Macon County

Community Health Needs Assessment
2019

Samaritan Hospital
Macon County Community Health Needs Assessment

Introduction

Samaritan Hospital has conducted a Community Health Needs Assessment as required by Missouri Law. The passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act requires tax exempt hospitals to conduct needs assessments and develop community benefit plans every three years. The needs assessment is a primary tool used by the Hospital to determine its community benefit plan, which outlines how the Hospital will give back to the community in the form of health care and other community services and to address unmet community health needs. This assessment incorporates components of primary data collection and secondary data analysis that focus on the health and social needs of the Samaritan Hospital service area.

Executive Summary

Located in Macon Missouri Samaritan Hospital has served Macon County Residents and the surrounding area for more than 85 years. Samaritan Hospital is a not-for-profit, 25 beds, Critical Access Hospital. The facility offers a wide range of services including: Acute Care Services, Emergency Services, Laboratory Services, Imaging Services, Rehabilitation Therapies, Swing Bed Services, and Outpatient Clinics including: Cardiology, Pulmonologist, Dermatology, Rheumatology, Pain Management, Gastrointestinal, Wound Care, and Gynecology, Orthopedics, and General Surgery. Samaritan Hospital also offers a Cardiac Rehabilitation Unit. Samaritan has an outstanding staff of primary care physicians supported by medical specialist and professionals from Docs Who Care. The Active Medical Staff of Samaritan Hospital is comprised of 6 Primary Care Physicians, Orthopedic Surgeon, General Surgeon, Podiatrist, Pathologist, 5 Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistant. The primary care clinic is located on the campus of Samaritan Hospital.

Samaritan Hospital prides itself on a continuing commitment to the economic growth and stability in Macon County. Providing ongoing programs that enhance the health of its citizens is a core value of the organization.

Methods of Data Collection

Primary Data Collection

A steering committee comprised of Samaritan Hospital, Macon County Health Department, Nursing Home Representatives and Local Primary Care Providers, were contacted and asked to participate in the development of a needs assessment. A Community Health Needs Assessment survey was distributed via Survey Monkey web link on our website and mailed to 1700 Macon County residents. These results were used as a sample for the service area of Samaritan Hospital. There were 405 surveys completed.

The following is an overview of some of the data points.
• 52% of the surveys were from Macon City zip code 63552.

• 57% of the surveys were completed by female respondents.

• 82% respondents have lived in the area for more than 11 years. 67% for more than 20 years.

• 92% of respondents have an established relationship with a Physician / Nurse Practitioner.

• 77% of respondents have an established relationship with a Dentist.

• 84% of respondents have an established relationship with an eye care professional.

• 39% have used the emergency department in the past 12 months.

• 84% felt the visit to the emergency department was either acute or need immediate attention.

• 8% of the respondents indicated they had trouble finding a physician in the last two years.

• 64% travel 20 miles or less to a hospital.

• 68% travel 20 miles or less to a provider.

Secondary Data Collection

Secondary data was collected from a variety of local, county, and state sources to present a community profile, death characteristics, and access to health care, chronic diseases, social issues, education, employment characteristics, and other select data to complete this report. When pertinent, these data sets are presented in the context of Macon County and the State, framing the scope of an issue as it relates to the broader community.

This report presents a summary that highlights the data findings and presents the key needs in the community with opportunities for action. Following you will find a detailed narrative report that examines each data category.
**DEMOGRAPHICS**

**Community Profile/ Population / Race**

- Residents are primarily White Caucasian 94%, and African American 2.2%
- The age distribution indicates a high percentage of the population is 45-64 (26.4%), followed by 18-44 (27.7%) and 65 and older at (22%).
- English is the primary language among Macon County Residents, with Spanish being the second most common language.

**ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE**

The county has an uninsured rate of 13% which is slightly higher than either the state (11%) or national average (6%).

Primary Care Physicians data reveals that the ratio of population to Primary Care Physicians is higher in Macon County (3,030:1) than either the state (1,420:1), or the national (1,050:1) benchmarked.

Dentist availability as a function of the population for Macon County (2,540:1), appears to be higher than the State (1,760:1), but considerably less than the national benchmark (1,260:1).

**HEALTH BEHAVIOR**

Missouri ranks 46th in Health outcomes out of 115 counties.

*Adult smoking* – 20% of Macon County residents smoke as compared to the state (22%) and national benchmark of 14%

*Adult obesity* – 36% of Macon County residents are considered obese (BMI of 30 or more). As compared to the state average 32% and national average of 26%

*Excessive Drinking* – 16% of Macon County residents exhibit this behavior compared to the state (19%) and national benchmark of 13%.

*Motor vehicle crash death* rate (per 100,000 pop) is 15 for Macon County as compared to the State at 14 and national data of 9.

*Teen birth rate* – (per 1,000 female pop.) for Macon County residents is 32 compared to Missouri (28) and national (14).
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Level</th>
<th>Macon County</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>National</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High School Graduation</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some College</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children in Poverty</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Macon County</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>National</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Safe Drinking Water</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>89.4%</td>
<td>81.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to Recreational Activities</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limited Access to Healthy Food</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Restaurants that are Fast Food</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CONCLUSION

The perceived need for additional health care services are as varied and can be as different as each person’s opinion. With that being said, Samaritan Hospital and our health care provider partners, will prioritize and work toward resolution of the most critical needs, outlined in the primary and secondary data.

For your information the following graphical data highlight the responses from the survey tool utilized for the Community Health Needs Assessment.
Demographics of Macon County

- Population: 15,153
- Number of Households: 6,203
- Average Household Size: 2.5
- Median Household Income: $38,903
### Demographics of Macon County

- **Age of Population:**
  - 0-14: 20.1%
  - 15-24: 11%
  - 25-44: 21%
  - 45-54: 12.8%
  - 55-64: 13.7%
  - 65+: 21%

- **Residents:**
  - White/Caucasian: 94.5%
  - African American: 2.4%
  - Other: 3.1%

### Service Area Zip Codes Surveyed

Q1 What is your zip code?

![Graph showing service area zip codes surveyed.](image-url)
Q2 What is your gender?
Q5 What are the ages of the people who live in your household?

![Bar chart showing ages of household members with different age groups represented by different colors.]

- **Yourself**: 0-35 Months, 3-5 Years, 6-12 Years, 12-17 Years, 18-24 Years, 25-44 Years, 45-54 Years, 55-64 Years, 65+ Years
- **Person 2**: 0-35 Months, 3-5 Years, 6-12 Years, 12-17 Years, 18-24 Years, 25-44 Years, 45-54 Years, 55-64 Years, 65+ Years
- **Person 3**: 0-35 Months, 3-5 Years, 6-12 Years, 12-17 Years, 18-24 Years, 25-44 Years, 45-54 Years, 55-64 Years, 65+ Years
- **Person 4**: 0-35 Months, 3-5 Years, 6-12 Years, 12-17 Years, 18-24 Years, 25-44 Years, 45-54 Years, 55-64 Years, 65+ Years
- **Person 5**: 0-35 Months, 3-5 Years, 6-12 Years, 12-17 Years, 18-24 Years, 25-44 Years, 45-54 Years, 55-64 Years, 65+ Years
- **Person 6**: 0-35 Months, 3-5 Years, 6-12 Years, 12-17 Years, 18-24 Years, 25-44 Years, 45-54 Years, 55-64 Years, 65+ Years
**DEMOGRAPHICS OF SURVEY RESPONSE**

Q6 How long have you lived in the area?

- Less than a year
- 1-2 Years
- 3-5 Years
- 6-10 Years
- 11-20 Years
- More than 20 years

**DEMOGRAPHICS OF SURVEY RESPONSE**

Q52 What is the highest level of school you have completed or the highest degree you have received?

- Less than high school degree
- High school diploma
- GED
- Currently attending...
- Some college but no degree
- Associate degree
- Bachelor degree
- Graduate degree
Q53 Including yourself, how many adults in your household are retired?

None
One
Two
Three
Four or more

Q54 Including yourself, how many adults (ages 18 and over) in your household are employed fulltime?

None
One
Two
Three
Four or more
Q65 Counting all income sources from everyone in your household, what was the combined household income last year? (Optional)

Q 52 Number of Household members covered by health insurance?
**Demographics of Survey Response**

Q56 If you or members of your household have health insurance coverage, how is it obtained? (check all that apply)

- Medicare A
- Medicare B
- Medicaid
- Through a retirement...
- Through an employer's...
- Veteran's Administration
- Privately purchased
- Vision Insurance

**Demographics of Survey Response**

Q57 Do you have a Medicare Advantage Plan?

- Yes
- No
**Demographics of Survey Response**

Q58 Do any of your insurance policies provide dental coverage?

- Yes
- No

**Demographics of Survey Response**

Q59 Do any of your insurance policies pay for prescription drugs?

- Yes, with co-payment
- Yes, with no co-payment
- No
Q60 Are medical, dental or prescription co-pays large enough that you postpone or go without services or prescriptions?

Q62 Do you have a durable power of attorney in place?
Q61 Do you have long term care (nursing home) insurance?

Q66 How would you describe your housing situation?
Q64 Some of the following issues may have been a problem in your household. If it has been a problem in the last 12 months please tell us how much of a problem.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Not a problem</th>
<th>Minor Problem</th>
<th>Major Problem</th>
<th>Don't know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult Substance Abuse – (alcohol or legal meds)</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Substance Abuse – (illegal drugs)</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Substance Abuse – (alcohol, drugs, etc)</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caring for Adults with disabilities</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caring for a Child with disabilities</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Abuse</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Violence against adults</td>
<td>97.5%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depression</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elder Care</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not enough money For food</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not able to afford healthy food</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not able to afford transport</td>
<td>93.5%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not enough money for housing</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not enough money for doctor, dentist or pharmacy</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not enough money for mental health counselor</td>
<td>90.5%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of tobacco products</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not being able to find or afford after school care</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual Abuse</td>
<td>98.5%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teen Pregnancy</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q7 During the past 12 months have you received a flu shot?
Q8 Have you ever been told by a doctor you have high blood pressure?

Q9 If yes, is any medication currently prescribed for your high blood pressure?
**Survey Response**

Q10 Have you ever been told by a doctor you need to lose weight for health reasons?

[Bar chart showing percentage response to Q10]

**Survey Response**

Q11 During the past month have you participated in any physical activities or regular exercise, such as running, walking, golf, etc?

[Bar chart showing percentage response to Q11]
Q 12 How many times a week do you participate in this activity?

Q 13 How many minutes or hours do you usually keep at this activity?
Survey Response

Q14 Are you currently trying to lose weight?

Yes
No

Survey Response

Q15 If yes, how are trying to lose weight?

Eating more healthy
Increasing activity
Both
**Survey Response**

Q16 Do you currently smoke?

- Yes
- No

How many cigarettes smoked daily?

- 1-10
- 11-20
- 21-40

**Survey Response**

Q17 Do you use smokeless tobacco?

- Yes
- No
Q18 Have YOU ever been told by a doctor that you have one of the following conditions?
Samaritan Hospital

Survey Response

Type of Cancers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cancer Type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Skin</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breast</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prostate</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colon</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melanoma</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lung</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hodgkins</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kidney</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stomach</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plasmocytoma</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uterus</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q19 Do have a Family History of one of the following conditions?

- Adult Asthma
- Angina or Coronary Artery Disease
- Bacterial pneumonia
- CHF - Congestive Heart Failure
- COPD - Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
- Diabetes or High Blood Pressure
- Heart Attack
- High Cholesterol
- Hypertension - High Blood Pressure
- Stroke
- Cancer - Please specify:

[Bar chart showing the percentage distribution of each condition]
SURVEY RESPONSE

FAMILY HISTORY - TYPE OF CANCERS

Breast 27%
Colon 18%
Lung 18%
Prostate 11%
Skin 7%
Melanoma 5%
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma 5%
Stomach 5%
Liver 5%
Ovarian 4%
Uterus 3%
Cervical 3%
Bladder 3%
Brain 3%
Pancreatic 2%
Renal 2%
Kidney 2%
SURVEY RESPONSE

Q20 Has a child (age 17 or younger) in your household been diagnosed with one of the following conditions?

- Asthma
- Diabetes
- Overweight or Obese

[Bar chart showing the percentage of respondents with each condition]
Q22 Has a child (age 17 or younger) in your household used the following: (check all that apply)

- Alcohol
- Drugs
- Tobacco

Q23 Has a child (age 17 or younger) in your household become pregnant?
Q24 Are you or any household member a primary caregiver for an aged, disabled or chronically ill person?

Q25 How long has it been since you visited the doctor for a routine preventative check? (Not for specific injury, illness or condition).
Q26 If your last visit was more than two years ago, is it because -

Q27 If you or a household member have a health care need:
Q28 How many times during the last 12 months have you or any household member used a hospital emergency room?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2 times</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-5 times</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 or more times</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q29 If you or a household member used a hospital emergency room in the past 12 months, was it due to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acute illness</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injury needs immediate...</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injury not immediate...</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ongoing illness</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental Care</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q30 How many times in the last 12 months have you or household member used Urgent Care, Rural Health Clinic or Federally Qualified Health Clinic?
Q30  In the last 12 months have you or household member used Urgent Care, Rural Health Clinic or Federally Qualified Health Clinic?

Q31 Have you or anyone in your household had any difficulty finding a doctor within the past two years?
Q32 If you had trouble finding a doctor, why? (Please check all that apply)

- No convenient appointment
- Don't know how to contact one
- Not taking new patients
- No transportation
- Not accept my insurance
- Other (please specify)
Q33 Have you or anyone in your household had difficulty finding a doctor to treat a specific illness or condition in your area within the past two years?

Q35 Why were you unable to visit the specialist when you needed one?
Q34 If yes, what type of specialist were you looking for?
Q36 How long has it been since you had your blood cholesterol level checked?

Q37 Have you ever been told by a doctor or health care professional that your blood cholesterol is too high?
Q38 How long has it been since you had your blood checked for diabetes?

- Less than 12 months: [Bar Graph]
- Within the last 2 years: [Bar Graph]
- Within the last 5 years: [Bar Graph]
- More than 5 years: [Bar Graph]
- Never: [Bar Graph]

Q39 Have you ever been told by doctor or health care professional you have high blood sugar or diabetes?

- Yes: [Bar Graph]
- No: [Bar Graph]
SURVEY RESPONSE

Q40 If you are over 50 years old, how long has is been since you had an exam or screening for colon cancer?

SURVEY RESPONSE

Q41 If you are over 40 years old, how long has is been since your last mammogram?
Q42 If you are over 25 years old, how long has it been since your last Pap smear?

- Less than 12 months
- Within the past 2 years
- Within the past 5 years
- More than 5 years
- Never
- Not Applicable

Q43 Have you or any household member required skilled nursing care in hospital or nursing home in the last 12 months?

- Yes
- No
Q44 Do you anticipate you or any household member needing skilled nursing care in hospital or nursing home in the next two years?

Q63 Do you have trouble getting transportation to health care services?
Q45 Have you used a virtual visit to talk to a provider over the computer or mobile device?

Q46 Do you access your health records through an online patient portal?
Q47 What do you think are the most pressing health problems in your community?
Q48 What medical services are most needed in your community?
Q49 What types of health education services are most needed in your community?
### Q50 Health Services Needed in Community

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Affordable Insurance</th>
<th>Parenting Classes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bullying</td>
<td>Pediatrics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer Treatment –</td>
<td>Public Transport Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemotherapy/Radiation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Providers</td>
<td>Pulmonary Fibrosis Therapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dentists</td>
<td>Safe Place for Teens to Hangout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dermatology</td>
<td>Specialists - More</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Care for Elderly</td>
<td>STD Screenings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homeless/Domestic Violence Shelter</td>
<td>Stress Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lactation Consultant</td>
<td>Telemedicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Health Counselors</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SURVEY RESPONSE</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Q51 IMPROVING OVERALL HEALTH OF COMMUNITY</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Education – Preventative, Healthy Lifestyles, Obesity and Drug Abuse |
| More Providers and Specialists – Primary Care, Pediatrics, OB/GYN |
| Mental Health Services – Counselors and Support Groups |
| Affordable Health Care – Insurance, Doctor Visits and Prescriptions |
| Mobile Clinics – Affordable or Free Health Screenings |
| Affordable Dental |
| Insurance Costs |
| Support Groups for Mental Health and Elderly |
| Access to Exercise – Affordable gym, Places to Walk, Swimming Pool |
| Healthier Food Choices – Farmers Market |
| Child Care for evenings |
| Communities to be invested in their outcomes. Expand the Health Dept/YMCA Children’s Health initiative further. |
| Local VA Clinic |
| Fast track for ER – to speed non emergent cases |
| Public Transport |
| Better jobs so insurance and care is affordable |
| More Natural herbal medications. |
PERCEIVED NEEDS FROM THE COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Top Four Medical Services –
Cancer Treatment
Counseling/Mental Health Services
Children’s Specialist – Pediatrics
Women’s Health

Top Five Most Pressing Health Problems –
Affordable Health Insurance/Lack of Health Insurance
Ability to Pay/Cost of Health Care
Prescription Medication Costs
Obesity
Drug Abuse

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

MEDICAL SERVICES:

CANCER TREATMENT
This is once again listed as a medical service needed in the community. We have reached out to the University of Missouri for the possibility of providing chemo therapy at Samaritan. The Oncology providers are reluctant to provide such a service outside of their office setting. We have once again reached out to the University of Missouri Medical Center to determine if such a program would be feasible.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
The survey indicated a need for outpatient counseling and mental health services. Our strategic planning session held October 4, 2019 also indicated that mental health and specifically outpatient counseling was a perceived need. A group will be formed to explore the possibility of a cooperative effort with the local Federally Qualified Health Center to provide the services needed in the community. The group will also explore the demand and possibility of providing outpatient treatment through a psychiatric Nurse Practitioner in our Total Family Health Care Clinic (RHC).

SPECIALTY SERVICES
Samaritan Hospital will form a team to explore the feasibility of the following specialties; Pediatrics, Pulmonary Medicine, Endocrinology, Oncology, Psychiatry, ENT, and Neurology. Data from the Missouri Hospital Association’s Health Industry Data Institute will be used to determine if sufficient volume is present to justify pursuing each specialty.

WOMEN’S HEALTH
Our Rural Health Clinic, Total Family Health Care, provides well woman services and obstetrics from conception to 35 weeks. Gynecological services are available through Samaritan Hospital Specialty Care Center, Dr. Tobler provides examination and procedural services. Total Family Health Care also offers a limited Gynecological services. Marketing efforts will be streamlined to focus on providing the community with this information.
HEALTH PROBLEMS:

AFFORDABLE HEALTH INSURANCE/LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE
Samaritan Hospital has made available counselors to help individuals and families navigate the possibilities for coverage. Samaritan Hospital is participating in the campaign to expand Medicaid for Missouri citizens who are uninsured or underinsured. The expansion of Medicaid would provide coverage for those citizens that are employed but either can’t afford health insurance or it is not offered through their employer.

COST OF HEALTH CARE
The existence of residents without Health Insurance has been well documented by the Missouri Hospital Association. It is estimated that over 300,000 Missouri residents are uninsured or under insured. Samaritan Hospital is a county hospital and recognizes the needs to provide health care to residents at or below the poverty level. Samaritan Hospital financial assistance policy is detailed on our website, at registration area, in Rural Health Clinic and is available upon request.

ABILITY TO PAY - SAMARITAN HOSPITAL CHARITY CARE
Charity care or financial assistance for medically necessary health care services delivered at Samaritan Hospital will be provided to individuals who meet certain financial criteria based on income, and family size. Financial evaluations to determine eligibility for charity care or financial assistance will be offered free of charge either before or after the provision of care.
Eligibility Criteria- Financial assistance will be offered on a sliding scale, based upon an evaluation of the patient’s income and family size in comparison to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Annual Poverty Guideline published in the Federal Register (Appendix B). Patients must be ineligible for coverage by Medicaid to be considered for financial assistance.
If a patient’s income is below 100 percent of the annual poverty guideline, the hospital may offer financial assistance of 80 percent of the charges. For patients with incomes between 100 and 150 percent of the annual poverty guideline, financial assistance will range from 60 percent to 70 percent of the charges. Patients with incomes in excess of 100 percent of the poverty guideline will be responsible for at least a portion of their personal liability.
Patients determined to be homeless, those indigent in a nursing home, and those deceased with no estate, will be eligible for financial assistance for 100 percent of the charges, due to their unrecoverable financial circumstances.
For more information regarding Samaritan Hospitals Charity Care policy please contact Patient Accounts at (660) 385-8700.

PRESCRIPTION/MEDICATION COST
In partnership with local pharmacies, Samaritan Hospital participates in a government program named 340B that helps eligible patients receive discounted prescription drugs. The 340B Drug Discount Program is a US federal government program created in 1992 that requires drug manufacturers to provide outpatient drugs to eligible health care organizations and covered entities at significantly reduced prices. The significant savings helps to ensure that prescription drugs available to those who might not otherwise be able to afford their prescriptions.
OBESITY-OBESITY IN ADULTS AND CHILDREN

Our local providers have information available to provide patients struggling with Obesity. The local YMCA has numerous Youth/Adult activities throughout the year, such as flag football, basketball, gymnastics, stretch and flex, F.I.T., body basics, boot camp, yoga, personal training, pickle ball, softball group, fitness, and volleyball, just to name a few.

The Long Branch Area YMCA is committed to educating the community on the benefits of a YMCA and one of the most important benefits is that YMCA’s do not turn anyone away due to inability to pay. If you’ve heard someone say, “I can’t afford to join the YMCA”, they need to know financial assistance is available.

Requesting financial assistance is easy and confidential. A one-page financial assistance application can be obtained from the front desk at the YMCA. The application must be completed and returned to the Executive Director with a copy of the applicant’s most recent tax return. After a short review with the Executive Director, the applicant will know if they qualify for financial assistance. Financial assistance provides for reduced membership fees or program fees.

DRUG ABUSE

The opioid epidemic specifically refers to the growing number of deaths and hospitalizations from opioids, including prescriptions. Drug overdose is now the leading cause of accidental death in the United States, largely due to the opioid epidemic. Samaritan Hospital has been attempting to decrease the use of opioid through a multidisciplinary approach. The pain management clinic utilizes both a pain management physician and a physician assistant to address the use of pain medication. Pain management and drug contracts are initiated by the physician assistant and further intervention if needed is provided by a board certified Anesthesiologist. The demand for the service has grown to the point a dedicated area is being created. This dedicated space will allow the availability for potential to be expanded from what use to be a once a month offering to 3-4 days per week.

REFERENCES


2. www.communityhealthrankings.org


5. Health Industry Data Institute, Missouri Hospital Association 2019.

6. Missouri Department of Mental Health, Jefferson City, MO.