

Garfield County
Community Health Assessment

Garfield County
Public Health Department

2017

PARTNERS

- Key Project Partners (Core planning team)
 - Garfield County Health Department (GCHD)
 - Garfield County Emergency Preparedness (GCEP)

- Community Partners, stakeholders, and organizations
 - Garfield County Public Health Board
 - Garfield County Commissioners
 - Garfield County Sheriff Department
 - Garfield County Public Health Nurse

- Funding Sources
 - Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

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Executive Summary

- A Community Health Needs Survey of Garfield County, Montana, whose purpose is to ascertain priority health needs within the community through discussion by key partners and survey of the community.
- The goal of GCHD is to promote, prepare, protect and improve health within the community as well as the prevention and control of infectious disease within the community.
- Key findings of the survey indicate that respondents viewed alcohol/substance abuse and depression/anxiety to be of the most concern to the community. These concerns were followed by mental health issues, cancer and obesity/overweight. Other findings show that approximately one fifth of respondents either delayed receiving or did not get needed health care due to a variety of reasons such as being unable to pay for care.
- Key findings of Focus group and Key partners indicate prioritized needs to be:
 - Local in-home health care
 - A place for fitness, exercise and health education
 - A new sewer system and water system for the town of Jordan
 - Promotion & education regarding services available to community members
 - Involvement, education and promotion of community service and needs to the youth of the community
 - Affordable & safe housing
 - Behavioral health issues, including alcohol and tobacco use and anxiety and depression
 - Suicide and bully awareness
 - Healthy lifestyle education and promotion, including: diet, healthy weight, physical health, chronic disease, cancer and sexual health
 - Personal safety awareness, education and promotion

Methodology

The Community Health Needs assessment process included several meetings with key members and a community health needs survey via a link on the GCHD Facebook page and on the Garfield County web page. Prior to the survey, an initial meeting with the County Board of Health determined prioritized needs within the community. A survey was then posted for a period of two weeks to determine community opinion of community health needs.

Four small gift cards were offered as incentive to participate in and complete the survey. The survey was made and monitored by DPHHS. Data was collected from the survey and the focus group, as well as from DPHHS and Montana's Department of Commerce.

Health challenges within the community were determined to be isolation and low household income, community social norms and beliefs as well as the lack of certain services and amenities within the community due to multiple factors.

Focus group priorities included: Elderly care and Community health, safety and education.

Survey results revealed access to health care, strong family life and good schools to be the most important factors of a health community. Respondents revealed Alcohol/Substance abuse, Depression/Anxiety, Mental Health issues, cancer and being overweight/Obesity to be the most important health concerns within the community.

Areas of overlap centered on community health and safety and individual health and safety.

Background

Garfield County is a largely Caucasian community in eastern Montana with a population of 1206 (2010). Ethnicity is varied, with the majority of the population being of European descent. The community is agriculture based with a portion of the population working at various jobs within the town of Jordan, which is the county seat of Garfield County and has a population of approximately 340 persons. The town of Jordan is 67 miles from Circle, MT and 83 miles from Miles City, MT. Jordan has an emergency room, two medical clinics, each with a Physician Assistant, a 4 bed Critical Access Hospital and a 22 bed nursing home. The nearest hospital of size is in Miles City, MT. The nearest major medical center is in Billings, MT, a distance of 176 miles. Emergency patients needing care not provided by the emergency room in Jordan, travel via ground or air ambulance to Miles City or Billings based on need and/or patient request. Approximately 17% of the population of Garfield County live in poverty. Per capita income within the county is \$26,142 per the U.S. Census Bureau. In the 2010 Census, 22% of the population of Garfield County was over the age 65 and 24% were below the age of 18.

Data Summary

Results of primary and secondary data are as follows (Bullet pointed answers are in order of value or priority.)

- Survey results:
 - Most important factor for a health community –
 - Access to health care
 - Strong family life
 - Good schools
 - Most important health concerns within the community –
 - Alcohol/Substance abuse
 - Depression/Anxiety
 - Mental health issues
 - Cancer
 - Obesity/Overweight
 - Physical Health Rating by respondents –
 - Good (42%)
 - Very good (26.8%)
 - Fair (23.1%)
 - What would help respondents be more physically active? –
 - Access to a gym
 - More/better sidewalks
 - A walking or exercise group
 - Causes of respondents delay in receiving needed care –
 - Expense (50%)
 - Availability of services (37.5%)
 - Insurance did not cover services (31%)

- Public Health Board & Key figure list of community needs:
 - Local in-home health care for elderly t/o the county
 - Population of person >age 65 = 265; In home cares are financially less burdensome than Nursing Homes and provides for happier, longer lived persons
 - A place for fitness, exercise and health education
 - To promote improved health and decreased chronic illness in community
 - Person in community with documented chronic illness: unknown
 - New sewer system for town of Jordan
 - This is in the hands of the Town of Jordan
 - New water system for town of Jordan
 - To be addressed after Sewer system/also with the Town of Jordan
 - Services for low income, for example: vouchers for rent, travel, utilities or emergencies
 - High population of low income persons and families within county
 - Educate/Promote awareness of available services both within and for the county – Between entities and to the public

- Distribute information to applicable entities and make readily available to public
 - Additional Health Fair
 - Currently scheduled for May 5th on Town & Country Days
 - Meals on Wheels
 - Need identified, unable to complete through senior center at this time due to AEMT and transportation policies
 - Involve VFW in education of younger generation about the military and its mission
 - Provides a sense of purpose and awareness within community
 - School implement 25 hours of community service required for graduation
 - Establishes a knowledge and experience base that will stay with children throughout their lives, leading to adults that are socially aware and responsible
 - Affordable housing
 - Community housing is very tight
 - Address behavioral health education & issues, including alcohol and tobacco use, anxiety, depression, post-partum depression
 - Both alcohol and tobacco use are attributed to multiple types of cancer; Mental and emotional health remain a concern among people of Eastern Montana
 - Suicide awareness for county, health and school employees and parents
 - Healthy lifestyle education: including diet, obesity, sexual health, STD awareness
 - Obesity is connected to multiple chronic health issues including cancer
 - STD are on the rise both in the state and nationally. Syphilis has had an increase in occurrence of 19%, Gonorrhea an 11% increase and Chlamydia a >5% increase.
 - Personal safety education: helmet use, stranger awareness, farm and ranch
 - Over the past several years our county has experienced several severe and sometimes fatal accidents
- Contributing causes to community health issues (some data obtained from the US Census 2010):
 - 22% of county population is over the age of 25
 - 23.8% of population is under the age of 18
 - 32% under the age of 65 have no health insurance
 - 17.3% of population live in poverty
 - Agriculture/Rural community structure and mindset
 - Community acceptance/social norms/beliefs
 - Individuals socioeconomic status
 - Lack of correct information/education for awareness/informed decision making
 - Lack of county, financial and community resources
 - Lack of some services, programs and amenities such as home health care, specialized care, fitness facilities, etc.
 - Remote location
- Population Groups with health issues or needs within the community:
 - Elderly with decreased mobility, mentation, disability, chronic disease or advanced age that are able to remain in their homes.
 - Adults with decreased mobility, mentation, disability or chronic disease that are able to remain in their homes.
 - Children with decreased mobility, mentation, chronic disease or disability that require adult supervision or care within their own homes.

- Elderly, adults and children that would benefit from chronic disease, nutrition and health education and a physical exercise program within the community.
- Existing community assets, strengths and resources to address health issues:
 - Garfield County Medical, including: Critical Access Hospital and Emergency Room; Nursing Home, Clinic, Public Health Department and Volunteer Ambulance and Fire
 - Badlands Medical Clinic
 - Garfield County Public School System and Library
 - Garfield County Departments and Boards
 - Community groups and clubs
 - Recreation: Hell Creek Reservoir, local parks, sidewalks, seasonal pool
- The following is a list of prioritized community health care needs/issues based on survey results and focus group:
 1. Providing and maintaining access to health care within the community as well as information on health care service hours and the services provide.
 2. Provide information regarding low cost healthcare, health care assistance, available services and insurance.
 3. Addressing community health care concerns of alcohol and drug abuse, mental health issues, cancer and overweight/obesity by providing education and information to the community as a whole as well as to target populations.
 4. Providing for improved physical health through promotion of community physical activities.

Community Resources

Garfield County Public Health Department
 Garfield County Health Center and Clinic
 Badlands Medical Clinic
 Garfield County Sheriff's Department
 Garfield County Volunteer Ambulance and Fire
 Garfield County Schools
 Garfield County Extension Office
 Community Churches, Organizations & Clubs

Data Sources

- Focus group meetings with Key Partners
- Community Health Needs Survey of Garfield County
- Department of Health and Human Services (DPHHS)
- US Census 2010