

## 2013 Community Needs Assessment – Anderson County



The Community Health Needs Assessment provides a roadmap to help communities reach their destination of a healthier place to call home. Methodist Medical Center is hopeful that this assessment will be a catalyst for meaningful collaboration and action as we address some of the most important health improvement opportunities facing Anderson County.

The Affordable Care Act requires not-for-profit hospitals to conduct a needs assessment every three years and to create an Implementation Plan to address the significant findings. This effort will assist us in “connecting the dots” between Methodist’s resources and the needs of the community, identifying additional resources, and engaging with our community partners in initiatives that benefit Anderson County residents.

### **Our Assessment Partners**

This process could not have been done without the following organizations who gave guidance and thoughtful input along the way. Their expertise and relationships helped us access the general population as well as the county’s most vulnerable residents and helped distill volumes of data into the most significant health issues in Anderson County. We deeply appreciate their commitment to the assessment process.

- Anderson County Health Department
- Anderson County Health Advisory Committee
- Anderson County Schools – Coordinated School Health
- Methodist Medical Center
- Knox County Health Department, Department of Assessment and Planning
- Ridgeview Behavioral Health
- United Way of Anderson County
- Anderson County Emergency Medical Services
- Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberland
- Head Start of Anderson County

## Anderson County at a Glance

- 337 square miles
- 75,129 residents
- 5.3% increase in population since 2000
- Median age: 41 years
- 17.4% persons over 65
- 92% white
- 48.3% male
- \$44,872 median household income
- 7.8% unemployment
- 88% high school graduation
- 21.4% have bachelor's degree or higher, age 25+
- 8% uninsured adults
- 30% children in poverty
- 1,368:1 ratio of residents per primary care physician
- 1,596:1 ratio of residents per dentist
- 1,321:1 ratio of residents per mental health provider

### For more demographic information about Anderson County:

[www.countyhealthrankings.org](http://www.countyhealthrankings.org)

[quickfacts.census.gov](http://quickfacts.census.gov)

[www.tennessee.gov](http://www.tennessee.gov)

## Existing Healthcare Facilities and Resources

### Methodist Medical Center

Methodist Medical Center is a 301-bed facility offering an array of comprehensive services, including:

- New 30-bed ortho-neuro unit with specialty joint destination center for hip and knee replacement patients.
- New electrophysiology services for minimally invasive cardiac procedures and diagnostic technology such as a 64-slice CT which can capture images of the heart and coronary arteries in as little as five heartbeats.
- Fully accredited sleep diagnostic center staffed with a multi-boarded and fellowship-trained physician and a clinical team comprised 100% of registered polysomnographic technicians.
- The first dedicated wound treatment center in the greater Knoxville area to offer hyperbaric oxygen technology to treat chronic non-healing wounds.
- Fully deployed surgical robotics program featuring the latest technology for heart, lung, GYN and prostate procedures.
- Critical care program offering leading-edge and life-saving treatments for bloodstream infections and brain injuries associated with heart attacks.
- One of the first comprehensive chest clinics of its type in the nation, reducing the time between discovery of possible cancer and treatment from weeks to days.

- Individualized occupational, physical and speech therapies, including neurological, orthopedic, vestibular and pediatric rehab.
- Regional cancer center offering image-guided radiation therapy, a nationally recognized disease management program, access to clinical trials, personalized patient navigator assistance and formal pain management program and the most experienced provider of high dose-rate brachytherapy for women.

## Ridgeview Behavioral Health

Ridgeview is a private, not for profit community mental health center. Ridgeview is committed to providing a high quality regional system of services focused on the treatment of mental illness and alcohol and drug and co-occurring related problems

## Anderson County Health Department

The Anderson County Health Department provides an array of services including immunizations, well child visits and health screenings, WIC and nutrition services, breast and cervical cancer screening, birth and death certificates, children’s special services, HIV testing and counseling, sexually transmitted disease testing and treatment and communicable disease control.

## Free Medical Clinic of Oak Ridge

A 501(c)3 non-profit organization offering free medical services to those who live in Anderson, Roane or Morgan counties, who do not have any insurance and cannot afford to pay for medical services due to their income level.

## Briceville Free Medical Clinic

A primary care clinic for the working poor.

## Cherokee Health Systems

Located in Clinton, offering primary care and mental health services.

## Assessment Data Process

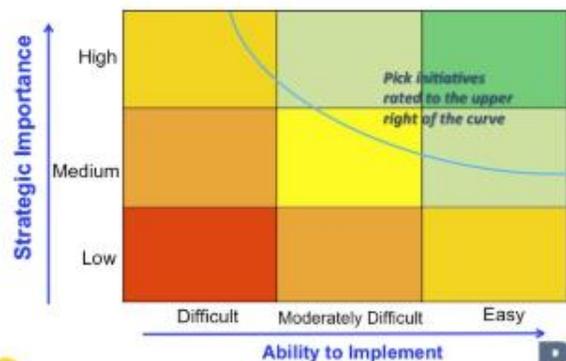
To determine the health needs of the community, data were collected from various county, state and national sources; local hospital information, data about homelessness. Additionally, we conducted research using face-to-face interviews, focus groups, and surveyed residents, both online and in person.

Our assessment partners helped determine a list of key stakeholders to participate in interviews and focus groups. Special attention was given to recruiting those who serve the uninsured, chronically ill and minority populations.

Lancaster Market Research Group conducted

the focus groups, compiled the responses and completed the data analysis.

**Setting Implementation Priorities for Initiatives or Performance Measures**



With consultation from the Knox County Health Department, Department of Assessment and Planning, a survey instrument was developed for use in the Covenant Health hospital assessments. This survey asked residents about the health and quality of life in their community/county. There were questions about what creates the health and what are the most important health issues and contributing factors. Survey sampling was matched with the counties population for the attributes of age, education, income and ethnicity. Surveys were available at the Methodist Medical Center the Anderson County Health Department, Ridgeview Clinics, Head Start locations, schools, and online using Survey Monkey.

Hundreds of health indicators were reviewed from the Tennessee Department of Public Health, County Health Rankings from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Tennessee Kids Count, as well as data from the US Census, hospital discharge data, and local homelessness data.

Notebooks containing all the health indicator data, focus group and community survey information were compiled.

A Data Synthesis Team was formed comprising 10-12 members including representatives from Methodist Medical

Center, the health department, school system, Oak Ridge Free Clinic, Legal Aide, local emergency management services, United Way, and Ridgeview Behavioral Health. Team members were each given a data notebook and then met several times to discuss the health issues. Using a Setting Priorities Tool developed by the Public Health Foundation, the team was able to further reduce its list of issues by rating each health issue's strategic importance relative to its ability to implement an effective intervention.

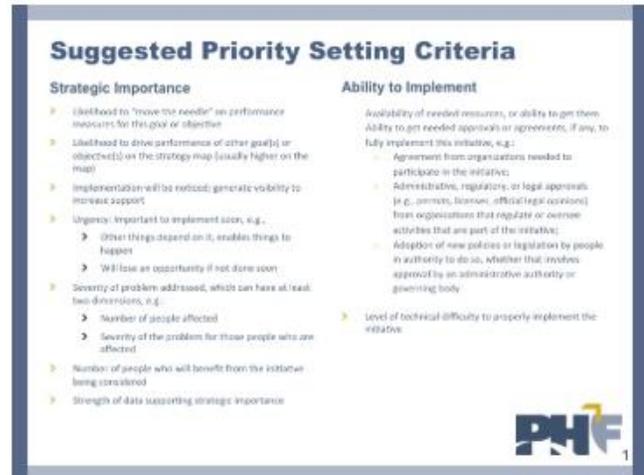
The health issues that were selected from the Setting Priorities Tool were then voted on to determine the most significant issues.

Data gaps identified by the Team included county specific information of the incidence of neonatal abstinence syndrome and mental health data. In both cases state and regional data were available, but it was difficult to determine the data implications at the county level. Additionally, homelessness data is limited to one episodic event each year.

## Key Assessment Findings

When asked to grade the overall health of Anderson County, focus group participants' responses ranged from a low of "F" to a high of "B" with the average grade being a "C". In determining the most significant issues to improve the health of Roane County we kept posing the question, "What improvements are needed to attain a B+?" Ultimately, the assessment group determined the following to be priority areas for Anderson County:

- Obesity
- Asthma
- Diabetes
- Substance Abuse
- Mental Health



## Other Findings

### What the residents told us:

The three most important factors for a healthy Anderson County are:

- Low crime / safe neighborhoods (response 52%)
- Good schools (response 49%)
- Good place to raise children (response 41%)

The three most important health problems in Anderson County are:

- Obesity (responses 38%)
- Cancers (responses 32%)
- Mental Health (responses 30%)

The three most important “risky behaviors” in Anderson County are:

- Drug abuse (response 82%)
- Alcohol abuse (response 55%)
- Tobacco use (response 31%)

## Areas of Strengths and Opportunities

### Quality of Life

#### Strengths

- 82% of respondents are ‘satisfied’ to ‘very satisfied’ with the quality of life in Anderson County.
- 70% of respondents are ‘satisfied’ to ‘very satisfied’ with Roane County as a place to grow old and as a place to raise a family (81%).
- Lower prevalence of violent crime than the state average, but not lower than US benchmarks.
- High school graduation rate (88%) is higher than the statewide average (86%).

#### Opportunities

- Only 44% of respondents are satisfied with economic opportunities in Anderson County.
- 61% of all restaurants in Anderson County are fast food restaurants.
- Children in poverty (25%) is slightly lower than the state rate (27%).

### Overall Health

#### Strengths

- Both infant (675 per 1000) and child mortality (45 per 100,000) are significantly lower than the state rate, respectively (844 per 1000, 70 per 100,000)

## Opportunities

- Anderson County is ranked 34th healthiest county in Tennessee out of 95 counties.
- Adult smoking rates (24%) is about the same as the state rate (23%).
- Teen birth rate is lower than the statewide rate but still double the US benchmark.

## Health Care

### Strengths

- Preventable hospital stays are considerably below the state average.
- The percentage of adults who could not see a doctor in the previous 12 months due to cost was 9% in Anderson County, compared to 16% for Tennessee.
- The uninsured adult rate for Anderson County is 18%, better than the state average of 21%.
- 66% of those surveyed are happy with the healthcare resources (access, cost, quality and options).

### Opportunities

- The number of physicians, dentists and mental health providers per 1,000 population is at or better than the state average. However, access to affordable dental care and mental health counseling for mild to moderate conditions is still challenging for the low-income.
- With the growing senior population, there is a need for more providers who accept Medicare.

## Healthy Behaviors

### Strengths

- Most adults are receiving recommended screenings.
- Sexually transmitted infections are 58% fewer than the statewide rate.

### Opportunities

- Prescription drug abuse is a significant issue in Anderson County.
- Adult obesity is 31%.
- 33% of adults report no physical activity.

## Data Sources

Community Themes & Strengths Assessment from Key Informant Interviews in Anderson County, TN

Community Health Survey

[www.countyhealthrankings.org](http://www.countyhealthrankings.org)

[www.tennessee.gov](http://www.tennessee.gov)

[quickfacts.census.gov](http://quickfacts.census.gov)

[datacenter.kidscount.org](http://datacenter.kidscount.org)

[tvhomeless.org](http://tvhomeless.org)

[hit.state.tn.us](http://hit.state.tn.us)

[hpsafind.hrsa.gov](http://hpsafind.hrsa.gov)

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## Acknowledgments

Even before the assessment process was completed, its value was becoming evident. This process has expanded our network of community partners and has given us the chance to work with organizations that are new to us. The assessment outcomes have focused our efforts and resources on what is important to the community and what has the potential to meaningfully and measurably improve the health of Anderson County.

We wish to acknowledge the following individuals for assisting us in our first assessment process. These partners provided valuable expertise and important perspectives in helping us reach the important conclusions of the assessment.

- Rick Morrow – Director, Anderson County United Way
- Paula Trujillo – Legal Aid Society
- Kim Guinn, RN – Anderson County Schools
- Nathan Sweet – Anderson County Emergency Medical Services
- Art Miller – Director, Anderson County Health Department
- Gail Baird – Nursing Supervisor, Anderson County Health Department
- Bob Benning – CEO, Ridgeview Behavioral Health Services
- Mike Belbeck – President & CAO, Methodist Medical Center
- Crystal Jordan – Marketing Manager, Methodist Medical Center

Many thanks to all the community organizations who helped us distribute the survey throughout Anderson County and to those leaders who participated in focus groups. Additionally, we thank the hundreds of residents who took the time to share their perspectives and experiences in the community health survey. Methodist Medical Center and Covenant Health remain committed to improving the health and quality of life in our communities.