



2025 Community Health Needs Assessment

Mercy Health — Defiance Hospital
DEFIANCE, OH

2025 Community Health Needs Assessment

Mercy Health — Defiance Hospital

Adopted by the Mercy Health — Defiance Hospital Board of Directors
September 23, 2025

As part of Bon Secours Mercy Health, Mercy Health — Defiance Hospital is honored to uphold nearly two centuries of dedication to the communities we serve. This commitment has continually evolved to address the most pressing needs in each community as identified by the input of residents, businesses and other community members.

Every three years, we reaffirm this dedication, in part by conducting a comprehensive Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). The most recent assessment, completed by Mercy Health — Defiance Hospital, incorporates robust quantitative and qualitative data. This process guides our strategic planning, community investment and community benefit initiatives. The following document provides a detailed CHNA specific to Mercy Health — Defiance Hospital.

Guided by our Mission to extend the compassionate ministry of Jesus, Mercy Health remains steadfast in improving the health and well-being of our communities and bringing good help to those in need – especially people who are poor, underserved and dying.

Mercy Health — Defiance Hospital identified the greatest needs within our community by listening to its local voices. We diligently seek input from our partners and neighbors through open forums, surveys and additional engagement strategies. This ensures that our outreach, prevention, education and wellness resources are strategically aligned to deliver the greatest impact.

We welcome written comments regarding the health needs identified in this CHNA. Please direct your feedback to Jessica Henry, Director, Community Health;
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Executive Summary

Market Summary

Mercy Health — Defiance Hospital serves a broad geographic area encompassing Defiance County, Ohio, and surrounding areas. Mercy Health — Defiance Hospital features an emergency center, patient rooms, operating rooms and procedure rooms. We are connected by a walkway to Mercy Health — Defiance Fauster Surgery Center and Mercy Defiance Clinic and have a Life Flight helipad for patient transport. We also offer various therapies and other services.

Collaborating Partners

Mercy Health — Defiance Hospital thanks the following organizations for their collaboration as part of the process of conducting the needs assessment:

- CareNet
- City of Defiance
- Defiance City Schools
- Defiance County General Health District
- Defiance County Senior Services Advisory Board
- Defiance Dream Center
- Defiance Senior Center
- Four County Alcohol Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board (ADAMhs Board)
- K&P Transportation
- Maumee Valley Planning Organization
- Mercy Health -- Defiance
- Northwest Ohio Community Action Commission (NOCAC)
- United Way of Defiance County
- Wildfire Leadership

Overview

- The 2025 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) conducted by Mercy Health — Defiance Hospital followed a comprehensive, mixed-methods approach to identify priority community health needs. The process combined secondary (existing) data collection from sources such as the U.S. Census, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Ohio Department of Health and previous CHNA reports with primary (new) data collection, including community surveys (20 responses), focus groups (5 groups with 25 participants), and key informant interviews (10 community leaders). This ensured a well-rounded understanding of local health challenges, social determinants of health and healthcare access barriers.
- We identified significant health needs through a comprehensive analysis of community input, health data and stakeholder engagement (including secondary data, surveys, interviews and focus groups). We assessed health concerns across three categories: Social Determinants of Health (SDOH), Social Health Needs, and Clinical Health Needs.
- To prioritize these needs, Mercy Health — Defiance Hospital used the MAPP 2.0 (Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships) framework, applying criteria such as relevance to the community, severity, health disparities, feasibility of solutions and availability of resources. A prioritization meeting with stakeholders, including health care providers, public health officials and community organizations, was conducted to draft a list of prioritized health needs. This final list will serve as the foundation for the 2026-2028 Implementation Strategy.

Prioritized Health Needs

- Access to Healthcare (Social Determinant of Health Need)
- Behavioral Health (Social Health Need)
- Chronic Diseases (Clinical Health Need)



Our Mission

Our mission is to extend the compassionate ministry of Jesus by improving the health and well-being of our communities and bring good help to those in need, especially people who are poor, dying and underserved.

Our Vision

Inspired by God's hope for the world, we will be a ministry where associates want to work, clinicians want to practice, people seek wellness and communities thrive.

Our Values

Human Dignity

We commit to upholding the sacredness of life and being respectful and inclusive of everyone.

Integrity

We commit to acting ethically and modeling right relationships in all of our individual and organizational encounters.

Compassion

We commit to accompanying those we serve with mercy and tenderness, recognizing that "being with" is as important as "doing for."

Stewardship

We commit to promoting the responsible use of all human and financial resources, including Earth itself.

Service

We commit to providing the highest quality in every dimension of our ministry.

Facilities Description

Mercy Health — Defiance Hospital features an eight-bed emergency center, 17 patient rooms/23 beds, two operating rooms and two procedure rooms. A walkway connects the hospital to Mercy Health — Defiance Fauster Surgery Center and Mercy Defiance Clinic and have a Life Flight helipad for patient transport. We offer physical, occupational and speech therapy, including pediatric, aquatic, dry needling, lymphedema, cupping, cardiac and vestibular rehabilitation.

In addition to therapy, Mercy Health — Defiance Hospital offers:

- ADOS testing for autism
- Sleep center
- Congestive Heart Failure Clinic
- EKG, cardiac stress testing and echocardiography
- Neurologic testing
- Chemotherapy
- OP Infusion Services
- Laboratory and radiology services, including MRI, DEXA, general and vascular ultrasound, nuclear med, CT, 3-D mammography (tomosynthesis), breast MRI and interventional radiology procedures

Community Served by Hospital

Mercy Health — Defiance Hospital Service Area At-a-Glance

Mercy Health — Defiance Hospital serves a broad geographic area encompassing **Defiance County (population: 38,644)** and surrounding counties in Ohio.¹ The Defiance Hospital service area is composed of the following ZIP Codes: 43512, 43526, 43549, 43519, 43530, 43556, 43520 and 43536.

Defiance County is 414 square miles, of which 411 square miles is land and 2.7 square miles is water. It is located in the northwestern part of Ohio and borders Indiana and Michigan.

Defiance County Demographics:

- Defiance County has a median age of **40.8**, older than Ohio's median age (**39.9**).¹
- **21%** of residents are 65+, compared to **19%** for Ohio.¹
- An **equal proportion** of Defiance County residents are women and men.¹
- Veterans make up 5% of both Defiance County and Ohio's population.¹
- **2%** of Defiance County's population is foreign-born (vs. **5%** for Ohio), while **6%** do not speak English as their first language (vs. **8%** for Ohio).¹
- The racial makeup of the county is **95%** White, **11%** Hispanic or Latinx, **2%** Black, **2%** multiracial, **0.6%** Asian, **0.6%** Native American and **0.1%** Native Hawaiian.¹
- There is a higher proportion of White residents and a lower proportion of Black and Hispanic/Latinx residents in Defiance County than in the state of Ohio.¹

¹U.S. Census Bureau. (2024). Census Quick Facts. Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/>

Process and Methods

Process and Methods to Conduct the Community Health Needs Assessment

From April 2024 through March 2025, Mercy Health — Defiance Hospital conducted a community health needs assessment (CHNA) using a comprehensive, mixed-methods approach to identify priority community health needs. The process combined secondary (existing) data collection, community engagement to collect primary (new) data, quantitative and qualitative data analysis and stakeholder input to ensure a well-rounded understanding of local health challenges.

The needs assessment was conducted in partnership with Moxley Public Health, LLC, which planned the assessment, collected all data and wrote the needs assessment report.

The CHNA included the following components:

Secondary (Existing) Data Collection and Analysis

Publicly available health statistics were gathered from the U.S. Census, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), health interview surveys and state and local health departments. This information helped establish trends in demographics, social determinants of health, health conditions, disparities and service gaps.

Previous CHNA reports were also reviewed.

Primary Data Collection and Analysis

The assessment incorporated direct input from community members and key stakeholders through various engagement methods:

A. Community Member Surveys

A community-wide survey collected 20 responses from Defiance County from April 2024 through March 2025. The survey also collected 965 responses in total for Lucas, Huron, Seneca and Wood Counties.

Topics included ranking health needs, health status, access to care, chronic diseases, mental health and social determinants of health (e.g., housing, transportation, food security).

B. Focus Groups

Five focus groups with 25 participants were conducted from April 2024 through October 2024. Priority populations included:

- Farmers – 3 participants
- Hispanic/Latinx – 4 participants
- Parents – 2 participants
- People with transportation barriers – 5 participants
- Seniors (Defiance and Hicksville) – 11 participants

The focus groups identified emerging health issues affecting sub-populations, existing resources and ideas for community health improvement.

C. Key Informant Interviews

Ten community leaders were interviewed from April 2024 through October 2024, representing sectors such as health care, housing, mental health, education, local government, emergency services and local businesses.

The interviews identified emerging health issues, sub-populations most affected, existing resources and ideas for community health improvement.

Health Needs Prioritization Process

Community and stakeholder data were synthesized to determine the top health concerns based on:

- Relevance – Level of importance to community members.
- Severity – Magnitude and urgency of the issue.
- Health Disparities – Impact on marginalized populations.
- Feasibility – Availability of solutions and resources.

The process followed the MAPP 2.0 (Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships) framework, ensuring a community-driven, equity-focused approach.

Validation & Final Selection

Key decision-makers reviewed data and selected priority needs to address in the next Implementation Strategy in a February 26, 2025, prioritization meeting. The market and hospital presidents identified key decision-makers.

The CHNA's comprehensive data collection and prioritization process ensured that the final health priorities reflected statistical evidence and real-life community experiences, forming the foundation for the next Implementation Strategy.

External Sources

- Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)
- Centers for Disease Control (CDC)
- Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio
- County Health Rankings
- Federal Bureau of Investigation, Crime Data Explorer
- Groundwork Ohio
- Healthy People 2030
- Metopio
- State of Ohio Integrated Behavioral Health Dashboard
- Ohio Department of Health
- Ohio Department of Jobs & Family Services
- Ohio Healthy Youth Environment Survey – OHYES!
- State of Ohio Integrated Behavioral Health Dashboard
- U.S. Census Data
- Walkscore.com



Community Input

No written comments were received on the previously completed CHNA.

This CHNA included several primary data sources collected through direct engagement with the community. This included a community member survey, key informant interviews with community leaders and focus groups with priority populations. From the beginning, community leaders helped define the assessment's content, scope and sequence. Active engagement throughout the planning process is important in completing a valid needs assessment.

Local community agencies were invited to participate in the health assessment process, including providing input on the planning process, providing local data, completing and sharing the community member survey, participating in key informant interviews and helping to coordinate and/or lead focus groups.

The needs of residents, especially those who are medically underserved, low-income, minority populations and populations with chronic disease needs, were considered throughout. Special efforts were taken to ensure broad representation. The community survey included responses from these populations, interviews were conducted with community leaders who serve them and focus groups were held directly with members of these populations. Organizations that serve these populations participated in the health assessment and community planning process. Both of these groups are outlined below.

To align with the Ohio Department of Health's initiative to improve health, well-being and economic vitality, Mercy Health — Defiance Hospital included the state's priority conditions (social determinants of health) and health outcomes when assessing the community. The 2025 Mercy Health — Defiance Hospital CHNA meets all Ohio Department of Health and federal (Internal Revenue Service (IRS)) regulations.

Initially, health needs were assessed by reviewing the secondary (existing) health data collected and analyzed before conducting the interviews, focus groups and survey (primary data collection). Identification of significant health needs used the following criteria.

1. The size of the problem (relative proportion of the population afflicted by the problem).
2. The ranking of the problem using data from the community survey, focus groups and interviews with residents.

To determine the size or seriousness of the problem, the health need indicators of the Mercy Health — Defiance Hospital service area were measured against benchmark data, specifically county rates, state rates, national rates and/or Healthy People 2030 objectives.

The health needs were further assessed through the primary data collection — including key informant interviews, focus groups and a community member survey. The information and data from both the secondary and primary data collection inform this CHNA report and the decisions on health needs that the community will address in its Implementation Strategy.

The data collection process:

- Identifies the priority issues in the community that affect health
- Solicit information on disparities among subpopulations
- Ascertain community assets to address needs
- Uncover gaps in resources

Collaborating Partners

Mercy Health — Defiance Hospital thanks the following organizations for their collaboration as part of the process of conducting the needs assessment:

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- Defiance County Senior Services Advisory Board
- Defiance Dream Center
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- K&P Transportation
- Maumee Valley Planning Organization
- Mercy Health — Defiance
- Northwest Ohio Community Action Commission (NOCAC)
- United Way of Defiance County
- Wildfire Leadership

Information and Data Considered in Identifying Potential Need

Information and data sources: federal, state or local health or other departments or agencies and community input

Public Health Departments	Date of Data/Information
Defiance County General Health District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key informant interview (June 3, 2024). Focus groups: farmers (January 20, 2025), Hispanic/Latinx population (January 21, 2025) and parents (January 24, 2025). Shared data.

Community, Organization and Stakeholder Input*	Date of Data/Information	Nature and Extent of Input	At Risk, Medically Underserved, Low-Income or Minority Populations Represented by Organization
CareNet	August 13, 2024	Key informant interview	Low-income population; uninsured and underinsured population
City of Defiance	May 29, 2024	Key informant interview	Community/all populations
Defiance City Schools	May 28, 2024	Key informant interview	Youth
Defiance County General Health District	June 3, 2024 (key informant interview); January 20, 2025 (Hispanic/Latinx population); January 24, 2025 (parents)	Key informant interview; focus groups	Community/all populations
Defiance County Senior Services Advisory Board	May 21, 2024 (key informant interview); August 16, 2024 (seniors focus group)	Key informant interview; focus group	Seniors
Defiance Dream Center	October 24, 2024	Key informant interview	Youth
Defiance Senior Center	May 21, 2024 (key informant interview); August 16, 2024 (seniors focus group)	Key informant interview; focus group	Seniors

Community, Organization and Stakeholder Input*	Date of Data/ Information	Nature and Extent of Input	At Risk, Medically Underserved, Low-Income or Minority Populations Represented by Organization
Four County Alcohol Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board (ADAMhs Board)	May 17, 2024	Key informant interview	People living with mental health and substance use disorders
K&P Transportation	November 2024	Focus group (transportation – conducted through phone calls)	People with transportation barriers, low-income population
Maumee Valley Planning Organization	November 2024	Focus group (transportation – conducted through phone calls)	Community/all populations
Mercy Health —Defiance	April 2024 to March 2025	Leading and planning the entire CHNA, supporting with planning focus groups	Community/all populations
Northwest Ohio Community Action Commission (NOCAC)	June 14, 2024	Key informant interview	Low-income population
United Way of Defiance County	May 30, 2024	Key informant interview	Community/all populations
Wildfire Leadership	October 24, 2024	Key informant interview	Community/all populations

*Individuals or organizations staffed by fewer than five people may not be named to protect anonymity.

Significant Community Identified Health Needs (ordered by community member survey ranking)

Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) – Community Level Needs that Impact Health and Well-Being

Housing and Homelessness

Capacity and adequacy of service levels

Secondary data

Secondary data shows mixed housing conditions in Defiance County. Crowded household rates match Ohio at 2% but concerning housing shortages indicated by vacancy rates are below recommended levels (7% versus the ideal 13%, with Ohio at 8%).

Cost burden rates are significantly better than state averages, with 18% of Defiance County households spending 30% or more of their income on housing compared to 27% statewide.² Eviction rates match Ohio at 3%.² Homelessness counts totaled 16 individuals in 2024.³ Additionally, 11% of Defiance County households are seniors living alone compared to 13% statewide, potentially indicating social isolation risks.²

Community member survey data

Community survey data reveals housing as the overwhelming priority, with 55% of respondents ranking housing and homelessness as a priority health need and 75% identifying affordable housing as a lacking community resource. This is the top-reported resource needed in Defiance County.

Interview and focus group findings

Interview and focus group findings identified lack of affordable housing, insufficient homes and lack of quality low-income housing as primary housing challenges. Low-income populations, those with mental health disorders, single parents and rural areas are disproportionately affected by these housing barriers.

² U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018-2022, DP04. <http://data.census.gov/>

³ Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio, Housing Inventory Count and Point-in-Time Count, 2024. <https://cohhio.org/boscoc/hicpit/>

Community Feedback

"More apartments, more condominiums, more single-family homes, more duplexes are needed."

- Community Member Interview

"There is a lack of affordable, safe housing in Defiance for low-income seniors. We are having to choose between getting nutritional food or medications." - Community Member Focus Group

Priority Populations: Housing and Homelessness

Housing and homelessness are major issues for the entire community. People who face **transportation challenges, low-income households, seniors, parents and Hispanic/Latinx residents** are more likely to be affected by this health need.³

More details on why these populations are affected can be found in Appendix C.

³Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio, Housing Inventory Count and Point-in-Time Count, 2024.

<https://cohhio.org/boscoc/hicpit/>



Access to Health Care

Capacity and adequacy of service levels

Secondary data

Secondary data reveal significant health care provider shortages in Defiance County compared to Ohio. There are fewer primary care providers (1,820:1 vs 1,330:1 ratio) and dental providers (2,550:1 vs 1,530:1 ratio) relative to the population.⁴

Routine checkup rates are slightly lower than state averages, with 24% of Defiance County residents lacking routine checkups in the prior year compared to 23% for Ohio. Dental visit rates match the state, with 38% of the population not visiting a dentist in the prior year.⁵

Community member survey data

Community survey results show that access to health care is a major concern, with 40% of respondents naming it a top priority. The biggest care gaps were in specialist care (40%), dental care (30%), primary care (10%), vision care (10%), and hospital/acute/emergency care (5%).

Barriers to care include the cost of insurance (6% are uninsured due to cost), lack of a primary care provider (15%), and relying on urgent care as their usual source of care (10%).

Delays in care are also common: 44% experienced delays due to scheduling difficulties, 39% due to unavailable appointments, and 8% due to transportation issues. In addition, 35% had not seen a dentist in over a year, 15% needed but did not receive dental care, and 10% could not get needed prescription medications in the past year.

Interview and focus group findings

The primary health care challenges are low access to providers, transportation barriers/distant services, lack of dental providers/dental coverage and lack of urgent care and Medicare/Medicaid issues. Low-income populations, uninsured individuals and rural populations are disproportionately affected by these health care access barriers.

Healthy People (HP) 2030 Targets

Defiance County and Ohio (93%) exceed the HP 2030 target for adult health insurance coverage (92%) - desired direction: up⁶

⁴ County Health Rankings, 2025, <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org>

⁵ Ohio Department of Health, 2021. Ohio BRFSS Annual Report. <https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/behavioral-risk-factor-surveillance-system/data-and-publications>

⁶ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018-2022, S2701. <http://data.census.gov/>

Community Feedback

"If you can't get there because of transportation issues, or you're afraid to go because it may be too costly, that is a barrier to healthcare." - Community Member Interview

"There is a lack of signage in different languages and translator services. Seniors are less receptive of using iPads or technology as translation, they would rather have an actual person."

- Community Member Focus Group

Priority Populations: Access to Healthcare

Access to health care is a major issue for the entire community. **Uninsured/underinsured residents and priority populations from focus groups** are more likely to be affected by this health need.⁴

More details on why these populations are affected can be found in Appendix C.

Income/Poverty & Employment

Capacity and adequacy of service levels

Secondary data

Secondary data shows strong economic indicators for Defiance County compared to Ohio, with a higher median household income (\$72,200 vs \$67,900) and lower poverty rates for both the overall population (10% vs 13%) and children (13% vs 18%).^{7,8} However, food stamp utilization among low-income adults is higher (17% vs 12% statewide), while unemployment rates are equal at 4% for both Defiance County and Ohio.^{7,9}

Community member survey data

Community survey data reveal that 35% of respondents identified income/poverty and employment as top health needs in Defiance County.

Interview and focus group findings

The primary economic challenges are transportation barriers, unwillingness to work, high poverty levels (perceived as above average) and lack of professional development. People with disabilities, those with criminal records, elderly/aging populations, youth/children and low-income individuals are disproportionately affected by these economic barriers.

⁴ County Health Rankings, 2025, <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org>

⁷ County Health Rankings, 2025, <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org>

⁸ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018-2022, S1701. <http://Data.Census.Gov/>

⁹ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, DP03, 2018-2022. <http://data.census.gov>

Community Feedback

"I think there's poverty everywhere. We have more than half of our school-age population on a free or reduced lunch. So that's a pretty good indicator of the poverty level of our community."

- Community Member Interview

"There is a struggle of looking for a job and babysitter but not wanted to commit the babysitter until you get the job." - Community Member Focus Group

Priority Populations: Income/Poverty & Employment

Income, poverty and employment affect the whole community. But certain groups feel the impact more strongly. These include people who are unemployed or underemployed, those living in unstable housing, people with transportation challenges, individuals with disabilities, people with mental health or substance use issues, low-income households, immigrants and people whose first language is not English.

Appendix C provides more detail on why these groups are especially affected by this health need.



Food Insecurity

Capacity and adequacy of service levels

Secondary data

Secondary data shows that Defiance County has slightly lower food insecurity rates (13% vs 14% statewide) and fewer households accessing SNAP benefits (9% vs 12% for Ohio).^{10,11} Defiance County also has a better food environment, rating 8.0 out of 10 compared to Ohio's 7.0 rating.¹⁰

Community member survey data

Community survey data highlights significant food security concerns. Respondents identified affordable food as a lacking community resource (24%) and food insecurity as a top health concern (30%).

Interview and focus group findings

The primary food security barrier is the affordability gap between unhealthy and healthy foods. Elderly populations and low-income populations are disproportionately affected by these food access challenges.

Community Feedback

"It's tough to tell people that are struggling to make ends meet that they have to be healthy, when it's easier to go to McDonald's." - Community Member Interview

"There is a lack of access to fresh fruits and vegetables due to the lack of a proper grocery store, thus leading to lack of nutrition." - Community Member Focus Group

Priority Populations: Food Insecurity

Food insecurity is a major issue for the entire community. However, **Hispanic/Latinx residents, Black/African American residents**, seniors, those with transportation challenges and rural residents are more likely to be affected by this health need.¹⁰ More details on why these populations are affected can be found in Appendix C.

¹⁰ County Health Rankings, 2025, <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org>

¹¹ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, DP03, 2018-2022. <http://data.census.gov>

Transportation

Capacity and adequacy of service levels

Secondary data

Secondary data reveals significant car dependency in Defiance County. Hicksville (61/100) and Defiance (56/100) are classified as “Somewhat Walkable,” while Sherwood (25/100) is identified as “Car Dependent.”¹² This dependency is reflected in commuting patterns, with 84% of Defiance County residents driving alone to work versus 75% statewide.

Fewer residents also use active transportation (2% vs 3% for Ohio).¹³ Average daily commute times are shorter at 20 minutes compared to Ohio’s 24 minutes.¹³

Community member survey data

Community survey data shows that 25% of respondents identified transportation as a top health need in Defiance County, while 24% report transportation as lacking. The practical impact is evident, with 9% of people reporting that lack of transportation prevented access to one or more essential services in the past year.

Interview and focus group findings

Lack of public transportation, weather challenges, non-walkable areas and need for sidewalk improvements/safe sidewalks are primary transportation barriers. These transportation challenges disproportionately affect low-income populations, those without vehicles and those without driver’s licenses.

Community Feedback

“Our community action agency in Defiance is located just outside the city limits, so, not too far down the street from the Mercy Hospital. But the sidewalks end. And so, for people to get to if they’re walking, it can be dangerous. We had a young lady who was hit trying to cross the street a few years ago. There are no crosswalks in the area, and that’s where the soup kitchen and the homeless shelter are. So, you’ve got people who are regularly walking and riding bicycles to get access to those services. That is the biggest issue for walkability.” - Community Member Interview

“Low-income seniors/public are unable to afford transportation in Defiance, which leads them to not seek medical care or appointments, thus missing out on preventative care that may save their life.” - Community Member Focus Group

Priority Populations: Transportation

Transportation is a major issue for the entire community. However, **priority populations from focus groups are more likely to be affected by this health need.** More details on why these populations are affected can be found in Appendix C.

¹² [Walkscore.com](https://www.walkscore.com)

¹³ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, S0801, 2018-2022. <http://data.census.gov>

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

Trigger Warning: The following section discusses trauma and abuse, which may be disturbing for some people and trigger unpleasant memories or thoughts. You can call the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline at 988 for 24-hour, confidential support.

Capacity and adequacy of service levels

Secondary data

Secondary data reveals concerning child safety outcomes in Defiance County. The county has a higher rate of substantiated child abuse reports (6.2 per 1,000 children) compared to the state average in Ohio (4.1 per 1,000).¹⁵

Research shows that youth with more protective assets are more likely to succeed academically, participate in civic activities, and value diversity. They are also less likely to use alcohol, engage in violence, or be involved in early sexual activity.¹⁴

In addition, five of the top ten leading causes of death in the U.S. are linked to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).¹⁴

Community member survey data

Community survey data reveal that 15% of respondents identified ACEs as a top community concern.

Interview and focus group findings

Interview and focus group findings identified drugs and domestic violence as the primary youth safety concern.

Community Feedback

"Sometimes grandparents are raising their children because parents are in rehab, which is a wonderful thing for the parent, but a dramatic loss for the child, because they have that separation from their parents." - Community Member Interview

"I'm a foster parent and there's not a week that goes by that I don't have an email for needing a placement for a child or sibling group." - Community Member Interview

Priority Populations: Adverse Childhood Experiences

Adverse childhood experiences are a major issue for the entire community. Girls and children with risk factors such as lower-income, precarious housing and witnessing violence are more likely to be affected by this health need.¹⁴ More details on why these populations are affected by this health need can be found in Appendix C.

¹⁴ County Health Rankings, 2025, <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org>

¹⁵ County Health Rankings, 2025, <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org>

Environmental Conditions

Capacity and adequacy of service levels

Secondary data

Secondary data shows positive environmental health conditions in Defiance County. Air quality measurements (7.8 micrograms of particulate matter per cubic meter) nearly match Ohio's average (7.9) in 2020, and no community water systems reported health-based drinking water violations in 2023.¹⁴

Community member survey data

Community survey data reveal that 10% of respondents identified environmental conditions as a top health need for the community.

Interview and focus group findings

Respondents identified being a manufacturing community as the primary environmental health concern.

Community Feedback

"There's still lead exposure when there shouldn't be. There are still homes in our communities that have lead abatement issues and finding the resources to support a family with that is an issue."

- Community Member Interview

"Climate and weather put a lot more stress on farmers." - Community Member Focus Group

Priority Populations: Environmental Conditions

While **environmental conditions** are a major issue for the entire community, children are more likely to be affected by this health need.¹⁵ More details on why these populations are affected by this health need can be found in Appendix C.

¹⁴ County Health Rankings, 2025, <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org>

¹⁵ County Health Rankings, 2025, <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org>



Internet Wi-Fi Access

Capacity and adequacy of service levels

Secondary data

Secondary data reveals digital access challenges regionally. Ohio ranks 38th out of 50 states in BroadbandNow's 2024 rankings for Internet coverage, speed and availability.¹⁵ Defiance County slightly underperforms the state average with 88% of households having broadband Internet connections compared to 89% statewide.¹⁶

Community member survey data

Community survey data shows that 10% of respondents identified Internet access as a priority health need.

Interview and focus group findings

Interview and focus group findings identified a lack of coverage in rural areas, spotty coverage, affordability/costs, lack of access and discontinued assistance programs as primary digital access barriers. Rural areas and low-income populations are disproportionately affected by these connectivity challenges.

Community Feedback

"I know once you get outside of city limits, a lot of times Internet access gets tricky."
- Community Member Interview

"But I think, as far as sub-populations go, the elderly, you know, have the biggest issues with Internet access. We do a digital navigation program to teach people to be comfortable with accessing the digital world, and to be able to navigate, to meet their daily needs or even communicate with the grandkids." - Community Member Interview

Priority Populations: Internet/Wi-Fi Access

While **Internet/Wi-Fi access** is a major issue for the entire community, **older residents** are more likely to be affected by this health need.¹⁶ More details on why these populations are affected by this health need can be found in Appendix C.

¹⁵ County Health Rankings, 2025, <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org>

¹⁶ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018-2022, S1401, <http://Data.Census.Gov/>

Education

Capacity and adequacy of service levels

Secondary data

Secondary data shows mixed educational outcomes in Defiance County. High school completion rates match Ohio (8% lacking degrees for both), and college education rates fall below state averages (61% vs 66% having some college education).¹⁵ Defiance County ranks slightly below the state preschool enrollment rate at 41% versus 42% for Ohio, which can impact long-term socioeconomic and health outcomes, particularly for disadvantaged children.¹⁶

Community member survey data

Community survey data reveal that 5% of respondents identified education as a priority health need.

Healthy People (HP) 2030 Targets

Defiance County (93%) exceeds the HP 2030 target for high school graduation rate (91%), while Ohio (87%) **does not yet meet the target** - desired direction: up.¹⁶

Community Feedback

"It'd be great to see a bigger push for vocational and trades education, because if you ask a lot of our local plumbers and electricians...they need more skilled trades." - Community Member Interview

"People do not know how to connect when they need help. There is a lack of education on resources to the public." - Community Member Focus Group

Priority Populations: Education

While **education** is a major issue for the entire community, **priority populations from focus groups** are more likely to be affected by this health need. More details on why these populations are affected by this health need can be found in Appendix C.

¹⁵ County Health Rankings, 2025, <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org>

¹⁶ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018-2022, S1401, <http://Data.Census.Gov/>

Crime and Violence

Trigger Warning: The following page discusses violence, which may be disturbing for some people and trigger unpleasant memories or thoughts. You can call the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline at 988 for 24-hour, confidential support.

Capacity and adequacy of service levels

Secondary data

Secondary data shows dramatically lower crime rates in Defiance County compared to Ohio overall in 2023, with property crime rates of 87 per 100,000 residents versus 1,783 statewide, and violent crime rates of 9 per 100,000 compared to 294 for Ohio. These findings indicate substantially safer conditions across both crime categories.¹⁷

Community member survey data

Community survey data reveal a contradiction between official crime statistics and personal experiences. Crime and violence were not selected by any respondents as top community concerns. However, there were significant personal experiences of abuse in the past year: 60% reported verbal/emotional abuse, 60% psychological abuse, 20% financial abuse and 20% sexual abuse.

Interview and focus group findings

Interview and focus group findings identified drug-related crime/violence and petty theft as primary safety concerns. Low-income populations are disproportionately affected by these crime and safety challenges.

Community Feedback

"Abuse of drugs has a big impact on crime in our area. The use of drugs leads to so many things. It leads to domestic violence. It leads to child abuse. It leads to abandonment. It leads to money getting spent on drugs." - Community Member Interview

"It's your typical property crime. Disorderly conduct, stuff like that. Keep us super busy. Thefts, property threats, stuff like that. That's predominantly what we handle throughout the days." - Community Member Interview

Priority Populations: Crime and Violence

While **crime and violence** are major issues for the entire community, **both men and women** are likely to be affected by this health need.¹⁸ More details on why these populations are affected by this health need can be found in Appendix C.

¹⁷ Federal Bureau of Investigation, Crime Data Explorer, <https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/explorer/crime/crime-trend>. *Rates for Ohio taken from FBI Crime Data Explorer; rates for all other jurisdictions calculated from agency-specific population data provided in the FBI's 2023 Crime by County National Excel file; as such, they are estimates and should be interpreted with caution.

¹⁸ Ohio Department of Health, 2022. Ohio BRFSS Annual Report. <https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/behavioral-risk-factor-surveillance-system/data-and-publications>

Social Health Needs – Individual Level Non-Clinical Needs

Mental Health

Trigger Warning: The following section discusses suicide, which may be disturbing for some people and trigger unpleasant memories or thoughts. You can call the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline at 988 for 24-hour, confidential support.

Capacity and adequacy of service levels

Secondary data

Secondary data shows concerning mental health outcomes in Defiance County. Adult depression rates match Ohio at 26%, while frequent mental distress affects slightly more residents (20% vs 19% statewide).^{18,19}

Average mentally unhealthy days per month is 6.0 compared to Ohio's 5.5 days.²⁰ Significant provider shortages in Defiance County compound these challenges. There is a 440:1 ratio of residents to mental health providers compared to Ohio's 290:1 ratio.²⁰

Community member survey data

Community survey data demonstrates mental health as the overwhelming priority, with 95% ranking mental health and access to mental health care as the top health outcome concern.

Access barriers are severe, with 50% reporting mental health care services as lacking and 15% unable to obtain needed mental health or substance use counseling in the past year. Service access ratings show 30% rating access as "low" and 35% as "neutral", citing insurance coverage, appointment availability, provider scheduling and stigma as primary barriers.

Only 20% of those requiring mental/behavioral health services received all needed care. Self-reported mental health shows 40% of respondents rating theirs as "good", 25% as "excellent", 20% as "average", and 15% as "poor".

Interview and focus group findings

Interview and focus group findings identified mental health as a major community issue, with specific concerns about depression, suicide, a lack of mental health care services/ resources and pediatric/youth mental health. Young individuals are most affected by these mental health challenges.

¹⁸ Ohio Department of Health, 2022. Ohio BRFSS Annual Report. <https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/behavioral-risk-factor-surveillance-system/data-and-publications>

¹⁹ County Health Rankings, 2025, <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org>

²⁰ County Health Rankings, 2025, <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org>

Healthy People (HP) 2030 Targets

Defiance County (13) and Ohio (15) do not yet meet the HP 2030 target for suicide rate per 100,000 (12.8) - desired direction: down.²⁰

Community Feedback

"I think that mental health issues and depression are on the rise." - Community Member Interview

"There are not enough therapists/mental health providers. We need more mental health services and more funding for those services." - Community Member Focus Group

Priority Populations: Mental Health

While **mental health** is a major issue for the entire community, **priority populations from focus groups** are more likely to be affected by this health need. More details on why these populations are affected by this health need can be found in Appendix C.

Substance Use Disorder/Substance Misuse

Trigger Warning: The following section discusses problematic substance use and overdose, which may be disturbing for some people and trigger unpleasant memories or thoughts. You can call the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline at 988 for 24-hour, confidential support.

Capacity and adequacy of service levels

Secondary data

Secondary data shows alcohol-related motor vehicle crash deaths in Defiance County at 30%, slightly below Ohio's rate of 32%.²⁰

Community member survey data

Community survey data reveal substance misuse as a significant concern, with 30% of respondents identifying it as a top health concern and 25% reporting that substance use disorder services are lacking in the community. Among respondents, 10% reported marijuana use in the past 30 days.

Interview and focus group findings

Interview and focus group findings identified drug use as a general community issue, with specific concerns about high drug overdose deaths, opioids, marijuana and stigma as primary barriers. Youth individuals are most affected by these substance use challenges.

²⁰ County Health Rankings, 2025, <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org>

Healthy People (HP) 2030 Targets

Defiance County and Ohio (21%) exceed the HP 2030 target for adult binge or heavy drinking (25%) - desired direction: down.²¹

Defiance County (29) and Ohio (45) do not yet meet the HP 2030 target for unintentional drug overdose deaths per 100,000 (20.7) - desired direction: down.²¹

Defiance County (21) and Ohio (36) do not yet meet the HP 2030 target for opioid overdose deaths per 100,000 (13.1) - desired direction: down.²¹

Community Feedback

"Substance use is not as prevalent here as in bigger cities. But it's here. It's just not broadcasted, overdoses and stuff." - Community Member Interview

"Teens are facing issues of drinking, vaping, marijuana, and the consequences."
- Community Member Focus Group

Priority Populations: Substance Use Disorder/Substance Misuse

Substance use disorder/substance misuse is a major issue for the entire community. However, **men, White residents, higher-income population and 25-39-year-olds** are more likely to be affected by this health need.²² More details on why these populations are affected by this health need can be found in Appendix C.

²¹ State of Ohio Integrated Behavioral Health Dashboard. (2020-2022). Opioid Overdose Deaths. *Rates calculated using U.S. Census 2018-2022 ACS Population Estimates. <https://data.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/data/view/ohio-ibhd>

²² County Health Rankings, 2025, <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org>



Nutrition and Physical Health

Capacity and adequacy of service levels

Secondary data

The 2025 County Health Rankings show that physical inactivity is a major concern. In Defiance County, 25% of adults — and 24% of adults across Ohio — reported no leisure-time physical activity in the past month.²²

Community member survey data

Survey results indicate mixed perceptions of physical health among residents, with 20% identifying nutrition and physical health as priorities. While 45% of respondents rated their physical health as “good,” 30% considered it only “average.”

Infrastructure concerns emerged, as 25% of respondents reported lacking recreational spaces in Defiance County. The primary barriers to improving health were identified as lack of energy (58%), stress (42%), busy schedules (37%) and financial constraints (26%).

Healthy People (HP) 2030 Targets

Defiance County (42%) and Ohio (38%) **do not yet meet the HP 2030 target for adult obesity** (36%) - desired direction: down.²³

Community Feedback

“We have a fair amount of fast food, you know. Healthy type eating, we don’t really have a lot of. Good quality, whole fresh foods, things like that.” - Community Member Interview

“Obesity is an issue in the community, and there is a lack of physical activity programs that are affordable in community.” - Community Member Focus Group

Priority Populations: Nutrition and Physical Health

While **nutrition and physical health** are major issues for the entire community, **youth** are more likely to be affected by this health need.²³ More details on why these populations are affected by this health need can be found in Appendix C.

^{22,23} County Health Rankings, 2025, <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org>

Access to Childcare

Capacity and adequacy of service levels

Secondary data

Childcare costs present a significant financial burden for Defiance County families. The average two-child household spends 39% of its income on childcare compared to the state average of 32%.²³

Despite having slightly more daycare centers (9 per 1,000 children under 5) than the Ohio average of 8, childcare remains expensive statewide, with annual costs ranging from \$5,564 for school-aged care to \$11,438 for infant care.²⁴ The financial strain is widespread — 80% of Ohioans report that quality childcare is expensive locally, and 40% of working parents have reduced their work hours to provide childcare for their children.²⁵

Community member survey data

Local survey results show that childcare access is a community concern. Ten percent of Defiance County residents identified it as an issue, and 26% said their community lacks adequate childcare options.

Interview and focus group findings

Qualitative findings identified two primary barriers to childcare access: affordability concerns and scheduling challenges, particularly the lack of childcare options for employees working second and third shifts.

Community Feedback

"If kids get sick or the childcare staff are on vacation, then all of a sudden, you're without childcare. Then you're missing work. Then you're at risk of losing a job because of that."

- Community Member Interview

"Childcare/daycare affordability is an issue." - Community Member Focus Group

Priority Populations: Access to Childcare

Access to childcare is a major issue for the entire community. Working parents, low-income families, single parents and those who work second or third shifts are more likely to be affected by this health need.²⁵ More details on why these populations are affected by this health need can be found in Appendix C.

²³ County Health Rankings, 2025, <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org>.

²⁴ 2022 Ohio Childcare Resource & Referral Association Annual Report <https://d2hfgw7vtnz2tl.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Annual-Report-2022.pdf>

²⁵ Groundwork Ohio Statewide Survey, Dec. 7, 2021. https://www.groundworkohio.org/files/ugd/d2fbfd_5429e4e10cea4102b1c249f271b579d1.pdf

Tobacco and Nicotine Use

Capacity and adequacy of service levels

Community member survey data

Survey results show that while only 10% of community respondents identified tobacco and nicotine use as top concerns in Defiance County, actual usage rates are significantly higher. Twenty-five percent of respondents report daily or near-daily use of smoking, vaping or tobacco products within the past 30 days.

Interview and focus group findings

Qualitative findings identified vaping and smoking as the primary tobacco-related issues in the community. Participants specifically highlight youth as the sub-population most affected by these concerns.

Healthy People (HP) 2030 Targets

Defiance County and Ohio (18%) **do not yet meet the HP 2030 target for adult cigarette smoking** (5%) - desired direction: down.²⁶

Community Feedback

"I do see it here, some people doing that [smoking], but not as much as I did 20 years ago."
- Community Member Interview

"Teens are vaping, and there are consequences." - Community Member Focus Group

Priority Populations: Tobacco and Nicotine Use

Tobacco and nicotine use is a major issue for the entire community. However, **those with disabilities, multiracial residents, Hispanic residents, men, women, lower-income population, lower-education population, LGBTQ+ residents, youth, 18-24-year-olds** and 35-44-year-olds are more likely to be affected by this health need.²⁷ More details on why these populations are affected by this health need can be found in Appendix C.

²⁶ County Health Rankings, 2025, <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org>

²⁷ County Health Rankings, 2025, <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org>



Clinical Health Needs

Chronic Diseases

Capacity and adequacy of service levels

Secondary data

Health indicators for Defiance County generally align with Ohio averages, with 18% of adults in both areas rating their health as fair or poor, while 82% rate it as excellent, very good, or good.²⁷ Disability rates are comparable at 16% for Defiance County and 15% for Ohio.²⁸

Defiance County shows some positive outcomes with fewer years of potential life lost (8,500 per 100,000 residents under age 75 versus Ohio's 9,700).²⁸ Chronic disease prevalence matches state levels, with 7% having coronary heart disease, 12% having diabetes and 11% having asthma in both areas.²⁹ However, Defiance County has a slightly higher cancer incidence rate at 469 per 100,000 than Ohio's 465 per 100,000.³⁰

Community member survey data

Survey results demonstrate high awareness of chronic diseases as a community health priority, with 90% of respondents identifying it as a top need, specifically citing diabetes, heart disease, cancer and obesity as the most common conditions.

Personal experience with chronic conditions is substantial, as 42% of respondents report having at least one chronic health condition or disability. Health care access barriers include provider awareness issues, with 13% of respondents feeling that the lack of provider education about their health conditions impedes their care.

Interview and focus group findings

Qualitative findings identified three primary chronic disease concerns: heart disease/stroke/hypertension/high cholesterol, cancer, and respiratory diseases/COPD/adult asthma.

Community Feedback

"You hear a lot more cases of asthma and chronic disease there. Diabetes is a huge issue everywhere." - Community Member Interview

"If people are unable to pick up medications or have someone do so for them, they are less likely to take their needed medications, which then can lead to uncontrolled diabetes, heart disease, or even death." - Community Member Focus Group

Priority Populations: Chronic Diseases

While **chronic diseases** are a major issue for the entire community, **seniors** are more likely to be affected by this health need. More details on why these populations are affected by this health need can be found in Appendix C.

²⁷ County Health Rankings, 2025, <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org>

²⁸ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, S1810, 2018-2022. <http://data.census.gov>

²⁹ Ohio Department of Health, 2022. Ohio BRFSS Annual Report. <https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/behavioral-risk-factor-surveillance-system/data-and-publications>

³⁰ Ohio Department of Health. (2023). Ohio Cancer Incidence Surveillance System. Retrieved from <https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/ohio-cancer-incidence-surveillance-system/Data-Statistics>

Maternal, Infant and Child Health

Capacity and adequacy of service levels

Secondary data

Defiance County demonstrates better birth outcomes than the state average, with a low-birth-weight rate of 7% compared to Ohio's 9% for babies weighing less than 5 pounds and 8 ounces.³¹ The county's teenage birth rate for ages 15-19 matches the state level at 17 per 1,000 females.³²

Community member survey findings

Survey results show maternal and child health is a significant community priority, with 35% of respondents identifying it as a top concern. However, only 5% of respondents reported that maternal, infant and child health services are lacking in the community.

Healthy People (HP) 2030 Targets

Defiance County and Ohio (7) do not yet meet the HP 2030 target for infant mortality rate per 1,000 (5) - desired direction: down.³²

Community Feedback

"With that influx of immigration population, we have a lot of pregnant mothers. And so, we are trying to explain our health care system to them, and then trying to have them understand our language, or us understand their language just so that we can communicate."

- Community Member Interview

"Some pregnant women now lack prenatal care due to having no close birthing centers or OB/GYN providers." - Community Member Focus Group

^{31,32} County Health Rankings, 2025, <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org>

Priority Populations: Maternal, Infant and Child Health

While **maternal, infant, and child health** is a major issue for the entire community, **non-Hispanic Black women** are more likely to be affected by this health need.³² More details on why these populations are affected by this health need can be found in Appendix C.



Injuries

Capacity and adequacy of service levels

Secondary data

Defiance County performs better than the state average for unintentional injury deaths, with a rate of 87 per 100,000 compared to Ohio's rate of 101 per 100,000.³²

Community member survey data

Despite the county's relatively lower injury death rates, injuries are recognized as a significant community health concern, with 35% of survey respondents identifying injuries as a top community health need.

Interview and focus group findings

Qualitative findings identified car accidents and falls as the primary injury-related issues in the community, with participants specifically highlighting the elderly as the sub-population most affected by these injury concerns.

Community Feedback

"We handle a lot of crashes in a year. We think it's way too many. It's often due to distracted or speed driving, which we're trying to buckle down on."

"You've got some people that fall, and usually they are seniors. That is a fairly common thing. So that's where assistance services might be helpful." - Community Member Interview

Priority Populations: Injuries

While **injuries** are a major issue for the entire community, older residents as well as those who work in manufacturing, construction, agriculture, transportation, trades and frontline workers are more likely to be affected by this health need.³³ More details on why these populations are affected by this health need can be found in Appendix C.

^{32,33} County Health Rankings, 2025, <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org>



Preventive Care and Practices

Capacity and adequacy of service levels

Community member survey data

Survey results indicate that preventive care is a relatively low-priority concern, with only 10% of respondents identifying it as a top community health need. However, vaccination rates reveal potential gaps in preventive practices, as 15% of respondents report never receiving a flu shot and only 40% have received one within the past year.

Interview and focus group findings

Qualitative findings identified a lack of awareness and education as the primary barrier to preventive care. Participants highlight that the low-income population is most affected by these preventive care challenges.

Healthy People (HP) 2030 Targets

Defiance County (49%) and Ohio (51%) **do not yet meet the HP 2030 target for Medicare enrollee annual flu vaccination** (70%) - desired direction: up.³³

Defiance County (73%) and Ohio (70%) **do not yet meet the HP 2030 target for adults 50-75 who meet colorectal screening guidelines** (74%) - desired direction: up.³³ Data was unavailable at the county level for Pap tests and mammograms.

Community Feedback

"I think the whole department does a good job on it, but I don't know how much other agencies throw out there and want to advertise about, or if people are looking for those resources."

- Community Member Interview

"Those who relied on hospital transportation to appointments have lost that resource...there is no public transportation available in Hicksville to take homebound or disabled or low-income people out of town for an appointment, thus delaying preventative and needed care."

- Community Member Focus Group

Priority Populations: Preventive Care and Practices

While **preventive care and practices** are major issues for the entire community, the **lower-income population, lower-education population, men and younger residents** are more likely to be affected by this health need.³³ More details on why these populations are affected by this health need can be found in Appendix C.

³³ County Health Rankings, 2025, <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org>

HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)

Capacity and adequacy of service levels

Secondary data

Defiance County demonstrates significantly better sexual health outcomes compared to state averages, with lower rates of both HIV and sexually transmitted infections. The county recorded 406 new chlamydia cases per 100,000 people versus Ohio's 463 per 100,000. Eighty-four per 100,000 residents live with HIV compared to Ohio's much higher rate of 246 per 100,000.³³

Community member survey data

Despite the county's favorable HIV and STI statistics compared to state levels, 10% of community survey respondents still identified addressing HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections as a top community health concern.

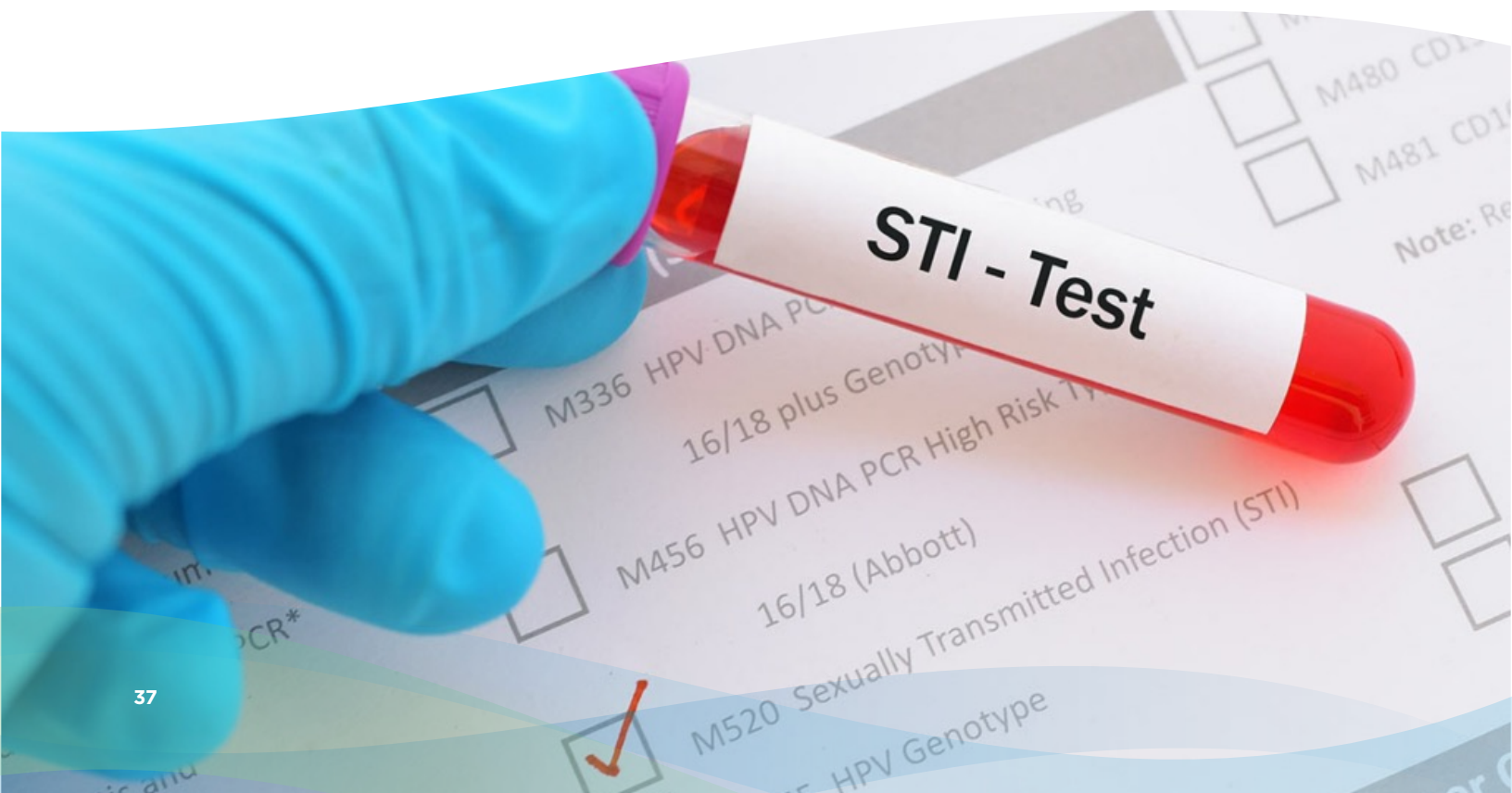
Community Feedback

"For seniors, there's a lot of untested hepatitis C that people may have been living with for a long time and don't think to get tested." - Community Member Interview

Priority Populations: HIV/AIDS and STIs

While **HIV/AIDS and STIs** are major issues for the entire community, both **women** and **men** are likely to be affected by this health need.³⁴ More details on why these populations are affected by this health need can be found in Appendix C.

^{33,34} County Health Rankings, 2025, <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org>



Resources Available

Due to the considerable and complex nature of the community's identified significant health needs, several organizations within the community may be available to address one or more of the needs identified in this report. While this list strives to be comprehensive, it may not be complete.

Health Care Facilities & Services

- Breast and Cervical Cancer Project (BCCP)
 - Preventive care and practices
- Mercy Health – Defiance
 - Access to health care, chronic diseases, maternal, infant and child health, mental health, preventive care and practices, substance misuse
- OhioRISE (Resilience through Integrated Systems and Excellence)
 - Access to health care, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), mental health, substance misuse
- ProMedica Urgent Care
 - Access to health care, chronic diseases, maternal, infant and child health, mental health, preventive care and practices, substance misuse
- CareNet
 - Access to health care, income/poverty & employment
- Four County Alcohol Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board (ADAMhs Board)
 - Access to health care, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), mental health, substance misuse

Health Departments

- Defiance County Health Department
 - Access to childcare, access to health care, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), chronic diseases, education, environmental conditions, food insecurity, HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), income/poverty & employment, injuries, maternal, infant, and child health, mental health, nutrition and physical health, preventive care and practices, substance misuse, tobacco and nicotine use, transportation

Other Local and National Resources:

- Board of Developmental Disabilities (Defiance County)
 - Disability services
- Buckeye Broadband
 - Internet/Wi-Fi access
- City of Defiance
 - All significant health needs
- Defiance Area YMCA
 - All significant health needs
- Defiance City Schools
 - Primary and secondary education, student support services
- Defiance City Police Division
 - Crime and violence
- Defiance County Sheriff's Office
 - Crime and Violence
- Defiance County Senior Services Advisory Board
 - Senior citizen programming
- Defiance County Senior Center
 - Services and programs for seniors, including meals, social activities and health resources
- Defiance Dream Center
 - Youth workforce development, life coaching, leadership programs, community service projects
- Defiance/Paulding Consolidated Department of Job & Family Services
 - Access to childcare, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), food insecurity, income/poverty & employment
- Defiance Public Library
 - Education, Internet/Wi-Fi access
- Early Head Start
 - Access to childcare
- Habitat for Humanity
 - Housing and homelessness
- H2Ohio
 - Environmental condition
- Kramer's Cab Company
 - Transportation

- K&P Medical Transport
 - Non-emergency medical transport
- Maumee Valley Planning Organization
 - Regional planning and development, community grants, housing assistance and transportation planning
- Meals on Wheels
 - Food insecurity
- Northwestern Ohio Community Action Commission (NOCAC)
 - Early childhood education, emergency assistance, financial empowerment, health and nutrition programs, housing services, homelessness support, weatherization and home repair
- Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities
 - Disabilities, income/poverty & employment
- Ohio State University Extension
 - Education and community outreach
- PATH Center Emergency Shelter
 - Shelter services to homeless individuals and families in Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Paulding and Van Wert counties
- Ravens Care
 - Medication assistance, emergency food vouchers, access to health care, emergency shelter, rental and utility support
- Salvation Army Northwest Ohio Area Services
 - All significant health needs
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
 - Food insecurity
- Tobacco Quitline Ohio
 - Tobacco cessation support services
- Toledo Northwestern Ohio Food Bank
 - Food insecurity
- United Way of Defiance County
 - All significant health needs
- United Way of Greater Toledo/211
 - All significant health needs
- Wildfire Leadership
 - Leadership development programs

Prioritization of Health Needs

The health needs prioritization process for Mercy Health — Defiance Hospital followed a structured approach to identify and address key health challenges in the community. The process ensured that the most pressing health concerns were selected for action in the next Implementation Strategy for the hospital and that feedback from the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) and key stakeholders was considered.

It followed the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) 2.0 process, ensuring a community-driven, equity-focused approach to improving public health. A virtual meeting with key stakeholders, including hospital leadership, was held on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, to develop a draft list of prioritized health needs, which was finalized following the meeting.

Data Collection & Assessment

- **Primary Data:**
 - Community surveys collected 20 responses from Defiance County.
 - Five focus groups engaged 25 participants.
 - Key informant interviews were conducted with 10 community leaders across various sectors.
- **Secondary Data:**
 - Existing health statistics were gathered from sources such as the American Community Survey, Centers for Disease Control, Health Interview Survey, and Department of Health.

Prioritization Criteria

To inform the selection of health priorities, the team used NACCHO MAPP 2.0-informed criteria, assessing each issue based on:

- **Relevance** – How important the issue was to the community.
- **Severity** – How serious the problem was based on CHNA data.
- **Health Disparities** – How the issue impacted priority populations identified through CHNA.
- **Feasibility** – Whether existing solutions or resources were available to address it.
- **Resources** – Whether time, funding and staff were available to address the issue.
- **Previous Focus** – Whether the issue had been a priority in past Implementation Strategy cycles.

During the health need prioritization meeting, key stakeholders completed a short survey asking them to select which health needs they believe should be addressed in the upcoming Implementation Strategy (2026-2028), based on the above criteria.

Reviewing the Data

The team reviewed data collected through the CHNA, including secondary data and primary input from key informant interviews, focus groups and the community survey. They also reviewed the results of the prioritization survey completed during the meeting and the priority health needs addressed through the previous Implementation Strategy (2023-2025). The top needs identified across these sources can be found below.

Selecting Priority Health Needs

- Stakeholders used the above data to frame their discussion about which significant health needs to prioritize. They aimed to select at least one priority from each category:
 - Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) needs
 - Social Health Needs
 - Clinical Health Needs
- This discussion informed a draft list of priorities finalized following the meeting.

Prioritized Health Needs

Access to Health Care (Social Determinant of Health Need)

Access to health care was selected as a priority health need because it ranked highly in the community member survey, was a major theme in the key informant interviews and focus groups, and was emphasized by stakeholders during the prioritization meeting. This need includes addressing the social determinants of health (through a community health worker (CHW)).

Behavioral Health (Social Health Need)

Behavioral health was selected as a priority health need because it ranked highly in the community member survey, was a major theme in the key informant interviews and focus groups, and was emphasized by stakeholders during the prioritization meeting. This need includes addressing mental health, substance misuse and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).

Chronic Diseases (Clinical Health Need)

Chronic diseases were selected as a priority health need because they ranked highly in the community member survey, were a major theme in the key informant interviews and focus groups, and were emphasized by stakeholders during the prioritization meeting. This need includes addressing diabetes, heart disease, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and hypertension, as well as preventive care and practices.

Significant Health Needs Not Prioritized

Since Mercy Health — Defiance Hospital cannot directly address every significant need present in the community, it will concentrate resources where it can make the greatest impact in the region based on its areas of focus and expertise. Considering existing organizational and community resources, Mercy Health — Defiance Hospital will not directly address the remaining significant health needs identified in the 2025 CHNA that were not prioritized, including but not limited to:

- Access to childcare
- Crime and violence
- Environmental conditions
- Food insecurity
- HIV/AIDS and STIs
- Housing/homelessness
- Injuries
- Internet access
- Nutrition and physical health
- Tobacco and nicotine use
- Transportation

The organization will continue to look for opportunities to address community needs where it can make a meaningful contribution. Community partnerships may support other initiatives that Mercy Health — Defiance Hospital cannot independently lead to address the other health needs identified in the 2025 CHNA.



Progress and Impact

Behavioral/Mental Health

Strategies	Progress
Strategy 1: Over a three-year period, Mercy Health — Defiance Hospital will investigate the effectiveness of the referral process for patients who have a high depression screening score.	A policy for referral to mental health services was designed, found to be effective and put into practice.

Financial Barriers and Insurance

Strategies	Progress
Strategy 1: Over a three-year period, Mercy Health — Defiance Hospital will deploy CHW-led care coordination to adult patients who screen positive for financial vulnerability.	A referral program utilizing Patient Care Navigators was put into practice. Now, 17% of patients in care coordination are referred to community resources and health education. Our goal is 22%.

Drug and Substance Abuse

Strategies	Progress
Strategy 1: Over a three-year period, Mercy Health — Defiance Hospital will investigate the effectiveness of Narcan distribution in the emergency department by tracking the number of kits distributed.	This program approach has transitioned. Mercy Health – Defiance Hospital implemented accountability measures by providing a MEDD report by the provider that helps ensure safe doses of narcotic medications are prescribed. When a provider falls out of range, a “deep dive” occurs and a remediation plan is implemented with the provider.

Weight Management/Obesity

Strategies	Progress
Strategy 1: Conduct healthy cooking classes.	Through the second quarter of 2025, eight healthy cooking classes have been completed. Mercy Health – Defiance Hospital partnered with the Ohio State University Extension Office to provide healthy cooking education free of charge to the Defiance community. Classes were conducted in various locations, including Defiance County Senior Services & Summit 60 Center and the Dream Center. Each participant increased their knowledge of healthy cooking received tools to help continue their healthy cooking journey at home.
Strategy 2: Establish Produce Perks Midwest redemption sites in Defiance County.	This strategy is in process but on hold for administrative reasons. Attempts were made to identify redemption sites in Defiance, but there are challenges in solidifying these partnerships.





Appendix

Appendix A:	Community Member Survey (Questions and Demographics)
Appendix B:	Focus Group Demographics
Appendix C:	Overall Findings from Key Informant Interviews, Focus Groups and Community Member Survey
Appendix D:	Overall Findings in Graphic Form

Appendix A

Community Member Survey (Questions and Demographics)

Welcome!

Mercy Health Toledo area hospitals (including Defiance, Huron, Lucas, Seneca, and Wood Counties) are conducting a Community Health Needs Assessment to identify and assess the health needs of the community. We are asking community members (those who live and/or work in these counties) to complete this 15-minute survey. This information will help guide us as we consider services, programs, and policies that will benefit the community.

Be assured that this process is completely anonymous - we cannot access your name or any other identifying information. Your individual responses will be kept strictly confidential and the information will only be presented in aggregate (as a group). Your participation in this survey is entirely voluntary and you are free to leave any of the questions unanswered/skip questions you prefer not to answer (so only answer the questions you want to answer!). Thank you for helping us to better serve our community!

Demographics

1. Which county do you live or reside in?

- Defiance
- Huron
- Lucas
- Seneca
- Wood
- Prefer not to answer

2. Where do you live or reside in? (ZIP Code - choose one)

3. Where do you work? (ZIP Code - choose one)

4. Which of the following best describes your age?

- Under 18
- 18-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65+
- Prefer not to answer

5. What is your gender identity?

- Male
- Female
- Transgender/ Trans woman (person who identifies as a woman)
- Transgender/ Trans man (person who identifies as a man)
- Prefer not to answer
- Not Listed (feel free to specify)

6. What is your sexual orientation? (select all that apply)

- Heterosexual or straight
- Gay
- Lesbian
- Bisexual
- Something else (feel free to specify)
- Prefer not to answer

7. What is your race and/or ethnicity? (Select all that apply)

- American Indian/Alaskan Native
- Asian Indian
- Black/African American
- Chinese
- Filipino
- Guamanian or Chamorro
- Hispanic/Latino/a
- Japanese
- Korean
- Multiracial/More than one race
- Native Hawaiian
- Other Asian
- Other Pacific Islander
- Samoan
- Vietnamese
- White
- Prefer not to answer
- Other/Not Listed (feel free to specify)

8. Which is your primary language spoken at home?

- English
- Spanish
- Prefer not to answer
- Not Listed (feel free to specify)

9. How many children, ages 0-18, live in your household?

- | | | |
|-----|------|-------------------------------------|
| • 0 | • 6 | • 12 |
| • 1 | • 7 | • 13 |
| • 2 | • 8 | • 14 |
| • 3 | • 9 | • 15 |
| • 4 | • 10 | • Prefer not to answer |
| • 5 | • 11 | • Not Listed (feel free to specify) |

10. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- Less than a High School diploma
- High School degree or equivalent
- Some college but no degree
- Associate's degree (e.g. AA, AS)
- Bachelor's degree (e.g. BA, BS)
- Graduate degree (e.g. MA, MS, PhD, EdD, MD)

11. Are you currently employed?

- Yes, part-time (less than 30 hours per week)
- Yes, full-time (30 hours per week or more)
- Not employed - but looking for work
- Not employed - not actively looking for work
- Student
- Retired
- Disabled

12. What is your annual household income?

- Less than \$20,000
- \$20,000-\$34,999
- \$35,000-\$49,999
- \$50,000-\$74,999
- \$75,000-\$99,999
- Over \$100,000

13. Do you have any of the following disabilities or chronic conditions? (select all that apply)

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| • Attention deficit | • Mental health condition |
| • Autism | • Mobility-related disability |
| • Blind or visually impaired | • Speech-related disability |
| • Deaf or hard of hearing | • None |
| • Health-related disability | • Not Listed (feel free to specify or tell us more) |
| • Learning Disability | |

14. What is your current living situation?

- I have a steady place to live
- I have a place to live today, but I am worried about losing it in the future
- I do not have a steady place to live (I am temporarily staying with others)
- I am staying in a shelter
- I am living outside
- I am living in a car
- I am living elsewhere

15. Trigger Warning: The following question discusses abuse and may be upsetting or bring up difficult memories. Please feel free to skip any questions that make you uncomfortable. If you or someone in your life are in need of support, visit thehotline.org, or call 1.800.799.SAFE (7233), or text "START" to 88788. Have you experienced any of the following types of abuse in the past year? (select all that apply)

- Verbal/Emotional (hurtful words, insults, etc.)
- Mental/psychological (negatively affecting someone's mental health, manipulation, etc.)
- Cultural/Identity (discrimination based on race, culture, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, class, age, etc.)
- Financial/Economic (using money/finances to control someone)
- Physical violence (punching, hitting, slapping, kicking, strangling, or physically restraining someone against their will, use of weapons, etc.)
- Sexual (rape or other forced sexual acts, unwanted touching, etc.)
- Elder (an intentional act or failure to act that causes or creates a risk of harm to an older adult)
- Not Listed (feel free to specify)

Ranking Health Needs

16. While it can be hard to choose, do your best to select what you feel are the TOP 3 COMMUNITY

CONDITIONS/SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH of concern in your community? (please check your top 3)

- Access to childcare
- Access to healthcare (e.g. doctors, hospitals, specialists, mental healthcare, dental/oral care, vision care, medical appointments, health insurance coverage, health literacy, etc.)
- Adverse childhood experiences (e.g. child abuse, mental health, family issues, trauma, etc.)
- Crime and violence
- Education (e.g. early childhood education, elementary school, post-secondary education, etc.)
- Environmental conditions (e.g. air and water quality, vector-borne diseases, etc.)
- Food insecurity (e.g. not being able to access and/or afford healthy food)
- Housing and homelessness
- Income/poverty and employment
- Internet/wifi access
- Nutrition and physical health/exercise (includes overweight and obesity)
- Preventive care and practices (e.g. screenings, mammograms, pap tests, vaccinations)
- Substance misuse (alcohol and drugs)
- Tobacco and nicotine use/smoking/vaping
- Transportation (e.g. public transit, cars, cycling, walking)
- Other/Not Listed (feel free to specify)

17. While it can be hard to choose, do your best to select what you feel are the TOP 3 HEALTH OUTCOMES (e.g. impacts, diseases, conditions, etc.) of concern in your community? (please check your top 3)

- Chronic diseases (e.g. heart disease, diabetes, cancer, asthma, etc.) - Please specify which chronic disease(s) you feel is the biggest issue in the community in the 'Other' box below.
- HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)
- Injuries (workplace injuries, car accidents, falls, etc.)
- Maternal, infant and child health (e.g. pre-term births, infant mortality, maternal morbidity and mortality)
- Mental health (e.g. depression, anxiety, suicide, etc.)
- Other/Not Listed (feel free to specify)

Access to Healthcare

18. If you do NOT currently have healthcare coverage or insurance, what are the main reasons why? (Select all that apply)

- I am waiting to get coverage through my job
- I don't think I need health insurance
- I haven't had time to deal with it
- It costs too much
- I am not eligible or do not qualify
- It is too confusing to sign up
- Does not apply - I have health coverage/insurance

19. During the most recent time you or a member of your household delayed or went without needed healthcare, what were the main reasons? (Select all that apply)

- Could not get an appointment quickly enough/too long of a wait for an appointment
- Could not get an appointment that was convenient with my work hours or child's school
- schedule
- Distrust/fear of discrimination
- Insurance did not cover the cost of the procedure or care
- Lack of provider awareness and/or education about my health condition
- Lack of transportation to the appointment
- Language barriers
- No insurance and could not afford care
- Insurance did not cover the cost of the procedure or care
- Not knowing where to go or how to find a doctor
- Technology barriers with virtual visits/telehealth services
- Not having a provider who understands and/or respects my cultural or religious beliefs
- The appointment was too far away and outside of my community
- No barriers and did not delay health care - received all the care that was needed
- Not Listed (feel free to specify)

20. Where do you and your family members go most often to receive routine healthcare services (physical exams, check-ups, immunizations, treatment for chronic diseases)? (Select all that apply)

- Doctor's office (primary care physician, family physician, internist, pediatrician, etc.)
- Emergency room department at the hospital
- Urgent care clinic
- I wouldn't go to a doctor unless it was an emergency
- Not sure
- None of the above

21. How long has it been since you have been to the doctor to get a checkup when you were well (not because you were already sick)?

- Within the last year
- 1-2 years ago
- 3-5 years ago
- More than 5 years ago
- I have never been to a doctor for a checkup

22. If you were sick, where would you go first for treatment? Assume that this is not an emergency situation.

- Doctor's office (primary care physician, family physician, internist, pediatrician, etc.)
- Specialist's office (cardiologist, pulmonologist, endocrinologist, etc.)
- Emergency room department at hospital
- Urgent care clinic
- I wouldn't go to a doctor unless it was an emergency
- Not sure
- None of the above

23. How would you rate your current access to mental or behavioral health services?

- Very high access
- High access
- Neutral
- Low access
- Very low access

24. What, if any, are your main barriers to accessing mental or behavioral health services, if needed? (Select all that apply)

- Could not get an appointment quickly enough/ too long of a wait for an appointment
- Distrust/fear of discrimination
- Do not need behavioral or mental health care
- No insurance and it costs too much
- I have insurance but it did not cover the cost of the services
- Not knowing where to go or how to find behavioral or mental health providers
- COVID-19 appointment cancellation, concern of
- Lack of provider awareness and/or education about my health condition
- Lacked transportation to the appointment
- Language barriers
- No barriers – received all the behavioral and mental health care that was needed
- Not having a provider who understands and/or respects my cultural or religious beliefs
- Office hours of provider don't work with my schedule
- Stigma of mental or behavioral health/nervous about admitting that I have a mental or behavioral health concern
- Technology barriers with virtual visits/telehealth services
- Uncomfortable with mental or behavioral health provider

25. In the last year, was there a time when you needed prescription medicine but were not able to get it?

- Yes
- No

26. About how long has it been since you have been to the dentist to get a checkup (not for an emergency)?

- Within the last year
- 1-2 years ago
- 3-5 years ago
- More than 5 years ago
- I have never been to the dentist for a checkup

27. In the last year, was there a time when you needed dental care but could not get it?

- Yes
- No

28. In the last year, was there a time when you needed mental health and/or substance use counseling but could not get it?

- Yes
- No

29. Do you have a personal physician/primary care provider?

- Yes
- No

30. How long has it been since you have had a flu shot?

- Within the last year
- 1-2 years
- 3-5 years
- 5 or more years ago
- I have never had a flu shot

Health Status**31. Overall, my physical health is:**

- Good
- Average
- Poor
- Excellent

32. Overall, my mental health is:

- Good
- Average
- Poor
- Excellent

33. If you do want to get healthier and in better shape; what if anything, do you feel is holding you back? (Select all that apply)

- Stress
- Lack of energy
- My busy schedule (I don't have time to cook or exercise)
- Lack of support from friends
- Lack of support from family
- I feel intimidated or awkward going to a gym or fitness center
- Money (gyms and healthy foods are too expensive)
- Lack of gyms or fitness centers to go to near me
- Food and fitness is too confusing
- Convenience (eating out is easier)
- Childcare concerns
- I don't like to cook
- I don't like to exercise
- I don't feel motivated to be healthier
- None of the above. (I'm in good shape or don't want to be in better shape)

Transportation**34. In the past 12 months, has lack of reliable transportation kept you from going to (select all that apply):**

- Medical Appointments
- Buying food/groceries
- Getting other things for daily living
- Work/meetings
- Childcare
- Physical activity opportunities/the gym
- School (for yourself or another member of your family)
- Not Applicable
- Not Listed (feel free to specify)

35. How do you travel to where you need to go? (select all that apply for each category – work, appointments, food shopping)

	Drive alone	Public transit (e.g. HATS)	Taxi/cab	Ride with others in a carpool or vanpool	Cycle	Walk	Family member takes me	It depends on the day as to what is available	I struggle with finding a way to get here
Work	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Appointments (e.g. medical, mental health, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Food shopping	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Not Listed (feel free to specify)

Community Resources**36. What resources are lacking within your community? (select all that apply)**

- Affordable food
- Affordable housing
- Childcare
- Dental/oral healthcare access
- Hospital/acute and emergency healthcare
- Maternal, infant, and child healthcare (e.g. OB/GYN, midwives, doulas, pediatricians, etc.)
- Mental healthcare access
- Primary healthcare access
- Recreational spaces (e.g. parks, walking paths, community centers, gyms/workout facilities, etc.)
- Specialist healthcare (e.g. oncologist/cancer care, cardiologist/heart care, nephrologist/kidney care, physical therapy, dietitian, etc.)
- Substance use treatment/harm reduction services
- Transportation
- Vision healthcare access
- There is no lack of resources in my community
- I don't know what resources are lacking in my community
- Not Listed (feel free to specify)

37. Do you or your family worry that your food will run out and that you won't be able to get more?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to answer
- Not Listed (feel free to specify)

Health Behaviors**38. During the past 30 days (1 month) on how many days did you smoke cigarettes?**

- Every day or almost every day
- Some days
- No days
- Not Listed (feel free to specify)

39. During the past 30 days (1 month) on how many days did you vape/use e-cigarettes?

- Every day or almost every day
- Some days
- No days
- Not Listed (feel free to specify)

40. During the past 30 days (1 month) on how many days did you use other nicotine or tobacco products?

- Every day or almost every day
- Some days
- No days
- Not Listed (feel free to specify)

41. How often do you have a drink containing alcohol?

- Never
- Monthly or less
- 2 to 4 times a month
- 2 to 4 times a week
- 4 or more times a week

42. Do you ever have 5 or more drinks containing alcohol at any one time?

- Never
- Monthly or less
- 2 to 4 times a month
- 2 to 4 times a week
- 4 or more times a week

43. How often in the last 30 days (last month) have you used marijuana?

- None
- 1-2 times
- 3-9 times
- 10-19 times
- 20 or more times
- Several times a day
- Not Listed (feel free to specify)

44. How often in the last 30 days (last month) have you used illicit/illegal drugs/substances?

- None
- 1-2 times
- 3-9 times
- 10-19 times
- 20 or more times
- Several times a day
- Not Listed (feel free to specify)

45. In the past 6 months, have you used prescription medication that was not prescribed for you, or took more medicine than was prescribed for you, in order to feel good, high, more active, or more alert?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to answer
- Not Listed (feel free to specify)

46. Do you have any other feedback or comments to share with us?

Thank you! Please send this survey to anyone you know who lives and/or works in Defiance, Huron, Lucas, Seneca, or Wood Counties.

Demographics

The majority of the 20 Defiance County community member survey respondents were:

- Residents of the 43512 ZIP Code **(79%)**
- Ages 25 to 54 **(74%)**
- Women **(65%)**
- Heterosexual or straight **(100%)**
- White **(100%)**
- Higher income, with over one-third **(35%)** having an annual household income of \$100,000 or more, and 50% having a \$50,000-\$90,000 household income
- Employed full-time **(90%)**
- Educated at the post-secondary level, or have some post-secondary education, with **35%** having a Bachelor's degree, **25%** having a graduate degree, and **24%** having an Associate's degree
- English speakers **(100%)**
- Stably housed **(100%)**
- Not currently living with children under age 18 **(60%)**

Appendix B

Focus Group Demographics

The following is a demographic summary of the Defiance County focus group participants:

- **36%** of the 25 participants completed demographic questions (from the Defiance and Hicksville seniors focus groups).
- **100%** live in **Defiance County**.
- **56%** reside in 43512, **22%** in 43526 and smaller percentages in other ZIP codes.
- **33%** work in 43512, **33%** are not employed and **33%** work in 45879.
- **57%** are **65+**, **29%** are **55-64** and **14%** are **35-44**.
- **63%** are female, **38%** are male.
- **88%** are heterosexual/straight, **13%** prefer not to answer.
- **88%** are White/Caucasian, **13%** are Hispanic/Latinx.
- **100%** speak English at home.
- **88%** have 0 children at home, 13% have 3 children.
- **44%** have a high school diploma, **22%** have some college, **11%** have a bachelor's degree and smaller percentages have less than a high school diploma or graduate degrees.
- **56%** are retired, 11% are full-time, **11%** are part-time, **11%** are not employed but looking for work and **11%** are disabled.
- **50%** work in volunteer roles, **25%** in education, law, and social services, and **25%** in health.
- **33%** earn less than \$20,000, **17%** earn between \$20,000-\$34,999, **33%** earn \$75,000-\$99,999 and **17%** earn over \$100,000.
- **22%** report having a disability.
- **89%** have a steady place to live, **11%** are worried about losing their housing in the future.

Appendix C

Overall Findings from Key Informant Interviews, Focus Groups, and Community Member Survey

THINGS PEOPLE LOVE ABOUT THE COMMUNITY (FROM KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS & FOCUS GROUPS)

- *"The community really shows up for support. And so, when there's a need, people show up as long as they're aware of it. And so that's I guess what I appreciate about Defiance is that when people hear of a need, they back it up with support."*
- Community Member Interview
- *"One of my favorite things is the family community. The small-town family feel of people being there for each other, the relatively safe and intentional community that Defiance creates with the people there."* - Community Member Interview
- *"It's still one of those places where people know your name. So, there's a small-town friendliness."* - Community Member Interview
- *"I love that it's a close-knit community. Everybody pitches in, helps each other out, tries to do their best for their neighbor, and looks out for each other."*
- Community Member Interview
- *"It's small. So, it makes it easier to work within the community and connect with the people in your community."* - Community Member Interview
- *"We're rural. It's safe. People are kind and helpful, and working in a social service setting, I think we have a pretty good network of social service providers that partner well together."*
- Community Member Interview
- *"K&P transportation is amazing and is a great help to the community."*
- Community Member Focus Group
- *"I love my church family for emotional and mental support."*
- Community Member Focus Group
- *"I love the local Senior Center for socialization and access to transportation."*
- Community Member Focus Group
- *"I love no motor Tuesdays which allows the public to walk, jog, and bike without having to worry about traffic for 2 hours."* - Community Member Focus Group

TOP PRIORITY HEALTH NEEDS, POPULATIONS, AND RESOURCES (FROM KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS & FOCUS GROUPS)

Major health issues impacting the community (interviews):

1. Mental health/behavioral health
2. Food insecurity
3. Lack of access to care
4. Obesity/overweight
 - Diabetes
 - Chronic disease
 - Homelessness/housing insecurity/housing issues
5. Transportation

Top socioeconomic, behavioral and/or environmental factors impacting the community (interviews):

1. Poverty/low incomes
2. Unmet mental health care services/needs

Major health issues impacting the community (focus groups):

1. Transportation barriers
2. Lack of local health care facilities/hospital closures
3. Mental health provider shortage
4. Medication access/pharmacy issues
5. Food access/nutrition

How health concerns are impacting community (focus groups):

1. Delayed/missed medical care
2. People not getting preventive care
3. Long wait times/short appointments
4. Choosing between food and medications
5. Uncontrolled chronic conditions

Sub-populations in the area that face barriers to accessing health care and social services (interviews):

1. Low-income population
2. Seniors/aging population
3. Children/youth

Sub-populations in the area that face barriers to accessing health care and social services (focus groups):

1. Low-income population
2. Seniors/aging population
3. People with disabilities
4. People with mental health issues
5. Medicaid/Medicare patients

Resources people use in the community to address their health needs (focus groups):

1. K&P Transportation
2. Senior centers
 - ProMedica
 - Mercy Health
 - Local churches

Top resources that are lacking in the community (focus groups):

1. Affordable transportation
2. Mental health services
 - Local medical facilities
 - Affordable housing
 - Grocery stores/food access

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (quotes that support our findings)

- *"I mean, everything's gone up. I mean, food prices have gone up and gas prices have gone up."* - Community Member Interview
- *"With our resources to help the homeless, we only have one actual shelter in Defiance, and that's typically full."* - Community Member Interview
- *"Our food pantries and food banks are inundated right now. My parish alone, St. Mary's Catholic, has one of the bigger food pantries. And I think we're helping over 60 families a week."* - Community Member Interview

- *"It really shocked me how much of the community actually relies on either taxi, walking, or other means of transportation, like biking, e-bikes."* - Community Member Interview
- *"We have an expanding population of mental health or mental health issues with people in crisis. I'd probably say at least a quarter of our [police] calls daily involve some type of mental health crisis or emotional crisis that we're dealing with."*
- Community Member Interview
- *"The lack of affordable low-income senior housing opens them up to being more susceptible to health issues, being scammed, being used by others."*
- Community Member Focus Group
- *"There is no local hospital in Hicksville...the closest emergency medical center is 30 plus minutes away."* - Community Member Focus Group
- *"Low-income seniors/public are unable to afford transportation in Defiance, which leads them to not seek medical care or appointments, thus missing out on preventive care that may save their life."* - Community Member Focus Group
- *"More mental health services and more funding for those services are needed."*
- Community Member Focus Group

TOP FINDINGS FROM FOCUS GROUPS

Farmers:

- The Farmer/Agriculture Focus Group highlighted the challenges and stress of working as a farmer, the health issues linked to this occupation and the need for more health care and mental health support.
- **Top health issues** include heart disease, stress from agricultural work, physical pain, and a traditional "meat and potatoes" diet.
- **Access barriers** include year-round farming demands, outdoor exercise safety concerns and pharmacy closures.
- **Existing resources** include family support systems, Planet Fitness, health coaches and Farm Bureau resources.
- **Resource gaps** exist for mental health, health care services that fit farming schedules and convenient health screening locations.
- **Improvement suggestions** include mental health programs through the Farm Bureau, health programs outside harvest season, mobile clinics and social events combining health screenings with community building. There is also an emphasis on building trusting relationships with health care providers and using multiple communication channels.

Hispanic/Latinx:

- The Hispanic/Latinx Focus Group highlighted language barriers, health care access challenges and cultural factors affecting their willingness to seek support.
- **Top health issues** include elder care responsibilities, communication challenges with providers and financial concerns.
- **Access barriers** include language difficulties, lack of translation services, fear of seeking help due to immigration status and cultural resistance to long-term care.
- **Existing resources** include Community Action, Ravens Care and Key Bank.
- **Resource gaps** exist in bilingual health care services, culturally sensitive elder care and awareness of available health care resources. Improvement suggestions include monthly health and financial “lunch and learns,” a resource list of bilingual translators and mobile health services.
- **Improvement suggestions** included bridging the gap between the Latin community and the medical field and addressing perceptions of being talked down to by providers.

Parents:

- This group emphasized the challenges parents are experiencing themselves and those they see their children experiencing.
- **Top health issues** include youth mental health issues, including suicide attempts, substance use and body image concerns, alongside housing instability and technology-related isolation as key health issues.
- **Access barriers** include health department services, Head Start screenings, school-based dental services and community activities like the YMCA.
- **Existing resources** include Salem Lutheran Church meals, Zepf Center, Unison Health, Harbor Mental Health, TARTA bus passes, St. Vincent’s (health, food, clothing), Salvation Army, St. Francis Church and the Friendly Center.
- **Resource gaps** exist for indoor recreational spaces, affordable extracurricular activities and comprehensive resource awareness.
- **Improvement suggestions** were improved coordination and communication of resources and highlighted the importance of healthy parent-child communication and extracurricular activities for child development.

Seniors (Defiance and Hicksville):

- The Hicksville and Defiance County Senior Services focus groups highlighted major challenges, including the lack of local hospitals, limited transportation options and barriers to health care access, such as pharmacy closures and financial constraints for low-income seniors.

- **Top health issues** include uncontrolled chronic conditions, obesity, mental health needs, substance abuse and limited access to fresh produce.
- **Access barriers** exist for low-income seniors and people with chronic conditions.
- **Existing resources** include senior centers, local trails and the Area Office on Aging.
- **Resource gaps** were identified in affordable public transportation, prescription delivery services, mental health resources and senior housing.
- **Improvement suggestions** include better EMS services, local medical providers, affordable medical transportation, enhanced health education and the creation of a free clinic offering mental health and substance abuse counseling.

Transportation:

- The group emphasized that hospital closures, limited health care access, transportation barriers, mental health service gaps and food safety concerns are major challenges, with K&P Transportation praised for its reliable service.
- **Top health issues** include hospital closures, long wait times and brief appointments that reduce access to quality care.
- **Access barriers** exist for low-income, elderly and disabled residents, who face significant health care and transportation barriers.
- **Existing resources** include K&P transportation, Mercy Health, ProMedica, Walmart Pharmacy, Medicaid and local law enforcement.
- **Resource gaps** include a shortage of mental health providers/services, lack of affordable housing, transportation options and poor road conditions.
- **Improvement suggestions** were expanding health care access and appointment times, increasing state funding, transportation awareness and improving food bank quality control.

Community Member Survey Findings

Each key informant interview and focus group participant was asked to complete an online survey to assess and prioritize the health needs identified by secondary data collection. Additionally, Mercy Health — Defiance Hospital and community partners shared the survey link with clients, patients and others who live and/or work in the community.

This resulted in **20 responses** to the community member survey. The results of how the health needs were ranked in the survey are found below, separated by social determinants of health needs, social health needs and clinical health needs. This ranking was used to order the health needs in the following sections of this report (note that not every health need has its own section and some health needs have been combined to form larger categories, such as access to health care and mental health). More details about the survey, questions and demographics can be found in Appendix A.

Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Needs (Community Level Needs that Impact Health and Well-Being):

1. Housing and homelessness
2. Access to health care (e.g., doctors, hospitals, specialists, mental health care, dental/oral care, vision care, medical appointments, health insurance coverage, health literacy, etc.)
3. Income/poverty and employment
4. Food insecurity (e.g., not being able to access and/or afford healthy food)
5. Transportation (e.g., public transit, cars, cycling, walking)
6. Adverse childhood experiences (e.g., child abuse, mental health, family issues, trauma, etc.)
7. Environmental conditions (e.g., air and water quality, vector-borne diseases, etc.)
7. Internet/Wi-Fi access
8. Education (e.g., early childhood education, elementary school, post-secondary education, etc.)
9. Crime and violence

Social Health Needs (Individual Level Non-Clinical Needs):

1. Mental health (e.g., depression, anxiety, suicide, etc.)
2. Substance misuse (alcohol and drugs)
3. Nutrition and physical health/exercise (includes overweight and obesity)
4. Access to childcare
5. Tobacco and nicotine use/smoking/vaping

Clinical Health Needs:

1. Chronic diseases (e.g., heart disease, diabetes, cancer, asthma, etc.)
2. Injuries (e.g., workplace injuries, car accidents, falls, etc.)
3. Maternal, infant and child health (e.g., pre-term births, infant mortality, maternal morbidity and mortality)
4. HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)
5. Preventive care and practices (e.g., screenings, mammograms, pap tests, vaccinations)

Ideas from the Community

We heard these ideas from community leaders and community members to support community health.

Access to Childcare

- Provide more financial support for parents, especially those from two-income households.
- Open childcare centers to accommodate second and third-shift workers.

Access to Health Care

- Expand affordable transportation options for accessing health care.
- Increase support for low-income populations in obtaining health care.
- Recruit more providers, dentists and optometrists in Defiance who accept Medicaid and Medicare.
- Offer dental care services in schools.
- Expand the number of specialists in Defiance to reduce patient transfers to Toledo and Fort Wayne and reduce wait times.
- Raise awareness of available services for Medicaid recipients.
- Restore the local hospital.
- Provide services to help people access and afford insurance coverage.
- Expand translation services for non-English speakers.
- Improve scheduling processes for local health care providers to ensure accessibility by phone.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

- Provide support for grandparents raising grandchildren affected by parental substance use.
- Recruit and support more foster parents.

Chronic Diseases

- Expand support for older populations suffering from respiratory issues due to factory work.
- Increase dialysis treatment options in the area.
- Improve transportation options for community members with chronic diseases to access medications.
- Provide additional diabetes support programs for seniors.

Education

- Enhance early childhood programs to better prepare children for kindergarten.
- Implement stronger anti-bullying initiatives in schools.
- Promote vocational training and trade education as alternatives to college after high school.

Environmental Conditions

- Improve public education and communication regarding water notices and warnings.
- Increase resources for families dealing with lead abatement.

Food Insecurity

- Ensure food pantries distribute only fresh, non-spoiled food; increase funding.
- Open more grocery store options beyond gas stations and dollar stores.
- Establish programs to provide food for students on weekends when school is not in session.

HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)

- Expand STI and Hepatitis C testing, particularly for the elderly population.

Housing and Homelessness

- Build more apartments, condominiums, single-family homes and duplexes.
- Increase the availability of rental properties.
- Develop affordable, safe housing options for low-income seniors in Defiance.
- Provide additional support for seniors to protect them from scams, exploitation and health risks due to inadequate housing.
- Expand support services for the homeless population.
- Increase the availability of affordable housing.
- Establish a larger shelter space for the homeless.
- Hire more social workers to support the homeless community.
- Upgrade outdated sewer systems, particularly in community mobile home parks with frequent septic issues.
- Provide additional resources for homeless individuals during extreme weather conditions.

Income/Poverty and Employment

- Improve access to reliable public transportation across all communities.
- Expand opportunities for skills training and professional development.
- Offer transitional support, such as gas assistance, for individuals attending job interviews.

Injuries

- Increase education on the dangers of distracted driving and speeding.
- Expand fall prevention programs for seniors.

Internet/Wi-Fi Access

- Provide technology support for older adults unfamiliar with computers, smartphones and the Internet.
- Improve Internet access in rural areas outside city limits.

Maternal, Infant and Child Health

- Address cultural and language barriers for pregnant immigrants and new mothers in the area.

Mental Health

- Reduce wait times for mental health provider appointments.
- Develop programs to dismantle stigmas surrounding mental health.
- Expand mental health services for military personnel.
- Stop using jails as a default solution for individuals with mental health issues.
- Ensure youth have access to mental health providers who are knowledgeable and relevant to their needs.
- To alleviate system strain, provide resources for patients waiting in emergency rooms for mental health services.

Nutrition and Physical Health/Exercise

- Offer obesity prevention programs and promote physical activity.
- Open additional fitness and exercise centers in the area.
- Provide meal and nutrition support for working students.

People with Disabilities

- Expand public transportation options for individuals with disabilities.
- Increase support for accessible vehicles, including ramps and adapted vans.
- Improve sidewalk accessibility for people with disabilities.

Preventive Care and Practices

- Increase advertising and community awareness of available health resources.
- Educate residents on the benefits of preventive care and healthy practices.
- Provide preventive health care services locally to reduce the need for travel.

Substance Misuse

- Establish a free clinic offering mental health and substance abuse counseling.
- Develop intervention programs to support youth struggling with substance abuse before they enter the justice system.
- Expand drug education initiatives.

Tobacco and Nicotine Use

- Increase youth education on the dangers of vaping.

Transportation

- Expand transportation options for low-income and disabled residents to access stores, appointments and pharmacies.
- Increase affordable transportation services in the area.
- Develop a public transportation system for the city and expand medical transportation.
- Improve sidewalk access to essential resources such as shelters, pantries and health care centers.
- Provide support programs to help residents maintain their vehicles.

Other

- Create more opportunities for social interaction among seniors to prevent isolation.
- Address unlicensed and unsafe drivers.

Priority Populations

Priority Populations: Housing and Homelessness

While **housing and homelessness** are major issues for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community:

- Housing insecurity issues were mentioned in 80% of focus groups with priority populations (**seniors, parents, people with transportation challenges, Hispanic/Latinx**).
- People with **low incomes** are more likely to experience barriers to housing.³⁴

³⁴ Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio, Housing Inventory Count and Point-in-Time Count, 2024. <https://cohhio.org/boscoc/hicpit/>

Priority Populations: Access To Health Care

While **access to health care** is a major issue for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community:

- In **100% of focus groups with priority populations, health care access barriers were mentioned.**
- People who are **uninsured or underinsured** may experience barriers to health care.³⁵

Priority Populations: Income/Poverty & Employment

While **income/poverty and employment** are major issues for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...

- Financial impacts of health issues were mentioned in 100% of focus groups with **priority populations.**
- **People with low incomes, people who are unemployed/underemployed, people with low education, people with precarious housing, people with transportation challenges, immigrants and/or those whose second language is English, people with disabilities, people living with mental health and/or substance use disorders** are some of the populations who may experience economic health disparities.

Priority Populations: Food Insecurity

While **food insecurity** is a major issue for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...

- Data shows that food insecurity for Black or Latinx individuals is higher than for White individuals in 99% of American counties. Nine out of 10 high food insecurity counties are rural. One in 3 people facing hunger is **unlikely to qualify for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).**³⁶
- Fresh food/nutrition access barriers were mentioned in 60% of focus groups with priority populations (including **seniors, transportation and Hispanic/Latinx**).

Priority Populations: Transportation

While **transportation** is a major issue for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...

- Transportation barriers were mentioned in **100% of focus groups with priority populations.**

³⁵ County Health Rankings, 2025, <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org>

³⁶ Ohio Department of Jobs & Family Services, Child Abuse and Neglect Referrals and Outcomes Dashboard. (2023). <https://Data.Jfs.Ohio.Gov/Dashboards/Foster-Care-And-Adult-Protective-Services/Child-Abuse-And-Neglect-Referrals-And-Outcomes>

Priority Populations: Adverse Childhood Experiences

While **adverse childhood experiences** are a major issue for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...

- **Girls** were more likely than boys to report adverse events at the Ohio state level.³⁶
- **Children with the following risk factors** are more likely to be impacted by ACEs:³⁷
 - Lower income
 - Precarious housing
 - Parents have mental health and/or substance use challenges
 - Witnessing violence/incarceration
 - Parents are divorced/separated
 - Lack of connection to trusted adults

Priority Populations: Environmental Conditions

While **environmental conditions** are a major issue for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...

- **Children**, particularly young children, are more vulnerable to air pollution than adults, including long-term physical, cognitive and behavioral health effects.³⁶

Priority Populations: Internet/Wi-Fi Access

While **Internet/Wi-Fi access** is a major issue for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...

- **Older adults** may experience more barriers to accessing Internet/Wi-Fi and understanding how to use it.³⁷

Priority Populations: Education

While **education** is a major issue for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...

- The need for increased community education about resources was mentioned in **100% of focus groups with priority populations.**

³⁶ Ohio Department of Jobs & Family Services, Child Abuse and Neglect Referrals and Outcomes Dashboard. (2023). <https://Data.Jfs.Ohio.Gov/Dashboards/Foster-Care-And-Adult-Protective-Services/Child-Abuse-And-Neglect-Referrals-And-Outcomes>

³⁷ County Health Rankings, 2025, <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org>

Priority Populations: Crime And Violence

While **crime and violence** are major issues for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...

- According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, **men** experience higher crime victimization rates than **women** for most types of violent crime, while women are more likely to be the victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.³⁸

Priority Populations: Mental Health

While **mental health** is a major issue for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...

- Mental health was a top concern in 100% of focus groups with **priority populations**.

Priority Populations: Substance Use Disorder/Substance Misuse

While **substance use disorder/substance misuse** is a major issue for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...

- State binge drinking rates are highest for **men, adults 25-39, White people, and higher-income people**.³⁸

Priority Populations: Nutrition And Physical Health

While **nutrition and physical health** are major issues for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...

- Nutrition and physical activity are particularly important for **youth** to promote health from a young age and to build healthy habits that will last into adulthood.³⁸

Priority Populations: Access To Childcare

While **access to childcare** is a major issue for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...

- Access to childcare is a challenge for working parents, low-income families, single parents and those **working second and third shifts** (as described in interviews and focus groups).³⁹

³⁸ Federal Bureau of Investigation, Crime Data Explorer, <https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/explorer/crime/crime-trend>. *Rates for Ohio taken from FBI Crime Data Explorer; rates for all other jurisdictions calculated from agency-specific population data provided in the FBI's 2023 Crime by County National Excel file; as such, they are estimates and should be interpreted with caution.

³⁹ 2022 Ohio Childcare Resource & Referral Association Annual Report <https://d2hfgw7vtz2tl.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Annual-Report-2022.pdf>

Priority Populations: Tobacco And Nicotine Use

While **tobacco and nicotine use** is a major issue for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...

- According to Ohio data, the smoking rate is highest **in multiracial people, women, people ages 35-44, LGBTQ+ people, people with disabilities, and lower-income and less educated people.**³⁸
- At the Ohio level, vaping rates are highest in people **ages 18-24, men, Hispanic people, people with disabilities and lower-income and less educated people.**³⁸
- **Youth** are more likely to vape/use e-cigarettes than smoke tobacco.³⁸

Priority Populations: Chronic Diseases

While **chronic diseases** are a major issue for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...

- The challenges of living with a chronic condition and the need for support were particularly emphasized in the **seniors'** focus group.

Priority Populations: Maternal, Infant and Child Health

While **maternal, infant, and child health** is a major issue for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...

- In Ohio, as in the nation, rates of severe maternal morbidity (SMM) and mortality are much higher among **non-Hispanic Black women** compared to white women.⁴⁰

Priority Populations: Injuries

While **injuries** are a major issue for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...

- Individuals who work in jobs with a higher risk of occupational injury, such as **manufacturing, construction, agriculture, transportation, trades and frontline workers.**⁴¹
- **Older residents** are at a higher risk of falling and sustaining injuries from falling.⁴¹

³⁸ Federal Bureau of Investigation, Crime Data Explorer, <https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/explorer/crime/crime-trend>. *Rates for Ohio taken from FBI Crime Data Explorer; rates for all other jurisdictions calculated from agency-specific population data provided in the FBI's 2023 Crime by County National Excel file; as such, they are estimates and should be interpreted with caution.

^{40,41} County Health Rankings, 2025, <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org>

Priority Populations: Preventive Care and Practices

While **preventive care and practices** are major issues for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...

- Data shows that Ohioans are less likely to engage in preventive care the **less educated** they are, the **less money** they have, the **younger** they are and if they are **men**.⁴¹

Priority Populations: HIV/AIDS and STIs

While **HIV/AIDS and STIs** are major issues for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...

- **Women** have higher rates of chlamydia, particularly those **ages 20-24**.⁴¹
- **Men** have higher rates of syphilis and gonorrhea ⁴¹

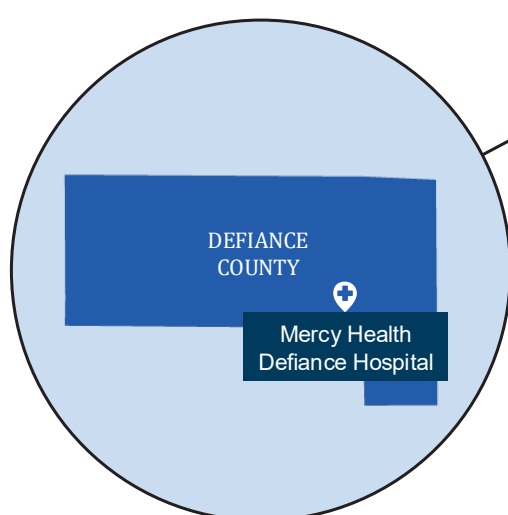
^{40,41}County Health Rankings, 2025, <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org>



Appendix D

Overall Findings in Graphic Form

COMMUNITY SERVED BY HOSPITAL MERCY HEALTH DEFIANCE HOSPITAL SERVICE AREA AT-A-GLANCE



We currently serve a population of

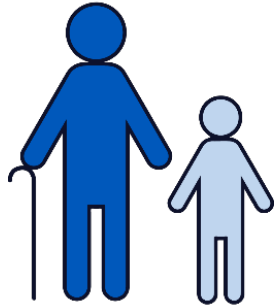
38,644¹

DEFIANCE COUNTY

Mercy Health Defiance Hospital serves a broad geographic area encompassing Defiance County (**population: 38,644**), and surrounding counties in Ohio.¹ The Defiance Hospital service area is composed of the following ZIP Codes: **43512, 43526, 43549, 43519, 43530, 43556, 43520 and 43536.**

Defiance County has a total of 414 square miles, of which 411 square miles is land and 2.7 square miles is water. It is located in the northwestern part of Ohio, and borders both Indiana and Michigan.¹

COMMUNITY SERVED BY HOSPITAL DEFIANCE COUNTY DEMOGRAPHICS



Defiance County has a median age of **40.8**, which is older than Ohio's median age. **(39.9)**.¹

40.8

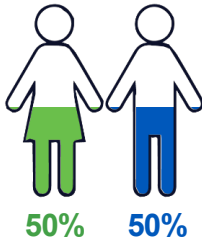
DEFIANCE COUNTY
MEDIAN AGE

39.9

OHIO
MEDIAN AGE

21% of Defiance County residents are **ages 65+**, compared to **19%** for Ohio.¹

An **equal proportion** of Defiance County residents are women and men.¹



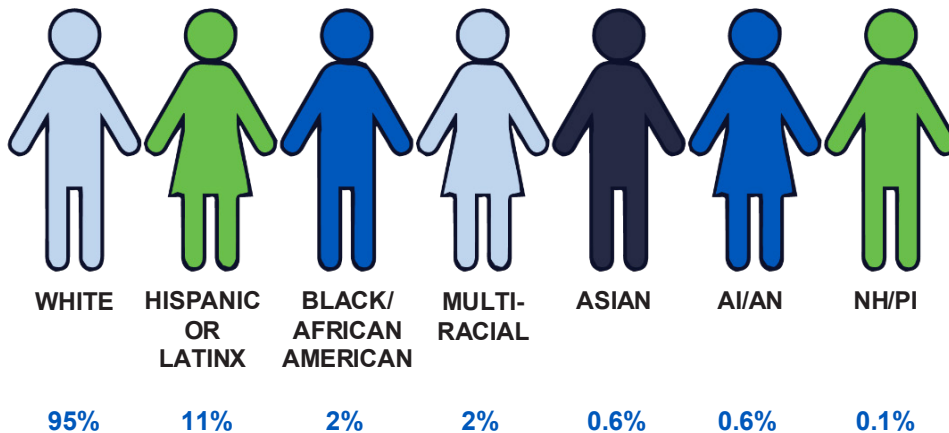
5%

of Defiance County and Ohio residents are **veterans**.¹

2% of Defiance County's population is **foreign-born** (vs. **5%** for Ohio), while **6%** do not speak English as their first language (vs. **8%** for Ohio).¹



There is a **higher proportion of White** residents and a **lower proportion of Black and Hispanic/Latinx** residents in Defiance County than the state of Ohio.¹



HEALTH NEEDS

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH – COMMUNITY LEVEL NEEDS THAT IMPACT HEALTH AND WELLBEING



SOCIAL DETERMINANT OF HEALTH NEED – CAPACITY AND ADEQUACY OF SERVICE LEVELS

#1 Health Need: HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS



55% of community survey respondents ranked housing and homelessness as a priority health need, while **75%** of community member survey respondents report affordable housing as a resource that is lacking in the community. **Affordable housing was the #1 reported resource needed in Defiance County.**

IN OUR COMMUNITY



2% of Defiance County and Ohio households are considered “**crowded**” (more than one occupant per bedroom).²



Freddie Mac estimates that the **vacancy rate** should be **13%** in a well-functioning housing market. There was only a **7%** vacancy rate in Defiance County in 2023, while this was **8%** for Ohio.²



18% of Defiance County and Ohio households are “**cost burdened**” (spend 30% or more of their income on housing), vs. **27%** for Ohio.²



3% of Defiance County and Ohio households have been **evicted** from their rental in the past year.²



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

“There is a lack of affordable, safe housing in Defiance for low-income seniors. We are having to choose between getting nutritional food or medications.”



Community Member Focus Group

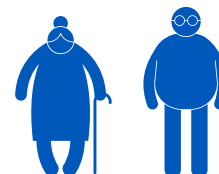
“More apartments, more condominiums, more single-family homes, more duplexes are needed.”



Community Member Interview



In 2024, **homelessness** point-in-time counts were reported as **16** in Defiance County.³



Data shows that **11%** of Defiance County and **13%** of Ohio households are **seniors who live alone**. Seniors living alone may be isolated and lack adequate support systems.²

SOCIAL DETERMINANT OF HEALTH NEED – CAPACITY AND ADEQUACY OF SERVICE LEVELS

#1 Health Need: HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

"There is a lack of houses. My wife and I both work in Defiance. My kids go to school in Defiance County, but the housing is just not there. We're bringing in more businesses, which is great. There are apartment complexes being built, but those are already going to be filled with the new workers that are going to be brought in for these new companies being brought in."



Community Member Interview

"Yes, affordable housing is a big issue. But of course, people say 'oh, we don't want that in our neighborhood.'"



Community Member Interview

"We need to support the homeless population."



Community Member Focus Group



PRIORITY POPULATIONS HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

While **housing and homelessness** are major issues for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...



Housing insecurity issues were mentioned in 80% of focus groups with **priority populations (seniors, parents, people with transportation challenges, Hispanic/Latinx)**.



People with **low incomes** are more likely to experience barriers to housing.³

INTERVIEW AND FOCUS GROUP FINDINGS

Top issues/barriers:

- Lack of affordable housing
- Not enough homes (in general)
- Lack of quality low-income housing

Sub-populations most affected:

- Low-income population
- Those with mental health disorders
- Single parents
- Rural areas

Top resources, services, programs, and/or community efforts:

- Habitat for Humanity
- Ravens Care
- Northwestern Ohio Community Action Commission (NOCAC)

SOCIAL DETERMINANT OF HEALTH NEED – CAPACITY AND ADEQUACY OF SERVICE LEVELS

#2 Health Need: ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE



According to the Ohio Department of Health, **24%** of Defiance County residents **did not have a routine checkup** in the prior year, compared to **23%** for Ohio⁵

38% of Defiance County and Ohio residents **did not visit the dentist** in the prior year.⁵

IN OUR COMMUNITY

Defiance County has fewer primary and dental care providers relative to its population when comparing the ratios to Ohio.⁴

DEFIANCE
COUNTY
*1,820:1⁴



OHIO
*1,330:1⁴

*residents : primary care providers

DEFIANCE
COUNTY
**2,550:1⁴



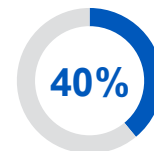
OHIO
**1,530:1⁴

**residents : dental care providers



40%

of community survey respondents say **access to healthcare** is a priority need.



of survey respondents say that **specialist care** is lacking in the community, **30%** say **dental care** access is lacking, **10%** say **primary healthcare** access is lacking, **10%** say **vision care** access is lacking, and **5%** say **hospital/acute/emergency care** is lacking.

BARRIERS TO CARE



10% of survey respondents could **not** get needed prescription medication in the past year.



44% of survey respondents have **delayed or gone without medical care** due to being unable to get an appointment.



6% of survey respondents lack health insurance because it **costs too much**.



8% of survey respondents have been unable to get to appointments due to **lack of reliable transportation**.



15% of community survey respondents do not have a usual primary care provider (PCP).



35% of survey respondents **have not been to the dentist** in over a year. **15%** needed **dental care** in the last year but **did not receive it**.



SOCIAL DETERMINANT OF HEALTH NEED – CAPACITY AND ADEQUACY OF SERVICE LEVELS

#2 Health Need: ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

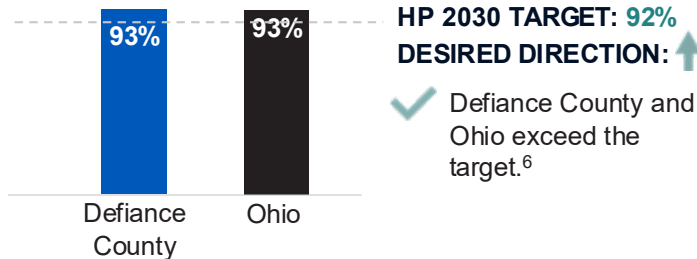


15% of community survey respondents' usual source of care is an **urgent care clinic**.



HEALTHY PEOPLE (HP) 2030 NATIONAL TARGETS

ADULT HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

"If you can't get there because of transportation issues, or you're afraid to go because it may be too costly, that is a barrier to healthcare."



Community Member Interview

"There is a lack of signage in different languages and translator services. Seniors are less receptive of using iPads or technology as translation, they would rather have an actual person."



Community Member Focus Group

"Yeah, I would definitely say both hospital and primary care are issues, because, if you're not accepting Medicaid and Medicare, good luck getting in. Especially people who got laid off because the factories shut down and they are too proud to ask for assistance get caught in those gaps."



Community Member Interview

"Sometimes I feel like I'm not being heard by the doctors."



Community Member Focus Group

"Healthcare is after money...they don't care about Medicare/Medicaid patients."



Community Member Focus Group

PRIORITY POPULATIONS ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

While **access to healthcare** is a major issue for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...



People who are **uninsured or underinsured** may experience barriers to healthcare.⁴



Healthcare access barriers were mentioned in **100% of focus groups with priority populations**.

INTERVIEW AND FOCUS GROUP FINDINGS

Top issues/barriers:

- Low access to providers
- Transportations/services are far
- Lack of dental providers/dental coverage
- Lack of urgent care
- Medicare/Medicaid issues

Sub-populations most affected:

- Low-income
- Uninsured
- Rural population

Top resources, services, programs, and/or community efforts:

- Urgent care

SOCIAL DETERMINANT OF HEALTH NEED – CAPACITY AND ADEQUACY OF SERVICE LEVELS

#3 Health Need: INCOME/POVERTY & EMPLOYMENT



Economic stability includes **income**, **employment**, **education**, and many of the most important social factors that impact the community's health.



17% of low-income Defiance County adults utilize food stamps, vs. 12% for Ohio.⁹



4% of Defiance County and Ohio residents are unemployed.⁷

IN OUR COMMUNITY

Defiance County's **median household income (\$72,200)** is **lower** than the state average (**\$67,900**) for Ohio.⁷



DEFIANCE COUNTY: \$72,200
OHIO: \$67,900

POVERTY RATE



DEFIANCE



OHIO

10% of Defiance County residents live in **poverty**, compared to 13% of Ohio residents.⁸

CHILD POVERTY RATE



DEFIANCE



OHIO

Child poverty rates are 13% for Defiance County and 18% for Ohio.⁷



35%

of community survey respondents reported **income/poverty and employment** as top health needs in Defiance County.

SOCIAL DETERMINANT OF HEALTH NEED – CAPACITY AND ADEQUACY OF SERVICE LEVELS

#3 Health Need: INCOME/POVERTY & EMPLOYMENT



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

"I think there's poverty everywhere. We have more than half of our school-age population on a free or reduced lunch. So that's a pretty good indicator of the poverty level of our community."



Community Member Interview

"There seem to be a lot of people who are unemployed, but yet there are jobs open. So, we're not quite sure we understand why certain folks are not working."



Community Member Interview

"We need health insurance, so most farmers have to have a day job and then farm in the evening into the night."



Community Member Focus Group

"There is a struggle of looking for a job and babysitter but not wanted to commit the babysitter until you get the job."



Community Member Focus Group

"Some people don't even have the gas money to get to interviews."



Community Member Interview

INTERVIEW AND FOCUS GROUP FINDINGS

Top issues/barriers:

- Transportation
- Unwillingness to work
- Lots of poverty in the area (higher than average)
- Lack of professional development

Sub-populations most affected:

- People with disabilities
- People with criminal records
- Elderly/aging population
- Youth/children
- Low income

Top resources, services, programs, and/or community efforts:

- Northwestern Ohio Community Action Commission (NOCAC)

PRIORITY POPULATIONS INCOME/POVERTY & EMPLOYMENT

While **income/poverty and employment** are major issues for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...



Financial impact of health issues were mentioned in 100% of focus groups with priority populations.



People with low incomes, people who are unemployed/underemployed, people with low education, people with precarious housing, people with transportation challenges, immigrants and/or those whose second language is English, people with disabilities, people living with mental health and/or substance use disorders are some of the populations who may experience economic health disparities.

SOCIAL DETERMINANT OF HEALTH NEED – CAPACITY AND ADEQUACY OF SERVICE LEVELS

#4 Health Need: FOOD INSECURITY



When asked what community resources were lacking in the community member survey, **40%** of respondents answered **affordable food**, while **30%** of survey respondents ranked **food insecurity** as a top health concern.

IN OUR COMMUNITY



According to Feeding America, **13%** of Defiance County residents experienced **food insecurity** (vs. **14%** for Ohio).¹⁰



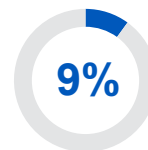
COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

"We have our afterschool program and we feed kids. And 2 of our students always ask for food to take home. And this week they shared that their mom is telling them to make sure that they bring food home. And so, we talked a little bit about that with them like, 'hey, what's going on?' Is there any way that we can help?"

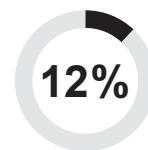


Community Member Interview

A lower rate of Defiance County than Ohio households access **Supplemental Nutrition Access Program (SNAP)** benefits (9% vs. 12%).¹¹



DEFIANCE



OHIO

Defiance County's **food environment** rating out of 10 (0 being worst and 10 being best) is **8.0/10**, while Ohio's is **7.0/10**.¹⁰

8.0/10
DEFIANCE COUNTY

7.0/10
OHIO

SOCIAL DETERMINANT OF HEALTH NEED – CAPACITY AND ADEQUACY OF SERVICE LEVELS

#4 Health Need: FOOD INSECURITY



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

"It's tough to tell people that are struggling to make ends meet that they have to be healthy, when it's easier to go to McDonald's."



Community Member Interview

"There is no local grocery store, except at the local gas station and what little the local Dollar General has."



Community Member Focus Group

"There is a lack of access to fresh fruits and vegetables due to the lack of a proper grocery store, thus leading to lack of nutrition."



Community Member Focus Group

INTERVIEW AND FOCUS GROUP FINDINGS

Top issues/barriers:

- Unhealthy food is cheap/healthy food is expensive

Sub-populations most affected:

- Elderly population
- Low-income population

Top resources, services, programs and/or community efforts:

- Meals on wheels
- Backpack programs
- Northwestern Ohio Community Action Commission (NOCAC)

PRIORITY POPULATIONS FOOD INSECURITY

While **food insecurity** is a major issue for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...



Data shows that food insecurity for **Black or Latinx** individuals is higher than White individuals in **99%** of American counties. **9 out of 10** high food insecurity counties are **rural**.¹⁰



1 in 3 people facing hunger are **unlikely to qualify for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**.¹⁰



Fresh food/nutrition access barriers were mentioned in **60%** of focus groups with **priority populations** (including seniors, transportation, and Hispanic/Latinx).



SOCIAL DETERMINANT OF HEALTH NEED – CAPACITY AND ADEQUACY OF SERVICE LEVELS

#5 Health Need: TRANSPORTATION



25% of community survey respondents reported **transportation** as a top health need in Defiance County.

IN OUR COMMUNITY



24% of community survey respondents say that **transportation is lacking** in Defiance County. 9% of respondents say that **lack of transportation prevented their access to one or more essential services** in the past year.



WALKABILITY

When analyzing the most populous places in Defiance County, according to Walkscore.com, Hicksville and Defiance were **'Somewhat Walkable'** and Sherwood was **'Car Dependent'** (with a few amenities within walking distance).¹²

61/100

Walkscore
HICKSVILLE¹²

56/100

Walkscore
DEFIANCE¹²

25/100

Walkscore
SHERWOOD¹²

According to the **American Community Survey**:¹³



84% of workers in Defiance County **drive alone to work**, compared to 75% for Ohio.¹³



2% of Defiance County vs. 3% of Ohio residents use **active transportation** to get to work.¹³



The average **daily commute** time for Defiance County (**20 minutes**) is lower than Ohio (**24 minutes**).¹³



SOCIAL DETERMINANT OF HEALTH NEED – CAPACITY AND ADEQUACY OF SERVICE LEVELS

#5 Health Need: TRANSPORTATION



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

"Our city is not huge, but if you live at one end of town and your job's at the other end of town, how often are you gonna keep doing that if you don't have a care? And then, if you're on a bike in inclement weather and everything else...that could prevent you from wanting to go to work."



Community Member Interview

"Our community action agency in Defiance is located just outside the city limits, so, not too far down the street from the Mercy Hospital. But the sidewalks end. And so, for people to get to if they're walking, it can be dangerous. We had a young lady who was hit trying to cross the street a few years ago. There are no crosswalks in the area, and that's where the soup kitchen and the homeless shelter are. So, you've got people who are regularly walking and riding bicycles to get access to those services. That is the biggest issue for walkability."



Community Member Interview

"Low-income seniors/public are unable to afford transportation in Defiance which leads them to not seek medical care or appointments, thus missing out on preventative care that may save their life."



Community Member Focus Group

"You have to travel a ways to get to the doctors, grocery stores."



Community Member Focus Group

"There are a few private transportation companies, but there's no public transportation."



Community Member Interview

PRIORITY POPULATIONS TRANSPORTATION

While **transportation** is a major issue for the entire community, some groups are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...



Transportation barriers were mentioned in **100%** of focus groups with priority populations.

INTERVIEW AND FOCUS GROUP FINDINGS

Top issues/barriers:

- Lack of public transportation
- Weather
- Area is not walkable
- Sidewalks need improvement/safe sidewalks

Sub-populations most affected:

- Low-income population
- Those without a vehicle
- Those without a driver's license

Top resources, services, programs and/or community efforts:

- Local taxi service
- K&P Transportation



SOCIAL DETERMINANT OF HEALTH NEED – CAPACITY AND ADEQUACY OF SERVICE LEVELS

#6 Health Need: ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES



! *Trigger Warning: The following page discusses trauma and abuse, which may be disturbing for some people and trigger unpleasant memories or thoughts. You can call the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline at 988 for 24-hour, confidential support.*

IN OUR COMMUNITY

15%

of survey respondents said that **ACEs** are a top concern in the community.



Defiance County (6.2) has a higher rate of substantiated **child abuse** reports per 1,000 children than the state of Ohio (4.1).¹⁴



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

"I'm a foster parent and there's not a week that goes by that I don't have an email for needing a placement for a child or sibling group."



Community Member Interview

"Sometimes grandparents are raising their children because parents are in rehab, which is a wonderful thing for the parent, but a dramatic loss for the child, because they have that separation from their parents."



Community Member Interview

"You know we do see it a lot as far as domestic violence disturbances that we respond to in some residences. Our school resource officers see it firsthand with some of the kids. So, I'd say that childhood trauma is definitely a huge thing. The problem with trying to identify is how much of it is hidden? There's more. I mean, cause a lot of this stuff doesn't get reported to us until it's too late."



Community Member Interview

PRIORITY POPULATIONS ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES

While **adverse childhood experiences** are a major issue for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...



Girls were more likely than boys to report adverse events at the Ohio state level.¹⁴

Children with the following **risk factors** are more likely to be impacted by ACEs:¹⁴

- Lower income
- Precarious housing
- Parents have mental health and/or substance use challenges
- Witnessing violence/incarceration
- Parents are divorced/separated
- Lack of connection to trusted adults

INTERVIEW AND FOCUS GROUP FINDINGS

Top issues/barriers:

- Drugs and domestic violence

Top resources, services, programs, and/or community efforts:

- Social services

SOCIAL DETERMINANT OF HEALTH NEED – CAPACITY AND ADEQUACY OF SERVICE LEVELS

#6 Health Need: ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS



10% of community survey respondents reported **environmental conditions** as a top health need for the community.

IN OUR COMMUNITY



DEFIANCE
COUNTY



OHIO

In 2020, Defiance County (7.8) had a similar **air quality measurement** (based on the number of micrograms of particulate matter per cubic meter of air) to Ohio overall (7.9)¹⁵



In 2023, **no** community water system in Defiance County, Ohio reported a **health-based drinking water violation**.¹⁵



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

"It feels like we get a notice every other week that says something in the water has increased."



Community Member Interview

"Well, mosquito-borne diseases are an issue. We have to be very proactive here in spring when mosquitoes are around. We treat our catch basins, we spray the air. We have a couple of people in our streets division, which is responsible for mosquito work that has gone to school."



Community Member Interview

"There's still lead exposure when there shouldn't be. There are still homes in our communities that have lead abatement issues, and finding the resources to support a family with that is an issue."



Community Member Interview

"Climate and weather put a lot more stress on farmers."



Community Member Interview

PRIORITY POPULATIONS ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

While **environmental conditions** are a major issue for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...



Children, particularly young children, are more vulnerable to air pollution than adults, including long-term physical, cognitive, and behavioral health effects.¹⁵

INTERVIEW AND FOCUS GROUP FINDINGS

Top issues/barriers:

- Manufacturing community



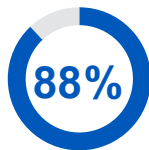
SOCIAL DETERMINANT OF HEALTH NEED – CAPACITY AND ADEQUACY OF SERVICE LEVELS

#6 Health Need: INTERNET ACCESS

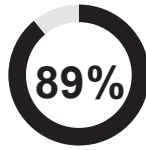


Ohio ranks 38th out of the 50 U.S. States in BroadbandNow's 2024 rankings of internet coverage, speed, and availability (with 1 being better coverage).¹⁶ 10% of community survey respondents rate **internet access** as a **priority health need**.

IN OUR COMMUNITY



DEFIANCE
COUNTY



OHIO

88% of Defiance County households have a **broadband internet connection**, vs. 89% for Ohio.¹⁶



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

"I know once you get outside of city limits, a lot of times internet access gets tricky."



Community Member Interview

"But I think, as far as sub-populations go, the elderly, you know, have the biggest issues with internet access. We do a digital navigation program to teach people to be comfortable with accessing the digital world, and to be able to navigate, to meet their daily needs, or even communicate with the grandkids."



Community Member Interview



PRIORITY POPULATIONS INTERNET ACCESS

While **internet/wi-fi access** is a major issue for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...



Older adults may experience more barriers to accessing internet/wi-fi and understanding how to use it.¹⁶

INTERVIEW AND FOCUS GROUP FINDINGS

Top issues/barriers:

- Lack of coverage in rural areas
- Spotty coverage
- Affordability/costs
- Lack of access
- Assistance programs have been discontinued

Sub-populations most affected:

- Rural areas
- Low-income population

Top resources, services, programs, and/or community efforts:

- Internet providers
- Public access points

SOCIAL DETERMINANT OF HEALTH NEED – CAPACITY AND ADEQUACY OF SERVICE LEVELS

#7 Health Need: EDUCATION



5% of community survey respondents reported education as a priority health need.

IN OUR COMMUNITY

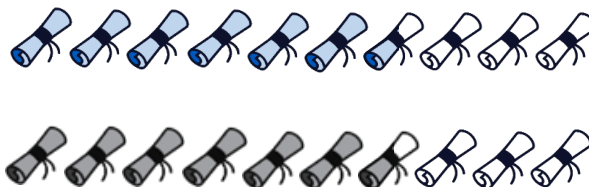


**DEFIANCE
COUNTY**
OHIO

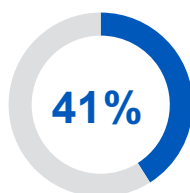
According to 2025 County Health Rankings, **8%** of Defiance County and Ohio residents **DID NOT** have a high school degree or equivalent.¹⁷

61% of Defiance County residents have at least some college education (vs. **66%** for the state of Ohio).¹⁷

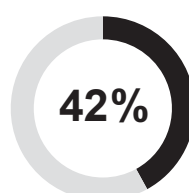
**DEFIANCE
COUNTY**
OHIO



PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT¹⁸



**DEFIANCE
COUNTY**



OHIO



41% of 3- and 4-year-olds in Defiance County were enrolled in preschool in 2023. This is lower than the overall Ohio rate of **42%**.¹⁸



Preschool enrollment can improve short- and long-term socioeconomic and health outcomes, particularly for disadvantaged children.¹⁸

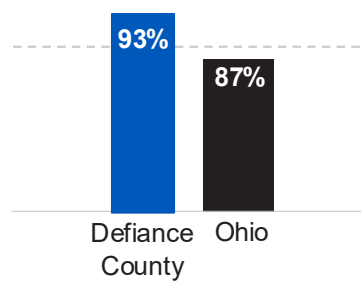
SOCIAL DETERMINANT OF HEALTH NEED – CAPACITY AND ADEQUACY OF SERVICE LEVELS

#7 Health Need: EDUCATION



HEALTHY PEOPLE (HP) 2030 NATIONAL TARGETS

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE



HP 2030 TARGET: **91%**
DESIRED DIRECTION:

- Ohio does not yet meet the target.¹⁷
- Defiance County exceeds the target.¹⁷



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

"It'd be great to see a bigger push for vocational and trades education, because if you ask a lot of our local plumbers and electricians...they need more skilled trades."



Community Member Interview

"he bullying is definitely an issue in the schools as well."



Community Member Interview

"People do not know how to connect when they need help. There is a lack of education on resources to the public."



Community Member Focus Group

"The lower education population faces challenges."



Community Member Focus Group

"You don't know what you don't know – some people don't know the resources that are out there for them."



Community Member Focus Group

PRIORITY POPULATIONS EDUCATION

While **education** is a major issue for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...



The need for community education and resources was mentioned in **100% of focus groups with priority populations.**

INTERVIEW AND FOCUS GROUP FINDINGS

Top resources, services, programs, and/or community efforts:

- Head Start



SOCIAL DETERMINANT OF HEALTH NEED – CAPACITY AND ADEQUACY OF SERVICE LEVELS

#8 Health Need: CRIME & VIOLENCE



! *Trigger Warning: The following page discusses violence, which may be disturbing for some people and trigger unpleasant memories or thoughts. You can call the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline at 988 for 24-hour, confidential support.*

Crime and violence were **not selected by any** survey respondents as top concerns in the community.

IN OUR COMMUNITY

In the past year, **60%** of survey respondents say they have experienced verbal/emotional abuse, **60%** psychological abuse, **20%** financial abuse, and **20%** sexual abuse.

Both property and violent crime rates are lower in Defiance County than Ohio overall.¹⁹

PROPERTY CRIME RATES PER 100,000¹⁹



VIOLENT CRIME RATES PER 100,000¹⁹



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

"Abuse of drugs has a big impact on crime in our area. The use of drugs leads to so many things. It leads to domestic violence. It leads to child abuse. It leads to abandonment. It leads to money getting spent on drugs."



Community Member Interview

"It's your typical property crime. Disorderly conduct, stuff like that. Keep us super busy. Thefts, property threats, stuff like that. That's predominantly what we handle throughout the days."



Community Member Interview

PRIORITY POPULATIONS CRIME & VIOLENCE

While **crime and violence** are major issues for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...



According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, **men** experience higher crime victimization rates than **women** for most types of violent crime, while women are more likely to be the victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.¹⁹

INTERVIEW AND FOCUS GROUP FINDINGS

Top issues/barriers:

- Crime/violence due to drugs
- Petty theft

Sub-populations most affected:

- Low-income population

Top resources, services, programs and/or community efforts:

- Local law enforcement

HEALTH NEEDS

SOCIAL HEALTH NEEDS – INDIVIDUAL LEVEL NON-CLINICAL NEEDS



SOCIAL HEALTH NEEDS – CAPACITY AND ADEQUACY OF SERVICE LEVELS

#1 Health Need: MENTAL HEALTH



⚠️ Trigger Warning: The following pages discuss suicide, which may be disturbing for some people and trigger unpleasant memories or thoughts. You can call the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline at 988 for 24-hour, confidential support.

Mental health and access to mental healthcare was the #1 ranked health outcome in the community member survey (95%).

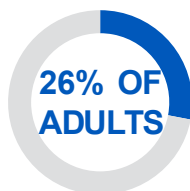
50% of survey respondents say that **mental healthcare access is lacking** in the community. 15% said they **could not get needed mental health or substance use counseling** in the past year. The most common barriers are insurance not covering services, inability to get an appointment, provider scheduling, and stigma.



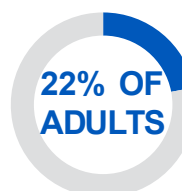
30%

of community survey respondents rate their **access to mental or behavioral health services as LOW or VERY LOW**, with another 35% rating it as **NEUTRAL**.

IN OUR COMMUNITY



in Defiance County and Ohio have been diagnosed with **depression**.²⁰



in Defiance County experienced **frequent mental distress** (2+ weeks/month in the past month), compared to **19%** for Ohio.²¹



40% of community survey respondents rate their **mental health** as 'good', while **25%** rate it as 'excellent', **20%** as 'average', and **15%** as 'poor'.

DEFIANCE COUNTY

440:1

OHIO

290:1

The 2025 County Health Rankings found that **Defiance County has fewer mental health providers relative to its population vs. Ohio** (ratio of residents: mental health providers).²¹



Defiance County adults experience an average of **6.0 mentally unhealthy days per month**, while this is **5.5 days** for Ohio.²¹



Only **20%** of respondents to the community member survey requiring mental or behavioral health services **received all the care they needed**.

SOCIAL HEALTH NEEDS – CAPACITY AND ADEQUACY OF SERVICE LEVELS

#1 Health Need: MENTAL HEALTH

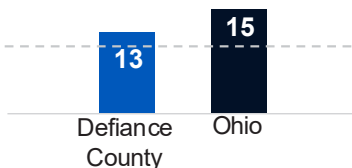


HEALTHY PEOPLE (HP) 2030 NATIONAL TARGETS

SUICIDE RATE

HP 2030 TARGET:
12.8 PER 100,000

DESIRED DIRECTION: ↓



✗ Defiance County and Ohio do not yet meet the target.²¹



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

"We need more affordable mental health resources."



Community Member Focus Group

"Opening a free clinic with mental and substance abuse counseling would be helpful."



Community Member Focus Group

"There are not enough therapists/mental health providers. We need more mental health services and more funding for those services."



Community Member Focus Group

"We have people come back from all over the world at times, you know, military. They may have mental health issues that they're working with, and they needed some support."



Community Member Interview

"We get them screened, and there's no place to put them for some people. I'll be the first one to tell you jail is not the answer for them to get the help."



Community Member Interview

"I think that mental health issues and depression are on the rise."



Community Member Interview

PRIORITY POPULATIONS MENTAL HEALTH

While **mental health** is a major issue for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...

100%

Mental health was a top concern in 100% of focus groups with **priority populations**.

INTERVIEW AND FOCUS GROUP FINDINGS

Top issues/barriers:

- Major issue in community (general)
- Depression
- Suicide
- Lacking mental health care services/resources
- Pediatric/youth mental health

Sub-populations most affected:

- Youth



SOCIAL HEALTH NEEDS – CAPACITY AND ADEQUACY OF SERVICE LEVELS

#2 Health Need:

SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER/SUBSTANCE MISUSE



Trigger Warning: The following pages discuss problematic substance use and overdose, which may be disturbing for some people and trigger unpleasant memories or thoughts. You can call the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline at 988 for 24-hour, confidential support.

IN OUR COMMUNITY



In the community survey, **30%** of Defiance County respondents reported **substance misuse** as a top concern. **25%** say that **substance use disorder services are lacking in the community.**



10% of respondents said they have **used marijuana in the past 30 days.**



30% of **motor vehicle crash deaths** in Defiance County involve **alcohol**, compared to **32%** for Ohio.²²

INTERVIEW AND FOCUS GROUP FINDINGS

Top issues/barriers:

- Drug use is an issue (general)
- Drug overdose deaths are high in community
- Opioids
- Marijuana
- Stigma

Sub-populations most affected:

- Youth

Top resources, services, programs, and/or community efforts:

- Narcan distribution



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

"Substance use is not as prevalent here as in bigger cities. But it's here. It's just not broadcasted, overdoses and stuff."



Community Member Interview

"Parents are worried about drug use, suicide attempts in youth."



Community Member Focus Group

"Teens are facing issues of drinking, vaping, marijuana, and the consequences."



Community Member Focus Group

"Police squads go out with Narcan. It's available over the counter now, and it does help, but it's a temporary fix to a big problem."



Community Member Interview



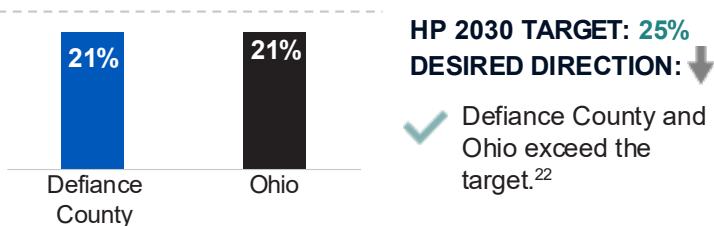
SOCIAL HEALTH NEEDS – CAPACITY AND ADEQUACY OF SERVICE LEVELS

#2 Health Need:

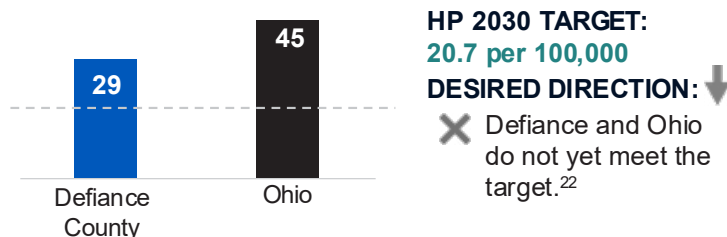
SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER/SUBSTANCE MISUSE

HEALTHY PEOPLE (HP) 2030
NATIONAL TARGETS

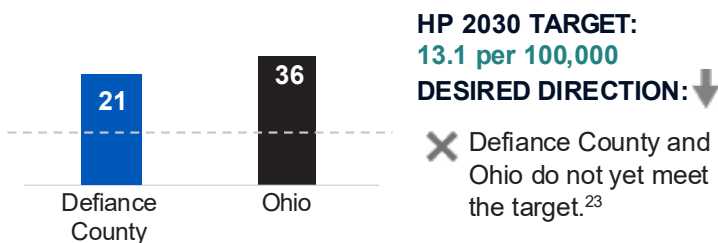
ADULT BINGE OR HEAVY DRINKING



UNINTENTIONAL DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS PER 100,000



OPIOID OVERDOSE DEATHS PER 100,000

PRIORITY POPULATIONS
SUBSTANCE USE
DISORDER/
SUBSTANCE MISUSE

While **substance use disorder/ substance misuse** is a major issue for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...



State binge drinking rates are highest for **men, adults 25-39, White people, and higher income people**.²⁴



SOCIAL HEALTH NEEDS – CAPACITY AND ADEQUACY OF SERVICE LEVELS

#3 Health Need:

NUTRITION & PHYSICAL HEALTH



IN OUR COMMUNITY



45% of community survey respondents rated their physical health as **“good”**, while 30% rated it as **“average”**.

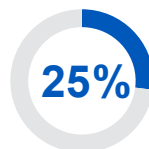


20%

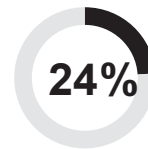
of community survey respondents ranked nutrition and physical health as a **priority health need**.



25% of community survey respondents say that **recreational spaces are lacking** in Defiance County.



DEFIANCE COUNTY



OHIO

According to the 2025 County Health Rankings program, **25%** of Defiance County and **24%** of Ohio adults are **sedentary** (did not participate in leisure time physical activity in the past month).²⁴

LACK OF ENERGY

58%

STRESS

42%

BARRIERS TO GETTING HEALTHIER

26%

MONEY

37%

BUSY SCHEDULE

Barriers reported in community member survey.

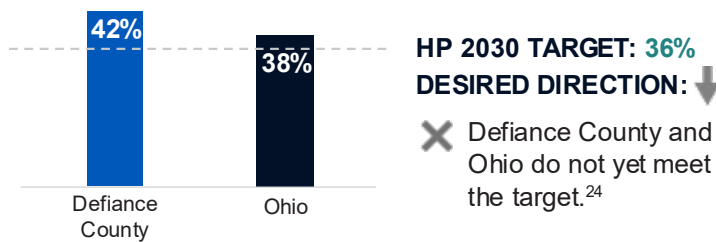
SOCIAL HEALTH NEEDS – CAPACITY AND ADEQUACY OF SERVICE LEVELS

#3 Health Need: NUTRITION & PHYSICAL HEALTH



HEALTHY PEOPLE (HP) 2030 NATIONAL TARGETS

ADULT OBESITY



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

"Obesity is an issue in the community, and there is a lack of physical activity programs that are affordable in community."



Community Member Focus Group

"There's access to great farm-to-table stuff in our community. But again, people's personal desires probably outweigh that. It's easier to drive through McDonald's."



Community Member Interview

"Defiance County has wonderful access to outdoor recreation activities. But unfortunately, I don't see the general population using them as much as they could."



Community Member Interview

"Diet is a struggle more than anything else...as you age, you can't eat the same things because your metabolism slows down."



Community Member Focus Group

"We have a fair amount of fast food. you know. Healthy type eating, we don't really have a lot of. Good quality, whole fresh foods, things like that."



Community Member Interview

"There is a lack of fitness/exercise centers in Hicksville."



Community Member Focus Group

PRIORITY POPULATIONS NUTRITION & PHYSICAL HEALTH

While **nutrition and physical health** are major issues for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...

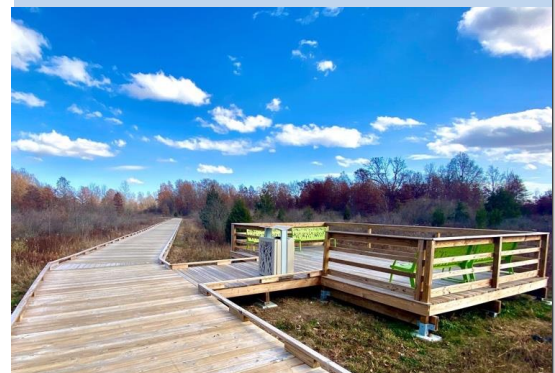


Nutrition and physical activity are particularly important for **youth** to promote health from a young age, and build healthy habits that will last into adulthood.²⁴

INTERVIEW AND FOCUS GROUP FINDINGS

Top resources, services, programs, and/or community efforts:

- Parks/trails
- YMCA



SOCIAL HEALTH NEEDS – CAPACITY AND ADEQUACY OF SERVICE LEVELS

#4 Health Need: ACCESS TO CHILDCARE



IN OUR COMMUNITY



The average two-child Defiance County household spends 39% of its income on childcare, compared to the stage average of 32%.²⁵

CHILDCARE AVAILABILITY

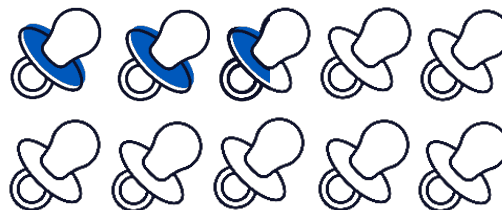
DEFIANCE COUNTY

9

OHIO

8

Defiance County has **9 daycare centers per 1,000 children under 5 years old**, compared to **8** for Ohio.²⁵



26% of Defiance County community members surveyed reported that **access to childcare resources is lacking in the community**.

10% of Defiance County community survey respondents reported that **access to childcare** is an issue of concern in their community.

According to the 2022 Ohio Childcare Resource & Referral Association Annual Report, the average cost of childcare in Ohio ranges from **\$5,564** per year (for school-aged children cared for outside of school hours) to **\$11,438** per year (for infants under one year of age).²⁶

80% of Ohioans surveyed say that quality childcare is expensive locally.²⁷



According to the 2023 Groundwork Ohio statewide survey, **40% of working parents** stated that they have had to **cut back on working hours to care for their children**.²⁸

SOCIAL HEALTH NEEDS – CAPACITY AND ADEQUACY OF SERVICE LEVELS

#4 Health Need: ACCESS TO CHILDCARE



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

“Childcare/daycare affordability is an issue”



Community Member Focus Group

“You have family responsibilities, kids in sports, needing childcare, running around to and from events, and you’re still farming. It’s a lot.”



Community Member Focus Group

“Even if you have a two-income family. It seems like half to three-quarters of one income is going to that child. Care for children that are, you know, either not in school at all, or before or after school care. I know a couple of our schools do offer some childcare for after school until they get picked up. So, I think that sort of helps out. But that is definitely a big issue.”



Community Member Interview

“There’s always a need for more childcare. The issue that you run into is the cost of childcare.”



Community Member Interview

“If kids get sick or the childcare staff are on vacation, then all of a sudden, you’re without childcare. Then you’re missing work. Then you’re at risk of losing a job because of that.”



Community Member Interview

PRIORITY POPULATIONS

ACCESS TO CHILDCARE

While **access to childcare** is a major issue for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...



Access to childcare is a particular challenge for **working parents, low-income families, single parents, and those who work second and third shifts** (as described in interviews and focus groups).²⁶

INTERVIEW AND FOCUS GROUP FINDINGS

Top issues/barriers:

- Not affordable/expensive
- Lack of childcare for second and third shift employees

Top resources, services, programs and/or community efforts:

- Head Start



SOCIAL HEALTH NEEDS – CAPACITY AND ADEQUACY OF SERVICE LEVELS

#5 Health Need: TOBACCO & NICOTINE USE

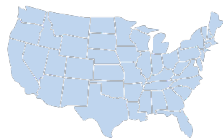


IN OUR COMMUNITY



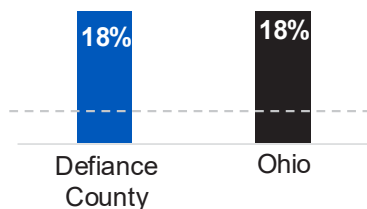
6% of community survey respondents indicated that **tobacco and nicotine use** were top concerns in Defiance County.

25% of survey respondents reported **smoking, vaping, or using tobacco products daily or almost every day in the past 30 days.**



HEALTHY PEOPLE (HP) 2030 NATIONAL TARGETS

ADULT CIGARETTE SMOKING



HP 2030 TARGET: 5%
DESIRED DIRECTION: ↓

✗ Defiance and Ohio do not yet meet the target.²⁹



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

"Vaping is still a bigger issue than cigarettes in the area for young people."



Community Member Interview

"The youth hide it [vaping] really well, especially those that are in sports. They really have to hide it. A lot of them actually get caught. In the bathroom at school."



Community Member Interview

"I do see it here, some people doing that [smoking], but not as much as I did 20 years ago."



Community Member Interview

"Teens are vaping and there are consequences."



Community Member Focus Group

PRIORITY POPULATIONS TOBACCO & NICOTINE USE

While **tobacco and nicotine use** are major issues for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...



According to Ohio data, the smoking rate is highest in **multi-racial people, women, people ages 35-44, LGBTQ+ people, people with disabilities, and lower income and less educated people.**²⁹

At the Ohio level, vaping rates are highest in **people ages 18-24, men, Hispanic people, people with disabilities, and lower income and less educated people.**²⁹



Youth are more likely to vape/use e-cigarettes than smoke tobacco.²⁹

INTERVIEW AND FOCUS GROUP FINDINGS

Top issues/barriers:

- Vaping
- Smoking

Sub-populations most affected:

- Youth

Top resources, services, programs, and/or community efforts:

- Quitline

HEALTH NEEDS

CLINICAL HEALTH NEEDS



CLINICAL HEALTH NEEDS – CAPACITY AND ADEQUACY OF SERVICE LEVELS

#1 Health Need: CHRONIC DISEASES



IN OUR COMMUNITY



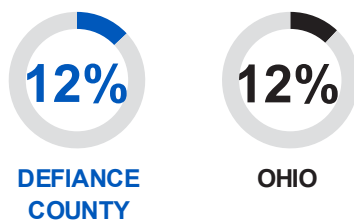
18% of Defiance County and Ohio adults rate their health as **fair or poor**, while the other **82%** rank it as excellent, very good, or good.³⁰

HEART DISEASE



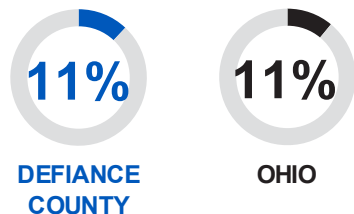
7% of Defiance County and Ohio adults report being told they have **coronary heart disease**.³²

DIABETES



12% of Defiance County and Ohio adults have **diabetes**.³²

ASTHMA



11% of Defiance County and Ohio have **asthma**.³²



16% of Defiance County and **15%** of Ohio adults identify as having a **disability**.³¹



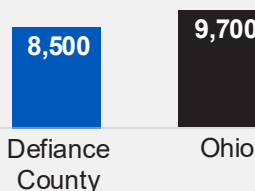
90% of community survey respondents chose chronic diseases as a top community health need. The most commonly cited conditions were **diabetes, heart disease, cancer, and obesity**.

42%

of community survey respondents say they have at least one chronic health condition or disability.



13% of those surveyed felt that a **lack of provider awareness and/or education about their health condition** was a barrier to accessing healthcare.



There were **8,500** (age-adjusted) years of potential life lost among Defiance County residents under age 75 per 100,000, vs. **9,700** for Ohio.³⁰

CLINICAL HEALTH NEEDS – CAPACITY AND ADEQUACY OF SERVICE LEVELS

#1 Health Need: CHRONIC DISEASES



According to the Ohio Health Data Warehouse, Defiance County has a **higher overall incidence of cancer** per 100,000 (**469**) than Ohio (**465**).³³

469 **465**
DEFIANCE COUNTY³³ OHIO³³



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

"You hear a lot more cases of asthma and chronic disease there. Diabetes is a huge issue everywhere."



Community Member Interview

"Heart disease morbidity and mortality are issues."



Community Member Focus Group

"If people are unable to pick up medications or have someone do so for them, they are less likely to take their needed medications, which then can lead to uncontrolled diabetes, heart disease, or even death."



Community Member Focus Group

"Lots of people have to go for dialysis."



Community Member Focus Group

PRIORITY POPULATIONS

CHRONIC DISEASES

While **chronic diseases** are major issues for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...



The challenges of living with a chronic condition and the need for supports were particularly emphasized in the **seniors** focus group.

INTERVIEW AND FOCUS GROUP FINDINGS

Top issues/barriers:

- Heart disease/stroke/hypertension/high cholesterol
- Cancer
- Respiratory diseases/COPD/adult asthma



CLINICAL HEALTH NEEDS – CAPACITY AND ADEQUACY OF SERVICE LEVELS

#2 Health Need:

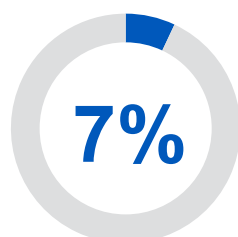
MATERNAL, INFANT & CHILD HEALTH



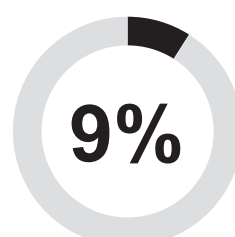
35% of community survey respondents say that addressing **maternal and child health** in the community is a top concern.

5% of survey respondents say that maternal, infant, and child healthcare **resources are lacking** in the community.

IN OUR COMMUNITY



DEFIANCE COUNTY³⁴



OHIO³⁴



Defiance County has a **low-birth-weight rate** of 7% vs. 9% for Ohio (less than 5 pounds and 8 ounces).³⁴

17

DEFIANCE COUNTY³⁴

17

OHIO³⁹



Defiance County's **teenage birth rate** for ages 15-19 (**17 per 1,000 females**) is the same as that of Ohio.³⁴

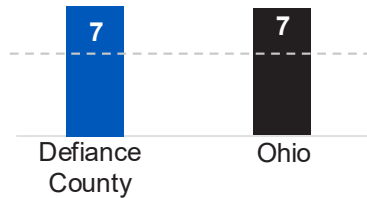
CLINICAL HEALTH NEEDS – CAPACITY AND ADEQUACY OF SERVICE LEVELS

#2 Health Need: MATERNAL, INFANT & CHILD HEALTH



HEALTHY PEOPLE (HP) 2030 NATIONAL TARGETS

INFANT MORTALITY RATE PER 1,000



HP 2030 TARGET:
5 PER 1,000

DESIRED DIRECTION: ↓

✗ Defiance County and Ohio do not yet meet the target.³⁴




COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

“With that influx of immigration population, we have a lot of pregnant mothers. And so, we are trying to explain our healthcare system to them, and then trying to have them understand our language, or us understand their language just so that we can communicate.”

 Community Member Interview

“Some pregnant women now lack prenatal care due to having no close birthing centers or OB/GYN providers.”

 Community Member Focus Group

“We need more Head Start screenings and dental care in school.”

 Community Member Focus Group

PRIORITY POPULATIONS

MATERNAL, INFANT & CHILD HEALTH

While **maternal, infant & child health** are major issues for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...



In Ohio, as in the nation, rates of severe maternal morbidity are much higher among **non-Hispanic Black women** compared to White women.³⁴

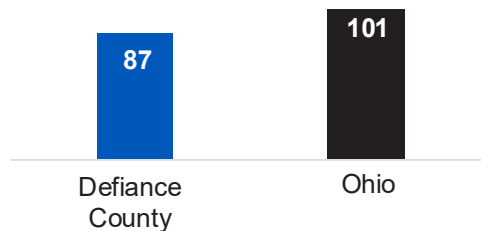


CLINICAL HEALTH NEEDS – CAPACITY AND ADEQUACY OF SERVICE LEVELS

#2 Health Need:
INJURIES

35% of community survey respondents chose **injuries** as a top community health need.

IN OUR COMMUNITY

UNINTENTIONAL INJURY DEATH RATE PER 100,000³⁵

Defiance County's unintentional injury death rate (**87 per 100,000** population) is **lower** than that of Ohio (**101 per 100,000**).³⁵



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

"We handle a lot of crashes in a year. We think it's way too many. It's often due to distracted or speed driving, which we're trying to buckle down on."



Community Member Interview

"You've got some people that fall, and usually they are seniors. That is a fairly common thing. So that's where assistance services might be helpful."



Community Member Interview

PRIORITY POPULATIONS
INJURIES

While **injuries** are a major issue for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...



Individuals who work in jobs with a higher risk of occupational injury, such as **manufacturing, construction, agriculture, transportation, trades, and frontline workers**.³⁵



Older residents are at a higher risk of falling and sustaining injuries from falling.³⁵

INTERVIEW AND FOCUS GROUP FINDINGS

Top issues/barriers:

- Car accidents
- Falls

Sub-populations most affected:

- Elderly

CLINICAL HEALTH NEEDS – CAPACITY AND ADEQUACY OF SERVICE LEVELS

#3 Health Need: PREVENTIVE CARE & PRACTICES



IN OUR COMMUNITY



10%

of community survey respondents said that addressing **preventive care and practices** in Defiance County is a top concern.



15%

of community survey respondents have **NEVER** had a flu shot, while only **40%** say they have had one in the past year.

INTERVIEW AND FOCUS GROUP FINDINGS

Top issues/barriers:

- Lack of awareness/education

Sub-populations most affected:

- Low-income population

Top resources, services, programs and/or community efforts:

- Health department



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

"I think the health department does a good job on it, but I don't know how much other agencies throw out there and want to advertise about, or if people are looking for those resources."



Community Member Interview

"A lot of information is being put out with vaccines, which some people don't want to hear about anyway, so that might be a barrier."



Community Member Interview

"Those who relied on hospital transportation to appointments have lost that resource...there is no public transportation available in Hicksville to take homebound or disabled or low-income people out of town for an appointment, thus delaying preventative and needed care."



Community Member Focus Group

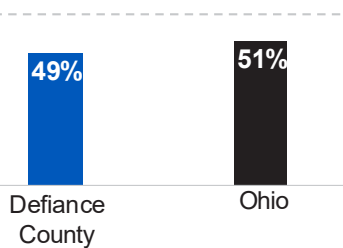
CLINICAL HEALTH NEEDS – CAPACITY AND ADEQUACY OF SERVICE LEVELS

#3 Health Need: PREVENTIVE CARE & PRACTICES



HEALTHY PEOPLE (HP) 2030 NATIONAL TARGETS

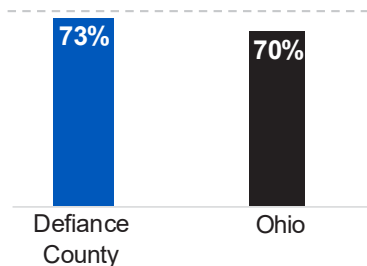
MEDICARE ENROLLEE ANNUAL FLU VACCINATION



HP 2030 TARGET: **70%**
DESIRED DIRECTION:

✗ Defiance County and Ohio do not yet meet the target.³⁶

ADULTS 50-75 WHO MEET COLORECTAL SCREENING GUIDELINES



HP 2030 TARGET: **74%**
DESIRED DIRECTION:

✗ Defiance County and Ohio do not yet meet the target.³⁶

PRIORITY POPULATIONS PREVENTIVE CARE & PRACTICES

While **preventive care and practices** are major issues for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...



Data shows that Ohioans are less likely to engage in preventive care the **less educated** they are, the **less money** they have, the **younger** they are, and if they are **men**.³⁶



CLINICAL HEALTH NEEDS – CAPACITY AND ADEQUACY OF SERVICE LEVELS

#3 Health Need: HIV/AIDS & STIs

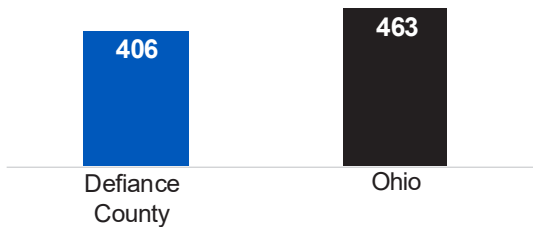


IN OUR COMMUNITY



10% of community survey respondents say that addressing **HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)** in the community is a **top concern**.

Chlamydia rates per 100,000 people³⁷



HIV rates per 100,000 people³⁷



Defiance County has **lower rates of HIV and STIs** than Ohio.³⁷



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

"For seniors, there's a lot of untested hepatitis C that people may have been living with for a long time and don't think to get tested."



Community Member Interview

PRIORITY POPULATIONS

HIV/AIDS & STIs

While **HIV/AIDS and STIs** are major issues for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...



Women have higher rates of chlamydia, particularly those ages 20-24.³⁷

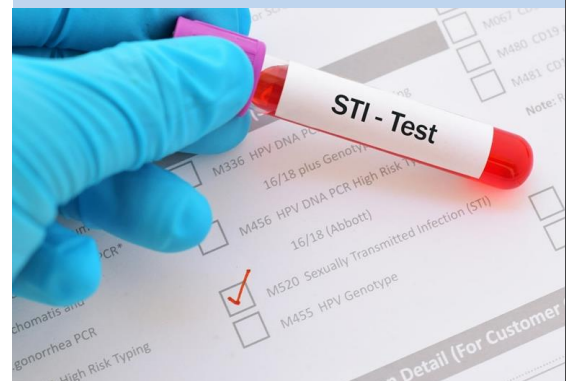


Men have higher rates of syphilis and gonorrhea.³⁷

INTERVIEW AND FOCUS GROUP FINDINGS

Top resources, services, programs and/or community efforts:

- Health department



Board Approval

The Mercy Health — Defiance Hospital 2025 Community Health Needs Assessment was approved by the Mercy Health — Defiance Hospital Board of Directors on September 23, 2025.



Board Signature: _____

Date: September 23, 2025

For further information or to obtain a hard copy of this Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), please contact: Jessica Henry, Director, Community Health; Jessica_Henry@mercy.com

Mercy Health CHNA Website: <https://www.mercy.com/about-us/mission/giving-back/community-health-needs-assessment>

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Mercy Health CHNA Short Link: [Mercy Health CHNAs](#)

