



AMITA Health St. Mary's Hospital

Community Health Needs  
Assessment Overview

2021

## Executive Summary

AMITA Health St. Mary's Hospital (AHSMH) and members of the Kankakee County Partnership for a Healthy Community, a collaborative of the Kankakee County Health Department, local hospitals and community partners, worked together over 16 months to build a comprehensive Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) for Kankakee County. Using the Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) model for the CHNA, Kankakee County Partnership for a Healthy Community 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:

**Health and Wellness**, enforcing coordination and linkage of services to ensure access to quality health services, taking into consideration the impact of social determinants of health, as well as chronic disease prevention.

**Behavioral Health and Substance Use**, including both mental health, substance use disorders as well as violence, safety and trauma among Kankakee County residents.

**Education and Employment**, determining barriers to education and employment and creating program opportunities to increase job readiness and interpersonal skill development.

To be successful, AHSMH will continue to partner with Partnership for a Healthy Community 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.

AHSMH 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 and results of the individual assessment findings can be found at <https://www.kankakeehealth.org/about/community-health-needs-assessment-and-improvement-plan/>

## 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 St. Mary’s Hospital’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 200,000 residents in Kankakee and Iroquois Counties.

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 St. Mary's Hospital Kankakee

AMITA Health St. Mary's Hospital has been meeting the health needs of the Kankakee County area for over 120 years. Founded by the Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary, St. Mary's Hospital continues to carry out its mission of providing compassionate, holistic care with a spirit of healing and hope in the communities we serve.

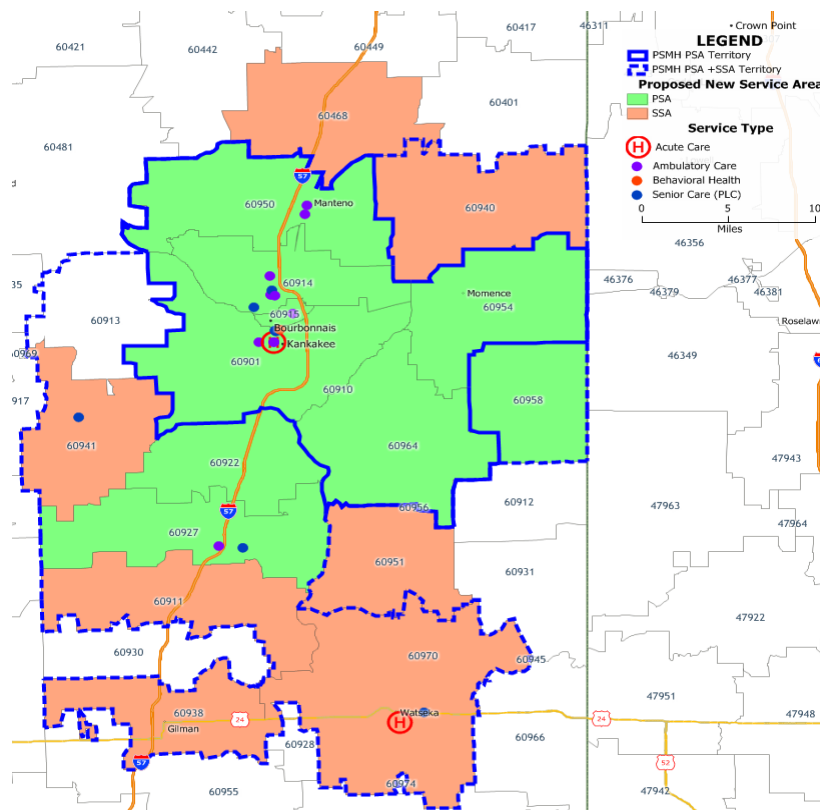
Located in Kankakee County, the 182-bed AMITA Health St. Mary's hospital provides many advanced health care services including advanced cardiac and orthopedic care. In addition, our state-of-the-art facility offers the latest in emergency (Level II Trauma Center), medical and surgical services, medical lab and imaging services, heart and vascular care, cancer care, obstetrical (Level II Nursery) and women's care, rehabilitation services, behavioral health, sleep disorder and wound care services. AHSMH has a medical staff of more than 300 physicians representing multiple medical specialties and employs over 750 professional, technical and support personnel, making it one of the largest employers in Kankakee County.

### Kankakee County Partnership for a Healthy Community

In 2019 and 2020, AMITA Health St. Mary's Hospital participated in the collaborative efforts organized by Kankakee County Partnership for a Healthy Community to complete the assessments needed to for the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). The results of the individual assessment findings can be found at <https://www.kankakeehealth.org/about/community-health-needs-assessment-and-improvement-plan/>. The full collaborative CHNA report can be found at [amitahealth.org/about-us/community-benefit/](https://www.amitahealth.org/about-us/community-benefit/).

## Community & Demographics

The AHSMH community consists primarily of Kankakee and the surrounding area. We define the AHSMH primary service area as the collection of ZIP codes where approximately 75% of hospital patients reside, and we focus our community health improvement on this service area. The largest primary service area resides in Kankakee County.

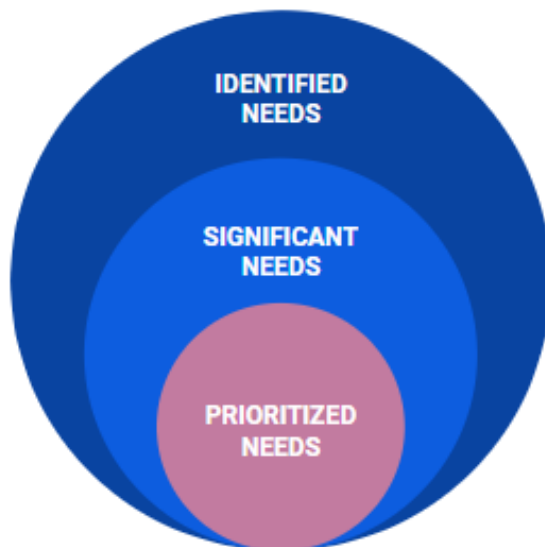


The approximate population size of this service area is 109,680 with a median age of 38.0 years. Nearly 16.2% (increase from 15.1% in last assessment) of individuals in this service area are living in poverty, which is higher than Illinois (12.1%). The median family income has increased since the last assessment \$71,508, which is slightly higher than Illinois (\$69,187). Also slightly higher than Illinois (71.67%), the white/Caucasian population is the majority race at 79.7%, followed by Black/African-American population at 15% and Other Race at 2.10%. The percentage of individuals with Hispanic/Latinx ethnicity is 10% for this service area. Which is higher than Illinois (8.2%). Further demographic data as well as all other community data can be found in the full CHNA report or individual completed assessments.

## Community Needs

AMITA Health St. Mary’s Hospital, in collaboration with the Partnership for a Healthy Community steering committee analyzed secondary data of over 10 indicators and gathered community input through multiple surveys and data collection to identify the needs in the community. In collaboration with community partners, AMITA Health St. Mary’s Hospital 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.

The following needs were deemed significant but have not been prioritized by the hospital:

Behavioral Health and Substance Use
<p>Key Focus Areas: Substance abuse, mental health (adult and adolescent) and trauma awareness and prevention.</p> <p>Behavioral health as a strategic issue is used to include both mental health, substance use disorders as well as violence, safety, and trauma among Kankakee County residents. Depression is on the rise among both youth and older adults while the number of suicides per year in Kankakee County is unstable. Behavioral health was the top health issue named in the community input survey. Behavioral health issues impact population groups across income levels as well as racial and ethnic groups with effects of the COVID-19 pandemic adding additional strain on the local public health system. Findings from the assessments detail issues with access to local behavioral health services and resources.</p> <p>Priority Populations Identified: Children residing in Pembroke &amp; Kankakee (city), Adults, Adults 65+, high school youth.</p>

## Health and Wellness

Key Focus Areas: Prevention and primary care, social determinants of health and chronic disease management.

This strategic issue encompasses both access to care, taking into consideration the impact of social determinants of health, as well as chronic disease prevention. Access to comprehensive, quality healthcare services is important for promoting and maintaining health, preventing, and managing disease, reducing unnecessary disability and premature death, and achieving health equity. Chronic diseases are the most common, costly, and preventable of all health problems.

Lack of access to routine health services creates health disparities in many health indicators based on race, ethnicity, income, and geography in Kankakee County. Heart disease is the second cause of hospitalizations and leading cause of death in Kankakee County. Heart disease, stroke, and diabetes account for over 50% of deaths in Kankakee County. Four of these health risk behaviors—lack of physical activity, poor nutrition, tobacco use, and excess alcohol consumption— cause much of the illness, suffering, and early death related to chronic diseases and conditions.

Priority Populations Identified: Adults, Children, Adults 65+, African American/Black population, Hispanic/Latinx population, Zip Codes: 60901, 60914, 60915, 60944, 60958

## Education and Employment

Key Focus Areas: Job skills, employability and career development.

Education is an important social determinant of health because the rate of poverty is higher among those without a high school diploma or high school equivalency exam (GED). Individuals without a high school education are at a higher risk of developing certain chronic illnesses, such as diabetes, as well as have less employment opportunities at higher wage rates. The median family income has increased in Kankakee County, but disparities exist among race and ethnicity. Poverty is a social determinant of health that can create barriers to accessing health services, healthy food, and other necessities needed for good health status. It can also affect housing status, educational opportunities, an individual's physical environment, and health behaviors.

Unemployment can create financial instability, and, as a result, can create barriers to accessing healthcare services, insurance, healthy foods, and other basic needs. The effects of COVID-19 pandemic on unemployment and loss of insurance are on the horizon. The unemployment rate for Kankakee County (5.4) has declined since 2010 but is still higher than the rates for Illinois (4.3) and the U.S. (3.9). Respondents to

the community survey identified lack of higher-wage jobs as a significant issue that impacts the quality of life in Kankakee County.

Priority Populations Identified: Adults, Black/African American population, Other Races population, Hispanic/Latinx population, Residents in Kankakee (city) and Pembroke Township, high school youth



## 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 the AMITA Health St. Mary’s Hospital 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.

Behavioral Health and Substance Use		
Action(s) Taken	Status of Action(s)	Results
Opioid Community/Patient Education	In progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launched Narcan program in conjunction with Kankakee County Health Department providing 24 kits and education in ER.</li> <li>Provided updated Narcan training to Medical Group associates and providers</li> </ul>
Mental Health First Aid Trainings	In progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In partnership with Helen Wheeler Center, host two events per year with an average attendance of 20 per event.</li> </ul>
Nurse in Library Program	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launched in January 2019 and concluded in March 2020 due to COVID pandemic. Over 160 sessions completed at library. Limited attendance. Screenings, community resource referrals and health education provided.</li> </ul>
Project Sun	In progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kankakee County state funded grant focused on adolescent mental health. AHSMH participates in monthly meetings, program development and execution.</li> </ul>
Success By Six, United Way	In progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AHSMH participates in monthly meetings, program development and execution. Focus on Early Childhood Development.</li> </ul>

Access to Health Care		
Action Taken(s)	Status of Action(s)	Results
RX Mobile/Screen and Intervene Program	FY2021 Pilot Program Completed June 2021.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Over 2,400 households served July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021</li> <li>6 active cohort clients with 12 completed 1:1 consultations with Community Outreach Nurse and Registered Dietician</li> </ul>
Micro Food Pantry	In progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Serves approximately 35 individuals per month with healthy food options, self-care items and supplies</li> </ul>
Fit-N-Healthy Program	In progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hosted 3 sessions per year with an average weight loss of 150lbs collectively per session</li> <li>Virtual program launched in February 2021 with 46 registered clients</li> <li>Total weight lost in 6-week program was 200lbs (11 individuals)</li> </ul>
Community Outreach Screenings	In progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Majority of on-site screenings were suspended due to pandemic</li> <li>Hippocrates Clinic support provided screenings and resource referrals to over 400 individuals</li> </ul>
Education and Employment		
Action Taken(s)	Status of Action(s)	Results
Kankakee High School District 111 CNA Program	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AHSMH partnered with Kankakee Highschool to provide CNA training on patient floors for certification.</li> <li>16 students per week from September 2019 – August 2020</li> </ul>
Kankakee County Workforce Board and Economic Alliance Talent Committees	In progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AHSMH participates in monthly meetings, program development and execution.</li> </ul>

Youth Volunteer Program	On Hold	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• AHSMH offers summer youth intern/job shadowing program. 2018 and 2019 hosted 7 students per summer.</li></ul>
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## Implementation

### Community Assets & Resources

AMITA Health St. Mary’s Hospital Kankakee will continue working with organizations and stakeholders in its community to address its prioritized health needs, including the members of the Kankakee County Partnership for a Healthy Community Executive (Steering) Committee as well as other key stakeholder organizations:

Aunt Martha’s Health Services	Kankakee Salvation Army
Bradley-Bourbonnais District 307	Iroquois-Kankakee Regional Office of Education
Catholic Charities Diocese of Joliet	NAACP – Kankakee and Iroquois Counties
Clove Alliance – Kankakee County Center Against Sexual Assault and Human Trafficking	Northern Illinois Food Bank
Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley	Options Center for Independent Living
Easterseals Joliet Region, Inc.	United Way of Kankakee & Iroquois Counties
Economic Alliance of Kankakee County	Pledge for Life Partnership
Fortitude Community Outreach – Foundation for the homeless	Project Sun
Helen Wheeler Center for Community Mental Health	Olivet Nazarene University
Hippocrates Clinic	Twenty-first Judicial Circuit Family Violence Coordinating Council
Kankakee Community College (KCC)	Workforce Board of Kankakee, Grundy and Livingston Counties
Kankakee County Hispanic Partnership, INC.	YMCA of Kankakee County
Kankakee County Health Department	
Kankakee District 111	
Kankakee Public Library	

### 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, AHSMH 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 St. Mary's Hospital Administration Office.

AMITA Health St. Mary's Hospital Kankakee 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, the Kankakee County Community Leadership Board of AMITA Health St. Mary's Hospital Kankakee approved this document in June 2021 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.