ASCENSION SAINT AGNES HOSPITAL 2023-2024
COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Approach and Methodology
Ascension St. Agnes Hospital (ASA) participated in a collaborative Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) for Baltimore City in 2023-2024. Representatives from ASA, Baltimore City Health Department, Johns Hopkins Health System, MedStar Health, Mercy Medical Center, Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital, Sinai Hospital and Grace Medical Center of LifeBridge Health and University of Maryland Medical Center worked together as the CHNA Collaborative to guide the development of the report. The Collaborative also engaged the services of Ascendient Healthcare Advisors to assist with gathering and analyzing data and assembling the final report.

Identified Health Needs and Priorities
The CHNA Collaborative, including ASA, met on December 15th, 2023, to review CHNA findings and seek recommendations to prioritize the identified needs. Following review of secondary and primary (survey and focus group) data, the participants were asked to identify the highest priority needs based on the size and scope, severity, the ability for the hospital or health department to make an impact, associated health disparities, and importance to the community. Based on this discussion, the following identified needs were selected as Priorities for Baltimore City, including ASA, and will be included in the 2024-2027 Implementation Plan: Mental Health, Chronic Health Conditions and Access to Care (incorporating a focus on social determinants of health).

Description of Community Served
ASA’s CHNA service area includes the following zip codes: 21075, 21207, 21225, 21203, 21207, 21215, 21216, 21217, 21223, 21225, 21227, 21228, 21229, 21230 and 21244.

Demographic Highlights
The ASA service area is predominantly located in Baltimore City and includes small portions of Baltimore and Howard counties as well. In total, the hospital service area includes nearly half a million residents.

When compared to Baltimore City as a whole, the ASA service area has slightly higher proportions of residents who are Black or African American, white and Asian. It also has slightly higher proportions of individuals ages 18 and under, and over the age of 65.
Data Analysis: Baltimore City

Secondary (existing) data collection included the city-level analysis of over 100 data indicators from a variety of sources. Primary (new) data collected through the CHNA process included 33 key community health leader surveys, 2,282 community member surveys and 33 focus groups featuring more than 300 community stakeholders. For complete primary and secondary data findings and methodology, please see the full Baltimore City 2023-2024 CHNA report.

The CHNA Collaborative evaluated the relevant data to identify areas of focus with the highest levels of need, while considering how feasibly their organizations could impact the given need. The Collaborative then used polling software to identify the areas of highest priority need that health leaders should focus on for the next three-year period.

Community Survey: ASA Service Area Trends

In 2023, 39.6% of all respondents to the citywide community member web survey indicated that they lived in the ASA service area. Select survey findings are presented in the charts below.

Figure 1: Top Health Needs – ASA Service Area and Baltimore City Residents

1 Source: ESRI Business Analyst, 2023; ACS 1-year estimates, 2022
2 ASA service area: n= 903; Baltimore City: n= 2,282
In addition to the web-based surveys and other focus groups across Baltimore City, between September and November 2023, ASA conducted four focus groups to learn more about the health and social needs of the community. Participants included a variety of community stakeholders, including the St. Agnes Community Council, the Mayor’s Commission on Aging and Retirement Education, the hospital’s Patient Family Advisory Council, and older adults at Zeta Center for Healthy and Active Aging.

- The top health concerns identified by participants included: chronic health conditions such as diabetes, obesity or high blood pressure; and mental health, substance use and the stigma surrounding these issues.
- The top social and environmental concerns identified by participants included: health and technological literacy, particularly for older adults; food deserts and limited access to nutritious food; challenges related to safe, affordable transportation; and gun violence/overall community safety.
- The top reasons for not accessing healthcare services included: lack of trust in medical providers; the high cost of co-pays, prescriptions and health insurance premiums; and lack of providers located in certain neighborhoods, which creates “health care deserts.”