



Community Health Improvement Plan

Mercy Hospital
Columbus

Fiscal Year 2023-2025



Your life is our life's work.



Our Mission:

As the Sisters of Mercy before us, we bring to life the healing ministry of Jesus through our compassionate care and exceptional service.

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I. Introduction

Mercy Hospital Columbus completed a comprehensive Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) that was adopted by the Community Board of Southwest Missouri/Southeast Kansas Directors in May 2022. The CHNA considered input from the county health department, community members, members of medically underserved, low-income, and minority populations and various community organizations representing the broad interests of the community of Joplin. The CHNA identified four prioritized health needs the hospital plans to focus on addressing during the next three years: Lung Disease, Cardiovascular Disease, Mental Health, and Diabetes. The complete CHNA report is available electronically at mercy.net/about/community-benefits.

Mercy Columbus is affiliated with Mercy, one of the largest Catholic health systems in the United States.

This three-year Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), aimed at addressing the prioritized health needs identified in the CHNA, will guide the coordination and targeting of resources, and the planning, implementation and evaluation of both new and existing programs and interventions. The 2022 CHNA and this resulting CHIP will provide the framework for Mercy Hospital Columbus as it works in collaboration with community partners to advance the health and quality of life for the community members it serves.

II. Prioritized Need #1: Access to Care

Implementation Plan by Prioritized Health Need

Prioritized Need #1a: Access to Care

GOAL: Increase access to health services by providing immunizations health education to community members.

PROGRAM 1: Health screenings and education for city employees and area businesses.
PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: Mercy Columbus will provide various screening and education events to area businesses and city employees, to increase access to health care and be a link to other community resources.
<p>ACTIONS THE HEALTH SYSTEM INTENDS TO TAKE TO ADDRESS THE HEALTH NEED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify uninsured patients and community members in need of assistance for health care services 2. Screen community members for needs related to social determinants of health and connect them to area resources 3. Provide immunizations, screenings, and health care information to community members.
<p>ANTICIPATED IMPACT OF THESE ACTIONS (OBJECTIVES):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Patients receiving screenings, immunizations, or educational information will have improved health outcomes
<p>PLAN TO EVALUATE THE IMPACT:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Track number of screenings with community members at area health fairs 2. Record number of community members receiving immunizations 3. Record number of community members receiving educational materials
<p>PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES THE HEALTH SYSTEM PLANS TO COMMIT:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mercy employees and indirect expenses dedicated to providing health screenings, immunizations, and educational materials.
<p>COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. City of Columbus 2. Columbus area businesses and Chamber of Commerce

III. Other Community Health Programs

Mercy Carthage conducts other community health programs not linked to a specific prioritized health need. These programs address a community health need and meet at least one of the following community benefit objectives: improve access to health care services, enhance the health of the community, advance medical or health care knowledge or relieve or reduce government burden to improve health. The need for these programs was identified through documentation of demonstrated community need, a request from a public health agency or community group, or the involvement of an unrelated, collaborative tax-exempt or government organization as partners in the activity or program carried out for the express purpose of improving community health. Although this is not an exhaustive list, many of these programs are listed below.

Community Benefit Category	Program	Outcomes Tracked
Community Health Improvement Services	Community Health Fairs & Screenings	Persons served
	Community health education talks	Persons served
Community Building Activities – Workforce Development	Health professions student education – nursing, imaging, therapy, pharmacy, medical student, lab, emergency medical technician, and advanced practice nursing	Number of students

IV. Significant Health Needs Not Being Addressed

A complete description of the health needs prioritization process is available in the CHNA report. Mercy Columbus identified the health needs established through the Community Health Needs Assessment and determined that it was best to engage in programs and partnerships that already exist. During this cycle of the Community Health Improvement Plan, Mercy Columbus will not be addressing the following identified health needs:

- **Cardiovascular Disease:** Cardiovascular Disease is an identified need in our community, but there are many factors related to this disease that will be addressed through community collaborations. Mercy Columbus representatives are actively engaged in community collaborations that promote healthier lifestyles to fight this disease. Additionally, this disease will not be resolved as quickly as other health needs that are currently identified in this CHIP
- **Lung Disease:** Lung Disease is our highest identified health need in our community, but there are many factors related to this disease that will be addressed through community collaborations. Mercy Columbus representatives are actively engaged in community collaborations that promote a tobacco free lifestyle to fight this disease and are active in promoting screening options for the community to detect certain lung cancers sooner. Additionally, this disease will not be resolved as quickly as other health needs that are currently identified in this CHIP
- **Cancer:** Cancer is a significant health need in our community, but there are many factors related to this disease that will be addressed through our local hospital oncology departments and community collaborations. Mercy Columbus representatives are actively engaged in community collaborations that promoting healthier lifestyles that effect the various diseases of cancer. Mercy Mobile Mammography Unit will continue to provide screenings in the community of Columbus and look to new opportunities to reach those that are underserved or underinsured. Additionally, this disease will not be resolved as quickly as other health needs that are currently identified in this CHIP
- **Diabetes:** Diabetes is a significant health need in our community, but there are many factors related to this disease that will be addressed through our community endocrinology departments and community collaborations. Mercy Columbus representatives are actively engaged in community collaborations that promoting healthier lifestyles that effect diabetes and engage with community members for diabetes support programs.

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