

Community Health Needs Assessment & Implementation Plan

FY 2012-2013



Executive Summary

The 2013 Community Health Needs Assessment has been an experience of deepening understanding of the community that we serve in Athens-Clarke County and the surrounding counties. St. Mary's Health Care System has consistently sought to build relationships and partnerships with others who serve the needy and underserved in this community. We continue to work closely with and support free clinics such as Mercy Health Center where our physicians and employees have increased their service and involvement.

We continue to sustain a keen interest in and active participation in the Athens Health Network as it moves forward in offering assistance to the uninsured and underinsured. As well, St. Mary's has identified further opportunities to use our expertise and talent in furthering healthy living in the community with our Hope 4 Health program that was piloted in response to our 2010 Community Health Needs Assessment. In 2013, we have assessed the value of this program with plans to increase our outreach to the community.

St. Mary's has identified priorities and strategies for implementing a further growth of involvement in the community. Once again, we valued the voice of those in the larger community and in our system to assist us in the priority setting for future outreach to the community we serve. Both our financial and personnel resources were factored into the decision making process as well.

Our thanks go to our local community members and the staff and administration of St. Mary's who helped in the completion of this assessment. In particular, our thanks goes to Laura Cahill, St. Mary's Community Benefit/ Outreach Coordinator , who conducted this assessment with the assistance of Nathaniel Taylor, our graduate intern, from the University of Georgia College of Public Health.

Sister Patricia Loomer
Vice President, Mission Services
St. Mary's Health Care System, Inc.
Athens, Georgia
June 30, 2013

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I. Introduction

At St. Mary's, responding to the health needs of our community is a vital part of our mission and values. Every three years St. Mary's conducts a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) to help our health care system and other organizations better understand the health needs and priorities of Athens-Clarke County residents. A broad understanding of the health needs facing our community is necessary to prioritize and plan our Community Benefit programs as well as help plan for appropriate services to deliver care to the community. St. Mary's first formal CHNA was completed in the summer of 2010.

The importance of assessing community health needs was reinforced by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), signed into law on March 23, 2010. The PPACA created new requirements for tax-exempt hospitals including a requirement for a Community Health Needs Assessment to be completed every three years. The assessment must take into account input from persons who represent the broad interests of the community, including those with special knowledge of or expertise in public health, and be made widely available to the public.

This report was prepared by St. Mary's Health Care System to meet the CHNA requirement for fiscal year 2012. The report provides an in-depth view of the health needs as well as broader health indicators facing our community with special attention to vulnerable populations, underinsured and underserved. The social and health indicators include demographic, socioeconomic, health status and access to health care. The most recent data from local, state and federal resources were used in addition to gathering community input through key informant interviews. We feel that this assessment not only meets the regulatory requirement, but also provides an actionable plan that addresses the broader imperative of improving community health.

About St. Mary's Health Care System

St. Mary's Health Care System is a not-for-profit Catholic health care ministry whose mission is to be a compassionate healing presence in the communities we serve. Founded in 1906 and sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, St. Mary's is built on a foundation of values that includes excellence, compassion, integrity and reverence for each person. St. Mary's focuses on neurosciences, cardiac care, orthopedics, general medicine/general surgery, women's and children's health, and gastroenterology. The system includes 196-bed St. Mary's Hospital in Athens and 25-bed St. Mary's Good Samaritan Hospital in Greene County. Services include emergency care, intensive care, stroke care, cardiac catheterization, home health care/hospice services, inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation, assisted living, Alzheimer's/dementia care, preventive care, state-of-the art diagnostic and therapeutic services and a growing network of physician practices.

Georgia's Hospital of the Year in 2006 and 2010, St. Mary's is proud to be the official health care provider for the University of Georgia Athletic Association. St. Mary's has earned the Joint Commission Gold Seal of Approval for advanced primary stroke care, advanced inpatient diabetes, heart failure care, knee replacement surgery and spine surgery.

Mission

As a member of Catholic Health East and sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, the mission of St. Mary's Health Care System is to be a compassionate healing presence in our community, committed to the sacredness of human life and the dignity of each person we serve.

Vision

We will respect the needs and value the dignity of every individual and continually seek to improve the lives of all we serve, including patients, co-workers, physicians and those with whom we partner. We will optimize our clinical performance and will maintain high standards of stewardship and accountability. We will be progressive and responsive to change across the health care continuum and will be considered a vital part of the community.

Core Values

- Reverence for Each Person
- Community
- Justice
- Commitment to Those Who Are Poor
- Stewardship
- Courage
- Integrity
- Compassion
- Excellence

Infrastructure and Members of Committees

This CHNA report is the culmination of a six-month effort sponsored and coordinated by St. Mary's Care Health System. The CHNA process was guided by an internal assessment team comprised of St. Mary's Mission Services and Wellness Center staff. Members of the Assessment Team have a diverse set of knowledge and skills including experience with assessments, familiarity with the health needs of the community, and knowledge of hospital and community resources. The core of the Assessment Team's work was to compile and analyze primary and secondary data and contribute to the identification of priority community health needs for the CHNA service area.

Internal Assessment Team

Laura Cahill, St. Mary's Health Care System
Brian Evans, St. Mary's Health Care System
Sister Patricia Loome, St. Mary's Health Care System
Nate Taylor, University of Georgia College of Public Health

Community Advisory Committee

Allie Chambers, Athens Health Network
Nina Cleveland, University of Georgia College of Public Health
Tracy Thompson, Mercy Health Center

St. Mary's Health Care System Leadership Committee

Montez Carter, Vice President of Operations
Nina Evans, Vice President & Chief Nursing Officer
Marty Hutson, Chief Financial Officer
Sister Patricia Loome, Vice President, Mission Services
Don McKenna, President and Chief Executive Officer
Blake Watts, Vice President Physician & Professional Services

Mission and Ministry Committee

Carol Cason
Nina Evans
Dawn Griffin
Thomas F. Hollingsworth III
Sr. Patricia Loome
Don McKenna, President and Chief Executive Officer
Lou Perno
Bob Snipes, Chair
Charlie Upchurch

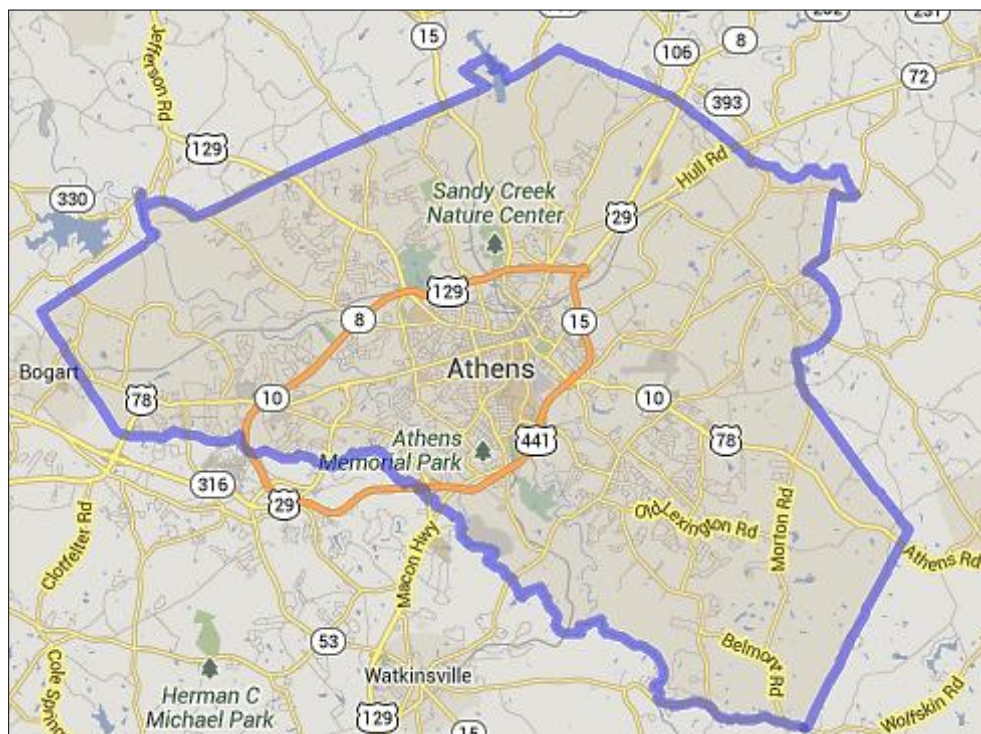
II. Community Description

St. Mary's Community Defined

St. Mary's Hospital is located in Athens and serves a multi-county area in Northeast Georgia. While St. Mary's values and recognizes all the communities served, for purposes of the Community Health Needs Assessment, St. Mary's Hospital defined its community as the service area of Athens-Clarke County. The percentage of St. Mary's discharges by county for fiscal years 2010-2012 were used to determine the Hospital's service area. This area was also selected due to the high number of residents with low incomes in the county, its close proximity to the hospital, as well as the opportunity to build on pre-existing programs, services and partnerships.

Athens-Clarke County, comprised of 121 square miles, is the smallest in land area of Georgia's 159 counties. It is located approximately 65 miles northeast of Atlanta and is 94 percent urban. Home to the University of Georgia, the nation's oldest land grant university, Athens-Clarke County is the center of education and commerce for all of northeast Georgia. Most of the county's residents live in Athens, and the city and county share a government known as the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County (Fig. 1).

Figure 1: Map of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia



Population Estimates and Growth

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates the 2010 population of Athens-Clarke County to be 116,714, making it the 19th most populous county in Georgia¹. Between 2000 and 2010, the population grew by 15.0 percent (Table 1).

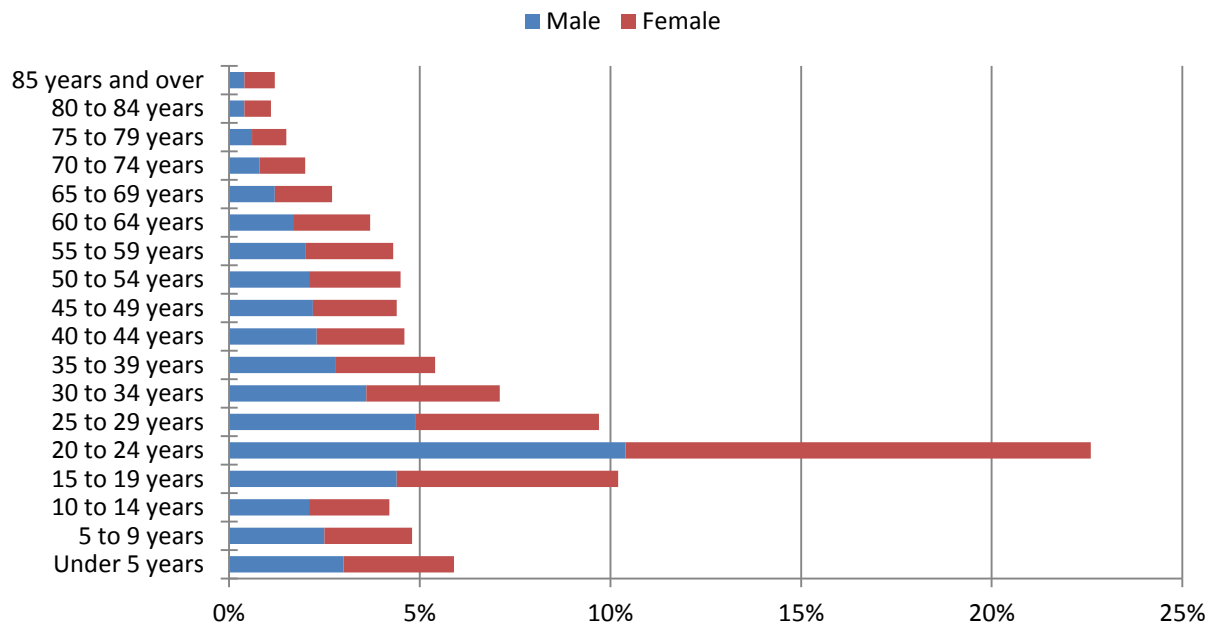
Table 1: Population Change (2000-2010)

Geographic Area	Census 2000 Population	Census 2010 Population	Population Change	Percent Change
Athens-Clarke	101,487	116,714	15,227	15.00
Georgia	8,186,781	9,687,653	1,500,872	18.33
United States	281,424,602	312,471,327	31,046,725	11.03

Age and Sex Distribution of the Population

Due to the presence of the University of Georgia, Athens-Clarke County has a relatively young population. Among counties with a population of at least 100,000, Athens-Clarke County has the third lowest median age in the United States (25.9). Of the 2010 Census population: 17.5 percent of the population were under 18 years of age; 74.0 percent were between the ages of 18 and 64; and 8.5 percent were age 65 or older. The gender distribution of the county was 52.5 percent female and 47.5 percent male.

Figure 2: Population by Age and Sex, Athens-Clarke County (2010)



¹U.S. Census Bureau.(n.d.).2010 Census interactive population search. Retrieved from <http://www.census.gov/2010census/popmap/ipmtext.php?fl=13>

Racial and Ethnic Composition of the Population

The residents of Athens-Clarke County come from a myriad of ethnic, cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds. The racial and ethnic composition of the population is displayed in Figure 3. The majority of the population is white (61.9%), followed by black or African-American (26.6%). The Hispanic population grew by 4.1 percent from 2000 to 2010 (Fig. 4).

Figure 3: Population by Race/Ethnicity, Athens-Clarke County (2010)

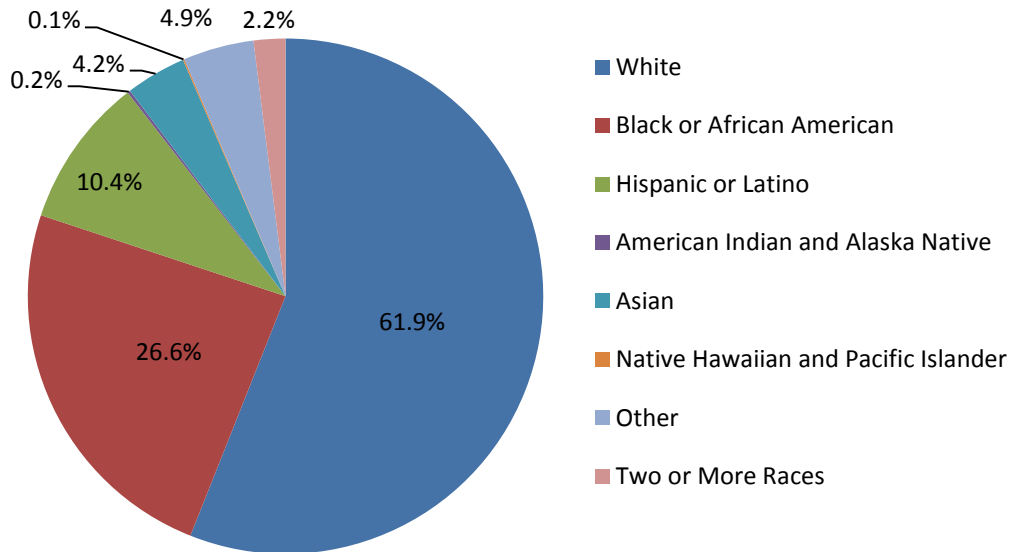
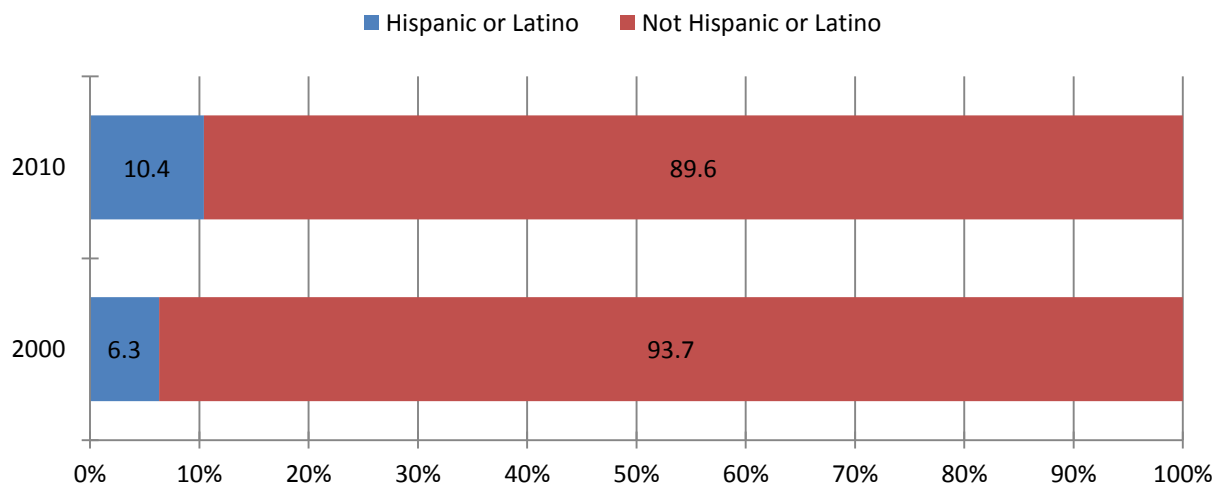


Figure 4: Hispanic Population Comparison, Athens-Clarke County (2000-2010)



Education

The residents of Athens-Clarke County exceed the state average in education attainment levels, both in terms of high school completion and four or more years of college education (Fig. 5). Of the population age 25 years and over in Athens-Clarke County, 41.2 percent have at least a bachelor's degree compared to 15.8 percent in the average county in Georgia. The county's high concentration of residents with advanced levels of education is directly correlated to the University of Georgia as well as the other smaller public and private post-secondary education institutions in the area.

Figure 5: Educational Attainment- Highest Level Completed, Athens-Clarke County (2010)

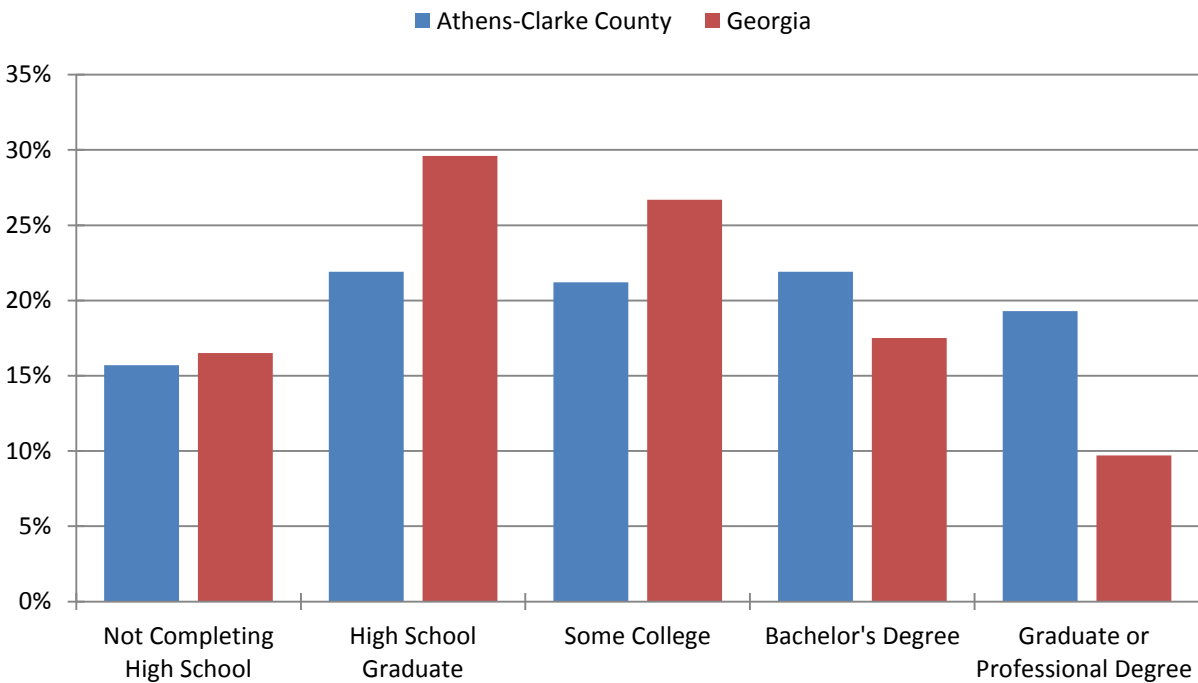


Table 2: Public School Systems, County Systems only (2010-2011)

Public School Systems	Athens-Clarke	Georgia Total	Avg. County in GA
Total enrollment	11,650	1,633,596	9,450
% Black	53.9	38.4	35.1
% White	18.6	43.1	53.7
% Hispanic	21.6	12.0	7.3
% Economically disadvantaged	79.0	57.4	66
% Students with disabilities	13.5	11.8	12.3
High school dropout rate per 100 enrolled	4.6	3.7	3.3
Class of 2011 percent completion	66.1	67.5	70.3

Employment & Income

Income data for Athens-Clarke County illustrate that the median household income and per capita income are significantly less than the figures for the state (Table 3). In 2010, the per capita income in Athens-Clarke County was \$25,309 and the median household income was \$34,000. According to the Georgia Department of Labor, the average unemployment rate in the county fell to 6.5 percent in 2012, slightly lower than the state at 8.5 percent (Fig. 6).

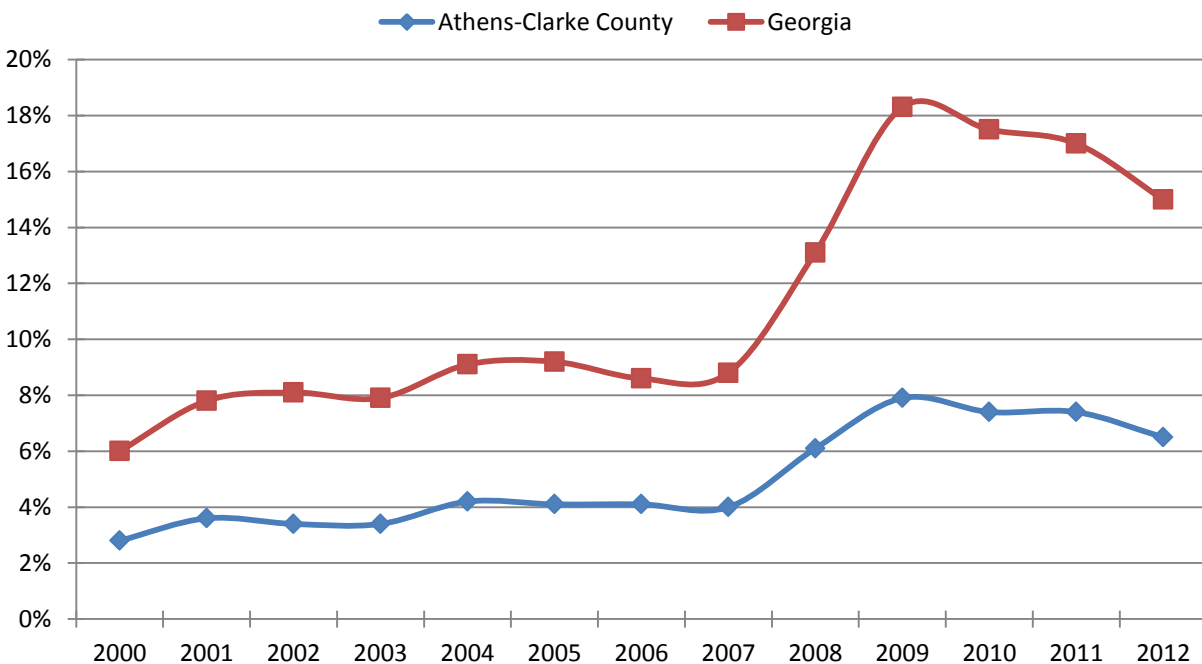
In 2012, the largest employers in Athens-Clarke County were:

1. University of Georgia- 9,974
2. Athens Regional Medical Center- 3,500
3. Clarke County School District- 2,838
4. Pilgrim's Pride Corporation- 1,829
5. Athens-Clarke County Unified Government- 1,570
6. St. Mary's Health Care System- 1,053

Table 3: Income Statistics for Athens-Clarke County versus Georgia (2010)

Income	Athens-Clarke	Georgia
Median Household Income	\$34,000	\$46,252
Per Capita Income	\$25,309	\$34,747

Figure 6: Average Annual Unemployment Rate, Athens-Clarke County (2000-2012)



Poverty

Despite the high number of educated citizens in the local workforce and a relatively low unemployment rate, Athens-Clarke County has a very high poverty rate. At 33.3 percent, the poverty rate in Athens-Clarke County is nearly double the Georgia average of 18.0 percent (Fig. 7). Poverty levels are particularly striking for children in the county; 35.5 percent of the population under age 17 lives below the poverty level (Fig.8).

Figure 7: Percent of Population Living Below Poverty Level, Athens-Clarke County (2010)

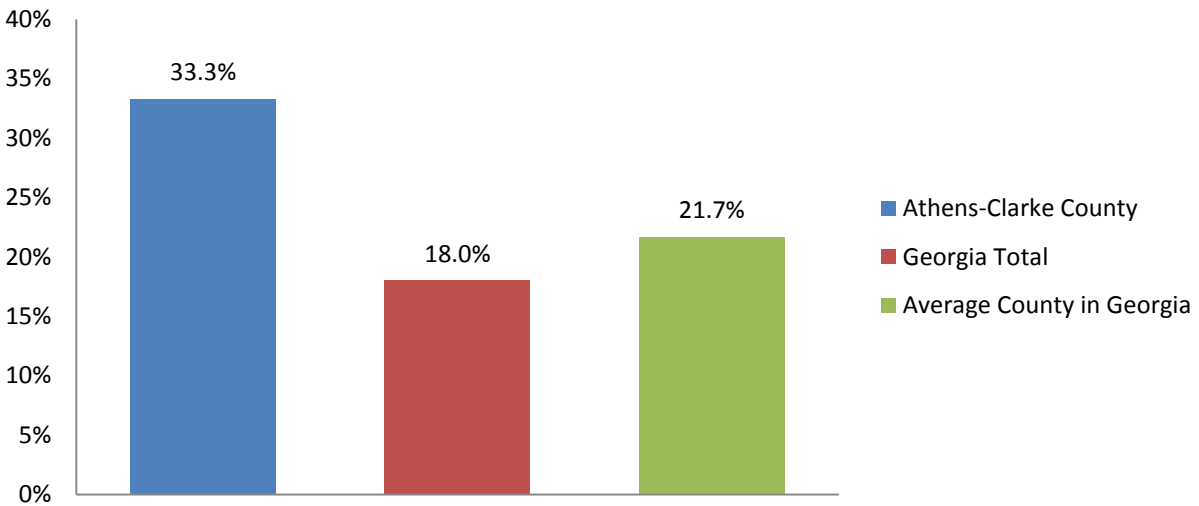
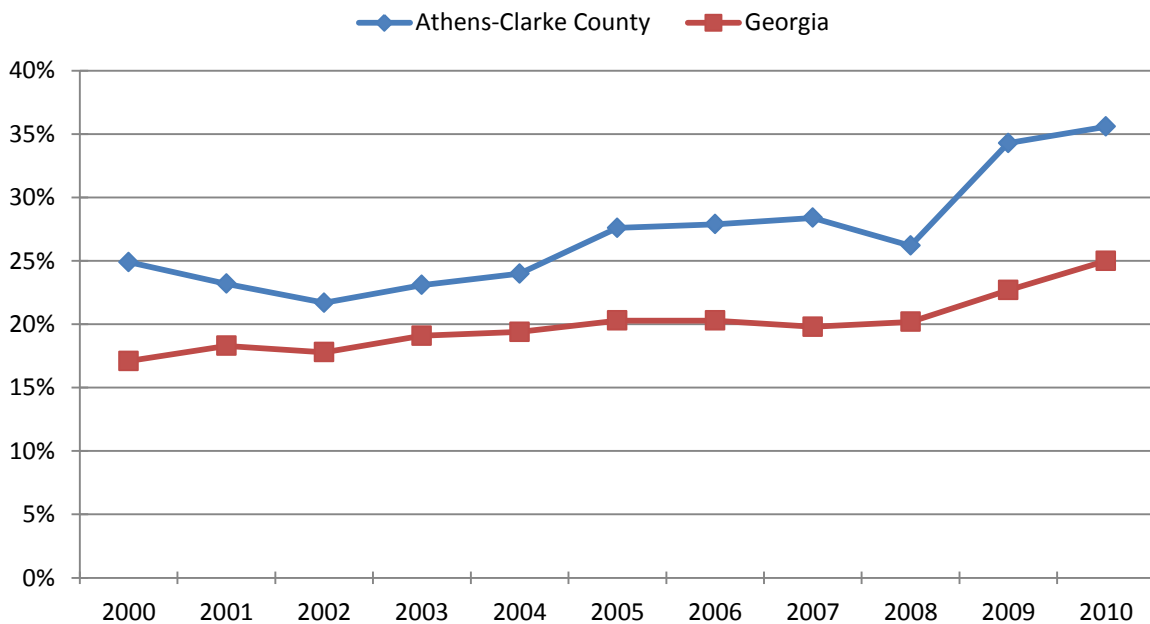


Figure 8: Percent of Children 0-17 below Poverty Level, Athens-Clarke County (2000-2010)



Athens-Clarke County also has a high enrollment rate for the free and reduced price lunch program, with nearly three-fourths of all children in Clarke County Public Schools participating, compared to approximately half of children statewide. Moreover, about 20,000 people receive food stamps, representing 16.8 percent of the total population of Athens-Clarke County.

Housing

In 2010, the U.S. Census Bureau counted 45, 414 households in Athens-Clarke County. Of this number; 21.4 percent of Athens-Clarke County households had children under the age of 18; 31.3 percent were married couples living together; 3.8 percent had a male householder with no wife present; 13.4 percent had a female householder with no husband present; and 51.5 percent were non-families.

Homelessness

The 2013 annual point-in-time homeless count reported 214 homeless persons total in Athens-Clarke County. This is a decrease from the 2010 report in which 496 homeless persons were reported². The 2013 homeless population can be characterized by the following:

- Unsheltered: 95
- Sheltered: 119
- Chronically Homeless: 67
- Children: 26
- Mentally Ill: 100
- Substance Abuse: 74
- Domestic Violence Victim: 34
- Veteran: 15

²Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County, Human and Economic Development Department. (2013). Point in time summary for GA-503-Athens/Clarke County CoC. Available from <http://www.athensclarkecounty.com/index.aspx?NID=420>.

Community Needs Index

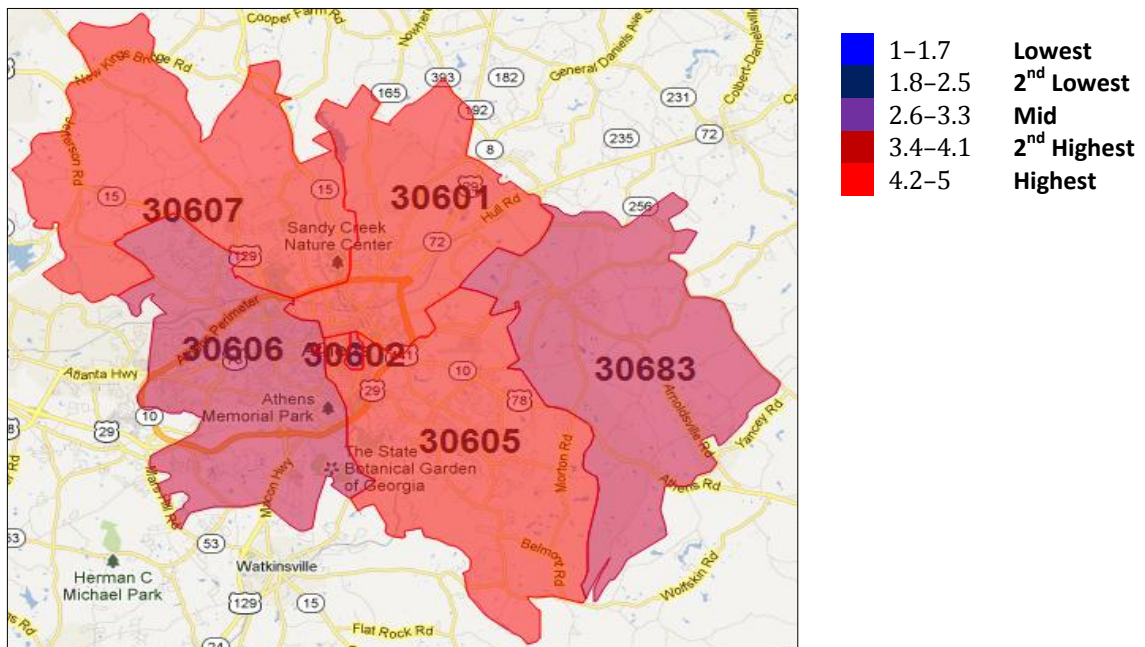
The Community Needs Index (CNI) identifies the severity of health disparity for every zip code in the United States and demonstrates the link between community need, access to care, and preventable hospitalizations. To determine the severity of barriers to health care access in a given community, the CNI gathers data about that community's socio-economy and assigns a score to each barrier condition. A score of 1.0 indicates a zip code with the least need, while a score of 5.0 represents a zip code with the highest, most immediate needs. The scores are then aggregated and averaged for a final CNI score.

Table 4, provides the final CNI scores for the zip codes in Athens-Clarke County. There are four zip codes in the county that fall into the CNI score range of 4.0 to 5.0; these areas represent the communities most in need in the CHNA service area.

Table 4: Community Need Index (CNI) Final Score, Athens-Clarke County (2011)³

Zip Code	City	County	CNI Score
30601	Athens-Clarke County (Balance)	Athens-Clarke	5
30602	Athens-Clarke County (Balance)	Athens-Clarke	3.8
30605	Athens-Clarke County (Balance)	Athens-Clarke	4.2
30606	Athens-Clarke County (Balance)	Athens-Clarke	4
30607	Athens-Clarke County (Balance)	Athens-Clarke	4.8
30683	Winterville	Athens-Clarke	3.6

Figure 9: Community Need Index (CNI) Map, Athens-Clarke County (2011)³



³ Dignity Health. (2013). Community Need Index. Retrieved from http://www.dignityhealth.org/Who_We_Are/Community_Health/212401

Health Disparities

In 2008, the Minority Health Advisory Council developed a report for the Georgia Department of Community Health, Office of Minority Health in an effort to contribute to the reduction and elimination of health disparities in Georgia⁴. The report included grades for each of the 159 counties in Georgia for their performance in avoiding health disparities. These grades are a composite grade based on both the minority health outcome (e.g., African American rates of preventable death) and the county's level of racial inequality, typically measured by a ratio of African American to white death rates (black-white rate ratio).

Athens-Clarke County received an "F" in the mortality category meaning it performed "extremely poor" in preventing disparities between minorities and non-minority groups in terms of premature deaths. It did well in the categories of primary care access and education but poorly in employment, preventable emergency department visits and birth outcomes.

County Health Rankings

In the 2013 County Health Rankings, Athens-Clarke County ranked 14 out of the 159 counties in the state. The annual County Health Rankings conducted by the University of Wisconsin and sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, grade localities on a variety of health outcomes and factors. The rankings examine the health and well-being of people living in nearly every county in the United States and show that how long and well people live depends on multiple factors beyond just their access to medical care.

Among the findings for Athens-Clarke County in the 2013 County Health Rankings⁵:

- 13% of adults report excessive drinking.
- 13% of adults smoke.
- 18% of adults are without social/emotional support.
- 21% report limited access to healthy foods.

⁴Georgia Department of Community Health, Office of Health Improvement, Office of Minority Health. (2008). *Georgia health equity initiative: Health disparities report 2008: A county-level look at health outcomes for minorities in Georgia*. Available from www.dch.ga.gov.

⁵ University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute.(2013). *County Health Rankings and Roadmaps*. Retrieved from <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/#/Georgia/2013/Clarke/county/outcomes/overall/snapshot/by-rank>

Table 5: 2013 County Health Rankings, Athens-Clarke County (2013)⁵

2013 County Health Rankings	Athens-Clarke	Georgia	*National Benchmark	Rank (of 159)
Health Outcomes				14
Mortality				14
Premature death	6,610	7,697	5,317	
Morbidity				32
Poor or fair health	13%	16%	10%	
Poor physical health days	3.0	3.5	2.6	
Poor mental health days	3.7	3.4	2,3	
Low birth weight	9.0%	9.5%	6.0%	
Health Factors				20
Health Behaviors				9
Adult smoking	13%	19%	13%	
Adult obesity	28%	28%	25%	
Physical inactivity	19%	24%	21%	
Excessive drinking	13%	14%	7%	
Motor vehicle crash death rate	11	16	10	
Sexually transmitted infections	703	466	92	
Teen birth rate	26	50	21	
Clinical Care				14
Uninsured	23%	22%	11%	
Primary care physicians**	1,423:1	1,611:1	1,067:1	
Dentists**	2,030:1	2,249:1	1,516:1	
Preventable hospital stays	50	68	47	
Diabetic screening	88%	84%	90%	
Mammography screening	73%	64%	73%	
Social & Economic Factors				45
High school graduation**	66%	67%		
Some college	66%	59%	70%	
Unemployment	7.5%	9.8%	5.0%	
Children in poverty	38%	27%	14%	
Inadequate social support	18%	21%	14%	
Children in single-parent households	47%	36%	20%	
Violent crime rate	404	437	66	
Physical Environment				134
Access to recreational facilities	9	8	16	
Limited access to healthy foods**	21%	8%	1%	
Fast food restaurants	49%	50%	27%	

* 90th percentile, i.e., only 10% are better

** Data should not be compared with prior years due to changes in definition.

Mortality Profile⁶

Table 6: Ranked Causes and State/County Comparison, Premature Death Rate (2006-2010)

Leading Causes of Premature Death (2006-2010)	Athens-Clarke Rank	Georgia Rank
Motor Vehicle Crashes	1	2
Intentional Self-Harm (Suicide)	2	5
Ischemic Heart and Vascular Disease	3	1
Malignant Neoplasms of the Trachea, Bronchus and Lung	4	4
Accidental Poisoning and Exposure to Noxious Substances	5	7
Assault (Homicide)	6	6
Cerebrovascular Disease	7	8
SIDS	8	19
Certain Conditions Originating in the Perinatal Period	9	3
Essential (Primary) Hypertension and Hypertensive Renal, and Heart Disease	10	9

Table 7: Ranked Causes and State/County Comparison, Age-Adjusted Death Rate (2006-2010)

Leading Causes of Death (2006-2010)	Athens-Clarke Rank	Georgia Rank
Ischemic Heart and Vascular Disease	1	1
Malignant Neoplasms of the Trachea, Bronchus and Lung	2	2
All Other Mental and Behavioral Disorders	3	5
Cerebrovascular Disease	4	3
All COPD Except Asthma	5	4
Essential Hypertension and Hypertensive Renal, and Heart Disease	6	6
Alzheimers Disease	7	7
Diabetes Mellitus	8	9
Motor Vehicle Crashes	9	10
Malignant Neoplasms of Colon, Rectum and Anus	10	13

⁶ Georgia Department of Public Health (n.d.). Online Analytical Statistical Information System. Available from <http://oasis.state.ga.us/oasis/>

III. Methodology and Process

The purpose of the Community Health Needs Assessment was to identify critical health issues affecting Athens-Clarke County residents and plan future health initiatives to address them. To prepare the CHNA report, data was gathered from multiple sources in an effort to construct a current and accurate snapshot of the health issues in Athens-Clarke County, Georgia.

Secondary Data

Secondary data were compiled from the following sources:

- County Health Rankings
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Healthy People 2020
- Georgia Department of Public Health
- U.S. Census Bureau
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Kids Count Data Center (The Annie E. Casey Foundation)

Secondary data included demographic and socioeconomic characteristics for the most recent years available. Information about the health status of the community was also compiled, with an emphasis on data relating to chronic disease and access to health care as well as data describing the homeless population of Athens-Clarke County.

Primary Data

Focused interviews were conducted with key informants from the CHNA service area to collect primary, qualitative data for the assessment. St. Mary's received input from a diverse group of leaders that represent the broad interests of our community, including: directors and staff from community health centers, educational leaders and members from social service organizations. Key informants provided knowledge about the community's health status, risk factors, service utilization, and community resource needs, as well as gaps and service suggestions.

In total, 11 face-to-face interviews were conducted by a single interviewer from St. Mary's Health Care System between February and April 2013. Key informants were identified and recruited by the Assessment Team working in collaboration with St. Mary's Leadership Committee. Additional information regarding the key informant interviews may be found in Appendix A.

After reviewing the data and compiling a list of existing health resources, a meeting was held with the Community Advisory Committee, comprised of leaders of medically underserved and low-income populations as well as persons with expertise in or special knowledge of public health. Committee members were given an overview of the assessment findings and were asked to discuss which needs they consider most important and why.

Top community health needs were identified by analyzing secondary data, primary data collected from key informant interviews, and input provided by the Community Advisory Committee. A final report was developed that summarized key findings from the CHNA process and an identification of top community health needs. Section IV lists the identified needs and describes the method of setting priorities.

An implementation plan has been developed to respond to each of the prioritized needs within the scope of our services and partnerships. The outcomes and results of these interventions will be tracked and evaluated in preparation for St. Mary's next Community Health Needs Assessment scheduled for completion in 2016.

IV. Identified Community Needs

A. Needs Identified

1. Access to Health Services

Overall, Athens-Clarke County ranked 14th in the state in access to health services, however, 23 percent of the Athens-Clarke County residents remain uninsured. This number is slightly higher than the state average and 12 percent over the national benchmark. Just over 13,000 residents were enrolled in Medicare⁷, which spends approximately \$8,500 per enrollee per year. The ratio of residents to primary care physicians is 2,030:1 which is better than the state average but still does not meet the national benchmark and Athens-Clarke County has a much lower ratio of residents to mental health providers at 1,179:1. There were 50 preventable hospital stays in Athens-Clarke County in 2010 and this number has slowly been trending downward from a high in 2003. Median household income was much lower than the state average at \$30,000 per year, which can affect access to health care as realized by the 16 percent of residents that said they could not see a doctor due to cost. Key informants reported that uninsured and underinsured community members are unable to access affordable healthcare services in the county including regular primary care, specialty care and dental care.

2. Cardiovascular Disease

Cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) are a leading cause of death in the United States. In 2004 alone, more than 652,000 people died of heart disease in the United States and it was estimated that more than 71 million Americans have one or more types of CVD⁸. In Athens-Clarke County, Ischemic Heart and Vascular Disease are the number 1 cause of death.

3. Diabetes

In Athens-Clarke County, 9 percent of adults over 20 have diabetes, which is slightly lower than the state average. Of these adults with diabetes, 88 percent enrolled in Medicare are receiving proper screening⁹. Diabetes is the 7th leading cause of death in the United States,

⁷The Georgia Statistics System.(2013). *Georgia County Guide*.Available from <http://www.georgiastats.uga.edu/crossection.html>

⁸McKenzie, J.F., Pinger, R.R., and Kotecki, J.E. (2008).*An introduction to Community Health*.Sudbury, MA: Jones and Bartlett Publishers.

⁹University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute.(2013). *County Health Rankings and Roadmaps*.Retrieved from <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/#/Georgia/2013/Clarke/county/outcomes/overall/snapshot/by-rank>

affecting more than 23 million people across the country¹⁰. Diabetes occurs when the body cannot produce or respond appropriately to insulin (the hormone that the body needs to absorb and use glucose as fuel for the body's cells). Without properly functioning insulin signaling system, blood glucose levels become elevated, leading to the development of serious, disabling complications¹¹.

4. Mental Health

Athens-Clarke County residents reported an average of 3.7 mentally unhealthy days per month in 2010. This is evident in the 13 percent of the population that reported excessive drinking, which is almost double the national benchmark¹². These outcomes could be due, in part, to the lower than average median household income (\$30,880 compared to the state average of \$45,886) but may also be skewed by the presence of the large population of college students at the University of Georgia and other small community colleges within the county. Eighteen percent of adults in the county reported inadequate social support but the county has less than half the ratio of residents to mental health providers (1,179:1) than the state average (3,504:1).

5. Obesity

Twenty-eight percent of adults in Athens-Clarke County are obese, which is in line with the state average and only slightly higher than the national benchmark. Similar to national trends, though, this number has continued to rise in recent years, up from approximately 24 percent in 2004⁸.

6. Oral Health

Untreated dental disease can lead to serious health effects including pain, infection, and tooth loss. Lack of sufficient providers is one barrier to accessing oral health care and much of the country suffers from shortages. In 2012, there were 62 dentists in Athens-Clarke County, which is a ratio of 1 dentist for every 2,030 people⁸. This is a slightly better ratio than the state average but well below the national benchmark.

7. Physical Activity

Athens-Clarke County Leisure Services maintains more than 2,000 acres of parks and facilities throughout the community including neighborhood parks at 17 elementary and

¹⁰Healthy People 2020. (2013). *2020 Diabetes: Nutrition and Weight Status*. Retrieved from <http://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topicsobjectives2020/overview.aspx?topicid=8>

¹¹Healthy People 2020. (2013). *2020 Diabetes: Nutrition and Weight Status*. Retrieved from <http://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topicsobjectives2020/overview.aspx?topicid=8>

¹²University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute.(2013). *County Health Rankings and Roadmaps*.Retrieved from <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/#/Georgia/2013/Clarke/county/outcomes/overall/snapshot/by-rank>

middle schools¹³. However, its residents report 3 unhealthy days per person, per 30 day period, 19 percent of the population is physically inactive and only 23 percent of the population lives within walking distance of parks in the community¹⁴. Regular physical activity can improve the health and quality of life of Americans of all ages, regardless of the presence of a chronic disease or disability. Physical activity can lower the risk of many chronic diseases such as type 2 diabetes, depression and coronary heart disease. For people who are inactive, even small increases in physical activity are associated with health benefits¹⁵.

8. Reproductive and Sexual Health

Between 2004 and 2010, there were 47,343 teenagers between the ages of 14 and 19 in Athens-Clarke County. There were 1,214 teen births giving a rate of 26 births per 1,000 females¹⁶. This is much lower than the state average of 50 per 1,000 females but slightly higher than the national benchmark of 21 per 1,000¹¹.

Empirical evidence suggests teen pregnancy significantly increases the risk of repeat pregnancy and of contracting a sexually transmitted infection (STI), both of which can result in adverse health outcomes for mothers, children, families and communities.

In 2009, there were 293 people living with HIV in Athens-Clarke County¹¹ and in 2010 there were a total of 902 STIs reported in the county, including 744 cases of Chlamydia, 150 cases of Gonorrhea, 4 cases of syphilis and 4 cases of Tuberculosis¹⁷.

Between 2004 and 2010, Athens-Clarke County had a low birthweight rate of 9 percent, slightly lower than the state average but, again, much higher than the national benchmark. Low birthweight represents two factors: maternal exposure to health risks and an infant's current and future morbidity, as well as premature mortality risk. In the same years, the crude infant mortality rate was 556, well below the state average of 793².

¹³Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County.(2013). *Parks and Facilities*. Retrieved from <http://www.athensclarkecounty.com/index.aspx?NID=149>

¹⁴University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute.(2013). *County Health Rankings and Roadmaps*. Retrieved from <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/#/Georgia/2013/Clarke/county/outcomes/overall/snapshot/by-rank>

¹⁵Healthy People 2020. (2013). *2020 Topics and Objectives: Physical Activity*. Retrieved from <http://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topicsobjectives2020/overview.aspx?topicid=33>

¹⁶ The Annie E. Casey Foundation (n.d.). Kids Count Data Center. Available from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/>

¹⁷The Georgia Statistics System.(2013). *Georgia County Guide*. Available from <http://www.georgiastats.uga.edu/crossection.html>

B. Prioritization Process

St. Mary's Leadership Committee discussed the needs identified through the CHNA process and prioritized the community health needs using the following criteria:

- a. The number of people impacted by the problem
- b. The risk of morbidity and mortality associated with the problem
- c. Alignment of the problem with our strengths and priorities
- d. Impact of the problem on vulnerable populations
- e. Importance of the problem to the community
- f. Existing resources addressing the problem

C. Prioritized Needs

The following needs were recognized by St. Mary's Leadership Committee as the most important issues that must be addressed to improve the health and quality of life in our community.

1. Access to Health Services
2. Cardiovascular Disease
3. Diabetes
4. Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity

V. Existing Health Care Resources

A. St. Mary's Internal Resources & Assets

The following are St. Mary's internal resources and assets to respond to the health needs identified through the CHNA.

ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES

Emergency Care

When you need emergency care, St. Mary's has the staff, experience and technology to help, from sprained ankles to heart attacks and strokes. The physicians, nurses and ancillary staff at St. Mary's Emergency Department are uniquely qualified to provide care in an emergency setting. Working together and with new technologies available at St. Mary's, this team is able to do more for critically ill people than ever before. We can handle hundreds of emergency conditions, including heart attack, stroke, breathing problems, hypo- and hyperglycemia, broken bones, severe bleeding and spinal injuries.

St. Mary's Emergency Department is open 24/7, including holidays and weekends.

Financial Assistance

In keeping with our mission and commitment to our community, St. Mary's Health Care System offers several payment options and financial assistance programs for our patients.

The following are some of the services we provide:

- Prompt payment discount for payment in full
- Payment plans
- Self pay discounts based on family income
- Partial financial assistance based on family size and income
- 100% financial assistance based on family size and income
- Screening for eligibility for government programs

CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE

Cardiology

Skilled staff, advanced technology and a comprehensive continuum of care. St. Mary's is committed to providing exceptional care for your heart. In 2007, St. Mary's was named one of the first 25 Heart Failure Centers in the United States certified by the Joint Commission. Since

then, the program has celebrated consistent annual recertifications. In 2009, St. Mary's Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory opened with a full service cardiac catheterization team and interventional cardiologist on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to treat cardiac blockages, heart attacks and arrhythmias. Today, we remain committed to providing a full continuum of cardiac care and diagnostics.

Exceptional service areas include:

- Oconee Heart and Vascular Center is a full-service cardiac practice offering a complete continuum of care for the heart and blood vessels.
- St. Mary's partnership with Northeast Cardiology, the practice of Dr. Paul Beltran, ensures patients with the highest quality cardiac care and easy access to diagnostic and treatment resources.
- Patients suffering from emergency and long-term heart problems, including heart attack, Peripheral Artery Disease and some congenial heart defects, are treated with interventional cardiology services, including angioplasty and stenting, at St. Mary's state-of-the-art Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory.
- St. Mary's launched Athens' first comprehensive electrophysiology program to provide care for persons with cardiac arrhythmias and heart failure, as well as pacemaker and defibrillator implantation and management.
- St. Mary's Heart Failure Center offers experienced staff, a commitment to patient education, leading edge technology and an unmatched continuum of care to patients suffering from heart failure.
- St. Mary's offers Cardiac Rehab Phase I, II and III providing care to individuals as inpatients, upon release from the hospital and as outpatients to promote a healthy lifestyle and take steps to prevent a future cardiac event.
- 64-slice CT Technology can synchronize with a patient's heart rhythm and capture images between beats, allowing physicians to obtain images so detailed they can see plaque on the inside of coronary arteries.

St. Mary's Stroke Center

St. Mary's is North Georgia's first Certified Primary Stroke Center. In fact, St. Mary's was one of the first 20 primary stroke centers to be certified in the nation, and was cited by the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations as a model for other community hospitals seeking to improve stroke care.

St. Mary's continuum of stroke care includes:

- High-speed diagnostics and the most modern treatments available give physicians a better chance to stop a stroke cold.
- St. Mary's Neuroscience Critical Care Unit and Neuroscience Nursing Unit provide staff and equipment specialized in stroke care.

- Center for Rehabilitative Medicine, Athens' only acute inpatient rehabilitation facility, helps patients achieve their maximum level of ability.
- St. Mary's brings nursing, rehabilitation, aides and more to the homes of eligible patients.
- St. Mary's Outpatient Rehabilitation and Wellness centers help patients continue improving after leaving the hospital.
- St. Mary's offers a Wellness Center, annual Community Stroke Forum, nutritional counseling and more to promote healthy lifestyles and reduce the risk of stroke and other cardiovascular diseases.
- St. Mary's has partnered with the Medical College of Georgia's REACH stroke program to further enhance stroke care. REACH enables St. Mary's neurohospitalists and Emergency Department physicians to interact live, 24 hours a day, with MCG's on-call neurologist via web-based video. REACH also allows St. Mary's to share diagnostic images and test results with the consultant in real time. Coupled with the expertise of St. Mary's neurohospitalists, REACH provides an unprecedented level of experience and speed for the care of stroke patients.
- St. Mary's Stroke Support Group provides information from experts and laypeople for stroke survivors, family members and care-givers. Meetings begin with coffee and light refreshments, followed by a speaker or other presentation. Free, but registration is requested. Lunch is provided free of charge. The group meets every month in the Assembly Rooms at St. Mary's Hospital.

Healthy Heart Living

If you have a cardiovascular condition - including heart disease, stroke or diabetes - lifestyle education is essential to enjoying a good quality of life and preventing complications. St. Mary's Cardiac Rehabilitation Program has teamed up with Diabetes Education, Nutrition and Food Services and Pharmacy to bring you a monthly class providing the basic information you need to know. St. Mary's Healthy Heart Living classes are free and open to anyone, especially those with a cardiac diagnosis or who have survived a cardiac event.

DIABETES

Diabetes Education

St. Mary's is one of the first 38 hospitals in the nation to earn The Joint Commission Gold Seal of Approval for Advanced Inpatient Diabetes Care.

Through education and lifestyle changes, diabetes can be managed. St. Mary's is committed to helping you manage your diabetes. The Diabetes Education Department at St. Mary's is accredited by the American Diabetes Association and offers individual appointments followed by two diabetes education classes. These classes cover all aspects of diabetes self-management from nutrition to reducing risk of diabetes-related complications.

St. Mary's Diabetes Support Group meets monthly in addition to the education classes.

NUTRITION, PHYSICAL ACTIVITY & OBESITY

Wellness Center

St. Mary's Wellness Center provides a large, fully equipped gym, a wide range of classes and services, and friendly knowledgeable staff. Whether you are training for a marathon or recovering from a heart attack, we are here to help you reach your goals.

Nutrition Services

Good nutrition is essential to good health, especially if you have diabetes, cardiovascular disease, obesity, and many other conditions. St. Mary's can help. St. Mary's Nutrition Services provides a staff of registered dietitians to help patients with a wide range of conditions and needs meet their nutritional requirements.

Clinical Nutrition Services include:

- Individual nutrition assessment and counseling for all age groups
- Individualized meal plans and disease self-management strategies
- Nutrient analysis
- Assessment of calorie needs; individualized weight management plans

Walk for Wellness

Walk for Wellness is an ongoing program that provides exercise, information and camaraderie. Participants walk for health and wellness at Georgia Square Mall anytime the mall is open; most walk weekday mornings after mall doors open at 9am. Participants decide for themselves how far, how fast and how often to walk, based on their abilities, needs and schedule. Then, on the 3rd Tuesday of every other month, walkers meet at the Food Court at Georgia Square Mall for a free program featuring a speaker, light breakfast, blood pressure screenings and door prizes. Walk for Wellness is sponsored by St. Mary's Health Care System, Arbor Terrace, Subway and ARMC.

B. External Community Based Resources

Advantage Behavioral Health Systems

www.advantagebhs.org

The GA Department of Human Resources Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Addictive Diseases (www.mygcal.com) contracts with Advantage Behavioral Health Systems (ABHS) as a publicly-funded provider of behavioral health, developmental disability, and addictive disease services for 10 counties in Northeast Georgia, including Athens-Clarke County.

ABHS provides treatment, counseling, supportive services for community living, activity groups, and other services for people whose health affects their behavior, such as people suffering from mental illness or people battling alcohol or drug addiction.

- Athens-Clarke County Clinic, 250 North Avenue – 706-542-8656 x 1309
- Intake/Emergency Services, 195-B Miles Street – 706-354-3973 / 800-715-4225 (GA Crisis Line)
- Alcohol & Other Drug Services, 195 Miles Street – 706-369-5745
- SED / Child & Adolescent Services, 165 Dougherty Street – 706-369-6363

Aging, Athens Community Council on – 706-549-4850

www.accaging.org

135 Hoyt Street

A resource for education, information, referral, counseling, support, and general assistance for older persons, including a Meals on Wheels program, Adult Day Care Center, and Senior Center.

Athens Health Network – 706-542-5322

www.athenshealthnetwork.com

1240 S. Lumpkin Street

The Athens Health Network is an umbrella organization that serves as a safety net for those in need of healthcare, promoting the existing infrastructure of the Athens-Clarke County healthcare system and identifying the presence of service gaps and ways of filling those gaps. Athens Health Network connects healthcare and community leaders, equipping them with resources and information to provide healthcare.

Athens Regional Medical Center – 706-475-7000

www.armc.org

Boys and Girls Clubs of Athens

www.athensbgca.com

- Administrative / Main Office - Joel E. Smilow Clubhouse, 705 Fourth Street – 706-549-7017
- Jack R. Wells, 570 Pauldoe Street – 706-353-2823
- Garnett Ridge, 160 Elkview Drive – 706-548-5001

Community Connection of Northeast Georgia – 211 or 706-353-1313

www.communityconnection211.com

Community Connection of Northeast Georgia is a referral agency that maintains a telephone information and referral service that helps individuals and organizations locate appropriate community resources, including food, clothing, shelter, housing, health care, aging services, child care, volunteer opportunities, and legal referrals

Cottage, The – 706-546-1133 (Office) / 706-353-1912 (24-Hour Hotline)

www.northgeorgiacottage.org

3019 Lexington Road

The Cottage provides intervention, advocacy, referrals, and support to survivors and families impacted by child abuse and sexual assault, and provides sexual assault prevention education and awareness to the community. It was formerly known as the Sexual Assault Center of Northeast Georgia.

Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) – 706-613-3640

This federally funded program conducted through ACC Cooperative Extension helps families with children and pregnant mothers learn how to eat healthier meals and snacks, stretch their food dollars, and reduce the risk of food-borne illness.

Family Connection / Communities in Schools – 706-369-9732

www.gafcp.org/fcnetwork/clarke

This partnership has been designated the planning body for services for children and families in Athens-Clarke County and brings together more than 100 partners to address their needs. The goals are to improve child health, child development, school performance, family functioning, and family economic capacity.

Food Banks

- Athens Area Emergency Food Bank, 640 Barber Street – 706-353-8182 / www.athensfoodbank.org
- Food Bank of Northeast Georgia, 861 Newton Bridge Road – 706-354-8191 / www.foodbanknega.org
- Food Bank Referral – 706-549-1142

Habitat for Humanity, Athens Area – 706-208-1001 / 706-354-0946 (ReStore)

www.athenshabitat.com

532 Barber Street

Athens Area Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit organization dedicated to the elimination of substandard housing in Clarke, Oconee, and Oglethorpe counties. The Habitat ReStore takes in new and used home furnishings and sells them at up to 90% off retail cost. All funds raised support Athens Habitat in its continuing effort to eliminate poverty housing in the community.

Hands on Athens

The mission of Hands on Athens is to create a coalition of organizations dedicated to assisting low-income Athens-Clarke County homeowners in historic neighborhoods to maintain, repair, and restore their properties as part of overall neighborhood revitalization. The event is normally held in spring and organized by a subcommittee of the Athens-Clarke Heritage Foundation.

Hands on Northeast Georgia – 211 or 706-353-1313

www.handsonnortheastgeorgia.org

Hands On Northeast Georgia is a program of Community Connection of Northeast Georgia that helps individuals, families, and corporate and community groups find flexible volunteer opportunities at various organizations in Athens-Clarke County

Health Centers, Athens Neighborhood

www.athenshealthnetwork.com (Clinics)

These private, non-profit health centers were established in 1971 to provide low-cost health care.

- 675 College Avenue – 706-546-5526 (Spanish translator available)
- 402 McKinley Drive (Miriam Moore Community Center) – 706-543-1145
- After-hours emergency – 706-357-9706

Health Department

www.publichealthathens.com

The GA Health Department is part of the Northeast Health District under the GA Division of Public Health. It provides a comprehensive range of health services to the citizens of Athens-Clarke County in the areas of women's health, child health, school health, disabled children's services, communicable disease control, chronic disease services, dental health, environmental health, nutrition services, and health education.

- East Athens Clinic – 706-369-5816
400 McKinley Drive (Miriam Moore Community Center)
- Environmental Health Division – 706-583-2658
189 Paradise Boulevard
- Main Health Department – 706-389-6921 / 706-389-6871 (Birth Certificate Direct Line)
345 North Harris Street

Homeless Coalition of Northeast Georgia – 211 or 706-353-1313 (Community Connection)

Coalition of homeless service providers that coordinate shelter options, services, advocacy, and other information to support the needs of the homeless in ACC and the surrounding counties.

Homeless Shelter, Athens Area – 706-354-0423

www.athensareahomelessshelter.org

620 Barber Street

The shelter's focus is to provide a transitional facility for homeless women and their children.

Housing Authority, Athens (AHA) – 706-425-5300

www.athenshousing.org

300 South Rocksprings Street

The AHA is a dependable source of safe and affordable housing for the elderly, disabled individuals, working families, and families in transition. Rents in AHA neighborhoods are income-based. The AHA also provides opportunities for affordable home ownership through ACT I Homes.

Mercy Health Care Center – 706-425-9445

www.mercyhealthcenter.net

700 Oglethorpe Avenue, Suite C7

Mercy Health Center provides physical, emotional, and spiritual care for low-income uninsured people in the Athens area

Nurses' Clinic – 706-613-6976

www.athensnursesclinic.org

496 Reese Street

This part-time clinic provides some health care services for homeless, unemployed, underinsured, uninsured, and other underserved populations in the Athens-Clarke County area.

OneAthens – 706-542-7553 / 706-542-8905

www.oneathens.org

This community-wide initiative is designed to combat the causes of persistent poverty in Athens-Clarke County. The project formed from the Partners for a Prosperous Athens initiative.

Prescription Drug Discount Card – 877-321-2652

www.athensclarkecounty.com/drugcard

Free prescription drug discount cards are available under a program sponsored by Athens-Clarke County and the National Association of Counties (NACo) that offers average savings of 22 percent off the retail price of commonly prescribed drugs. The cards are not insurance and may be used by all county residents, regardless of age, income, or existing health coverage. A national network of more than 59,000 participating retail pharmacies also will honor the NACo prescription discount card. There is no cost to county taxpayers for NACo and Athens-Clarke County to make these money saving cards available to residents. Cards are available for printing online and at:

- Athens Neighborhood Health Centers (675 College Avenue & Miriam Moore Community Center - 402 McKinley Drive)
- Athens Nurses Clinic (496 Reese Street)
- Athens Regional Medical Center's Emergency Department or Social Work Services (1199 Prince Avenue) or by calling a Patient Affairs Coordinator at 706-475-3533
- City Hall (301 College Avenue)
- Division of Family and Children Services (284 North Avenue)
- Mercy Health Center (767 Oglethorpe Avenue)

- Clarke County Health Department (345 North Harris Street & East Athens Clinic - Miriam Moore Community Center - 402 McKinley Drive)

Project Safe – 706-543-3331 (24-Hour Hotline) / 706-549-0922 (Business Line)

www.project-safe.org

Project Safe is non-profit organization working to end domestic violence through prevention and educational programs, crisis intervention and ongoing supportive services for survivors of domestic violence and their children, and advocacy/systems change work in the community.

Recreational facilities

ACC Leisure Services maintains more than 2,000 acres of parks and facilities throughout the community, including neighborhood parks at 17 Clarke County School District elementary and middle schools.

Facility Listing

- Bear Hollow Zoo
- Ben Burton Park
- Bishop Park
- Dudley Park
- East Athens Community Center
- East Athens Community Park
- East Athens Educational Dance Center
- Greenway
- Holland Youth Sports Complex
- Lay Park
- Lyndon House Arts Center
- Memorial Park
- Morton Theatre
- North Oconee River Park East
- North Oconee River Park West
- Parkview Community Center
- Quinn Hall (Athens Creative Theatre)
- Reese and Pope Park
- Rocksprings Park and Community Center
- Sandy Creek Nature Center
- Sandy Creek Park
- Satterfield Park
- Southeast Clarke Park
- Ware-Lyndon Historic House

St. Mary's Health Care System – 706-548-7581

www.stmarysathens.com

1230 Baxter Street

Teen Matters

- 168 South Rocksprings Court – 706-369-5670
- 1275 Cedar Shoals Drive – 706-227-7198

A state Health Department program for teenagers ages 11-19 that offers a variety of medical services, as well as health education programs, guidance counseling, and community involvement opportunities.

Whatever It Takes – 706-369-9732

www.witathens.org

Whatever It Takes, a non-profit collaboration of partner agencies, seeks to ensure that every child in AthensClarke County graduates from a post-secondary educational institution.

VI. Implementation Strategy

St. Mary's Health Care System will continue to engage our community partners in implementing evidence-based strategies to improve the health of the community we serve, with a special commitment to the poor and underserved. Because this work is central to our mission and values, we have established leadership accountability and an organizational structure for ongoing planning, budgeting, implementation and evaluation of community benefit activities that are integrated into our multi-year strategic plans.

A community outreach oversight committee has been formed to collaborate with the many organizations and resources in our community to implement strategies and programs to address needs identified in the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). Committee members will also participate in developing work plans and establishing metrics to measure the quality and effectiveness of our outreach activities. Furthermore, the Mission and Ministry Committee of the St. Mary's Health Care System Board of Directors will be responsible for reviewing progress on implementation strategies relating to community health needs and assess changes in community health needs as the implementation process evolves.

The CHNA Report and Implementation Plan are available to the public on the St. Mary's Health Care System website (www.stmarysathens.org). To obtain a copy, contact St. Mary's Mission Services Department at 706.389.3424.

A. How St. Mary's Will Address Health Needs

St. Mary's Community Health Implementation Plan consists of both new and existing strategies that address the health needs identified through the Community Health Needs Assessment conducted for Athens-Clarke County in 2012-2013. An overview of the Community Health Implementation Plan is shown in Table 8.

Table 8: 2013-2014 Community Health Implementation Plan

Priority Area	Problem	Strategy / Program	Responsible Person(s)
Access to Health Services	23% of Athens-Clarke County residents are uninsured and 16% of residents reported that they could not see a doctor due to cost.	Increase access to clinical preventive services by providing health fairs and screening events at worksites, faith-based institutions, civic organizations and senior centers throughout the community	Director of Corporate Health Services
		Increase access to recommended clinical preventive services by providing mammograms for low-income and uninsured women as well as education in risk factors for breast cancer for everyone in the community	Director of Radiology
		Continue to provide financial and in-kind contributions to the Athens Health Network, a community collaborative working to improve health and reduce healthcare disparities of the uninsured and underinsured of Athens-Clarke County through the creation of a seamless, user-friendly health safety net	Vice President of Mission Services Community Benefits Coordinator
Cardiovascular Disease	Ischemic Heart and Vascular Disease combine to be the leading cause of death in Athens-Clarke County.	Expand community education programs aimed at increasing knowledge of stroke risk factors, stroke warning signs, and action needed when stroke warning signs occur	Director of Clinical and Diabetes Edu
		Host Stroke Forum and disseminate information about stroke symptoms, prevention and treatment	Stroke Coordinator
		Sponsor St. Mary's Next Step 5K to encourage physical activity, raise awareness, and educate about stroke	
		Provide Heart Healthy Living classes focused on diabetes education, nutrition, and medication safety	Diabetes Coordinator
Diabetes	Ischemic Heart and Vascular Disease combine to be the leading cause of death in Athens-Clarke County.	Increase awareness and knowledge of diabetes, its risk factors, and effective strategies for preventing complications associated with diabetes	Director of Clinical and Diabetes Edu
		Diabetes Outpatient Education Program	Diabetes Coordinator
Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity	28% of adults are obese; 19% of the population is physically inactive. Leading causes of death related to nutrition, physical activity and obesity: cardiovascular disease, cancer, stroke, diabetes, and kidney disease.	Improve the health status of individuals and reduce the prevalence of hypertension, obesity, and diabetes through Hope 4 Health, a community-based wellness program aimed at educating and empowering community members to lead healthier lives	Community Benefits Coordinator Director of Corporate Health Services
		Partner with Mercy Health Center to coordinate/ implement the It Takes a Village Wellness Program	Director of Corporate Health Services Exercise Specialist

B. Needs St. Mary’s Will Not Directly Address

Several community health needs identified in the CHNA will not be addressed in the implementation plan. In initial discussion and subsequent prioritization, St. Mary’s Leadership Committee considered the levels to which some needs were already being addressed in the community. Additionally, some health needs fall out of the scope of expertise and resources of the hospital. Table 9 outlines why some of the needs identified in the needs assessment are not addressed.

Table 9: Prioritization Results

Identified Need	Address Need Yes/No	If No, Reason Why
Access to Health Services	Yes	
Cardiovascular Disease	Yes	
Diabetes	Yes	
Mental Health	No	Do not have the resources and/or expertise to address the issue effectively and need being addressed by others- Advantage Behavioral Health systems, Nuci’s Space and Palm House Recovery Centers
Obesity	Yes	
Oral Health	No	Do not have the resources and/or expertise to address the issue effectively and need being addressed by others- Athens Nurses Clinic and Mercy Health Clinic
Physical Activity & Nutrition	Yes	
Reproductive and Sexual Health	No	Need being addressed by others- AIDS Athens, ARMC Midwifery Practice, Athens Pregnancy Center, and the Athens-Clarke County Health Department which offers Women Infant & Children services and Teen Matters

While these needs are being addressed by existing services, St. Mary’s recognizes that additional services are still needed. St. Mary’s will continue to work with existing community health partners and seek out innovative methods to address these needs in the future as resources become available.

VII. Appendix A

A. Findings from Community Input

Focused interviews with knowledgeable community members from the CHNA service area provided us with primary, qualitative data regarding the health needs of the community.

The information we gathered from key informants was very uniform throughout and also consistent with our quantitative data. The most common needs mentioned by community members were related to chronic diseases, access to care and social determinants of health.

Community Needs

- Health education and access
- Increased coordination of social services
- Job creation
- Poverty
- Quality affordable housing
- Limited awareness of health resources available in the community

Community Assets

In an effort to identify potential resources to assist in addressing the community's top needs, key informants were asked to share their perceived strengths and assets of the community.

Participants noted numerous strengths and assets of Athens-Clarke County including:

- Active and engaged citizens and professionals
- Strong social service organizations
- Health care services and providers
- Access to high quality secondary education and higher education institutions

B. Key Informants

Name	Title	Organization
Adrienne Bumpers	Executive Committee, Secretary	NEGA Homeless & Poverty Coalition
Allie Chambers	Executive Director	Athens Health Network
Paige M. Cummings	Executive Director	Athens Nurses Clinic
Brian Evans	Director, Corporate Health Services	St. Mary's Health Care System
Dr. Robbie Hooker	Principal	Clarke Central High School
Sr. Margarita Martin	Program Director	Oasis Católico Santa Rafaela
Marcia Massengill, RN	County Nurse Manager	Clarke County Health Department
Delene Porter	President and CEO	Athens Area Community Foundation
Bob Snipes	Vice Chair, Board of Directors	St. Mary's Health Care System
Tracy Thompson	Executive Director	Mercy Health Center
Dr. Trina von Waldner	Director, Postgraduate Continuing Education	The University of Georgia College of Pharmacy

C. Key Informant Questionnaire

St. Mary's Health Care System 2013 CHNA, Key Informant Interviews

Community Member:

Organization:

Interviewer:

Date:

Questions

1. What do you think are the most important needs facing Athens-Clarke County?
2. Why do you think these needs are important?
3. What, as a community, have we done in the past to meet these needs?
4. Where have we failed in the past to meet these needs?
5. What are some strengths of Athens-Clarke County?
6. What are some weaknesses of Athens-Clarke County?
7. What role do you think St. Mary's Health Care System can play in helping meet the needs of the community?

**1230 Baxter Street
Athens, GA 30606
(706) 389-3000
www.stmarysathens.org**

For questions or comments regarding this report or St. Mary's Community Benefit program,
please call (706) 389-3424.