



Community Health Needs Assessment & Implementation Plan

2022

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The Effingham Health System Board of Directors approved the 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment and Implementation Plan at their meeting on June 28, 2022. The Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNA) Report is widely available to the public and interested parties can view and download it on the hospital's website www.effinghamhealth.org. Hard copies are available upon request; please contact LaMeisha Hunter Kelly, Executive Director Strategic Business Development and Governmental Relations at 912-754-0174 or lameisha.kelly@effinghamhospital.org.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patricia Ann Yarbrough".

Patricia Ann Yarbrough, Board Chairman
Effingham Health System

Quality Healthcare *Close to Home.*

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Effingham County Health System partnered with the Center for Public Health Practice and Research (CPHPR), Georgia Southern University, to conduct their community health needs assessment (CHNA) as required under the Affordable Care Act based on Internal Revenue Section (IRS Section 501(r)(3)(A)(i)). The purpose of this CHNA is to strengthen the hospital organizations, enhance community engagement, identify community health needs, and document efforts to address prioritized needs.

Using a mixed-methods approach for this assessment, the Georgia Southern University CPHPR team triangulated community input and data from secondary sources **to identify community health needs for the hospital's primary service area of Effingham County (GA)**. Community input was obtained from hospital stakeholders and the general community through community surveys and focus group discussions. Recruitment efforts for community surveys and focus groups were tailored to obtain feedback from diverse population groups, including minority and underserved populations. Data from secondary sources used in assessing the community's needs were obtained from a diverse list of community health-related databases.

The results from the secondary data analyses identified:

- A growing, economically stable community that is becoming increasingly diverse.
- Limited access to health-promoting amenities and resources in the community, including recreational opportunities, transportation, and digital connectivity.
- Higher rates of unhealthy behaviors (including obesity, physical inactivity, and substance use), compared to the state.
- Poorer health outcomes, compared to the rest of the state; cancer rates are high, and the average life expectancy in the County is 1.5 years lower than the state average.
- Higher rates of motor vehicle crash deaths than in the state, calling for attention to road safety.

Input from the community, through the survey and focus groups, was generally consistent with the findings from the secondary data analysis. Community members and key stakeholders described the Effingham County community as a growing, economically stable, and family-oriented community with its fair share of challenges, including:

- Income disparities.
- High prevalence of unhealthy behaviors (including smoking, substance use, physical inactivity, and poor nutrition leading to overweight/obesity).

- Limited access to affordable health care coverage and health services such as mental health services, substance abuse treatment services, and vision and dental services.
- High burden of substance abuse and mental health disorders.
- A general lack of community awareness about health and wellness and available health-promoting resources.



EMERGING ISSUES

Here we highlight emerging issues from the three data collection approaches



	Secondary Data	Survey	Focus Groups
Economic Concerns (income disparity, poverty)	○	✓	✓
Health Behaviors: Obesity/Overweight & Physical Inactivity	✓	✓	✓
Health Behaviors: Substance Use	✓	✓	✓
Access to Resources (recreational amenities, digital connectivity, health information)	✓	✓	✓
Health Coverage Affordability Issues (high uninsured or underinsured rates)	○	✓	✓
Access Barriers (specialist providers, dental and vision, difficulty getting appointments, transportation)	✓	✓	✓
Poor Mental Health Outcomes and Lack of Mental and Behavioral Health Resources	✓	✓	✓
Poor Physical Health, including Chronic Conditions (incl. cancer, heart disease and diabetes)	✓	✓	○

Based on these results, the CPHPR team facilitated an implementation planning process, whereby the CHNA Steering Committee prioritized the community health needs to be addressed within the next three years. Goals, objectives, and actions to address the priority areas were developed and documented. The top needs and goals prioritized by the CHNA Steering Committee are presented below. **The final prioritized needs reflected those prioritized by community members.**

Priority Area One: Mental and Behavioral Health & Substance Abuse

Goal: Expand access to mental and behavioral health care in the Effingham County Community

Objective 1: Improve the coordinated care and referral process for patients with mental and behavioral health needs in the community.

Objective 2: Reduce drug and alcohol use in the Effingham County community.

Priority Area Two: Health Access

Goal: Expand access to medical care in the Effingham County Community

Objective 1: Increase access to medical and non-medical transportation services within the County.

Objective 2: Communicate and disseminate information on community health services and resources within the County.

Priority Area Three: Community Education

Goal: Enhance community health awareness in the Effingham County Community

Objective 1: Improve and enhance prevention and wellness education.

Objective 2: Provide appropriate Chronic Disease Management education.

ABOUT THE REPORT

PURPOSE

Effingham Health System partnered with the Center for Public Health Practice and Research (CPHPR) at the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health, Georgia Southern University to complete a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) for the hospital's primary service area of the Effingham County. This report summarizes the findings of the CHNA. The report informs the hospital's strategic service planning and community benefit activities, as well as fulfills the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) mandate that requires all nonprofit, tax-exempt hospitals to complete a CHNA at least every 3 years.

METHODOLOGY

The CPHPR project team worked with the hospital CHNA steering committee throughout the project. The steering committee facilitated completion of a community survey, recruited key stakeholders for focus group discussions, and provided information about hospital utilization and the hospital's activities to address community health needs since the last CHNA was completed in 2019.

Community input was solicited through focus groups and a community survey. Key community stakeholders were also involved in reviewing and interpreting findings from the CHNA and developing an implementation plan to address prioritized community needs.

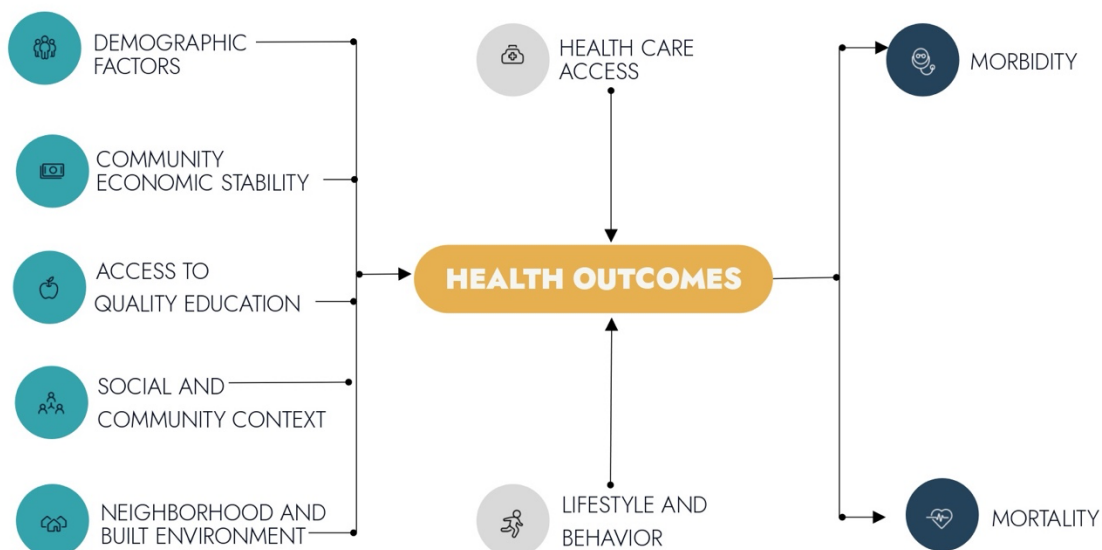
The community survey and focus group interviews assessed local health care access and needs of the Effingham County community. The community survey was disseminated to residents of the hospital's primary service area via the hospital's website, social media webpages and email listservs, as well as those of local community partners. Focus group participants were all key community stakeholders of Effingham County. Collectively, perspectives obtained from the surveys and focus groups provided a holistic view of life in the community and the health and health care needs of the residents.

Information from these primary data collection efforts was supplemented by secondary quantitative data on the community's demographic and economic profile, health care access, and utilization. These data were obtained from multiple publicly available sources including the US Census Bureau, University of Wisconsin's County Health Rankings, Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and Georgia Governor's Office of Planning and Budget population projections. The most recently available data were obtained from all data sources.

Findings from all the above-described primary and secondary data collection efforts informed the identification and prioritization of community health needs, as well as the development of an implementation plan to address these needs.

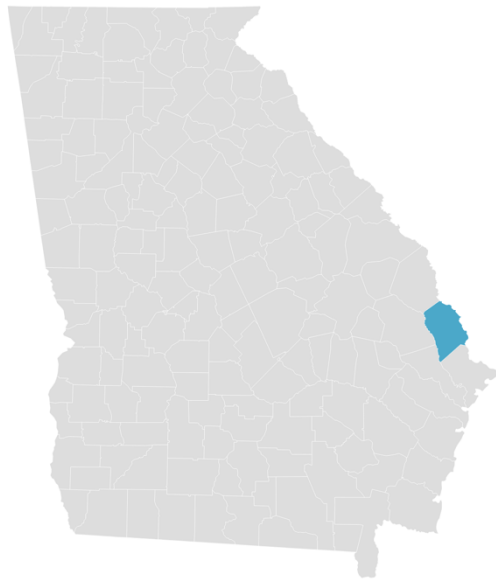
Data Analysis and Visualization. Quantitative data from the community survey and secondary data sources were analyzed using descriptive statistics, including frequencies, means, and standard deviation. Analyses were completed, and charts and graphs were created using Microsoft Excel version 16 software and Datawrapper data visualization application. Spatial variations in selected community health indicators estimates are also presented using data and maps from PolicyMap. Qualitative data from the focus groups were analyzed using the NVIVO12 qualitative analysis software. The conceptual framework used to inform data collection efforts is illustrated in the figure below.

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH FRAMEWORK FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT



HOSPITAL AND SERVICE AREA

Effingham Health System is a non-profit general acute care hospital located in Springfield, Georgia. The hospital is a 25-bed Critical Access Hospital with a 105-bed nursing home. In addition to inpatient services and nursing home and rehabilitation services, the hospital serves the community through the following services:



Created with Datawrapper

- A Level IV Trauma Center, staffed by Board-Certified Emergency Medicine Specialists, handles 18,000 patient visits a year.
 - In-hospital Surgery Center, which includes da Vinci Robotic Surgery technology, performs over 2,000 annual surgeries and offers da Vinci Robotic Surgery technology.
 - Outpatient Imaging Center and In-House MRI, 64-Slice CT Scan capabilities.
 - Four Family Medicine locations (serving 22,000 patients) and a Women's Health Specialty location.
 - Pediatric services and school-based telemedicine
- In partnership with other health organizations, the hospital also provides cancer, cardiology, and orthopedic services.

The majority of patients seen at the hospital are residents of Effingham County, Georgia. **Thus, for this CHNA, the hospital's community is defined as its primary service area of Effingham County.**

Effingham County is in the southeastern part of Georgia. The county seat is Springfield, where the hospital is also located. The County's economy is supported by manufacturing, logistics and distribution, construction, and technical services.

ORGANIZATION OF REPORT







This report presents the findings of the CHNA, beginning with the results of the secondary data analysis. Community input from the survey and focus groups are presented next, followed by a reflection on the outcomes of the last CHNA process. Next, a description of the implementation planning process and implementation plan is presented. Finally, a community health care resource listing is provided.

SECONDARY DATA ANALYSIS

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

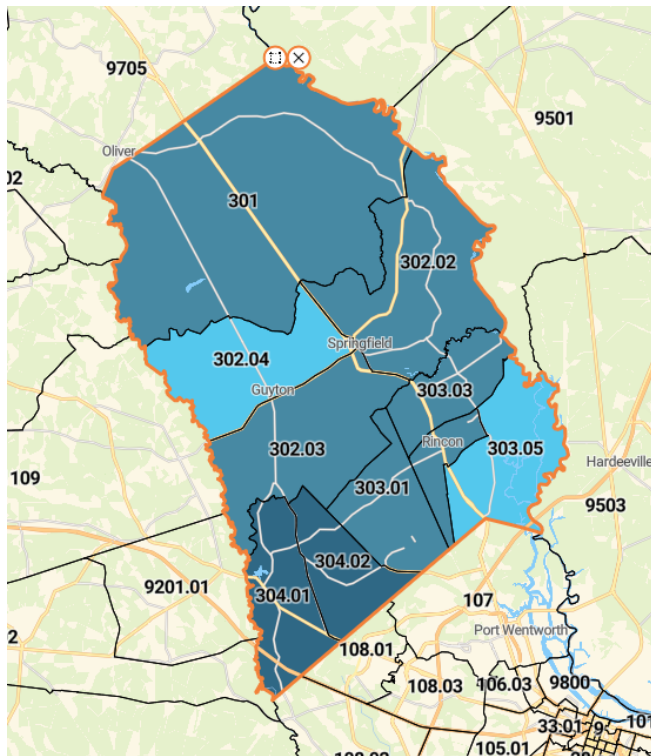
In 2021, there were approximately 66,750 residents in Effingham County. Compared to the state of Georgia, the population of Effingham County is younger. The county is less racially and culturally diverse than the state. About 8 percent of the population live with one or more disabilities.

About 1 out of 6 residents of Effingham County are 65 years or older.

	Effingham	Georgia
	Population	
	Number of Residents	66,741 10,799,566
	Sex	
	Female	50% 51%
	Male	50% 49%
	Age Distribution	
	Population Under 5 years	7% 6%
	Population Under 18 years	26% 24%
	Population 65 years and older	12% 14%
	Racial and Cultural Diversity	
	Race	
	White	82%* 60%
	Black/AA	14% 33%
	Other Races/Multiracial	4% 7%
	Ethnicity	
	Hispanic	5% 10%
	Nativity	
	Foreign Born	4% 10%
	Non-English Language Spoken at Home	12% 14%
	Veterans	
	Veteran Population	7.3%* 5.8%
	Disability	
	Population under 65 years disabled	8% 9%

*Significantly higher than state average

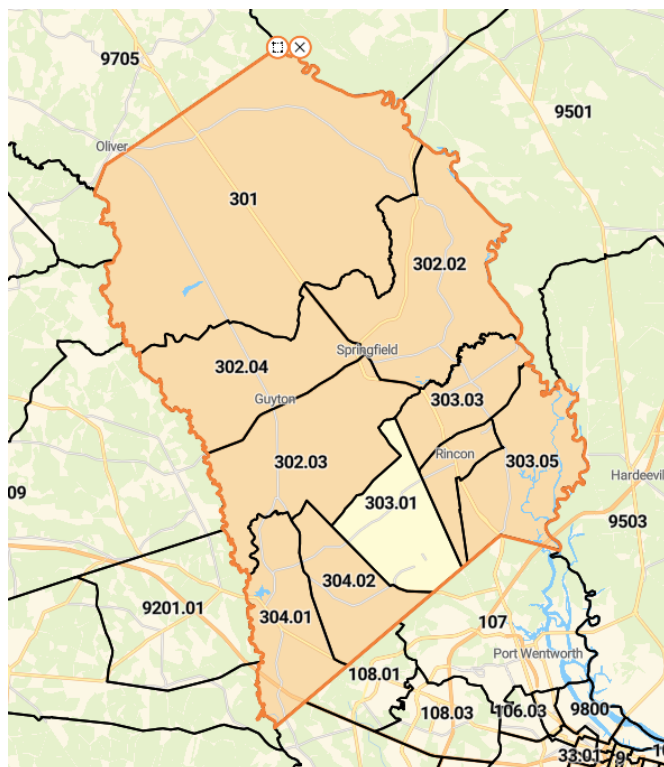
Figure 1. Population Diversity by Census Tract (2013-2017)



Predominant Race (% White), 2013-2017. Data Source: Policy Map. (The darker the color the higher the proportion)

Compared to Georgia, Effingham County is generally less diverse. The southern eastern and west-central part of the county are the most diverse, relative to the rest of the County (Figure 1).

Figure 2. Proportion of Residents 65 years and older by Census Tract (2015-2019)



Estimated percent of all people 65 or older, 2015-2019. Data Source: Policy Map. (The darker the color the higher the proportion)

Residents in the south-central part of the County are younger, relative to the rest of the County (Figure 2).

A higher proportion of residents residing in the central and southwestern part of the county live with one or more disabilities (Figure 3).

The map displays the Springfield, Missouri area with various ZIP codes and their corresponding FIPS codes. The ZIP codes are color-coded: 301 (orange), 302.02 (orange), 302.04 (orange), 302.03 (orange), 303.03 (dark brown), 303.01 (dark brown), 303.05 (dark brown), 304.02 (dark brown), 304.01 (dark brown), 108.01 (dark brown), 108.03 (dark brown), 106.03 (dark brown), 9800 (dark brown), 9705 (orange), 9501 (orange), 9503 (orange), 9201.01 (orange), 107 (orange), 33.01 (orange), and 79.01 (orange). The map also shows major roads and the Missouri River.

The proportion of veterans is higher in the southern part of the county compared to the rest of the county (Figure 4).

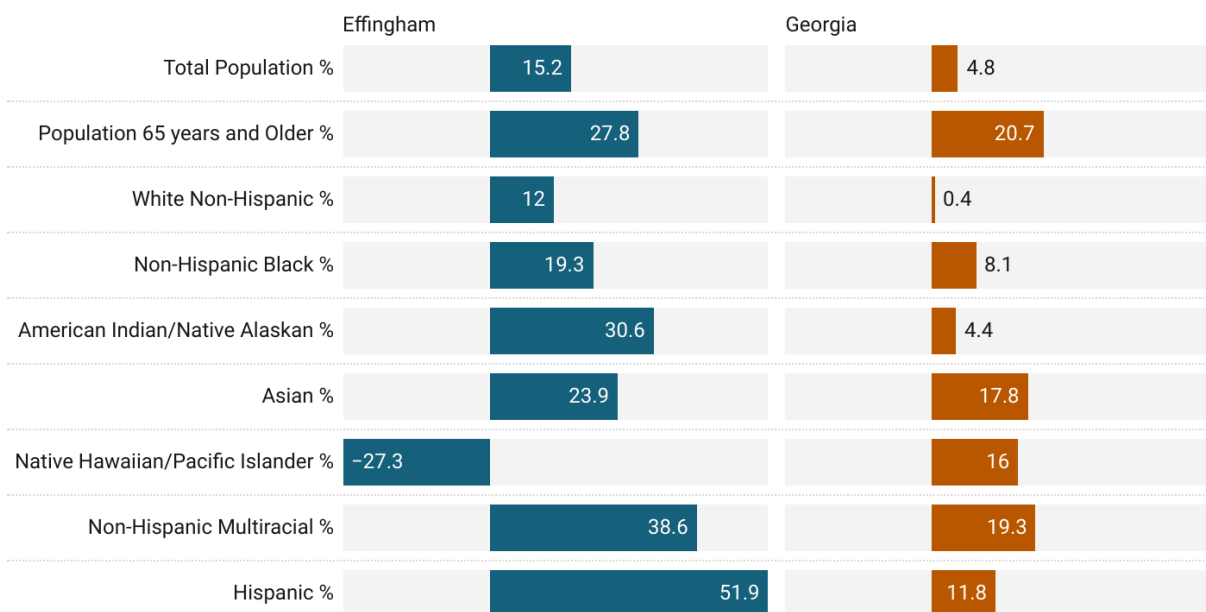
PAST POPULATION GROWTH

The county's total population increased by 15.2% between 2015 and 2020. Over that period, Effingham County saw growth in the Non-Hispanic White, Non-Hispanic Black, American Indian/Native Alaskan, Asian, Hispanic, and Non-Hispanic Multiracial populations and decline in the Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Population.

Population Change

2015-2020

■ Effingham ■ Georgia



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Data Source: Online Analytical Statistical Information System (OASIS)

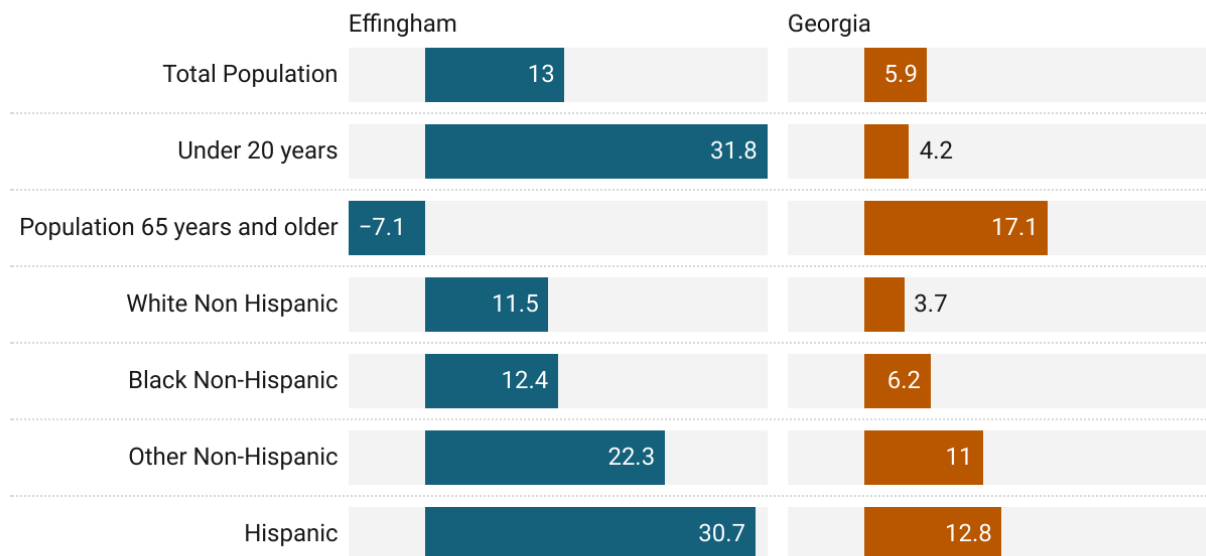
PROJECTED POPULATION GROWTH

The population of Effingham County is expected to increase by 13% by 2025, based on projections by the Georgia Governor's Office of Planning and Budget. The projected population increase is expected to be greater for the youth and Hispanic and Other Non-Hispanic populations. In contrast, a decline in the elderly population is projected.

Projected Population Change

2020-2025 Percentage Change

■ Effingham ■ Georgia



Created with Datawrapper




Data Source: Georgia Governor's Office of Planning and Budget

ECONOMIC PROFILE

Economic conditions are generally favorable in Effingham County compared to the rest of the state. Effingham County experienced an increase in GDP between 2019 and 2020. Over this period, the job growth rate was higher

About 1 out of 8 children in Effingham County are living in poverty.

than the state average. While the labor force participation rate among men is higher than the state average, fewer women (i.e., 20-64 years) are in the labor force compared to the state. The County unemployment rate of 5% is lower than the state rate of 6.5%. The median household income for Effingham County is higher than the state median. About 8% of the population and 12% of children live in poverty. Both rates are lower than the state average. Furthermore, almost four out of ten (39%) in the County are eligible for free or reduced lunch, compared to 60% at the state level.

	Effingham	Georgia
		
Economy		
Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Annual Growth Rate (2010-2020)	2.3%	2.2%
Real GDP Annual Growth Rate (2019-2020)	9.6%	-3.9%
Job Growth Rate (2019-2020)	-3.5%	-4.6%
		
Labor Force Representation		
Unemployment Rate (2019)	2.9%	3.4%
Labor Force Representation (2013-2017)	77.6%	75.5%
Male Labor Force Representation (2013-2017)	87.7%	80.4%
Female Labor Force Representation (2013-2017)	67.7%*	70.8%
		
Poverty		
Median Household Income (2016-2020)	\$67,050	\$61,224
Population in Poverty (2019)	8%	14%
Children in Poverty (2019)	12%	20%
Children eligible for reduced lunch (2018-2019)	39%	60%

*Significantly unfavorable compared to the state average

Data Sources: US Department of Labor, US Census, County Health Rankings

A higher proportion of residents residing in the central part of the County live in poverty, with poverty rates more than double the rest of the County (Figure 5).




The median household income is generally lower in the northern and central parts of the County, compared to the southern part of the County. Household income tends to be highest in the south-central part of the County (Figure 6).

EDUCATION

The County performs less favorably than the state on some education indicators. While the high school graduation rate of 88% is slightly higher than the state rate of 87%, only 20% of the County's population hold a bachelor's degree or

higher, compared to 31% of the state's population. The County also lags the state in early childhood education, with 44% of children, 3-4 years enrolled in pre-school, compared to the state rate of 50%. However, on average, County third-graders perform slightly higher than the state average on state standardized tests.

Two out of ten County residents have a Bachelor's degree or higher.

	Effingham	Georgia
	Early Childhood Education	
	Percent 3–4-year-old children in school	44.2%* 50.3%
	K-12 Education	
	Average grade level performance for 3rd graders on English Language Arts standardized tests	3.3 3
	Average grade level performance for 3rd graders on Mathematics standardized tests	3.1 2.9
	High School Graduation and Higher Education	
	High school graduation rate	88% 87%
	Percent population with bachelor's degree	20%* 31%

*Significantly lower than state average

Data Sources: County Health Rankings, US Census Bureau, Sparkmap

Educational attainment is higher in the west-central and south-eastern parts of the county compared to the remaining parts (Figure 7).



Although generally low in the County, preschool or nursery enrollment is relatively higher in the northern part of the county compared to the rest of the county (Figure 8).

SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY CONTEXT

County residents are relatively less active in social associations; compared to the state there are 7 membership associations in the County per 100,000 population (vs. 9 membership associations per 100,000 at the state level).

There are approximately 21, 828 households in Effingham County, with an average of 2.8 persons per household.

Almost a fifth of children live in single parent households (19% versus state rate of 30%). Suicide rates are higher in the county compared to the state level.

	Effingham	Georgia	
	Household Characteristics		
	Households	21,828	3,830,264
	Average persons per households	2.8	2.7
	Children in single parent households	19%	30%
	Social Context		
	Social Associations per 100,000	7	9
	Suicide rates per 100,000	18*	14







*Significantly unfavorable compared to the state average

Data Sources: County Health Rankings, US Census Bureau

NEIGHBORHOOD AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT

About six out of ten (63%) county residents have access to exercise opportunities, compared to 75% at the state level. County residents are also less digitally connected than the state; 78% of adults have access to broadband internet (vs. 84% in the state). The county is, however, safer, with less than one-third of the violent crime rate of the state. However, highway safety may be an area of concern as the county experiences relatively more deaths from motor vehicle crashes and a longer average travel time to work.

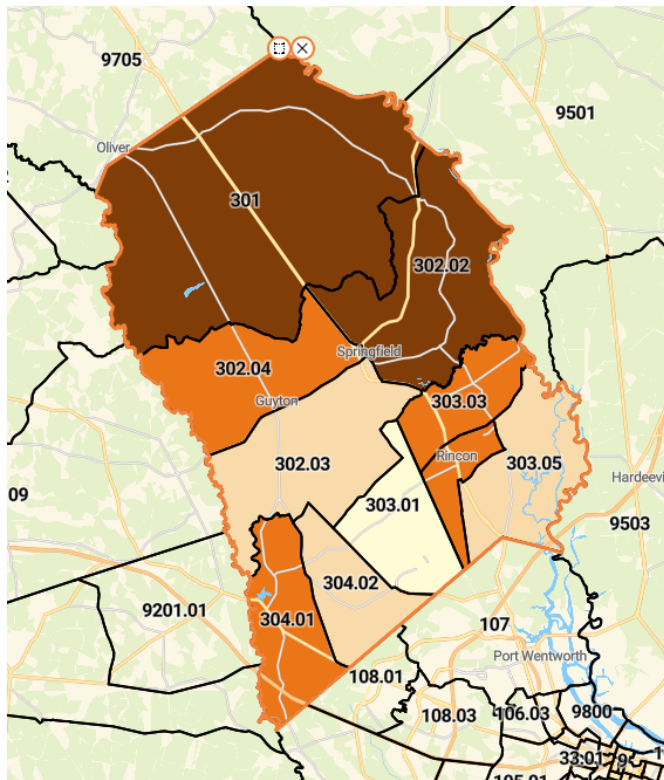
Relative to the state, fewer Effingham County residents experience housing problems, or food insecurity.

	Effingham	Georgia
		
Digital Connectivity and Amenities		
Households with computer	94%	90%
Adult with broadband internet	78%*	84%
Access to exercise opportunities	63%*	75%
		
Safety		
Violent crime rate per 100,000	118	388
Deaths from motor vehicle crashes per 100,000	20*	14
		
Food Insecurity		
Percent low-income residents with limited access to healthy foods	5%	9%
(Healthy) Food environment index (1 worst; 10 best)	8.5	6.5
Percentage of population experiencing food insecurity	9%	13%
		
Transportation		
Average travel time to work (minutes)	31 mins	29 mins
Percent households with <u>no</u> motor vehicle	2.9%	6.5%
		
Housing		
Percent of homes owned	76%	63%
Percent families spending more than 50% of income on housing	9%	14%
Percent population with severe housing problems	11%	16%
Median gross rent	\$1,009	\$1,042
Median selected monthly owner costs, including mortgage	\$1,402	\$1,449
		
Pollution		
Air pollution (average daily density of fine particulate matter (PM2.5), micrograms per cubic meter)	9.2	9.6

*Significantly unfavorable compared to the state average

Data Sources: County Health Rankings, US Census Bureau Quick Facts, Policy Map

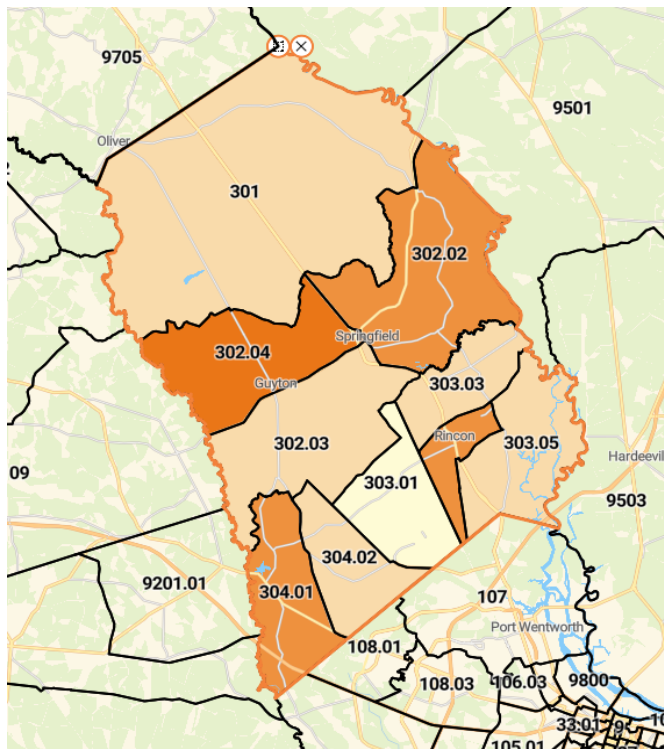
Figure 9. Household Internet Access by Census Tract (2015-2019)



Proportion of all households with no internet access, 2015-2019. Data Source: Policy Map. (The darker the color, the higher the proportion)

Compared to the remaining parts of the county, the northern part has higher rates of households without internet access (Figure 9).

Figure 10. Household Computer Access by Census Tract (2015-2019)



Proportion of all households without a computer, 2015-2019. Data Source: Policy Map. (The darker the color, the higher the proportion)

There is geographic variation with respect to computer access. Computer access is lower in the central and some southern part of the county (Figure 10).

A map of the Atlanta region showing various zip codes. The zip code 301 is highlighted in orange. Other zip codes shown include 9705, 9501, 302.02, 302.04, 303.03, 303.05, 303.01, 304.02, 304.01, 9201.01, 107, 108.01, 108.03, 406.03, 9800, 33.01, and 9.1. The map also shows the locations of Oliver, Springfield, Guyton, Rincon, and Port Wentworth. A red 'X' icon is located near the top center of the map.

Compared to other parts of the county severe housing cost burden is higher in the northern part of the county (Figure 11).




The map displays Georgia House District 11, which encompasses the following counties: Wilkes, Spalding, Hall, Jackson, Madison, Morgan, Cherokee, Floyd, Gordon, Wilcox, and Appling. The district is color-coded in orange. Major cities and towns within the district include Springfield, Guyton, and Rincon. The map also shows surrounding districts and counties, such as Wilkes County (9705), Spalding County (9501), Hall County (9503), Jackson County (9201.01), Madison County (107), Morgan County (108.01), Cherokee County (108.03), Floyd County (106.03), Gordon County (9800), Wilcox County (33.01), and Appling County (105.01). The map includes a legend for the district number and a scale bar.

A higher proportion of renters living in the southwestern and central parts of the county experience severe rental cost burden compared to the remaining parts of the County (Figure 12).

HEALTH CARE ACCESS

Compared to the state, the County experiences shortages of health professionals, including primary care physicians, dentists, and mental health providers. At 14%, the proportion of uninsured residents is slightly lower than the state rate of 16%. Mammogram screening rates are similar to the state levels, whereas flu vaccination rates are slightly lower than the state.

The supply of health professionals is limited in Effingham County, compared to the state.

	Effingham	Georgia
Health Insurance Coverage		
 Percent under 65 years Uninsured	14%	16%
Provider Supply		
 Population to One Primary Care Physician	4,440*	1,510
Population to One Dentist	7,140*	1,920
Population to One Mental Health Provider	2,300*	690
Primary Care and Prevention		
 Adults with a Personal Doctor or Health Provider	72%	72%
Adults Reporting a Physical Checkup within last year	76%	78%
Preventable Hospital Stays per 100,000 Medicare Enrollees	4,165	4,835
Mammogram Screening Rates	42	41
Flu Vaccination Rates among Fee-for-service Medicare Enrollees	42	46

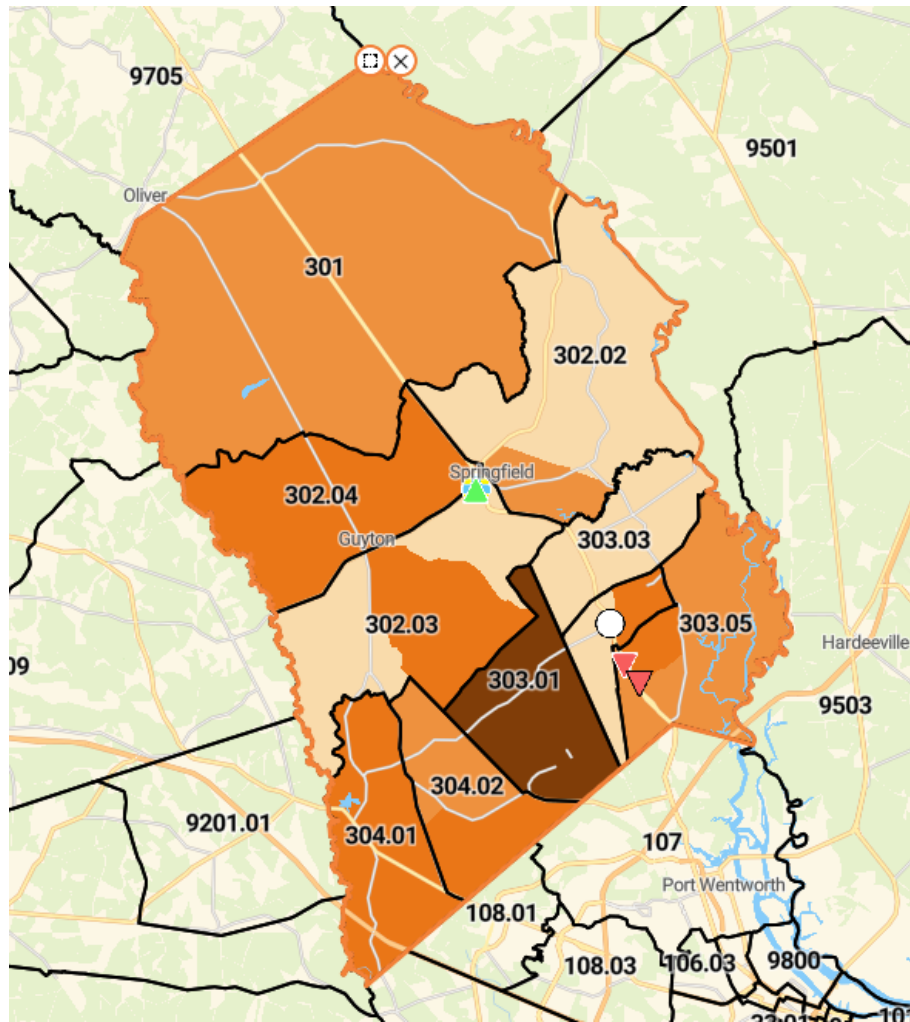
*Significantly unfavorable compared to state average

Data Sources: County Health Rankings, Policy Map

Figure 13. Access to Health and Mental Health Services

Location of Health and Behavioral Health Facilities. Data Source: Policy Map.

Health care and mental health resources are mostly located in the central part of the County (Figure 13).





Legend: yellow circle= hospital (Effingham Health System; blue plus = Medicare Certified Hospital, green triangle = nursing facility (Effingham Care & Rehabilitation Center), white circle = mental health treatment facility, pink triangles = drug and alcohol treatment facilities + buprenorphine physicians

Assessed facilities include hospital, nursing homes, community health centers (including FQHCs and look-alikes), retail-based healthcare, mental health treatment facilities and drug and alcohol treatment facilities. **Census tracts are shaded based on total population, with darker colors representing greater population counts.**

LIFESTYLE AND BEHAVIOR

Compared to the state, the proportion of residents who smoke, who are obese, who are physically inactive and engage in excessive drinking is higher than the respective state rates. Alcohol-related motor vehicle deaths are also higher in the county. However, sexually transmitted infection (STI) and teenage pregnancy rates are lower in the county compared to the state.

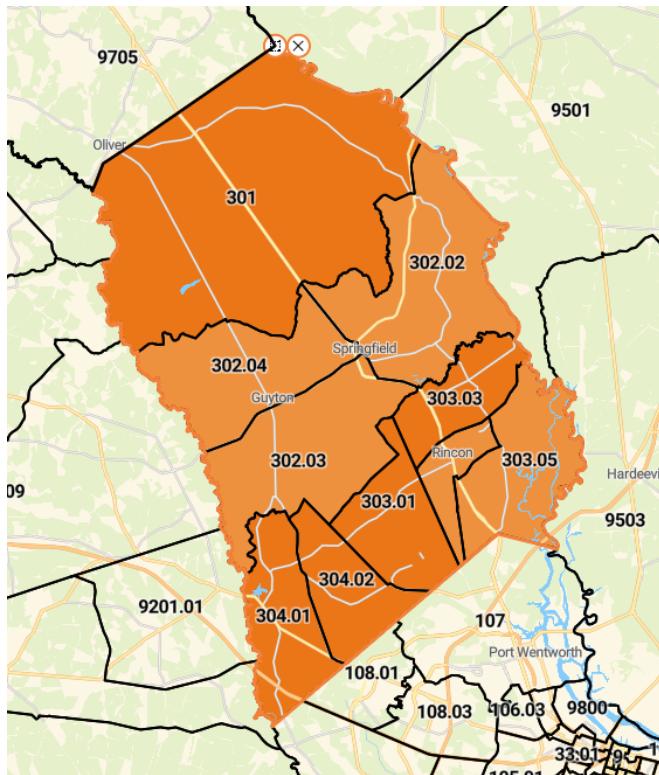
Generally, a higher proportion of Effingham County residents engage in unhealthy behavior than at the state level

	Effingham	Georgia
 Suboptimal Lifestyle Behaviors		
Adult smoking rate	20%*	16%
Adult excessive drinking rate	19%*	17%
Percent driving deaths with alcohol involvement	28%*	20%
Adult obesity rate	36%*	32%
Adult physical inactivity rate	32%*	26%
Percentage of adults who report insufficient sleep (fewer than 7 hours of sleep on average)	38%	38%
 Sexual Risk Behaviors		
STD infection rates per 100,000	438.5	632.2
Teen pregnancy rates per 1000 female teens	23	24

*Significantly unfavorable compared to the state average

Data Source: County Health Rankings

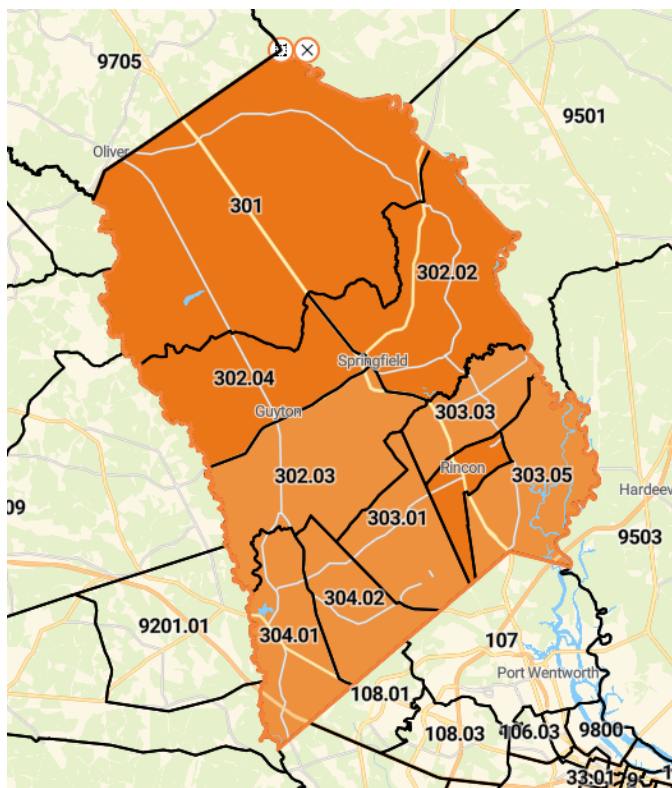
Figure 14. Smoking Rate by Census Tract (2018)



Proportion of adults who ever smoked cigarettes, 2018. Data Source: Policy Map. *(The darker the color, the higher the proportion)*

Smoking rates are high throughout the county (Figure 14).

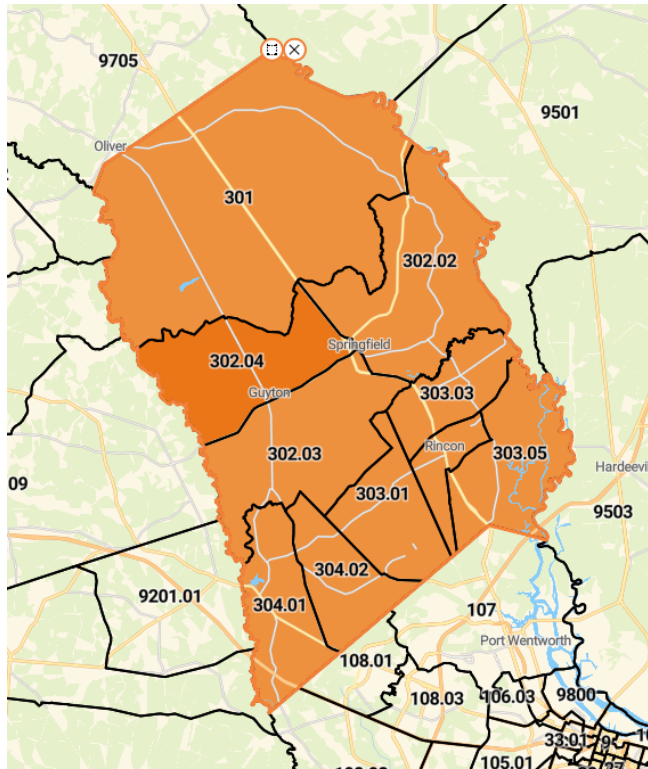
Figure 15. Physical Inactivity Rate by Census Tract (2017)



Proportion of adults physically inactive, 2017. Data Source: Policy Map. *(The darker the color, the higher the proportion)*

The rates of physical inactivity are also relatively homogenous throughout the county.

Figure 16. Adult Obesity by Census Tract (2018)



Proportion of adults reporting to be obese, 2018. Data Source: Policy Map.
(The darker the color, the higher the proportion)



Similarly, obesity rates are consistently high across the county (Figure 16).

HEALTH OUTCOMES

Morbidity

A similar proportion of Effingham County residents self-report poor physical and mental health compared to the state. Prevalence rates of common conditions, including diabetes, heart disease, and HIV, are lower than the state rates. Cancer incidence rates are, however, higher than in the state.


One out of six residents of Effingham County report having poor or fair health.

	Effingham	Georgia
		
Disease Burden		
Cancer incidence rates per 100,000 population	497.3*	468.5
Adult diabetes prevalence rate %	7%	12%
HIV prevalence rate per 100,000 population	153	625
Cardiovascular disease hospitalization per 1000 Medicare enrollees	60.9	65
Low birth rate	9%	10%
		
Self-Reported Health Outcomes		
Percent adults reporting poor or fair health	17%	18%
Percent adults reporting frequent physical distress	12%	12%
Percent adults reporting frequent mental distress	14%	13%

Mortality

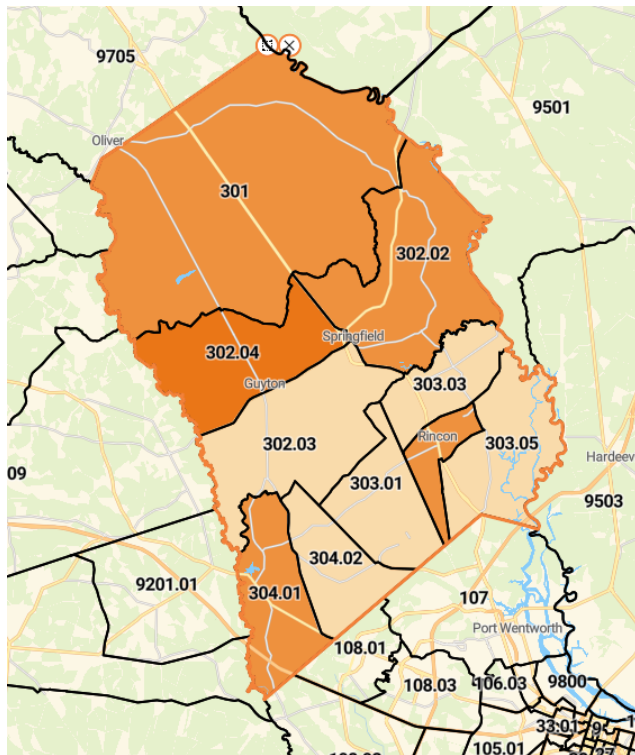
Premature death rates are higher in Effingham County compared to the state levels.

The average life expectancy in Effingham County is 76.5 years – about 1.5 years less than the average life expectancy in Georgia.

	Effingham	Georgia
		
Mortality Indicators		
Life Expectancy	76.5*	77.9
Premature (under 75yrs) Death Rate per 100,000 population	430*	380

*Significantly unfavorable compared to the state average

Figure 17. Perceived Health Status by Census Tract (2018)

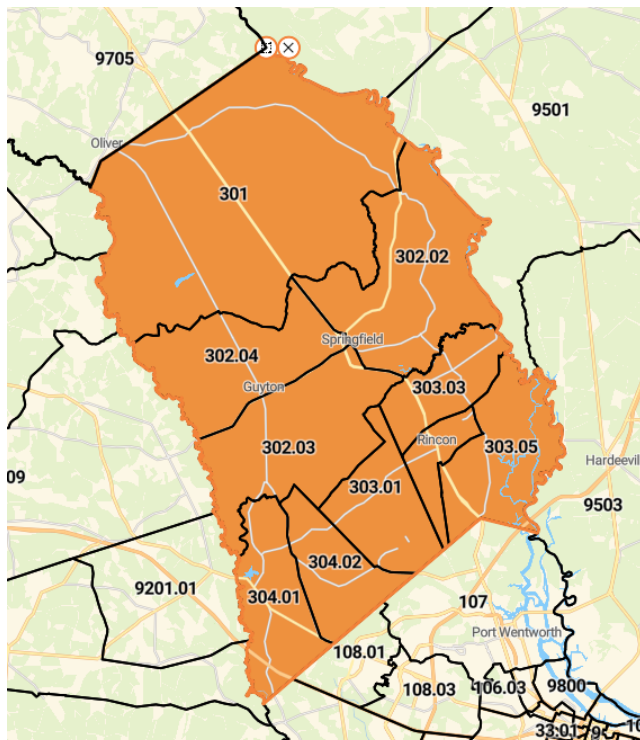


Proportion of adults reporting poor or fair health in the past 30 days, 2018.

Data Source: Policy Map. *(The darker the color, the higher the proportion)*

A higher proportion of adults in the northern part of the County reported poor or fair health compared to the rest of the county (Figure 17).

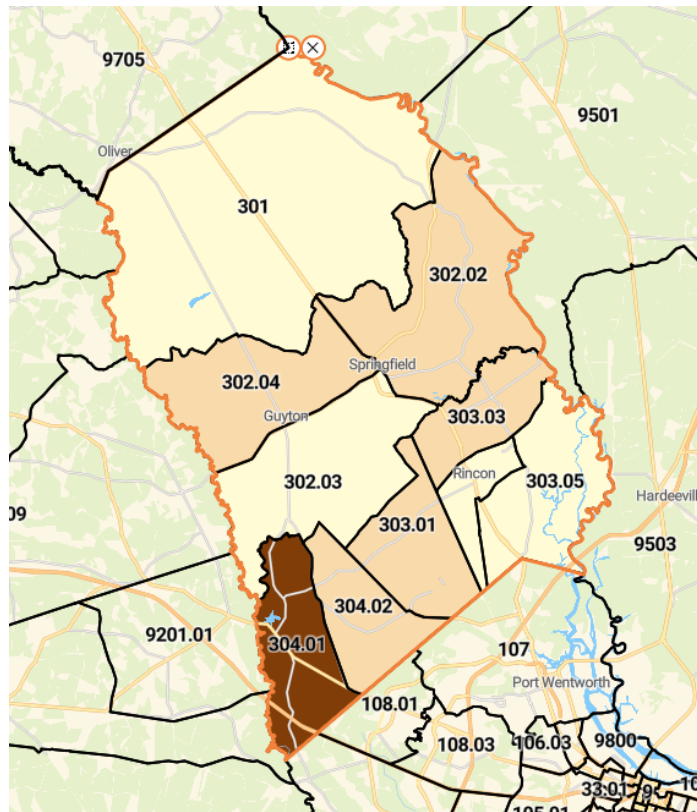
Figure 18. Frequent Mental Health Distress by Census Tract (2018)



Proportion of adults reporting 14 or more days of poor mental health in the past 30 days, 2018. Data Source: Policy Map. *(The darker the color, the higher the proportion)*

Geographically, the proportion of adults reporting frequent mental health distress are similar across the County (Figure 18).

Figure 19. Life Expectancy by Census Tract (2010-2015)



Life Expectancy at Birth, 2010-2015.

Data Source: Policy Map. (The darker the color, the higher the proportion)

Life expectancy is higher for residents in the southwestern part of the county (82 years), compared to the remaining parts of the County (Figure 19).

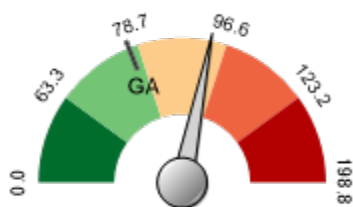
Top 10 Causes of Death Effingham County and Georgia 2016-2020

The top three main causes of death for Effingham County are Ischemic Heart and Vascular Disease, All Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Diseases except Asthma and Malignant Neoplasms of the Tracheas, Bronchus and Lungs. While not one of the top three causes of death, death rate from hypertension and hypertensive renal and heart disease is significantly higher in the County than the state.

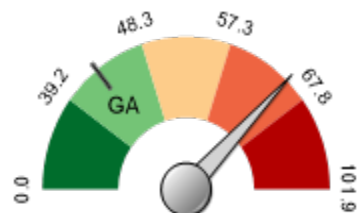
Cause	Effingham Rank	Georgia Rank
Ischemic Heart and Vascular Disease	1	1
All COPD Except Asthma	2	2
Malignant Neoplasms of the Tracheas, Bronchus and Lung	3	5
Essential (Primary) Hypertension and Hypertensive Renal, and Heart Disease	4	6
Cerebrovascular Disease	5	3
Alzheimer's Disease	6	4
All Other Mental and Behavioral Disorders	7	8
Diabetes Mellitus	8	9
Malignant Neoplasms of Colon, Rectum and Anus	9	13
All Other Diseases of the Nervous System	10	7

Rank/County Comparison to Georgia

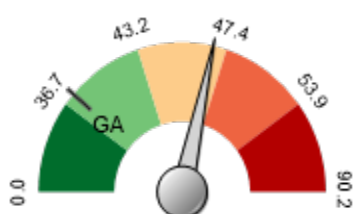
① Ischemic Heart and Vascular Disease



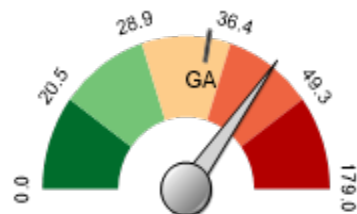
② All COPD Except Asthma



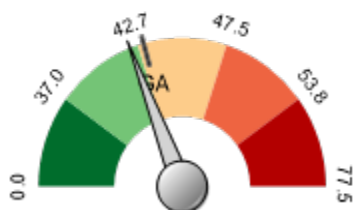
③ Malignant Neoplasms of the Trachea, Bronchus and Lung



④ Essential (Primary) Hypertension and Hypertensive Renal, and Heart Disease



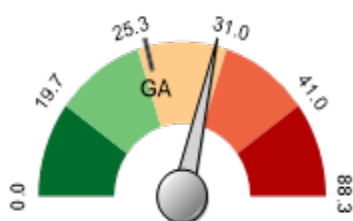
⑤ Cerebrovascular Disease



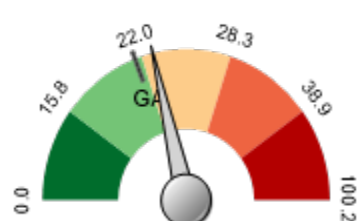
⑥ Alzheimer's Disease



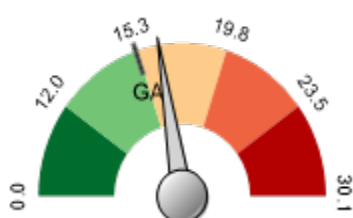
⑦ All Other Mental and Behavioral Disorders



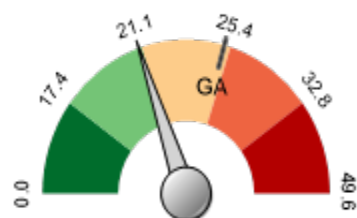
⑧ Diabetes Mellitus



⑨ Malignant Neoplasms of Colon, Rectum and Anus



⑩ All Other Diseases of the Nervous System



Cancers

The death rate for cancer for Effingham County residents is higher than the state and the US levels. Death rates for Blacks (including Hispanics) are higher in the county compared to Non-Hispanic Whites.

Incidence rates for female breast, prostate, and melanoma of the skin cancers in Effingham County have generally remained below state averages. The incidence rate for lung and bronchus and colon and rectum cancer is higher than the state level.

Figure 20. Cancer Death Rates, 2015-2019

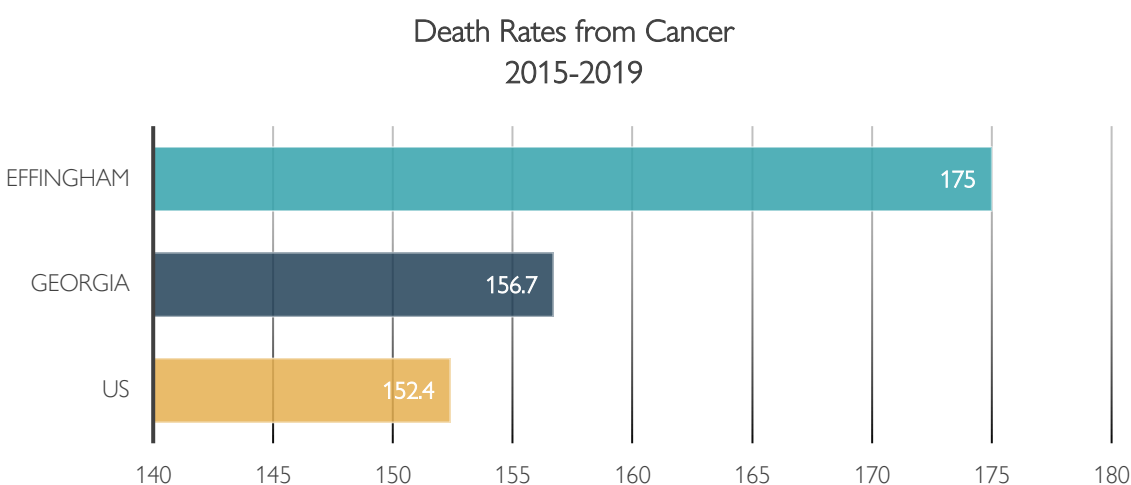
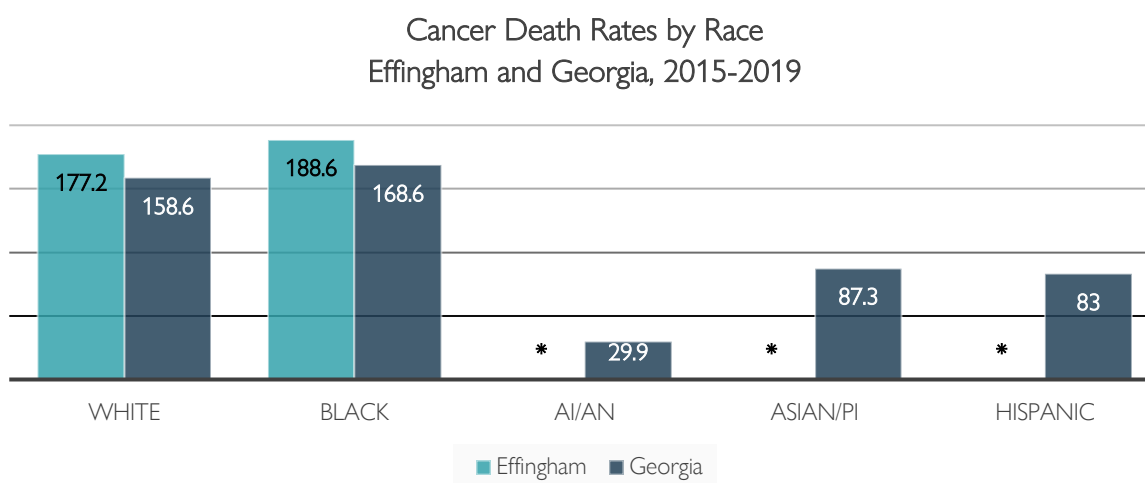
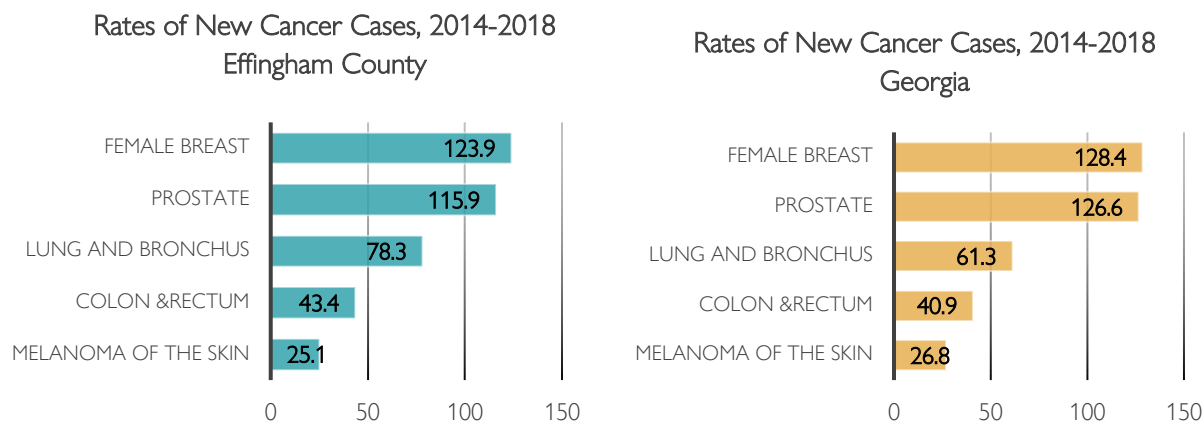


Figure 21. Cancer Death Rates by Race: Effingham County, 2015-2019



*data unavailable



Figure 22. Rates of New Cancer Cases, 2015-2019



COVID-19








COVID-19 infection and death rates for Effingham county were lower than the state averages as of April 2022. Vaccination rates were also lower than the state average as of April 2022.

As of April 2022, Effingham County had reported 13,095 COVID-19 infections and 166 COVID-19 deaths.

	Effingham	Georgia
Cumulative COVID-19 Infections and Deaths (04/05/2022)		
 Number of COVID-19 Infections	13,095	2,500,488
Infection Rate per 100,000	20,453	23,081
Number of COVID-19 Deaths	166	31,191
Death Rate per 100,000	259.3	287.9
Vaccination Rates (04/05/2022)		
 Percent Population who are Fully Vaccinated	41%*	56%
Percent Population with at least One Vaccine Dose	45%*	64%

*Significantly unfavorable compared to the state average

PROGRESS ON SELECTED INDICATORS

	Previous CHNA	Current CHNA	Progress	
	Economic Profile			
	Percent children in poverty	15%	12%	→
	Unemployment rate	4.9%	2.9%	→
	Education			
	High school graduation rate	87%	88%	→
	Social and Community Context			
	Social associations per 100,000	8	7	←
	Percent children in single parent households	29%	19%	→
	Neighborhood and Built Environment			
	Percent population with access to exercise opportunities	58%	63%	→
	Percent population food insecure	11%	9%	→
	Health Care Access			
	Uninsurance rate	13%	14%	←
	Primary care provider to population	4760	4440	→
	Mental health provider to population	2670	2300	→
	Health Behaviors			
	Obesity rate	36%	36%	→
	Physical inactivity rate	22%	32%	→
	Smoking rate	16%	20%	←
	Teen pregnancy rate (per 1000 teen females)	27	23	→
	Health Outcomes			
	Percent reporting poor or fair health	14%	17%	←
	Low birthweight rate	9%	9%	→
	Diabetes prevalence	13%	7%	→
	Premature (under 75yrs) death rate per 100,000 population	430	430	→



Worsened



Improved or stable

Data: County Health Rankings

SUMMARY POINTS FROM SECONDARY DATA ANALYSIS

A profile of community health needs and outcomes emerged through an examination of health indicators from several secondary data sources. A *social determinants of health* conceptual framework was used for assessing factors shaping health and well-being in the community.

Community Demographic Profile, Economic Profile & Education

- The population of Effingham County is younger and less diverse compared to the state of Georgia.
- The population increase, observed between 2015 and 2020, is projected to continue during 2020-2025. However, a decline in the elderly population is projected.
- Economic conditions are more favorable in the county. Due to the lower unemployment rates (relative to the state), the county experiences lower levels of poverty.
- Educational attainment is generally similar in the County, compared to the state.

Social and Community Context & Neighborhood and Built Environment

- Two out of ten children in the county live in single-parent households.
- Additionally, compared to the state, Effingham County residents are less digitally connected.

Health Care Access

- Access to health care may be limited due to shortages of health professionals.
- However, the uninsured rate is slightly lower than the state.

Lifestyle Behavior & Health Outcomes

- Generally, compared to the state, a higher proportion of Effingham County residents engage in unhealthy behaviors such as smoking, physical inactivity, and excessive drinking.
- The mortality rate in the County is relatively worse than the state, despite lower or comparable morbidity rates for common health conditions, compared to the rest of the state. A notable exception is cancer, where the County has higher incidence rates than the state.
- Additionally, obesity rates are higher in the County, compared to the state.

COVID-19

- Like all other counties, Effingham County residents have been impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- As of April 2022, COVID-19 infection and death rates were lower in the County compared to the state, while vaccination rates were lower.

Progress on Selected Health Indicators Since the last CHNA

- Of 18 selected health indicators assessed across the SDOH dimensions, the County performed better or similar on 78% (14/18) and worse on 22% (4/18) compared to the previous CHNA.

COMMUNITY SURVEY

Two hundred and twelve surveys were completed either partially or fully.

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS

Almost eight out of ten (80.5%) of the survey respondents resided in Effingham County; the remainder (19.5%) lived in the surrounding counties, including Bryan, Bulloch, and Long Counties. Most survey respondents were female (81.0%), Non-Hispanic White (62.1%), aged under 65 years (94.4%), married or partnered (66.2%), and employed (96.4%), with at least a bachelor's degree (39.1%). The majority reported an annual household income above \$80,000 (46.1%) (Table 1).

Table 1. Demographic Characteristics of Survey Respondents

	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
County of Residence	195	
Effingham	157	80.5
Surrounding Counties	38	19.5
Gender	195	
Female	158	81.0
Male	37	19.0
Age	196	
Under 35 years	37	18.9
35-44 years	50	25.5
45-54 years	58	29.6
55-64 years	40	20.4
65-74 years	11	5.6
75 years and older	0	0.0
Race	195	
Non-Hispanic Black or African American	58	29.7
Non-Hispanic White	121	62.1
Other	16	8.2
Education	194	
Less than High School	0	0.0
High School graduate or GED	27	13.9
Some College or Associate Degree	88	45.4
Bachelor's degree	42	21.6
Graduate or Advanced Degree	34	17.5

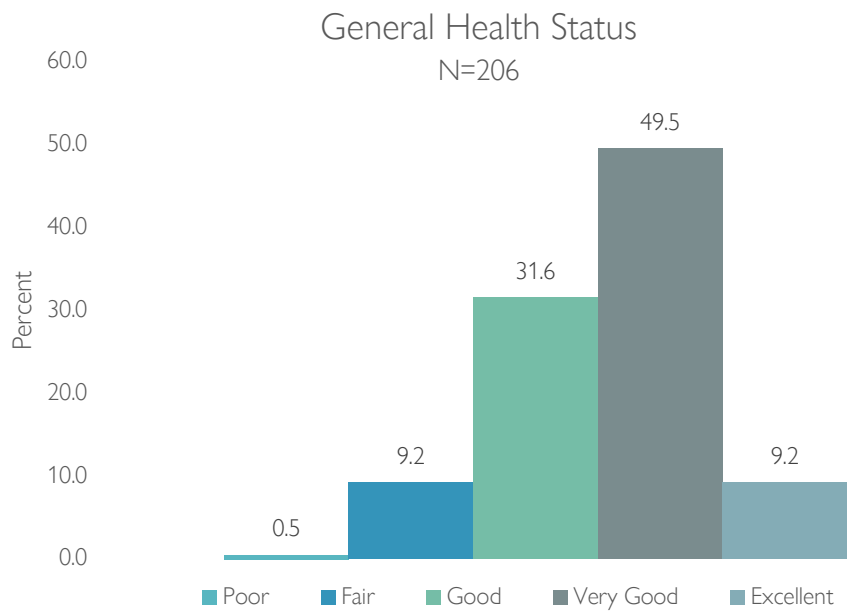
	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
Marital Status	195	
Married/Partnered	129	66.2
Divorced/Separated	35	17.9
Widowed	1	0.5
Single/Never Married	22	11.3
Other	2	1.0
Household Income	193	
Below \$20,000	3	1.6
\$20,001 - \$40,000	25	13.0
\$40,001 - \$60,000	15	7.8
\$60,001 - \$80,000	24	12.4
\$80,001-100,000	35	18.1
Above \$100,000	54	28.0
Refused/Don't Know	37	19.2
Employment Status	196	
Full-time	174	88.8
Part-time	15	7.7
Retired	7	3.6
Unemployed	0	0
Home Ownership	194	
Yes	142	73.2
No	52	26.8
Access to Reliable Transportation	197	
Yes	197	100.0
No	0	0.0

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

HEALTH STATUS

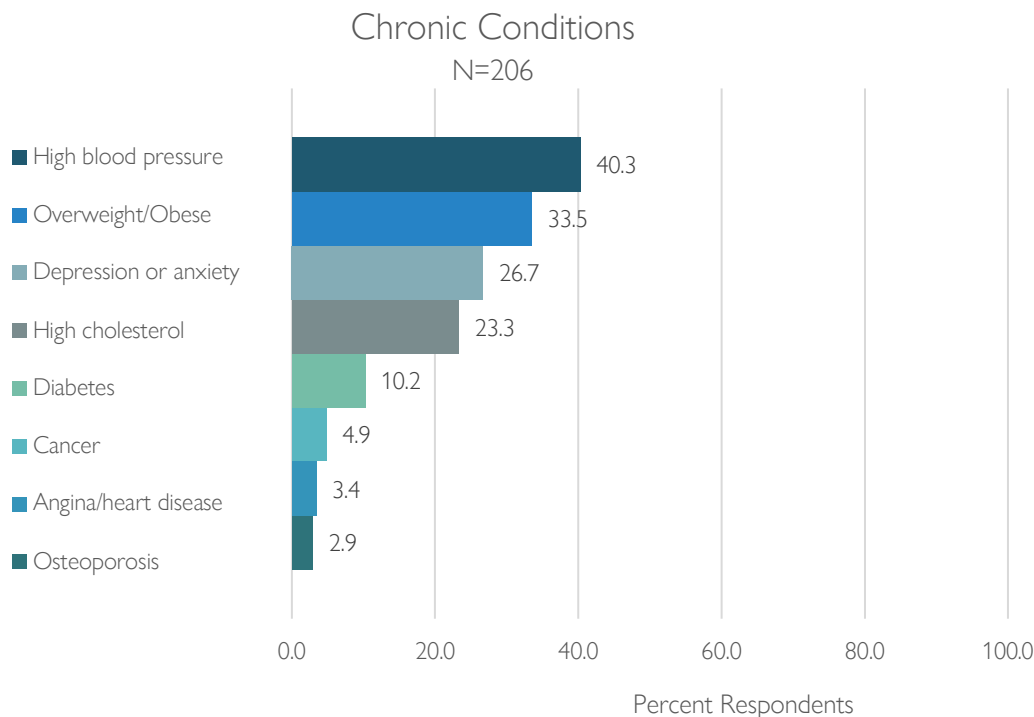
- About six of ten survey respondents (58.7%) described their health as very good or excellent (Figure 23).
- Notably, about nine out of ten (89.3%) respondents reported having one or more chronic conditions.
- The most common chronic conditions that respondents reported having included high blood pressure (40.3%), overweight and obesity (33.5%), and depression and anxiety (26.7%) (Figure 24).

Figure 23. Self-Reported Health Status



Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Figure 24. Most Common Chronic Conditions



Note: Participants could choose more than one response option. Hence, percentages may not add up to 100.

HEALTH BEHAVIORS

Smoking, Nutrition, and Physical Activity

- Among respondents, ten percent (9.8%) reported using tobacco products (Figure 25).
- About four out of ten respondents (38.3%) reported eating the recommended five servings of fruits and vegetables daily. Two out of ten (22%) indicated that they could not adhere to the recommended guidelines on fruit and vegetable intake because the produce went bad before consumption (23.3%), or that they were expensive (18.0%) (Figure 26).
- Similarly, about four out of ten respondents (37.4%) stated that they met daily recommended physical activity guidelines of 30 minutes per day, five times per week. Most indicated that they did not get this much activity because they did not have enough time to exercise (32.0%), or they were too tired to exercise (25.7%) (Figure 27).

Figure 25. Smoking Behavior

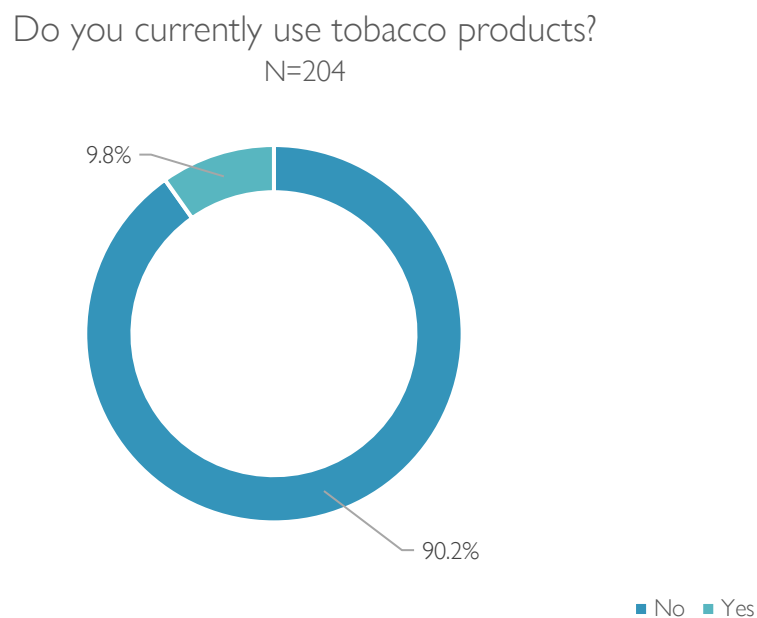
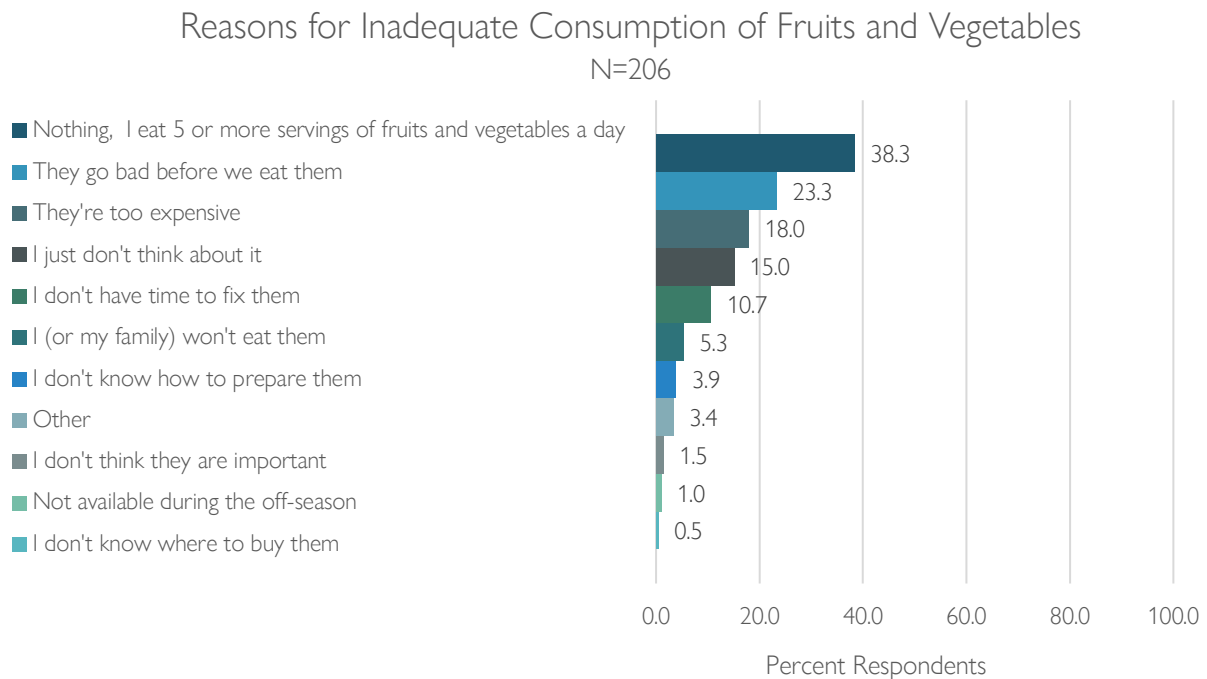
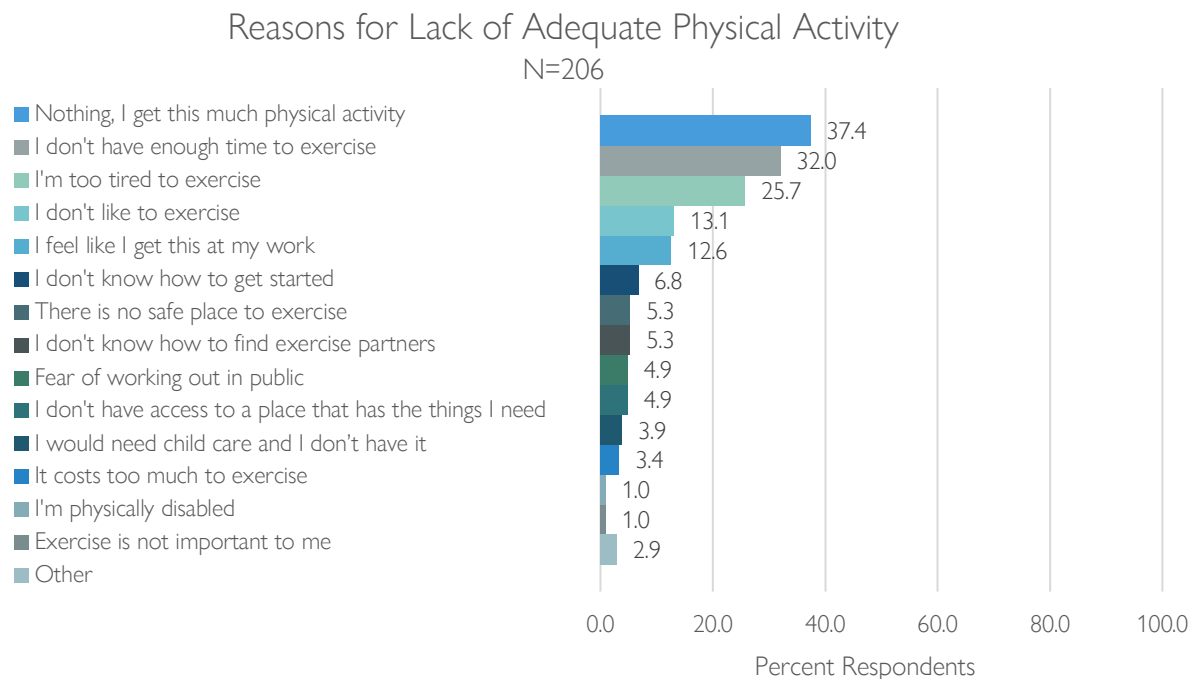


Figure 26. Fruit and Vegetable Consumption



Note: Participants could choose more than one response option. Hence, percentages may not add up to 100.

Figure 27. Physical Activity



Note: Participants could choose more than one response option. Hence, percentages may not add up to 100.

Preventative Screening

Respondents were also asked about their utilization of preventative and screening services and their adherence to recommended screening guidelines.

- About two out of three (64.0%) of those 50 years and older who responded to a question regarding colon cancer screening reported having ever received a colonoscopy (Figure 28).
- 47% of male respondents over 40 years had discussed prostate cancer screening with their health care provider (Figure 29).
- About eight out of ten (76.7%) of female respondents 50 years and older reported that they received annual mammograms (Figure 30).
- Similarly, the majority (80.6%) of females 21 years and older reported receiving a pap smear at least every five years (Figure 31).

Figure 28. Colon Cancer Screening

If you are 50 years or older, have you ever had a colonoscopy?
N=100

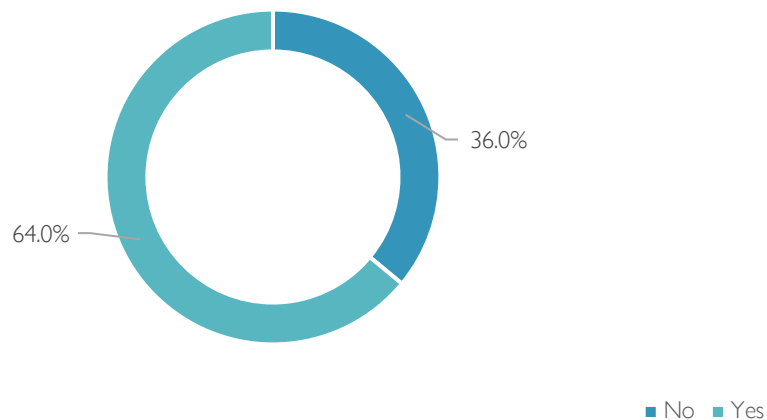


Figure 29. Prostate Cancer Screening

If you are a male over age 40, have you had a discussion with your health care provider about prostate cancer screening?

N=34

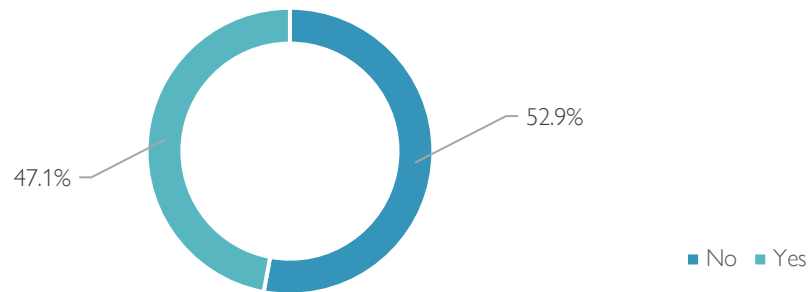


Figure 30. Breast Cancer Screening

If you are a female 50 years or older, do you have an annual mammogram?

N=86

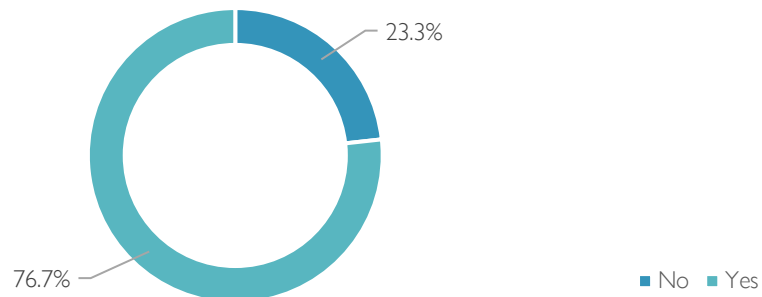
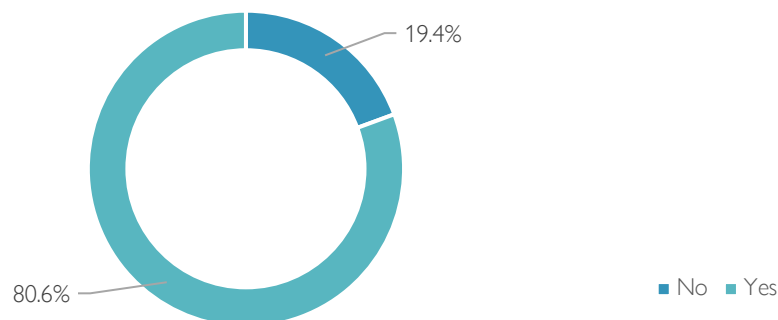


Figure 31. Cervical Cancer Screening

If you are a female 21 years or older, do you have a pap smear at least every 5 years?

N=165



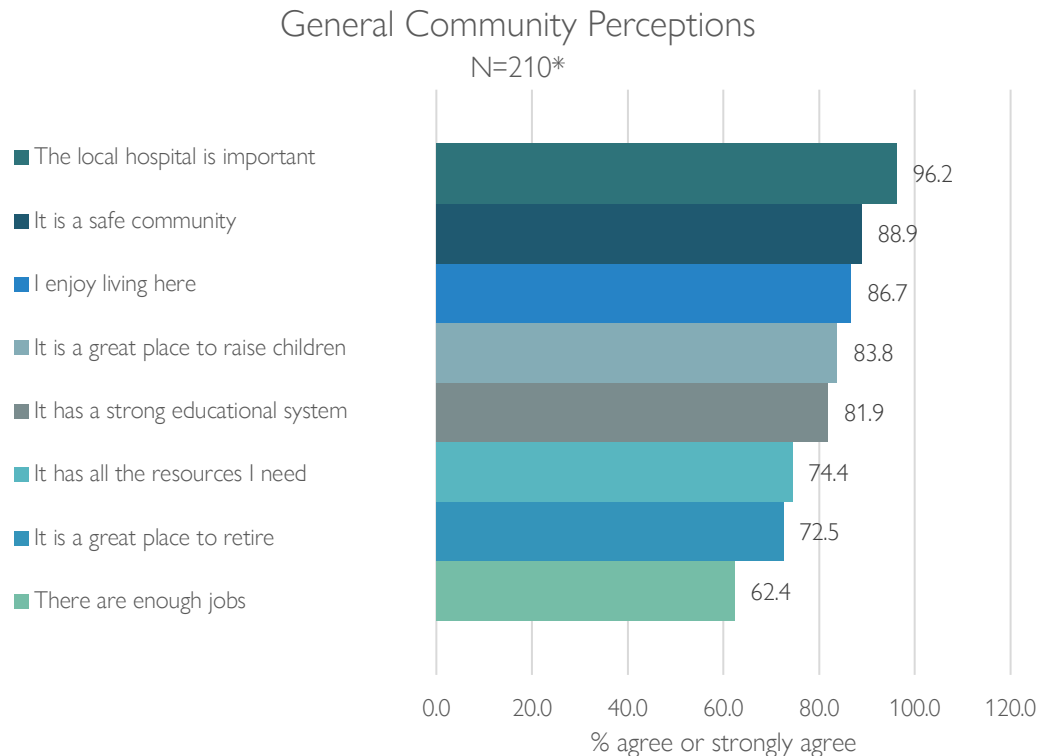
COMMUNITY PERCEPTIONS

General Community Perception

In general, respondents had a favorable view of the community.

- About nine out of ten (86.7%) respondents strongly agreed or agreed that they enjoyed living in the community.
- About eight out of ten (83.8%) strongly agreed or agreed that the community was a great place to raise children. A similar proportion (81.9%) described the community as having a strong educational system.
- However, only about six out of ten respondents (62.4%) felt there were enough jobs.
- Almost all respondents (96.2%) strongly agreed or agreed that the local hospital was important (Figure 32).

Figure 32. Community Perceptions



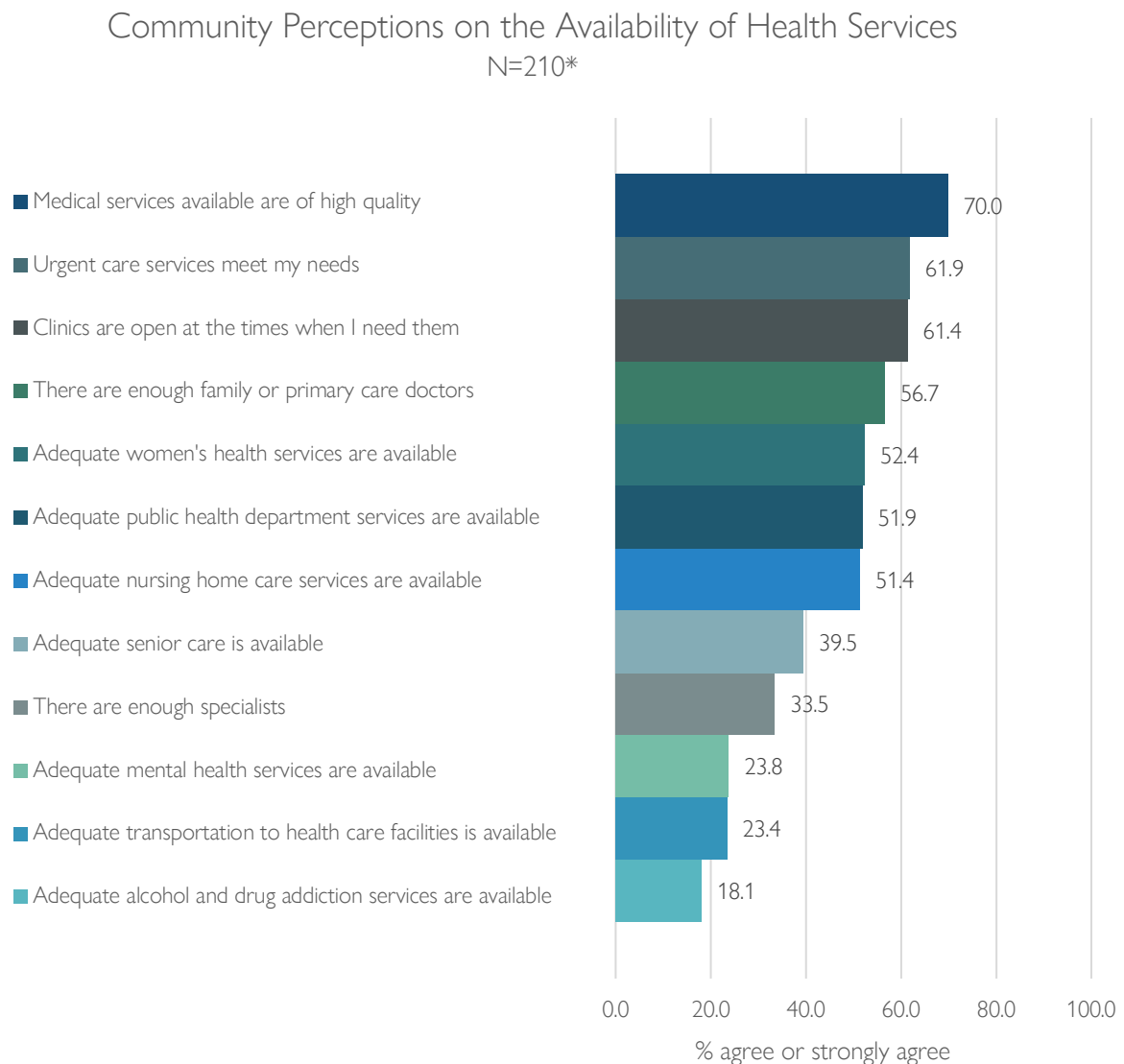
For each statement, we report valid percentage based on the respective sample size. *represents the average sample size for all statements.

Community Perception Concerning Hospital Services

The respondents' perceptions of the adequacy of medical services within the community were fair.

- Respondents noted inadequacies in alcohol and drug addiction services, transportation services, mental health services, and the supply of specialists, with a third or less of respondents describing the availability of these services as adequate (Figure 33).

Figure 33. Community Perceptions Concerning Health Care Services



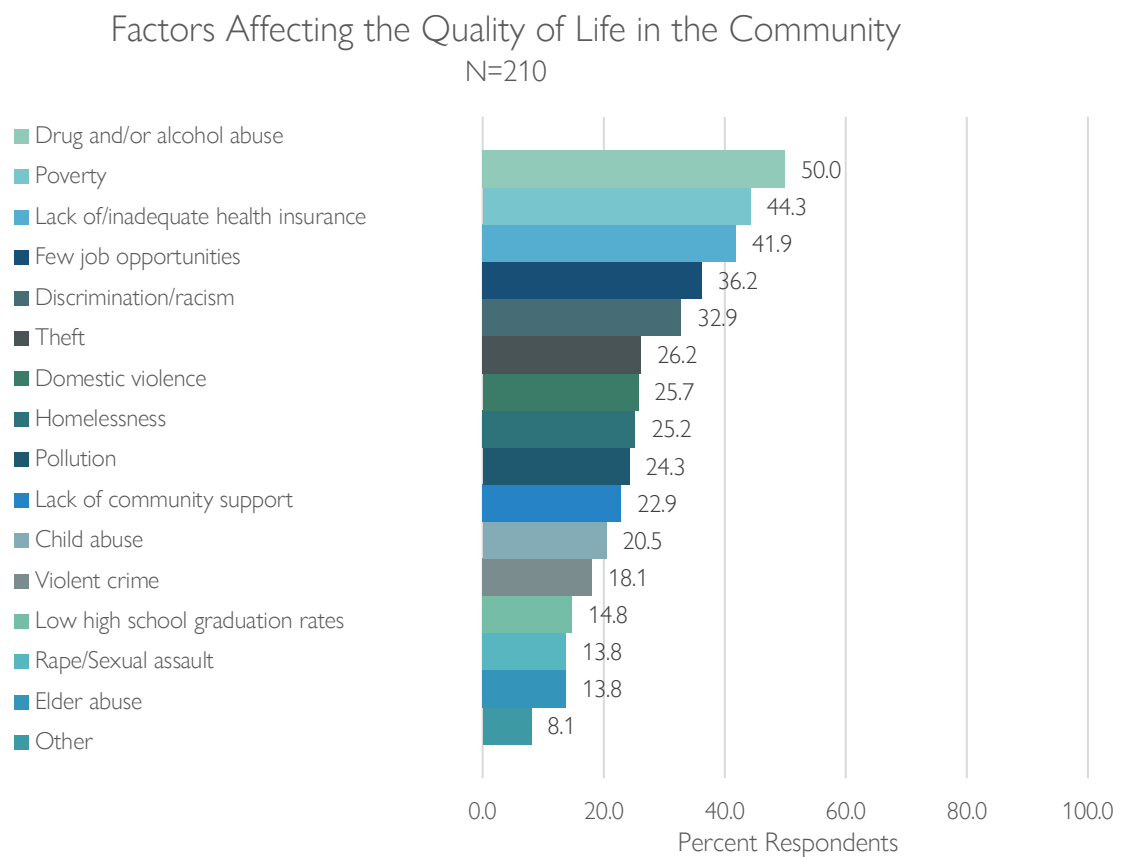
For each statement, we report valid percentage based on the respective sample size. *Represents the average sample size for all statements.

Community Perception Concerning Health and Quality of Life

Quality of Life

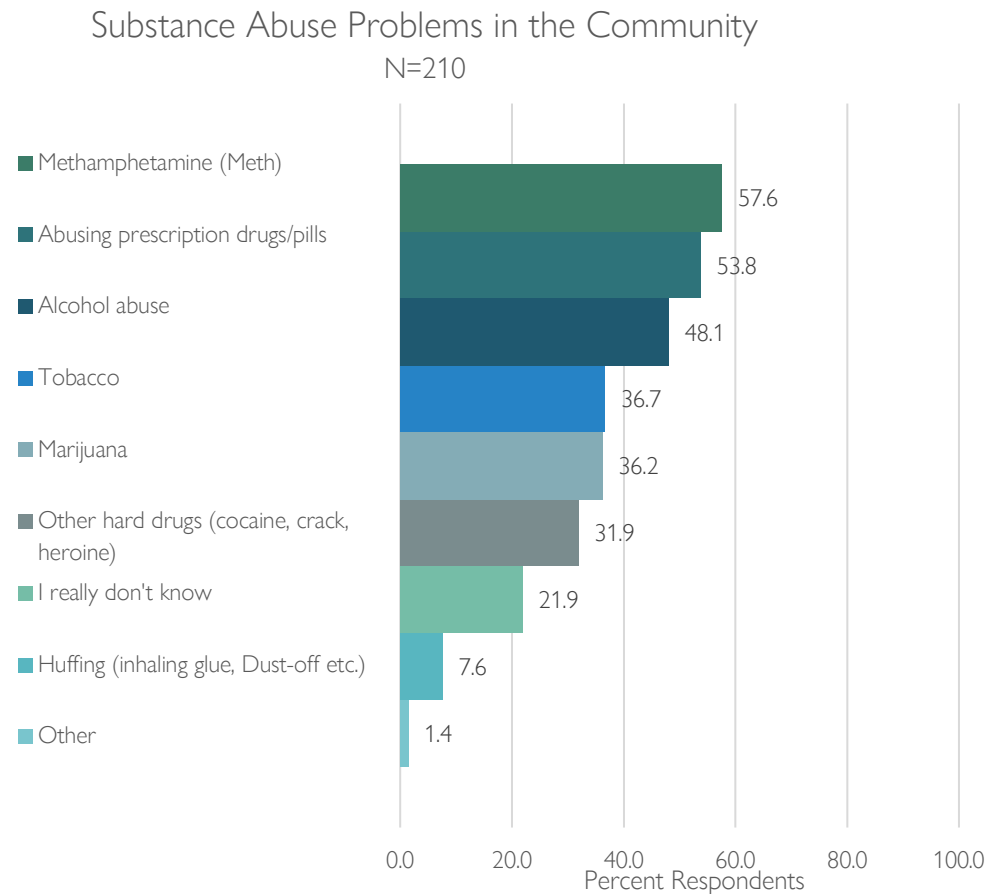
- Respondents identified drug and/or alcohol abuse (50.0%), followed by poverty (44.3%), as the most significant factors affecting the quality of life in the community (Figure 34).
- A lack of or inadequate health insurance coverage, few job opportunities, and discrimination/racism rounded out the top five concerns (Figure 34).
- Concerning substance abuse in the community, methamphetamine was identified as the most abused substance, followed by alcohol and marijuana, respectively (Figure 35).

Figure 34. Perceptions Concerning Factors Affecting the Quality of Life in the Community



Note: Participants could choose more than one response option. Hence, percentages may not add up to 100.

Figure 35. Substance Abuse Problems

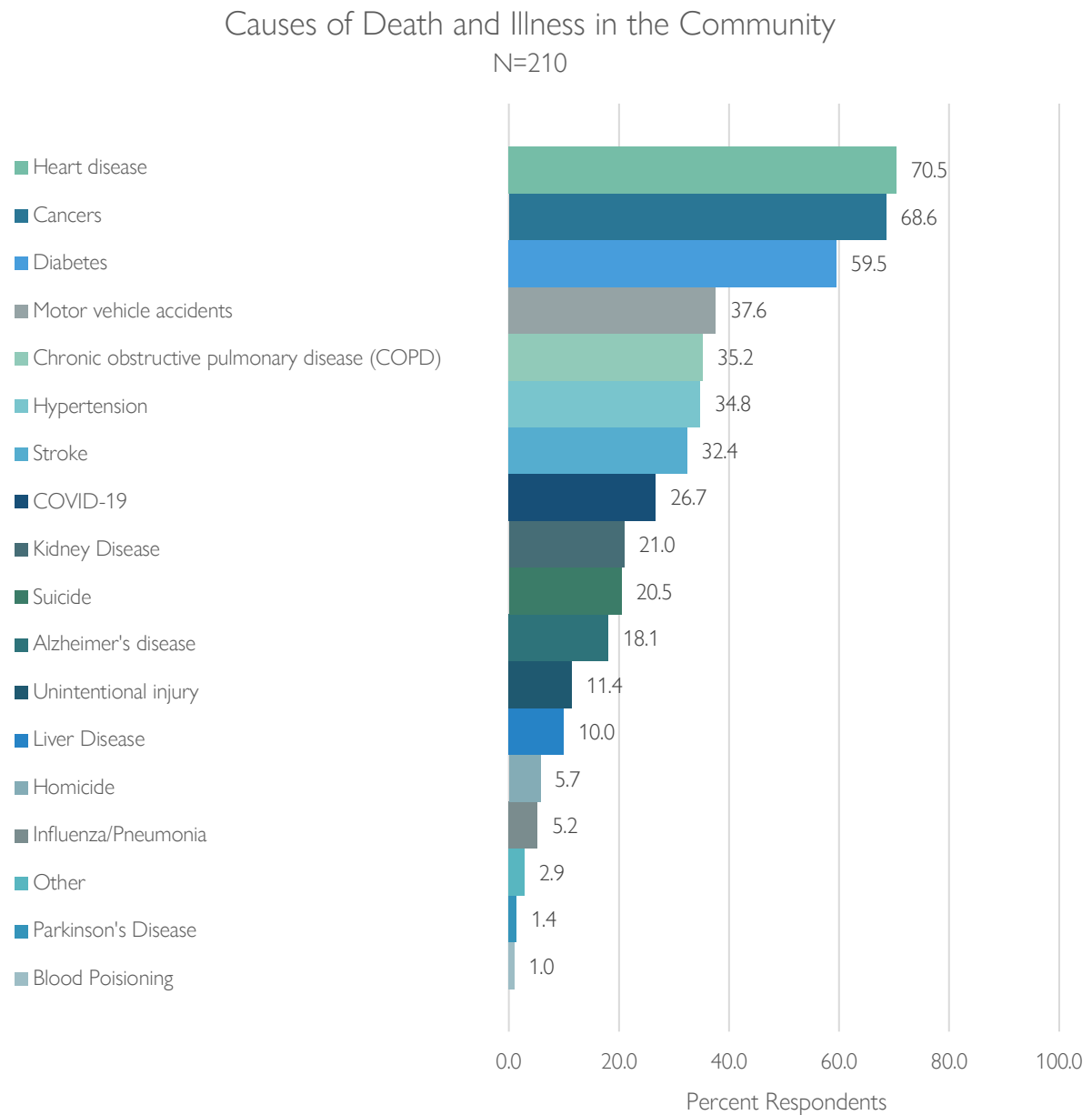


Note: Participants could choose more than one response option. Hence, percentages may not add up to 100.

Causes of Morbidity and Mortality

- Heart diseases, cancers, and diabetes were identified by the survey respondents as the top three causes of mortality and morbidity in the community (Figure 36).
- Obesity/overweight, physical inactivity, and tobacco use were identified as the top three negative influences on health in the community (Figure 37).
- Bullying, improper nutrition, and internet and social media use were identified as the top three negative influences on children's health (Figure 38).

Figure 36. Causes of Mortality and Morbidity

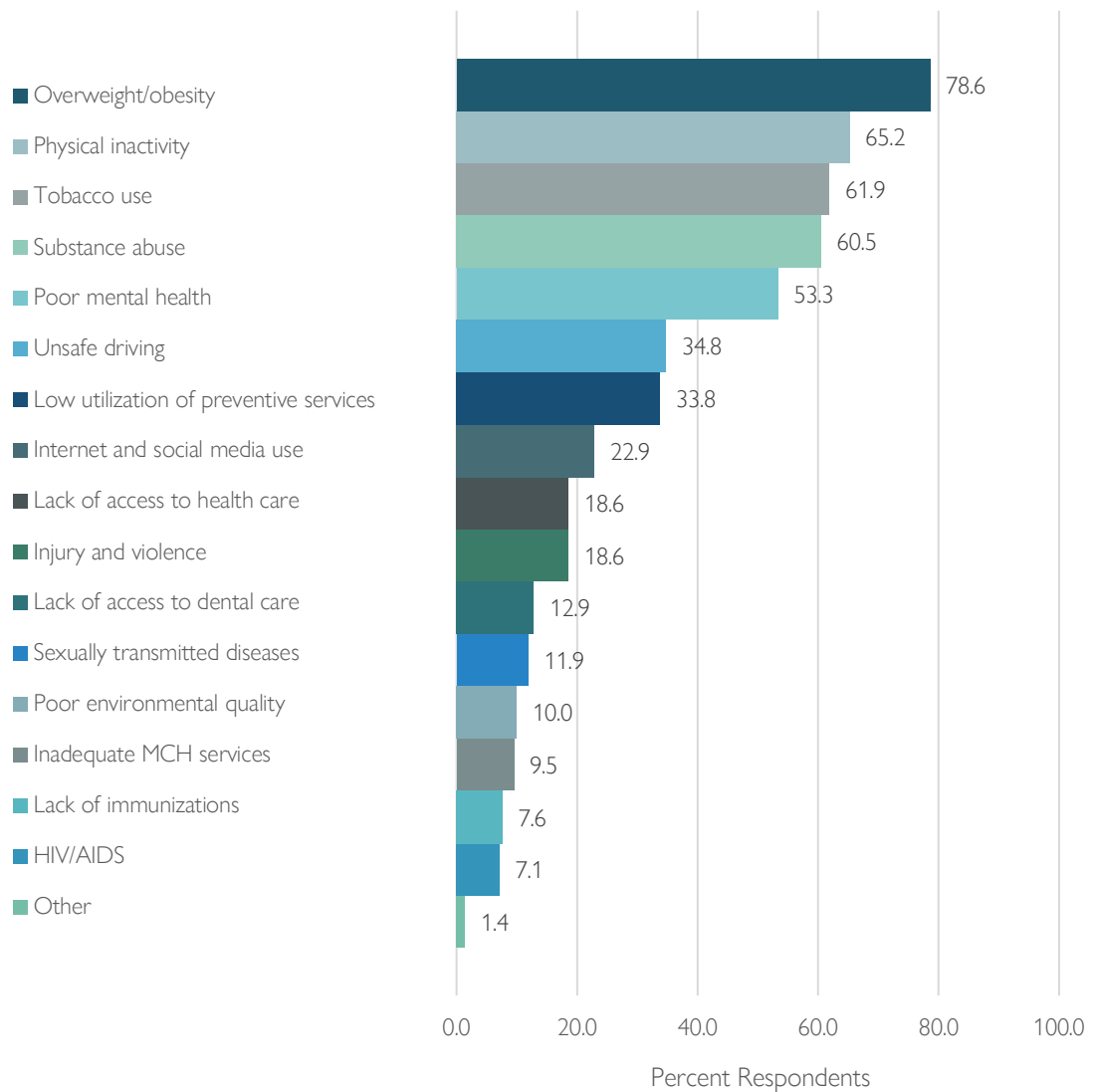


Note: Participants could choose more than one response option. Hence, percentages may not add up to 100.

Figure 37. Negative Influences on Community Health

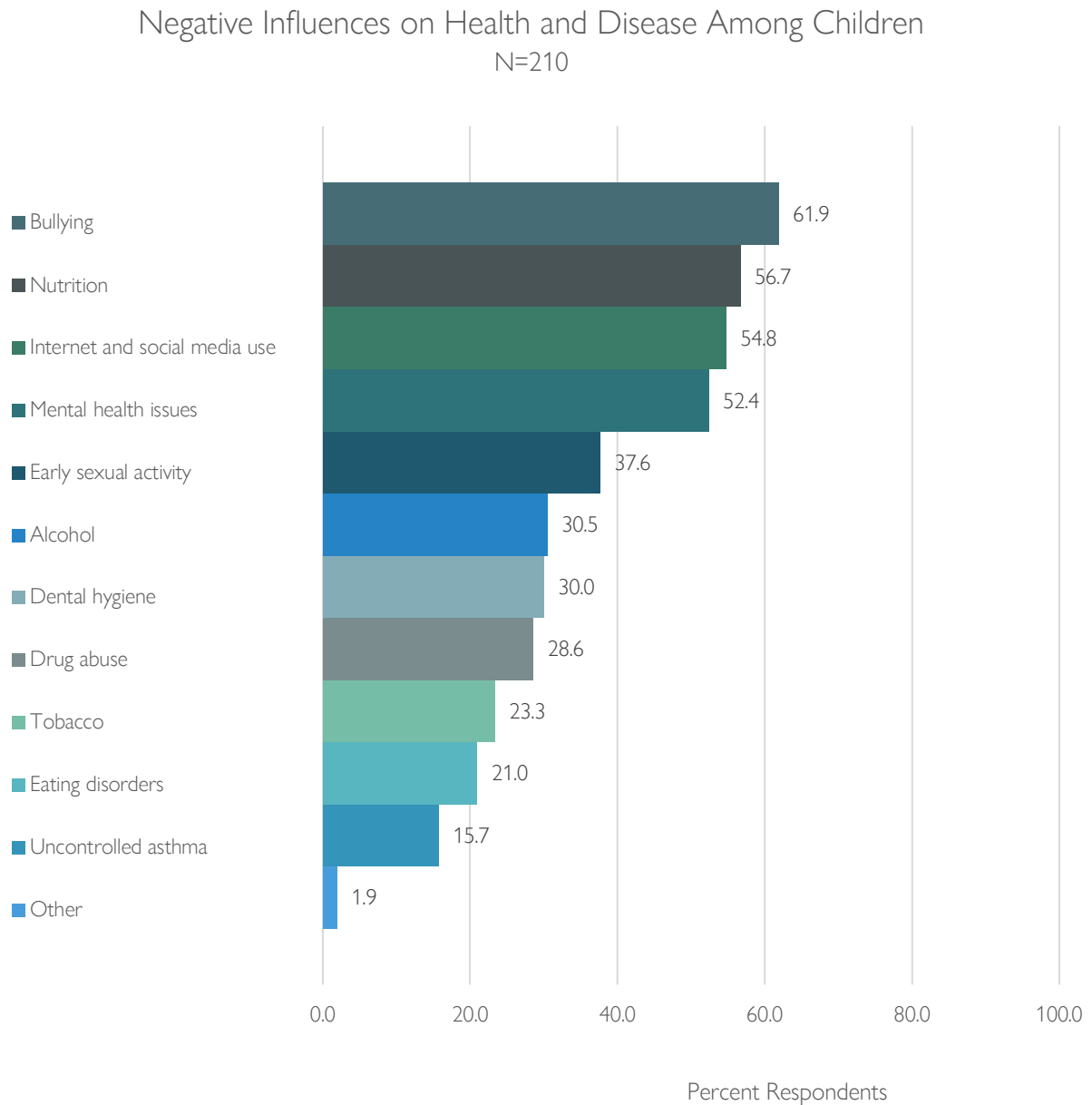
Negative Influences on Health and Disease in the Community

N=210



Note: Participants could choose more than one response option. Hence, percentages may not add up to 100.

Figure 38. Negative Influences on Children's Health



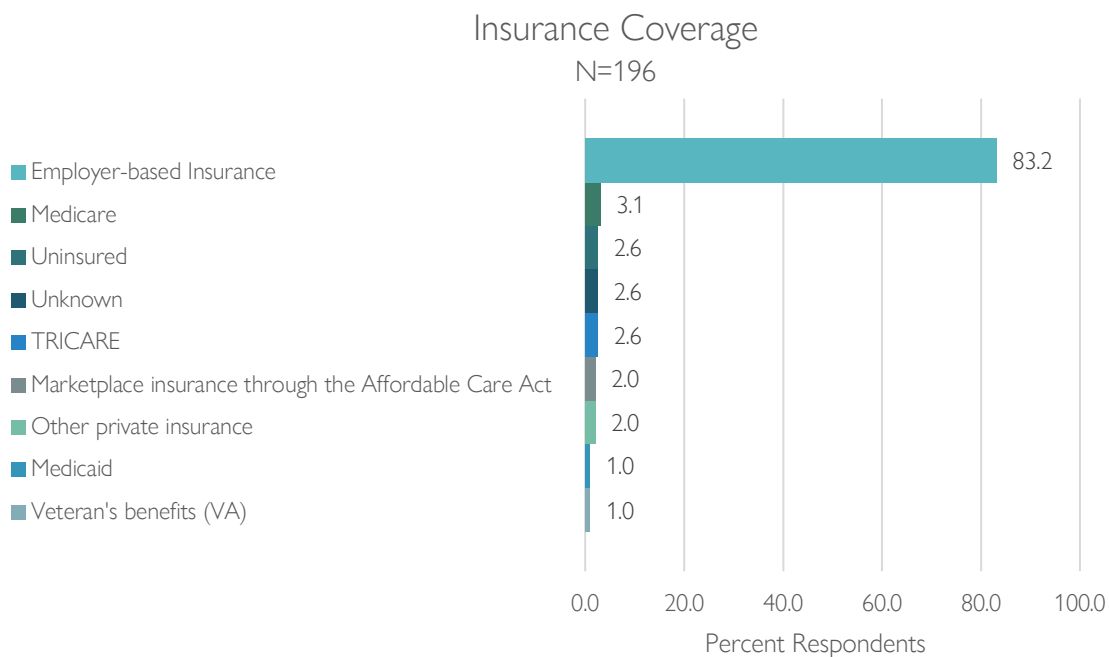
Note: Participants could choose more than one response option. Hence, percentages may not add up to 100.

HEALTH CARE ACCESS

Insurance Coverage and Usual Source of Care

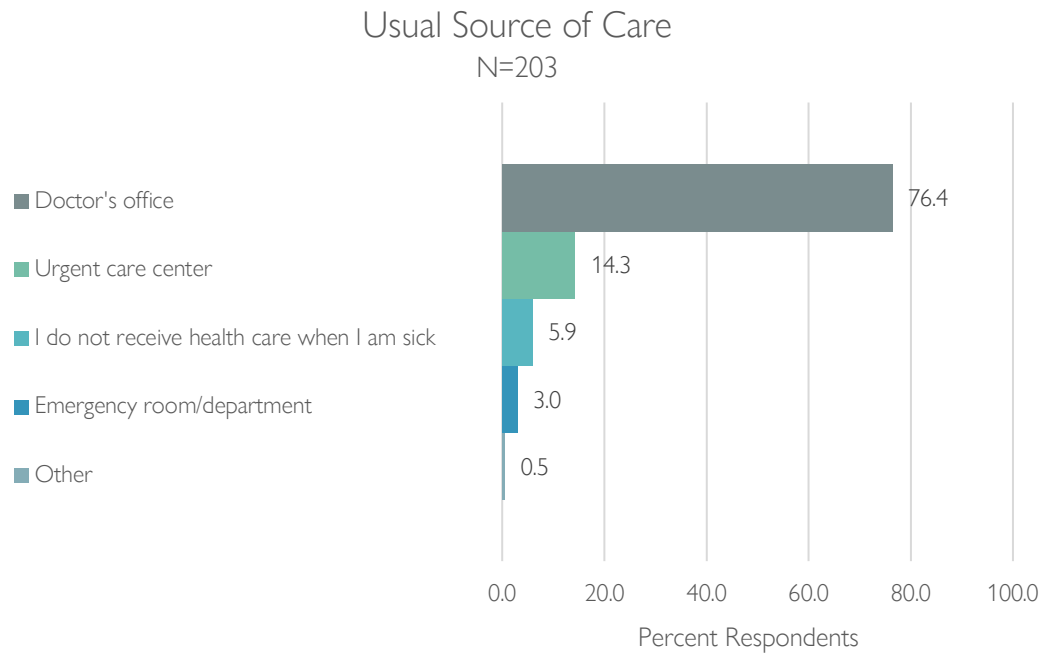
- About eight out of ten survey respondents (83.2%) reported that they had insurance through their employer (Figure 39).
- Most respondents (76.4%) identified their usual source of care as a provider in a doctor's office setting, followed by urgent care facilities (14.3%) (Figure 40).
- Approximately three percent identified the emergency department as their usual source of care (Figure 40).
- Respondents mostly identified their health care provider as their source of health information (84.5%), followed by the internet (38.3%), hospital (28.6%), family and friends (25.2%), and pharmacists (21.8%) (Figure 41).

Figure 39. Insurance Coverage



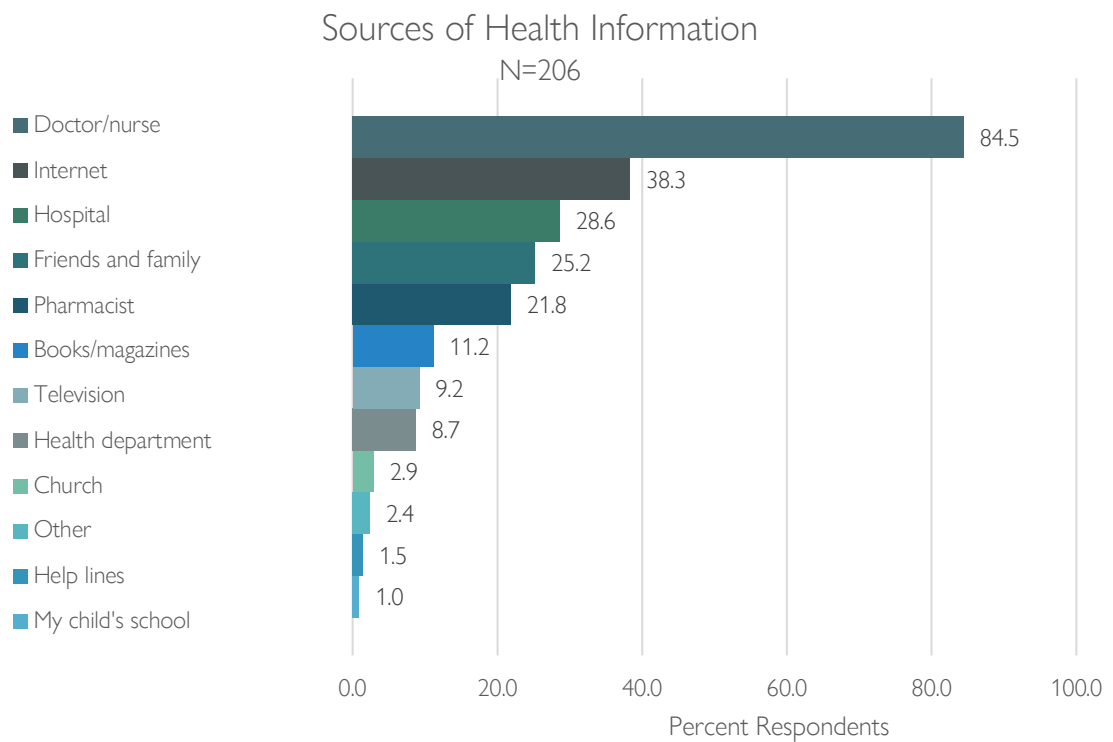
Note: Participants could choose more than one response option. Hence, percentages may not add up to 100.

Figure 40. Usual Source of Care



Note: Participants could choose more than one response option. Hence, percentages may not add up to 100.

Figure 41. Sources of Health Information

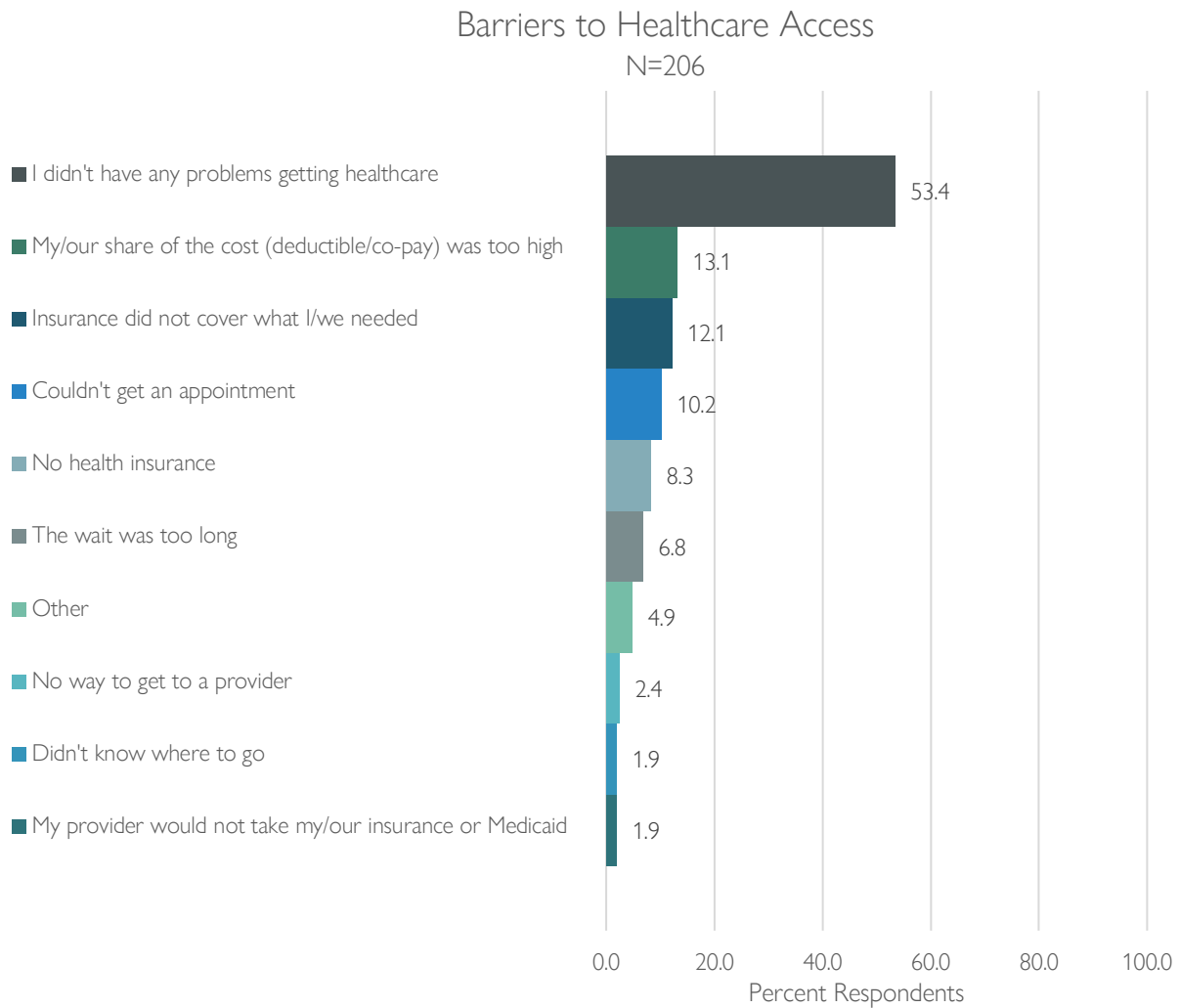


Note: Participants could choose more than one response option. Hence, percentages may not add up to 100.

Barriers to Health Care Access

- About half of respondents (46.6%) reported experiencing one or more barriers to health care access in the past 12 months, including high cost of care (13.1%), inadequate health insurance coverage (12.1%), or difficulties in getting an appointment (10.2%) (Figure 42).

Figure 42. Barriers to Healthcare Access



Note: Participants could choose more than one response option. Hence, percentages may not add up to 100.

Telehealth

- Respondents were open to using telehealth to expand access to specialty care. About three-quarters (73.5%) were willing to access specialists via telemedicine if the local hospital offered specialist telemedicine services (Figure 43).
- Almost half (44.4%) had used telemedicine in the past year (Figure 44).
- The pandemic experience had made the majority (58.8%) more open to telemedicine use (Figure 45), with about a third of respondents (31.4%) reporting recent telehealth use to access local health services more conveniently (Figure 46).

Figure 43. Willingness to Use Telemedicine

If offered by your local hospital, would you be willing to consult a specialist via telemedicine?
N=196

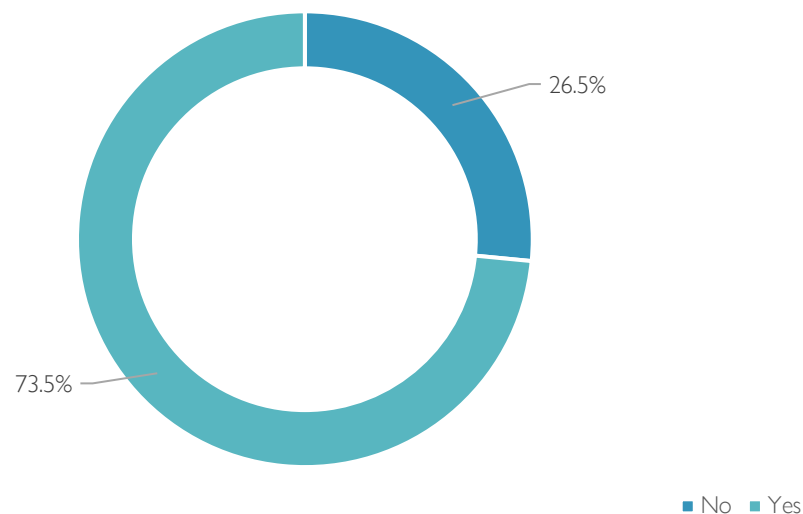


Figure 44. Telemedicine Use in Past Year

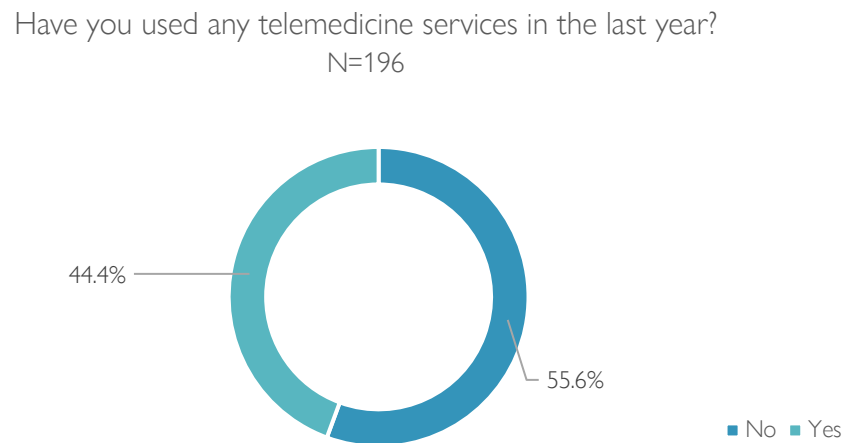


Figure 45. COVID-19 and Willingness to Use Telemedicine

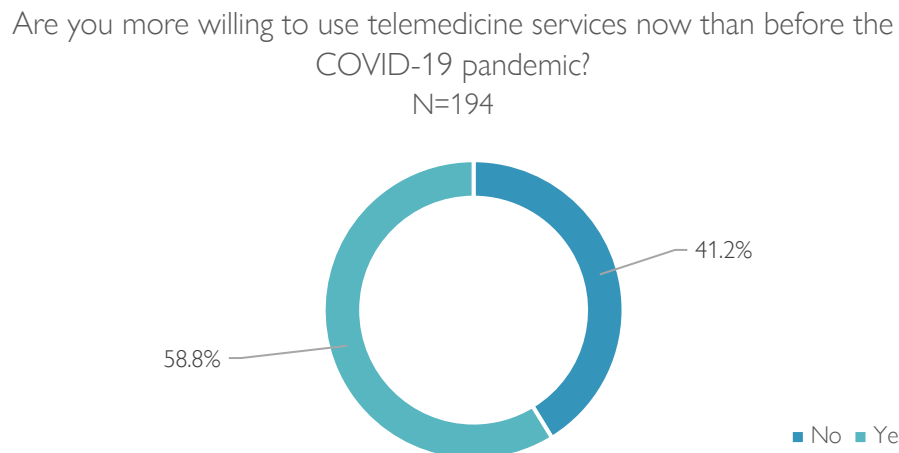
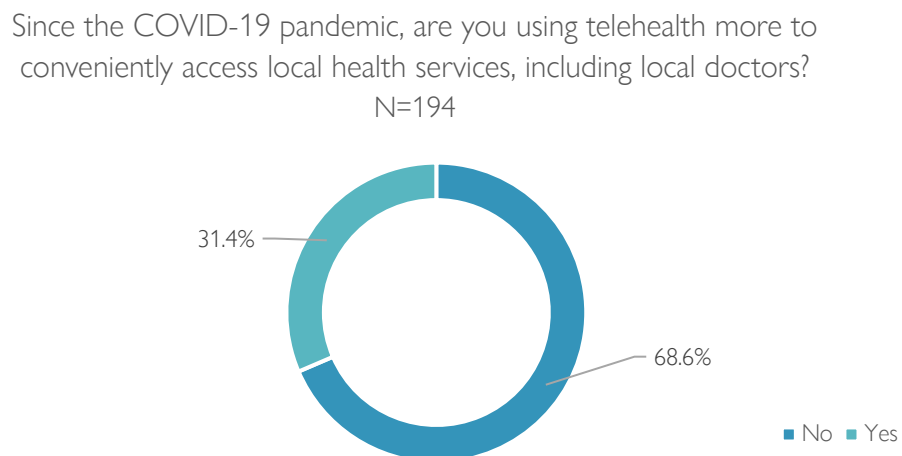


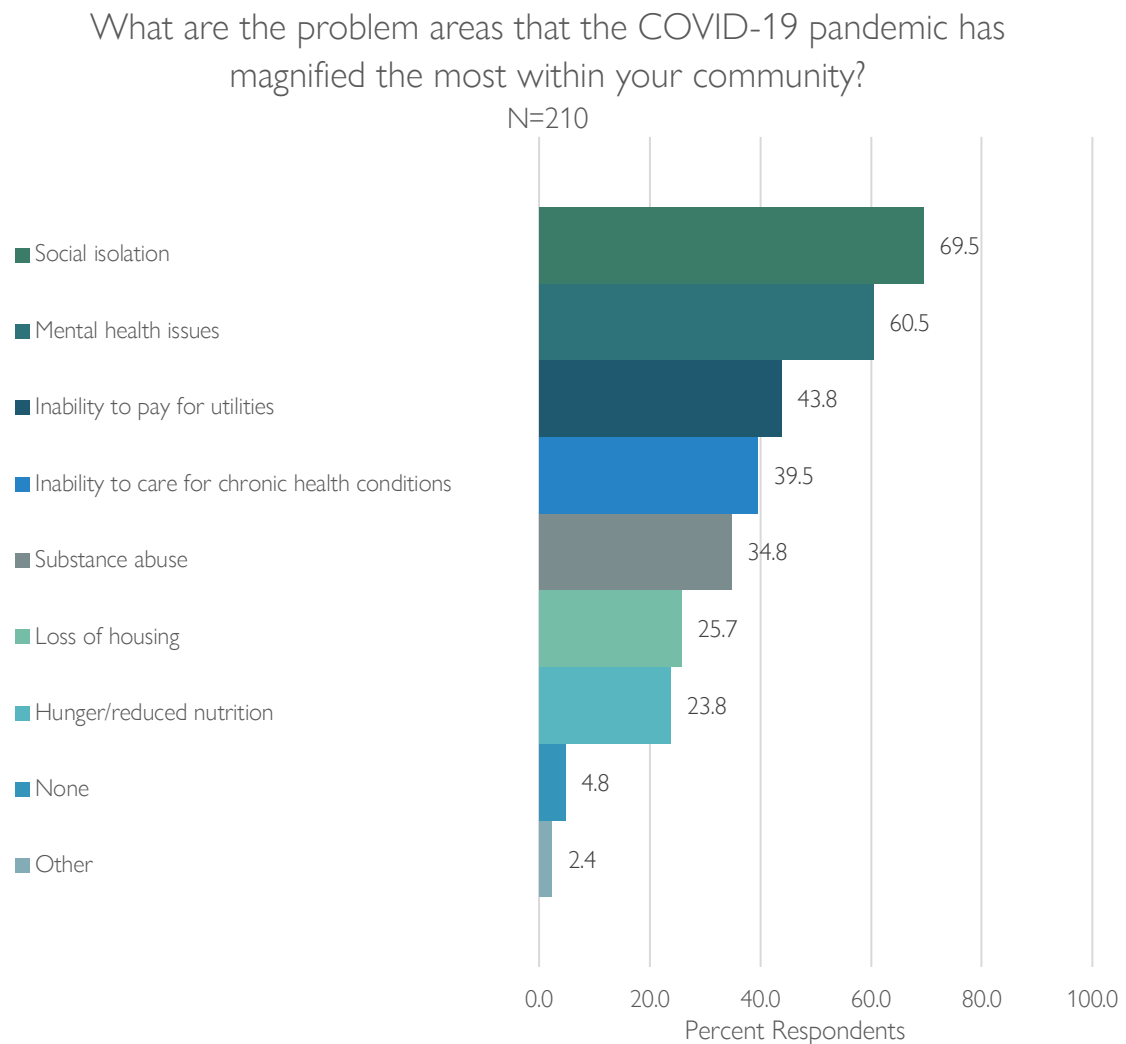
Figure 46. Telemedicine Use for Local Health Services Since COVID-19



COVID-19

- Respondents identified social isolation, mental health issues, and inability to pay for utilities as the top three community health issues amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Chronic disease self-management challenges and substance abuse rounded up the top five community health issues amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic (Figure 47).

Figure 47. Community Health Issues Amplified by COVID-19



Note: Participants could choose more than one response option. Hence, percentages may not add up to 100.

SUMMARY POINTS FROM COMMUNITY SURVEY

Respondents were mostly racially diverse, younger, educated females residing in Effingham County.

Health Status and Behavior

- High blood pressure, overweight, and obesity, and depression/anxiety were the most commonly self-reported chronic conditions.
- Adherence to nutrition and physical activity guidelines was low among respondents.
- Reported adherence to cancer screening guidelines was generally high among participants, except for prostate screening.

Perceptions about the Community and Community Health

- Respondents had a favorable view of the community but were dissatisfied with the availability of substance abuse treatment services, transportation services, mental health services, and specialists.
- Respondents also identified substance abuse and poverty as the most significant factors affecting the quality of life in the community.
- Heart disease, cancers, and diabetes were identified as the top three causes of illness and death in the community, while obesity/overweight, physical inactivity, and tobacco use emerged as the top three negative health influences.
- Bullying, improper nutrition, internet, and social media use emerged as the top three negative health influences among children.
- About half of respondents reported experiencing one or more barriers to health care access in the past 12 months, with the high cost and the lack of adequate health coverage being the most common barriers.
- Respondents were open to the use of telehealth to expand access to specialty care and reported an increased openness to telehealth following the pandemic.

Impact of COVID-19 on Community Health

- Social isolation, mental health issues and an inability to pay for utilities were identified as the top three community health issues amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic.

COMMUNITY FOCUS GROUPS

Three virtual focus groups were held in March 2022, with an average of 9 participants per focus group. The hospital and the CHNA steering committee recruited twenty-seven focus group participants. They included key community stakeholders representing health care, the **local public health department**, faith-based organizations, the chamber of commerce, and local businesses. Each focus group discussion lasted for about an hour.

EMERGING THEMES

The following themes and associated exemplary quotes were identified from the focus group discussions:

COMMUNITY PERCEPTION

Feedback provided by the focus group participants reflected a great impression of the Effingham County community. They described the community as a **growing community with a positive outlook**. They discussed the significant changes the community had experienced due to population and economic growth.

"I've lived here in Effingham County all my life [and] seen a great drastic change over the last 20 or so years in the county with growth, expansion, so on and so forth. Even the medical system has improved within our county. So, there's been a lot of growth, and a lot of positive things have been taking place lately. We're grateful for that."

"So, today, Effingham is not our farming community. We still have some of that, but we're also trending toward the urban side...But the changes have been positive, and it's still a great community."

"[I have] enjoyed the growth of not only the county, the small cities in the county, [and] also the hospital itself."

Strengths: Growing, close-knit and welcoming community, strong school district, family-oriented, strong economy

The focus group participants cited numerous strengths of the community, describing their community as **welcoming** and **close-knit**, with **strong economic prospects**, and a **robust school system**.

"I'm a lifelong resident of Effingham County, and I've been here 48 years, and the community has always been very welcoming. The education system and the healthcare system have always been very strong... It's a livable place for families, and we think that people move to Effingham County because they do believe that we have a great school system, and we have a great community and things for their families to do."

"It is a very welcoming community. It's a great place to live. People have treated me like a local right off the bat. And amazing things are happening here – tremendous growth. But you have [a] wonderful quality of life, great schools, a fine health system in place, and it's a terrific place to raise a family and to do business."

"I think there are a lot of opportunities here. There are a lot of jobs available. There are good-paying manufacturing jobs. There're warehousing jobs. A tremendous amount of opportunity and growth here. And one thing I've seen is when people are starting businesses here, they're well supported by the community."

Challenges: Income inequality; Lack of outdoor recreational spaces; limited healthy food options, transportation

Despite the numerous positive aspects of living in their community, participants in focus groups noted that the opportunities that come with the socio-economic improvements in the community might not be uniformly distributed within the community. They noted that **pockets of the community still struggled to make ends meet.**

"The people I come in contact with are the ones that can't make ends meet. They need help with electricity; they need help with their rent or all kind of resources...they just don't seem ever to make ends meet. But I think the majority of Effingham County is very good."

Participants also noted that while recreational amenities were available, there was a **need for more green space and outdoor recreational spaces**, such as walking and bike trails.

"We have ample rec department facilities but not necessarily ample opportunities for outdoor adult workout areas."

"I think we could stand to have a lot more green space in our community in terms of places for walking and hiking and bicycle riding. I've been a big proponent of the high-low trail and trying to get more bike paths in our community."

An additional concern was the **limited availability of healthy food options** in the community.

“Every corner you turn, there’s food that’s not necessarily good for you.”

Transportation was extensively discussed in all focus groups as a pressing community need and a significant barrier to health care access, especially among the elderly.

“I would say a transportation need is definitely a great focus because a lot of residents that live inside the rural areas, they don’t have no way to get to their doctor’s appointments, even such simple things like going shopping. And we notice a lot of residents, they live by themselves or – you know, husband or wife has deceased, and so they live alone.”

“I think public transportation obviously is something that would help the community. I do find it to be one of our barriers to good healthcare to our community.”

“We have people that don’t have a vehicle, elderly, disabled, whatever it may be, but they do not have transportation, and a lot of times as great as CRC is, there’s other services that are needed regarding transportation.”

“I’ll say transportation is a challenge. We have the coastal bus system, but it’s not a regularly scheduled system. And so, for people who need to get to appointments and whatnot, there are some challenges there. Plus, traffic being what it is. But just the availability of regularly scheduled transportation would be a challenge for people who don’t have a car themselves, or they’re a little older and don’t want to be driving on highway 21.

TOP COMMUNITY HEALTH CONCERNS

THEMES: Mental health, Substance abuse, Lack of health knowledge

The top community health concerns mentioned during the focus groups were **mental health and substance abuse**, including the lack of health services to address these issues. Participants also noted **a lack of general health-related knowledge** in the community.

“I would have to say mental health is the number one [issue] that I can see.”

“So, the aging [resources], mental health and the drugs. Nothing available for drug treatment within our count. We don’t have a mental health facility in our county – inpatient type. And those are some of the things that I feel definitely needs to be addressed. As our county continues to grow, we can’t rely on Savannah, Bulloch County, Augusta, or these outlying areas to fix our needs. We need to look at it at home.”

"I think one of the areas that's an issue, and not just Effingham, a lot of counties is mental health services for the community. I think that's a big issue, providing mental health services for this county as well as other counties, finding places to place individuals and getting them the needed services that they need."

HEALTH CARE ACCESS

THEMES: Improved access to medical care, Unaffordable health care coverage, Lack of awareness of hospital services and health resources

Participants noted that the availability of services (including specialists) had improved in the community. Except for dental and vision care and select specialists (such as anesthesiologists and general surgeons), medical care could be accessed more conveniently within the community.

"There was a time when I had to travel to Savannah for specialty services, and that traffic is just horrendous. Always had a 3:00 appointment, so I had to get through the 5:00 traffic to get home."

"I'm fortunate that all of my healthcare can be handled here in the county."

However, participants mentioned that despite an **overall improvement in the scope and quality of medical services** in the community, there was still a **general lack of awareness of information on where to access health services and health-promoting resources**.

"[T]here are so many services that are offered. One of the things I think is lacking possibly is that people don't know that these services are in Effingham."

"They don't realize that we have a state-of-the-art hospital, so, some people still go to Savannah or Statesboro or wherever. But the fact that these services, there are many services that are offered, mammograms, that type of services, they're offered in Effingham, and a lot of people aren't aware of that."

Affordability of health insurance and difficulty obtaining doctor appointments were identified as other barriers to access to health services in the community.

"I feel like sometimes though, it's very hard to get in to see a doctor. And just from experience trying to make an appointment sometimes, it's two weeks out before they have anything available."

"[E]ven for folks that do have insurance, you're having to pay out of pocket for those premiums you have to [pay]. Then on top of that pay for the doctor's visit and the sick visit and the lab test."

It's like, why do I have insurance then if I'm already having to pay this much out of pocket? I think that's not an Effingham issue. That's a national issue but it's definitely an issue."

HOSPITAL'S ROLE IN ADVANCING COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS

THEMES: Asset, Strong community involvement, Communicate and Educate

The hospital was described as a **great asset** by the community members and was lauded for its **visibility and active involvement in the community**.

"The hospital has always been very visible in any kind of community event."

"I have seen [the hospital] in other areas also, community events, back to school events.... where they have been on scene assisting in giving out basic health information."

Focus group participants acknowledged the hospital's efforts to educate the community on health issues and **encouraged them to continue to enhance communication and health education efforts**.

"I think from our hospital's standpoint they certainly – and our medical offices they certainly promote a positive eating lifestyle."

"Communicate and educate. there can never be too much communication in my mind. So, education and communication are your two biggest pieces."

COMMUNITY AND HOSPITAL PARTNERSHIP FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS

THEMES: Collaboration

Participants encouraged the hospital to continue **collaborating with community health organizations in community outreach and health education**.

"The hospital partnering with everybody that we are talking with today...that is the way to do it. It is basically having open lines of communication with each of the people on this call."

SUMMARY POINTS FROM COMMUNITY FOCUS GROUPS

Twenty-seven community stakeholders participated in the community focus groups. Participants discussed barriers and facilitators to health and well-being within the Effingham County community.

Perceptions about the Community and Community Health

- Effingham County is a growing, welcoming, close-knit, and family-oriented community with strong economic prospects and an excellent school system.
- The County experiences challenges including income disparity, high demand for and limited access to mental health and substance abuse services, limited access to transportation, especially for vulnerable populations, and a general lack of community awareness about health and wellness and available health-promoting resources.

Barriers and Facilitators of Health and Well-being

- The hospital is highly engaged within the community and is considered an asset for improving health and well-being.
- Participants noted that the scope and quality of medical services, including those provided by the hospital, had improved, resulting in improved access to care.
- However, there are some persisting constraints to health care access that limit health and well-being, including limited access to dental and vision services and select specialists, unaffordable health coverage, and difficulties in obtaining medical appointments.
- Enhanced collaboration between the hospital and community organizations in health education and outreach efforts was discussed as a strategy to improve overall community health and wellness.

PRIORITIZATION OF COMMUNITY NEEDS & IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING

PREVIOUS IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Effingham Health System's 2019 Community Health Needs Assessment was completed in compliance with federal regulations and approved by the governing board on June 25th, 2019. Based on community input, the following areas were identified as priority health needs to address:

- Health Care Access
- Mental Health and Substance Abuse
- Chronic Disease Education and Awareness

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly disrupted the 2019-2022 CHNA implementation cycle. Below we discuss progress made on the plan within constraints set by the pandemic.

Health Care Access. Health care access issues were addressed through a focus on transportation and telemedicine. The established objectives included identifying and communicating available transportation opportunities to residents and promoting telemedicine expansion in the area.

Transportation. A list of transportation resources was developed and can be found in the health resources listing in the 2019-2022 CHNA. A review of transportation access in the service area established a significant lack of access to affordable and non-emergent medical transportation options. Coastal Regional Transport is the only non-emergent medical transportation service in the area. The Transportation Services Department provides regional transportation services for any purpose within the ten counties of the Coastal Georgia region through the Coastal Regional Coaches bus transit system. The regional transit system serves all ten coastal regional counties: Bryan, Bulloch, Camden, Chatham, Effingham, Glynn, Liberty, Long, McIntosh, and Screven. Accordingly, in the 2023-2025 CHNA cycle, we will continue to expand our efforts to identify a sustainable solution to non-emergent medical transportation barriers in the community.

Telehealth. Effingham Health System (EHS) added school-based telemedicine to four elementary schools in the 2019-2020 school year and three middle schools in the 2020-2021 school year. EHS also implemented direct-to-consumer telemedicine during the COVID-19 global pandemic, allowing us to expand health care access significantly during this period.

Further, data from the community input obtained during this present CHNA cycle (i.e., 2022 survey and focus groups) show significant improvements in community perception concerning access to healthcare services in the area relative to the 2019 assessment cycle. In the 2023-2025 cycle, we

build on this momentum to ensure enhanced access to health services for residents of the Effingham County community and surrounding areas.

Mental Health and Substance Abuse. EHS prioritized efforts to improve Effingham County residents' mental well-being and reduce substance abuse and misuse in the County. The objectives for the 2019-2022 CHNA implementation planning cycle focused on reducing the amount of time between ER encounters and referral to appropriate mental health and substance abuse services and reducing drug and alcohol use in the Effingham County community.

Mental Health. A list of mental and behavioral health resources was developed and can be found in the health resources listing in the 2019-2022 CHNA. The pandemic limited our ability to meet our objectives in this area, as the pandemic has been associated with an increased demand for mental health services. During the same period, the region also lost one crisis referral facility, thereby limiting regional capacity to address mental health issues.

Substance misuse and abuse. The hospital participated in Teen Maze (experience and education for High School students on risky behavior) in 2019; the event was canceled in 2020 due to the pandemic. Baseline data on substance misuse in the county was established. Between 2019 and 2021, EHS continued to see an increase in ED visits related to mental health, drug use, and alcohol use. Efforts to establish collaboration and seek funding to address high mental health needs and substance use were hampered by the pandemic. Accordingly, in line with this background and community input that still points to a high need in this area, in the 2023-2025 CHNA cycle, we will continue to expand our efforts to address mental health and substance misuse in our community.

Chronic Disease Education and Awareness. EHS also focused on community health awareness and education during the 2019-2022 CHNA cycle.

Community Awareness of Health Services and Resources. We curated a community resources list (found in health resources listing in the 2019-2022 CHNA). Our community partner, United Way also hosted a community resource list (<https://www.navigateresources.net/uwce/>). EHS also expanded marketing and community outreach efforts.

Chronic Diseases Health Education. We leveraged our health fair in 2019 (canceled in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-19) and social media for community education. The 2nd Annual Block Party and Health Fair was held on November 9, 2019. Over 30 different vendors from the community and the health system participated in educating the community on health issues and providing resources. Over 400 people attended the event and interacted with the vendors. We also implemented social media campaigns for Women's Heart Health Month, Men's Health Month, and Breast Cancer Awareness Month. In response to the pandemic, we also implemented a vaccination campaign. Community input

still points to a high need for community health awareness. Thus, in the 2023-2025 CHNA cycle, we will continue to expand our efforts in this area.

2023-2025 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Community health needs were prioritized using a modified nominal group technique, which included a brainstorming session, followed by a detailed discussion and ranking of identified potential priority areas. Three priority areas were selected following the present cycle's CHNA. The goals, objectives, and activities developed under each priority area extend previous efforts to improve community health education and access to physical and mental health services. Below goals, objectives, and an implementation plan are outlined for each priority area. Ms. LaMeisha Hunter Kelly will coordinate the implementation efforts outlined below for FY 2023-2025.

Priority Area One: Mental and Behavioral Health & Substance Abuse

Goal: Expand access to mental and behavioral health care in the Effingham County Community

Objective 1: Improve the coordinated care and referral process for patients with mental and behavioral health needs in the community.

Objective 2: Reduce drug and alcohol use in the Effingham County community.

Implementation Plan

Action Items	Measure	Community Partners	Timeline
Objective 1: Mental and Behavioral Health			
Explore and expand partnerships with mental health providers and the community service board (CSB).	#partnerships established	Family Connections; Public Safety; CSB; Two Rivers Health Center	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2025
Research and identify funding opportunities to improve access to mental health services.	#grants identified, #submitted amount of funding secured		
Objective 2: Substance abuse			
Identify funding opportunities to expand access to substance abuse treatment services.	#grants identified, #submitted amount of funding secured	Family Connections; Public Safety; CSB	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2025
Collaborate with community partners to enhance substance abuse and misuse awareness and education.	#partnerships established		

Priority Area Two: Health Access

Goal: Expand access to medical care in the Effingham County Community

Objective 1: Increase access to medical and non-medical transportation services within the County.

Objective 2: Communicate and disseminate information on community health services and resources within the County.

Implementation Plan

Action Items	Measure	Community Partners	Timeline
Objective 1: Transportation			
Research and identify opportunities to enhance access to reliable non-emergency transportation services through community partnerships.	# Stakeholder meetings #opportunities identified and pursued	Coastal Regional Commission, Effingham County Industrial Development Authority, Private Transportation Providers, Senior Services, Effingham County Board of Commissioners.	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2025
In partnership with community stakeholders, explore funding opportunities to expand transport services in the community.	#partnerships established, #grants identified, #submitted amount of funding secured		
Objective 2: Health Resources Communication			
Expand education efforts relating to existing hospital services.	#marketing and outreach events, #marketing materials developed, #dissemination channels, #providers contacted	Effingham County Board of Education; Family Connection; Chamber of Commerce; United Way	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2025
Identify an optimal approach to disseminate information on available health services and resources within the County.	#partners, #meetings/ events		

Priority Area Three: Community Education

Goal: Enhance community health awareness in the Effingham County Community

Objective 1: Improve and enhance prevention and wellness education.

Objective 2: Provide appropriate chronic disease management education.

Implementation Plan

Action Items	Measure	Community Partners	Timeline
Objective 1: Prevention and Wellness Education			
Quarterly Community Lunch and Learns with virtual options	#events held	Two Rivers Health Center, Public Health Department; United Way; YMCA; Quick Rx Pharmacy, MedBank	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2025
Co-sponsor community education events with community partners	#events co-sponsored		
Hold annual health fairs	#health fairs held		
Optimize communication by leveraging technology	#educational content shared, #likes, shares and comments		
Objective 2: Chronic Disease Management Education			
Develop and implement chronic disease management tools and resources	#educational content and tools developed	Two Rivers Health Center, Public Health Department; United Way; YMCA; Quick Rx Pharmacy, MedBank	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2025
Lunch and Learns - Quarterly with virtual options	#events held		
Co-sponsor community education events with community partners	#events co-sponsored		
Health Fairs	#health fairs held		

HEALTH CARE RESOURCE LISTING

To access health care, community members should be aware of available resources. The following pages provide information to the community about these resources.

ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	PHONE	WEB ADDRESS	EMAIL
Abuse & Domestic Violence				
Ahimsa House	P.O. Box 8181 Atlanta, GA 31106	(404) 496-4038 24/7 crisis hotline, (404) 452-6248 use this number ONLY for victims of an abuse or victim representatives		
Effingham Victim-Witness Assistance Program, Inc.	P.O. Box 893 768 Highway 119 South, Springfield, GA 31329	(912) 754-7460		director@ewwap.org
Child & Youth Services				
Abundant Life Church	1541 Hwy. S, Springfield, GA 31329	(912)754-3148		
Acts III Thrift Store	6014 Highway 21 S. Rincon, GA 31326	(912)826-2981		
Big Brother Big Sisters of the Coastal Empire	428 Bull St., Suite 203 Savannah, GA 31401	(912) 233-7669		
Boy Scouts of America	11900 Abercorn Expressway Savannah, GA 31419	(912)927-7272	bssavannah.org	bsa099@bsamail.org
Carmen's Day Care Center, Inc.	107 North Maple Street Springfield, GA 31329	(912)754-6079		
CASA	515 Denmark Street Statesboro, GA 30458	(912) 764-4849	casaogeechee.org	joincasa@gmail.com Programs: edcasaogee@frontiernet.net
Coastal Children's Advocacy	P.O. Box 9926 Savannah, GA 31412	(912)236-1401	ccac-savannah.org	

ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	PHONE	WEB ADDRESS	EMAIL
Coastal Harbor Treatment Center	1150 Cornell Avenue Savannah, GA 31406	(912)354-3911	coastalharbor.com	
Coastal Risk Reduction & DUI Academy	5912 Hwy. 21 South #7 Westwood Plaza Rincon, GA 31326	(912)826-0447	coastalduiacademy.com	
Durden Consulting Services, LLC	5910 Hwy. 21 South Unit #6 Rincon, GA 31326	(912)988-3649	durdenconsulting.com	
E.O.A. Head start	4752 Hwy 17 South Guyton, GA 31312	(912)728-9621		
East Georgia Counseling Services	110 Rushing Lane, Statesboro, GA 30458	(912)764-7785	eastgacounseling.org	
Effingham County B.O.E. Pre – K Program	Pre – K Program 405 North Ash Street, Springfield, GA 31329	(912)754-5628	effinghamschools.com	
Effingham County High School Social Worker Jackie Brown	Jackie Brown 1589 Hwy. 119 South, Springfield, GA 31329	(912)754-6404 (912)754-6893	effinghamschools.com	
Effingham Head Start Center	434 Wallace Drive Springfield, GA 31329	(912)754-1822		elaines@eoasga.org; alfrediah@eoasga.org
G.L.O.W. Ministries, Inc.	1094 Goshen Road Rincon, GA 31329	(912)663-5806		turnersw63@ad.com
Gateway Behavioral Health Services	108 W 8th St, Rincon, GA 31326	(912) 826 7469	gatewaybhs.org	
Gilead Counseling	207 N. Columbia Ave. #B Rincon, GA 31326	(912)772-307		jcochranphd@gileadcounseling.com
Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia, Inc.	110 Pipemakers Circle Suite 116 Pooler, GA 31322	(912)236-1571	gshg.org	
God's Mission House	1435 Hwy. 119 N. Springfield, GA 31329	(912)754-0840		
Goodwill of the Coastal Empire	410 S. Columbia Avenue Suite B Rincon, Georgia 31326	(912)513-0002	goodwillsavannah.org	
Habitat for Humanity – ReStore	3605 Hwy. 21 South Rincon, GA 31326	(912)826-6433	effinghamhabitat.org	

ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	PHONE	WEB ADDRESS	EMAIL
Hope Christian Concepts	5912 GA Hwy 21 South – Westwood Plaza Unit #7 Rincon, GA 31326	(912)826-0443	hopechristianconcepts.org	
Hospice Savannah, Inc. Full Circle Grief & Loss Center	Full Circle Grief & Loss Center 450 Mall Blvd., Suite H, Savannah, GA 31406	(912)303-9442	HOSPICESAVANNAHH ELPS.org	
HYPE Outreach Ministries, Inc.	P.O. Box 1302 Springfield, GA. 31329	(912) 663- 0145;658-9811	hypeoutreach@yahoo.co m	
Kathy's Daycare	1211 Laurel Street Springfield, GA 31329	(912)754-3742		
Katie McGrory Play Therapist, LPC	711 Zitterour Road Rincon, GA 31326	(912)441-1435	playheals.vpweb.com	
Little Country Daycare and Pre-K School	7951 Hwy. 21 Port Wentworth, GA 31407	(912)964-4532		
Little Tot's Day Care	699 Hwy. 80 West Eden, GA 31307	(912)748-0700		
Manna House Ministries	1210 Patriot Drive Rincon, GA 31326	(912)826-2037	mannahouserincon.org	mannahouse@mannahouserincon. org
Mobile Crisis Response Services	1141 Cornell Avenue Savannah, GA 31405	(912)351-6560		
R & R Group Daycare	203 B. Samuel Small Avenue Guyton, GA 31312	(912)772-4539		
Recovery Place Inc.	835 E. 65th Street Suite 104 Savannah, GA 31405	(912)355-1440 Toll-Free:800-627- 4010	recoveryplace.org	admin@recoveryplace.org
Rincon Recovery & Counseling Center	613 Towne Park Drive West Suite 103, Rincon, GA 31326	(912)826-0918	rinconrecovery.com	info@rinconrecovery.com
South Effingham County High School Social Worker Erin Woodcock	1220 Noel. C. Conaway Road, Guyton, GA 31312	(912)728-7511	effinghamschools.com	
Treutlen House at New Ebenezer	131 Old Augusta Road Central Rincon, GA 31326	(912)754-9797	treutlenhouse.org	treutlenhouse@windstream.net
Twinkle, Twinkle Little Shop	6020 C Highway 21 Rincon, GA 31326	(912)826-6464		

ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	PHONE	WEB ADDRESS	EMAIL
YMCA Pryme – Time	1224 Patriot Drive. Rincon, GA 31326	(912) 826-2199	ymcaofcoastalga.org/ymca/ryme-tyme/ryme-tyme	
Youth Challenge Academy Georgia National Guard	Building 13540 P.O. Box 3610, Fort Stewart, GA 31315	(912)876-1721		
Disability Services				
Armstrong Atlantic State University	11935 Abercorn Street Savannah, GA 31419	(912)344-2576	armstrong.edu	
Asperger's Support Group	Pooler Children's Boutique Pooler, GA	(912)346-4912		
B & B Care Services, INC.	303 Laurel St. Springfield, GA. 31329	(912) 754-0817	bandbcare.com	
BPEY Day Program	806 Towne Park Dr. P.O. Box 1082, Rincon, GA 31326	(912) 826-3883	BPEYGA.com	
Brewton –Parker College	4625 Waters Avenue Savannah, GA 31404	(912)583-2241	bpc.edu	
Caregivers Assistance Program (CAP)	410 Mall Blvd. Suite G Savannah, GA 31406	(912)353-5001 (888)698-2984	coastalccsp.com	
Coastal Home Care	6600 Abercorn St #100 Savannah, GA. 31405	(912) 354-3680	coastalhomecare.us	info@coastalhomecare.us
Department of Labor	5520 White Bluff Road Savannah, GA 31405	(912)356-2773	dol.state.ga.us	
Easter Seals Southern Georgia	6203 Abercorn Street #110 Savannah, GA 31405	(912)353-1993, (912)355-4906, Waycross Office: (912) 283-4691	easterseals.com/southerngeorgia/	
Effingham County Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group	St. Luke Episcopal Church 155 Goshen Road, Rincon, GA 31326	(912)920-2231		
Effingham County Board of Education	405 North Ash Street Springfield, GA 31329	(912)754-6491	effinghamschools.com	
Effingham County Developmental Services	275 First Street Extension Springfield, GA 31329	(912)754-3164		

ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	PHONE	WEB ADDRESS	EMAIL
Faith Equestrian Therapeutic Center, Inc.	243 Appaloosa Way Guyton, GA 31312	(912)728-3728	faithetc.org	info@faithetc.org
Georgia Relay Dial 7-1-1	Customer Service	1-866-694-5824 TTY 1-800-255-0056 Voice 1-800-255-0135 Spanish 1-888-202-3972 Speech to Speech 1-800-202-4082		
Georgia Southern University	1332 Southern Drive Statesboro, GA 30458	(912)478-4636	georgiasouthern.edu	
Goodwill Job Connection	410 S. Columbia Avenue Hwy 21 Rincon, Georgia 31501	(912)513-0001 Ext 2	goodwillsavannah.org/jobconnection/	mnixson@goodwillsavannah.org
Hammers, Hearts and Hands	United Way- Effingham Service Center 711 Zitterour Road, Rincon, GA 31326	(912)826-5300	uwce.org	
Job Corps Atlanta	239 West Lake Ave. NW Atlanta, GA 30314	(404)794-9512	atlanta.jobcorps.gov	
Job Corps Brunswick	4401 Glynco Industrial Park Brunswick, GA 31525	(912)264-8843	brunswick.jobcorps.gov	
Job Corps –Outreach/Admissions Savannah	18 Commerce Place 2nd Floor Savannah, GA 31406	(912)351-0710		
Job Corps Turner Albany	2000 Schilling Ave. Albany, GA 31705	(229)883-8500	turner.jobcorps.gov	
Kicklighter Resource Center, Inc.	7219 Seawright Drive Savannah, GA 31406	(912)355-7633	krcacademy.org	
Living Independence for Everyone, Inc. (LIFE)	5105 Paulsen Street Suite 143-B, Savannah, GA 31405	(912)920-2414		
March of Dimes	6555 Abercorn Street, Suite 117A Savannah, GA 31405	(912)354-5900	marchofdimes.com/Georgia	
Ogeechee Technical College	One Joseph E. Kennedy Blvd. Statesboro, GA 30458	(912)681-5500	ogeecheetech.edu	info@ogeecheetech.edu
Parenting Classes	Cindy Knight	912-754-5623		

ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	PHONE	WEB ADDRESS	EMAIL
Ready2CONNECT	711 Zitterour Road Rincon, GA. 31326	(912) 826-5300 ext. 116	dbradshaw@uwce.org	
ROSS: Innovative Employment Solutions	768 Hwy. 119 South Springfield, GA 31329	(912)754-8179	coastalworkforceservices.org/one-stop-career-centers/	
Royce Learning Center	4 Oglethorpe Professional Blvd. Savannah, GA 31406	(912)354-4047		
Saint Leo University	7426 Hodgson Memorial Dr, Savannah, GA 31406	(912)352-8331	saintleo.edu/education-centers/locations/savannah-education-center.aspx	
Savannah Association for the Blind, Inc.	214 Drayton Street Savannah, GA 31401	(912)236-4473	sabinc.org	info@savannahcbv.org
Savannah Speech and Hearing Center	1206 E. 66th Street Savannah, GA 31404	(912)355-4601	speech-hearing.org	
Savannah State University	3219 College Street. Savannah, GA 31404	(912)358-4338	savannahstate.edu	
Savannah Technical College – Effingham Campus	2890 Hwy. 21 South Rincon, GA 31326	(912)754-2880	savannahtech.edu	
South University	709 Mall Blvd. Savannah, GA 31406	(912)201-8000	southuniversity.edu	
Telamon Corporation	325 South Walnut St. Statesboro, GA 30458	(912)764-6169	telamon.org	
Vocational Rehabilitation Services	117 Savannah Avenue Statesboro, GA 30458	(912)871-1173	gvra.georgia.gov	
Financial Services				
Amerigroup Community Care		(800) 600-4441 (800) 855-2880		www.myamerigroup.com
Consumer Credit Counseling Service of the Savannah Area, Inc.	7505 Waters Avenue Suite C11, Savannah, GA 31406	(912)691-2227	cccssavannah.org	cccs@cccssav.com
Peach State Health Plan		(800) 704-1484 (800)255-0056	pshgeorgia.com	
Social Apostolate	United Way Building 711 Zitterour Road, Rincon, GA	(912) 233-1877		

ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	PHONE	WEB ADDRESS	EMAIL
Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)	United Way- Effingham Service Center 711 Zitterour Road, Rincon, GA 31326	(912)826-5300	uwce.org	
WellCare		(866) 231-1821 (877) 247-6272	georgia.wellcare.com	
Food & Housing Resources				
Abundant Life Church	1541 Hwy. South Springfield, GA 31329	(912)754-3148		
Changing Homelessness	761 Wheaton Street, Savannah, GA 31401	(912)790-3400		
Chatham Savannah Authority for Homeless	761 Wheaton Street, Savannah, GA 31401	(912)790-3400		
Commons Apartments Homes	107 S. Laurel Street Springfield, GA 31329	(912) 754-6091		
Concerted Services Energy Assistance	Hwy. 768 South Springfield, GA 31329	(912)754-6910		
Department of Family and Children Services –Project Share	Project Share 204 Franklin Street, Springfield, GA 31329	(912) 644-5956	dhr.state.ga.us	
Economic Opportunity Authority, Inc	618 W Anderson St, Savannah, GA 31415	(912)238-2960		
Effingham County Dept. of Family & Children Services	204 Franklin Street Springfield, GA 31329	(912)644-5956	dfcs.dhs.georgia.gov/effingham-county-dfcs-office	
Fair Oaks Lane Apartments	401 Lisa Street #200 Rincon, GA 31326	(912)826-2067		
Family Promise of Coastal Empire	2160 GA Highway 21 South, Rincon, GA	(912) 519-0567	effinghamfamilypromise.org	info@effinghamfamilypromise.org
G.L.O.W. Ministries	1094 Goshen Road Rincon, GA 31326	(912)826-3966		
Georgia Department of Community Affairs - Rental Assistance (DCA)	500 Alice Street Waycross, GA 31501	(912)285-6280	dca.state.ga.us/housing/RentalAssistance/index.asp	
Georgia Elder Legal Services	6602 Abercorn Street Suite 203, Savannah, GA 31405	(912)651-2180	glsp.org	

ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	PHONE	WEB ADDRESS	EMAIL
Georgia Legal Service Program	6602 Abercorn Street Suite 203, Savannah, GA 31405	1-888-408-1004	glsp.org	
Gods Mission House	1435 Hwy. 119 N. Springfield, GA 31329	(912) 754-6755		
Goshen Crossing Apartments	121 Goshen Commercial Park Drive Rincon, GA 31326	(912)826-0180		
Habitat for Humanity – Restore	3605 Hwy. 21 South Rincon, GA 31326	(912)826-6433	effinghamhabitat.org	
Habitat for Humanity Effingham County	3605 Hwy. 21 South Rincon, GA 31326	(912)826-6433	effinghamhabitat.org	
Home Buyers Program Georgia Department of Community Affairs	Georgia Department of Community Affairs 500 Alice Street, Waycross, GA 31501	1-800-359-4663		
Housing Authority of Savannah	1407 Wheaton St. Savannah, GA. 31404	(912)235-5800	savannahpha.com	info@savannahpha.com
Mableton Apartments, LLC	Eddy Coleman, Owner	(912) 826-7388		
Pine Manor	511 West 9th Street, Rincon, GA 31326			
Rincon First Christian Church	5835 Hwy. 21 South Rincon, GA 31326	(912)224-2670 (912) 826-2224	rinconfirstchristian.com	
Salvation Army Savannah Corps	3100 Montgomery St, Savannah, GA 31405	(912)651-7420		
Senior Citizen's Center-Effingham	128 New Stillwell Road P.O. Box 445, Springfield, GA 31329	(912) 754-2138	effinghamcounty.org/DepartmentsRW/SeniorCitizensCenter	
Silverwood Place	141 Silverwood Place, Rincon, GA 31326	(912)826-5312		
Spring Hollow Apartments	800 Ash Street Ext. #J53 Springfield, GA 31329	(912)754-9043		
St. Boniface Catholic Church	1952 GA-21 Springfield, GA 31329	(912)754-7473	jobcorps.gov/cdss/OA.aspx	
The Filling Station	109 Lynn Bonds Ave. Guyton, GA 31312	(912)772-3478		

ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	PHONE	WEB ADDRESS	EMAIL
Union Mission, Inc.	120 Fahm St, Savannah, GA 31401	(912)238-2777		
Veranda Village	501 Lisa Street #Cb Rincon, GA 31326	(912)826-6476		
Wesley Community Centers of Savannah, Inc	1601 Drayton St, Savannah, GA 31401	(912)232-0965		
Willowpeg Village Apartments	111 Willowpeg Way Rincon, GA 31326	(912)826-4127		
Health & Human Services				
Amedisys Home Health	907 Lisa Street, Rincon, GA 31326	(866) 204 3028		
Amerigroup	120 N Columbia Ave, Rincon, GA 31326	(912) 623 4966		
B&C Care	PO Box 1040, Springfield, GA 31329	(912)754-0817		
Community Cardiovascular Council	711 Zitterour Road. Rincon, GA 31326	(912) 826 2608		
DJ's Home Care Specialists	112 N. Laurel St, Springfield, GA 31329	(912)396-1276		
Effingham Care and Rehabilitation Center	459 GA-119, Springfield, GA 31329	(912) 754-0210	effinghamhealth.org	
Effingham Health System—Imaging Center	110 Goshen Rd, Rincon, GA 31326	(912) 826 1400		
Family Promise of Effingham	2160 GA Highway 21 South, Rincon, GA	(912) 519 0567		
Habitat for Humanity	P.O. Box 578 Springfield, GA 31329	(912) 826 6433		
Lakeview Manor Retirement Home	728 GA-119, Springfield, GA 31329	(912) 754 3214		
Matthew's Place	532 Mock Road, Springfield, GA 31329	(912) 754 0817		
Odyssey Hospice	810 Towne Park Drive, Rincon, GA 31326	(912) 826 2122		

ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	PHONE	WEB ADDRESS	EMAIL
Serenity Palliative and Hospice Care	5719 GA-21, Rincon, GA 31326	(912) 295 5832		
Shirley's Place	110 Greene Drive, Rincon, GA, 31326	(912) 826 4527		
United Way of the Coastal Empire	711 Zitterour Road. Rincon, GA 31326	(912) 826 5300		
Voa Deer Run Home	102 Deer Road, Springfield, GA, 31329	(912) 754 4118		
Healthcare Providers				
Alda Medical Center	131 Goshen Commercial Park Dr, Rincon, GA 31326	(912) 826-0860		
Aspen Dental	429 S Columbia Ave STE B, Rincon, GA 31326	(912) 667 6762		
Augusta Burn Center	3647 J Dewey Gray Cir, Augusta, GA 30909	(706) 863-9595		
Cardiology Associates of Savannah - Rincon Office	802 Towne Park Dr W, Rincon, GA 31326	(912) 927 3434		
Cardiology Associates of Savannah - Springfield Office	459 Highway 119 South, Springfield, GA 31329	(912) 927 3434		
Curtis V. Cooper Primary Health Center	106 E. Broad Street Savannah, GA 31401	(912)527-1000		
Curtis V. Cooper Primary Health Center	339 W. Bryan Street Savannah, GA 31401 (Routine medical care and prenatal only)	(912) 527-2727		
Curtis V. Cooper Primary Health Center	2 Roberts Street Garden City, GA 31408	(912) 527-1100 (all services except dental & radiology)		
Curtis V. Cooper Primary Health Center	Savannah State University 3219 College Street, Savannah, GA 31404	912-358-4122		
Curtis V. Cooper Primary Health Center Women's Center	Women's Center 5354 Reynolds Street, Savannah, GA 31405	(912) 355-6990		

ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	PHONE	WEB ADDRESS	EMAIL
Effingham County Health Department	802 Hwy. 119 South P.O. Box 350, Springfield, GA 31329	(912)754-6484	gachd.org/counties/effingham_county_health_department_1/	
Effingham Family Medicine at Goshen	100 Goshen Rd., Rincon, GA 31326	(912)826-6000	effinghamhealth.org/physicians	
Effingham Family Medicine at Guyton	3 Hidden Creek Dr, Guyton, GA 31312	(912) 772-8670	effinghamhealth.org/physicians	
Effingham Family Medicine at Port Wentworth	912-966-2575 7306 Hwy. 21, Port Wentworth, GA 31407	(912) 966-2575	effinghamhealth.org/physicians	
Effingham Family Medicine at Rincon	800 Towne Park Dr W #100, Rincon, GA 31326	(912) 826 0052	effinghamhealth.org/physicians	
Effingham Family Medicine at Springfield	1451 GA-21, Springfield, GA 31329	(912) 754 1035	effinghamhealth.org/physicians	
Effingham Health System	459 Hwy 119 South Springfield, GA 31329	(912) 754 6451		
Effingham Medical Partners	1575 GA-21, Springfield, GA 31329	(912) 754 7500		
Effingham Orthopaedics	613 Towne Park Dr W Suite 303-304, Rincon, GA 31326	(912) 826 3111		
Effingham Women's Health	110 Goshen Rd, Rincon, GA 31326	(912) 826-5239	effinghamhealth.org/physicians	
Georgia Skin & Cancer Clinic	800 Towne Park Dr W Suite 400, Rincon, GA 31326	(912) 925 0067		
Good Samaritan Clinic	4707 Augusta Rd Garden City, GA 31408	(912)964-4326	sjchs.org/in-the-community/good-samaritan-clinic	
Howard Family Dental	201 Business Park Dr Suite 101, Rincon, GA 31326	(912) 826 2273		
J.C. Lewis Health Care Center	125 Fahm Street Savannah, GA 31401	(912)495-8887		
Kids First Pediatrics	808 Towne Park Dr W #200, Rincon, GA 31326	(912) 826 0273		

ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	PHONE	WEB ADDRESS	EMAIL
Lynn's Family Practice	802 Towne Park Dr W, Rincon, GA 31326	(912) 826 1220		
Memorial Health University Physicians Family Care – Rincon	241 Silverwood Commerce Dr, Rincon, GA 31326	(912) 826 8802		
Memorial Health University Physicians Women's Care – Rincon	241 Silverwood Commerce Dr, Rincon, GA 31326	(912) 350 5937		
Metro Surgical	594 S Columbia Ave # 100, Rincon, GA 31326	(912) 352 0920		
New Concept Healthcare	1214 N Columbia Ave suite d, Rincon, GA 31326	(912) 826 2132		
Optim Healthcare	810 Towne Park Dr W # 200, Rincon, GA 31326	(912) 826 2533		
Pregnancy Care Center	594 S Columbia Ave, Rincon, GA 31326	(912) 826 1133		
Provident Ob/Gyn Associates	241 Silverwood Commercial Dr, Rincon, GA 31326	(912) 826-8820		
Rincon Medical Center-Urgent Care	119 Chimney Rd, Rincon, GA 31326	(912) 295-5560		
Southcoast Health: Rincon Pediatrics	814 Towne Park Dr W, Rincon, GA 31326	(912) 826 4866		
Southeastern Orthopedic Center	810 Towne Park Dr W # 200, Rincon, GA 31326	(912) 826 2533		
St. Joseph's/Candler Immediate Care	5621 GA-21 S, Rincon, GA 31326	(912) 295 5860		
St. Joseph's/Candler Medical Group - Rincon	423 S Columbia Ave, Rincon, GA 31326	(912) 826 8860		
St. Mary's Community Center	812 W 36th Street, Savannah, GA 31415	(912)443-9409		
Two Rivers Health Clinic	1214 N Columbia Ave suite d, Rincon, GA 31326 2nd and 4th Thursday at 530pm	(912) 527-4984		
VA Outpatient Clinic	1170 Shawnee Street Savannah, GA 31419	(912) 920-0214	va.gov	

ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	PHONE	WEB ADDRESS	EMAIL
Medical & Dental Services				
Adult Sitter: Nina Holata		(912) 344-8554		
American Cancer Society	6600 Abercorn St #206 Savannah, GA 31405	(912)355-1378	cancer.org	
American Cancer Society	4849 Paulsen St, #102 Savannah, GA 31405	(912)355-5196		
Effingham County Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group	St. Luke Episcopal Church 155 Goshen Road, Rincon, GA 31326	(912)920-2231	alz.org	
Effingham Senior Center	128 Stillwell Road Springfield, GA 31329	(912)754-2138	effinghamcounty.org/Dep artmentsRW/SeniorCitize nsCenter.aspx	
Experience Works	10122 Ford Ave., Richmond Hill, GA 31324	(912)756-7708		
Georgia Department of Community Health		DPH (404) 651- 9172 GA Call Center 1-800-436- 7442	dph.georgia.gov	
Georgia Department of Community Health; BCCEDP & WHM		(909) 656-4507	dch.ga.govTransportation	
Georgia Department of Driver Services	2792 Hwy 21 South Rincon, GA 31326	(912)754-1425	dds.ga.gov/SecureID	
Hospice Savannah, Inc.	1352 Eisenhower Drive Savannah, GA 31406	(912)355-2289	HospiceSavannahHelps.or g	
In-Home Support by Senior Citizens Inc.	3025 Bull Street Savannah, GA 31405	(912)236-0363 or (866)579-2116	seniorcitizensinc.org	
Logisticare Solutions LLC	401 Mall Blvd. Suite 202A Savannah, GA. 31406	(912)355-1510 or (888) 224-7988	logisticare.com/index.php	
MedBank	711 Zitterour Rd. Rincon, GA 31326	(912) 356-2898	medbank.org	
Partnership for Prescription Assistance		1-800-981-5851	pparx.org	

ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	PHONE	WEB ADDRESS	EMAIL
Pregnancy Care Center of Rincon	594 S. Colombia Ave. Suite 500 Rincon, GA 31326	(912)826-1133	pregnancycarecenterofrincon.org	
Publix Pharmacy	Port Wentworth Marketplace 7936 GA Hwy 21, Port Wentworth, GA 31407	(912)966-5895		
Together RX Access	P.O. Box 9426 Wilmington, DE 19809	(800)444-4106	togetherrxaccess.com	
United Way –Effingham	Medical Lending Library 711 Zitterour Road., Rincon, GA 31326	(912)826-5300		
Mental & Behavioral Health				
Gateway Behavioral Health Services	108 W 8th St, Rincon, GA 31326	(912) 826 7469		
Grow U	272 S, Columbia Ave. Rincon GA 31326	(912) 665 1935		
Heritage Counseling	1009 N Columbia Ave, Rincon, GA 31326	(912) 373-6864		
Horizon Behavioral Health, P.C.	595 Towne Park Dr W Ste 200, Rincon, GA 31326	(912) 785 2100		
Parent and Child of Union Mission	711 Zitterour Rd., Rincon	(912) 826 6442		
Rincon Recovery Resources	5946 Hwy 21 South Rincon, GA 31326	(912) 826 0918		
South Eastern Counselling Center	135 Goshen Rd. Ext. Suite 256 Rincon	(912) 826 1145		
Southeastern Counseling Center	812 Towne Park Dr W, Rincon, GA 31326	(912) 826 1145		
Others				
YMCA	1224 Patriot Drive Rincon, GA 31326	(912) 826 2199		

ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	PHONE	WEB ADDRESS	EMAIL
Transportation				
Coastal Regional Coaches of Georgia	127 F. Street Brunswick, GA 31520	(866)543-6744 or (912)262-2800	coastalregionalcoaches.com	
Concerted Services	Hwy 119 S, Springfield GA, 31329	(912) 754 6910		
Effingham County EMS	285 1st Street Ext, Springfield, Ga 31329	911 for emergencies, After Hours Dispatch: (912) 754.8119		
Effingham County Hospital Heliport	Springfield, GA 31329	(912) 754-6451		
Get 2 It	632 Old Tusculum Road Springfield, GA 31329	(912)754-6160	theget2it.com	
LifeStar Georgia Air Ambulance	285 First Street Ext, Springfield, GA 31329	(855) 359-5433		
Package Taxi Service	220 Everett Rd, Guyton, GA 31312	(912) 547-2229		
Utility Assistance				
ActionPact	Springfield, GA 31329	(912)754-6910		
Concerted Services	Hwy 119 S, Springfield GA, 31329	(912) 754 6910		
Dept. of Family & Children Services	204 Franklin St. Springfield, GA 31329	(912) 754 6471		
Georgia National Guard Family Support Foundation	1000 Halsey Ave, Bldg 447, Marietta, GA 30060	(678) 569-5704		
Hope Christian Concepts	5912 GA Hwy 21, South - Westwood Plaza, Unit #7, Rincon, GA 31326	(912) 826 0443		
Manna House Ministries	Patriot Park. Rincon, GA 31326	(912) 826 2037		
New Providence Baptist Church	106 Church Street, Guyton, GA 31312	(912) 772-3590		

ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	PHONE	WEB ADDRESS	EMAIL
United Way of the Coastal Empire	711 Zitterour Road. Rincon, GA 31326	(912) 826 5300		

