

Community Health Needs Assessment

Mercy Hospital Paris

Fiscal Year 2022





Our Mission

As the Sisters of Mercy before us, we bring to life the healing ministry of Jesus through our compassionate care and exceptional service.

Our Values

Dignity
Excellence
Justice
Service
Stewardship

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Impact Evaluation of Previous CHNA

The 2019 community health needs assessment identified three priority health areas:



A community health improvement plan was developed and implemented to address these significant needs. Mercy Paris developed and implemented a variety of programs and initiatives to address the needs identified in the 2019 CHNA.



Impact Evaluation of Previous CHNA

Access to Care for Those at High Risk

While facilitating local community focus groups with our marginalized population, we discovered that much of the community lacked the resources for obtaining health care services. This remains an issue due to the underinsured or completely uninsured status along with other obstacles to care like transportation.

Community Health Workers (CHWs) have been serving at Mercy since 2018, screening for needs related to social determinants of health and facilitating access to services. Mercy employed a CHW specifically to cover our four rural communities. Our CHWs provided resources and assistance to patients over the last three years. CHWs assisted patients successfully obtained Mercy Financial Assistance, and enrolling patients in Medicaid.



Impact Evaluation of Previous CHNA

Behavioral Health

- ***Increase access to mental health care for uninsured and at-risk persons.*** Mercy Fort Smith collaborates with community partners to provide access to mental health services through comprehensive referral partnerships with:
 - Western Arkansas Counseling and Guidance Center**
 - Harbor House**
 - Rock House – Guidance Center**
 - Annie’s House of Hope**
- ***Baggot Street House*** is a collaborative program that provides training for prospective foster and adopting families. As well as providing safe, hospitable space for family visitation.
- **The Call** organization that mobilizes local churches to serve local children and youth placed in foster care.
- ***Behavioral Health Strategic Plan.*** Mercy will be significantly expanding its virtual behavioral health offerings over the next several years.



Impact Evaluation of Previous CHNA

Diabetes

- **Health Seminars** are hosted at community event with a focus on uninsured, at-risk patients, and community members who are seeking to become healthier adults through education. Classes will vary on topics that are relevant for target audience. There may be a hands-on component to some of the courses as well.
- **The Cooking Matters program** embodies the key elements of both United Way of Fort Smith's and Mercy's mission and vision. The program was conducted in collaboration with The Call. The program focuses on the many of the most vulnerable in the community bringing needed education and awareness in the areas of proper nutrition, shopping on a limited budget, and food preparation.



Executive Summary

- Mercy Hospital Paris is a 16-bed critical access hospital serving Logan County. Our primary and specialty care physicians are dedicated to providing high-quality healthcare. Mercy Hospital's experienced team of caring professionals, who also happen to be your friends and neighbors.
- Mercy Hospital Paris' extended service area consists of nine zip codes and includes both rural and suburban settings; however, this stands as the main acute care facility within the region drawing from each of the counties served. The CHNA report will focus on Logan County, where the acute care facility sits.
- We are affiliated with Mercy Hospital Fort Smith, a Mercy hospital ranked as one of the nation's top integrated health care providers. When you need us, you have access to a large team of medical professionals and resources that complement the great care you receive at our hospital in Paris.
- **Mercy Swing Bed Program**
- Mercy provides skilled nursing care for hospital patients who've had some recovery, but aren't quite well enough to return home. If you or a loved one is recovering from a stroke, illness, injury or surgery, our Swing Bed program can provide the skilled nursing and therapy care you need.

Community served by the Hospital

- Logan County is made up of rolling farmland, forested ridges, isolated mountains, and lakes. The county holds a plentiful amount of natural and scenic beauty, including the highest point in Arkansas, Mt. Magazine, which is 2,753 feet high. Mt. Magazine rises from the Ozark National Forest where, on a clear day, you can see up to 40 miles in the distance. The mountain is also within the boundaries of the Mt. Magazine Wildlife Management Area and a part of the Ouachita National Forest, making it one of only two counties in the state to include two national forests. Paris is the second county seat in Logan County. The railroad system from nearby Fort Smith to Paris had a tremendous effect on the town's economy and demographics in early 1897 along with coal mining efforts in later years. Having heard reports from the Midwest of farming success of German Catholic immigrants, railroad officials, with the cooperation of the Catholic Church, embarked on a successful campaign to encourage German Catholics to settle along the railroad. Today, Paris supports commercial activity, retail stores, small industries and a community hospital

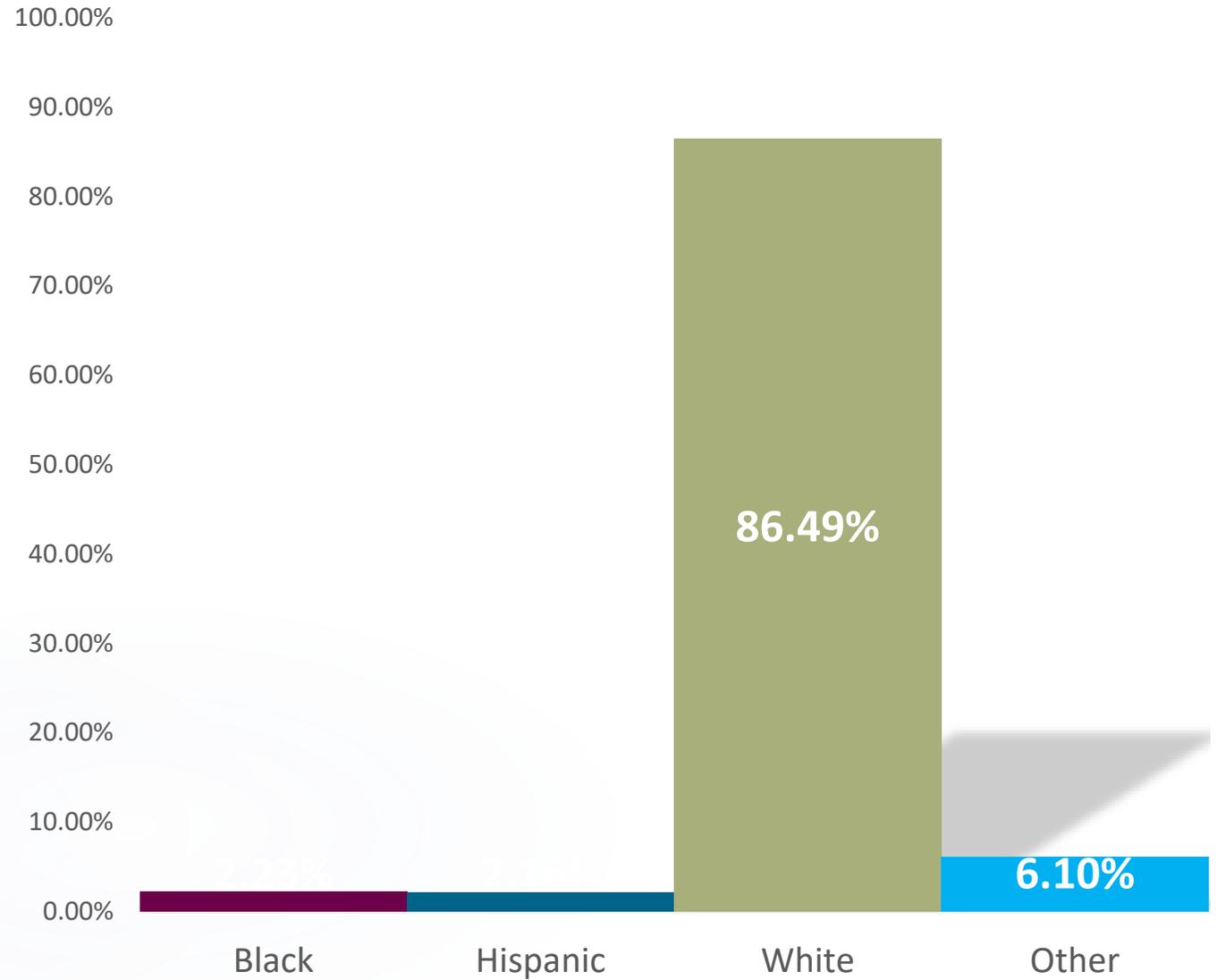
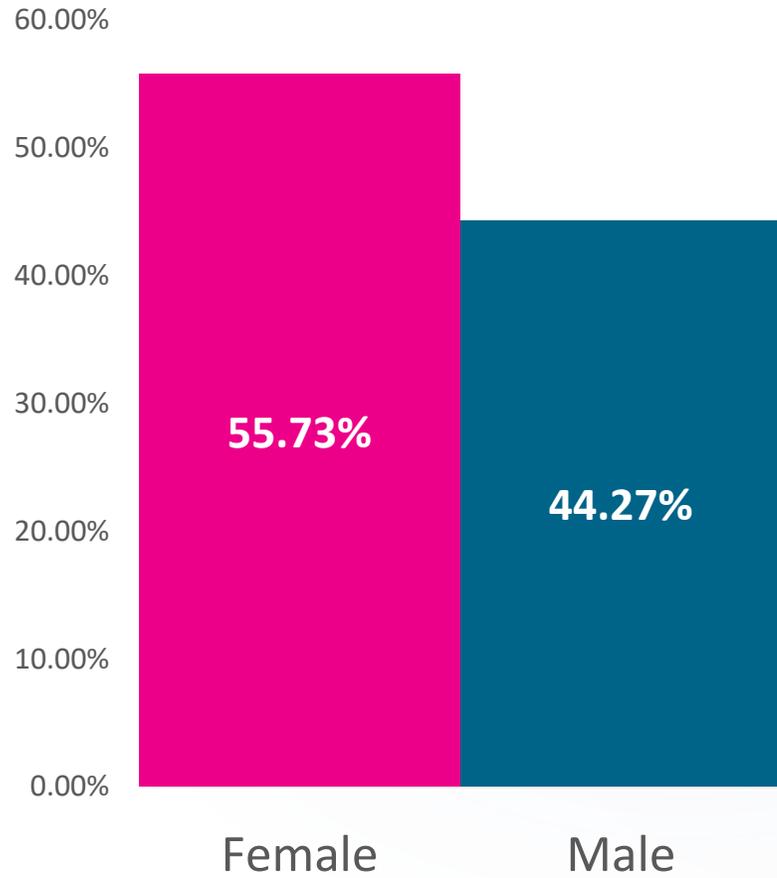
Community Profile

Demographics

Age and Racial Distribution	Paris	Arkansas	U.S.
Population size (number of persons)	3,236	3,011,524	331,449,281
Age distribution			
Under 18 years	23.8%	22.7%	21.8%
18 to 44 years	32.3%	35.1%	36.1%
45-64 years	22.1%	24.5%	25.1%
65 years and over	21.7%	17.7%	16.9%
Race distribution			
White alone	77%	68.5%	60.1%
Black or African American	8.6%	14.9%	13.4%
American Indian and Alaska Native	1.7%	0.7%	1.3%
Asian	4.6%	1.7%	5.9%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.1%		
Vietnamese	2.0%	0.2%	.65%
Ethnicity distribution			
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	8.8%	8.5%	18.5%

Community Profile

Demographic



Community Profile

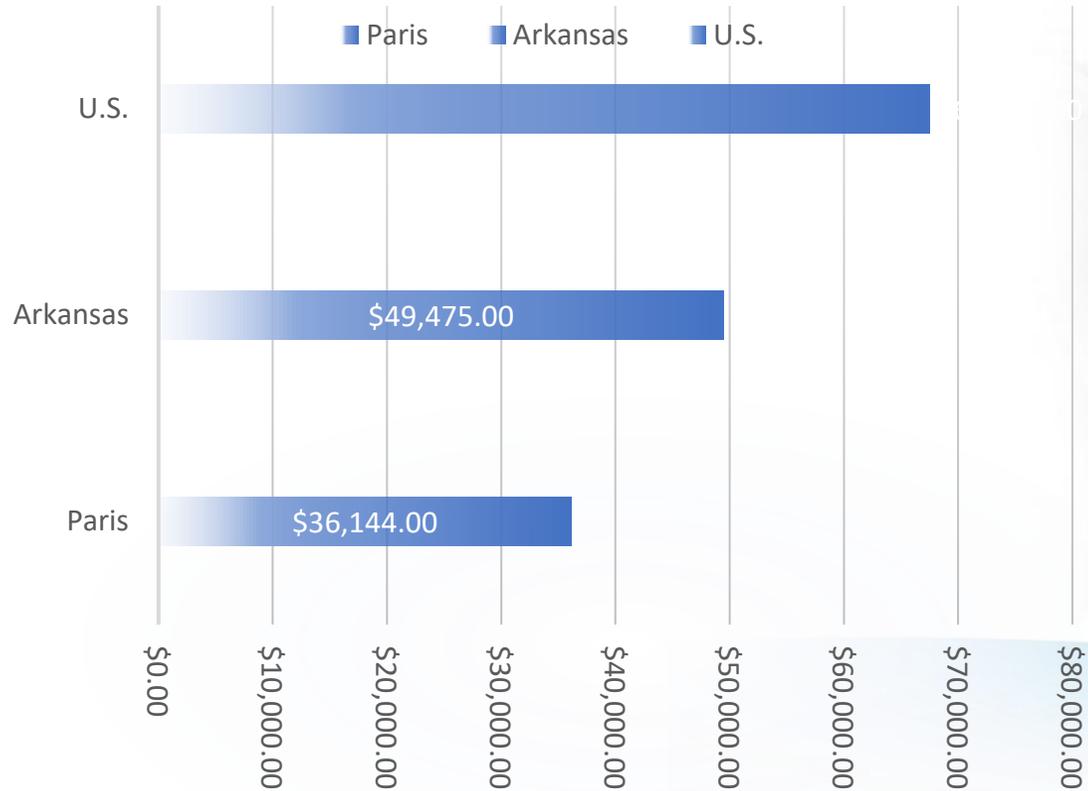
Education

Level	Group 1	Arkansas	U.S.
Less than High School	4.28%	13.3%	12%
Some High School	10.62%	34%	27%
High School Degree	42.07%	29.6%	28.9%
Some College Assoc. Degree	28.76%	14.8%	8.3%
Bachelor's Degree or Greater	14.37%	8.4%	12.4%



Community Profile

Household Income



Our Assessment Process

A list of community partners involved in the CHNA process is provided below:

In conducting its Community Health Needs Assessment, Mercy Paris collected and analyzed a significant quantity of primary and secondary data. Primary data was collected, and community input was solicited, by means of the 2022 Fort Smith Community Health Survey, which was led by Mercy Fort Smith. Secondary data was collected and analyzed from publicly available data resources, listed below, and from internal Mercy data. Paris indicators were compared to those of Arkansas and the United States.

The thoughts and opinions of people within Mercy's service area of Logan County were central to the health needs assessment process. Input from people representing broad interests of the community was solicited through a robust survey process guided by a Mercy-led community coalition and by seeking input from the Community Health Committee of the Board and the Logan County Health Department.

Our Assessment Process

(continued)

- The Community Health & Access Department co-workers underwent the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) process formulated by Mercy standards with adhering to IRS guidelines. This process included additional community partners such as: Hope Campus as well as other health systems/hospitals and community groups striving to improve the health of Sebastian County's residents.
- Co-workers in Mercy's Community Health & Access Department were the primary leads for the 2022 CHNA. These co-workers collected and reviewed data from a variety of sources, including: surveys, focus groups, published data, and hospital specific data. Surveys (online and printed) were sent to community partners and critical access hospitals for dissemination. The focus groups were conducted to hear the voice of marginalized community members as well as local leadership.
- The Community Health & Access Department evaluated this data alongside input gained from community members via coalitions and stakeholder meetings to:
 - • Prioritize the community's identified health needs
 - • Assess the community resources available to address those needs
 - • Create a collaborative health improvement plan in partnership with community resources possessing the potential to alleviate the prioritized needs.

Our Assessment Process

Community Input

Community Health Survey

- Mercy convened a community coalition of various health care and social service organizations to conduct a comprehensive community health survey in 2021. The survey was developed to build on the 2018 Mercy Fort Smith Community Health Survey and to incorporate input and specific needs of the coalition partners. The final survey was made up of 45 questions focused on health issues and needs most important to the respondents, wellness, mental health, barriers to care, COVID-19 vaccination, childhood immunizations, and the Fort Smith COVID-19 response. The survey was translated into Spanish and Vietnamese by certified medical interpreters.
- The Fort Smith Steering Committee hosted the survey on their website from February 2022 to May 2022 in the three languages. The Fort Smith Steering Committee promoted the survey on social media, and each partner organization distributed the survey electronically to their co-workers, patients, clients, and community members by email and through social media.
- A focus group hosted both Mercy Booneville & Mercy Paris due to the limited number of available participants on March 29, 2022. A series of six questions were asked to the participant regarding food, physical activity, health diagnosis, medical care, COVID-19, and top health issues. Participants were asked to provide a voice for their respective communities.

Our Assessment Process

Paris Community Health Survey

- Flyers and business cards with QR codes for the survey in each language were produced and distributed by coalition partners in the community and at community events. Surveys were also made available in paper format for participants who preferred to complete it manually or did not have computer access. Intentional efforts were made to include and oversample Hispanic community members by attending community events, reaching participants at workplaces, using culturally specific social media outlets, and utilizing Hispanic Community Health Workers.



[Mercy.net/HealthSurvey](https://www.mercy.net/HealthSurvey)

Our Assessment Process

Resources

The following external sources of published data are examples of those utilized in the data collection process.

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/>
- Community Commons
Institute for People, Place and Possibility;
The Center for Applied Research and Environmental Systems; and Community Initiatives
<https://www.communitycommons.org/>
- County Health Rankings and Roadmaps—2018
The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and The University of Wisconsin-Public Health Institute
<http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/>

Our Assessment Process

Resources *(continued)*

The following external sources of published data are examples of those utilized in the data collection process.

- HealthyPeople 2020, Leading Health Indicators
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services,
Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion
www.healthypeople.gov/2020/
- Fort Smith Community Update—2018
Annual Community Update Mercy
<https://baggotstreet.mercy.net/sites/default/files/hubs/Central%20Region20FortSmith%20Arkansas.pdf>
- Logan County Arkansas Counties Data
United States Census Bureau
<https://www.census.gov/>

Our Assessment Process

Community Coalitions and Stakeholders *(continued)*

Examples of agencies/organizations with which the department partners or routinely engages include:

- Arkansas Diabetes Advisory Council
- Logan County Health Department
- Mayor of Paris
- The Call
- Annie's House of Hope
- City of Waldron
- Chamber of Commerce
- County Clerks office



From Our Focus Group:

The Guidance center is good but stretched

John Q. Smith

Mercy transport van in rural areas would be nice.

John Q. Smith

Our Assessment Process

Paris Community Health Council

Survey Results

What are the TOP most common health issues in your city?

1. Overweight/Obesity
2. Anxiety/Depression
3. Substance abuse
4. Transportation

What do you and/or the members of your household need to be your healthiest self?

1. Floating mental health van
2. Better access to Guidance Center
3. Transportation



Prioritized Needs



Overweight/Obesity



Substance Use



Anxiety/Depression



Transportation

Prioritized Needs

Overweight/Obesity



- The community rated poor eating habits as a top risk behavior. Poor eating habits is linked to obesity as well as diabetes and hypertension. Access to healthy foods is inhibited by rising food prices and availability. Meal planning and meal preparation are seen as effective methods for reducing poor eating habits. However, respondents noted a lack of time and lack of knowledge about how do it this.





Prioritized Needs



Anxiety/Depression

- Local focus groups, meetings and surveys along with national and state data highlight the need for behavioral health. There is an increasing number of youth and adults in the community that are experiencing anxiety problems, suicidal thoughts, and substance abuse. The stakeholder focus group discussion highlighted access to mental health services was lacking, which is supported by data from the Health Resources & Services Administration. These community members also talked about how substance use remains the top social behavior impacting the Fort Smith region.
- The effects of COVID-19 has been detrimental to the population as our survey and our focus groups voiced. The Center for Disease Control & Prevention has seen an increase in the percentage of adults who reported symptoms of anxiety of and depression disorders during the pandemic.

Prioritized Needs

Substance Use



- In 2021, it is estimated that 19% of Logan County students have been treated for substance abuse.
- Substance abuse is more commonly diagnosed in White, 72% than Black African-American, 15.7%
- The Western Arkansas Counseling and Guidance Center, Logan County Clinic offers assistance with drug treatment and rehabilitation.
- Survey responses stated that there is a need for additional drug treatment assistance.





Prioritized Needs



Transportation

Transportation is a social determinate of health (SDOH) that effects our rural communities. From Paris to Fort Smith, where many specialty physicians practice, is a 47 mile one way drive.

Patients are making tradeoffs for their health decisions based upon their low income and the 47 mile drive to Ft. Smith.

Statistically speaking, individuals living in rural communities have a higher rate of diabetes and obesity than urban areas.

Resources

Mercy Paris collaborates with many local community agencies and organizations that have similar missions and personnel dedicated to improving the health and quality of life for individuals within the Mercy NWA region. Some of these partners include:

- American Diabetes Association Local Community Leadership Board
- American Heart Association
- Arkansas Chronic Disease Coordinating Council
- Arkansas Department of Health
- Arkansas Diabetes Advisory Council
- Logan County Health Department
- City of Paris
- Paris Health Council



Your life is our life's work.