



**Community
Health Network**

WWW.MYCHN.ORG

COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT 2023

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Community Health Network Community Health Needs Assessment

Executive Summary

Stephen F. Austin Community Health Center, Inc. (dba) **Community Health Network** (MyCHN) (Center) is a federally qualified health center (FQHC) whose mission is to provide quality care that uplifts, supports, and shapes healthy communities while addressing financial and social barriers.



The vision of MyCHN is to be a leader in providing quality services and programs that enhance the lives of the people in our community.



The values of the Center are quality care at reasonable costs, education to promote healthy living, access to needed care, transparency in all aspects of our operations, competent and empathetic staff, high professional standards and commitment to advances in healthcare.



MyCHN was formed in April of 2008 to replace a Federally Qualified Health Center that lost its 330 funding. The Center received its first funding award from the Bureau of Primary Health Care Health Resources Services Administration (BPHC-HRSA) in December 2008. Throughout 2009 the Center established compliance with the 21 BPHC program requirements and the resources to operate effectively as a Federally Qualified Health Center. MyCHN hired the current Chief Medical Officer and Chief Executive Officer in April 2010. Both brought significant leadership experience which is demonstrated in the accelerated growth and innovation MyCHN enjoys today.

MyCHN operates in accordance with national, state and local rules and regulations. These include the By-Laws established by the consumer majority Board of Directors; and healthcare quality standards established by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Bureau of Primary Health Care and the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. MyCHN complies with all guidelines for the Health Resources and Services Administration for Federally Qualified Health Centers.

MyCHN seeks to be the medical home for all patients receiving care at any of the 14 service sites and three mobile units and transportation vans. Seven (7) locations are National Committee for Quality Assurance Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) Transformational accredited:

- Adoue Family Health Center
- Freeport Community Health Center
- Women & Children's Health Center
- MyCHN League City
- Bay Area Family Care
- Pearland Family Health Center
- MyCHN Clute

MyCHN is seeking PCMH designation for the MyCHN Angleton (Angleton Internal Medicine and Primary Care) and Scarsdale Family Health Center locations this year.

PCMH is a model or philosophy of primary care that is patient-centered, comprehensive, team-based, coordinated, accessible, and focused on quality and safety. The "medical home" is not a place, but a philosophy of health and health care that emphasizes providing care to patients wherever they are in the disease process, from the simplest to the most complex conditions. The PCMH is a place that should "feel like home" - where patients are treated with respect, dignity, and compassion, and have a strong and trusting relationship with providers and staff. A PCMH site requires a team care model that promotes accessibility, compassion, transparency, and is built on trust and communication. PCMH is not a final destination; it is a framework for achieving primary care excellence so that care is received in the right place, at the right time, and manner that best suits a patient's needs.

MyCHN anticipates receiving Community Health Center Quality Recognition (CHQR) awards in 2023 from HRSA for 2022 activities. The CHQR badges will be awarded and posted on the HRSA website in the upcoming months.¹ The CHQR badges recognize Health Center Program awardees and look-alikes (LALs) that have made notable quality improvement achievements in the areas of access, quality, health equity, health information technology, and COVID-19 public health emergency response for the most recent UDS reporting period.

MyCHN utilizes data from many sources to develop the community health needs assessment. MyCHN incorporated health information from public datasets of Brazoria County developed by the Area Health Education Center – East in conjunction with UTMB, Texas Department of State Health Services, Texas Counties.Net, Brazosport Regional Health System, and The Episcopal Health Foundation; Census data, Community Health Assessments from community organizations and MyCHN's patient satisfaction survey information assessing the patient experience.

Community action and organizational strategic action plans will be developed based on the Community Health Network's Community Health Needs Assessment in conjunction within the scope of PCMH and services of a Federally Qualified Health Center.

Purpose

The community needs assessment was developed to describe the status of the designated population; to identify areas for health improvement; to determine factors that contribute to health issues; to ensure the mission of the organization is extended as it relates to improving the health care needs of the community; to identify areas of focus that exists in the community as they relate to health care and within the scope of services of MyCHN; to ensure the health care needs of individuals in the community are met with the collaboration of other health care providers; to strengthen the continuum of patient care; and to ensure MyCHN adequately identifies and addresses the Social Determinants of Health needs of the patient population as it moves towards to a Value Based Care payment structure.

Organizational Description

MyCHN is a thriving community care provider delivering whole person care in recognition of the patient centric model of health that optimal health is achieved by caring for all aspects of a person, their physical, oral, mental/behavioral and social determinants of health. MyCHN provides whole person care appointments where one or multiple care teams address patients' chronic conditions in recognition that one body system impacts another, e.g., diabetes creates emotional stress and often leads to depression. In this situation MyCHN's primary care and behavioral health care teams both see the patient during the same visit. In other scenarios, the dental, women's health and behavioral health team will care for a prenatal patient at a whole person care appointment. MyCHN also provides appointments for primary care, oral health and behavioral health services separately. All services are available to anyone in need of health care including the low-income, uninsured and underinsured with household incomes below 200% poverty level population of Brazoria, Galveston and Southeast Harris Counties and across multiple counties in southeast Texas along the Gulf Coast and the Greater Houston Metro Area.

MyCHN was formed as a private, not-for-profit FQHC in April of 2008 with a single clinic and administrative site. Today MyCHN operates 14 full time health centers: two full-time, full-service clinic locations and an administration office in Alvin, two in Pearland, two in Lake Jackson, two in Angleton, and a Clute and Freeport location in Brazoria County; a Bacliff and League City location in Galveston County; and a Scarsdale and Pasadena location in Harris County. The Callaway location in Alvin houses a variety of administrative staff: the information technology team, medical records, quality and risk management, human resources, and facilities staff.

MyCHN opened the MyCHN Lake Jackson location in 2023 in Lake Jackson, Texas. MyCHN acquired this practice from a private practice medical provider and began operating under the site as a MyCHN facility on May 10th, 2023. MyCHN Lake Jackson provides primary medical, mental health services, pharmacy services and Department of Transportation (DOT) physicals.

Another new venture for MyCHN in 2023 is the 7,419 sq. ft. MyCHN Technology Drive, full-service location. MyCHN Technology Drive opened to patients on May 1, 2023, and supplements the current MyCHN Angleton (Angleton Internal Medicine and Primary Care) location services to provide primary health care with pediatric and prenatal services, dental, behavioral health (psychotherapy and

psychiatry) and pharmacy services to a population that is underserved. MyCHN applied for an FQHC Incubator Program Capital Improvement Construction and Equipment grant through the Texas Department and State Health Services for a site in Angleton. MyCHN received a funding award in August 2022. The Staffing Development and Equipment funding was used to staff and equip a renovated space at the Angleton Business Park on Technology Drive. The spacious MyCHN Technology Drive accommodates a full-service health center with a Class A pharmacy.

MyCHN's newest venture is the MyCHN Pasadena, a full-service site in Pasadena (Harris County), 7.5 miles (12 minutes) from MyCHN's Scarsdale Family Health Center. The MyCHN Pasadena site opened July 1, 2023, and provides whole person care with primary medical, behavioral health (psychotherapy and psychiatry), Suboxone services, dental, and pharmacy services at a 2,000 sq. ft. location in Pasadena, Texas.

The Center has a Mobile Unit equipped to provide medical, limited oral health; and behavioral health services via telehealth. MyCHN's second Mobile Unit is designated for HIV testing, Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) Medication and outreach and education services. MyCHN's HIV Patient Navigator team take the Mobile Unit into the community and provide PrEP using telehealth services. The second Mobile Unit is already in scope and is being outfitted with a dual use exam table, sink, wheelchair lift, and refrigerator. MyCHN secured the second Mobile Unit through the American Rescue Health Center Plan Capital Improvement funding.

MyCHN continually strives to extend its reach to serve those in greatest need. MyCHN provides primary medical care at two intermittent locations on a part-time basis at Brazos Place, an inpatient detox center, and the Salvation Army Shelter in Freeport.

MyCHN purchased a 9,593 sq. ft. building in Freeport in 2022. Plans are fluid for the building purpose, but the overall goal is expansion of services to the Freeport community.

MyCHN employs 16 physicians, 26 mid-level medical providers, nine dentists, 6 hygienists, 17 therapists, 12 mental health psychiatric nurse practitioners, and contracts with one psychiatrist to ensure whole person care at all sites. In 2021, MyCHN provided comprehensive primary care services to 36,882 unduplicated patients with 124,057 visits. MyCHN increased the total number of visits provided in 2022 by 21% with 108,455 in-person visits and 47,949 medical and behavioral health virtual visits, culminating in a total of 156,404 visits in 2022.

MyCHN serves all individuals regardless of insurance type and assists those who are low-income or uninsured with household incomes below 200% poverty level or lack access to quality services in their communities. State, federal, and private foundation grants help fund the cost of caring for the uninsured and low-income. MyCHN accepts patients that have Medicaid, Medicare, private insurance or are uninsured that pay full pay or qualify for sliding fee scale. Dedicated staff provide superior care that is tailored to the needs of the individual resulting in better clinical outcomes and an improved patient experience.

The MyCHN Pharmacy is staffed with 13 full-time pharmacists, and the “virtual pharmacy” or TelePharmacy is staffed with 17 certified pharmacy technicians and four pharmacy navigators. The Scarsdale Pharmacy Class A pharmacy received specialty licenses for mail order and specialty drugs URAC Accreditations in 2022. All MyCHN pharmacies and the Parkwood location offer very reduced priced brand-name medications through MyCHN’s participation in the 340 Drug Discount Program. Pharmacy services are a key element of integrated services and play a vital role in whole person care. MyCHN expanded the number of pharmacies it contracts with to ensure patients living throughout its service area have access to needed pharmaceuticals.

MyCHN has five in-house Class A Pharmacies, Freeport, Scarsdale, Adoue, League City and Silverlake, and five Telepharmacies at the Women and Children, Pearland, BCDC and at both Angleton sites and has imminent plans to open a Remote pharmacy at new MyCHN Pasadena site late 2023. MyCHN pharmacies provide brand name prescriptions at a significantly reduced cost for patients. Prescription services are available to registered patients without the expense of a pharmacist using TelePharmacy.

MyCHN provides Telehealth primary medical and behavioral health, including psychiatry and group therapy, to new and established patients. In 2021, the State of Texas approved virtual visits for Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) and Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) services, MyCHN immediately responded and implemented virtual visits to MAT and IOP services to reduce barriers to care. MyCHN provides in-person care while continuing to offer virtual services. Therapists are available at all MyCHN sites to accommodate patient preferences and needs. Patients who lack transportation to appointments continue to seek virtual care options.

Comprehensive service integration is a hallmark of MyCHN’s programs. Key places where services are integrated are in eligibility and between service departments as mentioned with Whole Person Care. Medication Assisted Treatment is integrated into primary care to treat substance use disorders and prevent opioid overdose. MyCHN has integrated screenings for dental care into its electronic health record (EHR) system to assess patient oral health needs in the primary care clinic. MyCHN provides care coordination through its primary care services and within the behavioral health department for Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) patients and those hospitalized with mental health issues in need of integrated behavioral health care coordination, access to assessment and referral to appropriate mental health services.

MyCHN uses audio, video and telemedicine equipment to provide virtual care for patients off site, and issues Remote Patient Monitoring (RPM) devices and MiFi enabled tablets so patients may send vitals to MyCHN care coordinators. Whenever abnormal vital signs are received, e.g., oxygen saturation rates, blood pressure, blood sugar, weights and BMIs, the care coordinator follows the approved Standard of Care to respond. Care coordination staff contact patients after the primary care provider (PCP) is notified and may be asked to schedule a virtual visit with their PCP, adjust their medications or diets, schedule an in-office visit, etc. to ensure the patients remain stable and positive outcomes are achieved.

MyCHN's Value-Based Care (VBC) embraces a team-based approach to patient management by monitoring health outcomes against the cost of healthcare. This approach benefits patients, providers, payors, suppliers, and the community. VBC utilizes enabling services such as care coordination to close care gaps and direct patient care to improve health. The result is a payment structure that compensates providers based on actual improvements in health outcomes over time instead of the current fee for service payment for visits. MyCHN's VBC Program is composed of nine elements:

1. Chronic Care Management Care Coordination
2. Remote Patient Monitoring (RPM) With MyVitals
3. Referral Management
4. CPRIT Navigation and Women's Health Management
5. Patient Navigation (ReCare)
6. Medication Assistance Treatment (MAT) Navigation
7. Behavioral Health Integration (BHI) Case Management
8. Transitional Care (hospitalizations)
9. Senior Care Population Management (Medicare/Medicare Advantage Plans)

MyCHN's VBC Remote Patient Monitoring (RPM) program began in 2020 with a three-year grant from the Episcopal Health Foundation and provides extended care opportunities for patients with comorbid medical conditions from in-home connected device monitoring and submission of daily vital sign readings. Year 1 of the program began with offering patients' virtual visits through a smart cellular tablet and dispensing digital smart package kit that includes blood pressure cuffs, a glucometer, pulse oximeters, and a scale to collect vitals. The RPM coordinator conducts a 20-minute care coordination visit monthly to discuss care plans, care goals and assist patients with resources as well as monitor the patient's vitals data in real time to assist with immediate anomalies or abnormalities in readings. MyCHN obtained private funding for Years 2 and Year 3 to secure and distribute the RPM devices, tablets with broadband access and salary support for care coordinators. The care coordinators work closely with the patients' providers to evaluate the patients for fluctuations in vital signs and blood values. Broadband access is now a standard question for all patients registering for care. The tablets are issued only to patients without broadband access and smart technology at home. A new grant from the Episcopal Health Foundation extends the concept of RPM to behavioral health concerns. Patients with mental health issues in need of psychiatric medications are provided digital devices to track vital signs to adjust dosage. Additional mood applications are installed in the tablets dispensed to behavioral health patients to gauge anxiety, depression, and changes in affect. A major impact of the funding is that RPM vital sign readings for both medical and behavioral health patients are now incorporated directly into the patient's vital sign section of their patient chart and may be pulled into encounter notes for real time intervention and quality reporting. With the upgrade, RPM care coordinators no longer have to manually enter vital sign data from the RPM dashboard into the patient's EHR in the vitals section.

MyCHN also sends out @Home teams of clinical support staff to patient homes for those patients who are elderly, home bound and/or find it hard to make it to the clinic to close care gaps such as Fall Screens, draw labs, obtain vital signs, complete diabetic foot exams, complete depression screens (PHQ), and obtain social determinant of health screens (SDOH). The staff also provide RPM devices and tablets and train the patients how to use the devices during the home visits. If a provider visit is necessary, the

@Home team contacts the patient's PCP during the home visit. The visits have prevented emergency room visits and hospitalizations for patients with diabetes when ulcers and wounds were identified. MyCHN plans to initiate the same services out of the three clinic sites; Lake Jackson, Angleton and Pasadena sites. MyCHN expanded its @Home care as part of its strategic plan to offer value-based care that meets patients where they are at; eliminate, assess and address social determinants of health barriers and address the health care gaps that may not be completed in the typical 20-minute office visit.

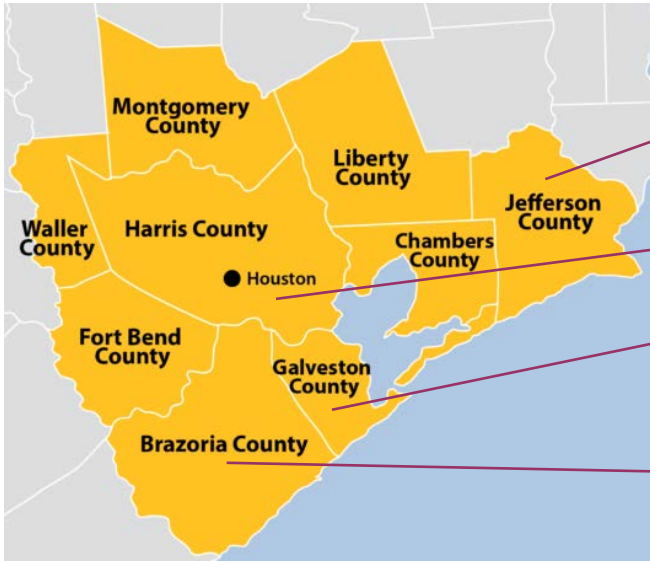
MyCHN integrated Wound Care into primary care at the Scarsdale and Freeport locations. Wound care services are available for patients with deep lacerations, patients with diabetes and other wounds that do not heal on their own. MyCHN provides Podiatry services at the Scarsdale location for patients. Patients with diabetes and other foot issues utilize the services of the contracted provider such that services are expanding to another day and location. MyCHN plans to integrate more specialty care services into its primary care clinics.

MyCHN increased access to new and established patients in response to the demand for virtual care in 2021 and 2022 by enhancing its patient portal to help streamline patient registration and connect patients with their medical provider through virtual technology while social distancing. MyCHN continued technology enhancements, partnering with its partners to develop a Phone App for Androids and Apple that soft launched in Summer 2022. The MyCHN Phone App provides easy access for patients to schedule virtual, in person and on demand appointments, review test results and vaccine records, request medication refills, view provider profiles, and connect to patient (RPM) devices. MyCHN continues to develop the phone app with plans to provide virtual visits, patient engagement, screens and the ability to chat with staff in the next release. The new patient engagement application is in development and is slated for release within the next several months.

MyCHN responds to access for care with virtual and in-person services, increasing the number of visits and persons served each year through whole person care.

MyCHN's behavioral health department array of therapy and psychiatry including substance use, group therapy and screening, brief intervention and referral to therapy (SBIRT) services has experienced tremendous growth throughout 2022-2023. Demand for in-person and virtual services exploded during and beyond the Covid-19 pandemic and MyCHN hired additional licensed staff to meet the needs of the community. MyCHN has integrated Patient Center Medical Home guidelines into behavioral health along with value-based outcomes such as keeping patients out of hospitals, emergency room visits and the criminal justice system by utilizing its Crisis Prevention team. MyCHN provides an annual data report to the Health Resources and Services Administration. In September 2022, MyCHN was successfully awarded a 5-year planning grant to become the first Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Planning Grants (CCBHC) in Texas. The planning grant prepares MyCHN to apply for certification through the State of Texas to apply for certification as a CCBHC. One of the goals is to improve access to care and reduce unnecessary emergency room visits. The grant allowed MyCHN to hire qualified mental health providers (QMHP) to screen patients into the most appropriate care. The QMHP's work closely with MyCHN's Crisis Prevention program, developed in 2022, The Crisis Prevention program assists patients experiencing mental health crisis.

MyCHN Locations:



- 📍 Established Sites
- 📍 2023-2024 Anticipated Sites

- 📍 New Beaumont Site (2024)
- 📍 MyCHN Pasadena
- 📍 Scarsdale Family Health Center
- 📍 Bay Area Family Care
- 📍 MyCHN League City
- 📍 Adoue Family Health Center
- 📍 Freeport Community Health Center
- 📍 Lake Jackson Family Care (inside Brazos Mall)
- 📍 MyCHN Angleton (Angleton Internal Medicine & Primary Care)
- 📍 MyCHN Clute (Brazoria County Dream Center)
- 📍 MyCHN Lake Jackson
- 📍 MyCHN Silverlake
- 📍 MyCHN Technology Drive
- 📍 Pearland Family Health Center
- 📍 Women & Children’s Health Center
- 📍 Medical Mobile Unit (MMU)
- 📍 New Freeport Site (2024)



The data charts and graphs below demonstrate exponential growth in all departments over the last few years.

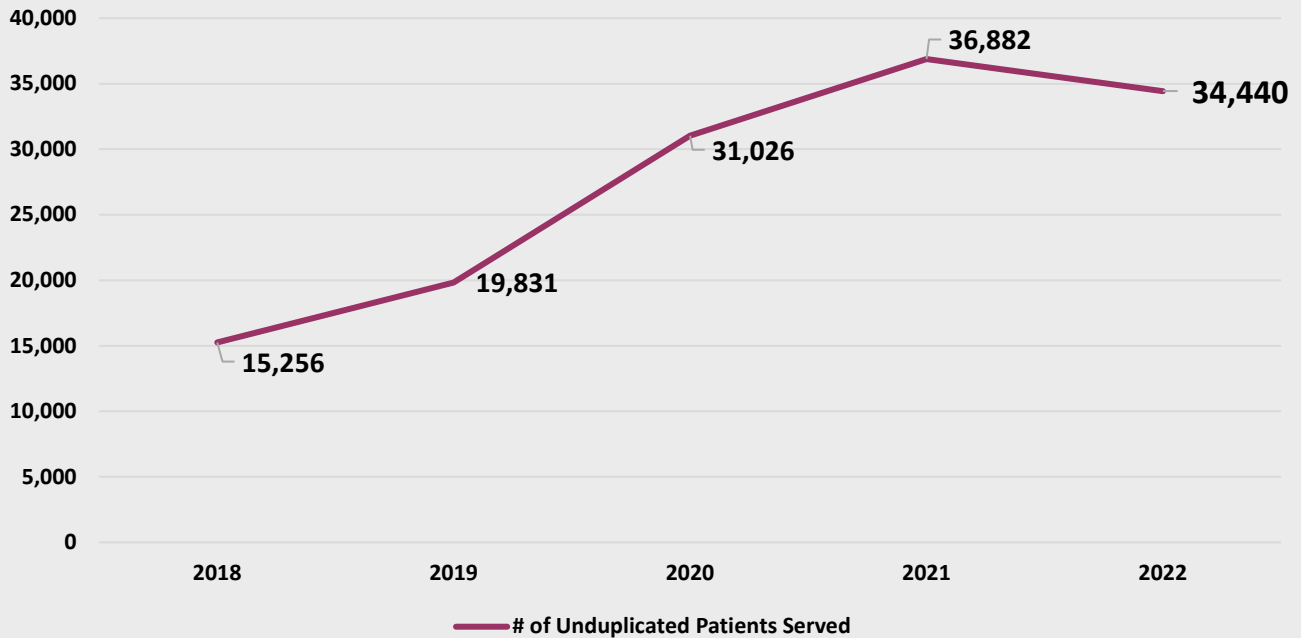
This chart represents the actual % of patients per service category for MyCHN from 2018 – 2022.

| Services | 2018 | | 2019 | | 2020 | | 2021 | | 2022 | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|--------|---------------|--------|---------------|--------|---------------|--------|---------------|---------------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Medical | 12,382 | 81.16% | 15,699 | 79.16% | 26,926 | 86.79% | 27,814 | 75.41% | 27,000 | 78.40% |
| Dental | 4,810 | 31.53% | 5,608 | 28.28% | 4,441 | 14.31% | 4,661 | 12.63% | 8,048 | 23.37% |
| Mental Health | 1,712 | 11.22% | 2,705 | 13.64% | 3,611 | 11.64% | 4,706 | 12.76% | 6,175 | 17.93% |
| Substance Use Disorder | 57 | 0.37% | 94 | 0.47% | 297 | 0.96% | 548 | 1.49% | 1,721 | 5.00% |
| TOTAL NUMBER OF PATIENTS | 15,256 | | 19,831 | | 31,026 | | 36,882 | | 34,440 | |

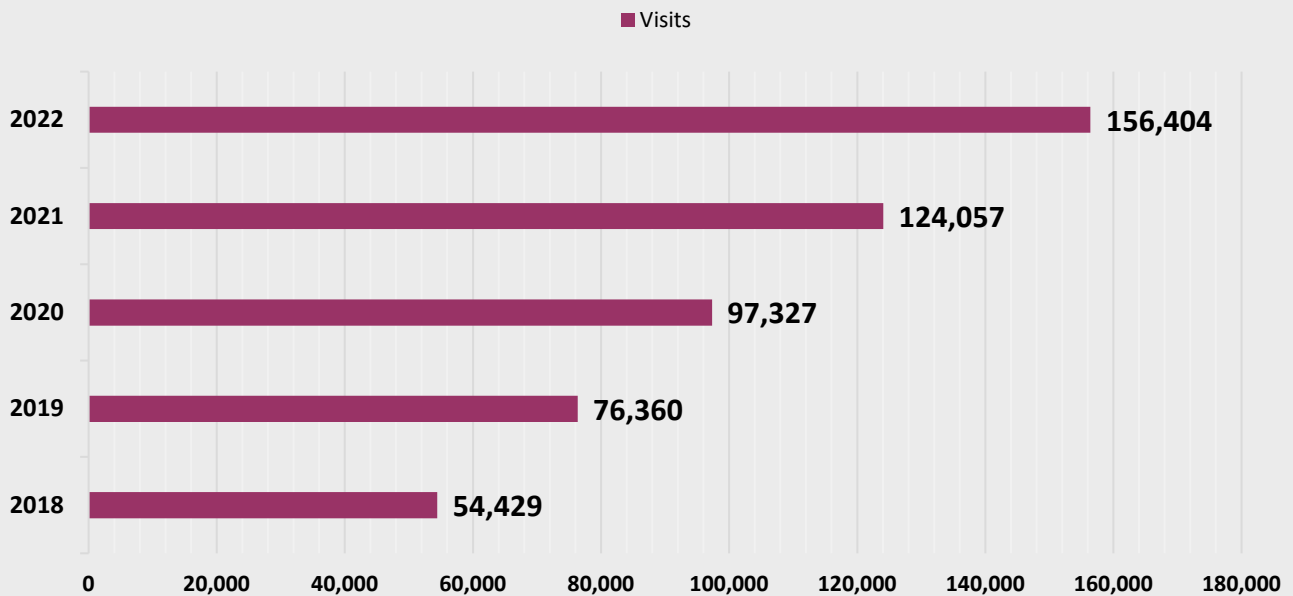
| Income Status | 2018 | | 2019 | | 2020 | | 2021 | | 2022 | |
|--|---------------|--------|---------------|--------|---------------|--------|---------------|--------|---------------|---------------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Income Status (% of patients with known income) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Patients at or Below 200% FLP Guideline | 12,797 | 94.91% | 17,532 | 96.24% | 26,667 | 95.15% | 26,359 | 94.83% | 24,056 | 93.63% |
| Patients at or Below 100% FLP Guideline | 10,367 | 76.89% | 14,720 | 80.80% | 25,574 | 80.54% | 21,720 | 78.14% | 20,090 | 78.20% |
| Total Patients with Known Income (Denominator) | 13,483 | | 18,217 | | 28,027 | | 27,795 | | 25,692 | |

MyCHN's Health Center Program Uniform Data System (UDS) Data Overview²

MyCHN's Unduplicated Patients Served Through the Years



MyCHN Visit Trend



In 2021, MyCHN provided 71,225 in-person visits and 52,832 virtual visits, a grand total of 124,057 visits.

MyCHN increased its visits by 21% in 2022 by providing 108,455 in-person visits and 47,949 medical and behavioral health virtual visits, culminating in a grand total of 156,404 visits.

Community Health Network Services



Services provided by Community Health Network (MyCHN) include, but are not limited to the following:



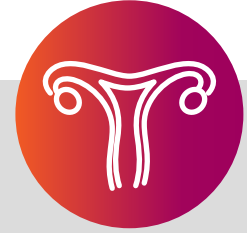
Whole Person Care Services

- *Primary Health
- *Dental Health
- *Behavioral Health
- *Pharmacy



Primary and Family Medicine

- *Remote Patient Monitoring
- *@Home Care
- *Patient & Family Education
- *Acute, Preventive & Chronic Care



Women's Health

- *Prenatal Care
- *OB Delivery Services
- *Well Woman Care
- *Cervical Screens
- *Breast Screens
- *Contraceptives



Pediatric Care

- *Newborn Care
- *Well Child Exams
- *Immunizations
- *Pediatric Dental
- *Acute Care



Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) Program

- * Detoxification & Maintenance



Dental Care

- *Preventative:
 - Exams
 - Oral Health
 - Hygiene
- *Endodontics
- *Prosthodontics
- *Pediatric Sedation



Counseling

- *Individual Therapy
- *Therapy Support Groups
- *Group Therapy
- Transportation
- *Crisis Program



Psychiatry

- *Medication Management
- *Substance Use Treatment Services



Pharmacy Services

- *Class A
- *Telepharmacy
- *URAC Specialty
- *URAC Mail Order



Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)

- *Food Insecurity Screenings
- * Prepare Screens/Referrals
- *SDOH Platform
- *Food for Change - Food Rx Program



Care Coordination/Navigation

- *Chronic Care Management
- *Pediatric Care Coordination
- *CPRIT Navigation
- *Senior Medicaid/Medicare Advantage



Insurance Enrollment

- *HHSC Community Partner Program
- *Medicaid, SNAP, TANF Application Assistance
- *My Concierge Program



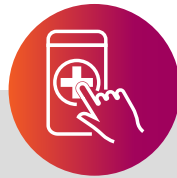
Eligibility

- *Financial Screenings -State/Federal funding programs



After Hours Coverage

- *Continuity of Care



Virtual Care for Medical and Behavioral Health



Student Health Services

- *Medical Students
- *Medical Residents



Health Information Exchange

- *Greater Gulf Coast Community Network



Health in the Home Services

- *Care Gap Closure
- *Virtual Care



Outreach and Enrollment



Advances in Health Research

- *Clinical Trials



Immtrac Bidirectional Interface

- *VFC Children
- *Texas Adult Safety Net



HIV Testing

- *HIV Treatment
- *PrEP Prescribing
- *Patient Education



Radiology

- *Ultrasound Services



CHN MSS

- *Phone App
- *SDOH Referral Network
- *Remote Patient Monitoring



Specialty Services

- *Podiatry
- *Wound Care
- *Oncology
- *Infusion Services



Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC)

- *Screening, Assessment & Diagnosis
- *Patient-Centered Treatment Planning
- *Outpatient MH SUD (Brazos Place)
- *Crisis Services (24Hr Mobile, Stabilization)(GCC/MyCHN)
- *Peer Support
- *Psychiatry Rehab (GCC)
- *Targeted Case Management (GCC)
- *Primary Care Screening & Monitoring
- *Armed Forces & Services (GCC)

Service Area

Geography:

MyCHN currently provides services and programs to residents of Brazoria, Galveston and Southeast Harris County, Texas. Brazoria County borders the Gulf of Mexico on the southeast, and the City of Houston on the northwest. Brazoria also shares borders with Harris, Matagorda, Fort Bend, Wharton and Galveston Counties.

Per the 2022 Texas Association of Counties, Brazoria County is exceptionally large in area with 1,363.3 square miles of land ranking it the 15th largest and most populated county in the State of Texas with 388,181 individuals. It is less dense with 284.74 population per square mile than its nearby neighbors.³ Galveston County, in comparison, is much smaller in size with 379.3 square miles of land and a population of 357,117 (941.52 population per square mile).⁴ Harris County with 1,707 square miles of land is the 1st largest and most populated county in Texas. It is extremely population dense with 2,800.7 individuals per square mile (population of 4,780,913).⁵ MyCHN now services in the Southeast Harris County, the area has a total population of 95,912 in an area of 75.4 sq. miles for a population density of 1,272.5.⁶

While the Covid-19 Pandemic phase has passed, the impact Covid-19 left behind caused significant hardships due to the economic fallout and a significant decrease in population due to the unfortunate deaths cause by the Coronavirus. However, the data demonstrates a slight growth in population between 2022 and 2023 which “shows early indication of recovery amid the Covid-19 Pandemic”.⁷ In the last two years the U.S. population has grown at the slowest rate in history due to the impact of Covid-19. According to the U.S. Census data “The U.S. population grew by just 1,838,000 (0.55 percent) between April 2020, when the 2020 Census was collected, and July 2022, according to recent Census Bureau estimates. This was the smallest two-year percentage increase in history. There have been just 431,000 more births than deaths since the 2020 Census.”⁸

Additionally, per the U.S. Census Bureau, Texas is now one of the top two states in the U.S. to pass the 30 million plus population, second next to California. While the California population increased due to domestic migration, the Texas population increased across multiple factors such as “more births than deaths; around 29% from net domestic migration gains; and 22% from net international migration gains.”⁹

The largest city in Brazoria County is Pearland with a population of 126,949.¹⁰ Pearland is within 15 miles of downtown Houston and is considered, by most, a Houston suburb. The remainder of Brazoria County has less populated cities and vast areas that are rural; with some areas designated medically underserved and economically disparate. The largest city in Galveston County is League City with a population of 117,434.¹¹ League City is 23 miles southeast of Houston and the same distance northwest of Galveston (city). The largest city in Harris County is Houston, considered the County Seat with a population of 2,302,878.¹²

Population:

According to the 2021 1-Year U.S. Census American Community Survey (ACS), an estimated 379,689 people live within Brazoria County. The ACS 2017-2021 5-year estimate demonstrates a population estimate of 368,575 for Brazoria County. Ethnically, 31.6% of the population is Hispanic; racially 15.8% of the population is African American, 72.2% is white (non-Hispanic), 7.7% is Asian and 8.9% is other or multiracial. The population is young with a median average age of 36.1, 50.6% of the county is male and 49.4 % is female.¹³ Brazoria County has 17,220 Veterans.¹⁴

Per the 2021 1-Year U.S. Census, ACS, an estimated 355,062 people live within Galveston County. The ACS 2017-2021 5-year estimate demonstrates a population estimate of 347,084 for Galveston County. Ethnically, 25.5% of the population is Hispanic; racially 13.9% of the population is African American, 81.1% is white (non-Hispanic), 4.2% is Asian and 9.1% other or multiracial. The population is young with a median average age of 37.9, 49.4% of the county is male and 50.6% is female.¹⁵ Galveston County has 21,080 Veterans.¹⁶

Per the 2021 1-Year U.S. Census, ACS, an estimated 4,728,030 people live within Harris County. The ACS 2017-2021 5-year estimate demonstrated a population estimate of 4,697,957 for Harris County, an estimated 95,912 people live within the Southeast Harris County service area. Ethnically, 32.4% of the Southeast Harris County population is Hispanic; racially 5.2% is African American, 78.4% is white (non-Hispanic), 1.5% is Asian and 10.0% other or multiracial. The population is young with a median average age of 37.4, 49.5% of the county is male and 50.5% is female.¹⁷ The Southeast Harris County has 5,925 Veterans.¹⁸

The two Counties and the Southeast Harris County like Texas are aging with Galveston and Southeast Harris demonstrating the largest growth in the 65+ age group and a younger population, 0-17 years than the State or Brazoria County¹⁹:

2021 County Breakdown by Age²⁰

| | 0 – 17 Years | 18 – 64 Years | 65+ Years | 85+ Years |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| TEXAS | 26% | 62% | 11% | 1% |
| Brazoria County | 26% | 62% | 11% | 1% |
| Galveston County | 24% | 61% | 13% | 2% |
| Southeast Harris County | 24% | 61% | 13% | 1% |

Economy:

The 2021 5-year ACS Survey results show 17.6% of the Texas population is uninsured. The same survey data demonstrates the percentage of uninsured in Brazoria County is 13.4% (47,678 individuals); Galveston County is 13.2% (45,093) and Southeast Harris County is 15.0% (14,354).²¹ The data reflects that Adults are uninsured at higher rates than children with Southeast Harris County adult residents at 21.4% compared to Brazoria at 19.6% and Galveston County at 18.6% versus Texas at 25.5% uninsured adults.

Children living in poverty in Texas is 19.6% compared to Brazoria County at 8.9%, Galveston County 14.5% and Southeast Harris County 10.8%. The data reflects that Black or African American and Hispanics have higher poverty rates; Galveston County being at the highest 14.8% (Hispanic) and 18.9% (Black or African American) compared to Brazoria County at 10.2% (Hispanic) and 6.4% (Black or African American) and Southeast Harris County at 10.4% (Hispanic) and 6.7% (Black or African American) versus Texas at 19.3% (Hispanic) and 18.6% (Black or African American).²² Children from families with household incomes below 130% federal income level qualify for the National School and Lunch Programs for Texas and receive free meals. Children from families with household incomes between 130% and 150% federal poverty level qualify for reduced price meals. Participants must register through their school districts to qualify. The percentage of children eligible for the free or reduced breakfast and lunch program in Brazoria County is 51%, Galveston County is 49% compared to Harris County at 69% and the State at 60% (Community Health Rankings).

Income:

Pearland, the largest in Brazoria County has a median income of \$112,815, however Manvel has the highest median household income level in the county of \$113,854. The remainder of the county has a much lower median income level of \$82,460. League City, the largest city in Galveston County has a median income of \$112,273 while the remainder of the county has a median income level of \$78,336. The medium income for Southeast Harris County is \$85,070.²³

Median Household Income:

Brazoria County

| Zip Code | City | \$ Dollars |
|--------------|---------------|------------------|
| 77511 | Alvin | \$68,226 |
| 77515 | Angleton | \$76,282 |
| 77422 | Brazoria | \$66,227 |
| 77531 | Clute | \$66,367 |
| 77430 | Damon | \$86,750 |
| 77534 | Danbury | \$103,261 |
| 77541 | Freeport | \$52,529 |
| 77566 | Lake Jackson | \$89,434 |
| 77577 | Liverpool | \$59,375 |
| 77578 | Manvel | \$113,854 |
| 77581 | Pearland | \$102,333 |
| 77584 | Pearland | \$112,815 |
| 77583 | Rosharon | \$99,471 |
| 77480 | Sweeny | \$70,477 |
| 77486 | West Columbia | \$79,294 |

Galveston County

| Zip Code | City | \$ Dollars |
|--------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 77518 | Bacliff | \$64,886 |
| 77539 | Dickinson | \$78,825 |
| 77546 | Friendswood | \$111,537 |
| 77550 | Galveston | \$42,081 |
| 77551 | Galveston | \$54,375 |
| 77554 | Galveston | \$81,058 |
| 77563 | Hitchcock | \$70,668 |
| 77565 | Kemah | \$85,625 |
| 77568 | La Marque | \$64,106 |
| 77573 | League City | \$112,273 |
| 77650 | Port Bolivar | \$61,603 |
| 77539 | San Leon | \$78,825 |
| 77510 | Santa Fe | \$86,145 |
| 77517 | Santa Fe | \$82,928 |
| 77590 | Texas City | \$52,210 |
| 77591 | Texas City | \$59,531 |

Southeast Harris County

| Zip Code | City | \$ Dollars |
|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 77536 | Deer Park | \$83,128 |
| 77571 | La Porte | \$80,179 |
| 77502 | Pasadena | \$57,980 |
| 77505 | Pasadena | \$91,250 |
| 77506 | Pasadena | \$46,847 |
| 77017 | Southeast Houston | \$53,003 |
| 77034 | Southeast Houston | \$55,150 |
| 77047 | Southeast Houston | \$68,806 |
| 77048 | Southeast Houston | \$45,671 |
| 77058 | Nassau Bay | \$58,199 |
| 77061 | Southeast Houston | \$41,066 |
| 77062 | Clear Lake | \$98,193 |
| 77075 | Southeast Houston | \$65,442 |
| 77087 | Southeast Houston | \$46,478 |
| 77089 | Southeast Houston | \$77,960 |
| 77051 | Sunny Side | \$35,760 |
| 77598 | Webster | \$55,310 |

Workforce:

Within the past year, the unemployment rates for MyCHN’s service area continue to recover as the labor market increases due to more hiring companies and the flexibility of remote work. The Covid-19 Pandemic has reshaped the workforce across the nation, the number of individuals working from home tripled from 2019 to 2021.

Before the pandemic 5.7% of workers were working remotely from home, however according to the U.S. Census Bureau and Healthiest Communities U.S. News & World Report the “percentage grew to 17.9% in just two years, reflecting an increase of almost 19 million workers.”²⁴

Workforce Solutions – Unemployment Rate Statistics for the Texas Gulf Coast Region²⁵

| | Latest Month: June 2023 | | | 1-Month Ago: May 2023 | | | 1-Year Ago: June 2022 | | |
|------------------|----------------------------|--------------|------------|--------------------------|--------------|------------|--------------------------|--------------|------------|
| | Employment | Unemployment | Rate | Employment | Unemployment | Rate | Employment | Unemployment | Rate |
| Brazoria | 180,189 | 8,907 | 4.7 | 179,841 | 8,696 | 4.6 | 175,903 | 8,957 | 4.8 |
| Galveston | 165,340 | 7,863 | 4.5 | 164,928 | 7,677 | 4.4 | 161,485 | 7,932 | 4.7 |
| Harris | 2,291,749 | 108,357 | 4.5 | 2,285,080 | 106,985 | 4.5 | 2,238,918 | 105,593 | 4.5 |
| TEXAS | 14,418,774 | 628,676 | 4.2 | 14,355,155 | 613,485 | 4.1 | 14,058,566 | 614,934 | 4.2 |

Occupational characteristics for the three Counties compared to Texas demonstrate a higher percentage of individuals in Brazoria County work in construction (10.8%). Galveston County has a high percentage of the population in the arts, entertainment and recreation, and accommodation and food services industry at 9.7% compared to Texas at 8.8%. Tourism is a significant part of the Galveston budget, accounting for 50% of the 2021 of the Galveston County General Fund.²⁶ The same data reveals a higher percentage of individuals in Galveston County (25.7%) work in the health care industry compared to Texas at 21.7%, likely as a result of University of Texas Medical Branch and Government Workers.²⁷

- The Southeast Harris County area has a higher proportion of individuals working in the professional, management and administrative and waste management area (12.3%) compared to Brazoria Co (10.6%); Galveston Co (11.1%) and Texas (11.9%).
- There is also a higher percentage of individuals in Galveston County that are self-employed (5.6%) compared to Brazoria Co. at 5.2% and Southeast Harris Co. at 5.1%.
- The Southeast Harris Co. has a higher percentage of individuals in the retail trade at 9.6% compared to Brazoria Co (8.3%) and Galveston Co (9.2%).²⁸

| Industry | Texas | Brazoria County | Galveston County | Southeast Harris County |
|---|-------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining | 2.8% | 1.8% | 1.9% | 1.5% |
| Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services | 8.8% | 6.2% | 9.7% | 9.1% |
| Construction | 8.7% | 10.8% | 7.8% | 9.4% |
| Educational services, and health care and social assistance | 21.7% | 24.7% | 25.7% | 19.9% |
| Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing | 6.8% | 6.3% | 5.9% | 5.0% |
| Government Workers | 13.6% | 15.8% | 17.7% | 13.0% |
| Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services | 11.9% | 10.6% | 11.1% | 12.3% |
| Self-employed in own not incorporated business workers | 6.8% | 5.2% | 5.6% | 5.1% |
| Retail Trade | 11.1% | 8.3% | 9.2% | 9.6% |
| Transportation and warehousing, and utilities | 6.2% | 5.4% | 5.3% | 7.9% |
| Wholesale Trade | 2.7% | 2.1% | 2.5% | 2.5% |

2021 American Community Survey

Social and Environmental Factors

Many factors attribute to good health, and it is increasingly recognized that individuals may be impacted by:

- their social and economic environment (social determinants of health),
- their physical environment, and
- their individual characteristics and behaviors

Other factors impacting health include:

- Culture – Customs and traditions, and the beliefs of the family and community all affect health.
- Education – low education levels are linked with poor health, more stress and lower self-confidence.
- Employment and working conditions – people in employment are healthier, particularly those who have more control over their working conditions.
- Gender – Men and women suffer from different types of diseases at different ages.
- Genetics – Inheritance plays a part in determining lifespan, healthiness, and the likelihood of developing certain illnesses.
- Health services – Access and use of services that prevent and treat disease influences health.
- Income and social status – higher income and social status are linked to better health. The greater the gap between the richest and poorest people, the greater the differences in health.
- Personal behavior and coping skills – balanced eating, keeping active, smoking, drinking, and how we deal with life's stresses and challenges all affect health.
- Physical environment – safe water and clean air, healthy workplaces, safe houses, communities and roads all contribute to good health.
- Social support networks – greater support from families, friends, and communities is linked to better health.

There are no statistics on the Southeast Harris County service area, but data demonstrates disparities for living conditions related within all three counties, Brazoria, Galveston and Harris County, impacting the physical environment.

- Air quality is one area in which disparities exist. The average daily density of fine particulate matter in micrograms per cubic meter (PM2.5) particles for Texas is 8.6 while Harris County is 10.7, Brazoria County is 10.5 and Galveston County is 7.9.²⁹
- Drinking water violations exist in Brazoria and Harris County; Galveston County indicates no water violation.³⁰
- Severe housing problems defined as the presence of overcrowding, high housing costs, or lack of kitchen or plumbing facilities also negatively impact individuals' health outcomes.

- The percentage of individuals in Texas experiencing severe housing problems is 17%; Harris County's percent is 20%, Galveston County is 15% and Brazoria County is 13%.³¹

Educational Attainment: Refers to the highest level of education an individual has completed. This is distinct from the level of schooling that an individual is attending. The percentage of individuals that attain a high school degree in the service area is 87% (Brazoria Co. 89%; Galveston Co. 90%; and Harris Co. 82%), which is greater than the Texas State rate of 85%. The percentage of individuals in the service area that attend some college is 65.7% (Brazoria Co. 68%; Galveston Co. 66%; Harris Co. 63%). This number is again greater than the Texas State rate of individual attaining some level of college education (64%).³²

| Race & Hispanic or Latino Origin by Educational Attainment³³ | Brazoria County | Galveston County | Southeast Harris County |
|--|------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| White alone, not Hispanic or Latino | | | |
| High school graduate or higher | 94.4% | 94.8% | 95.1% |
| Bachelor's degree or higher | 32.3% | 38.6% | 28.4% |
| Black or African American, alone | | | |
| High school graduate or higher | 93.5% | 87.8% | 81.6% |
| Bachelor's degree or higher | 37.7% | 24.6% | 26.3% |
| Hispanic or Latino Origin | | | |
| High school graduate or higher | 75.2% | 77.1% | 78.6% |
| Bachelor's degree or higher | 27.2% | 18.9% | 13.3% |
| Asian, alone | | | |
| High school graduate or higher | 91.1% | 93.3% | 89.2% |
| Bachelor's degree or higher | 64.4% | 58.6% | 57.8% |

- The U.S. Census ACS 5-Year survey shows Southeast Harris County with the highest percentage of 95.1% for the non-Hispanic, White population who obtained a high school degree or higher; and Brazoria County demonstrating the highest percentage of 64.4% for the Asian population who obtained a bachelor's degree or higher.

People with higher levels of education are more likely to be healthier and live longer compared to less educated individuals. In addition, people who are more educated experience less anxiety and depression, have fewer functional limitations, and are less likely to have serious health conditions such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, or asthma.

- An individual's ability to achieve healthier health outcomes is tied to their ability to comprehend medical instructions as well as obtaining higher paying positions with health benefits that provide access to primary care, specialty and hospital care. Additionally, to being prepared for better jobs, people with more education are more likely to learn about healthy behaviors.

Studies have found that more education contributes to longer life expectancy, better health, and a reduction in risky behavior. Studies are further finding that education may also provide the skills to analyze information and tackle difficult problems – exactly the skills that are needed to navigate the complexities of the health system and access medical care for chronic conditions. A higher level of

education also translates into higher income and greater financial stability, both of which correlate with better health.

- People who experience poor health from an early age may be unable to engage in education to the same degree as those with better health. Poor health not only results from lower educational attainment, but it can also cause educational setbacks. Individuals with less education are less likely to advocate for themselves and their families and less likely to communicate effectively with health providers.³⁴

Food Insecurity: is defined by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) as the lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life. Limited access to healthy food measures the proportion of the population who are both living in poverty and do not live close to a grocery store. Living close to a grocery store is defined differently in metro and non-metro counties; in metro counties, it means living less than 1 mile from a grocery store, in non-metro counties, less than 10 miles. This measure comes from the USDA Food Environment Atlas, a resource which assembles statistics on food environment indicators to stimulate research on the determinants of food choices and diet quality.

- 8% (2,099,608) of Texans have limited access to healthy foods; Harris County is 6% (236,351), Galveston County is 9% (25,207); while Brazoria County is 7% (20,853). The 2023 County Health Rankings used data from 2019 for this measure.³⁵

Food Deserts are defined as parts of the county lacking access to grocery stores, farmer’s markets and food pantries with access to fresh fruits, vegetables and other healthy foods. Residents in food deserts tend to rely on fast food stores and high calorie, fatty, processed foods for their main diet, a trend that contributes to obesity.

| Brazoria County <i>Average Meal Cost: \$3.27</i> | | | Galveston County <i>Average Meal Cost: \$3.34</i> | | | Harris County <i>Average Meal Cost: \$3.36</i> | | | TEXAS <i>Average Meal Cost: \$3.11</i> | | |
|--|-------------------------|--------------|---|-------------------------|--------------|--|-------------------------|--------------|--|-------------------------|--------------|
| Food Insecure Population | | | Food Insecure Population | | | Food Insecure Population | | | Food Insecure Population | | |
| All Ages: | Children <18: | | All Ages: | Children <18: | | All Ages: | Children <18: | | All Ages: | Children <18: | |
| 39,420 | 13,690 | | 45,410 | 14,290 | | 647,450 | 248,470 | | 4,057,910 | 1,348,600 | |
| Food Insecurity Rate | | | Food Insecurity Rate | | | Food Insecurity Rate | | | Food Insecurity Rate | | |
| All Ages: | Children <18: | | All Ages: | Children <18: | | All Ages: | Children <18: | | All Ages: | Children <18: | |
| 10.7% | 14.1% | | 13.1% | 16.9% | | 13.8% | 19.8% | | 13.7% | 18.1% | |
| By Race | | | By Race | | | By Race | | | By Race | | |
| Black | Hispanic | White | Black | Hispanic | White | Black | Hispanic | White | Black | Hispanic | White |
| 13.0% | 13.0% | 6.0% | 22.0% | 15.0% | 7.0% | 25.0% | 16.0% | 7.0% | 23.0% | 16.0% | 7.0% |

Food Insecurity 2021 Data: The graph displays the Food Insecure Population and Food Insecurity Rate for all 3 Counties including Texas by All Ages, Children and Race.

- The Feeding America organization conducts an annual Map the Meal Gap to address the food insecurities throughout the nation, this year’s release focuses on the extent and variation in local food insecurity levels in the U.S. in 2021. For the first time in 2022, Map the Meal Gap also

included local food insecurity data for several racial and ethnic identities. The Map the Meal Gap states, “food insecurity levels differ greatly according to race and ethnicity, and it’s influenced by multiple factors including poverty, unemployment and lack of household assets, all which are disproportionately experienced by communities of color.”

- ❖ Per the Map the Meal Gap 2023 Report, Harris County ranks as #2 with the Highest number of food insecure persons at 647,750 and also ranks as #2 with the Highest number of food insecure children at 248,470.³⁶

Housing Insecurity: According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the definition of “housing insecurity” is broad and does not solely describe a loss of lack of housing.³⁷

- About 1 in 8 Texas households spend more than 50% of their income on housing.
- More than 1 in 4 Texas households are low-income and experience problems such as cost burden, lack of kitchen, plumbing or overcrowding.
- 25% higher rates of adults’ experience depression due to housing insecurity.
- Homeowners with missing mortgage payments or those having trouble paying a mortgage experienced depression, feelings of shame, social isolation, and anxiety.³⁸
- **Texas ranks the 6th worst state in the nation for affordable housing for extremely low-income renters.**³⁹

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Texas Health and Human Services (HSS), Texas Health Steps states young adolescents experiencing housing instability are more prone to a wide variety of physical, emotional, developmental and behavioral effects including the following:⁴⁰</p> | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Poor child-parent bonding and interactions ▪ Mental health and behavioral problems ▪ Inability to cope with stress ▪ Lack of childcare, role models & social relationships ▪ Poor sleep ▪ Injuries ▪ Elevated blood pressure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Respiratory conditions ▪ Exposure to infectious disease ▪ Poor school performance ▪ Development delays ▪ Substance use ▪ Adolescent pregnancy |

There are different types of housing challenges individuals face such as difficulty finding affordable, safe and/or quality housing, trouble paying rent, spending majority of the household income on rent, having unreliable or inconsistent housing, and overall loss of housing. Other examples include families living in a poorly maintained apartment with mold, poor plumbing and electrical code violations or overcrowding/doubling up where multiple families live in a single-family apartment. Housing insecurity may lead to homelessness unless an intervention occurs.

Homelessness: The Point in Time (PIT) count is an annual HUD-mandated survey of people experiencing homelessness on a single night. The PIT Count demonstrates how homelessness changes over time due to economic conditions, societal factors and policy advancement. In 2022, the PIT count was conducted in two separate days due to the Covid-19 surge. In comparison to last year’s PIT count there were fewer variables that impacted the 2023 PIT count this year; there was a higher volunteer recruitment and participation this year due to the reduced social distancing protocols; there was also more training, advanced planning and hotspot mapping. The 2023 Annual Point-in-Time (PIT) was conducted on Thursday, January 26th, 2023, across the Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care (TX BoS CoC).⁴¹

The 2023 PIT count data was collected for both sheltered and unsheltered individuals.

- Per the 2023 Gulf Coast Homeless Coalition Report for Galveston County there were 306 homeless individuals.⁴²
- The 2023 Homeless Coalition Report states a total of 121 homeless individuals (50 Sheltered and 71 Unsheltered) were identified in various places and in shelters in Brazoria County such as the Salvation Army of Brazoria County, Boots on the Ground, Warriors Refugee and Brazoria County Women’s Center.⁴³

| Status | Brazoria County | | Galveston County | |
|------------------------|-----------------|------|------------------|------|
| | 2022 | 2023 | 2022 | 2023 |
| Total Homeless | 82 | 121 | 166 | 306 |
| Adults 18+ | 79 | 116 | 141 | 248 |
| Children (under 18) | 3 | 5 | 25 | 58 |
| Veterans | 36 | 35 | 16 | 14 |
| Chronically Homeless | 15 | 25 | 22 | 70 |
| Serious Mental Illness | 24 | 31 | 24 | 68 |
| Substance Use Disorder | 12 | 21 | 24 | 63 |

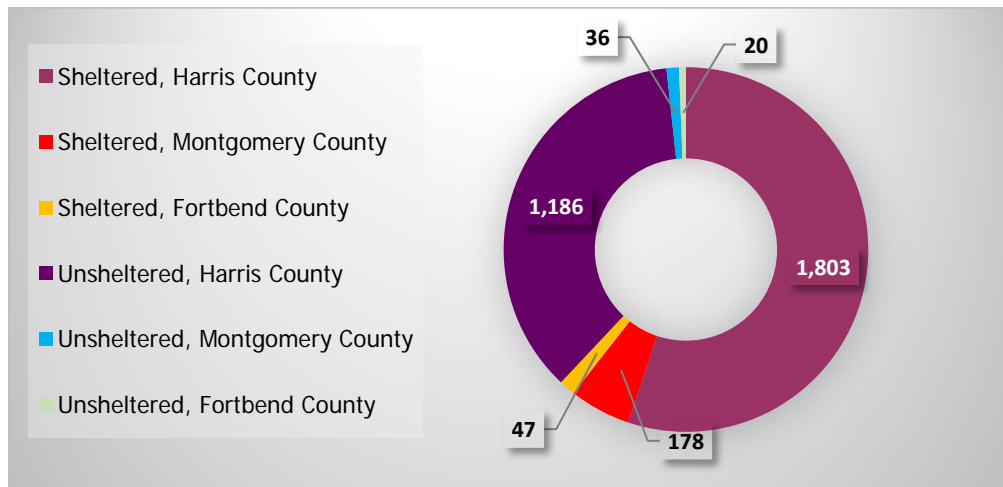
- ❖ From 2021 to 2022, there has been a 32% increase in homeless individuals in Brazoria County and a 46% increase in Galveston County.
- ❖ The number of homeless children has doubled in both Galveston and Brazoria County since 2022.
- ❖ The PIT Count data reveals individuals experiencing homelessness are also experiencing serious mental illness and/or a substance use disorder in 2023. In Brazoria County, 26% are experiencing a serious mental illness and 17% have a substance use disorder. Galveston County, 22% are experiencing a serious mental illness and 21% have a substance use disorder.
- ❖ The PIT Count data also reveals Chronically Homeless individuals who experienced homelessness for at least a year or repeatedly and who are also struggling with disabling conditions (e.g., chronic, mental illness or substance use problems). 21% are chronically homeless in Brazoria County and 23% in Galveston County.

The PIT volunteers conducted a short voluntary survey throughout the Brazoria and Galveston County communities to learn more about people and families experiencing homelessness, what kinds of problems they face and what services they may need.

| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have you been told, or do you believe you have a chronic/ongoing health condition that affects your ability to support yourself/family or live independently? | | | |
|---|----|--------------------|-----|
| Brazoria County | | Galveston County | |
| Yes | 24 | Yes | 59 |
| No | 59 | No | 128 |
| Don't Know | 1 | Don't Know | 23 |
| Refused | 4 | Refused | 8 |
| Data Not Collected | 6 | Data Not Collected | 4 |
| Total | 94 | Total | 222 |

The graph displays the comparison between both MyCHN service areas.

- Per The Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County's 2023 PIT Homeless Count & Survey Independent Analysis report Harris County identified 2,989 homeless individuals: 1,803 sheltered and 1,186 unsheltered individuals. The official PIT Count was conducted on the night of January 23, 2023, the unsheltered count occurred from January 25th – 27th with over 450 volunteers.



This data compares to the 2022 Point-in-Time survey for Galveston County in which a total of 166 homeless individuals were identified as living in emergency shelters, transitional shelters, hotel/motel and place not meant for habitation. There was a total of 82 Brazoria County homeless individuals. The Salvation Army Shelter in Freeport and the Women's Shelter in Angleton and Alvin provide resources for homeless individuals in Brazoria County. There was a total of 2,964 homeless individuals in Harris County: 1,430 sheltered and 1,534 unsheltered. With the strategic planning of the 2023 PIT count, reduced social distancing protocols from Covid-19 and the increase in volunteers to identify the homeless throughout all counties explains the increase in data for 2023.

Broadband Access: Critically important to care during the Covid-19 Pandemic and post Pandemic to ensure greater access to care is availability of Internet Access and Broadband capability. Using data from 2017-2021, the 2023 County Health Rankings defines the Texas rate for Broadband access, as the percentage of households with broadband internet connection, is 87%. Brazoria County's percentage of broadband access is 91%; Galveston County is 91% and Harris County is 88%.⁴⁴

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV): is a significant public health problem in the United States.

- In 2019, an estimate of 71,637 victims received emergency shelter and services through family violence agencies funded through the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC).
- The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) states 40.1% of Texas women and 34.9% of men experience intimate partner physical violence, intimate partner rape and/or intimate partner stalking in their lifetimes.⁴⁵
- The Texas Domestic Violence Statistics demonstrate the number of incidents reported in 2019; 2,014 incidents were reported in Brazoria County, 2,703 in Galveston County and 41,300 in Harris County.⁴⁶

IPV has lifelong consequences that lead to injury and can also result in death. Victims of IPV are more likely to report negative mental and physical health outcomes and are more likely to smoke, heavy/binge drinking, contract sexually transmitted infections and HIV, and endorse unhealthy behaviors. The most common physical symptom IPV victims face are injuries, headaches, insomnia, chronic pain, choking sensations, hyperventilation, gastrointestinal symptoms, neck, back and pelvic pain. Another result of IPV is unplanned pregnancy, pregnancy complications, decreased contraceptive use, abortion and miscarriage.⁴⁷

Mental health issues are also a result of IPV including depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, low self-esteem and suicidal tendencies. In fact, the American Psychiatric Association states roughly “20% of IPV survivors reported experiencing new onset of psychiatric disorders such as major depressive disorder (MDD), generalized anxiety disorder (GAD), and posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and a wide range of substance use disorders.”⁴⁸ While IPV can be preventable, promoting healthy, respectful, and nonviolent relationships and communities can help reduce the occurrence of IPV to prevent harmful and long-lasting effects.

Human Trafficking: is another Public Health issue in the United States, specifically in Texas.

- The National Human Trafficking Hotline states a third of the calls received are from Texas; in 2020 a total of 987 cases were reported, the second most of any U.S. state (after California); 25% of human trafficking victims are children.
- Texas ranks second in the nation for reported cases.
- Human trafficking is believed to be the highest within the “Texas Triangle that connects the Houston, San Antonio and Dallas-Fort Worth metro areas, as well as in the low Rio Grande Valley.”⁴⁹ According to The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) there are many cases where “healthcare is administered at least initially by an unqualified individual hired by

the trafficker with little if any regard for the well-being of their “patient” – and even less regard for disease, infection or contamination control.” **Preventive care is virtually non-existent for these individuals and tends to worsen until they become critical, even life dangerous situations.**

Trafficked individuals also suffer from a variety of conditions such as homelessness, poor hygiene, poor nutrition, physical and psychological abuse, and a lack of quality health care.⁵⁰

| Trafficked victims suffer from numerous health issues such as: | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, pelvic pain, rectal trauma and urinary difficulties from working in the sex industry. ▪ Pregnancy, results from rape or prostitution. ▪ Infertility from chronic untreated sexually transmitted infections or botched or unsafe abortions. ▪ Infections or mutilations caused by unsanitary and dangerous medical procedures performed by the trafficker’s so called “doctor.” ▪ Bruises, scars and other signs of physical abuse and torture. (Sex-industry victims are often beaten in areas that won’t damage their appearance, like their lower back.) ▪ Cultural shock from finding themselves in a strange country. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Chronic back, hearing cardiovascular or respiratory problems from endless days toiling in dangerous agriculture, sweat shop or construction conditions. ▪ Weak eyes and other eye problems from working in dimly lit sweatshops. ▪ Malnourishment and serious dental problems. ▪ Infectious diseases like tuberculosis. ▪ Undetected or untreated diseases, such as diabetes or cancer. ▪ Psychological trauma from daily mental abuse and torture, including depression, stress related disorders, disorientation, confusion, phobias and panic attacks. ▪ Feeling of helplessness, shame , humiliation, shock, denial or disbelief. |

Human trafficking impacts the survivor’s whole person, mentally and physically. Survivors of human trafficking frequently suffer from major psychological effects such as higher levels of depression, post-traumatic stress, anxiety, sexually transmitted infections or diseases, and substance abuse struggles and addiction. Healthcare workers need to be prepared to utilize a trauma-informed approach with all patients.

Language Barriers: in healthcare lead to miscommunication between the medical provider and patient, decrease in quality of healthcare delivery, and adversely impact the relationship between the physician and patient. **Communication between patients and medical providers is essential for effective healthcare provisions.⁵¹** A major culprit is the poor utilization of translation or lack of qualified translation services. Many entities rely on family members to translate for the patient. Family and friends are not familiar with medical terms, may leave out essential information to spare the patient or out of their own lack of comfort level with the information being conveyed. Patients that speak a language other than English do not receive the same level of care due to language barriers; patients experience longer hospital stays and are at higher risk of medication errors, inaccurate patient assessment and poor

health outcomes than those who speak English. The individuals are unable to advocate for themselves due to language barriers.

The majority 78.27% or 585,653 English Only or speak English “very well” (759,502 service area population 5 years or older) of the service area 5 years of age and older speak English only or speak it “very well” at home.

- The 21.73% of individuals in the service area that do not speak English very well or are vulnerable to barriers to quality health care if they do not receive medical translation services 100% of the time within the health care system.

The table below displays the languages spoken at home for each MyCHN service area.⁵²

| Language Spoken at Home 2021 ACS 1-Year Estimates Population 5 years and over | Brazoria County | | Galveston County | | Southeast Harris County | |
|---|-----------------|---------|------------------|---------|-------------------------|--------|
| | % | 👥 | % | 👥 | % | 👥 |
| Speak only English | 73.0% | 251,089 | 80.3% | 261,538 | 81.5% | 73,026 |
| Speak English “very well” | 29.7% | | 30.3% | | 26.8% | |
| Spanish | 19.9% | 68,399 | 15.6% | 50,890 | 16.2% | 14,496 |
| Speak English “very well” | 72.1% | 49,349 | 69.7% | 35,491 | 74.2% | 10,756 |
| Asian & Pacific Island languages | 4.4% | 15,185 | 2.2% | 7,228 | 0.8% | 720 |
| Speak English “very well” | 53.7% | 8,152 | 62.4% | 4,507 | 38.8% | 279 |
| Other Indo-European languages | 2.0% | 6,746 | 1.6% | 5,355 | 1.0% | 884 |
| Speak English “very well” | 80.5% | 5,428 | 80.4% | 4,307 | 80.1% | 708 |

Overcoming language barriers in the healthcare industry is critical for healthcare systems that are expanding and experiencing an increase of culturally linguistically diverse populations between both patients and practitioners. While language is a barrier in the community, it is also an opportunity to improve health equity by educating providers and staff identify those individuals in need of translation services to help fill the language gap.



County Health Rankings

Texas, 254 Counties⁵³

The data that follows demonstrates that **Brazoria County residents are impacted in the domain of:**

- Physical Environment (County ranks 235th)

Galveston County residents are especially impacted in three domains:

- Social and Economic Factors (County ranks 81st in the state)
- Physical Environment (County ranks 76th in the state)
- Quality of Life (County ranks 58th in the state).

Harris County is impacted in three domains:

- Physical Environment (County ranks 241st in the State)
- Social and Economic Factors (County ranks 127th in the state) and
- Quality of Life (County ranks 66th in the state).

Special factors of concern include the following for Brazoria, Galveston and Harris County based off the 2023 County Health Rankings:

| Brazoria County⁵⁴ Rank #14 of 244 ranked in counties in Texas | Galveston County⁵⁵ Rank #46 of 244 ranked counties in Texas | Harris County⁵⁶ Rank #31 of 244 ranked counties in Texas |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult obesity Air pollution – particulate matter Alcohol-impaired driving deaths Drinking Water Violations Long commute Mammography Screening Mental health providers Physical inactivity Preventable hospital stays Unemployment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult obesity Adult smoking Alcohol-impaired driving deaths Dentist (access to) Drug overdose deaths Income inequality Juvenile arrests Poor mental health days Premature Age-Adjusted Mortality Preventable hospital stays Suicide Unemployment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult obesity Adult smoking Air pollution – particulate matter Alcohol-impaired driving deaths Children in poverty Food environment index HIV Prevalence Mammography Screenings Primary Care Physicians Severe housing problems Sexually transmitted infections Unemployment Uninsured |

According to the County Health Rankings Survey 2023, Brazoria County has fewer mental health providers per individuals (1,050:1) than the State of Texas (690:1). In 2022, Brazoria County had fewer mental health providers with 1,240 individuals per mental health provider.

The data reflects an improvement in access but continues to demonstrate a severe shortage in mental health services for the County. Brazoria County is a health provider shortage area according to the Health Resources Services Administration.

Behavioral Health continues to be a significant need in Brazoria, Galveston and Harris Counties. There is a lack of mental health providers in both Brazoria and Galveston counties. Gulf Coast Centers is the Mental Health Authority for both Counties. While UTMB and the VA Outpatient Clinic employs mental health providers, only MyCHN and Gulf Coast Center provide behavioral health services full-time in Galveston County to the underserved population.

- The ratio of mental health providers to individuals in Texas is 690:1 compared to the ratio for Galveston County (750:1).
- The rate of death by suicide for residents of Galveston County is 16.0 per 100,000; the Harris County rate is 11.0 per 100,000; and the Brazoria County rate of death by suicide per 13.0 per 100,000 the same as the State of Texas' rate.
- 33% of Brazoria County individuals and 34% of Galveston County residents who were identified with alcohol impaired driving died compared to Texas individuals at 25%.

Substance use issues contribute to the demand for behavioral health services.

| | Brazoria County | Galveston County | Harris County | TEXAS |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Mental Health Providers | 1,050:1 | 750:1 | 660:1 | 690:1 |
| Alcohol Impaired Rate | 33% | 34% | 32% | 25% |
| Drug Overdose Deaths | 11 | 19 | 15 | 12 |
| Suicide Deaths | 13 | 16 | 11 | 13 |



BRAZORIA, GALVESTON AND HARRIS COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS 2023⁵⁷

Health Outcomes:

Brazoria (BRZ) is ranked among the healthiest counties in Texas (Highest 75%-100%)

Galveston (GAL) is ranked among the healthiest counties in Texas (Highest 75%-100%)

Harris (HAS) is ranked among the healthiest counties in Texas (Highest 75%-100%)

Health Factors:

Brazoria (BRZ) is ranked among the healthiest counties in Texas (Highest 75%-100%)

Galveston (GAL) is ranked among the healthiest counties in Texas (Highest 75%-100%)

Harris (HAS) is ranked in the higher middle range of counties in Texas (Higher 50%-75%)

| <i>Rank of 244</i> | Brazoria County | Error Margin | Galveston County | Error Margin | Harris County | Error Margin | Top U.S. Performers | TEXAS |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Health Outcomes Rank | 14 | | 46 | | 31 | | | |
| Length of Life Rank | 16 | | 52 | | 28 | | | |
| Premature death | 6,200 | 6,000 – 6,500 | 7,700 | 7,400 – 8,000 | 6,800 | 6,700 – 6,900 | 7,300 | 7,000 |
| Quality of Life Rank | 25 | | 58 | | 66 | | | |
| Poor or fair health | 15% | 14 – 17% | 15% | 14 – 17% | 18% | 16 – 20% | 12% | 16% |
| Poor physical health days | 3.3 | 3.0 – 3.5 | 3.3 | 3.0 – 3.5 | 3.3 | 3.1 – 3.6 | 3.0 | 2.9 |
| Poor mental health days | 4.4 | 4.2 – 4.6 | 4.8 | 4.5 – 5.0 | 4.6 | 4.3 – 4.8 | 4.4 | 4.2 |
| Low birthweight | 8% | 8 – 9% | 9% | 8 – 9% | 9% | 9 – 9% | 8% | 8% |
| <i>Additional Health outcomes (not included in overall ranking)</i> | | | | | | | | |
| Diabetes prevalence | 11% | 11 – 12% | 11% | 10 – 11% | 13% | 12 – 14% | 9% | 12% |
| HIV prevalence | 295 | | 382 | | 705 | | 380 | 405 |
| Health Factors Rank | 40 | | 42 | | 86 | | | |
| Health Behaviors Rank | 38 | | 23 | | 43 | | | |
| Adult smoking | 16% | 14 – 18% | 16% | 14 – 19% | 16% | 14 – 18% | 16% | 13% |
| Adult obesity | 39% | 38 – 40% | 36% | 34 – 37% | 38% | 37 – 39% | 32% | 36% |

| | Brazoria County | Error Margin | Galveston County | Error Margin | Harris County | Error Margin | Top U.S. Performers | TEXAS |
|---|----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Food environment index | 7.8 | | 7.1 | | 7.2 | | 7.0 | 5.9 |
| Physical inactivity | 26% | 24 – 28% | 23% | 21 – 25% | 29% | 26 – 31% | 22% | 25% |
| Access to exercise opportunities | 78% | | 85% | | 91% | | 84% | 82% |
| Excessive drinking | 21% | 20 – 21% | 20% | 19 – 20% | 19% | 19 – 20% | 19% | 19% |
| Alcohol-impaired driving deaths | 33% | 29 – 36% | 34% | 31 – 38% | 32% | 31 – 33% | 27% | 25% |
| Sexually transmitted infections | 372.5 | | 424.1 | | 530.4 | | 481.3 | 466.0 |
| Teen births | 22 | 21 – 23 | 22 | 21 – 23 | 29 | 28 – 29 | 19 | 29 |
| <i>Additional Health Behaviors (not included in overall ranking)</i> | | | | | | | | |
| Food insecurity | 12% | | 14% | | 15% | | 12% | 13% |
| Limited access to healthy foods | 7% | | 9% | | 6% | | 6% | 8% |
| Drug overdose deaths | 11 | 9 – 13 | 19 | 16 – 21 | 15 | 14 – 15 | 23 | 12 |
| Clinical Care Rank | 28 | | 44 | | 62 | | | |
| Uninsured | 14% | 13 – 16% | 16% | 14 – 17% | 22% | 22 – 23% | 10% | 20% |
| Primary care physicians | 1,560:1 | | 1,300:1 | | 1,700:1 | | 1,310:1 | 1,640:1 |
| Dentists | 1,720:1 | | 2,040:1 | | 1,360:1 | | 1,380:1 | 1,610:1 |
| Mental health providers | 1,050:1 | | 750:1 | | 660:1 | | 340:1 | 690:1 |
| Preventable hospital stays | 3,351 | | 4,565 | | 3,398 | | 2,809 | 3,151 |
| Mammography screening | 30% | | 34% | | 30% | | 37% | 34% |
| Flu vaccinations | 47% | | 50% | | 51% | | 51% | 48% |
| Social & Economic Factors Rank | 38 | | 81 | | 127 | | | |
| High school completion | 89% | 88 – 90% | 90% | 89 – 91% | 82% | 82 – 82% | 89% | 85% |
| Some college | 68% | 65 – 71% | 66% | 63 – 70% | 63% | 62 – 64% | 67% | 64% |
| Unemployment | 6.9% | | 6.7% | | 6.5% | | 5.4% | 5.7% |
| Children in poverty | 12% | 8 – 15% | 16% | 12 – 21% | 23% | 21 – 25% | 17% | 20% |

| | Brazoria County | Error Margin | Galveston County | Error Margin | Harris County | Error Margin | Top U.S. Performers | TEXAS |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Income inequality | 4.2 | 3.9 – 4.4% | 5.1 | 4.9 – 5.4 | 4.9 | 4.8 – 5.0 | 4.9 | 4.8 |
| Children in single-parent households | 19% | 17 – 21% | 24% | 22 – 26% | 28% | 27 – 28% | 25% | 26% |
| Social associations | 6.8% | | 6.6 | | 5.5 | | 9.1 | 7.4 |
| Injury deaths | 55 | 52 – 58 | 72 | 68 – 76 | 60 | 59 – 61 | 76 | 60 |
| <i>Additional Social & Economic Factors (not included in overall ranking)</i> | | | | | | | | |
| Suicides | 13 | 12 – 15 | 16 | 14 – 18 | 11 | 10 – 11 | 14 | 13 |
| Juvenile arrests | 23 | | 25 | | 15 | | 24 | 17 |
| Physical Environment Rank | 235 | | 76 | | 241 | | | |
| Air pollution - particulate matter | 10.5 | | 7.9 | | 10.7 | | 7.4 | 8.6 |
| Drinking water violations | Yes | | No | | Yes | | | |
| Severe housing problems | 13% | 12 – 15% | 15% | 14 – 16% | 20% | 20 – 20% | 17% | 17% |
| Driving alone to work | 83% | 82 – 84% | 80% | 79 – 82% | 76% | 76 – 77% | 73% | 77% |
| Long commute - driving alone | 52% | 49 – 54% | 41% | 39 – 43% | 47% | 47 – 48% | 37% | 39% |

2023 County Health Rankings

Medical Infrastructure

In addition to direct care services, MyCHN has highly integrated support services including outreach and enrollment, continuous quality improvement, peer review, risk management and patient-centered medical home. Administration and fiscal management are part of the organizational infrastructure.

There are three major hospitals within **Brazoria County**⁵⁸:

1. St. Luke's Health – Brazosport Hospital, located in Lake Jackson is a 154-bed patient tower, Level III Trauma Center, offering comprehensive acute and emergency healthcare including bariatric, cancer, cardiac, family medicine, wound care, home healthcare and rehabilitation services.
2. Sweeny Community Hospital located in the city of Sweeny, is a 20-bed, Level IV Trauma Center, critical access facility providing acute care, family medicine, general surgery, assisted living, specialty care, physical therapy and wound care.
3. The UTMB Health Angleton Danbury Campus hospital is an acute care hospital, established in 1969 and the first trauma designated facility in Brazoria County. The hospital has been part of the University of Texas Medical Branch System since 2014. In addition to an emergency room, the hospital offers diagnostic imaging, outpatient surgery, a cardiopulmonary clinical lab, rehabilitation, physical therapy and other services.

Additional hospitals and emergency rooms located in Brazoria County include the:

- HCA Houston ER 24/7 – Alvin is located two miles from MyCHN's Adoue Family Health Center. HCA Houston ER 24/7 is a department of HCA Healthcare Clear Lake serving the Alvin community. The full-service emergency room provides care for acute injuries and illnesses.
- Memorial Hermann Pearland Hospital is situated at Highway 288, South Freeway, next to large Kelsey-Seybold Clinic. Memorial Hermann Pearland currently has 64 inpatient beds and offers medical, surgical, intensive care and cardiac care.

The Brazoria County Health Department offers five locations in the cities of Alvin, Angleton, Brazoria, Lake Jackson and Pearland, Texas to provide public health services and holds indigent clinics in Alvin and Angleton. The University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston operates a women's health and a primary and specialty care clinic in Angleton, a primary care and specialty care clinic and an Urgent Care in Alvin and a women's health clinic in Pearland. Mental health services are provided through Gulf Coast MHMR which serves Brazoria and Galveston Counties.

Per the 2023 County Health Rankings, Brazoria County has 244 primary care physicians throughout the service area.⁵⁹

Access to inpatient and emergency services in Galveston and Harris Counties is significantly improved over Brazoria County with the increased number of hospitals and urgent care facilities.

Galveston County is served by three large hospitals, the health department, another FQHC, a Veteran Administration clinic and a variety of general medical clinics.⁶⁰

1. The largest hospital system in Galveston County is the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB), an academic health system with over 11,000 employees. UTMB is composed of multiple hospitals and a myriad of general and specialty clinics, and surgical centers located throughout Galveston and Brazoria County.
 - a. The UTMB Health Galveston Campus consists of:
 - i. The John Sealy Hospital, as of April 2016 several areas of the John Sealy Hospital have moved to the new Jennie Sealy Hospital; however, John Sealy continues to house the Mother & Baby and Labor Delivery Units, the Children's Hospital, Pediatric Surgery, the Sleep Lab, and various other services.⁶¹
 - ii. The Jennie Sealy Hospital, a 12 floor, 765,000 square feet, 310 bed facility with 60 ICU rooms, 10 family waiting rooms, 20 operating suites, and 28-day operating rooms. The Jennie Sealy Hospital now houses the Blocker Burn Clinic and In-Patient Unit.
 - iii. The UTMB Galveston Campus has five community health clinics: Dermatology, Family Medicine, Pediatric Primary Care, Pediatric Psychology & Mental Health and an Urgent Care clinic.
 - iv. The UTMB Galveston Emergency Room is a Level 1 Trauma Center, certified by the American College of Surgeons.
 - b. The UTMB Health League City Campus Hospital was League City's first hospital, with inpatient and outpatient care, medical and surgical specialties, expanded-hours urgent care and 24-hour emergency department. In 2020, an additional tower was added to house the medical-surgical unit, intensive care unit, sterile processing department, laboratory, blood bank, pharmacy and many other services.
 - i. The League City Campus consists of various primary and specialty care with comprehensive healthcare services such as orthopedics, sports medicine and rehabilitation, cardiac care, cancer care, GI care and advanced imaging and laboratory services.
2. The Shriners Hospitals for Children, a 30-bed non-profit pediatric burn hospital, research and teaching center located on the campus of the UTMB has consolidated their world-renowned, pediatric specialty healthcare services into one location in Galveston, Texas.
 - Shriners Children's Texas provides comprehensive orthopedic and burn care treatment, as well as correction of cleft lip and palate to all children, regardless of their family's ability to pay.
 - The hospital features: an intensive care unit with 15 acute beds and a reconstruction and plastic surgery unit with 15 beds along with 3 operating rooms; and on-site tissue bank, advanced orthopedic and cleft palate imaging, highly specialized physical rehabilitation

team including a motion analysis lab. The hospital is verified as a burn center by the American Burn Association and accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

3. The HCA Houston Healthcare Mainland is a campus of HCA Houston Healthcare Clear Lake. Located in Texas City, the 222-bed acute facility is equipped with a Level III Trauma Center, an accredited Chest Pain Center with Primary PCI and a certified Primary Stroke Center. The HCA Houston Healthcare Mainland offers an emergency room, Heart and Vascular, Surgery services, women's services, orthopedics, senior program for behavioral health, wound and care, center for sleep disorders.

Additional healthcare providers located in Galveston County include the:

- Coastal Health & Wellness is an FQHC with clinics in Texas City and Galveston providing medical and dental, laboratory, x-ray, and County-Indigent services for individuals of Galveston County on a sliding fee for service basis.
- Galveston VA Outpatient Clinic provides Primary Care services, behavioral health and women's health, mental Tele-Med, and Prosthetic and rehabilitation services.
- St. Vincent Hope Clinic and CHRISTUS Point of Light, providing general medicine, mental health, immunizations and other services.
- Finally, The Gulf Coast Center located in Galveston and Texas City provide services for adult, adolescent and child mental health, substance abuse recovery, intellectual and development disabilities.

The Galveston County Health Department manages the Women, Infant and Children (WIC) program for Galveston County, the County Indigent Health Program, provides immunizations for a fee of \$13/one immunization; \$24/two or more per visit; and currently oversees management of the Coastal Health & Wellness federally qualified health center.⁶² The health department has three locations: Texas City, Galveston Clinic, and Dickinson.

Per the 2023 County Health Rankings, Galveston County has 265 primary care physicians throughout the service area.

MyCHN now serves the entire **Southeast Harris County** and recently opened a full-service clinic site in Pasadena. The new MyCHN Pasadena is 7.5 miles or 12 minutes away from MyCHN's Scarsdale Family Health Center. Between both MyCHN service sites there are various healthcare providers, hospitals, and emergency rooms in the area.

- Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital offers a broad range of specialty services such as emergency and trauma, cardiac, women's health, wound care, inpatient rehabilitation, surgery, and an imaging center. The Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital is located three blocks from MyCHN's 77089 service area clinic. The full-service hospital also provides newborn delivery services.
 - MyCHN partners with the Memorial Hermann Hospital System and Houston Methodist

Hospital to develop collaborations to reduce unnecessary emergency room and inpatient admissions. The hospital case workers may refer Medicaid and uninsured individuals and those without a medical home to MyCHN for primary care services in lieu of caring for non-emergency conditions within the emergency room setting.

- MyCHN contracts with two area obstetricians to extend antepartum, prenatal, and postpartum care and delivery services within *My CHN Prenatal Program*. Dr. Maximos Bassem and Dr. Kingsley Asumugha cares for all prenatal patients at the MyCHN's Women and Children clinic locations at the Victory Lakes, Pearland, Alvin and Scarsdale sites, and then provide delivery services at the Clear Lake Regional Hospital (Dr. Maximos) or the Memorial Hermann SouthEast Hospital (Dr. Asumugha).
- HCA Houston Healthcare Southeast, a 350-bed full service acute care hospital, with a Level III Trauma Center, an accredited Chest Pain Center, Level III neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) and certified Primary Stroke Center by the Joint Commission. The HCA Houston Healthcare Southeast hospital provides medical, surgical and diagnostic services, women's health, weight loss surgery, cardiac and many other services.
- Legacy Community Health is a full-service healthcare system with over 50 clinic locations and the largest federally qualified health center in Texas. The Legacy Community Health – Deer Park Clinic provides family medicine, women's health, prenatal and mental health services.
- Pasadena Health Center offers a wide range of services including family medicine, women's health, pediatrics, senior care, dental, counseling services, pharmacy, lab and imaging services.

The Harris County Public Health manages several services and programs throughout the Harris County such as the Women, Infant and Children's (WIC) program, immunization program and the Health and Wellness Clinic locations in Humble and the Pasadena Southeast area. The Harris County Public Health Southeast Clinic provides a variety of low-cost medical and preventive health services; physical exams, immunizations, chronic screenings and treatment, HIV screenings, women's health, mammography referrals, nutritional counseling, family planning services, a Refugee Health Screening program and dental services.⁶³

Per the 2023 County Health Rankings, Harris County has 2,788 primary care physicians throughout the service area.



Health Disparities and Concerns

While most health measures within the service area, such as socioeconomic, births and communicable diseases are either in line or better than rates within Texas, each county has a number of mortality measures that are higher than the State as demonstrated in the table below:

CDC Wonder Mortality Data/County Ranking⁶⁴

| Underlying Cause of Death, 2018 – 2021, Single Race Results | Brazoria County Pop. 379,689 | | Galveston County Pop. 355,062 | | Harris County Pop. 4,728,030 | | TEXAS Pop. 29,527,941 | |
|---|---------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| <i>Crude Rate Per 100,000</i> | <i>Rate</i> | <i>Deaths</i> | <i>Rate</i> | <i>Deaths</i> | <i>Rate</i> | <i>Deaths</i> | <i>Rate</i> | <i>Deaths</i> |
| Child Mortality Rate (2017-2020 Per 1,000) | 5.12 | 23 | 4.11 | 16 | 5.72 | 365 | 5.29 | 1,946 |
| Malignant Neoplasms (C00-C97) | 158.8 | 603 | 190.4 | 676 | 118.5 | 5,602 | 144.1 | 42,552 |
| Breast Cancer (C50) | 10.3 | 39 | 11.3 | 40 | 10.3 | 489 | 10.9 | 3,229 |
| Colon Cancer (C18-C21) | 16.1 | 61 | 17.5 | 62 | 11.6 | 550 | 14.6 | 4,299 |
| Lung Cancer (C33-C34) | 37.7 | 143 | 42.0 | 149 | 22.1 | 1,044 | 28.5 | 8,417 |
| Prostate Cancer (C61) | 6.1 | 23 | 7.9 | 28 | 6.2 | 293 | 7.1 | 2,110 |
| Essential Hypertension (HTN) & HTN Renal Disease (I10, I12, I15) | 8.4 | 32 | 8.2 | 29 | 6.7 | 319 | 9.2 | 2,718 |
| Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis (K70, K73-K74) | 13.7 | 52 | 22.0 | 78 | 13.7 | 649 | 17.9 | 5,273 |
| Alcohol Liver Disease (K70) | Unreliable | 17 | 10.1 | 36 | 6.4 | 303 | 7.9 | 2,336 |
| Septicemia (A40-A41) | 13.7 | 52 | 21.4 | 76 | 14.5 | 686 | 12.1 | 3,562 |
| Diseases of the Heart (I00-I09, I11, I13, I20-I51) | 177.3 | 673 | 207.9 | 738 | 139.2 | 6,583 | 171.3 | 50,584 |
| Ischemic Heart Disease (I20-I125) | 93.5 | 355 | 94.1 | 334 | 76.3 | 3,608 | 93.2 | 27,517 |
| Heart Failure (I50) | 20.8 | 79 | 27.3 | 97 | 17.8 | 840 | 20.3 | 5,998 |
| Cerebrovascular Disease (Stroke) (I60-I69) | 39.8 | 151 | 50.7 | 180 | 37.2 | 1,760 | 40.4 | 11,944 |
| Influenza and Pneumonia (J09-J18) | 11.9 | 45 | 11.8 | 42 | 8.4 | 395 | 9.9 | 2,938 |
| Kidney Disease (N17-N19) | 14.7 | 56 | 21.7 | 77 | 13.1 | 620 | 15.0 | 4,426 |
| Nutritional Deficiencies (E40-E64) | Unreliable | 15 | 9.3 | 33 | 4.2 | 198 | 4.8 | 1,409 |
| Diabetes Mellitus (E10-E14) | 17.9 | 68 | 20.6 | 73 | 22.4 | 1,060 | 27.6 | 8,136 |
| Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases (J40-J47) | 31.3 | 119 | 39.4 | 140 | 19.8 | 936 | 34.0 | 10,026 |
| Other Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases (COPD & Asthma) (J44, J47) | 27.7 | 105 | 36.3 | 129 | 18.1 | 854 | 31.3 | 9,249 |
| Motor Vehicle Accidents (V02-V04, V09.0, V09.2, V12-V14, V19.0- V19.2, V19.4-V19.6, V20-V79, V80.3-V80.5, V81.0-V81.1, V82.0- V82.1, V83-V86, V87.0-V87.8, V88.0-V88.8, V89.0, V89.2) | 15.5 | 59 | 13.0 | 46 | 14.0 | 662 | 15.5 | 4,588 |
| Falls (W00-W19) | 5.8 | 22 | Unreliable | 19 | 9.6 | 453 | 8.8 | 2,590 |
| Intentional self-harm (suicide) (*U03, X60-X84, Y87.0) | 16.6 | 63 | 15.8 | 56 | 12.0 | 566 | 14.2 | 4,193 |
| Intentional self-harm (suicide) by discharge of firearms (X72-X74) | 10.8 | 41 | 9.3 | 33 | 7.1 | 334 | 8.6 | 2,528 |
| Intentional self-harm (suicide) by other and unspecified means and their sequelae (*U03, X60-X71, X75-X84, Y87.0) | 5.8 | 22 | 6.5 | 23 | 4.9 | 232 | 5.6 | 1,665 |
| Assault (homicide) (*U01-*U02, X85-Y09, Y87.1) | Unreliable | 17 | 9.0 | 32 | 12.8 | 606 | 8.1 | 2,391 |
| Assault (homicide) by discharge of firearms (*U01.4, X93-X95) | Unreliable | 16 | 7.0 | 25 | 10.9 | 516 | 6.6 | 1,942 |
| COVID-19 (U07.1) | 159.3 | 605 | 133.8 | 475 | 129.2 | 6,107 | 150.8 | 44,516 |
| HIV (rate), Texas 2019 HIV Surveillance Report ⁶⁵ | 8.8 | 33 | 16.4 | 56 | 24.9 | 1,172 | 14.5 | 4,203 |

* Rates are marked as Unreliable when the death count is less than 20.

Community Health Needs Identified

Based on the community health needs assessment conducted, MyCHN identifies the following community health needs as primary areas of concerns for the service area.

1. Lack of access to affordable and easily accessible health resources including primary care and mental health services, especially for low-income and uninsured individuals.
2. Lifestyle issues – e.g., obesity, alcohol and substance use exacerbate chronic health conditions and require professional intervention (weight counseling, intervention, referrals to Medication Assistance Treatment, inpatient and outpatient detoxification programs) to mitigate the impact to chronic health conditions, e.g., diabetes, hypertension, congestive heart failure, and other chronic conditions.
3. Survey results indicate a significant percentage of community members have diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, obesity, HIV, kidney, and cancer, and require quality whole person care to achieve positive health outcomes.
4. There is a continuous need for targeted, enabling services to assist individuals who cannot financially afford their medications, utilities, healthy and accessible food, and reliable transportation.
5. Housing Insecurity is a significant concern in Texas. Affordable housing for the lowest income earner is of significant concern and may lead to homelessness unless addressed.
6. Interventions to address mental illness and health disparities are critical.
 - Suicide rates illustrate the continued demand for services per the mortality rate Galveston is 16.0 per 100,000, Brazoria County is 13.0, Harris County is 11.0 and the same as the State of Texas' rate.
 - The overdose death rate involving various opioids such as prescription opioids, heroin and synthetic opioids (fentanyl) and those individuals experiencing alcohol use disorder prove the need for intervention. (Per 100,000 people the drug overdose rate is 19 for Galveston, 15 for Harris, and 11 for Brazoria County versus 12 for Texas).
 - Homeless individuals experience severe mental illness in substance use disorders and the number of homeless individuals in Brazoria and Galveston counties increased from 2022 to 2023. With 26% in Brazoria County, 22% in Galveston County experiencing a severe mental illness; and 17% in Brazoria County and 21% in Galveston County experiencing substance use disorders.
 - Brazoria County remains a mental health shortage area with 1,050 individuals to every one mental health provider compared to Texas with 690 individuals to one mental health provider.

Recommendations / Areas of Focus

Recommendations for 2023-2024 are to facilitate whole person care to all sites to improve outcomes and increase the availability of quality preventive services for adults, women of childbearing age and children. Efforts to address survivors of human trafficking and intimate partner violence is also needed to address the health concerns of these individuals. MyCHN will implement the patient centered medical home application at the remaining eligible sites and significant effort will be made toward preventive care, centering on behavioral health depression and anxiety screens, social determinants of health and other preventive screens, child and adult immunizations including the Covid-19 vaccine, and the integration of care coordination and social support through medical and behavioral health case management.

MyCHN will continue building community partnerships to increase access to specialized health services (cardiology, podiatry, nephrology, ophthalmology, endocrinology, etc.) available to patients within MyCHN's clinic settings as well as within the community. These initiatives will improve the Center's ability to provide value-based care focused on improving the patient's health. Other associated enterprises include a focus on interventions based on the social determinants of health and looking for value-based funding opportunities and revenue streams through public and private funding.

The Center will enhance provision of primary care services to the western portion of Brazoria County, Southeast Harris County, Galveston County and adjacent areas of high need. Options include remote patient monitoring, virtual care, transportation from these communities to existing sites, and taking care into the home to close care gaps. The western portion of Brazoria County is the most rural and underserved population within Brazoria County. Galveston County, despite the strong medical infrastructure, has significant behavioral health and medical needs.

MyCHN recognizes the demand for dental care remains a high priority issue for the low-income population. MyCHN expanded its specialty dental care by bringing digital lab services in-house to improve access to prosthodontic services (crowns, dentures and partials). New initiatives in oral health include expanding the use of Teledentistry to clinic locations and within patient homes; and provide implant services.

MyCHN initiated ultrasound services in 2023 and is moving forward with mobile X-ray services. Mammography and MRI are slated for the next expansion.

The Center will continue to expand substance abuse services, counseling and psychiatric services in Alvin, Pearland, League City, Clute, Freeport, Lake Jackson and the Scarsdale location by collaborating with social service organizations, schools, and through service expansion into existing facilities. The demand for behavioral health services increases each year and MyCHN's approach to providing these services requires innovation. Integration of medical management of behavioral health back into primary care remains the primary directive. The Center integrated PCMH into behavioral health along with value-based outcomes such as keeping patients out of hospitals, emergency rooms and the criminal justice system.

A recommendation is to hire more bilingual providers to match them to patients with shared backgrounds and with the patient population MyCHN serves.

The Center will continue to expand eligibility services to assist people enrolling in Medicaid, Medicare, SNAP, CHIP and the Health Insurance Exchange at all clinic locations and when feasible at community locations. Community Partner Program services are stressed at all clinic locations primarily serving women and children who are eligible for Medicaid and CHIP at larger numbers in Texas. Center eligibility staff will attempt to meet with all insured patients at least annually to ensure they are getting the most from their private or public insurance. With an updated 2022 Memorandum of Agreement with Texas Health and Human Services, MyCHN may now track application status for individuals' Medicaid and CHIP applications and may assist with password resets.

MyCHN will continue to work with the MD Anderson-University of Texas Medical Center, University of Houston Clear Lake, University of Houston Central Campus, Texas A&M AgriLife, the Houston Food Bank Food for Change, Houston Methodist Network to Care, Harvest for the Hungry, and Living Plate collaborations and other organizations in an effort to provide support and specialty services that have an effect on patient outcomes related to chronic diseases (diabetes, hypertension and hyperlipidemia, asthma, etc.) and cancer prevention. These partnerships allow MyCHN to provide extended no cost services to patients to create better outcomes. Opportunities exist to expand collaborations with new organizations into new communities in need of care.

MyCHN will continue to reach out to Senior Centers, Assisted Living Complexes and area organizations that serve the senior population to expand services to patients on Medicare. Further, Seniors 65 and older are being challenged to find access to primary health care due to a high rate of primary care doctors retiring or no longer accepting Medicare plans, and many face financial challenges that can be alleviated in part through Center services. Primary Care Provider and care coordination efforts to improve quality outcomes of the traditional Medicare population is the principal method that reduces Medicare costs.

MyCHN's Outreach and Eligibility team will continue to work with local small businesses to expand access to care for employees who do not receive employer sponsored healthcare. These individuals will have an opportunity to receive care at MyCHN sites either through programs, sliding fee scales, through private insurance, through the ACA and through MyCHN's subscription service, MyConcierge Access. MyConcierge Access is a monthly subscription service MyCHN offers through a phone app. MyConcierge Access offers primary care acute and chronic care, prescription medications, birth control services, laboratory services, cancer screenings, diabetes screenings, and more.

MyCHN will seek collaborations with organizations such as Head Start, WIC and senior service organizations and others to ensure low-income individuals have access to primary care, general dentistry and behavioral healthcare services. MyCHN is collaborating with the School Districts in all three counties to streamline processes and reduce barriers to students in need of service through memorandum of understanding.

MyCHN will continue to expand the use of telehealth psychiatry and telemedicine services to increase access to care at remote locations and to special populations through collaborations. Telemedicine extends care to these special populations for acute issues that most frequently send patients to the emergency room.

MyCHN will continue to deploy the mobile clinic and transportation vans to provide medical, dental, and behavioral health services and pharmacy deliveries to individuals in MyCHN's service area to provide care to individuals who lack transportation services. MyCHN will continue to invest resources to address Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) needs for the patient population to improve health outcomes within its service area. The @Home team will assess patients SDOH needs while closing care gaps. The @Home team will refer identified needs through the BrazCo Resource Network to community partners.

MyCHN will maintain its collaboration with the United Way of Brazoria County to support The BrazCo Resource Network in Brazoria County and seek partnerships with other community partners in Galveston and Harris County. The BrazCo Resource Network utilizes a SDOH web-based platform to facilitate coordination and collaboration through a network of social service and health providers.⁶⁶

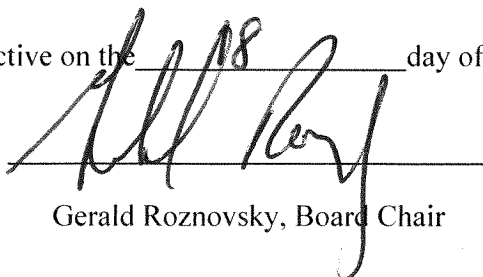
The BrazCo Resource Network is a platform for the 55 plus social service organizations and school districts to refer clients who have and SDOH need. Clients consent for their contact information to be shared. The PRAPARE SDOH screen is built into the network, and participating agencies screen the client for needs. The system identifies the client's needs and provides a list of organizations that offer services to fill the need. The agency selects the service and agency to fill the need, and a referral is sent electronically. The agency may accept or deny the referral (with reason) and is responsible for contacting the patient. The response is tracked, and the referral is complete upon successful appointment set up with the patient or resource provided. MyCHN will monitor referral reports from the network to identify the greatest needs for MyCHN's patients and use this information to build additional collaborations and seek grant funding to address specific issues. MyCHN is tracking need and referral outcome information and seeks to increase the number of screens completed, extrapolate SDOH needs from the provider encounter documentation and correlate needs met to quality outcomes in the future.

MyCHN will continue to pursue opportunities to serve the service area according to needs identified and the organizational strategic plan.

Be it resolved that the Board of Directors of Community Health Network approves the 2023 Community Needs Assessment.

The resolution is effective on the 18 day of October, 2023.

Signed



Gerald Roznovsky, Board Chair

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