

Ascension St. Vincent Kokomo

2021 Community Health Needs Assessment
Howard County, Indiana



Ascension

The goal of this report is to offer a meaningful understanding of the most significant health needs across Howard 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 2021 Community Health Needs Assessment report was approved by the Ascension St. Vincent Kokomo Board of Directors on June 16, 2022 (2021 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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Ascension St. Vincent Kokomo

Acknowledgements / Executive Statement

The 2021 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) represents a true collaborative effort to gain a meaningful understanding of the most pressing health needs across Howard County, the community assessed by Ascension St. Vincent Kokomo (the hospital). Ascension St. Vincent Kokomo 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 Howard County.

Executive Summary

The goal of the 2021 Community Health Needs Assessment report is to offer a meaningful understanding of the most significant health needs across Howard 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, 501(c)(3) 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 community served by the hospital, with the goal of addressing those needs through the development of an implementation strategy plan.

Community Served

For the 2021 CHNA, Ascension St. Vincent Kokomo has defined its community served as Howard County, Indiana. Howard County is the hospital's primary service area and in 2020 over 80 percent of the hospital's emergency room patients were Howard County residents. Community health data are readily available at the county level.

Data Analysis Methodology

The 2021 CHNA was conducted with contracted assistance from Verité Healthcare Consulting from June 2021 to April 2022 and utilized a process that incorporated data from both primary and secondary sources.

Primary data sources included information provided by groups/individuals, e.g., representatives of public health departments, community residents, health care consumers, health care professionals, community stakeholders, and multi-sector representatives. A community input meeting was held in June 2021. Numerous individuals representing organizations across Howard County were invited. A key stakeholder interview was conducted with a representative of the Howard County Health Department. A hospital input meeting was held with hospital staff members. Special attention was given to the needs of individuals and communities who are more vulnerable and to unmet health needs or gaps in services. Sessions were conducted using virtual meeting platforms and online polls to assess community priorities of significant needs in Howard County.

Secondary data were 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

The significant needs determined through this process are as follows:

- Access to Care
- COVID-19 Pandemic
- Food Security
- Maternal, Infant, and Child Health
- Mental Health Status and Access to Mental Health Services
- Racial, Ethnic Disparities
- Services for Seniors
- Social Determinants of Health, including:
 - Poverty
 - Affordable Housing
 - Food Insecurity
 - Transportation
- Smoking and Tobacco Use
- Substance Use Disorders and Overdoses

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.

For more information about Ascension, visit <https://www.ascension.org/>.

Ascension St. Vincent Kokomo

As a Ministry of the Catholic Church, Ascension St. Vincent Kokomo is a non-profit hospital governed by a local board of trustees represented by community members, medical staff, and sister sponsorships. For many years, the hospital has been providing medical care for residents of Howard County, Indiana, and neighboring areas.

In 1913, St. Vincent Kokomo, formerly St. Joseph Memorial Hospital, was established by the Sisters of St. Joseph in Tipton County. The hospital transferred their sponsorship to St. Vincent in 1994. Ascension St. Vincent Kokomo is a 167-bed acute healthcare facility and offers the following services: blood disorders, cancer, cardiovascular services, diabetes care, emergency medicine, home care, hospice, immediate care, interventional radiology, laboratory services, maternity services, medical imaging, mental & behavioral health, nutrition support, orthopedics, pediatrics, primary care, rehabilitation services, respiratory care, sleep disorders, spiritual care, sports performance, surgery, wellness medicine, women’s health, and wound treatment. St. Vincent Kokomo’s primary service is Howard County in Central Indiana.

For more information about Ascension St. Vincent Kokomo, visit <https://healthcare.ascension.org/locations/indiana/ineva/kokomo-ascension-st-vincent-kokomo>.

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.”¹ 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 St. Vincent Kokomo’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 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, 501(c)(3) hospitals must conduct a CHNA and adopt an implementation strategy every three years. These CHNA and implementation strategy requirements are described in Internal Revenue 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 St. Vincent Kokomo’s information desk located in the main lobby.

¹ Catholic Health Association of the United States (<https://www.chausa.org>)

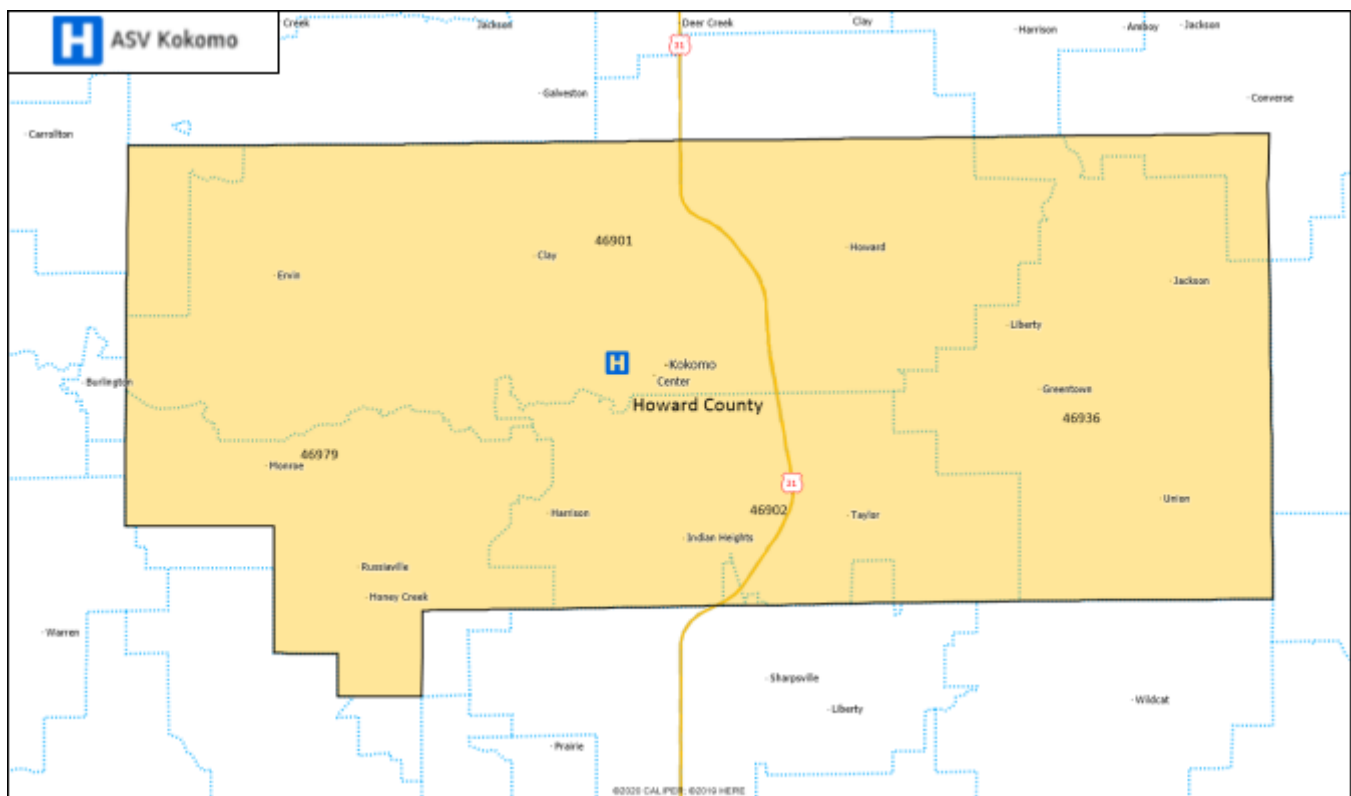
Community Served and Demographics

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 2021 CHNA, Ascension St. Vincent Kokomo has defined its community served as Howard County, Indiana. Although Ascension St. Vincent Kokomo serves Kokomo and surrounding areas, the “community served” was defined as such because (a) in 2020, over 80 percent of the hospital’s emergency room patients were Howard County residents; (b) most of the hospital’s assessment partners define their service areas at the county level; and (c) community health data are readily available at the county level.

The following map portrays the community that was assessed.



Demographic Data

Located in Indiana, Howard County has a population of 82,544 (2019) and is the 19th most populous county in the state.² Below are demographic data highlights for Howard County (2019):

- 19.9 percent of the residents of Howard County are 65 or older, compared to 16.1 percent in Indiana.
- 96.5 percent of residents are non-Hispanic; 3.5 percent are Hispanic (or Latino).
- 84.6 percent of residents are non-Hispanic White; 1.3 percent are Asian; 7.7 percent are non-Hispanic Black or African American.
- The total population is projected to remain constant from 2019 to 2025; the 65+ population is projected to increase by 2.9 percent during that time period.
- The median household income is 6.2 percent lower the state median (\$54,048 for Howard County; \$57,617 for Indiana).
- The percent of people in poverty is higher than the state (14.9 percent for Howard County; 13.4 percent for Indiana).
- The uninsured rate for Howard County is lower than the state (8.1 percent for Howard County; 9.7 percent for Indiana).

² Indiana has 92 counties.

Description of the Community

Demographic Highlights		
Indicator	Howard	Description
Population		
% Living in rural communities	21.5%	
% Below 18 years of age	22.7%	
% 65 and older	19.9%	
% Hispanic	3.5%	
% Asian	1.3%	
% Non-Hispanic Black	7.7%	
% Non-Hispanic White	84.6%	
Social and Community Context		
English Proficiency	0.4%	Proportion of community members that speak English “less than well”.
Median Household Income	\$54,048	Income where half of households in a county earn more and half of households earn less.
Percent of Children in Poverty	18.3%	Percentage of people under age 18 in poverty.
Percent of Population Uninsured	8.1%	Percentage of population under age 65 without health insurance.
Percent of Educational Attainment	89.5%	Percentage of adults ages 25 and over with a high school diploma or equivalent.
Percent of Unemployment	4.0%	Percentage of population ages 16 and older unemployed but seeking work.
<i>Data source: County Health Rankings, 2021</i>		

To view additional Community Demographic Data, see Appendix B and Appendix D2.

Process and Methods Used

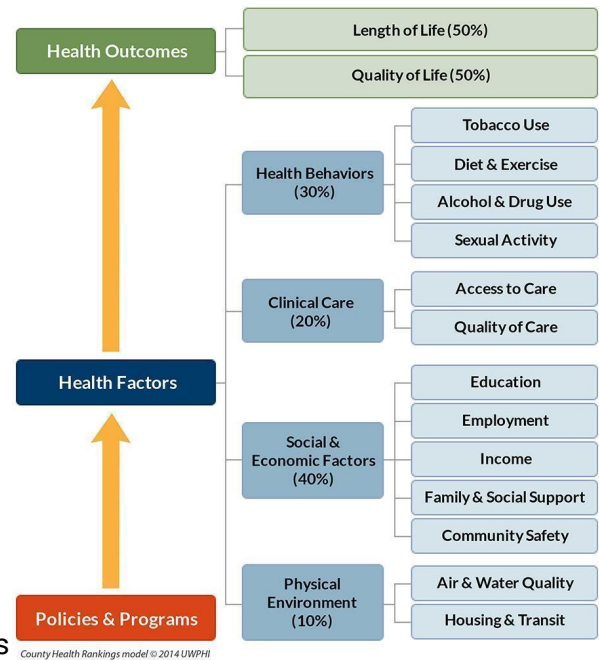
Ascension St. Vincent Kokomo is committed to using national best practices in conducting the CHNA. Health needs and assets for Howard County were determined using a combination of data collection and analysis for both secondary and primary data, as well as community input on the identified and significant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

Ascension St. Vincent Kokomo's approach relies on the model developed by the County Health Rankings and Roadmaps and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, utilizing the determinants of health model as the model for community health improvement.

Collaborators and Consultant

With the contracted assistance of Verité Healthcare Consulting, Ascension St. Vincent Kokomo completed its 2021 CHNA in collaboration with the Community Benefit department at Ascension St. Vincent.

Ascension St. Vincent Kokomo also collaborated with other Indiana health systems to collect primary data through online community input meetings and key stakeholder interviews. These health systems include IU Health, Community Health Network, Riverview Health, and the Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana. Ascension St. Vincent Kokomo also collaborated with other hospitals that are members of Ascension St. Vincent.



Data Collection Methodology

In collaboration with various community partners, Ascension St. Vincent Kokomo collected and analyzed primary and secondary data for Howard County. A variety of community health indicators for the county were benchmarked against state-wide, peer county, and national averages. The CHNA identifies certain health issues as significant if indicators benchmark unfavorably. For example, if a county's infant mortality rate is above the state average or is higher for Black infants than for White infants, then Maternal, Infant, and Child Health would be considered a significant community health issue. This conclusion would be most supported if a majority of community members who provided input into the CHNA also identified improving Maternal, Infant, and Child Health as a significant need.



Recognizing its vital importance to understanding the health needs and assets of the community, Ascension St. Vincent Kokomo consulted with a range of public health and social service providers that represent the broad interests of Howard County residents. 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, including community input meetings, a hospital input meeting with hospital staff, and key informant interviews. These methods provided important perspectives on how to select and address top health issues facing Howard County.

Summary of Community Input

A summary of the community input process and its results is outlined below.

Community input meeting

A community input meetings were conducted by Verité Healthcare Consulting in July 2021 to gather feedback on the health needs and assets of Howard County. More than forty-five individuals were invited to participate in the Howard County community input meetings and 22 individuals attended and completed a post-meeting survey to identify significant community needs. These individuals represented organizations including local health departments, non-profit organizations, faith-based organizations, health care providers, and local policymakers.

Community input meeting

Key Summary Points

- **Mental health, suicide, and access to mental health services** are significant concerns.
- **COVID-19** has had a significant impact on the community members health and well-being.
- **Access to social service and health care services** is challenging for some residents due to financial constraints, wait times, and strict eligibility requirements.
- **Racial and ethnic disparities** is problematic.
- **Smoking and tobacco use** remains an issue.
- **Maternal and infant health** is an area for improvement.

Populations/Sectors Represented

- Community-based organizations
- Education
- Employers
- Faith-based organizations
- First responders
- Health equity organizations
- Local government
- Service providers

Common Themes

- Community health needs are intricately linked. Separating issues such as mental health, substance use disorders, poverty, and access to providers is difficult.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has worsened community health and mental health problems. The pandemic highlighted the need for accurate health information, and providers need to focus on maintaining communication after COVID-19.
- The senior population is projected to increase significantly in the next few years, which is likely to increase needs and demands for health and social services.

Hospital input meeting

A hospital input meeting was conducted by Verité Healthcare Consulting in November 2021 to gather feedback from hospital staff on the health needs and assets of Howard County. Eight individuals participated. These staff included discharge planners, community navigators, social workers, primary care providers, administrators, and others.

Internal Hospital input meeting	
Key Summary Points	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mental Health is worsening due to the pandemic. Access to providers is difficult due to lack of providers and staffing difficulties. ● Youth Mental Health is an issue within the community and current services are insufficient to meet needs. ● Aging community members are increasing the demands for health care, including palliative care. ● Low-cost preventive care is needed to increase access to these services. ● Substance use disorders are prevalent and exacerbated by a lack of treatment services. Alcohol is included as a misused substance. ● Food insecurity is experienced by some community members. ● Physical inactivity is due, in part, by a lack of access to safe exercise opportunities. ● Smoking and tobacco use remain an issue within the community. 	
Populations/Sectors Represented	Common Themes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Community navigators ● Discharge planners ● Emergency department ● Leadership and administration ● Nurses ● Primary care providers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Access to care and other resources, in Howard County, is challenging because of low incomes and is exacerbated by unmet transportation needs. ● Mental health and substance use disorders have worsened during the pandemic. ● Improving community health requires changing the community culture.

Key stakeholder interview

An additional interview was conducted with a representative of a local public health department to obtain subject-matter expertise into the health needs in Howard County.

Questions focused first on identifying and discussing health issues in the community before the COVID-19 pandemic began. The interview then focused on the pandemic's impacts and on what has been learned about the community's health given those impacts. A description of the types of initiatives, programs, and investments that should be implemented to address the community's health issues and to be better prepared for future risks as also requested.

The issues below were identified as significant before the COVID-19 pandemic began.

- Poverty, income disparities, and the impact of Social Determinants of Health are all significant concerns in Howard County, and have long been a major barrier to achieving optimal health.
 - Racial and ethnic disparities in Social Determinants of Health are also significant.
 - Employment and work opportunities that allow one to support a family on a single income can also be challenging to find. This problem is exacerbated due to the prevalence of single-parent households.
 - Access to mental health services can be challenging for many residents, even for those with adequate health insurance. There is a lack of mental health providers in Howard County, and current providers are aging.
 - Substance use disorder is a significant issue as people self-medicate for mental health concerns, with abuse of opioids and alcohol common.
- Health insurance barriers and navigating Medicaid regulations are challenging, as many are uninsured due to non-compliance with regulations.
- Many residents do not have adequate access to affordable, healthy food. Unhealthy food is typically less expensive, and grocery stores are limited in several areas of the county.
- Transportation barriers exist, as public transportation options typically do not service all parts of the county or connect residents to needed resources such as grocery stores. Elderly residents are disproportionately affected by transportation issues.
- A more robust public health network is needed, including proper funding and collaboration in local communities across industries and entities. Social service providers often work in silos, and a more collaborative approach to care is necessary.

The issues below were identified as impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Elderly populations were disproportionately affected by the pandemic, including illness, isolation, and additional barriers (such as significant transportation issues).
- Child immunizations were impacted, as many families did not pursue preventive health and public health departments contracted services.
- Mental health worsened, including among children. Suicide and overdose deaths increased dramatically.
- Governmental response to the COVID-19 pandemic was partially due to a lack of public health infrastructure and funding. Staffing challenges throughout the pandemic highlight this weakness.
- The need for an established medical home, particularly a primary care provider, was highlighted by the pandemic, as residents need a trusted place to feel safe for health issues.

Summary of Secondary Data

Secondary data are data that have 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. Secondary data were compiled from various sources that are reputable and reliable.

Health indicators in the following categories were reviewed:

- Health Outcomes
- Social and Economic Factors that impact health
- Health Behaviors
- Access to Healthcare
- Disparities

A summary of the secondary data collected and analyzed through this assessment is outlined below.

The total population of Howard County is projected to remain constant between 2019 and 2025. The 65+ population is projected to grow 2.9 percent. The anticipated rate of growth for Howard County is lower than that of Indiana, both for total population and seniors.

As of May 31, 2022, there were 451 deaths for Howard County residents among confirmed COVID-19 cases. Deaths per 100,000 were 547.6, which was approximately 35 percent higher than the Indiana-wide average (354.7 per 100,000).

Data from County Health Rankings and Roadmaps indicate that many community health issues are significant in Howard County (because the county's data are particularly unfavorable in comparison with Indiana-wide statistics). Overall, Howard County is ranked amongst the least healthy counties in Indiana for health outcomes and health factors. The following Howard County indicators are below Indiana averages:

- Years of potential life lost before age 75
- Life expectancy
- Percent of adults reporting fair or poor health
- Poor physical health days
- Percent of adults with >14 days of poor physical health per month
- Fall fatalities 65+
- Poor mental health days
- Percent of adults with >14 days of poor mental health per month
- Number of deaths due to suicide per 100,000
- Diabetes prevalence
- Median household income
- Childhood poverty
- Children in single parent homes
- Violent crime
- Food insecurity
- Limited access to healthy foods
- Percent of housing units built prior to 1950

- Primary care physicians per 100,000
- Percent of adults with BMI >30
- Physical inactivity
- Access to exercise opportunities
- Number of motor vehicle crash deaths per 100,000
- Adult smoking
- Alcohol-impaired driving deaths
- Number of births per 1,000 female population ages 15-19

In comparison with “Top U.S. Counties,” the following indicators were particularly unfavorable in Howard County: premature death, life expectancy, infant mortality, poor or fair health, poor physical health days, low birth weight babies, poor mental health days, suicide, diabetes prevalence, HIV prevalence, sexually transmitted infections, median household income, unemployment, childhood poverty, high school completion, adults with some college, children in single-parent homes, violent crime, food insecurity, limited access to healthy food, severe housing cost burden, severe housing problems, air pollution, rate of uninsured, rate of primary care physicians, rate of mental health providers, preventable hospital stays, obesity, physical inactivity, access to exercise opportunities, motor vehicle crash deaths, adult smoking, excessive drinking, alcohol impaired driving deaths, and teen births.

Poverty rates in Howard County have been slightly above Indiana and U.S. averages for all race/ethnicities combined and for White residents. Rates were highest for Black and for Hispanic (or Latino) residents, 31.9 percent, and 21.7 percent respectively, compared to 13.2 percent for White residents.

In 2019, low-income census tracts were present in Kokomo and central Howard County.

Howard County’s unemployment rates declined from 2017 through 2019. Rates rose in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Rates fell in 2021 as the economy recovered. Because many obtain health insurance through employer-based coverage, higher unemployment rates contribute to higher numbers of uninsured people. In 2021, unemployment rates in Howard County were higher than Indiana and the United States.

In Howard County, 19.9 percent of households have been designated as “housing burdened,” a level below Indiana and United States averages. The COVID-19 pandemic is known to have increased housing insecurity across the United States.

At 3.4, the weighted average CNI score for Howard County is the higher than the U.S. median. Kokomo ZIP Codes 46901 (3.8) and 46902 (3.6) have higher CNI scores than the other ZIP Codes in the county.

The CDC’s Social Vulnerability Index is highest in census tracts in Kokomo and central Howard County.

In comparison with “peer counties” across the United States, Howard County ranks in the bottom quartile for the following indicators:

- Percent physically inactive
- Percent with access to exercise opportunities
- Percent driving deaths with alcohol involvement

- Births per 1,000 females aged 15-19 years
- Deaths due to injury per 100,000
- Average daily density of fine particulate matter (PM2.5)

The county also is in the bottom one-half of peer counties for a number of other indicators, including adults reporting fair or poor health, average number of mentally unhealthy days per month, food environment index, population under 65 uninsured, primary care physicians, mental health providers, FFS Medicare beneficiaries with annual flu vaccination, adults 25+ who completed high school, adults 25-44 with some college, ratio of income at 80th percentile to 20th percentile, children in single-parent households, reported violent crime offenses, and drive alone to work.

Two of Howard County ZIP Codes ranked in the bottom quartile nationally for the percentage of older men who have received a set of core preventive services at recommended intervals (flu shot, pneumococcal vaccine, colonoscopy or sigmoidoscopy or Fecal Occult Blood Test) and physical inactivity.

In Howard County, mortality rates for motor vehicle accidents and alcohol related causes were more than 50 percent higher than the Indiana averages. Mortality for most other causes were above the Indiana averages.

Age-adjusted cancer mortality rates were higher than Indiana for all cancers combined. Rates for lung and bronchus, colon and rectum and corpus and uterus were substantially higher than Indiana and national benchmarks.

Age-adjusted cancer incidence was higher in Howard County than Indiana and nationally for all cancer types.

Between 2015 and 2019, drug overdose and poisoning deaths in Howard County have been higher than state averages, except for in 2016.

The incidence rates of communicable diseases have been below the Indiana average.

Several maternal and child health indicators benchmark unfavorably for Howard County compared to Indiana including infant mortality rate, very low birthweight infants, mothers breastfeeding, mothers smoking during pregnancy, births to unmarried mothers, mothers on Medicaid, and ER visits due to asthma. Mothers smoking during pregnancy and ER visits due to asthma are more than 50 percent above Indiana benchmarks.

In Howard County and Indiana as a whole, infant mortality rates for Black and Hispanic (or Latino) populations have been higher than rates for White populations.

In Howard County, census tracts in Kokomo and central Howard County have been identified as food deserts.

Secondary data for Indiana also have been reviewed. Air pollution, obesity, provider supply, smoking, and other issues appear problematic on a state-wide basis. Indiana ranks 45th out of U.S. states for per-capita public health funding. Black populations in Indiana have particularly high mortality rates for diabetes, kidney disease, septicemia, high blood pressure, homicide, and conditions originating at the

time of birth. In Indiana as a whole, infant mortality rates for Black and Hispanic (or Latino) populations have been higher than rates for White populations.

Indiana's Black populations also have particularly unfavorable rates of children in poverty, chlamydia, low birthweight births, preventable hospitalizations, severe housing problems, teen births, and unemployment. Hispanic populations have particularly unfavorable rates for avoiding healthcare due to cost, children in poverty, crowded housing, percent with high school diploma, non-medical drug use, and severe housing problems. White populations compare unfavorably for arthritis, cancer, COPD, depression, mental distress, high cholesterol, and suicide.

To view secondary data and sources in their entirety, see Appendices B, D1, and D2.

Summary of COVID-19 Impacts

The COVID-19 pandemic has had an impact on communities world-wide. In the United States, urban communities took the hardest hit for both COVID cases and death. Profound disparities emerged as the pandemic grew. Older Americans have the highest risk of death from COVID than any other age group with 81% of deaths from COVID to people over 65 years of age. There are significant disparities by race and ethnicity as well. Americans of color have higher risk of exposure, infection and death compared to non-Hispanic White Americans.³

Significant COVID-19 disparities include:

- Hispanic persons at 2.3 times the risk of death
- Non-Hispanic Black persons at 1.9 times the risk of death
- American Indian or Alaska Native at 2.4 times the risk of death

Some reasons for these differences include:

- Multigenerational families
- Living in crowded housing with close physical contact
- Working in environments in which social distancing is not possible
- Inadequate access to health care
- Higher rates of underlying conditions⁴

COVID-19 Impact on Howard County (as of May 31, 2022)			
Indicator	Howard	Indiana	Description
Total Cases	25,872	1,747,486	Confirmed cases of COVID-19
Confirmed Cases per 100,000	31,411	26,114	Confirmed cases per 100,000
Total Deaths	451	23,736	Deaths among confirmed cases
Deaths per 100,000	547.6	354.7	Deaths per 100,000
Case Fatality Percentage	1.7%	1.4%	Percent of total confirmed cases of individuals who died of COVID-19
Percent Fully Vaccinated	58.1%	65.2%	Percent of adults fully vaccinated

Source: SparkMap <https://sparkmap.org/>

³Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/health-equity/racial-ethnic-disparities>)

⁴ Ibid

Community Input on Previous CHNA and Implementation Strategy

Ascension St. Vincent Kokomo'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>.

No comments were received from the public on the previous CHNA or implementation strategy.

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 Howard County. This constraint limits the ability to fully assess all the community's needs.

For this assessment, three types of limitations were identified:

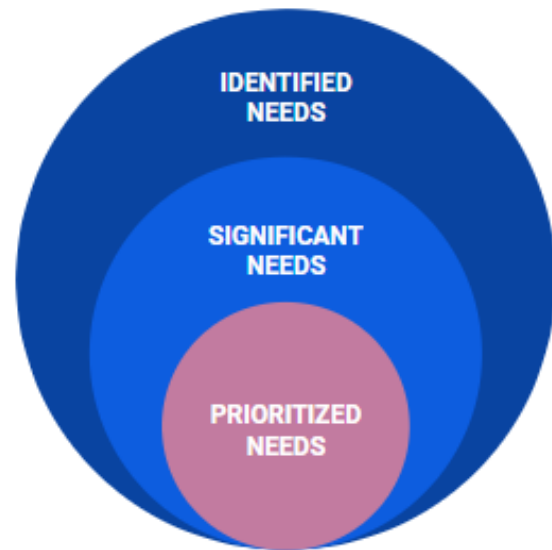
- Some groups of individuals may not have been adequately represented through the community input process. Those groups, for example, may include individuals who are transient, who speak a language other than English, or who are members of the lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender+ community.
- Secondary data are 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 2021 CHNA, the following acute community concern was identified:
 - COVID-19

Despite the data limitations, Ascension St. Vincent Kokomo 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 St. Vincent Kokomo, with contracted assistance from Verité Healthcare Consulting, analyzed secondary data of numerous indicators and gathered community input through a community input meeting, a hospital input meeting, and a key stakeholder interview to identify the needs in Howard County. In collaboration with community partners, Ascension St. Vincent Kokomo 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 St. Vincent Kokomo 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.



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 Howard 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 St. Vincent Kokomo prioritized which of the identified needs were most significant. 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. Certain identified needs were determined to be “significant” if they were identified as problematic in both: the most recently available secondary data regarding the community’s health, and input from community stakeholders who participated in the community input meeting, hospital input meeting, and/or key stakeholder interview process.

The significant needs found through this process are as follows:

- Access to Care
- COVID-19 Pandemic
- Maternal, Infant, and Child Health
- Mental Health Status and Access to Mental Health Services
- Obesity, Physical Inactivity, and Associated Chronic Disease
- Services for Seniors
- Social Determinants of Health, including:
 - Poverty
 - Affordable Housing
 - Food Insecurity
 - Transportation
- Smoking and Tobacco Use
- Substance Use Disorders and Overdoses

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

Descriptions (including data highlights community challenges & perceptions, and local assets & resources) of the significant needs are on the following pages.

Access to Care	
Why is it Important?	Data Highlights
<p>When barriers to accessing health care services are present, community health suffers. A wide array of factors can affect access, including provider supply, transportation, language and cultural competency, cost, availability of needed specialty services, limited insurance benefits, limited education regarding available services and how to use them, and others.</p>	<p>Howard County's 65 years and older population is projected to grow 2.9 percent between 2019 and 2025. Population growth will increase need and demand for access to health care services.</p> <p>The per-capita supply of primary care physicians and mental health providers has been significantly below Indiana and "peer county" averages.</p> <p>At 3.4, Howard County's Community Need Index™ (CNI) is above the U.S. median. The index ranges from 1.0 to 5.0 (with 5.0 being highest need) and the national median index is 3.0. The CNI is designed to identify ZIP Codes and communities where potential access to care barriers are present. Kokomo ZIP Codes 46901 (3.8) and 46902 (3.6) have higher CNI scores compared to other Howard County ZIP Codes.</p> <p>The CDC's Social Vulnerability Index also is highest in census tracts in Kokomo and central Howard County.</p> <p>CDC PLACES data (based on the Behavioral Risk Factors Surveillance System) indicated two of Howard County ZIP Codes ranked in the bottom quartile nationally for the percentage of older men who have received a set of core preventive services at recommended intervals (flu shot, pneumococcal vaccine, colonoscopy or sigmoidoscopy or Fecal Occult Blood Test).</p>
Local Assets & Resources	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascension St Vincent Kokomo • Community Howard Regional Health • Howard County Health Department <p><i>See Appendix E for Health Care Facilities and Community Resources</i></p>	
Community Challenges & Perceptions	Individuals Who Are More Vulnerable
<p>Access to care will be challenged by increasing need for services by the aging population. Providers also have been leaving the community to seek higher compensation. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected how community members access services and how providers practice. Low-income residents face particular barriers when seeking access to services.</p>	<p>Vulnerable populations include low-income persons, racial and ethnic minorities, and seniors. The senior population is projected to increase significantly in the next few years, which is likely to increase needs and demands for health and social services.</p>

COVID-19 Pandemic	
Why is it Important?	Data Highlights
The COVID-19 pandemic represents a public health emergency for Indiana and the United States.	Howard County has experienced above average mortality rates for COVID-19. Deaths per 100,000 population were 547.6 in Howard County compared to 354.7 per 100,000 in Indiana.
Local Assets & Resources	<p>The rate of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 was higher in Howard County than Indiana.</p> <p>The percent of adults fully vaccinated is approximately 11 percent lower in Howard County than Indiana (58.1 percent compared to 65.2 percent).</p> <p>Due to the pandemic, the number of people unemployed in Howard County, Indiana, and the United States increased substantially. This rise in unemployment affected access to employer-based health insurance and to health services and increased housing and food insecurity.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascension St Vincent Kokomo • Community Howard Regional Health • Howard County Health Department <p><i>See Appendix E for Health Care Facilities and Community Resources</i></p>	
Community Challenges & Perceptions	Individuals Who Are More Vulnerable
<p>The pandemic worsened community health and mental health problems.</p> <p>The pandemic also highlighted the need for accurate health information. Providers need to keep communicating effectively with patients and communities even after the impacts of COVID-19 become less acute.</p> <p>Economic impacts on providers and businesses have been significant.</p>	<p>Populations most at risk include older adults, people with certain underlying conditions, pregnant women, and members of racial and ethnic minority groups. According to the CDC, “long-standing systemic health and social inequities have put some members of racial and ethnic minority groups at increased risk of getting COVID-19 or experiencing severe illness, regardless of age.” Men also are more likely to die from COVID-19 than women.</p>

Maternal, Infant, and Child Health	
Why is it Important?	Data Highlights
<p>The health of mothers, infants, and children determines the future health of families, communities, and the health care system.⁵</p>	<p>Several maternal and child health indicators benchmark unfavorably for Howard County compared to Indiana including infant mortality rate, very low birthweight infants, mothers breastfeeding, mothers smoking during pregnancy, births to unmarried mothers, mothers on Medicaid, and ER visits due to asthma. Mothers smoking during pregnancy and ER visits due to asthma are more than 50 percent above Indiana benchmarks.</p> <p>In Howard County and Indiana as a whole, infant mortality rates for Black and Hispanic (or Latino) populations have been higher than rates for White populations.</p>
<p>Local Assets & Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascension St Vincent Kokomo • Community Howard Regional Health • Howard County Health Department <p><i>See Appendix E for Health Care Facilities and Community Resources</i></p>	
Community Challenges & Perceptions	Individuals Who Are More Vulnerable
<p>Maternal and child health (including child immunization rates) have been negatively affected by the lack of transportation options within the community.</p> <p>Many children have unmet needs. Documentation status, family poverty, and unstable family structures with absent parents are contributing factors.</p> <p>The State Health Improvement Plan also identified the need to improve (and reduce racial and ethnic disparities for) birth outcomes across Indiana.</p>	<p>Indicators that measure access to prenatal care, the number of preterm births, and the number of infant deaths were worse for Black and Hispanic (or Latino) populations than for Whites.</p> <p>Residents who lack transportation options (e.g., transportation to prenatal care and immunization services) also are more vulnerable.</p>

⁵ Healthy People 2020. See <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/maternal-infant-and-child-health>.

Mental Health Status and Access to Mental Health Services	
Why is it Important?	Data Highlights
<p>Mental disorders are among the top causes of disability and disease burdens. Mental health and physical health are closely connected.⁶</p>	<p>Residents of Howard County had comparatively poor mental health status. Sixteen percent of Howard County adults reported frequent mental distress (defined as 14 or more days of poor mental health per month), which was above the Indiana average of 14.7 percent.</p>
Local Assets & Resources	<p>The county had a significant undersupply of mental health providers (199.9 providers per 100,000 persons in comparison to the Indiana average of 168.3 per 100,000)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascension St Vincent Kokomo • Community Howard Regional Health • Howard County Health Department <p><i>See Appendix E for Health Care Facilities and Community Resources</i></p>	
Community Challenges & Perceptions	Individuals Who Are More Vulnerable
<p>Mental health concerns are widespread and worsened by an undersupply of providers.</p> <p>Isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic worsened mental health problems.</p> <p>Access to mental health providers is difficult for some due to problems with affordability.</p>	<p>Community members with limited financial resources or without mental health insurance benefits have additional difficulties accessing services.</p> <p>Seniors and other community members who have been experiencing isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic also are particularly vulnerable to poor mental health status.</p>

⁶ Healthy People 2020. See <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/mental-health-and-mental-disorders>.

Obesity, Physical Inactivity, and Associated Chronic Disease	
Why is it Important?	Data Highlights
Good nutrition, physical activity, and a healthy body weight all contribute to overall health and well-being and, collectively, can help manage and decrease the risk of serious health conditions. ⁷	Approximately 35.2 percent of Howard County's adult population reported a body mass index (BMI) of 30 or greater, compared to 25.5 percent nationally and 33.9 percent in Indiana. The county ranked poorly for rates of physical inactivity, and only 68.6 percent of the population had adequate access to locations for physical activity, compared to 91.4 percent of U.S. population.
Local Assets & Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ascension St Vincent Kokomo Community Howard Regional Health Howard County Health Department <p><i>See Appendix E for Health Care Facilities and Community Resources</i></p>	<p>The percent of adults diagnosed with diabetes was 14.8 percent, above the Indiana and U.S. average, 12.1 percent and 8.1 percent, respectively.</p> <p>Almost 15 percent of the county's population lacked adequate access to healthy food, compared to the national average of 8.6 percent. Howard County's percent of population who were low-income and do not live near a grocery store was about five times the U.S. rate.</p> <p>Food deserts were present in Kokomo and central Howard County.</p>
Community Challenges & Perceptions	Individuals Who Are More Vulnerable
<p>Weight status contributes to the prevalence of diabetes and other chronic diseases.</p> <p>Existing patterns of daily activities, such as poor diets and physical inactivity, are difficult to change due to longstanding, generational health behaviors.</p> <p>Poor health status results from multiple, interrelated factors.</p>	<p>In Indiana, obesity has been described as an epidemic. Indiana has the 5th highest rate in the nation⁸. In Indiana, Black adults have a 31 percent higher prevalence of obesity compared to White adults.</p> <p>People with poor diets and who are physically inactive are most vulnerable.</p>

Services For Seniors	
Why is it Important?	Data Highlights
The senior population (65+ years of age) is projected to grow rapidly in	Approximately 20 percent of the residents of Howard County were 65 or older, compared to 16.1 percent in Indiana. The total population is

⁷ Healthy People 2020. See

<https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/leading-health-indicators/2020-lhi-topics/Nutrition-Physical-Activity-and-Obesity>.

⁸ <https://stateofchildhoodobesity.org/adult-obesity/>

Howard County. This trend will increase needs and demands for health care and social services.	projected to remain constant from 2019 to 2025; however, the 65+ population is projected to increase by 2.9 percent during that time.
Local Assets & Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascension St Vincent Kokomo • Community Howard Regional Health • Howard County Health Department • Area Agency on Aging (Planning and Service Area 15) • Indiana 211 <p><i>See Appendix E for Health Care Facilities and Community Resources</i></p>	Two of the four, Howard County ZIP Codes, ranked in the bottom quartile nationally for the percentage of older men who have received a set of core preventive services at recommended intervals (flu shot, pneumococcal vaccine, colonoscopy or sigmoidoscopy or Fecal Occult Blood Test). One of four ranked in the bottom quartile for women who have received a set of core preventive services.
Community Challenges & Perceptions	Individuals Who Are More Vulnerable
The senior population is projected to increase in the next few years, which is likely to increase needs and demands for health and social services.	Seniors without access to transportation, family, and social supports, and living in isolation.

Social Determinants of Health	
Why is it Important?	Data Highlights
Contributors to health outcomes include access to social and economic opportunities, such as community resources, school quality, environment conditions, and social interactions. ⁹	Poverty rates in Howard County have been slightly above Indiana and U.S. averages for all race/ethnicities combined and for White residents. Rates were significantly higher for Black and for Hispanic (or Latino) residents, 31.9 percent, and 21.7 percent respectively, compared to 13.2 percent for White residents.
Local Assets & Resources	In 2019, low-income census tracts were present in Kokomo and central Howard County.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascension St Vincent Kokomo • Community Howard Regional Health • Howard County Health Department 	Howard County's unemployment rates declined from 2017 through 2019. Rates rose in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Rates fell in 2021 as the economy recovered. Because many obtain health insurance through employer-based coverage, higher unemployment rates contribute to higher numbers of uninsured people.

⁹ Healthy People 2020. See <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/social-determinants-of-health>.

<p>See Appendix E for Health Care Facilities and Community Resources</p>	<p>The percent of Howard County's population that was food insecure (14.7 percent) exceeds the U.S. average (8.6 percent).</p> <p>At 3.4, the weighted average CNI score for Howard County is the higher than the U.S. median. Kokomo ZIP Codes 46901 (3.8) and 46902 (3.6) have higher CNI scores than the other ZIP Codes in the county.</p> <p>Food deserts and census tracts with high social vulnerability scores were present in Kokomo and central Howard County.</p>
Community Challenges & Perceptions	Individuals Who Are More Vulnerable
<p>Access to care and other needed services and resources is challenging due to low incomes and unmet transportation needs.</p> <p>Low-income residents can have multiple health concerns that are compounded by poor housing, food insecurity, and related issues. However, providers have been unable to address all the social determinants that contribute to poor health status.</p>	<p>Poverty rates for Black and Hispanic (or Latino) residents were comparatively high. Differences in poverty rates and language and cultural barriers affect access to care.</p> <p>Community input meeting participants, hospital staff, and a representative of the Howard County Health Department identified racial and ethnic disparities in poverty rates and health as significant concerns.</p>

Smoking and Tobacco Use	
Why is it Important?	Data Highlights
<p>Tobacco use is scientifically known to negatively impact health, including increases in cancer, cardiovascular disease, lung disease, and reproductive health. Secondhand smoke also negatively impacts the health of non-tobacco users.¹⁰</p>	<p>While smoking and tobacco use rates have been declining nationally and in Indiana,¹¹ rates have remained well above average in Howard County.</p> <p>A higher proportion of Howard County adults smoked (25.2 percent) than those living in peer counties (22.1 percent), Indiana (21.7 percent), and the United States (16.2 percent).</p>
Local Assets & Resources	<p>In 2018-2019, 19.3 percent of Howard County mothers smoked during pregnancy, a rate well above the Indiana-wide average of 11.8 percent.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascension St Vincent Kokomo • Community Howard Regional Health • Howard County Health 	

¹⁰ Healthy People 2020. See <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/tobacco-use>.

¹¹ See: https://www.in.gov/health/tpc/files/IN-Youth-Smoking_2021.pdf

<p>Department</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1-800-QUIT-NOW <p><i>See Appendix E for Health Care Facilities and Community Resources</i></p>	<p>The mortality rates for two cancers linked to smoking, lung and bronchus cancer, and esophagus cancer, have been higher in Howard County than in the state and nation.</p>
Community Challenges & Perceptions	Individuals Who Are More Vulnerable
<p>Smoking persists in Howard County despite efforts to reduce tobacco use.</p>	<p>According to the CDC, smoking is most prevalent for the following categories of adults: men, people 45-64 years of age, non-Hispanic American Indian/Alaska Native, those with low levels of educational achievement, those with lower incomes, and lesbian, gay, or bisexual.¹²</p> <p>Those exposed to second-hand smoke also are vulnerable.</p>

¹² https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/adult_data/cig_smoking/index.htm#nation

Substance Use Disorders and Overdoses	
Why is it Important?	Data Highlights
<p>Substance use disorders have a significant impact on individuals, families, and communities. Impacts are cumulative and result in costly social, physical, mental, and public health issues.¹³</p>	<p>Between 2015 and 2019, drug overdose and poisoning deaths in Howard County were higher than state averages, 37.6 percent compared to 26.6 percent.</p> <p>The Indiana State Health Improvement Plan prioritized the need to reduce injury and death due to opioid usage.</p>
<p>Local Assets & Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascension St Vincent Kokomo • Community Howard Regional Health • Howard County Health Department • https://www.in.gov/recovery/ <p><i>See Appendix E for Health Care Facilities and Community Resources</i></p>	
Community Challenges & Perceptions	Individuals Who Are More Vulnerable
<p>Substance use disorders are prevalent and are closely linked to mental health concerns.</p> <p>Opioid usage is widespread and has contributed to increases in hepatitis.</p>	<p>People with untreated mental health conditions.</p>

¹³ Healthy People 2020. See <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/substance-abuse>.

Prioritized Needs

Following the completion of the community health needs assessment as outlined in this report, Ascension St. Vincent Kokomo 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: July 2022 to June 2025. 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 St. Vincent Kokomo's previous implementation strategy include:

- **Access to Health Services** – The hospital identified a goal of increasing participation in Medicare or Medicare Savings programs by 2.5 percent through information distribution and enrollment assistance. Although COVID-19 impacted referral activities, the hospital contributed to the 499 Medicare and Medicare Savings program enrollments completed by Ascension St. Vincent Health Advocates during the first two years of the implementation strategy (I.S.). Results from the last year of this I.S. cycle will be reported and attached to the 2021 Form 990.
- **Food Security** – The hospital identified a goal of increasing student participation in School Breakfast Programs by 2.0 percent, which was supported by partnering with the national organization, No Kid Hungry, and other local organizations to advance the statewide initiative, *Indiana Partnership for Hunger Free Students*, which aims to increase food security by improving the availability of school breakfast. However, due to the unanticipated, significant impact COVID-19 had on schools, the scope of the initiative was expanded to include all school nutrition programs, in addition to the school breakfast program. As a result, the hospital contributed by supporting a school's emerging nutritional needs through the purchase of equipment, food, and/or support of programming, such as the weekend feeding program and/or the school breakfast program. Results from the last year of this I.S. cycle will be reported and attached to the 2021 Form 990.
- **Mental Health** – The hospital identified a goal of increasing the number of community members trained to respond to the signs of mental illness and/or substance use by hosting *Mental Health First Aid* (MHFA) training sessions for the community, at no charge. MHFA is an evidence-based program, facilitated by a certified MHFA instructor. The first year of the implementation strategy was dedicated to planning. During the second year, although COVID-19 affected some aspects of implementation, the hospital contributed to Ascension St. Vincent hosting 13 training sessions, resulting in 100 new "Mental Health First Aiders" throughout the state. Results from the last year of this I.S. cycle will be reported and attached to the 2021 Form 990.

A full evaluation of our efforts to address the significant health needs identified in the 2019 CHNA can be found in Appendix F.

Approval by Ascension St. Vincent Kokomo Board of Directors

To ensure the Ascension St. Vincent Kokomo's efforts meet the needs of the community and have a lasting and meaningful impact, the 2021 CHNA was presented to the Ascension St. Vincent Kokomo Board of Directors for approval and adoption on June 16, 2022. 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 community Ascension St. Vincent Kokomo serves. This report will be used by internal stakeholders, non-profit organizations, government agencies, and other community partners of Ascension St. Vincent Kokomo to guide the implementation strategies and community health improvement efforts as required by the Affordable Care Act. The 2021 CHNA will also be made available to the broader community as a useful resource for further health improvement efforts.

Ascension St. Vincent Kokomo hopes this report offers a meaningful and comprehensive understanding of the most significant needs for residents of Howard County. As a Catholic health ministry, Ascension St. Vincent Kokomo 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. Ascension St. Vincent Kokomo 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 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.

Hospital Input Meeting

Group discussions with selected individuals. A skilled moderator is needed to lead hospital input meeting discussions. Members of a hospital input meeting 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.

Community Input Meetings

Meetings that provide opportunities for community members to provide their thoughts on community problems and service needs. Community input meetings can be targeted towards priority populations. Community input meetings 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.

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	Howard	Indiana	U.S.
Total	82,544	6,732,219	328,239,523
Male	48.6%	49.3%	49.2%
Female	51.4%	50.7%	50.8%
Data source: County Health Rankings, 2021			

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	Howard	Indiana	U.S.
Asian	1.3%	2.6%	5.9%
Black / African American	7.7%	9.6%	12.5%
Hispanic / Latino	3.5%	7.3%	18.5%
Native American	0.4%	0.4%	1.3%
White	84.6%	78.4%	60.1%
Data source: County Health Rankings, 2021			

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 childcare. A population with more youths will have greater education needs and childcare needs, while an older population may have greater healthcare needs.

Age	Howard	Indiana	U.S.
Median Age	41.7	37.7	38.1
Age 0-17	22.7%	23.6%	22.6%
Age 18-64	58.3%	61.1%	61.7%
Age 65+	19.1%	15.4%	15.6%
Data source: U.S. Census, 2021			

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	Howard	Indiana	U.S.
Median Household Income	\$54,048	\$57,617	\$65,712
Per Capita Income	\$28,129	\$29,777	\$34,103
People with incomes below the federal poverty guideline	18%	13%	13.0%
ALICE Households	12%	24%	29.0%
Data sources: U.S. Census, 2021, County Health Rankings, 2021, and United for ALICE, 2020			

Education

Why it is 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.

Education	Howard	Indiana	U.S.
High School grad or higher	89.5%	88.8%	88.0%
Bachelor's degree or higher	21.6%	26.5%	32.1%
Data source: U.S. Census, 2021			

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.

Insurance	Howard	Indiana	U.S.
Uninsured	7.1%	8.4%	8.8%
People with Medicaid/Meanst-tested Public Coverage	19.2%	17.6%	20.2%
Data sources: U.S. Census, 2021, and County Health Rankings, 2021			

Appendix C: Community Input Data and Sources

A community input meeting was conducted in July 2021 to gather feedback on the health needs and assets of Howard County. More than forty-five individuals were invited to participate in the Howard County community input meetings and 22 individuals attended and completed a post-meeting survey to identify significant community needs. These individuals represented organizations including local health departments, non-profit organizations, faith-based organizations, health care providers, and local policymakers. Community organizations invited to participate in the community input meeting are presented below.

Invited Organizations	
Ascension St. Vincent Kokomo	Indiana University Kokomo
Bona Vista Programs	Ivy Tech Community College
Carver Community Center	Kokomo High School
Center Township, Office of the Trustee	Kokomo Housing Authority
Chrysler	Kokomo Police Department
City of Kokomo	Kokomo Rescue Mission
Community Howard Foundation Board	Kokomo Schools Food Services
Coordinated Assistance Ministries	Kokomo Urban Outreach
Eastern Howard School Corporation	Kokomo YMCA
Family Services Association of Howard County	Mental Health America of North Central Indiana
Gilead House	Minority Health Alliance
Greater Kokomo Economic Development Alliance	Northwestern School Corporation
Howard County Office of Veterans & Military Families	Project Access Howard County
Howard County Health Department	Purdue Extension
Howard County Sheriffs Department	Samaritan Caregivers
Howard County Tobacco Free Coalition	Taylor Community School Corporation
Howard County, Office of the Commissioner	Turning Point Systems of Care
Indiana Department of Child Services	United Way of Howard County
Indiana Health Centers, Inc.	Western School Corporation



Ascension St. Vincent Kokomo

A meeting also was conducted in November 2011 to gather feedback from hospital staff on the health needs and assets of Howard County. Eight individuals participated. These staff included discharge planners, community navigators, social workers, primary care providers, and administrators.

Appendix D1: Secondary Data and Sources – County Health Rankings

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 are from the 2021 publication. It is important to understand that reliable data are generally two to three years behind due to the importance of careful analysis. NOTE: Data in the charts do not reflect the effects that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on communities.

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.

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.

Top US Counties: The best 10 percent of counties in the country. It is important to compare not just with Indiana but important to know how the best counties are doing.

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	Howard	Indiana	Top US	Description
				Counties	
Length of Life					
Premature Death	Worse	11,282.1	8,251.6	5,581.3	Years of potential life lost before age 75 per 100,000 population (age-adjusted)
Life Expectancy	-	74.5	77.1	81.1	How long the average person should live (in years).
Infant Mortality	-	7.0	7.1	4.3	Number of all infant deaths (within 1 year) per 1,000 live births.
Physical Health					
Poor or Fair Health	-	20.2%	18.2%	13.9%	Percent of adults reporting fair or poor health.
Poor Physical Health Days	-	4.4	4.0	3.4	Average number of physically unhealthy days reported in past 30 days (age-adjusted).
Frequent Physical Distress	-	13.5%	12.3%	10.3%	Percent of adults 14 or more days of poor physical health per month.
Low Birth Weight	-	8.4%	8.1%	6.0%	Percent of babies born too small (less than 2,500 grams).
Fall Fatalities 65+	-	62.2	42.1	n/a	Number of injury deaths due to falls among those 65 years of age and over per 100,000 population.
Mental Health					
Poor Mental Health Days	-	5.0	4.7	3.8	Average number of mentally unhealthy days reported in the past 30 days.
Frequent Mental Distress	-	16.1%	14.7%	12.0%	Percent of adults reporting 14 or more days of poor mental health per month.
Suicide	-	16.8	15.2	11.4	Number of deaths due to suicide per 100,000.
Morbidity					

Indicators	Trend	Howard	Indiana	Top US	Description
				Counties	
Diabetes prevalence	-	14.8%	12.1%	8.1%	Percent of adults aged 20 and above with diagnosed diabetes.
Cancer Incidence		N/A	N/A	N/A	Number of new cancer diagnoses per 100,000.
Communicable Disease					
HIV Prevalence	-	173.7	206.4	50.7	Number of people aged 13 years and over with a diagnosis of HIV per 100,000.
Sexually Transmitted Infections	Worse	522.1	523.9	161.2	Number of newly diagnosed chlamydia cases per 100,000.
<i>Data source: County Health Rankings, 2021</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	Howard	Indiana	Top US	Description
				Counties	
Economic Stability					
Median Household Income	-	54,048	57,617	72,876	Income where half of households in a county earn more and half of households earn less.
Unemployment	Same	4.0%	3.3%	2.6%	Percentage of population ages 16 and older unemployed but seeking work.
Poverty	-	12%	13%	29%	Percentage of population living below the Federal Poverty Line.
Childhood Poverty	Worse	18.3%	15.1%	10.1%	Percentage of people under age 18 in poverty.
Educational Attainment					
High School Completion	-	89.5%	88.8%	93.6%	Percentage of ninth grade cohort that graduates in four years.

Indicators	Trend	Howard	Indiana	Top US	Description
				Counties	
Some College	-	61.8%	62.8%	73.4%	Percentage of adults ages 25-44 with some post-secondary education.
Social/Community					
Children in single-parent homes	-	30.8%	25.1%	13.8%	Percentage of children that live in a household headed by a single parent.
Social Associations	-	15.9	12.3	18.2	Number of membership associations per 10,000 population.
Disconnected Youth	-	6.4%	6.5%	4.0%	Percentage of teens and young adults ages 16-19 who are neither working nor in school.
Violent Crime	Worse	431.3	385.1	63.5	Number of reported violent crime offenses per 100,000 population.
Access to Healthy Foods					
Food Environment Index	-	7.2	7.0	8.7	Index of factors that contribute to a healthy food environment, 0 is worst, 10 is best.
Food Insecurity	-	14.7%	13.2%	8.6%	Percent of the population who lack adequate access to food.
Limited Access to Healthy Foods	-	8.5%	6.9%	1.6%	Percent of the population who are low-income and do not live close to a grocery store.
<i>Data source: County Health Rankings, 2021</i>					

Physical Environment

Why it is 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	Howard	Indiana	Top US	Description
				Counties	
Physical Environment					
Severe housing cost burden	-	11.0%	10.9%	7.0%	Percentage of households that spend 50% or more of their household income on housing.
Severe Housing Problems	-	11.7%	12.9%	8.9%	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	-	9.4	9.0	5.2	Average daily density of fine particulate matter in micrograms per cubic meter (PM2.5).
Homeownership	-	70.2%	69.1%	80.7%	Percentage of occupied housing units that are owned.
Year Structure Built	-	26.7%	22.9%	n/a	Percentage of housing units built prior to 1950.
Data source: County Health Rankings, 2021, and U.S. Census, 2021					

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	Howard	Indiana	Top US	Description
				Counties	
Healthcare Access					
Uninsured	Better	8.1%	9.7%	5.8%	Percentage of population under age 65 without health insurance.
Uninsured Adults	Better	9.3%	11.0%	6.8%	Percentage of adults under age 65 without health insurance.
Uninsured children	Better	5.1%	6.6%	2.9%	Percentage of children under age 19 without health insurance.
Primary Care Physicians	Same	59.5	66.8	96.7	Primary care physicians per 100,000 persons.
Other Primary Care Providers	-	99.3	100.6	161.0	Other primary care providers per 100,000 persons.
Mental Health Providers	-	199.9	168.3	368.5	Mental health providers per 100,000 persons.
Hospital Utilization					
Preventable Hospital Stays	-	4,462	4,795	2,571	Rate of hospital stays for ambulatory-care sensitive conditions per 100,000 Medicare enrollees.
Preventative Healthcare					
Flu Vaccinations	Same	49%	52%	55%	Percentage of fee-for-service (FFS) Medicare enrollees that had an annual flu vaccination.
Mammography Screenings	Same	45%	42%	51%	Percentage of female Medicare enrollees ages 65-74 that received an annual mammography screening.
Data source: County Health Rankings, 2021					

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	Howard	Indiana	Top US	Description
				Counties	
Healthy Life					
Adult Obesity	Worse	35.2%	33.9%	25.5%	Percentage of the adult population (age 20 and older) that reports a body mass index (BMI) greater than or equal to 30 kg/m2.
Physical Inactivity	Worse	34.1%	26.7%	19.3%	Percentage of adults aged 20 and over reporting no leisure-time physical activity.
Access to Exercise Opportunities	-	68.6%	75.2%	91.4%	Percentage of population with adequate access to locations for physical activity.
Insufficient Sleep	-	38.2%	38.0%	31.6%	Percentage of adults who report fewer than 7 hours of sleep on average.
Motor Vehicle Crash Deaths	-	19.2%	12.3%	8.8%	Number of motor vehicle crash deaths per 100,000 population.
Substance Use and Misuse					
Adult Smoking	-	25.2%	21.7%	16.2%	Percentage of adults who are current smokers.
Excessive Drinking	-	17.1%	18.6%	14.8%	Percentage of adults reporting binge or heavy drinking.
Alcohol-Impaired Driving Deaths	Same	35.1%	18.8%	11.1%	Percent of Alcohol-impaired driving deaths.
Sexual Health					
Teen Births	-	34.4	24.8	11.6	Number of births per 1,000 female population ages 15-19.
Sexually Transmitted Infections	Worse	522.1	523.9	161.2	Number of newly diagnosed chlamydia cases per 100,000 population.
Data source: County Health Rankings, 2021					

Observations: The CHRR data indicate that the following community health issues are significant in Howard County (because the county's data are particularly unfavorable in comparison with Indiana-wide statistics):

- Years of potential life lost before age 75
- Life expectancy
- Percent of adults reporting fair or poor health
- Poor physical health days
- Percent of adults with >14 days of poor physical health per month
- Fall fatalities 65+
- Poor mental health days
- Percent of adults with >14 days of poor mental health per month
- Number of deaths due to suicide per 100,000
- Diabetes prevalence
- Median household income
- Childhood poverty
- Children in single parent homes
- Violent crime
- Food insecurity
- Limited access to healthy foods
- Percent of housing units built prior to 1950
- Primary care physicians per 100,000
- Percent of adults with BMI >30
- Physical inactivity
- Access to exercise opportunities
- Number of motor vehicle crash deaths per 100,000
- Adult smoking
- Alcohol-impaired driving deaths
- Number of births per 1,000 female population ages 15-19

In comparison with "Top U.S. Counties," the following indicators were particularly unfavorable in Howard County: premature death, life expectancy, infant mortality, poor or fair health, poor physical health days, low birth weight babies, poor mental health days, suicide, diabetes prevalence, HIV prevalence, sexually transmitted infections, median household income, unemployment, childhood poverty, high school completion, adults with some college, children in single-parent homes, violent crime, food insecurity, limited access to healthy food, severe housing cost burden, severe housing problems, air pollution, rate of uninsured, rate of primary care physicians, rate of mental health providers, preventable hospital stays, obesity, physical inactivity, access to exercise opportunities, motor vehicle crash deaths, adult smoking, excessive drinking, alcohol impaired driving deaths, and teen births.

Appendix D2: Additional Secondary Data

Appendix D2 presents and discusses additional, relevant secondary data for Howard County, Indiana, and the United States. All data presented are from credible sources.

Community-Specific Secondary Data

The following section includes the following community-specific secondary data:

- Projected population growth
- Poverty rates by race and ethnicity
- Locations of low-income census tracts
- Unemployment rates
- Crime rates
- Households that are housing burdened
- The Dignity Health Community Need Index™
- The CDC/ATSDR Social Vulnerability Index
- Comparisons of County Health Rankings data to peer counties across the U.S. (based on “Community Health Status Indicators” project methodologies)
- Various BRFSS indicators by ZIP Code (CDC PLACES: Local Data for Better Health)
- Age-adjusted mortality rates by cause
- Age-adjusted mortality rates for cancer by type
- Age-adjusted cancer incidence rates by type
- Rates of drug poisoning mortality
- Communicable disease rates
- Maternal and Child Health indicators in total and by race and ethnicity
- Locations of food deserts
- Locations of Medically Underserved Areas and Populations (MUAs/MUPs)
- Locations of Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs)

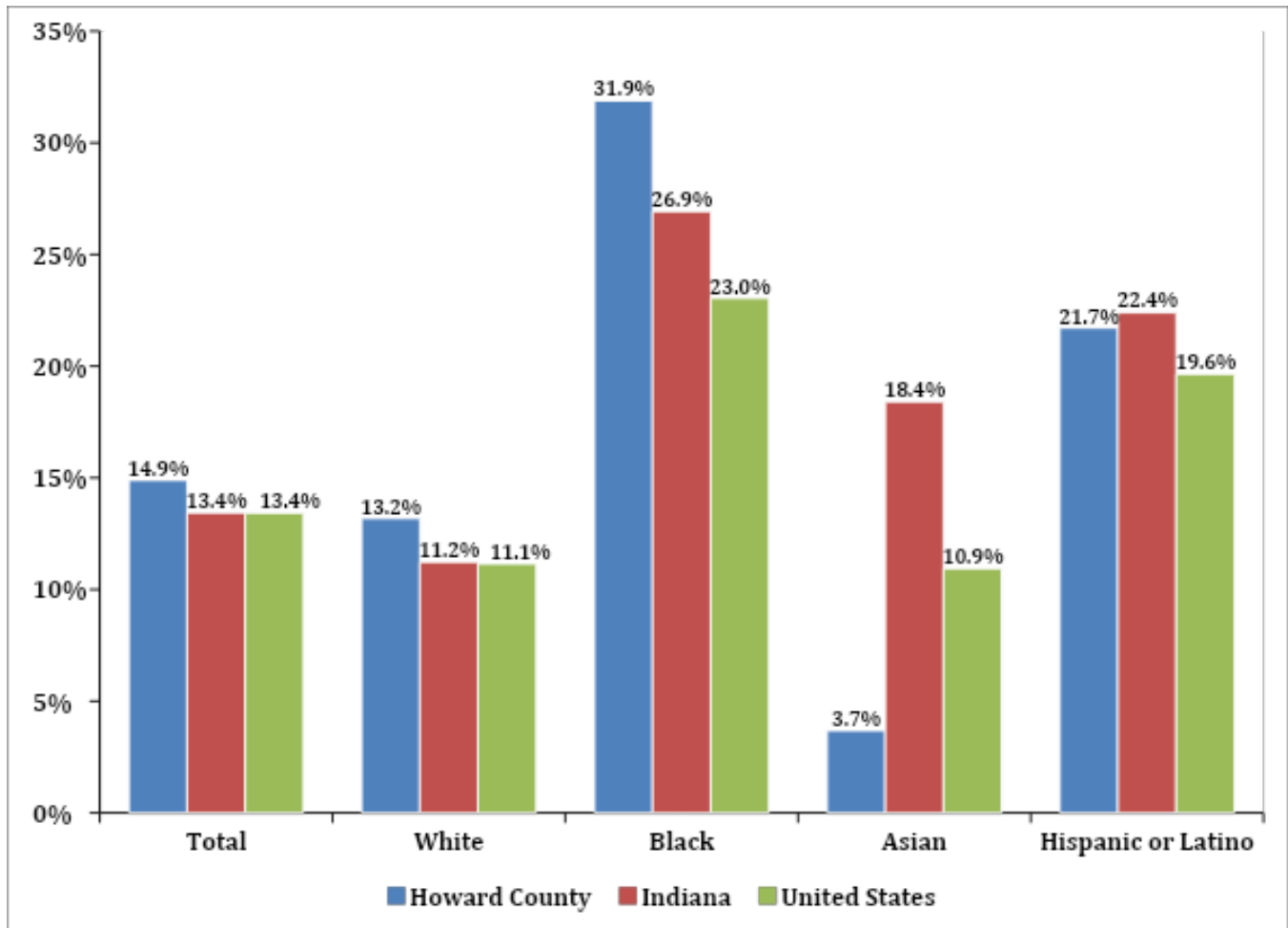
Brief descriptions of each data source and observations based on the data follow.

Projected Population Growth, 2019-2025

Year	Howard County		Indiana	
	Population	Age 65+	Population	Age 65+
2019	82,331	15,690	6,665,703	1,023,588
2025	82,262	18,626	7,043,550	1,196,568
Change	-69	2,936	377,847	172,980
Percent Change	0.0%	2.9%	5.7%	16.9%

Description. This table portrays population growth in Howard County and Indiana.

Observations: The total population of Howard County is projected to remain constant between 2019 and 2025. The 65+ population is projected to grow 2.9 percent.

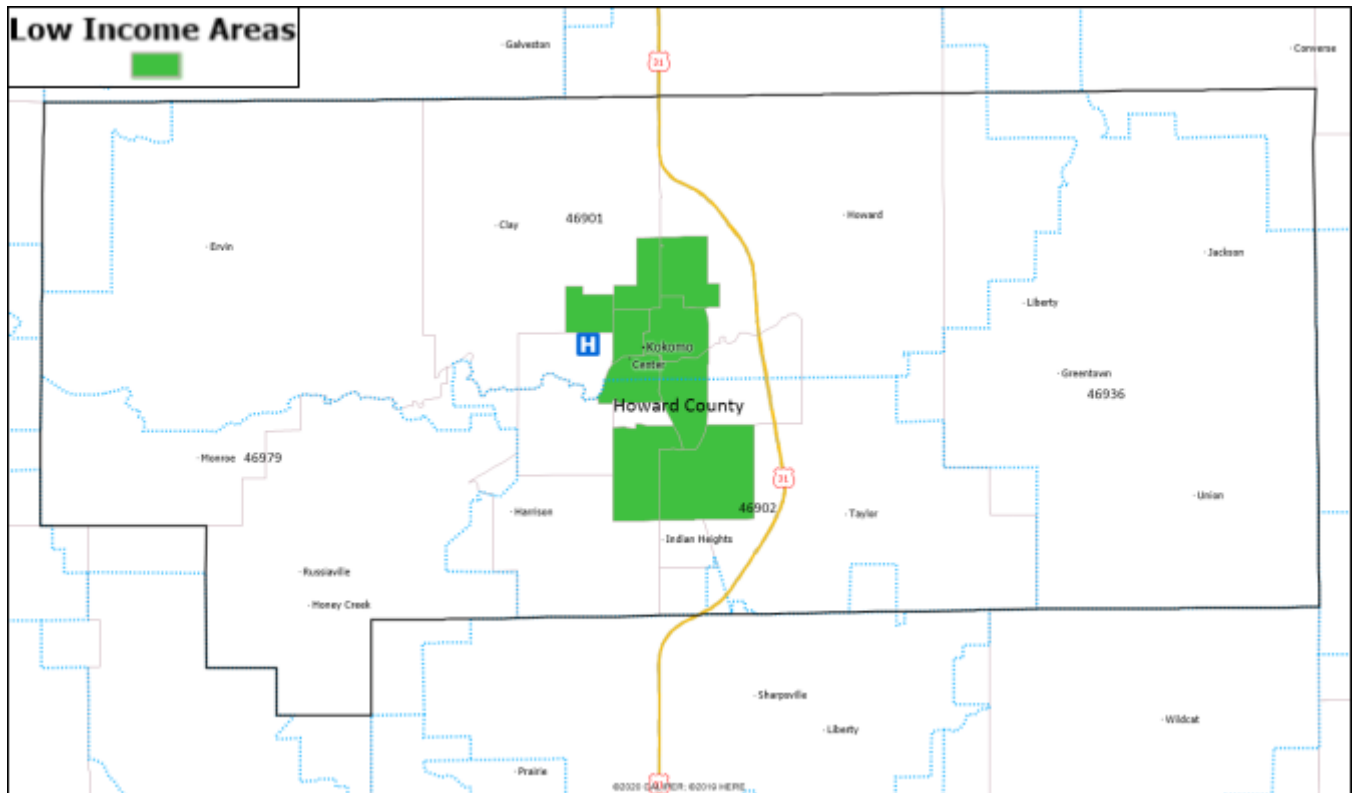
Poverty Rates by Race and Ethnicity, 2015-2019


Source: US Census, ACS 5-Year Estimates (2015-2019), 2020.

Description. This graph portrays poverty rates (the percent of people living in poverty) in Howard County, Indiana, and the United States in total and by race and ethnicity.

Observations: Poverty rates in Howard County have been slightly above Indiana and U.S. averages for all races/ethnicities combined, as well as higher than the U.S. average for Black and for Hispanic (or Latino) residents.

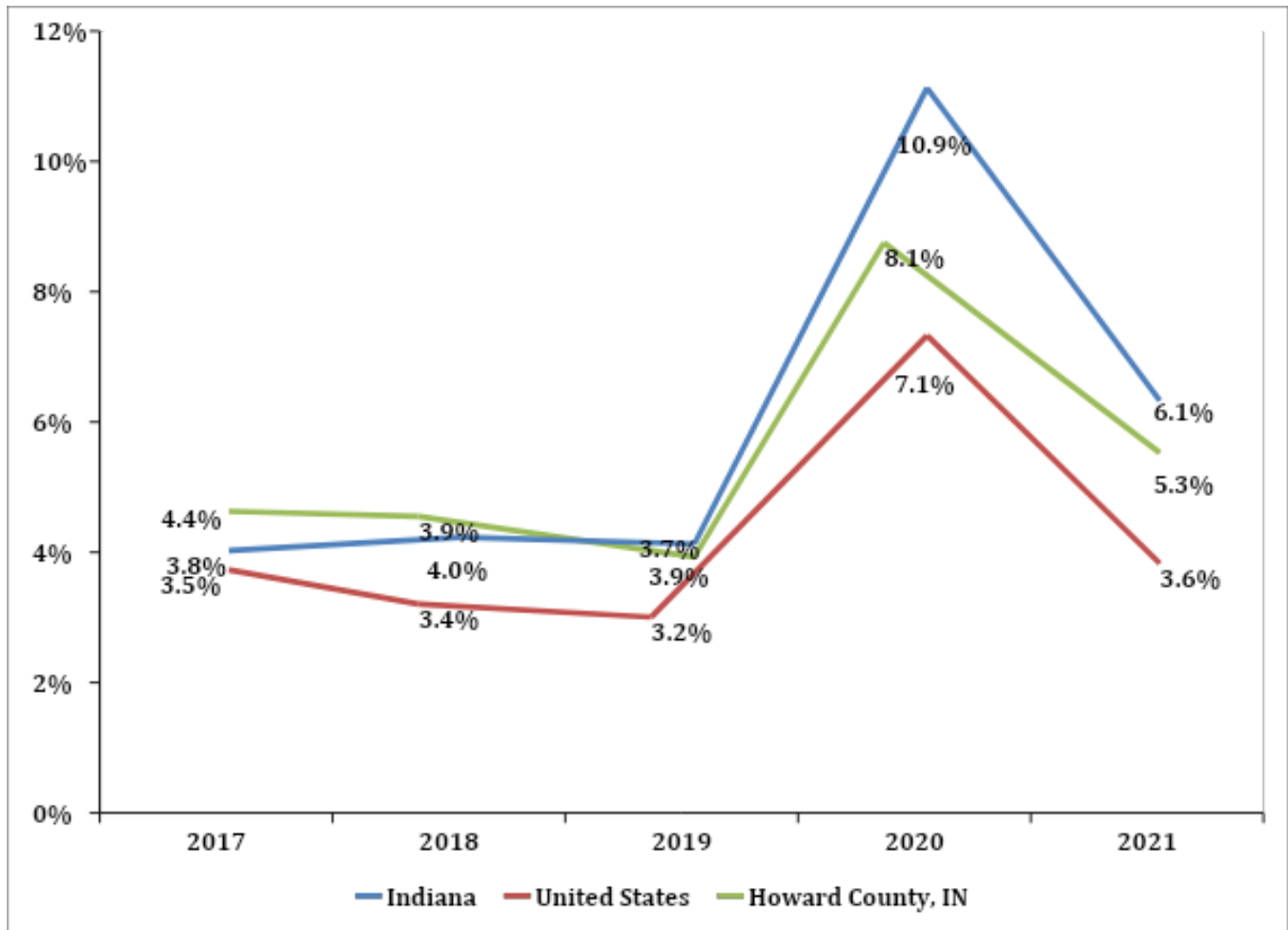
Low Income Census Tracts, 2019



Source: US Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service, ESRI, 2021.

Description. This map portrays the location of federally designated low-income census tracts.

Observations. In 2019, a low-income census tracts were present in Kokomo and central Howard County.

Annual Unemployment Rates, 2017-2021


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2021.

Description. This graph shows unemployment rates for Howard County, Indiana, and the United States for 2017 through 2021.

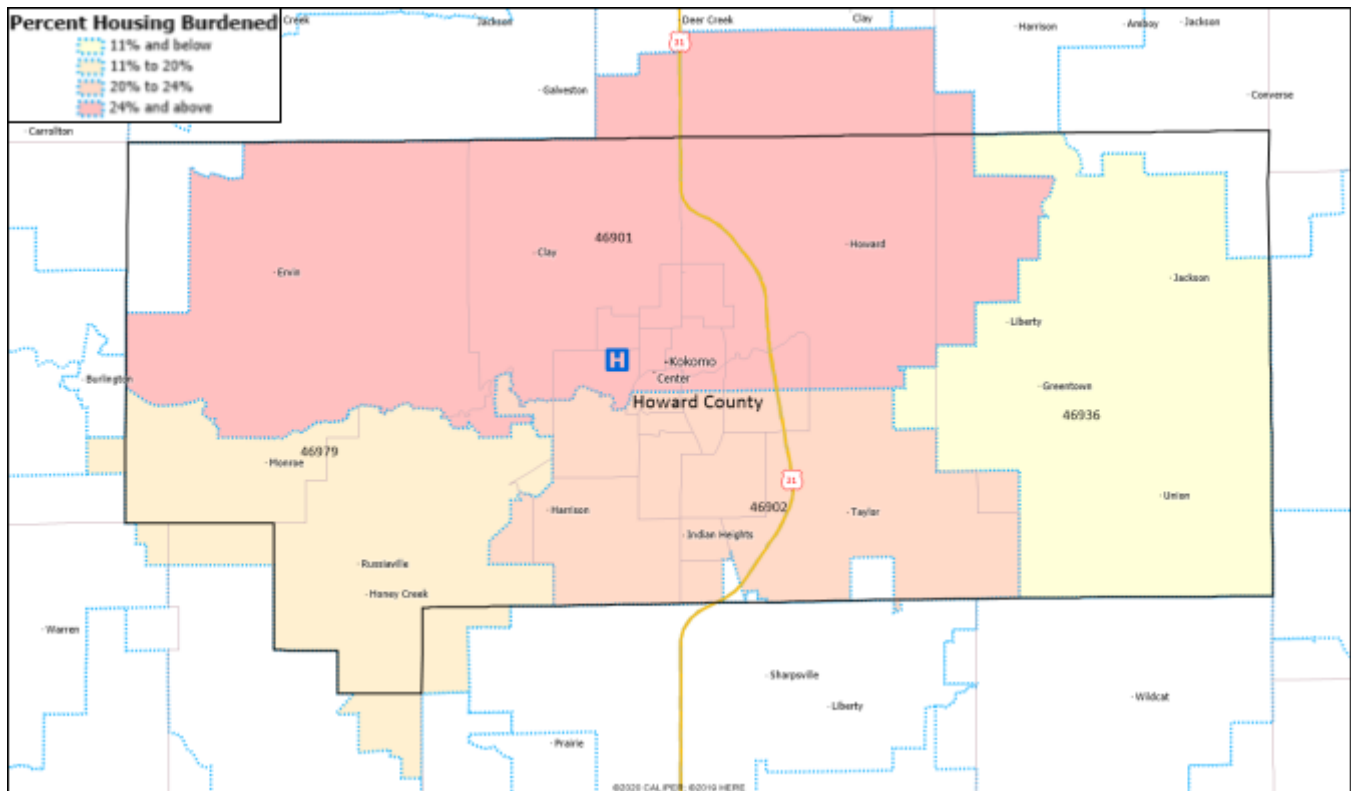
Observations. Unemployment rates were similar from 2017 through 2019. Rates rose in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Rates fell in 2021 as the economy recovered. Because many obtain health insurance through employer-based coverage, higher unemployment rates contribute to higher numbers of uninsured people. In 2021, Howard County unemployment rates remained above U.S. and Indiana rates.

Percent of Households Housing Burdened, 2015-2019

Indicator	Howard County	Indiana	United States
Occupied Housing Units	10,578	2,570,419	120,756,048

Excessive Housing Costs (30% + of Income)	2,107	626,325	37,249,895
Percent Housing Burdened	19.9%	24.4%	30.8%

Source: US Census, ACS 5-Year Estimates (2015-2019).



Source: US Census, ACS 5-Year Estimates (2015-2019).

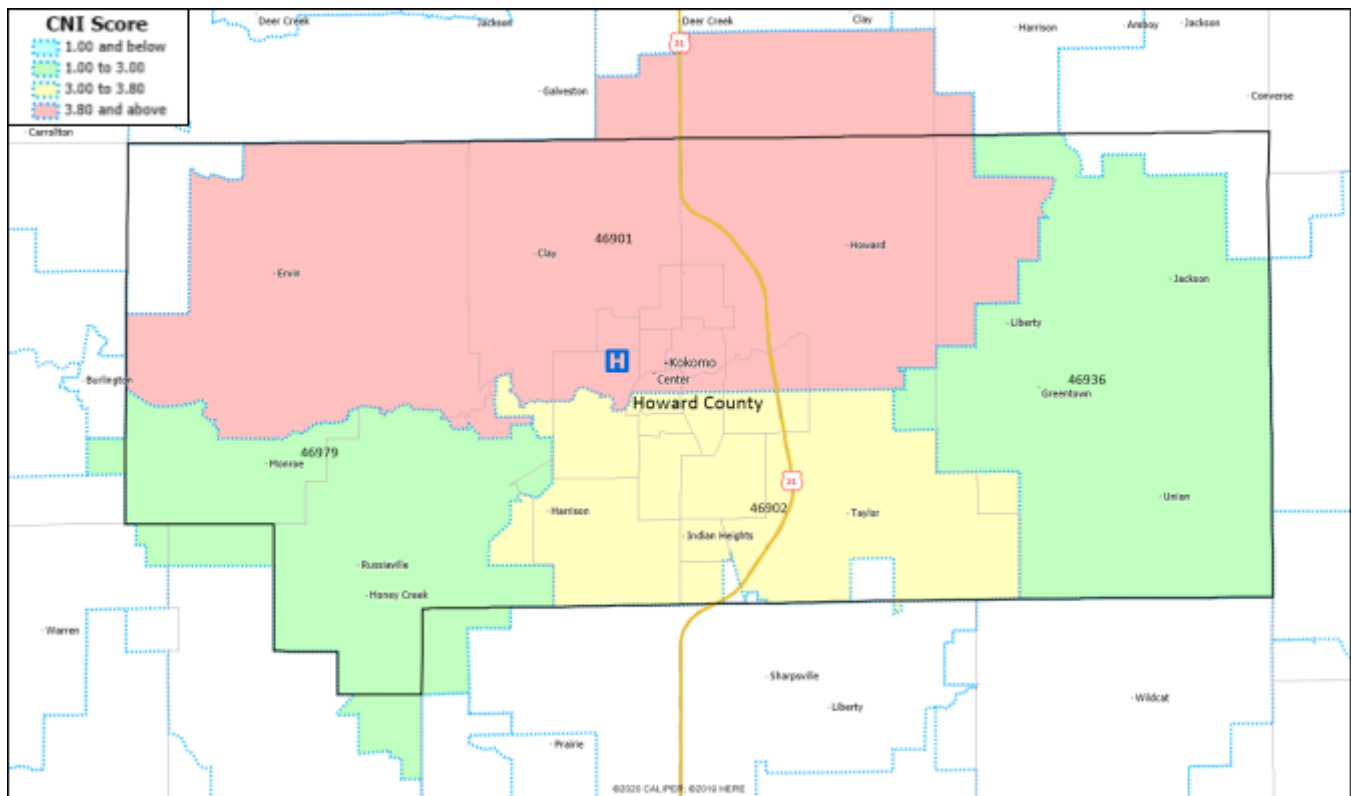
Description. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (“HHS”) defines “housing burdened” households as those spending more than 30 percent of income on housing. Spending significant resources on housing costs has been associated with poor health outcomes, because fewer resources are available for other necessities including healthy food and health care services. The table and map include data regarding the percent of households identified as housing burdened.

Observations. In Howard County, 19.9 percent of households have been designated as “housing burdened,” a level below Indiana and United States averages. The COVID-19 pandemic is known to have increased housing insecurity across the United States.

Community Need Index™, 2021

Indicator	Howard County	United States
Weighted Average CNI Score	3.4	3.0

Source: Dignity Health, 2021.

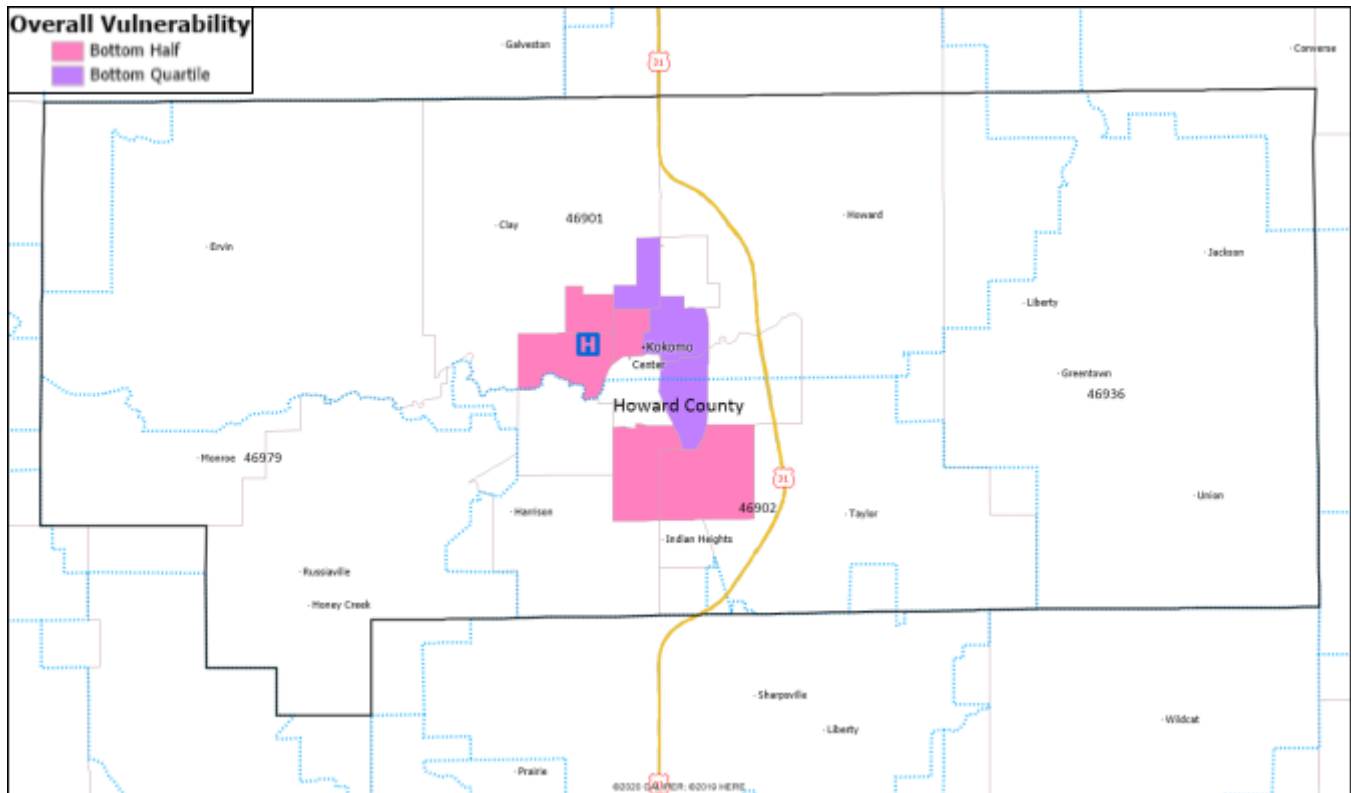


Source: Dignity Health, 2021.

Description. This table and map present Community Need Index™ (CNI) scores by ZIP Code. Higher scores indicate the highest levels of community need. Dignity Health (now part of CommonSpirit) developed the CNI to identify where barriers to health care access are most prevalent. The index, available for every ZIP Code in the United States, is based on various indicators including poverty rates, the percent of the population non-White and Hispanic, the percent of the population with limited English proficiency, the percent of the population (over 25) without a high school diploma, unemployment and uninsurance rates, and the percent of households renting their home. CNI scores in the 4.2-5.0 range are in the “highest need” category. The national median score 3.0.

Observations. At 3.4, the weighted average CNI score for Howard County is the higher than the U.S. median. Kokomo ZIP Codes 46901 (3.8) and 46902 (3.6) have higher CNI scores than the other ZIP Codes in the county.

Social Vulnerability Index Bottom Half/Bottom Quartile Census Tracts



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2020, and Caliper Maptitude.

Description. The Centers for Disease Control (Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, or ATSDR) has calculated the Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) for every census tract in the United States. The above map highlights Howard County census tracts with SVI scores in the bottom half and bottom quartile nationally. The SVI ranks each census tracts on fifteen social factors, “including poverty, lack of vehicle access, and crowded housing, and groups them into four related themes.”¹⁴

Observations. Census tracts with comparatively high SVI scores are in Kokomo and central Howard County.

¹⁴ https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/placeandhealth/svi/fact_sheet/fact_sheet.html

Community Health Status Indicators Analysis (Based on County Health Rankings Data)

Category	Indicator	Howard County	Peer Counties Average	Quartile Ranking
Length of Life	Years of Potential Life Lost Before 75 Per 100,000	11,282	8,908	4
Quality of Life	% of Adults Reporting Fair or Poor Health	20.2%	19.5%	3
	Average Number of Physically Unhealthy Days Per Month	4.4	4.5	2
	Average Number of Mentally Unhealthy Days Per Month	5.0	4.9	3
	% of Live Births with Low Birthweight	8.4%	8.7%	2
Health Behaviors	% of Adults who Smoke	25.2%	22.1%	4
	% Adults with Obesity	35.2%	35.5%	2
	Food Environment Index	7.2	7.4	3
	% Physically Inactive	34.1%	26.7%	4
	% With Access to Exercise Opportunities	68.6%	77.4%	4
	% of Adults Reporting Binge or Heavy Drinking	17.1%	18.8%	2
	% Driving Deaths with Alcohol Involvement	35.1%	29.0%	4
	Newly Diagnosed Chlamydia Cases per 100,000	522.1	570.2	2
	Births per 1,000 Females Aged 15-19 Years	34.4	27.9	4
Clinical Care	% of Population Under 65 Uninsured	8.1%	8.4%	3
	Primary Care Physicians Per 100,000	59.5	74.8	3
	Dentists Per 100,000	82.4	65.7	1
	Mental Health Providers Per 100,000	199.9	255.6	3
	Preventable Hospitalizations Per 100,000 Medicare Enrollees	4,462	4,852	2
	% of Females 65-74 With Annual Mammogram	45.0%	44.5%	2
	% of FFS Medicare Beneficiaries with Annual Flu Vaccination	49.0%	50.1%	3
Social & Economic Factors	% of Adults 25+ Who Completed High School	89.5%	89.6%	3
	% of Adults 25-44 with Some College	61.8%	62.3%	3
	% Unemployed	4.0%	4.0%	2
	% Children in Poverty	18.3%	20.2%	2

	Ratio of Income at 80th Percentile to 20th Percentile	4.6	4.6	3
	% Children in Single-Parent Households	30.8%	28.6%	3
	Membership Associations per 10,000	15.9	12.3	1
	Reported Violent Crime Offenses per 100,000	431.3	391.1	3
	Deaths Due to Injury Per 100,000	106.7	87.1	4
Physical Environment	Average Daily Density of Fine Particulate Matter (PM2.5)	9.4	7.9	4
	% of Households with Severe Housing Problems	11.7%	14.1%	1
	% Drive Alone to Work	83.5%	83.1%	3
	% Long Commute - Drives Alone	19.9%	23.1%	2

Source: Verité Healthcare Consulting Analysis of County Health Rankings Data, 2021.

Description. County Health Rankings has assembled community health data for all 3,143 counties in the United States. Following a methodology developed by the Centers for Disease Control's *Community Health Status Indicators* Project (CHSI), County Health Rankings also has published lists of "peer counties," so every county can be compared with its "peers" across the United States. Each U.S. county has 30 to 35 peer counties based on nineteen variables including population size, population growth, population density, household income, unemployment, and other demographic and socioeconomic characteristics. CHSI formerly was available from the CDC. Because comparisons with peer counties (rather than only counties in the same state) are meaningful, Verité Healthcare Consulting rebuilt and applies the CHSI methodology when helping to conduct CHNAs.

The preceding table compares County Health Rankings indicators for Howard County with peer counties. Light grey shading shows indicators for which Howard County ranks in the third quartile of peer counties; dark grey shading indicates rankings in the fourth (or bottom) quartile.

In general, higher values (e.g., the percent of adults reporting poor or fair health) are unfavorable. However, for several indicators, lower values are unfavorable, including:

- Food environment index,
- Percent with access to exercise opportunities,
- Percent receiving mammography screening,
- Percent receiving flu vaccination,
- High school graduation rate, and
- Percent with some college.

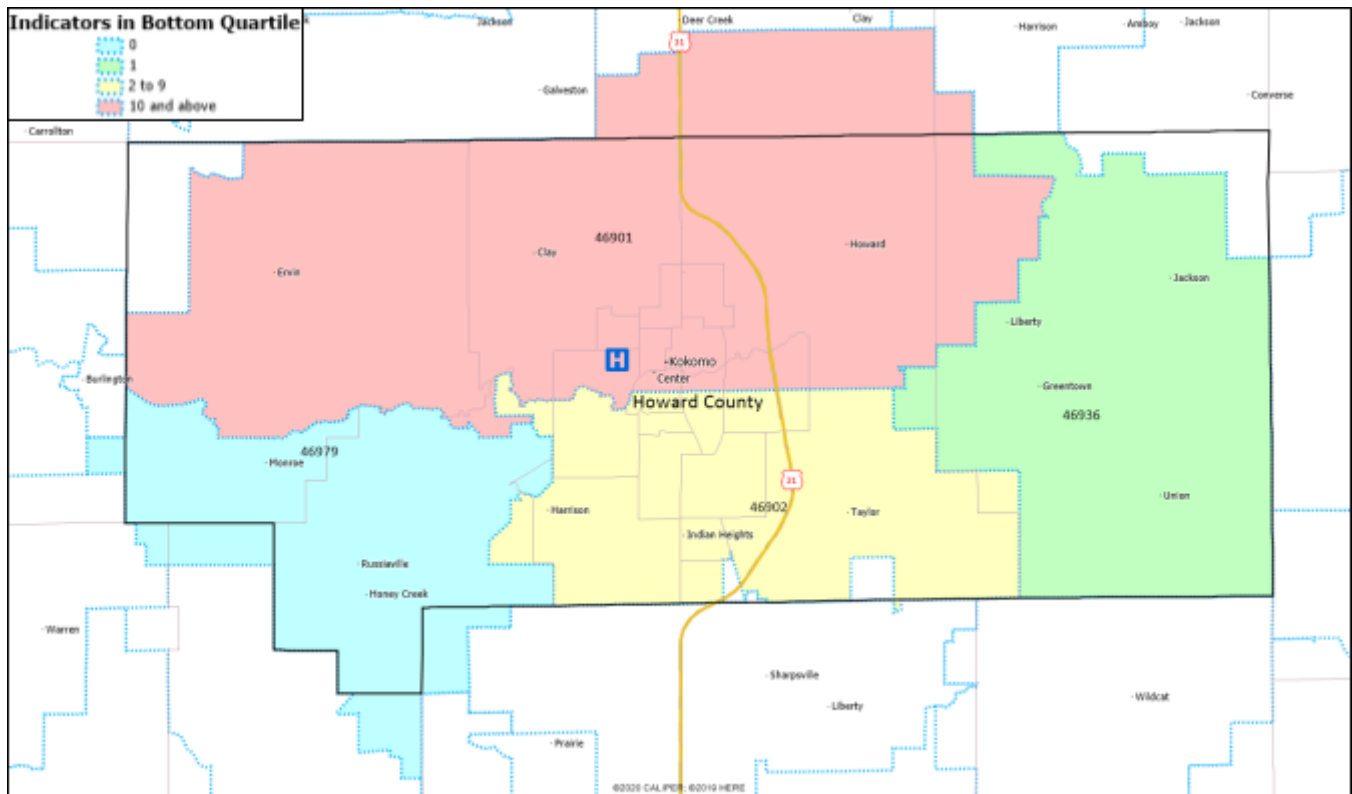
Observations. Howard County ranks in the bottom quartile of its peer counties for six indicators:

- Physical Inactivity
- Access to Exercise Opportunities
- Driving Deaths with Alcohol Involvement
- Births per 1,000 Females Aged 15-19 Years
- Deaths Due to Injury Per 100,000

- Average Daily Density of Fine Particulate Matter (PM2.5).

The county also is in the bottom one-half of peer counties for a number of other indicators, including adults reporting fair or poor health, average number of mentally unhealthy days per month, food environment index, population under 65 uninsured, primary care physicians, mental health providers, FFS Medicare beneficiaries with annual flu vaccination, adults 25+ who completed high school, adults 25-44 with some college, ratio of income at 80th percentile to 20th percentile, children in single-parent households, reported violent crime offenses, and drive alone to work.

BRFSS Indicators in Bottom Quartile Nationally, 2018-2019



Source: CDC PLACES, 2021, and Caliper Maptitude.

Percent of ZIP Codes in Bottom Quartile by BRFSS Indicator, 2018-2019

Indicator	Howard County (N=4)	Ascension St. Vincent Counties (N=134)	Indiana (N=739)
Core preventive services for older men	50.0%	61.9%	63.6%
Physical Inactivity	50.0%	41.0%	33.0%
COPD	25.0%	23.1%	25.2%
Core preventive services for older women	25.0%	38.8%	51.2%
High Cholesterol	25.0%	7.5%	6.8%
High Blood Pressure	25.0%	11.2%	8.5%
Obesity	25.0%	22.4%	20.7%
Diabetes	25.0%	17.2%	12.4%
Colorectal Cancer Screening	25.0%	13.4%	28.0%

Source: Verité Healthcare Consulting Analysis of CDC PLACES Data, 2022.

Description. PLACES, published by the CDC, provides Behavioral Risk Factors Surveillance System (BRFSS) results by state, county, ZIP Code, and census tract. The most recent PLACES data include 30 BRFSS indicators. The preceding map portrays the number of indicators in the bottom quartile nationally by ZIP Code. The table shows the indicators that are most frequently in the bottom quartile for Howard County. Data also are presented for these same indicators for ZIP Codes in communities served by Ascension St. Vincent hospitals and for Indiana.

Observations. Two of four, Howard County ZIP Codes, ranked in the bottom quartile nationally for the percentage of older men who have received a set of core preventive services at recommended intervals (flu shot, pneumococcal vaccine, colonoscopy or sigmoidoscopy or Fecal Occult Blood Test) and physical inactivity.

Age-Adjusted Mortality Rates Per 100,000, 2019

Indicator	Howard County	Indiana
Major Cardiovascular Disease	287.6	237.5
Diseases of Heart	232.0	178.7
Malignant Neoplasms (Cancer)	187.1	163.3

Ischemic Heart Disease	135.2	93.1
Accidents (Unintentional Injuries)	73.9	56.1
Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	68.3	56.1
Cerebrovascular Disease (Stroke)	39.8	41.5
Alzheimer's Disease	32.9	31.7
Drug Poisoning	37.6	26.6
Accidental Poisoning And Exposure To Noxious Substances	36.7	25.4
Diabetes Mellitus	24.4	25.0
Nephritis, Nephrotic Syndrome and Nephrosis (Kidney Disease)	18.8	17.1
Septicemia	16.9	14.3
Intentional Self-Harm (Suicide)	13.3	14.1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	22.6	12.6
Alcohol Related Causes	27.1	10.4
Assault (Homicide)	0.0	7.2

Source: Indiana Department of Health, 2020. N/A means rate not calculated due to small numbers.

Description. This table provides age-adjusted mortality rates in Howard County and Indiana. Light grey shading highlights rates that were above the Indiana average in 2019; dark grey shading highlights rates more than 50 percent above average.

Observations. In Howard County, mortality rates for motor vehicle accidents and alcohol related causes were more than 50 percent higher than the Indiana averages. Mortality for most other causes were above the Indiana averages.

Age-Adjusted Cancer Mortality Rates per 100,000 Population, 2014-2018

Indicator	Howard County	Indiana	United States
All Cancers	187.1	173.0	155.6
Lung and Bronchus	53.2	48.8	38.5
Breast	21.6	20.8	20.1
Prostate	17.3	19.5	19.0

Colon and Rectum	17.4	15.1	13.7
Pancreas	12.9	11.6	11.0
Leukemias	6.8	6.9	6.3
Ovary	6.6	6.9	6.7
Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma	5.1	6.1	5.4
Liver and Intrahepatic Bile Duct	6.2	6.0	6.6
Corpus and Uterus, NOS	7.2	5.1	4.9
Esophagus	5.5	4.9	3.9
Brain and Other Nervous System	5.1	4.6	4.4
Urinary Bladder	4.1	4.6	4.3
Kidney and Renal Pelvis	3.5	4.3	3.6
Myeloma	3.4	3.4	3.2
Cervix	N/A	2.5	2.2
Melanomas of the Skin	N/A	2.5	2.3
Oral Cavity and Pharynx	2.9	2.5	2.5
Stomach	N/A	2.5	3.0
Larynx	N/A	1.1	0.9
Thyroid	N/A	0.5	0.5

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2019.

Description. This table provides age-adjusted mortality rates for certain types of cancer. Light grey shading highlights rates above the Indiana average in 2014-2018; dark grey shading highlights rates more than 50 percent above the state average.

Observations. Howard County's mortality rate for several cancers have been above state and national averages.

Age-Adjusted Cancer Incidence Rates per 100,000 Population, 2013-2017

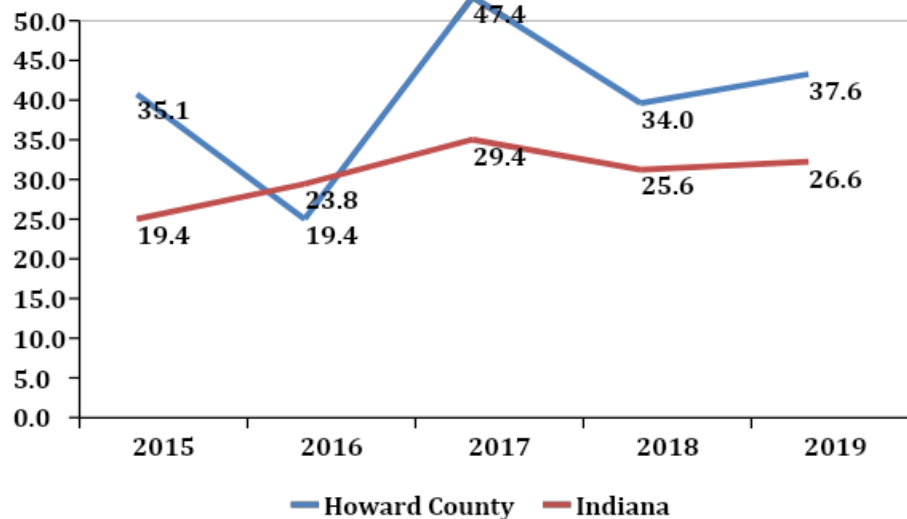
Indicator	Howard County	Indiana	United States
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All Cancer Types	481.4	459.3	448.7
Breast	133.0	122.9	125.9
Prostate	95.9	94.2	104.5
Lung & Bronchus	75.3	72.2	58.3
Colon & Rectum	43.9	42.6	38.4
Uterus (Corpus & Uterus)	28.6	28.2	27.0
Bladder	21.2	21.7	20.0
Melanoma of the Skin	23.9	21.7	22.3
Kidney & Renal Pelvis	21.3	19.0	16.8
Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma	19.3	18.6	19.3
Childhood (Ages <20)	16.5	17.6	18.9
Childhood (Ages <15)		16.2	17.4
Leukemia	13.2	13.7	14.2
Pancreas	14.3	13.3	12.9
Oral Cavity & Pharynx	14.4	12.7	11.8
Thyroid	15.1	12.5	14.3
Ovary	9.5	10.4	10.9
Cervix	12.1	8.2	7.6
Liver & Bile Duct	7.8	7.2	8.4
Brain & ONS	6.0	6.5	6.5
Stomach	3.1	5.9	6.5
Esophagus	5.3	5.5	4.5

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2019.

Description. This table provides age-adjusted incidence rates for selected forms of cancer in 2013-2017. Light grey shading highlights rates above the state average; dark grey shading highlights indicators more than 50 percent above average.

Observations. Howard County's cancer incidence rates for several cancers have been above state and national averages.

Age-Adjusted Drug Overdose and Poisoning Mortality Rates per 100,000, 2015-2019


Source: Indiana Department of Health, 2020 and 2022, and Verité analysis

Description. This graph provides age-adjusted mortality rates for drug overdose and poisoning for 2015 through 2019 for Howard County and Indiana.

Observations. Between 2015 and 2019, drug overdose and poisoning deaths in Howard County consistently have been higher than state averages, except for 2016.

Communicable Disease Incidence Rates per 100,000 Population, 2018-2019

Indicator	Howard County	Indiana
HIV and AIDS	157.8	189.9
Newly Diagnosed - HIV and AIDS	4.1	8.2
Chlamydia	470.1	526.3
Gonorrhea	139.3	177.1
Primary and Secondary Syphilis	N/A	5.0

Source: Indiana Department of Health, 2020.

Description. This table presents incidence rates for certain communicable diseases. Light grey shading shows indicators worse than the state average; dark grey shading shows indicators more than 50 percent above average.

Observations. The incidence rates of communicable diseases have been below the Indiana average.

Maternal and Child Health Indicators, 2018-2019

Indicator	Howard County	Indiana
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 births)	7.7	7.2
Preterm Births	9.1%	10.1%
Low Birthweight Infants	7.7%	8.2%
Very Low Birthweight Infants	1.6%	1.3%
Mothers Receiving Prenatal Care (First Trimester)	71.2%	68.9%
Mothers Breastfeeding	71.5%	82.0%
Mothers Smoking during Pregnancy	19.3%	11.8%
Births to Unmarried Mothers	50.4%	44.5%
Mothers on Medicaid Percent	45.7%	38.5%
Child Immunization Percent	72.0%	67.0%
ER Visits due to Asthma (Aged 5-17, per 10,000)	84.6	49.7

Source: Indiana Department of Health, 2020.

Description. This table compares maternal and child health indicators for Howard County with Indiana averages. Light grey shading shows indicators worse than average; dark grey shading shows indicators more than 50 percent worse.

Observations. Several maternal and child health indicators benchmark unfavorably for Howard County compared to Indiana including infant mortality rate, very low birthweight infants, mothers breastfeeding, mothers smoking during pregnancy, births to unmarried mothers, mothers on Medicaid, and ER visits due to asthma. Mothers smoking during pregnancy and ER visits due to asthma are more than 50 percent above Indiana benchmarks.

Maternal and Child Health Indicators, by Race/Ethnicity, 2013-2019

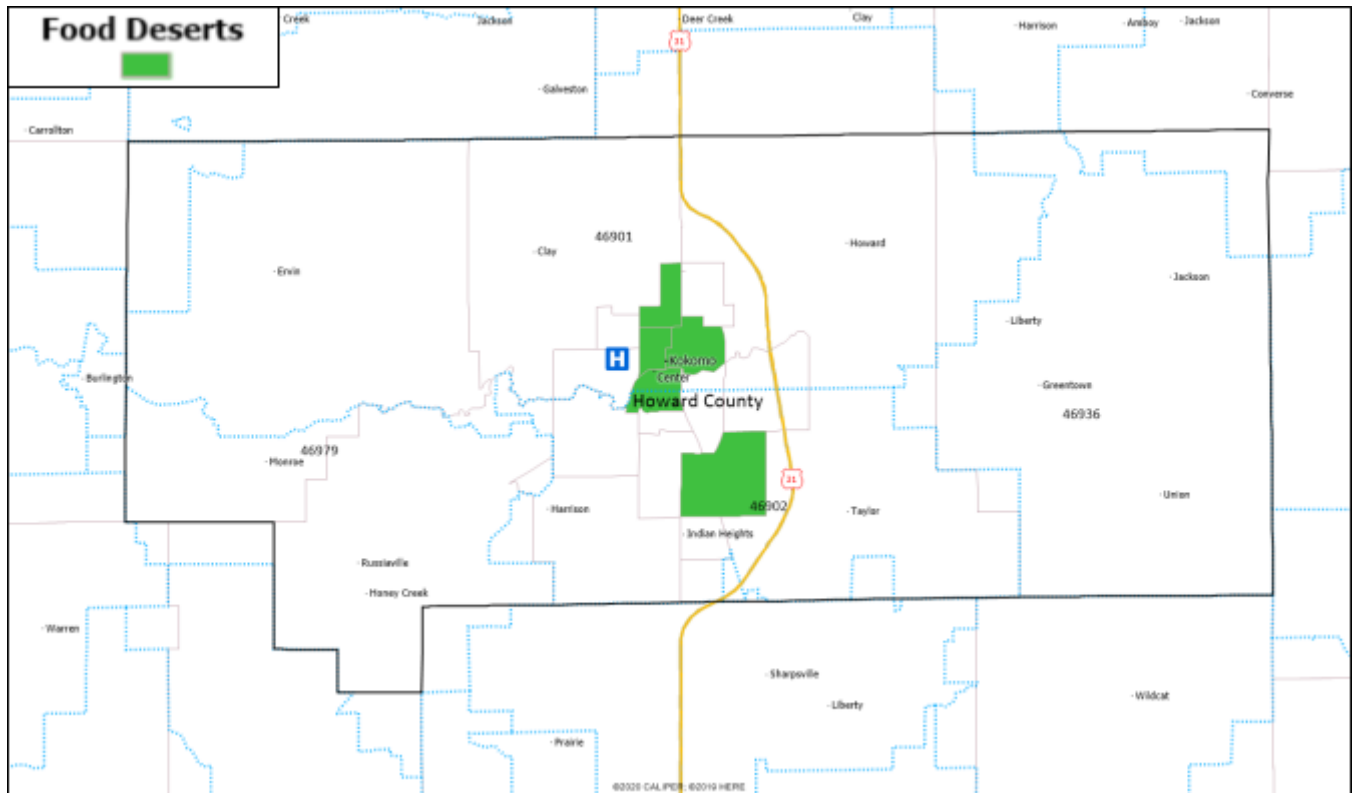
Indicators	Black	Hispanic or Latino	White
Howard County			
Prenatal Care Started in First Trimester	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tobacco Used During Pregnancy	N/A	N/A	N/A
Preterm Births	10.1%	9.0%	8.5%
Infant Mortality Rate (2013-2019)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Indiana			
Prenatal Care Started in First Trimester	58.0%	59.5%	77.7%
Tobacco Used During Pregnancy	8.7%	3.3%	14.9%
Preterm Births	13.6%	9.7%	9.5%
Infant Mortality Rate (2013-2019)	13.7	7.4	6.0

Source: Indiana Department of Health, 2020.

Description. This table portrays maternal and child health indicators for Howard County and Indiana by race and ethnicity.

Observations. In Howard County and Indiana as a whole, infant mortality rates for Black and Hispanic (or Latino) populations have been higher than rates for White populations.

Locations of Food Deserts, 2019

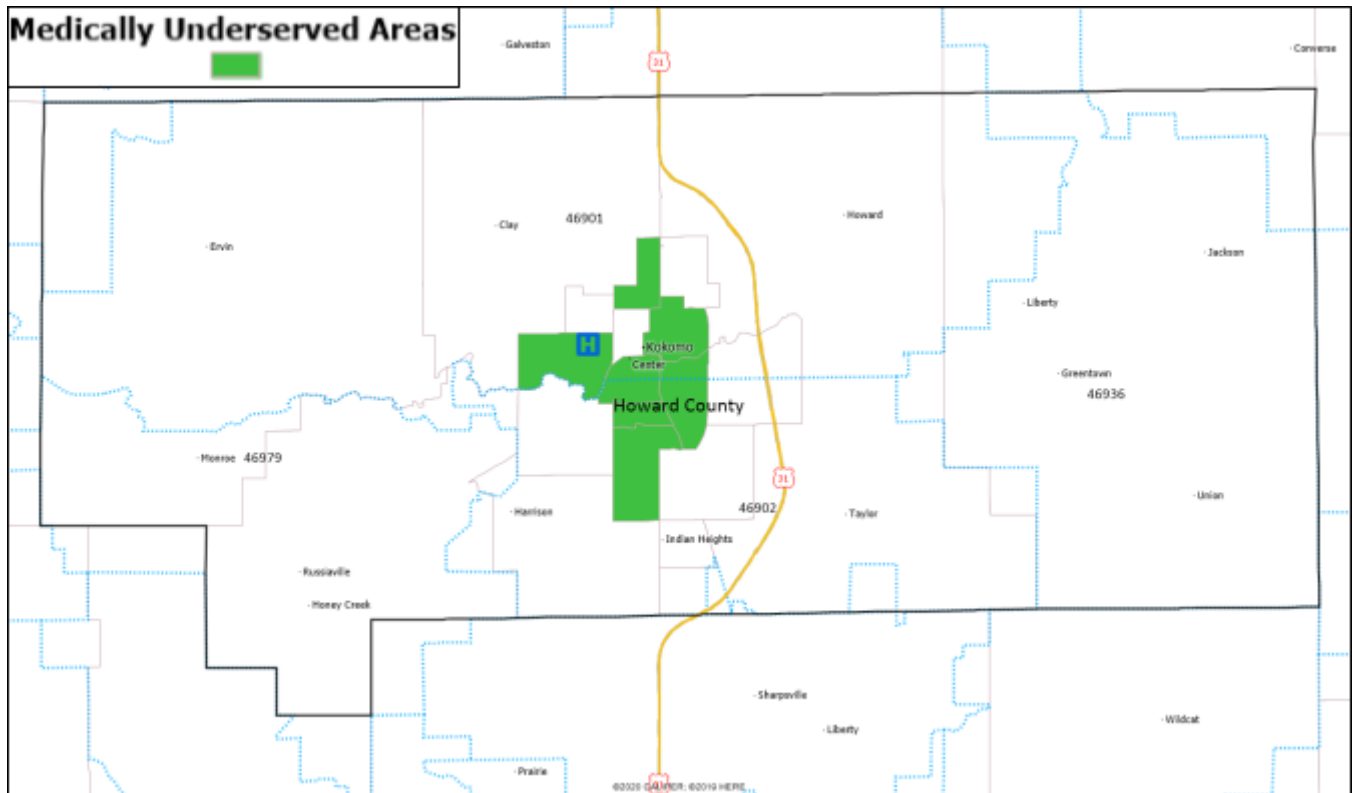


Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2021, and Caliper Maptitude.

Description. The U.S. Department of Agriculture defines urban food deserts as low-income areas more than one mile from a supermarket or large grocery store. Rural food deserts are located more than ten miles from these stores. This map identifies where USDA-defined food deserts are located.

Observations. In Howard County, census tracts in Kokomo and central Howard County have been identified as food deserts.

Medically Underserved Areas and Populations, 2021



Source: Health Resources and Services Administration, 2021 and Caliper Maptitude.

Description. Medically Underserved Areas and Populations (MUA/Ps) are designated by HRSA based on an “Index of Medical Underservice.” The index is based on the ratio of primary medical care physicians per 1,000 population, infant mortality rate, percentage of the population with incomes below the poverty level, and percentage of the population age 65 or over. Areas with a score of 62 or less are considered medically underserved. MUAs and MUPs also may be assigned by HRSA leadership and state government officials.

Observations. Census tracts in Kokomo and central Howard County are designated as a medically underserved area.

Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Areas, 2021

Source: Health Resources and Services Administration, 2021.

Description. A geographic area can be a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) if shortages of primary medical care, dental care, or mental health care professionals are present. Health care facilities also can receive federal HPSA designations and additional Medicare payments if they provide primary care services to an area or population identified as having inadequate access to primary care, dental, or mental health services.

Observations. No area or population in Howard County is designated as a Primary Care HPSA.

Dental Care Health Professional Shortage Areas, 2021

HPSA Name	Designation Type	County
LI-Howard County	HPSA Population	Howard

Description. HRSA also designates geographic areas, populations, and facilities as dental care HPSAs.

Observations. The low-income population in Howard County is designated as a Dental Care HPSA.

Mental Health Professional Shortage Areas, 2021

HPSA Name	Designation Type	County
MHCA 14	High Needs Geographic HPSA <i>Proposed For Withdrawal</i>	Howard

Source: Health Resources and Services Administration, 2021.

Description. HRSA also designates geographic areas, populations, and facilities as mental health HPSAs.

Observations. Howard County, as part of the Mental Health Catchment Area 14, is designated as a Mental Health HPSA, and the designation is “Proposed For Withdrawal.”

State-Wide and National Data

Some types of important community health data only are reliable (and available) on a state-wide basis. This section includes the following state-wide data:

- Mortality rates by race and ethnicity (State of Indiana)
- America's Health Rankings indicators by race and ethnicity (State of Indiana)
- America's Health Rankings (Indiana versus Other States)

Causes of Death by Race/Ethnicity per 100,000, Indiana, 2017-2019

Indicator	Black	Hispanic (or Latino)	White	Indiana Total
Heart Disease	216.5	92.1	181.8	178.8
Cancer (Malignant Neoplasms)	183.6	91.5	168.8	163.4
Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease (CLRD)	45.4	14.1	58.5	56.1
Accidents / Unintentional Injuries	60.5	34.0	59.3	56.0
Stroke / Cerebrovascular Disease	51.5	29.2	39.8	41.4
Alzheimer's Disease	29.5	16.1	34.2	31.6
Diabetes	48.4	24.1	24.5	25.0
Kidney Disease (Nephritis, Nephrosis)	34.1	16.4	16.6	17.1
Septicemia	21.6	11.9	14.9	14.3
Suicide	8.7	7.0	17.3	14.2
Chronic Liver Disease / Cirrhosis	8.9	12.9	12.5	12.0
Influenza / Pneumonia	11.9	6.7	13.4	11.6
High Blood Pressure / Related Kidney Disease	18.5	5.6	9.6	10.4

Parkinson's Disease	4.7	N/A	10.0	9.9
Homicide	36.8	6.6	3.4	7.2
Pneumonitis (Lung Inflammation)	6.1	N/A	6.3	6.0
Nutritional Deficiencies	3.9	3.9	3.4	4.3
Neoplasms (Abnormal Growth)	3.4	N/A	4.2	4.1
Birth Defects	4.5	2.9	3.7	4.0
Condition Originating Around Time of Birth	8.9	4.3	3.6	3.6

Source: Indiana Department of Health, 2020.

Description. This table provides mortality rates for a variety of causes by race and ethnicity for the state of Indiana. Light grey shading shows rates that are above the overall state average; dark grey shading shows rates that are more than 50 percent higher.

Observations. Black populations have particularly high mortality rates for diabetes, kidney disease, septicemia, high blood pressure, homicide, and conditions originating in the time of birth. Black populations also had higher rates of mortality for heart disease, cancer, accidents, stroke, and others. Hispanic or Latino population compared unfavorably for mortality due to chronic liver disease and conditions originating in the time of birth. White populations have comparatively high mortality rates for Alzheimer's, CLRD, chronic liver disease/cirrhosis, Parkinson's, suicide, and pneumonia.

America's Health Rankings Indicators by Race/Ethnicity, 2020

Indicator	Black	Hispanic (or Latino)	White	Indiana Total
Arthritis	22.0%	8.8%	28.9%	27.0%
Asthma	12.7%	5.1%	9.8%	9.8%
Avoided Care Due to Cost	13.3%	23.7%	11.2%	12.6%
Cancer	3.6%	N/A	7.9%	7.2%
Cardiovascular Diseases	11.2%	3.8%	10.1%	9.9%
Children in Poverty	37.8%	27.2%	13.7%	18.0%
Chlamydia Rate	1,864.1	559.5	279.4	523.9

Chronic Kidney Disease	4.1%	N/A	3.3%	3.4%
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease	6.5%	N/A	9.5%	8.7%
Colorectal Cancer Screening	70.0%	42.2%	69.2%	68.2%
Crowded Housing	1.5%	4.7%	1.2%	1.5%
Dedicated Health Care Provider	78.4%	54.3%	80.0%	77.9%
Dental Visit	55.6%	60.8%	65.6%	64.4%
Depression	14.6%	11.1%	22.8%	21.0%
Diabetes	17.9%	9.0%	12.1%	12.4%
Drug Deaths (1-year) Rate	27.0	7.3	27.3	24.9
Education - Less Than High School	12.3%	30.1%	8.7%	10.4%
Excessive Drinking	17.5%	20.9%	16.3%	16.5%
Exercise	21.7%	16.7%	21.1%	21.1%
Flu Vaccination	33.3%	35.7%	44.0%	42.1%
Frequent Mental Distress	13.3%	8.2%	14.5%	14.3%
Frequent Physical Distress	13.4%	12.8%	13.7%	13.8%
Fruit and Vegetable Consumption	8.1%	6.6%	9.1%	9.1%
High Blood Pressure	44.5%	20.5%	35.1%	34.8%
High Cholesterol	30.9%	25.9%	34.9%	33.8%
High Health Status	40.4%	35.5%	49.1%	47.3%
High School Graduation	79.4%	84.3%	90.0%	88.1%
High-speed Internet	79.0%	85.2%	87.2%	86.4%
Insufficient Sleep	47.4%	37.8%	35.4%	36.9%
Low Birthweight	13.7%	7.1%	7.1%	8.1%
Multiple Chronic Conditions	10.6%	5.2%	12.2%	11.7%
Non-medical Drug Use	12.2%	16.7%	10.1%	10.8%
Obesity	36.7%	46.2%	34.9%	35.3%
Per Capita Income	21,824	18,721	33,653	30,988

Physical Inactivity	33.9%	38.0%	30.3%	30.9%
Preventable Hospitalizations	7,542	5,186	4,626	4,810
Severe Housing Problems	24.5%	22.1%	10.9%	12.9%
Smoking	19.6%	13.8%	19.5%	19.2%
Suicide Rate	8.6	6.9	18.2	16.3
Teen Births Rate	37.5	31.5	18.4	21.8
Unemployment	8.7%	4.7%	3.7%	4.3%
Voter Participation (Midterm)	47.2%	36.5%	50.1%	49.3%
Voter Participation (Presidential)	51.6%	46.0%	58.9%	58.3%

Source: America's Health Rankings, 2021.

Description. The preceding table presents America's Health Rankings indicators by race and ethnicity. America's Health Rankings provides numerous health statistics on a state-by-state basis and publishes national health averages and state rankings. Light grey shading shows indicators worse than the overall Indiana average; dark grey shading shows indicators more than 50 percent worse.

Observations. Indiana's Black populations have particularly unfavorable rates of children in poverty, chlamydia, low birthweight births, preventable hospitalizations, severe housing problems, teen births, and unemployment. Hispanic populations have particularly unfavorable rates for avoiding healthcare due to cost, children in poverty, crowded housing, percent with high school diploma, non-medical drug use, and severe housing problems. White populations compare unfavorably for arthritis, cancer, COPD, depression, mental distress, high cholesterol, and suicide.

America's Health Rankings – Lowest Rankings for Indiana, 2021

Indicator
Air Pollution
Community Immunizations
Community and Family Safety
Mental Health Providers
Obesity
Per Capita Income
Physical Inactivity
Preventable Hospitalizations (Medicare)

Primary Care Providers
Public Health Funding Per Person
Risk-screening Environmental Indicator Score
Smoking
Smoking and Tobacco Use
Social Support and Engagement
Voter Participation

Source: America's Health Rankings, 2022.

Description. This table lists America's Health Rankings indicators for which Indiana received low rankings. For each of these indicators, Indiana ranked in the bottom ten states in the United States. In this Appendix, many statistics are compared to state-wide averages. This table shows that a number of state-wide averages themselves are worse than United States-wide statistics.

Observations. Air pollution, obesity, provider supply, smoking, and other issues appear problematic on a state-wide basis. Indiana ranks 45th out of U.S. states for per-capita public health funding.

Appendix E: Health Care Facilities and Community Resources

As part of the CHNA process, Ascension St. Vincent Kokomo has cataloged resources available in Howard 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 are not intended to be exhaustive.

Organization Name	Phone	Website
Hospitals		
Ascension St Vincent Kokomo	(765) 452-5611	https://healthcare.ascension.org/locations/indiana/ineva/kokomo-ascension-st-vincent-kokomo
Community Howard Regional Health Inc	(765) 776-8000	https://www.ecommunity.com/locations/community-howard-regional-health
Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)		
IHC at Kokomo & Howard County WIC	(765) 864-4160	https://www.indianahealthonline.org/
Information and Referral		
Indiana 211	211 or (866) 211-9966	in211.communityos.org
Neighborhood Resource		neighborhoodresource.findhelp.com

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

Ascension St. Vincent Kokomo's previous CHNA implementation strategy was completed in 2019 and addressed the following priority health needs: Access to Health Services, Food Security, and Mental Health.

The tables below describe the actions taken during 2019-2022 to address each priority need and indicators of improvement.

PRIORITY NEED	Access to Health Services	
SMART GOAL	By June 30, 2022, the hospital will increase its FY20 baseline number of enrollments in Medicare or Medicare Savings programs by 2.5%.	
ACTIONS TAKEN	STATUS OF ACTIONS	RESULTS
Health Advocate (HA) assess for eligibility, educate individuals about options, submit application, and verifies eligibility to complete the Enrollment Pathway	<p>Completed - Year 1 & 2</p> <p>In Progress - Year 3</p>	<p>FY20 - Year 1: Community benefit =\$20,616 During this time, the HA helped 31 people obtain Medicare and/or Medicare Savings insurance (FY20 goal=set baseline)</p> <p>FY21 - Year 2: Community benefit = \$20,616 During this time, the HA helped two people obtain Medicare and/or Medicare Savings insurance (FY20 baseline = 31, FY21 goal = 32, FY21 goal attainment = did not meet). During FY21, the Health Advocate was working remotely due to COVID-19, which slowed referrals significantly.</p> <p>FY22 - Year 3: In Progress Community benefit = in progress.</p> <p>Results from the last year of this I.S. cycle will be reported and attached to the Tax Year 2021 Form 990.</p>
RUAH will use FY20 data to set the baseline value and FY22 target value	Completed	FY22 goal = 32 completed Medicare and/or Medicare enrollments

PRIORITY NEED	Food Security	
SMART GOAL	The hospital will partner with a school and/or a school district to increase the percentage of students who eat free/reduced-priced lunch also eating breakfast in the School Breakfast Program by 2% from the baseline established at the beginning of FY21 until the end of FY22 (June 30, 2022)*.	
ACTIONS TAKEN	STATUS OF ACTIONS	RESULTS
During FY20, the system partnered with the national organization, No Kid Hungry, and other local organizations to launch a statewide initiative to increase food security by improving the availability of school breakfast. Hospital leads were identified, training was provided, regional task forces were formed, and relationships were established with targeted school districts' food service directors.	Completed	<p>FY20 - Year 1: Community benefit =\$147. During this time, a lead was identified, who communicated with the targeted school district's FSD to assess readiness in expanding SBP availability.</p> <p>It is presumed the work of the statewide initiative contributed to the breakfast gap decrease of 2% and the lunch and breakfast participation increase of 1.87% and 1.65%, respectively throughout the state, from October 2019 through August 2020.</p>
During FY21, leads worked with food service directors to increase the availability of school breakfast during the 2020-2021 school year.	Revised due to the significant impact COVID-19 had on schools and completed	<p>FY21 - Year 2: Community benefit = \$0. Due to the significant impact COVID-19 had on schools, the scope of the initiative expanded to include all school nutrition programs, in addition to the school breakfast program.</p> <p>During FY21, Ascension St. Vincent Kokomo dedicated staff time to making initial contact and working with the food service director of Kokomo School Corporation to assess the schools' nutritional needs. At the time, no additional support was needed for the school district, partially due the \$5,000 donation already provided by Ascension St. Vincent Kokomo to the United Way of Howard County for the district's weekend feeding program.</p>
During FY22, leads continue to work with FSDs to increase SBP availability during the 2021-2022 school year.	Revised due to the significant impact COVID-19 had on schools and in progress	<p>FY22 - Year 3: Community benefit = in progress. Results from the last year of this I.S. cycle will be reported and attached to the Tax Year 2021 Form 990.</p>

PRIORITY NEED	Mental Health	
SMART GOAL	The hospital will increase the number of community members trained (<i>from the baseline established in FY21</i>) to identify individuals experiencing mental health/substance issues by the end of FY22. NOTE: Additional SMART measurements not included due to the uncertainty of the baseline.	
ACTIONS TAKEN	STATUS OF ACTIONS	RESULTS
During FY20, hospital leads were identified, training was provided, and local resource lists were developed	Completed	FY20 - Year 1: Community benefit dollars = \$42. During this time, a lead was identified and a resource list developed.
During FY21, leads coordinated the hosting of at least one MHFA training for the community at no charge.	Not completed	FY21 - Year 2: Community benefit dollars = \$1,048. During FY21, Ascension St. Vincent Kokomo Hospital hosted a hybrid (in-person and virtual) MHFA training session for 11 people.
During FY22, leads coordinated the hosting of at least one MHFA training for the community at no charge.	In process	FY22 - Year 3: Community benefit dollars = in progress. Results from the last year of this I.S. cycle will be reported and attached to the Tax Year 2021 Form 990.