



**Indiana University Health North Hospital  
Community Health Needs Assessment**

2015





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## **IU Health Community Health Needs Assessment Team Members**

### **Ann Yeakle, MBA**

Community Benefits Coordinator/  
Community Benefit  
7240 Shadeland Station Suite 150/  
Indianapolis, IN 46256  
317.355.8701  
ayeakle@ecomunity.com

### **Kate Hill-Johnson, MA**

Community Benefits and Engagement  
Franciscan Alliance and  
Franciscan St. Francis Health  
421 North Emerson, Greenwood, IN 46142  
317.528-3296  
Katharine.Hill-Johnson  
@franciscanalliance.org

### **Kelly Peisker**

Community Development Liaison  
St. Vincent Health  
9101 Wesleyan Rd, Suite 301  
Indianapolis, IN 46268  
317-338-8455  
kvpeiske@stvincent.org

### **Joyce M. Hertko, Ph.D.**

Director  
Community Outreach & Engagement  
Indiana University Health Methodist Hospital  
317.962.2189  
jhertko@iuhealth.org

### **Stephanie Berry, MS**

Manager, System Coordination  
Community Outreach and Engagement  
Indiana University Health Methodist Hospital  
317.962.6102  
sberry@iuhealth.org

### **Anyah Land, MPH**

Community Benefit Project Manager  
Community Outreach and Engagement  
Indiana University Health Methodist Hospital

### **Amber Blackmon, MPH**

Masters of Public Health Intern  
Community Outreach and Engagement  
Indiana University Health Methodist Hospital  
317.962.6010

### **Molly Witt**

Health Promotion Intern  
Community Outreach and Engagement  
Indiana University Health Methodist Hospital  
317.962.5766  
mwitt@iuhealth.org

### **Maggie Matson**

Indiana University-Purdue University (IUPUI)

### **Joy Davis, MBA**

Manager, Customer Experience & Community  
Engagement  
IU Health Suburban Indianapolis Region  
317.688.2067  
Jdavis27@iuhealth.org

### **Melissa S. Brown**

Editor  
317.506.5651  
msbrownllc@att.net

# **1 INTRODUCTION**

## **1.1 Purpose**

This report provides the findings from a community health needs assessment (CHNA) conducted on behalf of Indiana University Health North (IU Health North). The purpose of the CHNA is to identify the leading health needs in Hamilton County and Marion County, to describe the leading needs IU Health North will address by developing effective implementation strategies to address such needs and to respond to the regulatory requirements of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (PPACA), which requires that each tax-exempt hospital conduct an independent CHNA.

## **1.2 Objectives**

The 2015 IU Health North CHNA has three main objectives:

- 1. Identify the priority health needs within Hamilton County, Indiana.**
- 2. Serve as a foundation for developing implementation strategies that can be utilized by healthcare providers, communities and policy makers in order to improve the health status of people in the Hamilton County community.**
- 3. Supply public access to the CHNA results in order to inform the community and provide assistance to those invested in the transformation of the community's healthcare network.**

## 2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Although IU Health North's entire community service area extends into seven economically diverse counties: Marion, Hamilton, Boone, Hendricks, Hancock, Madison and Tipton. Poor social and economic factors within the majority of the community discharge population may contribute to the poor lifestyle choices that are prevalent in the overall community, such as alcohol use, poor diet and lack of physical activity.

### Top Community Health Needs

The needs listed below specify the health issues identified by the assessment as priority needs across the entire community served by IU Health North. These problems affect most of the community service area counties, but particularly apply to the counties with the highest discharge percentage within the PSA, Marion and Hamilton counties.



**Access to Health Services**



**Exercise, Nutrition & Weight**



**Behavioral Health**



**Older Adults & Aging**



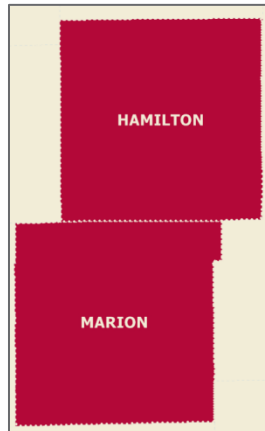
**Transportation**

To identify these needs, IU Health North collected comments, surveyed residents, conducted a focus group which included public health officials and representatives of medically underserved groups and reviewed available resources about health status indicators. From these sources, the Hanlon Method was used to identify the priority needs.

IU Health North addresses the priority community health needs in Hamilton and Marion Counties. In addition, there are physician practices and Federally Qualified Health Centers that also address these priority needs. IU Health North participates in the Partnership for a Healthy Hamilton County with other area hospitals that also address these needs.

## 2.1 Primary Service Area

Hamilton and Marion counties comprise the majority of the IU Health North Hospital community. They account for all of the PSA's total population and 54% of the inpatient discharge population of the total community service area.



The two counties making up the PSA are economically very different from each other. Marion County has a similar rate of unemployment to the state of Indiana and the nation; however, Hamilton County has a lower rate than Marion County and the state of Indiana. The median household income of Marion County is below the Indiana median and the national median, whereas, Hamilton County is above the state and national values for both measures. Both counties are adversely affected by a combination of poor indicators of environmental quality and an increasing aging population. Marion County is additionally impacted by chronic health conditions, low educational attainment and the low availability of higher paying jobs.

## 3 STUDY METHODS

### 3.1 Analytical Methods

In order to identify the community's health needs, both quantitative and qualitative data was utilized. For this CHNA, quantitative analyses assessed the health needs of the population through data abstraction and analysis and qualitative analyses were conducted through a focus group with community leaders and public health officials from Hamilton County. Marion County needs were also considered.

### 3.2 Data Sources

CHNAs seek to identify priority health needs and access issues for particular geographic areas and populations. Accordingly, the following topics and data are assessed:

- Demographics, e.g., population, age, sex, race
- Economic indicators, e.g., poverty and unemployment rates
- Health status indicators, e.g., causes of death, physical activity, chronic conditions and preventive behaviors

- Health access indicators, e.g., insurance coverage
- Availability of healthcare facilities and resources

Data sets for quantitative analyses included:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
- Community Health Status Indicators Project
- Indiana Department of Workforce Development
- Indiana Hospital Association Database
- Kaiser Family Foundation
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation—County Health Rankings
- STATS Indiana data—Indiana Business Research Center, IU Kelley School of Business
- US Bureau of Labor Statistics
- US Census Bureau
- US Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis
- US Health Resources and Services Administration

While quantitative data can provide insights into an area, these data need to be supplemented with qualitative information to develop a full picture of a community’s health and health needs. For this CHNA, qualitative data were gathered from responses collected online and through the distribution of hard copy surveys to members of the public and through a focus group with health leaders and public health experts.

### **3.3 Process for Determining Priorities**

The quantitative, secondary data sources identified health needs for which Indiana or Hamilton or Marion County is above or below average. Qualitative information from survey results, which included responses from under-served or underrepresented groups, supplemented the secondary data. This group prioritized leading health needs. The priorities from the focus groups, plus survey results and health indicator data were compiled. IU Health North Hospital representatives used the Hanlon Method to identify the top five needs.

The Hanlon Method seeks ratings from 0 to 10 on three criteria: size of the health problem based on the percentage of the population affected, seriousness or magnitude of the health problem and the effectiveness of potential interventions.<sup>1</sup> With the ratings compiled, analysts identify specific health problems that can feasibly be addressed by the community served. From that list, priority scores are calculated, where the seriousness of the problem is given the most weight. Ranks are assigned based on the priority scores.

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<sup>1</sup> The Hanlon Method is one of the possible prioritization methods presented in material from the National Association of County and City Health Officials. For more information, see <http://www.naccho.org/topics/infrastructure/accreditation/upload/Prioritization-Summaries-and-Examples.pdf>.



### **3.4 Information Gaps**

To the best of our knowledge, no information gaps have affected IU Health North Hospital's ability to reach reasonable conclusions regarding community health needs. While IU Health North has worked to capture quantitative information on a wide variety of health conditions from a wide array of sources, IU Health North realizes that it is not possible to capture every health need in the community and there will be gaps in the data captured.

To attempt to close the information gap qualitatively, IU Health North conducted a focus group with public health experts and community health leaders and also conducted a community survey to gather input from general and underserved community members. However, it should be noted that there are limitations to these methods. If an organization from a specific group was not present during the focus group, such as seniors or injury prevention groups, then that need could potentially be underrepresented in the focus group. Further, due to the community survey's distribution method (a convenience sample, not a random sample), extrapolation of the survey results to the entire community population is limited.

### **3.5 Collaborating Organizations**

The IU Health system collaborated with other organizations and agencies in conducting this needs assessment for the IU Health North Hospital community. These collaborating organizations are:

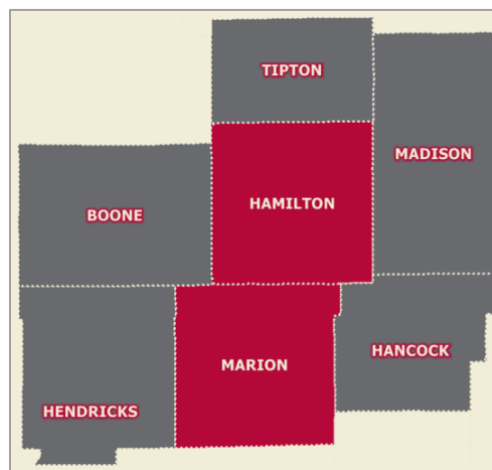
Advocates for Children and Families (AFCF)	Heart & Soul Clinic
Alternatives, Inc.	Indiana University Health
Aspire Indiana	Indiana University Health North
Cherish Center	Janus Developmental Services, Inc.
Children's Bureau, Inc.	Legacy Fund, Noblesville
CICOA Aging and In-Home Solutions	Noblesville Township Trustee
Community Assistance Program	OneZone
Community Health Network	Prevail Inc.
Covering Kids	PrimeLife Enrichment, Inc.
Delaware Township Trustee	Purdue Extension
Fall Creek Township, Fishers	Riverview Health
Franciscan St. Francis Health – Carmel	St. Vincent Health
Gleaners Food Bank	St. Vincent Health- Carmel
Hamilton County Adult Protective Services	The Salvation Army
Hamilton County Council on Alcohol and Other Drugs	Trinity Free Clinic
Hamilton County Department of Child Services	United Way of Central Indiana
Hamilton County Express	Wayne Township Trustee
Hamilton County Health Department	Westfield Chamber of Commerce
	WestLink Consulting
	White River Christian Church
	YMCA of Greater Indianapolis
Hamilton County Society for the Disabled	
HAND, Inc.	

## 4 DEFINITION OF COMMUNITY ASSESSED

This section identifies the community assessed by IU Health North Hospital. The community was defined as Hamilton County, the county where IU Health North is located, plus Marion County. The secondary service area (SSA) is comprised of five contiguous counties. The community definition is consistent with the inpatient discharges for 2014.

The IU Health North community was defined based on the geographic origins of IU Health North inpatients. Of the hospital's inpatient discharges, approximately 54% originated from the PSA and 23% from the SSA (IHA Database, 2015). **Figure 1** shows the primary and secondary counties. Of IU Health North inpatient discharges from 56 other Indiana counties, no one county accounted for more than 2.5% for 2014.

**Figure 1: Counties in the IU Health North Hospital Service Area Community, 2015**



## 5 SECONDARY DATA ASSESSMENT

### 5.1 Demographics

IU Health North Hospital is located in Hamilton County in central Indiana. Hamilton County includes ZIP codes within the towns of Arcadia, Atlanta, Carmel, Cicero, Fishers, Noblesville, Sheridan and Westfield. Based on Census Bureau statistics for 2014, Hamilton County's population is 302,623. Just over half (51.2%) are female and 48.8% are male. The county's population estimates by race are 84.9% White/Not Hispanic or Latino, 4.1% Black, 3.8% Hispanic or Latino, 5.6% Asian, 0.2% American Indian or Alaska Native and 1.8% two or more races. A very small percentage of the population is ethnic groups other than listed the above.

Marion County includes the towns of Indianapolis, Lawrence, Clermont and Plainfield. Marion County's population is 934,243, with approximately 51.8% female and 48.2% male. The county's population estimates by race are 59.5% White/Not Hispanic or Latino, 27.8% Black, 9.8% Hispanic or Latino, 2.6% Asian and 0.3% American Indian or Alaska Native. 2.7% persons reported two or more races.

Hamilton and Marion counties have relatively moderate to high levels of educational attainment. As of 2013, 29% of adults over 25 in Marion County and 16% of those in Hamilton County ended formal education with a high school diploma, according to data from the American Community Survey. An additional 28% of Marion County adults over 25 and 25% of those in Hamilton County had some college, but no degree. Also as of 2013, 27% of the Marion County population and 55% of the Hamilton County population has a college degree. In Marion County, one-sixth (15%) of adults did not have a high school diploma, compared with less than 4% of adults in neighboring Hamilton County.

Within the entire service area, the total population for the PSA is 1,236,866 and the total population for surrounding counties is 992,663, as illustrated in **Table 1** below.

**Table 1: Service Area Population, 2014**

Service Area	County	Population	Percent of Total
Primary	Hamilton	302,623	13.6%
	Marion	934,243	41.9%
	Subtotal	1,236,866	55.5%
Secondary	Boone	619,145	27.8%
	Tipton	15,415	0.7%
	Madison	130,069	5.8%
	Hancock	71,978	3.2%
	Hendricks	156,056	7.0%
	Subtotal	992,663	44.5%
Total Service Area		2,229,529	100.00%

Source: U.S. Census, Quick Facts, based on American Community Survey.

## 5.2 Economic Indicators

The following topics were assessed to examine various economic indicators with implications for health: (i) Employment, (ii) Household Income and People in Poverty and (iii) Uninsured.

### 5.2.1 Employment

#### Hamilton County

The share of jobs in Hamilton County is greatest in the areas of healthcare and social assistance, retail trade, finance and insurance, administrative and support services, accommodation and food services, professional, scientific and technical services, wholesale trade and construction. Hamilton County has a diverse group of major employers reported by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, including: UPS Store, Bankers Conseco Life Insurance Company, CNO Financial Group, Washington National Insurance, Beneficial Standard Life Insurance, Sallie Mae Loan Services and Data Center, WYNDHAM Exchange and Rentals, Bankers National Life and Indiana Mills and Manufacturing Incorporated.

Hamilton County reported a relatively low unemployment rate compared with the rates of most surrounding counties, the state of Indiana and the national rate.

## Marion County

The share of jobs was greatest in the areas of healthcare and social assistance, manufacturing, retail trade, accommodation and food services, administrative support for waste management and remediation services, professional, scientific and technical services, transportation and warehousing and wholesale trade. Marion County has a diverse group of major employers reported by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, including: Eli Lilly and Company, St. Vincent Health, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, Indiana University Health, Indiana University School of Medicine, Franciscan Alliance and Franciscan St. Francis Health, Community Health Network and Rolls-Royce North American Technologies/LibertyWorks.

Marion County reported an unemployment rate similar to the rate for the state of Indiana, but had a slightly higher rate of unemployment than in most surrounding counties. **Table 2** summarizes unemployment rates at December 2013 and December 2014.

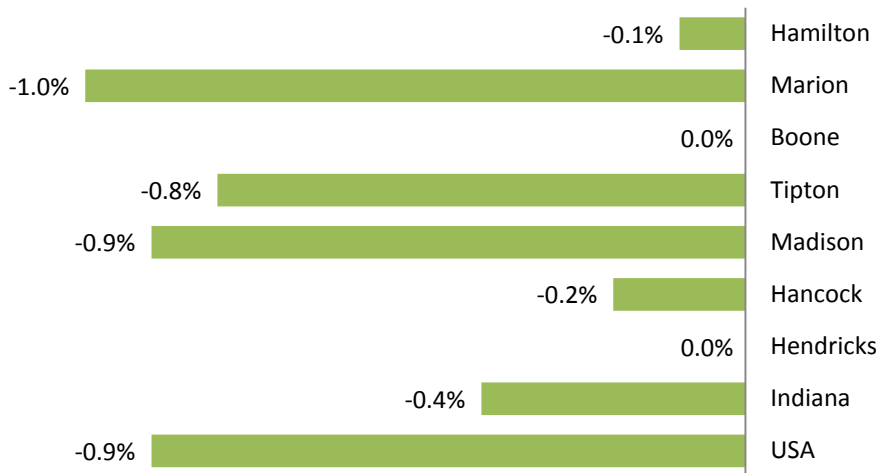
**Table 2: Unemployment Rates, December 2013 and December 2014**

Service Area	County	Dec-13	Dec-14	Change from 2013-2014
Primary	Hamilton	4.2%	4.1%	-0.1%
	Marion	6.8%	5.8%	-1.0%
Secondary	Boone	4.6%	4.6%	0.0%
	Tipton	5.9%	5.1%	-0.8%
	Madison	7.7%	6.8%	-0.9%
	Hancock	5.3%	5.1%	-0.2%
	Hendricks	4.7%	4.7%	0.0%
Indiana		6.3%	5.9%	-0.4%
USA		6.5%	5.6%	-0.9%

Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics.

All counties in the service area saw either no change or a decrease (improvement) in unemployment rates between December 2013 and December 2014, as shown in **Figure 2** on the following page.

**Figure 2: Changes in Unemployment Rates, Counties in IU Health North Community Service Area**



Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2015.

### 5.2.2 Household Income and People in Poverty

Areas with higher poverty rates tend to have poorer access to healthcare, lower rates of preventive care, higher rates of preventable hospital admissions and poorer health outcomes in general. According to the US Census, in 2013, the national poverty rate was at 15.9%, the same as in 2011. In Indiana, 15.5% of the state population lived in poverty in 2013, which was a 0.3% decrease from the 2011 poverty rate (15.8%). **Table 3** below illustrates the poverty rates by year between 2011 and 2013.

**Table 3: Percentage of People In Poverty, 2011-2013**

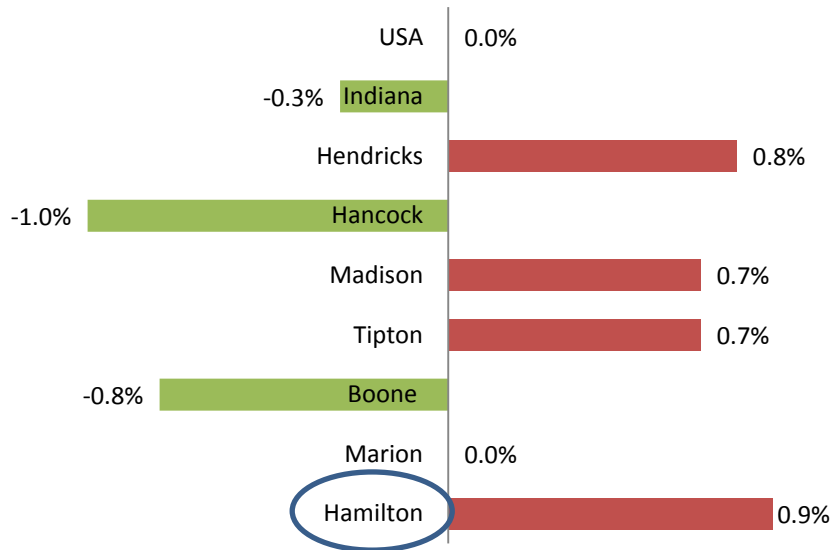
Service Area	County	2011	2012	2013	% Change from 2011-2013
Primary	Hamilton	4.6%	4.7%	5.5%	0.9%
	Marion	21.3%	21.6%	21.3%	0.0%
Secondary	Boone	8.1%	6.6%	7.3%	-0.8%
	Tipton	9.6%	10.0%	10.3%	-0.8%
	Madison	18.9%	15.9%	19.6%	0.7%
	Hancock	7.5%	7.3%	6.5%	-1.0%
	Hendricks	5.6%	5.7%	6.4%	0.8%
<b>Indiana</b>		15.8%	15.5%	15.5%	-0.3%
<b>USA</b>		15.9%	15.9%	15.9%	0.0%

Source: US Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, downloaded 2015.

Hamilton County has the lowest poverty rate in the service area in all three years shown. In fact, statewide, Hamilton County typically has the lowest poverty rate for the state of Indiana. For Marion County, a poverty rate of 21.6% was reported in 2012, rising from 21.3% in 2011 (0.3%) and returning to 21.3% in 2013.

Despite having a low poverty rate, Hamilton County saw the largest increase in poverty, from 4.6% in 2011 to 5.5% in 2013, or an increase of 0.9 percentage points. The difference in each service area county's poverty rates in 2013 compared with 2011, as well as those for the state of Indiana and the entire US, are displayed in **Figure 3** below.

**Figure 3: Percentage Change In Poverty Rates between 2012 and 2013**



Source: US Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, downloaded 2015.

Income level is an additional economic factor that has also been associated with the health status of a population. Based on data from the Census Bureau, Hamilton County had per capita personal income in 2013 of \$39,521, far above the Indiana state value of \$24,635. In Marion County per capita income of \$24,125 in 2013 was slightly less than the state value. Median household income of \$82,468 in Hamilton County is far above Indiana state median of \$42,248, while Marion County median income of \$42,334 in 2013 was very close to the state median. Indiana state values for both per capita and median incomes were below national levels for the same year. In the U.S. in 2013, per capita income was \$28,155 and median household income was \$53,046.

In summary, of the two counties in the IU Health North Primary Service Area, Hamilton has comparatively low poverty rates, low unemployment, high education and high income, whereas neighboring Marion County is at or below state levels for income and education and has higher poverty rates and higher unemployment.

### 5.3 County Level Health Status and Access Indicators

#### 5.3.1 County Health Rankings

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, along with the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, created County Health Rankings to assess the relative health of county residents within each state for all 50 states. These assessments are based on health measures of health outcomes, specifically length and quality of life indicators and health factors, including indicators related to health behaviors, clinical care, economic status and the physical environment.

Based on the 92 counties in the state of Indiana, counties may be ranked from 1 to 92, where 1 represents the highest ranking and 92 represents the lowest. **Table 4** below summarizes County Health Ranking assessments for Hamilton and Marion Counties. A value below 24 indicates the county scores very favorably compared with others in the state (in the top 25% statewide) whereas a value above 68 indicates the county scores in the lowest quarter of counties statewide. In the IU Health North primary service area, Hamilton County scores 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> statewide in all but one factor (physical environment), whereas Marion County has scores of 68 or higher for all but one factor (clinical care, at 32, so in the middle group).

**Table 4: Relative Health Status Indicators for Hamilton & Marion Counties, Summary**

Indicator	Hamilton	Marion
Health Outcomes	1	74
Length of Life	1	69
Quality of Life	2	74
Health Factors	1	89
Health Behaviors	1	86
Clinical Care	1	32
Social and Economic Factors	1	92
Physical Environment	31	68

Source: County Health Rankings, 2015.

**Table 5** below has more detail about health factors considered in the rankings, Hamilton County shows low rates of premature death, smoking, sexually transmitted diseases and numerous other health indicators. However, the county has higher rates than Marion County of excessive drinking and alcohol-related driving deaths.

**Table 5: Relative Health Status Indicators for Hamilton & Marion Counties, Detail**

Indicator	Hamilton	Marion
<b>Health Outcomes</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>Length of Life</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>69</b>
Premature death per 100,000	1,613	11,338
<b>Quality of Life</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>74</b>
Poor or fair health	7%	17%
Poor physical health days reported in the past 30 days	2.4%	3.6%
Poor mental health days reported in the past 30 days	2.4%	3.8%
Low birth weight (<2500 grams)	7.1%	9.3%
<b>Health Factors</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>Health Behaviors</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>86</b>
Adult smoking	12%	24%
Adult obesity (BMI of 30 or more)	23%	31%
Food environment index 0 (worst) 10 (best)	8.6	6.1
Physical inactivity age 20 and over	18%	26%
Access to exercise opportunities	92%	88%
Excessive drinking	19%	16%
Alcohol-impaired driving deaths	36%	26%
Sexually transmitted infections (chlamydia) per 100,000	166	1,100
Teen female births ages 15-19 per 1,000	14	55
<b>Clinical Care</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>32</b>
Uninsured (under the age of 65)	10%	20%
Primary care physicians ratio of population to primary care physicians	704:1	1,254 to 1
Dentists ratio of population to dentists	1361:1	1,273 to 1
Mental health providers ratio of population to mental health providers	802:1	436 to 1
Preventable hospital stays per 1,000	44	65
Diabetic monitoring of Medicare enrollees ages 65-75 that receive HbA1c	1	84%
Mammography screening ages 67-69 of female Medicare enrollees	68.8%	60.8%
<b>Social and Economic Factors</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>92</b>
High school graduation	92%	77%
Some college ages 25-44	86%	60%
Unemployment population ages 16 and older	5.3%	7.7%
Children in poverty (under the age of 18)	6%	30%
Income inequality ratio at the 80th percentile to income at the 20th percentile	3.7	4.7
Children in single-parent households	18%	47%



Table 5, Continued		
Indicator	Hamilton	Marion
Social associations per 10,000	9.8	11.9
Violent crime per 100,000	44	1,124
Injury deaths per 100,000	31	68
<b>Physical Environment</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>68</b>
Air pollution - particulate matter in micrograms per cubic meter (PM2.5)	13.5	13.6
Drinking water violations during the past year	0%	0%
Severe housing problems with at least 1 of 4 problems: overcrowding, high housing costs, or lack of kitchen or plumbing facilities	9%	17%
Driving alone to work	85%	82%
Long commute - driving alone for more than 30 minutes	43%	28%

Source: County Health Rankings, 2015.

### 5.3.2 Community Health Status Indicators

The Community Health Status Indicators (CHSI) Project of the US Department of Health and Human Services compares many health status and access indicators to both the median rates in the US and to rates in “peer counties” across the US. Counties are considered “peers” if they share common characteristics such as population size, poverty rate, average age and population density. **Table 6** on the next page highlights the analysis of CHSI health status indicators with highlighting in cells that compare favorably or unfavorably both to the US as a whole and to a peer county. Indicators are found to be unfavorable for a county when its rates are higher than those of the entire nation and designated peer counties and are considered favorable when the rates for the county are lower than those of the US or peer county.

#### Hamilton County

Hamilton County has 56 designated “peer” counties in 24 states, including Elkhart, Johnson and Porter counties in Indiana, Clermont, Fairfield, Medina and Wayne counties in Ohio and McHenry and Tazewell counties in Illinois.

Unfavorable indicators for Hamilton County included chronic kidney disease, adult binge drinking, access to parks, annual average PM2.5 concentration and limited access to healthy food. Hamilton County had several favorable indicators including motor vehicle deaths, unintentional injury death, adult overall health status, cancer, gonorrhea and HIV. Other favorable indicators included cost barrier to care, primary care provider access, high housing costs, inadequate social support, on-time high school graduation, poverty, violent crime and housing stress.

#### Marion County

Marion County has 38 designated “peer” counties in 22 states, including Hamilton, Montgomery and Summit counties in Ohio and Jefferson County in Kentucky.

Several indicators related to mortality were unfavorable for Marion County including cancer, chronic kidney disease, chronic lower respiratory disease, female life expectancy and male life expectancy. The one favorable indicator for Marion County was lower rates of adult binge drinking. Other unfavorable indicators in Marion County include adult physical inactivity, violent crime, unemployment and adult obesity.

**Table 6: Favorable and Unfavorable Health Status Indicators, Hamilton & Marion Counties**

Favorable – Top quartile		
Moderate – Middle two quartiles		
Unfavorable – Bottom quartile		
Indicator	Hamilton	Marion
<b>Mortality</b>		
Alzheimer's Disease		
Diabetes		
Cancer		
Chronic Kidney Disease		
Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease		
Coronary Heart Disease		
Female Life Expectancy		
Male Life Expectancy		
Motor Vehicle		
Stroke		
Unintentional Injury (including motor vehicle)		
<b>Morbidity</b>		
Adult Diabetes		
Adult Obesity		
Adult Overall Health Status		
Alzheimer's Disease/Dementia		
Cancer		
Gonorrhea		
HIV		
Older Adult Asthma		
Older Adult Depression		
Preterm Births		
Syphilis		
<b>Health Care Access and Quality</b>		
Cost Barrier to Care		
Older Adult Preventable Hospitalization		
Primary Care Provider Access		
Uninsured		
<b>Health Behaviors</b>		
Adult Binge Drinking		
Adult Female Routine Pap Tests		
Adult Physical Inactivity		
Adult Smoking		
Teen Births		

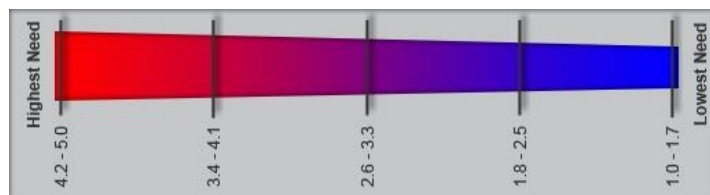
Table 6, Continued		
Indicator	Hamilton	Marion
<b>Social Factors</b>		
Children in Single-Parent Households	Yellow	Red
High Housing Costs	Green	Yellow
Inadequate Social Support	Green	Red
On Time High School Graduation	Green	Yellow
Poverty	Green	Red
Unemployment	Yellow	Yellow
Violent Crime	Green	Red
<b>Physical Environment</b>		
Access to Parks	Red	Red
Annual Average PM2.5 Concentration	Red	Red
Housing Stress	Green	Yellow
Limited Access to Healthy Food	Red	Red
Living Near Highways	Yellow	Yellow

Source: Community Health Status Indicators Project, Department of Health and Human Services, 2015.

#### 5.4 ZIP Code-Level Health Access Indicators

The Community Need Index (CNI) was created in 2005 by Catholic Healthcare West (now Dignity Health) in collaboration with Thomson Reuters. The CNI identifies the severity of health disparities related to housing, English as a second language (ESL) and education level for ZIP codes. In addition to health indicators, CNI includes economic and structural indicators in its assessment of the overall health of a community. Scores are assigned on a scale of one to five with one indicating the least amount of community need and five indicating the most (see **Figure 4**). The CNI assessments illustrate correlations between high need/high scores and high hospital utilization in a ZIP code. **Table 7** and **Figure 5** summarize the CNI ratings for Hamilton and Marion counties.

**Figure 4: Community Need Index Rating Scale**

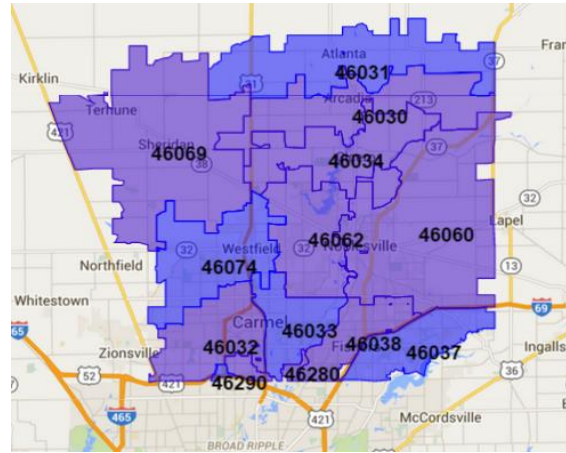


Community needs are very low in all ZIP codes in Hamilton County and are higher in many portions of Marion County, especially in Indianapolis. Community needs in Marion County communities other than Indianapolis tend to be closer to the low scores seen in Hamilton County.

**Table 7: CNI Scores for Hamilton & Marion Counties**

PSA County	City	ZIP Code	Rank
Hamilton	Arcadia	46030	2.4
	Atlanta	46031	1.6
	Carmel	46032	2
		46033	1.4
	Cicero	46034	2.2
	Fishers	46037	1.6
		46038	1.8
	Noblesville	46060	2.4
		46062	1.8
	Sheridan	46069	2.2
	Westfield	46074	1.6
Indianapolis	46280	2	
	46290	1.6	

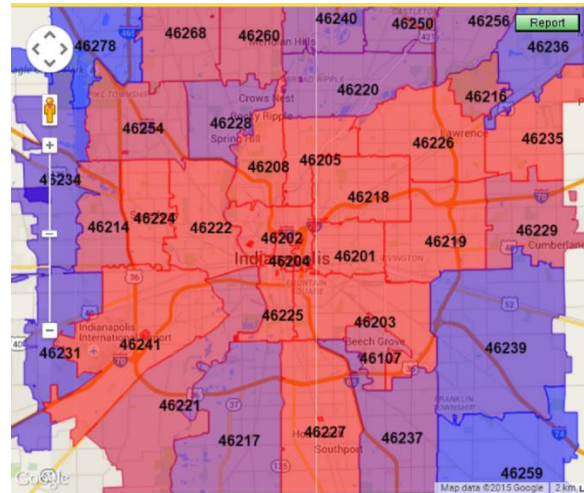
**Figure 5: CNI Scores for Hamilton County**



\*Note that ZIP codes in Indianapolis are included above since a portion of these ZIP code areas extend into Hamilton County. Source: Community Need Index, <http://cni.chw-interactive.org/>

PSA County	City	ZIP Code	Rank
Marion	Indianapolis	46201	5.0
		46202	4.8
		46208	4.8
		46218	5.0
		46225	4.8
		46203	4.8
		46205	4.4
		46222	5
		46235	4.6
		46204	4.6
		46224	4.8
		46226	4.6
		46219	4.2
		46227	4.4
		46241	4.6
		46221	4.0
		46254	4.0
		46260	3.8
		46107	3.8
		46229	4.0
46268	4.0		
46214	4.0		
46220	3.0		
46228	3.0		
46240	3.2		
46250	3.0		
46256	2.6		

**Figure 6: CNI Scores for Marion County**



PSA County	City	ZIP Code	Rank
Marion	Lawrence	46237	3.0
		46239	2.2
		46278	1.6
		46217	2.8
		46259	1.4
		46236	2.0
	Clermont	46234	2.0
	Plainfield*	46231	2.4

\*ZIP code for Plainfield is partially in Marion County.

## 5.5 Medically Underserved Areas and Populations

The Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA) has calculated an Index of Medical Underservice (IMU) score for communities across the US. The IMU score calculation includes the ratio of primary medical care physicians per 1000 persons, the infant mortality rate, the percentage of the population with incomes below the poverty level and the percentage of the population older than 64. IMU scores range from zero to 100 where 100 represents the least underserved and zero represents the most underserved.

Any area or population receiving an IMU score of 62.0 or below qualifies for Medically Underserved Area (MUA) or Medically Underserved Population (MUP) designation. Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) may be established to serve MUAs and MUPs. Populations receiving an MUP designation include groups within a geographic area with economic barriers or cultural and/or linguistic access barriers to receiving primary care. When a population group does not qualify for MUP status based on the IMU score, Public Law 99-280 allows MUP designation if “unusual local conditions that are a barrier to access to or the availability of personal health services exist and are documented and if such a designation is recommended by the chief executive officer and local officials of the State where the requested population resides.”<sup>2</sup> Marion County contained areas designated as MUAs. Marion and Madison counties have service areas designated as MUPs. **Table 8** below show areas that have been designated as MUAs or MUPs in the IU Health North PSA.

**Table 8: MUAs and MUPs in the IU Health North Hospital Community**

Key		County Does not contain an MUP or MUA designation			
Service Area	County	Medically Underserved Areas		Medically Underserved Populations	
		IMU Score	Detail	IMU Score	Detail
Primary	Marion	59.3	Marion Service Area- 19 CTs (census tracts)	*	Low-income population, North Arlington Service Area- 6 CTs
		55.7	Marion Service Area- 14 CTs	*	Low-income population, Grassy Creek Service Area- 4 CTs
		51.8	Marion Service Area- 12 CTs	*	Low-income population, Forest Manor Service Area- 4 CTs
		57.3	Marion Service Area- 19 CTs	61.6	Low-income population, Indianapolis Northwest Side- 11 CTs
		53.37	Marion Service Area- 3 CTs		
	Hamilton				
Secondary	Boone				
	Hendricks				
	Hancock				
	Madison			57.1	Low-income population, Anderson City Service Area- 10 CTs
				60.7	Low-income population, North Madison Service Area - 7 CTs
	Tipton				

Source: Health Resources and Services Administration, US Department of Health and Human Services, 2012.

\* indicates MUP designated by the Governor. No IMU score available.

2. Guidelines for Medically Underserved Area and Population Designation. US Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration. <http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/shortage/>.

## 5.6 Health Professional Shortage Areas

An area can receive a federal Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) designation if a shortage of primary care, dental care, or mental healthcare professionals is found to be present. HPSAs can be: “(1) An urban or rural area (which need not conform to the geographic boundaries of a political subdivision and which is a rational area for the delivery of health services); (2) a population group; or (3) a public or nonprofit private medical facility.” **Table 9** below lists the HPSAs in the IU Health North Hospital community.

**Table 9: HPSAs in the IU Health North Hospital Community**

County does not contain HPSA designation for category				
Service Area	County	Primary Care HPSA	Dental Care HPSA	Mental Health HPSA
Primary	Marion	6 Health Centers: HealthNet Incorporated/Barrington, Indiana Health Center, Health and Hospital Corporation of Marion County, Shalom Health Center Inc. and Raphael Health Center, Jane Pauley Community Health Center (FQHC Look-a-Like)	Low -income population, Near North Side and Highland-Brookside  6 Health Centers: HealthNet Incorporated/Barrington, Indiana Health Center, Health and Hospital Corporation of Marion County, Shalom Health Center Inc. and Raphael Health Center, Jane Pauley Community Health Center (FQHC Look-a-Like)	Low-income population, Near Northeast  6 Health Centers: HealthNet Incorporated/Barrington, Indiana Health Center, Health and Hospital Corporation of Marion County, Shalom Health Center Inc. and Raphael Health Center, Jane Pauley Community Health Center (FQHC Look-a-Like)
	Hamilton			
Secondary	Boone			
	Hendricks	Reception Diagnostic Center		
	Handcock			
	Madison	Low-income population, entire county  1 Health Center: Madison County Community Health Center	1 Health Center: Madison County Community Health Center	1 Health Center: Madison County Community Health Center
Tipton				

Source: Health Resources and Services Administration, US Department of Health and Human Services, 2012.

## 5.7 Description of Other Facilities and Resources within the Community

The IU Health North Hospital community contains a variety of resources that are available to meet the health needs identified through this CHNA. These resources include facilities designated as FQHCs, hospitals, public health departments and other organizations. **Table 10** below lists the other facilities and resources in the IU Health North community.

**Table 10: Resources in Marion and Hamilton Counties**

Service Area	County	Public Health Department	
Primary	Marion	Marion County Public Health Department, Indianapolis, Indiana	
	Hamilton	Hamilton County Health Department, Noblesville, Indiana	
Area	County	Hospital	
Primary	Marion	Community Hospital East	Riley Hospital for Children
		Community Hospital North	Select Specialty Hospital-Beech Grove
		Fairbanks Hospital	St. Vincent Heart Hospital
		Franciscan St. Francis Health	St. Vincent Hospital
		Indiana Orthopaedic Hospital, LLC	St. Vincent New Hope
		Indiana Surgery Center	St. Vincent Seton Specialty Hospital
		IU Health Methodist Hospital	St. Vincent Stress Center
		IU Health University Hospital	St. Vincent Women's Hospital
		Kindred Hospital	The Indiana Heart Hospital
		Peyton Manning Children's Hospital	Westview Hospital
		Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana	Eskenazi (formerly Wishard) Hospital
	Richard L. Roudebush VA Medical Center		
	Hamilton	IU Health Saxony Hospital	St. Vincent Carmel Hospital
		Riverview Hospital	
Area	County	FQHC or Community Health Center	
Primary	Marion	Barrington Health Center (Indianapolis)	Martindale/Brightwood Community (Indianapolis)
		Barton Annex Clinic (Indianapolis)	
		Care Center at the Towers (Indianapolis)	Northeast Health Center (Indianapolis)
		Citizens Health Center (Indianapolis)	Pathway to Recovery (Indianapolis)
		Countyline Family Health Center (Indianapolis)	Peoples Health Center (Indianapolis)
			Raphael Health Center (Indianapolis)
		Dayspring Center (Indianapolis)	Shalom Primary Care Center (Indianapolis)
		Eastside Health Center (Indianapolis)	
		Eskenazi Health Center (Indianapolis)	Salvation Army Family Services (Indianapolis)
		Harbor Light (Indianapolis)	
		Heartfelt Health Alliance (Indianapolis)	Southeast Health Center (Indianapolis)
		Holy Family Shelter (Indianapolis)	Southwest Health Center (Indianapolis)
		Horizon House (Indianapolis)	Southwest OB Annex (Indianapolis)
		Interfaith Hospitality Network (Indianapolis)	West Health Center (Indianapolis)
		Jane Pauley Community Health Center (Indianapolis)	Wheeler Mission (Indianapolis, Indiana)
	Windrose Health Network (Indianapolis)		
	Hamilton	Hamilton County WIC Program (Noblesville)	

Sources: Health Resources and Services Administration, US Department of Health and Human Services, 2012; Indiana State Department of Health, Health Care Regulatory Services, 2012

## 6 PRIMARY DATA ASSESSMENT

In conjunction with other area hospitals, IU Health North Hospital's approach to gathering qualitative data for its CHNA consisted of a multi-component approach to identify and verify community health needs for the IU Health North service area. This included the following components:

1. Hosting one two-hour focus group with public health officials and community leaders in attendance to discuss the healthcare needs of the service area and what role IU Health North could play in addressing the identified needs.
2. Surveying the community at large through the hospital's website, with special emphasis to garner input from low income, uninsured, or minority groups.

### 6.1 Focus Group Findings

#### 6.1.1 Identification of Persons Providing Input

Local leaders with a stake in the community's health were invited to attend a focus group session held at Hamilton County Fairgrounds. Attendees who participated in the focus group are listed in **Table 11** below. The participants included representatives from the Hamilton County Health Department, township trustees (these have responsibility for providing services for people below certain income levels and for maintaining parks and other amenities) and organizations providing healthcare, senior services, child-focused services and other services.

**Table 11: Focus Group Participants**

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Wendy Rayburn	AFCF Indiana the Cherish Center	Tammi Ridley	IU Health
Kandi Floyd	Alternatives Inc. (Domestic Violence services)	Stephanie Berry	IU Health
Andrea Qualitza	Adult Protective Services	Jennifer Woolums	Janus Developmental
Duncan Brown	Aspire Indiana (Mental Health services)	Tom Kenley	Noblesville Township Trustee (Low Income)
Dianna Huddleston		Dan Canan	One Zone (Economic development, Carmel)
Trusa Grosso		Mo Merhoff	
Terri Parke	Children's Bureau	Holly Wheeler	Partnership for a Healthy Hamilton County
Kate Kunk	CICOA (Aging & Older Adults)	Janet Gafkjen	
Joanne Hogle	Community Assistance Program Noblesville (Low Income)	Susan Ferguson	Prevail Inc. (Domestic Violence services)
Laurie Gerdt	Community Health Behavioral Care	Sandy Stewart	PrimeLife Enrichment (Aging and older adults)
Sarah Matthews	Community Health Network	Susan Peterson	Purdue Extension
Kelli Smith	Covering Kids (Health Insurance)	Olivia Huser	Riverview Health
Terrence Riddly		Sid Ehmke	Riverview Health
Jan McCrory	Delaware Township Trustee (Low Income)	Chandra Smolen	St. Vincent Carmel Hospital



Stacy Puls	Fall Creek Township	Kathy Molloy	The Legacy Fund (Philanthropy)
Chris Greisl	Fishers City Attorney	Brittany Hosford	
Steve Wheatley	Franciscan St. Francis Health Carmel	Susan Solomon	The Salvation Army (Low Income)
Kathy Hahn Keiner	Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana	Dina Ferchmin	Trinity Free Clinic
Cindy Hubert			Tanya Hand
Nancy Chance	Good Samaritan Network (Lower Income)	Diane Crim	Wayne Township Trustee
George Kristo	Hamilton County Council on Alcohol and Other Drugs	Terri West	West Link Consulting
Lyndsay Krauter	Hamilton County, Dept. of Child Protective Services	Andy Cook	Mayor of Westfield
Elaine McGuire	Hamilton County Express (Transportation)	Julie Sole	Westfield Chamber of Commerce
Jim Ginder	Hamilton County Health Department	Danielle Carey-Rolen	Westfield Washington Township
Suzanne Walton	Hamilton County Society for the Disabled	Fred Knoll	White River Christian Church
Nate Lichti	Hamilton County Area Neighborhood Development (HAND, Inc.)	Sam Rula	White River Township Trustee
Sandy Kirsch	Heart and Soul Clinic	Carinne Atkerson	YMCA of Greater Indianapolis
Heather Brownell			

### **6.1.2 Prioritization Process and Criteria**

To obtain a more complete picture of the factors that play into the IU Health North community's health, input from local health leaders was gathered through a focus group session lasting two hours. IU Health facilitators mailed letters and emailed invites and made follow-up telephone calls inviting public health officials and community leaders to attend the focus group discussion, paying special attention to including organizations that represent the interest of low-income, minority and uninsured individuals. The goal of soliciting these leaders' feedback was to gather insights into the quantitative data that may not be easily identified from the secondary statistical data alone.

Upon arrival to the focus group, participants were asked to list their believed five prioritized health needs for the Hamilton County community. Each table was then asked to aggregate and rank their top five needs into a comprehensive list of identified needs to be further discussed later in the session by the group as a whole. Facilitators then lead a discussion to gain consensus as a group of the top five health needs in Hamilton County.

### **6.1.3 Prioritized Needs**

The focus group identified the following five needs as priorities for IU Health North:

1. Mental Health/Behavioral Health/Substance Abuse.
2. Life Skills and Education.
3. Access to Healthcare.
4. Transportation.
5. Affordable Housing/Domestic Violence Shelter.

#### **6.1.4 Background on Needs from Focus Group**

Some focus group members represented agencies and organizations that are actively working on topics that the focus group identified as needs. This section presents findings from selected reports and publicly available data about these issues.

##### **Mental Health/Behavioral Health/Substance Abuse/Suicide Prevention**

The Hamilton County Council on Alcohol and Other Drugs submitted a comprehensive community plan to the Governor's Commission for a Drug Free Indiana in March 2015. That plan reports that of all referrals of juveniles to the Hamilton County Probation Department, 64% were for alcohol or drug-related problems. Among adults, more than 940 participated in Alcoholics Anonymous meetings in 2012 and substance abuse and Driving While Intoxicated are among the most frequent offenses recorded at Hamilton County Community Corrections.

(See [http://www.in.gov/cji/files/G\\_Hamilton\\_County\\_CCP\\_2015.pdf](http://www.in.gov/cji/files/G_Hamilton_County_CCP_2015.pdf))

According to data from the Centers for Disease Control, suicide is the fourth most frequent cause of death in the Midwest Census region, which includes Indiana, for individuals ages 35 to 54. It follows unintentional injury, heart disease and malignant neoplasms. It is the second most frequent cause for people ages 15 to 34, after unintentional injury. Behavioral health research shows that youth with mental health issues and who are suicidal often have a history of abuse.

[http://webappa.cdc.gov/sasweb/ncipc/leadcaus10\\_us.html](http://webappa.cdc.gov/sasweb/ncipc/leadcaus10_us.html)

##### **Life Skills and Education**

While Hamilton County has high median income and a comparatively high level of education, many individuals live on incomes far below the median, including about 5% below the poverty line. More than 16% of births in the county are to single women. About 1 in 6 public school students receive free or reduced price school lunches. Through the Township Trustees and other resources, people in need can access a wide range of services, including educational opportunities to help achieve higher income and self-sufficiency. Some of these services are coordinated through the Good Samaritan Network. <http://www.gsnlive.org/#!/services/c13cv>

##### **Access to Healthcare**

Indianalndicators.org, a composite of metrics related to Hoosier health, reports that in Hamilton County, 11% of adults and 6% of children did not have insurance (Census data from the Small Area Health Insurance Estimates). There is no FQHC except a WIC office in Noblesville.

##### **Transportation**

Hamilton County is a suburban/rural county in which 82% of workers commute by car. Some other options are available based on eligibility (age, disability), ability to pay (fees by mile or up to \$12 per trip) and ability to plan (requests 1 week in advance in some cases).

[http://www.stvincent.org/uploadedFiles/AAA\\_Main\\_Site/Locations/St\\_Vincent\\_Dunn\(1\)/Hamilton%20Cnty%20Transportation%20resources.pdf](http://www.stvincent.org/uploadedFiles/AAA_Main_Site/Locations/St_Vincent_Dunn(1)/Hamilton%20Cnty%20Transportation%20resources.pdf)

##### **Affordable Housing/Domestic Violence Shelter**

With nearly 70% percent of Hamilton County residents living in households with income above \$75,000, developers have not perceived a market for affordable housing in Hamilton County. A housing needs assessment from 2013 projects increasing needs for: seniors; public service employees, teachers and others who want to live near their jobs; and additional in-migrants coming to the county for good schools and a high quality of life.

<http://www.handincorporated.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Hamilton-County-HNA-Final.pdf>

Of Indiana's 10 largest counties, Hamilton County is the only one without a domestic violence shelter. People who seek refuge from domestic abuse must go to either Madison or Marion counties. <http://www.uwci.org/hamilton-county-domestic-violence-shelter>.

## **6.2 Community Survey Findings**

IU Health also solicited responses from the general public regarding the health of the IU Health North community through an online survey as well as paper versions of the survey. The survey consisted of approximately 20 multiple choice and open-ended questions that assessed the community members' feedback regarding healthcare issues and barriers to access.

A link was made available on the hospital's website via an electronic survey tool from December 2014 through June 2015. A paper version was distributed to local community centers, health clinics, community health fairs and events, as well as within some hospital patient waiting areas. Additionally, an estimated 25,000 surveys were e-mailed, direct-mailed, or sent via newsletter. In addition to disseminating directly to the general public of the community, the survey was also sent via e-mail to participants in the needs assessment focus groups to provide an opportunity for these community leaders to pass the survey on to their local community members.

### **6.2.1 Respondent Demographics**

494 people from the IU Health North community participated in the survey. The majority of respondents represented by the survey were White/Caucasian (90%), which is comparable to the census data for Hamilton County. A number of respondents (4%) identified as either Black/African American or Hispanic or Latino. The older adult population (defined as ages 45 to 64) represented 45% of the total respondents and above this age group's 30% share of the adult population. The young adult age group (defined as ages 25 to 44) was also significantly represented in the Hamilton County survey (37%).

483 of the 494 respondents reported their average household income. Of the 483 people, 16% of the respondents reported an average household income of below \$24,999; 11% had an average household income within \$25,000 - \$49,999. About 12% earned \$50,000 - \$74,999, whereas 61% earned \$75,000 or more.

Survey respondents were also asked to report how they pay for health needs. Over half of the respondents (53%) reported utilizing employer provided insurance. Private insurance was the second most reported payment for health needs (23%). A portion of the respondents (11%) also used Medicare to cover health needs.

Given the reported demographics above, care should be taken with interpreting the survey results. The reported age demographics of the survey sample versus Hamilton County's census data were disproportionate, with the reported older adult age group being overrepresented.

### **6.2.2 Greatest Health Needs and Social Issues**

Survey participants were asked to select the top five health needs in their community from a list of 12 options. By frequency of selected answer choices, Hamilton County considered the top five health needs to be:

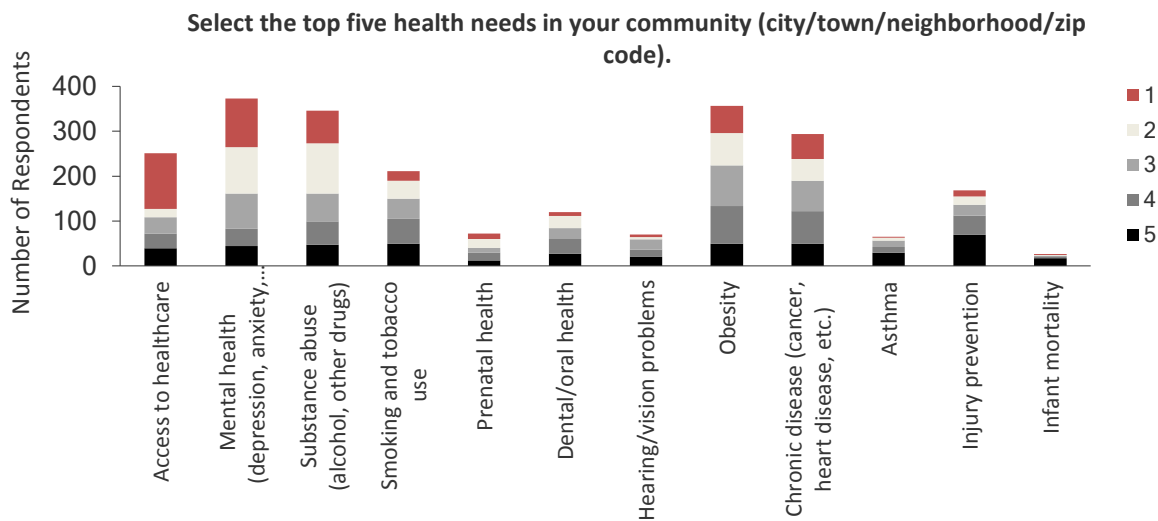
1. Mental health (15.9%)
2. Obesity (15.2%)
3. Substance abuse (14.7%)
4. Chronic disease (12.5%)
5. Access to healthcare (10.7%)

Respondents were also asked to select the top three social needs in their community. By frequency of selected answer choices, Hamilton County considered the top three social needs to be:

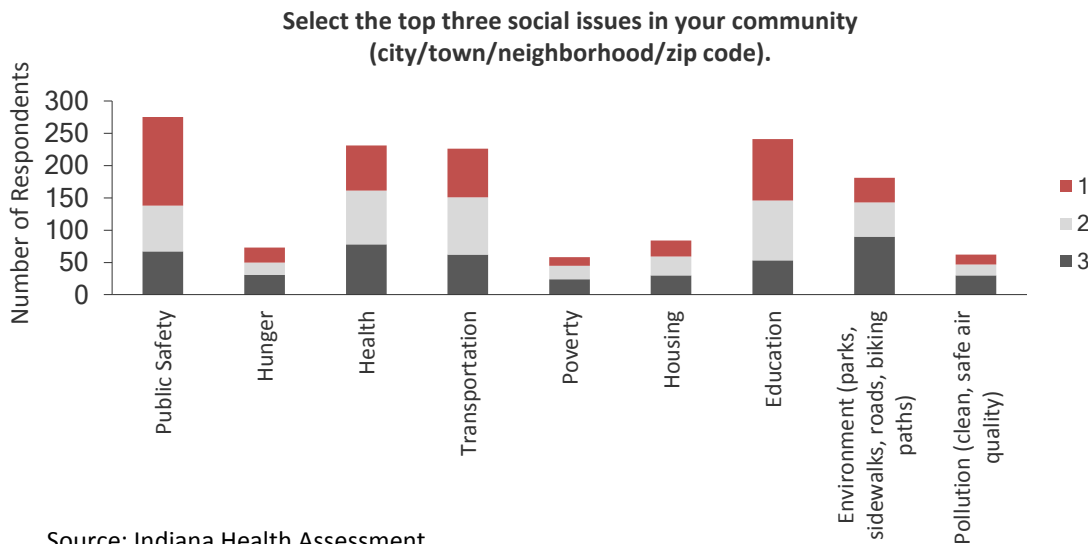
1. Public safety (19.2%)
2. Education (16.8%)
3. Health (16.1%)

The top five health needs (Question 3) and top three social needs (Question 2) results are summarized in **Figure 7** and **Figure 8** below.

**Figure 7: Top Health Needs Based on Survey**



**Figure 8: Top Social Needs Based on Survey**



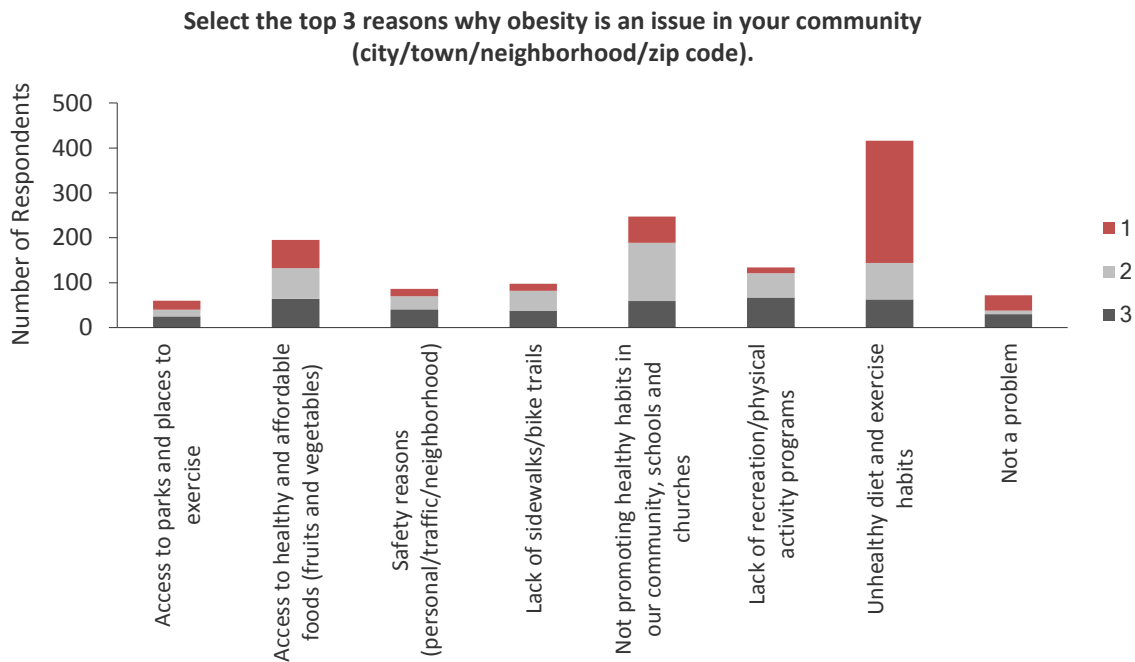
Source: Indiana Health Assessment

### 6.2.3 Perceptions of Health Issues

The survey included several questions about obesity and mental health issues within respondents' communities. When asked to select the top three reasons why obesity is an issue in their community (Question 4), the three answer choices selected most often by respondents were (Figure 9):

1. Unhealthy diet and exercise habits (31.8%)
2. Not promoting healthy habits in our community, schools and churches (18.9%)
3. Access to healthy and affordable foods (fruits and vegetables) (14.9%)

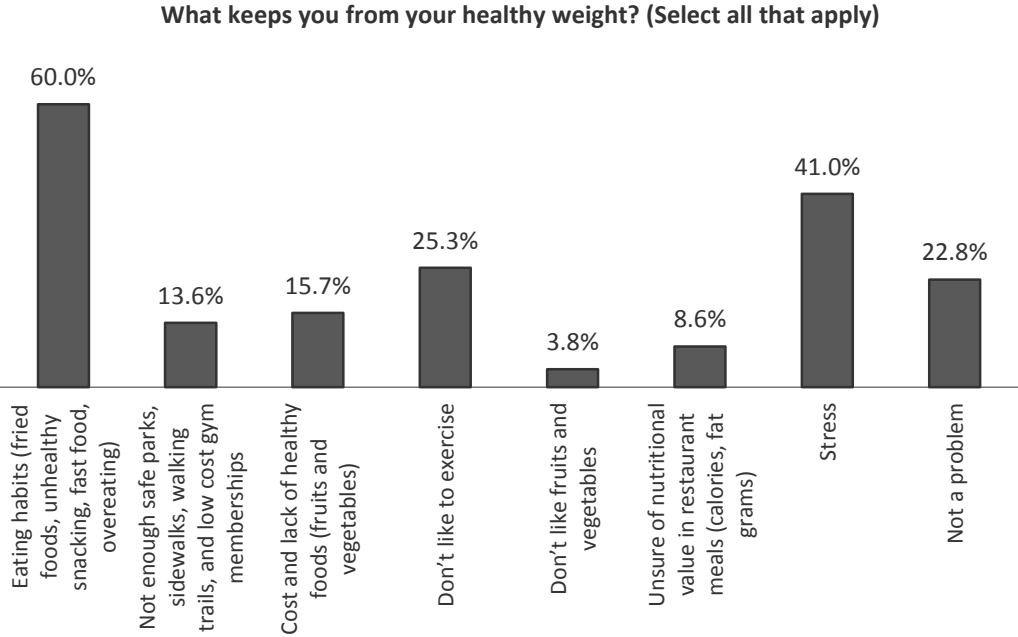
**Figure 9: Contributing Factors to Obesity**



Source: Indiana Health Assessment

Respondents were also asked to select what reasons kept them from their healthy weight (Question 9) from a list of 8 options. About 60% of the respondents thought eating habits (fried foods, unhealthy snacking, fast food, overeating) kept them from a healthy weight. Almost 41% of respondents felt stress impacted weight, followed by about 25.3% not liking to exercise. Results are summarized in **Figure 10**.

**Figure 10: Self-Reports about What Keeps Survey Respondent from Healthy Weight**



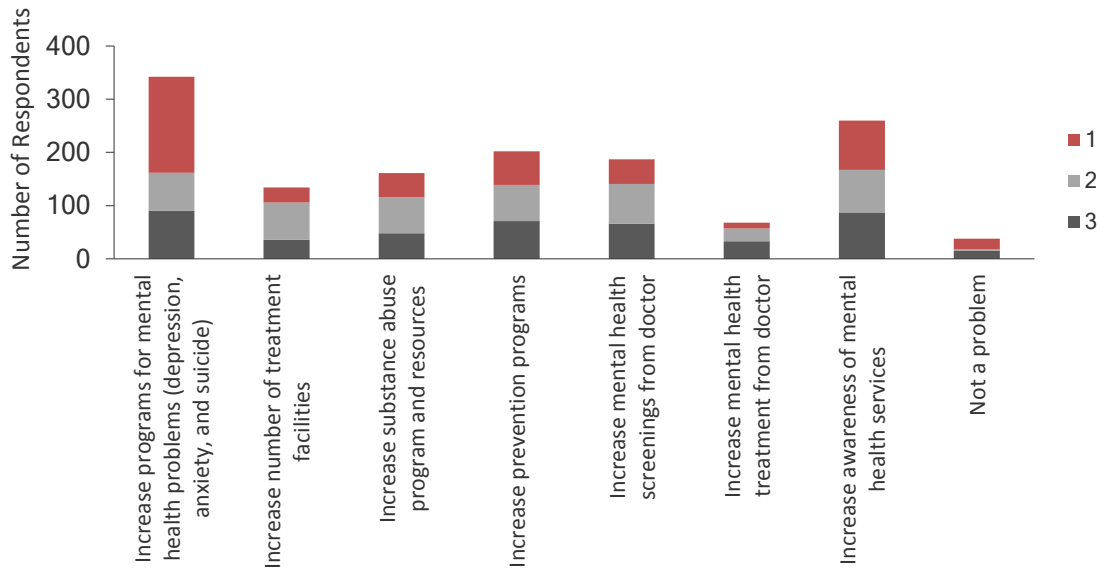
Source: Indiana Health Assessment

When asked to select the top three ways to improve mental health in their community (Question 5), the three answer choices selected most often by respondents were (**Figure 11**):

1. Increase programs for mental health problems (24.6%)
2. Increase awareness of mental health services (18.7%)
3. Increase prevention programs (14.5%)

**Figure 11: Ideas for Improving Mental Health in Community**

Select the top 3 ways to improve mental health in your community.

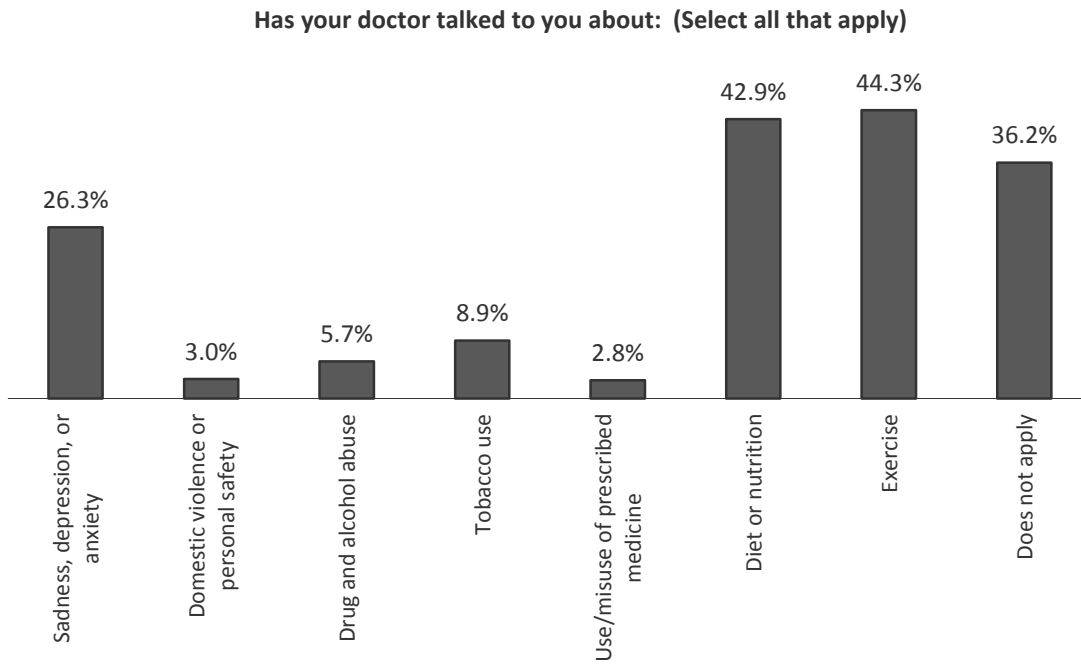


Source: Indiana Health Assessment

### 6.2.4 Health Education and Access

A number of questions about health education and access to healthcare were asked in the survey. Question 10 asked to select all health topic doctors have discussed with them. About 44% of respondents talked to doctors about exercise, while almost 43% discussed diet or nutrition. However, 36% felt the question did not apply. Question 10 is summarized in **Figure 12** below.

**Figure 12: Self-Reports about Discussion of Health Issues with Provider**

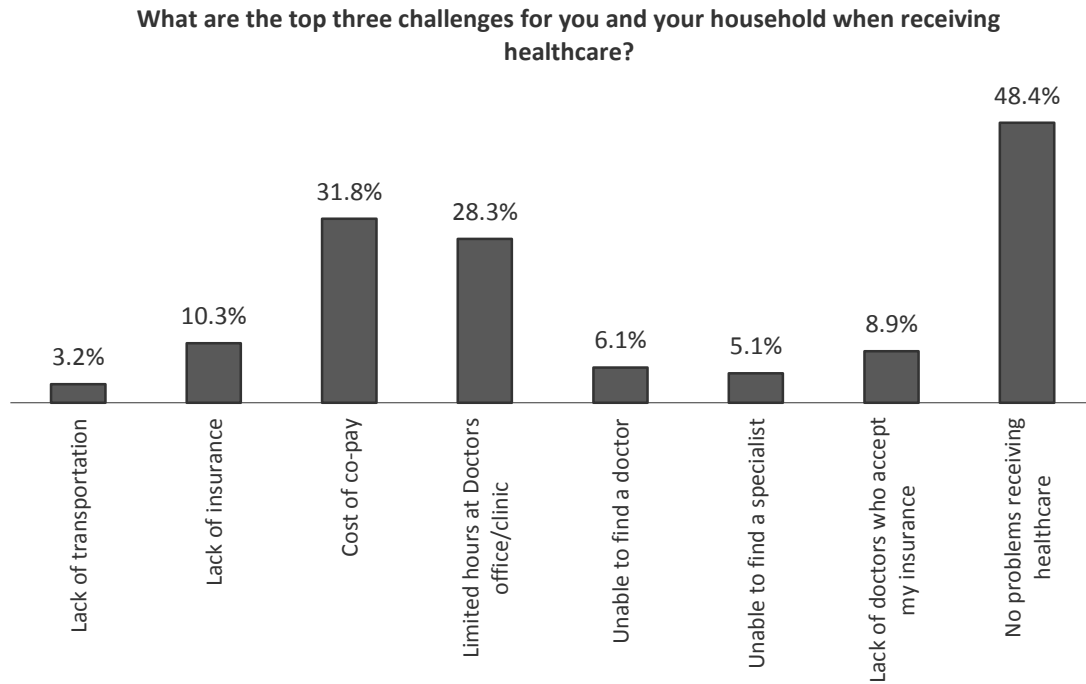


Source: Indiana Health Assessment



When asked the top three challenges when receiving healthcare (Question 12), almost half of the respondents (48%) reported not having problems receiving healthcare. However, 32% of respondents felt the cost of the co-pay was a challenge and 28% thought limited hours at the doctor's office. Question 12 is summarized in **Figure 13** below.

**Figure 13: Self-Reports about Health Care Challenges**



Source: Indiana Health Assessment

## **7 IU HEALTH ACTIVITIES THAT ADDRESS PRIORITIES**

IU Health maintains several online tools and applications (apps) to assist community residents in improving their health knowledge and care. In addition, IU Health partners with numerous community organizations in healthcare, wellness, outreach and other services to address our communities' health needs. Among the many programs focused on priority areas identified, we list a few examples here that take IU Health and beyond the clinic walls and into the community.

IU Health North provides funding for a number of non-profit organizations that help address the community's greatest needs. Organizations that regularly receive funding include Trinity Free Clinic, Fishers Parks & Recreation, the Indiana Women in Need Foundation and Aspire Indiana, Inc. These and other activities related to access to care, women's health, mental health and chronic disease management address needs also identified in the 2011 IU Health North CHNA.

IU Health physicians and other healthcare professionals volunteer at free or low cost care health clinics for the underserved, including Trinity Free Clinic in Hamilton County and Gennesaret Free Clinic, a mobile clinic that serves central Marion County.

IU Health North financially supports the North Market, a farmer's market with fresh produce, in Fishers to help promote access to high-quality nutritious foods. In addition, Chef Peter Fulgenzi from Atrio at IU Health North & North hospitals offers free healthy cooking demonstrations and offers new ways to utilize the fresh produce available at the market.

Through IU Health's program Kindergarten Countdown, IU Health North contributes toward educational and school success for students at Sheridan Elementary School in Sheridan, Hamilton County. Kindergarten Countdown addresses one of the 2011 CHNA needs for the IU Health North service area.

IU Health North provided \$5,500 in support of community-based behavioral health programs during 2014.

In its capacity as a facility focused on advanced cardiovascular care, orthopedics, spine care, and emergency services, IU Health North offers free seminars on joint pain, an annual women's "heart health" event and other services that promote access to care. These and other services that promote access to care respond to a need identified in the 2011 IU Health North CHNA.

IU Health North, with IU Health Saxony, offers four sites in Hamilton County for imaging and diagnostic services, making it easier for patients to access services they need closer to home.

Online self-assessment tools help community members with common healthcare concerns, including some types of cancer, mental health, alcoholism, stress and other conditions. If an assessment indicates a possible concern, the individual can link to an IU Health provider.

[http://iuhealth.staywellsolutionsonline.com/InteractiveTools/SymptomChecker/#sc\\_tab1](http://iuhealth.staywellsolutionsonline.com/InteractiveTools/SymptomChecker/#sc_tab1)

A May 2015 assessment at IU Health North found that 80% or more of Community Benefit activities aligned with needs identified in the IU Health North 2011 CHNA.

## **8 CONCLUSION**

This study assessed priority community health needs in Hamilton and Marion Counties using quantitative data from numerous sources and survey responses from the service area for IU Health North Hospital. The study also incorporates qualitative information derived from a focus group. The focus group included a Health Officer with the Hamilton County Health Department, in addition to several representatives of the community including representatives from Township Trustee offices, several community-based social service agencies and other area healthcare providers. IU Health North is a part of the Partnership for Hamilton County, which includes members from St. Vincent and Community Health Network. This group has specifically identified the need to focus on increasing access to health services for older adults.

To set priorities after receiving and compiling qualitative and quantitative data, IU Health North used the Hanlon method. The top five identified needs after this process are:

- Access to Health Services.
- Exercise, Nutrition & Weight.
- Behavioral Health.
- Older Adults & Aging.
- Transportation.

IU Health North Hospital has some services already that address some of these needs, including free or low cost screenings for cervical cancer, open door clinics and IU Health financial assistance programs. IU Health North Hospital will work with community partners in developing and promoting programs to respond to the needs identified in this assessment. Among the key partnerships is the Partnership for a Healthy Hamilton County, because through that collaboration, all hospitals in the area have identified overlapping priorities and will work together to address the five priorities identified above.