

# Ascension Saint Joseph

**TY2022 Community Health Needs Assessment  
Will County, IL**



**Ascension**

The goal of this report is to offer a meaningful understanding of the most significant health needs across Will County, as well as to inform planning efforts to address those needs. Special attention has been given to the needs of individuals and communities who are more vulnerable, unmet health needs or gaps in services, and input gathered from the community. Findings from this report can be used to identify, develop, and focus hospital, health system, and community initiatives and programming to better serve the health and wellness needs of the community.

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The 2023 Community Health Needs Assessment report was approved by the Ascension Illinois Joint Hospitals Board on March 22, 2023 (2022 tax year), and applies to the following three-year cycle July 2022 to June 2025 (FY 2023 - FY 2025). This report, as well as the previous report, can be found at our public website.

**We value the community's voice and welcome feedback on this report. Please visit our public website (<https://healthcare.ascension.org/chna>) to submit your comments.**

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## Acknowledgements

This Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) represents a true collaborative effort in order to gain a meaningful understanding of the most pressing health needs within the hospital service area and across Will County. Ascension Saint Joseph Joliet is exceedingly thankful to the many community organizations and individuals who shared their views, knowledge, expertise, and skills with us. A complete description of community partner contributions is included in this report. We look forward to our continued collaborative work to make this a better, healthier place for all people.

We would also like to thank you for reading this report, and your interest and commitment to improving the health of our community.

## Executive Summary

The goal of the 2023 Community Health Needs Assessment report is to offer a meaningful understanding of the most significant health needs within the hospital service area and across Will County. Findings from this report can be used to identify, develop, and focus hospital, health system, and community initiatives and programming to better serve the health and wellness needs of the community.

### **Purpose of the CHNA**

As part of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010, all not-for-profit hospitals are required to conduct a community health needs assessment (CHNA) and adopt an implementation strategy every three years. The purpose of the CHNA is to understand the health needs and priorities of those who live and/or work in the communities served by the hospital, with the goal of addressing those needs through the development of an implementation strategy plan.

### **Community Served**

Ascension Saint Joseph community consists of Joliet and the surrounding areas. The hospital community primary service area (PSA) is a collection of zip codes where approximately 75% of the hospital patients reside and where we focus our community health improvement efforts. The majority of the hospital PSA is within Will County. Ascension Saint Joseph assessed data at the hospital PSA level for the CHNA although community health data is more readily available at the county level, which was also used for some indicators.

### **Data Analysis Methodology**

The TY2022 CHNA was conducted over 16 months concluding in September 2022 in collaboration with the Will County MAPP Collaborative. An adapted version of the Mobilizing Action Through Planning and Partnership (MAPP) process was used which incorporated data from both primary and secondary sources. Primary data sources included information provided by groups/individuals, e.g., community residents, health care consumers, health care professionals, community stakeholders, and multi-sector representatives. Special attention was given to the needs of individuals and communities who are more vulnerable, and to unmet health needs or gaps in services.

In collaboration, the Will County MAPP Collaborative completed four MAPP assessments: Community Health Status Assessment, Forces of Change Assessment, Local Public Health System Assessment, Community Themes and Strengths Assessment. Between November 2021 and July 2022, Will County MAPP Collaborative partners collected over 825 community input surveys from individuals ten or older living in Will County. The surveys were available online in English and Spanish. In addition, surveys were collected in paper format at focus groups and in-person events. Between February and July 2022, the

Forces of Change assessment was completed with 35 community partners to identify eight forces that might impact the local public health system now or in the future. In early 2022, the Local Public Health System Assessment was completed to understand the overall strengths and weaknesses of the local public health system. An online tool comprising 53 questions was completed by 50 participants from a wide range of organizations within Will County.

The Community Health Status Assessment included secondary data that was compiled and reviewed to understand the health status of the community. Measures reviewed included chronic disease, social and economic factors, and healthcare access and utilization trends in the community and were gathered from reputable and reliable sources.

### **Community Needs**

Ascension Saint Joseph analyzed secondary data indicators and gathered community input through surveys and focus groups to identify the needs in Will County. In collaboration with the Will County MAPP Collaborative, Ascension Saint Joseph used a phased prioritization approach at an in-person forum on September 30, 2022 to determine the most crucial needs for community stakeholders to address. The significant needs are as follows:

- Access to Care
- Access to Food and Nutrition
- Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse
- Stabilizing the Built Environment

Following the completion of the CHNA assessment, Ascension Saint Joseph will select all, or a subset, of the significant needs as the hospital's prioritized needs to develop a three-year implementation strategy. Although the hospital may address many needs, the prioritized needs will be at the center of a formal CHNA implementation strategy and corresponding tracking and reporting.

## About Ascension

As one of the leading non-profit and Catholic health systems in the United States, Ascension is committed to delivering compassionate, personalized care to all, with special attention to persons living in poverty and those most vulnerable.

### Ascension

Ascension is a faith-based healthcare organization dedicated to transformation through innovation across the continuum of care. The national health system operates more than 2,600 sites of care – including 145 hospitals and more than 40 senior living facilities – in 19 states and the District of Columbia, while providing a variety of services including clinical and network services, venture capital investing, investment management, biomedical engineering, facilities management, risk management and contracting through Ascension’s own group purchasing organization.

Ascension’s Mission provides a strong framework and guidance for the work done to meet the needs of communities across the U.S. It is foundational to transform healthcare and express priorities when providing care and services, particularly to those most in need.

**Mission:** Rooted in the loving ministry of Jesus as healer, we commit ourselves to serving all persons with special attention to those who are poor and vulnerable. Our Catholic health ministry is dedicated to spiritually-centered, holistic care which sustains and improves the health of individuals and communities. We are advocates for a compassionate and just society through our actions and our words.

### Ascension Saint Joseph

As a Ministry of the Catholic Church, Ascension Saint Joseph is a non-profit hospital that provides medical care to Joliet and the surrounding communities. Ascension Saint Joseph is part of Ascension Illinois which operates 15 hospital campuses and 230 sites of care. The organization includes more than 600 providers as part of Ascension Medical Group, as well as 17,000 associates.

Ascension Saint Joseph has been meeting the health needs of Joliet and the Will County area for over 130 years. Founded by the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart, the Medical Center continues to carry out its mission. Located in the heart of the southern suburbs, 480- bed Saint Joseph Medical Center provides many advanced health care services including Neurosurgical Services, Open-Heart Surgery Program, Robotic Surgery, Advanced Orthopedic Care, Cancer Care, Level II Emergency/Trauma Center, Family Birthing Suites, Level II Special Care Nursery, Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, Rehabilitation Services, Behavioral Health Services and Sleep Disorder Center.

For more information about Ascension Saint Joseph Joliet, visit [healthcare.ascension.org](https://healthcare.ascension.org).



## 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.”<sup>1</sup> 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 Ascension Saint Joseph’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. 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 <https://healthcare.ascension.org/CHNA> and paper versions can be requested at Ascension Saint Joseph’s Administrative Suite.

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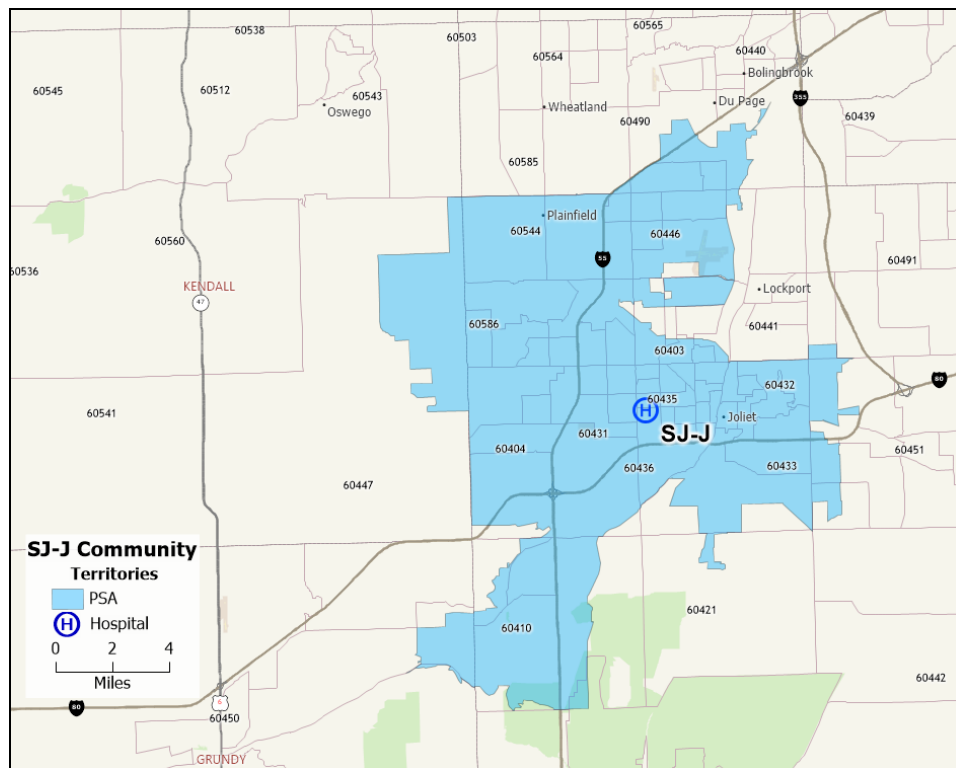
<sup>1</sup> Catholic Health Association of the United States (<https://www.chausa.org>)  
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## Community Served and Demographics

A first step in the assessment process is clarifying the geography within which the assessment occurs and understanding the community demographics.

### Community Served

For the purpose of the 2023 CHNA, Ascension Saint Joseph has defined its community as zip codes within its primary service area (PSA). The majority of the hospital PSA is within Will County. As possible, Saint Joseph assessed data at the hospital PSA level for the CHNA although community health data is more readily available at the county level, which was also used for some indicators.



**Map of Community Served**

Will County includes the City of Joliet as well as surrounding suburban municipalities. Nearly all major industries are offered within Will County’s geography that includes both urban, suburban and rural areas.

### Demographic Data

Located in Illinois, Will County has a population of 688,726. Ascension Saint Joseph primary service area has a population of 299,852.

Below are demographic data highlights for Ascension Saint Joseph community::

- Fourteen percent of the residents of Will County are 65 or older, compared to 16.6 percent in Illinois. The hospital's primary service area is similar to the county, with 14.2 percent of residents 65 or older, but is projected to grow to 16.3 percent by 2028.
- Nearly nineteen percent of residents are Hispanic or Latino (any race) in Will County, however, the hospital's primary service area includes 31.2 percent Hispanic or Latino residents. It is anticipated this population in the primary service area will increase by 12.9% by 2028.
- Sixty two percent of residents are White; 6.2 percent are Asian; 11.9 percent are Black or African American
- The median household income is above the state median income (\$90,300 for Will County; \$71,200 for Illinois).
- The percent of all ages of people in poverty was significantly lower than the state ( 7.9% percent for Will County; 11% percent for Illinois)
- The uninsured rate for the Will County is lower than the state (7% percent for Will County; 9% percent for Illinois)

To view Community Demographic Data in its entirety, see Appendix B (*page 37*).

## Process and Methods Used

Ascension Saint Joseph is committed to using national best practices in conducting the CHNA. Health needs and assets for Will County and the hospital PSA were determined using a combination of data collection and analysis for both secondary and primary data, as well as community input on the identified and significant needs.

### **Collaborators: Will County MAPP Collaborative**

Ascension Illinois partnered with the Will County MAPP Collaborative on the TY2022 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) for its Will County hospitals. This collaborative CHNA for Will County, Illinois was conducted by the Will County MAPP Collaborative, a collaborative of 4 hospitals working with the lead agency, the Will County Health Department, as well as community-based organizations to improve health equity, wellness, and quality of life across Will County. Hospitals in this collaborative include:

#### **Will County MAPP Collaborative Participating Hospitals**

AdventHealth Bolingbrook

Ascension Saint Joseph Joliet

Edward-Elmhurst Health

Silver Cross Hospital

The 2023 (TY22) Community Health Needs Assessment is the fifth collaborative CHNA in Will County, Illinois. The Will County Health Department acts as the backbone organization for the Will County MAPP Collaborative and leads the executive steering committee, composed of 26 leaders, to design the CHNA to meet regulatory requirements under the Affordable Care Act and to ensure close collaboration on the community health improvement planning processes.

The Will County MAPP Collaborative's mission, vision, and values shown below reflect input from hospital partners, health departments, and community partners.

**Vision Statement:** Achieving equitable and optimal health in body and mind for all Will County residents.

**Mission Statement:** The Will County MAPP Collaborative will assess the health needs of the community and develop, implement and evaluate initiatives to promote the highest quality of life for all residents.

**Values:** Health Equity, Collective Impact, Respect, Communication, Quality, Inclusiveness

## **Data Collection Methodology**

In collaboration with various community partners, Ascension Saint Joseph collected and analyzed primary and secondary data within Will County. The Will County MAPP Collaborative CHNA process is adapted from the Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) framework, a community-engaged strategic planning framework that was developed by the National Association for County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The MAPP framework promotes a system focus, emphasizing the importance of community engagement, partnership development, and the dynamic interplay of factors and forces within the public health system. The collaborative chose this inclusive, community-driven process to leverage and align with health department assessments and to actively engage stakeholders, including community members, in identifying and addressing strategic priorities to advance health equity.

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, there were adjustments that were made in the assessment process to accommodate more virtual participation by organizations, healthcare partners, and community members.

### **Summary of Community Input**

Recognizing its vital importance in understanding the health needs and assets of the community, Will County MAPP Collaborative consulted with a range of public health and social service providers that represent the broad interest of Will County. A concerted effort was made to ensure that the individuals and organizations represented the needs and perspectives of: 1) public health practice and research; 2) individuals who are medically underserved, are low-income, or considered among the minority populations served by the hospital; and 3) the broader community at large and those who represent the broad interests and needs of the community served.

Multiple methods were used to gather community input through the use of these three MAPP Assessments: Forces of Change Assessment, Community Themes and Strengths Assessment, Local Public Health System Assessment. These assessments provided additional perspectives on how to select and address top health issues facing Will County when reviewed with secondary data looking for cross-cutting themes. A summary of the process and results is outlined below.

### **Forces of Change Assessment**

The Forces of Change Assessment (FOCA) aims to identify all the forces and associated opportunities and threats that can affect, either now or in the future, the local public health system. Forces may be social, economic, political, technological, environmental, scientific, legal and/or ethical in nature.

During the FOCA, participants answer the following questions:

- What is occurring or might occur that affects the health of our community or the local public

health system?

- What specific threats or opportunities are generated by these occurrences?

The Forces of Change Assessment (FOCA) elicited broad community input to identify forces of change impacting the local public health system in Will County. Participants reported on current trends, events, and factors that may have implications on the local public health system and quality of life for Will County residents. FOCA participants also addressed threats and opportunities posed by each of the major forces.

In February 2022, the Will County MAPP Collaborative distributed the Forces of Change Assessment online. This survey was distributed to members of the MAPP Executive Committee, MAPP Action Teams, Will County Board of Health, Will County Board, Ascension Saint Joseph Medical Center Community, Silver Cross Community Health Community, Advent Health Bolingbrook Community, Edward-Elmhurst Health Community, MAPP Community based organizational partners, and community members. Upon closure of the survey in July 2022, thirty-five responses were analyzed, forces were combined into cross-cutting themes and listed alphabetically. A draft Forces of Change Assessment was presented to the MAPP Executive Committee for review and approval in August 2022.

Below is a summary of key findings:

<b>Forces of Change Assessment</b>
<b>Key Summary Points</b>
<p>An analysis of the forces reported by MAPP Partners and community members throughout the FOCA process produced ten issues and the opportunities identified by stakeholders:</p> <p>Access to transportation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve partnerships with transportation agencies</li> <li>• Increase advocacy and funding to expand transportation options</li> </ul> <p>Access/affordability of healthy foods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase access to healthy food options</li> <li>• Advocate for local food systems and local food distributions to meet demands</li> <li>• Increase literacy related to nutritional guidelines</li> </ul> <p>Access/affordability of housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase advocacy for affordable housing options</li> <li>• Increase advocacy and support for individuals suffering from housing insecurity</li> </ul> <p>Air and water quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase advocacy to improve air and water quality standards</li> <li>• Increase advocacy to conserve local lands</li> </ul>

**Behavioral health/substance abuse**

- Increase advocacy and funding to expand treatment facilities and providers
- Increase coordination of care with existing Will County agencies
- Improve community perception and decrease stigma of behavioral health services

**Equitable and quality health care**

- Increase advocacy and funding for more equitable and quality health care services
- Increase collaborations with community agencies to reach youth and other target populations
- Improve cultural and ethnic sensitives & communications among the health and human services sectors
- Expand mobile and satellite services for socially vulnerable populations
- Implement policy for an equitable workforce

**Funding for social service agencies**

- Increase advocacy for stable state funding
- Increase awareness and education of public health issues to elected officials
- Diversify funding opportunities
- Expand funding for community impact implementation related to social determinants of health

**Political climate**

- Increase advocacy efforts and support for vulnerable and minority populations
- Increase awareness and education of public health issues to elected officials
- Encourage bipartisanship over issues regarding social determinants of health and other public health issues
- Increase voter registration among Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) communities through increased awareness and advocacy efforts

**Unemployment/underemployment**

- Encourage industries and businesses to bring diversified employment opportunities to Will County
- Increase advocacy for fair wages and income equality

**Use and influence of technology/social media**

- Improve technology access for socially vulnerable populations
- Improve technology access and education for the senior population
- Expand telehealth opportunities
- Expand data warehousing and data sharing among agencies

<b>Populations Represented</b>	<b>Common Themes</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health care sector</li> <li>• Public health sector</li> <li>• Educational organizations</li> <li>• Community Based organizations</li> <li>• Grass Roots organizations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The top three ranked forces with the most impact on the county include: Economic Forces(38%), Social Forces (35%), Political Forces (29%).</li> <li>• There is a need for increased advocacy for funding for health, human services and socially vulnerable.</li> <li>• There is a need for increased coordination and partnership among those in the local public health system.</li> <li>• There is a need for increased educational opportunities.</li> <li>• There is needed improvement in the area of literacy, including health literacy, among socially vulnerable populations.</li> <li>• There is a need for increased jobs, workforce and employment opportunities.</li> </ul>

### Community Themes and Strengths Assessment

The Community Themes and Strengths Assessment (CTSA) collects community members’ perceptions, thoughts, opinions, attitudes, and concerns regarding quality of life, health, and equity within Will County. The Will County MAPP Collaborative participated in the Community Themes and Strengths Assessment (CTSA) through the use of a community-wide survey. The assessment contains 72 questions, addressing a variety of topics, including: demographics, quality of life, access to resources, health status, discrimination, social support resources, economic development, social issues, and opportunities. Respondents provided their perception of health and quality of life issues within their homes, community and the county.

Descriptive answers were not required for every question, qualitative responses were elicited, and community input and comments were encouraged. Most of the survey questions requested community members to rate these topics on a Likert scale; however, an option was provided for written responses. The survey opened in November 2021 and closed in July 2022. The survey was provided in both English and Spanish. A total of 796 responses were received.

Below is a summary of key findings:

<b>Community Themes &amp; Strengths Assessment</b>	
<b>Key Summary Points</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Among community input survey respondents 77% rated the overall quality of life to be good or better and 75.19% rated Will County as a good or better place to raise children. Over 61% said it was a good or better place to grow old.</li> <li>• Among community input survey respondents, nearly 65% said safety in their home, schools, workplace, on playgrounds was good, very good or excellent.</li> <li>• When rating the quality of the Will County healthcare system, 68.35% were satisfied with access, cost, availability and option in healthcare.</li> <li>• Discrimination was most commonly reported at work, on the street/public place and gaining employment.</li> <li>• The primary source for information on health-related issues was the internet, followed by their doctor and social media.</li> <li>• The majority of survey respondents were: married (57.79%), female (67.1%), 55 years and over (44.9%), white/Caucasian (68.18%), English speaking (94.75%) and had at least some college (79.72%).</li> <li>• Nearly 14% of survey participants identify as Hispanic.</li> <li>• Nearly sixty percent of survey respondents have health insurance through their employer, 15.18% pay for their own insurance, 28.63% have Medicaid.</li> <li>• Nearly 22 percent of survey respondents report seeking emergency department care when in need of healthcare instead of through primary care physician or community clinic.</li> <li>• Nearly 96% of survey respondents own a smartphone or tablet.</li> </ul>	
<b>Populations Represented</b>	<b>Common Themes</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-English speaking</li> <li>• Households with individual(s) with</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Within their homes, survey respondents ranked depression/anxiety disorders; tobacco use and other mental health issues as their</li> </ul>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a disability</li> <li>Families with children</li> <li>Low-income persons</li> <li>Individuals living with mental health conditions and/or substance use disorders</li> <li>Older adults</li> <li>Youth and young adults</li> <li>Individuals experiencing homelessness</li> <li>Immigrant community</li> </ul>	<p>most common concern.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the community, survey respondents ranked illegal drugs, violence and prescription drug use as the most common concerns.</li> <li>In the open comments, the most common concerns raised include increased truck traffic within the county; lack of good paying jobs; increased crime/lack of safety; lack of resources or access to resources; vaccination efficacy.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Meaningful Quotes</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Truck traffic and intermodals have destroyed our county. It has brought unsafe roads, theft and poor air quality.</i></li> <li><i>I would like to see more neighborly camaraderie and block clubs along with beautification in my neighborhood.</i></li> <li><i>There are too many low and poverty wage jobs. This is causing overcrowding of families sharing homes and low wages are driving out good businesses as there's not enough money being put back into our (local) economy.</i></li> <li><i>In the past, we have needed mental health services and were unable to find help. Either there are no locations nearby, or they don't take (our) insurance.</i></li> </ul>	

**Local Public Health System Assessment**

The Local Public Health System Assessment (LPHSA) is used to understand the overall strengths and weaknesses of the Public Health System in Will County, based on the 10 Essential Public Health Services. The 2022 Will County Local Public Health System Assessment (LPHSA) provides information to improve the health of those who live and work in Will County, by identifying strengths and weaknesses in the system and opportunities to improve service provision. The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) designed this tool for the LPHSA, as part of the community planning process, Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnership (MAPP). Additional questions were added to gain information related to health equity in the county.

Public, private and voluntary entities that contribute to public health activities, were sought to participate in the process. Fifty participants utilized the Survey Monkey to assess the public health system. Participants were requested to rate the public health system's activity, related to each Essential Public Health Service and health equity. Responses were: no activity, minimal, moderate, significant or optimal activity. Participant comments were encouraged. The survey was open from February 2022 through July 2022.

Below is a summary of key findings:

**Local Public Health System Assessment**

<b>Key Summary Points</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Of those surveyed, most (58.34%) responded that their job duties align to: informing, educating and empowering people about health issues (29.17%) and linking people to needed public health services and assuring the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable (29.17%)</li> <li>• Notable strengths from the assessment include the promotion and use of the collaborative community health assessment to analyze health data and identify problems areas; emergency response preparation; use of different forms of media and technology to spread messages; public health system encourages participation in health improvement activities; partnerships with policymakers on current and proposed policies that affect health.</li> <li>• Notable areas of opportunity from the assessment include data and technology gaps between organizations within the local public health system; increased participation from organizations in emergency planning and data collection; technology gap for more vulnerable members of the community; healthcare and public health workforce challenges due to pandemic; increase and more timely coordination among organizations; lack of evaluation of programs and services on effectiveness; increased diversity of public health system to reflect the community they serve.</li> </ul>	
<b>Sectors Represented</b>	<b>Common Themes</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healthcare</li> <li>• Public Health</li> <li>• Social Services/Community Based Organizations</li> <li>• Faith Based Organizations</li> <li>• Human Resources</li> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Local Government</li> <li>• First Responders/Law Enforcement</li> <li>• Parks and Recreation</li> <li>• Community Members</li> <li>• Environmental health</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunities to re-build, stabilize and grow the public health and health care workforce.</li> <li>• Data sharing and technology modernization among those in the local public health system needed.</li> <li>• Increased communication and coordination is needed across sectors to achieve systemic change.</li> <li>• Increase diversity of the local public health system leadership and health boards.</li> <li>• Increased collaboration with elected officials to shape policy and laws to improve the local public health system.</li> </ul>
<b>Meaningful Quotes</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>We need to understand the reasons people do not get the care they need.</i></li> <li>• <i>Elected officials and policy makers need to be aware of the community needs.</i></li> </ul>	

To view community input data in its entirety, see Appendix C (page 40).

### Summary of Secondary Data: Community Health Status Assessment

Secondary data is data that has already been collected and published by another party. Both governmental and non-governmental agencies routinely collect secondary data reflective of the health status of the population at the state and county level through surveys and surveillance systems. Ascension Saint Joseph compiled secondary data in partnership with the Will County MAPP Collaborative through the Community Health Status Assessment (CHSA). The CHSA provides a picture of our community by answering three questions:

1. Who are we and what do we bring to the table?
2. What are the strengths and risks in our community that contribute to health?
3. What is our health status?

The CHSA was completed from January through June 2022 by the MAPP Data, Evaluation and Monitoring (DEM) team. Data was compiled from various sources that are reputable and reliable. Secondary data used in the CHNA were compiled from a range of sources including:

<b>Secondary Data Sources</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System</li> <li>● Center for Applied Research and Environmental Systems (CARES)</li> <li>● Centers for Disease Control &amp; Prevention, Office of Infectious Disease, National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral</li> <li>● Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention</li> <li>● Centers for Disease Control &amp; Prevention, Office of Public Health Science Services, Center for Surveillance, Epidemiology and Laboratory Services, Division of Health Informatics and Surveillance (DHIS)</li> <li>● Centers for Disease Control &amp; Prevention, Office of Public Health Science Services, National Center for Health Statistics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● American Community Survey</li> <li>● County Health Rankings ESRI ArcGIS Map Gallery</li> <li>● Illinois Department of Children and Family Services</li> <li>● Illinois Department of Public Health</li> <li>● Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board</li> <li>● Illinois Hospital Report Card</li> <li>● Illinois State Board of Education</li> <li>● Illinois State Police</li> <li>● Illinois Youth Survey</li> <li>● Mental Health America Study</li> <li>● National Cancer Institute, State Cancer Profiles</li> <li>● Office of Policy Development and Research</li> <li>● Substance Abuse &amp; Mental Health Data Archive</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● US Census Bureau, County Business Patterns</li> <li>● US Census Bureau, Decennial Census</li> <li>● US Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service</li> <li>● US Department of Health &amp; Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)</li> <li>● US Department of Housing and Urban Development</li> <li>● US Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation</li> <li>● US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics</li> <li>● Will County Coroner</li> <li>● Will County Land Use</li> <li>● Will County Health Department and Community Health Center</li> </ul>

The CHSA identifies health indicators in the following eleven categories:

- |                                 |                               |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Demographics                 | 7. Maternal and Child Health  |
| 2. Socioeconomics               | 8. Environmental Health       |
| 3. Quality of Life              | 9. Communicable Diseases      |
| 4. Health Resource Availability | 10. Death, Illness and Injury |
| 5. Behavioral Risk Factors      | 11. Sentinel Events           |
| 6. Social and Mental Health     |                               |

To view secondary data and sources, see Appendix D (*page 41*).

### Written Comments on Previous CHNA and Implementation Strategy

Ascension Saint Joseph's previous CHNA and implementation strategy were made available to the public and open for public comment via the website: <https://healthcare.ascension.org/chna>.

As of the date of CHNA publication, no public comments have been received.

### Data Limitations and Information Gaps

Although it is quite comprehensive, this assessment cannot measure all possible aspects of health and cannot represent every possible population within Will County. This constraint limits the ability to fully assess all the community's needs.

For this assessment, three types of limitations were identified:

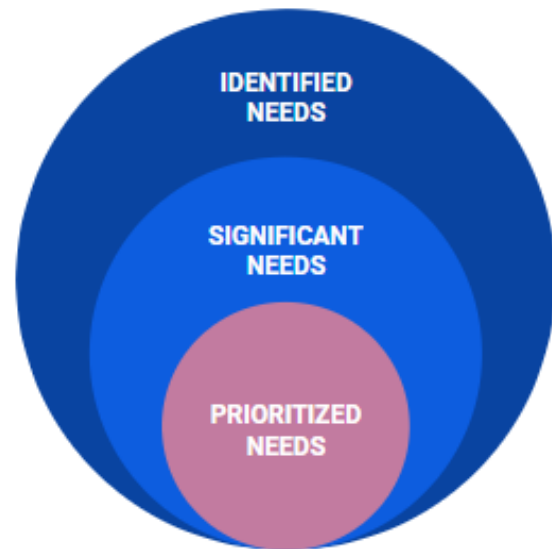
- Some groups of individuals may not have been adequately represented through the community input process.
- Secondary data is limited in a number of ways, including timeliness, reach, and descriptive ability with groups as identified above.
- An acute community concern may significantly impact a Ministry's ability to conduct portions of the CHNA assessment. An acute community concern is defined by Ascension as an event or situation which may be severe and sudden in onset or newly affects a community. These events may impact the ability to collect community input, may not be captured in secondary data, and/or can present in the middle of the three-year CHNA cycle. For the TY2022 CHNA, the following acute community concerns were identified:
  - COVID-19 pandemic

Despite the data limitations, Ascension Saint Joseph is confident of the overarching themes and health needs represented through the assessment data. This is based on the fact that the data collection included multiple methods, both qualitative and quantitative, and engaged the hospital as well as participants from the community.

## Community Needs

Ascension Saint Joseph, in collaboration with the Will County MAPP Collaborative, analyzed secondary data of numerous indicators and gathered community input through community surveys, community focus groups and stakeholder focus groups to identify the needs in Will County. In collaboration with community partners, Ascension Saint Joseph 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.

Following the completion of the CHNA assessment, Ascension Saint Joseph will select all, or a subset, of the significant needs as the hospital's **prioritized needs** to develop a three-year implementation strategy. Although the hospital may address many needs, the prioritized needs will be at the center of a formal CHNA implementation strategy and corresponding tracking and reporting. The image above also describes the relationship between the needs categories.



### Identified Needs

Ascension has defined “identified needs” as the health outcomes or related conditions (e.g., social determinants of health) impacting the health status of Will County. The identified needs were categorized into groups such as health behaviors, social determinants of health, length of life, quality of life, clinical care, and systemic issues in order to better develop measures and evidence-based interventions that respond to the determined condition.

### Significant Needs

In collaboration with various community partners, Ascension Saint Joseph participated in the Will County MAPP Collaborative Strategic Issues session to prioritize which of the significant needs were of highest priority. Ascension has defined “significant needs” as the identified needs which have been deemed most significant to address based on established criteria and/or prioritization methods. During the in-person forum held on September 30, 2022, eighty persons gathered to review the progress of the initiatives from the previous CHNA cycle, review key findings from the four recently completed MAPP assessments, and prioritize community issues for the next three years. Upon the completion of the

various presentations and discussions, looking for cross-cutting themes from the different assessments, electronic voting was conducted.

Through the prioritization process for the TY2022 CHNA, the significant needs are as follows:

- Access to Care
- Access to Food and Nutrition
- Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse
- Stabilizing the Built Environment

To view health care facilities and community resources available to address the significant needs, please see Appendix E (*page 47*).

A description (including data highlights, community challenges & perceptions, and local assets & resources) of each significant need are on the following pages.

<b>Access to Care</b>	
<b>Why is it Important?</b>	<b>Data Highlights</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to healthcare and community resources is complex and influenced by several factors including provider availability, convenience, accommodation, reliability, quality and acceptability, cultural responsiveness, appropriateness, and approachability.</li> <li>• Limited access to services and other resources is traumatic, which can lead to toxic stress, which contributes to widening health disparities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poverty is a key driver of health status. Populations with the highest poverty include zip codes 60433, 60432, 60436 as well as persons who are African-American/Black, Other Race or of Hispanic/Latino ethnicity.</li> <li>• There was a higher unemployment rate among: males, Hispanic/Latinx population, Black or African American population and in the 16-19 years age group. Also in zip codes 60433, 60484, 60468.</li> <li>• Health insurance is the primary way that individuals access the healthcare system in the United States with 91% having insurance in Will County. Populations with lower insured percentages include males, African-American/Black, Asian, and other races as well as those with Hispanic or Latino ethnicity. The geographic locations for those most uninsured are the following zip codes: 60432, 60433, 60484.</li> <li>• The 60432 and 60433 zip codes are federally designated as a health professional shortage area.</li> <li>• The provider ratios per population for primary care, mental health and dental care are worse than state ratios, which increase access to care issues for those who are uninsured and those with higher health related social needs.</li> <li>• There are 91 dentists in Will County that accept Medicaid, which equals a rate of less than one dentist per 1,000 population of Medicaid beneficiaries.</li> <li>• Stakeholders stress the need to increase collaboration among agencies to reach youth and other target populations including expanding mobile and satellite services for vulnerable populations.</li> <li>• Stakeholders said more cultural and ethnic sensitives and communication strategies are needed in the health and human services sectors.</li> <li>• Stakeholders said a more equitable and diverse healthcare workforce is needed as the public health and health care workforce is re-built post pandemic.</li> <li>• Data sharing and modernization among those in the local public health system is needed.</li> <li>• Nearly 22% of community input survey respondents reported seeking care in the emergency department setting instead of through a primary care physician or community clinic.</li> <li>• 68% of community input survey respondents were satisfied with their healthcare access, costs and options for care.</li> </ul>
<b>Local Assets &amp; Resources</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will County MAPP Collaborative Access to Care Action Team</li> <li>• Know Where to Go Campaign</li> <li>• Ascension Neighborhood Resource</li> <li>• Advocatia</li> <li>• Trauma Informed Care</li> <li>• Emergency Preparedness Planning</li> <li>• Unconscious Bias Trainings</li> <li>• Federally Qualified Health Centers</li> <li>• Free &amp; Charitable Clinics</li> <li>• Community Health Workers</li> <li>• Emergency Department Patient Navigators</li> <li>• Care Management &amp; Social Workers</li> </ul>	
<b>Community Challenges &amp; Perceptions</b>	<b>Individuals Who Are More Vulnerable</b>



- Many communities still lack geographic and financial access to health care services.
- Issues like a lack of reliable transportation, limited insurance coverage, poor access to public benefits, a lack of culturally and linguistically appropriate services, among healthcare providers make it even harder to access needed care and resources.
- Barriers to care and community resources include lack of representation and diversity among the workforce, burnout (due to COVID pandemic and in general), workforce shortages, hiring difficulties.

Key priority populations include:

- LGBTQ+ persons
- Immigrants and refugees, particularly undocumented immigrants
- Limited English Proficient persons
- Persons other than White, Non-Hispanic/Latino
- Low-income community including infants, children & older adults; uninsured or underinsured
- Persons with disabilities
- Persons experiencing homelessness

## Access to Food and Nutrition

### Why is it Important?

- Social and economic factors are important drivers of health outcomes. The COVID-19 pandemic created additional or worsened social needs.
- Affordability and accessibility of food is often intimately tied to systemic racism and social and structural determinants of health.
- Research indicates that communities with better access to healthy foods and limited access to convenience stores have healthier diets and lower rates of obesity.
- Low food access (availability & affordability of food retailers) & food insecurity (limited or uncertain access to adequate food) continues to be a key SDoH in many parts of the county.
- Chronic diseases are the leading cause of disability and death.

### Data Highlights

- 33% of adults in Will County are obese, which is slightly higher than state & national percentages.
- 26% of adults report no leisure-time physical activity.
- 7% of the population are low income and also do not live close to a grocery store compared to 5% in the rest of Illinois.
- 16% of adults report fair or poor health in Will County.
- 10% of adults aged 20 and above have been diagnosed with diabetes, which is similar to state percentages.
- Lack of resources or access to resources was a common theme by community input survey respondents.
- Stakeholders stressed the need for greater access to healthy food options within all parts of the county as well as increased literacy on nutritional guidelines.
- Stakeholders asked for more advocacy for local food systems and local food distribution to meet the costs of increased demands by the population.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of prevention and appropriate treatment for chronic conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).</li> </ul>	
<b>Local Assets &amp; Resources</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Pantries &amp; Soup Kitchens</li> <li>• Northern Illinois Food Bank</li> <li>• Micro Pantries</li> <li>• Food for All Initiative/We WILL Grow</li> <li>• Will County Land Use</li> <li>• University of Illinois Extension</li> <li>• Will County Farm Bureau</li> <li>• Park Districts</li> <li>• Will County MAPP Collaborative Access to Food &amp; Nutrition Action Team</li> <li>• Ascension Neighborhood Resource</li> <li>• Diabetes Prevention &amp; Self-Management Programs</li> <li>• Outpatient diabetes services</li> </ul>	
<b>Community Challenges &amp; Perceptions</b>	<b>Individuals Who Are More Vulnerable</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issues like poverty, limited access to healthy foods, the high cost of care and medications, and unstable housing can cause chronic diseases and make them harder to manage.</li> <li>• Factors like access to emergency food services, health educational classes, access to safe exercise spaces, and improved communication about existing resources could make it easier for communities to be healthy.</li> </ul>	<p>Social determinants of health often vary by geography, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, race, ethnicity, immigration status, disability status, socioeconomic status, education level, and military status. This leads to significant differences in morbidity and mortality between these groups.</p> <p>Key priority populations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immigrants and refugees, particularly undocumented immigrants</li> <li>• Formerly incarcerated persons</li> <li>• Persons with disabilities</li> <li>• Older Adults</li> <li>• Limited English Proficient persons</li> <li>• Persons other than White, Non-Hispanic/Latino</li> <li>• Low-income community</li> <li>• Persons experiencing homelessness</li> </ul>

<b>Behavioral Health &amp; Substance Use</b>	
<b>Why is it Important?</b>	<b>Data Highlights</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mental health plays a critical role in the overall well-being of communities. Mental health includes emotional, psychological, and social well-being and it affects how we think, feel, and act.</li> <li>• Mental health and substance use continues to be the top priority for communities in Will County.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suicide deaths in Will County are trending down in recent years, with 11 deaths due to suicide per 100,000 population.</li> <li>• Adults experienced 4.0 reported mentally unhealthy days in the past 30 days while 12% of adults reported 14 or more days of poor mental health per month.</li> <li>• Adults in Will county have less social associations than Illinois and the United States.</li> <li>• The rate of Will County population to mental health providers is 680 population to one provider. This is significantly less than the Illinois ratio and national ratio.</li> <li>• 37% of the adult population who report fewer than 7 hours of sleep on average, which is considered insufficient sleep.</li> <li>• Adults who report excessive drinking (21%) is less than state and national percentages, however, alcohol-impaired driving deaths in Will County are much higher at 31% compared to Illinois and the United States.</li> <li>• Within Will County homes, community input survey respondents said depression and anxiety orders is the number one issue in their homes followed by tobacco use and other mental health issues.</li> <li>• Community input survey respondents ranked illegal drug use as the biggest problems in the community along with violence and prescription drug use.</li> <li>• Stakeholders stressed increased and timely care coordination among Will County agencies is needed for behavioral health care.</li> <li>• Stakeholders asked for increased advocacy and funding to expand treatment facilities, programs and providers.</li> <li>• There is a continued need to decrease stigma around behavioral health services.</li> </ul>
<b>Local Assets &amp; Resources</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will County MAPP Behavioral Health &amp; Substance Use Action Team</li> <li>• Will County Office of Substance use Initiatives and Opioid Crisis</li> <li>• Federally Qualified Health Centers</li> <li>• Free &amp; Charitable Clinics</li> <li>• Community Mental Health Centers</li> <li>• Mental Health First Aid</li> <li>• Community Health Workers</li> <li>• Street Outreach Programs</li> <li>• Warm Handoff Programs</li> <li>• Naloxone (Narcan) Training &amp; Distribution</li> <li>• Drug/Rx Take-Back Bins</li> <li>• Ascension Behavioral Health</li> <li>• Ascension Neighborhood Resource</li> </ul>	
<b>Community Challenges &amp; Perceptions</b>	<b>Individuals Who Are More Vulnerable</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a need for holistic integrated care options and improved access to mental health and substance abuse treatment.</li> <li>• Individual, community, provider, and institutional stigma</li> </ul>	<p>Key priority populations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young adults</li> <li>• LGBTQ+ persons</li> <li>• Immigrants and refugees, particularly undocumented immigrants</li> <li>• Limited English Proficient persons</li> </ul>

<p>surrounding mental illness prevents many people from seeking help.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of access to quality insurance coverage for regular mental health services is a barrier and there is a significant need for mental health centers that serve the uninsured or underinsured.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Persons other than White, Non-Hispanic or Latino</li> <li>• Low-income community; uninsured or underinsured</li> <li>• Older adults, including homebound</li> <li>• Persons with disabilities</li> <li>• Individual involved with criminal justice system including juveniles</li> <li>• Persons experiencing homelessness</li> </ul>
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Stabilizing the Built Environment	
Why is it Important?	Data Highlights
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social and economic factors are important drivers of health outcomes. The COVID-19 pandemic created additional or worsened social needs.</li> <li>• Poverty, employment, housing, transportation and community safety create additional barriers to access to health care.</li> <li>• Individuals experiencing poor housing conditions or homelessness may also have high rates of chronic mental and physical health conditions, co-occurring disorders, barriers to healthcare and affordable housing, and misuse of emergency healthcare services.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unemployment is 9.5% in Will County which is the same as Illinois, but higher than the United States.</li> <li>• 7.9% of Will County live in poverty, but there are geographical disparities with the greatest concentration of poverty in Joliet zip codes 60433, 60432, 60436.</li> <li>• 12% of households spend 50% or more of their income on housing, which is slightly less than state and national percentages.</li> <li>• 14% of homes in Will County have at least one housing issue.</li> <li>• Within Will County, it is estimated that 1.80% of housing units are overcrowded. However, geographic disparities exist with much higher percentages in Joliet, Bolingbrook and south Will County.</li> <li>• There is less residential segregation of Black and White residents in Will County (52 index) than the state (72 index).</li> <li>• Will County has higher air pollution at 10.1 average daily density of fine particulate matter in micrograms per cubic meter compared to 9.4 for Illinois and 7.5 for the United States.</li> <li>• Will County Point in Time (PIT) data of those experiencing homelessness are trending down since 2018, however additional emergency pandemic funding has provided overnight stays that has reduced those homeless in Will County since 2020.</li> <li>• Many community input respondents gave open comments related to increased truck traffic and pollution in the county.</li> <li>• Stakeholders expressed the need for increased businesses and industries to the county to increase employment and wages.</li> <li>• Improving air, water as well as land conservation was advocated for by stakeholders.</li> <li>• Increasing advocacy for affordable housing options as well as support and services for those with insecure housing was stressed by stakeholders.</li> </ul>
Local Assets & Resources	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will County Continuum of Care</li> <li>• Will County Land Use</li> <li>• Will County MAPP Collaborative Stabilizing the Built Environment Action Team</li> <li>• Local Shelters</li> <li>• Local Soup Kitchens</li> <li>• Ascension Neighborhood Resource</li> </ul>	
Community Challenges &	Individuals Who Are More Vulnerable

Perceptions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low-income families, particularly those in communities of color, struggle to afford expenses such as rent and utilities.</li> <li>• The industries brought into the community (intermodals &amp; other transportations hubs) are not only hurting the local environment, but keeping other higher paying industries away.</li> </ul>	<p>Social determinants of health often vary by geography, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, race, ethnicity, immigration status, disability status, socioeconomic status, education level, and military status. This leads to significant differences in morbidity and mortality between these groups.</p> <p>Key priority populations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immigrants and refugees, particularly undocumented immigrants</li> <li>• Formerly incarcerated persons</li> <li>• Persons with disabilities</li> <li>• Older Adults</li> <li>• Limited English Proficient persons</li> <li>• Low-income community</li> <li>• Persons experiencing homelessness</li> <li>• Persons living in substandard conditions or crowded housing</li> <li>• LGBTQ+ persons</li> <li>• Persons living with mental health issues and/or substance use disorders</li> </ul>

## **Prioritized Needs**

Following the completion of the community health needs assessment as outlined in this report, Ascension Saint Joseph will develop an implementation strategy. The implementation strategy will focus on all or a subset of the significant needs, and will describe how the hospital intends to address those prioritized needs throughout the same three-year CHNA cycle: TY2023 to TY2025 (FY24 thru FY26). The implementation strategy will also describe why certain significant needs were not selected as a prioritized need to be addressed by the hospital. Ascension has defined “prioritized needs” as the significant needs which have been selected by the hospital to address through the CHNA implementation strategy.

## Summary of Impact from the 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 significant 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.

Highlights from the Ascension Saint Joseph's previous implementation strategy include:

- Despite challenges due to the on-going health pandemic, Saint Joseph continued their partnership with Family Guidance Centers to provide a certified alcohol and drug counselor to patients and community members with substance use disorder. On average each month 25 persons were screened and 14 persons were able to secure treatment options within the community.
- During the three year cycle,, Ascension Saint Joseph partnered with Northern Illinois Food Bank to provide an onsite RX Mobile Program, which provides healthy food options to those facing food insecurity. During this period, 6,110 individuals were screened for food insecurity of which 14% were actively enrolled in the cohort program (received 1:1 nutrition education and chronic disease management with Ascension Saint Joseph nutrition team) and a total of 22,109 individuals received food assistance. In 2022, the RX Mobile program transitioned to the My Pantry Express (MPX) program. Persons referred are able to order free healthy grocery items online and choose home delivery or convenient pick up. Since its inception, 863 persons have been screened by Saint Joseph nutrition team for this program with 83 testing positive for food insecurity and referred to the MPX program.
- Despite challenges and delays in assisting to build a health and housing collaborative in Will County to reduce and eliminate homelessness, progress has been made including the development of a strategic plan and appointment of a designated community leader to further the efforts.

Written input received from the community and a full evaluation of our efforts to address the significant health needs identified in the 2020 (TY2019) CHNA can be found in Appendix F (*page 49*).

## Approval

To ensure the Ascension Saint Joseph's efforts meet the needs of the community and have a lasting and meaningful impact, the TY2022 CHNA was presented to the Ascension Illinois Joint Hospitals Board for approval and adoption on March 22, 2023. 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.



## Conclusion

The purpose of the CHNA process is to develop and document key information on the health and wellbeing of the communities Ascension Saint Joseph serves. This report will be used by internal stakeholders, non-profit organizations, government agencies, and other community partners of Ascension Saint Joseph to guide the implementation strategies and community health improvement efforts as required by the Affordable Care Act. The TY22 CHINA will also be made available to the broader community as a useful resource for further health improvement efforts.

Ascension Saint Joseph hopes this report offers a meaningful and comprehensive understanding of the most significant needs for residents of Will County. As a Catholic health ministry, Saint Joseph is dedicated to spiritually centered, holistic care that sustains and improves the health of not only individuals, but the communities it serves. With special attention to those who are poor and vulnerable, we are advocates for a compassionate and just society through our actions and words. Saint Joseph is dedicated to serving patients with compassionate care and medical excellence, making a difference in every life we touch. The hospital values the community's voice and welcomes feedback on this report. Please visit this public website (<https://healthcare.ascension.org/chna>) to submit your comments.

## Appendices

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Appendix E: Health Care Facilities and Community Resources

Appendix F: Evaluation of Impact From Previous CHNA Implementation Strategy

## **Appendix A: Definitions and Terms**

### **Acute Community Concern**

An event or situation which may be severe and sudden in onset, or newly affects a community. This could describe anything from a health crisis (e.g., COVID-19, water poisoning) or environmental events (e.g. hurricane, flood) or other event that suddenly impacts a community. The framework is a defined set of procedures to provide guidance on the impact (current or potential) of an acute community concern. Source: Ascension Acute Community Concern Assessment Framework

### **Collaborators**

Third-party, external community partners who are working with the hospital to complete the assessment. Collaborators might help shape the process, identify key informants, set the timeline, contribute funds, etc.

### **Community Focus Groups**

Group discussions with selected individuals. A skilled moderator is needed to lead focus group discussions. Members of a focus group can include internal staff, volunteers and the staff of human service and other community organizations, users of health services and members of minority or disadvantaged populations. Source: CHA Assessing and Addressing Community Need, 2015 Edition II

### **Community Forums**

Meetings that provide opportunities for community members to provide their thoughts on community problems and service needs. Community forums can be targeted towards priority populations. Community forums require a skilled facilitator.

Source: CHA Assessing and Addressing Community Need, 2015 Edition II

### **Community Served**

A hospital facility may take into account all the relevant facts and circumstances in defining the community it serves. This includes: The geographic area served by the hospital facility; Target populations served, such as children, women, or the aged; and Principal functions, such as a focus on a particular specialty area or targeted disease.

### **Consultants**

Third-party, external entities paid to complete specific deliverables on behalf of the hospital (or coalition/collaborators); alternatively referred to as vendors.

### **Demographics**

Population characteristics of your community. Sources of information may include population size, age structure, racial and ethnic composition, population growth, and density.

Source: CHA Assessing and Addressing Community Need, 2015 Edition II

### **Identified Need**

Health outcomes or related conditions (e.g., social determinants of health) impacting the health status of the community served

### **Key Stakeholder Interviews**

A method of obtaining input from community leaders and public health experts one-on-one. Interviews can be conducted in person or over the telephone. In structured interviews, questions are prepared and standardized prior to the interview to ensure consistent information is solicited on specific topics. In less structured interviews, open-ended questions are asked to elicit a full range of responses. Key informants may include leaders of community organizations, service providers, and elected officials. Individuals with a special knowledge or

expertise in public health may include representatives from your state or local health department, faculty from schools of public health, and providers with a background in public health. See Section V for a list of potential interviewees. Could also be referred to as Stakeholder Interviews.

Source: CHA Assessing and Addressing Community Need, 2015 Edition II

### **Medically Underserved Populations**

Medically Underserved Populations include populations experiencing health disparities or that are at risk of not receiving adequate medical care because of being uninsured or underinsured, or due to geographic, language, financial, or other barriers. Populations with language barriers include those with limited English proficiency. Medically underserved populations also include those living within a hospital facility's service area but not receiving adequate medical care from the facility because of cost, transportation difficulties, stigma, or other barriers.

Source:

<https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/community-health-needs-assessment-for-charitable-hospitalorganizations-section-501r3>

### **Prioritized Need**

Significant needs which have been selected by the hospital to address through the CHNA implementation strategy

### **Significant Need**

Identified needs which have been deemed most significant to address based on established criteria and/or prioritization methods

### **Surveys**

Used to collect information from community members, stakeholders, providers, and public health experts for the purpose of understanding community perception of needs. Surveys can be administered in person, over the telephone, or using a web-based program. Surveys can consist of both forced-choice and open-ended questions.

Source: CHA Assessing and Addressing Community Need, 2015 Edition II

## Appendix B: Community Demographic Data and Sources

The tables below provide a description of the community’s demographics. The description of the importance of the data is largely drawn from the County Health Rankings and Roadmaps website. The hospital’s Primary Service Area (PSA) was collected for many of the indicators.

### Population

Why it is important: The composition of a population, including related trends, is important for understanding the community context and informing community planning.

Population	PSA	Will County	Illinois
Total	299,852	688,726	12,587,530
Male	49.3%	49.6%	49.1%
Female	50.7%	50.4%	50.9%

*Data source: County Health Rankings, 2023. Sg2 Market Snapshot, 2023.*

### Population by Race or Ethnicity

Why it is important: The race and ethnicity composition of a population is important in understanding the cultural context of a community. The information can also be used to better identify and understand health disparities.

Race or Ethnicity	PSA	Will County	Illinois
Asian	2.91%	6.2%	6.0%
Black / African American (Non-Hispanic)	13.5%	11.9%	14.1%
Hispanic / Latino	31.2%	18.5%	17.6%
Native American	n/a	0.5%	0.1%
White (Non-Hispanic)	48.8%	61.8%	60.4%

*Data source: County Health Rankings, 2023. Sg2 Market Snapshot, 2023.*

### Population by Age

Why it is important: The age structure of a population is important in planning for the future of a community, particularly for schools, community centers, healthcare and child care. A population with

more youths will have greater education needs and child care needs, while an older population may have greater healthcare needs.

Age	PSA	Will County	Illinois
Median Age	38.2	38.1	38.3
Age 0-17	24.4%	24.1%	22.1%
Age 65+	14.2%	14.0%	16.6%

*Data source: US Census Bureau, 2020; County Health Rankings, 2023. Sg2 Market Snapshot, 2023.*

### Income

Why it is important: Median household income and the percentage of children living in poverty, which can compromise physical and mental health, are well-recognized indicators. People with higher incomes tend to live longer than people with lower incomes. In addition to affecting access to health insurance, income affects access to healthy choices, safe housing, safe neighborhoods and quality schools. Chronic stress related to not having enough money can have an impact on mental and physical health. ALICE, an acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed, are households that earn more than the U.S. poverty level, but less than the basic cost of living for the county. Combined, the number of poverty and ALICE households equals the total population struggling to afford basic needs.

Income	PSA	Will County	Illinois
Median Household Income	\$103,334	\$90,300	\$71,200
Persons in poverty	n/a	7.9%	11.0%
ALICE Households	n/a	23%	23%

*Data source: US Census Bureau, 2020; United for Alice, 2018. Sg2 Market Snapshot, 2023.*

### Education

Why is it important: There is a strong relationship between health, lifespan and education. In general, as income increases, so does lifespan. The relationship between more schooling, higher income, job opportunities (e.g., pay, safe work environment) and social support, help create opportunities for healthier choices.

Income	PSA	Will County	Illinois
High School grad or higher	86.9%	92%	90%

Some college	n/a	70%	71%
<i>Data source: County Health Rankings, 2023. Sg2 Market Snapshot, 2023.</i>			

### Insured/Uninsured

Why it is important: Lack of health insurance can have serious health consequences due to lack of preventive care and delays in care that can lead to serious illness or other health problems.

Income	Will County	Illinois
Uninsured (adults)	9%	9%
Medicaid Eligible	21.8%	27.3%
<i>Data source: County Health Rankings, 2023; Illinois Healthcare and Family Services, 2022;</i>		

## **Appendix C: Community Input Data and Sources**

Ascension Illinois collaborated with the Will County Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnership (MAPP) Collaborative on the TY2022 (2023) CHNA for all Ascension hospitals located in Will County.

The full county-wide CHNA as well as each of the four individual MAPP assessments reports can be found: <https://the-will-county-mapp-collaborative-willcountygis.hub.arcgis.com/>



## Appendix D: Secondary Data and Sources

The tables below are based on data vetted, compiled, and made available on the County Health Rankings and Roadmaps (CHRR) website (<https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/>). The site is maintained by the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, School of Medicine and Public Health, with funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. CHRR obtains and cites data from other public sources that are reliable. CHRR also shares trending data on some indicators.

CHRR compiles new data every year and shares with the public in March. The data below is from the 2023 publication. It is important to understand that reliable data is generally two to three years behind due to the importance of careful analysis.

### How To Read These Charts

**Why they are important:** Explains why we monitor and track these measures in a community and how it relates to health. The descriptions of ‘why they are important’ are largely drawn from the CHRR website as well.

**County vs. State:** Describes how the county’s most recent data for the health issue compares to state.

**Trending:** CHRR provides a calculation for some measures to explain if a measure is worsening or improving. Please note that trending is not available for all measures.

- Red: The measure is worsening in this county.
- Green: The measure is improving in this county.
- Gold: The measure is stable in this county.
- Empty: There is no data trend to share or the measure has remained the same.

**Top US Counties:** The best 10 percent of counties in the country. It is important to compare not just with Illinois but important to know how the best counties are doing and how our county compares.

**Description:** Explains what the indicator measures, how it is measured, and who is included in the measure.

**n/a:** Not available or not applicable. There might not be available data for the community on every measure. Some measures will not be comparable.

## Health Outcomes

Why they are important: Health outcomes reflect how healthy a county is right now. They reflect the physical and mental well-being of residents within a community.

Indicators	Trend	Will County	Illinois	Top US Counties	Description
<b>Length of Life</b>					
Premature Death		6,100	7,100	7,300	Years of potential life lost before age 75 per 100,000 population (age-adjusted)
Life Expectancy		79.2	78.6	78.2	How long the average person should live.
Infant Mortality		6	6	6	Number of all infant deaths (within 1 year) per 1,000 live births.
<b>Physical Health</b>					
Poor or Fair Health		16%	17%	17%	Percent of adults reporting fair or poor health.
Poor Physical Health Days		3.3	3.6	3.9	Average number of physically unhealthy days reported in past 30 days (age-adjusted).
Frequent Physical Distress		11%	11%	12%	Percent of adults reporting 14 or more days of poor physical health per month.
Low Birth Weight		8%	8%	8%	Percent of babies born too small (less than 2,500 grams).
<b>Mental Health</b>					
Poor Mental Health Days		4.0	4.2	4.5	Average number of mentally unhealthy days reported in the past 30 days.
Frequent Mental Distress		12%	13%	14%	Percent of adults reporting 14 or more days of poor mental health per month.
Suicide		11	11	14	Number of deaths due to suicide per 100,000.
<b>Morbidity &amp; Mortality</b>					
Diabetes prevalence		10%	10%	9%	Percent of adults aged 20 and above with diagnosed diabetes.
COVID-19		89	99	85	Age adjusted mortality per 100,000.
Injury deaths		54	70	76	Number of deaths due to injury per 100,000.

Homicides		4	8	6	Number of deaths due to homicide per 100,000.
Firearm fatalities		8	12	12	Number of deaths due to firearms per 100,000.
<b>Communicable Disease</b>					
HIV Prevalence		100	336	378	Number of people aged 13 years and over with a diagnosis of HIV per 100,000.
<i>Source: <a href="https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings">https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings</a></i>					

### Social and Economic Factors

Why they are important: These factors have a significant effect on our health. They affect our ability to make healthy decisions, afford medical care, afford housing and food, manage stress and more.

Indicators	Trend	Will County	Illinois	Top US Counties	Description
<b>Economic Stability</b>					
Unemployment		9.5%	9.5%	8.1%	Percentage of population ages 16 and older unemployed but seeking work.
Childhood Poverty		9%	14%	16%	Percentage of people under age 18 in poverty.
<b>Education</b>					
High School Completion		92%	90%	89%	Percentage of ninth grade cohort that graduates in four years.
Some College		70%	71%	67%	Percentage of adults ages 25-44 with some post-secondary education.
<b>Social/Community</b>					
Children in single-parent homes		18%	25%	25%	Percentage of children that live in a household headed by a single parent.
Social Associations		6.8	9.9	9.2	Number of membership associations per 10,000 population.
Disconnected Youth		6%	6%	7%	Percentage of teens and young adults ages 16-19 who are neither working nor in school.
Juvenile Arrests		5	8	19	Rate of delinquency cases per 1,000 juveniles.
Violent Crime		163	403	386	Number of reported violent crime offenses per 100,000 population.

Residential segregation-Black/White		52	72	63	Index of dissimilarity where higher values indicate greater residential segregation between Black and white county residents.
<b>Access to Healthy Foods</b>					
Food Environment Index		9.1	8.6	7.8	Index of factors that contribute to a healthy food environment, 0-worst 10-best.
Food Insecurity		6%	10%	11%	Percent of the population who lack adequate access to food.
Limited Access to Healthy Foods		7%	5%	6%	Percent of the population who are low-income and do not live close to a grocery store.
Children eligible for free or reduced lunch		37%	49%	52%	Percentage of children enrolled in public schools that are eligible for free or reduced price lunch.
Source: <a href="https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings">https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings</a>					

### Physical Environment

Why they are important: The physical environment is where people live, learn, work, and play. The physical environment impacts our air, water, housing and transportation to work or school. Poor physical environment can affect our ability and that of our families and neighbors to live long and healthy lives.

Indicators	Trend	Will County	Illinois	Top US Counties	Description
<b>Physical Environment</b>					
Severe housing cost burden		12%	14%	14%	Percentage of households that spend 50% or more of their household income on housing.
Severe Housing Problems		14%	17%	17%	Percentage of households with at least 1 of 4 housing problems: overcrowding, high housing costs, lack of kitchen facilities, or lack of plumbing facilities.
Air Pollution - Particulate Matter		10.1	9.4	7.5	Average daily density of fine particulate matter in micrograms per cubic meter (PM2.5).
Homeownership		81%	66%	64%	Percentage of occupied housing units that are owned.
Source: <a href="https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings">https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings</a>					

### Clinical Care

Why it is important: Access to affordable, quality care can help detect issues sooner and prevent disease. This can help individuals live longer and have healthier lives.

Indicators	Trend	Will County	Illinois	Top US Counties	Description
<b>Healthcare Access</b>					
Uninsured Adults		9%	11%	13%	Percentage of adults under age 65 without health insurance.
Uninsured children		3%	4%	6%	Percentage of children under age 19 without health insurance.
Primary Care Physicians		1,850:1	1,230:1	1,310:1	Ratio of the population to primary care physicians.
Mental Health Providers		680:1	370:1	350:1	Ratio of the population to mental health providers.
Dentists		1,700:1	1,220:1	1,400:1	Ratio of the population to dental providers.
<b>Hospital Utilization</b>					
Preventable Hospital Stays		5,265	4,447	3,767	Rate of hospital stays for ambulatory-care sensitive conditions per 100,000 Medicare enrollees.
<b>Flu Vaccinations</b>					
Flu Vaccinations		49%	49%	48%	Percentage of fee-for-service (FFS) Medicare enrollees that had an annual flu vaccination.
Mammography Screenings		43%	44%	43%	Percentage of female Medicare enrollees ages 65-74 that received an annual mammography screening.
Source: <a href="https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings">https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings</a>					

### Health Behaviors

Why they are important: Health behaviors are actions individuals take that can affect their health. These actions can lead to positive health outcomes or they can increase someone's risk of disease and premature death. It is important to understand that not all people have the same opportunities to engage in healthier behaviors.

Indicators	Trend	Will County	Illinois	Top US Counties	Description
<b>Healthy Life</b>					
Adult Obesity		33%	32%	32%	Percentage of the adult population (age 20 and older) that reports a body mass

					index (BMI) greater than or equal to 30 kg/m <sup>2</sup> .
Physical Inactivity		26%	25%	26%	Percentage of adults age 20 and over reporting no leisure-time physical activity.
Access to Exercise Opportunities		91%	87%	80%	Percentage of population with adequate access to locations for physical activity.
Insufficient Sleep		37%	34%	35%	Percentage of adults who report fewer than 7 hours of sleep on average.
Motor Vehicle Crash Deaths		8	9	12	Number of motor vehicle crash deaths per 100,000 population.
<b>Substance Use and Misuse</b>					
Adult Smoking		14%	15%	16%	Percentage of adults who are current smokers.
Excessive Drinking		21%	23%	20%	Percentage of adults reporting binge or heavy drinking.
Alcohol-Impaired Driving Deaths		31%	29%	27%	Percent of Alcohol-impaired driving deaths.
<b>Sexual Health</b>					
Teen Births		11	18	19	Number of births per 1,000 female population ages 15-19.
Sexually Transmitted Infections		449.1	639.9	551.0	Number of newly diagnosed chlamydia cases per 100,000 population.
<b>Source:</b> <a href="https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings">https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings</a>					

In addition to the County Health Rankings Data above, the complete Community Health Status Assessment (CHSA) completed for Will County, can be found here:

<https://the-will-county-mapp-collaborative-willcountygis.hub.arcgis.com/>

## Appendix E: Health Care Facilities and Community Resources

As part of the CHNA process, Ascension Saint Joseph has cataloged resources available in Will County that address the significant needs identified in this CHNA. Resources may include acute care facilities (hospitals), primary and specialty care clinics and practices, mental health providers, and other non-profit services. State and national resources can also provide information regarding programs that can better serve the needs of a person experiencing a specific problem.

The resources listed under each significant need heading is not intended to be exhaustive.

### Access to Care

Organization Name	Phone	Website
Will-Grundy Medical Clinic	815-726-3377	willgrundymedicalclinic.org
VNA Health Care	630-526-7939	www.vnahealth.com
Aunt Martha's Health & Wellness	877-692-8686	www.auntmarthas.org
Ascension Saint Joseph Joliet	815-725-7133	healthcare.ascension.org/locations/illinois/ilchi/joliet-ascension-saint-joseph
Will County Health Department	815-727-8480	willcountyhealth.org
Senior Services of Will County	815-723-9713	willcountyseniors.org

### Access to Food & Nutrition

Organization Name	Phone	Website
Northern Illinois Food Bank	815-846-1041	solvehungertoday.org
Will County Land Use	815-774-3321	www.willcountyillinois.com/County-Offices/Economic-Development/Will-County-Land-Use-Department
TouchPoint Support Services	815-725-7133	iamtouchpoint.com

**Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse**

Organization Name	Phone	Website
Ascension Illinois Behavioral Health	855-383-2224	healthcare.ascension.org/specialty-care/behavioral-mental-health/why-ascension/ilchi-chicago-il-mental-health-addictions
Family Guidance Center	815-730-7521	fgcinic.org
Will County Health Department	815-727-8480	willcountyhealth.org
Will County Office of Substance Use Initiatives	815-722-5515	www.willcountyillinois.com/County-Offices/Special-Services/Substance-Use-Initiatives

**Stabilizing the Built Environment**

Organization Name	Phone	Website
Will County Continuum of Care	815-722-0722	willcountycoc.com
Catholic Charities Daybreak Center	815-774-4663	catholiccharitiesjoliet.org
Morningstar Mission	815-722-5780	morningstarmission.org
City of Joliet (Neighborhood Services Division)	815-724-4090	joliet.gov



## Appendix F: Evaluation of Impact from the Previous CHNA Implementation Strategy

Ascension Saint Joseph’s previous CHNA implementation strategy will be completed in June 2023 and addressed the following priority health needs:

- Access to Care
- Access to Food and Nutrition
- Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse
- Stabilizing the Built Environment

The table below describes the actions taken since the previous CHNA to address each priority need and indicators of improvement.

Note: At the time of the report publication, the third year of the cycle will not be complete. Individual ministries will accommodate for that variable.

PRIORITY NEED	Access to Care	
INITIATIVE	STATUS OF ACTIONS	ACTIONS TAKEN & RESULTS
Will-Grundy Medical Clinic Partnership	On-going	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In FY21, the hospital continued to provide financial support to the Will-Grundy Medical Clinic, a free and charitable clinic. Over 240 patients from the Will Grundy Medical Clinic received in-kind surgical and ancillary services that totaled over \$4 million in care. In FY22, the hospital continued to provide financial support to the Will-Grundy Medical Clinic, a free and charitable clinic. Annually, the Clinic provides free care to vulnerable persons including diagnostic and surgical care coordination at a value of over \$10 million. In FY23, provided financial support to ensure safety net operations for the clinic. Additionally, the hospital chief medical officer resides on the board of directors to ensure continuity of care and to help resolve issues in care delivery to these</li> </ul>

		vulnerable members of our community.
Aunt Martha's Health & Wellness Partnership	On-going	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In FY21, the medical center continued to meet with Aunt Martha's to enhance care coordination and referrals of patients needing a medical home. 46.02% of Saint Joseph patients scheduled for post-discharge appointments with Aunt Martha's Health and Wellness have kept their appointment. In FY22 &amp; FY23, the hospital continued to meet with Aunt Martha's to enhance care coordination and referrals of patients needing a medical home. In addition to care coordination, during the three year cycle, the hospital continued to provide in-kind clinic space for Aunt Martha's inside the inpatient hospital setting, which has a market value of \$60,400 per year.</li> </ul>

PRIORITY NEED	Access to Food & Nutrition	
INITIATIVE	STATUS OF ACTIONS	ACTIONS TAKEN & RESULTS
Rx Mobile Food Pantries	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In FY21 &amp; FY22, Saint Joseph continued to partner with Northern Illinois Food Bank to provide the Rx Mobile Food Pantry to those in need. During this period, 6,110 individuals were screened for food insecurity of which 14% were actively enrolled in the cohort program (received 1:1 nutrition education and chronic disease management with Ascension Saint Joseph nutrition team) and a total of 22,109 individuals received food assistance. 100% of the patients referred to the mobile pantry reported an increase in fruit and vegetable consumption.</li> </ul>
My Pantry Express (MPX) Program	On-going	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In FY22 &amp; FY23, Saint Joseph continued to partner with Northern Illinois Food Bank to assist those in</li> </ul>

		<p>need through the My Pantry Express (MPX) referral program. Persons referred are able to order free healthy grocery items online and choose home delivery or convenient pick up. 542 persons have been screened for this program with 49 testing positive for food insecurity and referred to the MPX program in FY22. In FY23 (as of Jan 2023), the program has screened 321 persons with 34 testing positive for food insecurity and referred to the MPX program.</p>
Micro Pantry	On-going	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Through FY 21-23, Saint Joseph continued to offer the 24/7 emergency micro pantry to the community. The pantry served 4,793 persons in FY21. The pantry served 3,822 persons in FY22. In FY23, the pantry is still thriving and is estimated to serve nearly 4,000 persons this year.</li> </ul>

PRIORITY NEED		Behavioral Health & Substance Abuse
INITIATIVE	STATUS OF ACTIONS	ACTIONS TAKEN & RESULTS
Mental Health First Aid Trainings	On-going	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Due to the pandemic, in-person community trainings were put on hold in FY2021. However, a virtual format was created by the National Council for Behavioral Health and the provisioning of that training began. Between FY 21-23, Saint Joseph trained 48 persons in this evidence based program.</li> </ul>
Warm Handoff Program	On-going	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Due to the pandemic, the in-person alcohol and drug counselor pivoted to over the phone consultations with patients in need. Despite challenges, in FY21, 15 persons were able to secure inpatient treatment and 19 persons were able to secure outpatient treatment. In FY22, the counselor was able to resume in-person operations when visitor restrictions lessened. In</li> </ul>

		<p>FY22, on average 25 persons were screened each month and 14 persons were able to secure treatment options. In FY23 (as of January 2023), on average 25 persons were screened each month by the in-person counselor and 7 persons were able to secure IP treatment and 14 secured OP treatment.</p>
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PRIORITY NEED	Stabilizing the Built Environment	
INITIATIVE	STATUS OF ACTIONS	ACTIONS TAKEN & RESULTS
Health & Housing Collaboration	On-going	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In FY21, work on formalizing a health and housing collaborative among the hospital and other key housing community organizations was paused due to the pandemic. In late FY21 through early FY22, work began again to re-start the effort among the hospital and other key housing community organizations. In FY22, the Will County Continuum of Care was established as its own organization with a full-time executive director dedicated to eliminating homelessness. Additionally, through collaboration, an annual report on health and housing for the county was prepared that included identified goals, resolutions and strategies. In FY23, Saint Joseph continues to be an active participant in meetings and in advancing collaborative work on reducing homelessness.</li> </ul>