



2025 Community Health Needs Assessment

Parkview Whitley Hospital

Foreword

This report shares the results of the 2025 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) for Parkview Health. The Health Services and Informatics Research (HSIR) team at the Mirro Center for Research and Innovation led data collection and analysis efforts for this report. HSIR worked with Parkview and community leaders to prioritize health needs, reflecting the voice of community members.

This report is divided into sections identified by orange banners for headings. The report will first give context about the CHNA process, how primary data was collected from the community, how secondary data was analyzed to support the report and a demographic overview. Next, the report integrates primary and secondary data focused on social drivers of health and key health behaviors. Finally, the outcomes from the community prioritization sessions are presented.

It is important to note that the data presented in this report is just a snapshot and there may be supplemental data about the county not presented. While every effort was made to thoroughly understand the health of the community, information gaps may persist due to variations in geography and time span of data collection across different sources.

The Parkview team hopes that the findings from this report help to identify current needs to support the health and well-being of the community. Past and current reports for all counties, along with prioritization session presentations and implementation strategies, can be found on the Parkview website. Detailed data for each county included in the Parkview Health service area can be found on our Community Data Hub: <https://parkview.metop.io>.

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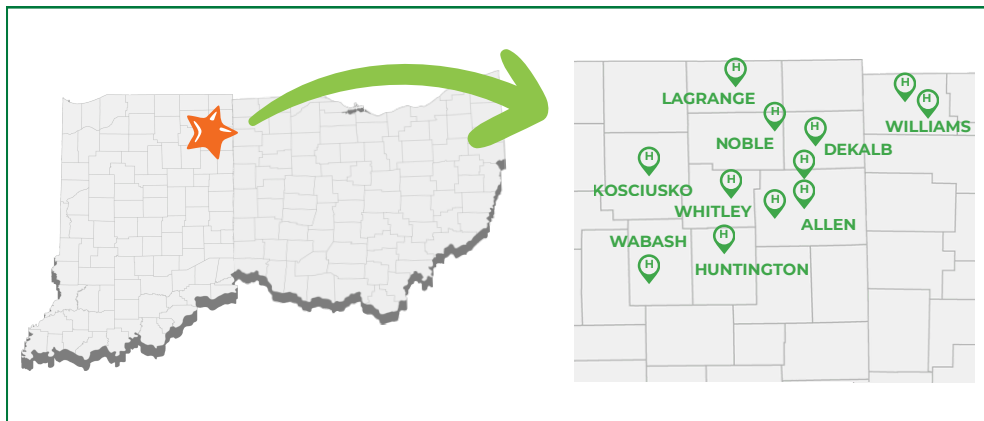
ABOUT PARKVIEW HEALTH



Parkview Health is a not-for-profit, community-based health system. It serves a population of more than 1.3 million in northeast Indiana and northwest Ohio. With more than 16,000 employees, Parkview is the region's largest employer. Parkview started as Fort Wayne City Hospital and has been serving the community since 1878. Parkview Health formed in 1995, and the heritage of care and compassion continues today with 14 hospitals and over 200 outpatient centers and physician offices.

Parkview Health has a mission to improve health and inspire well-being in the communities we serve.

For the purposes of this Community Health Needs Assessment, the Parkview Health service area consists of the counties where a full-service Parkview hospital is located. This includes Allen, DeKalb, Huntington, Kosciusko, LaGrange, Noble, Wabash and Whitley Counties in Indiana and Williams County in Ohio.



INTRODUCTION TO CHNA PROCESS

The goals of the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) are to learn about the health needs of the community and create plans to address those needs. In this CHNA for Parkview Health, several types of data were gathered to accomplish this:

- Surveys
- Focus groups
- Secondary data (through Metopio, a health data tool)

These data sources were chosen to broadly understand the community's health. We looked at needs across income level, race, ethnicity, age (18 years and older) and rural and urban areas. After all data was gathered and analyzed, the top health needs were shared with each community. Representatives selected the most important needs to address from 2025 to 2028.

Attention was given to learning the needs of specific groups, major health concerns and service gaps based on feedback from the community and key informants.

Priority Health Needs

Through a step-by-step process, we identified the top needs in each county.

Whitley County's Top Five Health Concerns

- Diabetes
- Access to Mental Health Care and Addiction Services
- Insurance for Health Care
- Cancers
- Obesity



Community and hospital leaders took part in a prioritization process to select the needs that were most pressing, widespread and fit for intervention. The top needs chosen for Parkview Health, Whitley County were Access to Mental Health Care and Addiction Services, Cancers and Obesity. Mental Health was selected as the Parkview systemwide priority.



*The CHNA identifies the greatest health needs in the region.
It also helps find ways to address those needs in a manner
that aligns with Parkview's mission, expertise and resources.*

Since 2012, the CHNA has taken place every three years in accordance with the Affordable Care Act. It has helped Parkview Health understand the community's changing health needs. Since 2022, the CHNA has been led by the Health Services and Informatics Research (HSIR) group at Parkview's Mirro Center for Research and Innovation.

The CHNA helps Parkview learn more about what health concerns are important to the communities we serve in three ways:



1. Understand Community Needs

Pinpoint the health and social problems that each community faces.



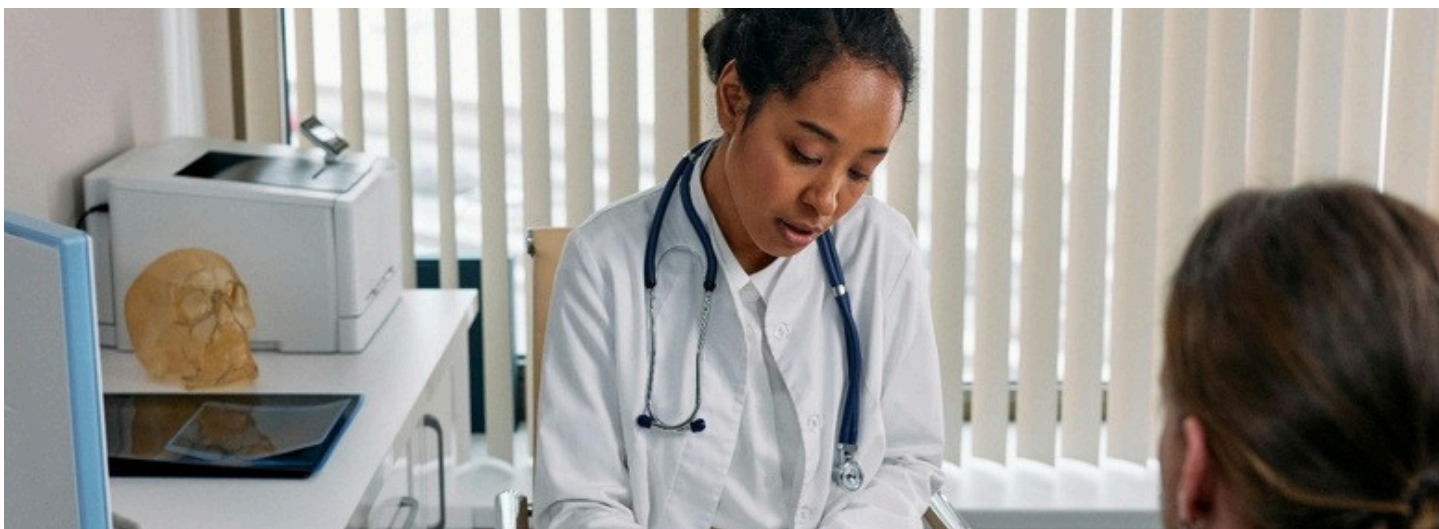
2. Prioritize Needs

Guide strategic plans based on what each community needs most.



3. Identify Resources and Challenges

Determine what is available and what is missing to address needs.



Conducting the Assessment

Parkview Health's HSIR team carried out the CHNA from February 2024 to September 2025. By using various data sources, we identified the top health needs in the community. We compared needs at the county level with those of the Parkview Health service area and the entire state. Findings were shared with the community and hospital partners to determine which health needs were most pressing.



Primary Data

Data were collected from the community using **surveys** and **focus groups**. The survey included questions aimed at both the respondent's personal health problems as well as their perceptions about top health concerns and other aspects impacting community well-being. Survey data was gathered from both people living in the community and individuals ("key informants") working for organizations that serve the community (e.g., schools, hospitals). Focus groups were held with a subset of community members and were used to gather deeper insights and experiences through conversation, allowing people to share thoughts that might not be mentioned in survey answers.

Community Survey Overview

- Carried out from September 2024 to December 2024
- Completed by 5,030 residents and 960 key informants in the Parkview Health service area, including 329 residents and 56 key informants in Whitley County
- Collected from residents aged 18 and older
- Available online and on paper in English, Spanish, Burmese, Karen and Arabic
- Shared through MyChart patient portal, mail, in-person, press release and blog posts
- Collected at in-person events: festivals, sporting events, health fairs for seniors, families and those experiencing homelessness, food banks, YMCAs, public libraries & markets
- Twenty questions for residents and nine questions for key informants
- Assessed demographics, top health concerns, top quality of life concerns, health care access, mental health and digital access
- Aimed to include people of all ages (18+), races, ethnicities, income levels and the urban-rural continuum

Focus Group Overview

- Carried out from March 2025 to May 2025
- Thirty-four focus groups held during local Community Forums across the Parkview Health service area
- Five to 15 people in each focus group
- Participants were 18 years and older, from diverse backgrounds and provided a range of services to community members
- Each hospital's community health leaders sent email invites to participants
- Aimed to understand top community health needs, related barriers and available resources and solutions for addressing health needs

Secondary Data

The Metopio platform helped us gather data from several public sources. Combined with survey and focus group findings, this data helped us better understand each community's health landscape. We used Metopio to examine health behaviors, outcomes and social factors across groups. This allowed us to pinpoint the areas of greatest need within the Parkview Health service area. For each health theme, data is reported using the most recent five-year average or single year of data.

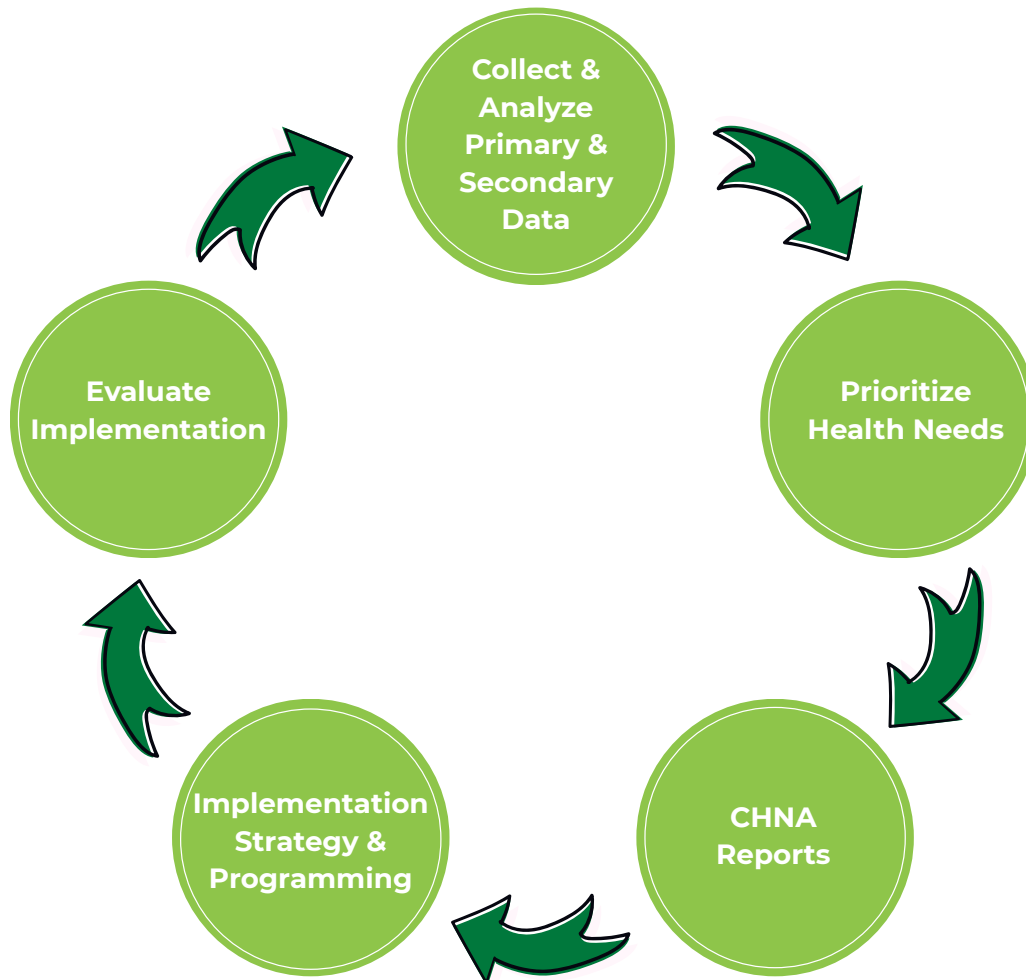
To learn more about each community in the Parkview Health system, please visit our **Parkview Health Community Data Hub**: <https://parkview.metop.io>

Closing the Loop

The CHNA is not just one report. Instead, it is a continuous three-year cycle where Parkview:

- Collects and analyzes community-based data
- Pinpoints needs within each county and within the health system
- Implements action plans to address those needs

Three-year CHNA Cycle; Parkview Health CHNA Process



Priority Health Needs & Impact from 2022 CHNA

During the 2022 CHNA prioritization session, Whitley County chose Substance Use Disorders and Obesity (with a focus on Food Insecurity) as their top health needs, along with Mental Health, the Parkview Health systemwide priority. The Impact Report for Whitley County can be found in Appendix A. Parkview did not receive written comments in response to the 2022 CHNA. For comments on the 2025 CHNA, please email

Community.Health@Parkview.com.

DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS



Who Lives in Whitley County?

Demographic factors impact a person's ability to lead a healthy life. Understanding these factors helps shape plans to improve community health.

Population



34,388

residents¹

Sex



17,220
(50.1%)
males¹



17,168
(49.9%)
females¹

1. US Census Bureau, American Community Survey (2019-2023)

Age

Age ¹	Population	Percentage
0 - 4 years	2,113	6.1%
5 - 17 years	5,823	16.9%
18 - 39 years	8,621	25.1%
40 - 64 years	11,433	33.2%
65 and older	6,398	18.6%



Different age groups and racial or ethnic groups may have unique needs to consider when looking at health

Race and Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity ¹	Population	Percentage
Non-Hispanic White	31,886	93.1%
Hispanic or Latino	906	2.6%
Two or more Races	1,238	3.6%
Non-Hispanic Black	70	0.2%
Asian	103	0.3%
Native American	31	0.1%



41.8

is the median age of Whitley County residents¹



Rural-Urban Continuum Code²

Codes range from 1-9

1 = highly-populated metro areas

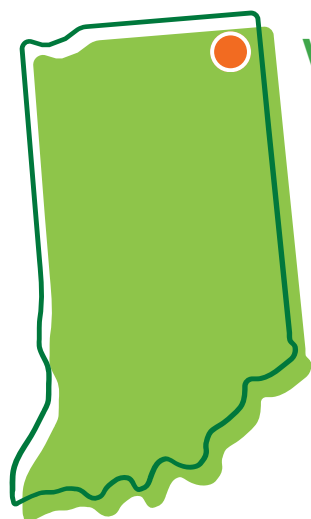
9 = fully rural areas

2

1. US Census Bureau, American Community Survey (2019-2023)

2. US Department of Agriculture (USDA) - Economic Research Service (2023)

Parkview Whitley County Service Area



Whitley County, IN

10
zip codes²

336
square miles¹



3

townships³



predominantly
rural⁴

Whitley County Community Service Area Zip Codes²

46562	46723	46725	46750	46764
46783	46787	46814	46818	46962

1. US Census Bureau, American Community Survey (2019-2023)

2. United States Zip Code Database (2025)

3. Indiana Department of Local Government Finance (2023)

4. US Department of Agriculture (USDA) - Economic Research Service (2023)

SOCIAL DRIVERS OF HEALTH (SDOH)



Healthy People 2030 defines social drivers of health (SDOH) as the conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship and age. These conditions affect a wide range of health, functioning and quality-of-life outcomes and risks. The five domains of SDOH include economic stability, education access and quality, health care access and quality, neighborhood and built environment and social and community context. For this report, the primary and secondary data are presented in order of the SDOH topics.

Access to care refers to the resources a community has to meet a range of health needs. Examples include having insurance and available health care providers.



7.8%

of Whitley County residents have **no health insurance**¹



The uninsured rate in Whitley County (7.8%) is **below** the rate of the Parkview Health service area (10.8%) and **similar** to the state rate (7.6%).¹



9.7%

lack access to **the internet**¹



25.4%

lack access to **non-ER medical care**²

What we heard from the community³

- There is a **lack of coordination** between general and mental health providers.
- **More pharmacies are needed** to meet demand in the county. Few pharmacies accept Medicaid or have extended hours.
- Health insurance is **expensive and confusing**.
- It is hard to get the word out about programs and resources. There needs to be **more of a focus on how to communicate these opportunities** with the community.

1. US Census Bureau, American Community Survey (2019-2023)

2. Parkview Community Health Survey - Whitley County (2024)

3. Parkview Community Forum - Whitley County (2025)

PER CAPITA INDICATORS

Rates per 100,000 residents



52.6

Primary Care
Providers



20.7

Pharmacies



20.5

Specialty
Physicians

People in Whitley County have **less access** to primary care providers / specialty physicians (lower rate per 100,000 residents) compared to Indiana (75.8 / 77.8) and those living in the Parkview Health service area (62.8 / 50.3).¹ People in Whitley County also have **less access** to pharmacies compared to those living in the Parkview Health service area (23.5) and those across Indiana (25.9).²

PROBLEMS GETTING CARE



23.5%

Primary Care
Providers



12.1%

Pharmaceutical
Care



31.0%

Specialty
Care

CHNA survey respondents in Whitley County said they had a hard time getting the health care they needed. Nearly **1 in 3** had a hard time getting in to see a provider who specializes in a particular illness (e.g., heart conditions), while **1 in 4** had a hard time getting an appointment with a primary care provider.³

1. Health Resources & Services Administration, Area Health Resources Files (2022)

2. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, National Provider Identifier Files (2025)

3. Parkview Community Health Survey - Whitley County (2024)

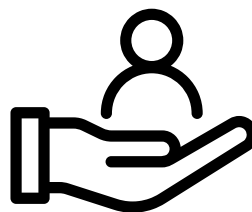
Many factors can affect access to fresh, healthy and affordable food. These include how far someone lives from a grocery store, the presence of school lunch programs and if fruits and vegetables are available.



Access to food is an important social factor that affects health. 'Food Access' can be measured by many factors, such as the number of residents who are food insecure, households receiving SNAP (food stamp) benefits and those who are in poverty not receiving SNAP.

The rate of food insecurity in Whitley County (13.6%) is the **about the same as** the Parkview Health service area (13.9%), but is **lower** than Indiana (15.1%). Whitley County rates are highest in the Hispanic/Latino community (28.0%).¹

6.6%
of households receive
SNAP (food stamp)
benefits²



63.3%
of households in
poverty do not receive
SNAP benefits²

What we heard from the community³

- **Healthy food often costs more** and is not as available.
"There is limited access to fresh fruits and vegetables across our area."
- Many people struggle with eating healthy and **don't know how to cook** or make good food choices at home.
- There is a **lack of coordination** among local food resources
"It would be great if all 8 of our foodbanks would work together."

1. Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap (2023)

2. US Census Bureau, American Community Survey (2019-2023)

3. Parkview Community Forum - Whitley County (2025)

The quality and cost of housing directly impact well-being. If housing is too expensive or if there are too many empty or crowded homes, it can lead to problems like losing one's home or becoming homeless. These issues can affect a person's health.



Housing Cost Burden

The percent of households spending more than 30% of their income on housing.¹



17.6%

Housing Insecurity

The percent of adults who were not able to pay their mortgage, rent or utility bills in the past 12 months.²



10.2%

The housing cost burden in Whitley County is **lower** than the Parkview Health service area average of 21.3% and the state average of 24.3%.²

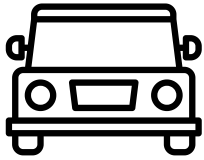
Housing insecurity in Whitley County is **lower** than the Parkview Health service area rate (11.7%) and the Indiana rate (12.2%).²

1. US Census Bureau, American Community Survey (2019-2023)

2. CDC, PLACES Project (2022)

Not having transportation can make it difficult for people to get to the doctor, work, school and grocery stores that have healthy food options. This can lead to poor health outcomes and social isolation.

Lack of Transportation



6.9%
of adults lack
transportation

The lack of transportation in Whitley County is **lower** than that of Indiana (8.5%) and the Parkview Health service area (8.2%).¹



What we heard from the community²

- Lack of community transportation **impacts the ability to access care.**
- Options in rural areas are **hard to find, expensive**, and do not include extended hours.
- **Youth and seniors are the most affected** by the limited transportation options.
- There are local organizations **that have funds to help** those with transportation needs.

1. CDC, PLACES Project (2022)

2. Parkview Community Forum - Whitley County (2025)

Socio-Economic Factors

Whitley County, IN

Socio-economic factors strongly impact community health and well-being. These include things like how many people graduate from high school, how much money they earn and whether they have jobs.



92.1%%

graduate high school¹



Whitley County



88.5%

graduate high school¹



Parkview Health



90.2%

graduate high school¹



Indiana

Factor	Whitley County	Indiana
Childcare Cost Burden Childcare costs for a household with two children as a percent of median household income. ²	27.1%	30.8%
Median Household Income Income in the past 12 months. ¹	\$75,790	\$70,051
Poverty Rate Percent of residents in families that are below the Federal Poverty Level. ¹	10.7%	12.2%
Unemployment Rate Percent of residents 16 and older in the civilian labor force who are actively seeking employment. ¹	4.5%	4.3%

1. US Census Bureau, American Community Survey (2019-2023)

2. University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, County Health Rankings (2024)

Violent Crime

Whitley County, IN

Violent crime includes homicide, criminal sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault and aggravated battery.



**51.6 crimes per
100,000 residents**

Whitley County has a **significantly lower** rate compared to Indiana (323.3) and the Parkview Health service area (197.3).¹

**Please note that county-level crime totals may appear lower than expected due to changes in reporting systems, resulting in incomplete crime data reported to the FBI.*

Built Environment

Whitley County, IN

The built environment refers to the man-made places around us. This includes things like buildings, streets, parks and transportation systems.



Walkability Index
5.8/20

Whitley County is **harder to walk around** compared to the Parkview Health service area and Indiana (both 7.7).²



Access to Exercise
53.9%

Whitley County has **fewer places to exercise** compared to the Parkview service area (70.8%) and Indiana (76.2%).³

1. Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI Crime Data Explorer (2017-2021)

2. US Environmental Protection Agency, National Walkability Index (2024)

3. University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, County Health Rankings (2024)

KEY HEALTH THEMES

Overall Health

Chronic Disease

Behavioral Health

Maternal/Child Health

Elder Health

Infectious Diseases

Oral/Dental Care

STD/STI/HIV

Health Behaviors

For this CHNA report, primary and secondary data were gathered and analyzed around the top health themes and concerns listed above. The report highlights the county's key statistics from surveys and secondary data. Key insights gathered through focus groups are also included. A closer look at the data for each of these themes will be provided in this report.

Overall health refers to how well people feel both physically and mentally. This includes factors like how long people live, self-reported health and quality of life.

Life Expectancy

77.8 years

Average age at death of all people born in this place, or all people who have lived to the start of the specified age bracket.¹



Self-Reported Poor Physical Health

12.1%

Percent of resident adults aged 18 and older who report 14 or more days during the past 30 days during which their physical health was not good.²



Visited Doctor for Routine Checkup

75.3%

Percent of resident adults aged 18 and older who report having been to a doctor for a routine checkup (in the previous year).²



- In Whitley County, people tend to **live slightly longer** than those in the Parkview Health service area (76.0 years) and Indiana (75.1 years).¹
- Around 12.1% of adults in Whitley County say they have **poor physical health**, which is **about the same** as Indiana (12.9%)³ and the Parkview Health service area (13.0%).²
- **Slightly fewer** adults in Whitley County **visit the doctor regularly** compared to those in Indiana (76.9%)³ and the Parkview area (75.6%).²

1. University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, County Health Rankings (2020-2022)

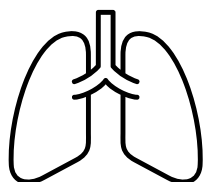
2. CDC, PLACES Project (2022)

3. CDC, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System-BRFSS (2022)

Chronic Disease

Whitley County, IN

Chronic diseases and related factors often cause the greatest burden on health in a community. This includes conditions like diabetes, heart disease, asthma and obesity. The following conditions are highlighted due to prevalence, mortality trends and concern from community and key informant survey respondents.



7.3%

of residents have been diagnosed with **chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)**.¹







6.0%

of residents have been diagnosed with **coronary heart disease (CHD)**.¹



10.8%

of residents have been diagnosed with **asthma**.¹







Metabolic & Cardiovascular Health		Diagnosed % Whitley County	Diagnosed % Indiana
	Diabetes	9.6% ¹	11.1% ²
	High Blood Pressure	30.7% ¹	32.2% ²
	Obesity	34.6% ¹	37.9% ²
	High Cholesterol	30.2% ³	30.6% ⁴

1. CDC, PLACES Project (2022)

2. CDC, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (2022)

3. CDC, PLACES Project (2021)

4. CDC, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (2021)

Chronic Disease Mortality ¹		Deaths Per 100,000 Whitley Residents	Deaths Per 100,000 Indiana Residents
	Heart Disease	214.4	184.3
	Cancer	230.0	163.9
	Lower Respiratory Disease	69.1	53.1
	Stroke	59.3	41.9
	Diabetes	49.4	28.5
	Kidney Disease	18.6	17.7

In Whitley County, the diagnosis rates for many chronic diseases are **similar to or lower** than in the Parkview Health service area and Indiana. However, **mortality rates** for these chronic diseases are **higher** in Whitley County than in the Parkview Health service area and Indiana, especially for mortality from cancer.¹ Data for Parkview service area can be found here: <https://parkview.metop.io>



1. CDC, National Vital Statistics System-Mortality (2019-2023)

Cancer Incidence ¹	New Diagnoses Per 100,000 Whitley Residents	New Diagnoses Per 100,000 Indiana Residents
All Cancers	452.2	450.0
Breast Cancer	152.6	131.0
Lung and Bronchus Cancer	69.2	68.2
Colorectal Cancer	41.0	40.2
Cervical Cancer	18.9	8.4

Cancer Mortality	Deaths Per 100,000 Whitley Residents	Deaths Per 100,000 Indiana Residents
Breast Cancer ²	14.5	11.2
Lung and Bronchus Cancer ²	61.0	41.3
Colorectal Cancer ²	19.8	15.1
Cervical Cancer ¹	7.1	2.7

In Whitley County, the diagnosis rates and mortality rates for many types of cancers are **higher** than the rates across the Parkview Health service area and in Indiana. Data for Parkview service area can be found here: <https://parkview.metop.io>

1. Indiana Department of Health, Indiana Cancer Data Dashboard (2016-2020)

2. CDC, National Vital Statistics System-Mortality (2019-2023)

Behavioral health refers to a state of mental, emotional and social well-being or behaviors and actions that affect wellness. It also includes how people get support and treatment. Behavioral health is an overarching term that refers to mental health (well-being, mental health conditions), suicidality and substance use disorders.

Mental Health Conditions



25.5%

of adults living in Whitley County have depression, which is **similar to** both Indiana (24.4%) and the Parkview service area (24.9%).¹



9.9

is the suicide mortality rate (deaths per 100,000 residents) in Whitley County, which is **lower** than that of Indiana (15.8) and the Parkview Health service area (14.7).²

Substance Use Disorders



Drug Overdose Mortality

Whitley County has a rate of 19.8 drug overdose deaths (per 100,000 residents), which is **lower** than the rates in Indiana (36.3) and the Parkview area (25.7).²



Alcohol-Related Mortality

Whitley County's rate of alcohol-related mortality is 16.8 (per 100,000 residents), which is **higher** than in Indiana (13.3) and the Parkview area (14.6).²

1. CDC, PLACES Project (2022)

2. CDC, National Vital Statistics System-Mortality (2019-2023)

Access to Mental Health and Addiction Services

Number of Mental Health Providers <i>(per 100,000 residents)¹</i>	261.1 Whitley	430.5 Parkview	545.0 Indiana
Number of Psychiatrists <i>(per 100,000 residents)²</i>	0 Whitley	8 Parkview	16 Indiana

CHNA Community Survey Findings³

17.9% of survey respondents reported being **anxious**

15.7% of survey respondents reported being **depressed**

51.8% listed **mental health** as one of the **top health concerns** in their community

16.5% said they had **trouble** getting **mental health or addiction help**

What we heard from the community⁴

- There is **stigma** with seeking care for mental health and addiction. People often report feeling **ashamed to ask for help**.
"There is a 'staggering' amount of youth mortality [in the county] due to suicide or car accidents."
- Veterans experiencing PTSD or loneliness **struggle to find places to connect with peers**.
- There is a **mismatch between urgent mental health needs and available care**.
"We have nowhere to send anybody. They sit in the ER for hours."
- There is a **lack of education** on how to help someone with mental health problems.
- A lack of local specialty providers has led to **long wait times** for care.
- The new Whitley County mental health group is **working to improve local mental health and addiction services**.

1. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, National Provider Identifier Files (2025)

2. Health Resources & Services Administration, Area Health Resources Files (2025)

3. Parkview Community Health Survey - Whitley County (2024)

4. Parkview Community Forum - Whitley County (2025)

The health of mothers and children is important to the overall well-being of a community. This can be affected by factors such as limited access to health care, mental health issues and feeling disconnected.

Low Birth Weight



7.4%

of live births are less than 5 lbs, 8 oz. in Whitley County. This is **lower** than the Parkview Health service area (8.1%) and Indiana (8.4%).¹

Prenatal Care in 1st Trimester



76.2%

of mothers-to-be received care in the first three months of pregnancy. This is **similar to** Indiana (76.0%) and **higher** than the Parkview service area (71.4%).¹

Infant Mortality



7.5

infant deaths - deaths of infants in the first year of life - per 1,000 live births were recorded for Whitley County.¹

This data highlights the need for targeted interventions to improve infant health outcomes in Whitley County.

Child Abuse and Neglect

13.8



per 1,000 children are subject to child abuse and neglect.²

Smoking During Pregnancy



10.2%

of births were to mothers who smoked cigarettes during their pregnancy.¹

1. Health Resources & Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau (2020-2022)

2. Indiana Department of Child Services, Indiana University Child Abuse and Neglect Rates (2023)

Elder health focuses on concerns like falls, Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. These problems are often the biggest health challenges for older people.

10.5 deaths per 100,000 residents
are a result of a fall

22.1 deaths per 100,000 residents
are due to Alzheimer's disease



In Whitley County, the rate of mortality from Alzheimer's disease was similar between men and women from 2016-2020.³

In Whitley County, the rate of deaths from falls is **lower** than the Parkview Health service area (14.3), but **higher** than across Indiana (8.3)¹.

The rate of deaths due to Alzheimer's in Whitley County is **lower** than the Parkview Health service area rate (35.3) and Indiana's rate (30.2).²



1. CDC, National Vital Statistics System-Mortality (2022)

2. CDC, National Vital Statistics System-Mortality (2019-2023). Deaths per 100,000 residents due to Alzheimer's disease (ICD-10 code G30)

3. CDC, National Vital Statistics System-Mortality (2016-2020). Deaths per 100,000 residents due to Alzheimer's disease (ICD-10 code G30)

Infectious diseases are illnesses caused by germs like viruses and bacteria. Public health tools like prevention and vaccination are key to stopping and managing disease outbreaks.

Medicare Flu Vaccination Rate

People enrolled in Medicare who received a flu shot at any point during the year¹



48.0%

Influenza and Pneumonia Mortality

Deaths per 100,000 residents due to influenza and pneumonia²



11.0



In Whitley County, **more** Medicare beneficiaries received a flu shot than in Indiana (47.0%) and the Parkview Health service area (45.8%). However, over half of this population, which is at higher risk of dying from the flu, remains unvaccinated.¹

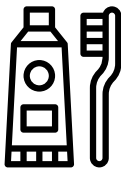
Whitley County has **about the same** number of deaths per 100,000 people from flu and pneumonia than Indiana (10.9) and the Parkview Health service area (11.6).²

1. US Health and Human Services, Vaccines & Immunizations (2023)

2. CDC, National Vital Statistics System-Mortality (2019-2023)

Oral health has a strong impact on overall health. Dental check-ups, preventive care and education help people lead healthier lives. Access to dental care is important.

Problem Getting Dental Care



12.6%

Visited Dentist in previous year



62.7%

1 in 8 CHNA survey respondents reported having trouble getting dental care.¹

The number of people who visited a dentist in Whitley County (62.7%)² is **similar to** the state of Indiana (62.8%)³ and **above** the Parkview service area (60.0%).²



1. Parkview Community Health Survey - Whitley County (2024)
2. CDC, PLACES Project (2022)
3. CDC, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (2022)

Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) are major public health concerns. They impact a person's physical health, emotional well-being and quality of life. Access to testing, treatment and education are key to preventing the spread of these infections.

HIV Cases¹

STI Cases¹

For every 100,000 people, there are:

75.5
HIV cases in
Whitley County



367.2
STI cases in
Whitley County

129.2
HIV cases in
**Parkview Health
service area**



671.4
STI cases in
**Parkview Health
service area**

223.0
HIV cases in
Indiana



918.6
STI cases in
Indiana

Health behaviors are actions and habits that can help or hurt a person's physical, mental and social well-being. These include diet, exercise, substance use, preventive screenings and vaccinations.

Cigarette Smoking



18.2%

No Exercise



25.9%

18.2% of adults in Whitley County **smoke cigarettes**,¹ which is **similar** to the Parkview Health service area (19.1%)¹ and **higher** than in Indiana (16.5%).² Compared to Indiana (26.5%)² and the Parkview Health service area (27.3%),¹ a **similar** number of people (25.9%)¹ **do not exercise** in Whitley County.



1. CDC, PLACES Project (2022)

2. CDC, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (2022)

Prioritization Overview

After gathering and analyzing the data—including applying additional weighting to survey responses from individuals identified as part of vulnerable populations—the HSIR team used a structured process to pinpoint the community's most urgent health needs. This process was meant to be inclusive and data-driven, ensuring that the chosen priorities represented both community members' experiences and health trends. The process involved meetings with community stakeholders and final selection of top health needs by hospital leaders.

Community Prioritization Sessions

- Carried out between March 2025 and May 2025 for each hospital.
- Attendees were professionals who provide a wide range of services to community members from diverse backgrounds. *(See Appendix B for list of attendees.)*
- Ahead of the meeting, attendees were sent a printed scorecard with the top health needs identified for their county and related data.
- Presentation at the meeting covered data trends on the top health needs, with a focus on geographic, socioeconomic, racial, ethnic, gender and age-related disparities. *(These slides are posted on the website where you found this report.)*
- Attendees discussed the benefits and challenges to addressing the health needs.
- Attendees voted to rank the top health needs based on significance, severity, relation to social drivers of health and suitability for intervention.

Selected Health Priorities

The list of top health needs from each session and qualitative summaries from Community Forums were shared with Parkview Health - Whitley County hospital leadership in June 2025. Hospital leaders reached consensus on the final top health priorities with consideration given to resources, prevalence of the health need, impact on vulnerable populations and suitability to address the health need.

Selected Priorities for Parkview Health – Whitley County

- Access to Mental Health Care and Addiction Services
- Cancers
- Obesity



The following is a list of datasets used during the analysis of secondary data. All datasets were accessed via the Metopio platform. A URL for each dataset is available upon request.

1. CDC, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry - Environmental Justice Index
2. U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS)
3. Health Resources & Services Administration, Area Health Resources Files (AHRF)
4. CDC, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)
5. University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, County Health Rankings
6. Dwyer-Lindgren, Mokdad, et al. (Population Health Metrics, 2014)
7. Diabetes Atlas
8. U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) - Economic Research Service
9. Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI Crime Data Explorer
10. Indiana Department of Child Services, Indiana University Child Abuse and Neglect Rates
11. Indiana Department of Local Government Finance
12. Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap
13. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Mapping Medicare Disparities
14. Health Resources & Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB)
15. CDC, National Center for Health Statistics
16. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), National Provider Identifier Files (NPI)
17. CDC, National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention; Atlas Plus
18. CDC, National Vital Statistics System-Mortality (NVSS-M)
19. CDC, National Vital Statistics System-Natality (NVSS-N)
20. Parkview Community Health Survey and Community Forums - **Whitley County**
21. CDC, PLACES Project
22. Razzaghi, Wang, et al. (MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2020)
23. State public health departments
24. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
25. United States Zip Code Database

Appendix A - Community Impact Report

This report highlights the progress and measurable outcomes of Parkview Health's community outreach initiatives carried out between 2022 and 2024, as guided by our 2023 Implementation Strategy. Each program and service detailed herein reflects our commitment to addressing the key needs identified in the 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment. The following results demonstrate our ongoing dedication to equity, access, and measurable health improvements in the communities we serve. As we reflect on our progress and outcomes, we remain committed to building healthier communities through innovation, partnership, and compassionate care.

Overview

The findings of the 2022 CHNA guided the decision to adopt two health priorities for Kosciusko and Whitley Counties:

- Substance use disorder/Mental health
- Obesity

Mental health and substance use disorders were combined as a shared priority because they are so closely tied to one another. The majority of programming and partnerships supported through our hospital's community health improvement (CHI) program serve vulnerable populations of all ages residing in Whitley and Kosciusko Counties.

Substance Use Disorder/Mental Health

Preventative Programs for Youth

Preventative Programs for Youth is a program of The Center for Whitley County Youth. The center offers after school programming, snacks, meals and family examples to middle and high school students from the three school systems in the county. They have multiple programs investing in the well-being of students. The objective of this program is to expose students to healthy/trusting adult relationships to improve their mental health.

Highlighted Outcomes

- This program continued to thrive and grow; there was a 43% increase in total program participation compared to the previous school year
- Additional programs have been developed on an ongoing basis
- Preventive Programs for Youth parents felt that their youth were better prepared to face future challenges due to this programming
- The goal measurement was that 75% of students felt a sense of belonging at the center

Year	Student sense of belonging	Parents that feel students are better prepared for future challenges	Hours staff spent with students outside of programming	Students feel they are valued at the center
2022	80%	93%	1,100	89%
2023	70%	87%	680	100%
2024	100%	88%	1,772	100%

The Pathway Program

The Pathway Program is designed to provide individuals with mental health and substance abuse the tools and resources for recovery, prevention and transition. Mission 25 is a certified recovery residence that provides programming to meet housing, food and necessities needed to change the detrimental cycles and support mental, physical and spiritual goals.

Highlighted Outcomes

- This program is not your typical homeless shelter; the residents learn parenting skills, obtain jobs, learn to cook and more
- Residents receive assistance getting signed up for insurance and finding jobs
- Residents are given a mental health assessment to determine what services are needed

The outcomes in terms of behavior changes resulting from The Pathway Program are summarized in the tables below:

Year	Mental health assessment	Child clients who received therapy services and/or skills coaching	Rate of those served with substance use disorder and received services	Those served that had mental health diagnosis and received therapy and/or medication services
2022	100%	20%	67%	78%
2023	100%	45%	75%	100%
2024	100%	50%	69%	95%

Mama Bear's Support Group-BABE of Whitley County

BABE of Whitley County began as an incentive program designed to encourage pregnant women and their families to participate in services and programs that support the health and well-being of infants and young children. By providing education and essential resources, the initiative aimed to reduce the county's high rates of low birth-weight babies. The success of the program has been remarkable, and the offerings have continued to grow. The Mama Bear Support program helps moms cope with mental health concerns through education and the support of others.

Highlighted Outcomes

- The program saw continued growth in the distribution of incentive coupons
- The number of families served continues to rise
- Diaper distribution was the most popular incentive; thousands of diapers were distributed each year
- Relieving the stress of purchasing diapers, clothing and other supplies helped improve the mental health of moms and families

The outcomes for BABE of Whitley County are below:

Year	Number of moms in Mama Bear Support Group
2022	12 average per month
2023	14 average per month

Obesity/Food Insecurity

TROY School Lunches/Mental Health

Teaching and Reaching Our Youth (TROY) was founded in 1997. It is an accredited independent alternative school helping middle and high school students to gain an education and earn a diploma at their own pace while supported by loving teachers, counselors, and support staff. They offer an alternative path toward graduation that meets students where they are and empowers them to meet their full potential. Many of these students are unsuccessful in the public schools and often fall through the cracks.

Highlighted Outcomes

- In 2022, the funding from Parkview Whitley Hospital was used toward mental health
- The school was able to have mental health counseling for students at no cost to the family
- Students received behavior plans to support them while at the school
- Students participated in small group social skills

The outcomes for the mental health initiatives for 2022 are as follows:

Year	% Enrolled in on-site mental health counseling	Rate of students that received a behavior plan	Percentage of students that participated in small group sessions
2022	50%	33%	60%

Highlighted Outcomes (continued)

- In 2023 and 2024, TROY school applied for funding for their healthy lunch program. This falls into the Obesity/Food Insecurity category. Many of their students fall into the free/reduced lunch category and some students would not bring a lunch or have very unhealthy lunches. Every lunch included a healthy vegetable and a fruit option. A student with an empty stomach has difficulty learning.

Year	Percent of students who fall into the free/reduced lunch category as assigned by the Federal Government	Number of meals served over the course of the school year	Rate of free/reduced lunch eligible students that ate the healthy lunches provided to them at TROY
2023	72%	5760	80%
2023	82%	7200	85%

Kids Connect

Kids Connect is a summer lunch program for children in the South Whitley area. One Community provides this program to the community by partnering with other organizations and businesses. Healthy lunches, physical activities, social engagement and relationships are provided each day for eight weeks during summer break. Active and physically fit children are more likely to continue the same habits into adulthood. Lunches are provided free of charge by positive role models in a safe environment.

Highlighted Outcomes

- The program was well received in the community
- Parents who responded to an annual survey said that this program relieved the stress of providing meals for their children during the day
- Many of the meals were provided for children that fall in the income guidelines for free/reduced meals

The outcomes in terms of behavior changes resulting from Kids Connect are summarized in the tables below:

Year	Number of unique children served	Meals served over the eight week program	Rate of children that stayed for the activity
2022	70	718	Data not compiled
2023	89	1040	98%
2024	80	945	96%

Access to Care

Free Clinic Lab Services

Providing free labs is often necessary to diagnose and treat patients that come to free clinics for care. In Whitley County there is the Multi-County Medical Outreach Clinic and in Kosciusko County there is St. Anthony’s Free Medical Clinic. These two clinics serve community members with a place to receive their medical care when they are underinsured or uninsured. They are funded through free lab tests at Parkview Whitley and Parkview Kosciusko hospitals.

Highlighted Outcomes

- The clinics worked to meet the medical needs of the underserved in the community

Kosciusko free clinic (St. Anthony’s) lab services

Year	Number of patients served
2023	34
2024	50

Multi County Medical Outreach Clinic lab services

Year	Number of patients served
2023	166
2024	229

Appendix B - Prioritization Participating Organizations

Prioritization session attendees represented several organizations in Whitley County.

Organization/Department	Area of Work
Bright Point	Non-profit/Community-based/Social Service Organization
Kosciusko County/Parkview Board	Government/Public Health/Safety
Multi-County Medical Outreach Clinic	Health Care, Non-profit/Community-based/Social Service Organization
Northern Path Recovery	Mental/Behavioral Health
One Community	Non-profit/Community-based/Social Service Organization
Parkview	Health Care
Parkview Foundation	Health Care
Parkview Whitley Board	Non-profit/Community-based/Social Service Organization
Troy School	Education
Whitko	Education
Whitley Community School System	Education
Whitley County Community Foundation	Non-profit/Community-based/Social Service Organization
Whitley County Health Department	Government/Public Health/Safety

Appendix C - Community Resources

This list highlights health care facilities and community organizations that are available to address significant health needs identified in this CHNA.

Organization Name	City	Zip Code
Access to Mental Health Care and Addiction Services		
Mission 25	Columbia City	46725
Bowen Center	Columbia City	46725
Charlie Health	Columbia City	46725
Choices & Changes	Columbia City	46725
Brightpoint	Columbia City	46725
Cancers		
Parkview Whitley Hospital	Columbia City	46728
Francine's Friends	Fort Wayne	46845
Whitley County Giving Circle for Women's Health	Columbia City	46825
Cancer Service of Northeast Indiana	Fort Wayne	46825
Obesity		
One Community	South Whitley	46787
Diabetes		
Parkview Diabetes Education	Fort Wayne	46805
Insurance for Health Care		
Brightpoint	Columbia City	46825

Additional resources for a broad range of assistance:

Findhelp.org is an online tool that connects people to support, including financial assistance, food pantries, medical care, and other free or reduced-cost help.

<https://www.findhelp.org/>

211 is a free and confidential service that helps people find local resources like food, housing, health care, and job support by calling or texting 211.

<https://www.211.org/>