

Arizona Critical Access Hospitals: Community Health Needs 2023

This brief is an overview of the Arizona Critical Access Hospitals (AzCAHs) community health needs identified by the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) process and report. Under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), all 501(c)(3) hospitals are required to demonstrate they provide a community benefit and complete a CHNA every three years. In the CHNA, AzCAHs are asked to describe community health needs and select 3-5 needs to prioritize to address in their implementation plan. As part of the CHNA, each hospital is required to collect input from individuals in the community, including public health experts as well as residents, representatives, or leaders of low-income, minority, and medically underserved populations.

Participating AzCAHs include:

North

- Banner Page Hospital
- Little Colorado Medical Center
- Sage Memorial Hospital
- White Mountain Regional Medical Center
- Wickenburg Community Hospital

Central

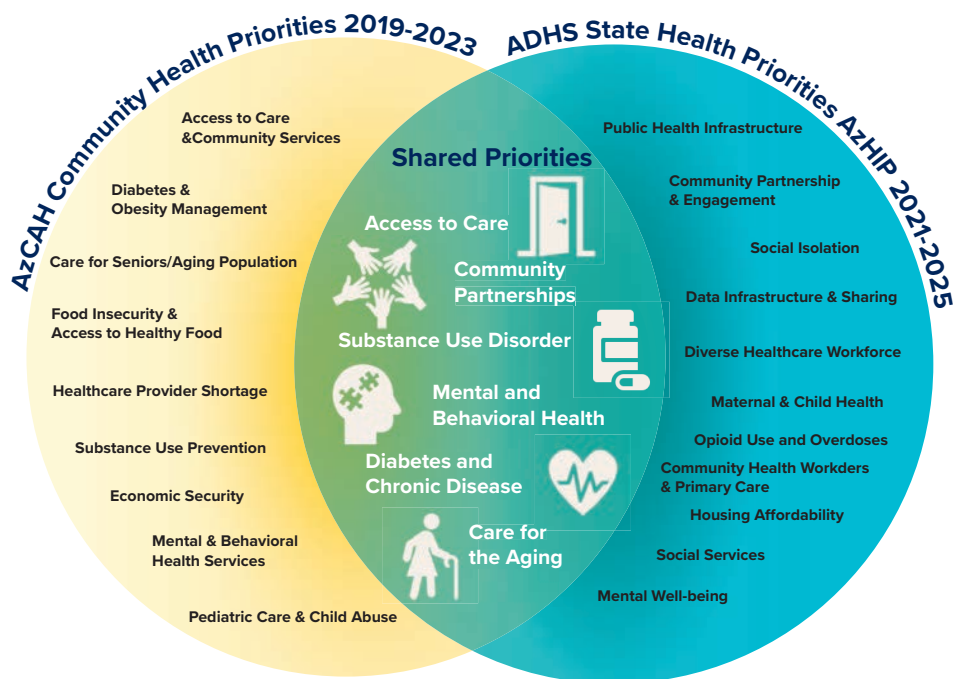
- Banner Payson Medical Center
- Cobre Valley Regional Medical Center

South

- Benson Hospital
- Carondelet Holy Cross Hospital
- Copper Queen Community Hospital
- La Paz Regional Hospital
- Mt Graham Regional Medical Center
- Northern Cochise Community Hospital
- San Carlos Apache Healthcare Corporation



The Arizona Department of Health Services also completes a statewide health assessment and develops a health improvement plan (AzHIP) that helps inform the AzCAH CHNA reports. The AzHIP priorities identified from 2021-2025 are compared to the AzCAH CHNA priorities in the diagram below.



TAKING ACTION ON AzCAH HEALTH PRIORITIES

In addition to conducting the CHNA, AzCAHs develop and implement a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) that helps guide how they take action on their CHNA priorities. Below is a list of shared strategies among AzCAH CHIPs and links to resources that may help implement the strategy. The AzCRH Rural Hospital Medicare Flexibility Program can help if you have questions about these resources or if you would like to learn more please contact Brianna Rooney at bcrooney@arizona.edu

Shared Priority	Shared Strategies	Resources
Access to Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop reminder notices for patient wellness and routine check-ups, mammograms, vaccinations, and colonoscopies. Develop and disperse brochures for available services and chronic disease management. Assist patients to enroll in Arizona’s Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) and connect them with resources when they are in the hospital. Increase accessibility to healthcare through transportation and highway infrastructure. Coordinate communication among providers and the public. Implement and monitor centralized scheduling and prior authorization processes for improvement opportunities to reduce the incidence of conflicting schedules or schedule changes due to prior authorization issues. Develop a comprehensive plan to coordinate care between primary care physicians and specialists. Participate in or expand the federal 340B drug pricing program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health insurance enrollment outreach and support AzCRH Health Insurance Assistance Health literacy interventions Language Access Transition to Practice Program Rural transportation services 340B Drug Pricing Program

Shared Priority	Shared Strategies	Resources
Community Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner with local public health to increase chronic disease services. Work with community partners already providing priority services in rural areas. Collaborate with local schools to identify at-risk children. Coordinate patient home visits by Community Health Nurses and collaborate with the Community Health Workers (CHWs) to increase patient compliance with physicians' plan of care and for patients who do not have reliable transportation. 	Arizona Health Equity Organizational Assessment Collaborative School-based health centers Community health workers strategy Rural Arizona CHW Development Network Diverse Ability Incorporated The NARBHA Institute
Substance Use Disorder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide education and best practices to assist in decreasing opioid misuse and abuse. Partner with behavioral health providers and first responders to fight opioid misuse. Disseminate Arizona Opioid Prescribing Guidelines. Partner with school districts to educate middle school students in dangers of drug use. Direct delivery of Narcan kits to the emergency department. Attend conferences to learn more about how to address opioid issues and report back with new ideas. 	Arizona Narcan Booklet Naloxone trainings AzMAT Mentors Program Overdose Data to Action program resources
Mental and Behavioral Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design and test a process for integrating behavioral health screening and referrals for emergency departments or other healthcare providers. Employ a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner or similar role in rural and family medicine clinics to diagnose and prescribe mental health medications. Expand capacity for increased psychotherapy and counseling utilizing professionals with a working understanding of tribal communities and culture. 	Mobile health for mental health Mental Health First Aid training Arizona crisis hotlines Social connectedness Wellbeing Collaborative of Health Professionals
Diabetes and Chronic Disease Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create opportunities to educate residents on preventive services relevant to community needs (printed media, electronic messaging software and social media). Promote and educate residents on healthy living activities. Employ a registered clinical dietician to oversee nutrition and diabetes services (i.e. nutrition counseling, diabetes education, and support group meetings). 	Vivir Mejor! (Live Better!) System of Diabetes Prevention and Care Arizona Diabetes Coalition Chronic Diseases in Arizona
Care for the Aging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use a person-centered approach in care and services. Enhance staff training at clinics and the hospital on local services and adult needs. Develop and implement a strategy to improve the operations of existing primary care services. Increase staff awareness of available resources and create a resource list for distribution to aging patients. 	Thoughtful Life Conversations Long-term care employee compensation Community Healthcare Integrated Paramedicine Program Arizona's Area Agencies on Aging

METHODS & DATA

This brief uses data collected from the AzCAH CHNA reports to better understand the shared health priorities between AzCAHs. The regions used to group the AzCAHs together are the state Medicaid program, the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), regions. There are three AzCAHs who are not included in this analysis. Two Indian Health Service AzCAHs (Hopi Health Care Center, Parker Indian Medical Center) and one Tribal AzCAH (Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital) did not complete CHNAs under the PPACA requirement. Tribal facilities are not required to complete a CHNA under the PPACA, but may optionally complete a CHNA as is the case for San Carlos Apache Healthcare Corporation. The AzCAH CHNAs are included in the references below. Because hyperlinks can become outdated, the AzCRH maintains copies of all CHNAs and can provide them on request. The AzCRH Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility (AzFLEX) program completes the CHNA review every two years.

In their most recent CHNA, here are the priorities AzCAHs identified:

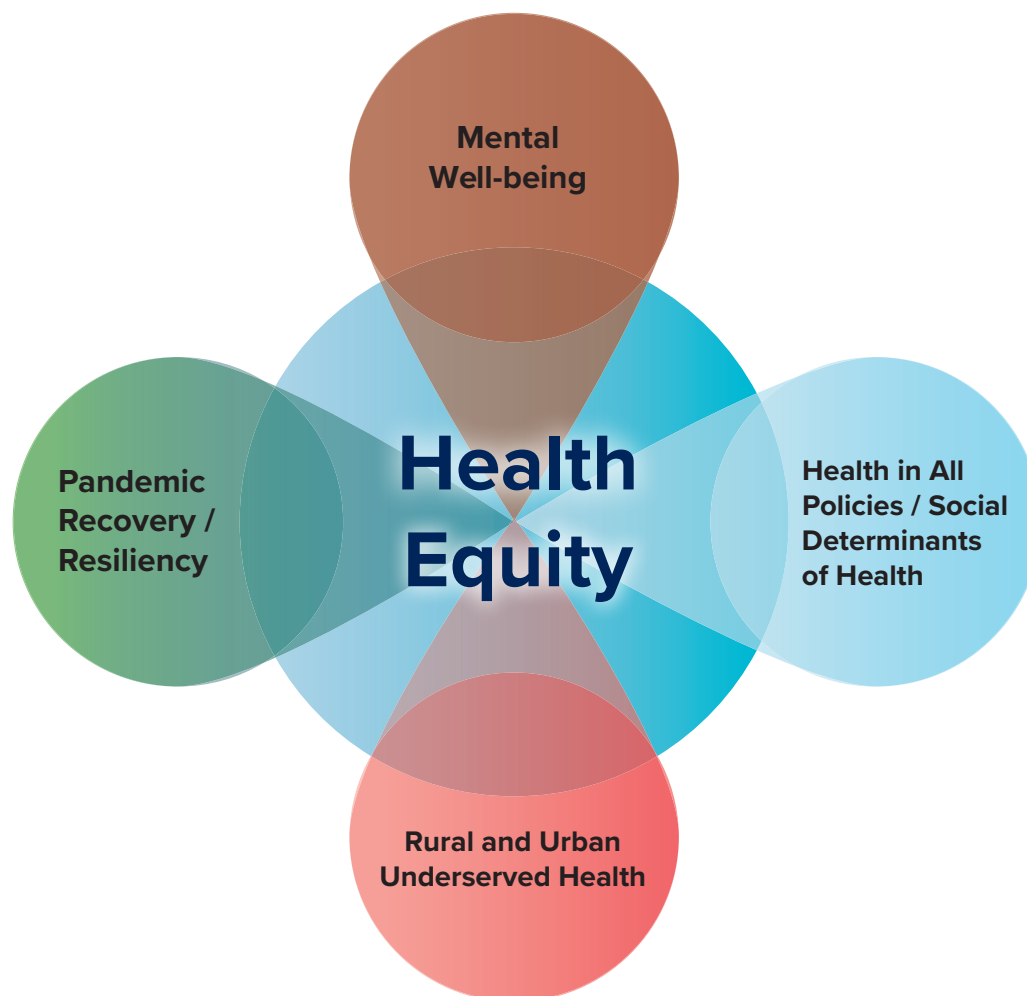
Northern AzCAH Priorities	
Banner Page Hospital (2022) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to care • Chronic disease management • Behavioral health 	White Mountain Regional Medical Center (2021) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to community resources • Mental health services: depression, anxiety, substance abuse, suicide prevention • Allergies & asthma
Little Colorado Medical Center (2020) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heart disease, substance use, diabetes & affordable health care • Employment, mental health services, & affordable housing 	Wickenburg Community Hospital (2022) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-identified health status • Improve access to healthcare • Community awareness about health services
Sage Memorial Hospital (2019) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behavioral health & substance use treatment • Pediatric care • Obesity prevention 	
Central AzCAH Priorities	
Banner Payson Medical Center (2022) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to care • Chronic disease management • Behavioral health 	Cobre Valley Regional Medical Center (2019) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate care services (access to urgent care) • Build a walking path • Increase access to preventative services
Southern AzCAH Priorities	
Benson Hospital (2023) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good jobs and a healthy economy • Mental health and alcohol/substance abuse • Healthy eating, obesity, and diabetes 	Carondelet Holy Cross Hospital (2019) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health • Economic insecurity, overweight & obesity, access to health care • Diabetes, birth indicators
Copper Queen Community Hospital (2020) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good jobs & a healthy economy • Mental health & alcohol/substance abuse • Healthy eating, obesity and diabetes 	La Paz Regional Hospital (2020) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic security at all ages • Quality and affordable elder care • Coordinated service networks
Mt. Graham Regional Medical Center (2019) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved treatment and services for substance abuse • Improved treatment and services associated with mental health • Improved services for diabetes 	Northern Cochise Community Hospital (2023) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aging concerns • Substance abuse/misuse • Diabetes and obesity, including healthy eating
San Carlos Apache Healthcare Corporation (2019) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child neglect or abuse • Domestic violence • Substance use, drug and alcohol abuse 	

AzHIP 2021-2025 Implementation

ADHS is in the process of implementing their AzHIP for 2021-2025. This plan consists of five strategic priorities focused on fundamental health issues and health disparities in Arizona, including issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The AzHIP offers multiple opportunities for AzCAHs to align with state and county efforts to meet community health needs. For example, an AzHIP strategy is coordination between social service, medical, and other providers to increase access to affordable housing via referral to programs and other services, directly benefiting the AzCAHs' shared priorities of care for seniors, economic security, child safety, and access to healthy food.

AzHIP Priorities 2021-2025



For more information on the AzHIP focus areas:

[Health Equity](#)

[Health in All Policies / Social Determinants of Health](#)

[Mental Well-being](#)

[Rural and Urban Underserved Health](#)

[Pandemic Recovery / Resiliency](#)

This brief is prepared as part of the Arizona Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program (AzFlex). The AzFlex program provides technical assistance, training and information resource for populations served by Arizona's 17 federally designated Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs), Rural Health Clinics (RHCs), Community Health Centers (Federally Qualified and Tribal), trauma, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), and first responders. Suggested citation: Rooney B, Hospodar J, Bullock J, Koch, B and Derksen D. (2023). Summary of Arizona Critical Access Hospital's Community Health Needs Assessments. For questions about this report contact: Brianna Rooney bcrooney@arizona.edu

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