



Independence
HEALTH SYSTEM

BUTLER MEMORIAL
HOSPITAL

2025 COMMUNITY HEALTH
NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Executive Summary:

Since its inception in January 2023, Independence Health System has been a community-based provider system seeking to constantly improve health outcomes and assure that health services are available to a socio-economically diverse region. Locally owned and locally controlled, Independence Health System offers low-cost, high-quality care across the care spectrum, beginning with primary care and including specialties such as cardiology, cardiovascular and thoracic surgery, orthopedics and sports medicine, minimally invasive and robotic surgery, women's health and obstetrics, emergency medicine, behavioral health, and primary care. Its network of outpatient centers sees more than 1.2 million visits annually. The homecare division further supports patients at all stages of life with home health and hospice services.

Nationally recognized for quality care, Independence Health System comprises Butler Memorial, Clarion, Frick, Latrobe, and Westmoreland Hospitals with a combined bed count of 925. With more than 1,000 physicians and advanced practice providers and 7,300 employees, the System is now the third largest in western Pennsylvania serving a population base of 750,000 in a footprint spanning more than 10 counties.

Independence Health System includes tertiary programs that are rated among America's best for cardiac care and surgery by Healthgrades in its Top 100 and Top 50 designations, and one of only five in Pennsylvania to achieve a five-star rating in cardiac surgery. In similar fashion, the prestigious Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) bestowed its top three-star rating. Historically, less than 10 percent of programs within the STS database achieve this elite standing. The hospitals of Independence Health System also have earned a host of accolades from such prestigious outlets and sources as US News and World Report, Newsweek Magazine, the American College of Radiology, the American College of Cardiology, the American College of Surgeons, the Joint Commission, Leapfrog, and the American Heart/Stroke Association.

Independence Health System continues to be a leader in healthcare in western Pennsylvania. It does this through meeting patient and family needs through superb physician expertise, outstanding nursing, and allied health, the latest in technology programmatic depth, and an ongoing focus on improving social determinants of health.

Independence Health System-Butler Memorial Hospital (BMH) is proud to present its 2025 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) report. This edition sought input from multiple engaged community organizations, stakeholders, public health and health care providers, businesses, religious institutions, and consumers interested in improving the health of the Butler community. We would like to express our sincere appreciation for their support in this endeavor.

This report is a comprehensive review and analysis of health status indicators, public health, socioeconomic, demographic, and other qualitative and quantitative data from the primary

service areas of Butler Memorial Hospital. This assessment identified the health needs and issues facing our community.

The overarching goal is to identify community health priorities, develop interventions and commit resources to promote a healthier community. It will take all of us to make this happen.

Although multiple areas of opportunity were identified to improve the health and well-being of our community, there were two areas of significant concern and importance identified.

The issue of substance use was highlighted again this year as a major problem plaguing our community. Working with Butler County Health and Human Services, Butler Memorial hospital was awarded a state grant to renovate and expand the inpatient Drug and Alcohol Unit. This will help to care for more people whose lives and health are upended by substance abuse issues.

In addition, the safety and security of our community was a major concern for those surveyed. Focus groups have been developed for ongoing discussions and potential solutions.

The need for ongoing health education and access to healthy foods remains a top priority for our community. The chronic diseases of diabetes, obesity and hypertension are major concerns for our community members. Access to healthy food, nutrition education and lifestyle coaching classes continue at Butler Memorial hospital since the development of the Food Institute in April 2021.

BMH has been committed to the community it serves for over 120 years. It is a 294-bed acute care facility that provides services associated with most general community hospitals. It also provides advanced specialty care. Advanced procedures include those with structural heart disease, advanced treatment for coronary artery disease, robotic surgical approaches, radiology, obstetrics and gynecology, cancer care, critical care, and orthopedics.

BMH has been formally conducting Community Health Needs Assessment for over 30 years. These assessments have allowed the organization to appropriately allocate resources and develop services that best suit the needs of Butler County and the surrounding regions. Some of the past major initiatives that have resulted from these assessments include:

| Past Major Initiatives | Year Started |
|---|---------------------|
| Maternal Services Program | 1990 |
| Family First (Support) | 1992 |
| Mammography Outreach | 1996 |
| Women's Imaging Center | 1999 |
| Cardiovascular Surgery | 1999 |
| Best Practices Stroke Care | 2005 |
| Community Hospital Comprehensive Cancer Program | 2006 |

| | |
|---|------|
| Tumor Registry | 2006 |
| Community Health Clinic (Support) | 2008 |
| Pediatric Hospitalist Program | 2012 |
| Lung Cancer Screening | 2014 |
| Maternal Fetal Health Disparity Investigation | 2016 |
| Clarion Hospital and Provider Group Acquisition | 2019 |
| Telehealth Services for Primary and Specialty Care | 2020 |
| System Wide EHR Upgrade to Expanse | 2020 |
| Primary Care Office Expansions | 2020 |
| Food Institute Butler Hospital Campus | 2021 |
| Food Institute Clarion Hospital Campus | 2022 |
| Development of Cardiac Shock Team | 2022 |
| Implementation of Good Food Healthy Hospitals-collaboration between Hospital Association of Pennsylvania and Butler Memorial Hospital | 2022 |
| Impella 5.5 purchased for expanded cardiac services | 2023 |
| Coronary CTA performed | 2023 |
| Merger - Excela Health System and Butler Health System to form Independence Health System | 2023 |
| Purchased another bone density machine to increase access | 2023 |
| Purchased another mammography machine to increase access | 2024 |
| Purchased another CT Scanner at BMH to increase access | 2024 |
| New linear accelerator installation with UPMC joint venture | 2024 |

Table 1: Previous Initiatives Developed from Community Assessments

2022 Community Health Needs Assessment Follow Up

The previous assessment, completed in 2022, identified multiple areas of health concerns in Butler County. BMH used this information to develop and implement those needs. Topics identified in the 2022 assessment included:

Butler CHNA Implementation Objectives

1. Mental Health and Substance Use Strategies
2. Food Insecurity/Nutrition Education

The following outlines efforts towards those needs.

1. Mental Health and Substance Use Strategies

- A Mental Health (MH) therapist with mental health and Drug and Alcohol (D&A) experience was hired in September 2023 and embedded in the primary care physicians (PCP) office in the Clarion Health and Wellness Center. The goal is to provide expertise and aid the PCP's caring for patients with Behavioral Health needs as there are limited psychiatric and counseling resources in the Clarion area. This model allows for a counselor to be on site and provide immediate consultation. The Behavioral Health PA-C also provides medication consultation and recommendations for primary care physicians. Multiple PCP offices throughout Clarion County including the Clarion Health and Wellness Center, Mary Ann, Seneca, Brookville, and New Bethlehem PCP offices are referring to this much needed service. These services can also be provided through telehealth if necessary. Evaluation is underway for the potential need for another counselor. This model has not been replicated on the Butler campus since more treatment options are available for mental health and D&A issues. We will continue to identify the needs for expansion in the Butler market.
- Two full-time positions at Family Services-Butler were posted to increase our capacity to serve the community. The positions were filled but staff turnover continues to be an issue, especially in a tight labor market. We are not able to work remotely due to regulatory restrictions. It is hard to compete with the flexibility and benefits of telehealth and private practice. Many of our positions are filled by clinicians in the process of obtaining their license. This leads to a cycle of constant recruitment and training.
- A work group developed a process to prescribe Buprenorphine from the Emergency department (ED) and set up outpatient follow-up appointments for

patients who present with opioid overdoses. Workflow and documentation paths were developed for buprenorphine to be prescribed by the ED. Identified community partners agreed to provide follow-up care and support any other treatment needs. Buprenorphine can help prevent overdoses while helping the individual remain free from illicit opioid use. Research has shown that pairing medications such as Buprenorphine along with ongoing therapy provides the best patient outcomes.

- In 2023, we collaborated with Butler County Southwest Behavioral Health Management- to secure funding (\$2,151,250) to expand the availability of hospital based Medically Managed Withdrawal management and Medically Managed Intensive Inpatient Substance Abuse Disorder (SUD) treatment for individuals seeking recovery within Butler County and the surrounding region. Independence Health System at Butler had 18 of these “flex beds” (detox/rehab) available to Butler residents and individuals across the region in need of this intensive hospital-based, residential SUD treatment. Independence Health System at Butler’s inpatient unit serves 370-600 individuals annually but cannot adequately meet the demand for this level of care. To address this increasing need across the region, the hospital agreed to increase the bed capacity to twenty beds and ensure the upgrade needed to achieve ADA compliance. These renovations will at minimum include bathroom and shower accessibility upgrades, expansion of individual and common room space and door frames, wheelchair accessibility to treatment offices and nursing stations. We are also adding 4 ligature resistant rooms for patients who have a higher risk for suicidality. This will allow the entire unit to expand its services to accept and more adequately serve physically and psychiatrically fragile individuals struggling with addiction. Individuals accessing this level of care will benefit from symptom stabilization through medication management, nursing, counseling, and physician care. The unit is managed by an internist who is a certified addiction specialist. We also have 24-hour psychiatric support available for consultation.
- We increased our Assertive Community Team's (ACT) capacity from 50 to 56 patients. The ACT team serves the population with severe mental illness. The ACT team consists of psychiatry, nursing, therapists, social workers, and peer services that help with symptom management, medication compliance, and vocational, medical, and social needs. The goal of this program is helping people stay out of the hospital and/or restrictive living environments

2. Food Insecurity/Nutrition Education

- The Butler Memorial Hospital opened the Food Institute in April of 2021. The overarching mission of the Food Institute is to empower individuals to maintain good health through education and the consumption of nutritious foods. By strategically addressing the prevalent issues of diet-related diseases, including obesity, type 2 diabetes, and various heart-related illnesses that affect communities and contribute to frequent hospitalizations and escalating healthcare costs, the Food Institute seeks to make a lasting positive impact. During each visit, patients receive basic nutrition education from a nutrition liaison, food shares, and recipes. Nutrition education topics include food safety, MyPlate, healthy fats, low sodium, low sugar, and menu planning. Education is conducted in a one-on-one setting and an educational booklet is provided so patients may refer to it at any time. Patients also receive ingredients and recipes for 10 monthly meals that can feed a family of four, and each recipe has a cost analysis average of ~\$1.50 per serving. Recipe cost analysis and education on sustainability of healthy eating is another important educational focus of the program, as it helps patients learn healthy eating habits despite their economic hardships.

Since its inception in 2021, the BMH Food Institute along with the Clarion campus Food Institute have served over 1,000 community members for an initial appointment. This service is not a one-time event. Food Institute participants return monthly for four months for nutrition education, food demonstrations, healthy foods, recipes, and utensils if needed. The Food Institute has provided over 2800 nutrition educational hours to patients and community members in need. Throughout the growth of this program, several community relationships have been created and help support our community. The Food Institute works very closely with some insurance providers, local food banks, human service agencies, just to name a few. The Food Institute expanded to our neighboring county of Clarion in November 2021.

The Food Institute also screens participants for other areas of social vulnerability. If a need is identified, our team works closely with community service providers and can offer referrals or literature on existing programs. Independence Health System has partnered with outside organizations to sustain the nutrition education program.

In December 2025, the Butler Food Institute was named the Kathy J Selvaggi MD Food Institute and Lifestyle Coaching Center for her work developing this important service to our community.

- Independence Health System continues to offer complimentary Lifestyle Coaching Classes. The instructors for Lifestyle Coaching include Independence Health System Subject Matter Experts in the following areas: Endocrinology, Clinical Dietitians, Nutrition, Neurology, Cardiology and Pulmonary Medicine to name a few. The educational information is shared via Lifestyle Coaching Classes in person, virtually and/or video on demand. A sample of classes offered and made available to the community at large are:
 - Heart Healthy Diet Seminars – Mediterranean, DASH, Plant-Based, Flexitarian, Heart Healthy Lifestyles
 - Diabetes Lifestyle Coaching
 - Brain Health Seminars
 - Ongoing Volumetric Weight Management Program
 - Self-Care
 - Menu Planning
 - Longevity Lessons
 - Lung Cancer Screening

In the summer of 2024, Butler Memorial Hospital developed video learning opportunities. The videos address the importance of smoking cessation, Lung Cancer screening, Obstructive Sleep apnea and Atrial Fibrillation. Each session highlights risk factors, lifestyle modifications, and screenings. These videos are displayed in a variety of ways including placement on the website, provider waiting rooms and on communal area television screens throughout the hospital.

★ All classes are complimentary from Independence Health System.

2025 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA)

This CHNA was conducted in the fall of 2024 through the spring of 2025. Qualitative and quantitative data was gathered from community members, stakeholder organizations in the Butler County region, employees, and providers of Independence Health System- Butler Memorial Hospital and Butler Medical Providers and multiple secondary data sources.

Assessment Committee Membership

Kathy Selvaggi, MS MD FAAHPM; Rebecca Clouse, MSOL; Leanne Feil, BSN RN; Jennifer Lawrence RN- MBA; Robert M Muntz, MSED CADC and Cari Harmon, MHA.

Methods

The assessment committee gathered input from individuals and organizations that represent the broad interests of the Butler region; this was completed through a variety of methods.

- Multiple meetings were held with the BMH Butler Community Assessment team to identify the top health priorities within the primary service area of Butler County
- BMH collected health data from County Health Rankings, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, World Life Expectancy, PAYS, and US Census
- 446 community members completed electronic and paper surveys to provide additional data, and 46 community stakeholder surveys were also completed
- Focus groups met in person although some took place via ZOOM. These groups discussed the data collected from all the sources above. The main concerns that arose out of the focus groups were substance abuse and school and community safety

Population Served

The primary service area for BMH was identified as Butler County, Pennsylvania. Most patients and visits originate from the city of Butler and the surrounding zip codes. In addition, many patients come from surrounding counties to receive more advanced services. This includes individuals from Armstrong, Westmoreland, Clarion, Beaver, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango, and Allegheny. For secondary data collection, Butler County was determined to be the community served. This is illustrated in figure 1.

Butler Memorial Hospital Inpatient Hospitalizations Fiscal Year 2024

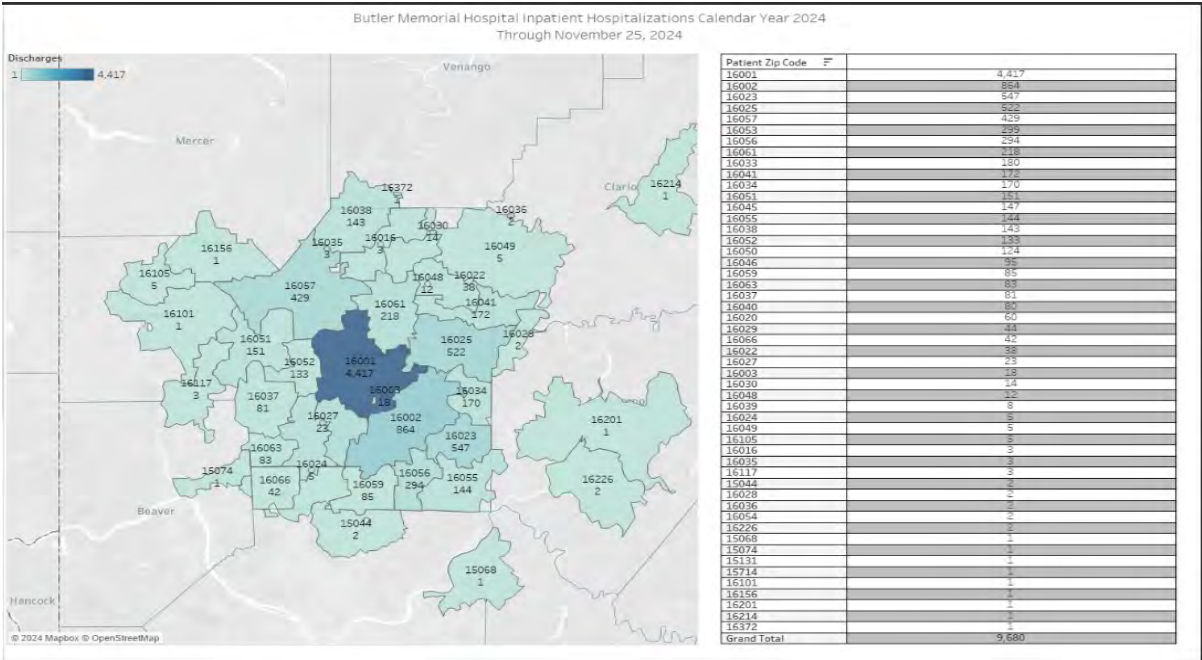


Figure 1: Heat Map indicating the number of inpatient hospitalizations from each zip code in Butler County.

A sizable proportion of BMH patients originate from the 16001-zip code. As such, BHS has placed several service locations within this area to meet the demand of the primary population. The following demographic data was compiled from the Government's Census. Below is Table 2, summarizing the county population data compared to data specific to Pennsylvania.

| | Butler County | Pennsylvania |
|--|---------------|--------------|
| 2023 Population Estimate | 198,413 | 12,961,683 |
| Population Percent Change: April 1, 2020-July1, 2023 | 2.4% | -0.3% |
| Median Age (2019) | 43.3 years | 40.8 years |
| Percent under 18 | 19.0% | 20.3% |
| Percent 65 years and older | 21.3% | 20.0% |

| Race and Origin | | |
|---|----------|----------|
| White alone, not Hispanic or Latino, Percent | 95.2% | 80.6% |
| Black or African American, Percent | 1.5% | 12.3% |
| American Indian & Alaskan Native alone, Percent | 0.2% | 0.5% |
| Asian alone, Percent | 1.7% | 4.2% |
| Hispanic or Latino, Percent | 2.1% | 8.9% |
| Two or More Races, Percent | 1.4% | 2.4% |
| Veterans (2016-2020) | 12,104 | 680,824 |
| Education | | |
| High School Graduate or Higher | 95.7% | 91.7% |
| Bachelor's Degree or Higher | 38.3% | 33.8% |
| Median Household Income | \$82,932 | \$73,170 |
| Per Capital Income in Past 12 Months | \$45,389 | \$41,234 |
| Persons in Poverty, Percent | 8.9% | 11.8% |
| Percent with a Disability under age 65, 2016-2020 | 8.8% | 10.0% |
| Persons without Health Insurance under age 65, Percent | 4.3% | 6.5% |

Table 2: Butler County Demographics
<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/PA.butlercountypennsylvania/BZA21023>

- Within the county, there is significant variability amongst many of the social and economic determinants of health depending on the location in the county because of the large geographic area Butler County encompasses.
 - A recurring theme among community stakeholders was the access and resources in the southern part of the county differs within the county from the central and northern areas. Because of these differences, it should be remembered that county level data on health-related issues might be tilted towards the affluence of the south.
- The table below (as of July 1, 2023) shows a select number of disparities that exist within the primary service area of BMH. These areas include Adams Township,

Cranberry Township, Butler City, and Center Township. Butler City is the immediate area surrounding BMH, and Center Township is in northern Butler County.

| | Adams Township (16046) | Cranberry Township (16066) | Butler City (16001) | Center Township (16061) |
|--|-----------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|
| High School Graduate or higher, percent | 98.9% | 98.5% | 93.1% | 95% |
| Bachelor's Degree or higher | 65.5% | 63.7 % | 22.3% | 35.6% |
| Median Household Income, 2018-2022 | \$136,842 | \$120,554 | \$39,546 | \$87,036 |
| Per Capita Income Past 12 months, 2018-2022 | \$72,583 | \$61,177 | \$26,681 | \$47,560 |
| Persons in Poverty, Percent | 4.5% | 4.2% | 21.7% | 4.8% |
| Percent with a Disability, Under age 65, 2018-2022 | 4.3% | 5.4% | 22% | 7.9% |
| Persons without health insurance under age 65 | 1.7% | 2.5% | 5.8% | 2.6% |
| Households with broadband internet subscription, 2018-2022 | 94.4% | 96% | 82.5% | 89.8% |
| 2023 Population Estimate | 15,603 | 34,516 | 13,099 | 7,810 |

Table 3: Demographic Disparity in Butler County

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/adamstownshipbutlercountypennsylvania,cranberrytownshipbutlercountypennsylvania,butlerccitypennsylvania,centertownshipbutlercountypennsylvania/BZA210223>

- Looking at data from the county level, there is a sizable portion of our service population being under-represented. There are dramatic differences in factors like income, education, and disability across the county creating a different picture of health and the health needs of defined subpopulations within the county.

Healthcare Facilities in and around Butler County

Hospitals

- Independence Health System-Butler Memorial Hospital
- UPMC Passavant- Cranberry
- AHN Wexford

Urgent Cares

- BHS Faster Care (Butler, Slippery Rock, and Sarver)
- MedExpress (Butler, Mars)

Skilled Nursing Facilities and other services (Listed in Appendix)

Health Factors and Outcomes

Data surrounding the health factors and outcomes was evaluated using County Health Rankings and World Life Expectancy. The leading cause of death in Butler County is heart disease. Cancer and accidents are the second and third leading causes of death, respectively.

The heart disease mortality rate is 204.18 per 100,000 people, which is significantly higher than Pennsylvania and the US Median at 180.61 and 173.78, respectively.

The cancer mortality rate is 172.23 per 100,000 people, which again is higher than the Pennsylvania and US Median coming in at 152.95 and 146.55, respectively. The age-adjusted rates in Butler County for many types of cancer are higher than the rates of cancer incidence in Pennsylvania.

The mortality rates for stroke and lung disease are significantly higher in Butler County compared to Pennsylvania and the US. The mortality rate for stroke in Butler County is 44.07 per 100,000 people compared to the Pennsylvania and US stroke rates of 37.66 and 41.14 per 100,000 people, respectively. The mortality rate for lung disease is 43.37 per 100,000 people in Butler County, while Pennsylvania and the US lung disease rates are 30.33 and 34.71 per 100,000 people.

| | Butler County | Pennsylvania | US Median |
|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Heart Disease | 204.18 | 180.61 | 173.78 |
| Cancer | 172.23 | 152.95 | 146.55 |
| COVID | 88.78 | | 104.12 |

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Accidents | 47.35 | 73.53 | 64.71 |
| Stroke | 44.07 | 37.66 | 41.14 |
| Lung Disease | 43.37 | 30.33 | 34.71 |
| Alzheimer's | 25.88 | 22.71 | 30.96 |
| Diabetes | 24 | 23.52 | 25.41 |
| Nephritis/Kidney | 16.39 | 16.84 | 13.55 |
| Influenza-Pneumonia | 17.65 | 10.33 | 10.53 |
| Blood Poisoning | 12.03 | 13.86 | 10.22 |
| Suicide | 12.09 | 13.94 | 14.09 |
| Parkinson's | 9.74 | 9.46 | 9.84 |
| Liver Disease | 8.19 | 10.98 | 14.47 |
| Hypertension/Renal | 5.9 | 7.46 | 10.69 |
| Homicide | 1.37 | 9.17 | 8.17 |

*Table 4: Disease Specific Mortality and Incidence. All Rates are per 100,000 people
(<https://www.worldlifeexpectancy.com/usa/pennsylvania>)*

County Health Rankings

Health Factors: The overall rankings in health factors represent what influences the health of a county. They are an estimate of the future health of counties as compared to other counties within a state. The ranks are based on four types of measures: health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic, and physical environment factors.

Health Outcomes: The overall rankings in health outcomes represent how healthy counties are within the state. The healthiest county in the state is ranked #1. The ranks are based on two types of measures: how long people live and how healthy people feel while alive.

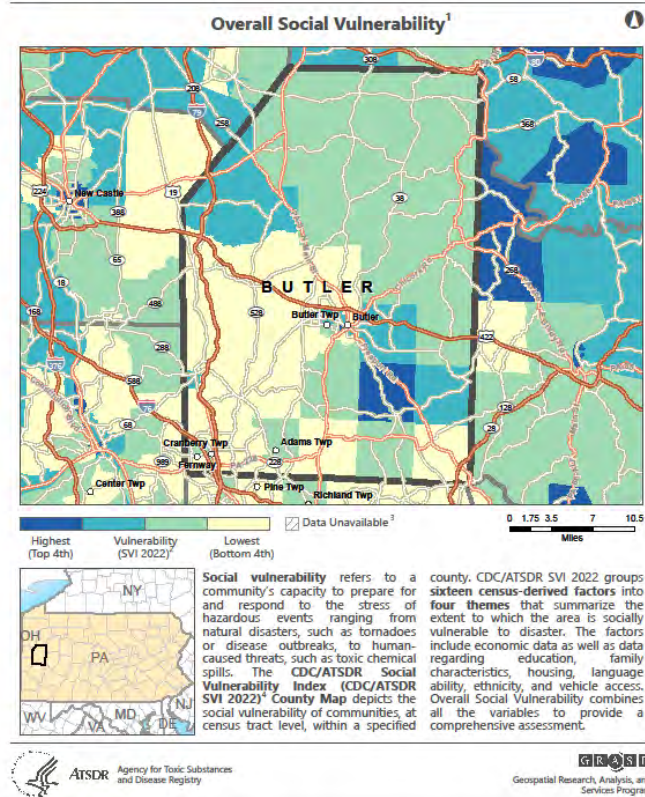
According to the 2023 County Health Rankings, Butler County is ranked 6 out of 67 in both health factors and health outcomes (1 being the healthiest and 67 being the unhealthiest). In the health outcomes, Butler County ranked 75% to 100% in the higher range of counties in Pennsylvania for health outcomes. For health factors, Butler County ranked in the higher range at 75% to 100% (0% being the unhealthiest and 100% being the healthiest). It is important to note that South Butler is more affluent than the areas in North and Central Butler, which could alter how “healthy” the county may seem.

County Health Rankings also identified areas of strength for Butler County, which include teen births, uninsured, primary care, mammography screening, flu vaccinations, and physical activity. Some areas to explore included adult smoking, adult obesity, and excessive drinking.

(<https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/pennsylvania/2023/overview>)

Social Vulnerability Index (SVI)

CDC/ATSDR Social Vulnerability Index 2022 BUTLER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA



CDC/ATSDR SVI 2022 – BUTLER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

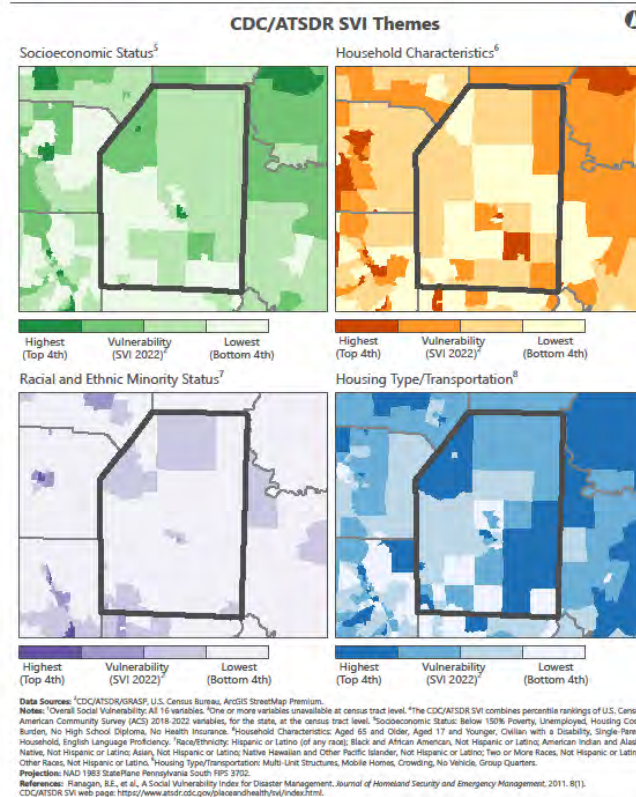


Figure 2: Social Vulnerability Index

(https://svi.cdc.gov/Documents/CountyMaps/2022/Pennsylvania/Pennsylvania2022_Butler.pdf)

- **Social vulnerability:** is a community's capacity to prepare for and respond to the stress of hazardous events ranging from natural disasters to human threats.
- There are four themes that summarize the SVI: these include socioeconomic status, housing/transportation, family characteristics, and language/race/ethnicity.
- The figure on the left is the overall SVI for Butler County. This combines all the themes to show a comprehensive assessment of the well-being of the county.
- This data was collected in 2022 and the overall SVI for Butler County was 0.0786, which is on a 0 to 1 scale. With 0 being the lowest vulnerability and 1 being the highest. Having a 0.0786 SVI indicates a low level of vulnerability. However, Butler City is at a high level of vulnerability.
- In the 16001-zip code, the Socioeconomic Status, Household Characteristics and Racial and Ethnic Minority Status have medium to high levels of vulnerability within Butler County coming in at .5387, .7342 and .545, respectively.

- Household Type /Transportation in the 16001-zip code has the highest level of vulnerability at .8713.

2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey Data Analysis

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania conducts the Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS) every two years. PAYS is a primary tool in Pennsylvania's prevention approach of using data to drive decision making. The 2023 PAYS was administered during the fall of 2023 to youth in grades 6,8,10 and 12, resulting in 262,535 valid surveys. The analysis included the following area school districts: Butler, Freeport, Karns City, Knoch, Seneca Valley and Slippery Rock.

This surveys students' behavior and knowledge around multiple topics including alcohol usage and binge drinking, the abuse of over-the-counter drugs and medications, tobacco and other substance abuse, bullying, and violence in school and the community. It also captures the students' mental health at a county and state level. BMH focused on the Butler Area School District given the geographic relationship to the hospital.

This comprehensive report reveals some particularly important facts that all community members need to be aware of:

- 1) the substance uses rate of youth who reported depressive symptoms is much greater than those who have a positive outlook on life
- 2) there is a strong relationship between being bullied and depression and suicidal behaviors
- 3) students who feel appreciated and rewarded for their involvement in school have reduced likelihood of involvement with substance abuse and problem behaviors.
- 4) Young people who have role models such as community leaders, neighbors, police, or clergy are more likely to develop connections with peers and participate in social activities.

PAYS DATA BULLET POINTS FOR BUTLER COUNTY:

For more information about PAYS and to review the complete report please visit the official website of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, pa.gov to view the PAYS data.

Violence/Bullying

- In the past 12 months, 17.9% of students reported being threatened with violent behavior on school property compared to 18.5% at the state level.

- In the past 12 months, 6.1% of students reported having been attacked on school property compared to 7.3% at the state level.
- 27.4% of students in the county experienced bullying in the past 12 months compared to 26.2% of students at the state level. Most of the bullying was due to “the way I look” such as clothing or hairstyle or due to a person’s height/weight. Data suggests bullying behavior contributes to lower school attendance rates, lower student achievement, low self-esteem, and higher rates of juvenile and adult crime.
- 83.7% of students reported that a handgun would be “Sort of hard” or “Very hard” to get compared to the state rate of 88.1%

Substance Use

- In the past 12 months, 9.3% of students reported being offered alcohol, tobacco or other drugs on school property compared to 8.9% at the state level.
- In the past 12 months, 3.4% of students reported being drunk or high at school compared to 4.3% at the state level.
- The highest lifetime usage rates were seen in alcohol (29.8%) of students compared to 28.9% at the state level. The next highest lifetime use rate was vaping with 12.8% indicating use compared to 13.9% at the state level.
- 4.9% of students in Butler County engaged in binge drinking in the past two weeks compared to 4% at the state level.
- The most frequently misused drugs were over the counter drugs to get high - 2.9% of students indicating lifetime use, compared to 3.3% at the state level. The next most frequently misused substance was prescription pain relievers with 2.6% of students indicating lifetime use compared to 3% at the state level.
- 61.6% of students reported that alcohol would be “Sort of hard” or “Very hard” to get compared with the state rate of 67.8%
- Interestingly, 81.2% of students (83.2 % state level), thought it was “Wrong or “Very Wrong” for someone their age to use alcohol regularly and 81.5% thought it was “Wrong or “Very Wrong” for someone their age to use marijuana compared to the state rate of 80.6%.

- 15.4% of students showed a willingness to use alcohol (indicating they "would like to try it or use it" or "would use it any chance I got") compared to 14.6% at the state level.

Community Survey

To reach as many people and distinct populations as possible, BMH promoted the survey through collaborative community meetings, social media, emails and in person community events. BMH distributed the survey electronically and it could be accessed from a link or QR code.

BMH employees who live in Butler were also asked to fill out the survey. BMH collected 446 surveys completed by community members. The survey asked several questions regarding the individual's health status and other factors linked to health in our community. The following are some examples of the results found through the community survey.

Survey Results

Overall, how would you rate the health status of the community?



Figure 3: Community health status

- 48% of respondents rated the health of the community as fair. 39% rated the health of the community as good, very good or excellent while 13% rated the health of the community as poor.

In relation to the children in our community, select any of the following concerning you.

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Childhood Obesity | 293 |
| Childhood Mental Health | 336 |
| Education | 196 |
| Bullying | 293 |
| Other | 29 |

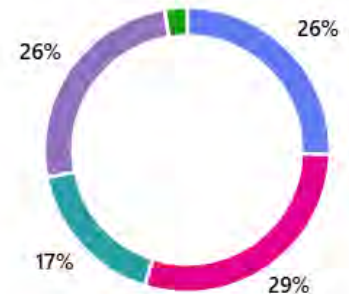


Figure 4: Community- Concerns in children

- 55% of the respondents identified either childhood mental health or childhood obesity as a concern for children in the community.

What areas do you think our community has significant challenges? Select all that apply.

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Homelessness | 174 |
| Lack of recreational activities | 142 |
| Poverty | 277 |
| Affordable childcare | 252 |
| Drug use | 375 |
| Transportation | 171 |
| Access to Healthy Foods | 196 |
| Employment opportunities | 129 |
| Crime | 183 |
| Violence | 138 |
| No struggles at this time | 14 |

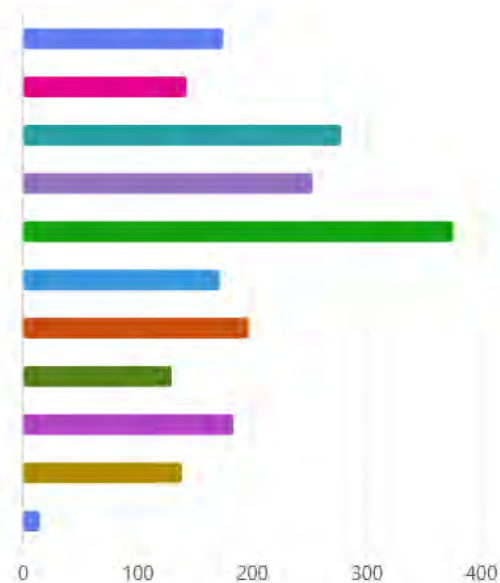


Figure 5: Community- Overall Struggles

- 84% of the respondents identified drug use as an area of struggle in the community.

What health concerns are you worried about in our community? Select all that apply.

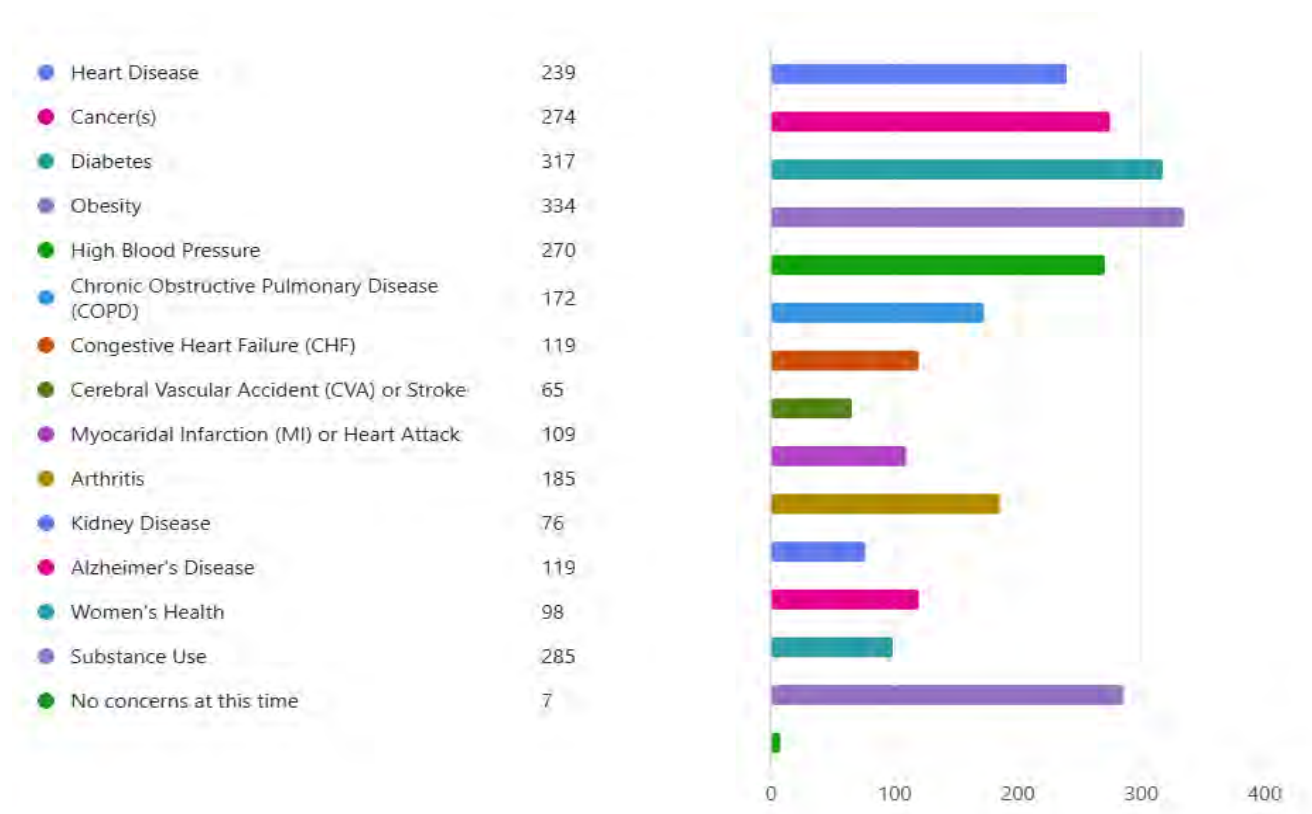


Figure 6: Community- Overall Health Related Concerns

- Obesity, Substance Use and Diabetes were identified as the top three health concerns by community members.

Stakeholder Survey

To capture additional information about Butler County, BMH surveyed stakeholders within the community. These individuals came from a vast range of backgrounds with clinical and non-clinical backgrounds. There were 46 completed Stakeholder surveys. Other stakeholders were interviewed in a focus group setting to provide further insight regarding problems within the community and the development of strategies for improvement.

Survey Results

How would you rate the health of our community?



Figure 7: Stakeholder survey rating the health of the community

- 65% of the stakeholders identified the health of our community as fair. 20% rated the community's health as good and 11% as poor.

What areas do you see the community having significant struggles? Select all that apply.

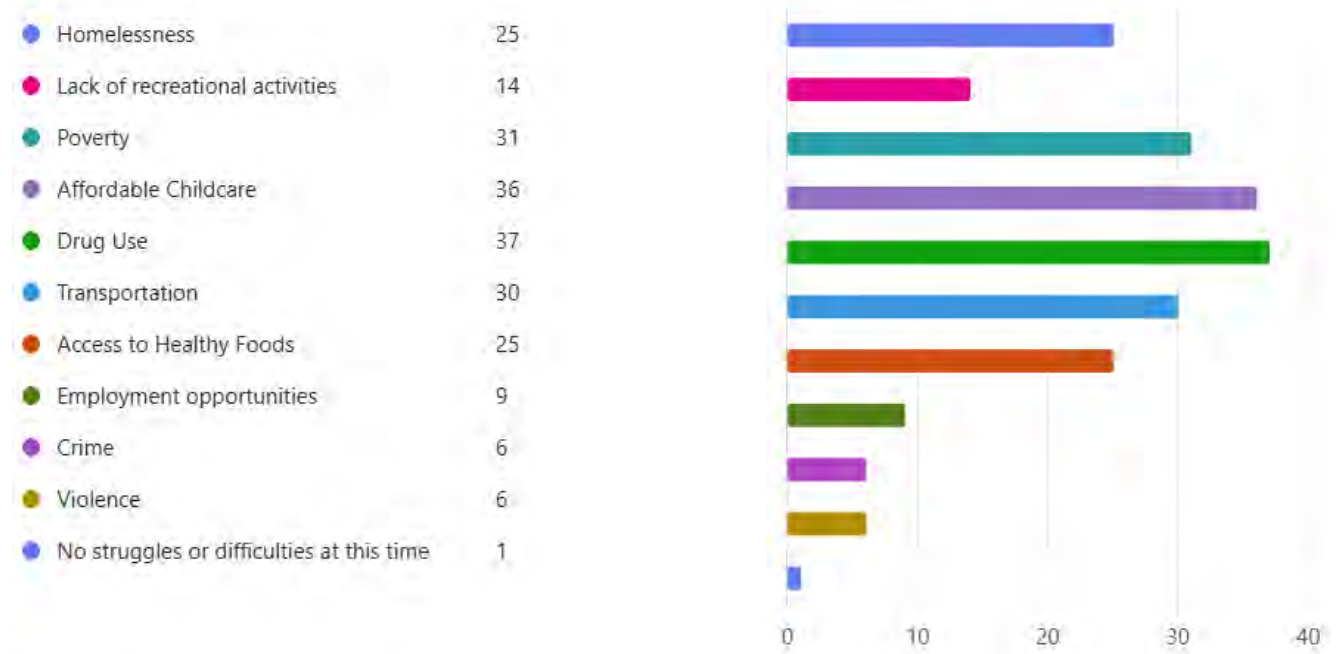


Figure 8: Stakeholder- Community Struggles

- 80% of the stakeholder respondents identified drug use and affordable childcare as the top areas of concern for our community. 67% of the respondents identified poverty and transportation as areas of struggle and 54% identified homelessness as a significant problem.

In your opinion, what are the most prevalent health conditions facing our community? (Check all that apply)

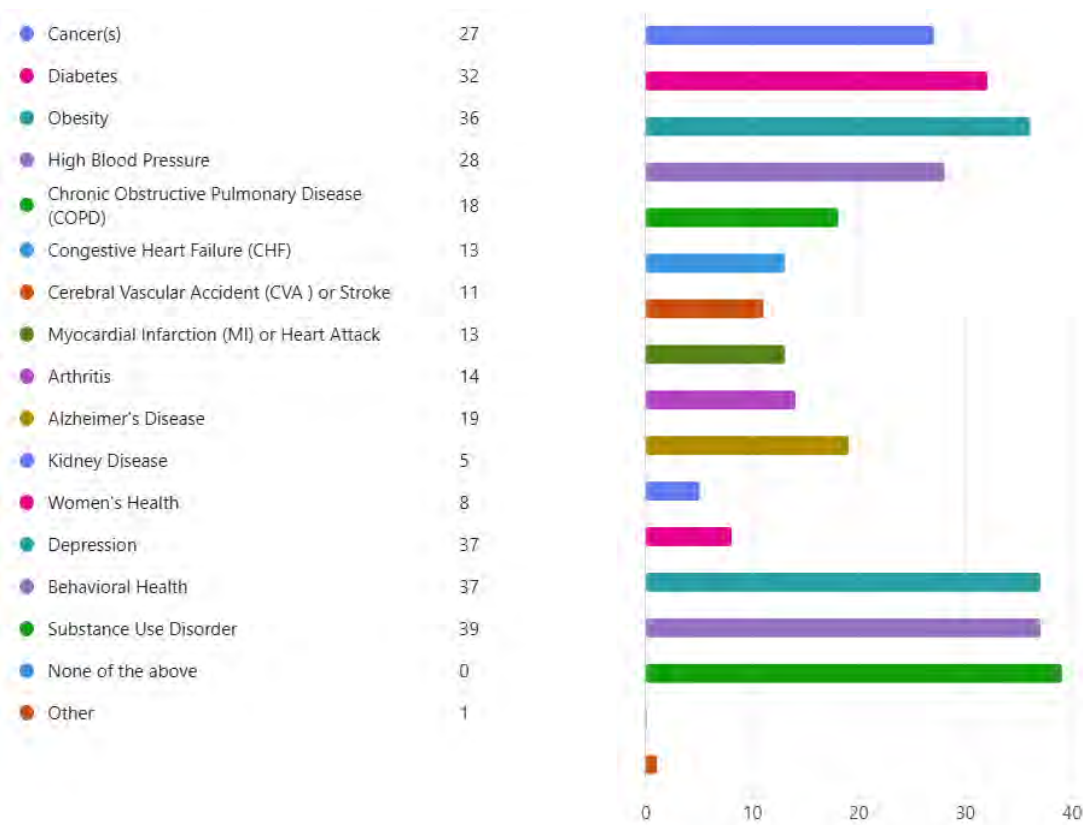


Figure 9: Stakeholder- health concerns

- 85% of the stakeholder respondents identified substance use disorder as a health concern in the community. 80% identified behavioral health and depression as top health concerns. 78% identified obesity as a top health concern in the community.

What do you think are the top 3 Community Needs for Butler County?

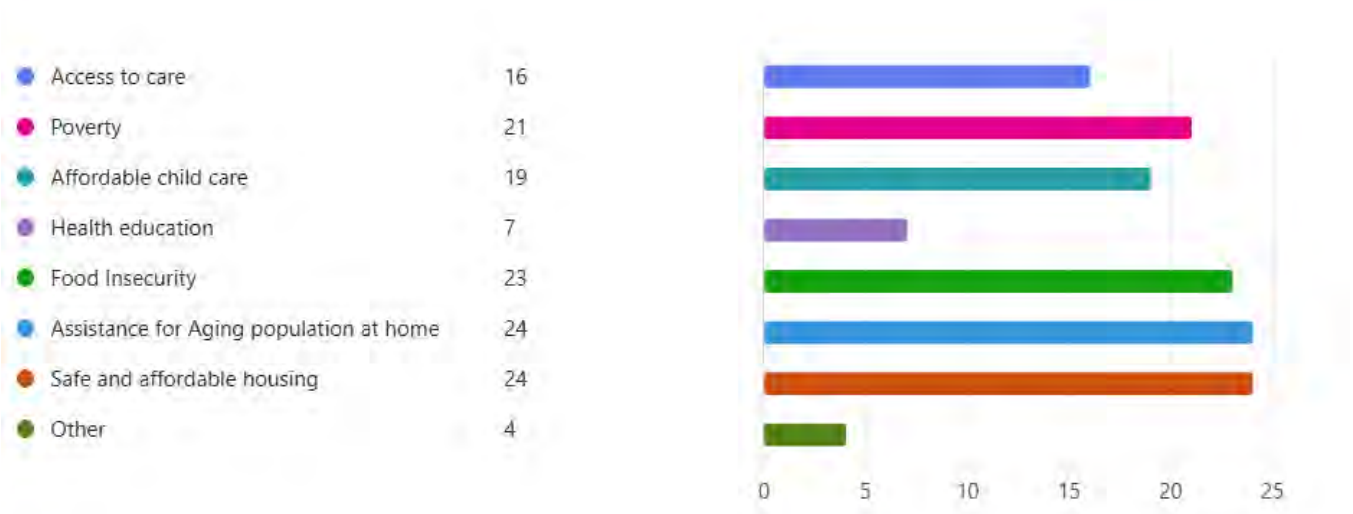


Figure 10: Stakeholder top three community needs identified

- The stakeholder respondents identified food insecurity (50%), assistance for the aging population at home (52%) and safe and affordable housing (52%) as the top three needs in the community.

What are the environmental factors that impact the community's health needs?



Figure 11: stakeholder responses to environmental factors creating a barrier

- The Stakeholder respondents identified the lack of transportation, food and childcare as the top three environmental factors causing hardships in the community.

What are the barriers to individuals accessing services that impact health? Select all that apply.

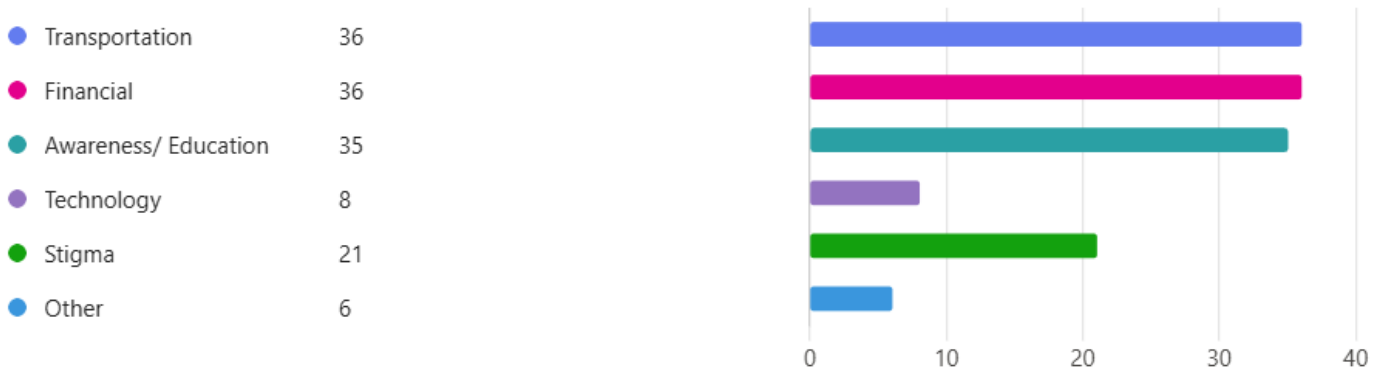


Figure 12: Stakeholder- Barriers for accessing services

- The stakeholder respondents identified transportation (78%), financial (78%) and awareness/education (76%) as the top three barriers for individuals accessing services.

Focus Groups

BMH conducted focus groups in person and virtually with key members of the community, healthcare experts from BMH, law enforcement and various members working in the Butler School district. The focus groups reviewed the primary and secondary data collected from surveys to evaluate opportunities for BMH to collaborate with the community to address the identified issues. They focused on the top three identified issues: Safety in the Community and Schools, Substance Use and Food Insecurity.

1) Safety in the Community and Schools

The Safety in the Community and Schools Focus Group meeting was held on November 26, 2024. We had 12 participants including Independence Health System, Butler Area School District Administration, Butler County Human Services, Slippery Rock University Community Engagement, Alliance for Non-Profit Resources, Center for Community Resources and WQED Multimedia Learning Neighborhood. Participants were both in person with some virtually in attendance. The focus of the meeting was Safety in the Community and in the schools.

A major theme of this focus group was the concern of increasing violence and crime in our community. The stakeholders and the community at large are seeing violence and crime as

worrisome in our community. The group discussed that it recognizes that at times, acts of violence can be the result of a person lacking the basic tools or coping skills for anger management/ depression or other areas of struggle. The 2023 PAYS data reports that bullying behavior, for example, contributes to lower attendance rates, lower student achievement, low self-esteem and higher rates of juvenile and adult crime. The most effective way to address bullying is through comprehensive, school-wide programs. This topic led the group to discuss how the tools/ coping skills can be taught more effectively and ultimately giving community members and students a “toolbox” to use when needed. This will also help community members meet their basic needs and gives them the opportunity to focus on their overall health.

It was noted that Butler County is known for the abundance of resources available. The group initiated the conversation about how messaging about the available resources can be amplified. Areas discussed were social media, short intentional messaging, more parent, and caretaker involvement, having a presence at school orientation and normalizing that families can have the necessary tools if a need arises. This would give families a place to contact before certain situations become a crisis.

The Butler Area School District (BASD) discussed the recent changes to address any acts of violence in the schools. At this time, certain privileges have been taken away from students if any disciplinary actions take place in relation to violence. BASD reports a significant decrease in the need for disciplinary actions this school year.

2025 Implementation Goals and Strategies to Improve Safety in our Community and Schools

1. Work with local schools to have a Human Service Resource present at the orientation of school aged children.
2. Raise awareness of existing resources, when and how to use them
3. Build and create a “toolbox” to help community members access resources when in need and before a crisis.
4. Share informative websites such as:

PA Bullying Prevention Toolkit:
www.centerforsafeschools.org

2) Substance Use

The Substance Use Focus Group was held on November 26, 2024. We had 12 participants including Independence Health System Drug and Alcohol, LIFE Butler County, CANDLE inc., Slippery Rock University, Center for Community Resources, Butler County Drug and Alcohol Prevention and Butler County Community College. Substance use has been identified as an ongoing need. The substances used are changing, and the drug delivery models are getting more sophisticated. For example, vape pens are manufactured to look like school supplies or cosmetic applicators.

The group discussed the changes and dangers in the current supply of drugs. Areas of concern are fentanyl and lethal fillers being placed in various substances. Drugs continue to change names and are being called names that may be appealing to young people. A main theme in this discussion was centered on the continued need for prevention and ongoing education on the availability and health ramifications of drug use. In schools where youth believe that drugs are easily available, a higher rate of drug use has been found. The group discussed the need for more awareness and less stigma surrounding current drug trends.

Again, referring to the 2023 PAYS data, "the attitudes and policies a community holds about substance use and other concerning behaviors are communicated through laws, written policies, informal social practices and expectations by parents and community members of young people. When laws and community standards are unclear or perceived as favorable toward substance use, violence and crime, young people are more likely to engage in negative behaviors."

Understanding and strengthening the family unit was a topic of conversation. According to the 2023 PAYS data, adult actions influence youth. Family rules and the actions of adults in youth's lives can influence their risk of using substances or engaging in concerning behavior. 53.7% of students in Butler County reported having personally known someone over 21 who has gotten high or drunk compared to 47.9% at the state level; used marijuana, crack, cocaine or other drugs (21.8% compared to 22.5% at the state level). The group felt strongly that education for both students and their families was critical in stemming the tide of drug usage. Education is needed on the acute side effects of drugs as well as the potential long term side effects. Open dialogue amongst students, parents, the school system, health educators and community members are paramount in keeping our children safe and healthy. Substance

abuse can be a challenging topic for many families but ongoing discussion free from accusations is critical for understanding and developing solutions.

2025 Implementation Goals and Strategies for Substance Use

1. Prevention and Education- The PAYS report delves into the concept that prevention is a science. "To prevent a problem from happening, we need to identify that factors that increase the risk of the problem developing and then find ways to reduce the risks." For example, children who live in families with high levels of conflict are more likely to become involved in drug use and delinquency. Protective factors include strong bonding to community, family, school, peers and clear standards for behavior." The steps outlined in the PAYS data help county and community agencies make key decisions regarding the allocation of resources, how and when to address specific needs and which strategies are most effective in producing results. For more information visit www.bach-harrison.com
2. Continue Focus Group meetings and provide seminars on substance use disorders. Engage speakers with expertise in this area to provide ongoing education to health care providers. The following websites are informative:

PA Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs www.ddap.pa.gov

Alcoholic Anonymous
www.aa.org

Talking with children about drugs and alcohol
www.samhsa.gov

3) Food Insecurity

The health system will continue to address the issue of food insecurity and chronic disease by giving community members access to healthy foods and ongoing nutrition education. Interestingly, the 2023 PAYS data revealed that 15.8% of students in Butler County said, "they worried they would run out of food at home due to money issues", 8% of students said, "they

had skipped a meal because their family didn't have enough money for food" and 16.6% reported at least one of these two items.

2025 Implementation Goals and Strategies for Food Insecurity

1. Continue to provide evidence-based lifestyle education in a group setting (virtually and /or in person) for the community and employees.
2. Continued support and development of the Food Institute (FI) at Butler Memorial Hospital-Independence Health System. The FI Institute has been supported over the years by grants from HRSA, the Hillman Foundation, PNC Charitable Trust, and Huntington Bank. Other supporters include the physician network, philanthropic donors, Highmark Wholecare and a 2-year pilot project with UPMC Health Plan. In addition, a contract with Pittsburgh Food Bank allows a purchase of bulk foods at lower costs. The FI specializes in nutrition education, meal planning and preparing healthy recipes on a budget. Participants receive healthy ingredients and cooking instructions to prepare meals on their own for up to 10 healthy meals per month for 4 months.
3. Continue to address the issues of Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) through assessment and education.
4. Continue our collaboration with Good Food Healthy Hospital and the Hospital Association of Pennsylvania to:
 - a. Increase offering of healthier and more sustainable food and beverage choices
 - b. Eliminate industrially produced trans fats
 - c. Decrease the sodium content in available foods
 - d. Decrease the added sugar in beverage offerings
 - e. Allow individuals to make informed choices about what they are purchasing, selecting and eating through labeling of menu items.

Appendix A

Human Service Guide for Butler County

Compiled by:

Independence Health System Butler Memorial Hospital for the 2025 Community Health Needs Assessment

Abuse/Protection

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Butler Co. Children & Youth | 724-284-5156 |
| Childline- 24-hour hotline | 800-932-0313 |
| Butler Area Agency on Aging | 724-282-3008 |
| VOICe – 24-hour hotline (Victim Outreach Intervention Center) | 800-400-8551 |

Advocacy

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| The Arc of Butler County | 724-282-1500 |
| Community Care Connections | 724-283-3198 |
| Lifesteps, Inc. | 724-285-4819 |
| Mental Health Association | 724-287-1965 |
| Disability Rights Pennsylvania | 800-692-7443 |
| or | 412-391-5225 |
| Society of St. Vincent de Paul | 724-287-3994 |

Children/Adolescents

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Butler Co. Children's Center | 724-287-2761 |
| Butler Co. Children & Youth | 724-284-5156 |
| Butler Co. Head Start | 724-287-2761 |
| Butler Co. Juvenile Probation | 724-284-5355 |
| Child Care Information Services | 724-285-9431 |
| or | 888-864-1654 |
| Community Care Connections | 724-283-3198 |
| Family Pathways | 724-284-9440 |
| BHS Family Services | 724-284-4894 |
| Grace Youth and Family Foundation | 724-282-0507 |

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| Merakey-Behavioral Health for Children | 724-282-2441 |
| Special Kids Network- PA Elks | 800-986-4550 |
| WIC of Butler | 866-942-2778 |

Education

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Butler Area School District | 724-287-8721 |
| Butler Co. Vo-tech | 724-282-0735 |
| Early Intervention | 800-692-7288 |
| Education Law Center- Pittsburgh | 412-285-2120 |
| Disability Rights Pennsylvania | 800-692-7443 |
| BHS Family Services | 724-284-4894 |
| Freeport Area School District | 724-295-5141 |
| Karns City School District | 724-756-2030 |
| Mars Area School District | 724-625-1518 |
| Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV | 724-458-6700 |
| Moniteau School District | 724-637-2091 |
| PA Dept. of Education | 717-783-6788 |
| PaTTAN -Pittsburgh | 800-446-5607 |
| Seneca Valley School District | 724-452-6040 |
| Slippery Rock Area School District | 724-794-2960 |
| St. Stephen's Academy | 800-371-0545 |

Elderly

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Butler Area Agency on Aging | 724-282-3008 |
| BHS Transitional Care Facility | 724-284-4307 |
| Community Health Clinic | 724-841-0980 |
| Lifesteps Adult Day Services | 724-283-1010 |
| LIFE Butler County | 724-287-5433 |
| Lutheran SeniorLife | 724-776-1100 |
| Meals on Wheels-Butler Co. | 724-285-3815 |
| VNA, Western Pennsylvania | 724-282-6806 |

Emergency

| | |
|--|--------------|
| 24 Hour Response | 911 |
| Center for Community Resources | 724-431-3700 |
| Crisis Hotline | 800-292-3866 |
| Poison Control | 800-222-1222 |
| Suicide Prevention Lifeline | 800-273-8255 |
| VOICe – 24-hour hotline (Victim Outreach Intervention Center) | 800-400-8551 |

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| Veterans Crisis Line | 800-273-8255 |
| Warmline (6pm-9pm) | 724-431-2488 |

Evaluation/Assessment

| | |
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| Blind Association of Butler County | 724-287-4059 |
| Butler Co. Drug/Alcohol Program | 724-24-5114 |
| Butler Health System | 724-283-6666 |
| Center for Community Resources | 724-431-3700 |
| Children's North | 412-692-7337 |
| BHS Family Services | 724-284-4894 |
| Glade Run Lutheran Services | 800-371-0545 |
| The CARE Center- SPHS | 724-234-1370 |
| Lifesteps (Speech, language & hearing) | 724-283-1010 |
| Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV | 724-458-6700 |
| Vocational Rehabilitation Services | 724-656-3070 or 800-442-6351 |

Health

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| Amedisys Home Health | 724-284-4663 |
| Adagio Health | 724-282-2730 |
| Butler Health System | 724-283-6666 |
| BHS Maternal Services | 724-284-4867 |
| Community Health Clinic | 724-841-0980 |
| Concordia Visiting Nurses | 724-352-1571 |
| Red Cross of West Central PA | 724-283-2810 |
| VNA, Western Pennsylvania | 724-282-6806 |
| WIC of Butler | 866-942-2778 |

Housing/Homeless

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Catholic Charities | 724-287-4011 |
| Housing Authority/ | |
| Deshon Place & Franklin Court | 724-287-6797 |
| Center for Community Resources | 724-431-0095 |
| or | 844-360-4372 |
| Lighthouse Foundation | 724-586-5554 |
| Salvation Army Butler County | 724-287-5532 |
| Society of St. Vincent de Paul | 724-287-3994 |

Information/Referral

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|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Center for Community Resources | 724-431-0095 |
| BHS Family Services | 724-284-4894 |

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| Mental Health Association | 724-287-1965 |
| Social Security Administration | 800-772-1213 |
| Society of St. Vincent de Paul | 724-287-3994 |
| United Way of Butler County | 724-285-4883 |
| Weatherization | 724-342-6222 |

Legal Services

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Disability Rights Pennsylvania | 800-692-7443 or 412-391-5225 |
| District Attorney of Butler County | 724-284-5222 |
| Family Court | 724-284-5181 |
| Education Law Center- Pittsburgh | 412-285-2120 |
| Juvenile Court Services | 724-284-5355 |
| Neighborhood Legal Services | 724-282-3888 or 866-761-6572 |
| PA Bar Association- Western PA | 412-914-8840 |
| PA Health Law Project | 800-274-3258 |
| Butler Co. Public Defender's Office | 724-284-5335 |
| Butler County Victim Services | 724-284-5232 |

Mental Health Services

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Butler County MH/DA | 724-284-5114 |
| The CARE Center- SPSHS | 724-234-1370 |
| Center for Community Resources | 724-431-009 or 844-360-4372 |
| Glade Run | 724-452-4453 |
| Kids Count Family Psychological | 724-287-1880 or 724-284-0076 |
| Mental Health Association | 724-287-1965 |
| PBS Mental Health Associates | 724-282-1627 |
| Butler VA Mental Health | 800-362-8262 |
| Vocational & Psychological Services | 724-287-5604 |
| Wellness Works Counseling | 724-282-0332 |

Psychiatric Hospital Services Adult

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| Butler Health System | 724-284-4266 |
| Butler Health System | 724-284-4321 |
| Torrance State Hospital | 866-816-9212 |
| Butler VA Mental Health | 800-362-8262 |

Psychiatric Hospital Services Children/Adolescents

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Armstrong County Memorial Hospital | 724-543-8437 |
| Clarion Psychiatric Center | 800-253-4906 |

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| Southwood Psychiatric Hospital | 844-853-1527 |
| UPMC Western Psychiatric | 412-624-1000 |

Recreation

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Boy Scouts Moraine Trail Council | 724-287-6791 |
| Butler County YMCA | 724-287-4733 |
| Butler County Parks and Recreation | 724-284-5383 |
| Community Care Connections | 724-283-3198 |
| Girl Scouts Western Pennsylvania | 800-248-3355 |
| MHA Compeers | 724-287-1965 |
| Grace Youth and Family Foundation | 724-282-0507 |

Residential/Adults

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| ARC Butler County | 724-282-1500 |
| The Care Center-Housing Support | 724-285-3200 |
| The Care Center-Long Term Residence | 724-283-7083 |
| Catholic Charities | 724-287-4011 |
| Center for Community Resources | 844-360-4372 |
| Community Care Connections | 724-283-3198 |
| Deshon Place & Franklin Court | 724-287-6797 |
| Ellen O'Brien Gaiser Addiction Center | 724-287-8205 |
| Lifesteps | 724-283-1010 |
| Lighthouse Foundation | 724-586-5554 |
| Merakey Allegheny Valley School | 412-299-7777 |
| Sunnyview Home | 724-282-1684 |

Residential/ Children

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Butler County Children and Youth | 724-284-5156 |
| Community Care Connections | 724-283-3198 |
| Glade Run Lutheran Services | 724-452-4453 |
| Kids Count Family Psychological | 724-543-1888 |
| MHY Family Services | 724-625-3141 |

Special Services

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| American Cancer Society | 800-227-2345 |
| American Heart Association | 412-208-3550 |
| Arthritis Foundation- Western PA | 412-250-3345 |
| Blind Association of Butler County | 724-287-4059 |
| Butler County Assistance Office | 724-284-8844 |
| Catholic Charities | 724-287-4011 |

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|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Community Action and Development | 724-284-5125 |
| Crisis Hotline | 800-292-3866 |
| Lifeline Pregnancy Support | 724-282-1200 |
| Lighthouse | 724-586-5554 |
| March of Dimes | 888-663-4637 |
| Meals on Wheels-Butler Co. | 724-285-3815 |
| Red Cross-Butler Co. | 724-283-2810 |
| Representative Payees (MHA) | 724-287-3380 |
| Salvation Army of Butler County | 724-287-5532 |
| Society of St. Vincent de Paul | 724-287-3994 |
| Suit Yourself | 724-287-4871 Ext. 4018 |
| Warmline (6pm-9pm) | 724-431-2488 |

Substance Abuse Support

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| Butler County AA | 724-679-5647 |
| Butler County Drug & Alcohol | 724-284-5114 |
| Butler Regional Recovery Program | 724-284-4357 |
| Butler Alcohol Countermeasures | 724-287-8952 |
| Crisis Hotline | 800-292-3866 |
| Ellen O'Brien Gaiser Addiction Center | 724-287-8205 |
| Grace Youth and Family Foundation | 724-282-0507 |
| Butler Family Support | 724-284-4016 |
| Reality Tour- Candle Inc. | 724-679-1788 |
| Seeds of Hope | 724-283-6160 |

Transportation

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Butler Area Rural Transit | 724-282-6060 |
| Butler Area Transit Authority | 724-283-0445 |
| Medical Assistance Transport Program | 724-431-3692 |

Vocational Services

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| PA CareerLink- Butler County | 724-431-4000 |
| Career Opportunities for the Disabled | 724-431-4060 |
| Career TRACK-Butler County | 724-431-4040 |
| Vocational Rehabilitation Services | 800-442-6379 or 866-412-4072 |

Skilled Nursing Facilities

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Amedisys Home Health | 724-284-4663 |
| Amedisys Hospice Care | 724-431-4170 |
| Lutheran Senior Life- Zelienople | 724-452-5400 |

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|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Lutheran Senior Life- Mars | 724-625-1571 |
| Quality Life Services- Chicora | 724-445-2000 |
| Quality Life Services- Sarver | 724-353-1531 |
| Transitions Healthcare- Harrisville | 724-735-4224 |