

EFFINGHAM HEALTH SYSTEM

Community Health Needs Assessment & Implementation Plan



2025





June 25, 2025

The Effingham Health System Board of Directors approved the 2025 Community Health Needs Assessment and Implementation Plan at their meeting on June 24, 2025. The Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) Report is widely available to the public, and interested parties can view and download the report from the hospital website www.effinghamhealth.org. Hard copies are available upon request. Please contact LaMeisha Hunter, Executive Director of Strategic Business Development and Governmental Relations at lemeisha.hunter@effinghamhospital.org or 912-754-0174.

Sincerely,

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

Patricia Ann Yarbrough, Board Chairman
Effingham Health System

Quality Healthcare *Close to Home.*

THE ASSESSMENT WAS PREPARED BY:

CENTER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE & RESEARCH

Faculty members: Bettye A. Apenteng, Ph.D
Samuel T. Opoku, MBChB, PhD
Charles Owens, MSA

Students: Kirsten Mengell, MPH
Marie Curtis
Blerta Shehaj, MPH, DrPH

With the assistance of:

EFFINGHAM HEALTH SYSTEM HOSPITAL STEERING COMMITTEE

Member	Position
Dr. Fran Witt	Chief Executive Officer, Effingham Health System (EHS)
LaMeisha Hunter	Executive Director, Strategic Business Development and Government Relations, EHS
Victoria Glover	Executive Management Project Liaison, EHS
Saliyah Garvin	Student Intern, EHS

COMMUNITY STEERING COMMITTEE

Member	Organization	Member	Organization
Wanda McDuffie	Effingham EMS	Katrina Bostick	Family Promise of Coastal Empire
Elaine Spencer	Family Connection	Dr. Amber Fordham	Two River Health Center
Kim Dennis	United Way	Cynthia Grovenstein	Coastal Health District
Destiny Bradshaw	Ready2Connect	Laura Hunnewell	Effingham County Board of Education
Corey Michelle Drayton	Top Ladies of Distinction, Effingham Chapter	Gladys Smalls	Community Member
Lula Seabrooks	Parent University	Ronald Smith	Effingham YMCA
Thomas Lonon	Effingham NAACP		

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF FIGURES.....	5
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	6
PREVIOUS NEEDS ASSESSMENT (2022).....	9
REPORT METHODOLOGY.....	10
HOSPITAL AND SERVICE AREA.....	11
SECONDARY DATA ANALYSIS.....	12
DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE.....	12
PAST POPULATION GROWTH.....	15
PROJECTED POPULATION GROWTH	15
ECONOMIC PROFILE	16
EDUCATION.....	17
SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY CONTEXT.....	17
NEIGHBORHOOD AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT	18
HEALTH CARE ACCESS	20
LIFESTYLE AND BEHAVIOR.....	21
HEALTH OUTCOMES.....	21
TOP 10 CAUSES OF DEATH 2019-2023.....	22
<i>Progress on Selected Indicators.....</i>	23
SECONDARY DATA SUMMARY.....	24
COMMUNITY SURVEY	25
DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS.....	25
HEALTH STATUS.....	26
HEALTH BEHAVIORS.....	28
<i>Smoking, Nutrition, and Physical Activity</i>	28
<i>Preventative Screening</i>	31
COMMUNITY PERCEPTIONS.....	33
<i>General Community Perception</i>	33
<i>Community Perception Concerning Hospital Services</i>	34
<i>Community Perception Concerning Health and Quality of Life</i>	35
HEALTH CARE ACCESS	39
<i>Insurance Coverage and Usual Source of Care.....</i>	39
<i>Barriers to Health Care Access.....</i>	41
COMMUNITY FOCUS GROUPS.....	45
EMERGING THEMES.....	45
PRIORITIZATION OF COMMUNITY NEEDS & IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING.....	52
PREVIOUS IMPLEMENTATION PLAN	52
2026-2028 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN	53
2025-2028 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN	54
HEALTHCARE RESOURCE LISTING.....	57

Table of Figures

Figure 1. Population Diversity by Census Tract (2020)	13
Figure 2. Proportion of Residents 65 years and older by Census Tract (2018-2022)	13
Figure 3. Proportion of Residents with Disability by Census Tract (2018-2022)	14
Figure 4. Veteran Population by Census Tract (2018-2022)	14
Figure 5. Estimated percent of all people that are living in poverty as (2018-2022).....	16
Figure 6. Proportion with High School Diploma and no college (2018-2022).....	17
Figure 7. Low Access to food tracts, as of 2019	18
Figure 8. Risk of lead exposure in 2016-2020	19
Figure 9. Toxic Releases to Air EJ Index 2024.	19
Figure 10. Location of Health Facilities.....	20
Figure 11. Life expectancy at birth, as of 2010-2015.....	21
Figure 12. Self-Reported Health Status.....	27
Figure 13. Most Common Chronic Conditions	27
Figure 14. Smoking Behavior	28
Figure 15. Fruit and Vegetable Consumption.....	29
Figure 16. Fruit and Vegetable Consumption Non-Compliance Reasons	29
Figure 17. Physical Activity Recommendations.....	30
Figure 18. Physical Activity Non-compliance Reasons	30
Figure 19. Colon Cancer Screening	31
Figure 20. Prostate Cancer Screening.....	32
Figure 21. Breast Cancer Screening.....	32
Figure 22. Cervical Cancer Screening	33
Figure 23. Community Perceptions	34
Figure 24. Community Perceptions Concerning Health Care Services.....	35
Figure 25. Perceptions Concerning Factors Affecting the Quality of Life in the Community.....	36
Figure 26. Substance Abuse Problems.....	36
Figure 27. Causes of Mortality and Morbidity	37
Figure 28. Negative Influences on Community Health.....	38
Figure 29. Negative Influences on Children's Health	38
Figure 30. COVID-19 Community Impact	39
Figure 31. Insurance Coverage.....	40
Figure 32. Usual Source of Care	40
Figure 33. Sources of Health Information.....	41
Figure 34. Barriers to Healthcare Access.....	41
Figure 35. Specific Barriers to Healthcare Access	42
Figure 36. Adequacy of Health Specialists	43
Figure 37. Most Needed Specialties	43

Executive Summary

Using a mixed-methods approach described below for this assessment, the Georgia Southern University CPHPR team utilized community input and data from secondary sources to identify the health needs of the community that the hospital serves – the hospital’s primary service area of Effingham County, Georgia, which is the home to the majority of the patients utilizing Effingham Health System. 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 to assess the community’s needs were obtained from diverse community health-related databases. Note that no written comments have been received since the previous assessment.

The results from the secondary data analyses identified:

- In 2023, there were approximately 73,148 residents in Effingham County. Compared to the state of Georgia, the population of Effingham County is slightly younger and less racially and culturally diverse than the state.
- The county's population increased by 31 % between 2013 and 2023.
- The population of Effingham County is expected to increase by approximately 19 % by 2035.
- Only 58% of the county’s residents have access to exercise opportunities.
- Only 7% have limited access to healthy foods (compared to 10%)
- Thirteen percent of residents are still uninsured
- Poorer health outcomes, compared to the rest of the state; high cancer rates, and lower average life expectancy in the county compared to the state.
- Limited supply of primary care, dental, and mental health providers

Input from the community, through the survey and focus groups, was generally consistent with findings from the secondary data analysis. Community members and key stakeholders described Effingham County as a tight-knit, safe, and family-oriented community, with the availability of good jobs as the biggest challenge. Other themes from these data sources included:

- Appropriate county infrastructure is identified as the top factor affecting quality of life.
- Diabetes, heart disease and cancer are noted as key health challenges facing the community.
- Inadequate nutrition, mental health issues, and internet use stood out as the three negative influencers of child health.
- Limited access to specialty providers included neurology, cardiology and endocrinology.

Compared to the 2022 CHNA, improvements were noted in several key indicators, including indicators of healthcare access.

Secondary data agreed with survey and focus group findings in several areas of community health challenges. The figure below highlights where alignment exists in the data by area of concern.



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: Poor nutrition, obesity, physical inactivity	✓	✓	✓
Health Behaviors: Substance Use	✓	✓	✓
Access to Resources (transportation)	○	○	✓
Health Coverage Affordability Issues (high uninsured or underinsured rates)	○	✓	✓
Access Barriers (provider shortages difficulty getting appointments)	✓	✓	✓
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 steering committee prioritized the community health needs to be addressed within the next three years. **Areas of need identified to be of high importance included expanding health access, addressing mental health and substance abuse, improving transportation and improving chronic conditions outcomes through community education and outreach.** The steering committee identified all these as issues to prioritize in the 2025 CHNA cycle, except for transportation. The hospital's capacity to address transportation was limited and it was deemed to be an initiative more appropriately led by local government.

The final prioritized needs reflected those prioritized by community members. Goals, objectives, and actions to address the priority areas were developed and documented. The top needs and goals prioritized by the CHNA Steering Committee based were as follows:

Priority Area One: Health Access

Goal 1: To mitigate access barriers to health system services within Effingham County.

Objective 1: Continue expansion efforts to improve access to specialty and surgical services within Effingham County through physician recruitment initiatives for additional specialties such as urology, neurology and endocrinology.

Objective 2: Develop and implement patient education and operational process improvement activities to mitigate barriers to accessible, affordable and timely care in all EHS clinics and practices.

Priority Area Two: Mental Health and Substance Abuse

Goal: To expand access to mental health and substance abuse services and resources within Effingham County.

Objective: Expand existing partnership with the board of education and create new partnership with local FQHCs, and other community partners to implement tele-behavioral and other needed behavioral health services within the community.

Priority Area Three: Community Education and Outreach

Goal: To enhance community health education and improve health outcomes within Effingham County.

Objective 1: Increase knowledge and awareness of chronic disease prevention and management strategies for leading chronic conditions within the community.

Objective 2: Track and monitor community health outcomes data to drive the creation of centers of excellence that meet the needs of the community.

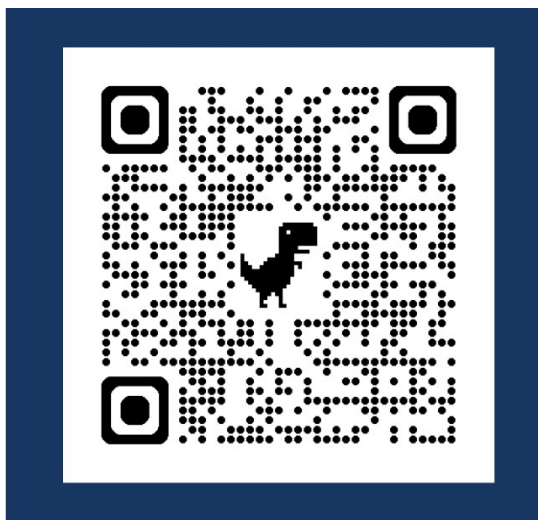
Previous Needs Assessment (2022)

Brief Summary of 2022 CHNA

Findings from the previous (2022) CHNA revealed a growing, increasingly diverse and economically stable community in Effingham County. However, the county had limited access to recreational opportunities, transportation, and digital connectivity. Health behaviors, including substance use, obesity, and physical inactivity were worse compared to the state. The county also experienced poorer health outcomes, including high cancer rates, and lower life expectancy.

Input from the community via the survey and focus groups found documented limited access to affordable health care coverage, limitations with access to health care services and a high burden of substance abuse and mental health disorders within the community.

Accordingly, the CHNA steering committee prioritized healthcare access, mental health and substance abuse and community health awareness as areas of focus for FY 2023-2025.



[Link: 2022 CHNA Report](#)

Previous Health Priorities

Top Concerns based on Primary & Secondary Data

Substance Abuse
Access to Recreation Resources
Access to Healthcare
Mental Health
Obesity/Physical activity
Community health education

Prior Implementation Plan

Previous Goals

The steering committee established the following goals after prioritizing identified needs:

1. Expand access to mental and behavioral health care in the Effingham County Community
2. Expand access to medical care in the Effingham County Community
3. Enhance community health awareness in the Effingham County Community

Report Methodology

Hospital Steering Committee

The CPHPR project team worked with the hospital's CHNA steering committee throughout the project **to identify the health needs of Effingham County - the community served by the Effingham Health System**. The steering committee facilitated the completion of a community survey, recruited community members for focus group discussions, and provided information about the hospital's activities to address community health needs since the last CHNA was completed in 2022.

Primary Data Collection

Community input was obtained from a community survey and focus groups. Recruitment efforts aimed at obtaining diverse community representation.

Community Survey

The online community survey assessed the general quality of life, health and healthcare needs of the people residing in the primary service area of Effingham Health System, which is Effingham County, Georgia. The community survey link was disseminated via the hospital's social media webpages and email lists, as well as those of local community partners.

Focus Groups

Focus group participants represented key stakeholder groups in maintaining the overall health of Effingham County and **included representation from the local health department**. Their perspectives provided a well-rounded view of life in the community, as well as opportunities for improvement.

Secondary Data Collection

The secondary data on the community's profile, health care access, and utilization were obtained from multiple publicly available sources including the US Census Bureau, the Health Resources and Services Administration's Area Resource File, Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Georgia's OASIS, County Health Rankings, Policy Map, and the National Cancer Institute. The most current available data for each source were obtained during analysis.

Findings from all the above-described data collection efforts informed the identification of community health needs in preparation for developing an implementation plan.

Data Analysis and Visualization

Quantitative data from the community survey and secondary data sources were analyzed using descriptive statistics, including frequencies, means, and standard deviations. Analyses were completed, and charts and graphs were created using R.4.5.0 software and the 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 NVIVO14 qualitative analysis software.

HOSPITAL AND SERVICE AREA

Effingham County is in the southeastern part of Georgia, located northwest of Savannah and southwest of Atlanta. The county also shares its eastern border with South Carolina. The county seat is Springfield, where the hospital is also located.

The County has several parks with baseball diamonds and river access for boating. The County's economy is supported by manufacturing, logistics and distribution, construction, and technical services.

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, nursing home, and rehabilitation services, the hospital serves the community through the following services: inpatient, emergency department, outpatient clinics, laboratory and imaging services. The hospital is a Level IV Trauma Center staffed by Board Certified Emergency Medicine specialists, handling about 18,000 patient visits a year. An in-hospital surgery center, which includes da Vinci Robotic Surgery technology, performs over 2,000 annual surgeries and offers da Vinci Robotic Surgery technology. The facilities outpatient imaging center has an in-house MRI, and 64-Slice CT Scan capabilities. Effingham Health System also has four family medicine locations (serving 22,000 patients) and a women's health specialty clinic.



In addition to providing pediatric services and school-based telemedicine in partnership with other health organizations, the hospital also provides cancer, cardiology, and orthopedic services. Most 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.**

CHNA Report Organization







This report presents the findings of the 2025 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), beginning with findings from secondary data analysis. Community input from the survey and focus groups follow. Discussion of the prior CHNA cycle implementation plan is next. Prioritization of needs to be addressed in the next three years and implementation planning is discussed after. Finally, a Community Resource Listing for health-related needs can be found at the end of the report.

SECONDARY DATA ANALYSIS

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

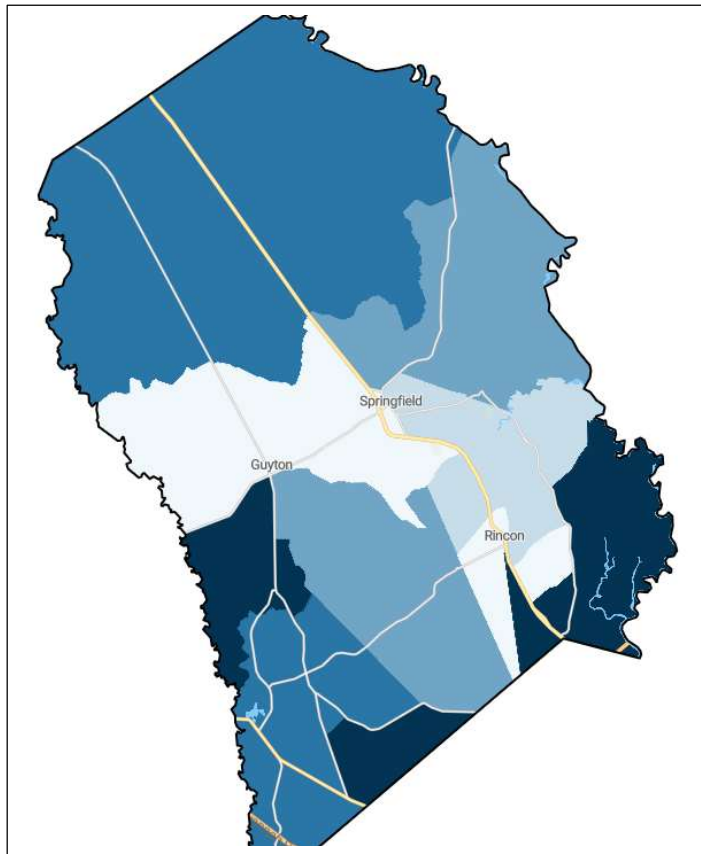
In 2023, there were approximately 73,148 residents in Effingham County. Compared to the state of Georgia, the population of Effingham County is slightly younger and less racially and ethnically diverse than the state. About 8 percent of the population live with disabilities and 8 percent are veterans.

Effingham County is slightly younger and less racially and ethnically diverse than the state.

	Effingham	Georgia
 Population		
Number of Residents (2023)	73,148	11,180,878
 Sex		
Female	50%	51%
Male	50%	49%
 Age Distribution		
Population Under 5 years	6%	6%
Population Under 18 years	26%	23%
Population 65 years and older	13%	15%
 Racial and Cultural Diversity		
White	73%*	50%
Black/AA	16%*	33%
Other Races/Multiracial	4%	6%
Hispanic	7%*	11%
Foreign Born (2019-2023)	3%*	10%
Non-English Language Spoken at Home	4%	15%
 Veterans		
Veteran Population (2019-2023)	8%	6%
 Disability		
Population under 65 years disabled	8%	9%

*Significantly higher than the state average

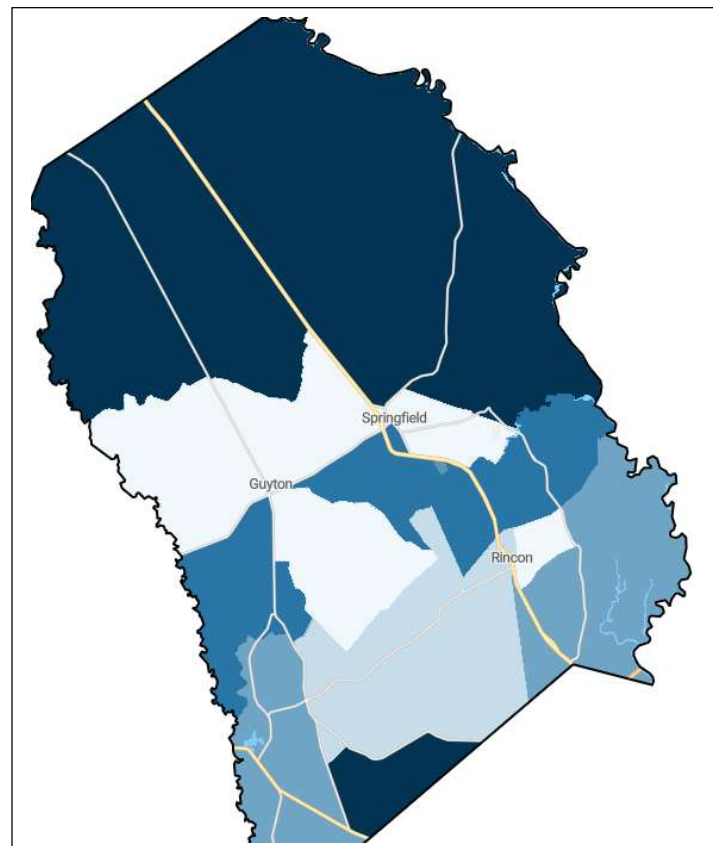
Figure 1. Population Diversity by Census Tract (2020)



Predominant Race (% White), 2020. Data Source: Census. *(The darker the color the higher the proportion)*

The county is less racially diverse compared to the state, especially in the southwestern part of the County (Figure 1).

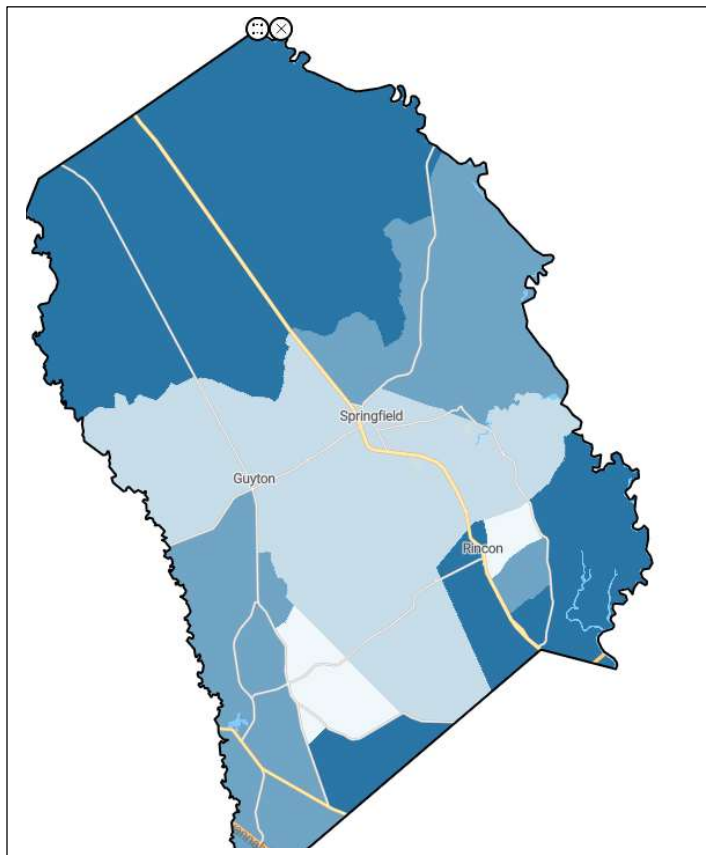
Figure 2. Proportion of Residents 65 years and older by Census Tract (2018-2022)



Estimated percent of all people 65 or older, 2018-2022. Data Source: Census. *(The darker the color the higher the proportion)*

Residents in the northern part of the County are older, relative to the rest of the County (Figure 2).

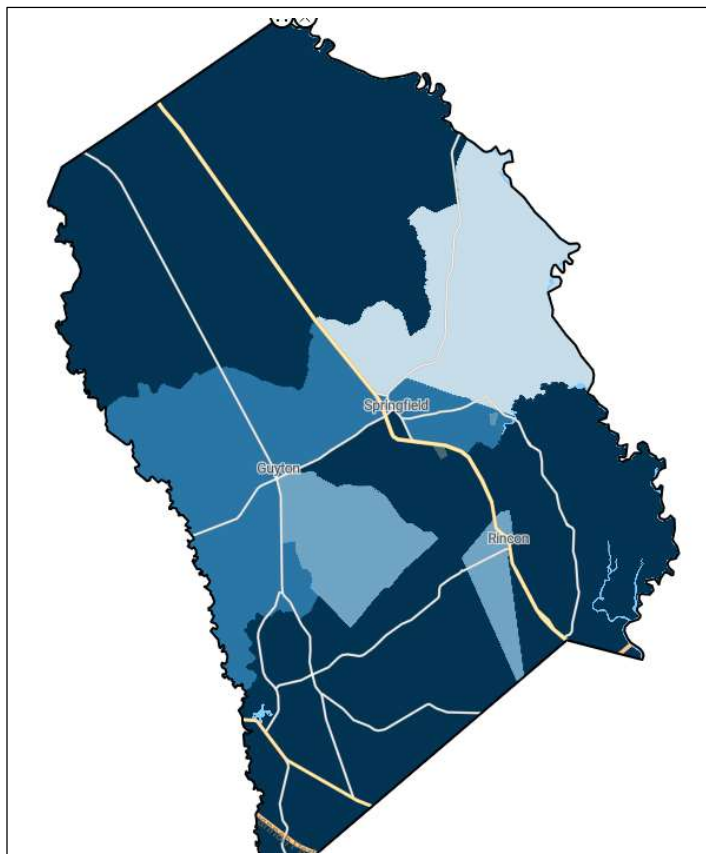
Figure 3. Proportion of Residents with Disability by Census Tract (2018-2022)



Proportion of Individuals Living with One or More Disabilities, 2018-2022. Data Source: Census (*The darker the color the higher the proportion*)

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

Figure 4. Veteran Population by Census Tract (2018-2022)



Proportion of Veterans, 2018-2022. Data Source: Census. (*The darker the color the higher the proportion*)

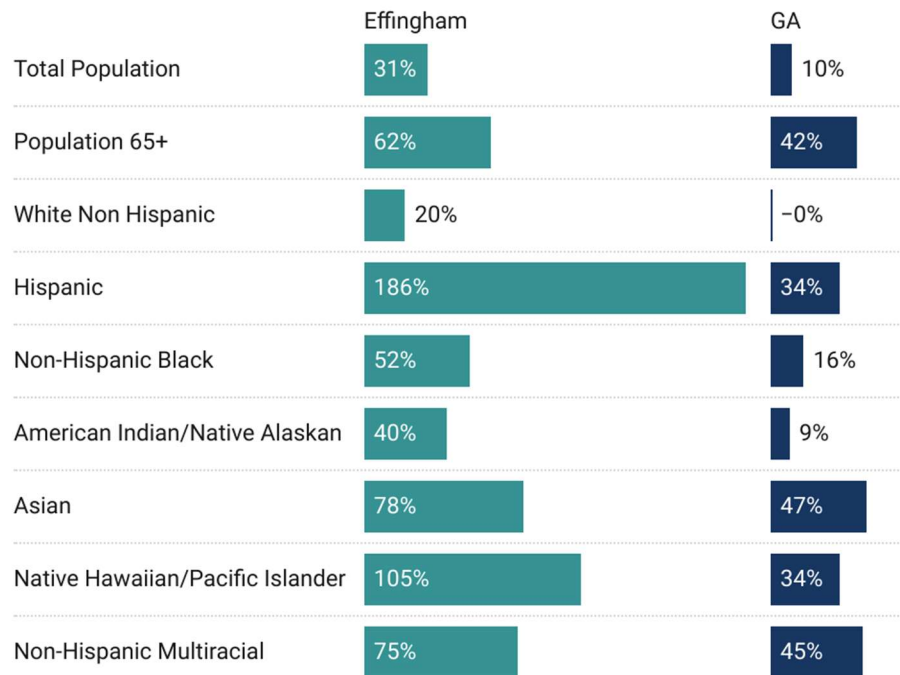
The proportion of veterans is significantly higher in Effingham compared to other Counties at 12% overall. The northern census tract had 11%, while some of the southern tracts were as high as 19%.

PAST POPULATION GROWTH

The county's population increased by 31 % between 2013 and 2023. The county saw growth in the Hispanic, non-Hispanic Black, American Indian or Native Alaskan, Non-Hispanic Multiracial, Asian and Non-Hispanic White populations.

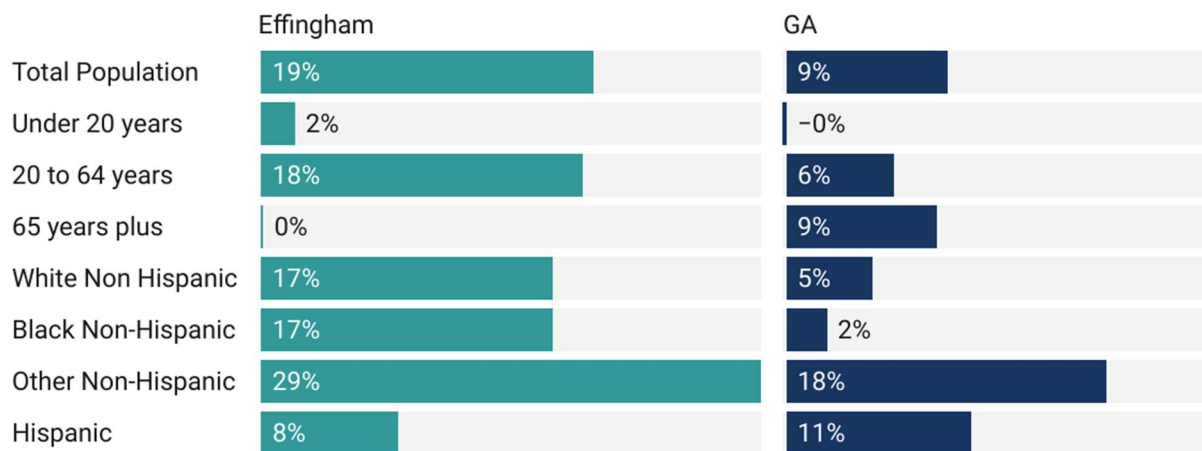
Data Source: Online Analytical Statistical Information System (OASIS)

Percent Population Change, 2013-2023



PROJECTED POPULATION GROWTH

Percent Projected Population Change, 2025-2035



The population of Effingham County is expected to increase by approximately 19 % by 2035, based on projections by the Georgia Governor's Office of Planning and Budget. The projected population increase is expected to significantly higher among 20–64-year-olds, and Non-Hispanic Populations.

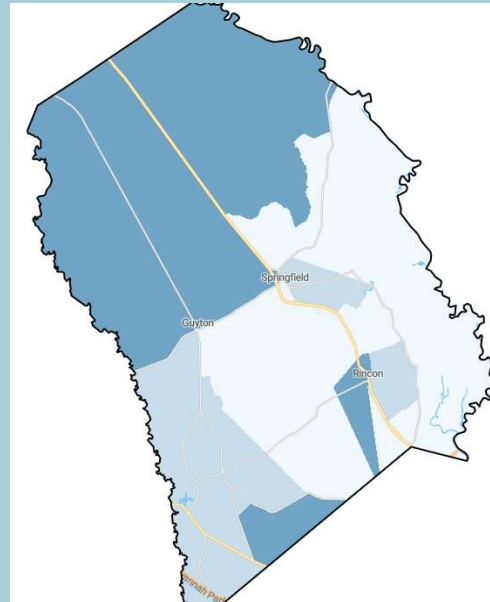
Data Source: Georgia Governor's Office of Planning and Budget




ECONOMIC PROFILE

Compared to the rest of the state, Effingham County's economic conditions are generally favorable. The county's median household income (\$79,474) is higher than the state (\$71,355) and only about 8.6% of Effingham residents and 10% of children live in poverty. The county's unemployment rate of 3.2% is similar to the state rate of 3.3%.

Compared to other counties in the state, Effingham had significantly lower poverty. However, geographic variations exist within the county. The map to the right displays the estimated percentage of all people living in poverty in Effingham from 2018 to 2022. There are higher pockets of poverty in the northern and southern parts of the county.

Figure 5. Estimated percent of all people that are living in poverty as (2018-2022) Data Source: Census



	Effingham	GA
Economy		
 Real GDP Growth Rate (2021-2022)	5.9	5
Real GDP Annual Growth Rate (2022-2023)	4.9	1.9
Job Growth Rate (2021-2022)	4.9	2.6
Labor Force Representation		
 Unemployment Rate (2024)	3.2%	3.3%
Labor Force Representation (2018-2022)	79%	77%
Male Labor Force Representation (2018-2022)	85%	82%
Female Labor Force Representation (2018-2022)	72%	73%
Poverty		
 Median Household Income (2023)	\$79,474	\$71,355
Population in Poverty (2018-2022)	8.6%	14%
Children in Poverty (2018 -2022)	10%*	17%
Children eligible for reduced lunch (2018-2022)	37%	56%

*Significantly different compared to the state average

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

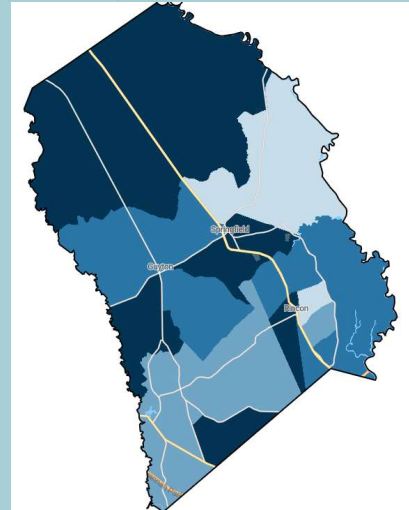
EDUCATION


Effingham County performs similarly and slightly better than the state on most education indicators. The county fairs well in early education, with 55% of children, 3-4 years enrolled in preschool, compared to the state rate of 48%. Third graders also outperform the state on standardized tests.

While the high school graduation rate of about 90% is slightly higher than the state rate of about 89%, only approximately 25% of the county's population holds a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to approximately 34% in the state.

As seen on the map to the right, educational attainment vis highest in varies geographically, with the northern tract of the county having a higher proportion of the population with a high school diploma, but no college education.

Figure 6. Proportion with High School Diploma and no college (2018-2022)




	Effingham	GA
 Education		
3–4-year-old children in school (2018-2022)	55%*	48%
English grade performance for 3rd graders (2018)	3.3*	3
Math grade performance for 3rd graders (2018)	3.1	2.9
High school graduation rate	90%	89%
Percent population with bachelor's degree	25%*	34%

*Significantly different compared to the state average Data Sources: County Health Rankings, US Census Bureau

SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY CONTEXT

County residents have fewer social associations. Compared to the state, there are approximately 6 membership associations in the county per 100,000 population (vs. 9 membership associations per 100,000 at the state level). Suicide rates are also higher in the county (18 per 100,000) compared to the state level(14 per 100,000).

	Effingham	GA
 Households	22,820	3,946,490
Average persons per household	2.9	2.7
Social Associations per 100,000	6*	9
Suicide rates per 100,000	18*	14

*Significantly different compared to the state average Data Sources: County Health Rankings, US Census Bureau

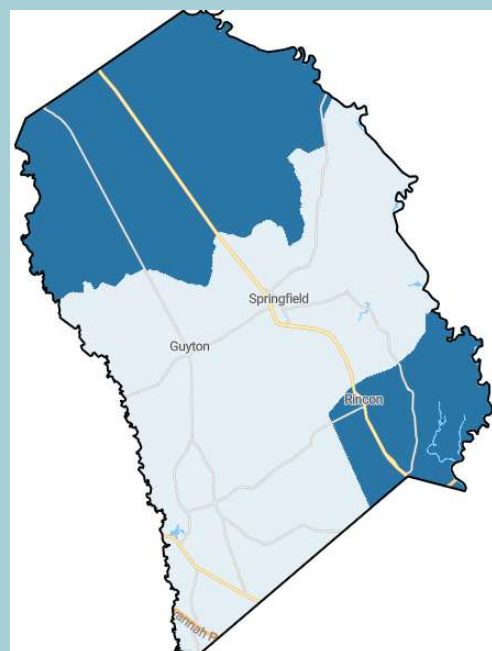
NEIGHBORHOOD AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT





Effingham County residents are less digitally connected (82%) compared to the state (89%). About six out of ten (58%) of the county's residents have access to exercise opportunities, compared to 75% at the state level.

The residents, however, have a better food environment than the state (food environment index of 8.5 out of 10 vs. a state index of 6.4), with a lower percentage of residents experiencing limited access to healthy foods (7% compared to state rate of 10%). Overall, housing is more affordable for renters and homeowners in Effingham than in the state.

As of 2019, 30% of census tracts in the county were designated as a “low access to foods” tract, having about 33% of the population living far from grocery stores. These tracts were located in the northern and southeastern corner of the county.

Figure 7. Low Access to food tracts, as of 2019

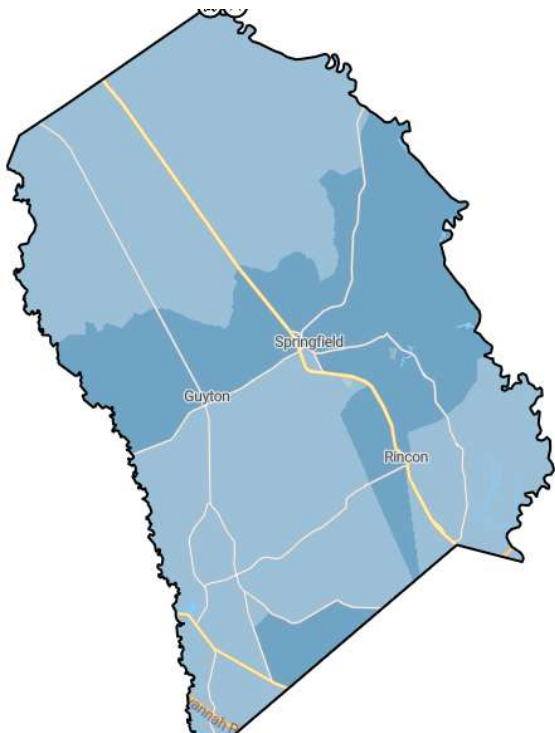


	Effingham	Georgia
 Access		
Adults with broadband internet	82%	89%
 Food and Exercise		
Limited access to healthy foods	7%*	10%
Food environment index (1 worst; 10 best)	8.5*	6.4
Experiencing food insecurity	8%*	11%
Access to exercise opportunities	58%*	75%
 Housing		
Percent of homes owned	77%**	65%
Families >50% of income on housing	8%	14%
Median gross rent	\$1,098	\$1,221
Median monthly owner costs (including mortgage)	\$1,562	\$1,640
 Pollution		
Air pollution – particulate matter	9.1	9.4

*Significantly different compared to the state.

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

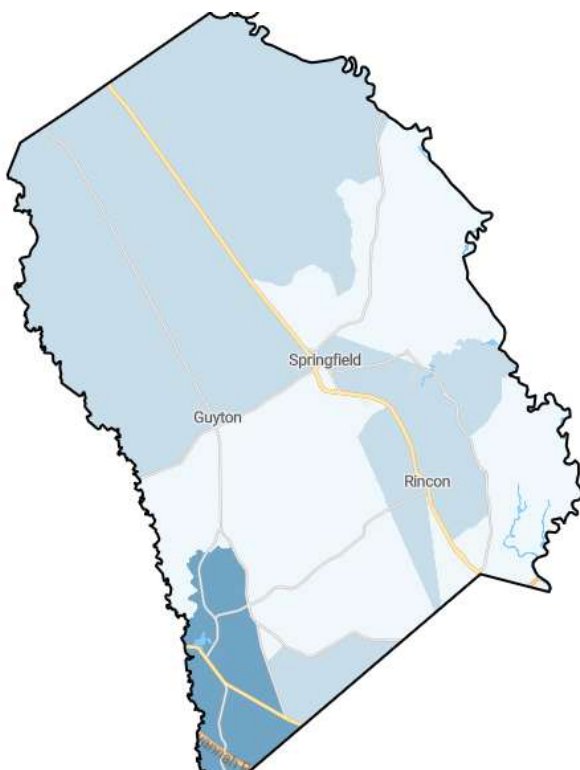
Figure 8. Risk of lead exposure in 2016-2020



Risk of lead exposure in 2016-2020. Data Source: PolicyMap & The Washington State Department of Health. *(The darker the color the higher the proportion)*

Effingham's lead exposure is overall low, with slightly higher values around the major cities, Guyton, Springfield and Rincon.

Figure 9. Toxic Releases to Air EJ Index 2024.



Poor Air Quality Index, 2016-2020. Data Source: PolicyMap *(The darker the color the higher the proportion)*

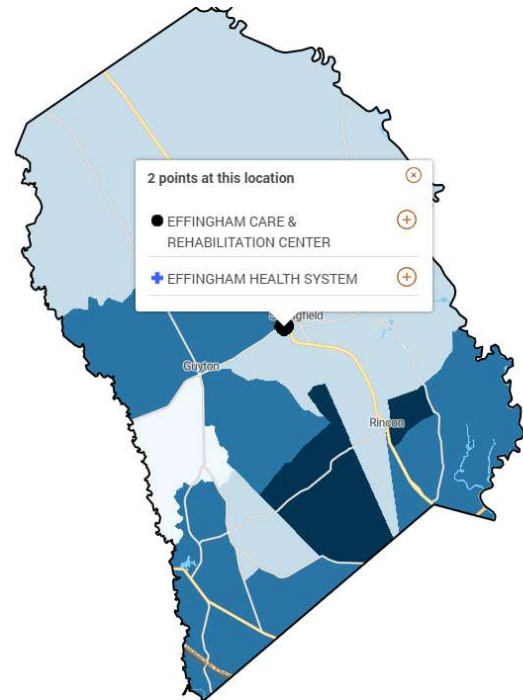
Effingham's poor air quality index is overall fairly low, with higher rates of air pollution occurring in the southwest corner of the county.

HEALTH CARE ACCESS

Compared to the state, the County experiences significantly higher shortages of some health professionals, including dentists, and mental health providers. At 13%, the proportion of uninsured residents is lower than the state rate of 17%. Preventable stays among Medicare enrollees are lower in Effingham compared to the state. Lower preventable stays serve as a proxy measure for improved primary care access.

Within the county the healthcare facilities are located centrally, around Springfield. Effingham has one hospital, Effingham Health System and one nursing facility, Effingham Care and Rehabilitation Center. There are no drug and alcohol treatment facilities in the county but there are a few in neighboring counties.

Figure 10. Location of Health Facilities



blue plus = hospital, black circle = nursing facility,
blue inverted triangle = drug and alcohol treatment

	Effingham	Georgia
Health Insurance Coverage		
Percent under 65 years Uninsured	13%*	17%
Provider Supply		
Population to One Primary Care Physician	1,150	1,520
Population to One Dentist	6,280*	1,860
Population to One Mental Health Provider	1,920*	560
Primary Care and Prevention		
Preventable Hospital Stays per 100,000 Medicare Enrollees	2,275*	3,076
Mammogram Screening Rates	43%	41%

*Significantly different compared to state average

Data Sources: County Health Rankings, Policy Map

LIFESTYLE AND BEHAVIOR

Effingham is doing better than the state overall with respect to sexual risk behavior, with significantly lower STDs and fewer teen pregnancies per 1000 teens. Compared to the state, the county has a slightly higher adult excessive drinking rate, alcohol-involved driving deaths and obesity rates. The rate of physical inactivity and smoking are the same as the state overall.

		Effingham	Georgia
	Suboptimal Lifestyle Behaviors		
	Adult smoking rate	16%	16%
	Adult excessive drinking rate	18%	17%
	Percent driving deaths with alcohol involvement	31%*	20%
	Adult obesity rate	38%	34%
	Adult physical inactivity rate	23%	23%
	Sexual Risk Behaviors		
	STD infection rates per 100,000	402*	629.1
	HIV prevalence rate per 100,000 population	164*	657
	Teen pregnancy rates per 1000 female teens	18	20

*Significantly different compared to the state average

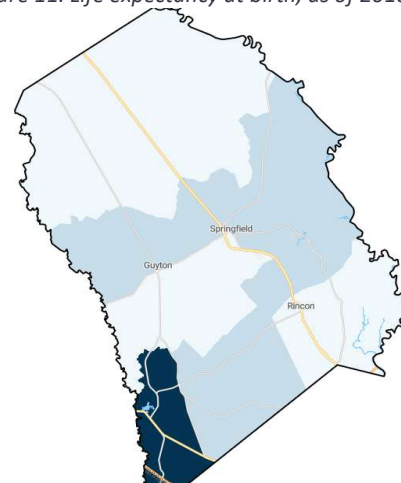
Data Source: County Health Rankings,




HEALTH OUTCOMES

Effingham County's average life expectancy is 75.6, slightly below the state's average of 76.1. Within the county, life expectancy from birth varies, ranging from 74.6 to 82, with the highest life expectancy occurring in the southwestern corner of the county.

Premature deaths in Effingham are slightly higher than the state overall, but the county has a similar proportion of residents reporting poor physical and mental health compared to the state. Rates of diabetes and low birth weights are slightly lower than the state.

Figure 11. Life expectancy at birth, as of 2010-2015.



		Effingham	Georgia
	Disease Burden		
	Cancer incidence rates per 100,000 population	515.9*	463.8
	Adult diabetes prevalence rate %	10%	11%
	CVD hospitalization per 1000 Medicare (2019-2021)	60.0*	71.5
	Diabetes	10%	11%
	Low birth rate	9%	10%
	Self-Reported Health Outcomes		
	Percent adults reporting poor or fair health	15%	18%
	Percent adults reporting frequent mental distress	16%	15%
	Mortality Indicators		
	Life Expectancy (2019-2021)	75.6	76.1
	Premature (under 75yrs) Death Rate per 100,000	470	440






*Significantly different compared to the state average

TOP 10 CAUSES OF DEATH 2019-2023

The top three leading causes of death in Effingham County are Ischemic Heart and Vascular Disease, COVID-19, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). The rates of lung cancer, the 4th leading cause of death in the county is significantly higher than the state.

Cause	Effingham Rank	Georgia Rank
Ischemic Heart and Vascular Disease	1	1
Covid-19	2	2
All COPD Except Asthma	3	4
Trachea, Bronchus and Lung Cancers	4	7
Hypertensive Renal, and Hypertensive Heart Disease	5	5

Progress on Selected Indicators

		Prior CHNA (2022)	Current CHNA (2025)	Progress
	Social and Economic Context			
	Percent children in poverty	12%	10%	→
	Unemployment rate	2.9%	3.2%	←
	High school graduation rate	88%	90%	→
	Social associations per 10,000	7	6	←
	Environment			
	Percent population with access to exercise opportunities	63%	58%	←
	Percent population food insecure	9%	8%	→
	Health Care Access			
	Uninsured adults (%)	14%	13%	→
	Primary care providers to population	4,440	1150	→
	Proportion of people to Dentists	7,140	6,280	→
	Proportion of people to mental health providers	2,300	1,920	→
	Health Behaviors			
	Obesity rate	43%	38%	→
	Physical inactivity rate	32%	23%	→
	Smoking rate	20%	16%	→
	Teen pregnancy rate (per 1000 teen females)	23	18	→
	Health Outcomes			
	Percent reporting poor or fair health	17%	15%	→
	Low birth weight rate	9%	9%	—
	Diabetes prevalence	7%	10%	←
	Life Expectancy (2019-2021)	76.5	75.6	←
	Premature (under 75yrs) death rate per 100,000	430	470	←

← worsened — stable → improved

Data source: County Health Rankings.

SECONDARY DATA SUMMARY



Top Causes of Mortality (2024)

Cause	Rank
Ischemic Heart and Vascular Disease	1
Covid-19	2
All COPD Except Asthma	3
Trachea, Bronchus & Lung Cancers	4
Hypertensive Renal, and Hypertensive Heart Disease	5

Demographics. In 2023, there were approximately 73,148 residents in Effingham County.

- Compared to the state of Georgia, the population of Effingham County is slightly younger and less racially and culturally diverse than the state.
- The county's population increased by 31 % between 2013 and 2023 and is expected to increase by approximately 19 % by 2035.

Economy. Compared to the rest of the state, Effingham County's economic conditions are generally favorable. Housing is also overall more affordable for renters and homeowners in the county compared to the state.

- The county's unemployment rate of 3.2% is lower than the state rate of 3.3%.
- The median household income (\$79,474) is also higher than the state (\$71,355)
- Only about 8.6% of Effingham lives in poverty, and 10% of children live in poverty.

Education. Effingham County performs similar and slightly better than the state in most education indicators.

- However, the high school graduation rate of about 90% is slightly higher than the state rate of about 89%, only approximately 25% of the county's population holds a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to approximately 34% for the state.

Health Outcomes and Access to Health-Promoting Resources. Since the 2022 CHNA, the county has improved on its performance on several health behaviors, and health access indicators. However, opportunities for improvement exists.

- Effingham's average life expectancy is 75.6 slightly below the state at 76.1.
- The uninsured rate is lower than the state. However, compared to the state, the County has significantly higher shortages of health professionals, including primary care physicians, dentists, and mental health providers.
- While the food environment is favorable, only 58% of the county's residents have access to exercise opportunities.

COMMUNITY SURVEY

Four hundred and sixty-three surveys were completed either partially or fully.

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS

Most survey respondents were female (90.4%), Non-Hispanic White (73.6%), aged under 65 years (94.9%), married or partnered (74%), and employed (95.8%), with at least a bachelor's degree (59%). The majority reported an annual household income above \$100,000 (40%) (Table 1).

Table 1. Demographic Characteristics of Survey Respondents

Characteristic	N	N (%)
Sex	365	
Female		330 (90.4%)
Male		32 (9.6%)
Age	364	
18-24		7 (1.9%)
25-34		48 (13%)
35-44		108 (30%)
45-54		117 (32%)
55-64		66 (18%)
65-74		14 (3.8%)
75+		4 (1.1%)
Race	394	
White		290 (73.6%)
Black or African American		60 (15.2%)
American Indian or Native Alaskan		7 (1.8%)
Asian		5 (1.3%)
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander		2 (0.5%)
Hispanic		14 (3.6%)
Other		16 (4.1%)
Marital Status	364	
Divorced		44 (12%)
Married/Partnered		270 (74%)
Other		2 (0.5%)
Separated		8 (2.2%)
Single/Never Married		28 (7.7%)
Widowed		12 (3.3%)
Education	364	
Bachelor's degree		89 (24%)
Graduate or advanced degree		128 (35%)

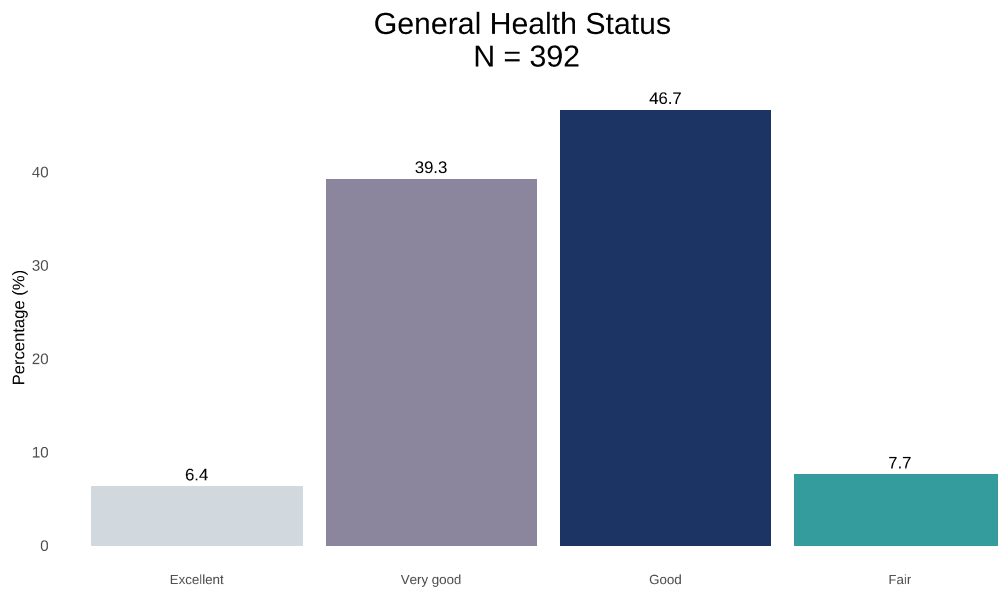
Characteristic	N	N (%)
High school graduate or GED		31 (8.5%)
Some college or associate degree		116 (32%)
Household Income	362	
\$20,001-\$40,000		22 (6.1%)
\$40,001-\$60,000		45 (12%)
\$60,001-\$80,000		46 (13%)
\$80,001-\$100,000		52 (14%)
Above \$100,000		143 (40%)
Below \$20,000		5 (1.4%)
Don't know/Prefer not to say		49 (14%)
Employment Status	365	
Full-time		336 (92%)
Part-time		14 (3.8%)
Retired		13 (3.6%)
Unemployed		2 (0.5%)
Home Ownership	365	
No		70 (19%)
Yes		295 (81%)
Access to Transportation	367	
No		3 (0.8%)
Yes		364 (99%)

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

HEALTH STATUS

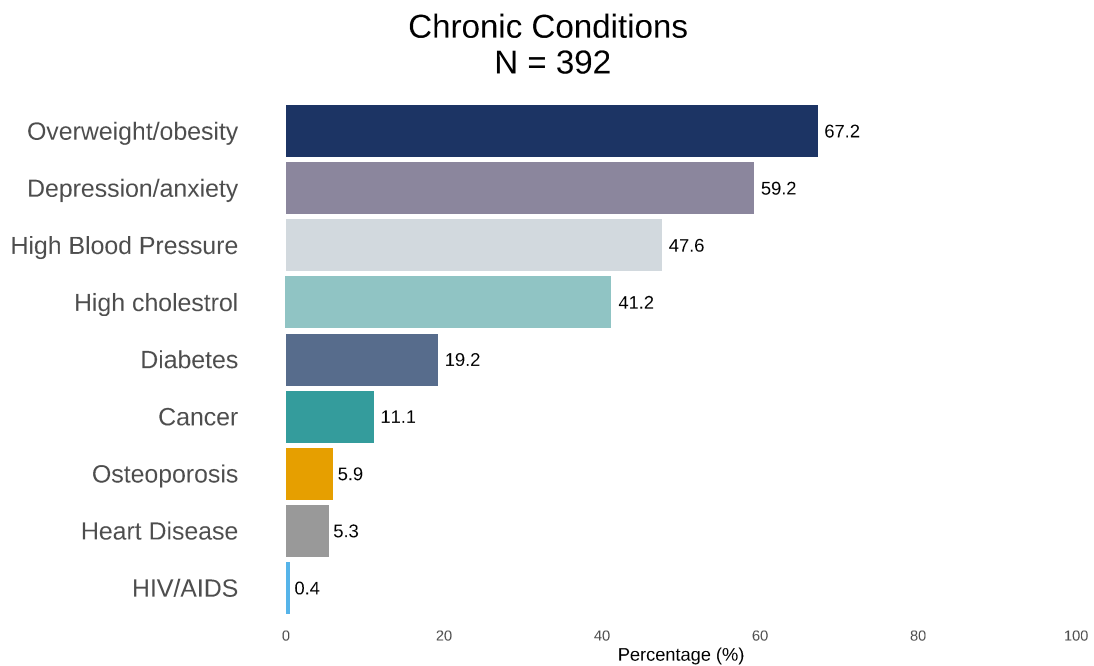
- About five of ten survey respondents (45.7%) described their health as very good or excellent (Figure 12).
- The most common chronic conditions that respondents reported included overweight or obesity (67.2%), depression or anxiety (59.2%), and high blood pressure (47.6%) (Figure 13).

Figure 12. Self-Reported Health Status



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

Figure 13. 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, seven percent (7%) reported using tobacco products (Figure 14).
- About five out of ten respondents (45.4%) reported eating the recommended five servings of fruits and vegetables daily (Figure 15).
- Among those not adhering to recommended fruit and vegetable intake guidelines, about half (48%) indicated that they could do so because the produce went bad before consumption or that they didn't think of it (42%) (Figure 16).
- Similarly, about five out of ten respondents (53%) stated that they met daily recommended physical activity guidelines of 30 minutes per day, five times per week (Figure 17).
- Among those who did not meet the guidelines, most indicated that they did not get this much activity because they were too tired to exercise (64.4%), or they didn't have enough time to exercise (62.2%) (Figure 18).

Figure 14. Smoking Behavior

Do you currently use tobacco products?
N = 389

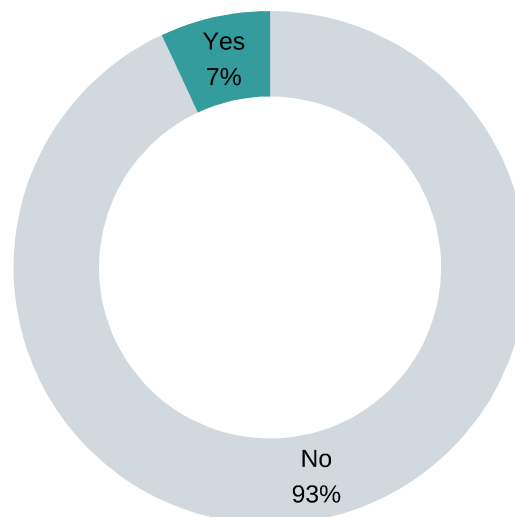


Figure 15. Fruit and Vegetable Consumption

Do you eat at least 5 servings of fruits and vegetables a day?
N = 379

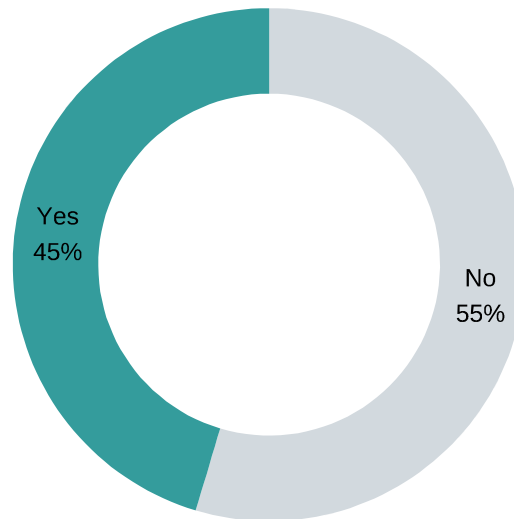
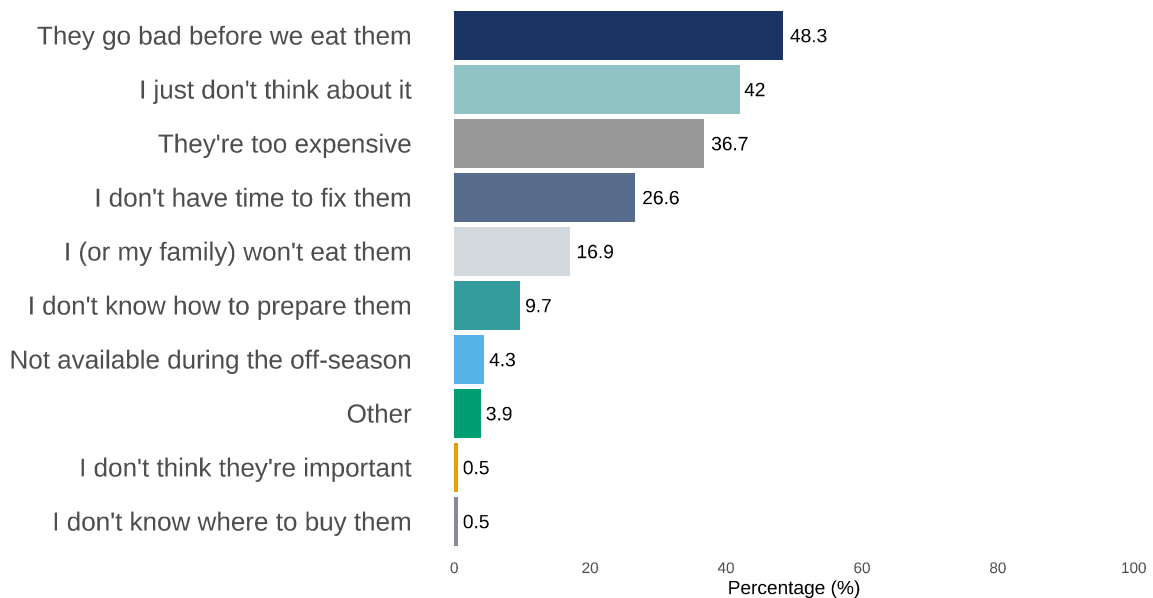


Figure 16. Fruit and Vegetable Consumption Non-compliance Reasons

Reasons for Inadequate Consumption of Fruits and Vegetables
N = 207



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

Figure 17. Physical Activity Recommendations

Do you currently get at least the recommended amount of physical activity
(30 minutes per day, 5 days per week (total of 2.5 hours per week)?
N = 387

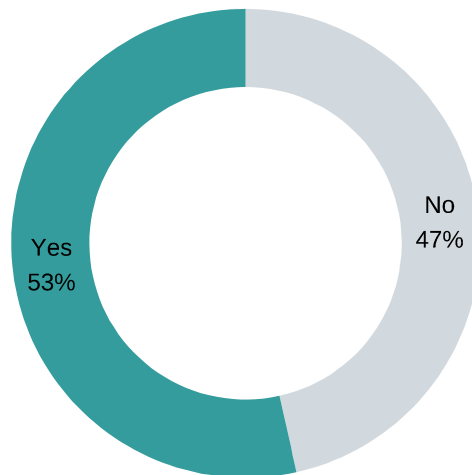


Figure 18. Physical Activity Non-compliance Reasons

Reasons for Lack of Adequate Physical Activity N = 180



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 45 years and older who responded to a question regarding colon cancer screening reported having ever received a colonoscopy (Figure 19).
- 40% of male respondents over 40 years had discussed prostate cancer screening with their healthcare provider (Figure 20).
- About eight out of ten (81%) female respondents 40 years and older reported receiving annual mammograms (Figure 21).
- Similarly, the majority (85%) of females 21 years and older reported receiving a pap smear at least every five years (Figure 22).

Figure 19. Colon Cancer Screening

If you are 45 years or older, have you ever had a colonoscopy?
N = 229

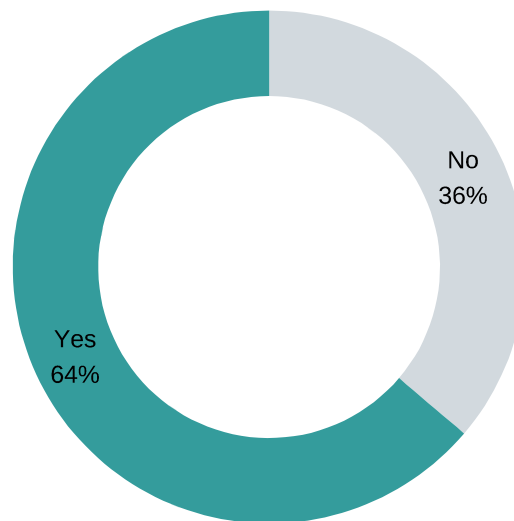


Figure 20. Prostate Cancer Screening

If you are a male over the age of 40, have you had a discussion with your healthcare provider about prostate cancer screening?
N = 45

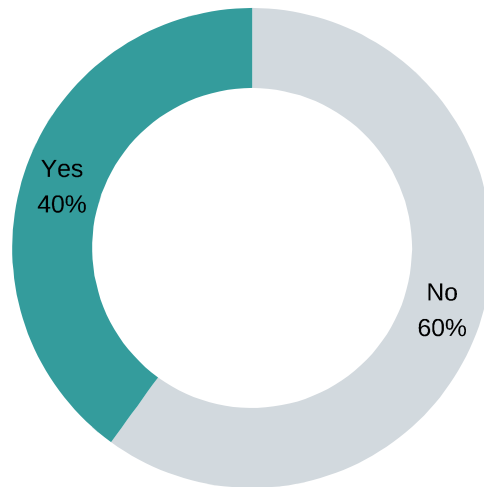


Figure 21. Breast Cancer Screening

If you are a female and 40 years or older, do you have an annual mammogram?
N = 250

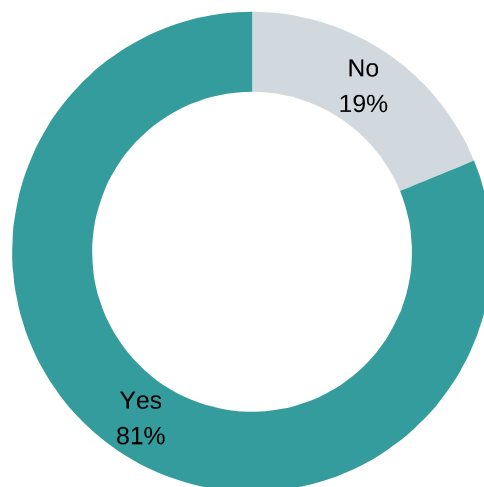
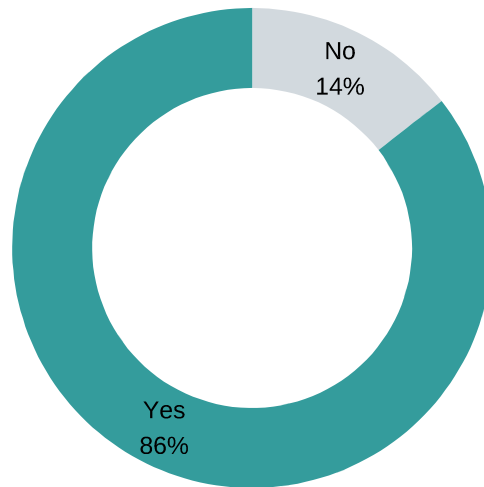


Figure 22. Cervical Cancer Screening

If you are female and over 21, do you have a pap smear at least every 5 years?
N = 338



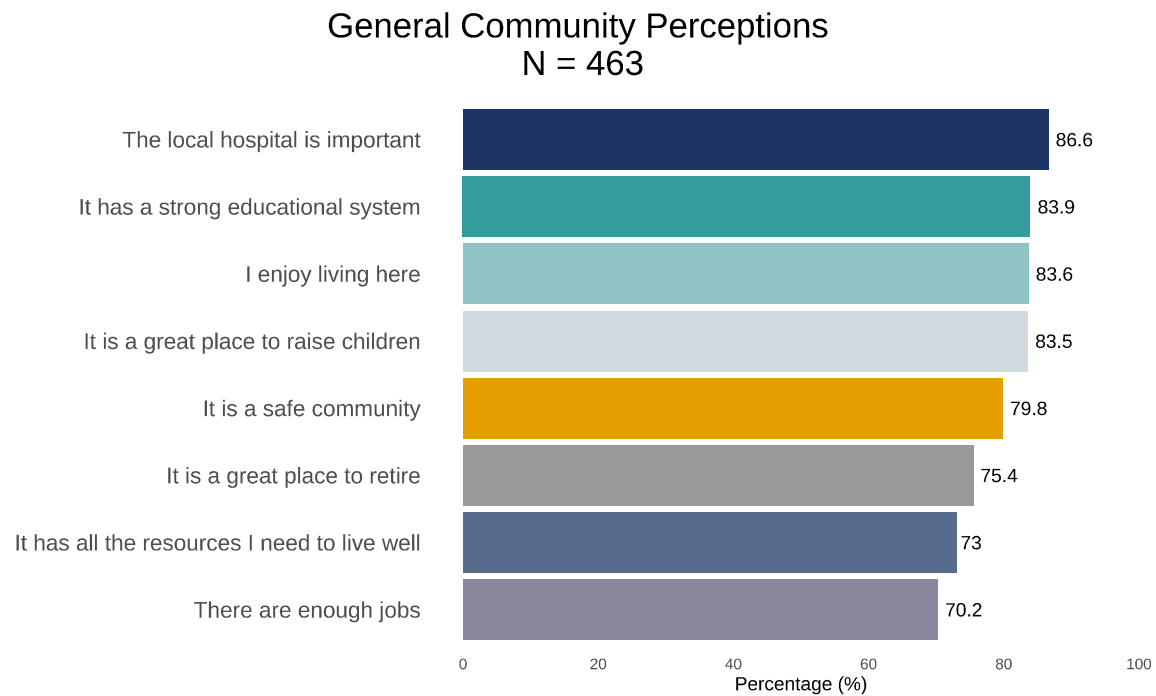
COMMUNITY PERCEPTIONS

General Community Perception

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

- About eight out of ten (83.6%) respondents strongly agreed or agreed that they enjoyed living in the community.
- About eight out of ten (83.5%) strongly agreed or agreed that the community was a great place to raise children. A similar proportion (83.9%) described the community as having a strong educational system.
- About seven out of ten respondents (70.2%) felt there were enough jobs.
- A majority of respondents (86.6%) strongly agreed or agreed that the local hospital was important (Figure 23).

Figure 23. Community Perceptions



We report a valid percentage for each statement based on the respective sample size.

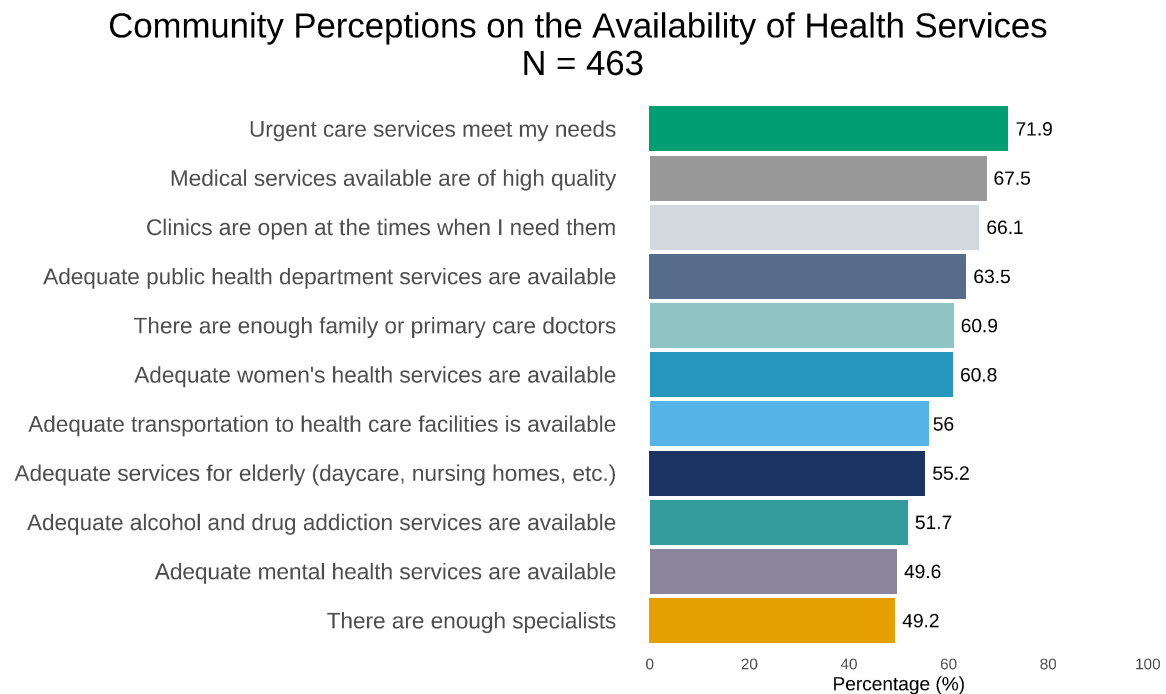
*Represents the average sample size for all statements.

Community Perception Concerning Hospital Services

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

- Respondents noted inadequacies in alcohol and drug addiction services, transportation services, mental health services, and the supply of specialists, with only about half of respondents describing the availability of these services as adequate (Figure 24).

Figure 24. Community Perceptions Concerning Health Care Services



We report valid percentage for each statement based on the respective sample size.

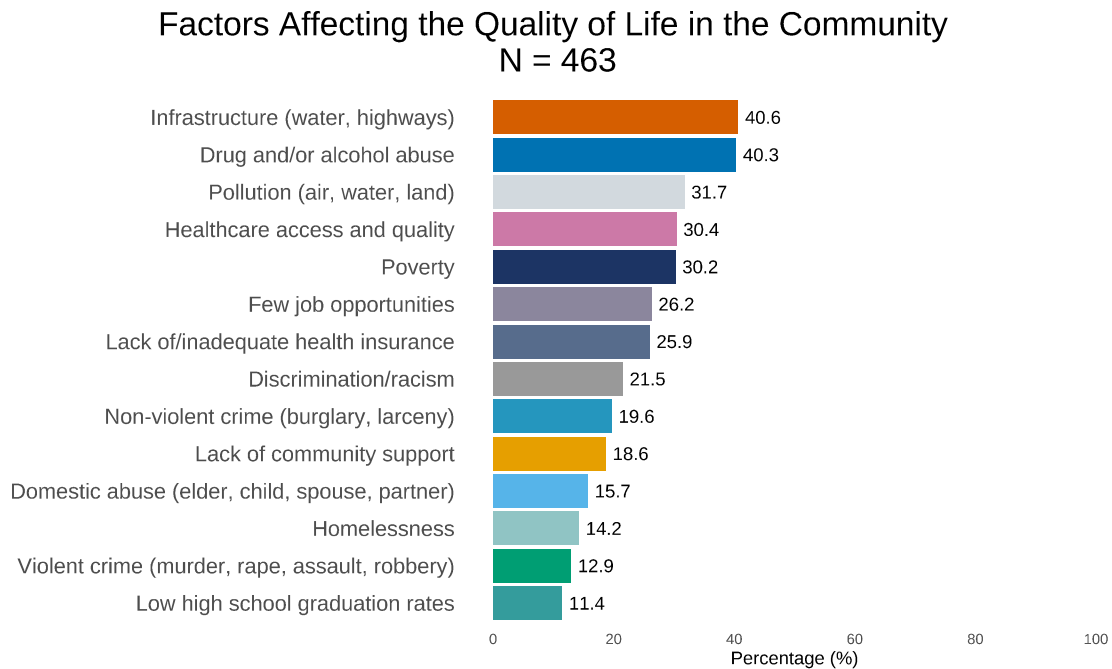
*Represents the average sample size for all statements.

Community Perception Concerning Health and Quality of Life

Quality of Life

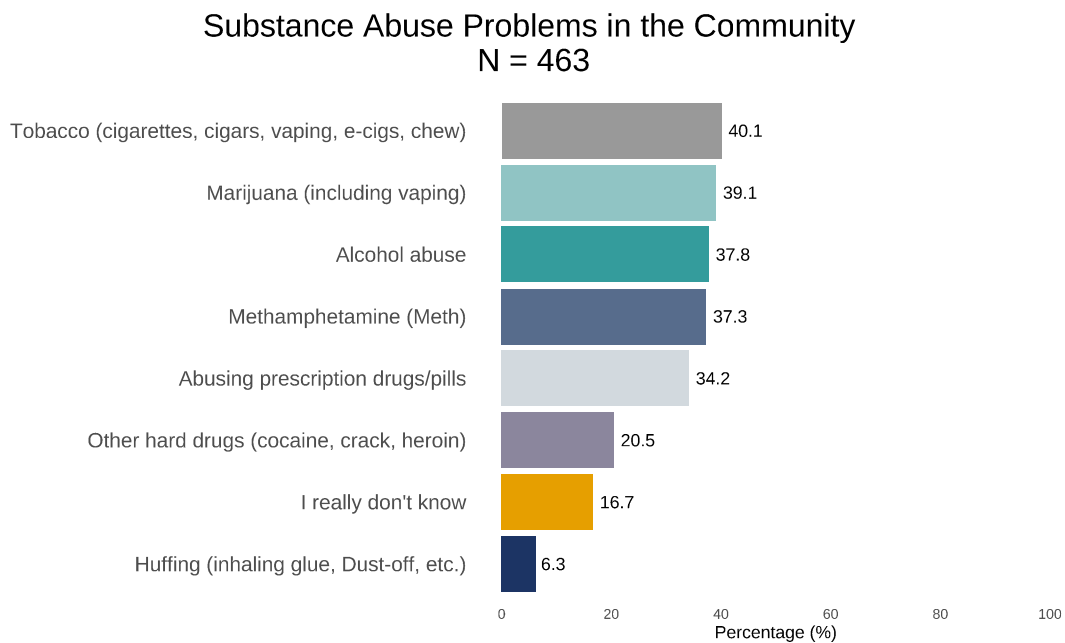
- Respondents identified infrastructure (40.6%) followed by drug and/or alcohol abuse (40.3%), as the most significant factors affecting the quality of life in the community (Figure 25).
- Pollution, healthcare access and quality and poverty rounded out the top five concerns (Figure 25).
- Concerning substance abuse in the community, tobacco was identified as the most abused substance, followed by marijuana and alcohol, respectively (Figure 26).

Figure 25. 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 26. Substance Abuse Problems

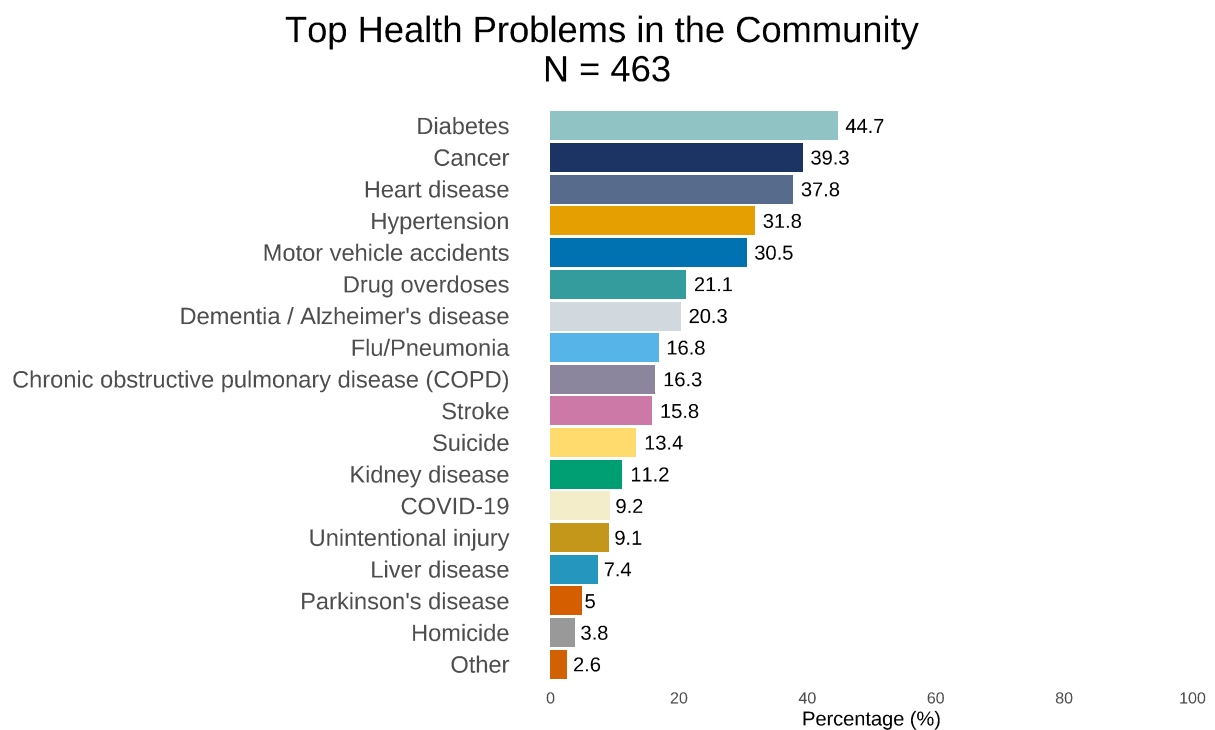


Note: Participants could choose more than one response option. Hence, percentages may not add up to 100.

Causes of Morbidity and Mortality

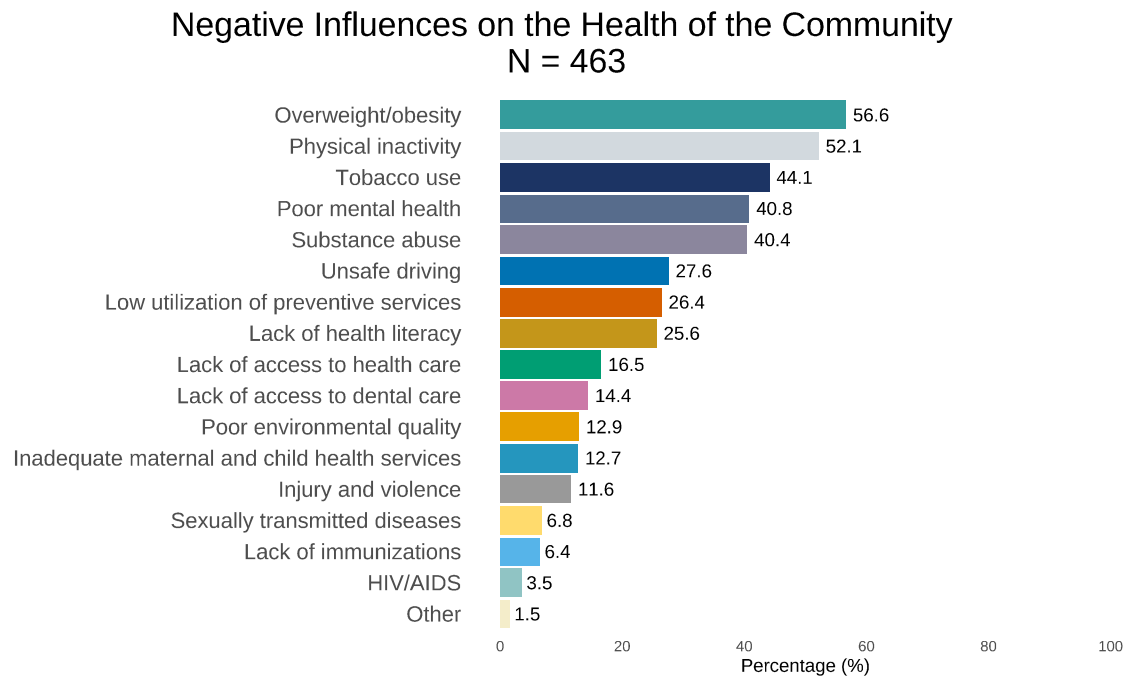
- The survey respondents identified diabetes, cancers, and heart disease as the top three causes of mortality and morbidity in the community (Figure 27).
- Obesity/overweight, physical inactivity, and tobacco use were identified as the top three negative influences on health in the community (Figure 28).
- Improper nutrition, mental health issues, and internet use were identified as the top three negative influences on children's health (Figure 29).
- With respect to COVID-19, respondents identified financial stress (43.1%), mental health issues (41.3%) and social isolation (39.4%), and as the top three issues exacerbated by the pandemic (Figure 30).

Figure 27. Causes of Mortality and Morbidity



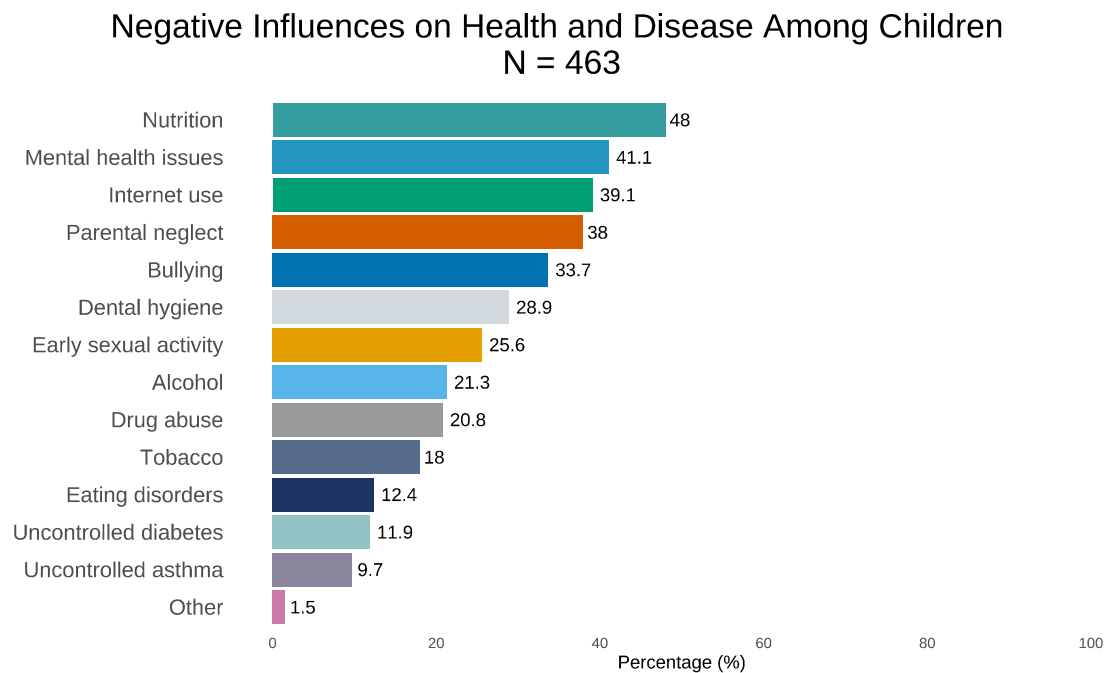
Note: Participants could choose more than one response option. Hence, percentages may not add up to 100.

Figure 28. Negative Influences on Community Health



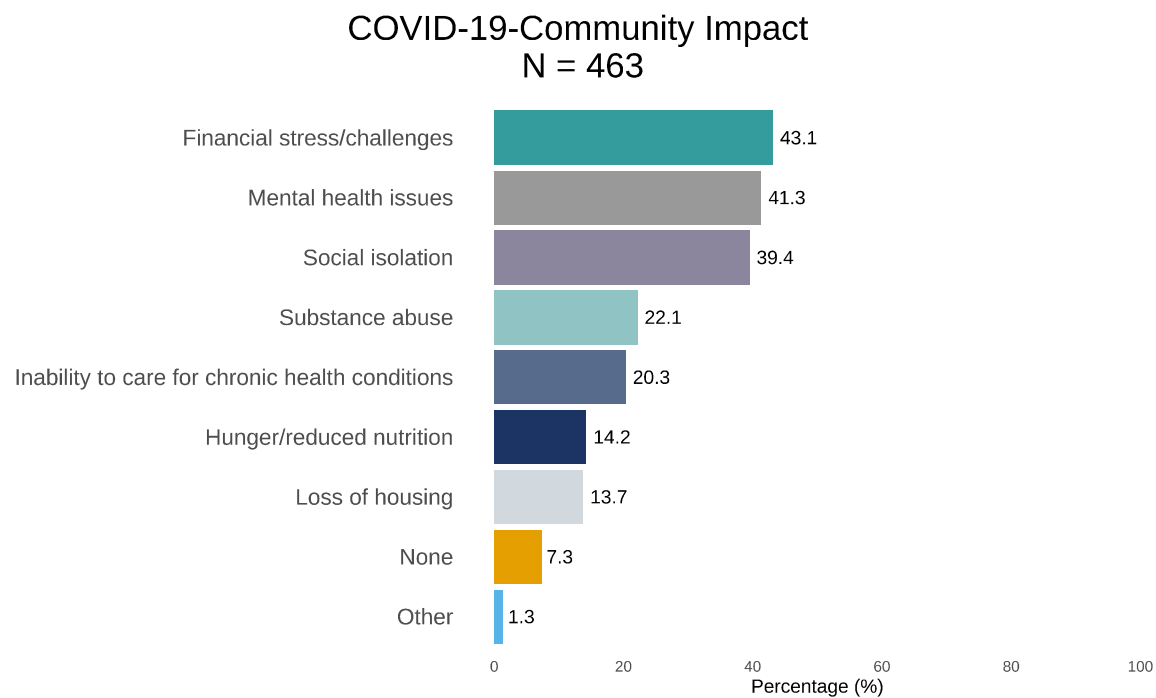
Note: Participants could choose more than one response option. Hence, percentages may not add up to 100.

Figure 29. Negative Influences on Children's Health



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

Figure 30. COVID-19 Community Impact

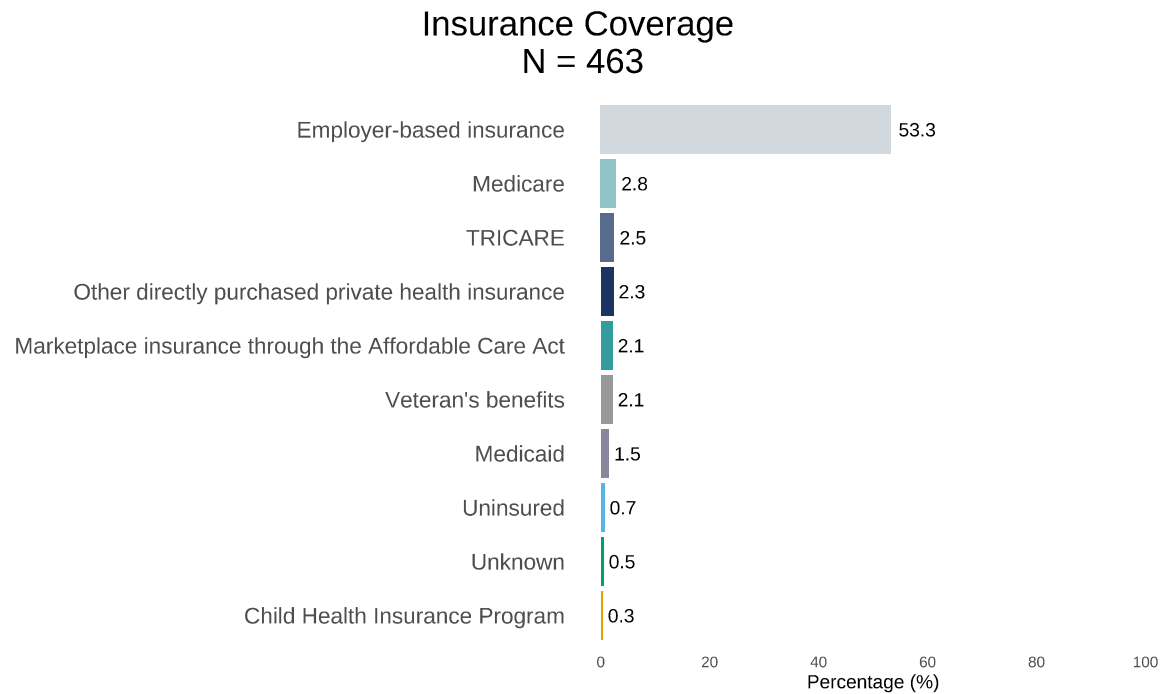


HEALTH CARE ACCESS

Insurance Coverage and Usual Source of Care

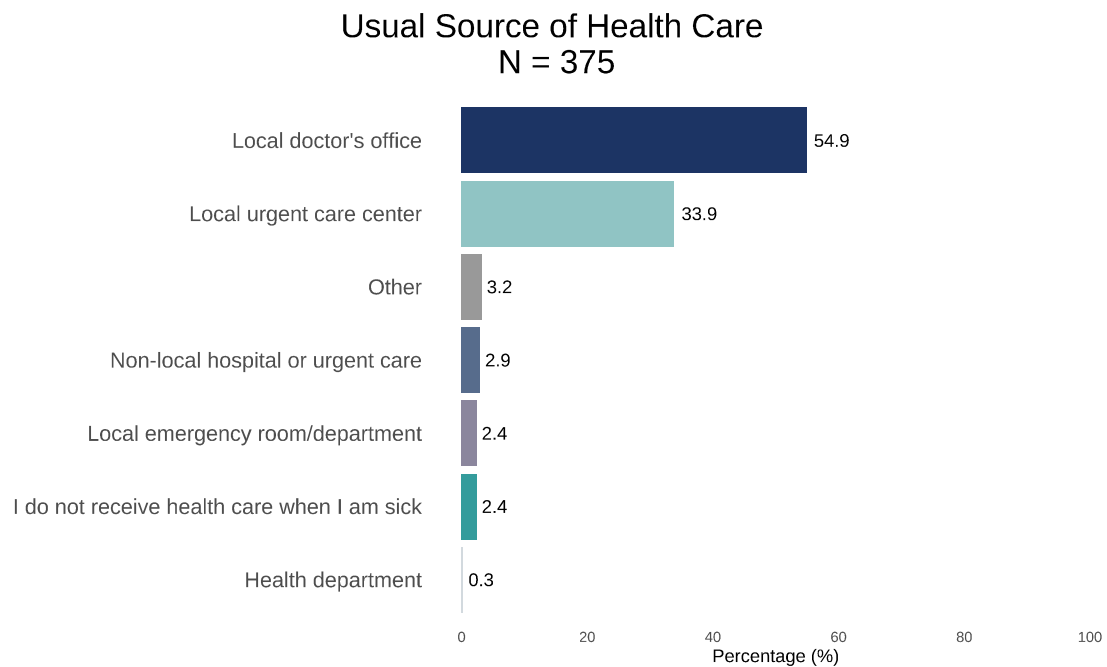
- About half of ten survey respondents (53.3%) reported having insurance through their employer (Figure 31).
- Most respondents (54.9%) identified their usual source of care as a provider in a doctor's office setting, followed by urgent care facilities (33.9%) (Figure 32).
- Approximately two percent identified the emergency department as their usual source of care (Figure 32).
- Respondents mostly identified their health care provider as their source of health information (96.2%), followed by the internet (65.8%), pharmacists (62.4%), hospitals (55.2%), and family and friends (52.5%) (Figure 33).

Figure 31. Insurance Coverage



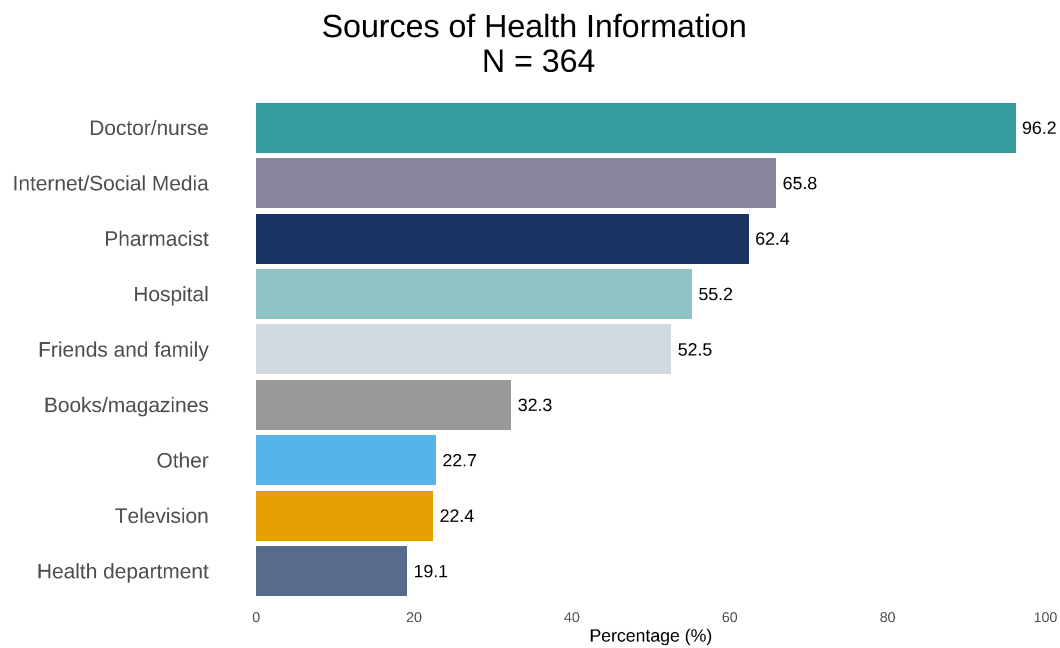
Note: Participants could choose more than one response option. Hence, percentages may not add up to 100.

Figure 32. Usual Source of Care



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

Figure 33. 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 one in six respondents (17%) reported experiencing one or more barriers to health care access in the past 12 months (Figure 34), including high cost of care (80%), inadequate health insurance coverage (72%), or difficulties in getting an appointment (64.8%) (Figure 35).

Figure 34. Barriers to Healthcare Access

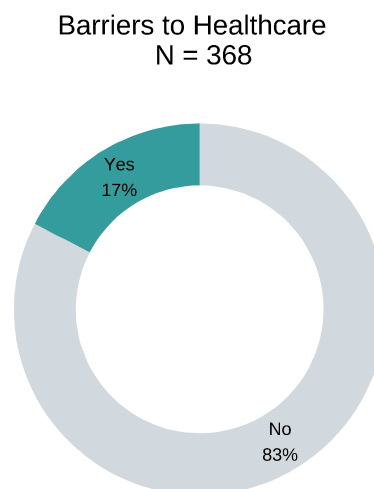
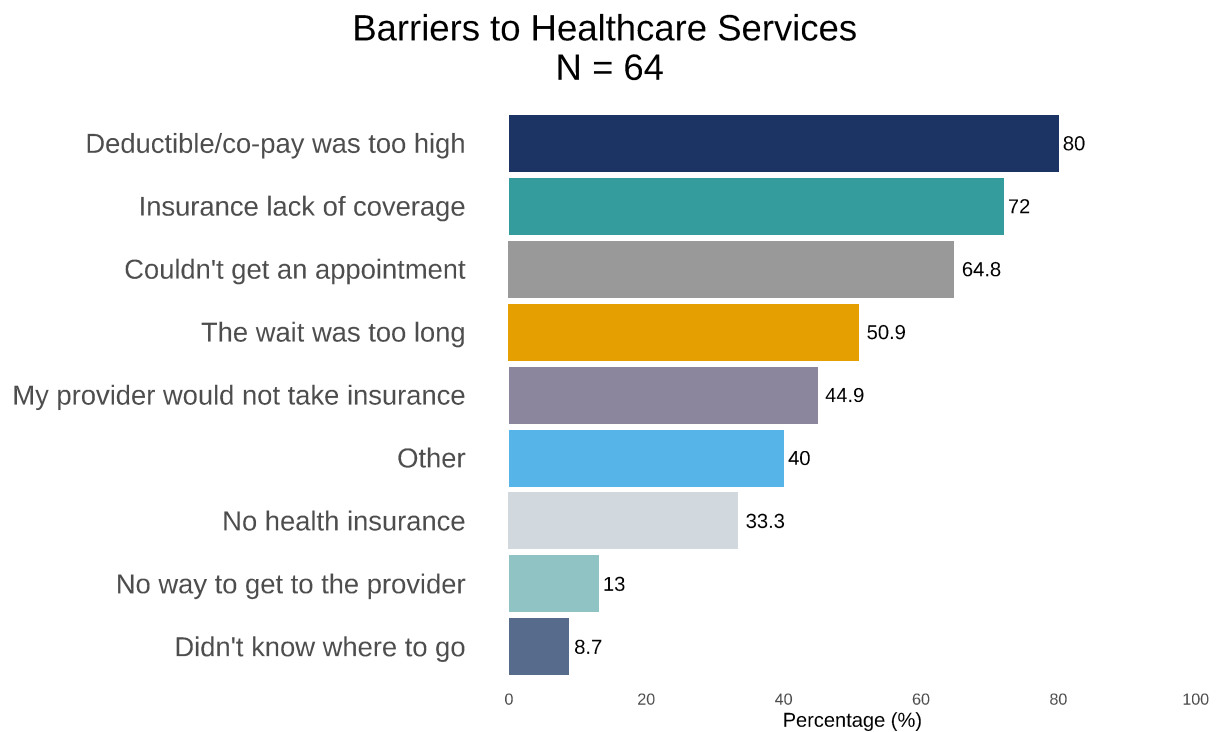


Figure 35. Specific Barriers to Healthcare Access



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

Health Specialists

- Three-quarters of respondents (75%) noted insufficient specialists in the county (Figure 36).
- Neurology was reported as the most needed health specialty (94%), followed by cardiology (88.4%), endocrinology (88.4%), and oncology (85.8%) (Figure 37).

Figure 36. Adequacy of Health Specialists

Adequacy of Health Specialists
N = 373

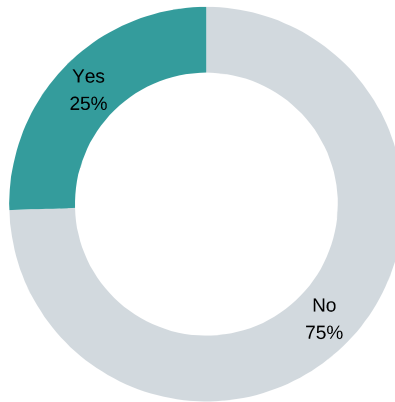
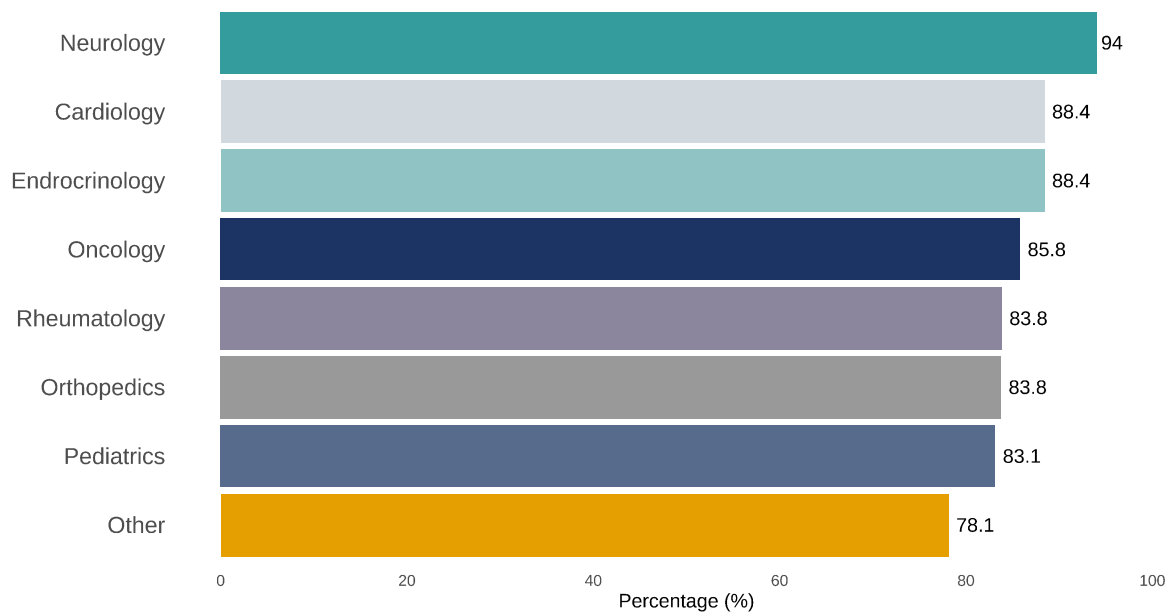


Figure 37. Most Needed Specialties

Perceived Shortage by Specialty
N = 201



SUMMARY POINTS FROM THE COMMUNITY SURVEY

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

Health Status and Behavior

- High blood pressure, overweight, obesity, and depression/anxiety were the most commonly self-reported chronic conditions.
- Adherence to nutrition and physical activity guidelines was moderate 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 an absence of adequate infrastructure as the most significant factor affecting the quality of life in the community.
- Diabetes, cancer and heart disease 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.
- Improper nutrition, mental health issues and internet use emerged as the top three negative health influences among children.
- About one in six respondents reported experiencing one or more barriers to healthcare access in the past 12 months, with the high cost of and the lack of adequate health coverage being the most common barriers.
- A quarter of respondents reported inadequacies in the supply of medical specialists, especially in neurology, cardiology and endocrinology.

COMMUNITY FOCUS GROUPS

Three virtual focus groups were held in November 2025, with a total of 11 participants recruited by the hospital and the CHNA steering committee. Participants represented health care, local public health department, faith-based organizations, school district, 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:

Overall Community Perception

Overall, participants described their community as close-knit and supportive, where they knew and could rely on each other. The residents also expressed that they are very engaged and involved in community activities to support the further development of the county.

"It's a very interesting place. We're small. I like to say we're a very resilient, kind of scrappy little community that's very much there for each other, for the most part, very supportive. The school system plays a big role in our community. It's a wonderful place to live."

"Living in Effingham County, it's beginning to be like a city, but you still have the people you can turn to and you can depend on. It's a very friendly environment. We have a lot of resources. We do have the wonderful hospital. There are a lot of things we still need in Effingham County, but I think for the most part, we are a pretty good little community."

STRENGTHS: Close Community, Development and Growth, Presence of community Amenities and Resources, Strong Education System, Hospital

The participants highlighted several favorable conditions that make life in Effingham County better. One key point that was emphasized was how **supportive and close** the community was, despite its recent accelerated growth. Community members had a positive outlook on the economy of the county due to an **increase in employment opportunities** associated with the increase in economic growth. Participants also discussed the downside of growth, such as an increase in traffic.

"We have a good job market that's growing, seems like daily. The warehouses, people weren't overly excited about seeing warehouses built but they do create jobs and people have to work in those warehouses."

I think that Effingham is a very community-centered county. I think, always willing to jump in and help where there are needs. It's also good that there's industry coming into the county, but also

that can be good and bad. More resources as far as stores and things like that, but obviously more traffic and those types of things.

They described the county as being **rich in natural resources** and having a lot of outdoor and recreational spaces for community residents to be physically active. The **strong school system** was also highlighted as a key point of strength for the community.

The following quotes capture these sentiments:

Some of the resources I'd say we have ... tend to be natural resources. We have Savannah and Ogeechee River. We have Ebenezer Creek. We have multiple things such as that. Those would be, I would say, our most significant resources along with the history associated with those.

It's actually been pleasing to see the evolution of, like she said, transforming from the bedroom community to becoming a county that is growing in leaps and bounds. Definitely, the school system is absolutely a plus. One of the things I think we can build on and we're making great strides towards is having more of our residents to live and work here. I think we're making some good trends in that direction.

"If you want to be healthy and lead a healthy lifestyle, our county's recreation department has really worked hard to provide different opportunities for people to be physically active. They have tennis courts and pickleball courts. We have walking and jogging trails throughout our community. That's all stuff that's free and available without having to pay for a gym membership in our community. We also have a YMCA, which does have a gym or a workout facility and they do income-based rates for people who can't afford to necessarily pay full price for that."

CHALLENGES: Income Gap, Transportation, Affordable Housing

Regardless of the multiple positive aspects of their community, participants noted challenges that exist in Effingham County. A consistent theme from all focus groups was concerns related to **the income gap** in the county. Participants explained that while a proportion of the community lived well, many community members struggled financially and lived below the poverty level.

This income gap was intertwined with the lack **of transportation**, with many community members highlighting it as a challenging issue to address. They also noted a lack of **affordable housing** and difficulties in finding mid-range homes to purchase.

"I would say that from my perspective working in the industry that I work in, I think that there's a big gap between the haves and the have-nots. Obviously, there are people who are more affluent who live in the county. Then other people who don't necessarily make as much money."

“We have a pretty good amount of people who are living at mid-class to upper, higher than that in this community. There's more of that, I think, than the other, but the ones who live below middle-class really struggle because the price of housing is pretty high and the lack of transportation.”

The lack of public transportation, particularly for low-income individuals and the elderly, was described as a persistent challenge that had been difficult to address.

“Transportation is a real issue. Because even if you wanted to pay an Uber or something like that, it's not like we just have Uber drivers sitting around in Effingham waiting to be called. Even those are hard to get out here. Then you'd have to pay cash money and a lot of people can't afford to do that. Transportation is huge.”

“I think this will be going on forever. It's always been an issue and I'm sure we'll get around to this, but transportation, that's one thing lacking in Effingham County. I don't know how we're going to get around that.”

Top Community Health Concerns

Themes: Mental Health, Substance Abuse, Unhealthy Nutrition, Shortage of Health Professionals

Mental health and **substance use problems and chronic diseases** (including diabetes and high blood pressure) were identified as top health issues for community members. More specifically, focus group participants listed issues related to tobacco use, vaping, and prescription drug use within their community. With regard to mental health, community members highlighted a shortage of mental health professionals who were critical to addressing community needs.

“Yes, definitely mental health would be top in the county”

“Yes, tobacco use. Those things are still very prevalent in our community and that's a whole generational change that's going to have to occur. There is a lot of that.”

“I don't know what to call that, but vaping. And then [among] adults, I think prescription medication is a problem. That's just my opinion. I see some adults that are overmedicated... It could be illegal or legal. I don't know.”

“Top three health needs are going to be-- Right now, I think substance abuse and mental health, mental health/behavioral health is a top priority. I think diabetes and high blood pressure and cardiology, that would be my three.”

Nutrition was also identified as a key concern for the health status of community residents. Participants described an availability of grocery stores and healthy restaurant options in the county.

We also have a selection of different grocery stores that provide healthy food items. We have food banks and our food banks try very hard to bring in healthier foods and produce. If you want to seek it out, I think we do provide quite a bit of opportunity for people in our community to access healthy food and healthy ways to be physically active if you can get there.

However, focus groups participants noted that many consumed unhealthy foods because of convenience, high cost and out of habit (some of which are driven by Southern culture). They noted a need for education on healthy eating choices.

“Quick and easy food, if you're a single mama and you're working two jobs or you don't get home, it's sometimes faster to pull through and get bad food for you, which then creates those habits in your children, I think it [leads to] obesity, diabetes, [poor] heart health.”

“Being an originally rural community, and even though we're not so rural anymore, [there are] a lot of the health habits, like people drinking a lot of soda or cooking Southern cuisine that's loaded with fat and all the good yumminess that I love.”

Health Care Access

Themes: Health Insurance, Shortage of Health Professionals, Transportation, Childcare, Timely Appointments

Participants noted that access to healthcare services, in particular specialty care, was a significant challenge for the county. Due to a shortage of **health professionals**, community members experienced multiple challenges with getting timely appointments for their health needs.

“I've used the emergency department, but then we also have used several of the primary care offices for our family, but I would say one of the biggest challenges is just being able to get a timely appointment with the providers. I know that's everywhere, but that's a struggle. It's easier just to go to an urgent care when you have an illness than it is to try and wait for your primary [care provider]”.

“If we were to call a doctor's office and they're like, “Oh, we can see you next week or two weeks from now.” I think immediate access may be a challenge. I personally just go to the immediate med because getting in with-- I actually don't have a primary care. Just because I'm like, “Y'all are such a pain,” and they're like, “We're not accepting new patients.” I'm like, “I just have allergy meds, man. It's not a high maintenance situation.”

High health insurance cost was described as one of the main challenges that impact access to quality healthcare services. This barrier was especially highlighted for low-income community residents.

“If they're not working for a huge company that provides insurance, like a Gulfstream or the factories and stuff, I don't think health care is very affordable for people in our area. A lot of the insurance companies have just pulled out of even offering services”

Additionally, healthcare access barriers were described as more profound for vulnerable citizens, including the elderly, and low-income individuals. Participants mentioned that such individuals often had to choose between paying for medication and their basic needs.

“We do know that people are choosing to buy food over medicine. That's the impact on health care, for our community, especially the older generation [who] have a lot more health needs than a younger person.”

Hospital's Role in Advancing Community Health and Wellness

Themes: Community Involvement, Expansion of Services, COVID-19 Support

Community residents valued the local hospital, describing the **hospital** staff and leadership are approachable and personable.

“One thing about the Effingham Hospital and the staff, they are easily approachable. I feel like I could walk in the door and talk to the CEO at any time. She might not find time for me right that moment but I think I would feel comfortable enough to say, Also, everybody that works at the hospital, they're very easily approachable and they're there if you need them.”

Participants recognized the efforts that the hospital has put into increasing its presence in the community and being more **proactive and engaged**. Focus group participants spoke highly of **the expansion of services** by the hospital to better meet community health needs and the **high quality of services** offered by the hospital staff. Similarly, the hospital's **marketing campaign** was praised for its community-centered approach.

“[The hospital is] very, very intentional about having a presence at different events within the community and beyond.”

“I have a high opinion of what they're doing. In comparison to the size of our community and the fact that our health system offers so much, I think, is unique to our area. I think we're really lucky to have what we do have in Effingham County because not a lot of smaller communities have a hospital at all. The fact that we have that is pretty awesome.”

“Having been a lifelong resident, I'd say I see things that they have added through the years that seem to me to be trying to reach more of the services needed by people. I see the movement in that

direction now...Growing up here, the hospital was just a hospital. They never had all of these other services outside of just being a hospital."

"I've talked to a lot of people...a lot that have had great experiences at the hospital while they were in the hospital. As far as the care, the staff, the nurses, the doctors, they said that the care couldn't have been any better."

"As far as access to the hospital, the access to the hospital is great because you can walk into the ER, you can schedule your labs, you can schedule your x-ray because I've used it."

"The marketing campaign the hospital does, they very often utilize individuals from the community to talk about what great experiences they had in their marketing. Just that person-to-person always seems to go a little bit further than billboards or ads or things like that."

Community Recommendations

Themes: Health Screening Events, Use of Telemedicine, Cancer Screening

The focus group participants were asked their recommendations for services and resources to improve the overall health of Effingham County residents. Participants noted the need for **community outreach efforts**, including expanding **free screenings** for community members – especially low-income community members or those who lack health insurance.

Furthermore, participants advocated for an expanded use of telemedicine to address health needs, especially among school children.

"Somehow or another, give away free mammograms, have a clinic one day a month or two half days where we can offer free blood pressure checks. Free services like that. Your blood pressure, maybe stick your finger to see about your blood sugars, things like that. I would like to see us offer some free services once a month for people in our community that don't have access and don't have the money."

"So they [the hospital] certainly have very successful lunch-and-learns for breast cancer awareness and heart health. That lunch-and-learn has grown so much that they're going to actually have to look at a different venue because the growth has been exponential and with the participation from the public for that event. If there's anything, I would say they could expand on lunch and learns for different subject matters beyond breast cancer and heart health."

"Speaking from the school system side, I would love to see our Telemedicine increase again. That was something we had started a couple of years ago and it's just fallen by the wayside."

SUMMARY POINTS FROM THE COMMUNITY FOCUS GROUPS

Eleven 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 was described as a close-knit, supportive and civically active community with a small-town feel and city-like amenities.
- The community is growing and has experienced economic development. However, despite a bustling economy, participants described an income divide in the community

Barriers and Facilitators of Health and Well-being

- The hospital was described as visible in the community with an approachable staff.
- Participants praised the hospital for expanding quality and accessible health services within the community.
- The top community health challenges identified by focus group participants included mental health and substance abuse, unhealthy eating habits and the shortage of mental health professionals.
- Participants described challenges to accessing health care including, shortages of specialists, difficulty getting appointments and health insurance coverage issues.
- The lack of public transportation, particularly for low-income and the elderly, was described as a persistent health access barrier that had been difficult to address.
- Participants advocated for increased community health outreach, free health screening and expanded use of school-based telehealth services.

PRIORITIZATION OF COMMUNITY NEEDS & IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING

PREVIOUS IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Effingham Health System's 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment was completed in compliance with federal regulations and approved by the governing board on June 28th, 2022. Based on community input, the following areas were identified as priority health needs to address:

- Mental and Behavioral Health & Substance Abuse
- Health Access
- Community Education

Below we discuss progress made on the 2023-2025 CHNA implementation plan.

Mental and Behavioral Health & Substance Use. Mental and behavioral health and substance abuse issues were addressed through a focus on improving care coordination and referral for mental health services and reducing drug and alcohol abuse.

Mental Health Services Care Coordination and Referral. EHS

Drug and Alcohol Misuse and Abuse. EHS

Health Access. During the 2023-2025 CHNA implementation cycle, EHS prioritized efforts to improve Effingham County residents' access to health care by improving access to transportation services and increasing awareness of community health resources.

Transportation. EHS.

Community Awareness of Community Health Resources. We curated a community resources list (found in health resources listing in the 2022-2025 CHNA). Our community partner, United Way also hosted a community resource list (<https://www.navigateresources.net/uwce/>). EHS also continued to expand marketing and community outreach efforts, focusing on a community-centric marketing strategy as corroborated by feedback from the focus groups.

Community Education. EHS also focused on community health awareness and education on wellness and prevention as well as chronic disease management during the 2023-2025 CHNA cycle.

Community Awareness of Wellness and Disease Prevention. The hospital hosted several lunch-and-learns during the performance period on diverse health topics.

Community input still points to a high need for community health awareness. Thus, in the 2025-2028 CHNA cycle, we will continue to expand our efforts in this area.

2026-2028 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

A modified nominal group strategy was used to prioritize community health needs. This method involved a brainstorming session, a thorough discussion, and ranking of identified potential priority areas. **Areas of need identified to be of high importance included expanding health access, addressing mental health and substance abuse, improving transportation and improving chronic conditions outcomes through community education and outreach.** The steering committee identified all these as issues to prioritize in the 2025 CHNA cycle, except for transportation. The hospital's capacity to address transportation was limited and it was deemed to be an initiative more appropriately led by local government.

The final three priority areas aligned with the priority needs identified based on community input. The goals, objectives, and activities developed under each priority area build on initiatives in the previous CHNA to improve community health and access to specialty and mental/behavioral health services. Ms. LaMeisha Hunter Kelly will coordinate the implementation efforts for FY 2026-2028.

Priority Area One: Health Access

Goal 1: To mitigate access barriers to health system services within Effingham County.

Objective 1: Continue expansion efforts to improve access to specialty and surgical services within Effingham County through physician recruitment initiatives for additional specialties such as urology, neurology and endocrinology.

Objective 2: Develop and implement patient education and operational process improvement activities to mitigate barriers to accessible, affordable and timely care in all EHS clinics and practices.

Priority Area Two: Mental Health and Substance Abuse

Goal: To expand access to mental health and substance abuse services and resources within Effingham County.

Objective: Expand existing partnership with the board of education and create new partnership with local FQHCs, and other community partners to implement tele-behavioral and other needed behavioral health services within the community.

Priority Area Three: Community Education and Outreach

Goal: To enhance community health education and improve health outcomes within Effingham County.

Objective 1: Increase knowledge and awareness of chronic disease prevention and management strategies for leading chronic conditions within the community.

Objective 2: Track and monitor community health outcomes data to drive the creation of centers of excellence that meet the needs of the community.

Implementation Plan. An implementation plan will be outlined for each priority area. Effingham County Health System is actively engaged in the community and will leverage its community partnerships to support the successful implementation of this plan.

2025-2028 Implementation Plan

FOCUS AREA 1: HEALTH ACCESS

Goal 1: To mitigate access barriers to health system services within Effingham County.				
Action Steps	Timeline	Person Responsible	Measure	Community Partners Involved
Objective 1: Continue expansion efforts to improve access to specialty and surgical services within Effingham County through physician recruitment initiatives for additional specialties such as urology, neurology and endocrinology.				
Increase and advance specialty surgical services, including utilization of DaVinci Robotic Services.	2026	CNO COO/CFO CMO	Volume	Recruit and develop Physician Specialty Partnerships.
Cultivate partnerships with academic graduate medical education (GME) institutions to facilitate provider recruitment	2026	Executive Director Physician Practices	Volume	Build Relationships with graduate academic medical institutions within the region.
Cultivate partnerships with nearby Colleges with medical, nursing and allied health programs to facilitate physician and staff recruitment	2026	Executive Director Physician Practices	Outreach Activity	Continue to cultivate and sustain a presence.
Explore telemedicine opportunities for expanding specialty services.	2026	Executive Director Physician Practices		Partnerships with telemedicine programs.
Objective 2: Develop and implement patient education and operational process improvement activities to mitigate barriers to accessible, affordable and timely care in all EHS clinics and practices.				
Create a patient financial experience working group within the health system	2025/2026	Chief Revenue Cycle Officer (RCO) CNO COO/CFO	Patient Satisfaction Outcomes/Services	Community programs
Cultivate payer relationships	2025/2026	CFO Chief RCO	Payer reimbursement outcomes	Build Payer Relations
Develop and implement patient financial education materials and initiatives	2025/2026	Chief RCO COO/CFO Marketing	Patient estimator tool	Cultivate state and federal agency relations
Assess workflow processes and implement process improvement interventions to enhance clinic	2025/2026	Executive Director Physician Practices	Phreesia Intake Software	Identify opportunities to interface

Goal 1: To mitigate access barriers to health system services within Effingham County.				
Action Steps	Timeline	Person Responsible	Measure	Community Partners Involved
scheduling workflow to facilitate timely access to clinics and practices.		Physician Practices Manager IT		opportunities to expand bandwidth

FOCUS AREA 2: MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Goal: To expand access to mental health and substance abuse services and resources within Effingham County.				
Action Steps	Timeline	Person Responsible	Measure	Community Partners Involved
Objective: Expand existing partnership with the board of education and create new partnerships with local Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC), and other community partners to implement tele-behavioral and other needed behavioral health services within the community.				
Identify and engage key community stakeholders (based on the community's behavioral health needs) and develop collaborative partnerships to address mental health and substance abuse issues within the community.	2026	Executive Director Physician Practices / Outpatient Services	Volume	Any institution that has behavioral health as their mission.
Explore federal and state funding opportunities for enhancing mental health and substance abuse resources within the community.	2026	Executive Director Physician Practices COO/CFO Executive Director Strategic Business Development	Procurement of Grant Funding	Engage community partners as appropriate

FOCUS AREA 3: COMMUNITY EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Goal: To enhance community health education and improve health outcomes within Effingham County.				
Action Steps	Timeline	Person Responsible	Measure	Community Partners Involved
Objective 1: Increase knowledge and awareness of chronic disease prevention and management strategies for leading chronic conditions within the community.				
Expand the scope of Lunch-and-Learn events to target leading causes of chronic conditions in the community, as well as behavioral health.	2026	CNO EHS Foundation	Community Outreach	Engage Community partners
Assess the feasibility of adding a chronic disease management clinic service line within the health system.	2026	Executive Director Physician Practices	Healthcare Outcomes	Engage healthcare and non-healthcare partners
Objective 2: Track and monitor community health outcomes data to drive the creation of centers of excellence that meet the needs of the community.				
Develop a working group to review community data and determine areas within the health system that meet the criteria for centers of excellence.	2026	CNO Executive Director Performance Improvement	Volume	Develop networks that support efforts to achieve centers of excellence.
Implement strategies to achieve respective centers of excellence designation (including moving from a Level 4 to a Level 3 trauma center and attaining a Cardiology, Hernia, Center of Excellence)	2027	CNO Executive Director Performance Improvement Executive Director Strategic Business Development Marketing	Successful designation	Develop regulatory and clinical strategies and partnerships within the region that support Level 3 designation.
Continue to invest in state-of-the-art equipment to support the early disease detection and management.	2026	COO/CFO CNO	Volume	Community Outreach

HEALTHCARE 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@evwap.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

ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	PHONE	WEB ADDRESS	EMAIL
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	
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	

ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	PHONE	WEB ADDRESS	EMAIL
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	
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	HOSPICESAVANNAHHELPS.org	
HYPE Outreach Ministries, Inc.	P.O. Box 1302 Springfield, GA. 31329	(912) 663-0145;658-9811	hypeoutreach@yahoo.com	
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		

ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	PHONE	WEB ADDRESS	EMAIL
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		
YMCA Pryme – Time	1224 Patriot Drive. Rincon, GA 31326	(912) 826-2199	ymcaofcoastalga.org/ymca/pryme-tyme/pryme-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	

ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	PHONE	WEB ADDRESS	EMAIL
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		
Faith Equestrian Therapeutic Center, Inc.	243 Appaloosa Way Guyton, GA 31312	(912)728-3728	faithetc.org	info@faithetc.org

ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	PHONE	WEB ADDRESS	EMAIL
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	

ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	PHONE	WEB ADDRESS	EMAIL
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		
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@savannahcblv.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	

ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	PHONE	WEB ADDRESS	EMAIL
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	ccc Savannah.org	cccs@ccc Savannah.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		
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.co m	
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		

ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	PHONE	WEB ADDRESS	EMAIL
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	
Georgia Legal Service Program	6602 Abercorn Street Suite 203, Savannah, GA 31405	1-888-408-1004	glsp.org	

ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	PHONE	WEB ADDRESS	EMAIL
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.c om	
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/S eniorCitizensCenter	
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		

ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	PHONE	WEB ADDRESS	EMAIL
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		
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		

ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	PHONE	WEB ADDRESS	EMAIL
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		
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		

ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	PHONE	WEB ADDRESS	EMAIL
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		
Effingham County Health Department	802 Hwy. 119 South P.O. Box 350, Springfield, GA 31329	(912)754-6484	gachd.org/counties/effingham_county_health_depart_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		

ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	PHONE	WEB ADDRESS	EMAIL
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		
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		

ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	PHONE	WEB ADDRESS	EMAIL
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	
Medical & Dental Services				
Adult Sitter: Nina Holata		(912) 344-8554		

ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	PHONE	WEB ADDRESS	EMAIL
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 /DepartmentsRW/S eniorCitizensCenter. 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.govTransport ation	
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	HospiceSavannahH elps.org	
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/inde x.php	

ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	PHONE	WEB ADDRESS	EMAIL
MedBank	711 Zitterour Rd. Rincon, GA 31326	(912) 356-2898	medbank.org	
Partnership for Prescription Assistance		1-800-981-5851	pparx.org	
Pregnancy Care Center of Rincon	594 S, Colombia Ave. Suite 500 Rincon, GA 31326	(912)826-1133	pregnancycarecente rofrincon.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.co m	
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		

ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	PHONE	WEB ADDRESS	EMAIL
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		
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				

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

