



**2024
COMMUNITY
HEALTH
NEEDS
ASSESSMENT**

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“Providing Quality Service With Compassionate Care”

May 17, 2024

The Union General Hospital Board of Directors approved the 2024-2027 Community Health Needs Assessment at their meeting on May 21, 2024. The Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNA) Report is widely available to the public and interested parties can view and download it from the Union General Hospital website “ www.uniongen.org”.

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Tim Tettleton, Board Chairman

UNION GENERAL HOSPITAL

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Executive Summary

Using a mixed-methods approach described below for this assessment, the Georgia Southern University CPHPR team utilized community input and data from secondary sources to **identify health needs for the community the hospital serves – the hospital’s primary service area of Union Parish, which is home to the majority of the patients utilizing the hospital. Ms. Toshia Laing, MS, Department of Public Health, Region 8 Health Disparities Strategist participated in the assessment.** Community input was obtained from hospital stakeholders and the general community through community surveys and focus group discussions. Recruitment efforts for community surveys and focus groups were tailored to obtain feedback from diverse population groups, including minority and underserved populations. Data from secondary sources used in assessing the community’s needs were obtained from a diverse list of community health-related databases. Note, there were no written comments received since the previous assessment.

The results from the secondary data analyses identified:

- A slightly contracting, aging parish population with a growing proportion of Hispanics
- Higher rates of unhealthy behaviors (including obesity, physical inactivity, substance use, alcohol-related motor vehicle deaths, teen pregnancy), compared to the state
- Poorer health outcomes, compared to the rest of the state; high cancer rates, and lower average life expectancy in the parish by 1.5 years, compared to the state
- Limited supply of primary care, dental, and mental health providers
- Limited access to both digital connectivity (in particular in the northwest corner of the parish) and recreational opportunities – important health-promoting resources

Input from the community, through the survey and focus groups, was generally consistent with findings from the secondary data analysis. Community members and key stakeholders described Union Parish as a tight-knit, safe, and family-oriented community with availability of good jobs as the biggest challenge. Other themes from these data sources included:

- Drug/alcohol abuse identified as the top factor affecting quality of life
- Obesity, inactivity, and substance abuse noted as key detractors from good health
- Inadequate nutrition stood out based on input regarding obesity and the selection of nutrition as the #3 negative influencer of child health
- Limited access to specialty providers, drug/alcohol rehab, and mental health services
- High burden of mental health disorders

Secondary data agreed with survey and focus group findings in several areas of community health challenges. The table below highlights where alignment exists in the data by area of concern. **The first three areas of concern were determined to be the hospital's priorities for the next 3 years.**

| AREA OF CONCERN | SECONDARY DATA | SURVEY | KEY STAKEHOLDER FOCUS GROUPS |
|------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Adolescent Behavior | High teen pregnancy & STD rates | Mental health #2 concern for children | -Teen use of tobacco (smoking and vaping) |
| Cancer | -Higher prevalence than state -#1 cause of death -Female cancer screening rates lower than the state | -Screening rates show room for improvement -Cost was noted as a key barrier, yet screening is usually covered by insurance | -Screening services offered by hospital were noted. Awareness of them was seen as a need for focus. |
| Nutrition | -High rate of obesity -Food environment & food security comparable to state -Diabetes comparable to state | -Obesity #1 chronic condition -Nutrition identified as 3 health issue for children -42% don't eat enough fruits and vegetables | -Inadequate access to healthy food frequently mentioned |
| Lack of Adequate Physical Activity | -Obesity and inactivity worse than state Less access to exercise opportunities than state | Obesity and inactivity top 2 negative influencers of health | -Difficulty getting to natural resources noted |
| Tobacco/ Drug Abuse | -Higher usage than state Alcohol MVAs higher than state | -Top issue affecting quality of parish life | -Teen use of tobacco (smoking and vaping) noted. Need for rehab support services noted. |
| Mental Health | -Mental health provider ratio lower than state -Days of poor mental health in last 30 days lower than state | -Depression/ anxiety top negative health factor -Mental health was #2 top health concern for children | -Mental issues among all age groups highlighted |
| Access | -Per capita supply of providers of all types much lower than state -Preventable hospital stays higher than state | -Greatest concerns related to access to specialists and certain types of services | -Frequently mentioned (access of residents in remote areas of parish, access to specialty services outside the parish, lack of some services in the parish) |

Previous Needs Assessment (2021)

Brief Summary of 2021 CHNA

The 2021 CHNA's results from the secondary data analyses noted that the parish's population was slightly decreasing and aging. Additionally, the proportion of population that is white increased, while all other races decreased. Through 2030, the trends for white and black populations were projected to continue, while other races were projected to increase.

A synthesis of secondary data about Union Parish, resident survey data, and focus group findings indicated several areas of community health challenges including: obesity, inactivity, drug abuse, nutrition counseling, access to specialists, health education, and senior citizens' issues.



Link: [2021 CHNA Report](#)

In addition to being available on the hospital's website, a copy is available at the Union Parish Library.

Previous Health Priorities

Top Concerns based on Primary & Secondary Data

| |
|-------------------------------------|
| Lack of Adequate Physical Activity |
| Mental Health & COVID-19 impacts |
| Drug Abuse (Meth) |
| Nutrition & Prescription Compliance |
| Health Care Access |
| Senior Care |

Previous Goals

The steering committee established the following goals after prioritizing identified needs:

1. Improve the wellbeing of adolescents in Union Parish
2. Improve community awareness of and use of screenings for malignant neoplasms
3. Improve knowledge of cardiovascular diseases, improve lifestyles & increase access to care
4. Improve the wellbeing of senior citizens in Union Parish
5. Improve the mental wellbeing of Union Parish residents

Report Methodology

Hospital Steering Committee

The CPHPR project team worked with the hospital CHNA steering committee throughout the project **to identify health needs of Union Parish - the community served by Union General Hospital**. The steering committee facilitated completion of a community survey, recruited community members for focus group discussions, and provided information about the hospital's activities to address community health needs since the last CHNA was completed in 2021.

Primary Data Collection

Community Survey

The online community survey assessed the general quality of life, health and health care needs of the people residing in the primary service area of Union General Hospital, which is Union Parish, Louisiana. The community survey link was disseminated via the hospital's social media webpages and email lists, as well as those of local community partners.

Focus Groups

Focus group participants represented key stakeholder groups in maintaining the overall health of Union Parish residents and *included representation from the local health department*. Their perspectives provided a well-rounded view of life in the community.

Secondary Data Collection

The secondary data on the community's profile, health care access, and utilization were obtained from multiple publicly available sources including the US Census Bureau, the Area Resource File, Centers for Disease Control (CDC) disease and mortality data, Louisiana.gov, County Health Rankings, Policy Map, and the National Cancer Institute. The most current available data for each source were obtained at the time of analysis.

Findings from all of the above-described primary and secondary data collection efforts informed the identification of community health needs in preparation for development of an implementation plan.

Data Analysis

Quantitative data from the community survey and secondary data sources were analyzed using descriptive statistics, including frequencies, means, and standard deviations. Analyses were completed, and charts and graphs were created using Microsoft Excel version 16 software and Datawrapper data visualization application. Spatial variations in selected community health indicators estimates are also presented using data and maps from PolicyMap. Qualitative data from the focus groups were analyzed using the NVIVO12 qualitative analysis software.

Hospital and Service Area

Union General Hospital is located in Union Parish, Louisiana along the northern border of the state. **Union Parish is the community served by the hospital.** Union Parish's seat and largest town is Farmerville, located in northeast of Lake D'Arbonne. According to the Union Parish Chamber of Commerce, Union Parish's primary employment sector is Poultry Product Manufacturing, which is followed closely by Education and Health Services, Agriculture, Construction and Trade, Transportation and Utilities.



Union General Hospital is a non-profit general acute care hospital located in Farmerville Louisiana. The hospital is a 25-bed Critical Access Hospital. In addition to inpatient services and a skilled nursing facility, the hospital serves the Union Parish community through the following services: 24/7 Emergency Care, Laboratory Services, Imaging, Outpatient Mental Health, Pharmacy, and Therapy Services.






CHNA Report Organization

This report presents the findings of the CHNA, beginning with the results of the secondary data analysis. Community input from the survey and focus groups are presented next, followed by information on the outcomes of the last CHNA process. Next is a report on how initiatives undertaken as part of the prior CHNA have fared, followed by a discussion of next steps in completing the implementation plan for the next three-year cycle. Finally, a community health care resource listing is provided.

Secondary Data

UNION PARISH DEMOGRAPHICS

As of 2023, there were an estimated 20,650 residents in Union Parish. Compared to Louisiana overall, the population of Union is older and less racially diverse. The median household income for Union Parish is significantly below the state median (\$47K vs \$58K). About 14% of the population and 21% of children live in poverty, but both of these rates are similar to the state averages. Furthermore, more than half of school-aged children (52%) in the Parish are eligible for free or reduced lunches.

| | Union | LA |
|---|-----------|-----------|
|  Number of Residents | 20,650 | 4,573,749 |
| Sex | | |
| Female | 50% | 51% |
| Male | 50% | 49% |
|  Age Distribution | | |
| Population Under 5 years | 6% | 6% |
| Population Under 18 years | 21% | 23% |
| Population 65 years and older | 22%* | 17% |
|  Race & Ethnicity | | |
| Non-Hispanic White | 70%* | 63% |
| Non-Hispanic Black/AA | 23%* | 33% |
| Other Races/Multiracial | 2% | 2% |
| Hispanic | 6% | 6% |
| Other Demographics | | |
| Foreign Born | 2% | 4% |
| Non-English Language Spoken at Home | 3% | 8% |
|  Veterans | 5% | 5% |
| Population under 65 years disabled | 11% | 12% |
|  Poverty | | |
| Median Household Income (2017-2021) | \$47,068* | \$57,852 |
| Population in Poverty (2020) | 14% | 14% |
| Children in Poverty (2023) | 21% | 21% |
| Children eligible for reduced lunch (2018-19) | 52% | 55% |

*Significantly different from state average, Data Source: US Census Bureau, County Health Rankings

CENSUS TRACT VARIATIONS IN DEMOGRAPHICS

The maps below display demographics within Union Parish by census tract. Maps are from PolicyMap, with darker colors representing greater proportions.

Figure 1. Proportion of POC by Census Tract (2018-2022)

Estimated percent of the population that is comprised of people of color (POC), between 2018-2022. Data Source: PolicyMap

The highest proportion of people of color are located in the Farmerville area (65%) followed by the northwest corner (60%). The lowest proportion is in the southeast portion of the parish (5-6%).

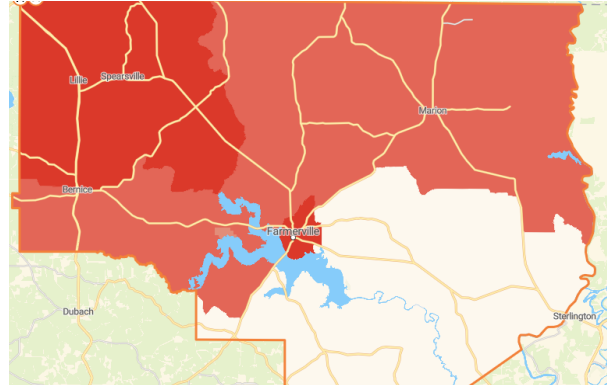
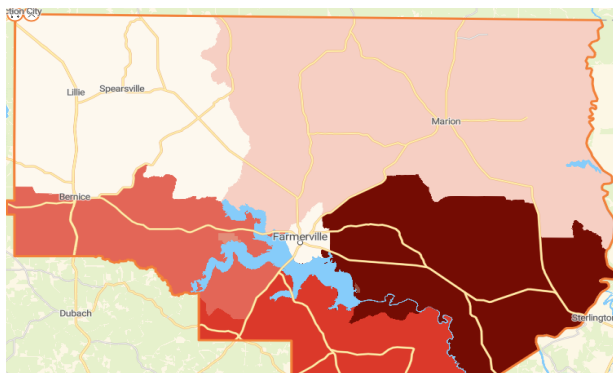


Figure 2. Median Household Income by Census Tract (2018-2022)



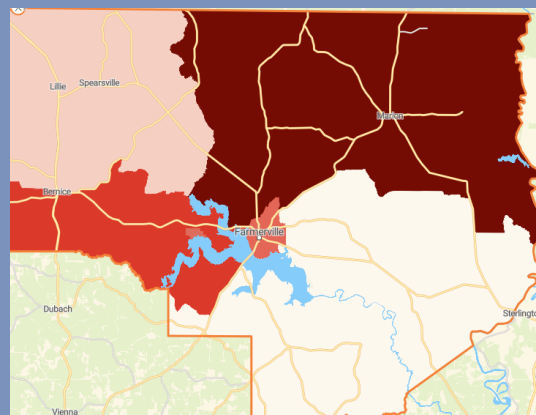
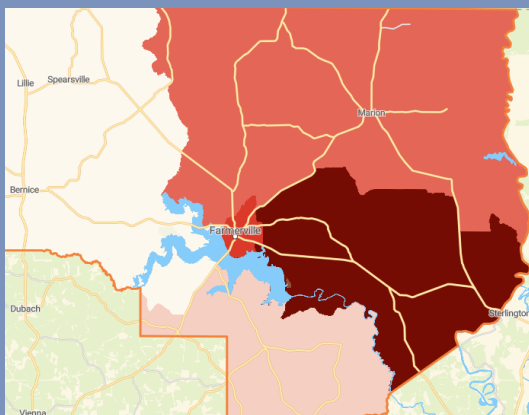
Estimated median income of a household, between 2018-2022. Data Source: PolicyMap

The highest median household income is found east of Farmerville (\$72,000). The lowest median income is found in the Farmerville area (\$25,000) followed by the northwest corner of the parish (\$32,000).

Comparison of 65+ And Disability Proportions, between 2018-2022.

The map on the left is the proportion of population 65+, with the highest proportion (25%) located in the southeast. The map on the right is disability at all ages, which has the highest percentage in the northeast corner (25%), and the lowest in the southeast corner (10-12%). **Data Source: PolicyMap**

Figure 3. Age and Disability by Census Tract (2018-2022)







SOCIAL & ECONOMIC FACTORS

Educational attainment in the parish is slightly lower than the state average, with 17% percent of the population having a bachelor's degree and third grade students scoring slightly below grade level for both reading and math. The social environment is slightly better than Louisiana overall with 11.3 social associations per 10,000 compared to 9.3 for the state overall, and slightly lower suicide rate. Union's housing is better than the state overall with a higher rate of homeownership and fewer families spending a majority of income on housing.

“We both have, I feel like, decent incomes...we're doing everything that we can to try to cut back. We have three kids and they stay hungry”.

– UNION PARISH RESIDENT

| | Population | Union | LA |
|---|---|--------|-------|
|  | Education | | |
| | High school graduation rate | 86% | 87% |
| | Population with bachelor's degree | 17%* | 26% |
| | 3–4-year-old children in school | 46% | 49% |
| | Average grade level score for 3rd graders on English standard test (2020) | 2.7 | 2.9 |
|  | Employment | | |
| | 16+ work seekers unemployed | 3.8% | 3.7% |
|  | Social Context | | |
| | Social Associations per 10,000 | 11.3 | 9.3 |
| | Suicide rates per 100,000 | 14 | 15 |
|  | Housing | | |
| | Home ownership | 81%* | 67% |
| | Families spending > 50% of income on housing | 12% | 14% |
| | Severe housing problems | 5%* | 16% |
| | Median gross rent | \$698* | \$996 |
| | Median selected monthly owner costs, includes mortgage | \$319 | \$396 |

*Significantly different from state average, Data Source: US Census Bureau, County Health Rankings

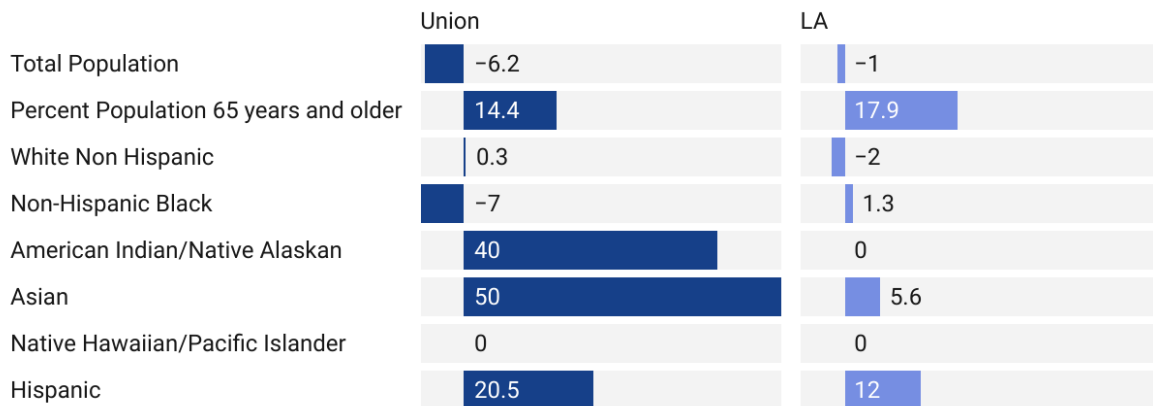
POPULATION CHANGE

The total population of Union Parish decreased by 6.2% between 2017 and 2023. Over that period, the parish saw a significantly larger increase in the proportion of Hispanic residents than the state. The proportion of Asian and Native American/Alaskan residents also grew substantially, although total numbers remain very small. The proportion of non-Hispanic Black residents decreased, compared to a small increase at the state level. There was also growth in the population aged 65 and over, comparable to the state's growth.

The population of Union Parish is projected to decrease by .9% by 2030. The proportion of the population that is Black is projected to continue to decrease in Union Parish, while it is projected to increase in the state overall. Additionally, the proportion of the population that is Hispanic is projected to continue to increase by nearly 40%, twice the projected growth for the state overall.

Figure 4. Union Parish Population Change

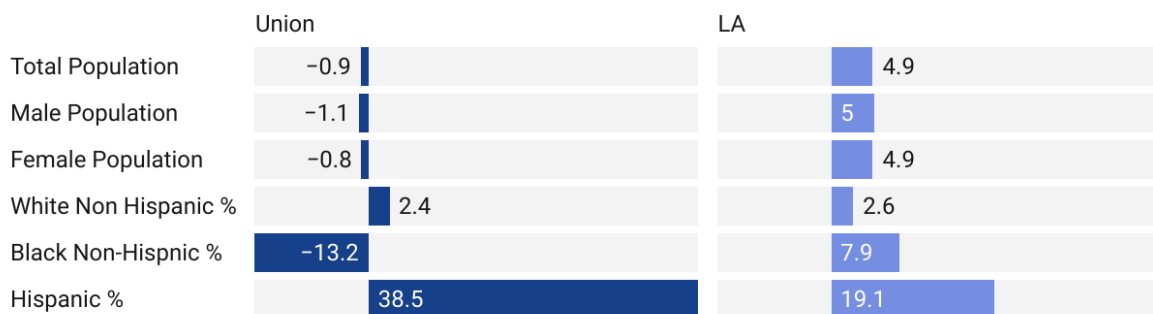
Percent Population Change (2017-2023)



Source: Louisiana.gov, created with Datawrapper

Figure 5. Projected Union Parish Population Change





Percent Projected Population Change (2020-2030)



Source: Louisiana.gov, created with Datawrapper

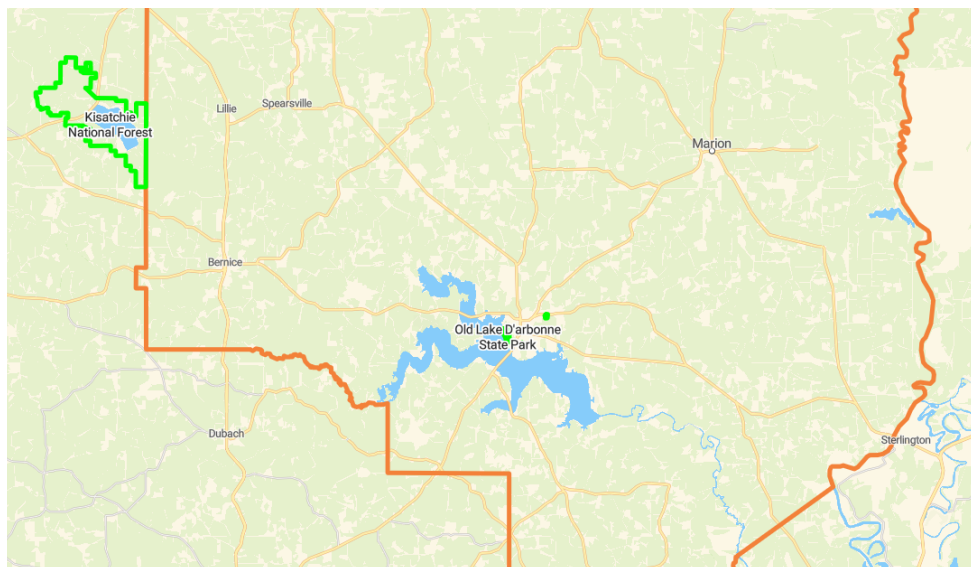
ENVIRONMENT OF UNION PARISH

Access to resources (internet and exercise) is a challenge: only 64% (vs. 83% for the state) of residents have internet access and just over half have access to exercise opportunities (vs 76% for the state). Food insecurity, measured by the percent of low-income residents with limited access to healthy foods, is slightly higher than for the state. Firearm deaths for the parish were lower (nearly half as low), and alcohol impaired motor vehicle accident deaths were higher than the state (nearly 75% higher). Air pollution in the parish is higher than in the state.

| | Union | LA |
|---|-------|------|
| Access | | |
|  Households with Internet Access | 64%* | 83% |
| Access to exercise opportunities | 52%* | 76% |
| Households with <u>no</u> motor vehicle | 6.4% | 8.3% |
| Safety | | |
|  Firearm deaths per 100,000 | 11* | 21 |
| Deaths from alcohol impaired MVA, per 100,000 | 40* | 31 |
| Food Insecurity | | |
|  Low-income with limited access to healthy foods | 15%* | 11% |
| Food environment index (1 worst; 10 best) | 6.3 | 5 |
| Food insecurity | 15% | 14% |
| Pollution | | |
|  Air pollution (PM2.5) | 9.6 | 8.6 |

*Significantly different compared to the state average Data Source: County Health Rankings, US Census Bureau, Sparkmap, Policy Map

Figure 6. Union Parish Parks

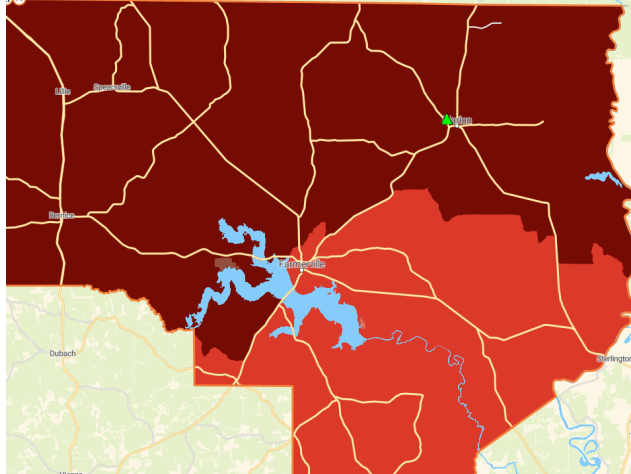


The only designated parks (outlined in bright green) within the parish are located within Farmerville: Farmerville Rec Center Park, Arnett Smith Ball Park, and Old Lake D'arbonne State Park. There are several parks outside of the parish including Kisatchie National Forest, located on the western border of the Parish.

DIFFERENCES IN ENVIRONMENT BY CENSUS TRACT

The maps below display demographics within Union Parish by Census tract. Maps are from PolicyMap, with darker colors representing greater proportions.

Figure 7. Environmental Health Index



Environmental Health Index, 2015. Data Source: PolicyMap

This index summarizes potential exposure to harmful toxins in a neighborhood level. Lower values indicate high exposure and high values low exposure. The parish overall ranges from 76 to 80. The parish has one Superfund site, located in Marion indicated by the green triangle, where remediation was ongoing in 2021.

Figure 8. National Walkability Index (2021)

National Walkability Index on Scale of 0-10. Data Source: PolicyMap

The majority of the parish has low walkability ranging from 2-5. With the highest walkability being around Farmerville with areas ranging from 8-10.

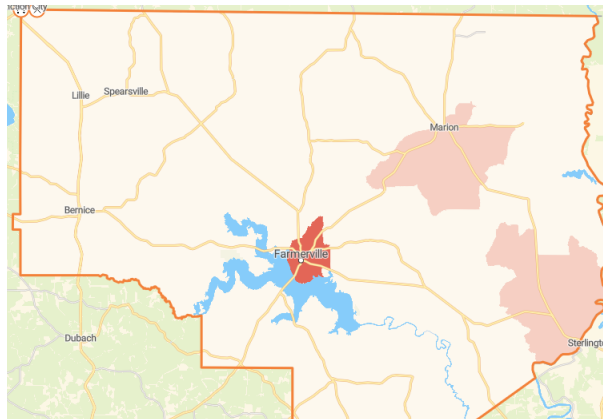
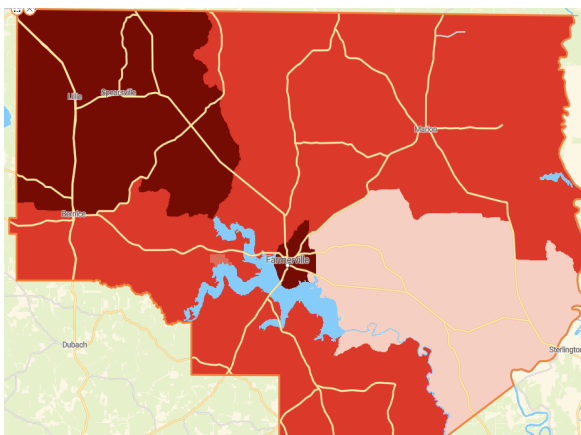


Figure 9. Household Internet Access by Census Tract (2017-2021)





Proportion of all households with no internet access, 2017-2021. Data Source: PolicyMap

The highest proportion of no internet access is in the northwest corner of the parish (45%) followed by Farmerville at 43%. The lowest percentage is 18%, east of Farmerville.




HEALTHCARE ACCESS IN UNION PARISH

There are two hospitals within the parish, Union General in Farmerville, and Reeves Memorial Medical Center in Bernice with three community health centers located across the parish in Marion, Farmerville and near the southwest border. Ten percent of residents are uninsured. Compared to the state, the parish also has significant shortages of primary care physicians, dentists, and mental health providers. While more Union Parish residents had received a physical checkup (77% vs 70%) in the last year, rates of preventable hospital stays were higher.

| | UNION | LA |
|--|---------|-------|
| Health Insurance Coverage | | |
|  Percent under 65 years Uninsured | 10% | 10% |
| Provider Supply | | |
|  Population to One Primary Care Physician | 7,390* | 1,430 |
| Population to One Dentist | 10,550* | 1,720 |
| Population to One Mental Health Provider | 680* | 310 |
| Primary Care | | |
| Adults with a Physical Checkup within last year | 77% | 70% |
| Medicare Preventable Hospital Stays per 100,000 | 4,310* | 3,787 |

HEALTH BEHAVIOR



Compared to the state, the proportion of Union residents who smoke and drink excessively, are physically inactive, or are obese is slightly higher. Flu vaccination rates are comparable to the state. Both teen pregnancy rates and sexually transmitted infection (STI) rates are slightly higher than the state overall, but drug overdoses and HIV prevalence are lower.

| | UNION | LA |
|--|--------|-------|
| Disease Prevention and Screening Behaviors | | |
|  Flu Vaccination Rates among Medicare | 46% | 45% |
| Fully Vaccinated for COVID | 46%* | 55% |
| At least one COVID vaccine dose | 50%* | 62% |
| Mammogram Screening Rates | 33%* | 37% |
| PAP Smear Screening Rates | 76% | 78% |
| Suboptimal Lifestyle Behaviors | | |
|  Adult smoking rate | 17% | 16% |
| Adult excessive drinking rate | 19% | 16% |
| Drug overdoses per 100,000 | 18%* | 40% |
| Adult obesity rate | 40% | 38% |
| Adult physical inactivity rate | 33%* | 28% |
| Adults report insufficient sleep (<7 hours) | 38% | 37% |
| Sexual Risk Behaviors | | |
|  HIV prevalence rate per 100,000 population | 53* | 553 |
| STD infection rates per 100,000 | 737.3* | 709.8 |
| Teen pregnancy rates per 1000 female teens | 39* | 30 |

*Significantly different compared to state. Data Sources: County Health Rankings, LA Dept. Of Health

HEALTH OUTCOMES

Overall, the health outcomes for Union Parish are similar to the state. Yet life expectancy at birth as of 2021 is lower within Union Parish (72.5 overall - ranging in census tracks 72-75 years). Within Union Parish, cancer incidence is slightly higher compared to the state, while cardiovascular disease hospitalizations are lower in those 65+. Residents reported poor physical and mental health outcomes at rates that were slightly higher than for the state.

| | Union | LA |
|--|--------|-------|
|  Disease Burden | | |
| Cancer incidence rate per 100,000 population | 488.9* | 478.3 |
| Adult diabetes prevalence rate % | 13 | 13 |
| Cardiovascular disease hospitalization per 1000, 65+ | 464.7* | 525.2 |
| Low birth weight rate | 10 | 11 |
| Life expectancy | 72.5 | 74 |
|  Self-Reported Health Outcomes | | |
| Percent adults reporting poor health | 21% | 19% |
| Percent adults reporting frequent mental distress | 19% | 18% |

*Significantly different compared to state. Data Sources: County Health Rankings, LA Dept. Of Health, PolicyMap.






Top 10 Causes of Death: Union Parish and Georgia

According to the CDC's Wonder dataset, the top three causes of death for Union Parish residents were cancer, heart disease and COVID in 2020. For Louisiana overall, diabetes, hypertension and chronic respiratory diseases ranked comparatively lower while accidents and cerebrovascular disease ranked comparatively higher. The toll that COVID took is evident from its ranking as the #3 cause of death.

| Cause | Union Rank | Louisiana Rank |
|---|------------|----------------|
| Malignant neoplasms | 1 | 2 |
| Diseases of heart | 2 | 1 |
| Covid-19 | 3 | 3 |
| Diabetes mellitus | 4 | 8 |
| Essential hypertension and hypertensive renal disease | 5 | NR |
| Chronic lower respiratory diseases | 6 | 7 |
| Accidents (unintentional injuries) | 9 | 4 |
| Cerebrovascular diseases | 10 | 5 |
| Alzheimer's Disease | 7 | 6 |

NR=not ranked as a top cause of death

Progress on Selected Indicators

| | | Prior CHNA (2021) | Current CHNA (2024) | Progress |
|---|--|-------------------|---------------------|----------|
|  | Social and Economic Context | | | |
| | Percent children in poverty | 31% | 21% | → |
| | Unemployment rate | 5.8% | 3.8% | → |
| | High school graduation rate | 86% | 86% | — |
| | Social associations per 10,000 | 11.2 | 11.3 | → |
|  | Environment | | | |
| | Percent population with access to exercise opportunities | 40% | 52% | → |
| | Percent population food insecure | 15% | 15% | — |
|  | Health Care Access | | | |
| | Uninsured adults (%) | 9% | 10% | ← |
| | Primary care population to provider | 11,170 | 7,390 | → |
| | Mental health population to provider | 920 | 680 | → |
|  | Health Behaviors | | | |
| | Obesity rate | 38% | 40% | ← |
| | Physical inactivity rate | 36% | 33% | → |
| | Smoking rate | 25% | 17% | → |
| | Teen pregnancy rate (per 1000 teen females) | 42 | 39 | → |
|  | Health Outcomes | | | |
| | Percent reporting poor or fair health | 23% | 21% | → |
| | Low birth weight rate | 11% | 10% | → |
| | Diabetes prevalence | 20% | 13% | → |
| | Premature (under 75yrs) death rate per 100,000 | 9,600 | 10,600 | ← |

← worsened — stable → improved

Data source: County Health Rankings, years 2021 to 2023.

SECONDARY DATA SUMMARY

Social and Economic Context

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Median Household Income (2017-2021) | \$47,068* |
| Population in Poverty (2020) | 21% |

Healthcare Access

| | |
|--|---------|
| Population to One Primary Care Physician | 7,390* |
| Population to One Dentist | 10,550* |
| Population to One Mental Health Provider | 680* |

Health Behaviors

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| Fully Vaccinated for COVID | 46%* |
| Adult smoking rate | 17%* |
| Adult excessive drinking rate | 19%* |
| STD infection rates per 100,000 | 737.3* |

Health Outcomes

| | |
|--|--------|
| Cancer incidence rate per 100,000 | 488.9* |
| Deaths from alcohol impaired MVA per 100,000 | 40 |
| Frequent Mental Distress | 19% |

Top Causes of Mortality (2020)

| Cause | Rank |
|---|------|
| Malignant neoplasms | 1 |
| Diseases of heart | 2 |
| Covid-19 | 3 |
| Diabetes mellitus | 4 |
| Essential hypertension and hypertensive renal disease | 5 |



Union Parish improved in 12 health indicators, and declined in three over the last three years. While health care access has improved, access to primary, dental, and mental health providers remains an issue. Union residents have slightly higher rates of smoking, drinking and STDs compared to the state overall and slightly higher mental distress. Rates of cardiovascular hospitalizations for those 65+ and the proportion of residents who had a primary care visit in the last year are better than the state.

Primary Data

COMMUNITY SURVEY

RESPONSE RATE AND REPRESENTATIVENESS

The survey link was shared on the hospital’s website, through social media accounts, and with community partners for further dissemination. There were 215 community members who provided complete or partial responses to the online survey. Demographics of survey respondents are provided in Table 1. Compared to parish census data, survey respondents were more likely to be female, younger, have at least a high school degree, be employed, and own a home than the actual population.

RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

The majority of survey respondents were female (77%), White (77%), aged under 65 years (93%), married or partnered (75%) and employed (93%), with at least some college or associate degree (88%). Of those responding, 65% reported annual household income above \$60,000. Survey respondents were significantly more likely to be female (77% sample vs 50% parish census). Respondents were significantly more educated: 53% of respondents had at least a Bachelor’s degree, while only 17.4% of parish residents had this level of education according to census figures. Similarly, more than 65% of respondents reported household earnings that were greater than the parish median household income of \$47K. Participants over 65 (7% sample vs 22.4% parish census) were underrepresented. Participants that were Non-Hispanic White were comparable to the parish overall (77% sample vs 69.6% parish census).

Census Figures Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2024). Quick Facts. Retrieved from: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/unionparishlouisiana,US/PST045223>

Table 1: Demographic Characteristics of Survey Respondents

| | Frequency (N) | Percentage (%) |
|-----------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Gender (n=189) | | |
| Female | 145 | 77 |
| Male | 43 | 23 |
| Other | 1 | 1 |
| Age (n=190) | | |
| Under 35 years | 80 | 42 |
| 35-44 years | 48 | 25 |
| 45-54 years | 25 | 13 |
| 55-64 years | 23 | 12 |
| 65-74 years | 10 | 5 |
| 75 years and older | 4 | 2 |

| | Frequency (N) | Percentage (%) |
|---|---------------|----------------|
| Race (n=190) | | |
| Black or African American | 20 | 11 |
| White | 146 | 77 |
| Hispanic | 6 | 3 |
| American Indian/Native Alaskan | 19 | 10 |
| Other | 1 | 1 |
| Asian | 6 | 3 |
| Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander | 5 | 3 |
| Education (n=190) | | |
| Less than High School | 6 | 3 |
| High School Graduate or GED | 17 | 9 |
| Some College or Associate Degree | 66 | 35 |
| Bachelor's degree | 71 | 37 |
| Graduate or Advanced Degree | 30 | 16 |
| Marital Status (n=190) | | |
| Married/Partnered | 143 | 75 |
| Divorced/Separated | 17 | 9 |
| Widowed | 10 | 5 |
| Single/Never Married | 19 | 10 |
| Other | 1 | 1 |
| Household Income (n=187) | | |
| Below \$20,000 | 7 | 4 |
| \$20,001-\$40,000 | 17 | 9 |
| \$40,001-\$60,000 | 33 | 18 |
| \$60,001-\$80,000 | 31 | 17 |
| \$80,001-\$100,000 | 36 | 19 |
| Above \$100,000 | 55 | 29 |
| Refused/Don't know | 1 | 4 |
| Employment Status (n=187) | | |
| Full-time | 158 | 84 |
| Part-time | 16 | 9 |
| Retired | 6 | 6 |
| Unemployed | 3 | 1 |
| Home Ownership (n=187) | | |
| Yes | 169 | 90 |
| No | 18 | 10 |
| Access to Reliable Transportation (n=97) | | |
| Yes | 179 | 95 |
| No | 9 | 5 |

HEALTH STATUS

Nearly half of respondents (47%) reported their health status as very good or excellent (Figure 10). Similarly, close to half (49%) perceive their community as healthy/very healthy compared to almost one in six who perceive it as unhealthy or very unhealthy (Figure 11). The most common chronic conditions that the participants reported having were depression/anxiety (45%), overweight/obesity (43%) and high blood pressure (38%) (Figures 12).

Figure 10. Self-Reported Health Status

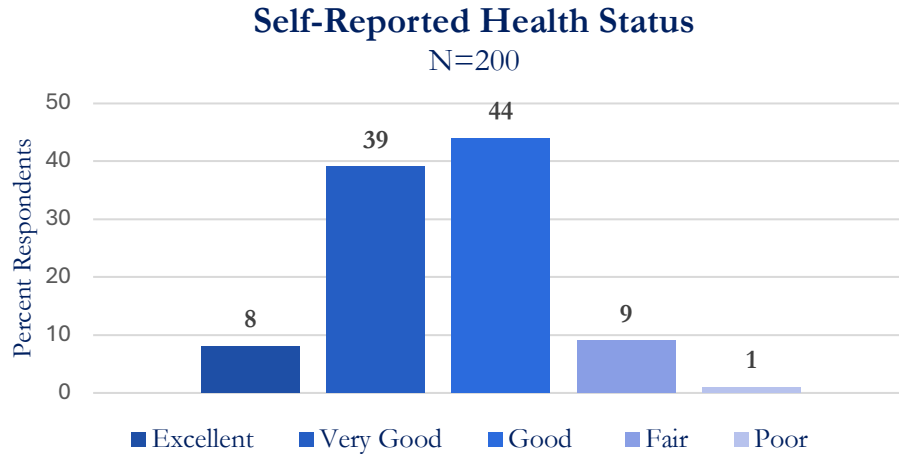


Figure 11. Rating of Community Health Status

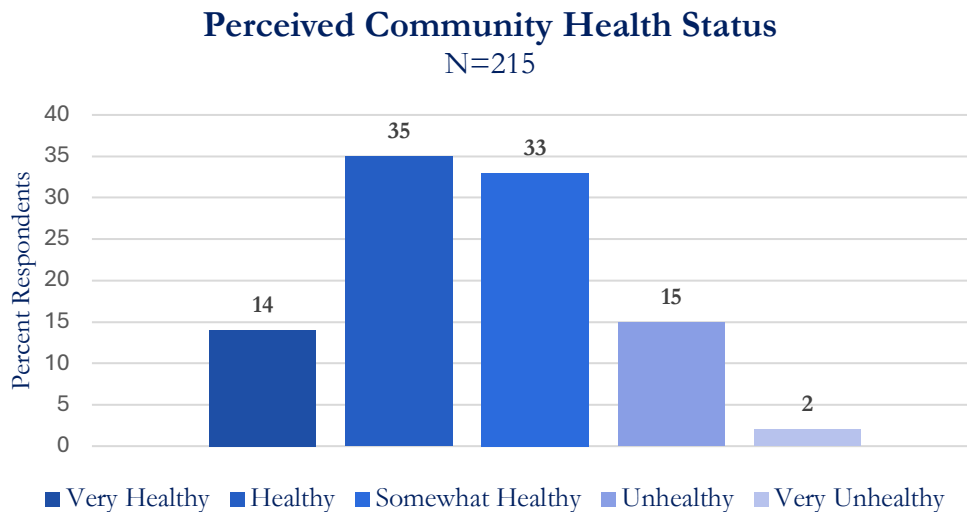
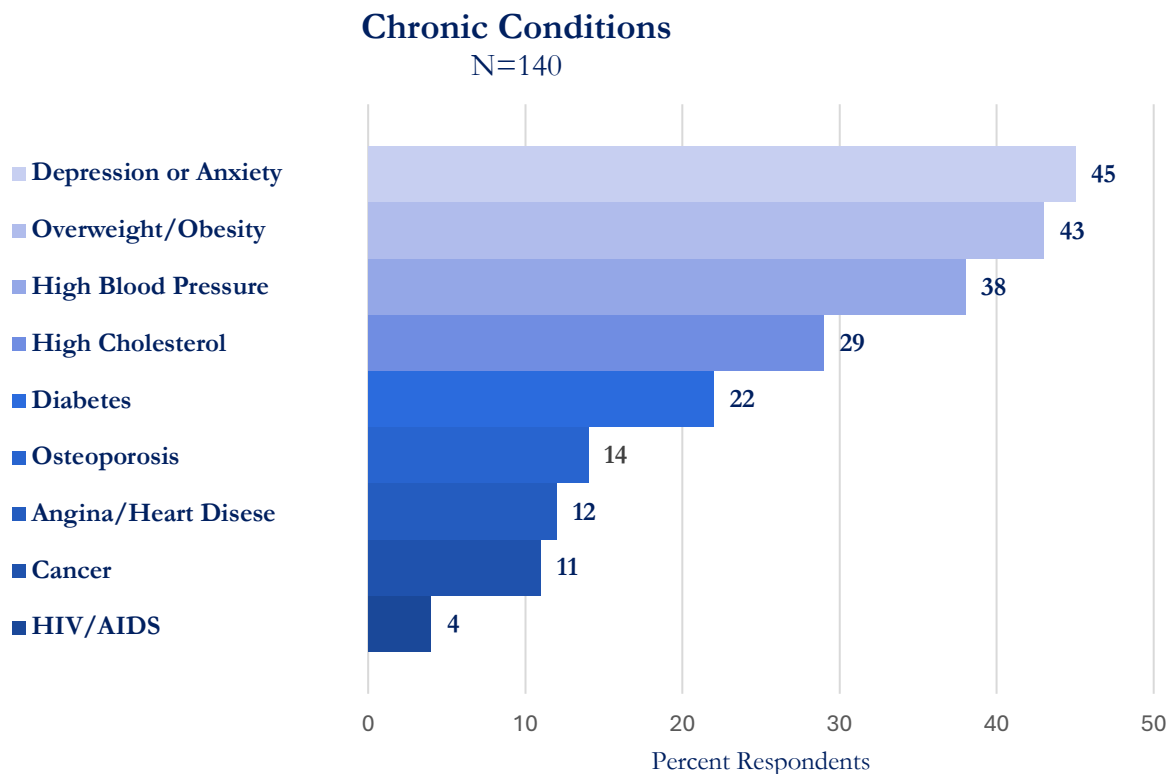


Figure 12. Most Common Chronic Conditions



Note: Participants could choose more than one response option. Hence, percentages do not add up to 100.

HEALTH BEHAVIORS

Smoking, Nutrition, and Physical Activity

Near one in four (23%) of respondents reported currently smoking tobacco products (Figure 13). About three out of five (58%) reported eating the recommended five servings of fruits and vegetables daily (Figure 14). Of those not meeting the recommended amounts, about 39% indicated that they were not able to adhere to this recommended nutrition guideline because they don't think about it and about one in three (33%) because fruits and vegetables are too expensive. Similarly, about one in three respondents (33%) stated that they don't have time to prepare them (Figure 15).

Regarding physical activity, about two in three respondents stated that they met daily recommended physical activity guidelines of 30 minutes per day, five times per week (67%). Among those who do not meet the recommended amount, more than half of respondents reported that they are too tired to exercise (56%). Two out of five (44%) of participants reported that they don't have enough time to exercise (Figure 16). Being tired and lack of time were the two most commonly cited reasons for not exercising enough (Figure 17).

Figure 13. Smoking Behavior

Current Use of Tobacco Products

N=200

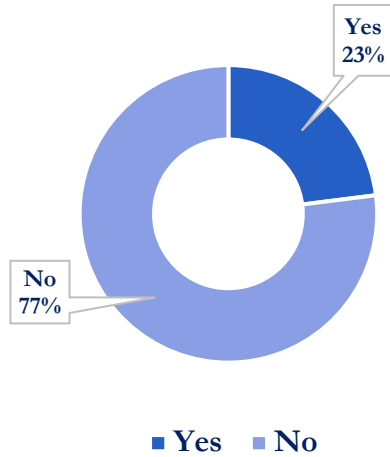


Figure 14. Fruit and Vegetable Consumption

Adequate Consumption of Fruits and Vegetables

N=197

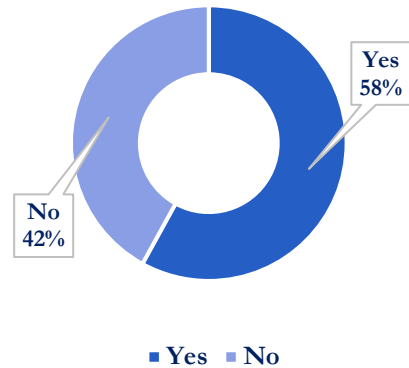
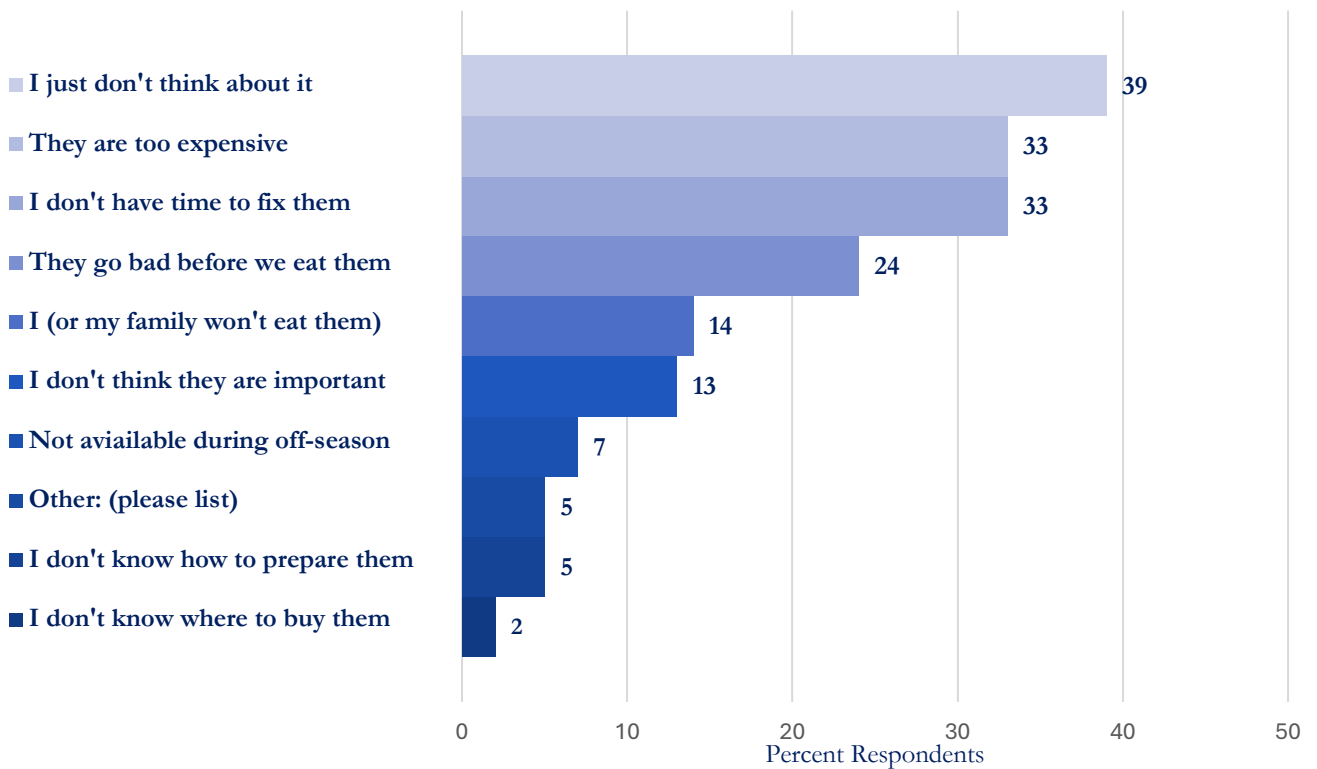


Figure 15. Reasons for Inadequate Vegetables and Fruits Consumption

Reasons for the Inadequate Fruit and Vegetable Consumption

N=84



Note: Participants could choose more than one response option. Hence, percentages may not add up to 100.

Figure 16. Physical Activity

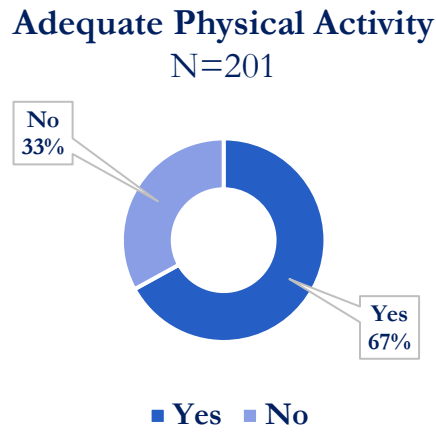
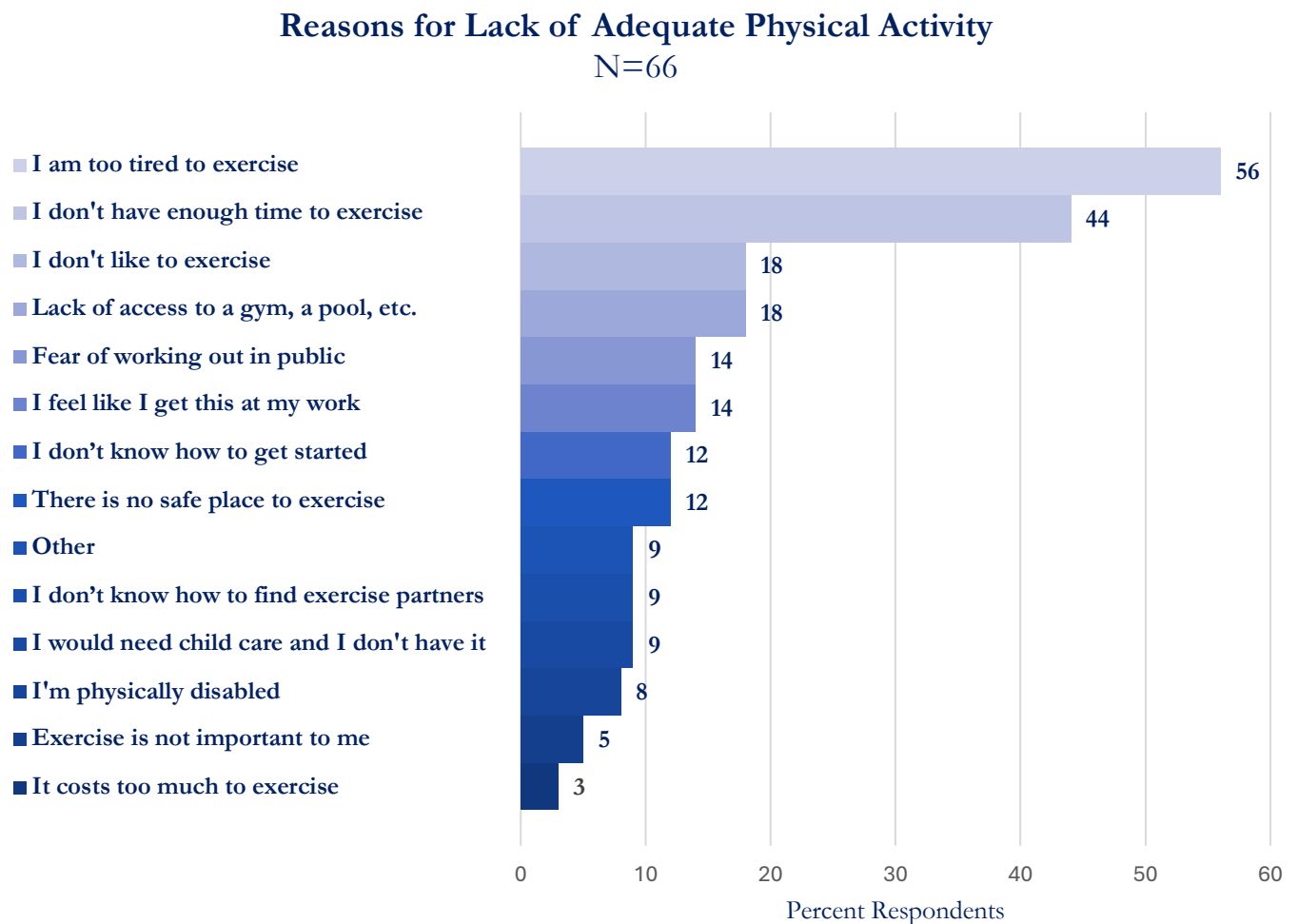


Figure 17. Inadequate Physical Activity



Note: Participants could choose more than one response option. Hence, percentages may not add up to 100

Preventive Screening

Respondents were also asked about their utilization of preventive and screening services and their adherence to recommended screening guidelines.

Nearly 4 out of 5 (77%) of respondents 50 years and older reported having ever received a colonoscopy (Figure 18). About two out of five (39%) reported having barriers to obtaining a colonoscopy (Figure 19), with high cost (69%), pain/discomfort (44%), and limited transportation (31%) as the most cited reasons (Figure 20).

Figure 18. Colon Cancer Screening

Figure 19. Any Barriers to Colon Cancer Screening

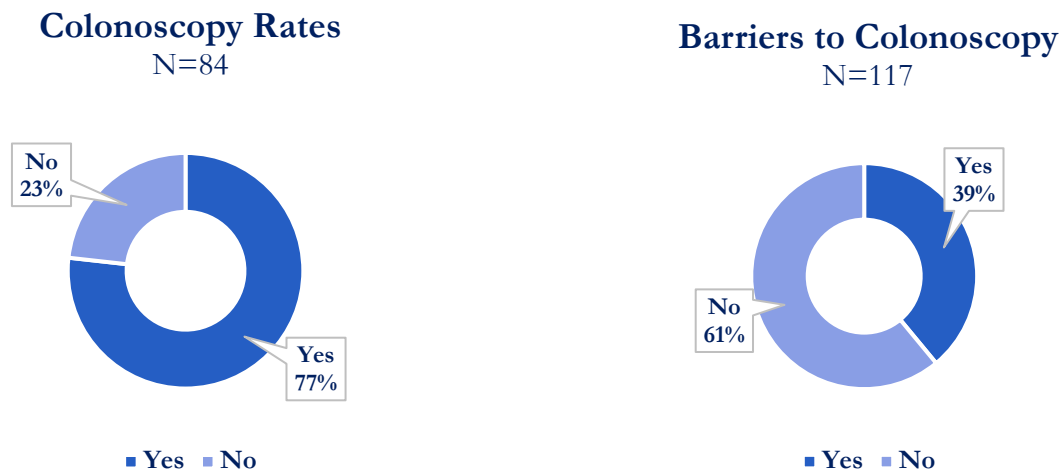
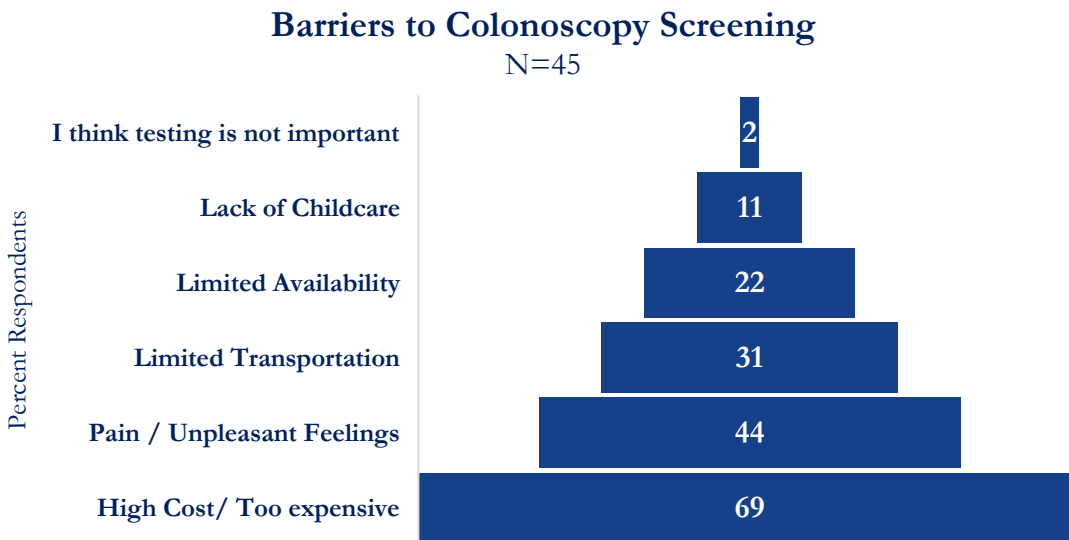


Figure 20. Specific Barriers to Colon Cancer Screening



Note: Participants could choose more than one response option. Hence, percentages may not add up to 100.

Nearly two-thirds (65%) of male respondents over 40 years had discussed prostate cancer screening with their health care provider (Figure 21).

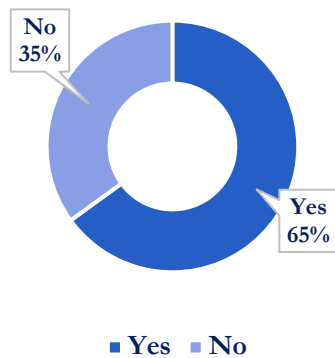
More than half (54%), reported barriers to prostate cancer screening (Figure 22), with high cost (53%), limited availability (43%), and pain/discomfort (33%) listed as the top three barriers (Figure 23).

Figure 21. Prostate Cancer Screening Figure

Figure 22. Any Barriers to Prostate Cancer Screening

Discussion on Prostate Cancer Screening

N=54



Barriers to Prostate Cancer Screening

N=56

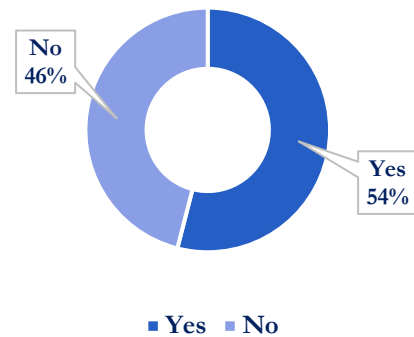
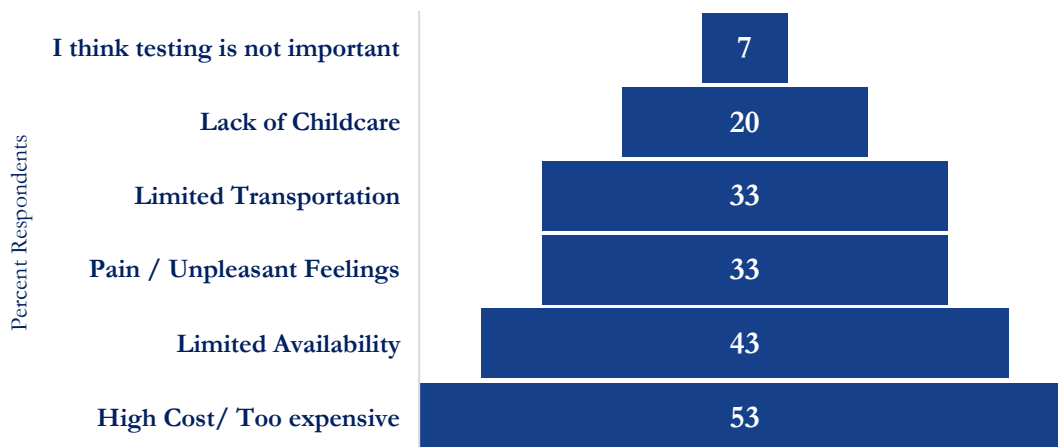


Figure 23. Specific Barriers to Prostate Cancer Screening

Barriers to Prostate Cancer Screening

N=30



Note:

Participants could choose more than one response option. Hence, percentages may not add up to 100

About eight out of ten (77%) of female respondents 50 years or older reported they received an annual mammogram (Figure 24).

About two out of five (37%) reported having barriers to receiving mammography (Figure 25), with high cost (54%), pain/discomfort (32%), and limited availability (30%) listed as the top three main barriers (Figure 26).

Figure 24. Breast Cancer Screening

Figure 25. Any Barriers to Breast Cancer Screening

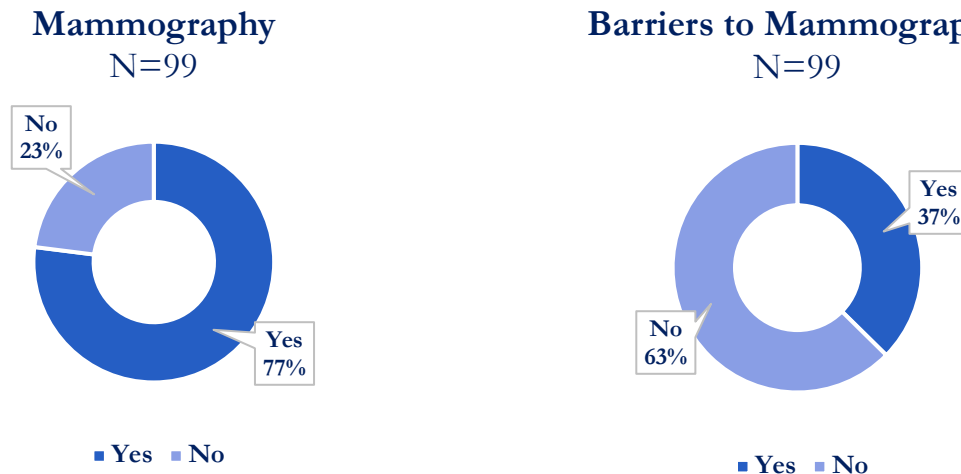
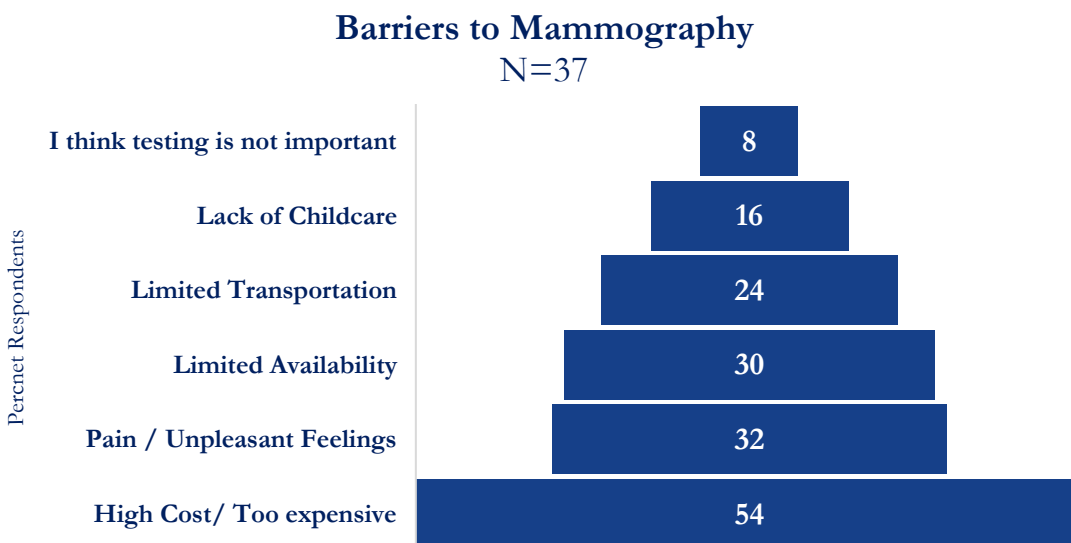


Figure 26. Specific Barriers to Mammogram Screening



Note: Participants could choose more than one response option. Hence, percentages may not add up to 100

Like mammography, about four out of five (78%), of female over the age of 21, reported having received a pap smear in the last five years (Figure 27).

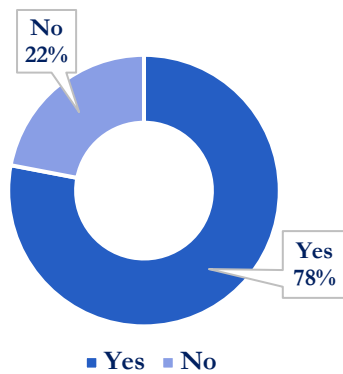
About one out of three respondents (32%), reported facing barriers to getting a pap smear (Figure 28), with high cost (57%), pain/discomfort (47%), and limited availability (35%) listed as the top three barriers (Figure 29).

Figure 27. Cervical Cancer Screening

Figure 28. Any Barriers to Cervical Cancer Screening

Pap Smear Every Five Years

N=161



Barriers to Pap Smear

N=157

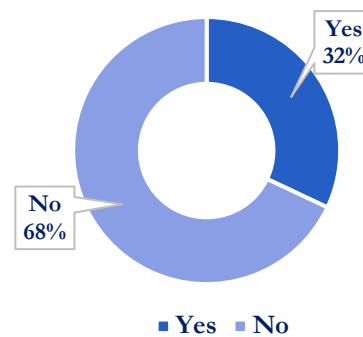
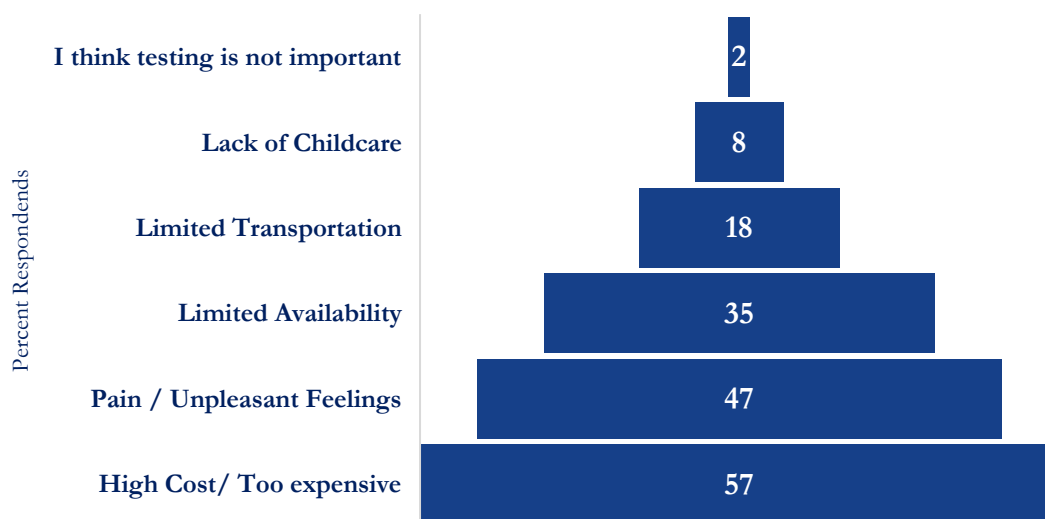


Figure 29. Specific Barriers to Cervical Cancer Screening

Barriers to Pap Smear

N=51



Note: Participants could choose more than one response option. Hence, percentages may not add up to 100

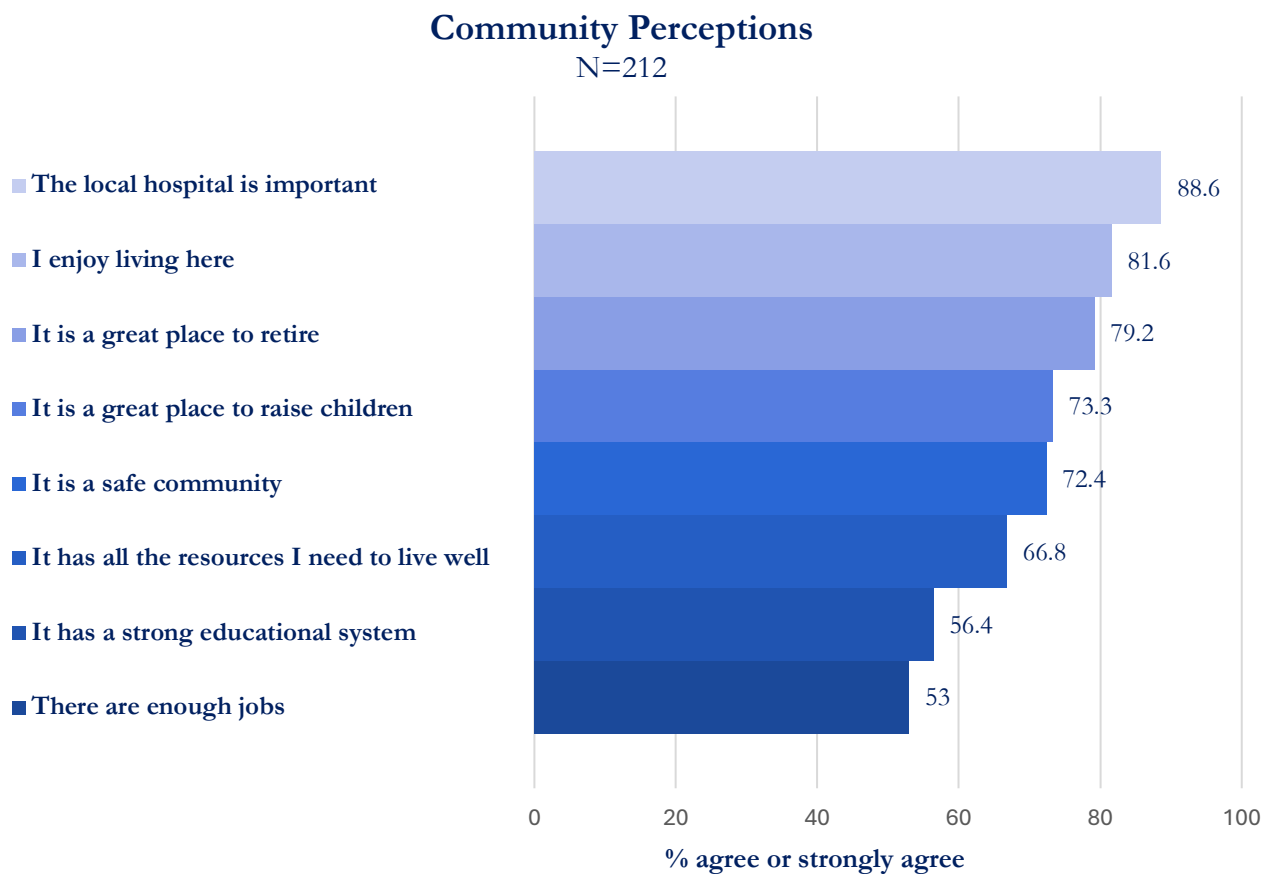
COMMUNITY PERCEPTION

General Community Perception

In general, respondents had a favorable view of the community, except for the availability of jobs.

About nine out of ten (88.6%) respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that the local hospital is important. More than eight out of ten respondents (81.6%) strongly agreed or agreed that they enjoy living in Union Parish (Figure 35). Similarly, eight out of ten respondents agreed that the community is a great place to retire (79.2%), it's a great place to raise children (73.3%) and it's a safe community (72.4%). However, only slightly over half of the residents (53%) felt there were enough jobs (Figure 30).

Figure 30. General Community Perceptions



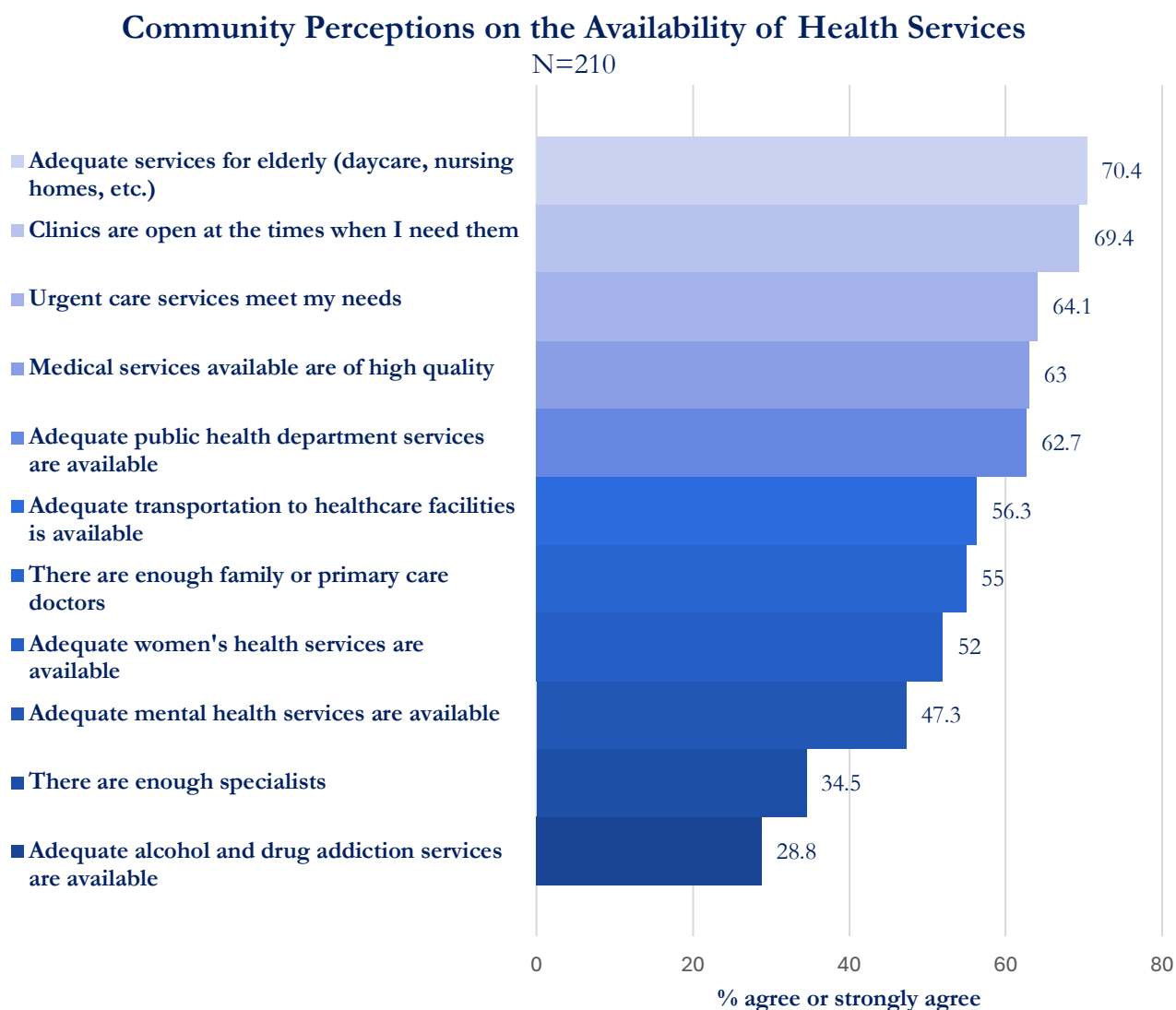
Note: Participants could choose more than one response option. Hence, percentages may not add up to 100.

Community Perception Concerning Health Care Services

Respondents reported adequacy of services for the elderly, clinics being open when needed, urgent care that meets their needs and medical services of high quality.

Respondents reported inadequacy in alcohol and drug services, in number of health specialists, and in mental health services in the community (Figure 31).

Figure 31. Community Perceptions Concerning Health Care Services



Note: Participants could choose more than one response option. Hence, percentages may not add up to 100.

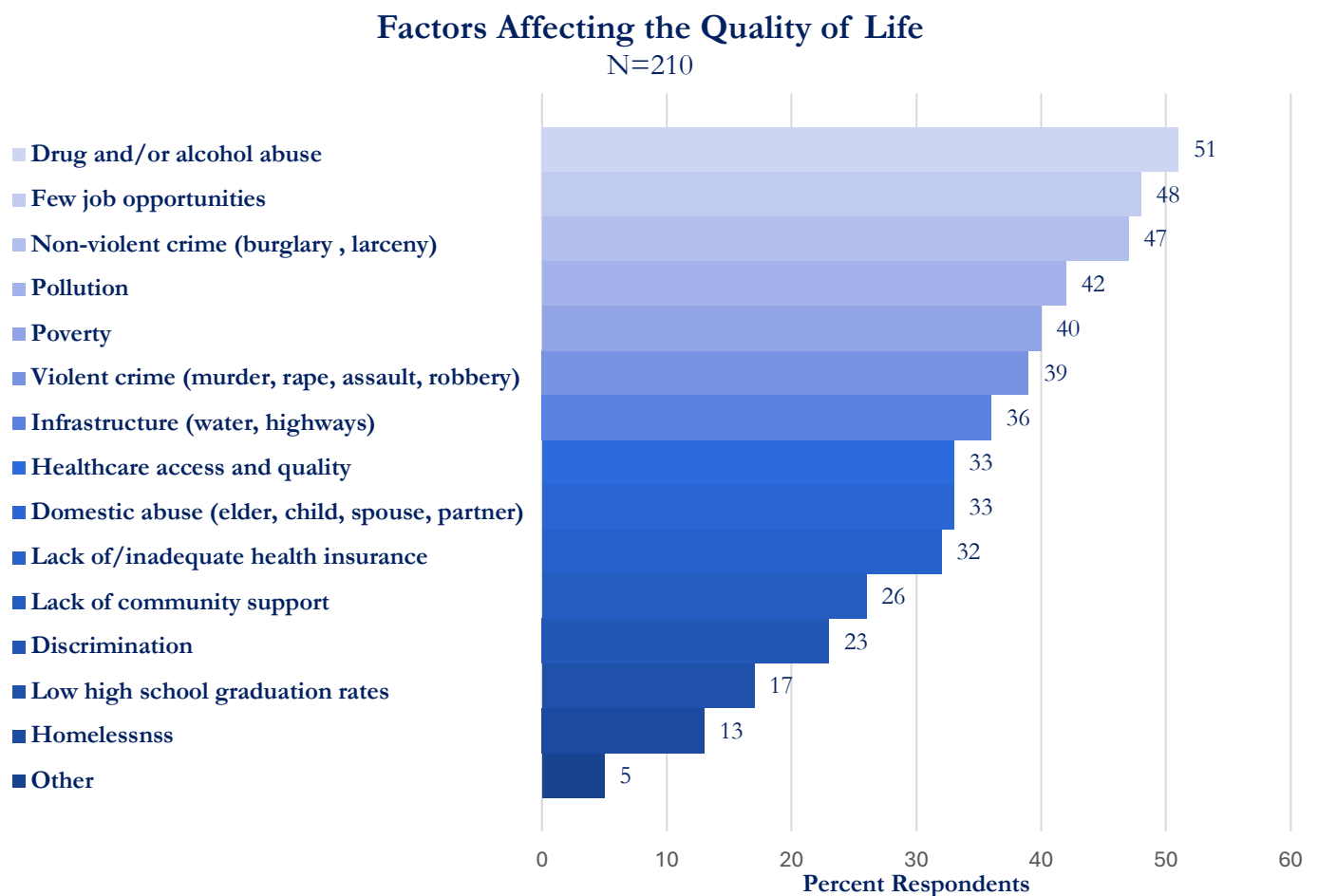
Community Perceptions Concerning Health and Quality of Life

More than half of the respondents (51%) identified drug and alcohol abuse as the most significant factor affecting the quality of life in the community, followed by lack of job opportunities (48%) and non-violent crime (47%).

Pollution, poverty and violent crime formed a second tier of main factors impacting community life, with around 40% of respondents identifying each as a negative impact on quality of life (Figure 32).

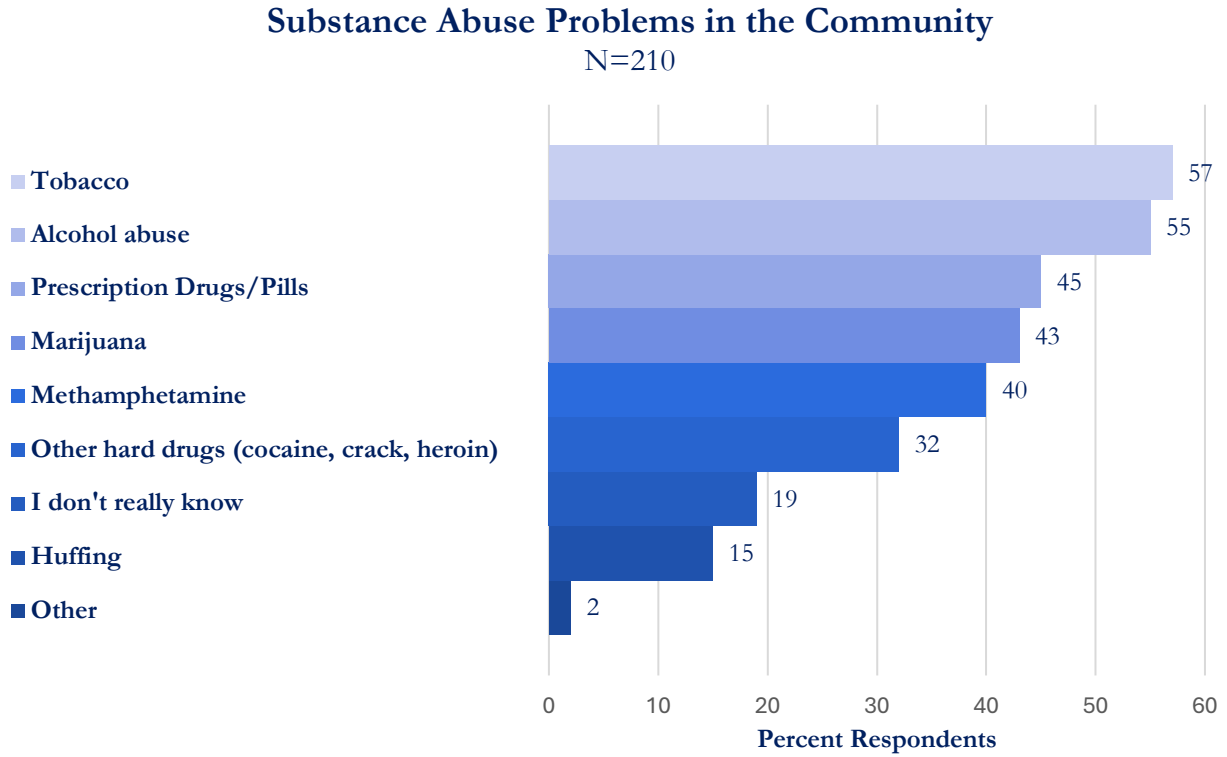
Concerning substance abuse in the community, tobacco (57%) was identified as the most commonly abused substance, followed by alcohol (55%), prescription drugs/pills (45%), and marijuana (43%) respectively (Figure 33).

Figure 32. Perceptions Concerning Factors Affecting the Quality of Life in the Community



Note: Participants could choose more than one response option. Hence, percentages may not add up to 100.

Figure 33. Substance Abuse Problems

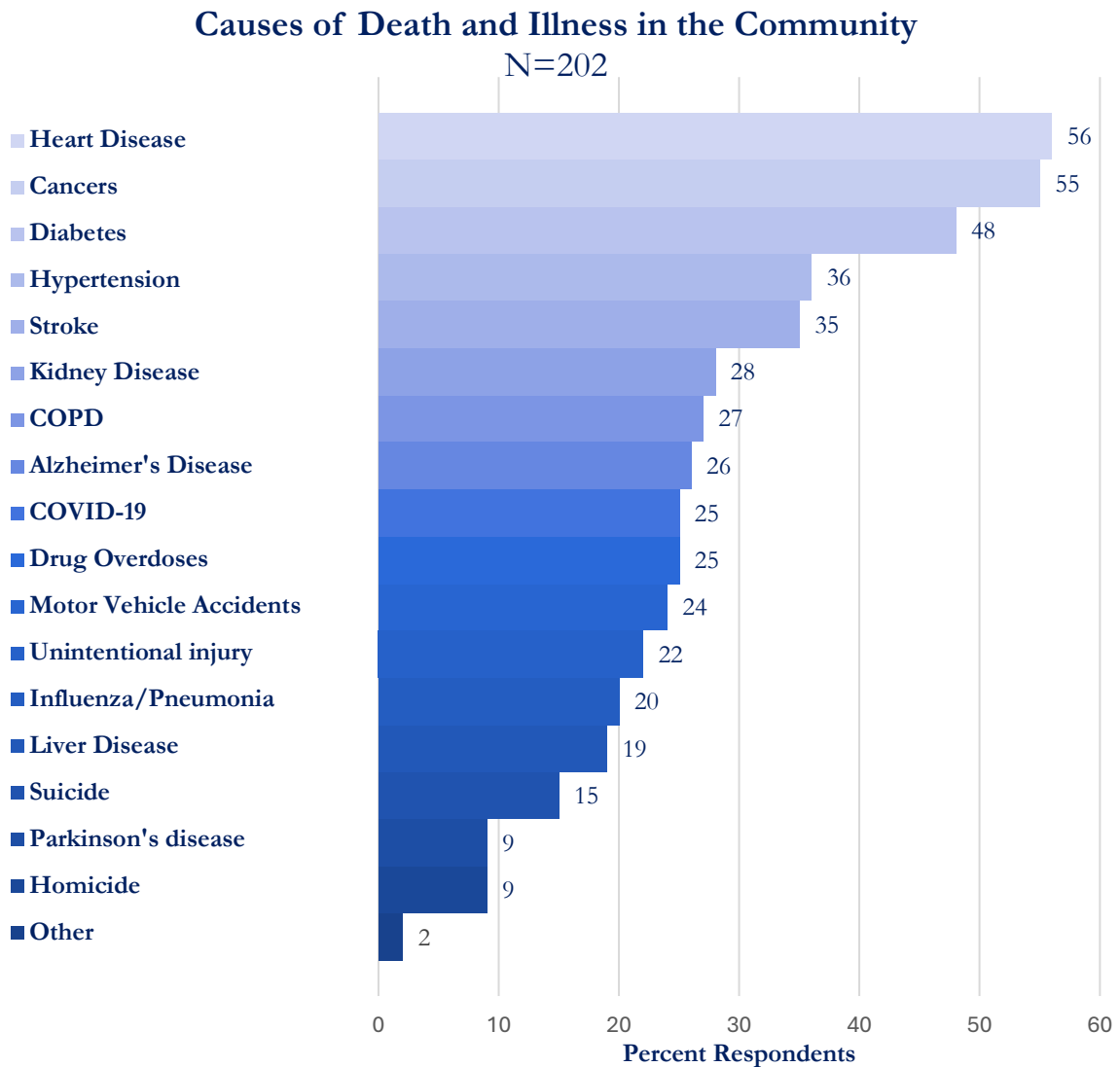


Note: Participants could choose more than one response option. Hence, percentages may not add up to 100.

Community Perceptions Concerning Mortality & Morbidity

Heart disease (56%), cancers (55%) and diabetes (48%) were identified by the survey respondents as the top three causes of mortality and morbidity in the community. Hypertension (36%), and stroke (35%) formed a second tier of reported factors (Figure 34).

Figure 34. Causes of Mortality and Morbidity



Note: Participants could choose more than one response option. Hence, percentages do not add up to 100

Negative Influencers of Health

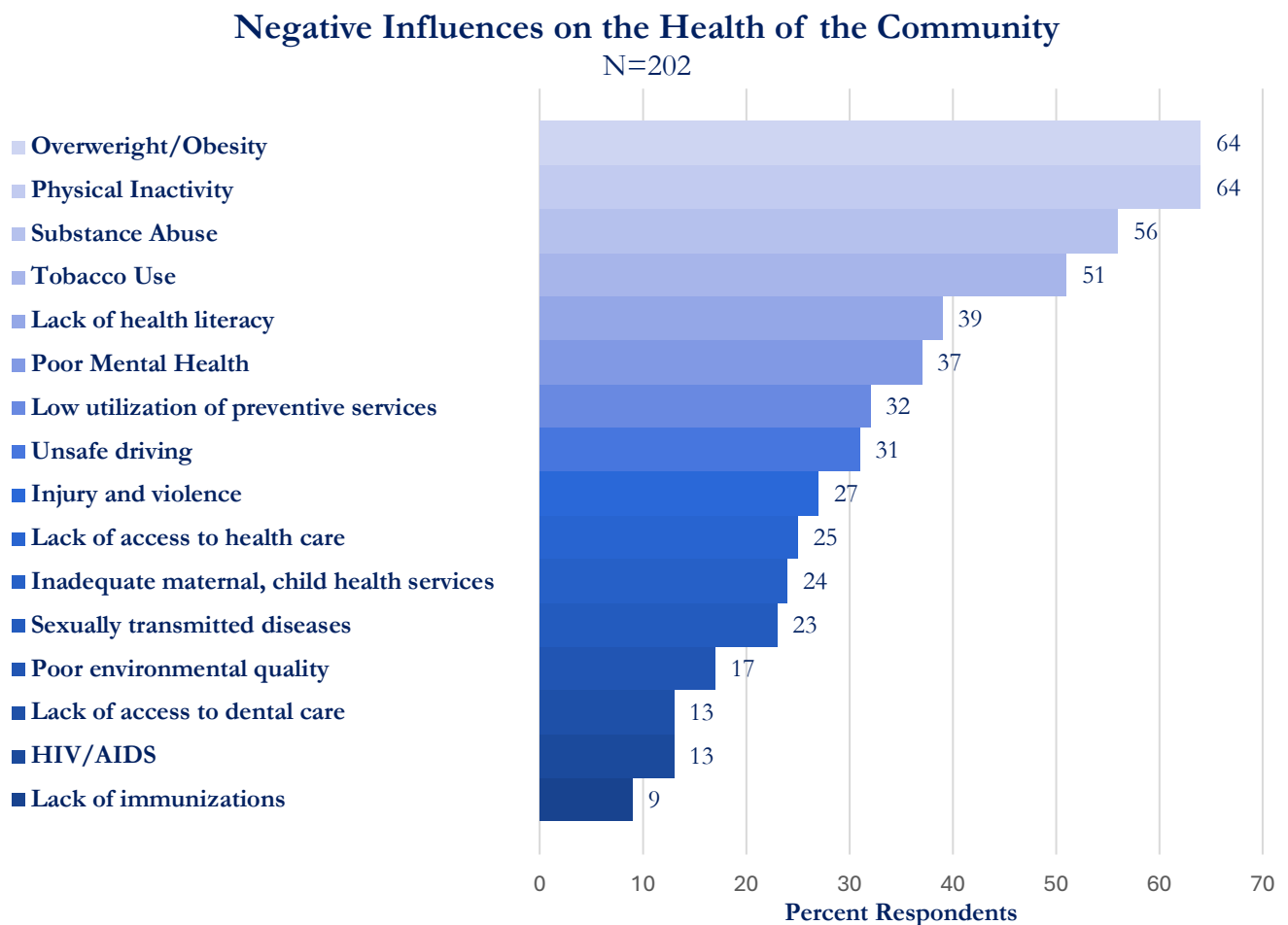
Obesity/overweight (64%), physical inactivity (64%), and substance abuse (56%) were identified as the top three negative influencers of health in the community for adults (Figure 35).

Tobacco use (51%), lack of health literacy (39%), and poor mental health (37%) formed a second tier of significant negative factors on the health of community members.

Parental neglect (56%), mental health issues (54%), and nutrition (54%) were identified as the top three negative influencers of children’s health (Figure 36).

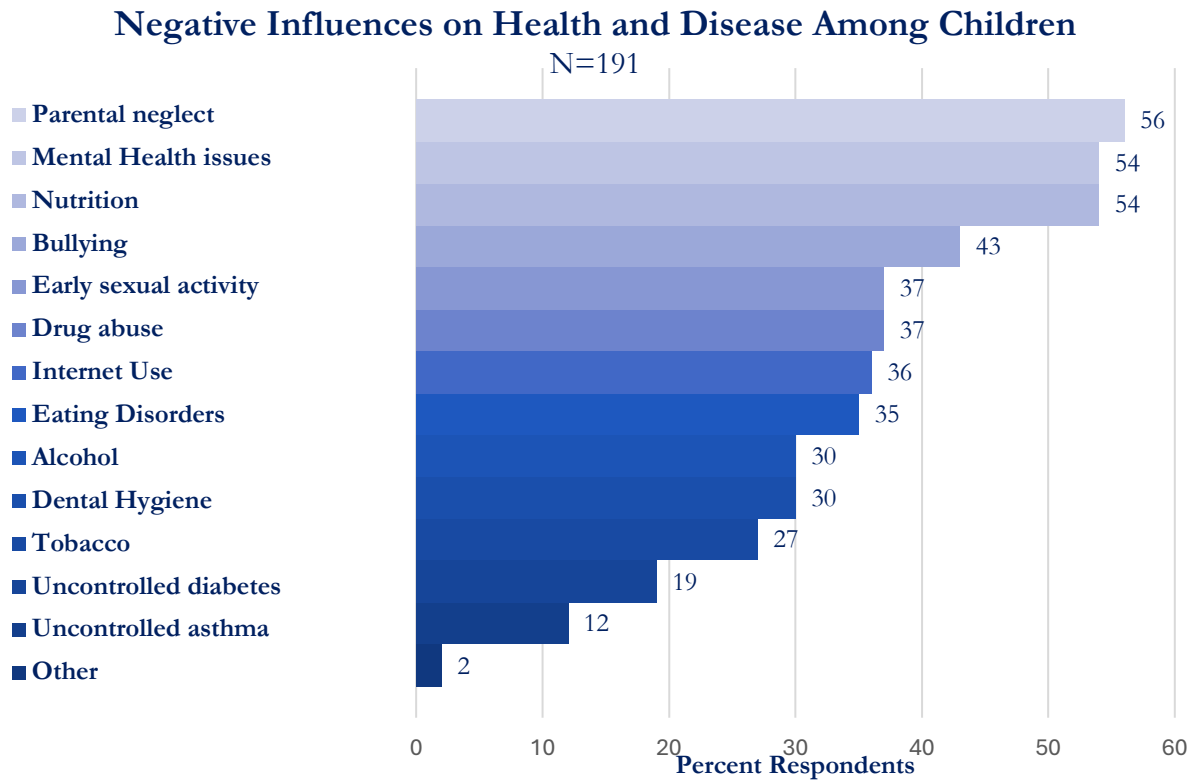
With respect to COVID-19, respondents reported that financial stress (63%), mental health issues (58%) and social isolation (52%) were the top three issues exacerbated by the pandemic in Union Parish (Figure 37).

Figure 35. Negative Influencers of Community Health



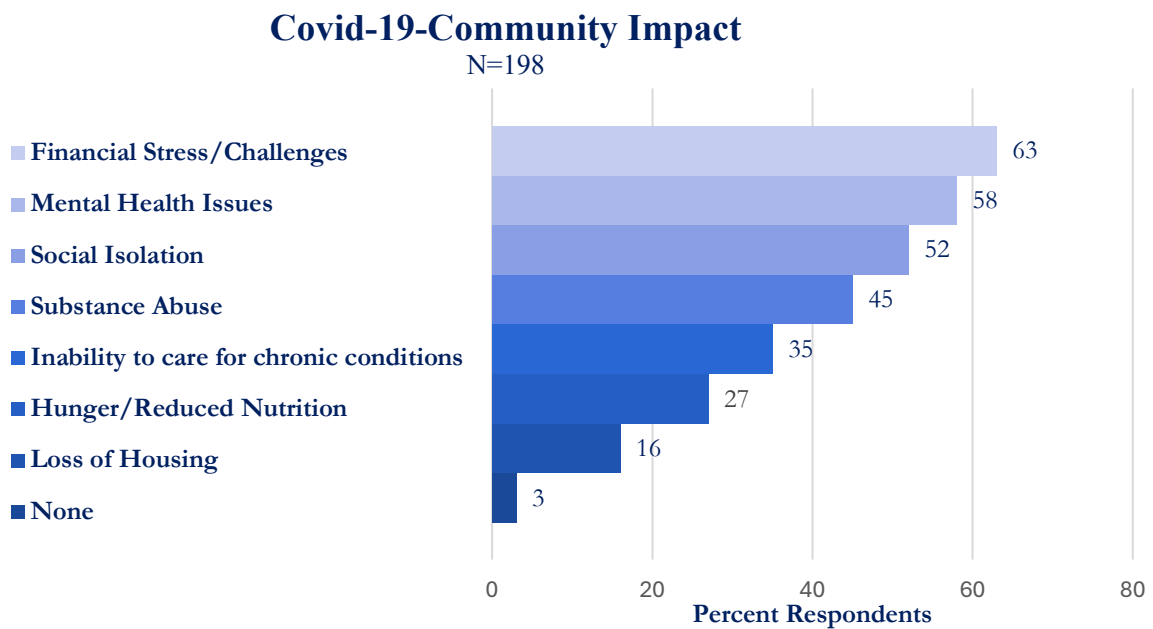
Note: Participants could choose more than one response option. Hence, percentages do not add up to 100.

Figure 36. Negative Influencers of Children's Health



Note: Participants could choose more than one response option. Hence, percentages do not add up to 100.

Figure 37. COVID-19 Community Impact



Note: Participants could choose more than one response option. Hence, percentages do not add up to 100.

HEALTH CARE ACCESS

Insurance Coverage and Usual Source of Care

Nearly one out of two respondents (46%) reported that they had employer-based insurance. Nearly ¼ of respondents were covered by Medicaid, and approximately ten percent were covered through other directly purchased private health insurance. Only 5% reported having Medicare, reflecting the younger survey population (Figure 38).

Almost half of the respondents (49%) reported that their usual source of care was a provider in a doctor's office setting. About one in four (23%) identified the health department as their usual source of care and notably, 13% reported using the emergency room (Figure 39). Respondents most commonly identified their health care provider (doctor/nurse) as their source of health information (75%), followed by the internet (49%), friends and family (42%), health department (35%), and the hospital (29%) (Figure 40).

Figure 38. Insurance Coverage

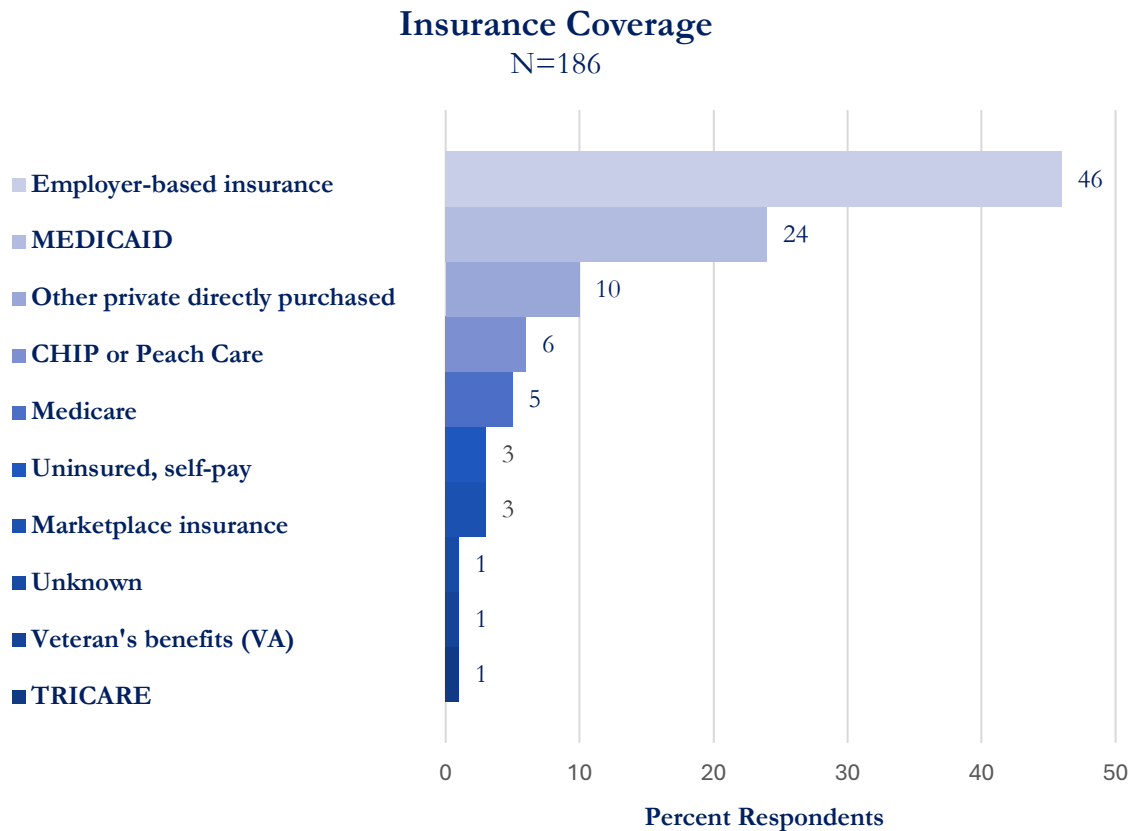


Figure 39. Usual Source of Care

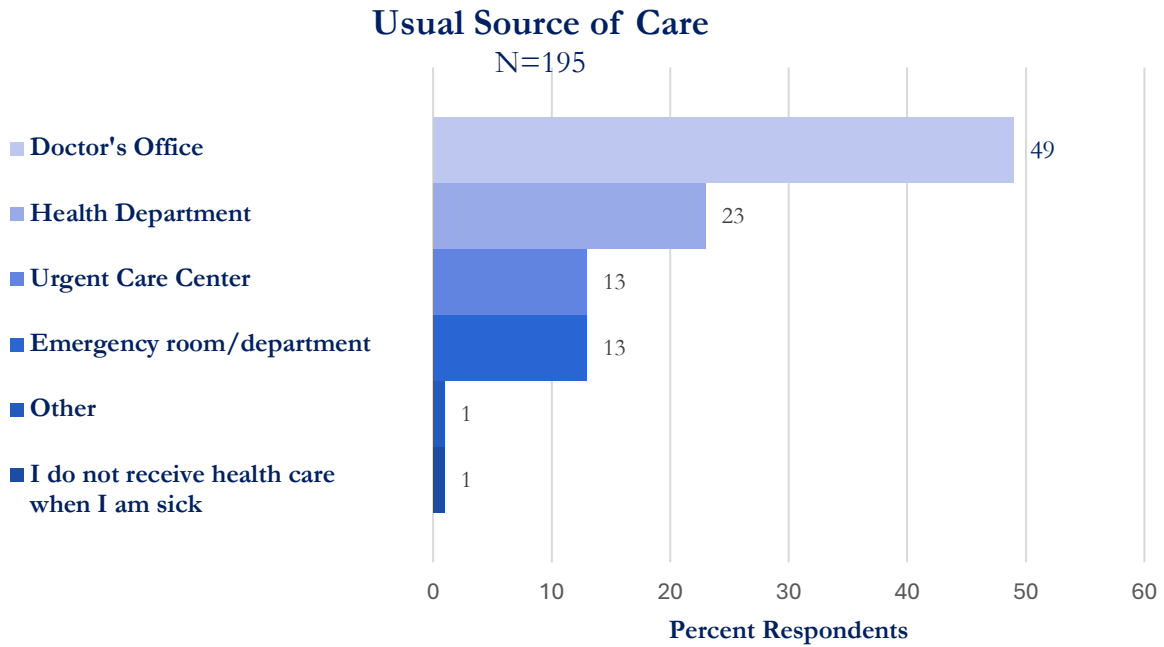
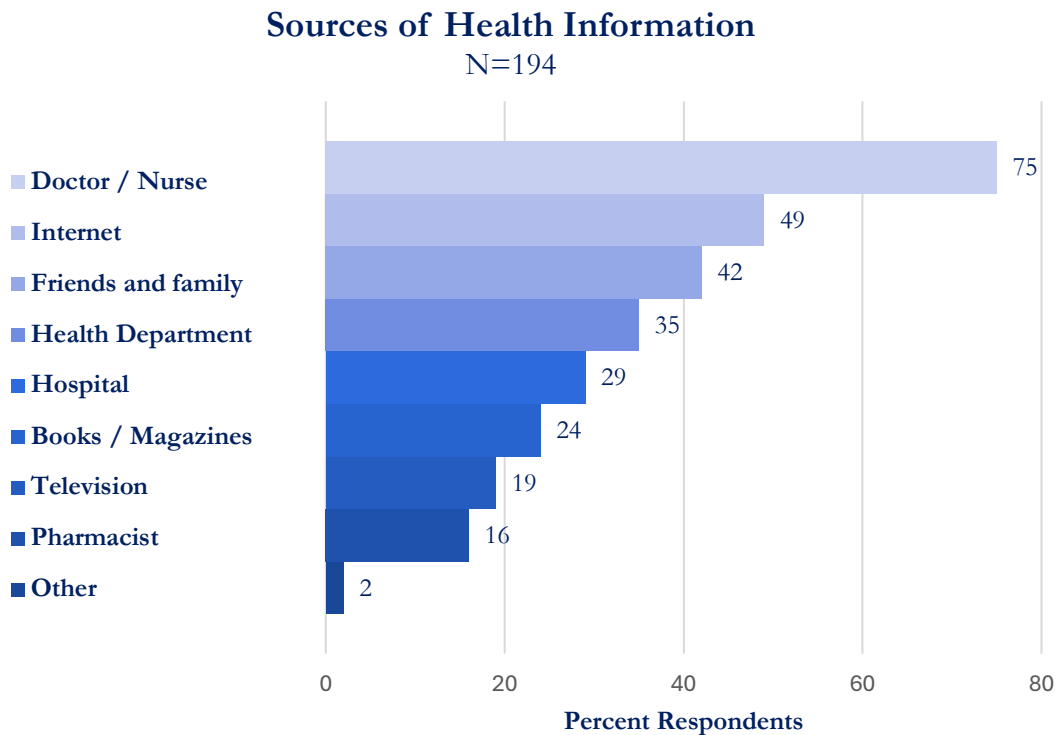


Figure 40. Sources of Health Information



Note: Participants could choose more than one response option. Hence, percentages do not add up to 100.

Barriers to Healthcare Access

Nearly 25% of respondents reported experiencing barriers to health care access in the past 12 months (Figure 41). Barriers most frequently mentioned were high deductibles/copays (47%), limited insurance coverage (43%), and long waiting times (39%) (Figure 42).

Figure 41. Barriers to Healthcare Access

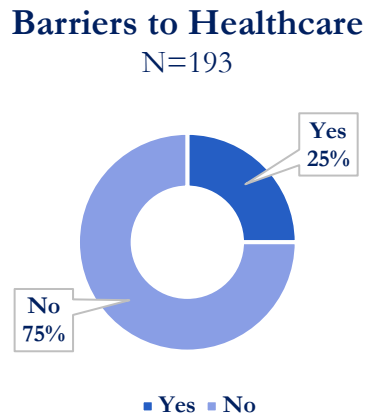
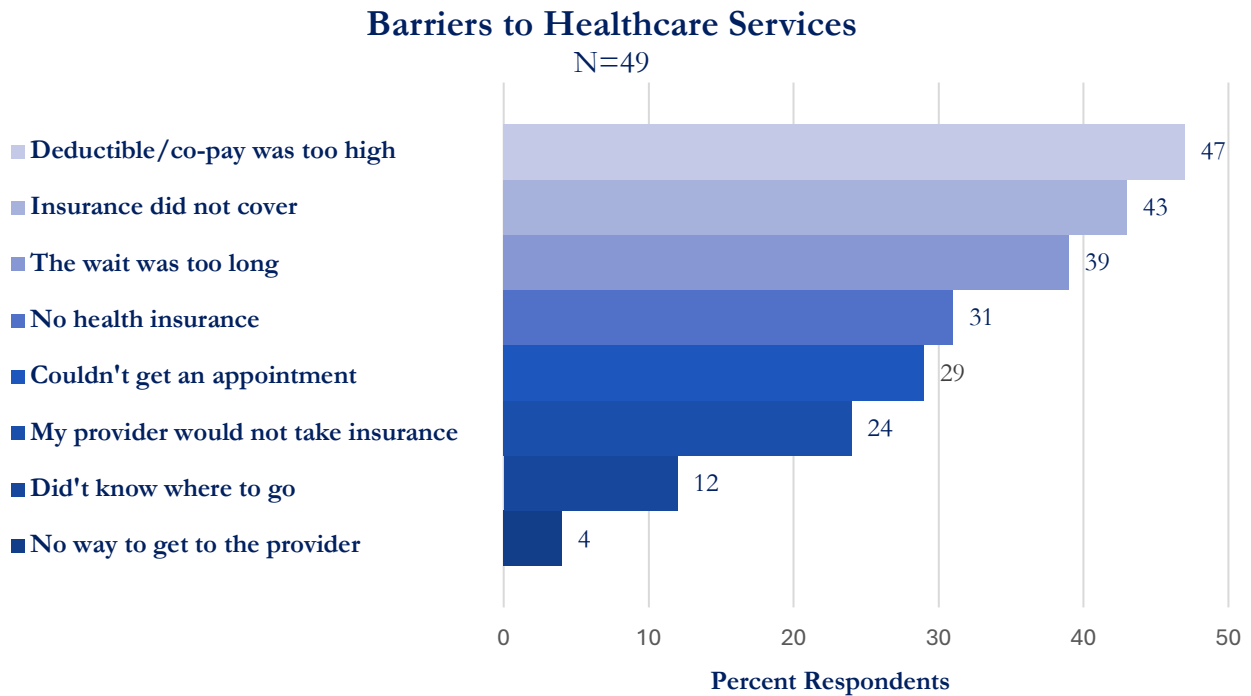


Figure 42. Specific Barriers to Healthcare Access



Note: Participants could choose more than one response option. Hence, percentages do not add up to 100.

Health Specialists

Nearly half of respondents (49%) expressed that there are not enough health specialists in Union Parish (Figure 43). Cardiology was reported as the most needed health specialty (72%), followed by pediatrics (55%), orthopedics (52%), and oncology (51%) (Figure 44).

Figure 43. Adequacy of Health Specialists

Shortage of Health Specialists

N=196

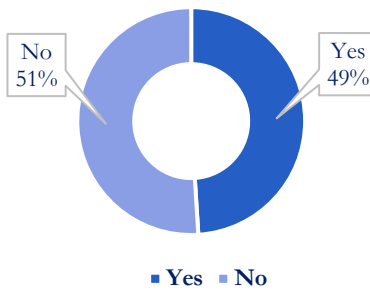
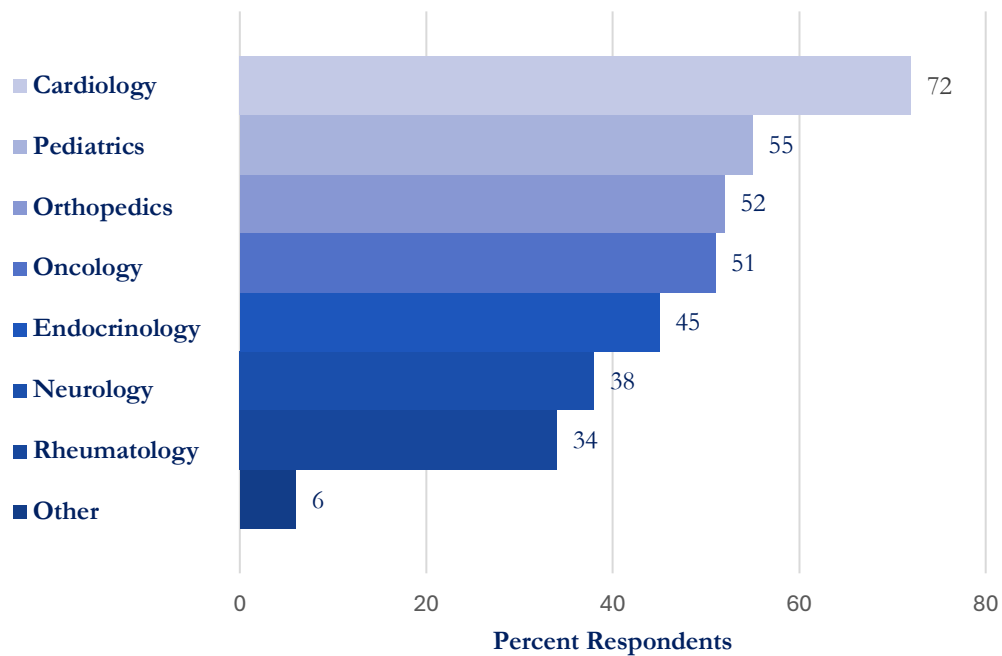


Figure 44. Most Needed Specialties

Shortage by Specialty

N=96



Note: Participants could choose more than one response option. Hence, percentages do not add up to 100.

SUMMARY POINTS FROM THE COMMUNITY SURVEY

Respondents were mostly White, younger, educated females residing in Union Parish.

Health Status and Behavior

- The most common chronic conditions that the participants reported having include depression/anxiety, overweight/obesity, and high blood pressure.
- Reported adherence to nutrition and physical activity guidelines was limited among respondents.
- Reported adherence to cancer screening guidelines was generally high among participants, except for prostate cancer screening.

Perceptions about the Community and Community Health

- Respondents had a favorable view of the community but felt that there were shortfalls in substance abuse treatment services, healthcare specialists, and mental health services.
- Respondents identified drug and alcohol abuse, limited job opportunities and non-violent crimes as the most significant factors affecting the quality of life in the community.
- Heart disease, cancer and diabetes were identified as the top three causes of illness and death in the community, while overweight/obesity, physical inactivity and substance abuse were identified as the top three negative influences on health.
- Parental neglect, mental health issues and nutrition emerged as the as the top three negative health influences among children.
- Financial stress, mental health and social isolation were identified as the top three community issues amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Access to Healthcare Services

- About one in four respondents reported experiencing barriers to receiving health care in the past 12 months with high cost and limited services covered by insurance as the most common barriers.
- Almost half of respondents think there are not enough health specialists in the parish, with cardiology, pediatrics, and orthopedics identified as the most needed specialties.

FOCUS GROUPS

Three focus groups of key stakeholders were held in April of 2024 via Zoom. Twelve participants representing diverse groups of the community participated and shared their insights. Participants represented sectors including schools, business, civic groups, and hospital employees. **Public health was represented.** Each focus group session lasted an hour on average. The following discussion provide details of the focus group conversations by theme - focusing on those that cut across groups.

Overall Community Perception

Participants described Union Parish as a small, tight-knit community with serene parks and sparkling lakes. Here, neighbors are more than just acquaintances; they are family. With ample green spaces and recreational areas, residents embrace an active lifestyle, whether jogging along tree-lined trails or picnicking by the water's edge. But it's the community events that truly bring them together.

"We're a pretty large parish as far as land, but I think we don't have as many people."

"I know all of my neighbors, my neighbors know us. It's the same way here in Farmerville proper, you know everybody. Because we are a small town, we know everybody."

"I do think we're very community-minded. I think we have a lot of people that are willing to invest into our community, and so we're able to do really great things together."

"I think due to the good hunting land, the good water resources that are around, it encourages a more active lifestyle."

STRENGTHS: Safety and security, Family-Friendly, Faith-based Community

Focus group participants emphasized several strengths regarding living in Union Parish. Participants described it as a faith-based community, where they feel safe and secure. The community members are supportive of each other. Strong collaboration efforts happen when needed, especially when addressing important matters in the community. Participants described Union Parish as a dynamic community committed to collective growth and prosperity.

"You feel safe. To me, that means a lot, the safety and security of where you live, and I don't live in fear of leaving my home. I don't live in fear of walking outside of my home, afraid that something will happen."

"Our faith-based community also is very responsive. The faith-based community is very involved with a lot of the initiatives and things that we do. That's important for us here, too."

CHALLENGES: Healthy Nutrition, Income Disparities, Employment Opportunity, Transportation

Focus group participants described intertwined challenges of healthy nutrition, income disparities, and employment opportunities; a complex web of obstacles confronting parish residents. Economic barriers hinder access to nutritious food, exacerbating health disparities and contributing to a cycle of poor dietary habits and chronic illness. Income disparities widen the gap by forcing community members to choose fast food over wholesome food. Furthermore, limited

employment opportunities deepen households' financial strain, making it difficult for single parents to raise kids and promote healthy lifestyles within them.

“We are extremely rural. We are extremely poor. There are some areas of segregation, especially from the school setting point of view, and I think even in some of our civic organizations, there's probably a little bit of that as well.”

“Parents, it's just very difficult, I think. The salaries here in our parish tend to be below average, and we find that children here, there's just so many needs that we try to meet and that's why we partner with so many organizations here. I feel like it's very difficult for parents, especially the single parents that are trying to raise children.”

“I feel like a lot of people have to get jobs outside of Farmerville. They go to Reston, which is in a different parish, or go to Minor or West Monroe, which is in a different parish, and both of those are like 30 plus minutes away from Farmerville at minimum. It's just very difficult to raise children, but then also have to commute back and forth to work, and then if kids have activities and things like that, it makes it extremely difficult and puts a strain on the family dynamic that way.”

“At our school when I look at kids that bring their lunches, even our school lunches, I feel like produce is so expensive right now. It is so expensive to eat healthy...”

Health-Specific Community Characteristics **Themes: Mental Health, Smoking & Vaping among Adolescents, Drug Abuse, Healthy Nutrition, Chronic Conditions**

In Union Parish, pressing health concerns encompass mental health challenges, smoking and vaping among adolescents, nutritional inadequacies, and chronic conditions. The community struggles with the complex ramifications of untreated mental health issues, including the strain on individuals and families. Increasing rates of adolescent substance use, smoking and vaping rates were noted. Nutritional deficiencies pose a significant threat to the community's well-being, exacerbating health disparities and contributing to long-term health complications. Additionally, the prevalence of chronic conditions among the elderly weighs heavily in the community.

“Our Medicaid kids and families are falling through the cracks when it comes to mental health because it's just such a racket to deal with. I don't know what supplementation could occur for those kids and families, but there needs to be something to encourage counselors to take those kids and families.”

“I think obesity is just, in general, an overall problem. It's such a tough one, I think, to be able to crack because it depends upon people's own personal attitudes and desire to even do something about it.”

“It's the main ones always. It's going to be cancer, heart disease, and diabetes, and they disproportionately affect the elderly populations.”

“I don't know, probably being able to have access to affordable, healthier foods would probably be one just because like-- Even out restaurants and stuff here, let's all be so for real, it's a lot of fast food, a lot of fried food. We're the South, everything is fried and we like it fried and smothered in gravy and all that good stuff. There's not options to healthier foods and affordable, healthier foods.”

“For it to be a more agricultural parish. There's still a lot of fried or unhealthy food, like processed food eating. That's across the region, though. It's not just Union.”

“I feel like the biggest things are maybe substance use and abuse needs to always be a focus when there's less things to do, and poverty, it's going to happen more often. Of course, the elderly population, especially, is still the opioid epidemic. A lot of them are caught in a cycle still because you can't really take them off of it, once they're completely dependent on it. That increases access to younger kids and stealing medicines from whoever might need them.”

“We have a large drug problem in Union Parish and I know that-- I don't know how much of preventative measures have been taken.”

“Maybe adolescents focusing on their healthy choices that can affect their health. It can be from sexual to vaping or some sort of tobacco use or drug use as well. Most haven't started, say in sixth grade, but a lot by eighth grade have. Pregnancy prevention is probably pretty big as well.”

Healthcare-Specific Community Characteristics

Themes: Health Insurance, Mental Health Resources, Specialty Care

Focus group participants highlighted critical healthcare-focused issues in the Union Parish community, including limitations relating to access to health insurance, mental health resources, and specialty care. Inadequate health insurance coverage for some residents, especially the undocumented, can cause financial strain when seeking necessary medical care. Shortages of accessible mental health resources can exacerbate the burden on those struggling with psychological challenges. Finally, accessing specialty care services can hinder timely diagnosis and treatment for complex medical conditions.

“We have a lot of undocumented families here... and they do not have access to any care because healthcare is expensive and they do not qualify for Medicaid. They don't qualify for this type of insurance because they don't have a social security number. They're bringing kids here who have like infected teeth or having mental health issues or anything like that, and the payer is limited. We do our best to try to connect them to resources and try to rally with community partners to get the needs met, but it's just not there.”

“We do have a lot of urgent care and clinics like that, but there's not a lot of specialties here. There's no OBGYN gynecology service, like doctors that do that here that I'm aware of, or dermatology or things that are specific to a certain thing that people need to see a specialist for. That's just not available across the board. Oncology, like cancer doctors and things like that, we have to travel to Monroe, Shreveport, like Little Rock or, stuff like that.”

“I can say that there is a recent improvement with access for mental and behavioral healthcare.”

“I think we have a lot of mental health resources that a lot of folks may not even know about.”

“...Probably mental health facility would be the biggest deficit.”

Hospital's Role in Advancing Community Health and Wellness

Themes: High-Quality Services, Community Involvement, Responsiveness

The hospital is pivotal in advancing community health and wellness through its commitment to high-quality services, personalized care, and community involvement. By consistently delivering

excellent healthcare, the hospital ensures that community members receive the best possible medical treatment and support. The hospital actively engages with the community, collaborating with local organizations and stakeholders to address prevalent health issues and encourage preventive care initiatives. Hospitals provide essential medical services and act as catalysts for positive change, enhancing the overall health and well-being of the communities they serve. The hospital is responsive to community needs and works to provide access to needed services, such as mammography.

“The hospital... provides services for those with Medicaid or no insurance. It's an access point to get some needed health services. The hospital also has a wonderful walking track that is great for getting out there and walking and being active, or having events that are wonderful to promote health.”

“I think for our community, just seeing that there's investments that even Union General Hospital makes into things that happen in our community, whether it's a health fair, we have a health expo and they're a part of that. We have Dia de la Familia and they're our title sponsor. It's just the idea of how invested they are in community. That's usually also a sign of health to me to know that they have the ability to support programs that help with the well-being and the health of our community.”

“[T]he hospital did a nutrition class in Spanish by a Spanish-speaking person, which that changes everything because it's not just somebody translating. It's like somebody who says, ‘I know you like to eat this because I do too.’ This is a healthier way to try that.”

“I think the hospital is doing amazing. Unfortunately, they're the only one. They're doing everything from It's a Girl Thing! with nutrition, all the services they have there, the physical therapy. They are A1 in our community for healthcare needs.”

“It's interesting because I was there yesterday and I had to have a mammogram. To be honest with you, I even spoke to some of my friends. I said, “Do you know I was in and out in 35 minutes?” That to me was insane because usually I have to take a whole morning off to do something.”

Health-Specific Wish List Priorities

Themes: Healthy Food Access, Mental Health Resources, Transportation to Healthcare

In Union Parish, several health-specific wish list priorities underscore their many challenges. Access to healthy food is crucial for combating food insecurity and promoting nutritional health, yet socioeconomic inequality and areas with minimal access to fresh food can make it challenging to maintain a healthy diet. Mental health resources, including drug and alcohol rehabilitation, are in high demand among underserved populations. Addressing transportation barriers could help ensure that individuals can access essential healthcare services, promoting timely interventions and continuity of care.

“... [W]e need some kind of farmer's market, other restaurants that promote healthy foods, healthy choices.”

“They need like a mental health component to the hospital, a mental health department.”

“I do think outpatient drug rehab-- I know that there's something in Marion if I'm not mistaken, but I don't know how people are assigned to it or how that works. Just some support services for that where they're not necessarily needing to go into rehab but somewhere maybe that we could-- I know they have Alcoholics or Narcotics [Anonymous]. They even have that for youth, I think, and so maybe offering some services like that for those that may not need necessarily a rehab...”

“Transportation to healthcare...We have a lot of urgent care now, so there's a lot of resources out there for healthcare. It's just that we're so rural, that everybody can't get there. The kids, if they have access to the school-based health center, they can get there if they're at school, but their parents don't have the transportation to get them from home to the hospital or to the clinic.”

Hospital Strategies for Approaching Community Health

Themes: Awareness of Services, Community Presence, Targeted Information Campaigns

According to focus group participants, Union Hospital uses multifaceted strategies to approach community health: raising awareness of its services, establishing a strong community presence, and implementing targeted information campaigns. The hospital ensures that community members are informed about the range of healthcare services available. By actively engaging with residents through health fairs, workshops, and partnerships with community organizations, hospitals establish a visible presence that fosters trust and accessibility. Moreover, targeted information campaigns address specific health concerns and promote preventive measures, empowering individuals to make informed decisions about their health and well-being.

“The hospital, I think, has done a great job, especially through the program called It's a Girl's Thing!. I've seen how that has made a real positive impact within the life of the community and helping to raise a certain amount of consciousness, especially among the young girls in the community. I can't say or give you a report as to how percentage-wise that might be leaving an impact, but I think it's been one of the key things that has stood out for me...”

“Another partnership that the hospital and community have that I really, really appreciate is for October. October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. There is always a public program that is done, and it's public, it's both educational, because the information that's given at that program helps so many women... A lot of people don't know that Union General Hospital provides mammograms now, that they can go there and have that done.”

“Well, we offer a free nutrition program. It's free to the community in partnership with LSU. It's on social media every time we have a meeting here at the hospital...”

“I think for our community, just seeing that there's investments that even Union General Hospital makes into things that happen in our community, whether it's a health fair, we have a health expo and they're a part of that. We have Dia de la Familia and they're our title sponsor. It's just the idea of how invested they are in community. That's usually also a sign of health to me to know that they have the ability to support programs that help with the well-being and the health of our community.”

SUMMARY POINTS FROM THE FOCUS GROUPS

Twelve community stakeholders participated in the community focus groups. Participants discussed barriers and facilitators to health and well-being within the Union Parish community.

Perceptions about Community and Community Health

- Residents have access to outdoor recreation areas, encouraging physical activity
- Community members feel safe and support each other, and faith plays a strong role.
- Issues of healthy nutrition, income inequality, limited job opportunities, and transportation barriers intertwine, presenting formidable obstacles to residents' well-being.
- Economic constraints hinder access to nutritious food, exacerbating health disparities, while employment scarcity and commuting burdens strain households.

Perceptions about Health and Healthcare

- Adolescent smoking and vaping rates are on the rise, while nutritional deficiencies exacerbate health disparities.
- Substance abuse in both the teen and senior populations is a persistent issue.
- Chronic conditions, particularly prevalent among the elderly, add to the community's healthcare burden.
- Shortages in mental health resources and specialty care services further compound these challenges in Union Parish.

Hospital's Role in Advancing Community Health and Wellness

- Union Hospital is vital to community wellness and ensures improved patient health outcomes by providing comprehensive medical care tailored to residents' needs.
- Union Hospital promotes preventive care initiatives through partnerships with local organizations and participation in community events.
- Targeted information campaigns, such as the "It's a Girl's Thing!" program, empower residents with the knowledge and resources to make informed health decisions.

Health-Specific Wish List Priorities

- Access to nutritious food emerges as a pressing concern, with socioeconomic disparities and limited availability of fresh produce.
- There's a significant demand for mental health resources including drug rehabilitation, especially among adolescents and underserved populations.
- Addressing transportation barriers is essential to ensuring individuals can access vital healthcare services, facilitating timely interventions and continuity of care.

Summary of Data

Secondary data agreed with survey and focus group findings in several areas of community health challenges. The table below highlights where alignment exists in the data by area of concern.

| AREA OF CONCERN | SECONDARY DATA | SURVEY | KEY STAKEHOLDER FOCUS GROUPS |
|------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Adolescent Behavior | High teen pregnancy & STD rates | Mental health #2 concern for children | -Teen use of tobacco (smoking and vaping) |
| Cancer | -Higher prevalence than state -#1 cause of death -Female cancer screening rates lower than the state | -Screening rates show room for improvement -Cost was noted as a key barrier, yet screening is usually covered by insurance | -Screening services offered by hospital were noted. Awareness of them was seen as a need for focus. |
| Nutrition | -High rate of obesity -Food environment & food security comparable to state -Diabetes comparable to state | -Obesity #1 chronic condition -Nutrition identified as 3 health issue for children -42% don't eat enough fruits and vegetables | -Inadequate access to healthy food frequently mentioned |
| Lack of Adequate Physical Activity | -Obesity and inactivity worse than state Less access to exercise opportunities than state | Obesity and inactivity top 2 negative influencers of health | -Difficulty getting to natural resources noted |
| Tobacco/ Drug Abuse | -Higher usage than state Alcohol MVAs higher than state | -Top issue affecting quality of parish life | -Teen use of tobacco (smoking and vaping) noted. Need for rehab support services noted. |
| Mental Health | -Mental health provider ratio lower than state -Days of poor mental health in last 30 days lower than state | -Depression/ anxiety top negative health factor -Mental health was #2 top health concern for children | -Mental issues among all age groups highlighted |
| Access | -Per capita supply of providers of all types much lower than state -Preventable hospital stays higher than state | -Greatest concerns related to access to specialists and certain types of services | -Frequently mentioned (access of residents in remote areas of parish, access to specialty services outside the parish, lack of some services in the parish) |

Prioritization

Results of Previous Implementation Plan

When considering priorities for the 2024 CHNA, a key consideration was outcomes of the hospital’s previous implementation plan. That plan had five key focus areas aimed at improving health and wellness of Union Parish residents: adolescent behavior, cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and mental/behavioral health. The following is a summary of the plan’s outcomes.

1. Adolescent Behavior

- **Adolescent Female Education:** The hospital has continued to offer the "It's a Girl Thing: Making Proud Choices" program, a vital part of the adolescent behavior priority area. This initiative has been delivered every other week to 6th through 9th-grade girls, focusing on STD/HIV prevention, pregnancy education, and has now included comprehensive HPV education. The engagement from the community has been positive, with increasing enrollments and heightened parental support, reflecting the program's relevance and impact.
- **Adolescent Mental Health:** Union General Hospital has integrated various strategies to address substance use, bullying, and mental health among adolescents. Programs developed in partnership with local schools and other community organizations have led to significant reductions in bullying incidents and an enhanced mental health support network. These programs include regular sessions on drug prevention and suicide awareness, contributing to a noticeable decline in suicide attempts and bullying reports in the parish.
- **Alcohol/Tobacco/Drug Awareness:** Union General Hospital has conducted periodic education sessions on drug use/abuse, including methamphetamine use. Multiple community partners have been involved to ensure a broad reach and sustained impact.

2. Malignant Neoplasms

- **Education on Malignant Neoplasms:** We are actively educating the community about different types of cancer, risk factors, and the critical importance of early screening. This is accomplished through articles published on our social media platforms, our hospital website, and in our hospital newsletter.
- **Screening Programs:** We conduct various events and distribute resources, including free mammograms and colon cancer screening kits, to increase screening rates within the community. These screenings are crucial in detecting cancers early, significantly improving treatment outcomes.

Our partners in these initiatives include local churches, Union Parish Public Health Unit, CommuniHealth, the Union General Rural Health Clinic, and local providers such as the LA Cancer Foundation and Omega Labs. Through these collaborations, we are making significant strides in raising awareness and facilitating early detection of malignant neoplasms in our community.

3. Cardiovascular Disease

- **Education:** We are using our social media platforms to educate the community about cardiovascular disease. We post educational materials that increase awareness about prevention, management strategies, and the importance of lifestyle changes and early symptom recognition. We sponsor Nutrition Workshops at the hospital in partnership with LSUAg.
- **Outreach Events:** We distribute educational handouts at health fairs and employer-sponsored events, providing crucial information on maintaining heart health, recognizing warning signs, and the importance of regular check-ups.
- **Access and Services Expansion:** We have recruited additional physicians to improve access to specialized cardiovascular care. Our telecardiology program, which provides remote consultations with cardiovascular experts, is operational, enhancing service availability, especially for residents in remote areas.
- **Infrastructure Development:** We have successfully secured grant funding to add more exercise equipment along community walking paths, promoting physical activity among residents to improve their cardiovascular health.

4. Geriatric Behaviors

- **Promotion of the 340b Program:** We are promoting the 340b program extensively to assist with medication affordability in both the Emergency Department and our Rural Health Clinic. This initiative is aimed at improving prescription compliance among our senior citizens, ensuring they have affordable access to necessary medications.
- **Educational Outreach:** We are providing educational materials about the benefits of diet and exercise in managing chronic conditions. These materials are disseminated through social media platforms and in our local newspapers.
- **Nutrition Classes:** We are actively promoting and providing nutrition classes that are specifically tailored to the needs of the elderly, focusing on diet's role in chronic condition management. These classes are designed by dietitians and aim to educate seniors on making dietary choices that support their health.

5. Mental Health:

- **Monitoring Narcotics Prescriptions:** We continue to monitor the use of controlled narcotics prescriptions within the hospital to ensure proper use and prevent misuse.
- **Increasing Mental Health Referrals:** We have increased referrals to local mental health providers to ensure that residents receive the support they need. This effort helps to improve access to mental health services within the community.
- **Geriatric Psychiatric Services:** We provide geriatric psychiatric day services, which cater specifically to the elderly population, addressing their unique mental health needs.

These initiatives have been a part of a broader, long-term strategy to improve health access and outcomes in Union Parish, demonstrating Union General Hospital's commitment to its community's health needs. Notable successes have been

documented. The efforts, geared towards increasing community awareness, education, engagement, and disease prevention, reflect a multi-pronged, sustained approach to improve the health of Union Parish residents.

Prioritization

During the Hospital Steering Committee's meeting on May 10, 2024, findings from the assessment and prioritization of needs for the next three years were discussed. The Committee determined that all of the previous priorities remained significant issues for community health. Even with meaningful improvement in some areas – notably a substantial reduction in rates of teen pregnancy since the hospital began the *It's a Girl Thing* program – a need for continued focus persists. Thus, adolescent behavior remains the hospital's top priority. Notable gaps in preventive screenings for cancer combined with higher cancer prevalence in the area justify a focus on cancer and screenings as a second priority. Obesity rates, in concert with inactivity and a lack of sources for healthy food, justify a focus on nutrition education as a third priority.

Next Steps

As highlighted in the Executive Summary, the synthesis of secondary data, community survey responses, and key stakeholder focus group input indicated priority areas for considering improving health in Union Parish. After reviewing these data, the Hospital CHNA Steering Committee recognized that priorities from the previous plan continue to be areas of need where the hospital can make a difference. The Steering Committee determined that adolescent behaviors, cancer education/screening, and nutrition would be their priorities for the next three-year cycle. Next, the Steering Committee will refine priorities and develop an implementation plan to address these focus areas effectively.

COMMUNITY RESOURCE LISTING

ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES

Arbor Rose

Assisted Living Facility
243 Sistrunk Rd.
Farmerville
(318) 368-1848

BLOOD DONATIONS

Life Share Blood

Blood Donation Center
2909 Kilpatrick Blvd.
Monroe, LA 71201
(318) 322-4445

CANCER SUPPORT SERVICES

American Cancer Society

1-800-227-2345

Cancer Institute

411 Calypso Street
Monroe, LA 71201
(318) 327-1960

Cancer Society

1761 N 19th Street
Monroe, LA 71201
(318) 398-9603

Louisiana Cancer Foundation

411 Calypso Street
Monroe, LA 71201
(318) 966-1900

CHILDREN HEALTH SERVICES

CommuniHealth Services

Union Parish High School Based Health Center
1126 Marion Hwy Farmerville, Louisiana
71241-9305
Phone: 318-974-7525

Union General Rural Health Clinic

1025 Marion Hwy
Farmerville, LA 71241
(318) 368-9745

CHILDREN AND FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

Ascent

502 N. 2nd St.
Monroe, La 71201
(318) 654-4245

Center for Children and Families

“Brokers of Hope”
622 Riverside Drive
Monroe, LA 71211
(318) 398-0945

Child Care Connections Child Care and After school

(318) 323-4522
1-877-206-0820

Child Support Hotline

1-800-256-4650

Children’s Coalition of Northeast Louisiana

Family Support Services
(318) 368-3166

**Children's Coalition Parenting
Counseling and Referral**
(318) 323-8775
1-877-206-0819

**Cognitive Development Center of
Seaside**
1117 Marion Hwy.
Farmerville, LA 71241
(318) 368-2300

**D.A.R.T.
Social Services/Crisis Counseling**
107 E. Bayou St
Farmerville, LA 71241
(318) 368-6181

Domestic Abuse Helpline
(318) 368-3103

**Early Childhood Supports & Services
Counseling and Referral**
(318) 362-4676

Faith and Hope Behavior Health
3000 Kilpatrick Blvd Suite 200
Monroe, La 71201
Phone:318-381-8584 Fax: 877-819-9001

**Families Helping Families Counseling
and Referral**
(318) 361-0487
1-888-300-1320

Families in Need of Services
(318) 327-3415

**Grandparents as Parents of Louisiana
Marion Baptist Church**
1455 Lee St.
Marion, LA 71260

Office of Family Support
(318) 362-3386

**Office of Community Support Child
protection, Foster Care**
(318) 362-3362

Parenting Hotline
1-800-348-5437

Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana
1-800-244-5373

Safe Haven Counseling
Mental Health Services and Children and
Family Support Services Medicaid Clients
from Age 6 to 64
107 Miller Street
Farmerville, LA 71241
Office: (318) 368-4755

Social Services Child Protection
(318) 368 7917

**The Children's Center at ARCO
Counseling and Referral**
(318) 322-8974

The Wellspring - Big Brothers Big Sisters
(318) 323-9034

**The Wellspring - Counseling Center
24/7 Crisis Counseling**
(318) 323-1505

Union Community Action
Social Services/Crisis Counseling
P.O. Box 520 Farmerville, LA 71241 (318)
368-9606

United Way Support Services

300 West Carolina Avenue
Ruston, LA 71270
Office: (318) 232-0055
211 or (318) 322-0400 FREE 24/7/365
TEXT YOUR ZIP CODE TO 898-211 OR
CONTACT 211
Text Mon – Fri: 8am-5pm

CHIROPRACTIC SUPPORT SERVICES

Carpenter’s Chiropractic Clinic

509 Sterlington Hwy
Farmerville, LA 71241
(318) 368-9049

Green Family Chiropractic Clinic

205 E Boundary
Farmerville, LA 71241
(318) 368-9348

CHILDREN HEALTH SERVICES

Children’s Special Health Services

(318) 361-7282

Early Steps

(318) 322-4788

Shots for Tots Childhood immunizations

(318) 387-4878

Union General Rural Health Clinic

KIDMED PROGRAM

1025 Marion Hwy
Farmerville, LA 71241
(318) 368-9745

DENTISTS

LSU Dental

Extraction only Tues & Thurs Monroe
(318) 675-5000

Mehran Rastegar-Lari, DDS

CommuniHealth Services
Marion Family Practice, Dental, and
Behavioral Health Center
355 Main Street
Marion, LA 71260
Phone: (318) 292-2795

NELA DENTAL

7699 Hwy 2
Farmerville, LA 71241
(318) 368-9518

DIALYSIS CENTERS

**Fresenius Kidney Care Farmerville
Dialysis Center**

108 W Hill St Farmerville, LA 71241
1-800-881-5101

**Fresenius Kidney Care Farmerville
Dialysis Center**

1012 Sterlington Hwy
Farmerville, LA 71241
1-800-881-5101

DISABLED CITIZENS SERVICES

**Northeast Delta Human Services
Authority**

Office for Citizens with Developmental
Disabilities
(318) 362-3396

EMERGENCIES

Pafford EMS

307 Bernice Hwy
Farmerville, LA 71241
(318) 251-3276

Poison Helpline

1-800-222-1222
Union Parish 911

FAMILY ASSISTANCE

Broken Wings Mission Center and Thrift Store

712 N Main Street
Farmerville, LA 71241
(318) 368-2323

Trees of Righteousness Outreach, Inc, Thrift Store

106 Underwood Street
Farmerville, LA 71241
(318) 801-5800

Union Thrift Store

307 Martin Luther King Jr Dr
Farmerville, LA 71241
(318) 957-1086

Utility Assistance Community Action

(318) 368-9601

HOSPITALS

Reeves Memorial Medical Center

409 First Street
Bernice, LA 71222
(318) 285-9066

Union General Hospital

901 James Ave
Farmerville, LA 71241
(318) 368-9751

HOME HEALTH

Allegiance Home Health (1st Serenity)

907 N. Trenton St. Ruston, LA 71270
(318) 516-2270

AlphaCare HH

1859 Ave of America
Monroe, LA 71201
(318) 323-7097

Best Home Health

1903 N 7TH Street,
West Monroe, LA 71291
(318) 323-5594

Elara Caring Home Health

300 Washington St. Suite 402A
Monroe, LA 71201
(318) 322-5461

Glenwood Home Health Services

1509 North 7th St.
West Monroe, LA 71291
(318) 396-0452

Haven Home Health

401 Hall St #B Monroe, LA 71201
(318) 324-8632

Kindred Home Care

2201 N. Service Rd
Ruston, LA 71270
(318) 251-2559

Louisiana Home Care

1101 Hudson Lance Suite D
Monroe, LA 71201
(318) 377-0800

Magnolia Home Health Care

1285 Pine St.
Arcadia, LA 71001
(318) 263-2100

Prime Star Home Health

235 Desiard St.
Monroe, LA 71201
(318) 329-8292

Serenity Home Health

3602 Cypress St.
West Monroe, LA 71291
(318) 373-2273

St Francis Medical Center Home Health

1107 Hudson Ln,
Monroe, LA 71201
(318) 327-4500

**Stat Home Health Home Health 1913
Stubbs Ave.**

Monroe, LA 71201
(318) 410-1344

TrueCare Home Health

1904 Stubbs Ave.
Monroe, LA 71201
(318) 388-8826

HOSPICE**Aime Hospice**

510 Trenton St
West Monroe, LA 71291
(318) 387-1115

Ascend Hospice Care

4327 Sterlington Rd
Monroe, LA 71201
(318) 398-8190

Caring Hands Hospice

1905 N 7th Street
West Monroe, LA 71291

First Choice Hospice

300 Washington St
Monroe, LA 71201
(318) 322-0049

Heart of Hospice

111 Hudson Lane, Suite B
Monroe, LA 71201
(318) 329-9300

Hospice Compassus

2213 Justice St
Monroe, LA 71201
(318) 322-0062

Legacy Hospice

215 Arkansas Ave
Monroe, LA 71201
(318) 225-6695

Louisiana Hospice/Palliative Care

1101 Hudson Lane
Monroe, LA 71201
(318) 322-2235

Premier Hospice

1779 Daniel, Suite D
Arcadia, LA 71001
(318) 579-5066

Professional Hospice Care

118 Monticello
Ruston, LA 71270
(318) 232-1107

St. Joseph Hospice

1890 Hudson Circle
Monroe, LA 71201
(318) 387-2687

HOUSING ASSISTANCE**Farmerville Housing Authority**

Housing
(318) 368-9677

Farmerville Square Apartments

(Elderly and Disabled) (318) 368-7212

The Wellspring - Counseling Center

Housing services (318) 807-6200

Union Parish Section 8 Housing

(318) 368-1441

INPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**Allegiance Behavior Health Centers**

1401 Ezell Street
Ruston, LA 71270
(318) 255-8085

Allegiance Behavior Health Centers

3421 Medical Park Dr.
Monroe, LA 71203
(318) 966-4886

Freedom Behavior

1 Medical Plaza Place
Minden, LA 71055
(318) 371-5646

Glenwood BHU

128 Ridgedale Dr.
West Monroe, LA 71291
(318) 329-4525

Serenity Springs

1495 Frazier Rd.
Ruston, LA 71270
(318) 202-3860

The Hope Unit

323 West Walnut
Bastrop, LA 71220
(318) 283-3900

INPATIENT REHAB FACILITIES**Glenwood Rehab Center**

503 McMillan Rd
West Monroe, LA 71291
(318) 329-3667

Medical Center of South Arkansas

700 West Grove St
El Dorado, AR 71730 (870) 863-2664

Riverside Rehab Hospital

4310 South Gran St.
Monroe, LA 71202
(318) 556-8300

St. Francis Medical-Acute Rehab

309 Jackson St
Monroe, LA 71201
(318) 966-7150

Sterlington Rehab Hospital

370 W Hickory Avenue
Bastrop, LA 71220
(318) 281-4531

**UNION GENERAL HOSPITAL
SKILLED NURSING**

901 James Avenue
Farmerville, LA 71241
(318) 368-9751

LONG-TERM CARE HOSPITALS

Cornerstone Specialty

6198 Cypress St.
Wes Monroe, LA 71291
(318) 396-5600

Louisiana Extended Care

503 McMillan Rd, 3rd Floor
West Monroe, LA 71291
(318) 329-4300

Ruston Regional

1401 Ezell St.
Ruston, LA 71270
(318) 251-3126

Specialty Hospital

309 Jackson St. 7th Floor
Monroe, LA 71201
(318) 966-712

MEDICAID ENROLLMENT

**Faith and Hope Behavior Health Certified
Medicaid Application Center**

(taking apps in person and via phone)
3000 Kilpatrick Blvd Suite 200
Monroe, La 71201
Phone:318-381-8584 Fax: 877-819-9001
Medicaid Office
(318) 362-6207

LaCHIP

(318) 251-5105

LaMoms

1-888-342-6207

Union General Hospital Enrollment

901 James Avenue
Farmerville, LA 71241
(318) 368-9751

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

Lincare

408 W Mississippi St.
Ruston, LA 71270
(318) 254-0260

Marie's Medical

13 Blanchard St
West Monroe, LA 71291
(318) 388-3550

Midsouth Medical

107 Bridge St.
West Monroe, LA 71291
(877) 600-2620

Professional Care Pharmacy

4106 Desiard St
Monroe, LA 71201
(318) 345-2891

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Agape Consultant & Counseling LLC

718 N Main St
Farmerville LA 71241
(318) 608-7921

Cognitive Development Center of Seaside

1117 Marion Hwy.
Farmerville, LA 71241
(318) 368-2300

CommuniHealth Services

Marion Family Practice, Dental, and Behavioral Health Center
355 Main Street
Marion, LA 71260
Phone: 318-292-2795

INDIA's Intuitive Solutions Counseling and Recovery

201 West Bayou Street Farmerville, LA 71241
(318) 368-3363

LA Ark Addiction Rehab

100 McVicker Street
Marion, LA 71260
(318) 436-2421

Lincoln Counseling LLC

201 W Bayou St.
Farmerville, LA 71241
(318) 368-3363

Northeast Delta Human Services Authority

Treatment for Mental Health, Addictive Disorders and Developmental Disabilities
4800 South Grand
Monroe, LA 71202
(318) 362-3339
FAX: 318-362-3336

Ruston Mental Health Services Community Mental Health Center

(318) 251-4125

Safe Haven Counseling

Mental Health Services and Children and Family Support Services Medicaid Clients from Age 6 to 64
107 Miller Street
Farmerville, LA 71241
Office: (318) 368-4755

Superior Counseling Services, LLC

Behavioral Health Rehabilitation
1108 Sterlington Highway
Farmerville, LA 71241
(318) 368-9118

Superior Counseling Services, LLC

Behavioral Health Rehabilitation
829 E. Georgia Avenue, Suite 3
Ruston, LA 71270
(318) 242-0730

Union Counseling Center

105 S Washington St.
Farmerville, LA 71241
(318) 245-6281

Union General Hospital

Intensive Outpatient Mental Health
761 James Avenue
Farmerville, LA 71241
(318) 368-4748

NON-EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION

Ruston – Help Agency

(318) 251-5136

For Medicaid beneficiaries who DO NOT receive transportation services through a managed care plan:

Southeasterns 1-855-325-7626 For Medicaid beneficiaries who DO receive transportation services from a managed care plan:

Aetna Better Health

877-917-4150
TTY 866-288-3133

Healthy Blue

866-430-1101
TTY 800-846-5277

AmeriHealth Caritas

888-913-0364
TTY 866-428-7588

Louisiana Healthcare Connections

855-369-3723

United Healthcare Community Plan

866-726-1472
TTY 844-488-9724

NURSE PRACTITIONERS

Brent Albritton, FNP

CommuniHealth Services
Marion Family Practice, Dental, and Behavioral Health Center
355 Main Street
Marion, LA 71260
(318) 292-2795

Christina D. Ross FNP

D'Arbonne Healthcare Clinic
206 Boots Drive
Farmerville, LA 71241
(318) 620-0467

Lori Farr, FNP CommuniHealth Services

Marion Family Practice, Dental, and Behavioral Health Center
355 Main Street
Marion, LA 71260
(318) 292-2795

Lynette Wade RNC-FNP

Union General Rural Health Clinic
1025 Marion Hwy (UGH RHC)
Farmerville, LA 71241
(318) 368-9745

Vanessa Brass, RNC-FNP

Union General Rural Health Clinic
1025 Marion Hwy (UGH RHC)
Farmerville, LA 71241
(318) 368-9745

NURSING HOMES

Alpine Skilled Nursing and Rehab

2401 North Service Rd E
Ruston, LA 71270
(318) 255-6492

Arbor Lake

Skilled Nursing Facility
1155 Sterlington Hwy
Farmerville, LA 71241
(318) 368-3103

Bernice Nursing and Rehab Skilled Nursing Facility

101 Reeves St.
Bernice, LA 71222
(318) 285-7600

**Farmerville Nursing and Rehab
Skilled Nursing Facility**

813 Main St.
Farmerville, LA 71241
(318) 368-2256

Landmark Nursing and Rehab

1611 Wellerman Rd
West Monroe, LA 71291
(318) 396-3313

Princeton Place

1405 White St.
Ruston, LA 71270
(318) 255-4400

Reeves Memorial Medical Center

409 1st St.
Bernice, LA 71222
(318) 285-9066

Ridgecrest Community Care Center

1616 Wellerman Rd
West Monroe, LA 71291
(318) 387-2577

Ruston Nursing and Rehab

3720 US-80
Ruston, LA 71270
(318) 255-5001

St. Joseph Continuing of Care

2301 Sterlington Rd
Monroe, LA 71203
(318) 323-3426

NURSEMIDWIFE SERVICES

**Lisa Smith, CNM CommuniHealth
Services**

Marion Family Practice, Dental, and
Behavioral Health Center
355 Main Street
Marion, LA 71260
(318) 292-2795

PHARMACIES AND DRUG ASSISTANCE

Bernice Pharmacy, LLC

417 East Main Street
Bernice, LA 71222
(318) 285-9521

Walgreens Pharmacy
1018 Sterlington Hwy
Farmerville, LA 71241
(318) 368-2244

Farmerville Drug

208 Boots Rd
Farmerville, LA 71241
(318) 368-9711

Matte's Pharmacy & Gifts

314 Main St.
Marion, LA 71260
(318) 292-4570

**St. Vincent de Paul Community
Pharmacy**

Medication Assistance
502 Grammont St
Monroe, LA 71201
(318) 387-7868

Wal-Mart Pharmacy

833 Sterlington Hwy
Farmerville, LA 71241
(318) 368-2535

PHYSICIANS**Dr. Jeffrey Combetta**

Family Practice
206 Boots Drive
Farmerville, LA 71241
(318) 620-0467

Dr. Brian Harris Family Practice

402 Second St.
Bernice, LA 71222
(318) 285-9066

Dr. Rezaul Islam Cardiology

606 E Water ST
Farmerville, LA 71241
(318) 368-6400

Dr. Daniel Thompson

Family Practice
402 Second St.
Bernice, LA 71222
(318) 285-9066

Dr. Steven Unkel General Practice

811 James Ave
Farmerville, LA 71241
(318) 368-2238

**Dr. Steven Venters Internal
Med/Pediatrics**

811 James Ave
Farmerville, LA 71241
(318) 368-0190

PRIMARY CARE CLINICS**CommuniHealth Services**

Marion Family Practice, Dental, and
Behavioral Health Center
355 Main Street
Marion, Louisiana 71260
(318) 292-2795

Darbonne Healthcare Clinic

206 Boots Drive
Farmerville, LA 71241
(318) 620-0467

Reeves Memorial Rural Health Clinic

402 Second St
Bernice, LA 71222
(318) 285-9066

Union General Rural Health Clinic

1025 Marion Hwy
Farmerville, LA 71241
(318) 368-9745

**Union Parish Health Unit Public Health
Department**

1002 Marion Hwy
Farmerville, LA 71241
(318) 368-315

SENIOR CITIZEN SERVICES**Council on Aging Meals on Wheels, etc.**

606 East Boundary
Farmerville, LA 71241
(318) 368-2205

Elderly Protective Services

(318) 362-4280

Triad of Union Parish

710 Holder Rd
Farmerville, LA 71241
(318) 368-0469

SITTER SERVICES**Angel Care of Louisiana Inc. Sitters**

976 Weems Rd
Downsville, LA 71234
(318) 644-0698

Hearts Desire

112 N. Main
Farmerville, LA 71241
(318) 368-7475

THERAPY SERVICES**Union General Physical, Occupational
and
Speech Therapy for Pediatrics and
Adults**

901 James Avenue
Farmerville, LA 71241
(318) 368-7092

**TOBACCO TREATMENT AND
CESSATION****Tobacco Treatment and Cessation
Program**

Northeast Delta Human Services Authority
2513 Ferrand Street
Monroe, LA 71201
(318) 362-5342

URGENT CARE**SouthStar Urgent Care Clinic**

965 Sterlington Hwy
Farmerville, LA 71241
(318) 252-0734

OTHER COMMUNITY RESOURCES**Betty Street Community Center**

605 Betty Street
Farmerville, LA 71241
(318) 355-1141

Hustle & Crow Job Placement

Kirsten Gladen
(318) 791-0871

Union Parish LSU AgCenter

210 E Water Street
Farmerville, LA 71241
318-368-9935

The Banner News

211 Boyette Rd
Bernice, LA 71222

The Gazette Newspaper

104 N Washington St
Farmerville, LA 71241
(318) 368-9732

Union Humane Society

777 Turnage Loop,
Farmerville, LA 71241
(318) 620-0062

Union Parish Chamber of Commerce

116 N Main St
Farmerville, LA 71241
(318) 368-3947