

2022

Perry County
Memorial Hospital
Community Health
Needs Assessment

Prepared by the Indiana Rural Health
Association

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Process

Perry County Memorial Hospital (PCMH) contracted with the Indiana Rural Health Association (IRHA) to conduct the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA).

IRHA first identified the community served by PCMH through conversations with the hospital. Based on a review of patient zip codes, the hospital was able to define the community served as all postal codes within the geographic area of Perry and Spencer Counties. The hospital provided a primary service area list of zip codes, which can be found in Appendix A.

To quantifiably describe the community, census reports were commissioned from United States Census Bureau Reports. Quantifiable statistics and reports for health-related community data were obtained from Woodlawn Hospital, the Community Health Rankings & Roadmaps from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Feeding America's Map the Meal Gap report, and the Community Asset Inventory and Rankings (CAIR), report from Ball State University. The full versions of these reports can be viewed in Appendix A. Additional reports regarding chronic disease were pulled from the Centers for Disease Control website and the Indiana Cancer Consortium's Indiana Cancer Fact and Figures report. Excerpts from these reports can also be found in Appendix A.

Next, a focus group of Perry County representatives was organized with the help of the Perry County Memorial Hospital Director of Ancillary Services, Jamie Bittel. Business owners, local officials, healthcare providers, minority leaders, clergy, student representatives, and any other interested parties were invited to attend the meeting to discuss the health-related needs of the county with a view to identifying the areas of greatest concern. The list of attendees, the organization they represent, and their contact information can be found in Appendix B.

From the information obtained during the focus group meeting, a 50-question survey was developed to gain the perspective of the inhabitants of the community. Questions included queries about the effect of various factors (such as mental health services, transportation, and workforce), as well as probes into the perceived need for various services and facilities in the county. The survey was widely disseminated to the residents of Perry and Spencer Counties through inclusion on the Perry County Memorial Hospital's website, face-to-face polling at the Perry County Public Library in Tell City. An online survey posted on REDCap.com was also made available to the public. The survey may be viewed in Appendix C.

To identify all healthcare facilities and resources that are currently responding to the healthcare needs of the community, the IRHA contacted PCMH to ascertain the facilities that are currently available to the residents of their service area. The hospital was able to provide a listing of the facilities and resources including, but not limited to, clinics, family practices, and nursing facilities. The list of existing community resources can be found in Appendix D.

At this point, the entirety of the collected data was submitted to Perry County Memorial Hospital to explain how the needs identified by the CHNA are currently being met, as well as to write a plan of action for those needs that are not currently being met. PCMH was also able to identify the information gaps limiting the hospital's ability to assess all of the community's health needs.

The completed CHNA was then publicly posted on the hospital's website. Hard copies of the full report were made available to the community upon request at the hospital, as well.

Community Served

The community served by Perry County Memorial Hospital is defined as follows: All people living within Perry County or Spencer County, Indiana, at any time during the year. To be determined as living within the service area, a person must reside within one of the following postal zip codes: 47514, 47515, 47520, 47525, 47551, 47574, 47576, 47586, 47637, 47588, 47523, 47531, 47536, 47537, 47550, 47577, 47579, 47611, 47615, 47617, 47634, and 47635.

Description of Community

Physical















Perry County is in the center of the southern border of Indiana. The county is largely rural and is the 58th largest county in Indiana at approximately 381.7 square miles. Perry County is bordered by Dubois, Spencer, and Crawford Counties in Indiana and Kentucky to the south.

Spencer County is on the southern border of Indiana, directly west of Perry County. The county is largely rural and is the 46th largest county in Indiana at approximately 396.8 square miles. In addition to Perry County, Spencer County is bordered by Warrick and Dubois Counties in Indiana and Kentucky to the south.

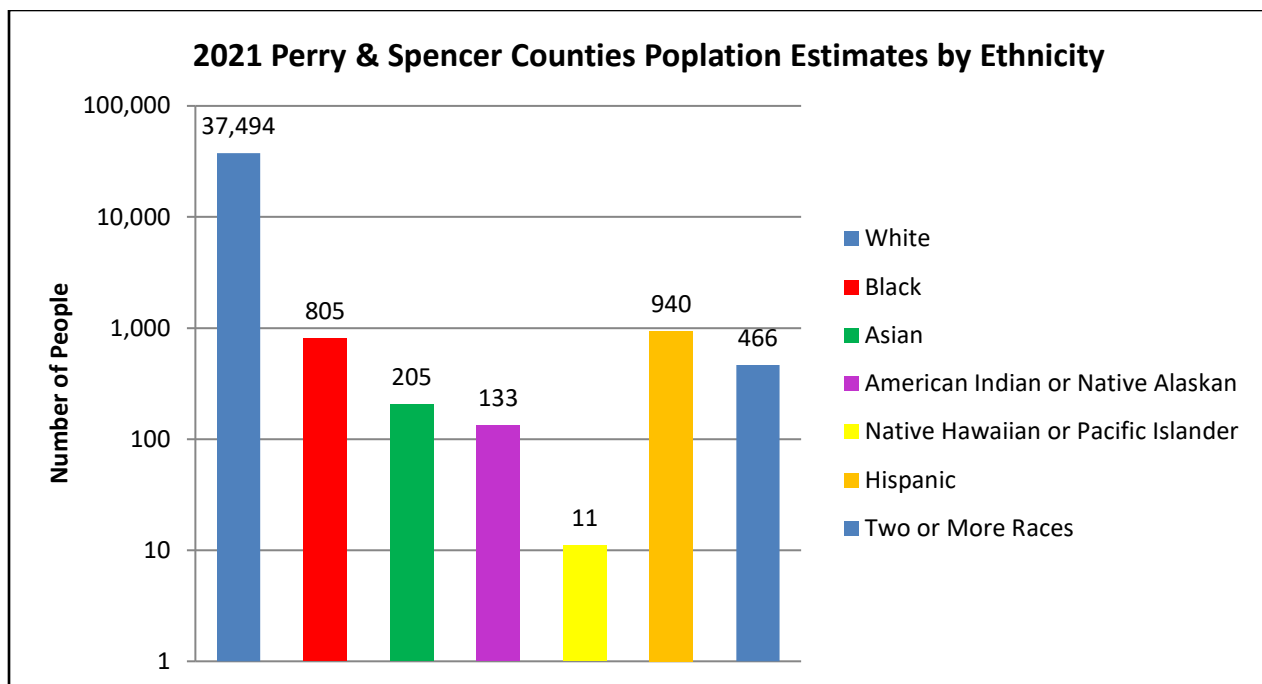
Both counties' southern border is the Ohio River. Both counties are crisscrossed by various State Highways and include Interstate 64 running east to west along the north edge of each.

Population – Ethnicity, Age, Gender & Income

According to the U.S. Census Report estimates for 2021, the total population of the counties is approximately 39,114; and the median age in the counties is 42.5 years old. Females make up 47.3% of the overall populace. Minority populations make up approximately 6.2% of the total inhabitants of the county. The average household income from the 2020 census is \$55,339; and there are 17,199 housing units.

// United States / Indiana / Perry County, Indiana		
 Populations and People Total Population 19,170	 Income and Poverty Median Household Income \$51,496	 Education Bachelor's Degree or Higher 16.0%
 Employment Employment Rate 52.8%	 Housing Total Housing Units 8,502	 Health Without Health Care Coverage 4.8%
 Business and Economy Total Employer Establishments 340	 Families and Living Arrangements Total Households 7,713	 Race and Ethnicity Hispanic or Latino (of any race) 220
// United States / Indiana / Spencer County, Indiana		
 Populations and People Total Population 19,810	 Income and Poverty Median Household Income \$56,919	 Education Bachelor's Degree or Higher 17.3%
 Employment Employment Rate 60.8%	 Housing Total Housing Units 8,572	 Health Without Health Care Coverage 3.5%
 Business and Economy Total Employer Establishments 426	 Families and Living Arrangements Total Households 8,321	 Race and Ethnicity Hispanic or Latino (of any race) 676

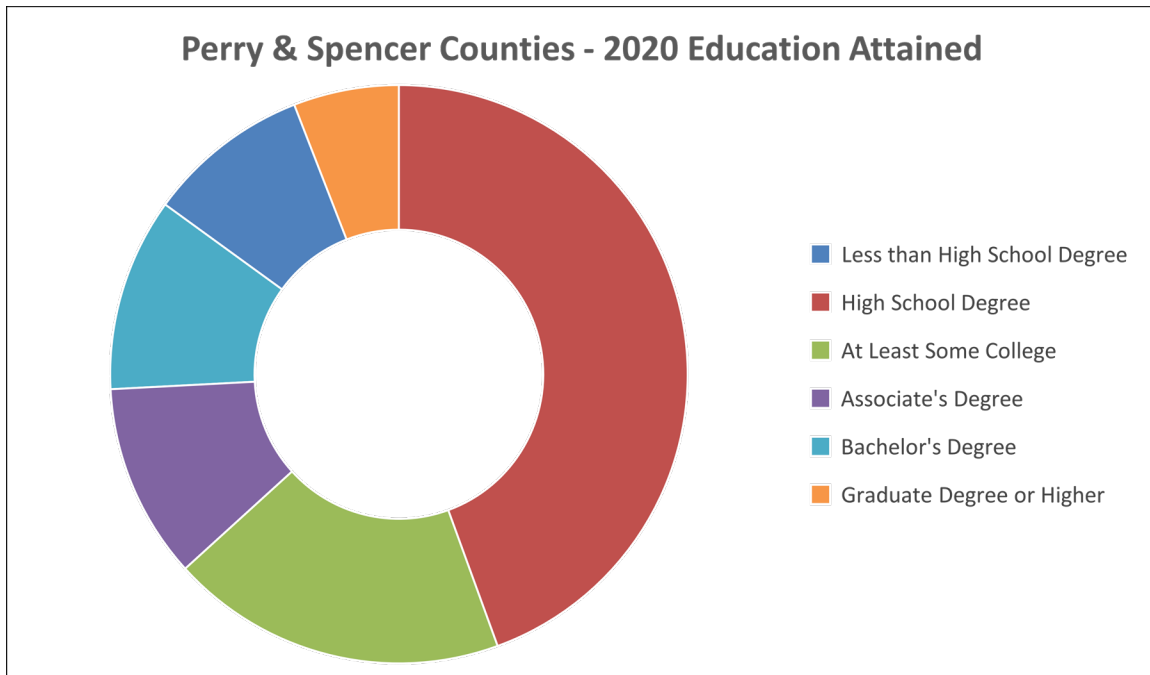
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Decennial Census



Graph based on data from the US Census Bureau

Education

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation reports that approximately 89.5% of the residents in PCMH's service area have high school diplomas compared with a statewide average of only 84%. However, only 47% of the community has at least some college education compared with a statewide average of 62%. The educational achievements of the county earned Perry County a grade of C+ from the CAIR report, up from a D+ in 2012 and Spencer County a grade of B, down from an A in 2012.



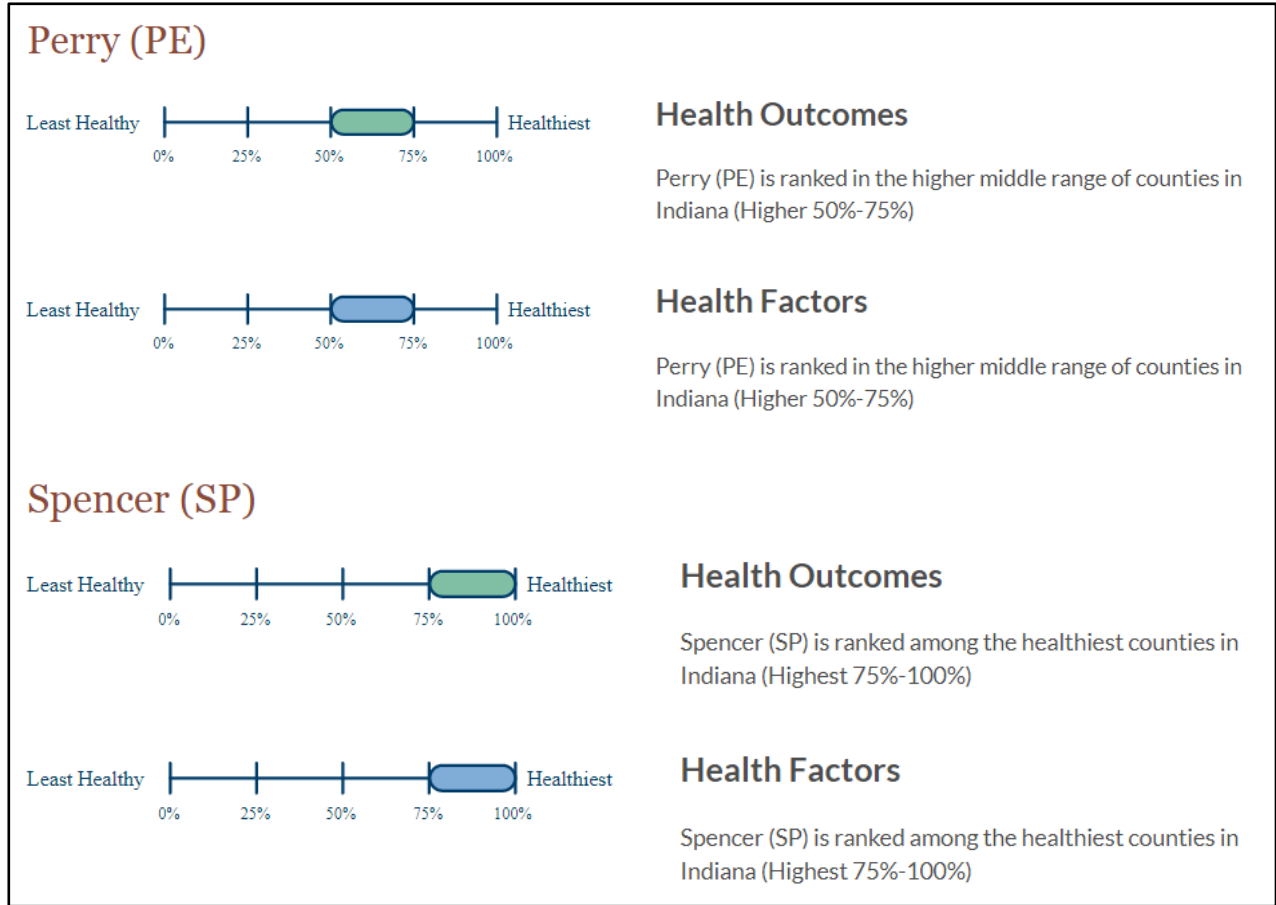
Graph based on data from the US Census Bureau for population 25 years old or older

The full reports from U.S. Census Bureau and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation can be viewed in Appendix A.

Health Summary

The overall health grade for Perry County from the CAIR report stands at a C, and Spencer County got a B. The CAIR provides a detailed asset inventory of variables that describes the education attainment and health of Hoosier citizens, as well as the availability of natural resources and cultural amenities. All of the data has been carefully selected from secondary sources and is reviewed as to the contribution to the quality of life for the residents within the community. The data sets have been aggregated; and a grade, noted above, has been given to each county in the state.

Based on data from the 2022 County Health Rankings & Roadmaps report, Perry County ranks 34th in Health Outcomes and 40th in Health Factors; and Spencer County ranks 22nd in Health Outcomes and 12th in Health Factors out of a total of 92 counties in the state. This puts Perry County squarely in the upper middle of the pack and Spencer County among some of the very best in the state.



Source: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's County Health Rankings & Roadmaps 2022

The Health Outcomes rankings for the two counties were positively impacted by low rates of premature deaths. Spencer County had a premature death rate of 8,100 compared to the state rate of 8,600; and Perry County had an exceptionally low rate of only 6,800. Additionally, Spencer County had a lower instance of low birthweights at 6% compared to Indiana's average of 8%.

The Health Factors was based on several factors in the categories of Health Behaviors, Clinical Care, Social and Economic Factors, and Physical Environment.

Notable factors impacting the Health Behaviors category included a slightly higher instance of adult smoking in both counties (Perry at 23% and Spencer at 22% compared to a statewide average of 20%), an extremely low access to exercise opportunities in Spencer County (only 39% compared to the statewide average of 68%; Perry County was at 65%), and a very high rate of teen births in Perry County (37 compared to the state average of 23; Spencer was at 22). Both counties had very low rates of Sexually Transmitted Infections compared to the state with Perry at 120, Spencer at 212.1, and the Indiana average at 526.3. Interestingly, the counties have a wide disparity on the percentage of alcohol-impaired driving deaths. Perry County had a rate of 30% over the Indiana average of 19%, whereas Spencer County had a rate lower than the state at only 8%. All of these factors combined to earn Perry County a ranking of 66 out of 92 counties in Health Behaviors and a ranking of 19 out of 92 for Spencer County.

Both counties received high rankings for Clinical Care at 13th for Perry County and 22nd for Spencer County. Despite Perry County underperforming Spencer County and the state average on mammography screenings (Perry at 41%, Spencer at 50%, and the state average at 44%) and flu vaccinations (Perry at 42%, Spencer at 55%, and the state average at 52%), Perry County boasted an astonishingly low number of preventable hospital stays, at only 1,420 compared to Spencer County at 3,535 which still outperformed the state average of 4,322. The patient-to-provider ratios in both counties fell far short of the state averages. The patient-to-primary physician rate was 2,130:1 in Perry County, 2,900:1 in Spencer County, and 1,490:1 average in Indiana. The patient-to-dentist ratio was 3,190:1 in Perry County, 3,370:1 in Spencer County, and 1,720:1 average in Indiana. Finally, while Perry had a much better ratio in mental health providers than Spencer County, they both underperformed the state average. The patient-to-mental health provider ratio was 1,370:1 in Perry County, 3,370:1 in Spencer County, and 560:1 average in Indiana.

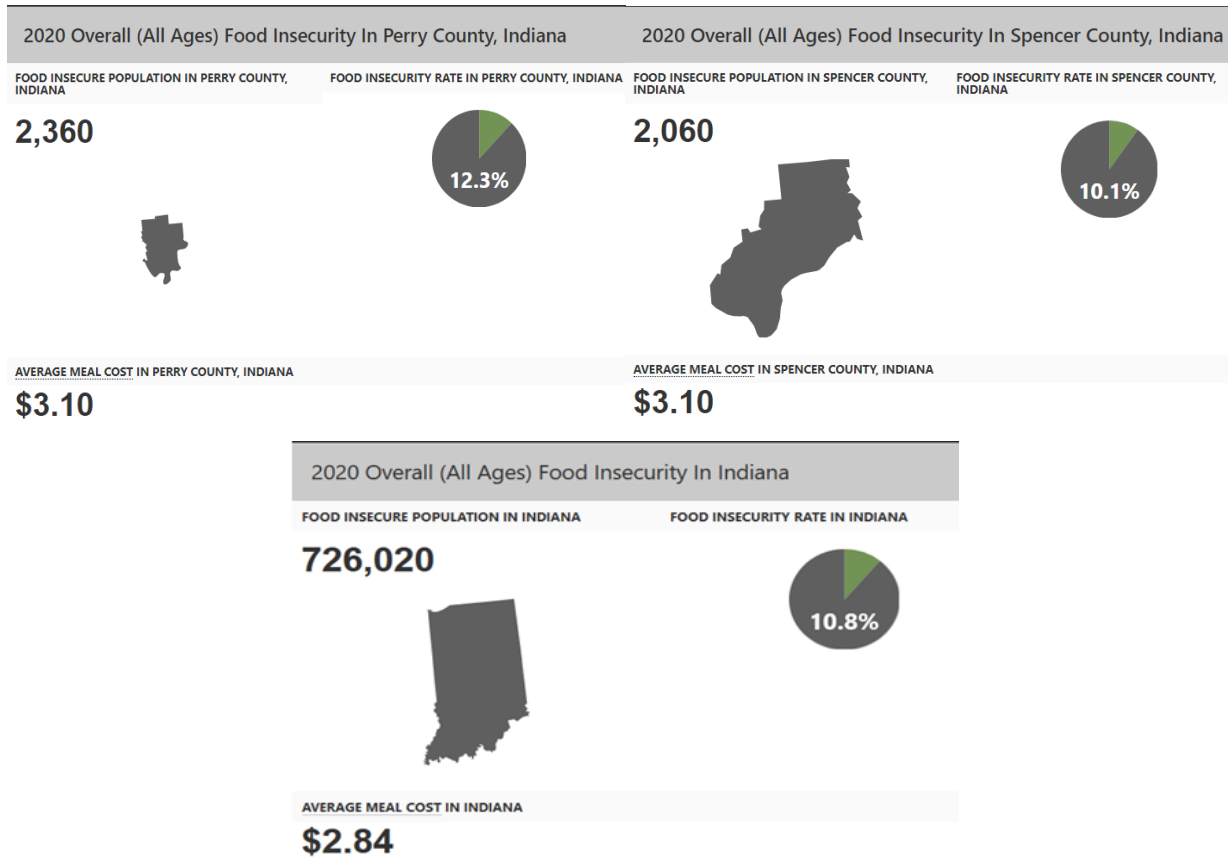
There was a significant disparity in rankings for Social & Economic Factors, with Perry County receiving a rank of 40th and Spencer County receiving a rank of 9th in the state. While both counties outperformed state averages on nearly every measure, Spencer County outperformed Perry County in all measures. Notable measures that impacted the rankings include: percentage of population with at least some college (Perry County 57%, Spencer County 62%, Indiana average 63%); unemployment rate (Perry County 6.5%, Spencer County 5.6%, Indiana average 7.1%); children in poverty (Perry County 13%, Spencer County 9%, Indiana average 15%); children in single-parent households (Perry County 16%, Spencer County 14%, Indiana average 25%); and rate of injury deaths (Perry County 71, Spencer County 59, Indiana average 85). Only the number of social associations had Perry underperforming the state, while Spencer beat the average with Perry County at 8.9, Spencer County at 14.8; and the Indiana average at 12.

Despite both counties performing in the top half for Physical Environment, Spencer County once again outranked Perry County, due primarily to better scores for air pollution particulate matter (Perry County at 9.5, Spencer County at 8.5, and the statewide average of 9.1) and severe housing problems (Perry County at 9%, Spencer County at 7%, and the statewide average of 13%). Perry County outperformed Spencer County and the state on percentage of individuals with a long commute alone to work at 28% compared to Spencer County's 40% and the state average of 32%. Both Perry and Spencer Counties fell short of the Indiana average of individuals driving alone with Perry County at 84%, Spencer County at 87%, and the state average at 81%.

The County Health Rankings measures the population living with limited access to healthy foods using the USDA Food Environment Atlas. Individuals are counted who have both low access to a supermarket or large grocery store and a low income. "Low access" is greater than ten miles away in a rural county. "Low income" individuals are classified if they fall into the government definition of poverty or have a median family income at or below 80% of the county's median family income.

Feeding America's *Map the Meal Gap* study reported that in 2020, 2,360 people were food insecure in Perry County, with a rate of 12.3%. This is significantly higher than the Indiana statewide rate of 10.8%. In Spencer County, the number of food insecure people is 2,060 at a rate of 10.1%, which is slightly lower than the state average. In both counties, the average meal cost in the community is \$3.10. This is considerably higher than the average meal cost for the state at \$2.84, but slightly lower than the national

average meal cost of \$3.25. It is worth noting that these numbers are from 2020 and will likely be exacerbated by the inflation that is currently being experienced in 2022.



Data visualization from Feeding America's Map the Meal Gap 2020

Full copies of the CAIR Asset Inventory, Robert Wood Johnson County Health Rankings & Roadmaps, and Feeding America Meal Gap reports for Perry and Spencer Counties can be found in Appendix A.

Primary and Chronic Diseases

Perry County Memorial Hospital generated a report of the Top Diagnoses for their inpatients for the previous calendar year, January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021. From this report, the most common diagnoses for their service area were identified.

The following list contains the most common diagnoses and the percentage of Medicare and Medicaid patients for each diagnosis:

1. COVID-19 – 83 cases
2. Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease – 52 cases
3. Pneumonia, unspecified organism – 42 cases
4. Urinary tract infection, site not specified– 19 cases
5. Labor and delivery complicated by cord around neck, without compression – 18 cases
6. Hypertensive heart and chronic kidney disease – 17 cases

7. Hypertensive heart disease with heart failure – 15 cases
8. First degree perineal laceration during delivery – 9 cases
- 9-12. Hypo-osmolality and hyponatremia – 8 cases
 - Lobar pneumonia, unspecified organism – 8 cases
 - Pneumonitis due to inhalation of food and vomit – 8 cases
 - Altered mental status, unspecified – 8 cases

The payer mix for the hospital for the same time period, January through December 2021, is approximately 57.9% Medicare or supplemental Medicare plans and 19.3% Medicaid plans. This further examination of the payer mix for the hospital helps to identify the relative number of low-income, disabled, and/or older populations served. (*Note: It is important to understand the key characteristics of the Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) population. This includes identifying the low-income, disabled, and/or elderly population. The population trends help provide an indication of patterns within the residents of the community and assist in identifying the needs around this populace.)

The list of top twenty diagnoses and full payer mix can be found in Appendix A.

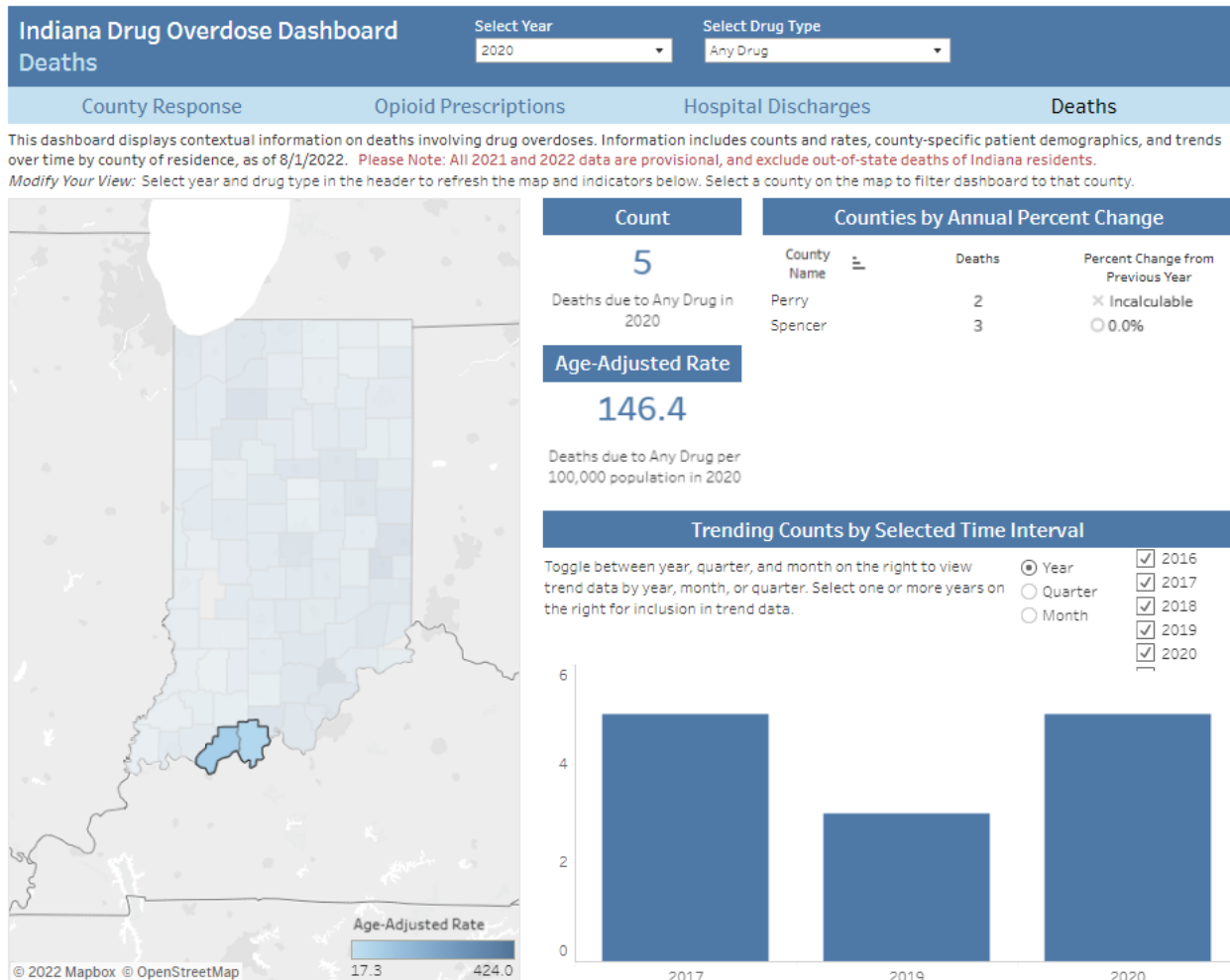
According to the Indiana CDC’s State Cancer Profiles report, the cancer rates for 2014-2018 in Perry and Spencer County are favorable when compared to the state average. The rate of all cancers (per 100,000 people) in Perry County comes in at 411.4; and Spencer County comes in at 398.8 compared to a statewide average of 457.9. This represents the tenth and sixth lowest in the state, respectively. The counties also come in below the state in rates of colorectal cancer (Perry at 37.5 and Spencer at 33.2—the fifth lowest in the state—versus a statewide rate of 41.7) and prostate cancer (Perry at 90.5 and Spencer at 87.5 versus a statewide rate of 96.5). The counties split on lung cancer, with Perry County above the state average and Spencer (Perry County at 71.7, Spencer County at 62.9, Indiana average at 69.9) and on breast cancer with Spencer County coming in above the state average and Perry County below it (Perry County at 96.7, Spencer County at 126.7, Indiana average at 124.5).

Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention reports that Perry County comes in below both the state rate (65.9 per 1,000 Medicare beneficiaries) and the national rate (60.7 per 1,000 Medicare beneficiaries) at only 60.2 hospitalizations for all Cardiovascular Disease. Spencer County exceeds both the state and national rates of hospitalization at a rate of 71.7. Unfortunately, both counties exceed the state and national rates of Deaths from all Cardiovascular Disease. Perry County is at 255.5 per 100,000 people; and Spencer County is at 248.6, which is higher than the national rate of 217.9 and the Indiana rate of 238.9. Both counties also exceed the state and national stroke death rates with Perry County at 46.2, Spencer County at 41, the state rate at 40.4, and the national rate at 37.7.

Regarding diabetes, the CDC’s Diabetes Data & Trends report relates that Perry and Spencer Counties come in well below both the state average (9.1) and national average (11.2) in rate of diabetes for individuals 20 years old or older. Perry County has an age-adjusted rate of only 7.5, and Spencer County has a rate of 7.7

The CDC’s National Center for Health Statistics report on drug overdose deaths in the United States shows that there were 2,321 deaths from all drug overdoses in Indiana in 2020. According to the Drug

Overdose Dashboard from the Indiana Department of Health, the age-adjusted state rate of overdoses from all drugs in Indiana is 146.4. Perry County is well below state average with an age-adjusted rate of only 33.7. Spencer County also falls below the state rate but is significantly higher at an age-adjusted rate of 61.



Data visualization from IDOH Drug Overdose Dashboard, 2020

Portions of the Indiana Cancer Consortium’s Indiana Cancer Fact and Figures, Indiana Department of Health dashboard, and the three CDC reports can be found in Appendix A.

Existing Healthcare Resources

Perry County Memorial Hospital provided a complete listing of the currently available healthcare facilities and services that are accessed by those living within their service area. This list includes, but is not limited to, a Critical Access Hospital, community-based physicians, a variety of specialty clinics, oral care providers, eye care providers, mental health services, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, fitness centers, and more. PCMH will be able to use this listing when creating their action plan to fully incorporate all available resources.

Provider	Facility/Organization
Phillip Behrens, M.D.	Tell City Clinic
	Complete Wellness Chiropractic
Nicholas A. Brockman, DC	Complete Wellness Chiropractic
Adam Brockman, D.C.	Complete Wellness Chiropractic Spine and Sport
Jared Gladish, D.C.	Gladish Chiropractic Clinic
Scott R. Sovar, DC	Sovar Chiropractic
Rebekah A. Wittman, DC	
	Walmart Vision Center
	Gladish Chiropractic Clinic
	The Hancock Clinic
Krystle Hahus, M.D.	Perry County Family Practice
Micia Roby, D.O.	13th St. Clinic-Women, Children & Family
Seth Coynor D.O.	13th St. Clinic-Women, Children & Family
Michael West, M.D.	Perry County Surgical Associates
Stephen E. Syler, M.D.	Tell City Clinic
Joshua Poos, M.D.	Tell City Clinic
Carrie Arias, M.D.	Spencer County Clinic
Glenn Sherman, M.D.	Spencer County Clinic
	Walmart Pharmacy
	Tell City Clinic
	Perry County Family Practice
	Catholic Charities Table of Blessings
Choctaw B. Badgett	
William H. Nance, DMD	Hancock Dental Arts
Patti K. Allen, DMD	Allen & Allen Family Dentistry
Kyle L. Craighead, DMD	Hancock Dental Arts
Matthew Butler, DDS	Butler Family Dentistry
Meghan Butler, DDS	Butler Family Dentistry
Joe Danzer, DMD	Danzer Orthodontics
Mark Flannagan, DDS	
Dianne Rudolph, DMD	
William Rudolph, DMD	
Joseph P. Walker, DDS	
John P Atkinson, DDS	Spencer County Medical Center
Braun Arnold, DDS	Braun Dental Associates
Jessica R. Walters, DDS	Santa Claus Family Dentistry
Brittany Eirwin-Maqueda, DMD	Braun Dental Associates
	Kizior & Young Orthodontics
Joseph Antonini, DDS	
Nicholas Olinger, DMD	
Amanda K. Braun, DDS	Braun Dental Associates
	Perry Regional Foot and Ankle
	Butler Family Dentistry
Dr. Mark Flannagan	

	Davita Dialysis Center
	Crisis Connection
Brad Cornell, M.D.	Perry County Memorial Hospital Professional Building
Chris Glaser, M.D.	Perry County Memorial Hospital Professional Building
Roger Humphrey, M.D.	Perry County Memorial Hospital Professional Building
Alan Mullins, M.D.	Perry County Memorial Hospital Professional Building
Joel A. Johnston, M.D.	
Thomas Bailey, M.D.	The Office of Drs. Marcrum, Bailey, and Kleeman
Eric Kleeman, M.D.	The Office of Drs. Marcrum, Bailey, and Kleeman
William Marcrum, M.D.	The Office of Drs. Marcrum, Bailey, and Kleeman
Andrea Polk, FNP-C	Perry County Family Practice
James R. Rogan II, M.D.	Dr. Rogan & Associates
Stephen E. Syler, M.D.	Tell City Clinic
Isaac Gatwood, M.D.	Memorial Hospital and Healthcare Center Bristow Clinic
Glenn Sherman, M.D.	Spencer County Clinic
Melinda J. Gruber, M.D.	Santa Claus Family Medicine
Stanley J. Tretter, M.D.	Dale Family Medicine
	Santa Claus Family Medicine
Susan M. Martin, M.D.	Deaconess Clinic Reo
Carrie Arias, M.D.	Spencer County Clinic
Jennifer A Marin, M.D.	
	Deaconess Clinic Reo
	13th St. Clinic-Women, Children & Family Practice
	EverBody's Fun & Fitness Center
	New Directions Health & Fitness Center
	Cannelton Community Center/Gym
	Marcum Family Healthcare
	EverBody's Fun & Fitness Center
	New Directions Health & Fitness Club
	Catholic Charities
	Cannelton Community Center/Gym
Micheael West M.D.	Perry County Surgical Associates
	Perry County Surgical Associates
	Home Instead Senior Care of Jasper
	Spencer County Hospice Inc.
	Tell City Clinic
	LifeSpring Health Systems
	Perry County Memorial Hospital Telepsychiatry
	Groups of Tell City Substance Abuse Treatment
Sidney Raetz, FNP-C	Tell City Clinic
Melissa Breitweiser, FNP-C	Tell City Clinic
Aubrey Welp, FNP-C	Tell City Clinic

	Golding Living Center - Lincoln Hills
Micia Roby, D.O.	Tell City Clinic
	Perry County Surgical Associates
Jewraj Maheshwari, M.D.	Perry County Memorial Hospital
Sheryl Ziegler, D.O.	Perry County Memorial Hospital
	Emmick Eye Care, PLLC
Eric P. Burris, O.D.	Burris, LeClere and Labhart Eye Center
J.E. LeClere, O.D.	Burris, LeClere and Labhart Eye Center
Mark Labhart, O.D.	Burris, LeClere and Labhart Eye Center
	Walmart Vision Center
Wood C Michael, O.D.	
Sisley Joseph, OD	Burris, LeClere and Labhart Eye Center
Dr. Dianne Rudolph	
	Burris, LeClere and Labhart Eye Center
Mark Logan, M.D.	Perry County Memorial Hospital
Shawn Sikka, M.D.	Troy Clinic
Seth Coynor D.O.	13th St. Clinic-Women, Children & Family
Krystle Hahus, M.D.	Perry County Family Practice
	Fred's Pharmacy Xpress
	CVS Pharmacy
	Walmart Pharmacy
	Sheldon's Express Pharmacy
	Faulkenberg Harth
	Rockport Pharmacy
James M. Braun, RPh	
	Complete Wellness Chiropractic
	CVS Pharmacy
	Rehabilitation & Performance Institute
	Advanced Rehabilitation
	Perry County Memorial Hospital Therapy Department
	Advanced Rehabilitation
	Pro Rehab
	Oakwood Health Campus
Donald Rothrauff, DPM	Perry Regional Foot and Ankle
	Crisis Connection, Inc.
	Advanced Rehabilitation, Inc.
	Southern Hills Counseling Center
Scott Babin, M.D.	Perry County Memorial Hospital
Sean Ladson	Perry County Memorial Hospital
	Troy Medical Clinic
Phillip Gilson, M.D.	Perry County Memorial Hospital
	Spencer County Clinic

A complete listing of the facilities can also be found in Appendix D.

Identifying Health & Service Needs

A focus group of Perry County and Spencer County representatives was organized with the help of the Perry County Memorial Hospital Director of Ancillary Services, Jamie Bittel. Business owners, local officials, healthcare providers, minority leaders, clergy, student representatives, and any other interested parties were invited to attend the meeting to discuss the health-related needs of the county with a view to identifying the areas of greatest concern.

The focus group was encouraged to brainstorm all areas of need or concern in the health field in Perry and Spencer Counties in both large and small group settings. Once a master list of all concerns was agreed upon by the full group, attendees were asked to list what they perceived to be the greatest strengths and values in their county. Then, they were asked to identify the highest priorities from the master list of challenges.

By analyzing both prioritized lists from the small groups, the IRHA was able to detect the items that appeared most frequently and identified the community's areas of greatest concern:

- Animal services
- Lack of mental health providers
- Lack of access to mental health services
- Labor force
- Lack of public water and sewer
- Housing
- Healthcare staffing
- Ambulance/EMS shortage
- Children in need/cycle of poverty
- Lack of foster care/displaced kids
- Lack of childcare and early childhood education

The master list, priority list, and the list of areas that were determined to be of the greatest need can be found in Appendix B.

The identified areas of greatest need were used to create a 50-question survey addressing demographics, county issues, and community services and amenities, which can be found in Appendix C. The survey was widely disseminated via internet access, community bulletins, and the local newspaper to the residents of Perry County through inclusion on the Perry County Memorial Hospital's website and a publicly available survey posted on REDCap.com. Face-to-face polling was also implemented at the Perry County Public Library in Tell City. To conduct the in-person survey, two members of the IRHA staff greeted all county residents as they entered the library and asked for their participation in the survey. Hard copies of the survey were also left at some of the locations, as well as PCMH, for anyone who preferred to complete a paper copy of the survey. The general public was alerted to the face-to-face and online polls through PCMH newsletters and social media. At the end of polling, there was a total of 34 total responses, including 19 face-to-face responses. The majority (56.3%) of the respondents was from zip code 47586, 100% of the respondents identified as white, and the ages of respondents were fairly distributed between 19 and 80 years of age.

After basic demographics, respondents were asked to assess the impact of various factors on their community by selecting “very negative impact, some negative impact, no impact, some positive impact, or very positive impact.” The second portion of the survey required respondents to assess the need for various services and facilities in their community by selecting “no need, slight need, definite need, or extreme need.” Respondents were also able to select “no opinion/don’t know” for any items they did not want to answer.

There was also a section for open comments at the end of the survey for any additional information the respondents wanted to share.

When asked “how do the following issues impact the health of your community,” the standout answers by all respondents were (0 is very negative effect, 5 is very positive effect):

1. Access to housing – 1.93 weighted average response
2. Ability to attract foster care guardians – 2.39 weighted average response
3. Cost of animal services– 2.41 weighted average response
4. Availability of animal services – 2.45 weighted average response
- 5-6. Access to services for displaced youth – 2.47 weighted average response
Cost of housing – 2.47 weighted average response
7. Cost of childcare services – 2.48 weighted average response
- 8-9. Ability to attract healthcare professionals – 2.53 weighted average response
Access to foster care services – 2.53 weighted average response
10. Cost of medical transportation – 2.56 weighted average response

When asked “do you see a need for the following in your community,” the standout responses were (0 is not needed, 5 is extremely needed):

1. Affordable childcare services – weighted average of 4.44
2. Additional foster care guardians – weighted average of 4.35
3. Additional foster care services – weighted average of 4.32
- 4-5. Mental/behavioral health services – weighted average of 4.24
Services for displaced youth – weighted average of 4.24
6. Additional childcare services – weighted average of 4.21

The full summary of the survey results can be found in Appendix C.

The final question on the survey prompted respondents to “Please share any final thoughts about the health of the community.” All comments have been left as originally submitted unless they have been edited for clarity, which will be noted with brackets.

- “Too many people have to leave town for better health care”
- “Need an animal control officer and animal shelter.”
- “More control over mosquitoes. Better cleanup of side streets”
- “Need a better ER. One that treats and doesn’t just hand out pills and check you out.”
- “Better ER doctors”
- “very accessible”
- “Need more mental healthcare available and affordable.”
- “1. My recent experience with local mental health therapy was negative and created additional trauma. 2: Stigma remains a real problem. 3: The soon-to-be Perry-Spencer Isaiah House

is an amazing resource for foster children. 4: Perry Co Indiana/Cannelton is in the perpetual cycle of poverty. 5: Our animal shelter closed a couple yrs ago. Animals suffer as a result. 6: There is a serious lack of housing in our county. Thanks for listening.”

“I’m glad you included animal care. We have a shortage of vets, no correct animal shelter. This is timely for me; yesterday I returned home to find an injured dog hiding in my backyard. Fortunately she had a tag with the vet’s [phone number] and the owner was contacted and did pick her up. But, this could have been a much sadder story. Perry County needs to address animal and human needs. Thanks!”

“Moving or have moved. I’m not a good sample.”

“Our community needs more services for children and need to pay mental health workers much more to attract them to our area.”

A complete summary of the survey results can be found in Appendix C.

Summary of Findings

Based on the information gathered as part of the Community Health Needs Assessment, the Indiana Rural Health Association has identified the areas of greatest need in Perry and Spencer Counties. Through the collection of health data and community input on the county’s strengths, values, and challenges within the hospital’s service area, the following needs were identified as being of the highest importance:

Identified Areas of Need

- Services for children/youth – affordability and availability of childcare; foster care services and guardians; displaced youth
- Housing – availability; affordability
- Animal services – availability; affordability
- Mental/Behavioral health services
- Medical transport - affordability
- Healthcare workforce – recruitment and retention

Resources & Opportunities

The team from IRHA is pleased to serve Perry County Memorial Hospital. IRHA has worked with the Leadership team at the hospital for many years and highly respect the accomplishments made in many areas of healthcare services that greatly contribute to the health needs of the residents in Perry and Spencer Counties. Growth and improvement in any area of need begins with education and collaboration. Rural communities must join together and align the resources of community organizations and community members to address areas of need and explore opportunities.

To aid PCMH in the creation of an action plan, the IRHA has made preliminary suggestions for addressing the defined areas of need. ***Please note these are *opportunities* for improvement and *recommendations* for further consideration. These are only *suggestions* and should not be considered requirements nor complete solutions.

Based on the findings of this project, IRHA would like to offer recommendations to respond to the areas identified by members of the community. Those recommendations are below:

- **Services for children/youth – affordability and availability of childcare; foster care services and guardians; displaced youth**

- Create a community-wide stakeholder group of all constituents to identify activities for teens that includes local business, school staff, law enforcement, civic groups, faith-based groups, etc. to accept the challenge of creating opportunities for teens to grow.
- Collaborate with commercial businesses, both for profit and non-profit organizations (including local Chamber of Commerce). Explore opportunities for teens to get involved where they can learn basic skills, earn a modest income, and support the local employer.
- Explore potential mentoring programs for high school students to learn from on-site programs in local organizations.
- Encourage local business to financially support teen activity organizations, such as 4-H, Scouts, Boys or Girls Club, YMCA, or similar activity-based organization.
- Encourage local law enforcement to host activities for teens, such as recreational athletic events, family games (Kids vs “Cops & Pops”), etc.
- Work with local schools to offer a tutoring program (as both students and tutors).
- IRHAHELP: <https://www.findhelp.org/>

- **Housing – availability; affordability**

Note: At the time of this writing, a global shortage of supplies and labor has exacerbated the construction market impacting housing; and interest rates have simultaneously increased to double the mortgage rates from the past 12 months. These factors have created significant obstacles at this point in time.

- Explore relationships with local large businesses and schools (as employers) and local builders to joint venture on property acquisition and home construction projects.
- Meet with other IRHA hospital members who have developed housing construction for hospital employee projects.
- Review projects across the nation where local hospitals and other organizations have launched programs to develop housing. (St. Luke’s in Hailey, Idaho; University of Colorado Health; Cook Medical Group in Bloomington, Indiana), etc.
- Collaborate with local real estate services and explore large local homes on the market that could be divided into multiple living units.
- Explore options from the National Center for Healthy Housing (<https://nchh.org/resources/financing-and-funding/federal-funding-of-healthy-housing/>)

- **Animal services – availability; affordability**

- Contact the Perry County Humane Society (<https://www.facebook.com/humanesocietyofperrycounty/>)
- Contact the Perry County Animal Hospital (<https://perrycountyanimalhospital.com/>)
- Contact the Perry County Animal Control (<https://www.adoptapet.com/shelter/69832-perry-county-animal-shelter-inc-cannelton-indiana>)

- Research grant opportunities with animal-focused non-profits and organizations, such as PetSmart Charities and the ASPCA.
- **Mental/Behavioral health services**
 - Collaborate with regional behavioral and mental health providers to enable telehealth treatment options. Examples include:
 - LifeSpring: <https://www.lifespringhealthsystems.org/>
 - Bloomington Meadows: <https://www.bloomingtonmeadows.com/>
 - Mental Health of America (IN): <https://mhai.net/>
 - Indiana University and their Indiana Behavioral Health Access Plan for Youth: <https://medicine.iu.edu/psychiatry/clinical-care/behavioral-health>
 - IRHAHelp! : <https://irhahelp.indianaruralhealth.org/>
 - Indiana Medicaid: <https://www.in.gov/fssa/dmha/apply-for-services/mental-health-services/>
 - Collaborate with Indiana University and their Indiana Behavioral Health Access Plan for Youth at its website: https://is.gd/behappy_registration
 - Utilize IRHAHelp! (<https://irhahelp.indianaruralhealth.org/>)
 - Organize support groups for peers, including recovering patients, encouraging them to include their families and friends.
 - Pursue National Health Service Corp designation, or leverage existing designation, to recruit mental health providers.
 - Work with local employers to encourage employee insurance plans coverage for mental health services.
 - Evaluate insurance coverage with state programs for the indigent with mental health issues. Contact IRHA for navigation services or ClaimAid (<http://claimaid.com>), among others.
 - Explore use of telehealth options for mental health providers, including Access Telecare (www.accesstelecare.com)
 - Collaborate with various suicide prevention organizations (American Federation of Suicide Prevention, etc.). Topics may include:
 - How to identify individuals who are thinking about suicide
 - How to provide support to survivors
 - Host events to provide education with parents, educators, clergy, etc. Focus on how to identify signs of possible suicide ideation.
- **Medical transport – affordability**
 - Utilize IRHAHelp! (<https://irhahelp.indianaruralhealth.org/>) for transportation resources.
 - Collaborate with regional hospital Foundations for shared joint projects.
 - Consider local fundraising event to acquire a vehicle for non-emergency transportation.
 - Partner with local businesses, offer advertising on the vehicle, let them sponsor rides.
 - Collaborate with local clergy or other organizations who serve the elderly.
 - Organize neighborhood “Ride Share” programs to organize localized solutions to assist with transportation needs for non-emergency medical appointments.
 - Partner with non-profit organizations like LifeLine Pilots that provide cost-free non-emergency transportation for longer distance medical care needs (<https://lifelinepilots.org/>).
- **Healthcare workforce – recruitment and retention**

- Refer to companies that offer staffing solutions with references (TRS Manage Services, <https://www.trsstaffing.com/managed-service-program-msp>), AYA Healthcare (<http://www.ayahealthcare.com/>), or others with resources specific to your needs.
- Leverage student loan repayment or forgiveness for any careers eligible through programs like AmeriCorps, National Health Service Corps, or similar.

Perry County Memorial Hospital has a unique opportunity to become more focused with the health and well-being of its constituents. These efforts can become more successful by directing and marketing to the community the hospital is trying to touch and evaluating different methods to reach them, such as upgrading current efforts, including newsletters, websites, and other communication methods.

The hospital has earned the trust and respect of many local residents. Through a focused effort involving collaboration of hospital leadership and community leaders to improve health outcomes, lives will be changed. This can be leveraged with providers, local businesses, and community service organizations to explore the suggested and other ideas to enhance the quality of life for both Perry and Spencer County residents.