

Community Health Needs Assessment
Abbeville & McCormick Counties
South Carolina
June 8, 2015

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Background

Abbeville Area Medical Center (AAMC), a private, not for profit hospital, has been providing medical care for the residents of Abbeville and McCormick Counties for over 95 years. As a small community hospital, AAMC has made it their mission to “be the first choice for healthcare in the communities they serve.” They have lived up to this mission by enticing patients to continue to return by adding new services, updating technology, building new wings and medical office buildings, and bringing in the best doctors possible.

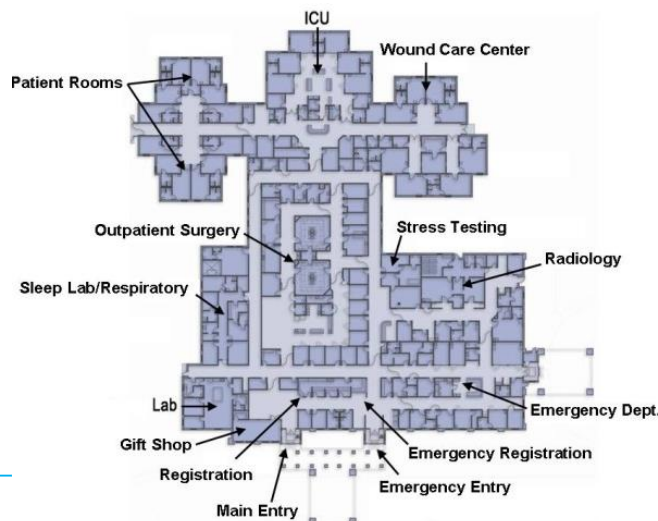
Abbeville County Memorial Hospital was established in 1919. As more people moved into the area, the first facility was soon outgrown and a new hospital was built in 1966. By 1972 the first medical office building was erected beside the hospital and by 1981 the first addition (an ICU/CCU unit) was added onto the hospital. As a service to the community, in 1989 mammography services were added as part of the women’s breast care program. And, soon after in 1993, the entire OB department was renovated to round out the women’s health program at AAMC.

Over the years, AAMC has made great strides in cardiac rehabilitation care. In 1990, the first services were added and in 1993 AAMC became affiliated with a major hospital to provide even greater care for cardiac patients. This allows for faster referrals among physicians, ease of transport, and sharing of knowledge that AAMC and its staff would not have access to if not for this affiliation. AAMC has also added an in-house nuclear medicine program, mobile MRI and CT scanner to enhance their cardiac care and radiology programs.

Due to advances in healthcare and an increased demand from the local community, a new 25 bed hospital was constructed in 2006 on Thomson Circle. In addition to numerous inpatient services, AAMC encompasses a home health center; a diabetes self-management program; a sleep disorders lab; outpatient rehabilitation; wellness and education programs; a wound and hyperbaric medicine center.

This document provides a summary of AAMC’s plan to develop new and enhance established community benefit programs and services. This plan is focused on addressing the top community health priorities identified in the 2015 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) conducted by Abbeville Area Medical Center.

Source: abbevilleareamc.com



Mission Statement

We are dedicated to improving the health of the communities we serve.

Vision Statement

We will be the first choice for healthcare in the communities we serve.

Values

Leadership: We will guide the way to a healthy community

Customer Service: We identify our customers as patients and families, the communities we serve, physicians, employees, and vendors. We are committed to treating our customers with respect and dignity

Continuous Improvement: We strive to continually improve our performance and the quality of our service

Stewardship: We are dedicated to the sound management of our resources to insure we will remain viable for future generations

Teamwork: We work together to meet the needs and expectations of our customers

Integrity: We are committed to ethical principles and practices in all areas of patient care and business

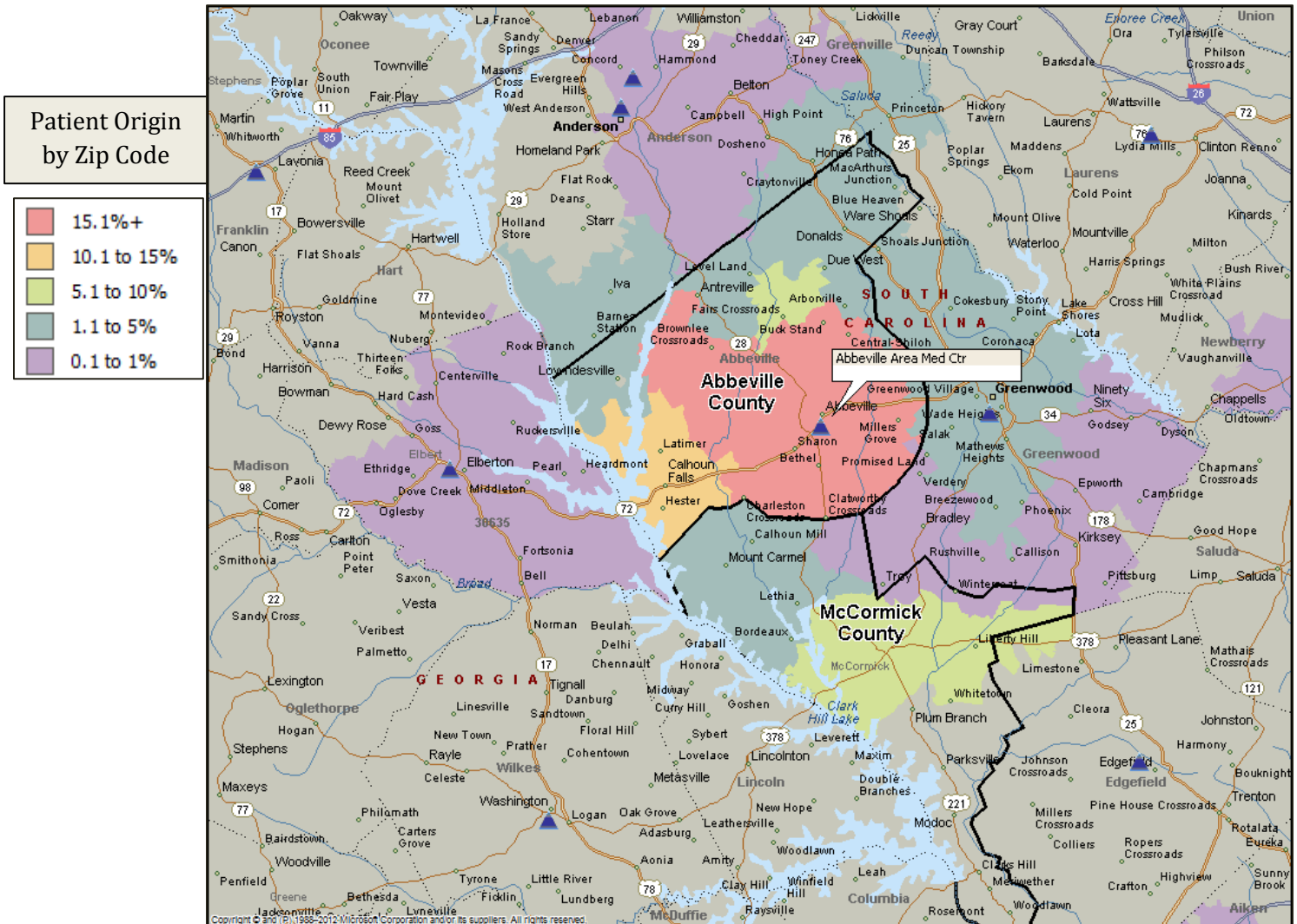
Community Service Programs Sponsored by Abbeville Area Medical Center

- Diabetes Education
 - Diabetes Community Support Group
 - Insulin Pump Training
 - Professional Continuous Glucose Monitoring Systems
 - Diabetes Self-Management Classes
- Health Promotion, Outreach, and Support Groups
 - Health Related Medical Equipment Support
 - Senior Connections Program
 - Wellness Programs, Silver Sneakers
 - Relay for Life

Source: abbevilleareamc.com

Community Served

AAMC’s service area is defined as Abbeville and McCormick Counties. A majority of the AAMC patient origin is encompassed within this geographical area. Using a county definition as the service area is crucial for our analysis as many of our secondary data sources are county specific and serve as a comparison tool to other counties, the state of South Carolina, and the United States. Also, many of our community input sources consider Abbeville and McCormick Counties their primary service area. These include public health officials, as well as many different community advocacy groups with whom AAMC has relationships.



Source: 2013 Medicare Hospital Area File

Process and Methodology

AAMC identified community health needs by undergoing an assessment process. This process incorporated a comprehensive review by the hospital’s Community Needs Assessment Team along with secondary and primary data input using the expertise of Dixon Hughes Goodman, LLP. The team used several sources of quantitative health, social and demographic data specific to Abbeville and McCormick Counties provided by local public health agencies, health care associations and other data sources. This kind of collaboration is not only allowed for the CHNA process, but encouraged. AAMC took advantage of this opportunity to collaborate with its diabetic educators, physicians, nurses, administrators, the local DHEC department, community leaders, the local “free” clinic (UCMAC) director, and other local healthcare providers.

In addition, AAMC sought outside assistance from the Dixon Hughes Goodman CHNA team. DHG provided data, organized community input, facilitated priority sessions, and supported the report drafting process.

The assessment process consists of 5 steps pictured below:





Data Assessment Findings- Secondary Data

In order to present the data in a way that would tell a story of the community and also identify needs, the framework of Healthy People 2020 was selected to guide secondary data gathering. This framework was selected based on its national recognition as well as its mission listed below:

- Identify nationwide health improvement priorities.
- Increase public awareness and understanding of the determinants of health, disease, and disability and the opportunities for progress.
- Provide measurable objectives and goals that are applicable at the national, state, and local levels.
- Engage multiple sectors to take actions to strengthen policies and improve practices that are driven by the best available evidence and knowledge.
- Identify critical research, evaluation, and data collection needs.

Within this framework, 12 Topics were chosen as “Leading Health Indicators”. These topics guide discussion and research related to this CHNA.



*Data sources and dates of data that were used in this CHNA can be found in appendix A

The data assessment piece of the CHNA process included data tables, graphs, and maps from various sources widely available. These data elements were used to identify at-risk populations, underserved populations, health need areas, and professional shortage areas. A summary of the findings was then created to highlight areas of need within the service area. The full report is available on the Abbeville Area Medical Center website at www.abbevilleareamc.com

Access to Care- Access to care in the AAMC service area, especially with regard to health insurance coverage, is slightly better than the state of South Carolina. According to SAHIE 2013, Abbeville and McCormick Counties had 18.3% and 16.8% respectively, of the population under 65 uninsured, while 18.6% of South Carolina residents under 65 were uninsured. The data showed a higher percentage of uninsured males versus the female population. The most telling data was shown in the price adjusted Medicare reimbursement per enrollee. At \$7,944 per Medicare enrollee, McCormick County had the lowest Medicare health care cost in the state of South Carolina. The South Carolina average is \$9,361.

Access to care as measured by certain health use indicators was flagged as a significant issue in Abbeville and McCormick Counties. In fact, a high percentage (87%) of the population migrates outside these counties for healthcare services. In addition, using a population based Physician Need forecast model, it was found that both counties are in need of internal medicine doctors and pediatricians. There is also additional need of anesthesiologist, emergency medicine doctors and psychiatrists in Abbeville County. It is also worth noting that visits in emergency medicine, urgent care, ambulatory surgery, and diagnostic testing in both counties is either flat or projected to decrease over the next five years. *(Source: Truven Health Analytics)*

Clinical Preventive Services- Clinical preventive services are very effective in preventing and/or detecting chronic conditions early. Though these services can be potentially lifesaving, CDC reports only 25% of adults aged 50-64 years and fewer than 40% of adults aged 65 years and older are up to date on these services.

Abbeville and McCormick are very similar to the state average in percent of adults with diabetes. However, both counties are doing a better job than other South Carolina counties in managing people that are already diagnosed with this disease. It is also worth noting that McCormick is doing better than the average South Carolina county in preventative services such as mammograms, sigmoid and colonoscopies and PAP smears. However, the secondary data did identify an area of concern in breast cancer incidence in Abbeville and McCormick Counties, which exceeded the incidence rate of both South Carolina and the United States. Shockingly, Abbeville County had the highest breast cancer incidence of all South Carolina counties.

Environmental Quality- Having safe water to drink and clean air to breathe is key to a healthy life style. Without these fundamental elements, people are at greater risk of developing asthma, cancer, COPD, gastrointestinal illnesses, and acute poisonings, among other toxic effects. Unfortunately, the air pollution and particulate matter in Abbeville and McCormick Counties is quite dense when compared to other South Carolina counties. In reviewing the map, the entire upstate seems to show this same problem. Conversely, Abbeville and McCormick Counties show zero percent of the

population to be exposed to drinking water violations in 2014, the best possible score and significantly better than the state average.

Injury and Violence- According to CDC, injuries are the leading cause of death for Americans ages 1 to 44, and a leading cause of disability for all ages, regardless of sex, race/ethnicity, or socioeconomic status. More than 180,000 people die from injuries each year, and approximately 1 in 10 sustains a nonfatal injury serious enough to be treated in a hospital emergency department. The effects of injuries and violence extend beyond the injured person or victim of violence to family members, friends, coworkers, employers, and communities. In addition, beyond their immediate health consequences, injuries and violence have a significant impact on the well-being of Americans by contributing to premature death, disability, poor mental health, high medical costs, and lost productivity.

Abbeville and McCormick Counties are doing well when compared to the average of the other South Carolina counties. In fact, in Injury Deaths and Unintentional Injury Deaths, Abbeville is at least one standard deviation better than the South Carolina average. In addition, based on the secondary data one could conclude that both counties are safe places to live. The homicide and violent crime rates are much lower than the state rate and both counties fair better than their state counterparts. Abbeville County also reports a much lower motor vehicle death rate than the South Carolina death rate per 100,000.

Maternal, Infant, Child Health- According to Healthy People 2020, improving the well-being of mothers, infants, and children is an important public health goal for the United States. Their well-being determines the health of the next generation and can help predict future public health challenges for families, communities, and the health care system.

In addition, during a pregnancy, there is opportunity to identify health risks in women and their unborn children. This can surface problems at an early stage that can also prevent additional health issues postpartum and beyond.

Two areas of concern for Abbeville County are Infant and Child Mortality Rates. In fact, Abbeville had the highest infant mortality rate of all South Carolina counties, was significantly higher than the South Carolina rate and the Healthy People 2020 target. The child mortality rate was also significantly higher than the South Carolina rate. McCormick County had over 24% more births to unmarried mothers than the SC percentage. However, the mothers in Abbeville and McCormick Counties are doing a nice job of getting and receiving their prenatal care. Though low birth weight was not necessarily a high risk area for the AAMC service area, there is room for improvement in Abbeville County in an attempt to reach the Healthy People 2020 target.

Mental Health- Mental and physical health are closely connected. According to the Healthy People website, mental illnesses, such as depression and anxiety, affect people's ability to participate in health-promoting activities. In turn, chronic conditions and diseases can have a serious impact on mental health and decrease a person's ability to participate in treatment and recovery. It is estimated that in any given year 1 in 17 adult Americans have a seriously debilitating mental

illness. Mental health disorders are the leading cause of disability in the US and Canada and suicide is the 11th leading cause of death in the US, claiming approximately 30,000 lives each year.

Unfortunately, Abbeville County is not immune to this epidemic and accounts for 1.34 suicide deaths per 10,000 population. This is slightly higher than the suicide death rate in South Carolina and significantly higher than the Healthy People 2020 target. Not surprisingly, the mental health provider rate in both counties is low and flagged as an indicator of concern, along with the number of poor mental health days and lack of social-emotional support in McCormick County. In fact, McCormick County ranks the highest in poor mental health days in SC.

Nutritional, Physical Activity & Obesity- Eating right, staying in shape and getting enough exercise is paramount to a person's health and wellbeing. The Health People 2020 website states that approximately 1 in 3 adults and 1 in 6 children are obese. To compound this epidemic, the CDC reports that fewer than 1 in 3 adults (and even fewer children) eat the recommended amount of vegetables and less than 20% of adults and 20% children get the recommended amount of physical activity daily. The consequences of poor diet on one's health can have a life time effect.

Unfortunately, Abbeville County is suffering from the result of its population having limited access to healthy foods. Based on the secondary data, Abbeville County has the highest percentage of low income population with limited access to grocery stores. 14.5% of Abbeville's low income population lives greater than 10 miles from a grocery store, which limits their access to healthy foods. Abbeville nearly double the state's percentage, and, perhaps, as a result, the vast majority of the adult population in Abbeville County is unable to intake the recommended daily amount (5 cups) of fruits and vegetables.

Although it was perceived as the biggest problem in the community during the focus group interviews, based on the secondary data Abbeville and McCormick Counties do not have a problem with obesity among adults as compared to other SC counties. However, both counties are above the Healthy People 2020 target, so, work should be done to reduce the numbers of obese adults. McCormick County does need to take a hard look at the obesity rate among low income preschoolers as it significantly higher than the SC county median, and one of the highest in the state.

Oral Health- Oral health is essential to overall health. Good oral health improves a person's ability to speak, smile, smell, taste, touch, chew, swallow, and make facial expressions to show feelings and emotions. Lack of access to dental care for all ages remains a public health challenge.

According to the latest data provided by InfoGroup, Abbeville County has only 3 dentists, while McCormick County has zero. When converted to a rate per 10,000 population (for comparison purposes), the dentist rate in these counties is obviously much lower than that of South Carolina. In addition, Abbeville County has a low percentage of its population receiving fluoridated water, which has been shown to prevent tooth decay by 18 to 40 percent. Although not measured by the secondary data, one of the issues discussed was the lack of access to oral care in the community. Not only are there not enough dentists, but the providers that will accept children on Medicaid are limited and unfortunately one of these providers is starting to phase out of his practice.

Reproduction and Sexual Health- The Healthy People 2020 website states that there are nearly 19 million new cases of sexually transmitted diseases diagnosed each year in the United States! In addition, an estimated 1.1 million Americans are living with HIV. It is imperative that people receive proper treatment for STDs as the long term consequences can be detrimental to one's health, including infertility, fetal and perinatal health problems, cancer and further sexual transmission of the STD.

Both Abbeville and McCormick Counties are at least a half a standard deviation above the county average for the Chlamydia prevalence rate. However, McCormick County does not fare as well in their HIV prevalence rate. This county ranks among the worse in the state and is more than 50% worse than the state's rate. Conversely, neighboring Abbeville County does much better in this indicator and is significantly better than the state.

Many patients see the doctor for the first time for reproductive services. Healthy People 2020 claims that publicly funded family planning help prevent nearly 2 million unintended pregnancies, including 400,000 teen pregnancies. Abbeville and McCormick Counties are below the Healthy People 2020 target for 2013 teen pregnancies.

Social and Economic Determinants- According to Healthy People 2020, health starts in our homes, schools, workplaces, neighborhoods, and communities. We know that taking care of ourselves by eating well and staying active, not smoking, getting the recommended immunizations and screening tests, and seeing a doctor when we are sick all influence our health. Our health is also determined in part by access to social and economic opportunities; the resources and supports available in our homes, neighborhoods, and communities; the quality of our schooling; the safety of our workplaces; the cleanliness of our water, food, and air; and the nature of our social interactions and relationships. The conditions in which we live explain in part why some Americans are healthier than others and why Americans more generally are not as healthy as they could be.

Overall, Abbeville and McCormick Counties do well in this indicator. At 9.9% of families, McCormick County is one of the highest ranked SC counties for families below poverty level. This is significantly better than the state average and this number is continuing to trend (positively) downward for McCormick County. Conversely, with 37.8% of children in poverty, McCormick County was nearly ten percentage points higher than the state average in 2013. Thus, based on the secondary data, McCormick County may need to allocate their resources to assist impoverished children.

In addition, Abbeville and McCormick Counties have a higher percentage of adults with no high school diploma than the US and South Carolina. In fact, Abbeville County ranks 7th highest in SC in percent of adults (16.1%) with no high school diploma. When people do not have high school degrees, it can often times be difficult to find work. The secondary data does bear this out, especially in McCormick County, which has the 10th highest unemployment rate in SC. At 8.8% in December 2014, this rate is higher than the state and US average.

Substance Abuse/Tobacco Use- We know that it is impossible to protect our health and the health and safety of our children without first reducing substance abuse and tobacco use in our culture. Tobacco use is the single most preventable cause of death and disease in the US and claims more than 440,000 lives each year. In addition, tobacco use costs the US \$193 billion annually in direct medical expenses and lost productivity. Substance abuse effects are cumulative, costly, and lead to other physical, mental and public health problems such as: teen pregnancy, HIV/AIDS, domestic violence, motor vehicle crashes, crime, homicide, and suicide.

Not uncommon in South Carolina, a top tobacco producer, nearly a quarter of the adult population smokes in Abbeville County. The percentage of adults smoking in both counties is significantly higher than the Healthy People 2020 target. In addition to the secondary data, tobacco use has been tagged as one of the top issues by interview respondents. Although excessive drinking and liquor store density is not shown as an issue in the secondary data, the percentage of driving deaths with alcohol involvement is definitely a problem in both Abbeville and McCormick Counties. Shockingly, Abbeville County has the highest percentage in SC of driving deaths due to alcohol impairment and McCormick County rounds out the top six.

SUMMARY OF DATA ASSESSMENT

The data assessment phase identified areas where indicators met or exceeded national, state, and/or local standards, and in contrast, areas of particular concern. A summary is included below.

TOP POSITIVE INDICATORS – Abbeville County

Access to Health Services	•Low Healthcare (Medicare) Costs
Clinical Preventative Services	•Mod high % HbA1c screening
Environmental Services	•Moderately low % of pop exposed to drinking water violations
Injury and Violence	•Low injury & unintentional death rates, Mod low violent crime rate •Moderately low homicide and motor vehicle death rates
Maternal, Infant, Child Health	•Low inadequate prenatal care
Mental Health	
Nutritional, Physical Activity, and Obesity	•Moderately low heart disease death rate
Oral Health	
Reproduction and Sexual Health	•Moderately low Chlamydia rate •Moderately low HIV prevalence
Social Determinants	•Moderately Low children in poverty
Substance Abuse/ Tobacco	•Moderately low liquor store density

TOP POSITIVE INDICATORS – McCormick County

Access to Health Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Moderately low % uninsured •Low Health (Medicare) Care Costs
Clinical Preventative Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •High % diabetics rec'g HbA1c screenings, Mod low All Cancer Sites Incidence & Deaths •High % of females getting mammograms & PAP smears
Environmental Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Low % of pop exposed to drinking water violations
Injury and Violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Low injury death rate •Moderately low violent crime rate
Maternal, Infant, Child Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Low % low birth weight •Low % of mothers receiving inadequate prenatal care
Mental Health	
Nutritional, Physical Activity, and Obesity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low % of pop with limited access to health foods/groc stores, Mod low heart disease death rate • High % of pop with adequate exercise opportunities, Mod low % obese adults, Mod high food envir index
Oral Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •High % of pop receiving fluoridated water
Reproduction and Sexual Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Low Chlamydia Rate •Mod low teen birth rate
Social Determinants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Low % families below poverty level
Substance Abuse/ Tobacco	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Moderately low % adults smoking

OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT – Abbeville County

Access to Health Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Physician need: All various PCP, hospital based and specialty providers
Clinical Preventative Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Moderately low % of adults getting flu vaccine, Low % of women getting PAP smear •High breast cancer incidence
Environmental Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •High air pollution
Injury and Violence	
Maternal, Infant, Child Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •High infant mortality •High child mortality
Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Moderately low mental health provider rate •Moderately high poor mental health days
Nutritional, Physical Activity, and Obesity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •High limited access to healthy foods/grocery stores •Moderately low food environment index, High % of adults eating too few fruits/veggies
Oral Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Low dentist rate •Low % of pop receiving fluoridated water
Reproduction and Sexual Health	
Social Determinants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •High % of adults with some HS but no diploma
Substance Abuse/ Tobacco	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •High % of driving deaths involving alcohol •Moderately high % of adults smoking

OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT – McCormick County

Access to Health Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Physician need: Internal medicine & pediatrics
Clinical Preventative Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •High % adults with high BP •High breast cancer incidence
Environmental Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •High air pollution
Injury and Violence	
Maternal, Infant, Child Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •High % births to unmarried mothers •High % of teens not working & not in school
Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •High % of pop reporting insufficient social/emotional support •Mod low mental health provider rate, High poor mental health days
Nutritional, Physical Activity, and Obesity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Moderately high % of adults not eating enough fruits/veggies •High % obese low income preschoolers
Oral Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Low dentist rate
Reproduction and Sexual Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •High HIV prevalence
Social Determinants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Mod high % adults with some HS, no diploma, Mod high % unemployment •Mod high % children in poverty
Substance Abuse/ Tobacco	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •High % of driving deaths with alcohol involvement



Community Input Findings

Subsequent to the secondary data assessment using Healthy People 2020 framework, the Community Needs Assessment Team entered into dialogue with physician practices, key community stakeholders, and other focus groups to discuss the health of the community. Attendees were given the opportunity to comment and discuss on health topics perceived as issues to the Abbeville and McCormick County communities. Through these numerous

interviews, meetings, and other public sessions, a summary of community input was created. Below are some of the key issues that emerged in each of those meetings.

Group/ Person	Issues that emerged
Physician Practices	Childhood Obesity Adult onset Obesity Dental Health Exercise, Diet, Wellness Financial Planning for Elderly Immunizations Type I Diabetes Smoking Drugs STD Prevention Routine Health Maintenance Retirement and Long Term Care Nursing Homes Nutrition Mental Health Type II Diabetes Management Social Support for Elderly Prescription drug addiction for elderly Quality pediatric care Sex education for teens Drug intervention
Kim Beaty, Certified Diabetic Educator, employee of AAMC	Obesity Lack of food/Access to Healthy food Mental Health Pediatric Dental Care Sex Ed Drug Abuse Alcohol Smoking Teen Pregnancy STDs Transportation Nutrition
Lucy Wilson, RN, employee of AAMC	Childhood Obesity Lack of food/Access to Healthy food Mental Health Dental care for kids STDs (Chlamydia and Syphilis) Teen pregnancy Transportation
Rich Osmus, CEO	Adult Obesity Hypertension

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Type II Diabetes Mental Health Transportation Poverty/Low income Aging population= more diseases
<p>Mary Stackhouse, Director of Abbeville and McCormick County DHEC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obesity Lack of recreation Asthma Immunizations STDs Teen pregnancy Sexually active at young age Hypertension Type II Diabetes Transportation Community Organizer/Resource Center
<p>Lucille Culbreth, Accreditation Manager at AAMC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obesity Access to healthy food Type I Diabetes Availability to daycare and nurseries Teen pregnancy STDs Drugs Type II Diabetes Transportation
<p>Mary Jo Holly, Patient Financial Counselor at AAMC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obesity Access to healthy food Inactivity Smoking Alcohol Type II Diabetes Heart Health Mental Health Elderly Falls
<p>School Nurses in Abbeville School District</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obesity Access to Healthy foods Lacking education and awareness on healthy food options Immunizations Hygiene for children Teen pregnancy Mental health Alcohol Drugs Dementia Education for dementia patients LTC costs Lack of consistency across Medicaid continuum Lack of Adult daycare
<p>Cecil Talley, CEO, Prysmian Cables</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smoking Obesity Hypertension
<p>Community Leaders Attorneys, Chamber members</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of Jobs Low socioeconomic status Lack of continuing education/investment in employees Mental health Lack of economic development in county Hunger Nutrition Transportation Lack of foster care services Outmigration for family care—scheduling is a problem Recreation/community pool

	Lack of preschool/after school care
David McCuen, City Manager of Abbeville	Access to healthcare Diabetes Obesity Complacent lifestyle
Clemson Extension Agents Jenny Mountford Rhonda Matthews	Education Lack of nutritious food/local foods Diversity and availability of resources Obesity Type I Diabetes Type II Diabetes Teen pregnancies STDs Mental Health Lack of activity Lifestyle Hypertension Dietary changes for elderly
Connie Norman, RN, Director United Christian Ministries of Abbeville County (UCMAC)	Smoking Alcohol Drugs Obesity Hypertension Mental Health Dental care Dementia Daycare for elderly No specialty care for low income patients Drug coverage Transportation

The above focus groups included experts in the field of nursing, diabetic care, physicians, case management, education, city council, law, and agriculture. Some of the respondents included:

- Various physicians from the local Internal Medicine practice
- Kim Beaty, RN and Certified Diabetic Educator AAMC
- Lucy Wilson, RN AAMC
- Rich Osmus, CEO AAMC
- Mary Stackhouse, Director of Abbeville and McCormick County DHEC
- Lucille Culbreth, Accreditation Manager AAMC
- Mary Jo Holly, Patient Financial Counselor AAMC
- Various School Nurses in the Abbeville School District
- Cecil Talley, CEO, Prysman Cables
- Various Community Attorneys
- Various Chamber of Commerce Members
- David McCuen, City Manager of Abbeville, SC
- Jenny Mountford, Clemson Extension Agent
- Rhonda Matthews, Clemson Extension Agent
- Connie Norman, RN & Director of United Christian Ministries of Abbeville County (UCMAC)

The main health issue perceived to be a problem by every focus group was obesity. The impact on one's health due to obesity can be severe, long term, and fatal. Comorbidities related to obesity include diabetes, hypertension, stroke, heart disease, and depression. Childhood obesity can

present separate challenges. More and more young teens are undergoing weight loss surgery to reverse the devastating effects of an unhealthy diet and lifestyle as a result of morbid obesity. Unfortunately, Abbeville and McCormick Counties are not immune from the obesity epidemic. The secondary data supports the perception that childhood obesity is an issue among low-income preschoolers, especially in McCormick County.

In addition, access to healthy foods and nutrition is both a perceived and real (as supported by the secondary data) problem for the people of Abbeville and McCormick Counties. In fact, across the state Abbeville County has the highest percentage of low income population with limited access to healthy foods. Nearly, 15% of all low income people live greater than ten miles from a grocery store. Furthermore, between 85% and 90% of adults in McCormick and Abbeville Counties report eating fewer than the recommended amount (5 cups) of fruits and vegetables each day.

Access to healthcare was seen as a problem by a couple focus groups. There are several obvious areas of concern: internal medicine, pediatrics, dental care, and mental health. Access to primary care was specifically mentioned by one focus group as scheduling is a problem, thus many families migrate outside the county for care. In addition, the secondary data shows a need for 7 Internal Medicine doctors and 4.5 Pediatricians in Abbeville County and 6 Internal Medicine doctors and 2 Pediatricians in McCormick County by 2019. As is common across the US, both counties are severely lacking in mental health providers. Unfortunately, the mental health of the community is suffering and shows it as McCormick County ranks highest in the state in poor mental health days. The population reports that nearly 20% of the month is mentally unhealthy in McCormick County and 15% of the month is mentally unhealthy in Abbeville County. Lastly, access to dentists, especially for children on Medicaid, is very difficult. There are only two dentists that accept Medicaid patients, and one of these physicians is phasing out of practice.

After combining input from focus groups and individuals, the following table was created to illustrate the frequency in which certain issues were mentioned.

Community Input Topic	Number of times top health concern
Obesity	12
Mental Health	9
Nutrition/Access to Healthy Foods	8
Diabetes (Type I/II)	7
Transportation	7
STDs	6
Teen Pregnancies	6
Smoking	5
Drugs	5
Hypertension	5
Recreation/Lack of Activity	5
Dental Health	4
Alcohol Abuse	4
Immunizations	3
Dementia Care	3
Need for Sex Education	3
Lack of Adult Daycare	2
Lack of preschool/after school program	2
Access to care/outmigration of family care	2
Retirement and LTC planning	2
Elderly Falls	1
Lack of Jobs	1

Prioritization of Needs Identified by Data and Input



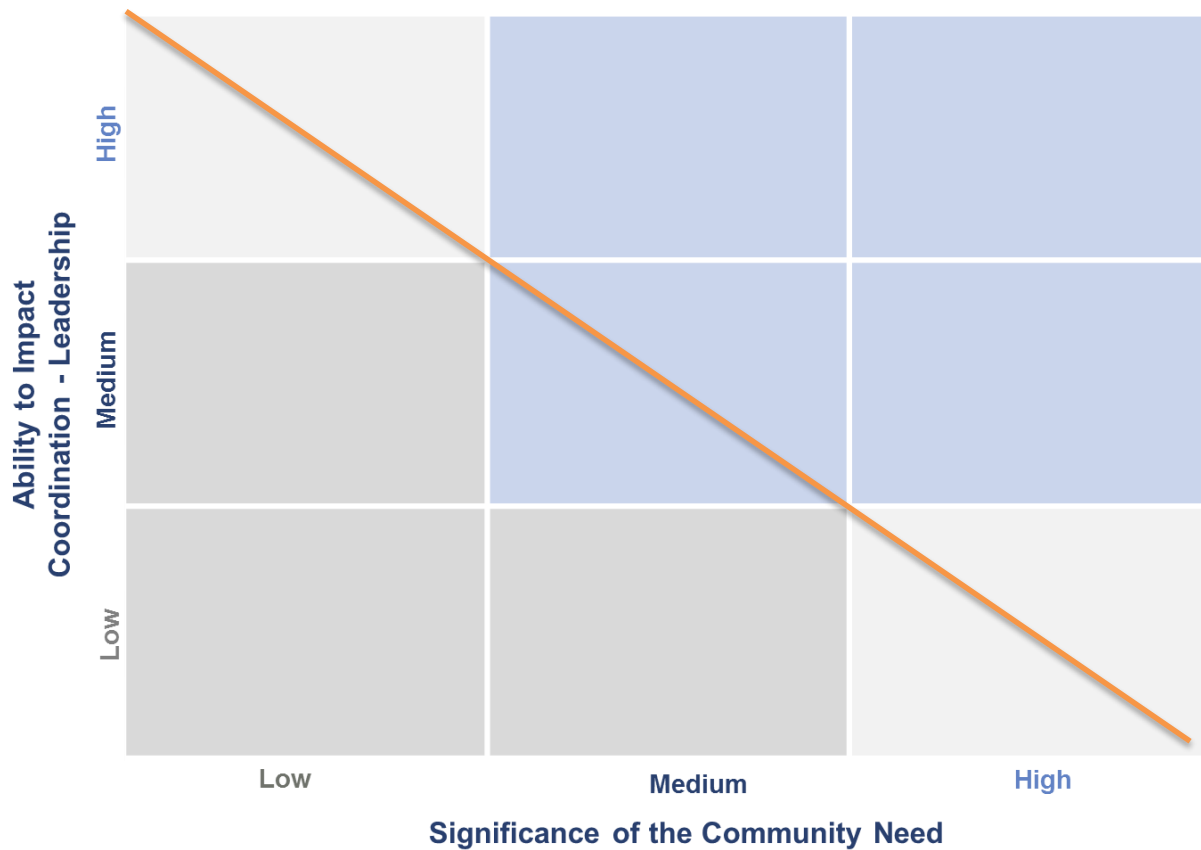
By analyzing and combining perceived (by community in focus groups) and reported (secondary) data, a number of community health issues surfaced.

There were three types of issues identified as the community input was overlaid with the secondary data assessment.

- Reported and Perceived- Data assessment showed a need for improvement and the need was also mentioned as a concern during community input
- Perceived, but Not Reported- Data assessment did not uncover an issue, however, the community “perceived” this issue as a health priority.
- Reported, Not Perceived- Data assessment showed a need for improvement, however, those interviewed did not “perceive” an area of concern.

<p>Perceived & Reported</p>	<p>Nutrition/Access to Healthy Foods Childhood Obesity (McCormick County only) Behavioral Health Oral Health Resources STDs Alcohol Abuse Smoking Hypertension (McCormick County Only) Physician Need/Access to Care Lack of Jobs (McCormick County Only)</p>
<p>Perceived, but Not Reported</p>	<p>Adult Obesity Diabetes Transportation Teen Pregnancy Need for Sex Education Recreation/Lack of Exercise Drug Use Immunizations Dementia Lack of Childcare services/Adult Daycare Lack of Retirement and LTC planning Elderly Falls</p>
<p>Reported, but Not Perceived</p>	<p>Breast Cancer Incidence Graduation Rate Low % of women receiving PAP Smear (Abbeville County Only)</p>

In May 2015, a priority session was held with the AAMC Community Needs Assessment Team to discuss the data obtained from the secondary sources and focus groups. The team focused on twelve community issues and placed these issues on a sample grid, shown below, based on the importance to the service area, relevance of the health issues to the population served, and the ability of AAMC to effectively impact and improve the health issue. Also discussed in this session were those needs that were already being addressed by other community partners or organizations. The needs identified in the upper right sectors of the grid were viewed as the most significant needs AAMC’s leadership team felt they had the ability to impact. These are the needs that would ultimately be chosen as priorities.



From this prioritization grid, the team was able to identify those needs that would be included in the implementation strategy. In accordance with IRS notice 2011-52, the team also identified which needs would not be addressed in the implementation strategy and why. Based on the secondary quantitative data, community input, the needs evaluation process, and the prioritization of these needs, the following issues have been chosen for implementation.

- **Nutrition/Access to Healthy Foods & Obesity-** Obesity was reported as a community issue by all twelve focus groups. Adult Obesity is a Healthy People Leading Health Indicator. The 2020 target is set at 30.5%. Both Abbeville and McCormick Counties, at 34.6% and 32.2% obese adults, respectively, are near the South Carolina state average, but, higher than then Healthy People 2020 target. The most alarming metric, however, is the percentage of low-income obese preschoolers in McCormick County. At 15.5%, this metric is higher than the median of the other South Carolina counties and puts McCormick County as one of the weaker counties in the state on this data point. However, one cannot address obesity without first addressing nutrition and access to healthy food options. In 2012, 17% of Abbeville households and 19% of McCormick households lacked reliable access to a food source. Although these metrics were near the state average, they are far above the Healthy People 2020 target of 6%. Given this metric, it makes sense that the citizens of both counties do not eat enough fruits and vegetables per day. On average, from 2005-2009, nearly 89% of Abbeville County and 86% of McCormick County reported eating fewer than 5 cups of fruits/vegetables per day, the recommended daily allowance. In addition, at 14.5% Abbeville County showed the highest percentage in the state of **low income** population with limited access to grocery stores. Although this is not a Healthy People 2020 Leading Health Indicator it is cause for concern as it is much higher than the state average and the highest value in the state of South Carolina.
- **Behavioral Health-** Like many rural communities, the citizen and leaders have concerns about the state of behavioral health in the community. McCormick County, especially, ranked poorly on two metrics- percentage of adults receiving insufficient social/emotional support and the number of poor mental health days in a month. In fact, with nearly 20% of the month reported as mentally unhealthy, McCormick County ranked the highest in the state on poor mental health days. Abbeville County also did poorly with nearly 15% of the month reported as mentally unhealthy, 2.5% above the state average. Compounded with these issues is the fact that both counties are lacking in mental health providers. Based on 2014 CMS National Provider Identification File, Abbeville County had 4.8 providers per 10,000 population while McCormick County had 5.1 providers per 10,000 population. Both values are far below the 2014 South Carolina average of 14.2 providers per 10,000 population.
- **Smoking** – South Carolina is a large producer of tobacco and as such, many citizens in the state are large consumers of this addictive substance. Abbeville County is no exception with 23% of adults smoking. This, along with McCormick County's 19% of adults smoking, is significantly higher than the Healthy People 2020 target (12%) and, thus, has been targeted by leadership at AAMC as a strategy to implement.
- **Diabetes** – Diabetes is a comorbidity to obesity and can be directly related to unhealthy lifestyles, poor eating habits, and lack of good nutrition. AAMC has allocated a lot of

resources into the fight against Type II diabetes through their Diabetes Education Program. The data supports the success they have had with this program. The percentage of adult diabetics in Abbeville and McCormick Counties is right on the state average, 13.4% and 14.4%, respectively. However, the manner in which diabetics are screened in these counties is the most significant measurement and supports AAMC's active role in diabetic education to the community. Of the diabetic Medicare enrollees, 87.5% (Abbeville) and 90.5% (McCormick) received their HbA1c screenings in 2012. This is higher than the state average of 86%.

- **Access to Primary Care** – Access to care, specifically primary care, was a topic of discussion in at least two focus groups. The overarching issue is that scheduling to see a primary care physician is difficult and many patients out migrate to find primary care. This is shown in the secondary data, where the current physician supply is much lower than the demand. In fact, Abbeville County is projected to need approximately 13 primary care physicians by 2019, while McCormick County is project to need nearly 10 primary care physicians by 2019. AAMC is currently is the beginning phases of their new Medical Office Building which will house several additional primary care providers. This will alleviate the supply/demand problem the county is currently facing and reduce the number of patients that must out migrate to seek timely primary care.

AAMC's Community Needs Assessment Team will initiate the development of implementation strategies for each of the five health priorities identified above. This Implementation Plan will be rolled out over the next three years. The team will work with community partners and health issue experts on the following for each of the approaches to address the health needs listed:

- Identify what other local organizations are doing to address the health priority
- Develop support and participation for these approaches to address health needs
- Develop specific and measurable goals so that the effectiveness of these approaches can be measured
- Develop detailed work plans
- Communicate with the assessment team and ensure appropriate coordination with other efforts to address the issue

The team will then develop a monitoring method at the conclusion of the Implementation Plan to provide status and results of these efforts to improve community health. AAMC is committed to conducting another health needs assessment in three years.

Appendix A- Data Sources Used

Abbeville Area Medical Center's Website

2013 Medicare Hospital Area File

Community Health Status Indicators (HRSA, CDC, NLM, PHF)

County Health Rankings (RWJF and University of WI)

Health Indicators Warehouse (HIW)

Healthy People 2020 (HHS)

National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)

Behavioral Risk Factors Surveillance Survey (BRFSS)

Truven Health Analytics

Nielsen Claritas (Demographics)

Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE)

USDA – Economic Research Service

Advisory Board Company

US Census Bureau

National Cancer Institute (State Cancer Profiles)

Kids Count Data Center – The Annie E. Casey Foundation

InfoGroup

Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

US Bureau of Labor Statistics