

Towner County Medical Center, Cando Service Area

2019 Community Health Needs Assessment

August 2019

Each Critical Access Hospital must conduct a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) once every three years, as mandated by law. Local public health units seeking to gain/maintain accreditation conduct an assessment every five years. CHNAs completed by the Center for Rural Health (CRH) include secondary data review, community focus groups, key informant interviews, and a community survey. This fact sheet presents key community strengths and opportunities from the Towner County Medical Center (TCMC) service area 2019 CHNA.

The TCMC service area residents primarily live in Towner County (population 2,253). Towner County has a higher percentage of residents who are 65 years old or older (24%) than the state average (15%).

Community Strengths

The top three assets identified in a community survey included family friendly community, friendly people, and safe/low crime. Other community assets include city parks, athletic fields, the Cando All Seasons Arena as well as nearby fishing opportunities. Towner County also has a lower percentage of residents with excessive alcohol consumption compared to the state average.

Health Outcomes and Factors

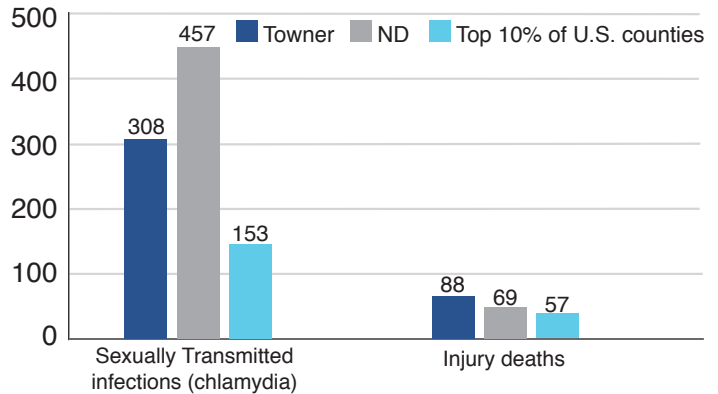
In review of secondary data, 15% of Towner County residents reported poor or fair health. During 2019, 67% of traffic fatalities involved alcohol in Towner compared to only 13% for the top 10% of U.S. counties. Towner County also had a greater percentage of residents reporting physical inactivity, adult smoking, and obesity than the top 10% of U.S. counties. See Table 1.

Table 1. Health Factors by % of Population, 2019

	Towner	ND	Top 10% U.S.
Uninsured	11%	8%	6%
Excessive drinking	19%	26%	13%
Access to exercise opportunities	62%	74%	91%
Physical inactivity	28%	22%	19%
Adult obesity	32%	32%	26%
Adult smokers	17%	20%	14%

During 2019, injury deaths were more prevalent in Towner County (88 deaths per 100,000 residents) than in the state overall (69 per 100,000 residents) and the top 10% of U.S. counties. Similar was true for the incidence of chlamydia. See Figure 1.

Figure 1. Cases per 100,000 Population, 2019



Towner County had a higher percentage of children without insurance and receiving Medicaid than the state average (Table 2). In Towner County in 2018 there were 35 licensed daycare spots for the 176 children ages 0-13 with both parents in the labor force, indicating a shortage in available childcare.

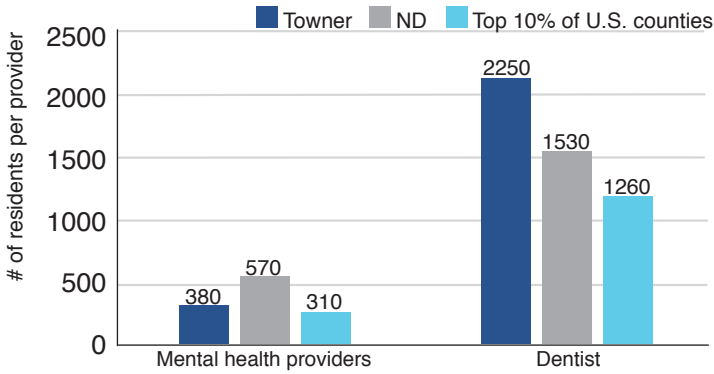
Table 2. Children's Health Factors by % of Population

	Towner	ND
Children uninsured (2016)	13%	9%
Uninsured children below 200% of poverty (% of pop.) (2016)	48%	42%
Medicaid recipients (2017)	32%	28%
Children enrolled in Healthy Steps (2013)	3%	3%
Receiving SNAP (2017)	19%	20%

Healthcare Access

Based on the provider-to-population ratio, Towner County had more residents per single dentist than the state's average and the top 10% of U.S. counties in 2019 indicating a provider shortage (2,250 residents per one dentist). However, Towner County has fewer residents per mental health provider than the state's average. See Figure 2.

Figure 2. Provider to Population Ratios, 2019



Community Concerns

In a survey completed by the CRH, residents identified up to three primary community concerns. The top two concerns were bullying/cyberbullying (52%) and youth alcohol use and abuse (47%). See Table 3.

Table 3. Community Concerns, 2018

Community Concerns	%
Bullying/cyberbullying	52%
Youth alcohol use/abuse	47%
Youth drug use/abuse	45%
Child abuse or neglect	44%
Adult alcohol use/abuse	43%
Cost of long-term/nursing home care	41%
Adult drug use/abuse	39%
Having enough child daycare services	38%
Attracting and retaining young families	28%

In March 2019, a community focus group identified its top concerns as:

1. Adult drug use and abuse
2. Cost of health insurance
3. Having enough child daycare services
4. Bullying/cyberbullying
5. Attracting and retaining young families

In the survey, community members also identified perceived barriers (up to three) specifically related to accessing local healthcare. The top five barriers were:

1. Not affordable (41% of respondents)
2. No insurance/limited insurance (35%)
3. Don't know about local services (19%)
4. Concerns about confidentiality (18%)
5. Not enough specialists (16%)

Individuals also indicated which specific healthcare services, if any, they felt should be added locally. The most often cited services were dental and vision care.

Steps Undertaken Since 2016 CHNA

As a result of the previous (2016) CHNA, there have been great advances for the Cando community. Due to low licensed childcare opportunities, the Economic Development Corporation is working with businesses to expand licensed daycare. Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota Caring Foundation (BCBS of ND CF) awarded a grant to purchase playground equipment for the daycare center at TCMC. To address the needs of the older population, Towner County Public Health District (TCPHD) and TCMC continue to evaluate the possibility of expanding congregate housing for older community members. TCMC also received a grant from BCBS of ND CF to purchase additional exercise equipment for the TCMC fitness center. For those families that may have little or no insurance, TCPHD offers childhood vaccinations. TCPHD also works with Lake Region WIC to provide nutritional support for needy families. To retain healthcare professionals in the community, TCMC is offering competitive wages and benefits to encourage retention of staff. Also, presentations are made annually at the local school(s) to encourage students to pursue health professions and return to Cando after graduation.

Implementation Strategies

Hospitals and local public health units prepare implementation strategies as a blueprint for meeting needs identified in a CHNA. Access the complete and community-specific CHNA Reports and Implementation Strategies at, ruralhealth.und.edu/projects/community-health-needs-assessment/reports.

Full Report

Nissen, K., & Reiten, J. Towner County Medical Center Service Area: Community Health Needs Assessment, 2019.

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For More Information

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CHNAs are supported in part by the health facilities and under the Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Grant, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration Federal Office of Rural Health Policy.