

# Northwood Deaconess Health Center Service Area

## 2019 Community Health Needs Assessment

January 2020

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 Northwood Deaconess Health Center (NDHC) service area 2019 CHNA.

The Northwood service area consists of rural Grand Forks County (population 70,770) and the towns of Aneta and Hatton, as well as several small extending communities. Also located in Grand Forks County, but not in NDHC service area, is the urban community of Grand Forks, which includes a tertiary hospital.

### Community Strengths

The top three assets identified in the community survey included the area being family friendly, healthcare, and people are friendly, helpful, and supportive. Other community assets include a modern school building, swimming pool, golf course, and walking paths connecting the school to NDHC. The community also reports a lower patient-to-physician ratio than the state average.

### Health Outcomes and Factors

In review of secondary data, 14% of Grand Forks County residents reported poor or fair health, which matched the state percentage. However, the county had a greater percentage of residents reporting excessive drinking, physical inactivity, adult smoking, and obesity than the top 10% of U.S. counties. See Table 1.

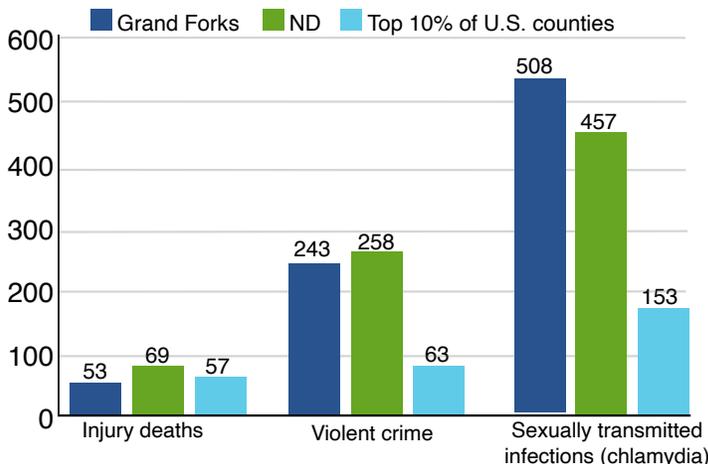
**Table 1. Health Factors by % of Population, 2019**

	Grand Forks	ND	Top 10% U.S.
Uninsured	7%	8%	6%
Excessive drinking	26%	26%	13%
Access to exercise opportunities	83%	74%	91%
Physical inactivity	21%	22%	19%
Adult obesity	31%	32%	26%
Adult smokers	18%	20%	14%

Injury deaths were less prevalent in Grand Forks County (53 deaths per 100,000 residents) than in the state overall (69 per 100,000 residents) and the top 10% of U.S. counties (57 per

100,000 residents). However, instances of violent crime and chlamydia were higher than the top 10% of U.S. counties. See Figure 1.

**Figure 1. Cases per 100,000 Population, 2019**



In Grand Forks County in 2018, there were 3,258 licensed daycare spots for the 8,990 children ages 0-13 with both parents in the labor force. See Table 2 for more information on children's health.

**Table 2. See Table 2 for more information on children's health**

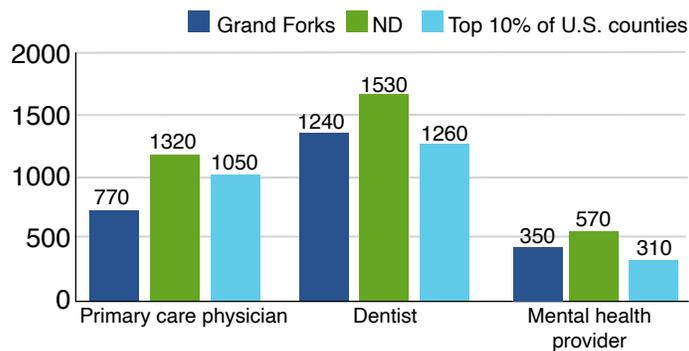
	Grand Forks	ND
Children uninsured (2018)	5.2%	6.3%
Children in poverty (ages 0-17) (% of pop.) (2018)	10.6%	11.0%
Medicaid recipients (2019)	24.5%	26.6%
Children enrolled in Healthy Steps (2019)	1.3%	1.6%
Receiving SNAP (2019)	18.3%	16.9%

In 2019, the teen birth rate for Grand Forks County was 14 births per 1,000 females (15-19 years old). This is lower than the state average of 23 per 1,000 and matches the top 10% of U.S. counties (14 per 1,000).

### Healthcare Access

Based on the provider-to-population ratio, Grand Forks County has fewer residents per single dentist and per physician than the state's average and the top 10% of U.S. counties. See Figure 2.

**Figure 2. Provider-to-Population Ratios, 2019**



## Community Concerns

In a survey conducted by the CRH, residents identified up to three primary community concerns. The top two concerns were the cost of long-term/nursing home care (59%) and alcohol use and abuse among youth (47%). Youth drug use and abuse, adult alcohol use and abuse, and availability of resources to help the elderly age in place made the top five. See Table 3.

**Table 3. Community Concerns, 2019**

Community Concerns	%
Cost of long-term/nursing home care	59%
Alcohol use & abuse – youth	47%
Drug use & abuse – youth	46%
Alcohol use & abuse – adults	39%
Availability of resources to help the elderly stay in their homes	39%
Attracting & retaining young families	36%
Smoking & tobacco use or vaping	36%
Not enough jobs with livable wages	34%
Drug use & abuse – adults	34%

**In October 24, 2019, a community focus group identified its top concerns as:**

1. Cost of health insurance
2. Attracting and retaining young families
3. Depression/anxiety – youth
4. Depression/anxiety – adults

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

1. No or limited insurance (39% of respondents)
2. Can't get transportation services (37%)
3. Not enough specialists (20%)
4. Not enough evening/weekend hours (17%)
5. Not affordable (17%)

Individuals also indicated which specific healthcare services, if any, they felt should be added locally. The most often cited service was mental health services, which could be considered related to the top identified concerns of depression and anxiety among youth and adults.

## Steps Taken Since 2016 CHNA

NDHC has taken great steps in response to the needs identified during the 2016 CHNA. With regard to the need to recruit and retain primary care providers, a family practice physician will be added in 2020. The use of screening tools in the emergency room and clinic has been increased to identify drug use and abuse issues with youth, and a Men's Health event and senior fitness programs have been implemented to answer concerns regarding obesity. For the final identified need of attracting and retaining young families, the NDHC CEO continues to participate in economic development for the community, working with local businesses to provide incentives for new businesses and housing.

## 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](http://ruralhealth.und.edu/projects/community-health-needs-assessment/reports).

### Full Report

Gibbens, B. & Larson, S. Northwood Service Area: Community Health Needs Assessment, 2019.

### For More Information

Visit the website, [ruralhealth.und.edu/projects/community-health-needs-assessment](http://ruralhealth.und.edu/projects/community-health-needs-assessment), or contact:

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