challenges, the most highly voiced concerns (those having at least 30 respondents) were:

- Bullying/cyberbullying (N=41)
- Not enough jobs with livable wages (N=36)
- Attracting and retaining young families (N=34)
- Depression/anxiety – youth (N=31)
- Alcohol use and abuse – adults (N=30)

The other issues that had at least 20 votes included:

- Depression/anxiety – adults (N=25)
- Ability to retain primary care providers (MD, DO, NP, PA, nurses) in the community (N=24)
- Drug use and abuse – youth (N=24)
- Cost of long-term/nursing home care (N=23)
- Availability of dental care (N=22)
- Not enough affordable housing (N=21)
- Availability of resources to help the elderly stay in their homes (N=20)
- Stress – adults (N=20)

Figures 17 through 22 illustrate these results.

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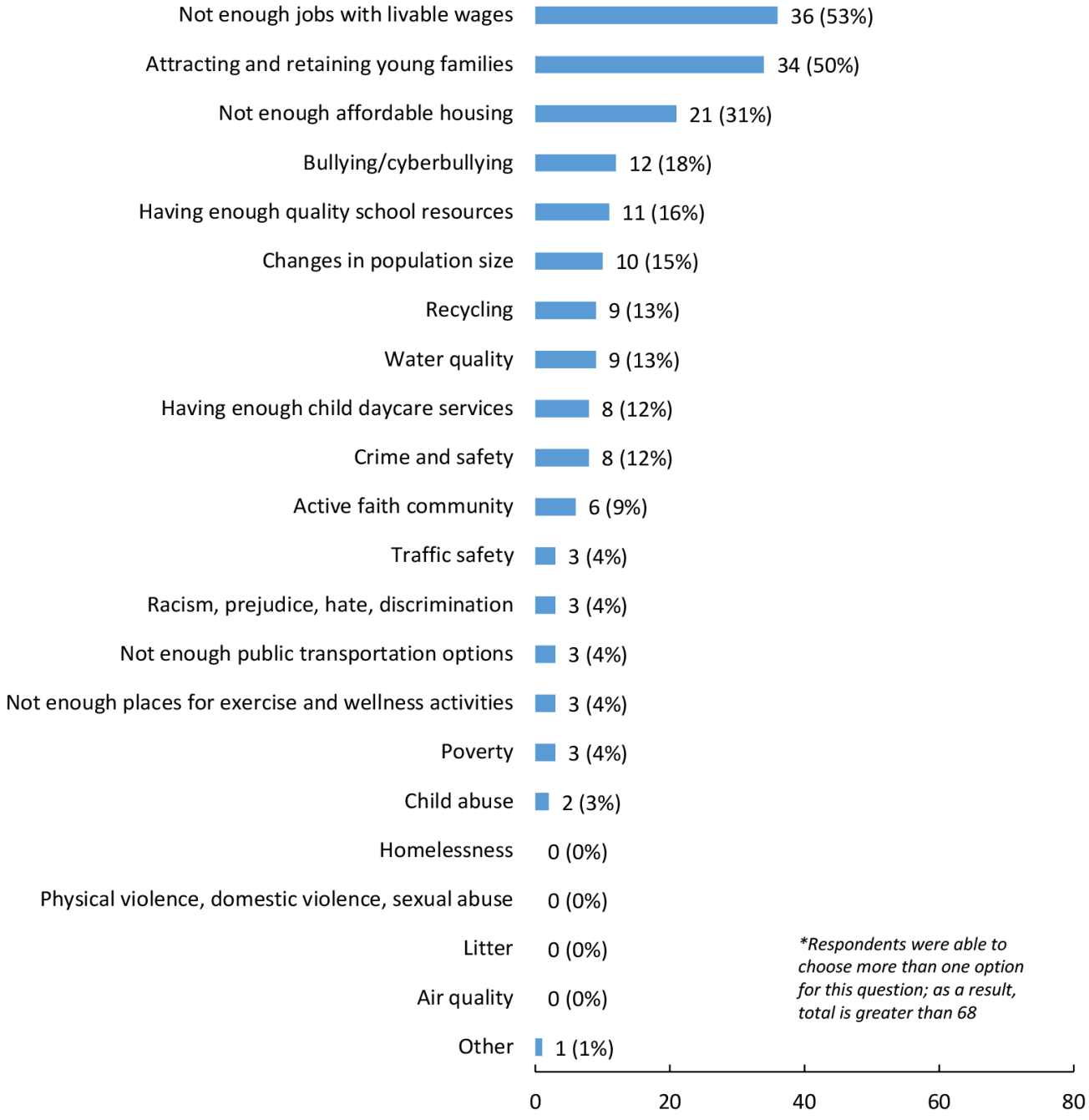
Figure 17: Community/Environmental Health Concerns
Total responses = 68*



In the "Other" category for community and environmental health concerns, one respondent specified having access to affordable and healthy food as a concern.

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Figure 18: Availability/Delivery of Health Services Concerns
Total responses = 65*

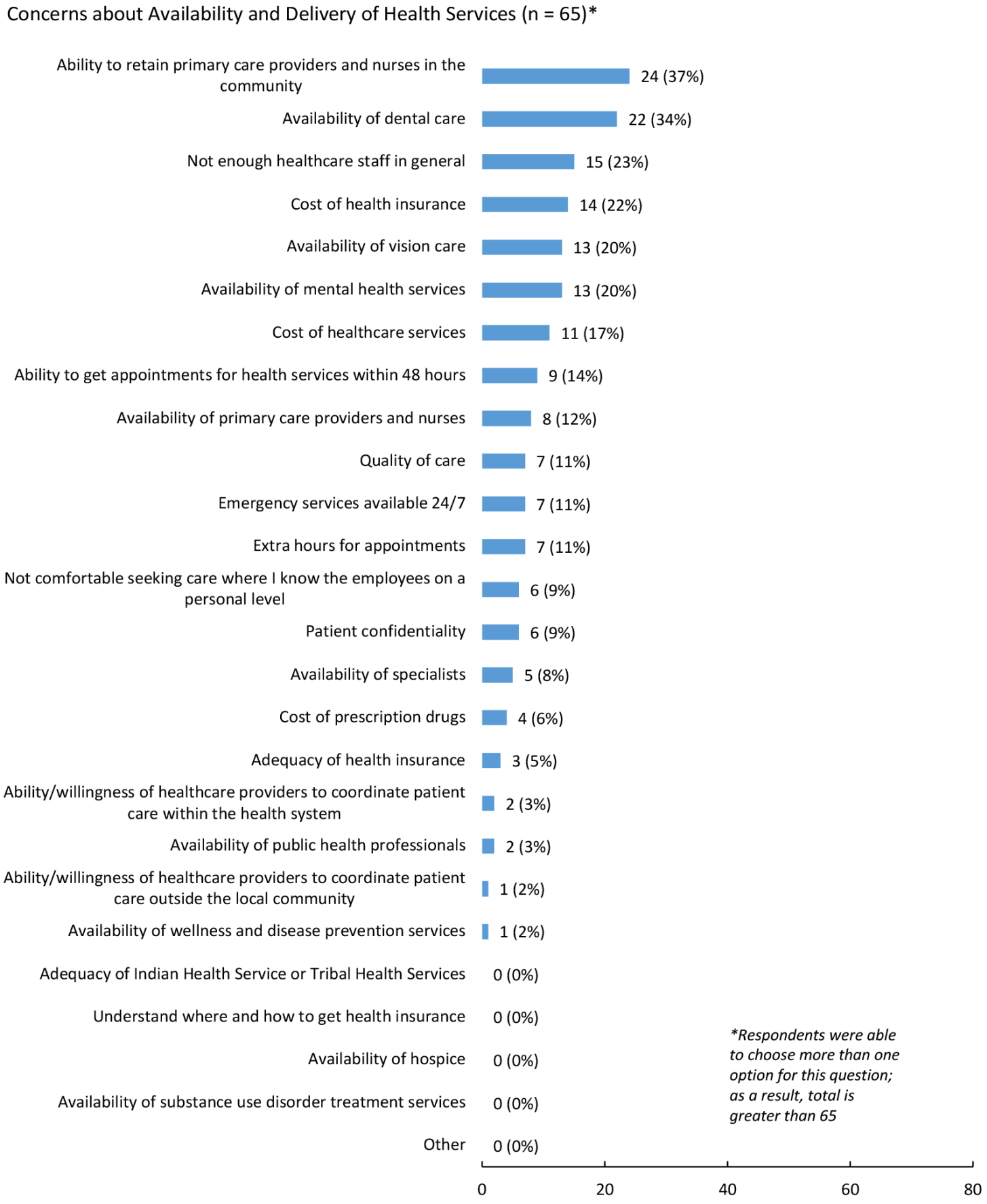

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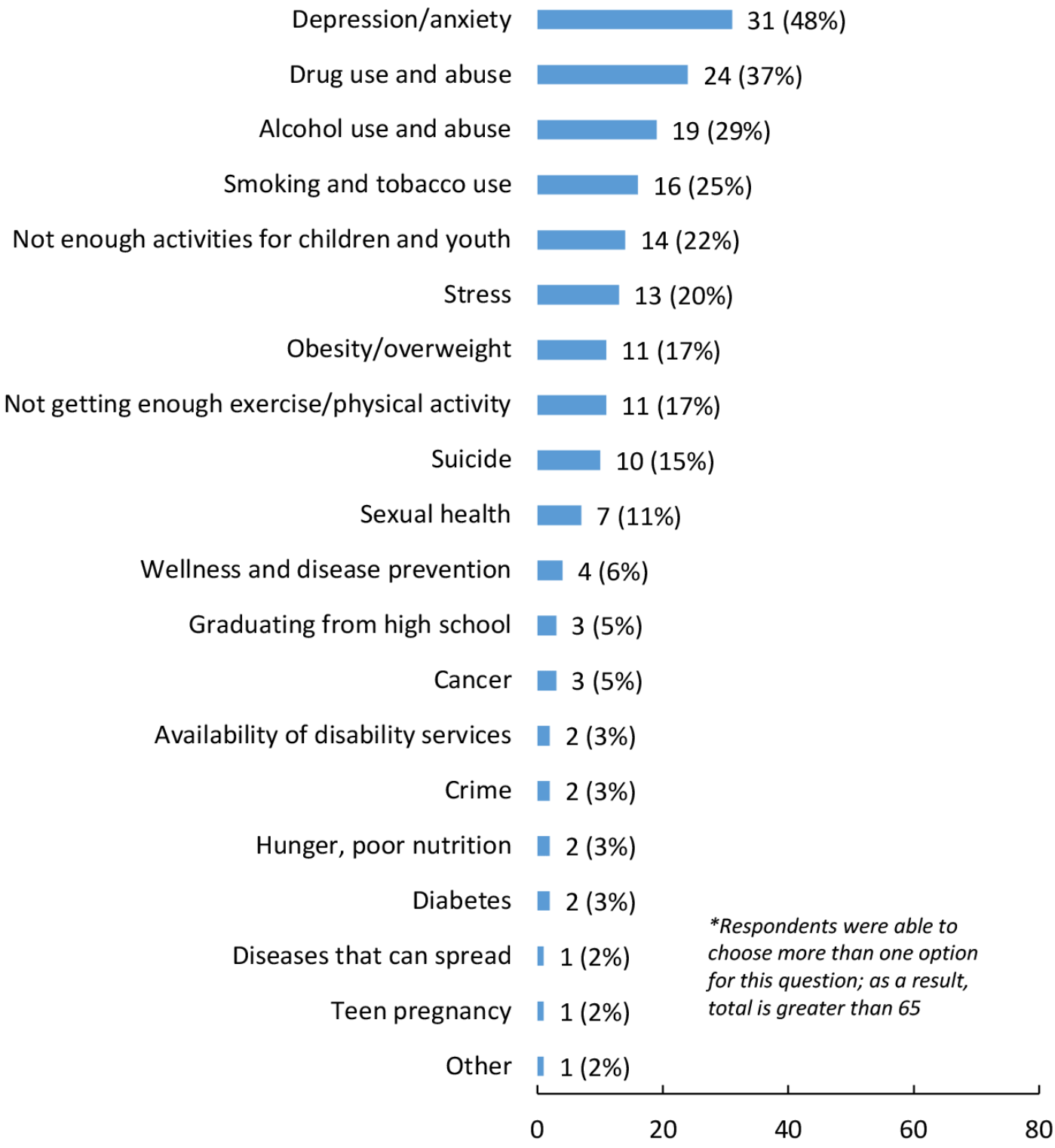
Figure 19: Youth Population Health Concerns
Total responses = 65*



Medspa services was listed in the "Other" category for youth population concern.

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Figure 20: Adult Population Concerns
Total responses = 65*

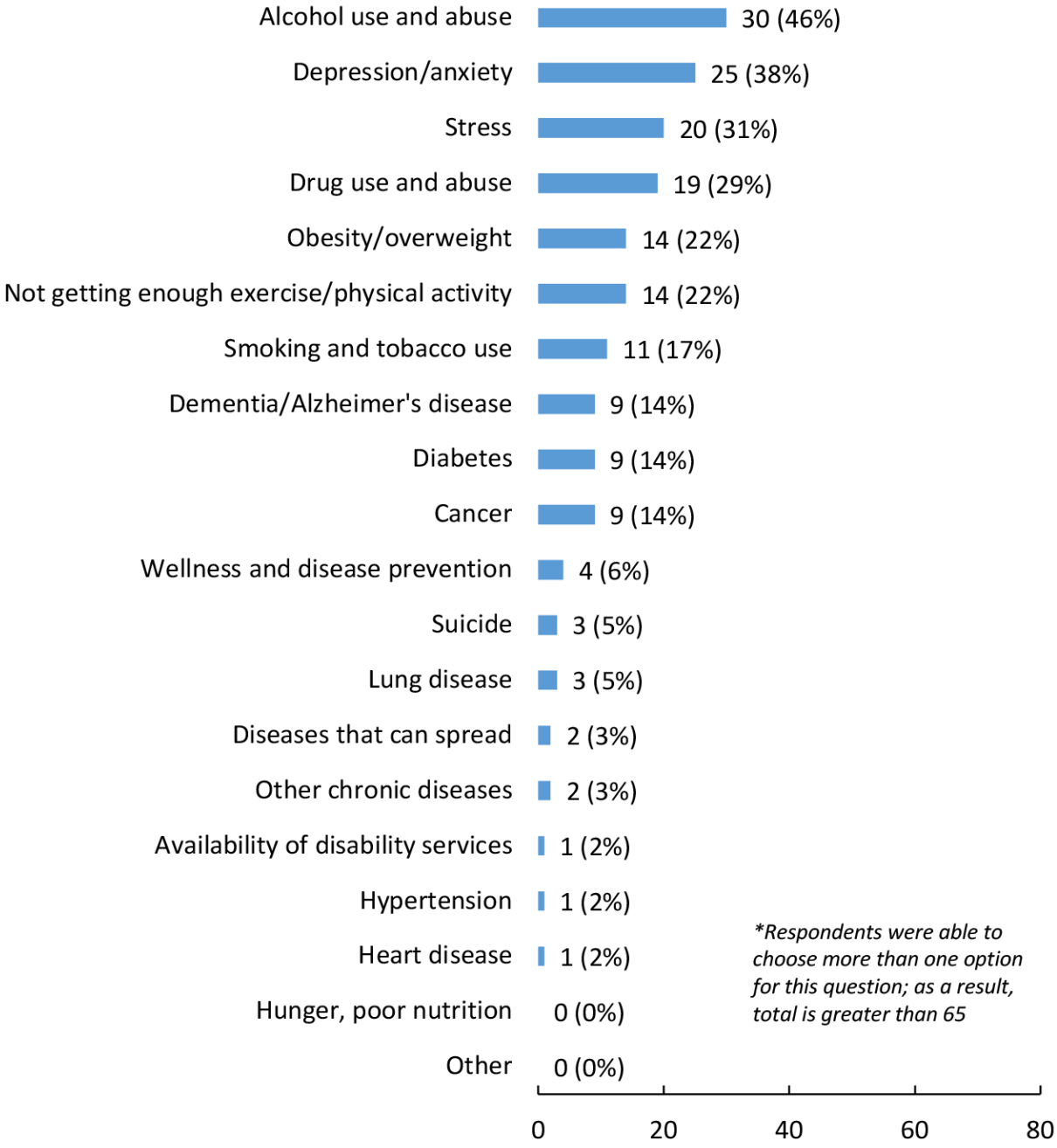

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Figure 21: Senior Population Concerns
Total responses = 58*

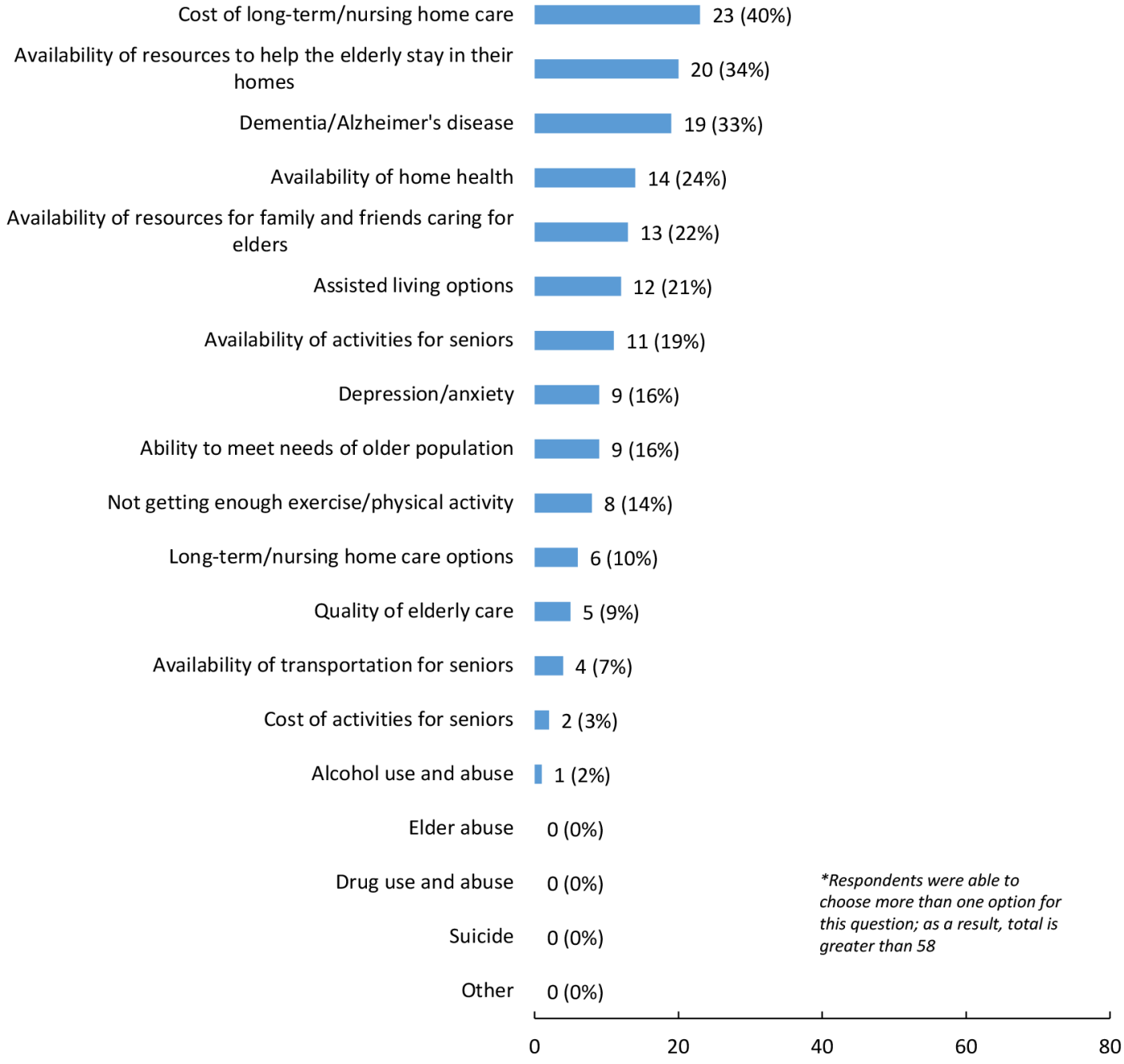

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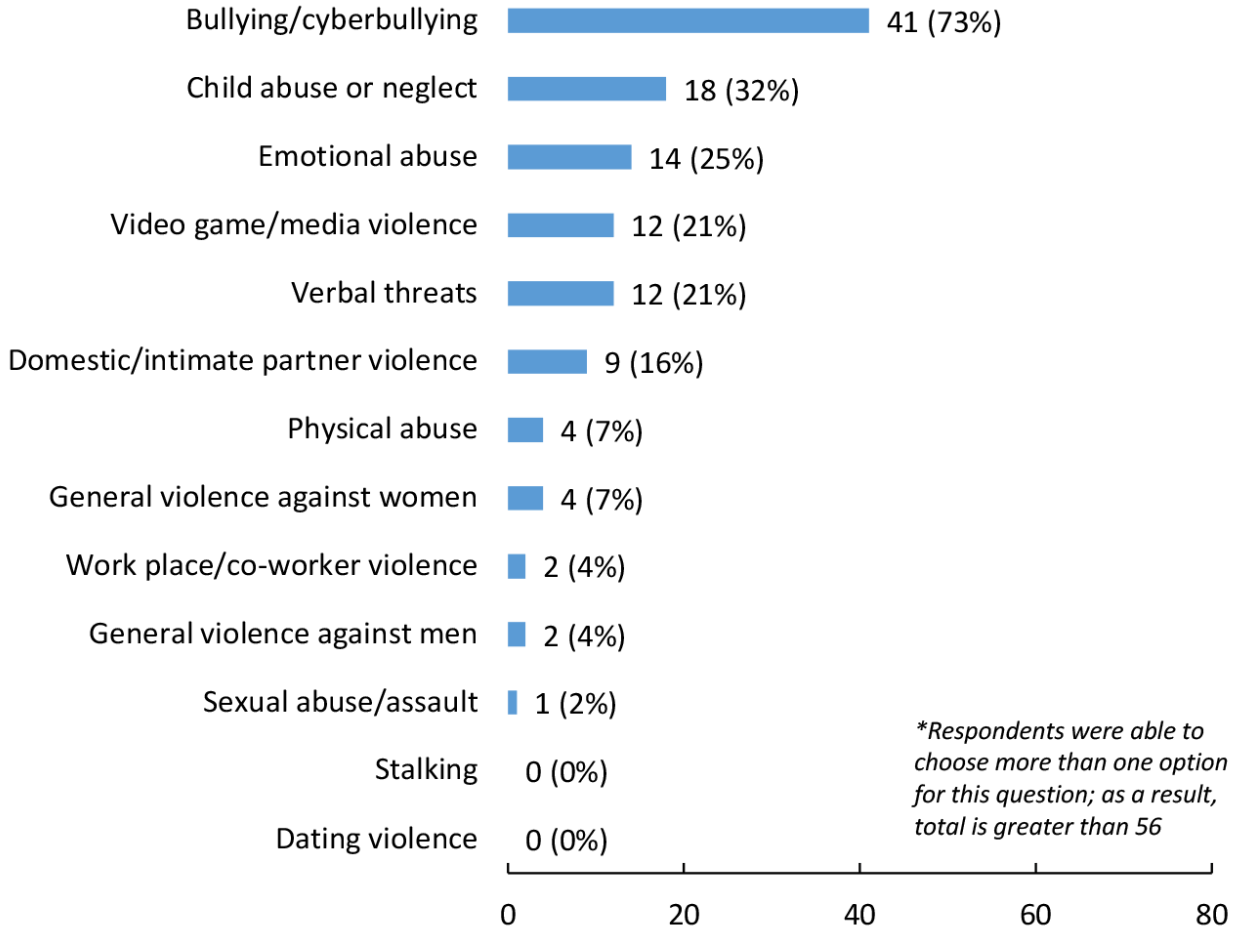
Figure 22: Violence Concerns
Total responses = 56*



In an open-ended question, respondents were asked what single issue they feel is the biggest challenge facing their community. Two categories emerged above all others as the top concerns:

1. Attracting and retaining young families
2. Better paying jobs with livable wages

Other biggest challenges that were identified were bullying, affordable housing, mental health for minors, lack of businesses, grocery cost, and more healthy and affordable food options.

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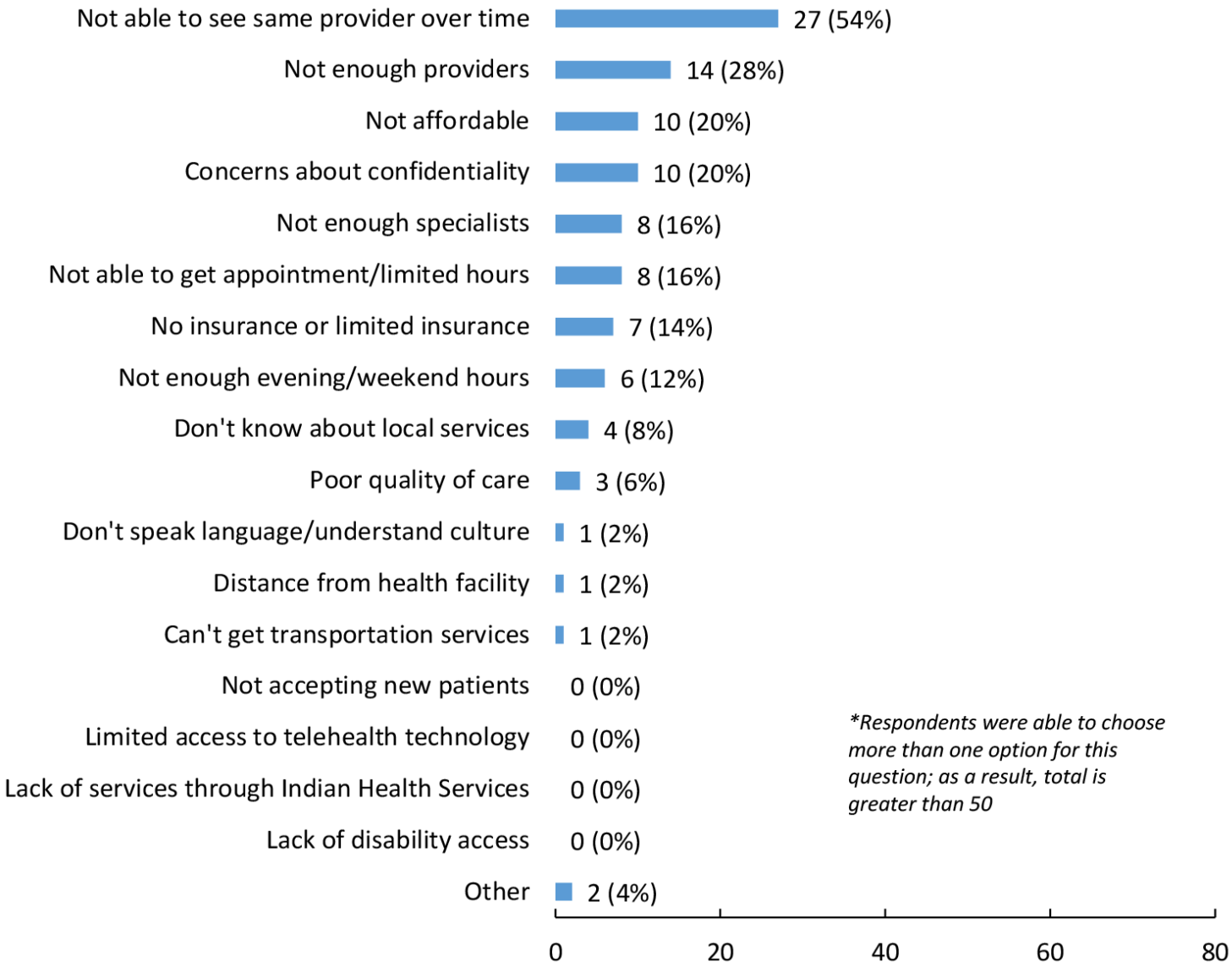
Delivery of Healthcare

The survey asked residents what they see as barriers that prevent them, or other community residents, from receiving healthcare. The most prevalent barrier perceived by residents was not able to see same provider over time (N=27), with the next highest being not enough providers (N=14). After these items, the next most commonly identified barriers were not affordable (N=10), concerns about confidentiality (N=10), not enough specialists (N=8), and not able to get an appointment or limited hours. The one concern indicated in the "Other" category was issues with the business office.

Figure 23 illustrates these results.

Figure 23: Perceptions about Barriers to Care
Total responses = 50*



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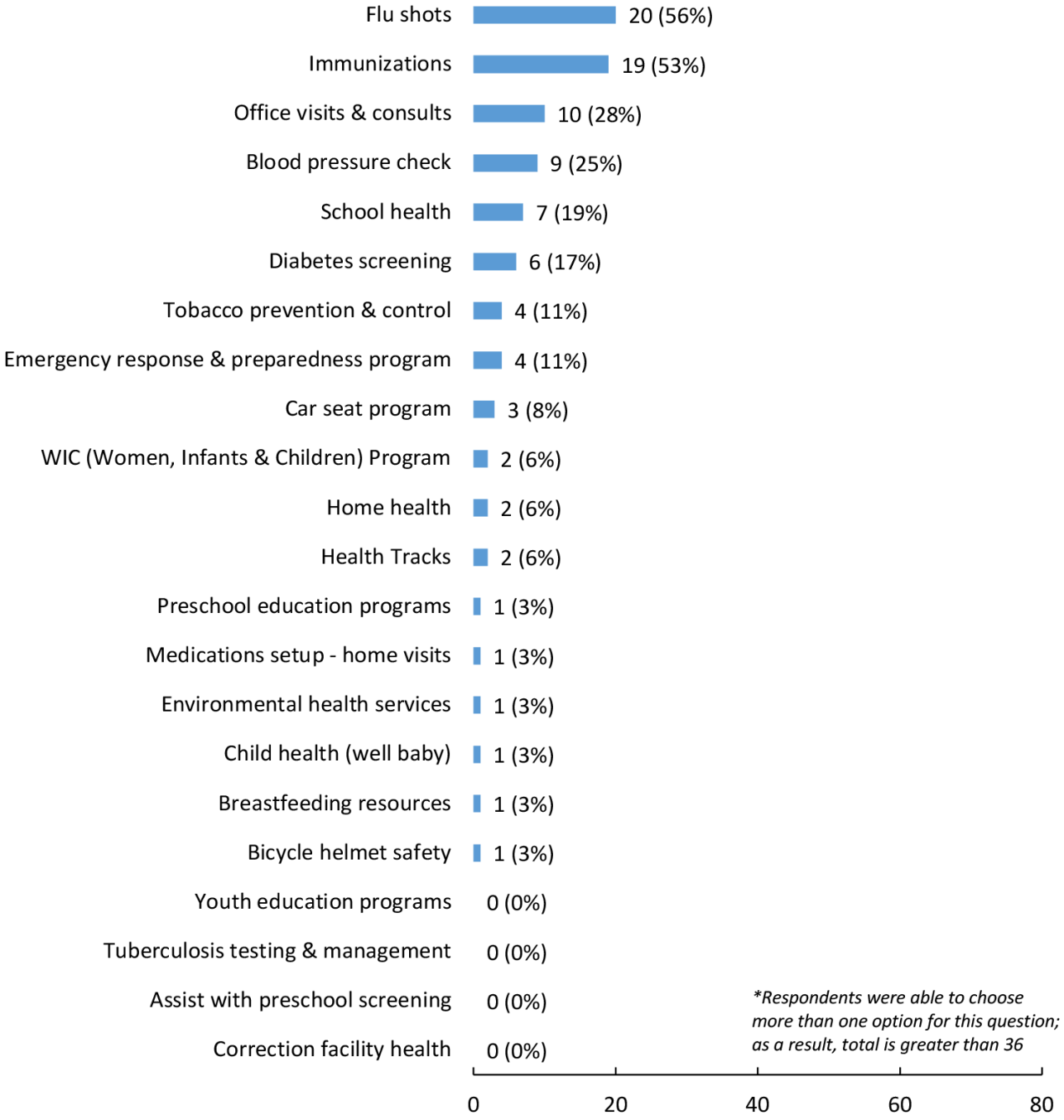
Considering a variety of healthcare services offered by Nelson-Griggs District Health Unit (NGDHU), respondents were asked to indicate if they were aware that the healthcare service is offered though NGDHU and to also indicate what, if any, services they or a family member have used at NGDHU, at another public health unit, or both (See Figure 24).

Figure 24: Awareness and Utilization of Public Health Services
Total responses = 36*



In an open-ended question, respondents were asked what specific healthcare services, if any, they think should be added locally. The number one desired service to add locally was dental care. Other requested services included:

- Mental health services
- IV vitamin infusions
- Vision care
- Dialysis
- Mammograms in-house

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- More immunizations at the clinic
- Medspa services

While not a service, many respondents indicated that they would like physicians added. One person indicated the people should be able to go to the clinic for their immunizations. People are told to go to public health, but they have limited availability for the community.

The key informant and focus group members felt that the community members were aware of the majority of the health system and public health services. There were a number of services where they felt the hospital should increase marketing efforts. The hospital's online presence is minimal, and they could utilize it more and add more posts to social media platforms. For public health, the respondents suggested they have more in-person interactions with the community. They stated their online presence is adequate.

DRMC chose to ask respondents questions regarding the awareness and utilization of services that are offered. For general and acute services, the majority were aware of the clinic at 93 percent (N=57). For screening and therapy services, laboratory services was selected the most at 95 percent (N=59). For radiology, general X-ray was selected the most at 88 percent (N=53). Respondents were also asked about the awareness and use of other services that are available in the area. Chiropractic services were selected the most at 92 percent (N=57). See figures below.

Figure 25: Awareness and Utilization of General and Acute Services
Total responses = 61*

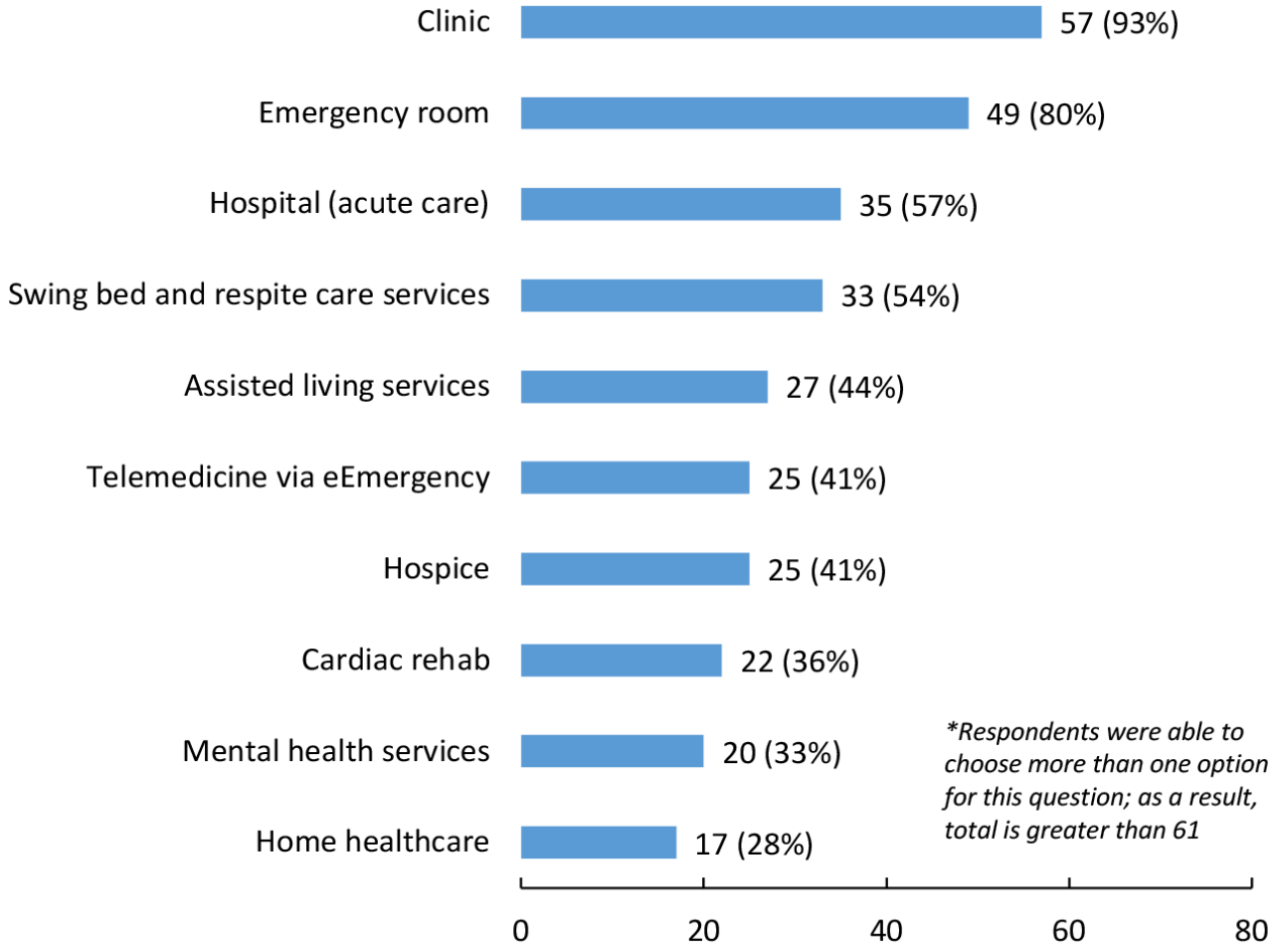

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Figure 26: Awareness and Utilization of Screening and Therapy Services
Total responses = 58*

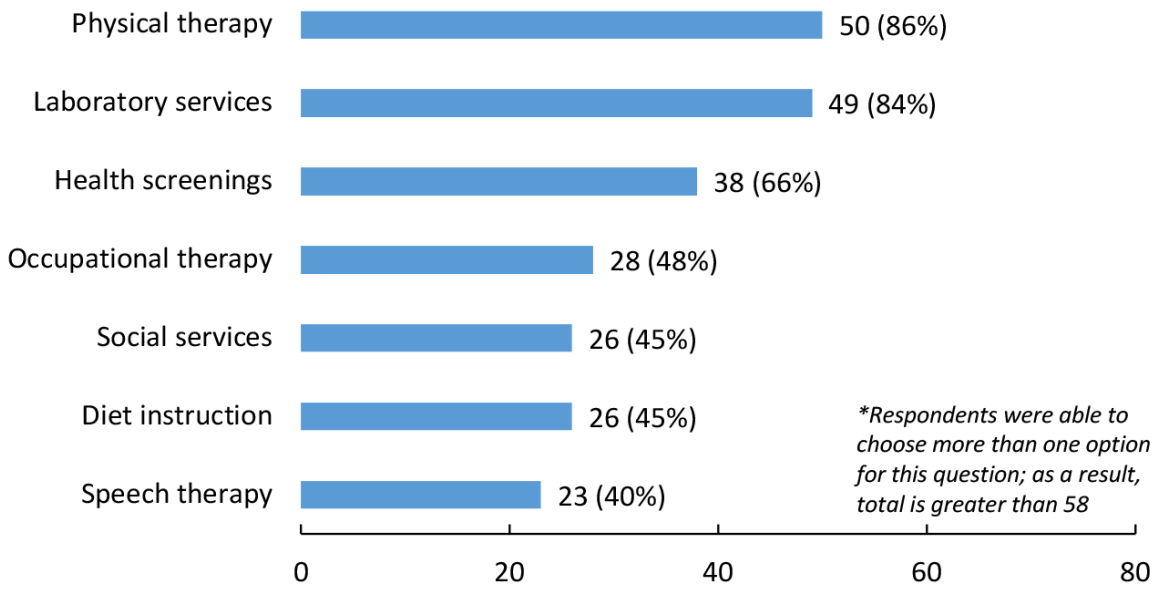

Figure 27: Awareness and Utilization of Radiology Services
Total responses = 57*

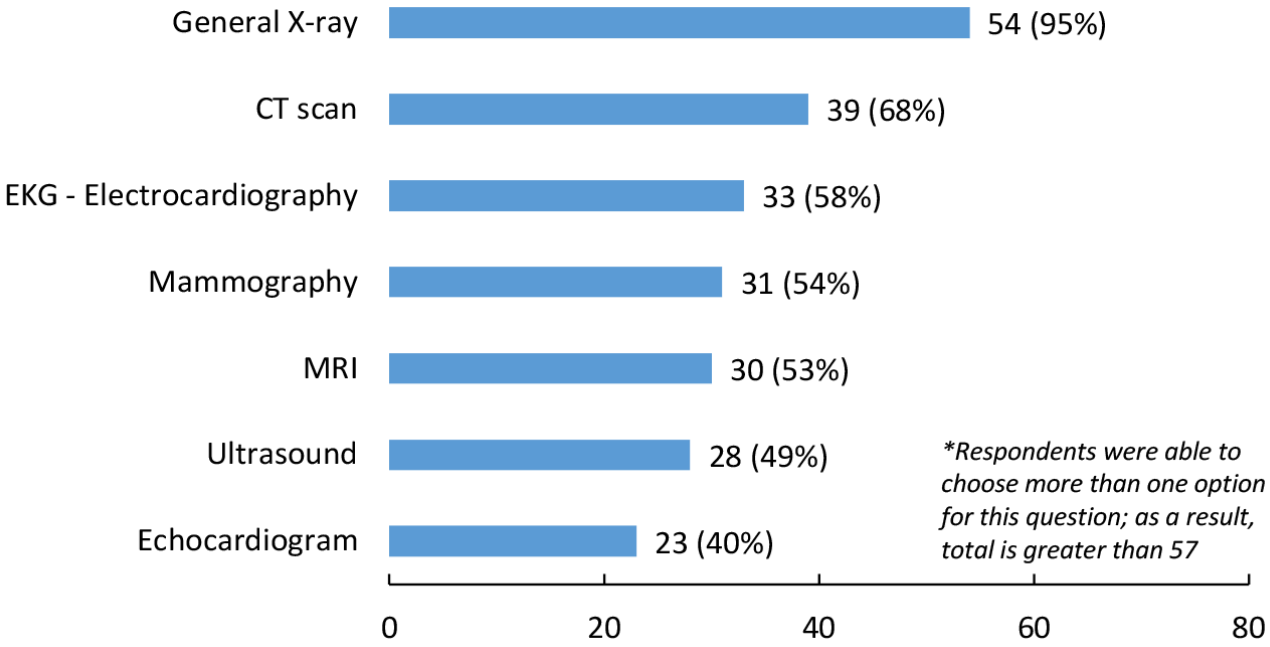

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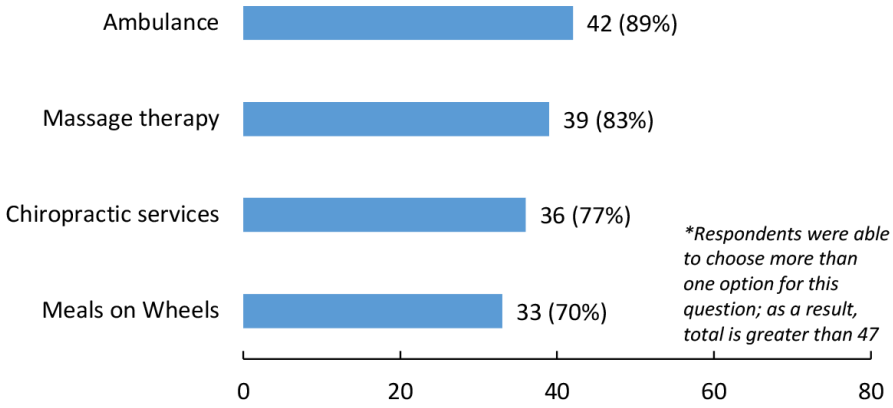
Figure 28: Awareness and Utilization of Other Services
Total responses = 47*



In an effort to gauge participants knowledge about Dakota Regional Medical Center's foundation, they were asked of their awareness, with majority selecting yes (89%, N=55). They were asked how they'd be most likely to financially support facility improvements/new equipment, memorial/honorarium, and cash/stock gifts received the most responses. In the "Other" category included Tree of Lights events, Boots to Bling events, and time. See figures below.

Figure 29: Awareness of Dakota Regional Medical Center's Foundation
Total responses = 62

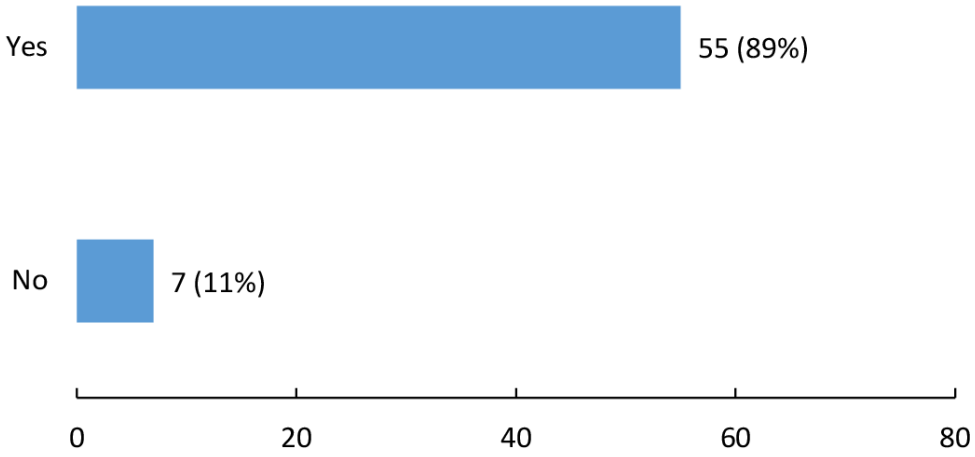
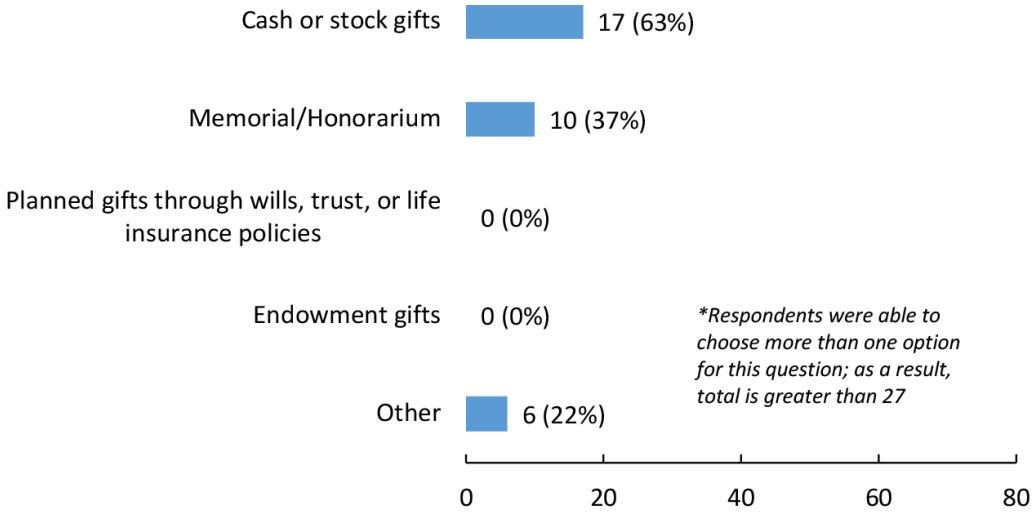


Figure 30: Ways to Financially Support the Dakota Regional Medical Center's Foundation
Total responses = 27*



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Respondents were asked where they go to for trusted health information. Primary care providers (N=53) received the highest response rate, followed by other healthcare professionals (N=44), and then web/internet searches (N=24). In the "Other" category, one respondent stated they get their information from specialists.

Results are shown in Figure 31.

Figure 31: Sources of Trusted Health Information
Total responses = 61*

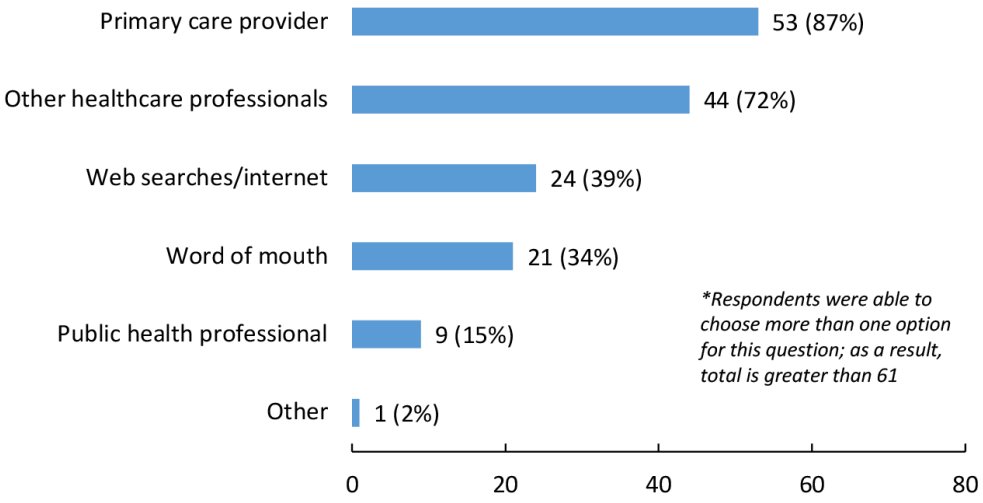
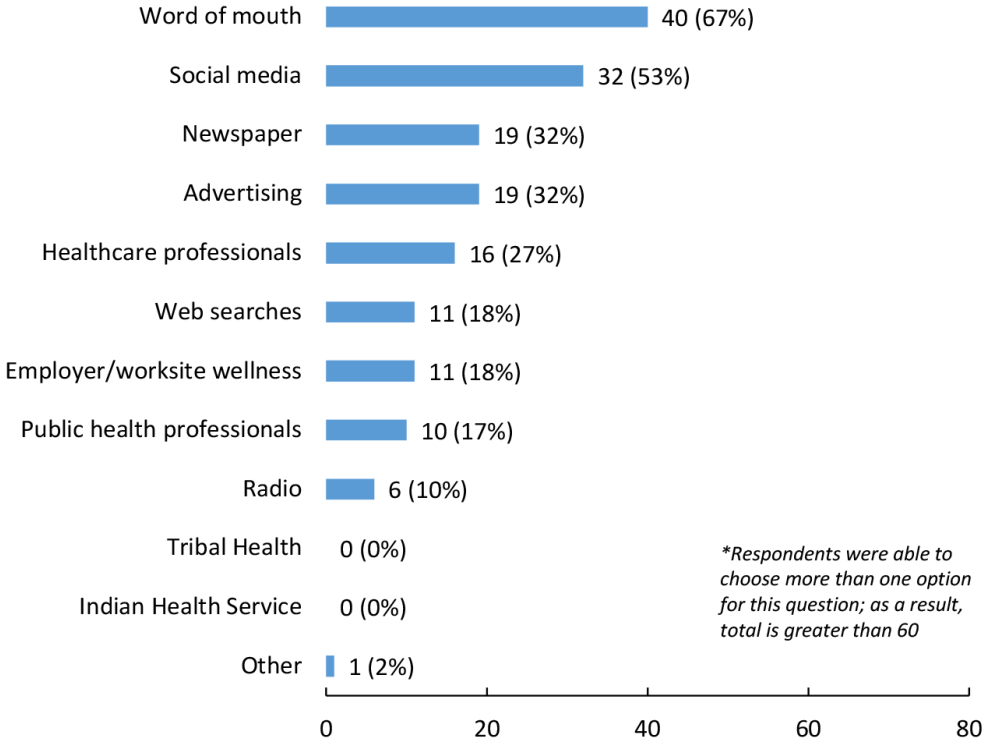


Figure 32: Sources of Information About Local Health Services
Total responses = 60*



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Findings from Key Informant Interviews and the Community Meeting

Questions about the health and well-being of the community, similar to those posed in the survey, were explored during key informant interviews with community leaders and health professionals and also with the community group at the first meeting. The themes that emerged from these sources were wide-ranging, with some directly associated with healthcare and others more rooted in broader social and community matters.

Generally, overarching issues that developed during the interviews and community meeting can be grouped into five categories (listed in alphabetical order):

- Attracting and retaining young families
- Availability of dental care
- Dementia/Alzheimer's disease
- Depression/anxiety
- Not enough affordable housing

To provide context for the identified needs, following are some of the comments made by those interviewed about these issues:

Attracting and retaining young families

- In order to keep families here, we need to invest in infrastructure. There are no homes for people to move in and stay.
- Our population is decreasing in our rural communities, and things are starting to deteriorate. We need to find ways to continue to thrive and that means ways to attract younger people who will make this rural area home.

Availability of dental care

- We have to travel out of town to receive dental care.
- Major concern for the community.

Dementia/Alzheimer's disease

- There are not enough resources for people caring for family who has this disease.
- Seems like there we have a high number of people who have dementia compared to the size of the community.

Depression/anxiety

- Lack of resources to help in North Dakota.
- This is something that affects everyone.
- I work in the school and see so many students struggling with anxiety and stress, including self-harm and suicide attempts.
- Everybody is carrying such a heavy load these days, it leads to so many of the other issues on the list when you can't find ways to manage it positively.

Not enough affordable housing

- Housing in general is a need, but especially single-family homes.
- Affordable housing should be a top priority for the community leaders.

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Community Engagement and Collaboration

Key informants and focus group participants were asked to weigh in on community engagement and collaboration of various organizations and stakeholders in the community. Specifically, participants were asked, "On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being no collaboration/community engagement and 5 being excellent collaboration/community engagement, how would you rate the collaboration/engagement in the community among these various organizations?"
This question was not intended to rank services provided. They were presented with a list of 13 organizations or community segments to score. According to these participants, the hospital, pharmacy, public health, and other long-term care (including nursing homes/assisted living) are the most engaged in the community. The averages of these scores (with 5 being "excellent" engagement or collaboration) were:

- Emergency services, including ambulance and fire (4.5)
- Hospital (healthcare system) (4.5)
- Schools (4.5)
- Business and industry (4.25)
- Law enforcement (4.25)
- Faith-based (4.0)
- Long-term care, including nursing homes and assisted living (4.0)
- Pharmacy (4.0)
- Public health (3.75)
- Economic development organizations (3.25)
- Clinics not affiliated with the main health system (3.0)
- Social/human services (3.0)
- Other local health providers, such as dentists and chiropractors (2.0)

Priority of Health Needs

A community group met on March 24, 2025. Twenty-four community members attended the meeting. Representatives from the Center for Rural Health (CRH) presented the group with a summary of this report's findings, including background and explanation about the secondary data, highlights from the survey results (including perceived community assets and concerns, and barriers to care), and findings from the key informant interviews.

Following the presentation of the assessment findings, and after considering and discussing the findings, all members of the group were asked to identify what they perceived as the top four community health needs. All of the potential needs were listed on large poster boards and each member was given four stickers to place next to each of the four needs they considered the most significant.

The results were totaled, and the concerns most often cited were:

- Availability of resources to help the elderly stay in their homes (14 votes)
- Depression/anxiety for all ages (9 votes)
- Attracting and retaining young families (8 votes)
- Availability of home health (8 votes)

From those top four priorities, each person put one sticker on the item they felt was the most important. The rankings were:

1. Attracting and retaining young families (10 votes)
2. Availability of resources to help the elderly stay in their homes (9 votes)
3. Depression/anxiety for all ages (3 votes)
4. Availability of home health (2 votes)

Following the prioritization process during the second meeting of the community group and key informants, the number one identified need was attracting and retaining young families. A summary of this prioritization may be found in Appendix E.

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Comparison of Needs Identified Previously

Top Needs Identified 2022 CHNA Process	Top Needs Identified 2025 CHNA Process
Availability of mental health services	Attracting and retaining young families
Bullying/cyberbullying	Availability of resources to help the elderly stay in their homes
Depression/anxiety	Availability of home health
Having enough child daycare services	Depression/anxiety for all ages

The current process did identify one identical common need from 2022. Depression/anxiety was identified in 2022 and 2025. The new needs identified are attracting and retaining young families, availability of resources to help the elderly stay in their homes, and availability of home health.

Dakota Regional Medical Center (DRMC) invited written comments on the most recent CHNA report and implementation strategy both in the documents and on the website where they are widely available to the public. No written comments have been received.

Upon adoption of this CHNA report by the Dakota Regional Medical Center Board vote, a notation will be documented in the board minutes reflecting the approval and then the report will be widely available to the public on the hospital's website; a paper copy will be available for inspection upon request at the hospital. Written comments on this report can be submitted to DRMC.

Hospital and Community Projects and Programs Implemented to Address Needs Identified in 2022

In response to the needs identified in the 2022 CHNA process, the following actions were taken:

Ensure all community members, including the uninsured and working poor have access to mental health services: Since the 2022 Survey, DRMC has advertised its current mental health services via billboards, portable signs, as well as newspaper articles and ads. DRMC has added two more days per month of mental health services provided by Inspired Healthcare providers, Becky Kuss, APRN, CNP, PMHNP and Roxanne Johnson, APRN, CNP, FNP. In 2024, DRMC added another mental health provider option to the community by bringing Aggasiz Associates on board to see patients both in person and via telehealth.

Depression and anxiety in all ages: Since the 2022 Survey, the DRMC facility Chief Nursing Officer has worked with the school to help bring additional medical services to school age children, via having a school nurse/paramedic on site. This includes being available to see children struggling with depression and anxiety and helping make sure referrals are made for those in need. DRMC also has attended several school events and set up tables with brochures/information and had someone available to answer questions/provide education to both parents and students. Newspaper articles were published to educate all ages on signs and symptoms of depression and info was provided as to where to get help. DRMC staff members joined the newly formed Suicide Coalition in 2024 to help the group raise awareness and implement interventions. The DRMC social media pages were also utilized to advertise mental health services as well as provide education to all ages.

The above implementation plan for DRMC is posted on the DRMC website at https://www.stanleyhealth.org/resources.

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Next Steps – Strategic Implementation Plan

Although a CHNA and strategic implementation plan are required by hospitals and local public health units considering accreditation, it is important to keep in mind the needs identified, at this point, will be broad community-wide needs along with healthcare system-specific needs. This process is simply a first step to identify needs and determine areas of priority. The second step will be to convene the steering committee, or other community group, to select an agreed-upon prioritized need on which to begin working. The strategic planning process will begin with identifying current initiatives, programs, and resources already in place to address the identified community need(s). Additional steps include identifying what is needed and feasible to address (taking community resources into consideration) and what role and responsibility the hospital, clinic, and various community organizations play in developing strategies and implementing specific activities to address the community health need selected. Community engagement is essential for successfully developing a plan and executing the action steps for addressing one or more of the needs identified.

Community Benefit Report

While not required, CRH strongly encourages a review of the most recent Community Benefit Report to determine how/if it aligns with the needs identified, through the CHNA as well as the implementation plan.

The community benefit requirement is a long-standing requirement of nonprofit hospitals and is reported in Part I of the hospital's Form 990. The strategic implementation requirement was added as part of the ACA's CHNA requirement. Not-for-profit healthcare organizations demonstrate their commitment to community service through organized and sustainable community benefit programs providing:

- Free and discounted care to those unable to afford healthcare.
- Care to low-income beneficiaries of Medicaid and other indigent care programs.
- Services designed to improve community health and increase access to healthcare.

Community benefit is also the basis of the tax-exemption of not-for-profit hospitals. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS), in its Revenue Ruling 69–545, describes the community benefit standard for charitable tax-exempt hospitals. Since 2008, tax-exempt hospitals have been required to report their community benefit and other information related to tax-exemption on the IRS Form 990 Schedule H.

What Are Community Benefits?

Community benefits are programs or activities that provide treatment and/or promote health and healing as a response to identified community needs. They increase access to healthcare and improve community health.

A community benefit must respond to an identified community need and meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Improve access to healthcare services
- Enhance the health of the community
- Advance the medical or health knowledge
- Relieve or reduce the burden of government or other community efforts

A program or activity should not be reported as a community benefit if it is:

- Provided for marketing purposes
- Restricted to hospital employees and physicians
- Required of all healthcare providers by rules or standards
- Questionable as to whether it should be reported
- Unrelated to health or the mission of the organization

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Appendix A – Critical Access Hospital Profile

Critical Access Hospital Profile
Spotlight on: Cooperstown, North Dakota

Dakota Regional Medical Center

Administrator/CEO:
Nikki Lindsey

Chief of Medical Staff:
William G. McKinnon, MD

Board Chair:
Barry Getz

City Population:
1,047 (2014 Estimate)[1]

County Population:
2,370 (2013 Estimate)[1]

County Median Household Income:
$45,542 (2013 Estimate)[1]

County Median Age:
54.3 (2013 Estimate)[1]

Service Area Population:
2,620 (30 mile radius)[1]

Owned by: Nonprofit

Hospital Beds: 9

Critical Access Hospital Designation: 2000

Mission

The Dakota Regional Medical Center (DRMC) is dedicated to providing high quality healthcare services in a personalized, compassionate, and professional manner.

County: Griggs
Address: 107 12th Street S.
Cooperstown, ND 58425
Phone: (701) 786-1700
Fax: (701) 786-7121
Web: www.dakotaregional.com

Our 9-bed Critical Access Hospital is conveniently located just south of Highway 200 so it is easily accessible to anyone in need. Twenty-four hour emergency medical services are available. Helping to relieve the added stress of extended travel, DRMC is happy to provide many of the services found in large hospitals locally. Through strong affiliations with major medical organizations, we are proud to provide the services below.

Dakota Regional Medical Center's Rural Health Clinics has one full-time physician and 4 full-time FNP-C's. Our family practitioners specialize in all major medical areas ranging from pediatrics to gerontology; including gynecology, prenatal, and baby care. Dakota Regional Medical Center also has satellite locations in Lakota and New Rockford.

Dakota Regional Medical Center includes Park Place, a 12 unit assisted living complex. Each apartment is a spacious, two bedroom unit. DRMC services are accessible to Park Place residents via community transportation services or arrangement directly through DRMC staff. Nursing home care is available for: long-term care stays, convalescent care, and short-term stays. Residents are allowed to retain their independence and dignity with assistance to succeed in daily tasks.

Services

Dakota Regional Medical Center provides the following services directly:

- Hospital Services: Outpatient Observation, Acute Care, 24-hour Emergency Care, radiology, CT scanner, Laboratory, Cardiac Monitoring/ Telemetry, Electrocardiography, Physical Therapy, Speech Therapy/ Occupational Therapy, Cardiac Rehabilitation, Swing Bed
- Other Available Services: Respite Care, Lifeline, Meals on Wheels, Hospice Care, Community Education
- Clinic Services: General Medical Services, Pulmonary Function Testing, Holter Monitor, Stress Testing, Flexible Sigmoidoscopy, Endometrial Biopsy Procedure, Minor Surgery Procedures, Muscle stimulation/Ultrasound, Immunizations, Injections, Nutrition Counseling
- Visiting Consultants: Psychology, Cardiology, Gynecology, Orthopedics, DOT examinations

Services

Dakota Regional Medical Center provides the following services through contract or agreement:

- Mobile Diagnostic Services: Ultrasound, Echocardiogram, Mammography, Bone Densitometry
- Griggs County Care Center

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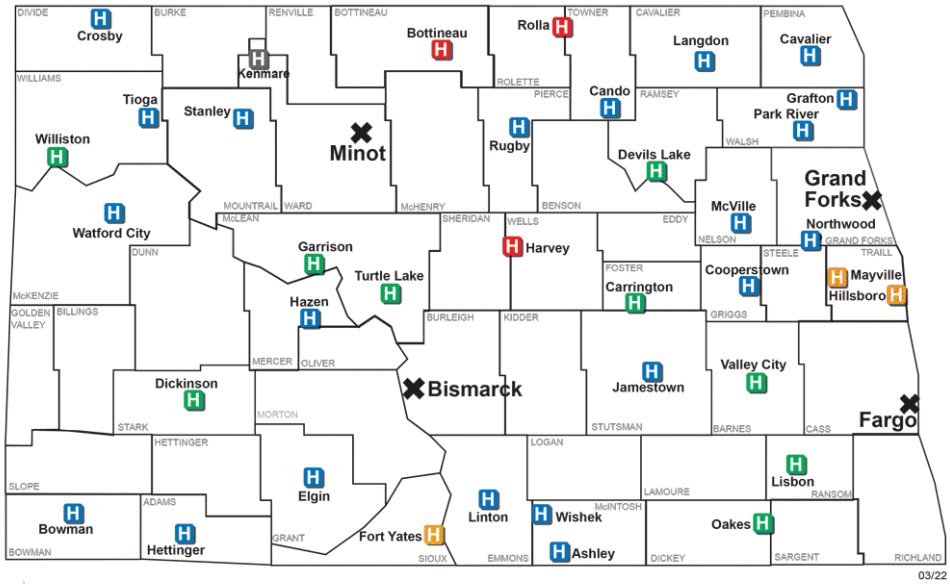
North Dakota Critical Access Hospitals



Center for Rural Health
University of North Dakota
School of Medicine & Health Sciences

History

For the past 143 years healthcare has been a crucial component to the vitality of Griggs County and its people. We have come a long way from Dr. T. F. Kerr, the first doctor in Griggs County in 1881, to the first hospital opening in 1903, building of the old hospital building in 1951, through remodeling and additions in the 80's and 90's relocating the hospital in 2006, and finally building a new facility in 2023 in a new location.

The one constant that has remained throughout the years is the collaboration between the facility and the people it serves. It was the community members who first had a vision for healthcare in Griggs County. In a public meeting held March 22, 1947, Dr. Rose, the dentist, commented, "I'm interested in not a Cooperstown Hospital but a Griggs County Hospital. We should have had it 20 years ago. We won't get much use from it, but the next generation will and I hope I live to see a hospital here." Little did Dr. Rose know that only five short years later he would suffer a disabling stroke and spend the last seven years of his life as a permanent patient of the hospital. It was only through the generous support of the community that the hospital came to be.

Today, the same is true: change is inevitable, but it is the community who sustains Dakota Regional Medical Center. Initially healthcare was simple; however, due to the amazing strides in medical knowledge, technology, and insurance things have changed. Gone are the days of running a health facility like any other business, a service is completed and payment is made. We still strive to provide affordable high quality healthcare to the community regardless of their ability to pay or the rate of reimbursement by insurance, but the costs to provide these services continue to rise.

Recreation

Cooperstown is located in east central North Dakota, within 100 miles of North Dakota's two largest cities, Fargo and Grand Forks. Both communities have excellent medical facilities and state universities. The University of North Dakota at Grand Forks is the site of the state's medical school. Cooperstown's education system provides basic curriculum and several enrichment programs for its students. The Sheyenne River Valley offers a beautiful recreation area for water sports, camping, and hiking. Nearby lakes provide good fishing and boating opportunities. A tree-lined challenging 9-hole grass green golf course is located on the northwest edge of town. The Ronald Reagan Minuteman Missile State Historic Site is located just north of Cooperstown.

Staff

Physicians: 1
Nurse Practitioners: 4
RNs: 16
PA's: 2
LPNs: 5
Total Employees: 54

Local Sponsors and Grant Funding Sources

- **American Heart Association**
- **ATOD Mini-grant**
- **Cardinal Health Foundation Challenge Grant**
- **Center for Rural Health - SHIP Grant (Small Hospital Improvement Program)**
- **Flex Grant (Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Grant Program)**
- **Dakota Medical Foundation**
- **Griggs Steele Empowerment Zone**
- **Nodak Electric Cooperative**
- **North Dakota Department of Emergency Services**
- **Homeland Security SHSP**
- **North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services**
- **Workforce Safety and Insurance**
- **USAC/Rural Health Care Div.**

Sources

[1]US Census Bureau; 2010 Profile of General and Housing Characteristics

Center for Rural Health
University of North Dakota
School of Medicine & Health Sciences

ruralhealth.und.edu

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Appendix B – CHNA Survey Instrument

Griggs County Health Survey

Dakota Regional Medical Center and Nelson-Griggs District Health Unit are interested in hearing from you about community health concerns.

The focus of this effort is to:

- Learn of the good things in your community as well as concerns in the community
- Understand perceptions and attitudes about the health of the community, and hear suggestions for improvement
- Learn more about how local health services are used by you and other residents

If you prefer, you may take the survey online at https://tinyurl.com/chnacooperstown24 or by scanning on the QR Code at the right.

Surveys will be tabulated by the Center for Rural Health at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences. Your responses are anonymous, and you may skip any question you do not want to answer. Your answers will be combined with other responses and reported only in total. If you have questions about the survey, you may contact Holly Long at 701.777.3848.

Surveys will be accepted through December 20, 2024. Your opinion matters – thank you in advance!

Community Assets: Please tell us about your community by **choosing up to three options** you most agree with in each category below.

1. Considering the **PEOPLE** in your community, the best things are (choose up to THREE):

- ☐ Community is socially and culturally diverse or becoming more diverse
- ☐ Feeling connected to people who live here
- ☐ Government is accessible
- ☐ People are friendly, helpful, supportive
- ☐ People who live here are involved in their community
- ☐ People are tolerant, inclusive, and open-minded
- ☐ Sense that you can make a difference through civic engagement
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

2. Considering the **SERVICES AND RESOURCES** in your community, the best things are (choose up to THREE):

- ☐ Access to healthy food
- ☐ Active faith community
- ☐ Business district (restaurants, availability of goods)
- ☐ Community groups and organizations
- ☐ Healthcare
- ☐ Opportunities for advanced education
- ☐ Public transportation
- ☐ Programs for youth
- ☐ Quality school systems
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

3. Considering the **QUALITY OF LIFE** in your community, the best things are (choose up to THREE):

- ☐ Closeness to work and activities
- ☐ Family-friendly; good place to raise kids
- ☐ Informal, simple, laidback lifestyle
- ☐ Job opportunities or economic opportunities
- ☐ Safe place to live, little/no crime
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

4. Considering the **ACTIVITIES** in your community, the best things are (choose up to THREE):

- ☐ Activities for families and youth
- ☐ Arts and cultural activities
- ☐ Local events and festivals
- ☐ Recreational and sports activities
- ☐ Year-round access to fitness opportunities
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

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Community Concerns: Please tell us about your community by choosing up to three options you most agree with in each category.

5. Considering the **COMMUNITY /ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH** in your community, concerns are (choose up to THREE):

- ☐ Active faith community
- ☐ Attracting and retaining young families
- ☐ Not enough jobs with livable wages, not enough to live on
- ☐ Not enough affordable housing
- ☐ Poverty
- ☐ Changes in population size (increasing or decreasing)
- ☐ Crime and safety, adequate law enforcement personnel
- ☐ Water quality (well water, lakes, streams, rivers)
- ☐ Air quality
- ☐ Litter (amount of litter, adequate garbage collection)
- ☐ Having enough child daycare services
- ☐ Having enough quality school resources
- ☐ Not enough places for exercise and wellness activities
- ☐ Not enough public transportation options, cost of public transportation
- ☐ Racism, prejudice, hate, discrimination
- ☐ Traffic safety, including speeding, road safety, seatbelt use, and drunk/distracted driving
- ☐ Physical violence, domestic violence, sexual abuse
- ☐ Child abuse
- ☐ Bullying/cyber-bullying
- ☐ Recycling
- ☐ Homelessness
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

6. Considering the **AVAILABILITY/DELIVERY OF HEALTH SERVICES** in your community, concerns are (choose up to THREE):

- ☐ Ability to get appointments for health services within 48 hours.
- ☐ Extra hours for appointments, such as evenings and weekends
- ☐ Availability of primary care providers (MD,DO,NP,PA) and nurses
- ☐ Ability to retain primary care providers (MD,DO,NP,PA) and nurses in the community
- ☐ Availability of public health professionals
- ☐ Availability of specialists
- ☐ Not enough health care staff in general
- ☐ Availability of wellness and disease prevention services
- ☐ Availability of mental health services
- ☐ Availability of substance use disorder treatment services
- ☐ Availability of hospice
- ☐ Availability of dental care
- ☐ Availability of vision care
- ☐ Emergency services (ambulance & 911) available 24/7
- ☐ Ability/willingness of healthcare providers to work together to coordinate patient care within the health system.
- ☐ Ability/willingness of healthcare providers to work together to coordinate patient care outside the local community.
- ☐ Patient confidentiality (inappropriate sharing of personal health information)
- ☐ Not comfortable seeking care where I know the employees at the facility on a personal level
- ☐ Quality of care
- ☐ Cost of health care services
- ☐ Cost of prescription drugs
- ☐ Cost of health insurance
- ☐ Adequacy of health insurance (concerns about out-of-pocket costs)
- ☐ Understand where and how to get health insurance
- ☐ Adequacy of Indian Health Service or Tribal Health Services
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

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7. Considering the **YOUTH POPULATION** in your community, concerns are (choose up to THREE):

- ☐ Alcohol use and abuse
- ☐ Drug use and abuse (including prescription drug abuse)
- ☐ Smoking and tobacco use, exposure to second-hand smoke or vaping (juuling)
- ☐ Cancer
- ☐ Diabetes
- ☐ Depression/anxiety
- ☐ Stress
- ☐ Suicide
- ☐ Not enough activities for children and youth
- ☐ Teen pregnancy
- ☐ Sexual health
- ☐ Diseases that can spread, such as sexually transmitted diseases or AIDS
- ☐ Wellness and disease prevention, including vaccine-preventable diseases
- ☐ Not getting enough exercise/physical activity
- ☐ Obesity/overweight
- ☐ Hunger, poor nutrition
- ☐ Crime
- ☐ Graduating from high school
- ☐ Availability of disability services
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

8. Considering the **ADULT POPULATION** in your community, concerns are (choose up to THREE):

- ☐ Alcohol use and abuse
- ☐ Drug use and abuse (including prescription drug abuse)
- ☐ Smoking and tobacco use, exposure to second-hand smoke or vaping (juuling)
- ☐ Cancer
- ☐ Lung disease (i.e. emphysema, COPD, asthma)
- ☐ Diabetes
- ☐ Heart disease
- ☐ Hypertension
- ☐ Dementia/Alzheimer's disease
- ☐ Other chronic diseases: _____
- ☐ Depression/anxiety
- ☐ Stress
- ☐ Suicide
- ☐ Diseases that can spread, such as sexually transmitted diseases or AIDS
- ☐ Wellness and disease prevention, including vaccine-preventable diseases
- ☐ Not getting enough exercise/physical activity
- ☐ Obesity/overweight
- ☐ Hunger, poor nutrition
- ☐ Availability of disability services
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

9. Considering the **ELDERLY POPULATION** in your community, concerns are (choose up to THREE):

- ☐ Ability to meet needs of older population
- ☐ Long-term/nursing home care options
- ☐ Assisted living options
- ☐ Availability of resources to help the elderly stay in their homes
- ☐ Cost of activities for seniors
- ☐ Availability of activities for seniors
- ☐ Availability of resources for family and friends caring for elders
- ☐ Quality of elderly care
- ☐ Cost of long-term/nursing home care
- ☐ Availability of transportation for seniors
- ☐ Availability of home health
- ☐ Not getting enough exercise/physical activity
- ☐ Dementia/Alzheimer's disease
- ☐ Depression/anxiety
- ☐ Suicide
- ☐ Alcohol use and abuse
- ☐ Drug use and abuse (including prescription drug abuse)
- ☐ Elder abuse
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

10. Regarding various forms of **VIOLENCE** in your community, concerns are (choose up to THREE):

- ☐ Bullying/cyber-bullying
- ☐ Child abuse or neglect
- ☐ Dating violence
- ☐ Domestic/intimate partner violence
- ☐ Emotional abuse (ex. intimidation, isolation, verbal threats, withholding of funds)
- ☐ General violence against women
- ☐ General violence against men
- ☐ Media/video game violence
- ☐ Physical abuse
- ☐ Stalking
- ☐ Sexual abuse/assault
- ☐ Verbal threats
- ☐ Workplace/co-worker violence

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_____

_____

Delivery of Healthcare

12. Considering **GENERAL and ACUTE SERVICES** at Dakota Regional Medical Center, which services are you aware of (or have you used in the past year)? (Choose ALL that apply

- ☐ Cardiac rehab
- ☐ Clinic
- ☐ Emergency room
- ☐ Home health care, contracted
- ☐ Hospice, contracted
- ☐ Hospital (acute care)
- ☐ Mental Health services
- ☐ Assisted Living services
- ☐ Swing bed and respite care services
- ☐ Telemedicine via eEmergency

13. Considering **SCREENING/THERAPY SERVICES** at Dakota Regional Medical Center, which services are you aware of (or have you used in the past year? (Choose ALL that apply)

- ☐ Diet instruction
- ☐ Health screenings
- ☐ Laboratory services
- ☐ Occupational therapy
- ☐ Physical therapy
- ☐ Social services
- ☐ Speech therapy

14. Considering **RADIOLOGY SERVICES** at Dakota Regional Medical Center, which services are you aware of (or have you used in the past year)? (Choose ALL that apply)

- ☐ EKG—Electrocardiography
- ☐ CT scan
- ☐ Echocardiogram
- ☐ General x-ray
- ☐ Mammography
- ☐ MRI
- ☐ Ultrasound

15. Which of the following **SERVICES** provided by your local **PUBLIC HEALTH** unit have you or a family member used in the past year? (Choose ALL that apply)

- ☐ Bicycle helmet safety
- ☐ Blood pressure check
- ☐ Breastfeeding resources
- ☐ Car seat program
- ☐ Child health (well baby)
- ☐ Diabetes screening
- ☐ Emergency response & preparedness program
- ☐ Flu shots
- ☐ Environmental health services (water, sewer, health hazard abatement)
- ☐ Health Tracks (child health screening)
- ☐ Immunizations
- ☐ Medications setup—home visits
- ☐ Office visits and consults
- ☐ School health (vision screening, puberty talks, school immunizations)
- ☐ Preschool education programs
- ☐ Assist with preschool screening
- ☐ Substance Abuse Prevention (Under age drinking, prescription drugs)
- ☐ Tobacco prevention and control
- ☐ Tuberculosis case management
- ☐ WIC (Women, Infants & Children) Program
- ☐ Youth education programs (First Aid, Bike Safety)

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16. Considering services offered locally by **OTHER PROVIDERS/ORGANIZATIONS** in your community, which services are you aware of (or have you used in the past year)? (Choose ALL that apply)

- ☐ Ambulance
- ☐ Chiropractic services
- ☐ Massage therapy
- ☐ Meals on Wheels

17. What specific healthcare services, if any, do you think should be added locally?

_____

_____

18. Where do you find out about **LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES** available in your area? (Choose ALL that apply)

- ☐ Advertising
- ☐ Employer/worksite wellness
- ☐ Health care professionals
- ☐ Indian Health Service
- ☐ Newspaper
- ☐ Public health professionals
- ☐ Radio
- ☐ Social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)
- ☐ Tribal Health
- ☐ Web searches
- ☐ Word of mouth, from others (friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc.)
- ☐ Other: (please specify): _____

19. What **PREVENTS** community residents from receiving healthcare? (Choose ALL that apply)

- ☐ Can't get transportation services
- ☐ Concerns about confidentiality
- ☐ Distance from health facility
- ☐ Don't know about local services
- ☐ Don't speak language or understand culture
- ☐ Lack of disability access
- ☐ Lack of services through Indian Health Services
- ☐ Limited access to telehealth technology (patients seen by providers at another facility through a monitor/TV screen)
- ☐ No insurance or limited insurance
- ☐ Not able to get appointment/limited hours
- ☐ Not able to see same provider over time
- ☐ Not accepting new patients
- ☐ Not affordable
- ☐ Not enough providers (MD, DO, NP, PA)
- ☐ Not enough evening or weekend hours
- ☐ Not enough specialists
- ☐ Poor quality of care
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

20. Where do you turn for trusted health information? (Choose ALL that apply)

- ☐ Other healthcare professionals (nurses, chiropractors, dentists, etc.)
- ☐ Primary care provider (doctor, nurse practitioner, physician assistant)
- ☐ Public health professional
- ☐ Web searches/internet (WebMD, Mayo Clinic, Healthline, etc.)
- ☐ Word of mouth, from others (friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc.)
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

21. Are you aware of Dakota Regional Medical Center Foundation, which exists to financially support the Dakota Regional Medical Center?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

22. Have you supported the Dakota Regional Medical Center Foundation in any of the following ways? (Choose ALL that apply)

- ☐ Cash or stock gift
- ☐ Endowment gifts
- ☐ Memorial/Honorarium
- ☐ Planned gifts through wills, trusts or life insurance policies
- ☐ Capital Campaign Projects
- ☐ Special Events, i.e., Tree of Lights, Golf T., Boots 'N Bling
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

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Demographic Information: Please tell us about yourself.

23. Do you work for the hospital, clinic, or public health unit?

☐ Yes ☐ No

24. How did you acquire the survey (or survey link) that you are completing?

☐ Hospital or public health website
☐ Hospital or public health social media page
☐ Hospital or public health employee
☐ Hospital or public health facility
☐ Economic development website or social media
☐ Other website or social media page (please specify): _____
☐ Newspaper advertisement
☐ Newsletter (if so, what one):_____
☐ Church bulletin
☐ Flyer sent home from school
☐ Flyer at local business
☐ Flyer in the mail
☐ Word of Mouth
☐ Direct email (if so, from what organization):_____
☐ Other (please specify): _____

25. Health insurance or health coverage status (choose ALL that apply):

☐ Indian Health Service (IHS)
☐ Insurance through employer (self, spouse, or parent)
☐ Self-purchased insurance
☐ Medicaid
☐ Medicare
☐ No insurance
☐ Veteran's Healthcare Benefits
☐ Other (please specify): _____

26. Age:

☐ Less than 18 years
☐ 18 to 24 years
☐ 25 to 34 years
☐ 35 to 44 years
☐ 45 to 54 years
☐ 55 to 64 years
☐ 65 to 74 years
☐ 75 years and older

27. Highest level of education:

☐ Less than high school
☐ High school diploma or GED
☐ Some college/technical degree
☐ Associate's degree
☐ Bachelor's degree
☐ Graduate or professional degree

28. Sex:

☐ Female
☐ Male
☐ Non-binary
☐ Other (please specify): _____

29. Employment status:

☐ Full time
☐ Part time
☐ Homemaker
☐ Multiple job holder
☐ Unemployed
☐ Retired

30. Your zip code: _____

31. Race/Ethnicity (choose ALL that apply):

☐ American Indian
☐ African American
☐ Asian
☐ Hispanic/Latino
☐ Pacific Islander
☐ White/Caucasian
☐ Other: _____

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32. Annual household income before taxes:

- ☐ Less than $15,000
- ☐ $15,000 to $24,999
- ☐ $25,000 to $49,999
- ☐ $50,000 to $74,999
- ☐ $75,000 to $99,999
- ☐ $100,000 to $149,999
- ☐ $150,000 and over

33. Overall, please share concerns and suggestions to improve the delivery of local healthcare.

_____

_____

Thank you for assisting us with this important survey!

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Appendix C – County Health Rankings Explained

Source: http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/

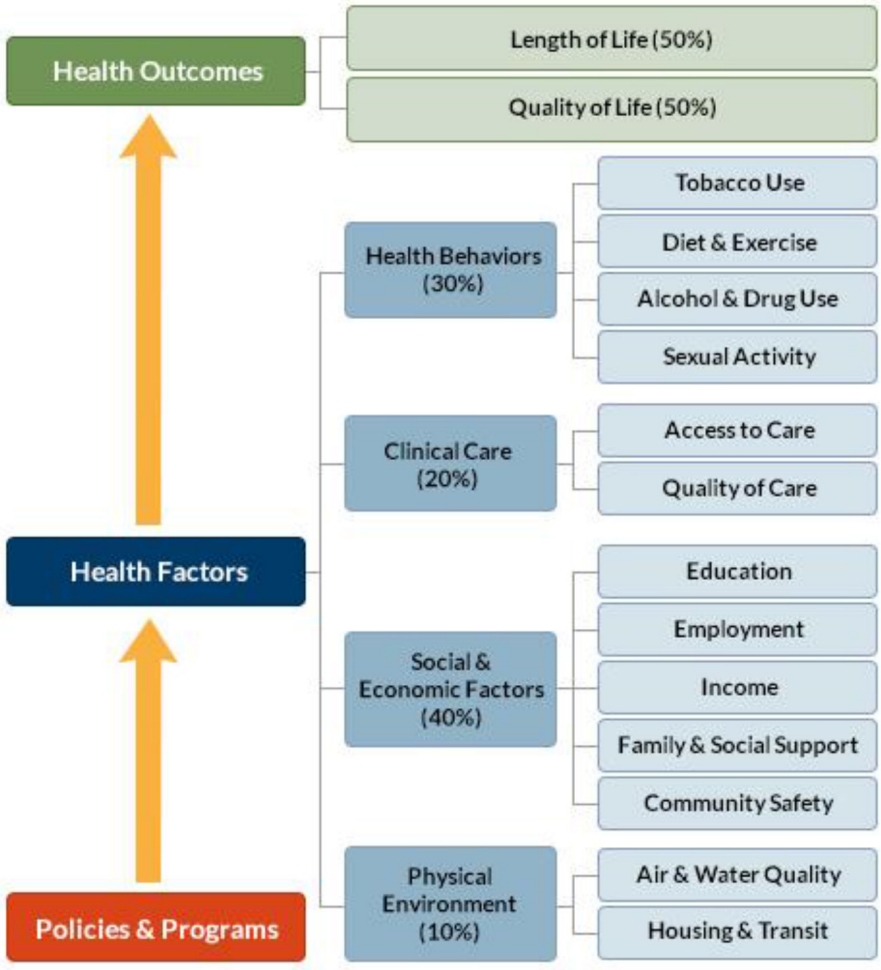
Methods

The County Health Rankings, a collaboration between the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, measure the health of nearly all counties in the nation and rank them within states. The Rankings are compiled using county-level measures from a variety of national and state data sources. These measures are standardized and combined using scientifically-informed weights.

What is Ranked

The County Health Rankings are based on counties and county equivalents (ranked places). Any entity that has its own Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) county code is included in the Rankings. We only rank counties and county equivalents within a state. The major goal of the Rankings is to raise awareness about the many factors that influence health and that health varies from place to place, not to produce a list of the healthiest 10 or 20 counties in the nation and only focus on that.

Ranking System



The County Health Rankings model (shown above) provides the foundation for the entire ranking process.

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Counties in each of the 50 states are ranked according to summaries of a variety of health measures. Those having high ranks, e.g. 1 or 2, are considered to be the "healthiest." Counties are ranked relative to the health of other counties in the same state. We calculate and rank eight summary composite scores:

1. **Overall Health Outcomes**
2. Health Outcomes – **Length of life**
3. Health Outcomes – **Quality of life**
4. **Overall Health Factors**
5. Health Factors – **Health behaviors**
6. Health Factors – **Clinical care**
7. Health Factors – **Social and economic factors**
8. Health Factors – **Physical environment**

Data Sources and Measures

The County Health Rankings team synthesizes health information from a variety of national data sources to create the Rankings. Most of the data used are public data available at no charge. Measures based on vital statistics, sexually transmitted infections, and Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey data were calculated by staff at the National Center for Health Statistics and other units of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Measures of healthcare quality were calculated by staff at The Dartmouth Institute.

Data Quality

The County Health Rankings team draws upon the most reliable and valid measures available to compile the Rankings. Where possible, margins of error (95% confidence intervals) are provided for measure values. In many cases, the values of specific measures in different counties are not statistically different from one another; however, when combined using this model, those various measures produce the different rankings.

Calculating Scores and Ranks

The County Health Rankings are compiled from many different types of data. To calculate the ranks, they first standardize each of the measures. The ranks are then calculated based on weighted sums of the standardized measures within each state. The county with the lowest score (best health) gets a rank of #1 for that state and the county with the highest score (worst health) is assigned a rank corresponding to the number of places we rank in that state.

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Health Outcomes and Factors

Source: http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings/what-and-why-we-rank

Health Outcomes

Premature Death (YPLL)

Premature death is the years of potential life lost before age 75 (YPLL-75). Every death occurring before the age of 75 contributes to the total number of years of potential life lost. For example, a person dying at age 25 contributes 50 years of life lost, whereas a person who dies at age 65 contributes 10 years of life lost to a county's YPLL. The YPLL measure is presented as a rate per 100,000 population and is age-adjusted to the 2000 US population.

Reason for Ranking

Measuring premature mortality, rather than overall mortality, reflects the County Health Rankings' intent to focus attention on deaths that could have been prevented. Measuring YPLL allows communities to target resources to high-risk areas and further investigate the causes of premature death.

Poor or Fair Health

Self-reported health status is a general measure of health-related quality of life (HRQoL) in a population. This measure is based on survey responses to the question: "In general, would you say that your health is excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor?" The value reported in the County Health Rankings is the percentage of adult respondents who rate their health "fair" or "poor." The measure is modeled and age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. population. Please note that the methods for calculating this measure changed in the 2016 Rankings.

Reason for Ranking

Measuring HRQoL helps characterize the burden of disabilities and chronic diseases in a population. Self-reported health status is a widely used measure of people's health-related quality of life. In addition to measuring how long people live, it is important to also include measures that consider how healthy people are while alive.

Poor Physical Health Days

Poor physical health days is based on survey responses to the question: "Thinking about your physical health, which includes physical illness and injury, for how many days during the past 30 days was your physical health not good?" The value reported in the County Health Rankings is the average number of days a county's adult respondents report that their physical health was not good. The measure is age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. population. Please note that the methods for calculating this measure changed in the 2016 Rankings.

Reason for Ranking

Measuring health-related quality of life (HRQoL) helps characterize the burden of disabilities and chronic diseases in a population. In addition to measuring how long people live, it is also important to include measures of how healthy people are while alive – and people's reports of days when their physical health was not good are a reliable estimate of their recent health.

Poor Mental Health Days

Poor mental health days is based on survey responses to the question: "Thinking about your mental health, which includes stress, depression, and problems with emotions, for how many days during the past 30 days was your mental health not good?" The value reported in the County Health Rankings is the average number of days a county's adult respondents report that their mental health was not good. The measure is age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. population. Please note that the methods for calculating this measure changed in the 2016 Rankings.

Reason for Ranking

Overall health depends on both physical and mental well-being. Measuring the number of days when people report that their mental health was not good, i.e., poor mental health days, represents an important facet of health-related quality of life.

Low Birth Weight

Birth outcomes are a category of measures that describe health at birth. These outcomes, such as low birthweight (LBW), represent a child's current and future morbidity — or whether a child has a "healthy start" — and serve as a health outcome related to maternal health risk.

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Reason for Ranking
LBW is unique as a health outcome because it represents multiple factors: infant current and future morbidity, as well as premature mortality risk, and maternal exposure to health risks. The health associations and impacts of LBW are numerous.

In terms of the infant's health outcomes, LBW serves as a predictor of premature mortality and/or morbidity over the life course.[1] LBW children have greater developmental and growth problems, are at higher risk of cardiovascular disease later in life, and have a greater rate of respiratory conditions.[2-4]

From the perspective of maternal health outcomes, LBW indicates maternal exposure to health risks in all categories of health factors, including her health behaviors, access to healthcare, the social and economic environment the mother inhabits, and environmental risks to which she is exposed. Authors have found that modifiable maternal health behaviors, including nutrition and weight gain, smoking, and alcohol and substance use or abuse can result in LBW.[5]

LBW has also been associated with cognitive development problems. Several studies show that LBW children have higher rates of sensorineural impairments, such as cerebral palsy, and visual, auditory, and intellectual impairments.[2,3,6] As a consequence, LBW can "impose a substantial burden on special education and social services, on families and caretakers of the infants, and on society generally."[7]

Health Factors

Adult Smoking
Adult smoking is the percentage of the adult population that currently smokes every day or most days and has smoked at least 100 cigarettes in their lifetime. Please note that the methods for calculating this measure changed in the 2016 Rankings.

Reason for Ranking
Each year approximately 443,000 premature deaths can be attributed to smoking. Cigarette smoking is identified as a cause of various cancers, cardiovascular disease, and respiratory conditions, as well as low birthweight and other adverse health outcomes. Measuring the prevalence of tobacco use in the population can alert communities to potential adverse health outcomes and can be valuable for assessing the need for cessation programs or the effectiveness of existing programs.

Adult Obesity
Adult obesity is the percentage of the adult population (age 20 and older) that reports a body mass index (BMI) greater than or equal to 30 kg/m2.

Reason for Ranking
Obesity is often the result of an overall energy imbalance due to poor diet and limited physical activity. Obesity increases the risk for health conditions such as coronary heart disease, type 2 diabetes, cancer, hypertension, dyslipidemia, stroke, liver and gallbladder disease, sleep apnea and respiratory problems, osteoarthritis, and poor health status.[1,2]

Food Environment Index
The food environment index ranges from 0 (worst) to 10 (best) and equally weights two indicators of the food environment:

1) Limited access to healthy foods estimates the percentage of the population that is low income and does not live close to a grocery store. Living close to a grocery store is defined differently in rural and nonrural areas; in rural areas, it means living less than 10 miles from a grocery store whereas in nonrural areas, it means less than 1 mile. "Low income" is defined as having an annual family income of less than or equal to 200 percent of the federal poverty threshold for the family size.

2) Food insecurity estimates the percentage of the population who did not have access to a reliable source of food during the past year. A two-stage fixed effects model was created using information from the Community Population Survey, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and American Community Survey.

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More information on each of these can be found among the additional measures.

Reason for Ranking

There are many facets to a healthy food environment, such as the cost, distance, and availability of healthy food options. This measure includes access to healthy foods by considering the distance an individual lives from a grocery store or supermarket; there is strong evidence that food deserts are correlated with high prevalence of overweight, obesity, and premature death.[1-3] Supermarkets traditionally provide healthier options than convenience stores or smaller grocery stores.[4]

Additionally, access in regards to a constant source of healthy food due to low income can be another barrier to healthy food access. Food insecurity, the other food environment measure included in the index, attempts to capture the access issue by understanding the barrier of cost. Lacking constant access to food is related to negative health outcomes such as weight-gain and premature mortality.[5,6] In addition to asking about having a constant food supply in the past year, the module also addresses the ability of individuals and families to provide balanced meals further addressing barriers to healthy eating. It is important to have adequate access to a constant food supply, but it may be equally important to have nutritious food available.

Physical Inactivity

Physical inactivity is the percentage of adults age 20 and over reporting no leisure-time physical activity. Examples of physical activities provided include running, calisthenics, golf, gardening, or walking for exercise.

Reason for Ranking

Decreased physical activity has been related to several disease conditions such as type 2 diabetes, cancer, stroke, hypertension, cardiovascular disease, and premature mortality, independent of obesity. Inactivity causes 11% of premature mortality in the United States, and caused more than 5.3 million of the 57 million deaths that occurred worldwide in 2008.[1] In addition, physical inactivity at the county level is related to healthcare expenditures for circulatory system diseases.[2]

Access to Exercise Opportunities

Change in measure calculation in 2018: Access to exercise opportunities measures the percentage of individuals in a county who live reasonably close to a location for physical activity. Locations for physical activity are defined as parks or recreational facilities. Parks include local, state, and national parks. Recreational facilities include YMCAs as well as businesses identified by the following Standard Industry Classification (SIC) codes and include a wide variety of facilities including gyms, community centers, dance studios and pools: 799101, 799102, 799103, 799106, 799107, 799108, 799109, 799110, 799111, 799112, 799201, 799701, 799702, 799703, 799704, 799707, 799711, 799717, 799723, 799901, 799908, 799958, 799969, 799971, 799984, or 799998.

Individuals who:

- reside in a census block within a half mile of a park or
- in urban census blocks: reside within one mile of a recreational facility or
- in rural census blocks: reside within three miles of a recreational facility
- are considered to have adequate access for opportunities for physical activity.

Reason for Ranking

Increased physical activity is associated with lower risks of type 2 diabetes, cancer, stroke, hypertension, cardiovascular disease, and premature mortality, independent of obesity. The role of the built environment is important for encouraging physical activity. Individuals who live closer to sidewalks, parks, and gyms are more likely to exercise.[1-3]

Excessive Drinking

Excessive drinking is the percentage of adults that report either binge drinking, defined as consuming more than 4 (women) or 5 (men) alcoholic beverages on a single occasion in the past 30 days, or heavy drinking, defined as drinking more than one (women) or 2 (men) drinks per day on average. Please note that the methods for calculating this measure changed in the 2011 Rankings and again in the 2016 Rankings.

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Reason for Ranking
Excessive drinking is a risk factor for a number of adverse health outcomes, such as alcohol poisoning, hypertension, acute myocardial infarction, sexually transmitted infections, unintended pregnancy, fetal alcohol syndrome, sudden infant death syndrome, suicide, interpersonal violence, and motor vehicle crashes.[1] Approximately 80,000 deaths are attributed annually to excessive drinking. Excessive drinking is the third leading lifestyle-related cause of death in the United States.[2]

Alcohol-Impaired Driving Deaths
Alcohol-impaired driving deaths is the percentage of motor vehicle crash deaths with alcohol involvement.

Reason for Ranking
Approximately 17,000 Americans are killed annually in alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes. Binge/heavy drinkers account for most episodes of alcohol-impaired driving.[1,2]

Sexually Transmitted Infection Rate
Sexually transmitted infections (STI) are measured as the chlamydia incidence (number of new cases reported) per 100,000 population.

Reason for Ranking
Chlamydia is the most common bacterial STI in North America and is one of the major causes of tubal infertility, ectopic pregnancy, pelvic inflammatory disease, and chronic pelvic pain.[1,2] STIs are associated with a significantly increased risk of morbidity and mortality, including increased risk of cervical cancer, infertility, and premature death. [3] STIs also have a high economic burden on society. The direct medical costs of managing sexually transmitted infections and their complications in the U.S., for example, was approximately 15.6 billion dollars in 2008.[4]

Teen Births
Teen births are the number of births per 1,000 female population, ages 15-19.

Reason for Ranking
Evidence suggests teen pregnancy significantly increases the risk of repeat pregnancy and of contracting a STI, both of which can result in adverse health outcomes for mothers, children, families, and communities. A systematic review of the sexual risk among pregnant and mothering teens concludes that pregnancy is a marker for current and future sexual risk behavior and adverse outcomes [1]. Pregnant teens are more likely than older women to receive late or no prenatal care, have eclampsia, puerperal endometritis, systemic infections, low birthweight, preterm delivery, and severe neonatal conditions [2, 3]. Pre-term delivery and low birthweight babies have increased risk of child developmental delay, illness, and mortality [4]. Additionally, there are strong ties between teen birth and poor socioeconomic, behavioral, and mental outcomes. Teenage women who bear a child are much less likely to achieve an education level at or beyond high school, much more likely to be overweight/obese in adulthood, and more likely to experience depression and psychological distress [5-7].

Uninsured
Uninsured is the percentage of the population under age 65 that has no health insurance coverage. The Small Area Health Insurance Estimates uses the American Community Survey (ACS) definition of insured: Is this person CURRENTLY covered by any of the following types of health insurance or health coverage plans: Insurance through a current or former employer or union, insurance purchased directly from an insurance company, Medicare, Medicaid, Medical Assistance, or any kind of government-assistance plan for those with low incomes or a disability, TRICARE or other military healthcare, Indian Health Services, VA or any other type of health insurance or health coverage plan? Please note that the methods for calculating this measure changed in the 2012 Rankings.

Reason for Ranking
Lack of health insurance coverage is a significant barrier to accessing needed healthcare and to maintaining financial security.

The Kaiser Family Foundation released a report in December 2017 that outlines the effects insurance has on access to healthcare and financial independence. One key finding was that "Going without coverage can have serious health consequences for the uninsured because they receive less preventative care, and delayed care often results in serious

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illness or other health problems. Being uninsured can also have serious financial consequences, with many unable to pay their medical bills, resulting in medical debt."[1]

Primary Care Physicians

Primary care physicians is the ratio of the population to total primary care physicians. Primary care physicians include non-federal, practicing physicians (M.D.'s and D.O.'s) under age 75 specializing in general practice medicine, family medicine, internal medicine, and pediatrics. Please note this measure was modified in the 2011 Rankings and again in the 2013 Rankings.

Reason for Ranking

Access to care requires not only financial coverage, but also access to providers. While high rates of specialist physicians have been shown to be associated with higher (and perhaps unnecessary) utilization, sufficient availability of primary care physicians is essential for preventive and primary care, and, when needed, referrals to appropriate specialty care.[1,2]

Dentists

Dentists are measured as the ratio of the county population to total dentists in the county.

Reason for Ranking

Untreated dental disease can lead to serious health effects including pain, infection, and tooth loss. Although lack of sufficient providers is only one barrier to accessing oral healthcare, much of the country suffers from shortages. According to the Health Resources and Services Administration, as of December 2012, there were 4,585 Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs), with 45 million people total living in them.[1]

Mental Health Providers

Mental health providers is the ratio of the county population to the number of mental health providers including psychiatrists, psychologists, licensed clinical social workers, counselors, marriage and family therapists, mental health providers that treat alcohol and other drug abuse, and advanced practice nurses specializing in mental healthcare. In 2015, marriage and family therapists and mental health providers that treat alcohol and other drug abuse were added to this measure.

Reason for Ranking

Thirty percent of the population lives in a county designated as a Mental Health Professional Shortage Area. As the mental health parity aspects of the Affordable Care Act create increased coverage for mental health services, many anticipate increased workforce shortages.

Preventable Hospital Stays

Preventable hospital stays is the hospital discharge rate for ambulatory care-sensitive conditions per 1,000 fee-for-service Medicare enrollees. Ambulatory care-sensitive conditions include: convulsions, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, bacterial pneumonia, asthma, congestive heart failure, hypertension, angina, cellulitis, diabetes, gastroenteritis, kidney/urinary infection, and dehydration. This measure is age-adjusted.

Reason for Ranking

Hospitalization for diagnoses treatable in outpatient services suggests that the quality of care provided in the outpatient setting was less than ideal. The measure may also represent a tendency to overuse hospitals as a main source of care.

Diabetes Monitoring

Diabetes monitoring is the percentage of diabetic fee-for-service Medicare patients ages 65-75 whose blood sugar control was monitored in the past year using a test of their glycated hemoglobin (HbA1c) levels.

Reason for Ranking

Regular HbA1c monitoring among diabetic patients is considered the standard of care. It helps assess the management of diabetes over the long term by providing an estimate of how well a patient has managed his or her diabetes over the past two to three months. When hyperglycemia is addressed and controlled, complications from diabetes can be delayed or prevented.

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Mammography Screening
Mammography screening is the percentage of female fee-for-service Medicare enrollees age 67-69 that had at least one mammogram over a two-year period.

Reason for Ranking
Evidence suggests that mammography screening reduces breast cancer mortality, especially among older women.[1] A physician's recommendation or referral—and satisfaction with physicians—are major factors facilitating breast cancer screening. The percent of women ages 40-69 receiving a mammogram is a widely endorsed quality of care measure.

Unemployment
Unemployment is the percentage of the civilian labor force, age 16 and older, that is unemployed but seeking work.

Reason for Ranking
The unemployed population experiences worse health and higher mortality rates than the employed population.[1-4] Unemployment has been shown to lead to an increase in unhealthy behaviors related to alcohol and tobacco consumption, diet, exercise, and other health-related behaviors, which in turn can lead to increased risk for disease or mortality, especially suicide.[5] Because employer-sponsored health insurance is the most common source of health insurance coverage, unemployment can also limit access to healthcare.

Children in Poverty
Children in poverty is the percentage of children under age 18 living in poverty. Poverty status is defined by family; either everyone in the family is in poverty or no one in the family is in poverty. The characteristics of the family used to determine the poverty threshold are: number of people, number of related children under 18, and whether or not the primary householder is over age 65. Family income is then compared to the poverty threshold; if that family's income is below that threshold, the family is in poverty. For more information, please see Poverty Definition and/or Poverty.

In the data table for this measure, we report child poverty rates for black, Hispanic and white children. The rates for race and ethnic groups come from the American Community Survey, which is the major source of data used by the Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates to construct the overall county estimates. However, estimates for race and ethnic groups are created using combined five year estimates from 2012-2016.

Reason for Ranking
Poverty can result in an increased risk of mortality, morbidity, depression, and poor health behaviors. A 2011 study found that poverty and other social factors contribute a number of deaths comparable to leading causes of death in the U.S. like heart attacks, strokes, and lung cancer.[1] While repercussions resulting from poverty are present at all ages, children in poverty may experience lasting effects on academic achievement, health, and income into adulthood. Low-income children have an increased risk of injuries from accidents and physical abuse and are susceptible to more frequent and severe chronic conditions and their complications such as asthma, obesity, and diabetes than children living in high income households.[2]

Beginning in early childhood, poverty takes a toll on mental health and brain development, particularly in the areas associated with skills essential for educational success such as cognitive flexibility, sustained focus, and planning. Low income children are more susceptible to mental health conditions like ADHD, behavior disorders, and anxiety which can limit learning opportunities and social competence leading to academic deficits that may persist into adulthood.[2,3] The children in poverty measure is highly correlated with overall poverty rates.

Income Inequality
Income inequality is the ratio of household income at the 80th percentile to that at the 20th percentile, i.e., when the incomes of all households in a county are listed from highest to lowest, the 80th percentile is the level of income at which only 20% of households have higher incomes, and the 20th percentile is the level of income at which only 20% of households have lower incomes. A higher inequality ratio indicates greater division between the top and bottom ends of the income spectrum. Please note that the methods for calculating this measure changed in the 2015 Rankings.

Reason for Ranking
Income inequality within U.S. communities can have broad health impacts, including increased risk of mortality, poor

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health, and increased cardiovascular disease risks. Inequalities in a community can accentuate differences in social class and status and serve as a social stressor. Communities with greater income inequality can experience a loss of social connectedness, as well as decreases in trust, social support, and a sense of community for all residents.

Children in Single-Parent Households

Children in single-parent households is the percentage of children in family households where the household is headed by a single parent (male or female head of household with no spouse present). Please note that the methods for calculating this measure changed in the 2011 Rankings.

Reason for Ranking

Adults and children in single-parent households are at risk for adverse health outcomes, including mental illness (e.g. substance abuse, depression, suicide) and unhealthy behaviors (e.g. smoking, excessive alcohol use).[1-4] Self-reported health has been shown to be worse among lone parents (male and female) than for parents living as couples, even when controlling for socioeconomic characteristics. Mortality risk is also higher among lone parents.[4,5] Children in single-parent households are at greater risk of severe morbidity and all-cause mortality than their peers in two-parent households.[2,6]

Violent Crime Rate

Violent crime is the number of violent crimes reported per 100,000 population. Violent crimes are defined as offenses that involve face-to-face confrontation between the victim and the perpetrator, including homicide, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Please note that the methods for calculating this measure changed in the 2012 Rankings.

Reason for Ranking

High levels of violent crime compromise physical safety and psychological well-being. High crime rates can also deter residents from pursuing healthy behaviors, such as exercising outdoors. Additionally, exposure to crime and violence has been shown to increase stress, which may exacerbate hypertension and other stress-related disorders and may contribute to obesity prevalence.[1] Exposure to chronic stress also contributes to the increased prevalence of certain illnesses, such as upper respiratory illness, and asthma in neighborhoods with high levels of violence.[2]

Injury Deaths

Injury deaths is the number of deaths from intentional and unintentional injuries per 100,000 population. Deaths included are those with an underlying cause of injury (ICD-10 codes *U01-*U03, V01-Y36, Y85-Y87, Y89).

Reason for Ranking

Injuries are one of the leading causes of death; unintentional injuries were the 4th leading cause, and intentional injuries the 10th leading cause, of US mortality in 2014.[1] The leading causes of death in 2014 among unintentional injuries, respectively, are: poisoning, motor vehicle traffic, and falls. Among intentional injuries, the leading causes of death in 2014, respectively, are: suicide firearm, suicide suffocation, and homicide firearm. Unintentional injuries are a substantial contributor to premature death. Among the following age groups, unintentional injuries were the leading cause of death in 2014: 1-4, 5-9, 10-14, 15-24, 25-34, 35-44.[2] Injuries account for 17% of all emergency department visits, and falls account for over 1/3 of those visits.[3]

Air Pollution-Particulate matter

Air pollution-particulate Matter is the average daily density of fine particulate matter in micrograms per cubic meter (PM2.5) in a county. Fine particulate matter is defined as particles of air pollutants with an aerodynamic diameter less than 2.5 micrometers. These particles can be directly emitted from sources such as forest fires, or they can form when gases emitted from power plants, industries and automobiles react in the air.

Reason for Ranking

The relationship between elevated air pollution (especially fine particulate matter and ozone) and compromised health has been well documented.[1,2,3] Negative consequences of ambient air pollution include decreased lung function, chronic bronchitis, asthma, and other adverse pulmonary effects.[1] Long-term exposure to fine particulate matter increases premature death risk among people age 65 and older, even when exposure is at levels below the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.[3]

Drinking Water Violations

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Change in measure calculation in 2018: Drinking water violations is an indicator of the presence or absence of health-based drinking water violations in counties served by community water systems. Health-based violations include Maximum Contaminant Level, Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level and Treatment Technique violations. A "Yes" indicates that at least one community water system in the county received a violation during the specified time frame, while a "No" indicates that there were no health-based drinking water violations in any community water system in the county. Please note that the methods for calculating this measure changed in the 2016 Rankings.

Reason for Ranking

Recent studies estimate that contaminants in drinking water sicken 1.1 million people each year. Ensuring the safety of drinking water is important to prevent illness, birth defects, and death for those with compromised immune systems. A number of other health problems have been associated with contaminated water, including nausea, lung and skin irritation, cancer, kidney, liver, and nervous system damage.

Severe Housing Problems

Severe housing problems is the percentage of households with at least one or more of the following housing problems:

- housing unit lacks complete kitchen facilities;
- housing unit lacks complete plumbing facilities;
- household is severely overcrowded; or
- household is severely cost burdened.

Severe overcrowding is defined as more than 1.5 persons per room. Severe cost burden is defined as monthly housing costs (including utilities) that exceed 50% of monthly income.

Reason for Ranking

Good health depends on having homes that are safe and free from physical hazards. When adequate housing protects individuals and families from harmful exposures and provides them with a sense of privacy, security, stability and control, it can make important contributions to health. In contrast, poor quality and inadequate housing contributes to health problems such as infectious and chronic diseases, injuries and poor childhood development.

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Appendix D – Youth Risk Behavior Survey

Youth Risk Behavior Survey Results. North Dakota High School Survey.
Rate Increase "↑" rate decrease "↓", or no statistical change = in rate from 2017-2019

	ND 2017	ND 2019	ND 2021	ND Trend ↑, ↓, =	Rural ND Town Average	Urban ND Town Average	National Average 2021
Injury and Violence							
Percentage of students who rarely or never wore a seat belt (when riding in a car driven by someone else)	8.1	5.9	**49.6**	=	9.2	5.0	6.5
Percentage of students who rode in a vehicle with a driver who had been drinking alcohol (one or more times during the 30 prior to the survey)	16.5	14.2	**13.1**	=	18.2	13.7	16.7
Percentage of students who talked on a cell phone while driving (on at least one day during the 30 days before the survey, among students who drove a car or other vehicle)	56.2	59.6	**64.4**	=	64.9	64.2	NA
Percentage of students who texted or e-mailed while driving a car or other vehicle (on at least one day during the 30 days before the survey, among students who had driven a car or other vehicle during the 30 days before the survey)	52.6	53.0	**55.4**	=	59.9	55.9	39.0
Percentage of students who never or rarely wore a helmet (during the 12 months before the survey, among students who rode a motorcycle)	20.6	NA	**NA**	**NA**	NA	NA	NA
Percentage of students who carried a weapon on school property (such as a gun, knife, or club on at least one day during the 30 days before the survey)	5.9	4.9	**5.0**	=	6.2	4.4	3.1
Percentage of students who were in a physical fight on school property (one or more times during the 12 months before the survey)	7.2	7.1	**NA**	**NA**	NA	NA	5.8
Percentage of students who experienced sexual violence (being forced by anyone to do sexual things [counting such things as kissing, touching, or being physically forced to have sexual intercourse] that they did not want to, one or more times during the 12 months before the survey)	8.7	9.2	**9.4**	=	9.7	11.6	9.7
Percentage of students who experienced physical dating violence (one or more times during the 12 months before the survey, including being hit, slammed into something, or injured with an object or weapon on purpose by someone they were dating or going out with among students who dated or went out with someone during the 12 months before the survey)	NA	NA	**NA**	**NA**	NA	NA	8.5
Percentage of students who have been the victim of teasing or name calling because someone thought they were gay, lesbian, or bisexual (during the 12 months before the survey)	11.4	11.6	**11.0**	=	11.2	11.1	NA
Percentage of students who were bullied on school property (during the 12 months before the survey)	24.3	19.9	**15.8**	↓	19.8	15.0	19.5
Percentage of students who were electronically bullied (including being bullied through texting, Instagram, Facebook, or other social media during the 12 months before the survey)	18.8	14.7	**13.6**	↓	16.2	14.5	15.7
Percentage of students who felt sad or hopeless (almost every day for two or more weeks in a row so that they stopped doing some usual activities during the 12 months before the survey)	28.9	30.5	**36.0**	↑	34.8	39.7	42.3
Percentage of students who seriously considered attempting suicide (during the 12 months before the survey)	16.7	18.8	**18.6**	=	18.5	20.6	22.2

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	ND 2017	ND 2019	ND 2021	ND Trend ↑, ↓, =	Rural ND Town Average	Urban ND Town Average	National Average 2021
Percentage of students who made a plan about how they would attempt suicide (during the 12 months before the survey)	14.5	15.3	**14.8**	=	15.1	17.2	15.7
Percentage of students who attempted suicide (one or more times during the 12 months before the survey)	13.5	13.0	6.1	↓	7.9	7.5	10.2
Tobacco Use							
Percentage of students who ever tried cigarette smoking (even one or two puffs)	30.5	29.3	**22.3**	↓	26.8	21.1	17.8
Percentage of students who smoked a whole cigarette before age 13 years (even one or two puffs)	11.2	NA	**NA**	**NA**	NA	NA	6.3
Percentage of students who currently smoked cigarettes (on at least one day during the 30 days before the survey)	12.6	8.3	**5.9**	↓	8.0	6.1	3.8
Percentage of students who currently frequently smoked cigarettes (on 20 or more days during the 30 days before the survey)	3.8	2.1	**0.8**	↓	1.7	1.3	0.7
Percentage of students who currently smoked cigarettes daily (on all 30 days during the 30 days before the survey)	3.0	1.4	**0.7**	↓	1.3	1.1	0.41
Percentage of students who usually obtained their own cigarettes by buying them in a store or gas station (during the 30 days before the survey among students who currently smoked cigarettes and who were aged <18 years) ~2021~ Usually got their electronic vapor products by buying them themselves in a convenience store, supermarket, discount store, or gas station	7.5	13.2	**NA**	**NA**	NA	NA	6.8
Percentage of students who tried to quit smoking cigarettes (among students who currently smoked cigarettes during the 12 months before the survey)	50.3	54.0	**30.9**	↓	30.4	29.9	NA
Percentage of students who currently use an electronic vapor product (e-cigarettes, vape e-cigars, e-pipes, vape pipes, vaping pens, e-hookahs, and hookah pens at least one day during the 30 days before the survey)	20.6	33.1	**21.2**	↓	24.2	23.6	18.0
Percentage of students who currently used smokeless tobacco (chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip on at least one day during the 30 days before the survey)	8.0	4.5	**4.3**	↓	5.2	3.7	2.5
Percentage of students who currently smoked cigars (cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars on at least one day during the 30 days before the survey)	8.2	5.2	**2.8**	↓	4.0	3.3	3.1
Percentage of students who currently used cigarettes, cigars, or smokeless tobacco (on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey)	18.1	12.2	8.9	↓	11.2	8.9	18.7
Alcohol and Other Drug Use							
Percentage of students who ever drank alcohol (at least one drink of alcohol on at least one day during their life)	59.2	56.6	**50.4**	↓	55.7	50.6	NA
Percentage of students who drank alcohol before age 13 years (for the first time other than a few sips)	14.5	12.9	**12.1**	=	13.7	10.9	15.0
Percentage of students who currently drank alcohol (at least one drink of alcohol on at least one day during the 30 days before the survey)	29.1	27.6	**23.7**	=	28.7	23.7	22.7
Percentage of students who currently were binge drinking (four or more drinks of alcohol in a row for female students, five or more for male students within a couple of hours on at least one day during the 30 days before the survey)	16.4	15.6	**14.0**	=	17.8	14.6	10.5
Percentage of students who usually obtained the alcohol they drank by someone giving it to them (among students who currently drank alcohol)	37.7	NA	**NA**	**NA**	NA	NA	40.0
Percentage of students who tried marijuana before age 13 years (for the first time)	5.6	5.0	**4.1**	=	3.7	3.3	4.9
Percentage of students who currently used marijuana (one or more times during the 30 days before the survey)	15.5	12.5	**10.7**	=	10.2	12.9	15.8

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	ND 2017	ND 2019	ND 2021	ND Trend ↑, ↓, =	Rural ND Town Average	Urban ND Town Average	National Average 2021
Percentage of students who ever took prescription pain medicine without a doctor's prescription or differently than how a doctor told them to use it (counting drugs such as codeine, Vicodin, OxyContin, Hydrocodone, and Percocet, one or more times during their life)	14.4	14.5	10.2	↓	9.7	11.0	12.2
Percentage of students who were offered, sold, or given an illegal drug on school property (during the 12 months before the survey)	12.1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	13.3
Percentage of students who attended school under the influence of alcohol or other drugs (on at least one day during the 30 days before the survey)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Sexual Behaviors							
Percentage of students who ever had sexual intercourse	36.6	38.3	36.6	=	36.5	37.1	30.0
Percentage of students who had sexual intercourse before age 13 years (for the first time)	2.8	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	3.2
Weight Management and Dietary Behaviors							
Percentage of students who were overweight (>= 85th percentile but <95th percentile for body mass index, based on sex and age-specific reference data from the 2000 CDC growth chart)	16.1	16.5	**15.6**	=	15.5	14.2	16.0
Percentage of students who had obesity (>= 95th percentile for body mass index, based on sex- and age-specific reference data from the 2000 CDC growth chart)	14.9	14.0	**16.3**	=	17.4	15.0	16.3
Percentage of students who described themselves as slightly or very overweight	31.4	32.6	**31.7**	=	35.3	32.5	32.3
Percentage of students who were trying to lose weight.	44.5	44.7	**21.6**	↓	20.8	23.2	54.3
Percentage of students who did not eat fruit or drink 100% fruit juices (during the seven days before the survey)	4.9	6.1	5.0	=	5.8	4.6	7.7
Percentage of students who ate fruit or drank 100% fruit juices one or more times per day (during the seven days before the survey)	61.2	54.1	25.4	↓	21.9	27.0	NA
Percentage of students who did not eat vegetables (green salad, potatoes [excluding French fries, fried potatoes, or potato chips], carrots, or other vegetables, during the seven days before the survey)	5.1	6.6	**5.9**	=	5.3	6.2	9.3
Percentage of students who ate vegetables one or more times per day (green salad, potatoes [excluding French fries, fried potatoes, or potato chips], carrots, or other vegetables, during the seven days before the survey)	60.9	57.1	61.3	=	60.0	59.3	NA
Percentage of students who did not drink a can, bottle, or glass of soda or pop (such as Coke, Pepsi, or Sprite, not including diet soda or diet pop, during the seven days before the survey)	28.8	28.1	**27.7**	=	27.1	31.6	NA
Percentage of students who drank a can, bottle, or glass of soda or pop one or more times per day (not including diet soda or diet pop, during the seven days before the survey)	16.3	15.9	**16.6**	=	17.5	13.8	14.7
Percentage of students who did not drink milk (during the seven days before the survey)	14.9	20.5	26.2	↑	21.2	29.4	35.7
Percentage of students who drank two or more glasses per day of milk (during the seven days before the survey)	33.9	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Percentage of students who did not eat breakfast (during the 7 days before the survey)	13.5	14.4	**15.1**	=	14.5	17.3	22.0
Percentage of students who most of the time or always went hungry because there was not enough food in their home (during the 30 days before the survey)	2.7	2.8	**2.1**	=	2.2	2.1	NA
Physical Activity							
Percentage of students who were physically active at least 60 minutes per day on 5 or more days (doing any kind of physical activity that	51.5	49.0	**56.5**	↑	58.0	55.3	55.9

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increased their heart rate and made them breathe hard some of the time during the 7 days before the survey)							
	ND 2017	ND 2019	ND 2021	ND Trend ↑, ↓, =	Rural ND Town Average	Urban ND Town Average	National Average 2021
Percentage of students who watched television three or more hours per day (on an average school day) *In 2021, % of students who played video or computer games was combined with % of students who watch television 3 or more hours per day.	18.8	18.8	**75.7**	**NA**	75.8	78.6	75.9
Percentage of students who played video or computer games or used a computer three or more hours per day (counting time spent on things such as Xbox, PlayStation, an iPad or other tablet, a smartphone, texting, YouTube, Instagram, Facebook, or other social media, for something that was not school work on an average school day). ~2021~ questioned combined with previous question regarding television.	43.9	45.3	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Other							
Percentage of students who had eight or more hours of sleep (on an average school night)	31.8	29.5	**24.5**	=	28.3	23.2	22.7
Percentage of students who brushed their teeth on seven days (during the 7 days before the survey)	69.1	66.8	**67.9**	=	64.5	69.9	NA
Percentage of students who most of the time or always wear sunscreen (with an SPF of 15 or higher when they are outside for more than one hour on a sunny day)	12.8	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Percentage of students who used an indoor tanning device (such as a sunlamp, sunbed, or tanning booth [not including getting a spray-on tan] one or more times during the 12 months before the survey)	8.3	7.0	7.4	=	8.6	6.8	64.4

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Appendix E – Prioritization of Community's Health Needs

Community Health Needs Assessment
Cooperstown, North Dakota
Ranking of Concerns

The top concerns for each of the six topic areas, based on the community survey results, were listed on flipcharts. The numbers below indicate the total number of votes (dots) by the people in attendance at the second community meeting. The "Priorities" column lists the number of yellow/green/blue dots placed on the concerns indicating which areas are felt to be priorities. Each person was given four dots to place on the items they felt were priorities. The "Most Important" column lists the number of red dots placed on the flipcharts. After the first round of voting, the top four priorities were selected based on the highest number of votes. Each person was given one dot to place on the item they felt was the most important priority of the top four highest ranked priorities.

	Priorities	Most Important
COMMUNITY/ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CONCERNS		
Attracting & retaining young families	8	**10**
Bullying/cyber-bullying	1	
Not enough affordable housing	4	
Not enough jobs with livable wages	7	
AVAILABILITY/DELIVERY OF HEALTH SERVICES CONCERNS		
Ability to retain primary care providers (MD, DO, NP, PA) and nurses	5	
Not enough healthcare staff in general	6	
Availability of dental care	5	
Cost of health insurance	4	
YOUTH POPULATION HEALTH CONCERNS		
Alcohol use and abuse	1	
Drug use and abuse (including prescription drugs)	0	
Depression/anxiety	9	**3**
Smoking & tobacco use or vaping/juuling	1	
ADULT POPULATION HEALTH CONCERNS		
Alcohol use and abuse	2	
Depression/anxiety	5	
Drug use and abuse	0	
Stress	0	
SENIOR POPULATION HEALTH CONCERNS		
Availability of resources to help elderly stay in their homes	14	**9**
Availability of home health	8	**2**
Cost of long-term/nursing home care	7	
Dementia/Alzheimer's disease	0	
VIOLENCE CONCERNS		
Bullying/cyber-bullying	4	
Child abuse or neglect	3	
Emotional abuse	2	
Video game/media violence	0	
Verbal threats	0	

Community chooses to combine depression/anxiety for all ages

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Appendix F – Survey "Other" Responses

The number in parenthesis () indicates the number of people who indicated that EXACT same answer. All comments below are directly taken from the survey results and have not been summarized.

Community Assets: Please tell us about your community by choosing up to three options you most agree with in each category below.

1. Considering the PEOPLE in your community, the best things are: "Other" responses:

- Community is growing
- Failing
- Don't agree with these choices

Community Concerns: Please tell us about your community by choosing up to three options you most agree with in each category.

5. Considering the COMMUNITY /ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH in your community, concerns are: "Other" responses:

- Access to affordable and healthy food

7. Considering the YOUTH POPULATION in your community, concerns are: "Other" responses:

- Medspa services

11. What single issue do you feel is the biggest challenge facing your community?

- Retaining and increasing our population
- Bullying/suicide
- Keeping young people in the community because of not enough livable wage jobs.
- Mental health bullying in the school system
- Need more affordable and healthy food choices for purchasing groceries. Need more restaurants.
- "Not enough places to eat stay.
- The cost of housing is high for such a small community. "
- Bullying, typical small-town gossip
- Retention of quality workforce
- Well paying jobs to keep people in the area.
- Mental health resources for children and teens
- Leftist idealogy
- Qualified Workers for jobs
- Attracting and retaining families due to lack of employment opportunity and low wages offered. I would like to see options for restaurants as well
- Housing
- prices on food and items puts stress on everyone
- Keeping our youth in small towns. Most move away for better job opportunities. Very little fun things for them to do. No more pool is a big one for cooper. A pool is a great need for the community.
- Housing and good paying jobs I

Delivery of Healthcare

13. Where do you find out about LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES available in your area? "Other" responses:

- Community in general

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17. What specific healthcare services, if any, do you think should be added locally?

- Full time Medical Doctor
- Dental. Vision.
- Medspa Services
- Vision and dental
- Dentist and Vision
- Add more immunizations available AT THE CLINIC and not be told to go to public health that is only available for 1 hour once a month.
- Dialysis
- Dental
- In building mammograms.

19. What PREVENTS community residents from receiving healthcare? "Other" responses:

- Business office is terrible
- Nonissue

17. Where do you turn for trusted health information? "Other" responses:

- I see mostly specialists and under the umbrella my insurance covers at a greater rate.

22. Have you supported the Dakota Regional Medical Center Foundation in any of the following ways? "Other" responses:

- Donations for events
- Tree of lights. Boots to Bling
- Not yet
- Time

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