Atrium Health Anson
Community Health Implementation Strategy

January 1, 2026 - December 31, 2028

Community health improvement is an effective tool for creating a shared vision and supporting a planned and integrated approach to improving health outcomes. The basic premise of community health improvement is that entities identify community health issues, prioritize those that can be addressed, and then develop, implement, and evaluate strategies to address those issues. Tax-exempt hospitals are required to conduct a community health needs assessment (CHNA) and develop an implementation strategy to document how the hospital will address prioritized community health needs. The following outlines a summary of the CHNA process and provides details on Atrium Health Anson plans to address their prioritized community health needs.

SUMMARY OF CHNA PROCESS

In 2025, Atrium Health Anson conducted a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) in Anson County, which consisted of a comprehensive presentation and analysis of both qualitative and quantitative data.

Atrium Health Anson CHNA relies on multiple sources of information:

Community Health Survey (Primary Data): Phone interviews conducted within the 2024 CHNA cycle in partnership with the Anson County Health Department, using a random sample of 100 individuals aged 18 and older in Anson County. This survey data was revisited and incorporated in the current CHNA cycle to build on previously identified insights.

Key Informant Interviews (Primary Data): Conducted through email interviews as part of the 2024 CHNA cycle with internal and external stakeholders. These 32 individuals helped to identify the community's most pressing health issues and effective improvement strategies. The data was incorporated as part of this 2025 cycle to ensure continuity in understanding the community's key health drivers.

Metopio (Secondary Data): Advocate Health has a contract with Metopio to provide an internet-based data resource for their hospitals. This robust platform offers curated data from public and proprietary sources for information on health behaviors and health risks, health outcomes, health care utilization, demographic, and community-level drivers of health like economic, housing, employment, and environmental conditions. Data for each indicator is presented by various demographics when the data is available (Metopio: https://public.metop.io).

County Health Rankings and Roadmaps: Anson County 2025 (Secondary Data): A program of the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute provides a compilation of data using county-level measures from a variety of national and state data sources.

Top Health Issues Identified

- Alcohol and Substance Use
- Chronic Disease and Prevention
- Community Safety
- Maternal and Infant Health
- Social Drivers of Health

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The top health issues identified were presented to the Atrium Health Anson Steering Council, and members were asked to rank the issues based on the following criteria: size/seriousness of the problem, effectiveness of available interventions, available resources to address the health issue, health care system adequately situated to address the health issue, meets a defined community need as identified through data, potential for issue to impact other health and social issues and ability to effectively address or impact health issue through collaboration.

Using these criteria, Atrium Health Anson has prioritized the significant health needs to address in 2026-2028:

Significant Need	Implementation Strategy Selection Reasoning
Alcohol and Substance Use	Alcohol and substance use (including tobacco, illegal mood-altering drugs and misusing prescription drugs) contribute to preventable health issues and are linked to social and economic issues. Alcohol and substance use are also closely linked to mental health challenges, including depression, anxiety, and trauma-related disorders. These conditions often co-occur, making recovery difficult without proper support.
Chronic Disease and Prevention	Chronic Diseases are long-term health problems that often develop slowly from genetic, environmental, and lifestyle factors. Some common ones are heart disease, diabetes, cancer, and asthma. These diseases can make daily life harder and often need ongoing medical care. Over half of Americans have at least one chronic disease. (CDC, 2024)

For each prioritized health need, the hospital plans to commit resources, which may include staff time, information technology systems, outreach, promotions and educational materials, funding, medical supplies, and other resources as available.

PRIORITY: Access to Care

DESCRIPTION OF HEALTH NEED DATA:

- Of the driving deaths in Anson County, 35.5% of them involved alcohol impairment. This is higher than the percentage of alcohol-impaired driving deaths for North Carolina at 24.6% and the United States at 26.3%.
- The rate of drug overdose ED visits in Anson County is 178.1 visits per 100,000 residents, higher than North Carolina's rate of 161.8.
- The substance use ED visit rate in Anson County is 1,004 visits per 100,000 residents, significantly higher than North Carolina's rate of 453.7.

STRATEGY #1: Increase community awareness of and access to substance use treatment

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS AND RESOURCES

- Anson County Law Enforcement
- Anson County Fire Department
- Anson County Schools
- Atrium Health Anson Emergency Department

MEASURING OUR IMPACT

- Number of educational sessions
- Number of attendees at educational sessions/meetings
- Number of virtual clinic appointments (referred from educational sessions)
- Number of Narcan kits distributed
- Emergency department visit rate for overdose

**Impact measures are subject to change depending on the direction of each intervention.*

STRATEGY #2: Expand access to substance use disorder clinic

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS AND RESOURCES

- Atrium Health Anson Substance Use Disorder Clinic
- Safer Communities
- Opioid Settlement Committee

MEASURING OUR IMPACT

- Number of substance use disorder clinic appointments

**Impact measures are subject to change depending on the direction of each intervention.*

PRIORITY: Chronic Disease and Prevention

DESCRIPTION OF HEALTH NEED DATA:

- The obesity rate in Anson County is 43.1%, which is higher than North Carolina at 33.9% and the United States at 33.2%.
- In Anson County, the Alzheimer's mortality rate is notably higher at 59.3 deaths per 100,000, compared to North Carolina's rate of 35.4 and the national average of 30.0.
- The cancer mortality rate for Anson County is 272.0 deaths per 100,000 people, surpassing the state rate of 150.7 and the national rate of 144.1.
- The top three leading causes of death for Anson County are heart disease, cancer, and COVID-19. (County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, 2025)

STRATEGY #1: Increase awareness of and access to cardiometabolic clinic services

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS AND RESOURCES

- Monthly Mobile Market
- Cooperative Extension
- Well Care
- Anson County Health Department

MEASURING OUR IMPACT

- Number of blood pressure screenings
- Number of diabetes screenings
- Number of referrals to cardiometabolic clinic

**Impact measures are subject to change depending on the direction of each intervention.*

STRATEGY #2: Increase awareness and access in African American community through non-traditional points

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS AND RESOURCES

- Local barbershops

MEASURING OUR IMPACT

- Establishment of educational initiative in local barbershops

**Impact measures are subject to change depending on the direction of each intervention.*

Needs Not Addressed

This Community Health Implementation Strategy focuses on the above priority health needs selected by the hospital based on community input, available resources, and alignment with organizational and community partner capacity. The Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) also identified additional significant health needs, including community safety issues including homicide and motor vehicle injuries, maternal and infant health and social drivers of health including economic, transportation, food security and affordable housing. These needs are not addressed in this CHIS due to factors such as limited hospital resources, the presence of existing initiatives led by other organizations, or a determination that the hospital is not best positioned to lead efforts in these areas at this time. Atrium Health Anson will continue to collaborate with community partners and share resources, when appropriate, to support progress on

Adoption of the Implementation Strategy

The Community Health Implementation Strategy report was adopted by Atrium Health and Hospitals Inc., on August 19,2026.

Note: Plans to address selected CHNA priorities are dependent upon resources and may be adjusted on an annual basis to best address the health needs of our community.