Walthall General Hospital

CHNA Report

CHNA Report and Implementation Plan

Approved September 23, 2025



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Executive Summary

Walthall General Hospital ("WGH") conducted this Community Health Needs Assessment ("CHNA") to identify and prioritize the health needs of residents in Walthall County. This assessment meets the requirements of the Affordable Care Act and aligns with our mission to partner with the community in improving overall health and well-being.

Purpose and Methodology

With support from HORNE LLP of Ridgeland, Mississippi, WGH undertook this CHNA to gain a comprehensive understanding of local health trends, disparities, and resource gaps. A mixed-methods approach was employed, including:

- Analysis of public health data from local, state, and national sources
- Surveys and focus groups with community residents and stakeholders
- Interviews with healthcare providers, nonprofit leaders, and public health officials

Key Findings

The 2022 assessment highlighted several critical health challenges in the community:

Chronic Disease & Mental Health:

Walthall County continues to experience high rates of diabetes, heart disease, and obesity, particularly among low-income and minority populations. To address these concerns, a key initiative was developed to encourage healthy habits among children of all ages, promoting physical activity, mental well-being, and long-term lifestyle improvements.

Social Determinants of Health Among Seniors:

Many senior residents face barriers to care, including limited access to insurance, transportation, and healthcare providers. In response, the Hospital is working to enhance education and outreach efforts, increase awareness of available services, and foster engagement through senior-focused events and initiatives.

Breast Cancer Awareness:

With a median county age of 40.2 years and a population that is 52 percent female, breast cancer incidence has risen since the last CHNA. To combat this trend, WGH is emphasizing education on mammograms and self-examinations, aiming to promote early detection and improved outcomes.

This report outlines our health priorities and highlights the collaborative efforts made over the past three years to address these needs. The full CHNA report is available on our website at www.walthallgeneral.org, or a printed copy can be obtained at the Hospital's administrative office.

We are grateful for the opportunity to serve this community and remain committed to improving the health of residents in Tylertown and throughout Walthall County.

Nacole Dillon, MPH, BSMT (AMT)
Administrator
Walthall General Hospital

About the Hospital

Walthall General Hospital

Walthall General Hospital, a 25-bed community healthcare facility, proudly serves as the sole medical provider in Walthall County. We offer a broad range of medical services supported by advanced technology and a compassionate team of expert physicians and nurses.

Through a strategic management partnership with Forrest General Hospital in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, we have access to an expanded network of medical specialties and highly skilled professionals, ensuring that our community receives the highest level of care.

Our Emergency Department is a vital entry point to the Hospital, conveniently located on the side of the facility for easy vehicular access. Patients—whether experiencing emergencies or nonurgent medical concerns—are promptly seen by qualified, compassionate physicians who evaluate each case and guide the appropriate course of treatment.

As a proud member of the Mississippi statewide trauma system and a partner of Forrest General Hospital, Walthall General Hospital is equipped to coordinate advanced, specialized care when needed, efficiently and effectively.



The Community Health Needs Assessment

The Community Health Needs Assessment ("CHNA") defines opportunities for healthcare improvement, creates a collaborative community environment to engage multiple change agents, and is an open and transparent process to listen and truly understand the health needs of Walthall County. It also provides an opportunity for the Hospital to identify valuable collaborative partners as we try to better serve the community and improve the health of our citizens.

The federal government now requires that nonprofit hospitals conduct a community health assessment. These collaborative studies help healthcare providers build stronger relationships with their communities, identify needs, and dedicate funding and other resources toward programs that clearly benefit local residents. CHNAs can be powerful tools with the potential to be catalysts for outstanding community change.

Increasing Health Equity

Health Equity is the state in which everyone has a fair and just opportunity to attain their highest level of health. Progress toward achieving health equity can be measured by reducing health disparities. Health disparities are particular health differences closely linked with economic, social, and/or environmental disadvantage. Health disparities adversely affect groups of people who have systematically experienced obstacles to health based on their race or ethnicity, religion, socioeconomic status, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, and other personal characteristics which might create more challenging access to healthcare.

Looking closely at all aspects of our communities' overall health, allows Walthall General Hospital and its collaborative partners to focus on the root causes that are perpetuating the differences which contribute to struggles in ensuring health equity. By identifying the conditions, practices, and policies that allow the continuation of these differences in health outcomes, we can better identify the changes needed to create a healthier community for all our citizens.

Community Engagement and Transparency

We are pleased to share with our community the results of our CHNA. The following pages offer a review of the strategic activities we have undertaken over the last three years, as we responded to specific health needs we identified in our community. Although the major impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is behind us, it has taken extra effort and time to regain the momentum in creating a mentality of health and wellness education and prevention.

The report also highlights the updated key findings of the assessment. We hope you will take time to review the health needs of our community as the findings impact every citizen of our rural Mississippi community. Also, review our activities that were in response to the needs identified in 2022.

The Community Health Needs Assessment, Continued

Data Collection

Primary and secondary data was gathered, reviewed, and analyzed so that the most accurate information was available in determining the community's health needs and appropriate implementation process.

Primary Data**:** collected by the assessment team directly from the community through conversations, telephone interviews, focus groups and community forums; the most current information available.

Secondary Data**:** collected from sources outside the community and from sources other than the assessment team; information that has already been collected, collated, and analyzed; provides an accurate look at the overall status of the community.

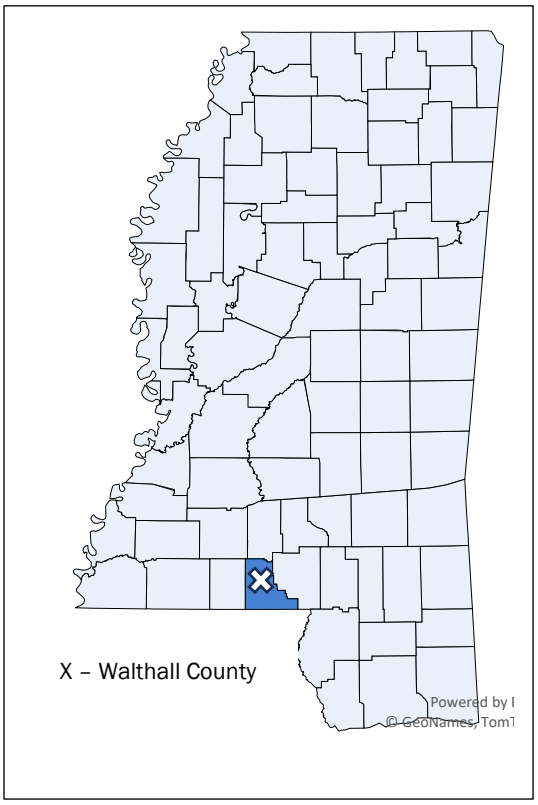
Secondary Data Sources

- The United States Census Bureau
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- American Heart Association
- Walthall General Hospital Medical Records Department
- Mississippi State Department of Health
- ESRI Demographic Research
- Mississippi State Department of Health, Office of Health Data and Research

About The Community

Service Area

Primary: Walthall County



The County

Walthall County is located in Southwest Mississippi. Its southern boundary borders Louisiana. The county seat is Tylertown. The county has a total area of 404.41 square miles, of which 403.94 square miles (or 99.89 percent) is land and .46 square miles (or 0.11 percent) is water. It is the second smallest county in Mississippi in land area and the smallest county in Mississippi by land mass.

Communities

Town

- Tylertown (County Seat)

Unincorporated communities

- Darbun
- Dexter
- Little Improve
- Mesa
- Salem
- Sartinville
- Union
- Hope
- Dillon

About the Community, Continued

Demographics

Walthall County 2024

Population:	13,531
Racial Mix:	
White	54.4%
African American	41.1%
Native American	0.4%
Asian	0.4%
Other	3.6%
Hispanic	1.7%
Non-Hispanic	98.3%

Walthall County 2022

Population:	13,884
Racial Mix:	
White	54.7%
African American	41.3%
Native American	0.3%
Asian	0.4%
Other	4.0%
Hispanic	1.5%
Non-Hispanic	98.5%

Walthall County		
Population		**13,531**
Racial Mix	White	7,363
	African American	5,559
	Hispanic	227
	Asian	60
	American Indian	57
	Pacific Islander	9
	2 or more	351
	Other	132
Median Household Income		**41,535**

	Mississippi	Walthall County	United States
Median Age	39.6	44.3	38.9
Median Household Income	$55,017	$41,535	$77,540
Poverty Level	19.4%	26.0%	11.5%

For the above 3 charts, SOURCES Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Source: ESRI Community Profile

About the Community, Continued

More About the Residents of Walthall County

Percent of residents who do not have access to broadband:	13%
Households receiving food stamps/SNAP:	789
Households with 1+ persons with a disability:	2,339
Households without a vehicle:	65
Percent of unemployment as of 11/2024 ** :	6%
Percent living alone:	31%

SOURCES ** US Bureau of Labor Statistics Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Source: ESRI Community Profile

Population:	13,836
Percent of adults that report fair to poor health	24.80%
Adults who didn't finish high school	18.52%
Unemployment	4.93%
Obesity prevalence	41.00%
Diabetes prevalence	14.20%
Excessive drinking	12.81%
Smoking	22.50%
Life expectancy	71.91
Percent of households with at least 1-4 housing problems (overcrowding, high costs, lack of kitchen/plumbing)	23.75%

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. National Findings Report 2024. www.countyhealthrankings.org

Community Input

Community health needs were identified through the collection and analysis of data from a variety of quantitative and qualitative sources. Using multiple sources is essential to ensure the assessment reflects a comprehensive range of facts, trends, and community perspectives. This multifaceted approach helps identify the most pressing health priorities. Among these sources, one of the most valuable is direct input from the individuals and communities we serve.

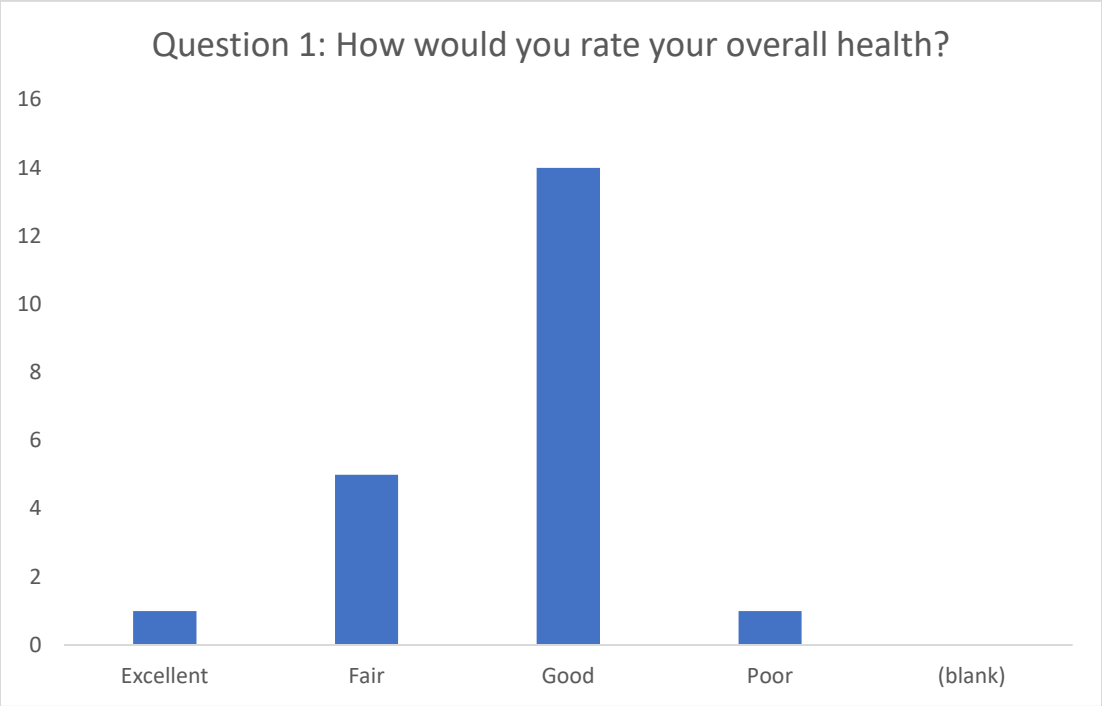
To gather community input, the Hospital developed and distributed an online survey. Members of the general public were invited to participate, with the survey promoted across multiple channels to ensure broad reach. Additional outreach included boosted posts on the Hospital's social media platforms, and targeted outreach to local stakeholders. Hospital employees also received the survey through an internal mass email. The responses were analyzed and used to help determine key health priorities and inform the development of new initiatives.

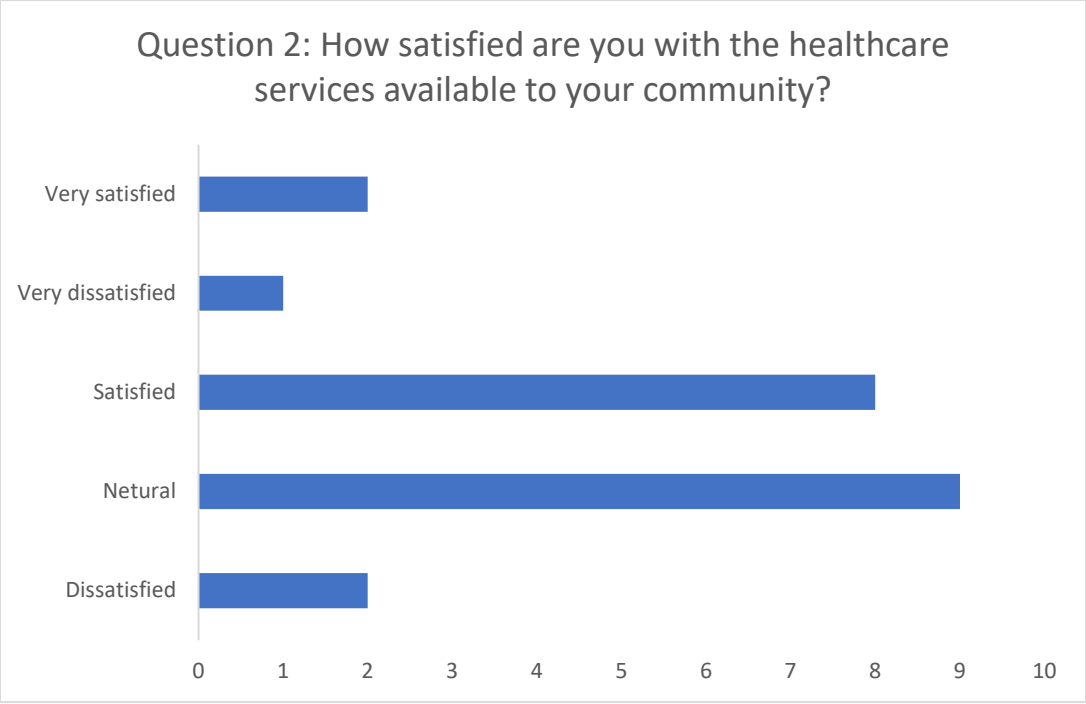
These questions are meant to gather insights into health status, behaviors, needs, and satisfaction levels of a community. The twenty-three responses can help healthcare providers and public health officials prioritize resources in areas most needed by the community. We extend a special thank you to the members of our community who participated in our survey. Their input has been invaluable. The survey and the input from the respondents are on the following pages.



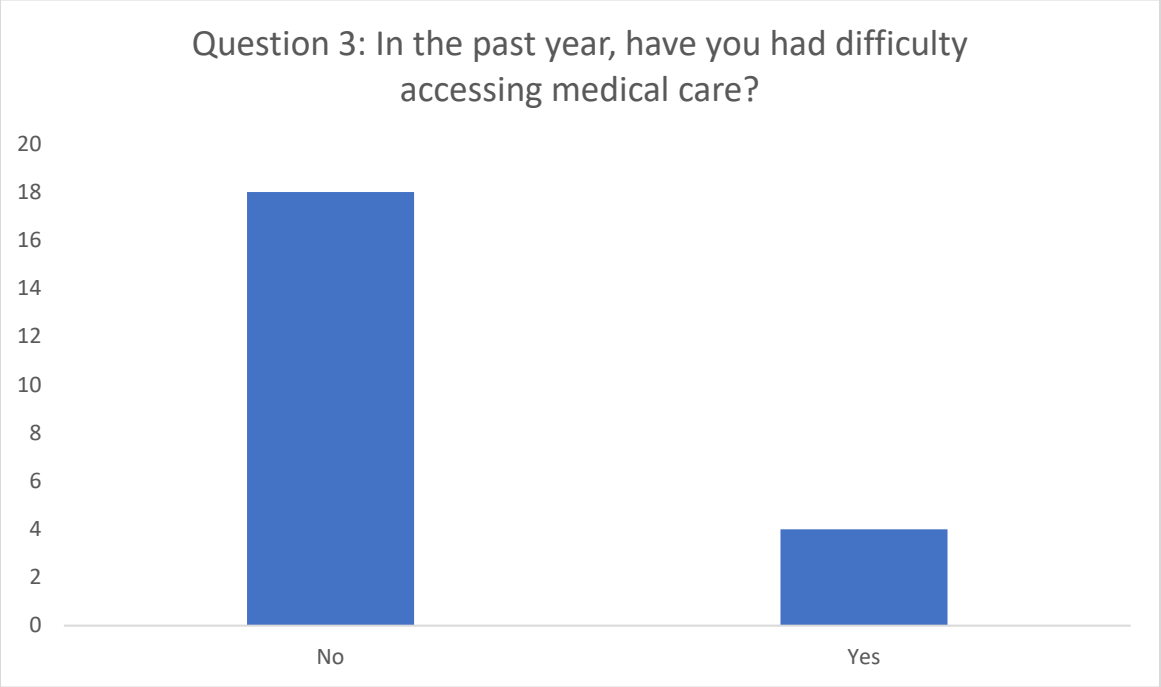
Community Input, Continued

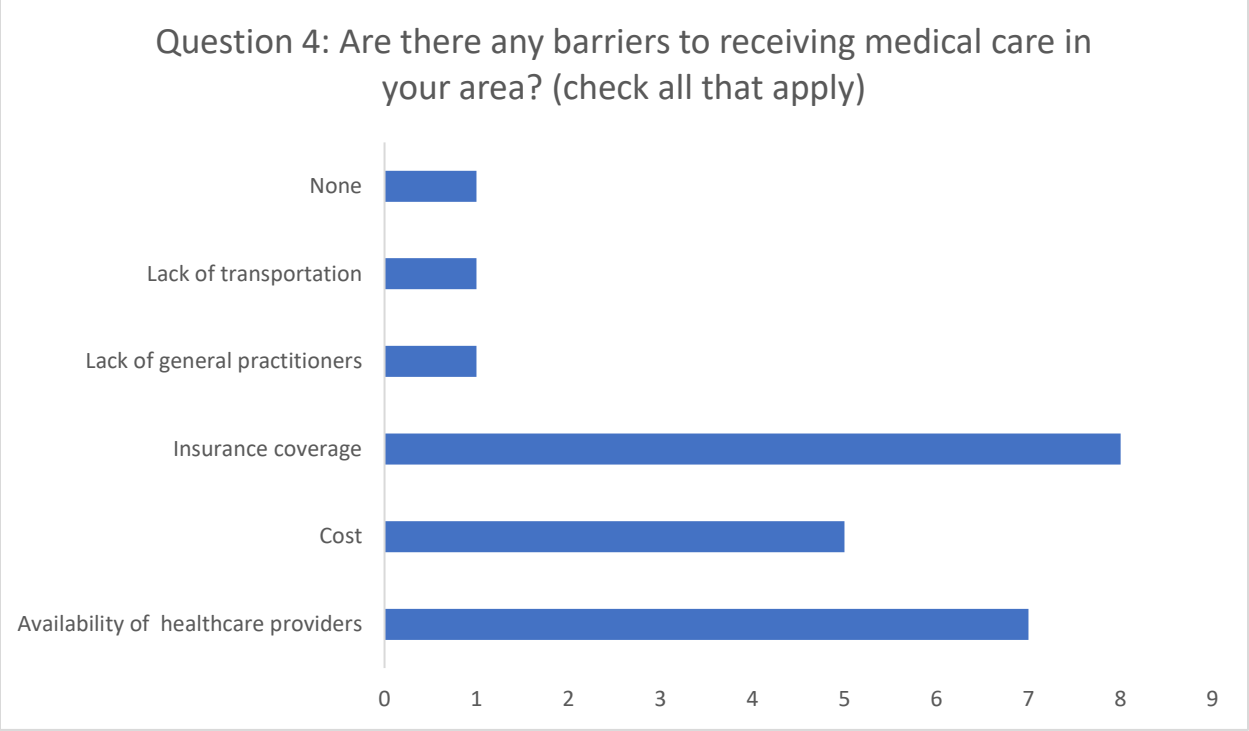
Walthall General Hospital Community Survey 2025:



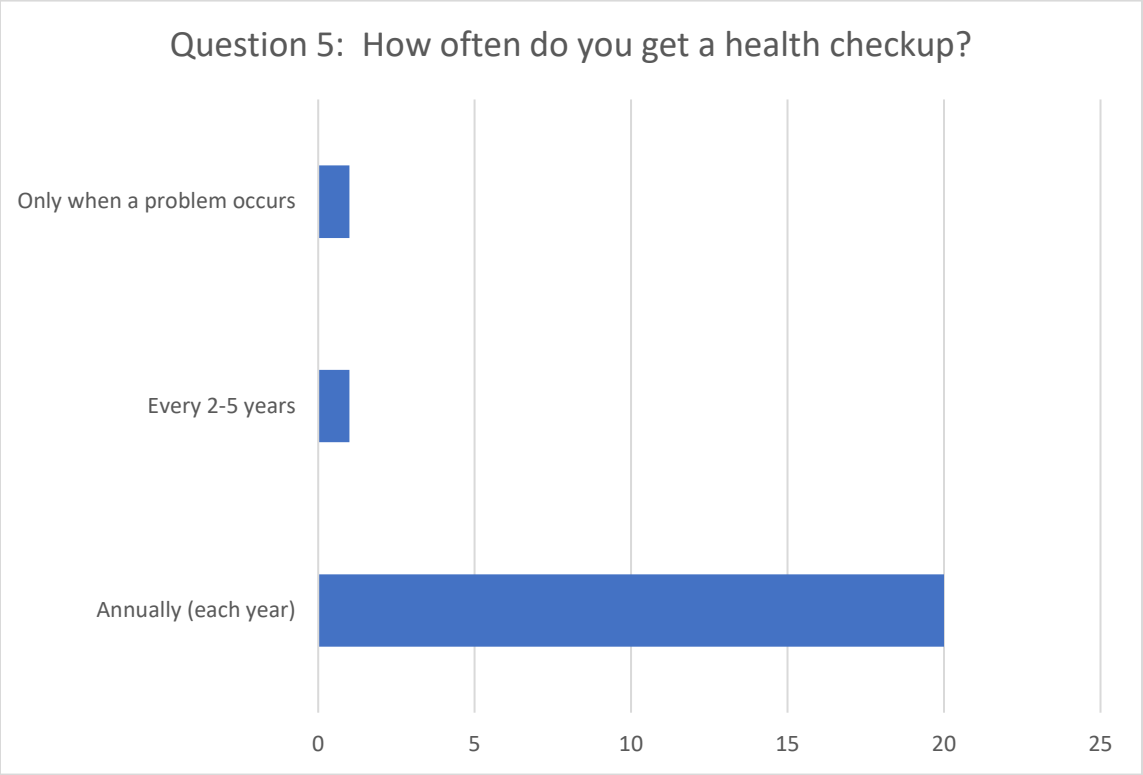


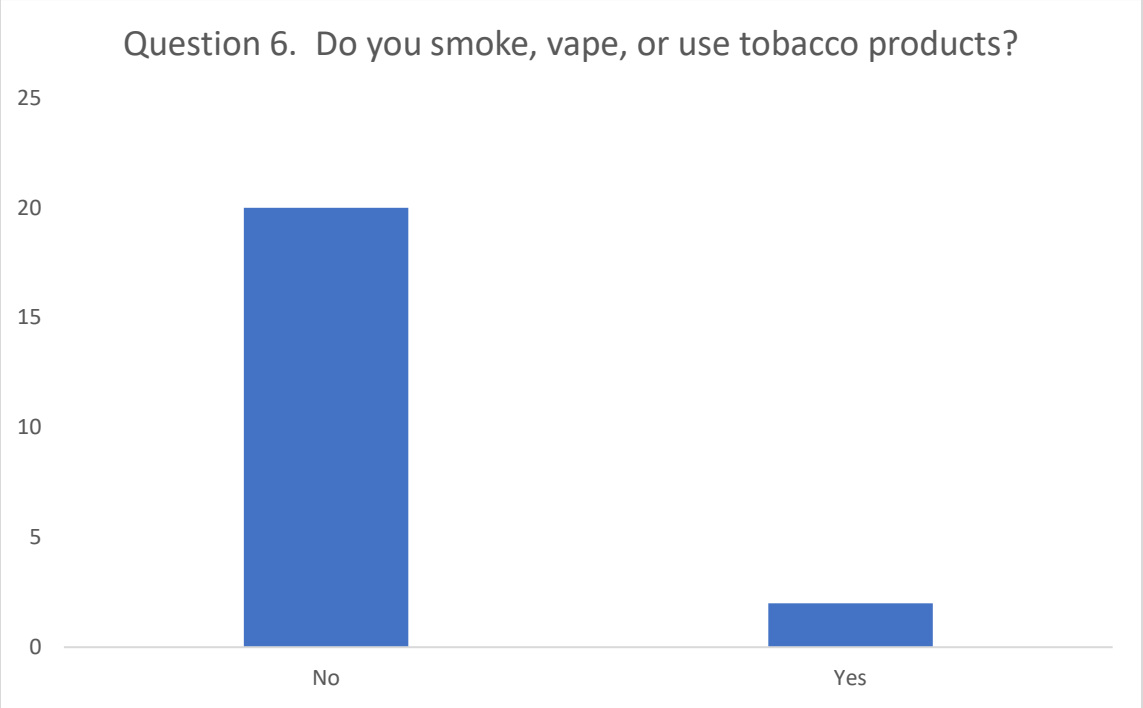
Community Input, Continued



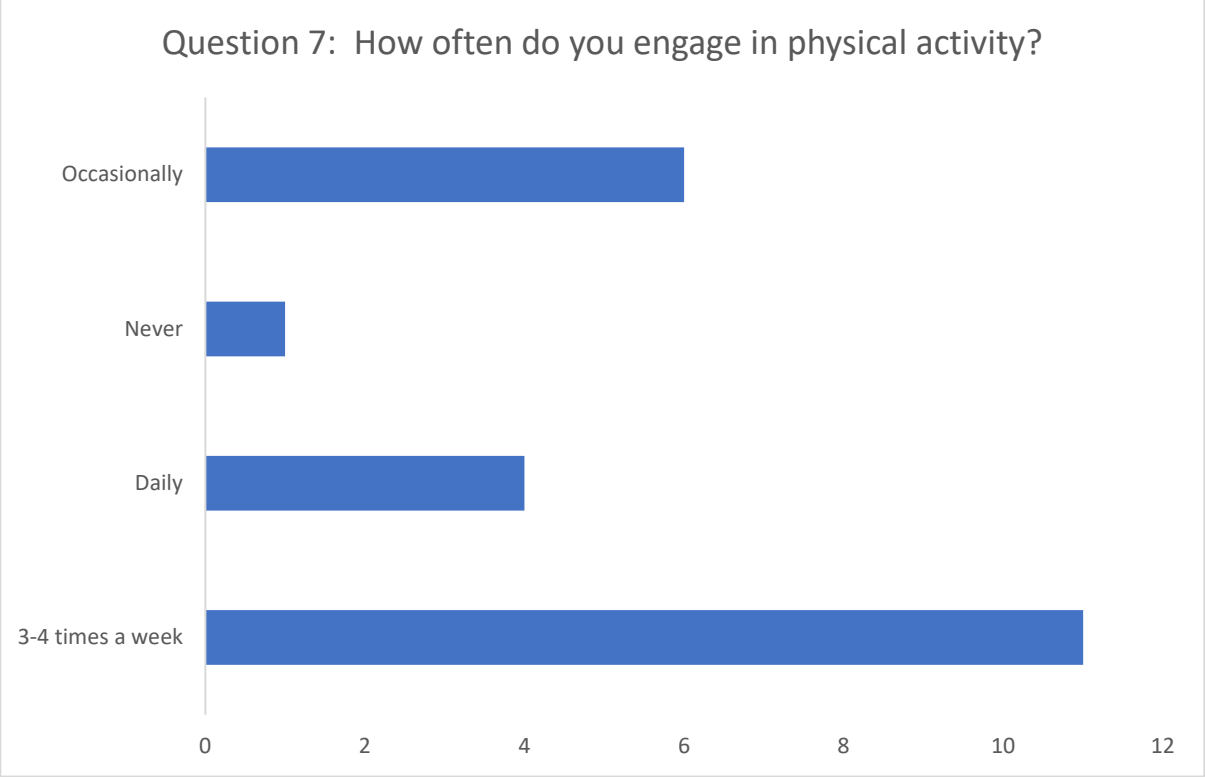


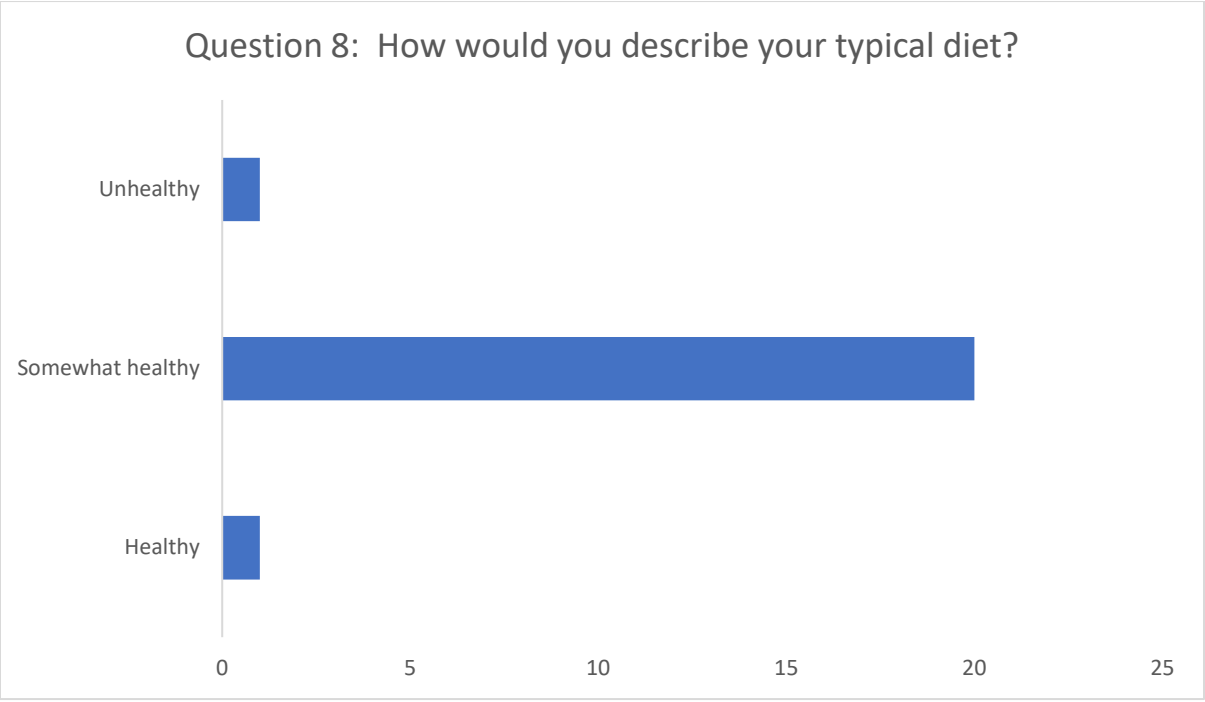
Community Input, Continued



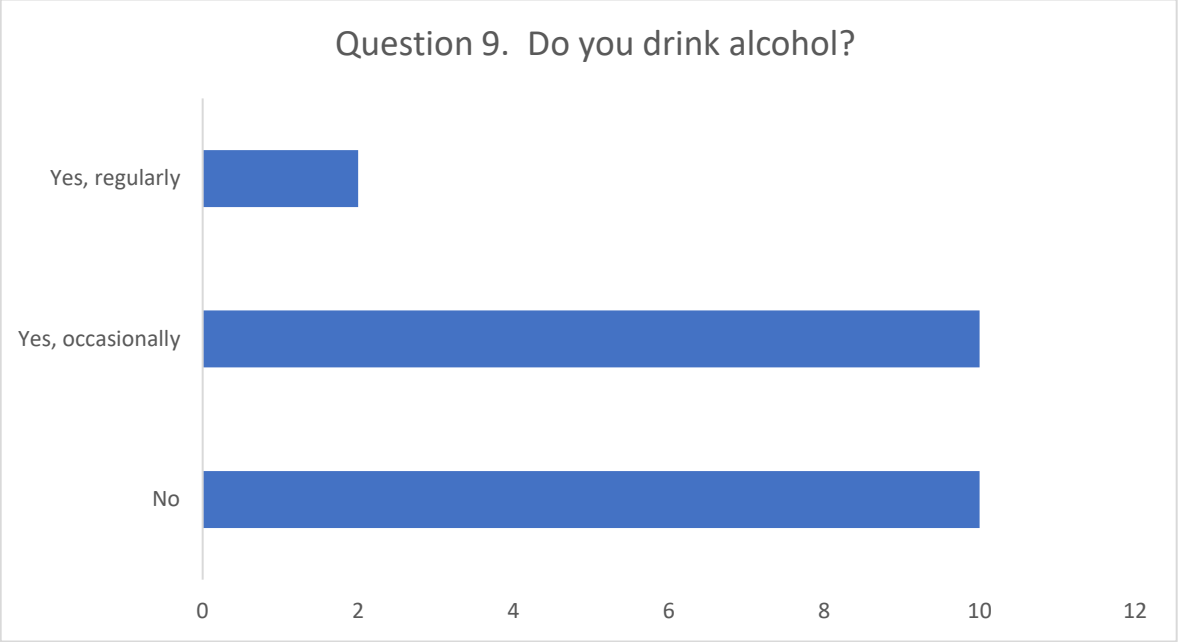


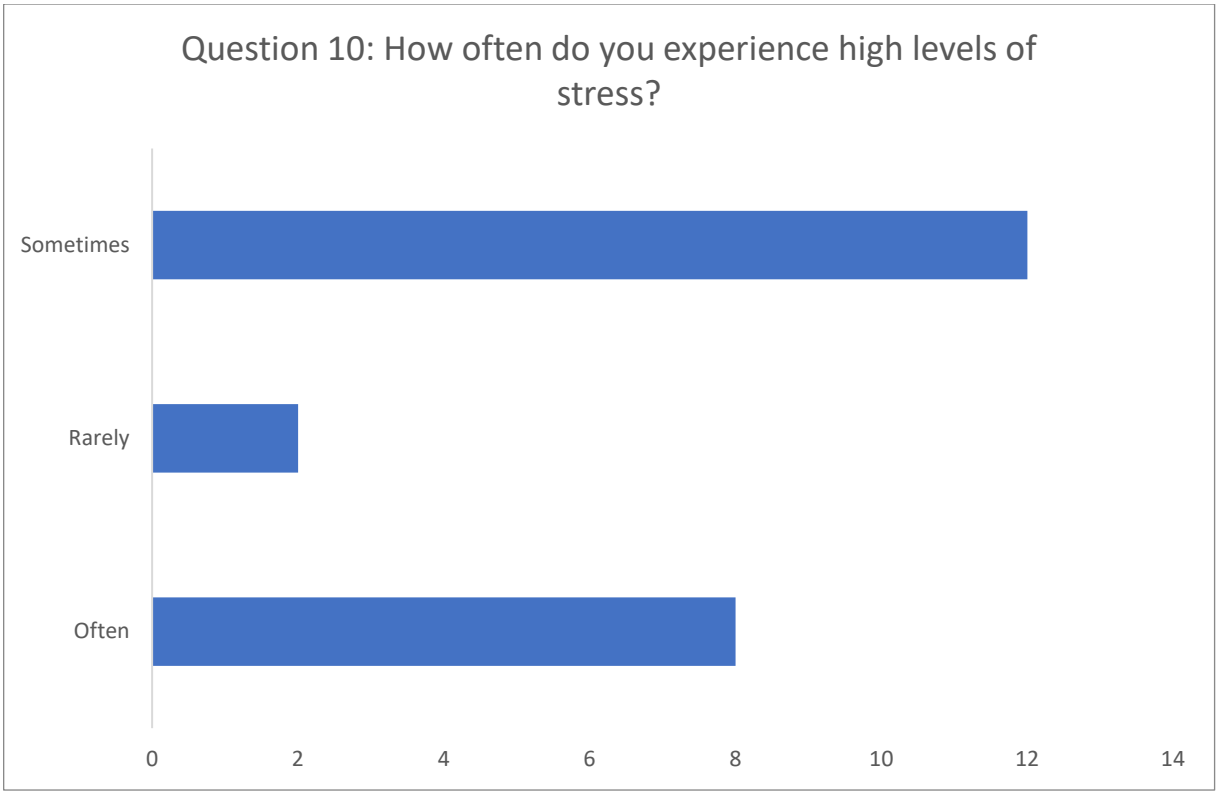
Community Input, Continued



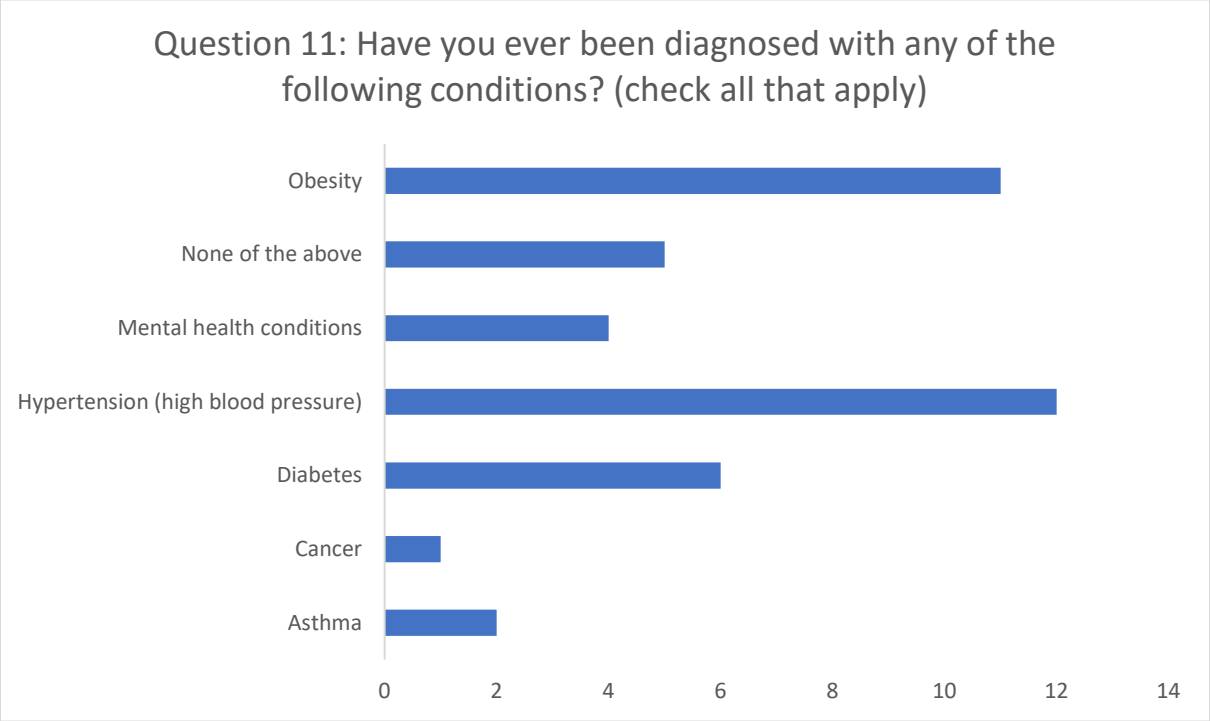


Community Input, Continued

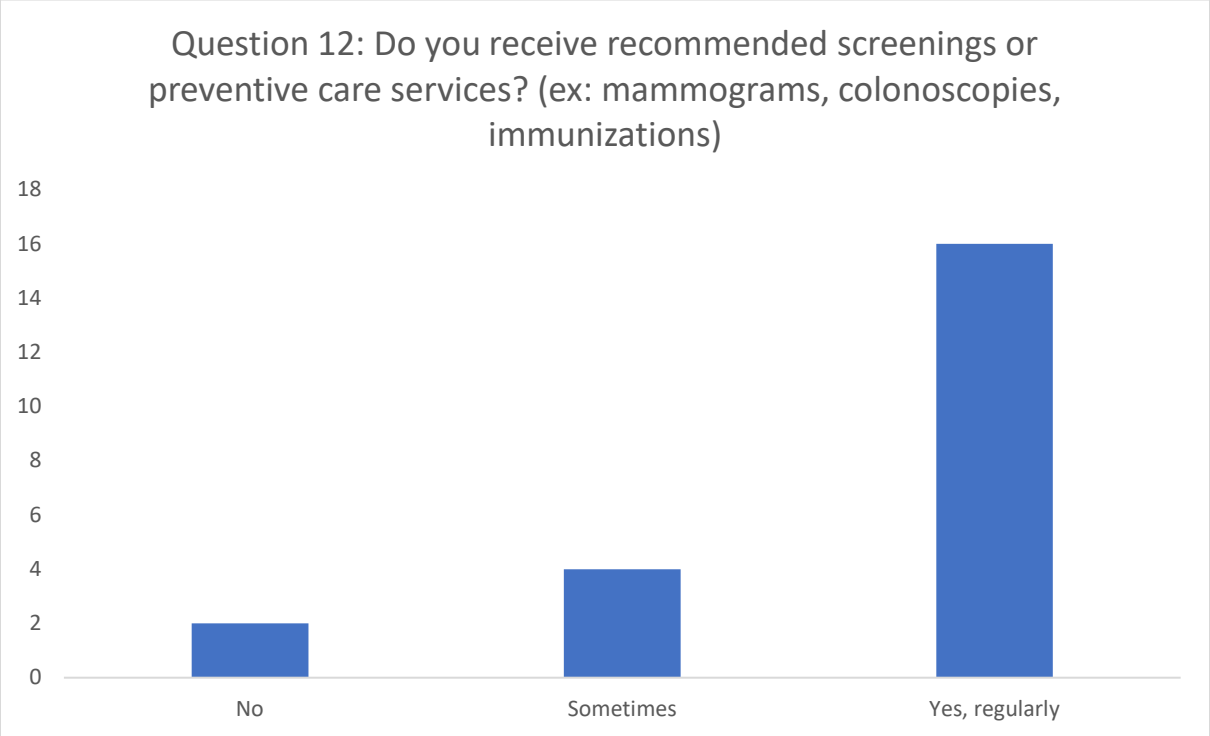




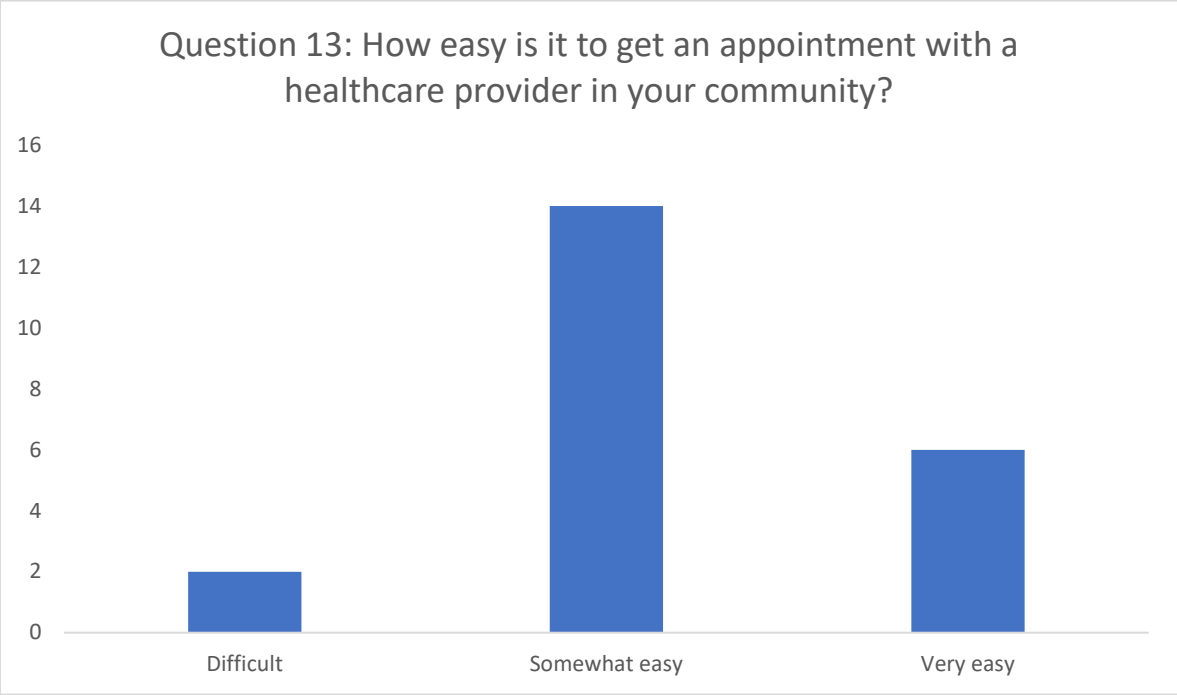
Community Input, Continued

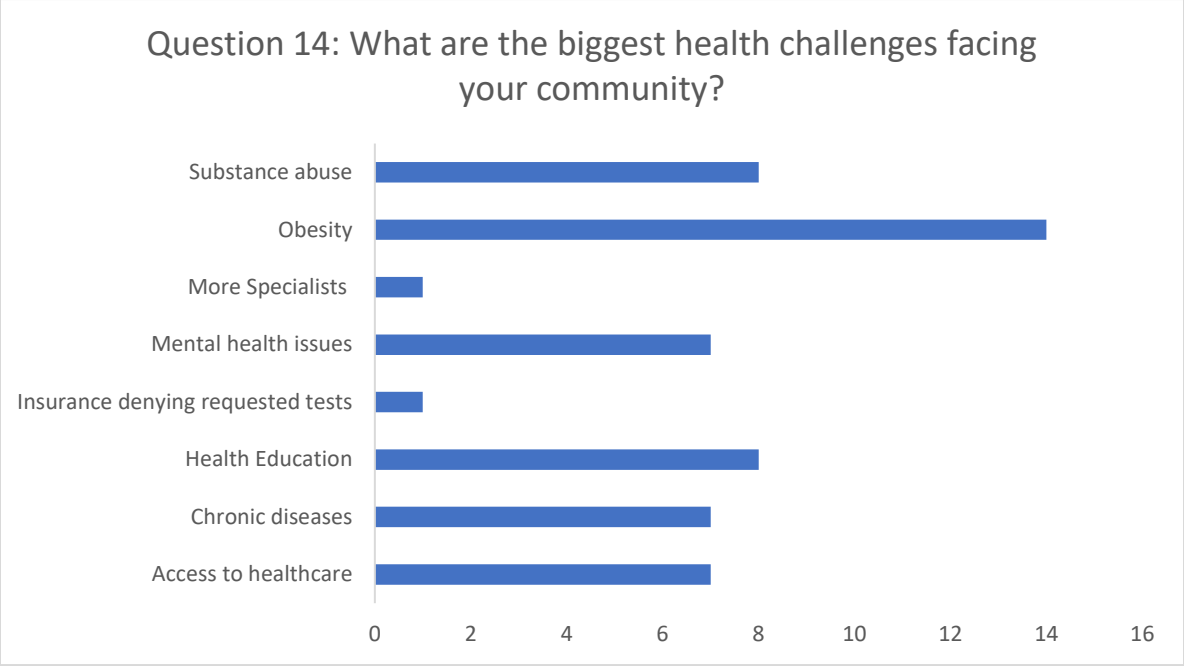


Note: For Question 11, 10 of the 23 respondents listed more than one condition. Five respondents listed three or more conditions.

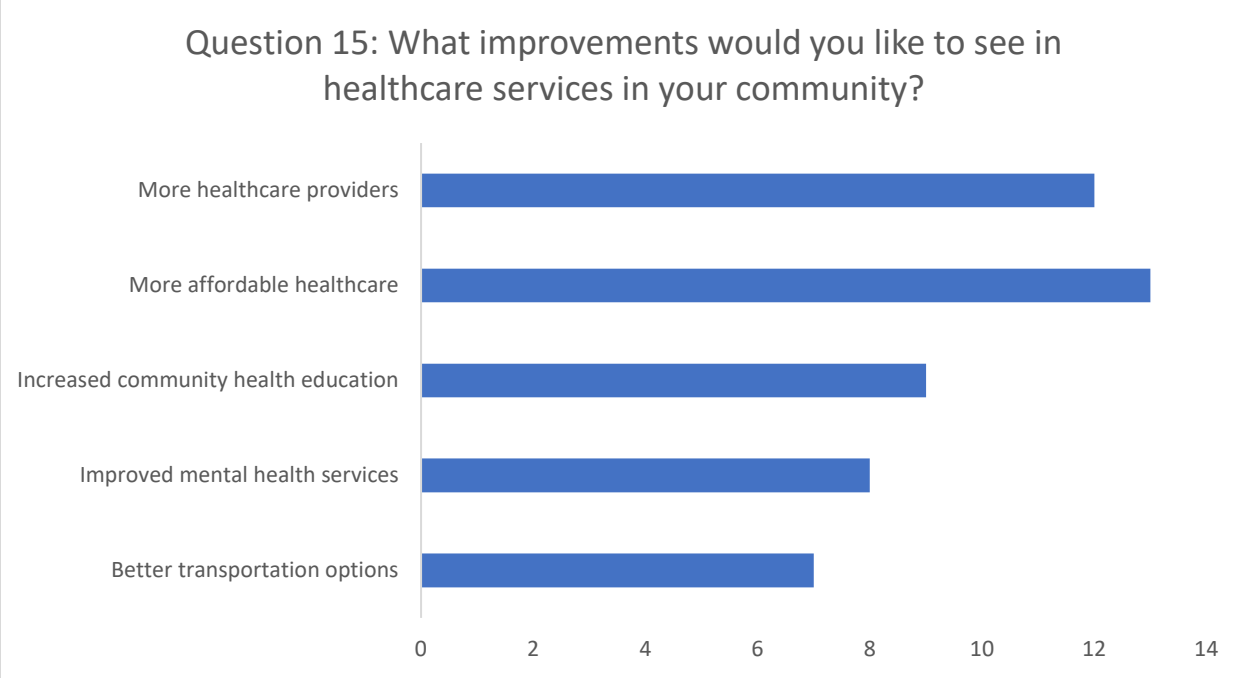


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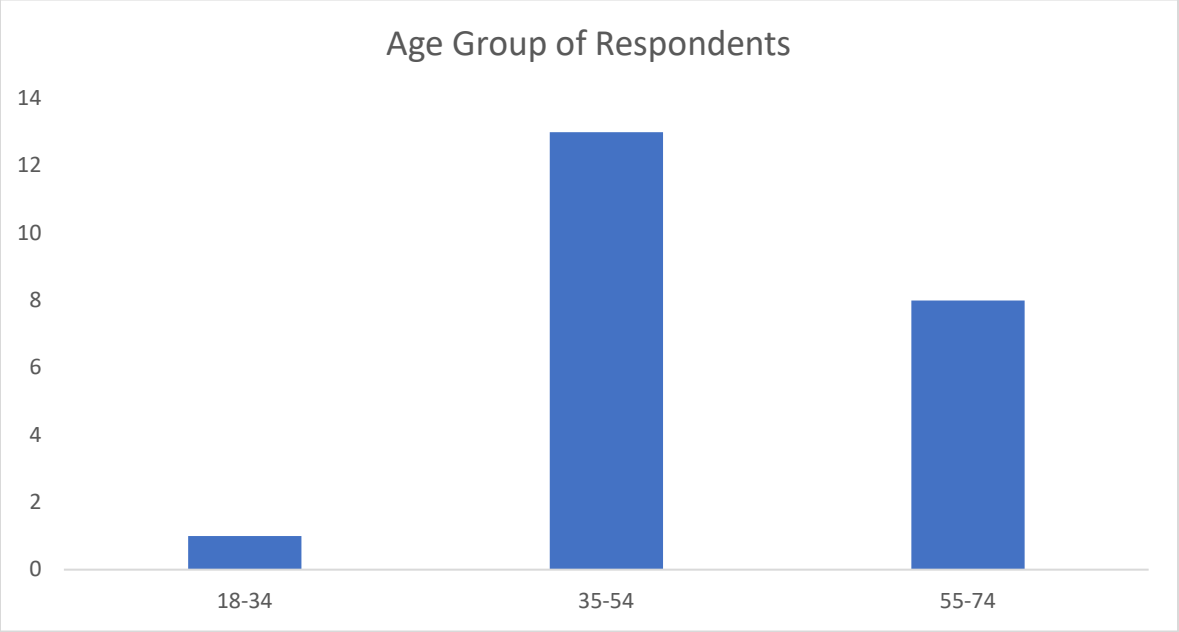




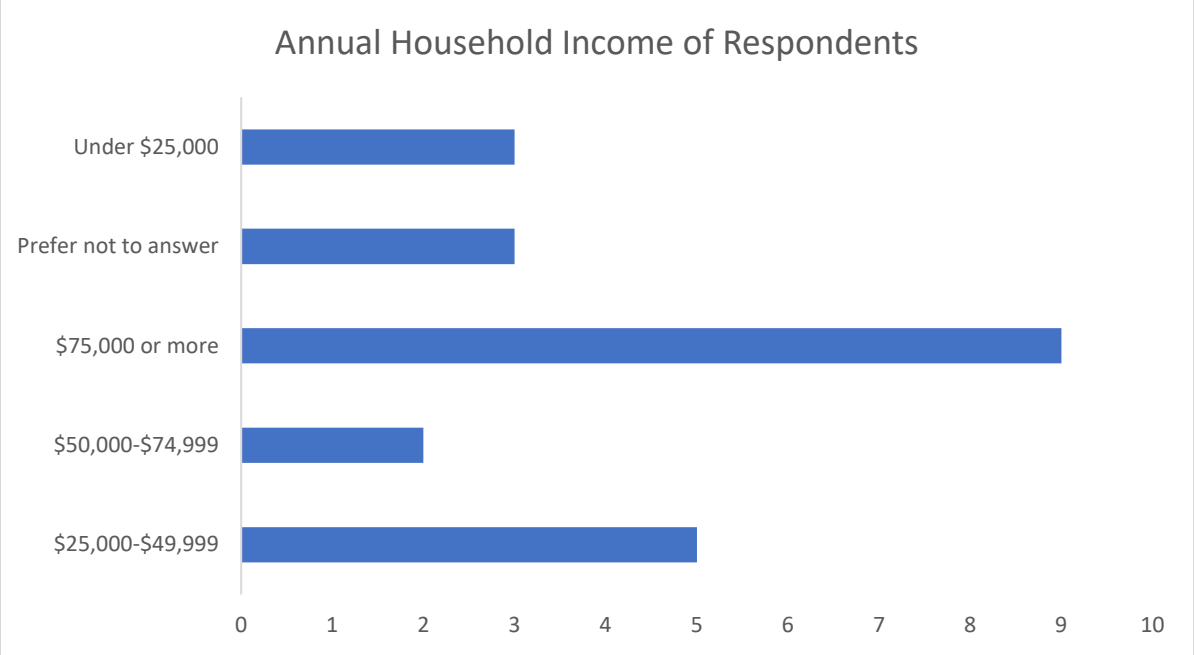
Community Input, Continued



Community Input, Continued



Note: All but one respondent was female



Community Input, Continued

Community Health Needs Assessment Steering Committee

- **Amanda Aldridge –** Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) Emergency Planner, District 7
- **Dr. Carla Armstrong** – Emergency Room Physician
- **Hope Rushing Bridges, RN** – Director of Nursing
- **Sherry Brown** – WGH EVS & Purchasing Supervisor
- **Dr. Johnny Bullock** – Walthall Rural Health Clinic
- **Nacole Dillon** – WGH Administrator
- **Cornella Magee** – WGH Administrative Assistant
- **Sarah McCain** – MSDH
- **Gail Ratcliff –** Forrest General Hospital Home Health
- **Stephanie Walker, RN** – WGH Infection Control



Community Input, Continued

Community Focus Group

- **Dr. Carla Armstrong** – WGH ER Physician
- **Sheriff Kyle Breland** – Walthall County Sheriff's Department
- **Hope Bridges** – WGH Director of Nursing
- **Andrea Brown** – MSDH
- **Sherry Brown** – WGH Supply/EVS
- **Bradley Brumfield** – Walthall County School Superintendent
- **Dr. Johnny Bullock** – WRHC Physician
- **Nacole Dillon** – WGH Administrator
- **Thomas Dozier** – Local Business Owner – Cardio World
- **Winston Fortenberry** – Walthall County Offices of Veterans Services
- **Teddy Gatlin** – Outreach Committee, Inc.
- **Tina Ginn** – RN, Walthall County School District
- **Danielle Hall** – Director, Walthall County School District
- **Carolyn Horn** – Tylertown's Farmer Market Manager
- **Pastor Knight** – Tylertown Baptist Church
- **Joel Lofton** – School Nurse, Walthall County School District
- **Cornella Magee** – WGH Executive Assistant
- **Royce Magee** – Walthall EMA Director
- **Sarah McCain** – MSDH, District 7
- **Zach Purvis** – Health Specialist, MSDH, District 7
- **Gail Ratcliff** – Forrest General Hospital, Home Health
- **Wendy Smith** – Workforce Director, Southwest Community College
- **Stephanie Walker** – WGH Infection Control



Social Determinants of Health

Social Determinates of Health: Definition and Impact

The concept of social determinants of health ("SDOH") refers to the broad range of nonmedical factors that significantly influence individual and community health outcomes. According to the World Health Organization, SDOH are "the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age," encompassing a vast array of influences that extend well beyond clinical care. These determinants are typically grouped into six domains:

- **Economic Stability**: Employment, income, expenses, medical bills, and financial support.
- **Neighborhood and Physical Environment**: Housing, transportation, safety, parks, playgrounds, walkability, and geography.
- **Education**: Literacy, language, early childhood education, vocational training, and higher education.
- **Nutrition**: Hunger and access to healthy food options.
- **Community and Social Context**: Social integration, support systems, community engagement, discrimination, and stress.
- **Healthcare Access**: Health coverage, provider availability, cultural competency, and quality of care.

These social determinants have a measurable impact on both medical outcomes and the total cost of care. For example, food insecurity alone is associated with approximately $155 billion in annual healthcare costs in the U.S., and nearly 80 percent of emergency department visits by homeless patients are preventable with reliable access to primary care. Research indicates that 60 percent of a patient's overall health is shaped by SDOH and individual behavior, compared to 30 percent by genetics and only 10 percent by the care they receive.

The Role of Walthall General Hospital: Convener and Organizer

Hospitals are uniquely positioned to serve as conveners and organizers of community-wide efforts to address SDOH. While addressing these determinants often extends beyond the traditional scope of medical care, hospitals encounter the consequences of unaddressed social needs daily. As such, they have both a vested interest and a responsibility to lead collaborative initiatives that drive meaningful change.

Social Determinants of Health, Continued

Five Critical Steps for Hospital-Led SDOH Initiatives:

1. **Articulate the Hospital's Unique Role**

   Hospitals must clearly define their role in collaboratively tackling SDOH. This involves understanding their "impact advantage"—the specific resources, relationships, and expertise that position them to drive change—and communicating this role to partners and stakeholders.

2. **Leverage Community Partnerships**

   Effective SDOH interventions require collaboration with a diverse range of stakeholders, including community-based organizations, public health agencies, payers, and local government.

3. **Address Root Causes, Not Just Symptoms**

   Successful strategies go beyond addressing the immediate consequences of social needs (such as providing transportation or food) and instead target the underlying causes, like poverty, housing instability, and systemic inequities. This requires engaging directly with affected populations to understand their lived experiences and priorities.

4. **Prioritize Trust-Building with Patients and Communities**

   There is often deep mistrust between marginalized populations and the healthcare system, rooted in historical discrimination and inequity. Hospitals must prioritize earning trust by involving patients in program design, ensuring cultural competence, and demonstrating sustained commitment to community well-being.

5. **Integrate SDOH Efforts Across the Organization**

   Addressing SDOH is not solely the responsibility of community outreach teams; it must be embedded from the C-suite to the front lines. Hospital leadership will champion SDOH as a strategic priority, while clinical and nonclinical staff are empowered to identify social needs and connect patients with appropriate resources.

6. Hospitals can act as conveners, bringing these groups together to align efforts, share data and coordinate resources.

Social Determinants of Health, Continued

The health of Walthall General Hospital's community is shaped by a range of social determinants, as revealed by recent survey data and community health needs assessments. These determinants include barriers to care, economic factors, health behaviors, and broader community challenges.

Key Types of Social Determinants Identified

Access to Healthcare Services

- Barriers Identified: Insurance coverage and availability of healthcare providers are the most frequently cited barriers. Cost and lack of transportation also contribute to difficulties in accessing care.
- Difficulty Accessing Care: Most respondents (18 out of 22) reported no difficulty accessing medical care in the past year, but a notable minority (4 out of 22) did experience issues.

Economic Stability

- Cost as a Barrier: Cost remains a significant obstacle for several community members, affecting their ability to seek timely and adequate care.
- Income Distribution: Survey responses indicate a range of household incomes, with representation from under $25,000 to $75,000 or more, suggesting economic diversity and potential disparities.

Health Behaviors and Lifestyle

- Physical Activity: The majority engage in some physical activity, with 11 reporting activity three to four times a week, six occasionally, four daily, and one never.
- Diet: Most describe their diet as "somewhat healthy," with only a few reporting "healthy" or "unhealthy" diets.
- Preventive Care: Annual health checkups are common (20 out of 22), indicating a proactive approach to health maintenance.

Social and Community Context

- Health Challenges: Major challenges identified include obesity, mental health issues, substance abuse, and chronic diseases. Health education and access to healthcare are also cited as ongoing concerns.
- Community Improvements Desired: There is a strong call for more healthcare providers, improved mental health services, more affordable healthcare, and increased community health education.

Transportation and Infrastructure

- Lack of Transportation: While not the most common barrier, lack of transportation is still a notable issue for some residents, impacting their ability to access care when needed.

Social Determinants of Health, Continued

Community Perspective

- The community recognizes the interplay between economic, behavioral, and systemic factors in shaping health outcomes.
- There is a clear demand for expanded services, better affordability, and targeted education to address both immediate and long-term health needs.

Summary Table: Key SDOH for Walthall General's Population

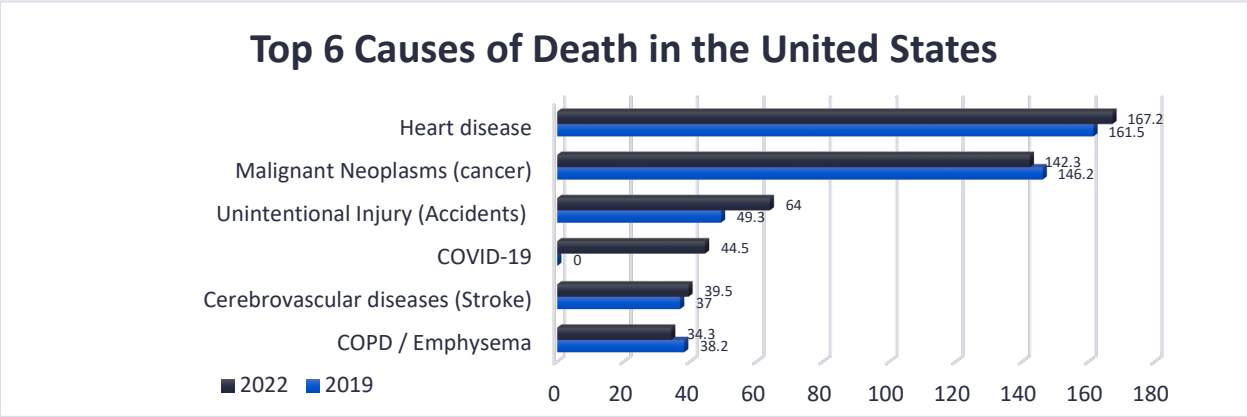
Determinant	Evidence/Survey Findings
Access to healthcare providers	Frequent barrier; desire for more providers
Insurance coverage	Most cited barrier to care
Cost of care	Significant barrier for several respondents
Transportation	Noted as a barrier by some
Health behaviors (diet, activity)	Majority somewhat healthy; regular physical activity
Mental health & substance abuse	Major community challenges identified
Health education	Need for increased education cited as a challenge

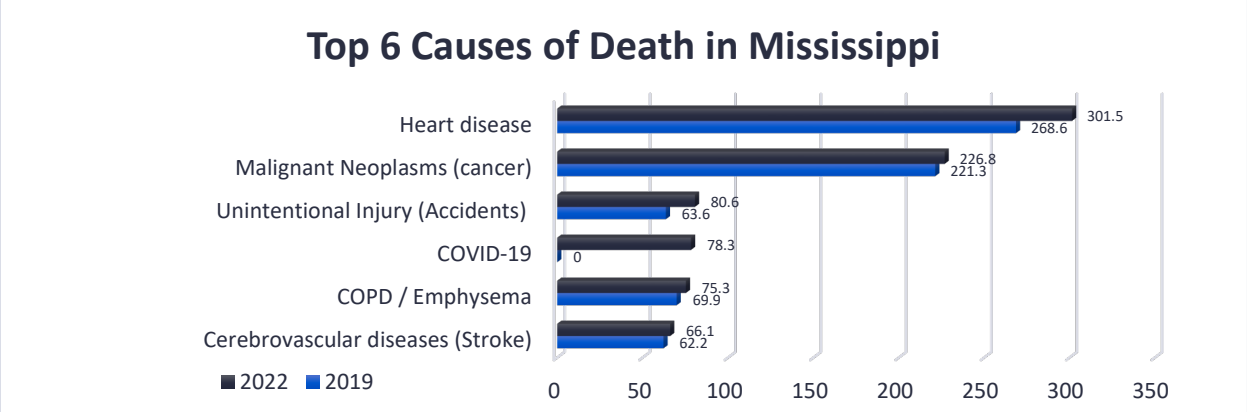
Conclusion

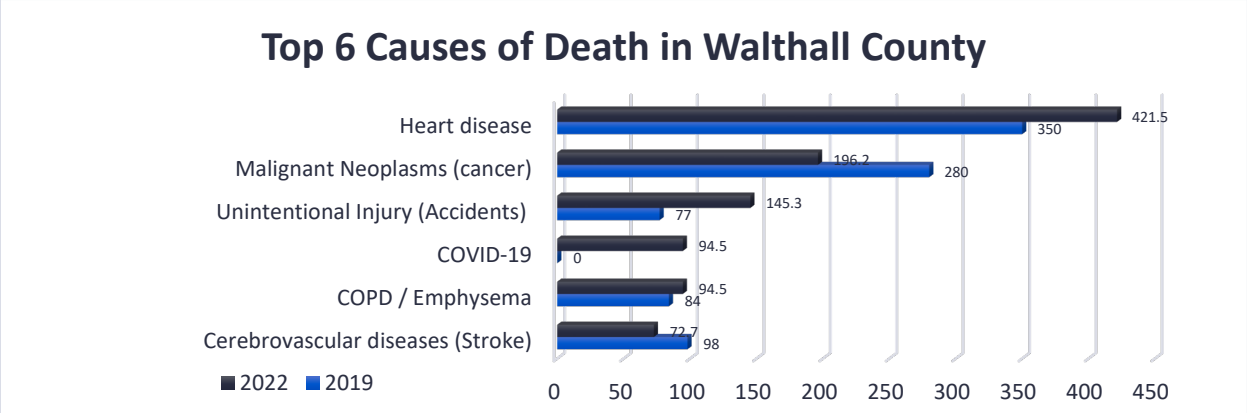
Walthall Hospital's community faces multifaceted social determinants of health, with access, cost, provider availability, and health education emerging as key factors. Addressing these will require coordinated efforts across healthcare, policy, and community organizations.

Causes of Death Analytics

Cause of Death Comparison (based on per 100,000)







Causes of Death Analytics, Continued

Heart Disease, Cancer, and Accidental Deaths Breakdown

(based on per 100,000)

Heart Disease

Death Rate:	421.5
Ischemic heart disease	43.11%
Hypertensive heart disease with or without renal disease	18.96%
Heart failure	13.78%
Cardiac dysrthythmias	8.61%
Ill-defined heart diseases	3.44%
Diseases of pulmonary circulation	3.44%
All Other heart diseases	8.61%

Cancer

Death Rate:	196.2
Trachea, bronchus, and Lung	37.05%
Pancreas	14.83%
Female breast	14.42%
Colorectal	11.11%
Prostate	7.39%
Brain	7.39%
Uterus, part unspecified	7.24%
Liver and intrahepatic bile ducts	3.72%
Leukemia	3.72%
All Other cancers	3.72%

Accidental

Death Rate:	145.3
Poisoning-drugs	39.99%
Motor vehicle	35.03%
Submersion, suffocation, and foreign bodies	9.98%
Falls	5.02%
Other accidents	5.02%
All Other Unintentional injuries	5.02%

2022 Needs

Our Response to the 2022 Needs

Healthier Youth in Walthall County

Walthall General Hospital staff participated in the annual Chamber of Commerce Community-wide Trick-or-Treat event on Main Street in Tylertown in October 2022, 2023, and 2024. Rather than distributing candy, the Hospital offered nutritious fruit snacks to the children participating in this event. The Hospital was successful in educating the community about healthy snack options versus traditional Halloween candy. The project successfully engaged both children and their parents, achieving our goal of connecting with the youth in Walthall County.

Walthall General Hospital actively participated in the Teen Health and Wellness Fair organized by the Walthall County School District on February 19, 2025, held at Tylertown High School. Students participated from 6th grade through 12th grade. We distributed educational materials addressing critical topics such as warning signs of suicide, depression, the impact of alcohol on health, treatment options for alcohol use, the dangers of mixing alcohol with medications, resources for poison control, strategies for quitting vaping, as well as information on HIV and STDs. Additionally, we provided hygiene bags, first-aid kits, pens, and notepads. The information provided targeted the youth, and we hope that this initiative inspired them and emphasized the importance of their health and well-being. We collaborated with the Mississippi State Health Department, which helped provide the pamphlets to give away.

Walthall General Hospital took part in several career fairs. The Southwest Community College Regional Workforce Job Fair took place on February 27, 2025, at the Southwest MS Community College Regional Workforce Training Center in Summit, MS. This event was accessible to both students and the general public. The career fair at Pearl River Community College occurred on March 20, 2024. The Co-Lin Community College career fair took place on March 21, 2024, followed by the Southwest Community fair on April 5, 2024. During these events, we offered student detailed information about our facility and shared details about available job openings along with their respective requirements.

WGH was a sponsor for the Education Award for the Enterprise Journal.

WGH sponsors the student of the month newspaper articles to different schools in Walthall County. Walthall County Career and Technology Center, Dexter Attendance Center, Salem Attendance Center, and Tylertown Elementary School will select a student for that month and provide information about the student, including their likes, dislikes, and general details, to help the community get to know them better.

Walthall General Hospital provided a tour of its facility on September 6, 2024, to the students of Harvey's Academy of Care. We guided them through each department to familiarize them with the functions and operations of each area. We aimed to help them feel more at ease with the Hospital environment, alleviating any fears they may have had.

Our Response to the 2022 Needs, Continued

Walthall General Hospital partnered with South MS Boucherie and Cardio World to sponsor their annual 5K in 2022 and 2023, contributing t-shirts and supplying participants with hand sanitizer, pill packs, pamphlets on nicotine addiction and withdrawal, anti-vaping resources, and various giveaways, all sourced from the Mississippi State Department of Health. WGH also sponsored a pancake breakfast to support the Boy Scouts.

Walthall General Hospital participated in the Dairy Festival in 2024. We distributed bike reflectors to kids, while local insurance companies contributed car seats and bicycles, with three car seats, along with two helmets and knee pads, available through a drawing, and we provided information on proper car seat usage and preventing head injuries in children

In 2023, WGH teamed up with the School District and the Community Outreach Committee to host a Community Wide Kickball event, engaging many kids who were organized by age groups and received healthy snack bag lunches.

In 2023, WGH collaborated with the Community Outreach Committee to organize a 5K event aimed at raising funds for youth activities, where discussions on lifestyle, guidance, and mentoring took place alongside healthy snacks and drinks provided for the attendees.

In 2023, Walthall General Hospital sponsored a basketball tournament at Tylertown High School, where youth of all ages participated and enjoyed Powerade, water, and trophies provided by the Hospital.

Each year, WGH selects a family to support during the Christmas season. In December of 2024, we assisted a family of four and raised approximately $1,000, which was used to purchase Christmas gifts for them.

WGH actively supports local high school athletic events through various sponsorship initiatives. These include financial contributions to sports teams as well as advertising sponsorships in the local newspaper and radio station. Additionally, WGH provides pre-game meals for the home games for the football and basketball teams of Tylertown and Salem High Schools. In 2024, Walthall provided 55 bag meals for each game to players and coaches during Tylertown High School's home football games, which amounted to a total of 11 home games. We also supplied 22 meals for Tylertown High School's players and coaches for the home basketball games, which consisted of about 15.

Senior Citizen Health Care

Walthall General Hospital’s cafeteria provided over 250 free meals each year to the Community Outreach Committee’s Meals on Wheels program, a local nonprofit group. The meals were distributed to local, elderly shut-ins by the nonprofit organization.

On October 5, 2023, Walthall General Hospital hosted a complimentary Medicare Plan Education session in the conference room, covering essentials like Medicare 101, benefits options, best practices, Medicare Part D, and RX drug plans.

In addition, Walthall General Hospital provided educational handouts about nutrition, portion control, heart-healthy and diabetic friendly diets at local events such as Walthall General’s Senior Health Fair in 2022, and in both the South MS Boucherie and the town’s annual Dairy Festival in 2023, 2024, and 2025.

Our Response to the 2022 Needs, Continued

Breast Cancer Awareness

In 2024, WGH took part in Tylertown's *Paint the Town Pink* initiative. On this day, employees were encouraged to wear pink attire in support of Breast Cancer Awareness. Additionally, a Pink Barbie Box was made available for both employees and the public to take photographs.

WGH participated in two local high school football games to promote Breast Cancer Awareness. During these games, we distributed informational materials regarding breast cancer and provided gift bags to survivors of the disease. The event took place at Tylertown High School on October 18, 2024, and at Salem High School on October 17, 2024.

In 2024, Walthall General Hospital participated in the *Puttin' on the Pink* Breast Cancer Awareness Gala. This annual event is dedicated to promoting Breast Cancer Awareness. This year, nine of our employees participated in this event.

WGH raised money and donated comfort supplies to the cancer center for patients.

Mammo to open at Marion General for screenings May 2025. Walthall County residents will greatly benefit from the new service line.

Tornado

From March 17th to March 21st, 2025, Walthall Rural Health Clinic offered assistance to storm victims by providing space to charge medical equipment and allowing them to self-administer nebulizer treatments, while also lending out 20 portable oxygen cylinders.

On March 19, 2025, we volunteered with Mercy Chefs to help prepare meals for those impacted by the tornadoes in Walthall, and we are dedicated to providing support whenever it's needed.

In March, our dedicated kitchen prepared hot meals for our frontline workers and storm victims. Hot plates were bagged up and taken out into the community to give to front-line workers and storm victims. We also had a first-aid station set up at Salem Baptist Church for storm victims.

Walthall General Hospital provided essential supplies like baby diapers, body wash, and batteries, alongside generous donations from Relias and Midsouth Rehab, to support storm victims.

2025 Needs

Responding to Our Community

2025 Strategic Initiatives

Walthall General Hospital is committed to improving the health and well-being of our residents. Based on community feedback and identified needs, Walthall General will focus on the following initiatives in 2025:

Initiative 1: Accidental Deaths

Over the past years, Walthall County has encountered a continuous rise in accidental deaths due to drug poisoning, which includes alcohol, marijuana, cigarettes, vaping, and any illicit drugs. Walthall County has seen an increase in drug poisoning issues among young people. Drug overdose fatalities are a major cause of early death that can largely be prevented, and based on our community health assessment focus group, we recognize the need to provide educational resources for children and the public to raise awareness about the risks associated with drug use.

Target Population

Middle school to high school students

Goals/Desired Outcome

Our goal is to raise awareness among local youth about the dangers of drug use by offering educational resources and promoting community activities focused on the risk of drug poisoning.

Process/Time Frame/Location

We will collaborate with community partners, including the Walthall County School District, local law enforcement, and the Community Outreach Committee, to host events throughout the year that inspire positive life choices among youth through mentoring, motivation, and educational resources.

In addition to providing educational resources and mentoring, Walthall General Hospital Pharmacy Department will partner with local law enforcement to start an annual Drug Take Back Day. This community event is focused on the proper disposal of unused medications. Removing unused medications from homes helps prevent drugs from getting into the wrong hands.

Walthall General Hospital was approved to participate in the state's Narcan grant. With this grant, we will receive Narcan to disperse within the community to prevent overdose deaths. Walthall County school nurses and administration have approved the use of this Narcan by designated school officials.

Measure of Success

We aim to receive encouraging feedback from schools and community members as participation continues to grow. Success will be indicated by a reduction in accidental fatalities among the youth.

Responding to Our Community, Continued

Collaborating Partners

- Community Outreach Committee
- Walthall County Sheriff's Office and Police Department
- Walthall County School System

Initiative 2: Healthy Lifestyle

Recently, Walthall County has experienced an increasing prevalence of chronic illnesses such as heart disease, diabetes, obesity, and hypertension, as well as a rise in mental health issues among both younger and older populations. During our community health assessment focus group, we recognized the need for a platform to promote healthy lifestyles for all ages, fostering a positive mindset through social engagement, and we will keep supporting fun, educational activities in collaboration with community leaders and organizations.

Target Population

All ages across Walthall County

Goals/Desired Outcome

We aim to enhance overall wellness and healthy living by encouraging community activities that support both physical and mental well-being.

Process/Timeframe/Location

We will increase fitness through group activities as we co-host multiple 5K Walk/Run events in partnership with the South MS Boucharie Committee and Cardio World. We will collaborate with the Community Outreach Committee to host youth engagement events throughout the year. Walthall General Hospital will continue to provide support for fundraising and food donations year-round to benefit the Outreach Committee.

Provide health education opportunities at the local school health fairs and other local events such as the Art on Beulah event, Main Street Trick or Treating, etc. Walthall General Hospital will use the local newspaper and social media to provide healthcare education, as well as information about local healthcare services.

Measure of Success

Positive feedback from the community with a steady increase in participation.

Collaborating Partners

- Boucherie 5K
- Cardio World
- Local Churches
- Community Outreach Committee

Responding to Our Community, Continued

Initiative 3: Breast Cancer Awareness

Walthall County has seen a rise in breast cancer cases, prompting us to advocate for routine mammography screenings in our community. Breast cancer is the most prevalent cancer among women globally and ranks as the third most common cancer in Walthall County, with a gradual increase of positive cases each year. Given that the median age in Walthall County is 44.3 years, we believe it is essential to share vital information on detection promptly. We are partnering with various organizations to enhance access to mammography services, aiming for a more convenient solution. Walthall will organize fundraising events to support screenings at Marion General Hospital, providing vouchers for free mammograms to those who are underinsured or not insured.

Targeted population

Both male and female citizens of Walthall County.

Goals/Desired Outcome

The desired outcome is to grow awareness for breast cancer through education, prevention, detection, and treatment. Our hope is to help those who are without insurance coverage receive the proper screening at no cost to them through screening vouchers. Our goal is to provide education on breast screening exams and self-exams.

Process/Time Frame/Location

We will raise awareness for breast cancer through educational initiatives focused on prevention, detection, and treatment, along with our involvement in the high school pink-out games and the *Paint the Town Pink* event. Our primary aim, with support from the *Puttin' on the Pink* Foundation, is to enhance local access to mammography by organizing year-round fundraising efforts to help those in need. Screening education will also be provided throughout the year at community events.

Measure of Success

We are encouraged by the positive community feedback, growing participation, and more collaboration for Breast Cancer Awareness, and we aspire to reduce mortality through early detection and financial support for treatment access. We hope to provide at least five free mammography screenings per year.

Collaborating Partners

- Marion General Hospital
- *Puttin' on the Pink* Foundation
- Walthall County Chamber of Commerce's *Paint the Town Pink*
- Walthall County School District

Thank You

Walthall General Hospital, a part of the Forrest Health System, expresses its profound gratitude to everyone who contributed to their recent **Community Health Needs Assessment ("CHNA")**. This assessment is crucial for understanding and addressing the community's healthcare needs.

The Hospital emphasizes its core belief in being "our brother's keeper" and its dedication to providing **compassionate and mission-focused healthcare**. They are honored to collaborate with community partners to deliver outstanding care and foster a healthier environment for Walthall County residents and surrounding areas.

Special thanks are extended to:

- The **Forrest General Board of Trustees** and **Health System leadership** for their invaluable guidance.
- The **CHNA Steering Committee members** and all participants in the **Community Focus Group**, whose time, support, and insights were essential.
- The **general public** for completing the Community Health Survey, reading the CHNA, and supporting the Hospital's mission of care in Walthall County.

Walthall General Hospital is committed to continuing its mission in its rural Mississippi community, ensuring that the public's voice is heard and valued in shaping healthcare services.

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