



OUR LADY OF THE LAKE
ASSUMPTION COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

2024

Community Health Needs Assessment

ASSUMPTION COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

In April 1972, Assumption Community Hospital (ACH) began serving the people of Assumption Parish as a parish-owned Hospital Service District facility.

In December 1996, Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, part of the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady Health System (FMOLHS), purchased the hospital as an extension of their ministry to provide care for those most in need.

Assessing Assumption Parish's health needs and developing appropriate plans through a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) to address those needs are essential steps in improving and sustaining the community's health and wellbeing. To do so, the community must be defined, the needs must be identified, and the process for moving forward must be outlined. Strategies incorporate multiple community-based organizations that can collaborate utilizing available resources to generate effective, positive impacts for the community. The CHNA will help guide ACH's community benefit planning and the development of implementation strategies to address Priority Areas. ACH's CHNA research spotlighted health disparities and social determinants of health, needs of vulnerable populations, and service gaps. The CHNA fulfills the requirements of Internal Revenue Code section 501(r)(3) to conduct a CHNA to determine if the services and programs provided as part of ACH's non-profit status appropriately address the needs of the people it is privileged to serve, but it is not simply a response to the ACA requirement. This CHNA represents ACH's commitment to addressing the needs of our community/service area. Service, Reverence and Love for All of Life, Joyfulness of Spirit, Humility, and Justice are ACH's Core Values as an organization, and the outcomes of the implementation strategies will help ensure the people of Region 3 are appropriately served with appropriate, high-quality care.

Most services provided by ACH, in partnership with its provider-based rural health clinic Assumption Primary Care, are provided to Assumption Parish residents, which is the area (supported by demographic and survey data) that ACH defines as its community. ACH is the only hospital located in Assumption Parish and serves as the front line of defense for residents needing care.

ACH and Assumption Primary Care provide important local services such as outpatient laboratory, radiology imaging, respiratory therapy, and the vital provision of around-the-clock emergency care. Assumption Primary Care provides significant primary care services to the indigent and Medicaid patient population of Assumption Parish. Other important community outreach programs provided by ACH and Assumption Primary Care include flu shot events and food drives.

Our Ministry

ACH does not define its community to exclude medically underserved, low-income, or minority populations. When determining how to define its community/service area for the purposes of this

assessment, ACH considered all patients without regard to whether (or how much) they or their insurers pay for the care received or whether they are eligible for assistance under its financial assistance policy.

Our Vision

To make a significant difference in our communities through Catholic health services

Our Mission

Inspired by the vision of St. Francis of Assisi and in the tradition of the Roman Catholic Church, we extend the healing ministry of Jesus Christ to God's people, especially those most in need. We call forth all who serve in this healthcare ministry, to share their gifts and talents to create a spirit of healing – with reverence and love for all of life, with joyfulness of spirit, and with humility and justice for all those entrusted to our care. We are, with God's help, a healing and spiritual presence for each other and for the communities we are privileged to serve.

Our Core Values

SERVICE: The privilege of reaching out to meet the needs of others.

REVERENCE AND LOVE FOR ALL OF LIFE: Acknowledging that all of life is a gift from God.

JOYFULNESS OF SPIRIT: An awareness of being blessed by God in all things.

HUMILITY: Being authentic in serving as an instrument of God.

JUSTICE: Striving for equity and fairness in all relationships with special concern for those most in need.

Consultants

ACH received feedback from the Healthy Communities Coalition, a community-wide committee sponsored by the LSU Ag Center in Assumption Parish, to write the 2024 CHNA and its related Implementation Strategy; however, outside firm KPMG, LLP, also contributed.

KPMG

ACH worked with KPMG LLP, an audit, tax, and advisory firm, to assess the CHNA and implementation strategies to determine whether they meet the requirements of Internal Revenue Code section 501(r)(3). KPMG is the U.S. member firm of KPMG International Cooperative (“KPMG International”) and is a global network of professional firms providing audit, tax, and advisory services. Operating in 155 countries with more than 162,000 employees working in member firms around the world, KPMG delivers a globally consistent set of multidisciplinary services based on deep industry knowledge.

Their industry focus helps KPMG professionals develop a deeper understanding of clients’ businesses and the insight, skills, and resources required to address industry-specific issues and opportunities. KPMG is committed to providing high-quality, professional services in an ethical manner to entities that are listed on capital markets around the globe. Their Transparency Report articulates the steps they take to uphold their professional responsibilities and describes the firm’s structure, governance, and approach to quality control. To learn more about KPMG and to view the report, visit www.KPMG.com.

The CHNA Approach: Data and Sources

Input from community stakeholders, including community partners and healthcare providers providing care to vulnerable populations and those with knowledge of the specific needs and existing resources of the community, was obtained in late spring / early summer 2024 via paper surveys and SurveyMonkey. Needs were also identified through collection of statistical data from the *US Census Bureau* website and compared to the community's input. The resulting data was used to identify the Community Needs. The data was deemed sufficient, and there were no information gaps identified during the collection and analysis process.

Assumption Parish contains 20,160 residents, a decrease of 1,731 residents since 2021, as reported by the U.S. Census Bureau.¹ The parish is a rural area with only one incorporated community of approximately 540 residents known as the Village of Napoleonville. Other communities located in the parish include Labadieville, Paincourtville, Plattenville, Bertrandville, Belle Rose, Pierre Part, and Bayou L'Ourse. ACH is the only hospital in Assumption Parish.

Assumption Parish is designated as a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) and is challenged with the provision of healthcare providers as a ratio of population. Nearly 100% of ACH's patient admissions are Assumption Parish residents. Healthcare resources in Assumption Parish are very limited but include an FQHC and two other rural health clinics, as well as two private practice physician offices which serve a small percentage of the underserved population.

Assumption Parish, Louisiana	
POPULATION ESTIMATES, JULY 1, 2023	20,160
Population estimates base, April 1, 2020	21,046
Population, percent change - April 1, 2020 (estimates base) to July 1, 2023	-4.2%
AGE AND SEX	
Persons under 5 years, percent	5.2%
Persons under 18 years, percent	20.3%
Persons 65 years and over, percent	20.8%
Female persons, percent	51.0%
RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN	
White alone, percent	68.1%
Black or African American alone, percent	28.9%

¹ Retrieved August 9, 2024, from <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/assumptionparishlouisiana,US/PST045222>

American Indian and Alaska Native alone, percent	1.0%
Asian alone, percent	0.6%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, percent	0.1%
Two or More Races, percent	1.4%
Hispanic or Latino, percent	4.2%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino, percent	64.9%

Assumption Parish is heavily dependent on agriculture (primarily sugar cane production) and has only a few large employers, such as the Assumption Parish School System and ACH. The parish’s median household income is \$47,023, and 18.3% (an increase of 4.37% since the 2021 CHNA) of families live below the poverty line. In Assumption Parish, 20.9% of residents over the age of 25 did not graduate from high school, a number that has improved significantly from 29% in 2021. Of residents under age 65, 10.5% are living with a disability, and 9.7% do not have insurance.

ACH utilized data collected through the 2021 County Health Rankings & Roadmaps website. The site provided health data, as well as comparison reports assessing how the community compares to others within the state and country on several health indicators.

Assumption Parish Health Outcomes

“Health Outcomes represent how healthy a county (parish) is right now. They reflect the physical and mental well-being of residents within a community through measures representing not only the length of life but quality of life as well. Assumption (AU) is ranked in the higher middle range of Parishes in Louisiana (Higher 50%-75%).”²

HEALTH OUTCOMES			
Length of Life	Assumption Parish	Louisiana	United States
Premature Death	9,100	9,500	6,900
Quality of Life	Assumption Parish	Louisiana	United States
Poor or fair health	25%	21%	17%
Poor physical health days	4.9	4.3	3.7
Poor mental health days	5.4	5.0	4.1
Low birthweight	11%	11%	8%

Assumption Parish Health Factors

“There are many things that influence how well and how long we live. Everything from our education to our environments impact our health. Health Factors represent those things we can modify to improve the length and

² Retrieved online August 17, 2024, at <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/health-data/louisiana/assumption?year=2021#health-outcomes>

quality of life for residents. They are predictors of how healthy our communities can be in the future. Assumption (AU) is ranked in the lower middle range of Parishes in Louisiana (25%-50%).”³

HEALTH FACTORS			
Health Behaviors	Assumption Parish	Louisiana	United States
Adult smoking	27%	21%	17%
Adult obesity	36%	36%	30%
Food environment index	6.3	5.2	7.8
Physical inactivity	28%	28%	23%
Access to exercise opportunities	35%	75%	84%
Excessive drinking	20%	20%	17%
Alcohol-impaired driving deaths	24%	32%	27%
Sexually transmitted infections	768.0	774.8	539.9
Teen births	28	32	21
Clinical Care	Assumption Parish	Louisiana	United States
Uninsured	9%	9%	10%
Primary care physicians	7,430:1	1,470:1	1,320:1
Dentists	10,950:1	1,780:1	1,400:1
Mental health providers	3,650:1	330:1	380:1
Preventable hospital stays	5,143	5,651	4,236
Mammography screening	41%	42%	42%
Flu vaccinations	49%	44%	48%
Social & Economic Factors	Assumption Parish	Louisiana	United States
Unemployment	6.1%	4.8%	3.7%
Children in poverty	25%	26%	17%
Income inequality	6.5	5.7	4.9
Children in single-parent households	47%	35%	26%
Social associations	4.9	9.5	9.3

³ Ibid.

Violent crime	319	541	386
Injury deaths	84	90	72
Physical environment	Assumption Parish	Louisiana	United States
Air pollution – particulate matter	9.0	8.7	7.2
Severe housing problems	11%	16%	18%
Driving alone to work	87%	83%	76%
Long commute – driving alone	51%	34%	37%

Areas of Need

Following the results of the survey (47 received in total representing the Assumption Parish community, which includes medically underserved, low-income, and minority populations) and interviews conducted in late spring / early summer 2024, the Healthy Communities Coalition, which represents underserved, low-income, and minority populations, had an opportunity to review the results to provide targeted feedback about Priority Areas. These discussions further highlighted problems with social determinants of health facing Assumption Parish residents, such as difficulty with transportation and barriers to accessing mental and substance abuse care. Access to cancer screenings continue to be a need as well, even though breast cancer screenings have increased since the last CHNA measurement period due to utilization of the Woman’s Hospital mobile mammography unit.

In preparing this CHNA, ACH interviewed Erin Theriot with the Assumption Parish Police Jury, on March 6, 2024; Brittany Wyger, MD, on March 22, 2024; and Debra Gonzales, RN, Supervisor A, with the Louisiana Department of Health / Region 3 Office of Public Health, on April 11, 2024. Each of the interviewees echoed much of the feedback received regarding patients’ struggles with social determinants of health, such as poverty, access to care, and transportation, and agreed that a lack of providers was a fundamental problem in the parish.

Written comments regarding the previous CHNA and implementation plan were welcome to be submitted by contacting Administration at 985-369-3600 or emailing Letonia.Howard@fmoilhs.org; however, at the time of publication of the 2024 ACH CHNA, no comments or feedback had been received. Considering all data analysis, stakeholder discussions, and surveys results, ACH determined the top community needs to be (in priority order):

- Better Understanding of Health and Wellness
- Mental Health
- Substance Abuse
- Transportation
- Lack of providers
- Access to healthy food

For the purposes of the 2024 CHNA ACH has chosen to focus its efforts on two community needs: Better Understanding of Health and Wellness and Substance Abuse. Work will take place to address the other four priorities in the community, including work done at ACH. For example, ACH is actively involved in work

related to food insecurity in the community, and the hospital collaborates continuously with partners to increase access to care and providers who are not immediately accessible in the area (e.g., ACH's partnership that brought mobile mammography and other cancer screenings to the area). However, the other four significant needs were not chosen as the Priority Areas due to a lack of immediate resources to make a significant impact in those areas. If this reality changes during the three-year measurement period for the CHNA, ACH will modify its implementation plan to include goals related to those areas as well.

ACH's action steps to address the chosen Priority Areas will be detailed in the related Implementation Plan. Following is a list of community partners ACH intends to work with to accomplish the goals and objectives that will be detailed in the Implementation Plan. Additionally, ACH will contribute financial and human resources that will be captured with amounts attached and reported on a regular basis at both the local and FMOLHS levels for community benefit accountability monitoring through Lyon Software's CBISA online database reports.

The organizations shown in the following list are collaborating partners who will work with ACH to implement the strategies defined to address the Priority Areas identified in this CHNA. Each of these organizations are ideally suited to work with medically underserved, low-income, and/or minority populations and have contributed significantly to the community in and around Assumption Parish.

Community Resources Available in Assumption Parish to Help Address Priority Areas

Assumption Parish Health Unit
Assumption Parish LSU Ag Center-Nutrition Program
Community Health Council-Aetna
Healthy Communities Coalition
Our Lady of the Lake Health Community Impact
Our Lady of the Lake Health Tobacco Cessation Program

Previous Community Health Needs Assessment

A CHNA was conducted by ACH in 2021. At that time, the Priority Areas identified were:

- Mental / Behavioral Health
- Cancer Screenings
- Access to Care / Transportation

ACH added a behavioral healthcare provider to Assumption Primary Care and will continue expanding services by adding additional patient days to increase access to mental/behavioral health care in the community served. ACH also partnered with Reliant on Call to provide transportation for patients discharged from the ACH Emergency Department when the patients do not have access to transportation or do not have access to a safe mode of transportation. Through a collaboration with Woman's Hospital, ACH provided mammography services in the local community.

ACH participates in various community events designed to accomplish the CHNA goals and address community needs, especially among vulnerable populations, such as collaborating with LSU AG Center's Healthy Communities Coalition for events and programming throughout the community served. ACH also participates in the Play Streets Program by attending end-of-school Field Day activities at Belle Rose Primary School. The program provides various physical activities for the students to enjoy with a focus on fitness, wellness, and staying active.

ACH organized and held a Community Health Fair at the Assumption Parish Community Center. Many free services were offered by collaborating community partners, such as glucose and pressure checks, flu and COVID-19 vaccines, and carotid duplex ultrasounds. ACH also facilitated the Assumption Parish Water Works employee health fair.

Additionally, Woman's Hospital and ACH partner in the community to provide mammography screenings through the Woman's Hospital Mobile Unit on the ACH campus once each month, which is an increase in the frequency of services provided. ACH also partnered with Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center to provide ACLS, PALS, and BLS training courses regularly in the community and collaborates regularly with Assumption Parish Head Start.

Community education efforts include activities such as stroke education and cancer outreach, "Stop The Bleed" education (designed by the American College of Surgeons to teach people how to control bleeding in an emergency; educated seven community members), and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) activities and education for Assumption Parish school children ages 5-8. Fifty residents received colorectal cancer screenings, and 10 community members were trained in Basic Life Support / CPR. In partnership with the Louisiana Department of Health and the Office of Public Health, 10 community members participated in a vaccine drive and cancer screening outreach program.

Paper copies of this CHNA are available for public inspection upon request and without charge at ACH. Digital copies are available at www.FMOLHS.org. Search using the words "Community Health Needs Assessment" or "CHNA." Comments and other feedback about this CHNA can be provided to ACH by contacting Administration at 985-369-3600 or emailing Letonia.Howard@fmolhs.org.

Next Steps

ACH will continue dialogue with collaborators and community members to develop an implementation plan for strategies and programs to address the identified Priority Areas. Existing programs will continue to be monitored for effectiveness and developed, as needed.