



2015 Community Health Needs Assessment

Decatur Health Systems, Inc. is a hospital organization that serves the health care needs of Decatur County, and surrounding communities in Kansas. Decatur Health Systems, Inc. is a health system that is comprised of Decatur County Hospital, Family Practice Clinic, and Wheat Ridge Terrace. We verify the health needs of our communities by periodically performing community health needs assessments (CHNAs). These formal assessments are analyzed using widely accepted criteria to determine and measure the health needs of a specific community. Decatur Health Systems must adopt an Implementation Strategy to address certain community health needs identified in the CHNA organized in 2015. Decatur Health Systems Board of Directors has approved the CHNA written report during its 2014-2015 tax year.

We are pleased to share the following CHNA report with you.

Executive Summary

Decatur County, KS – 2015 Community Health Needs Assessment

A high level of collaboration and coordination among community members is essential in developing and maintaining healthy communities. The development of the community health assessment prioritizes county health needs. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), enacted in March 2010, imposed new tax requirements on 501(c)(3) hospital organizations for tax years beginning after March 23, 2012. Each tax exempt hospital is required to conduct a CHNA at least once every three tax years. The CHNA is an ongoing process for a hospital to evaluate the health needs of a community, which facilitate a prioritization of needs and strategies to address them. The last CHNA for Decatur County, KS was conducted in 2012.

Decatur Health Systems is a 24-bed critical access hospital with an attached rural health clinic (Family Practice Clinic). The organization also owns and operates Wheat Ridge Terrace retirement apartments. Oberlin is the county seat in Decatur County and is classified as a frontier county with a population of approximately 2,961 people. Oberlin has a population of approximately 1,788 residents. Decatur Health Systems, in response to its community commitment, created a community advisory board to facilitate a comprehensive CHNA. The CHNA was conducted between June and August 2015. During the community health needs assessment process, Decatur Health Systems collaborated with the facilitator and the following community advisory committee stakeholders:

Jodi Votapka / 2015 CHNA Facilitator, Decatur Health Systems
Linda Manning / Director of Decatur County EMS
Marilyn Gamblin / Director of Decatur County Health Department
Johanna Mason / Decatur Community High School Nurse
Kurt Vollertsen / Pharmacist, Ward Drug
Sid Metcalf / Decatur County Commissioner
Janice Shobe / Administrator of Good Samaritan Center, Oberlin
Pete Kampfer / City of Oberlin Administrator
Johnathan Owens / CEO, Decatur Health Systems

The report fulfills the requirements of the federal statute established by the PPACA requiring that non-profit hospitals conduct community health needs assessments every three years. The community health needs assessment process included input from persons who represent the broad interests of the community served by the hospital facility, including those with special knowledge of public health issues.

Decatur Health Systems has identified three community health needs that are present in the communities we serve. They are: Access and Retention of Physicians; Access to Long Term Care; and Access to Specialized Care and Specialists. Decatur Health Systems has identified all of these needs in its CHNA.

Community Definition

While community can be defined in many ways, for the purpose of this report, the Decatur Health Systems community is defined as four zip codes and cities covering Decatur County: Dresden, Jennings, Norcatur, and Oberlin.

Project Mission

The mission of the Decatur Health Systems CHNA is to understand and plan for the current and future health needs of the residents of our community. The goal is to identify the health needs of the community served by the hospital while developing an understanding of the community needs and identifying community health priorities and indicators.

Objectives

The objectives of this assessment are to analyze health-related indicators as well as social, demographic, and environmental factors.

- Information will be obtained on population health status, identify key community health needs within the community, and develop a CHNA report as required by the PPACA.
- Make the CHNA widely available to the public. The final report will be on the organization's website.
- Adopt an Implementation Strategy by the hospital. The written plan will address the needs of the CHNA.

Methodology

Jodi Votapka facilitated and managed a comprehensive community health needs assessment on behalf of Decatur Health Systems, Inc. – resulting in the identification of the community health needs. The process included input from persons who represent the broad interests of the community served by the hospital facility, including those with special knowledge and expertise of public health issues. Key data sources in the community health needs assessment included:

- **Secondary Data:** The health of the community is largely related to the characteristics of its residents. A comprehensive analysis of health status and socio-economic environmental factors related to the health of residents of the Decatur Health Systems community was completed from existing data sources such as the 2010 U.S. Census Bureau, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Community Commons, and other additional data sources. Two health status indicators that greatly influence the socio-economic environmental factors of a community are the population demographics and the degree of education among its residents.
 - Refer to Appendix A for a table that demonstrates the median age and age group of populations in Decatur County. The average median age in 2010 was 51.4 years. The median age has increased by 7.1 years since 2000. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Decatur County exhibits the 2nd highest median age of all of the counties in Kansas.
 - Refer to Appendix B and C for the U.S. Census Bureau tables that demonstrate the populations of age group 18-64 years and 65+ years respectively. The age group populations are compared to the averages for Kansas and the United States.
 - Refer to Appendix D for the U.S. Census Bureau table that demonstrates the change in total population in Decatur County as it compares to the state of Kansas and the United States. According to the U.S. Census Bureau Decennial

Census, between 2000 and 2010 the population in Decatur County fell by 511 persons, a change of -14.72%.

- Another influential socio-economic factor is the level of education of Decatur County residents. Appendix E displays the population with Associate's level degrees or higher in Decatur County versus the state of Kansas and the United States. The percent of population (age 25+) in Decatur County with college educations is 27.3%, which is lower than the state or national levels. However, approximately 50% of the mail survey participants have an Associate's level degree or higher.

- **Community Health Assessment Planning:** A series of meetings were facilitated by the community advisory committee consisting of leadership from public health officials and Decatur Health Systems.

- **Community Health Needs Surveys:** A comprehensive health survey was mailed to 500 Decatur County residents. The selection was a random process from a complete list of Decatur County's residents. These health surveys were also randomly distributed to Decatur Health System's customers.

- **Identification of top community health needs:** Top community health needs were identified by analyzing secondary data, key stakeholder input and the survey data. The analysis identifies the health needs revealed in each data source. The top needs identified in the surveys were supported by the secondary data.

- **Inventory of Community Resources:** An inventory of community resources available in the Decatur Health Systems community using resources from the health-related services in the county and services available through affiliated organizations were identified with the capacity to meet the top community health needs in the Decatur Health Systems CHNA.

- **Final Community Health Needs Assessment Report:** A final report was developed that summarizes the key findings from the assessment process and an identification of the top community health needs.

Community Health Needs Assessment Report

The Community Health Needs Assessment report is a summary of data that was derived from Decatur County residents that participated in a health needs survey. The survey was mailed to 500 residents of Decatur County which represents one-sixth of the county's population. A total of 92 surveys were completed and returned for analysis. The top three community health needs were identified by the participant's response to questions regarding the high need and concern for various community health issues. Questions regarding the concerns about health care in Decatur County and what services the participants would like in Decatur County were also evaluated and used in the identification of the top community health needs.

Access and availability of primary health care provider was identified as the top community health need. The need was indicated by 87% of the survey participants as a high need and concern in the community. The lack of physicians and the retention of existing physicians were expressed by participants as a high concern about health care in Decatur County.

Access to specialist care was identified as one of the top community health needs. The health need for specialist care was indicated by 77% of the survey participants as a high need and concern in the community. Various specialist care services were expressed by participants as services that they would like in Decatur County.

Access to long-term care in the community was identified as one of the top health needs. The need for long-term care accessibility was indicated by 59% of the survey participants as a high concern in the community.

These three community health needs will be part of Decatur Health Systems implementation plan. Each identified community health need will be evaluated with the hospital, key partners, and resources as part of the initiative to key outcomes.

Conclusion

The total population in Decatur County according to the U.S. Census Bureau has declined from 3,472 residents in 2000 to 2,961 residents in 2010. This is a 14.72% decline in Decatur County's population. Another key population demographic is the median age of the community's residents. In 2010, the average median age was 51.4 years. This average median age has increased by 7.1 years since 2000. Decatur County exhibits the 2nd highest average median age in the state of Kansas. Another health indicator is the level of education of Decatur County residents. The socio-economic impact is relevant because educational attainment has been linked to positive health outcomes. Decatur County has a lower percentage of college educated residents as compared to the state of Kansas and the United States.

The access and availability of physicians is directly proportional to the population of the community and the health needs of its residents. A significant negative shift in total population over time impacts healthcare providers and the utilization of community resources. The higher average median age also presents challenges in the dynamics of health care in the community. The number of persons age 65 or older is relevant, because this population has unique health needs which should be considered separately from other age groups. A primary concern is the retention and lack of physicians in the community. The result of which is the potential loss of customers to surrounding facilities and physicians.

Access to specialists and specialized care is a high concern in the community. With the increase in the average median age of Decatur County residents, the accessibility of specialized care in the community is a relevant concern. Access to long-term care was expressed by participants as another top concern and need in the community. Decatur County's population is not only declining but also aging, and the need for long-term care in the community is a valid concern for the community's residents.

The top needs identified in the community health needs assessment does translate into a wide variety of health-related issues that may ultimately require hospital services. Collaboration between the health care facilities and the community is essential in meeting the health needs of residents. Decatur Health Systems understands that the community health needs assessment is a step in an ongoing process.

References

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Appendix A

Decatur County, Kansas

	Year 2010	Year 2000
Median Age	51.4 yrs	44.3 yrs
25-44 yrs	16.8%	22.9%
45-64 yrs	32.3%	22.6%
65+ yrs	27.3%	26.2%

Note: Adapted from the Governing and the U.S. Census Bureau: Median Age County Population, 2015

Appendix B

Population Age 65+

Report Area	Total Population	Population Age 65+	Percent Population Age 65+
Decatur County, KS	2,933	814	27.75%
Kansas	2,868,107	386,252	13.47%
United States	311,536,608	41,851,040	13.43%

Note: Adapted from the US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2009-13. Source geography: Tract

Appendix C

Population Age 18-64

Report Area	Total Population	Population Age 18-64	Percent Population Age 18-64
Decatur County, KS	2,933	1,597	54.45%
Kansas	2,868,107	1,757,093	61.26%
United States	311,536,608	195,808,080	62.85%

Note: Adapted from US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2009-13. Source geography: Tract

Appendix D

Change in Total Population

Report Area	Total Population, 2000 Census	Total Population, 2010 Census	Total Population Change, 2000-2010	Percent Population Change, 2000-2010
Decatur County, KS	3,472	2,961	-511	-14.72%
Kansas	2,688,418	2,853,118	164,700	6.13%
United States	280,421,907	307,745,539	27,323,632	9.74%

Note: Adapted from US Census Bureau, Decennial Census. Community Commons Health Indicators Report: Demographics, 2015

Appendix E

Population with Associate's level degree or higher

Report Area	Total Population Age 25+	Population Age 25+ with Associate's Degree or Higher	Percent Population Age 25+ with Associate's Degree or Higher
Decatur County, KS	2,297	628	27.34%
Kansas	1,850,010	700,495	37.86%
United States	206,587,856	75,718,936	36.65%

Note: Adapted from the US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2009-13. Community Commons Health Indicators Report: Social and Economic Factors, 2015

