



AMITA Health Mercy Medical Center

Community Health Needs Assessment Overview

2021

## Executive Summary

AMITA Health Mercy Medical Center- Aurora (AHMMC) and members of the Kane County Kane Health Counts Collaborative, a collaborative of the Kane County Health Department, local hospitals and community partners, worked together over 8 months to build a comprehensive Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) for Kane County. Using the Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) model for the CHNA, Kane County Kane Health Counts Collaborative have engaged diverse groups of community residents and stakeholders and gathered robust data from various perspectives about health status and health behaviors.

Together with our community stakeholders, we have identified the following prioritized health needs in our community:

PRIORITIZED HEALTH NEEDS
<b>Behavioral Health (Mental Health &amp; Substance Abuse)</b>
<b>Access to Health Services</b>
<b>Immunizations &amp; Infectious Diseases</b>
<b>Exercise, Nutrition, &amp; Weight</b>

To be successful, AHMMC will continue to partner with Kane County Kane Health Counts Collaborative to adopt shared and complimentary strategies and leverage resources to improve efficiencies and increase effectiveness for overall improvement. Data sharing across the local public health system was instrumental in developing this CHNA and will continue to be an important tool for establishing, measuring, and monitoring outcome objectives. The shared leadership model driving the CHNA will be essential to continue to balance the voice of all partners in the process including the hospitals, health department, stakeholders, and community members.

AHMMC will develop an Implementation Strategy for the next three years that describes the programs we are undertaking to address these prioritized health needs in our community.

This overview document for the CHNA provides additional information about the service area of the hospital, its existing programs, and its needs within the context of the needs identified and prioritized in its service area. The full collaborative CHNA report can be found at <https://www.kanehealth.com/Pages/Community-Health-Assessment.aspx>

## About the Community Health Needs Assessment

A community health needs assessment, or CHNA, is essential for community building and health improvement efforts, and directing resources where they are most needed. CHNAs can be powerful tools that have the potential to be catalysts for immense community change.

### Purpose of the CHNA

A CHNA is “a systematic process involving the community to identify and analyze community health needs and assets in order to prioritize, plan, and act upon unmet community health needs” (Catholic Health Association of the United States). The process serves as a foundation for promoting the health and well-being of the community by identifying the most pressing needs, leveraging existing assets and resources, developing strategic plans, and mobilizing hospital programs and community partners to work together. This community-driven approach aligns with AMITA Health Mercy Medical Center’s commitment to offer programs designed to address the health needs of a community, with special attention to persons who are underserved and vulnerable.

### IRS 501(r)(3) and Form 990, Schedule H Compliance

The CHNA also serves to satisfy certain requirements of tax reporting, pursuant to provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010, more commonly known as the Affordable Care Act (ACA). As part of the ACA, all not-for-profit hospitals are required to conduct a CHNA and adopt an implementation strategy every three years.

## Our Hospital and Community

### AMITA Health

AMITA Health is an award-winning health system committed to delivering compassionate care to nearly 6.6 million residents in Chicago and its surrounding suburbs.

As a faith-based health system in the respective Catholic and Adventist traditions, AMITA Health is committed to delivering inclusive and compassionate care, communicating clearly with patients and their families, respecting the faith traditions of all people, and honoring the dignity of everyone we serve.

In keeping with the faith-based traditions of its legacy health systems, AMITA Health treats the whole person, including the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual needs of the people it serves. The system continually works to identify and to address community health needs, with a special focus on serving the needs of the poor, vulnerable and marginalized. AMITA Health annually provides more than \$253 million in community benefits, including \$63.2 million in financial assistance.

### AMITA Health Mercy Medical Center - Aurora

AMITA Health Mercy Medical Center (AMITA Mercy) has been meeting the health & wellness needs of Kane County residents for more than 100 years. Founded by the Sisters of Mercy, this acute care hospital continues to carry out its mission of “extending the healing ministry of Jesus” in the communities it serves. AMITA Mercy has been awarded “A” grades on the spring and fall 2020 Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade list, which recognizes its achievements in providing safe care to patients. By earning “A” grades in Leapfrog’s biannual Safety Grade study, AMITA Mercy ranks among the safest in the nation.

Founded in 1911, AMITA Mercy is a faith-based, full-service hospital with a Level II Trauma Center, a Primary Stroke Center, and a state-of-the-art outpatient surgery center with minimally invasive robotics technology. We provide comprehensive care in a wide range of healthcare needs, including heart and vascular, behavioral health, digestive, orthopedics, women’s health and more. At AMITA Mercy, we treat the whole person, embracing every patient’s physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual well-being. We call it Wholecare.

### Kane Health Counts Collaborative

In 2011, Kane County Health Department (KCHD) started a Collaborative Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) process. This process aimed to identify health priorities in the community and strategies to address them. Since then, KCHD has joined forces with five local hospitals, AMITA Mercy Medical Center, AMITA Saint Joseph Hospital, Northwestern Medicine Delnor Hospital, Rush Copley Medical Center, and Advocate Aurora Sherman, along with the INC Board, a mental health “708 Board” serving the southern part of Kane County and a number of community partners. This group comes together with a mutual interest in improving the health of Kane County residents. In 2014, this collaborative group was given the name Kane Health Counts.

This comprehensive community health assessment process is conducted every three years to identify the top health priorities Kane County. The Kane Health Counts collaborative works together to plan, implement and evaluate strategies that are in alignment with the identified health priorities. Together, the group strives to make Kane County the healthiest county in Illinois.

## Kane Health Counts Executive Committee Leaders

Maria Aurora Diaz, Regional Director, Community Health Integration-Northwest Region  
AMITA Mercy and AMITA St. Joseph Hospitals

Tina Link, Manager of Community Outreach, Community Health/Volunteer Services Departments  
Advocate Aurora Sherman Hospital

Dalila Alegria, Executive Director  
INC Board

Karin Podolski, Director, Community Health Services  
Northwestern Medicine Delnor Hospital

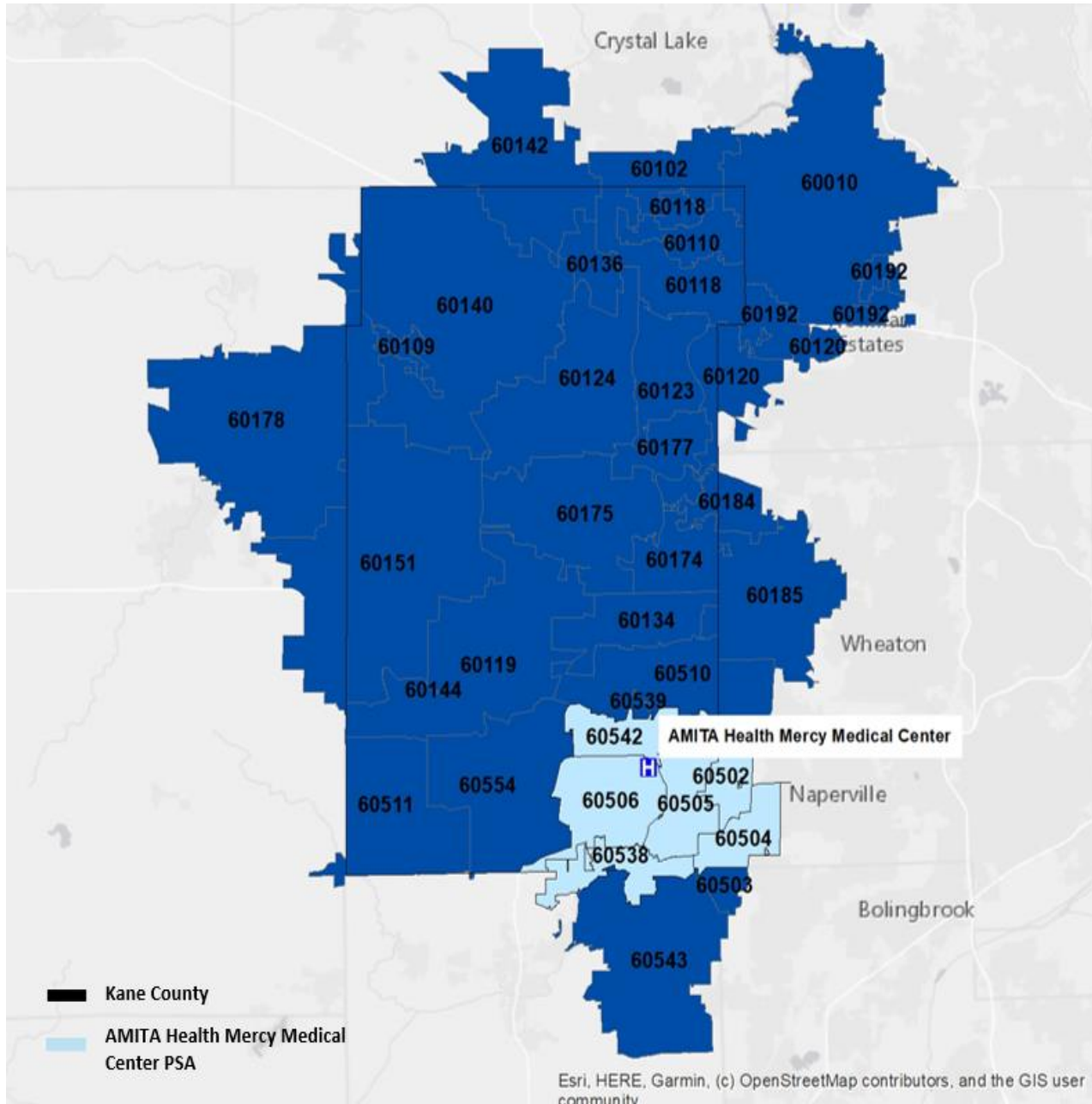
Alex Pope, Vice President, Philanthropy & Community Engagement  
Rush Copley Medical Center

Mariana Martinez, Community Health Outreach Coordinator  
Rush Copley Medical Center

## Community & Demographics

The Primary Service Area (PSA) for AMITA Health Mercy Medical Center encompasses a seven zip code area in and around the City of Aurora in Kane County, Illinois. Zip codes in the PSA include: 60502, 60504, 60505, 60506, 60519, 60538, and 60542 are illustrated in Figure 1 below.

**FIGURE 1. AMITA HEALTH MERCY PRIMARY SERVICE AREA (PSA)**



AMITA Mercy’s Primary Service Area (PSA) has a population of approximately 242,736 persons. When considering the racial breakdown within AMITA Mercy’s PSA, the majority of the population identifies as White

(59.4%). The Black/African community makes up 9.3%, followed by the Asian community who make up 6.4% of the population.

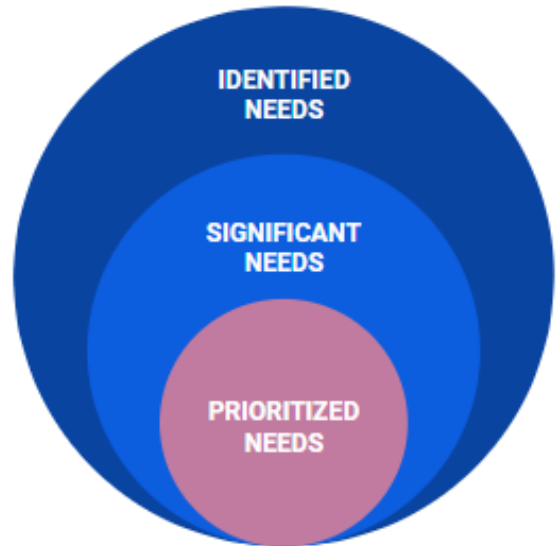
When considering the population of AMITA Mercy's PSA by ethnicity, the PSA has a larger percentage of the population that identifies as Hispanic/Latino (44.2%) compared to the county, where 33.2% of the population identifies as Hispanic/Latino.

When considering the age of the population, 27.8% of the population are infants, children, or adolescents (age 0-17); another 61.6% are in the age group 18 to 64, while 10.6% are age 65 and older.

## Community Needs

AMITA Health Mercy Medical Center, in collaboration with Kane Health Counts Collaborative members commissioned Conduent Healthy Communities Institute (HCI) to support report preparation for its 2021 collaborative CHNA.

HCI analyzed secondary data of over 200 indicators and gathered primary data community input through an online community survey that was available in English and Spanish and use of focus groups to identify the needs in the community. In collaboration with community partners, AMITA Health Mercy Medical Center used a phased prioritization approach to identify the needs.



The first step was to determine the broader set of **identified needs**. Identified needs were then narrowed to a set of **significant needs** which were determined most crucial for community stakeholders to address and were cross-cutting across various assessments. Finally, a smaller subset of significant needs has been deemed by the hospital and its collaborators, as **prioritized needs**. The adjunct image also describes the relationship between the need categories. For more information on the process of selecting these community needs, please refer to the full collaborative CHNA.

Although the hospital may address many needs, the prioritized needs listed below will be at the center of a formal CHNA implementation strategy and corresponding tracking and reporting.

### PRIORITIZED HEALTH NEEDS: CHNA Kane County 2021

#### Behavioral Health (Mental Health & Substance Abuse)

From the secondary data scoring results, Behavioral Health was identified as a top health need in Kane County. This health topic includes mental health, mental health disorders, and substance abuse. There are several indicators in these topic areas that raise concern for Kane County. Compared to other counties in Illinois, Kane County has higher rates of hospitalizations and ER visits due to adult alcohol use. Teen alcohol and marijuana use, although decreasing in recent years, is also higher than most other counties in Illinois. Additionally, Kane County has higher liquor store density than most Illinois and U.S Counties.

Mental Health and Mental Disorders was a top health need from Community Survey, Focus Group, and Forces of Change Assessment participants (primary Data). Mental health care, mental health resources, and the availability of mental health providers were frequently cited as disproportionate to community need. Cost, availability of appointments, and navigation and/or knowledge about available services were all mentioned as barriers to care.

**Priority Populations Identified:** Teens, Seniors, Ethnic & Minority groups.



## Access to Health Services

From the secondary data scoring results, access to health services was identified to be a top health need in Kane County. Although Kane County’s overall score in this area is relatively low, Kane County falls behind the State of Illinois and other counties for primary care provider rates, clinical care ranking, and adults with health insurance. Of note, the primary care provider rate is decreasing and the percent of adults with health insurance is below both the Illinois state value and the Healthy People 2020 objective.

Access to Health Services was a top health need identified from Community Survey, Focus Group, Forces of Change Assessment as well as Public Health System Assessment participants. Cost of care was a common barrier mentioned across these primary data sources. This included general cost to access care, lack of funds for purchasing needed medication as well as being uninsured or underinsured. Recent health facility closings and delays due to COVID-19 were also specifically mentioned as barriers to accessing care. The need for improved/increased culturally competent, accessible health care offered in languages that are spoken in the community was a theme that surfaced in the primary data as well. Cost and affordability were barriers.

**Priority Populations Identified:** Native American, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino

## Immunizations & Infectious Diseases

From the secondary data scoring results, Immunizations & Infectious Diseases were identified to be a top health need in Kane County. The secondary data reveal that sexually transmitted infections (STIs), specifically syphilis and chlamydia, are on the rise in Kane County. Additionally, Kane county’s vaccination rates for pneumonia among adults are among the worst in Illinois. Overcrowding in households, which has been shown to ease transmission of infectious diseases like COVID-19, is of concern in Kane County as well.

**Priority Populations Identified:** Adults, young adults

## Exercise, Nutrition, & Weight

From the secondary data scoring results, Exercise, Nutrition, & Weight was identified to be a top health need in Kane County. Access to grocery stores and healthy foods are important for decreasing risk of chronic diseases, such as obesity and heart disease, and also help improve mental health. Although the overall topic score for exercise, nutrition, and weight was low for Kane County, Kane County falls behind in some important indicators under this topic. Namely, Kane County is among the worst in Illinois and the U.S. for SNAP certified stores, children with access to grocery stores, and grocery store density.

Existing and increasing food insecurity due to COVID-19, access to healthy foods, and poor nutrition were all nutritional themes from primary data. Obesity and its contribution to chronic disease among residents in Kane County was of concern as well. Additionally, sedentary lifestyles and lack of exercise were also common points of discussion. The South Planning Area had a higher percentage of respondents who reported this food insecurity challenge (34.0%) compared to Kane County at 30.6%. The Northern and Central Planning Areas fell under the Kane County value at 27.2% and 27.0% respectively.

**Priority Populations Identified:** Children

## Evaluation of Impact: Previous CHNA Implementation Strategy

An important piece of the three-year CHNA cycle is revisiting the progress made on priority needs set forth in the preceding CHNA. By reviewing the actions taken to address the prioritized needs and evaluating the impact those actions have made in the community, it is possible to better target resources and efforts during the next CHNA cycle.

The table below describes actions taken from AMITA Health Mercy Medical Center’s previous Implementation Strategy to address each priority need including any indicators for improvement. Included is any community input received from the previous CHNA and Implementation Strategy.

<b>PRIORITIZED HEALTH NEEDS: CHNA Kane County 2018</b>			
<b>Behavioral Health (Mental Health &amp; Substance Abuse)</b>			
<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Action(s) Taken</b>	<b>Status of Action(s)</b>	<b>Results</b>
Increase access to behavioral health education, training and resources in Kane County.	Provide Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Trainings free to the community. Completed	In-Progress/ On-going	Total Served: 171 individuals
	Establish AMITA Health Resource Call Center by December 2018.	Completed	Total Served: 222 individuals
Increase awareness of mental health resources and services in Kane County among faith communities.	Establish and lead Interfaith Mental Health Coalition Fox Valley Cluster Meetings by December 2018.	Completed	Total Served: 33 Faith Communities & CBO represented.
Facilitate coordination of care services.	Provide leadership, advocacy and support for FUSE Initiative (Elgin & Aurora), Fox River Valley Initiative.	Completed	Established Mercy/Hesed House Transportation Service.
		In-Progress/ On-going	Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) project to be completed FY22.

Chronic Disease (Obesity, Diabetes, Hypertension)			
Strategy	Action Taken(s)	Status of Action(s)	Results
Increase access to and consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables.	Provide access to nutrition education and funding support for local Farmer's Markets programs.	Completed	Provided nutrition education and recipes for 2018 & 2019 season.
	Provide access to fresh produce form AMITA Health MMC Community Gardens.	In-Progress/ On-going	Established 40 community garden beds on hospital campus.
Increase access to nutrition education workshops for parents and children.	Provide nutrition education workshops free to the community. (IROC: I'm Reducing Obesity in Children Nutrition Program).	Completed	Total Served: 55 Individuals and families
Increase access to pre-diabetes education services for at-risk individuals.	Provide access to free diabetes prevention programs to the community.	In-Progress/ On-going	Total Served: 51 Individuals
Increase awareness of chronic disease prevention & management resources.	Provide leadership, advocacy and financial support for establishment of Chronic Disease Portal.	Completed	Established chronic disease portal: Live Well KANE COUNTY Chronic Disease Resource Portal: <a href="http://www.livewellkanecounty.com">www.livewellkanecounty.com</a>
Social Determinants of Health: Income & Education			
Strategy	Action Taken(s)	Status of Action(s)	Results
Facilitate coordination of SDOH referrals and services.	Establish AMITA Health Community Resource Directory by December 2018.	In-Progress/ On-going	Established AMITA Health Community Resource Directory  <a href="https://www.amitahealth.org/for-patients-and-visitors/community-resources">https://www.amitahealth.org/for-patients-and-visitors/community-resources</a>

## Implementation

### Community Assets & Resources

AMITA Health Mercy Medical Center will continue working with organizations and stakeholders in its community to address its prioritized health needs, including the members of the Kane Health Counts Collaborative Executive Committee as well as other key stakeholder organizations:

American Cancer Society	Health Living Council of Greater Aurora
Aurora African American Health Coalition	Hesed House
Aurora Fire Department	Kane County Health Department
Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry	Kane County Behavioral Health Council
Aurora Police Department	Kane County Opioid Task Force
Aurora University	Main Baptist Church
Aunt Martha's Health Network	Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry
City of Aurora	Northern Illinois Food Bank
Companeros en Salud	Salvation Army
Family Focus of Aurora	Santori Library – Aurora Public Library
Fox Valley Park District	VNA Health Care
Fox Valley Faith & Health Network	Waubonsee College
Fox Valley United Way	

### Implementation Strategy and Collaborative Action

Driven by a shared mission and a set of collective values that have guided the CHNA process and decision making, AHMMC and its community partners will work together to develop implementation strategies and collaborative action targeted to achieving the shared vision of improved health equity, wellness, and quality of life across our community. Engaging in this collaborative CHNA process has developed a solid foundation and opened the door for many opportunities moving forward including partnership with diverse community stakeholders at regional and local levels to address health inequities and improve community health in our communities.

## Publication & Approval

Requirements for 501(c)(3) Hospitals Under the Affordable Care Act are described in Code Section 501(r)(3) and include making the CHNA report (current and previous) widely available to the public. In accordance with this requirement, electronic reports of both the CHNA and the Implementation Strategy can be found at [amitahealth.org/about-us/community-benefit](https://amitahealth.org/about-us/community-benefit) and paper versions can be requested at AMITA Health Mercy Medical Center's Administration Office.

AMITA Health Mercy Medical Center – Aurora will share this document and related Implementation Strategies with internal stakeholders including associates, volunteers and physicians as well as externally with our community leaders, government officials and other service organizations. We welcome feedback on this Community Health Needs Assessment and its related Implementation Strategy. Kindly send any feedback you have to the following public website: [amitahealth.org/about-us/community-benefit](https://amitahealth.org/about-us/community-benefit)

On behalf of the Board of Directors of AMITA Health and the Presence Health Suburban Network Board approved this document on June 23, 2021. Although an authorized body of the hospital must adopt the CHNA and implementation strategy reports to be compliant with the provisions in the Affordable Care Act, adoption of the CHNA also demonstrates that the board is aware of the findings from the community health needs assessment, endorses the priorities identified, and supports the strategy that has been developed to address prioritized needs.