Atrium Health Stanly
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 Stanly plans to address their prioritized community health needs.

SUMMARY OF CHNA PROCESS

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

Atrium Health Stanly CHNA relies on multiple sources of information:

Community Health Survey (Primary Data): Online surveys were conducted from February through April 2025, with nearly 7,500 respondents regionally and 43 Stanly County residents participating. The survey captured perspectives on priority health needs, self-rated overall health, access to health services, and key social drivers of health, including factors that support opportunities for a healthier community.

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: Stanly 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

- Access to Care
- Alcohol and Substance Use
- Chronic Disease and Prevention
- Economic Stability/Social Drivers of Health
- Mental Health

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The top health issues identified were presented to the Atrium Health Stanly 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 Stanly has prioritized the significant health needs to address in 2026-2028:

Significant Need	Implementation Strategy Selection Reasoning
Access to Care	Access to care means having the ability to obtain affordable, relevant health services and wellness programs that raise the quality of life for everyone. It includes local options for basic health care like screening and prevention services and having access to health care providers when urgent health care needs arise.
Behavioral Health: Mental Health and Substance Use	Mental health—our emotional, psychological, and social well-being—affects how we handle stress, build relationships, and make decisions, and it is more than the absence of illness; it's the ability to thrive. Alcohol and substance use, including tobacco, illicit drugs, and prescription misuse, contribute to preventable health issues and social challenges, and are closely tied to mental health conditions like depression, anxiety, and trauma. These issues often co-occur, creating complex barriers to recovery and highlighting the need for integrated prevention, treatment, and support strategies. (CDC, 2025)

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:

- 32% of adults surveyed reported that someone in their household delayed or did not receive needed health care in the past year.
- Medical debt in the United States averages 5.0%, with North Carolina experiencing a higher rate of 8.5%. Stanly County has an even higher medical debt rate of 18.7%.
- Stanly County has seen a significant increase in preventable acute emergency department visit rate since 2020. The rate has gone from 641.2 (per 100,000 residents) in 2020 to 1080.2 in 2024.

STRATEGY #1: Increase referrals to transition clinic through enhanced awareness of available resources

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS AND RESOURCES

- Atrium Health Stanly Transition Clinic
- Case Management
- Inpatient providers
- SCUSA transportation
- Food Pantry

MEASURING OUR IMPACT

- Number of referrals to transition clinic
- Reduction in no-show appointments
- Number of qualified patient appointments

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

PRIORITY: Behavioral Health: Mental Health and Substance Use

DESCRIPTION OF HEALTH NEED DATA:

- Drug overdose deaths significantly increased from the years 2022-2023 from 34.3 deaths per 100,000 to 45.7.
- Mental health was ranked as the top health condition or behavior by survey respondents.
- The mental health emergency department visit rate remains significantly higher than the state numbers. Stanly County is 1347.8 (per 100,000 residents) while North Carolina is 901.6

STRATEGY #1: Expand access to & awareness of substance use treatment

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS AND RESOURCES

- Atrium Health Stanly ED
- Emergency Management PAQI Team

MEASURING OUR IMPACT

- 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 youth mental health services

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS AND RESOURCES

- Stanly County schools
- Stanly County School-Based Therapy and Psychiatry Program
- Behavioral Health school nurse

MEASURING OUR IMPACT

- Number of unique students
- Number of visits

**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 medical debt, chronic disease prevention, economic stability including transportation and 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 Stanly will continue to collaborate with community partners and share resources, when appropriate, to support progress on these needs within the community.

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.