

Executive Summary

Owensboro Health Inc. (OHI) owns and operates Owensboro Health Regional Hospital, a 477 bed hospital in Daviess County, Kentucky. Owensboro Health Regional Hospital (OHRH) is pleased to present its 2024-2027 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). OHRH contracted with Blueprint Kentucky, formerly known as the Community and Economic Development Initiative of Kentucky (CEDIK), to conduct a CHNA in accordance with the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and section 501(r) of the Internal Revenue Code for nonprofit tax-exempt hospitals. This CHNA is the third report prepared by Blueprint Kentucky for OHRH. This report will be used to create an implementation plan with wide community input to address the identified health needs for the community served by OHRH over the next three years. Owensboro Health Board of Directors approved this CHNA on May 29th, 2025.

Summary of Findings

Methodology

Blueprint Kentucky facilitated the process of primary data collection through community surveys, focus groups and key informant interviews to identify and prioritize health needs. In addition, county specific secondary data was gathered to help examine the social determinants of health. Throughout the process, Blueprint Kentucky and the community steering committee intentionally sought input from populations that are often not engaged in conversations about their health needs or gaps in service. Blueprint Kentucky conducted thirteen key informant interviews to probe more deeply into health and quality of life themes within the county. Current community resources and potential barriers to accessing resources were also identified in these interviews.

This CHNA report synthesizes community health needs survey data, focus groups with vulnerable populations, and key informant interview data with social and economic data as well as health outcomes data collected from secondary sources to help provide context for the community.

Focus Groups – Community Assets

Daviess County residents identified community assets and strengths that contribute to their continued vision for a healthy and vibrant community that encompasses all who live, work and play here. These assets include access to health care, including specialty care, substance use and mental health treatment, educational opportunities for youth, robust collaborations, and partnerships between community organizations, and infrastructure that encourages healthy living. This well-resourced county continues to work together to build a community where youth feel safe and protected, can live drug, tobacco and vape free and can enjoy access to trails, recreation and wellness centers.

Focus Groups – Unmet Needs

Blueprint Kentucky conducted specific focus groups with representatives of organizations in Daviess County that provide services to vulnerable populations that are under resourced or experience unmet health needs. The participants provided a view of health challenges and gaps in health care or essential services. The discussions revealed needs among children/youth, low-income, English as a second language, and senior populations. The needs most often mentioned include lack of affordable housing/homelessness, mental health concerns for adults and youth, substance use disorder, chronic health issues, tobacco use and vaping, barriers to care, and generational poverty. Additional commonly noted health issues discussed include Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disorder (COPD), cancer, high blood pressure, obesity and

diabetes. Parenting was mentioned many times as an area for growth. While the county has multiple clinics for primary care some residents have difficulty scheduling appointments or navigating the health care system in general.

Key Informant - Community Themes and Strengths

OHRH and Blueprint Kentucky obtained additional primary data through thirteen supplemental interviews with individuals knowledgeable about health and quality of life needs in Daviess County. Blueprint Kentucky organized the data into strengths, barriers and opportunities for change in Daviess County. Strengths include both health care assets (hospital, health department, federally qualified health center (FQHC), access to specialty care and behavioral health services) and community assets (a strong commitment to collaboration among community organizations, strong relationships through schools, families, and churches that hold the community together.) Barriers to health care include lack of public transportation, low health literacy, stigma related to mental health conditions, dental care access for Medicaid patients, and support for caregivers. The interviews identified several opportunities that could improve the health and well-being of Daviess County residents including public transportation or mobile units, translation services, health literacy and education on navigating the complex health care system, and continued collaboration within the community.

Prioritized Areas

The OHRH Community Health Committee reviewed survey results, focus group and key informant interview results as well as key secondary health data. Members identified current resources and possible barriers to resources that residents may experience. The committee considered existing local and state priorities, conducted an open discussion and voted on prioritized health areas for the county. This information can assist both the hospital and the health department, as implementation plans are developed to address the prioritized health needs.

OHRH Community Health Committee selected the following priority areas for action:

- Lifestyle behaviors (associated with obesity, chronic disease, cancer)
- Mental health
- Addiction (legal and illegal substance use, electronics, gambling)
- Housing
- Food insecurity

A plan for addressing these priority areas will be described in OHRH Implementation Strategy.