



2023 - 2025 | Community Health Needs Assessment



REPORT SECTIONS

- 1** **METHODIST HOSPITALS INFORMATION**
- 2** **OUR COMMUNITY**
- 3** **HEALTH INDICATORS**
- 4** **COMMUNITY SURVEY / ONLINE FOCUS GROUP RESULTS**
- 5** **2023 - 2025 PRIORITIES**
- 6** **APPENDIX - COMMUNITY RESOURCES**



1 **METHODIST HOSPITALS
INFORMATION**

About the CHNA

This report provides findings from the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), a comprehensive review of health data and community input on health issues relevant to the community served by Methodist Hospitals. The assessment covers a large range of topics, but is not a complete analysis of any one issue. Rather, this data helps to identify priorities which lead to productive community discussions and the creation of goals and objectives. We invite you to investigate and use the information in this report to move toward solutions for healthier communities.

This report meets the current Internal Revenue Service's requirement for tax-exempt hospitals, which is based on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010. More importantly, this document assists in identifying services essential to those most in need. Based on the findings in this report, Methodist Hospitals develops a three-year plan for activities we will undertake to better meet community health needs as capacity and resources allow.

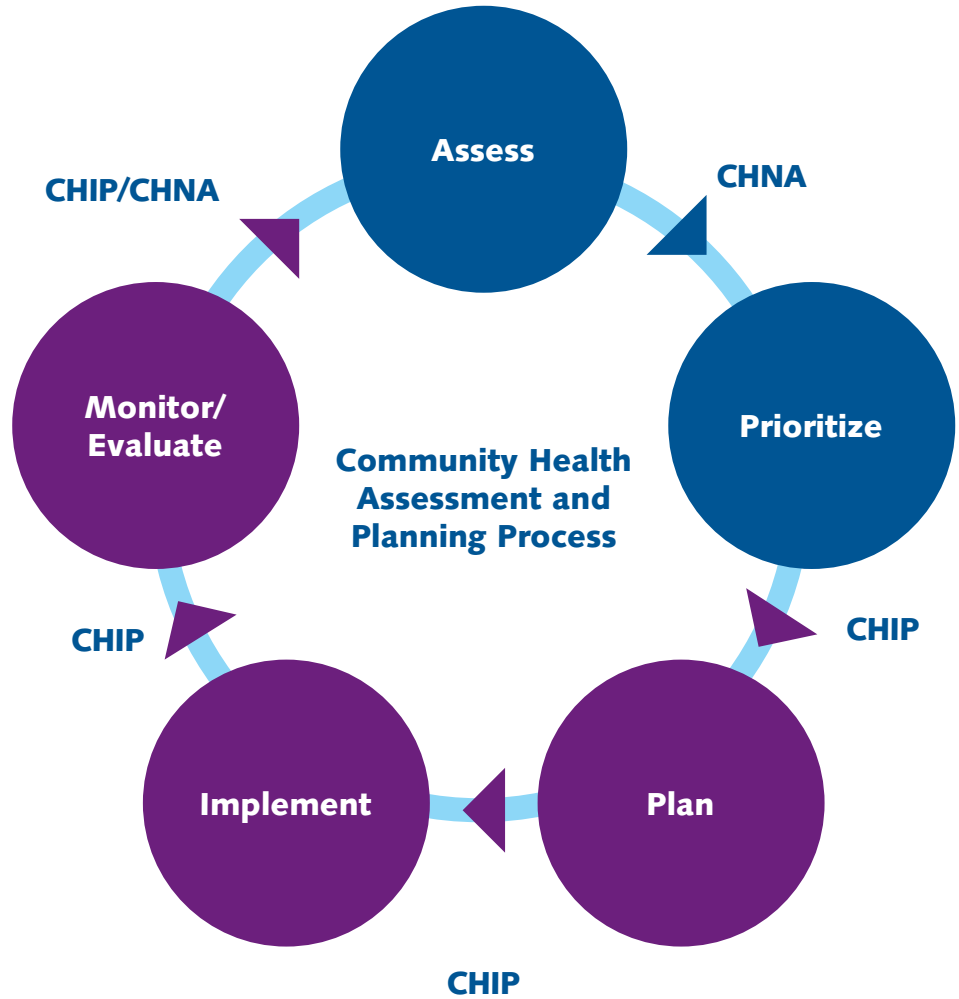
The CHNA collected input from persons representing the broad interests of the overall community, including those with specialized knowledge of, or expertise in, public health and residents of the communities the hospital serves. Data from a variety of federal, state, and local entities were also reviewed, such as County Health Rankings & Roadmaps, Indiana Indicators, Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Healthy Communities Institute (HCI), the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH), etc.

You'll find this document organized in such a way as to guide you through the community. Most importantly, please see section 5, where we share our priorities for improving community health in 2023-2025. We think it's important to be transparent, and we invite others to join us as we know improving health is a total community effort.

Yours in health,

Methodist Hospitals

Every three years, Methodist Hospitals takes time to assess the health needs of the communities it serves. This assessment allows us to prioritize our resources to implement programs that address these needs with evidence based practices. Throughout each three year cycle, staff evaluate and monitor the effectiveness of our programs. The priorities outlined in this report will form the bases for a plan called the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).



TENTATIVE TIMELINE FOR THE NEXT THREE YEAR CYCLE OF ACTION PLANS:

12/31/22
NEW CHNA POSTED TO
METHODIST WEBSITE - BOARD
APPROVAL OF CHNA

2/28/23
COMPLETION OF
TACTICAL PLAN

MARCH 2023
BOARD APPROVAL OF
TACTICAL PLAN

APRIL 2023
IMPLEMENTATION BEGINS

MAY 15, 2023
IRS DEADLINE



Methodist Hospitals is improving the health of communities in Northwest Indiana, implementing patient-centered initiatives that include investing in the latest treatments, technologies, and safety programs. Methodist also has a strong tradition of community outreach. In 2022, Methodist provided \$108.8 million in charity care, uncompensated care and physician and community services.

With a primary service area of Lake county, Methodist's two full-service campuses are just 14 miles apart. The Northlake Campus is located in Gary and the Southlake Campus in Merrillville, the heart of a large, growing suburban area and one of the Midwest's busiest retail centers. Each of our hospital campuses is comprised entirely of private rooms.

Our outpatient facility, the Midlake Campus in Gary, is conveniently located between the Northlake and Southlake campuses just off of Interstate 80/94. Since 2003, Midlake's Rehab Center has provided exceptional outpatient rehabilitation services. Physician offices and other services are also located at this facility. A growing network of Immediate Care Centers, physician practices and other facilities has extended our services to Crown Point, Highland, Schererville and Valparaiso, with additional locations in the planning stages.

Methodist Hospitals is a not-for-profit, community-based healthcare system, which is governed by a 18-member Board of Directors. Methodist Hospitals is also a strong advocate for the continued physical, emotional and economic well-being of the residents in the many communities we serve. 100% of profits are reinvested to improve patient care.

Website: www.methodisthospitals.org

2021 Inpatient Admissions: 12,138

2021 Outpatient Visits: 125,823

2021 ED Visits: 61,665

2021 Employees: 2,172

2021 Medical Staff: 564

NORTHLAKE CAMPUS

600 Grant Street, Gary, IN 46402
(219) 886-4000

SOUTHLAKE CAMPUS

8701 Broadway, Merrillville, IN 46410
(219) 738-5500

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to provide compassionate, quality health care services to all those in need.

OUR VISION

Our vision is to be the best place for employees to work, the best place for patients to receive care and the best place for physicians to practice medicine.

OUR VALUES

ICARE – Integrity, Compassion, Accountability, Respect, Excellence



**NORTHLAKE CAMPUS
GARY**



**MIDLAKE CAMPUS
GARY**



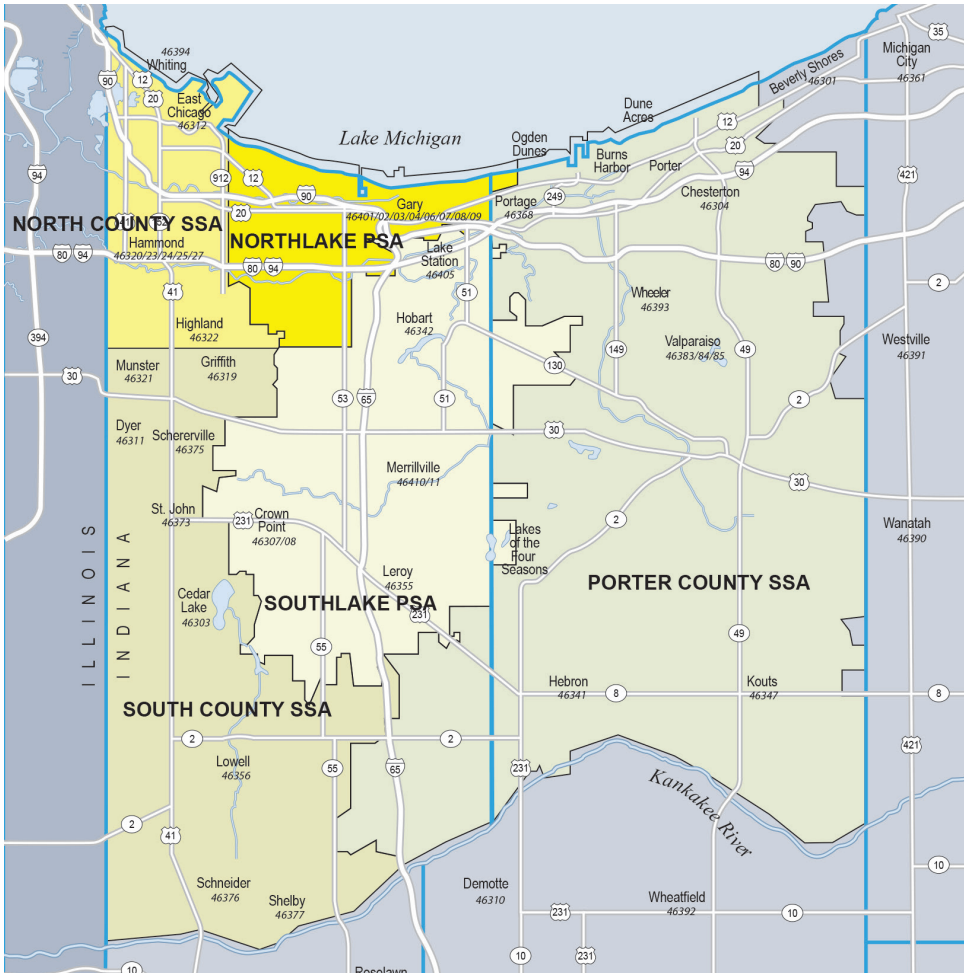
**SOUTHLAKE CAMPUS
MERRILLVILLE**



2 OUR COMMUNITY

OUR COMMUNITY

This section details the local community. The community profile contains information such as the geographic details, demographics, and social and economic well-being. Reviewing this information gives readers a sense of the community, including the strengths and challenges of daily living. Because of data constraints and the desire to offer the best snap-shot possible, the community profile may extend beyond the identified target communities for Methodist Hospital's community benefit operations.



GEOGRAPHY

Lake County is part of Northwest Indiana and the Chicago metropolitan area, containing a blend of suburban, urban, and rural areas. The surrounding counties include Porter County (east), Jasper County (southeast), and Newton County (southwest). Lake County has a total surface area of 626.56 square miles of land and the remaining 127.60 square miles are water.

While Methodist Hospitals serves patients from across counties, our Northlake Campus is a safety-net hospital and the only hospital in Gary, Indiana.

GARY VERSUS REMINDER OF LAKE COUNTY

The Gary community faces some particular challenges and the health needs of its residents may differ from residents of other Lake County communities. Therefore, demographics of the Gary community as well as the responses of Gary residents to the community survey will be broken out from the remainder of Lake County, and the top health needs of the Gary community will form a primary focus of the priorities and action plan. Much of the secondary data in the report is only available on a county level.

NATIONALLY PROTECTED LAND

The Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore is the only nationally protected area in the county. The Indiana Dunes is a unit of the National Park System, which is managed by the National Park Service. The beautiful lakeshore stretches 25 miles across Lake County and ends in Chesterton, Indiana.



AIRPORTS

There are two public airports located in Lake County including the Gary-Chicago International Airport (GYG) and the Griffith-Merrillville Airport (O5C). The Gary-Chicago International airport has several major nearby highways including I-90, I-80, I-94, and I-65.

MAJOR HIGHWAYS

Interstates	U.S Routes	State Routes
Interstate 65	U.S. Route 6	State Road 2
Interstate 80	U.S. Route 12	State Road 51
Interstate 94	U.S. Route 20	State Road 53
Indiana Toll Road	U.S. Route 30	State Road 55
	U.S. Route 41	State Road 130
	U.S. Route 231	State Road 152
		State Road 312
		State Road 912

DEMOGRAPHICS OF THE NORTHLAKE SERVICE AREA

Compared with the state of Indiana and Lake County as a whole, residents of the Methodist Hospitals Northlake primary service area (Gary) are slightly more likely to be over age 65, more female, and are lower in income and education. They are more likely to live in poverty, to be without health insurance and to have a disability. In Gary, the population is 78% black. In East Chicago, more than half are Hispanic.

	Gary	East Chicago	Lake County	Indiana	U.S. Total
Age					
Under 18	25.70%	26.90%	23.30%	23.30%	22.20%
65+	19.30%	14.30%	17.30%	16.40%	16.80%
Gender					
Female	54%	51%	51%	50%	50%
Male	46%	49%	49%	50%	50%
Race					
White/non-Hispanic	10.8	6.30%	53%	77.50%	59.30%
Black	77.90%	36%	24.50%	10.20%	13.60%
Hispanic	8.90%	57.50%	20.40%	7.70%	18.90%
Other	2.4	0.20%	2.10%	4.60%	8.20%
Education					
High School+	85.20%	73.50%	89.10%	87.60%	88.50%
College degree+	13.50%	10.10%	23.10%	23.60%	32.90%
Median income	\$31,315	\$35,396	\$57,530	\$58,235	\$64,994
Persons in poverty	33.10%	30.60%	15.80%	12.20%	11.60%
Persons with a disability	12.60%	13.30%	9.70%	9.90%	8.70%

US Census Bureau Quick Facts 2021

DEMOGRAPHICS OF THE SOUTHLAKE SERVICE AREA

Compared with the state of Indiana, Lake County as a whole, and the Northlake service area, residents of the Methodist Hospitals Southlake primary service area tend to have higher income and education levels and fewer residents living in poverty. Except for Merrillville, these communities are about 80% white. Merrillville has a relatively higher percentage of black and Hispanic residents.

	Merrillville	Hobart	Crown Point	Schererville	Valparaiso	Lake County	Indiana	U.S. Total
Age								
Under 18	22.90%	22.60%	24.00%	19.50%	19.40%	23.30%	23.30%	22.20%
65+	17.40%	16.00%	17.40%	18.40%	17.80%	17.30%	16.40%	16.80%
Gender								
Female	53%	53%	50%	51%	51%	51%	50%	50%
Male	47%	47%	50%	49%	49%	49%	50%	50%
Race								
White/non-Hispanic	36.10%	72.20%	78.70%	72.7%	82.80%	53.00%	77.50%	59.30%
Black	43.10%	7.80%	6.30%	6.60%	3.60%	24.50%	10.20%	13.60%
Hispanic	16.70%	14.40%	11.00%	14.00%	7.90%	20.40%	7.70%	18.90%
Other	4.10%	6.60%	4.00%	7.70%	5.70%	2.10%	4.60%	8.20%
Education								
High School+	90.30%	92.40%	91.60%	95.00%	94.30%	89.10%	87.60%	88.50%
College degree+	24.60%	25.20%	32.10%	35.90%	37.80%	23.10%	23.60%	32.90%
Median income	\$63,381	\$63,356	\$82,222	\$75,327	\$65,026	\$57,530	\$58,235	\$64,994
Persons in poverty	10.20%	13.30%	6.50%	5.00%	12.80%	15.80%	12.20%	11.60%
Persons with a disability	9.10%	9.40%	6.30%	4.50%	8.60%	9.70%	9.90%	8.70%

US Census Bureau Quick Facts 2021



3 HEALTH INDICATORS

HEALTH INDICATORS

HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

While Gary and East Chicago, and to a lesser extent Merrillville, still have higher percentages of uninsured than other Lake and Porter County communities, the number of uninsured has been cut by half or more since 2015. This is true across all the communities below.

NORTHLAKE SERVICE AREAS

Persons with No Health Insurance	<u>Gary</u>	<u>East Chicago</u>	<u>Lake County</u>	<u>Indiana</u>	<u>U.S. Total</u>
2015	21.60%	23.60%	14.70%	13.80%	
2021	11.80%	12.70%	8.10%	8.90%	9.80%

SOUTHLAKE SERVICE AREAS

Persons with No Health Insurance	<u>Merrillville</u>	<u>Hobart</u>	<u>Crown Point</u>	<u>Schererville</u>	<u>Valparaiso</u>
2015	17.50%	13.80%	12.80%	12.60%	16.30%
2021	5.80%	6.70%	3.00%	5.90%	8.40%

OVERALL HEALTH STATUS OF LAKE COUNTY INDIANA

The 2021 State Health Rankings, a collaboration of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, are designed to help counties understand what influences how healthy residents are and how long they will live. The rankings measure the current overall health of each county. They also look at a variety of measures that affect the future health of communities, such as high school graduation rates, access to healthy foods, rates of smoking, obesity, and teen births.

In 2021 compared to 2015, Lake County still ranks near the bottom of Indiana's 92 counties on the overall measure of Health Factors as well as its component scores for clinical care, social and economic factors, and physical environment. However, there has been some improvement in its ranking on Health Behaviors.

Lake County also continues to rank near the bottom on Health Outcomes, which is comprised of measures of length and quality of life, but has risen 10 places on this measure since 2015.

HEALTH INDICATORS

LAKE COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS (AMONG 92 COUNTIES)

<u>Characteristic</u>	<u>Rank in 2015</u>	<u>Rank in 2021</u>
Health Outcomes	85	75
Length of life	64	65
Quality of Life	92	81
Health Factors	91	88
Health Behaviors	92	35
Clinical Care	56	79
Social and Economic Factors	89	90
Physical Environment	86	92
<i>County Health Rankings 2015, 2021</i>		

UNEMPLOYMENT IN LAKE COUNTY INDIANA

The unemployment rate as of October 2022 in Lake County is higher than the state or national rate:



(Fred.stlouisfed.org, US bureau of Labor Statistics)

TOBACCO USE

Adult smoking is defined as the percentage of the adult population that currently smokes every day or most days and has smoked at least 100 cigarettes in their lifetime. Both Lake County and the State of Indiana as a whole have higher smoking rates than the US as a whole.



(Indiana County Health Rankings, 2021)

ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

While the percentage of Lake County adults who report excessive drinking is slightly lower than the state as a whole, the percentage of Lake County driving deaths where alcohol was involved is higher than the state average. The rate of deaths due to drug overdoses is higher in Lake County than Indiana as a whole.

	<u>Lake County</u>	<u>Indiana</u>
Excessive drinking	17%	19%
Alcohol-impaired driving deaths (percent of total driving deaths)	25%	19%
Drug overdose deaths per 100,000	31	26

HEALTH INDICATORS

LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH IN LAKE COUNTY INDIANA

Lake County Indiana has death rates higher than the state and national averages for heart disease, cancer, diabetes, and kidney disease. More residents of Lake County also die by homicide, firearms and drugs than do those in Indiana or the US as a whole.

Age-Adjusted Death Rate (per 100,000)	Lake County	Indiana	US
Diseases of the Heart	195.3	183.2	161.5
Malignant Neoplasms (Cancers)	176.1	170	146.2
Accidents	57.3	58.7	41.7
Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease (CLRD)	41.6	55.2	38.2
Cerebrovascular Disease (Stroke)	37.8	40.2	37
Diabetes Mellitus	32.3	26.6	21.6
Kidney Disease	25.9	18.5	12.7
*Firearm-Related	21.7	15	
Homicide/Legal Intervention	16	6	6.2
Alzheimer's Disease	22.2	35.3	29.8
Pneumonia/Influenza	10.5		12.3
*Intentional Self-Harm (Suicide)	14	16.2	14
Motor Vehicle Crashes	8.4	13.4	
*Drug-Induced	21.6	17.1	21.7

Indiana Mortality Report 2017 / Indiana County Health Rankings 2021

MOST PREVALENT CANCERS IN LAKE COUNTY INDIANA

As noted above, the cancer mortality rate in Lake County is 176.1 per 100,000, which is above the state average of 178.7. The top four causes of cancer mortality are listed below with their rates per 100,000.

Lung Cancer: 46.6%	Colorectal Cancer: 16.1	Female Breast Cancer: 15.1	Prostate Cancer: 8.8
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(Indiana Indicators, 2017)

NUTRITION, PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND WEIGHT

While more Lake County residents have access to exercise opportunities than Indiana residents overall, more are obese, more are inactive and access to healthy foods is lower.

	Lake County	Indiana
Adult obesity	38%	34%
Food Environment Index Score	7.2	7
Lack access to healthy food	10%	7%
Food Insecurity	14%	13%
Percent of residents who are physically inactive	27%	27%
Access to exercise opportunities	92%	75%

(Indiana County Health Rankings 2021)

INFANT MORTALITY RATES 2020

Infant mortality rates in Gary and Merrillville are significantly higher than Lake County as a whole and the State of Indiana. And across NWI and the entire state, infant mortality among Blacks is much higher than among Whites or Hispanics.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>NH White</u>	<u>NH Black</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>
Gary	17.5	0	14.8	0
Merrillville	19.2	0	27.9	0
Lake County	8.9	4.2	16.3	7.1
Indiana	6.6	5.5	13.2	6

SECONDARY DATA GAPS AND CHALLENGES

Public health data and infrastructure is severely lacking in Indiana, as the state consistently ranks in the bottom two to three states for public health funding, service, and support. Much of the data used is from state and national collections that are only implemented every few years. Data may not reflect the current status of health. Also, as a home rule state, county data isn't always available or reliable. Zip code data rarely is available, except in national databases, such as the US Census Bureau.

Thus, most of this data is for Lake County as a whole, but not for individual communities within Lake County. As evidenced by the demographic data for the Northlake and Southlake primary service areas, there are significant differences in income, education, poverty rates, rates of disability and health insurance coverage, as well as racial composition across these communities. It seems likely that data for Lake County overall obscures differences that may exist on health dimensions.

It is the team's hope that by using the available secondary data with the collected primary data, a relatively accurate picture of community health is presented.



4 **COMMUNITY SURVEY / ONLINE
FOCUS GROUP RESULTS**

PROCESS FOR 2023-2025 CHNA

Methodist Hospitals' CHNA community survey was conducted May through September 2022. In October, an online Focus Group was conducted to gain expert input from senior leaders in our community.

The information gathered from this research guided an adoption of an implementation strategy to address the identified community needs.

KEY DEADLINES FOR METHODIST:

- December 5, 2022 - Board approval of the Assessment and key barriers to be addressed in the implementation plan
- December 31, 2022 - CHNA reports placed on hospital web site
- May 15, 2023 - Board approval of the implementation tactical plan

WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE CHNA:

The online Focus Group respondents were senior leaders at:

- Indiana University Northwest
- Purdue Northwest
- Tradewinds Services
- Community HealthNet
- Marram Health
- Mental Health America
- NWI Gary 411

SURVEY SAMPLE: 823

Segment	n-size	Error Range
Age		
18-34	80*	± 11.0%
35-54	183	± 7.2%
55+	560	± 4.1%
Participant Source		
Consumer Panel	250	± 6.2%
Open Link	573	± 4.1%
Service Area		
NLC (Northlake) Primary	296	± 5.7%
SLC (Southlake) Primary	356	± 5.2%
NLC/SLC Secondary	171	± 7.5%

An NRC Health On Demand Study

Methodist Hospitals Community Needs & Barriers to Care

April – September 2022



Research Objectives

- Learn about respondents' current perceptions of their mental health and the health problems they believe most impact the community.
- Learn which social and environmental problems respondents believe are most impacting the community's health.
- Determine why people in the community do not seek health care.



Study Design

Background

- NRC Health conducted an online survey of general consumers and the Methodist Health community, age 18+ in the Methodist Service Area
- Invitations sent to recipients meeting these criteria through an open survey link distributed by Methodist Hospitals and through NRC Health’s consumer panel provider
- Fielded April 7 – September 17, 2022
- All recipients were given the option to opt out of the study

Methodology

- 823 respondents completed the survey
- Standard error range ± 3.4% at 95% confidence level

Segment	n-size	Error Range
Age		
18-34	80*	± 11.0%
35-54	183	± 7.2%
55+	560	± 4.1%
Participant Source		
Consumer Panel	250	± 6.2%
Open Link	573	± 4.1%
Service Area		
NLC (Northlake) Primary	296	± 5.7%
SLC (Southlake) Primary	356	± 5.2%
NLC/SLC Secondary	171	± 7.5%

*Please note low n-size



Executive Summary

Community Needs & Barriers to Care

- Compared to respondents under the age of 55, respondents aged 55+ reported fewer days in the past 30 days where their mental health was not good. Respondents aged 18-34 most often reported 1-5 days (28%) or 6-10 days (23%) when their mental health was not good.
- The top four health problems respondents believe affect the health of their community are heart disease/blood pressure (34%), diabetes/high blood sugar (33%), overweight/obesity (32%), and mental health (30%). When segmenting by age, respondents under the age of 55 most often selected mental health (18-34 – 56%; 35-54 – 38%).
- The three most important social/environmental problems respondents selected that affect the health of their community were poverty (29%), neighborhood safety/violence (25%), and transportation problems (23%).
- When asked why people in their community do not get health care, the top two reason respondents selected were cost – too expensive/can’t pay (69%) and no insurance (60%).
- Two-thirds of respondents stated they have the ability to find healthy foods around where they live.
- The majority of respondents (90%) have access to a dentist or dental services.

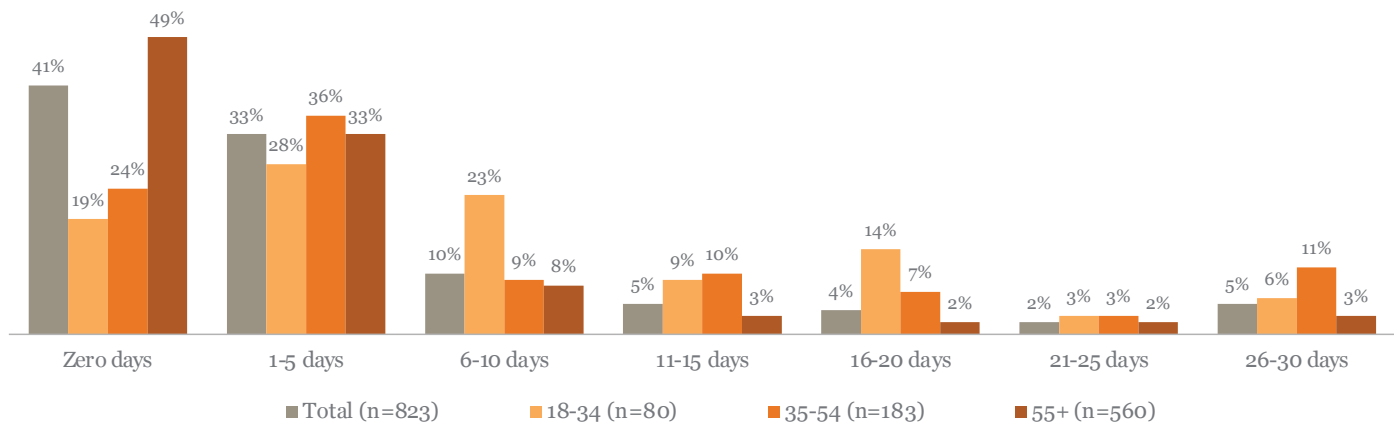


Community Needs & Barriers to Care



Mental Health (1 of 3 – Age)

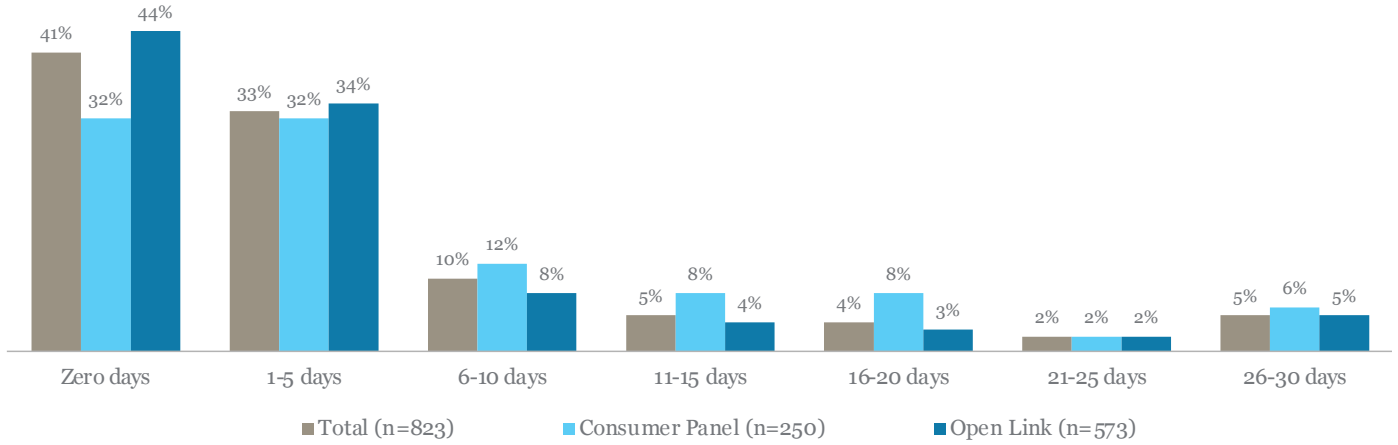
Compared to respondents under the age of 55, respondents aged 55+ reported fewer days in the past 30 days where their mental health was not good.



Q2) On how many days during the past 30 days was your mental health not good? Mental health includes stress, depression, and problems with emotions.

Mental Health (2 of 3 – Participant Source)

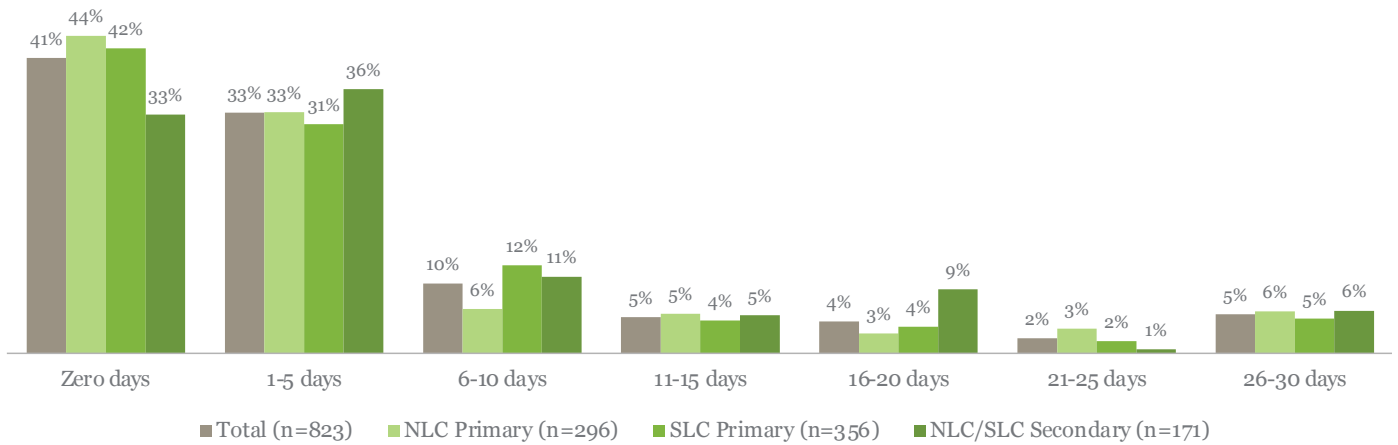
44% of open link respondents, compared to 32% of consumer panelists, said they had zero days in the past 30 days where their mental health was not good.



Q2) On how many days during the past 30 days was your mental health not good? Mental health includes stress, depression, and problems with emotions.

Mental Health (3 of 3 – Service Area)

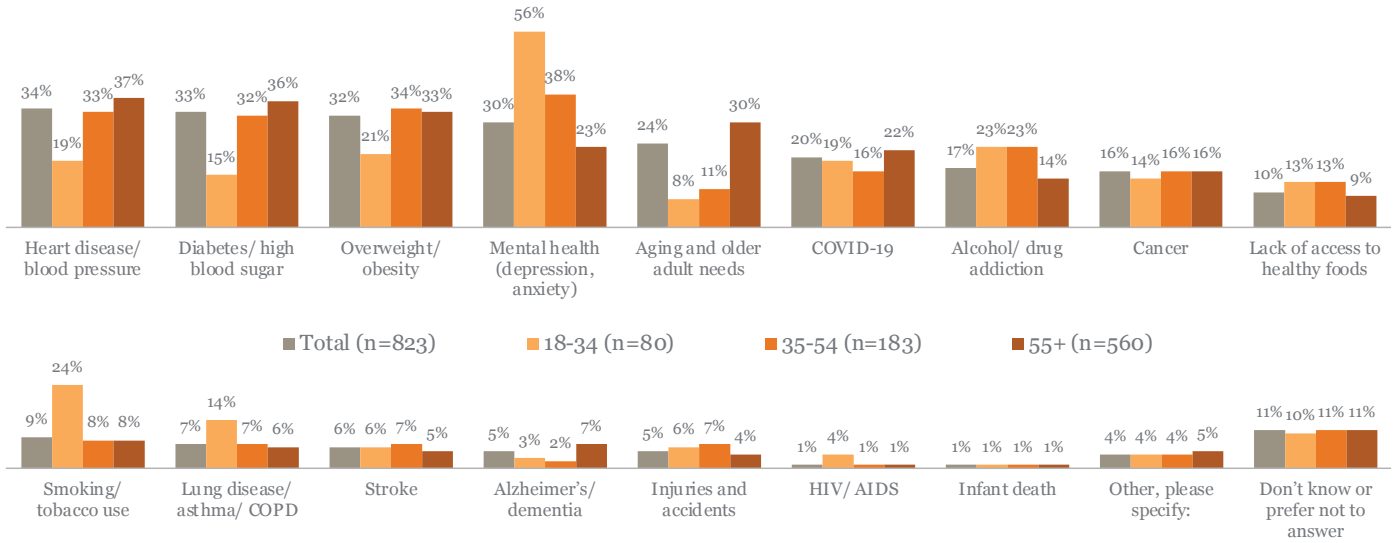
44% of NCL Primary respondents, 42% of SLC Primary respondents, and 33% of NLC/SLC Secondary respondents reported zero bad mental health days in the past 30 days.



Q2) On how many days during the past 30 days was your mental health not good? Mental health includes stress, depression, and problems with emotions.

Health Problems Affecting Community (1 of 3 – Age)

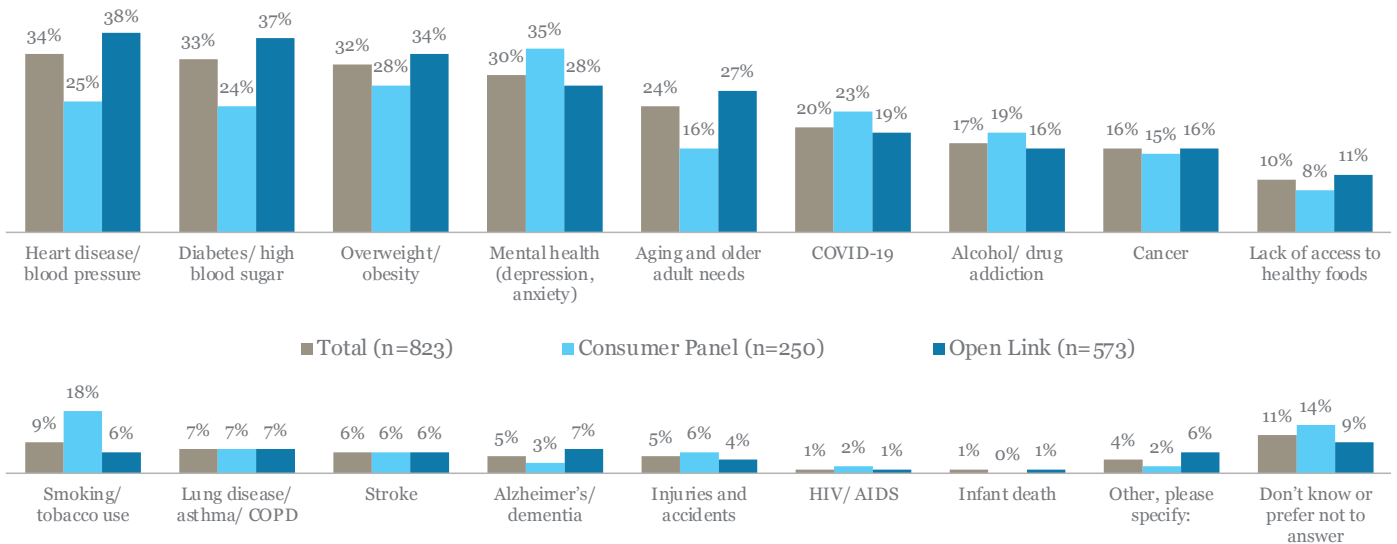
Respondents under the age of 55 most often selected mental health as an important health problem affecting their community. The most selected response for respondents aged 55+ was heart disease/blood pressure (37%).



Q3) What are the three most important health problems that affect the health of your community?

Health Problems Affecting Community (2 of 3 – Participant Source)

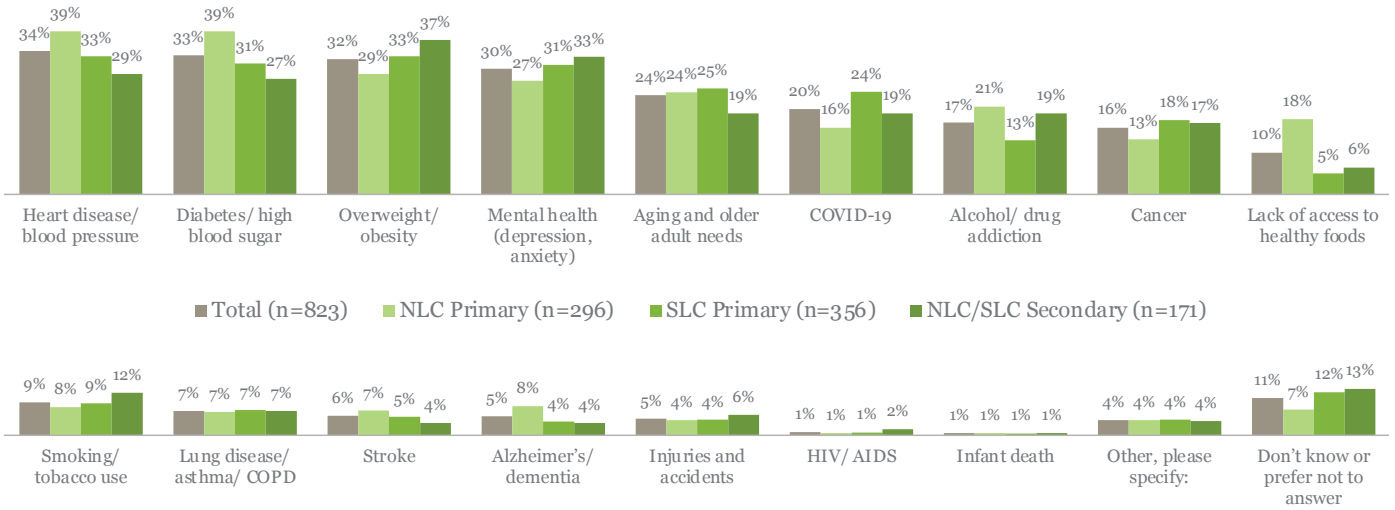
Consumer panelists most often selected mental health (35%) and open link respondents most often selected heart disease/blood pressure as an important health problem affecting the health of their community.



Q3) What are the three most important health problems that affect the health of your community?

Health Problems Affecting Community (3 of 3 – Service Area)

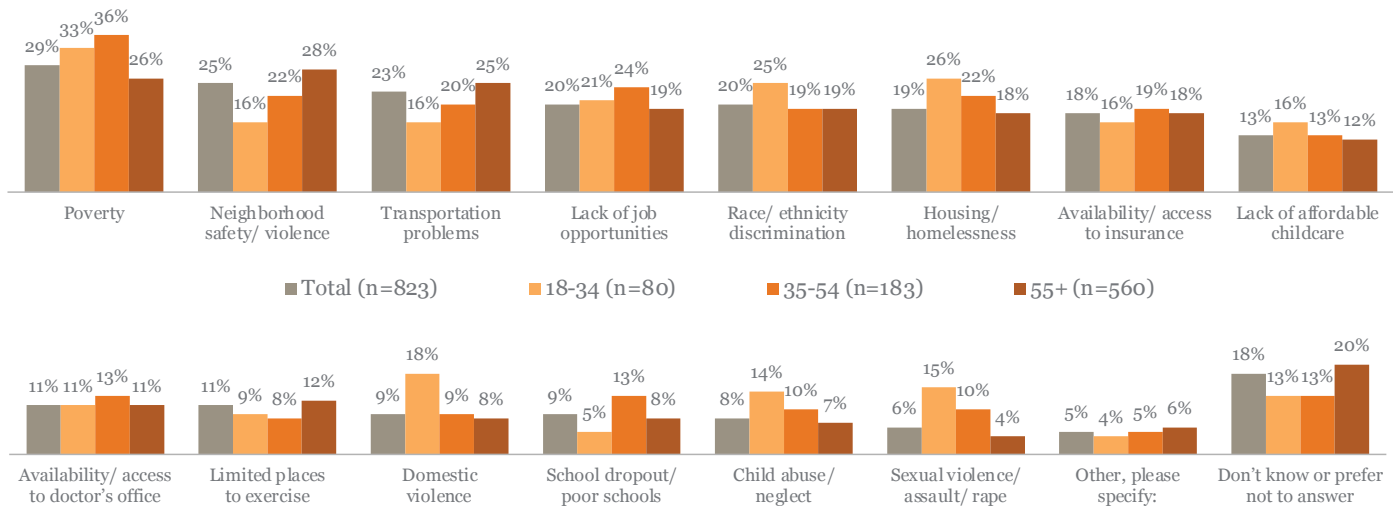
18% of NLC Primary respondents, compared to 5% of SLC Primary and 6% of NLC/SLC Secondary respondents, identified lack of access to healthy foods as an important health problem affecting the health of their community.



Q3) What are the three most important health problems that affect the health of your community?

Social/Environmental Problems (1 of 3 – Age)

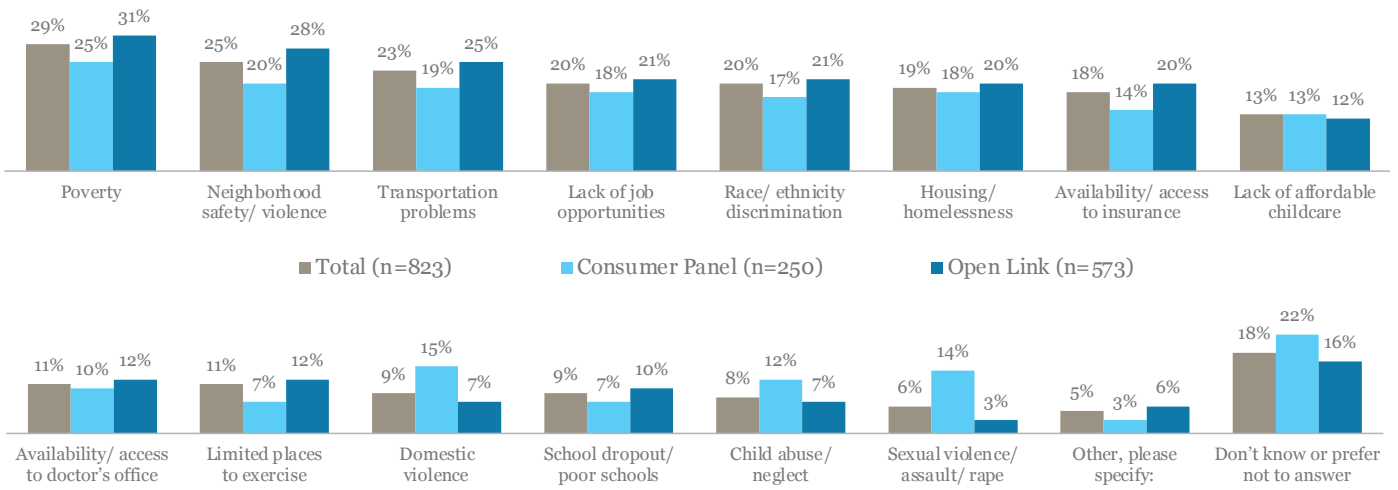
Respondents under the age of 55 most often selected poverty and respondents aged 55+ most often selected neighborhood safety/violence as the most important social/environmental problems that affect the health of their community.



Q4) What are the three most important social/environmental problems that affect the health of your community?

Social/Environmental Problems (2 of 3 – Participant Source)

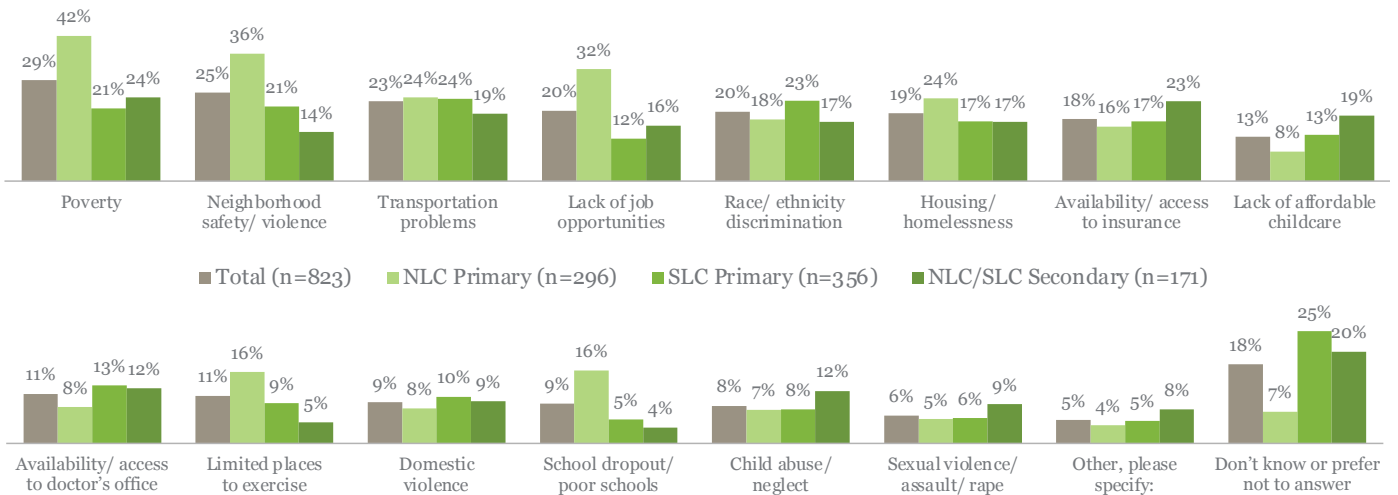
Both consumer panelists and open link respondents most often identified poverty, neighborhood safety/violence, and transportation problems as problems affecting the health of their community.



Q4) What are the three most important social/environmental problems that affect the health of your community?

Social/Environmental Problems (3 of 3 – Service Area)

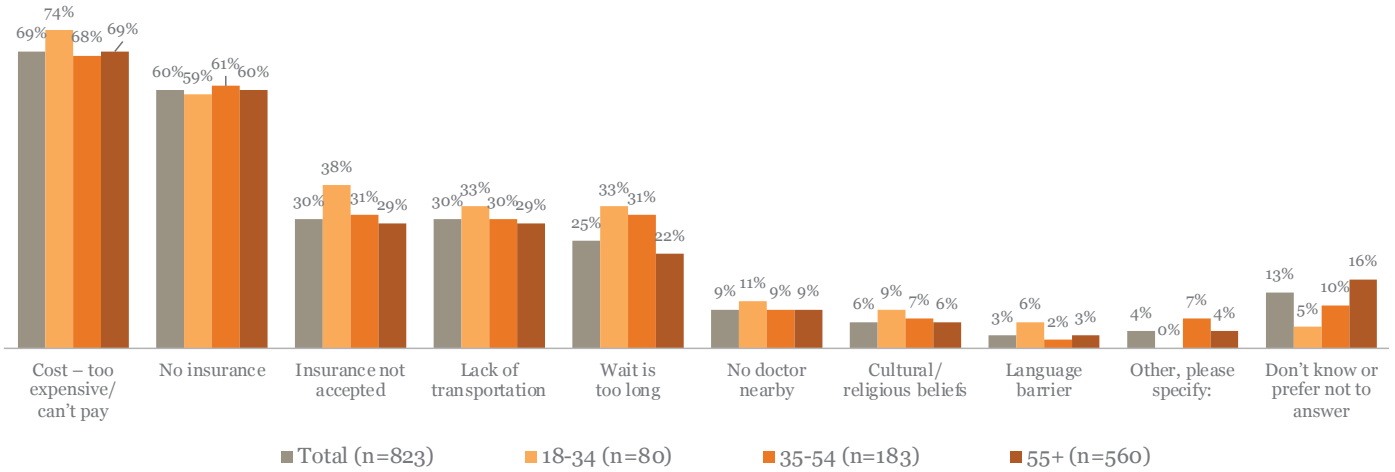
The three most often selected social/environmental problems NLC Primary respondents selected were poverty (42%), neighborhood safety/violence (36%), and lack of job opportunities (32%).



Q4) What are the three most important social/environmental problems that affect the health of your community?

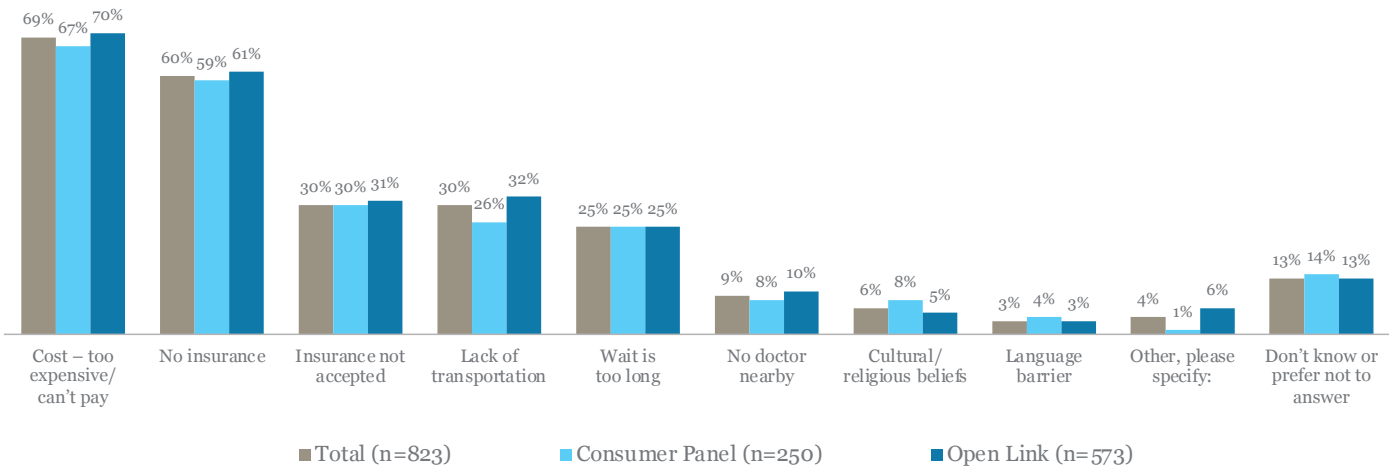
Reasons for Not Getting Health Care (1 of 3 – Age)

The reasons all age groups most often selected for why people in their community do not get health care are due to the cost being too expensive or inability to pay (69%) and no insurance (60%).



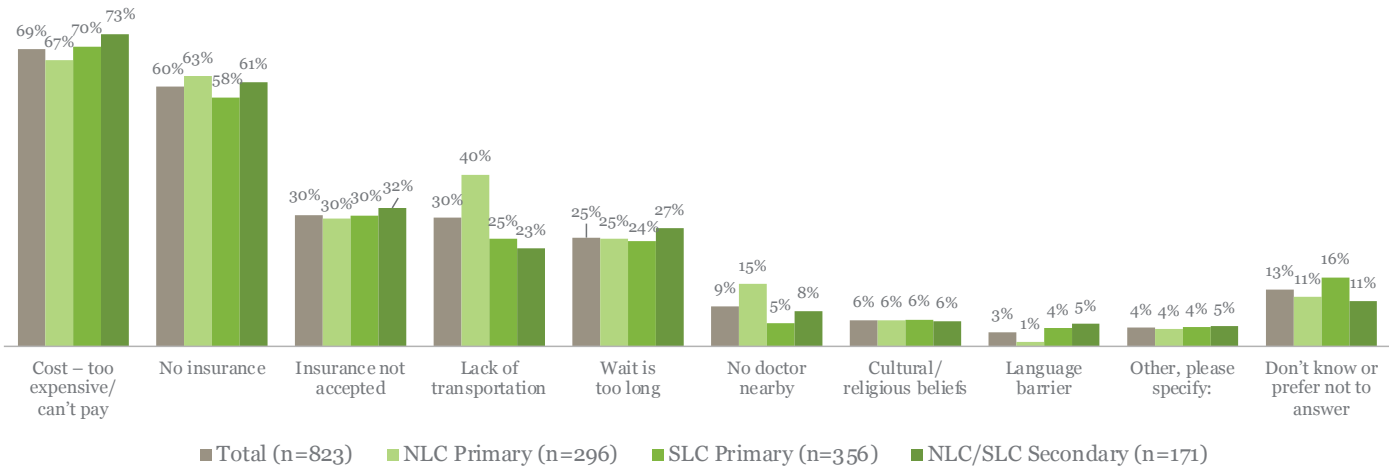
Q5) What are the three most important reasons why people in your community do not get health care?

Reasons for Not Getting Health Care (2 of 3 – Participant Source)



Q5) What are the three most important reasons why people in your community do not get health care?

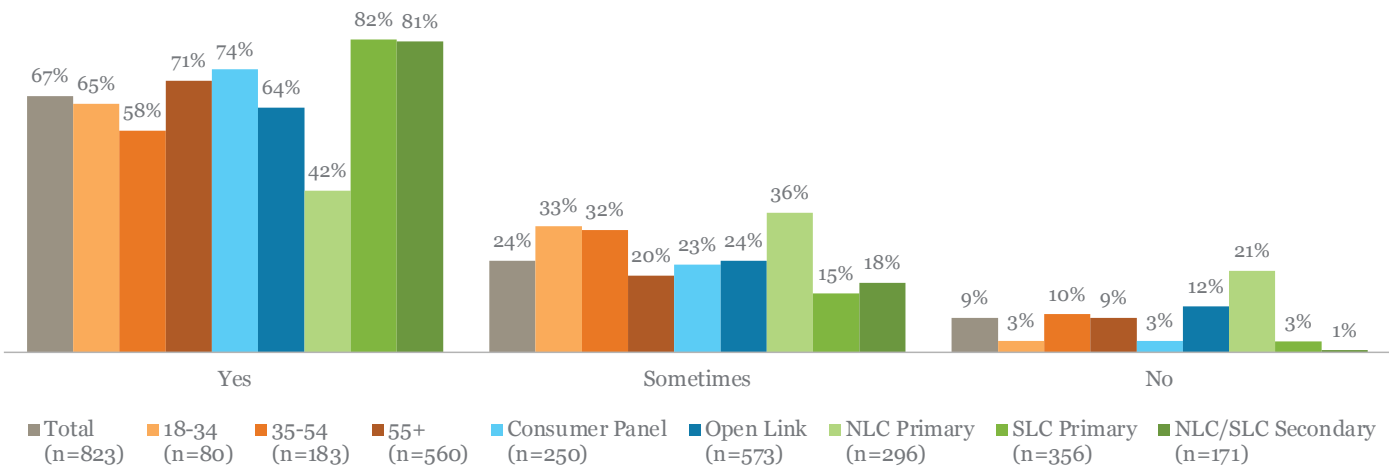
Reasons for Not Getting Health Care (3 of 3 – Service Area)



Q5) What are the three most important reasons why people in your community do not get health care?

Access to Healthy Foods

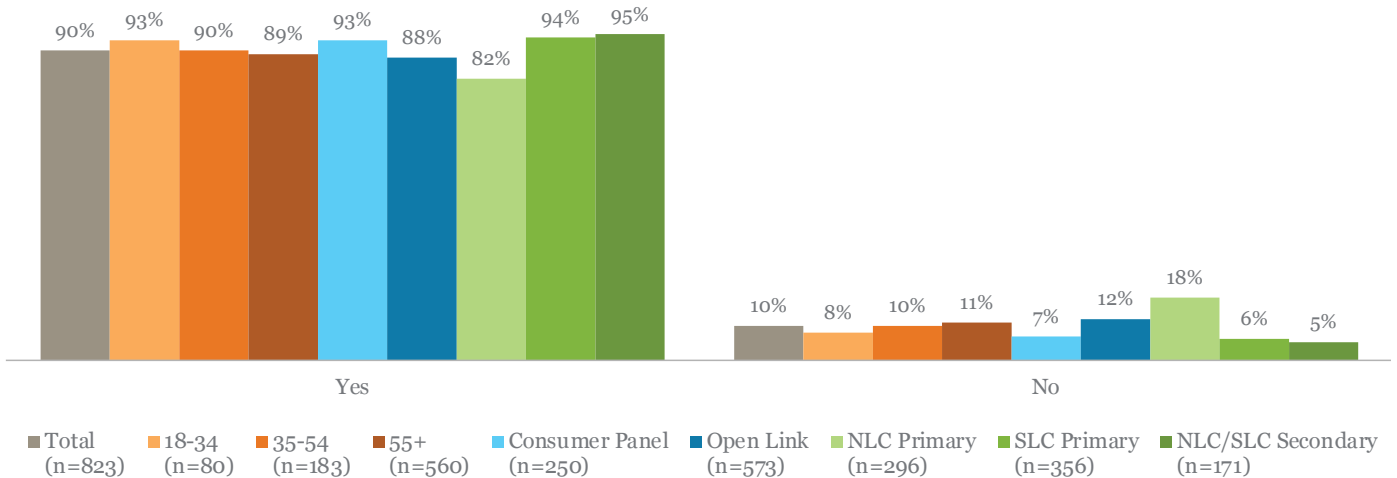
3% of consumer panelists, compared to 12% of open link respondents, stated they do not have the ability to find healthy foods near them. 42% of NLC Primary respondents, compared to 82% of SLC Primary and 81% of NLC/SLC Secondary respondents, stated they do have the ability to find healthy foods near them.



Q6) Do you have the ability to find healthy foods around where you live?

Access to Dentist

The majority of respondents (90%) have access to a dentist or dental services. When segmenting by service area, 82% of NLC Primary respondents, compared to 94% of SLC Primary and 95% of NLC/SLC Secondary respondents, have access to a dentist.



Q7) Do you have access to a dentist or dental services?

Dietary Resources Needed

In addition to mental healthcare resources, participants often commented on their community’s need for healthy, affordable food. They suggested food halls to serve those who are unable to afford healthy food and reducing the number of food deserts in the community.

“Healthy eating for affordable costs for families. Mental health assistance when needed. more mobile units in communities like once per month to do certain checks.”

“Food Halls to serve warm fresh meals to the homeless and anyone in need.”

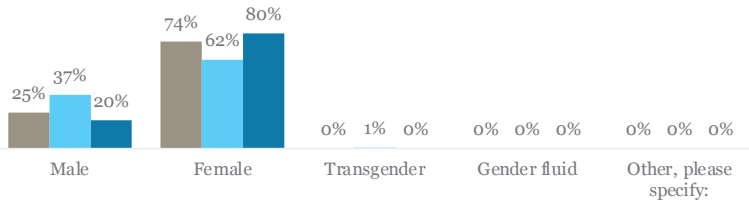
“Yes, I think coordinated primary/mental health care services are limited in my community which is a declared food desert. All adequate resources are needed in my community.”



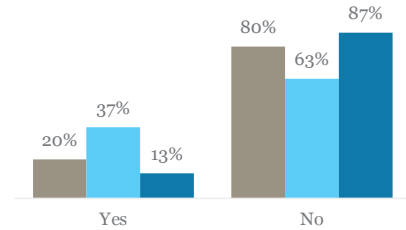
*Text in quotation marks are verbatim participant statements and have not been edited by the NRC Health Team

Demographics (1 of 3)

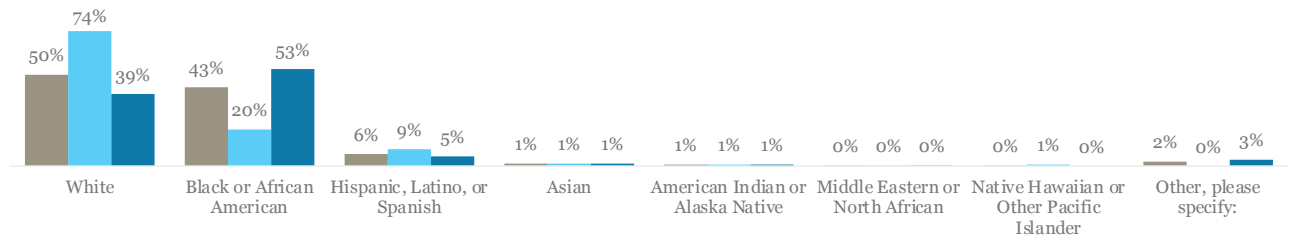
Gender



Children Under 18?



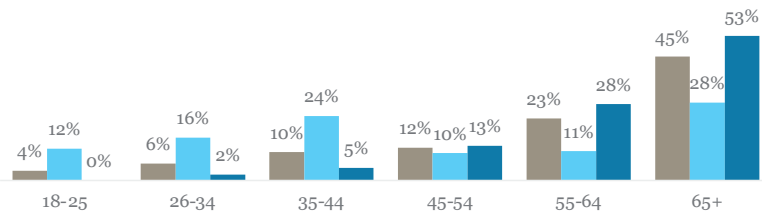
Race/Ethnicity



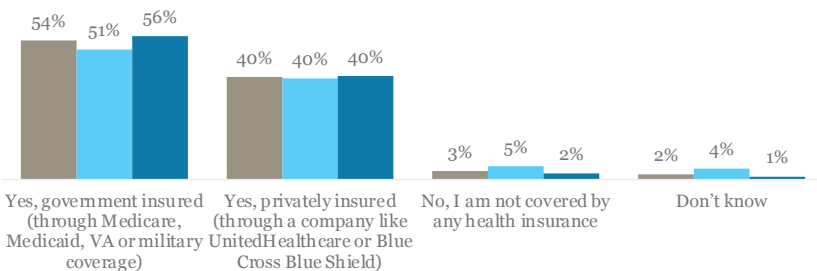
■ Total (n=823) ■ Consumer Panel (n=250) ■ Open Link (n=573)

Demographics (2 of 3)

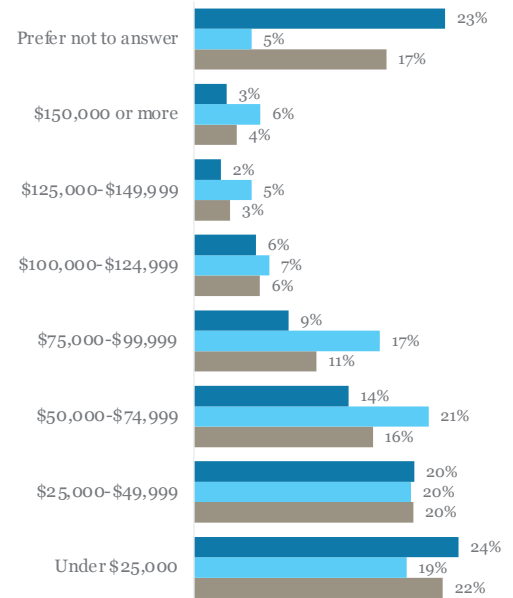
Age



Insurance



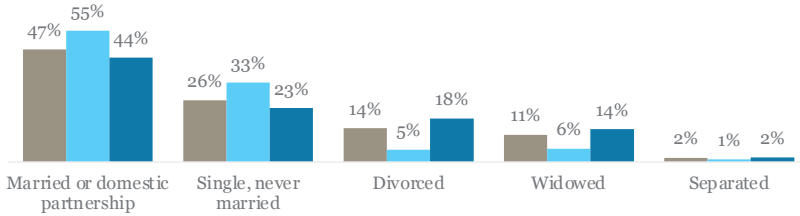
Household Income



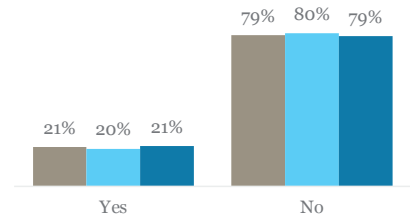
■ Total (n=823) ■ Consumer Panel (n=250) ■ Open Link (n=573)

Demographics (3 of 3)

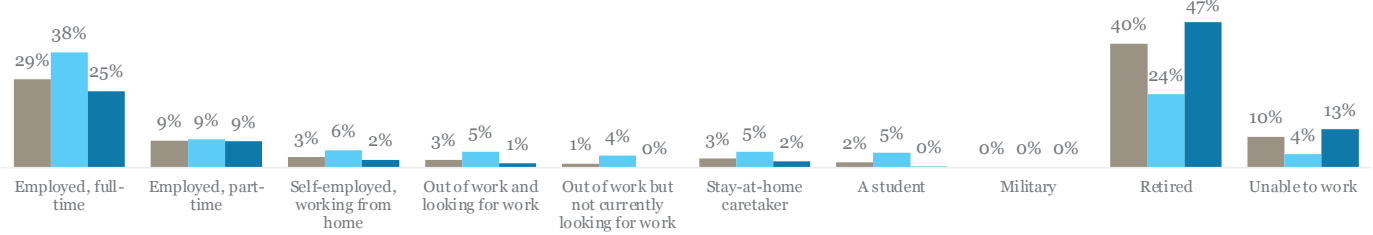
Marital Status



Caregiver to Elderly?

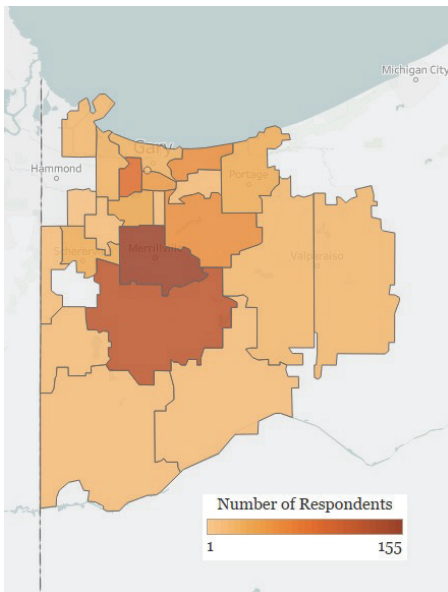


Employment Status

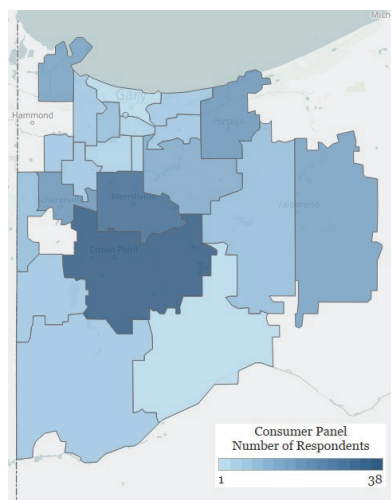


■ Total (n=823) ■ Consumer Panel (n=250) ■ Open Link (n=573)

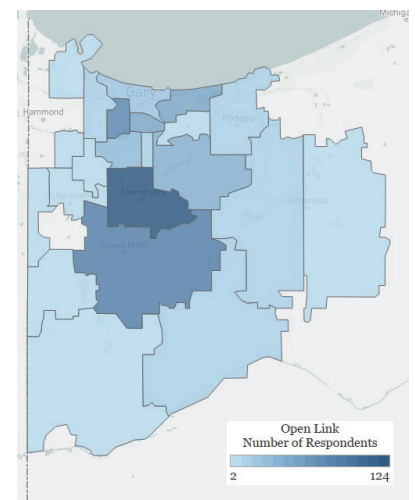
Geography (1 of 2 – Total & Participant Source)



Total (n=823)



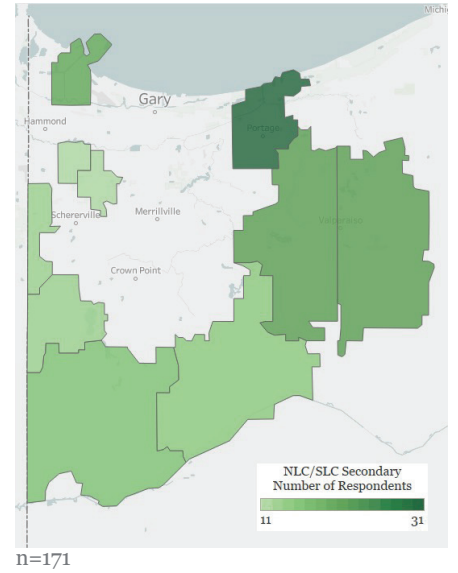
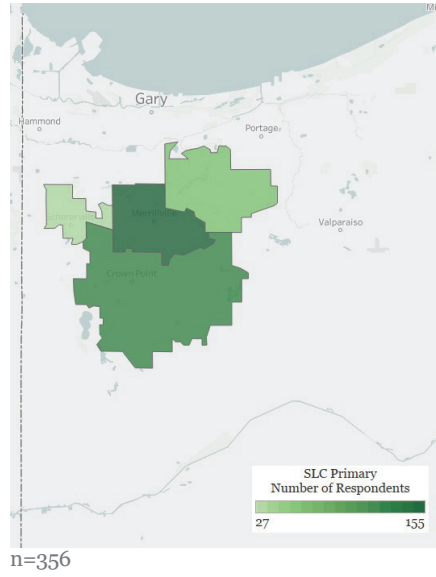
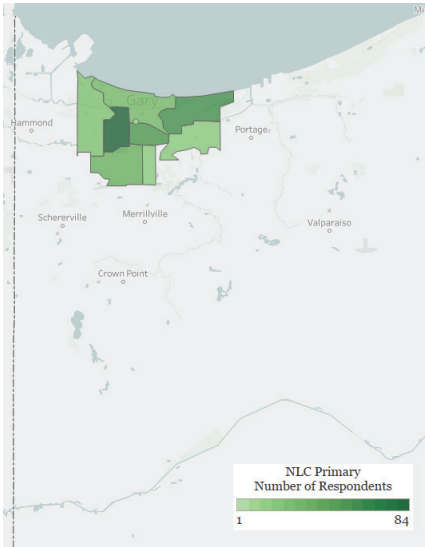
Consumer Panel (n=250)



Open Link (n=573)



Geography (2 of 2 – Service Area)



An NRC Health Online Focus Group

Methodist Hospitals

Community Health Needs Assessment

October 2022



Study Design

Background

- NRC Health conducted an online focus group for Methodist Hospitals to gather feedback on their community's healthcare needs as well as the barriers members of the community face when seeking care.

Methodology

- One, 75-minute online focus group
- Focus group session included 8 participants



Impacts on the Community's Health

Health Conditions with the Largest Negative Impact

When asked what health conditions have the largest negative impact on their community, participants most often mentioned heart disease/hypertension, diabetes, mental health disorders and obesity. A few also stressed the importance of providing preventative healthcare education.

- Heart disease or hypertension (7 mentions)
- Diabetes (6 mentions)
- Mental health disorders (5 mentions)
- Obesity (5 mentions)
- Cancer (2 mentions)
- Respiratory illnesses/COPD (2 mentions)

"I believe access to quality medical/behavioral health care for managing chronic diseases, like high blood pressure, diabetes, mental health issues, etc"

"Respiratory disease, mental health disorders, heart disease, obesity, diabetes, and lack of preventative care"

"Cancer, heart issues, weight and nutrition and people just not being educated on preventative care"

Mental Health's Impact on the Community

When asked specifically about mental health, many participants felt that members of their community may be hesitant to talk about or receive care for mental health conditions due to the stigma attached to these conditions. Some participants also mentioned that the community needed better access to mental healthcare practitioners.

“people in our community do not have a history on talking about mental health problems, we are taught to be strong”

“I think people shy away because it's this stigma behind mental health then they think they are going to be looked at as crazy. Some of it is cultural too, not many people believe that you should see someone for mental health.”

“Yes, depression and anxiety has a very large impact and needs to be discussed but also easier access to mental health clinicians.”

“We also need more clinicians who can appropriately address mental health concerns.”



*Text in quotation marks are verbatim participant statements and have not been edited by the NRC Health Team

December 21, 2022

5

Reaching out to the Community about Mental Health

Many participants agreed that public service announcements from hospitals about mental health would help lower the stigma it has in the community. However, others felt that giving patients mental health evaluations during routine wellness checks would have a larger impact on the community.

“I think this is a great idea for hospitals to send out PSA messaging. Certainly, hospitals should take responsibility in prevention education in our communities.”

“It would help, yes, but health care providers also need to be diligent about asking patients with every visit.”

“Elderly people are also affected by anxiety/depression. Making mental health screenings part of a general yearly exam might help take lower the stigma”



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December 21, 2022

6

Infant Mortality and its Impact on the Community (1 of 2)

When asked about infant mortality, participants agreed that this has a major negative impact on the community's overall health.

"Infant mortality is high in our area...this is definitely an issue."

"Yes, infant mortality is a major problem in my neighborhood. It's because of health inequality, lack of access, and other SDOH factors"

However, many participants feel that their community may be unaware of this issue.

"I suspect the general population is unaware. Those of us working on the administrative end, probably do"

"If you are working with children and families, you are aware, but the community doesn't know about it until it's in the local papers. At the doctor's offices, I don't remember one time the pediatrician even bringing it up."

"I was not aware until recently. I am not sure if the community, outside of those who work in healthcare, is aware of the prevalence."



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December 21, 2022

7

Infant Mortality and its Impact on the Community (2 of 2)

To help combat infant mortality, participants suggested increasing the community's awareness of available healthcare programs and resources, increasing the community's trust in healthcare providers, and decreasing the socioeconomic factors that contribute to inequality in the healthcare system.

"Lake county does have one of the highest infant mortality rates in Indiana. There are numerous programs to help but we have to make the community more aware that they are available."

"Yes, infant mortality has a huge impact. Also, because of the racial disparities not everyone gets access to the same information"

"Some of the issue is lack of knowledge of resources, lack of trust of many providers, and poor health equity related to gynecological and obstetrical care."



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December 21, 2022

8

Preventative Healthcare in the Community

When brainstorming the best ways to increase the use of preventative healthcare in their community, participants suggested community outreach programs and increasing the availability of low-cost or no-cost care.

“Yes, I agree with community-based prevention education and awareness ongoing as well as access to care, regardless of one’s ability to pay!”

“Provide information on the cost of preventive care to the patient. If they have no insurance or are underinsured let them know the resources they can utilize for getting preventive care”

“Health fairs in the community”

“Small free screenings (I know you do these already as I am very familiar with what you guys offer) focusing more on the communities who need it, more workplace options where you come in and do things at the employers place. We have 250 employees and I believe they would take advantage”

“Access to healthcare providers who focus on preventative care (i.e., nurse practitioners) who can go where the people are to educate them. Also mobile health vans and/or health fairs within communities.”



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December 21, 2022

9

Social and Environmental Impacts



10

Factors That Have the Largest Negative Impact

When asked which social or environmental factors have the largest negative impact on their community, participants provided a wide range of answers. Some of the factors most often mentioned were pollution, smoking/vaping, and community safety.

“Where to begin...transportation, safe environments for things like walking for exercise, pollutant exposure to name a few.”

“Smoking, vaping, pollution.....safe places for families, social engagement (where to go to meet people instead of phones and texting)”

“climate change, air pollution”

“Poor housing, environmental contaminations, food deserts, etc are major factors in overall health conditions. Also, lack of work, low wages...”



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December 21, 2022

11

Poverty's Impact on the Community

Participants agreed that poverty had a large impact on the health of their community. The effects of poverty participants see in the community include a decreased access to healthcare, healthy food, and safe social interactions.

“Poverty = lack of access to healthcare, increased negative effects of social determinants of health, and poor health outcomes overall”

“Yes, poverty does. This disparities are frightening. This was most highlighted to me during the school shutdowns and knowing that not only were some kids safer at school, for many that was their only guaranteed meal of the day.”

“Data shows that most street crimes are a manifestation of Poverty and a lack of resources in the communities.”

“food and access to preventative care - no social interaction with anybody because you can't afford to go do things doesn't help either”



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December 21, 2022

12

Safety and its Impact on the Community

When asked how violence or a lack of personal safety impacts their community, participants mentioned that it can prevent people from going outside and engaging in healthy activities. Others mentioned that stress from a lack of safety can lead to a decline in mental and physical health.

“Yes, lack of safety impacts health in our community. Prevents people from engaging in healthy activities, like walking, sports, etc”

“yes. People worry about their kids and family members. Afraid to go out places with the shootings and car jackings, etc. Cant help with anxiety and mental issues. all that stress causes high blood pressure and heart issues.”

“Lack of safe environments means less ability to go outside and enjoy walks or other forms of exercise which negatively affects physical health. The stress of living in unsafe places increases mental health conditions such as anxiety and depression.”



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December 21, 2022

13

Transportation and its Impact on the Community

Many participants felt that a lack of transportation is contributing negatively to their community's overall health. This is particularly impactful on people with disabilities and those who cannot afford to own a personal vehicle.

“Transportation is the number 1 problem for people with disabilities, seniors and people who can't afford cars. We see it every day. We have buses to pick people up but only people who come here for services. We also place people in jobs in the communities and it can be tough”

“Transportation heavily affects health. Cars/car insurance is expensive and public transportation is not readily available from and/or to all areas in the NWI. This is a problem for accessing healthcare, finding food, etc. Uber and Lyft are often too expensive too.”

“I think both private and public transportation are problems. Many households do not own cars and public transportation is not readily available”



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December 21, 2022

14

Accessing Care



15

The Community's Ability to Access Care

Participants stated that the cost of healthcare and a lack of health insurance are major contributors to their community's inability to access healthcare services. Other factors included a lack of transportation and the inability to find healthcare providers.

"Cost, trans, knowledge and understanding, fear of knowing something is wrong. No insurance"

"Number of providers available (many stop taking new patients) and transportation."

"Cost is an issue for sure. People do not realize insurance may be available to them and little time and energy is spent on educating them about this."

"Access and inability to be seen by their physician in an adequate amount of time. A number of people do use urgent care and/or EDs, but a large number of people want to see their own doctor and there are no appointments available for weeks sometimes months."



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December 21, 2022

16

Types of Care Most Difficult to Access

When asked which types of healthcare services are difficult to access in their community, participants most often mentioned mental healthcare, specialty care in general, and care for vulnerable populations (chronically ill or disabled, elderly, homeless).

“Care or specialized care for people with Down Syndrome or related diagnosis, senior care that is affordable, and just preventative care for so many things”

“Primary care, mental health, and specific specialty providers are lacking in our area”

“any specialty mental/primary health care”

“mental health is lacking, not enough resources for homeless”



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December 21, 2022

17

Community’s Access to Healthcare Providers

Many participants noted that the community could benefit from access to additional healthcare providers. Currently, members of the community have difficulty finding providers accepting new patients or have to wait months before their provider’s next available appointment.

“Most good specialty docs - 2 months out. some booked till Jan.”

“My doctor is always booked sometimes you can't get an appointment until 6 months out. I think it is a major concern.”

“Absolutely! Limited primary care providers impact preventative and overall care. Outdated state legislation related to nurse practitioners and their ability to work to the full extent of their education limits how much they can contribute to turning public health around.”



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December 21, 2022

18

Resources in the Community



Resources Currently Available in the Community

When asked what resources are available to help members of the community access the care they need, participants mentioned Federally Qualified Health Centers, hospital vendor fairs, and hospital staff (case managers, nurses, etc.).

“Some of our folks here have case managers who help them. i would imagine if you call the hospitals there are people who can help. Sometimes employers help. We have started a wellness committee here. We offer Yoga and free health club with cardio machines and weights and so on.”

“Hospitals have vendor fairs on certain healthcare topics to educate the community and bring awareness.”

“Nurse Family Partnership is a great resource for first time moms (and they are underutilized in my opinion), FQHCs, and universities will often send nurse faculty and students into communities to provide care.”

“Our FQHCs in the area”



Mental Health Resources Needed

When asked what additional healthcare resources would benefit their community, many participants talked about access to mental healthcare. The resources most often mentioned included access to mental healthcare providers and mental healthcare education.

“Having quicker resources to connect people to mental health care, mobile or brick and mortar clinics that can provide health screenings for the community's most vulnerable, transportation resources that are cost-effective, and perhaps more community gardens to provide fresh produce.”

“yes on mental health, and just more awareness in general. Partner with employers to come in to workplaces, etc.”

“More mental health facilities, access to Grocery stores”



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December 21, 2022

21

Dietary Resources Needed

In addition to mental healthcare resources, participants often commented on their community's need for healthy, affordable food. They suggested food halls to serve those who are unable to afford healthy food and reducing the number of food deserts in the community.

“Healthy eating for affordable costs for families. Mental health assistance when needed. more mobile units in communities like once per month to do certain checks.”

“Food Halls to serve warm fresh meals to the homeless and anyone in need.”

“Yes, I think coordinated primary/mental health care services are limited in my community which is a declared food desert. All adequate resources are needed in my community.”



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December 21, 2022

22

Medication Assistance

When asked what Methodist Hospitals could do to help serve the community, several participants suggested lowering the cost of medications. They felt that a medication assistance program, even if it only covered select medications, would help members of the community access the care they need.

“Medication cost is a big one. I have heard people say they said no to the meds because of an out of pocket cost they felt was too high”

“medication costs can vary according to the insurance plans and what they cover”

“Piggy backing on Lisa’s prior mention of medication assistance - Maybe Methodist can provide a reduced cost drug program.”

“Even if it’s just for medications for the most common conditions like diabetes, hypertension, and high cholesterol”



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December 21, 2022

23

Community Involvement

When thinking about how Methodist Hospitals could better serve the community, many participants suggested community outreach programs. The programs suggested included bringing healthcare providers into underserved neighborhoods, checking in with families to see if they are receiving the care they need, health fairs, and Q&A sessions with Methodist Hospitals healthcare providers.

“Expanding community health services within their community where providers can be in neighborhoods providing care. They need to truly get outside of the hospital to understand what is going on in their community. Boots on the ground actions...not only acute care needs.”

“they should participate in more health fairs, invite the community in for question and answers session with doctors who specialize in the health issues we face”

“More presence in the communities where access to healthcare is minimum, more follow-up is important and making sure families are getting the care they need and diagnosing the correctly.”



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December 21, 2022

24

Summary & Key Takeaways

Many participants pointed to the effects of poverty as a contributor to the community's difficulty accessing care. The effects of poverty in the community are diverse and include the inability to afford care, medications, transportation to and from healthcare appointments, and healthy food. Consider combating the effects of poverty by providing low-cost, or no-cost healthcare resources.

In addition to poverty, many participants pointed to a lack of healthcare services or healthcare providers as a contributor to the community's difficulty accessing care. The types of services hardest to access in the community include mental healthcare, specialty care in general, and care for vulnerable populations (chronically ill or disabled, elderly, homeless). Additionally, it can be hard for members of the community to find healthcare providers who are accepting new patients or have convenient appointment availability. Consider increasing the community's access to these types of services and providers.

Participants agreed that mental healthcare conditions such as anxiety and depression have a large negative impact on the health of the community. They also felt that members of the community may be hesitant to talk about mental health or receive care for mental health due to its stigma in the community. Having open discussions about mental health to help reduce its stigma and providing easier access to mental health providers may help members of the community access this type of care.

Throughout the focus group discussion, participants stressed the importance of providing healthcare education to members of the community; especially education about preventative healthcare, mental healthcare, and the resources available to the community to help people access the care they need. Consider educating the community through public service announcements or community outreach programs.



5 2023 - 2025
PRIORITIES

2023-2025 PRIORITIES

TOP 4 HEALTH CONCERNS

Ages 18-34	Ages 35-54	Ages 55+
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mental Health 2. Smoking / Tobacco Use 3. Alcohol / Drug Abuse 4. Overweight / Obesity 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mental Health 2. Overweight / Obesity 3. Heart Disease 4. Diabetes 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Heart Disease 2. Diabetes 3. Overweight / Obesity 4. Aging / Older Adult Needs
NLC PSA	SLC PSA	SSAs
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Heart Disease 2. Diabetes 3. Overweight / Obesity 4. Mental Health 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Heart Disease 1. Overweight / Obesity 3. Mental Health 3. Diabetes 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Overweight / Obesity 2. Mental Health 3. Heart Disease 4. Diabetes

TOP 4 SOCIAL / ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Ages 18-34	Ages 35-54	Ages 55+
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Poverty 2. Housing/Homelessness 3. Race / Ethnic Discrimination 3. Lack of Job Opportunities 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Poverty 2. Lack of Job Opportunities 3. Housing / Homelessness 3. Neighborhood Safety / Violence 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Neighborhood Safety / Violence 2. Poverty 3. Transportation 4. Lack of Job Opportunities 4. Race / Ethnic Discrimination
NLC PSA	SLC PSA	SSAs
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Poverty 2. Neighborhood Safety / Violence 3. Lack of Job Opportunities 4. Transportation 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Transportation 2. Race / Ethnic Discrimination 3. Poverty 4. Neighborhood Safety / Violence 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Poverty 2. Access to Insurance 3. Transportation 4. Affordable Child Care

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- **More than half of those aged 18-34 reported 6 or more days in the past month where their mental health was not good**
 - Versus 26% of all respondents
- **Access to healthy foods was not among the top health concerns cited in the new survey**
 - Still, only 42% of NLC PSA respondents agreed that they have the ability to find healthy foods around where they live, versus 82% of those in the SLC PSA and 81% of those in the secondary PSAs
- **The top 2 reasons given for not getting needed health care relate to cost:**
 - Too expensive/can't pay (69%) and no insurance (60%)
 - Insurance not accepted and lack of transportation are mentioned by 30%

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2023-2025

- **Maintain current programs addressing:**
 - Infant mortality
 - While survey data did not register this as a top health concern, secondary data show it to be a significant problem in Methodist PSAs, especially among women of color
 - Increased grant dollars to \$280K with another \$25K possible
 - Focus group discussion suggests there is a lack of awareness of the problem
 - Heart Disease and Smoking
 - These continue to rank among the top community health concerns

- **Broaden focus of Diet and Nutrition programs to include overweight/obesity in addition to access to healthy foods only**

- **Add two new priorities to the CHNA action plan:**
 - Behavioral Health, including substance abuse
 - Diabetes
 - These are among the top health concerns within our services areas, especially among young people

- **While Methodist has no direct influence on social and environmental factors that affect community health, we should maintain commitment to programs that are relevant:**
 - Programs to help address transportation problems of those seeking health care
 - Programs to improve the safety of those who enter our campuses and facilities, e.g., Operation Safe Zone
 - Programs that help job seekers within our communities
 - Programs providing financial assistance to those less able to afford care
 - Commitment to equal treatment and opportunity for all, regardless of race or religion



6

**APPENDIX - COMMUNITY
RESOURCES**

	Facility Name	Address	Phone
Adult Day Care Center			
	Franciscan Adult Day Services	203 W Franciscan Dr, Crown Point, IN 46307	1-(219)-661-5200
	Great Lakes Adult Living	3700 Jackson St, Gary, IN 46408	1- (219)-980-1839
	Independent Loving Care Solutions	744 Swallowtail Ct, Valparaiso, IN 46385	1-(219)-980-3434
	The Mary Lane Center	4859 Georgia St, Gary, IN 46409-2623	1- (219)-980-3434
	Opportunity Enterprises Inc.	2801 Evans Ave, Valparaiso, IN 46383	1-(219)-464-9621
	St Agnes Day Services Center	1859 Harrison Blvd, Valparaiso, IN 46385	1-219-477-5433
Adult / Child Protection Services			
	Adult Protective Services	2900 W.93rd Ave. Crown Point, IN 46307	1-219-755-3863
	Adult Protective Services - La Porte	809 State St, Fifth Floor, La Porte, IN 46350	1-219-326-6808
	Porter County Victims Assistance	3560 Willowcreek Rd, Portage, IN 46368	1-219-364-1312
	CPS Hotline		1-800-800-5556
	Lake County County Division of County Resources Broadway	661 Broadway, Gary, IN 46402	1-800-403-0864
	Porter County Division of Family Resources	2602 E Chicago St, Valparaiso, IN 46383	1-800-403-0864
	Aliveness Project the NWI	5261 Hohman Ave, Hammond, IN 46320	1-219-985-6170
	HIV Medical Services Office In Indiana		1-866-588-4948
	National Suicide Prevention Hotline		800-273-TALK (8255)
	Mental Health America		800-969-NMHA (6642)
	National Domestic Violence Hotline		800-799-SAFE (7233)
	National Runaway Safeline		800-RUNAWAY (800-786-2929)
	National Minority AIDS Council	1000 Vermont Ave NW, Washington, DC 20005	202-483-6622
	American Red Cross of Northwest Indiana	791 83rd Ave, Merrillville, IN 46410	1-219-756-5360
	Gary Health Department	1145 W 5th Ave, Gary, IN 46402	1-219-882-5565
	Women's Care Center	8500 Broadway, Merrillville, IN 46410	1-219-472-8059
Alcohol / Drug Services			
	Indiana Center for Recovery	1578 E 85th Ave, Merrillville, IN 46410	1-219-327-2977
	Al-Anon	2410 W 78th Ave, Merrillville, IN 46410	1-219-769-1133
	Edgewater Health	1100 W 6th Ave, Gary, IN 46402	1-219-885-4264
	Gary Health Department	1145 W 5th Ave, Gary, IN 46402	1-219-882-5565
	Methodist Hospitals - Northlake Campus / Inpatient Psych	600 Grant Street, Gary, Indiana 46402	1-219-886-4740
	Lake County Alcohol & Drug	2600 W 93rd Ave, Crown Point, IN 46307	1-219-755-3013
	Porter-Starke Services	601 Wall St, Valparaiso, IN 46383	1-219-531-3500
	Franciscan Health Dyer	24 Joliet St, Dyer, IN 46311	1-219-865-2141
	St. Mary Medical Center	1500 S Lake Park Ave, Hobart, IN 46342	1-219-942-0551 Ext. 45238
	The Salvation Army Gary-Merrillville Corps Community Center	4800 Harrison St, Gary, IN 46408	1-219-887-6588
	The Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center - Gary	1351 W 11th Ave, Gary, IN 46402	1-219-882-9377
	The Salvation Army East Chicago Corps Community Center	513 W Chicago Ave, East Chicago, IN 46312	1-219-398-2939

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

	The Salvation Army of Northwest Indiana	8225 Columbia Ave, Munster, IN 46321	1-219-838-0380
	Serenity House of Gary Inc.	5157 Harrison St, Gary, IN 46408	1-219-980-1955
	Regional Health Systems	3903 Indianapolis Blvd, East Chicago, IN 46312	1-219-769-4005
	Regional Health Systems	1441 E 84th Pl, Merrillville, IN 46410	1-219-769-4005
Associations and Organizations			
	American Diabetes Association	National Call Center; 1701 Beauregard Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22311	1-800-342-2383
	American Cancer Society	5635 W 96th St Suite 100, Indianapolis, IN 46278	1-317-344-7800
	American Lung Association in the District of Columbia	1331 Pennsylvania Avenue NW #1425north, Washington, DC 20004	1-202-785-3355
	Arc Bridges	2650 W 35th Ave, Gary, IN 46408	1-219-884-1138
	BCH, Inc.	354 West St, Valparaiso, IN 46383	1-219-464-4111
	Center For Possibilities	22 Tyler Ave, Hobart, IN 46342	1-219-962-5751
	Porter County Council On Aging	1005 N Campbell St, Valparaiso, IN 46385	1-219-464-9736
	TradeWinds Deaf Services	3198 E 83rd Pl, Merrillville, IN 46410	1-219-945-0100
	Deaf Kids Services Inc	300 W 21st Ave #16, Gary, IN 46407	1-219-200-8453
	Down Syndrome Association Northwest Indiana	2167 Indianapolis Blvd, Schererville, IN 46375	1-219-838-3656
	National Kidney Foundation	911 E 86th St #100, Indianapolis, IN 46240	1-317-722-5640
	Northwest Indiana Community Action	5240 Fountain Dr, Crown Point, IN 46307	1-219-794-1829
	United Way of Northwest Indiana - Lake County office	221 W Ridge Rd, Griffith, IN 46319	1-219-923-2302
	United Way of Northwest Indiana - Porter County Office	951 Eastport Center Dr, Valparaiso, IN 46383	1-219-464-3583
	American Adoptions	7500 W 110th St #500, Overland Park, KS 66210	1-800-236-7846
Adoption / Counseling Services			
	Bethany Christian Services Bethany - Illiana	12416 S Harlem Ave #305, Palos Heights, IL 60463	1-708-385-4889
	Catholic Charities	940 Broadway, Gary, IN 46402	1-219-886-3549
	Catholic Charities	6919 Indianapolis Blvd Ste. 2, Hammond, IN 46324	1-219-844-4883
	Edgewater Health	1100 W 6th Ave, Gary, IN 46402	1-219-885-4264
	Lake County County Division of County Resources Broadway	661 Broadway, Gary, IN 46402	1-800-403-0864
	Lutheran Social Services of Indiana	333 E Lewis St, Fort Wayne, IN 46802	1-260-426-3347
	Gary Motor Transportation	1100 Massachusetts St, Gary, IN 46407	1-219-881-5210
	Samaritan Counseling Center	8955 Columbia Ave, Munster, IN 46321	1-219-923-8110
	Shults-Lewis School	150 E 325 S, Valparaiso, IN 46383	1-219-464-7669
	Sunny Ridge Family Center Of Indiana	900 Ridge Road Munster, IN 46321	1-219- 836-2117
	The Villages of Indiana	1605 Adler Cir suite a, Portage, IN 46368	1-219-762-3465
Credit Counseling			
	Consumer Credit Counseling Services	800 E 86th Ave #B, Merrillville, IN 46410	1-219-980-4800

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Housing Authorities		
Gary Housing Authority	578 Broadway, Gary, In 46402	1-219-756-5360
City Hall of East Chicago	4525 Indianapolis Blvd, East Chicago, IN 46312	1-219-391-8220
Lake County Superior Court	15 W 4th Ave, Gary, IN 46402	1-219-881-6000
Rainbow-Ark Shelter	455 Massachusetts St, Gary, IN 46402	1-219-883-4155
Brother's Keeper	2120 Broadway, Gary, IN 46407	1-219-882-4459
Brunswick Community Center (Warming Center)	775 Clark Road, Gary, IN 46406	219-944-1595
Multipurpose Center (MPC)	1900 W. 41st Ave, Gary, IN 46408	1-219-880 -4900
The Caring Place- Center For Change		1-219-464-2128
Capes House	662 Sibley St. Hammond, IN 46320	1-219 931-8223
Claude Street Shelter For Families Hammond	5515 Claude Ave, Hammond, IN 46320	1-219-933-7013
Crisis Center, Inc	101 Montgomery St, Gary, IN 46403	1-219-938-7070
Fair Haven Rape Crisis Center- Northwest Indiana	2645 Ridge Rd, Highland, IN 46322	1-219-961-4357
Hammond City Rescue Mission	527 State St #1533, Hammond, IN 46320	1-219-932-5085
Shuler's Stable (Inside Hudson-Campbell Sports Center)	455 Massachusetts St, Gary, IN 46407	1-129-886-2814
Moraine House, Inc.	353 Lincolnway, Valparaiso, IN 46383	1-219-464-9983
Multi-Purpose Center (MPC)	900 W. 41st Ave Gary, IN 46408	1-(219) 880-4900
St Jude House	12490 Marshall St, Crown Point, IN 46307	1-219-662-7066
Everybody Counts	9111 Broadway A, Merrillville, IN 46410	1-219-769-5055
Opportunity Enterprises Inc.	2801 Evans Ave, Valparaiso, IN 46383	1-219-464-9621
Health Department		
Gary Health Department	1145 W 5th Ave, Gary, IN 46402	1-219-882-5565
Lake County Health Department	2900 W 93rd Ave, Crown Point, IN 46307	1-219-755-3655
Hospitals		
Methodist Hospitals - Southlake	8701 Broadway, Merrillville, IN 46410	1-219-738-5500
Methodist Hospitals - Northlake	600 Grant St, Gary, IN 46402	1-219-886-4000
Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago	225 E Chicago Ave, Chicago, IL 60611	1-312-227-4000
Advocate Christ Medical Center	4440 W 95th St, Oak Lawn, IL 60453	1-708-684-8000
Community Hospital	901 Macarthur Blvd, Munster, IN 46321	1-219-836-1600
John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County	1969 W Ogden Ave, Chicago, IL 60612	1-312-864-6000
Franciscan Physicians Hospitals	701 Superior Ave, Munster, IN 46321	1-219-922-4200
Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital	5000 5th Ave, Hines, IL 60141	1-708-202-8387
UChicago Medicine Ingalls Memorial	1 Ingalls Dr, Harvey, IL 60426	1-855-826-3878
Logansport Memorial Hospital	1101 Michigan Ave, Logansport, IN 46947	1-574-753-7541
Northwest Health - La Porte	1331 State St, La Porte, IN 46350	1-219-326-1234
La Rabida Children's Hospital	6501 S Promontory Dr #1003, Chicago, IL 60649	1-773-363-6700
Loyola University Medical Center	2160 S 1st Ave, Maywood, IL 60153	1-888-584-7888
MarianJoy Rehabilitation Hospital	26W171 Roosevelt Road Wheaton, IL 60187	1-630-909-7150
Mayo Clinic	200 1st St SW, Rochester, MN 55902	1-507-255-5123
Mayo Clinic Hospital, Methodist Campus	201 W Center St, Rochester, MN 55902	1-507-266-7890
IU Health Methodist Hospital	1701 N Senate Ave, Indianapolis, IN 46202	1-317-962-2000

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Memorial Hospital	615 N Michigan St, South Bend, IN 46601	1-574-647-1000
Michael Reese Health Trust	1707 N Randall Rd Ste. 200, Elgin, IL 60123	1-312-726-1008
Northwestern Memorial Hospital Emergency Department	251 E Huron St, Chicago, IL 60611	1-312-926-2000
Oak Forest Health Center	15900 S Cicero Ave, Oak Forest, IL 60452	1-708-687-7200
St James Hospital & Health Center	20201 South, Crawford Ave, Olympia Fields, IL 60461	1-708-747-4000
Palos Community Hospital Physician Office Building	12255 S 80th Ave #204, Palos Heights, IL 60463	1-708-923-4000
Portage Health Center II	3545 Arbors St, Portage, IN 46368	1-219-759-2753
Northwest Health - Porter	85 E U.S. Hwy 6, Valparaiso, IN 46383	1-219-983-8300
Riley Hospital for Children	705 Riley Hospital Dr, Indianapolis, IN 46202	1-317-944-5000
Ronald McDonald House near Loyola University Medical Center	2160 S 1st Ave, Maywood, IL 60153	1-888-584-7888
RUSH University Medical Center	1620 W Harrison St, Chicago, IL 60612	1-312-942-5000
Shriners Children's Chicago	2211 N Oak Park Ave, Chicago, IL 60707	1-773-622-5400
Advocate South Suburban Hospital	17800 Kedzie Ave, Hazel Crest, IL 60429	1-708-799-8000
Franciscan Health Crown Point	1201 S Main St, Crown Point, IN 46307	1-219-738-2100
St Anthony Memorial Health Center	301 W Homer St, Michigan City, IN 46360	1-219-879-8511
St. Catherine Hospital	South Entrance, 4321 Fir St, East Chicago, IN 46312	1-219-392-1700
Franciscan Saint Margaret Health-Dyer	24 Joliet St, Dyer, IN 46311	1-219-865-2141
St. Mary Medical Center	1500 S Lake Park Ave, Hobart, IN 46342	1-219-942-0551
Terre Haute Regional Hospital	3901 S 7th St, Terre Haute, IN 47802	1-812-232-0021
Advocate Trinity Hospital	2320 E 93rd St, Chicago, IL 60617	1-773-967-2000
UChicago Medicine	5841 S Maryland Ave, Chicago, IL 60637	1-888-824-0200
University of Illinois Hospital	1740 W Taylor St, Chicago, IL 60612	1-866-600-2273
IU Health University Hospital	550 University Blvd, Indianapolis, IN 46202	1-317-944-5000
Sidney & Lois Eskenazi Hospital	720 Eskenazi Ave, Indianapolis, IN 46202	1-317-880-0000
Immigration Services		
International Institute	4433 Broadway, Gary, IN 46409	1-219-980-4636
National Government Services Inc	8115 Knue Rd, Indianapolis, IN 46250	1-317-841-4400
Legal Services		
Lake County Prosecutors Office	2293 N Main St, Crown Point, IN 46307	1-219-755-3720
Lake County Superior Court	15 W 4th Ave, Gary, IN 46402	1-219-881-6000
Porter County Superior Court	3560 Willowcreek Rd, Portage, IN 46368	1-219-465-3400
Meal Services		
Meal on Wheels of Northwest Indiana	8446 Virginia St, Merrillville, IN 46410	1-219-756-3663
Metro Corps of Gary Inc.	839 Broadway #2X, Gary, IN 46402	1-219-886-3155
Greater Hammond Community Services	824 Hoffman St, Hammond, IN 46327	1-219-932-4800
First Choice Home Health Services Inc	6 Morgan Blvd, Valparaiso, IN 46383	1-219-464-4443

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Medical Equipment		
Alverno Durable Medical Equipment	16149 Clinton St, Harvey, IL 60426	1-708-331-2875
Apria Healthcare	1581 E 90th Pl, Merrillville, IN 46410	1-219-736-6222
Fairmeadows Home Health Center	1325 E Main St, Griffith, IN 46319	1-219-865-5960
Fitzsimmons Home Medical Equipment	6177 Broadway, Merrillville, IN 46410	1-219-887-7718
Life DME	8896 Louisiana St, Merrillville, IN 46410	1-219-795-1296
365 Medical Supplies	8102 Georgia St, Merrillville, IN 46410	1-800-935-9781
Hook's Oxygen & Medical Equipment	1430 86th Pl, Merrillville, IN 46410	1-219-769-1065
Koebers Medical Supply	8337 Skokie Blvd, Skokie, IL 60077	1-847-677-6755
Vital Care Industries	7650 185th St, Tinley Park, IL 60477	1-708-342-2680
Police		
Lake County Sheriff	2293 N Main St, Crown Point, IN 46307	1-219-755-3400
Merrillville Police Department	7820 Broadway #1, Merrillville, IN 46410	1-219-769-3722
Crown Point Police Department	124 N East St, Crown Point, IN 46307	1-219-663-2131
Gary Police Department	555 Polk St, Gary, IN 46402	1-219-881-7300
Women and Children Services		
Answer For Pregnancy Aid	705 N Colonial Dr, Hobart, IN 46342	1-219-947-2272
BCH, Inc.	354 West St, Valparaiso, IN 46383	1-219-462-4111
Bethany Christian Services	12416 S Harlem Ave #305, Palos Heights, IL 60463	1-708-385-4889
Birthright of Valparaiso	905 1/2 Calumet Ave, Valparaiso, IN 46383	1-219-462-3502
First Steps Crown Point	11045 Broadway, Crown Point, IN 46307	1-219-662-7790
The Villages of Indiana	1605 Adler Cir suite a, Portage, IN 46368	1-219-762-3465
Northwest Indiana Healthy Start	839 Broadway #202, Gary, IN 46402	1-219-886-0028
Methodist Hospitals - Southlake	8701 Broadway, Merrillville, IN 46410	1-219-738-5500
Methodist Hospitals - Northlake	600 Grant St, Gary, IN 46402	1-219-886-4000
Franciscan Health - Crown Point	1201 S Main St, Crown Point, IN 46307	1-219-738-2100
St. Catherine Hospital	South Entrance, 4321 Fir St, East Chicago, IN 46312	1-219-392-1700
Women's Care Center	8500 Broadway, Merrillville, IN 46410	1-219-472-8059
Ronald McDonald House	435 Limestone St, Indianapolis, IN 46202	1-317-269-2247
Franciscan Saint Margaret Health-Dyer	24 Joliet St, Dyer, IN 46311	1-219-865-2141
Gary WIC Office	701 Broadway, Gary, IN 46402	1-219-239-2615
Hammond WIC	5927 Columbia Ave, Hammond, IN 46320	1-219-931-9527
Merrillville WIC Program	6111 Harrison St, Merrillville, IN 46410	1-219-887-1038
The Women's Center of NW Indiana	105 Lafayette St, Valparaiso, IN 46383	1-219-477-4460
Social Security		
Gary Social Security Administration	808 S Lake St, Gary, IN 46403	1-800-772-1213
Hammond Social Security Administration	418 E Douglas St, Hammond, IN 46320	1-800-772-1213
Merrillville Social Security Administration	1438 E 85th Ave, Merrillville, IN 46410	1-800-772-1213
Valparasio Social Security Administration	3810 Calumet Ave, Valparaiso, IN 46383	1-800-772-1213

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Hospice Care		
AseraCare Hospice Care, an Amedisys Company	808 Vale Park Rd Suite 200, Valparaiso, IN 46383	1-219-462-6398
Dunes Hospice	4711 Evans Ave, Valparaiso, IN 46383	1-888-602-9004
Franciscan Hospice Care	101 W 61st Ave, Hobart, IN 46342	1-219-945-8020
Heart to Heart Hospice	402 Wall St Suite 12, Valparaiso, IN 46383	1-219-252-4860
Hospice of the Calumet Area	511 Otis Bowen Dr, Munster, IN 46321	1-219-922-2732
Traditions Health Hospice	1229 Arrowhead Ct, Crown Point, IN 46307	1-219-661-3100
ProMedica Hospice Serving Northwest Indiana	5265 Commerce Blvd Suite A, Crown Point, IN 46307	1-219-472-2020
SouthernCare - Valparaiso	9205 Broadway # B, Merrillville, IN 46410	1-219-476-0699
Transitions Care	11035 Broadway Suite E, Crown Point, IN 46307	1-877-467-6880
Unity Hospice & Palliative Care	3313 E 83rd Pl, Merrillville, IN 46410	1-815-393-1697
VNA Hospice NWI	501 Marquette St, Valparaiso, IN 46383	1-219-462-5195
Alegis Care	1340 S Damen Ave #400, Chicago, IL 60608	1-877-663-1333
Housecall Doctors P.C.	9030 Cline Ave suite a, Highland, IN 46322	1-219-750-9497