

Key findings Patrick County Community Health Needs Assessment

- The rate of uninsured persons is 29% higher than state average.
- There is a serious lack of primary care physicians. The state rate of physicians to patients is 1,320:1, while Patrick County's rate is 6,020:1
- There is a critical need for dental care. Virginians per dentist is 1,490:1. But for Patrick County, 8,960 patients exist for every dentist
- Lack of access to mental care is evident. While there are 680 mental health providers per Virginian, Patrick County's rate is 4,480:1¹

Needs Identified Via Key Informant Interviews

- With the lack of a community hospital or triage center, Patrick County EMS run calls to Mt. Airy NC or Martinsville VA, taking ambulances out of service for large chunks of time without the ability to respond to local emergencies. This obviously affects response times.
- Manufacturing employers in the community do not allow time off for medical appointments. Employees do not seek timely medical treatment because hours taken off for medical appointments are not paid, even with doctor's excuse.
- No one is responsible for authorizing helicopter pick-ups in medical emergencies.
- Referral point of entry lacking
- The county lacks a centralized recreational facility other than school gyms
- There is consensus that municipal leaders do not meet citizen needs
- There is a serious lack of health care facilities

Social Determinants to Health Identified in Key Informant Interviews

- Lack of transportation
- Poverty
- Geographic isolation
- Drug abuse
- Teen pregnancy
- Inadequate technology infrastructure
- Lack of education after high school
- Lack of employment opportunities
- High speed internet unavailable or unaffordable
- Municipal leaders limited by lack of financial resources
- Very few programs that cater to seniors and youth
- No prepared local emergency shelter

¹ County Health Rankings 2018. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Positive Community Assets Identified in Key Informant Interviews

- Programs: Meals on Wheels, STEP, book mobile, backpack program
- Religious and nonprofits helpful within community
- Ample program sand classes offered through Reynolds Homestead and Patrick Henry Community College satellite site
- Law enforcement presence is strong and considered positive by citizens
- Accessible walking trails
- Tourism stipend enables multiple festivals to take place

Deterrents to Health and Wellness Identified in Key Informant Interviews

- Lack of doctors and healthcare staff
- Lack of healthy meal options
- Obesity and physical inactivity
- Smoking
- Cost of healthcare and medications
- Unaffordable health care insurance

Needed for Health Improvement Identified in Key Informant Interviews

- Operating ER/Hospital
- Urgent care
- Doctors, dentists, optometrists, mental health professionals
- Economic development
- Affordable, healthy food
- Recreation center
- Substance abuse treatment
- Legal assistance
- Incentives for younger people to stay in Patrick County

Community Survey Results

- **Most important issues that affect health, in priority order**
 - Overweight/obesity (48%)
 - Alcohol/illegal drug use (43%)
 - Heart disease/stroke (39%)
 - Aging problems (36%)
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- **Diagnosed health conditions per respondents**
 - High blood pressure (49%)
 - High cholesterol (34%)
 - Overweight/obesity (25%)
 - Depression/anxiety (25%)
- **High blood sugar/diabetes (28%)**
- **Insurance coverage**
 - 43% of respondents – Medicare
 - 42% of respondents – No dental insurance
 - 33% of respondents – No medical insurance
 - 29% of respondents – Medicare supplement
 - 18% respondents – Employer provided
 - 9% of respondents – Individual/private marketplace
- **46% of respondents go outside the community for medical care**

Focus Group Results

- Focus Group 1. Location. Date
- Focus Group 2. Location. Date
- Focus Group 3. Location. Date

Prioritizing Community Health Needs

Using the “Weighting Method” the Patrick County Community Health Assessment team identified the following priorities: