COMMUNITY VOICES FOR HEALTH IN MONROE COUNTY

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

DEMOGRAPHIC SURVEY RESULTS

49 Responses

AGE

53% 35-54 years old

RACE & ETHNICITY*

4% Asian American

8% Black / African American

4% Native American

59% White / Caucasian

2% Bi-Racial

8% Multi-Racial

33% Latinx

GENDER IDENTITY*

80% Female

16% Male

12% Transgender

8% Non-binary/ Non-conforming

In April 2020, the Bloomington Health Foundation and Community Justice and Mediation Center received funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to carry out the Community Voices for Health in Monroe County (CVHMC) initiative. A key goal of CVHMC is to listen to and elevate community voices, especially those who have been marginalized or underrepresented, in order to inform future health policies, programs, and services. Between June 2020 and June 2021, CVHMC hosted small group discussions and personal interviews with close to 180 community members. To hear from a broad range of voices, small group discussions were hosted specifically for Latinx residents, BIPOC (Black and Indigenous People of Color) residents, individuals with disabilities and their caregivers, senior citizens, Bloomington Housing Authority residents, transgender individuals, health professionals, and youth. The concerns mentioned most frequently by participants included health insurance; quality and availability of healthcare; and social and economic conditions that impact health. To learn more about the CVHMC, please visit https://cjamcenter.org/community-voices/.

HEALTH INSURANCE CONCERNS

✳ Difficult for immigrants (documented & undocumented) to obtain

✳ Choosing between insurance and other basic needs such as food, shelter, and clothing

✳ Challenging to keep Medicaid due to limits on assets

✳ Difficult to sort through insurance options

✳ Obstacles to using insurance, particularly for transgender individuals

✳ Hopes for more empowerment and choice

SOCIAL & ECONOMIC CONDITIONS THAT IMPACT HEALTH

✳ Availability and conditions of (affordable) housing

✳ Food insecurity, food deserts, and high cost of healthy food

✳ Lack of employment opportunities, particularly during COVID

✳ Challenging processes to access social services

✳ Lack of affordable and available county-wide transportation

✳ High costs of healthcare and uncertainty of costs prior to treatment

✳ Stigmas around mental health

✳ Inequity, discrimination, and implicit bias within local organizations

✳ Physical and emotional safety concerns, particularly among Black residents

QUALITY & AVAILABILITY OF HEALTH SERVICES

✳ Challenges finding local providers, particularly for Medicaid patients

✳ High patient load and quotas for time spent with patients

✳ Limited range of health services for individuals without insurance

✳ Need to use emergency room for non-emergency health issues

✳ Ability of healthcare providers to serve groups with special needs, particularly individuals with disabilities, non-English speakers, immigrants, transgender individuals, and low-income residents

✳ Desire for more medical centers and non-emergency clinics, more active listening by healthcare providers, equitable treatment regardless of insurance coverage, and additional training for health providers to improve cultural competence

*Note: Survey participants were allowed to select more than one option

COMMUNITY VOICES for Health in MONROE COUNTY | BLOOMINGTON HEALTH FOUNDATION | COMMUNITY JUSTICE & MEDIATION CENTER | GNARLY TREE SUSTAINABILITY INSTITUTE | O'NEILL SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS | POLITICAL AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT COLLEGE OF ARTS + SCIENCES | CENTER FOR RURAL ENGAGEMENT

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DELIBERATIVE SESSIONS

DEMOGRAPHIC SURVEY RESULTS

111 Responses

AGE

54% 35-54 years old

RACE & ETHNICITY*

2% Asian American

7% Black / African American

0% Native American

72% White / Caucasian

1% Bi-Racial

3% Multi-Racial

15% Latinx

GENDER IDENTITY*

77% Female

23% Male

2% Transgender

2% Non-binary/ Non-conforming

From August 2021 to February 2022, the CVHMC team hosted 10 deliberative sessions during which our team brought together more than 100 diverse community members, including elected officials. During these deliberative sessions, participants shared how they related to health concerns identified in the early public engagement efforts. Participants also discussed possible solutions for health concerns, including the expansion of community resources that they believed have been useful in the past. Needs for health-related policies, programs, and services discussed during these sessions included:

HEALTH INSURANCE CONCERNS

* Advocates to help residents receive needed care and insurance coverage
* Health insurance for all, including immigrants
* Policy to help people without insurance, particularly women without prenatal care
* Health insurance sign-ups at convenient locations
* Contact with state legislators to express concerns

QUALITY & AVAILABILITY OF HEALTH SERVICES

* Engagement with IU Health regarding needed improvements
* More choices and availability for care and providers, including walk-in health clinics and health fairs
* Healthcare navigators and education on existing resources
* Equitable healthcare, regardless of insurance plan
* More transparency around healthcare costs
* Improvements to provider care, including cultural competence and empathy training for providers
* Improved support networks
* Reducing the stigma associated with mental health care
* Improved mental health resources, particularly for individuals experiencing homelessness, incarcerated individuals, and children born with addiction issues
* Transportation linked to service providers
* Expanded roles for emergency services
* Use of American Rescue Plan Act funding for health services

SOCIAL & ECONOMIC CONDITIONS THAT IMPACT HEALTH

* Inclusion of more community members in health discussions (e.g., people-centered planning)
* Survey to prioritize proposed solutions
* Research best practices in other communities
* Improved education on self-care and preventative care
* Improve health and social service programs by expanding weekend hours, providing map of services, improving outreach strategies, and connecting residents with neighbors willing to help
* Use of navigators and centralized navigation point
* Expansions of existing services offered by nonprofits and enhanced collaboration between organizations
* Translation of more documents into multiple languages
* Continued use of police personnel trained to work with individuals with mental health issues
* More support for individuals recently incarcerated
* Expand affordable housing through local Housing First policy and improvements to housing voucher programs
* Improvements to transportation services
* Expanded programs for food access and nutrition, including more food pantries, mobile farmers markets, and subsidies for healthy food products

*Note: Survey participants were allowed to select more than one option