

**Community  
Health Needs  
Assessment**



# **Morgan County Illinois 2024**



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2024, Jacksonville Memorial Hospital (JMH) completed a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) for Morgan County, Illinois, as required of nonprofit hospitals by the Affordable Care Act of 2010. As an affiliate of Memorial Health (MH), JMH worked with four other affiliate hospitals on the overall timeline and process for the CHNA but completed its Morgan County assessment independently from those hospitals in collaboration with local community partners. To narrow down the multiple needs and issues facing the community to a set of final priorities the hospital would address, the same defining criteria were used throughout the CHNA process. These defining criteria are: 1. Magnitude, 2. Seriousness, 3. Feasibility, 4. Equity and 5. Potential to Collaborate.

Jacksonville Memorial Hospital collaborated with the Morgan County Health Department to complete the 2024 CHNA. Community health needs were prioritized based on reviews of secondary community data, as well as primary data gathered from an External Advisory Committee (EAC), a public community health survey and community focus groups that sought input from the community and those who are minoritized and underserved.

JMH then convened an Internal Advisory Committee (IAC), which approved the final priorities selected by JMH, as listed below.

- 1. Cancer**
- 2. Healthy Eating**
- 3. Heart Disease**
- 4. Mental Health**

Additionally, Memorial Health leaders agreed on a health system priority of Mental Health. The Memorial Health Board of Directors Community Benefit Committee approved the 2024 Community Health Needs Assessment report and final priorities on Sept. 16, 2024. The report and priorities were also approved by the Jacksonville Memorial Hospital Board of Directors. This report is available online at [memorial.health/about-us/community/community-health-needs-assessment](https://www.memorial.health/about-us/community/community-health-needs-assessment) or by contacting MH Community Health at [CommunityHealth@mhsil.com](mailto:CommunityHealth@mhsil.com). An implementation plan is being developed to address the identified needs, which JMH will implement FY25-27. The plan will be posted at the same website upon its completion by Feb. 15, 2025.




## INTRODUCTION

### MEMORIAL HEALTH

Memorial Health of Springfield, one of the leading healthcare organizations in Illinois, is a community-based, not-for-profit corporation dedicated to our mission to improve lives and strengthen communities through better health. Our highly skilled team has a passion for excellence and is dedicated to providing a great patient experience for every patient every time. Memorial Health includes five hospitals: Decatur Memorial Hospital in Macon County, Jacksonville Memorial Hospital in Morgan County, Lincoln Memorial Hospital in Logan County, Taylorville Memorial Hospital in Christian County and Springfield Memorial Hospital in Sangamon County.

Memorial Health also includes primary care, home care and behavioral health services. Our more than 9,000 colleagues, partnering physicians and hundreds of volunteers are dedicated to improving the health of the communities we have served since the late nineteenth century. The Memorial Health Board of Directors Community Benefit Committee is made up of board members, community health leaders, community representatives and senior leadership who approve and oversee all aspects of the MH community benefit programs, CHNAs and CHIPs.

Strategy 3 of the FY22–25 MH Strategic Plan is to “build diverse community partnerships for better health” by building trusting relationships with those who have been marginalized, partnering to improve targeted community health inequities and outcomes and partnering to support economic development and growth of our communities. These objectives and strategy are most closely aligned with the MH goal of being a Great Partner, where we grow and sustain partnerships that improve health. CHNAs are available for each of the counties where our hospitals are located—Christian, Logan, Macon, Morgan and Sangamon counties. These assessments and the accompanying CHIPs can be found at [memorial.health/about-us/community/community-health-needs-assessment](https://www.memorial.health/about-us/community/community-health-needs-assessment). Final priorities for Memorial Health are listed in the graphic below.



**Memorial Health**

**Our Mission**  
Why we exist:  
**To improve lives and build stronger communities through better health**

**Our Vision**  
What we aspire to be:  
**To be the health partner of choice**

### FY25–27 FINAL PRIORITIES

<p><b>DMH</b></p> <p>MENTAL HEALTH RACISM CANCER AND UNEMPLOYMENT</p>	<p><b>JMH</b></p> <p>MENTAL HEALTH HEART DISEASE CANCER AND HEALTHY EATING</p>	<p><b>LMH</b></p> <p>MENTAL HEALTH HEALTHY WEIGHT CANCER</p>
<p><b>SMH</b></p> <p>MENTAL HEALTH CHRONIC DISEASES HOMELESSNESS AND SUBSTANCE USE</p>	<p><b>TMH</b></p> <p>MENTAL HEALTH HEART DISEASE/STROKE ACCESS TO PRIMARY CARE</p>	

## COMMITMENT TO ADDRESSING COMMUNITY HEALTH FACTORS AND HEALTHY EQUITY

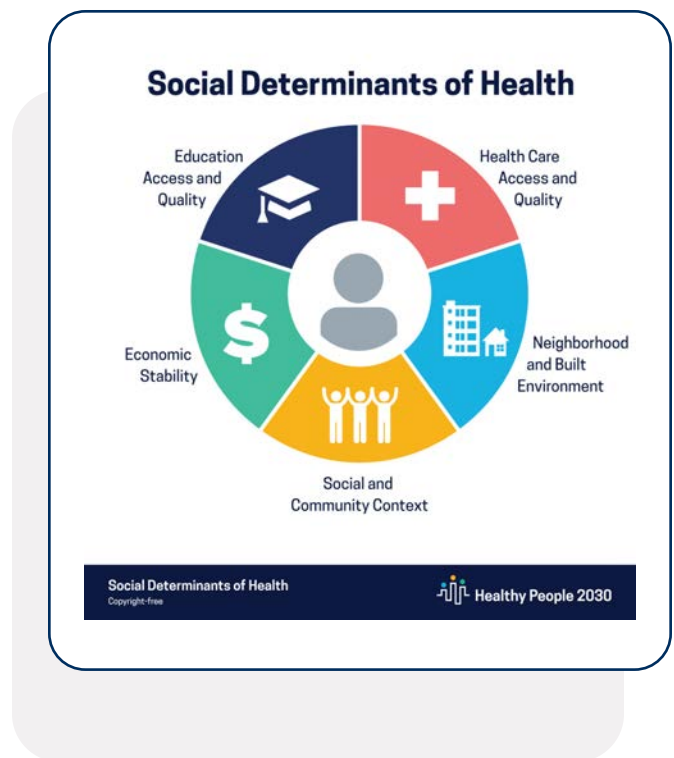
Health equity is when everyone has a fair and just opportunity to attain their highest level of health (CDC). Across many health measures, we know that not everyone gets this fair chance. Historical and present-day systems of inequality continue to undermine the opportunities for wellbeing for particular groups of people. Memorial Health is committed to moving toward greater health equity both within our health system and in our broader communities.

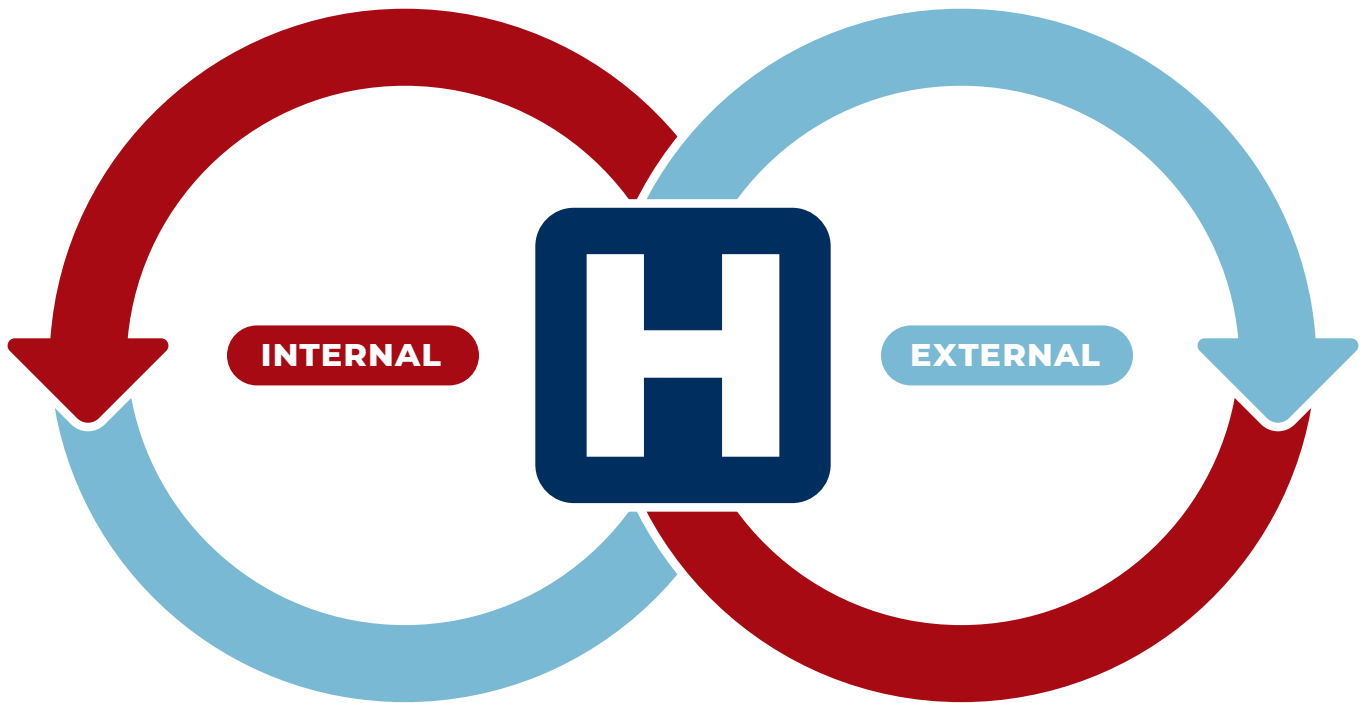
Social and structural factors are key drivers of health, often called “social determinants of health.” The American Health Association (AHA) estimates that 40% of a person’s health comes from socioeconomic factors like income, education, and community safety. Other structural factors like discrimination and exclusion due to a person’s race, gender, sexuality, age, veteran status, disability, immigration status and more can be included here, too. The AHA then attributes 10% of a person’s health to the physical environment, like shelter, air and water quality. Another 30% comes from health behaviors like diet, exercise and drug and alcohol use, leaving the final 20% to come from access to and quality of healthcare.

The social and structural elements drive health at these other levels, too. Exercise outdoors is difficult if pollution and community safety are problems, and racism and economic marginalization shapes who has access to safe neighborhood spaces. Drug and alcohol use can result from the trauma that comes through exposure to community violence and the impact of various forms of marginalization. Access to healthcare can be limited by socioeconomic factors like transportation and insurance as well as by past experiences of discrimination leading to medical distrust.

Committing to health equity requires a collaborative and multifaceted approach. Within our health system, we provide education and support to colleagues to ensure we are offering culturally competent and inclusive care. All hospitals have “health equity projects” that work to identify and resolve particular health disparities in our patient outcomes. We also partner with groups like the Illinois Health and Hospital Association, the American Health Association, Vizient, Press Ganey and others to measure our progress and identify actionable goals.

Given that the driving health factors happen outside of the healthcare system, Memorial Health makes a strong investment in community health, including having a community health coordinator assigned at each affiliate hospital to initiate and coordinate community partnerships. Careful attention is paid to these social, structural, environmental and behavioral aspects of health, and this focus guides the CHNA process at all points. We can visualize some key efforts to address these social and structural determinants of health both inside and outside the walls of our hospitals in the following way:





**INTERNAL**

- Screening patients for social determinants  
Connecting patients to community resources
- Equity analysis in quality improvement projects
- Updating electronic health records for accurate information on LGBTQ+ patients
- Participating in the Illinois Health Association Equity in Healthcare Progress Report
- Stratifying patient satisfaction scores to identify and address trends or patterns
- Annual colleague trainings regarding culturally sensitive data and unconscious bias in medicine

**EXTERNAL**

- Engaging with community through volunteerism
- Partnering with local homelessness, recreation opportunities and education initiatives
- Investing in the community including economic development and youth initiatives



## INTRODUCTION TO JACKSONVILLE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

As a nonprofit community hospital, JMH has been providing healthcare services to the residents of Morgan, Cass, Greene, Scott, Brown, Pike and Macoupin counties in west central Illinois since 1875. JMH contains 131 beds and is the largest employer in Morgan County, providing jobs and dollars that directly impact the local economy. JMH offers a wide range of services to the region, including emergency care, radiation oncology, Family Maternity Suites, pain management clinic, a transitional care unit, inpatient dialysis, intensive care unit and more. Jacksonville Memorial Hospital was designated a Magnet® hospital in 2009, 2014, 2018 and 2023, the highest honor an organization can receive for professional nursing practice from the American Nurses Credentialing Center. JMH is committed to providing financial support to patients and community partners in pursuit of its mission to improve lives and strengthen communities through better health.

## OUR COMMUNITY

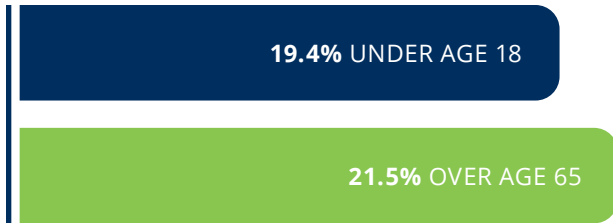
### DEMOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW

JMH is located in Jacksonville, Illinois, near the center of the state. Jacksonville is the county seat. Morgan County is largely rural and agricultural, with healthcare being one of the largest employers. The majority of patients served by JMH come from Morgan County and surrounding counties including Scott, Cass and Green. Jacksonville is where the hospital focuses most of its community engagement and community health initiatives, due to its population density and resources for collaborative partnerships.

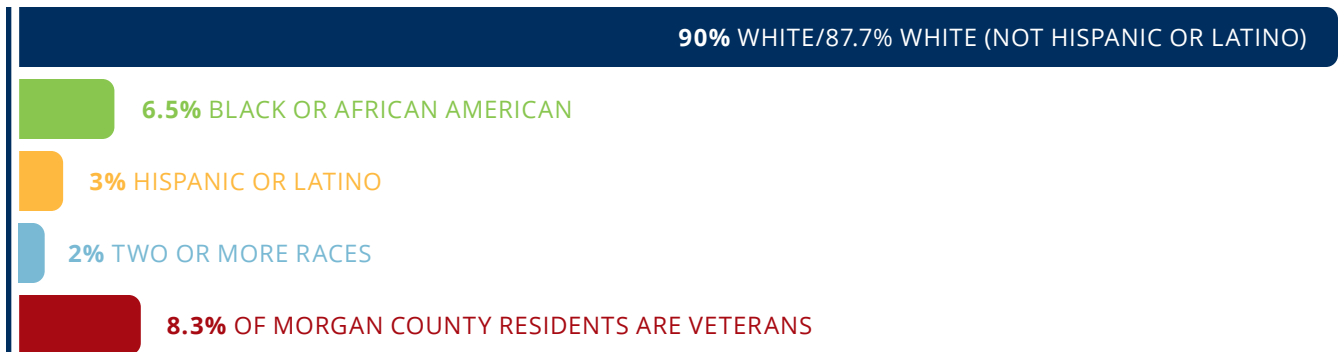
In 2022, the U.S. Census Bureau Populations and Housing Unit Estimates reported that Morgan County has a population of 32,140. Jacksonville is the county seat with the highest population of 17,279.



#### Population Age



#### Race and Hispanic Origin and Population Characteristics





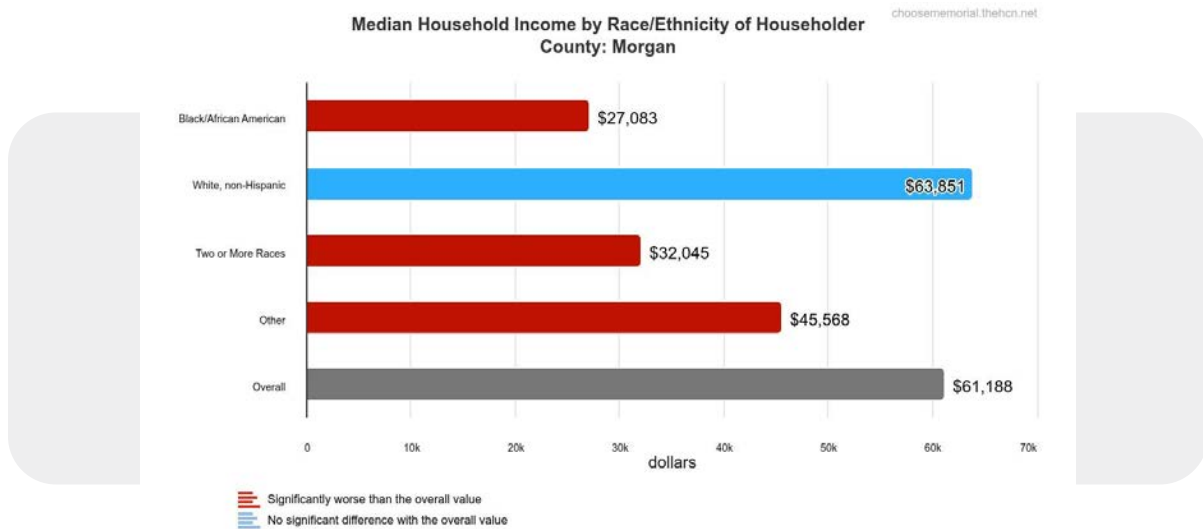
## EDUCATION AND HEALTHCARE RESOURCES

Jacksonville is home to the Illinois School for the Deaf—a state operated pre-kindergarten, elementary and high school for those who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. It is also home to Illinois College, a private liberal arts college and Lincoln Land Community College - Jacksonville. Many patients come to Jacksonville annually for quality specialty care that is not available in their community. In addition to JMH, other Morgan County healthcare resources include:

- Central Counties Health Centers, FQHC—Federally Qualified Health Center
- Hospice Care
- HSHS Medical Group
- Memorial Behavioral Health
- Morgan County Health Department
- Orthopedic Center of Central Illinois
- SIU Center for Family Medicine, FQHC
- Springfield Clinic

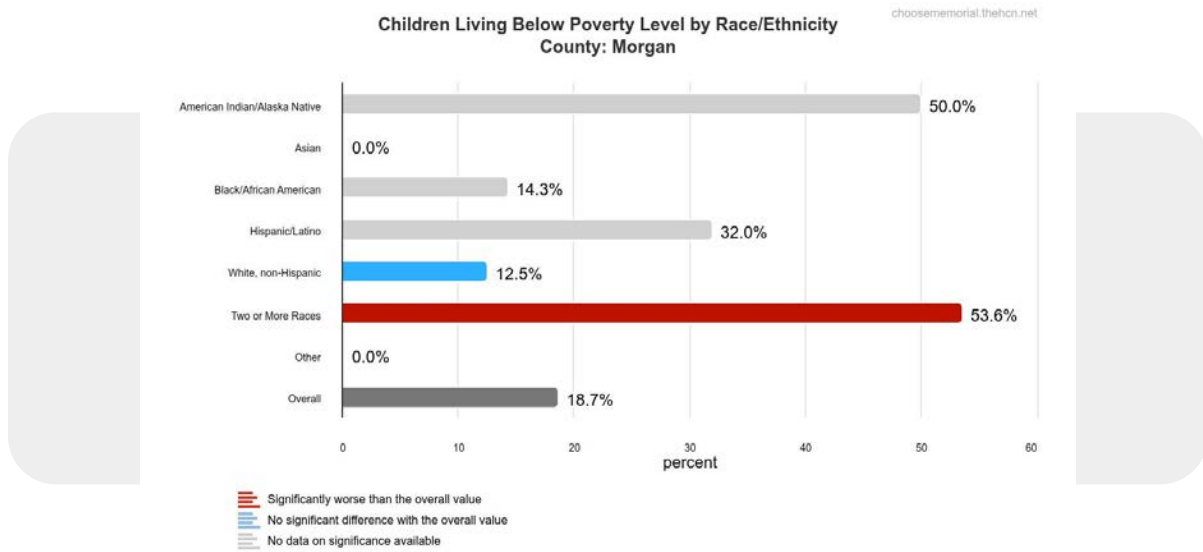
## ECONOMICS

The median household income in Morgan County is \$61,188, lower than both the Illinois and U.S. value. According to the American Community Survey, there are significant income disparities by race, with white households having the highest median household income at \$63,851 and Black/African American households having the lowest median household income at \$27,083.



**ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed)** is a way of defining and understanding financial hardship faced by households that earn above the federal poverty line (FPL), but not enough to afford a “bare bones” household budget. According to 2022 data from United for ALICE, in Morgan County, 30 percent of households in Morgan County are considered at the ALICE threshold or lower, which means they do not have enough to afford the basics in the communities where they live.

According to the American Community Survey, during the 2018-2022 reporting period, 18.7 percent of Morgan County children lived in poverty. This is higher than state and national percentages and has been getting worse since 2005. Morgan County children who identify as having two or more races are significantly impacted, with 53.6 percent living at or below the poverty level as compared to only 12.5 percent of their white peers.



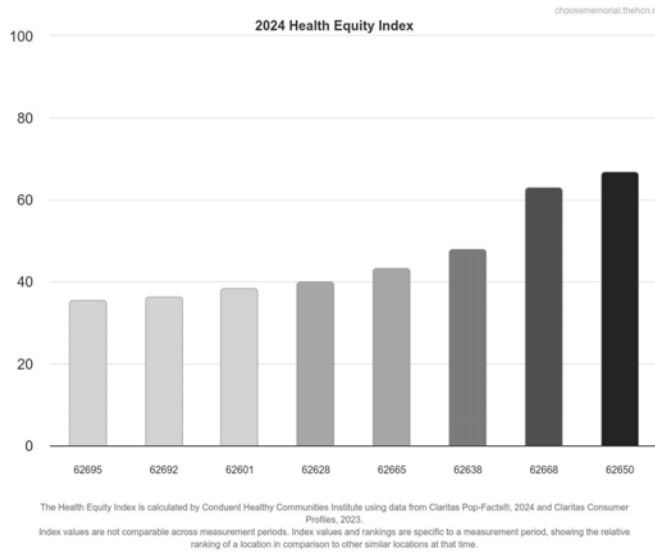
Source: American Community Survey 5-Year (2018-2022)

## SOCIAL VULNERABILITY INDEX

Natural disasters and infectious disease outbreaks can also pose a threat to a community’s health. Socially vulnerable populations are especially at risk during public health emergencies because of factors like socioeconomic status, household composition, minority status, or housing type and transportation. The Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) ranks census tracts on 15 social factors, such as unemployment, minority status and disability. Possible scores range from 0 (lowest vulnerability) to 1 (highest vulnerability). Morgan County’s 2018 overall SVI score is 0.5, indicating a moderate to high level of vulnerability.

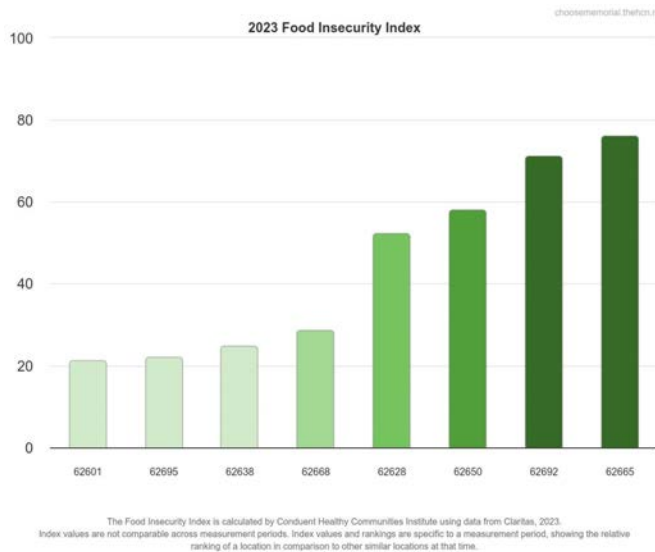
## HEALTH EQUITY INDEX

The 2024 Health Equity Index, created by Healthy Communities Institute, is a measure of socioeconomic need that is correlated with poor health outcomes. An index value 0 (low need) to 100 (high need) shows the greatest need. Morgan County has a 66.8 score in Jacksonville (62650) followed by 62.9 in Murrayville (62668).



## FOOD INSECURITY INDEX

The 2023 Food Insecurity Index, also created by Healthy Communities Institute, measures economic and household hardship correlated with poor food access. An index value from 0 (low need) to 100 (high need) is assigned to each zip code. The zip code of Meredosia (62665) showed the highest need with a score of 76.1.



## RESIDENTIAL SEGREGATION

Racial/ethnic residential segregation refers to the degree in which two or more groups live separately from one another in a geographic area. Although most overt discriminatory policies and practices, such as separate schools or seating on public transportation based on race, have been illegal for decades, segregation caused by structural, institutional and individual racism still exists in many parts of the country. The removal of discriminatory policies and practices has impacted institutional and individual acts of overt racism, but has had little effect on structural racism, like residential segregation, resulting in lingering structural inequalities.

Residential segregation is a key determinant of racial differences in socioeconomic mobility and, additionally, can create social and physical risks in residential environments that adversely affect health. The residential segregation index ranges from 0 (complete integration) to 100 (complete segregation). The index score can be interpreted as the percentage of either Black or white residents who would have to move to different geographic areas in order to produce a distribution that matches that of the larger area. Morgan County has a Residential Segregation—Black/White score of 45.1. In other words, 45% of either Black or white residents would have to move to different geographic areas to produce a de-segregated residential distribution. Illinois has an overall score of 71.5.



## ASSESSING THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY

ALL HOSPITAL AFFILIATES OF MEMORIAL HEALTH CONDUCTED THE 2024 CHNA USING THE SAME TIMELINE, PROCESS AND METHODOLOGY.

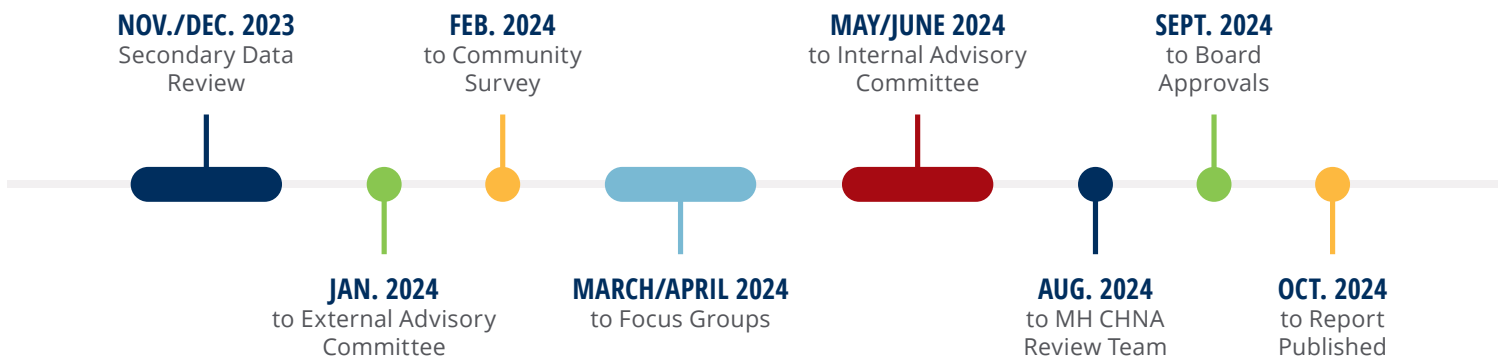
### FEEDBACK FROM THE LAST COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

To inform the CHNA process, written or verbal comments for the last CHNA and Community Health Implementation Plan (CHIP) are reviewed and considered. There were no comments received from the public regarding the 2021 CHNA or the FY22-24 CHIP.

### OVERSIGHT

The CHNA process for Jacksonville Memorial Hospital was led by JMH Community Health coordinator, Claire Peak. The process was also supported by JMH president and CEO, Trevor Huffman, and Memorial Health director of Community Health, Angela Stoltzenburg.

### TIMELINE



### PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA

The following criteria were referenced throughout the process. Final priorities were selected by ranking identified issues with these criteria, weighted to reduce individual bias and subjectivity resulting in a more objective and rational decision-making process.



**20% MAGNITUDE** – What is the number of people impacted by this problem or is this a trending health concern for the community?

**20% SEVERITY** – How severe is this problem or is it a root cause of other problems?

**30% FEASIBILITY** – Ability to have a measurable impact, availability of resources and evidence-based interventions available.

**20% EQUITY** – Does the issue have the greatest impact on people who are marginalized, vulnerable or living in poverty?

**10% POTENTIAL TO COLLABORATE** – Is this issue important to the community? Is there a willingness to act on the issue?

## PROCESS

### STEP 1: SECONDARY DATA COLLECTION

Primary and secondary qualitative and quantitative data were collected as the first step to identifying local community health needs. A variety of data was reviewed to assess key indicators of the social determinants of health including economic stability, education access/quality, health care access/quality, neighborhood/built environment and social/community context. As mentioned earlier in the report, these nonmedical factors influence the health outcomes of the community and represent the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age.

Memorial Health engages Conduent Healthy Communities Institute to provide a significant source of secondary data and makes it publicly available online as a free resource to the public. The HCI site provides local, state and national data to one accessible, user-friendly dashboard reporting more than 100 community indicators reflecting health topics, social determinants of health and quality of life. When available, specific county indicators are compared to other communities, state-wide data, national measures and Healthy People 2030. Many indicators also track change over time or identify disparities. The data can be found here: <https://memorial.health/about-us/community-health/healthy-communities-data>.

Additional secondary data and partner reports were reviewed for a nuanced understanding of community health indicators including:

- 500 Cities and PLACES Data Portal
- 2023 ALICE in the Crosscurrents: COVID and Financial Hardship in Illinois
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (WONDER)
- Illinois Health Data Portal
- Illinois Violent Death Reporting System
- Illinois Kids Count Report
- Illinois Public Health Community Map
- Illinois Report Card
- Illinois Youth Survey
- Morgan County Health Department
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation County Health Rankings
- State Health Improvement Plan: SHIP
- State Unintentional Drug Overdose Death Reporting System
- UIS Center for State Policy and Research Annual Report
- United States Census
- USDA Food Map—Food Deserts

### STEP 2: PRIMARY DATA COLLECTION

Primary data was collected directly from the community in three ways: an external advisory committee, interviews and focus groups. Participants included those who represent, serve or have lived experience with local low-income, minoritized or at-risk populations. These methods provided an opportunity to engage community stakeholders and hear their reactions to the secondary data and provide their experiences in the community.

## External Advisory Committee

The EAC consisted of 17 participants and was asked to review the secondary data collected to identify significant health needs in the community based on both the data as presented and their experience in the community. The following organizations were represented:

- Cass County Health Department
- Memorial Behavioral Health
- Jacksonville Police Department
- Locust Street Resource Center
- Prairieland United Way
- Morgan County Health Department
- MCS Community Services
- Salvation Army
- Spirit of Faith Soup Kitchen
- West Central Mass Transit District
- Bella Ease
- Jacksonville Memorial Hospital
- Birth to Five Illinois

## Community Survey

**Q:** *How do you rate your health?*

**Q:** *Why don't local residents access healthcare when they need it?*

A survey in both online and paper format was distributed throughout the county to gather feedback. The survey was available in English, French, Ukrainian and Spanish. Several community partners helped distribute the survey in both online and paper format including local human service agencies and the Morgan County Department of Public Health. The survey asked several demographic questions to identify basic characteristics of respondents. The questions centered around age, gender, race, ethnicity, income and education. Participants were asked how they rate their health and the health of the community in addition to assessing adverse childhood experiences experienced in the home, exposure to racism and local challenges to maintaining a healthy lifestyle. The survey also provided an opportunity to write in the biggest health problem in the community. In Morgan County, more than 246 surveys were completed. A copy of the survey can be found in Appendix I. A summary of who took the survey and the findings are below:

- 78.9% identified as female
- 24.4% reported at least some college
- 17.1% reported a household income of less than \$40,000
- 95.1% identified as white (compared to 87.7% population)
- 1.22% identified as Black or African American (compared to 6.4% population)
- More than 65% reported that healthcare is not accessed when needed due to financial barriers (inability to pay out of pocket expenses, lack of health insurance coverage and inability to pay for prescriptions)
- 49.8% reported lack of motivation/effort/concern as a challenge to maintaining a healthy lifestyle
- 49% reported access to healthy foods as a challenge to maintaining a healthy lifestyle
- 55.7% reported they had witnessed someone being treated differently because of their race sometimes or frequently
- 34.2% reported they agreed or strongly agreed that racism was a problem
- 57.4% had experienced emotional abuse in their household
- 56.1% reported mental illness in the household

## Focus Groups

Six focus groups and interviews were conducted with community members, representing diverse identities throughout the county. Representation included those of diverse age, race, ethnicity, education, socioeconomic status and more. The following organizations participated in focus groups:

- NAACP
- Illinois College students
- Salvation Army
- Spirit of Faith Soup Kitchen
- Prairieland United Way
- Prairie Council on Aging
- Jacksonville Memorial Hospital  
Cardiopulmonary and Sleep Lab
- Jacksonville Area Community  
Food Center
- Family Guidance Center
- Scott County Health Department

During community health focus groups, community members shared their concern for mental health and the increasing need for support services. Each of the focus groups agreed that early attention to mental health, starting in youth, is crucial. Members also thought that addressing substance use could positively impact mental health, as the two issues are closely linked. Another subject discussed was the lack of motivation to address health outcomes. Focus group members agreed that lack of motivation to address outcomes is the root of ongoing health concerns; without interventions, no progress will be made. Access to care can be challenging due to cost, and patients often struggle to adhere to their care plans. Food insecurity was heavily discussed, as nutrition plays a crucial role in overall health, yet Morgan County residents struggle to afford healthy food. There was consensus that initiating education and screenings at a young age would help address many of these priorities effectively.

## STEP 3: INTERNAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Internal Advisory Committee reviewed both primary and secondary data collected and recommended final priorities for board approval based on the selected criteria. Each potential need was force ranked by the criteria category. The JMH Internal Advisory Committee reviewed the following seven potential priorities: Mental Health, Healthy Eating, Binge Drinking, Cancer, Heart Disease, Income Disparities/Poverty and Lack of Concern for Health. The IAC consisted of the following members:

- Jacksonville Memorial Foundation Executive Director
- JMH Healthy Jacksonville Community Health Worker
- Morgan County Health Department Executive Director
- JMH Affiliate Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer
- JMH AVP IS & Support Services
- JMH Nurse Manager
- JMH Patient Care Coordinator
- MH Director of Community Health
- MH Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Consultant

## STEP 4: MEMORIAL HEALTH CHNA/CHIP REVIEW COMMITTEE

A Memorial Health CHNA/CHIP Review Committee was added to the process in 2024. The purpose of this team was to review the CHNA findings for all affiliate MH hospitals and identify a shared priority. Sharing these regional needs provided an opportunity to discuss potential strategies to create a regional impact or inform health system strategy. The review committee included Memorial Health colleagues in the following roles: MH Chief Administrative Officer; MH Vice President of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion; MH Vice President and Chief Quality Officer; Hospital Presidents/CEOs; Director of Community Health and Community Health Coordinators. Mental Health was identified as a priority in every hospital CHNA and therefore was chosen as the system-wide priority.



## ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY

The sections below provide deeper insight into the priorities selected. These priorities will be featured in the FY25-27 community health implementation plan. An explanation of additional identified health needs that were not chosen as final priorities is also included below. MH is committed to meeting the needs of our communities and will continue to collaborate with community partners to address priorities outside those identified in the CHNA, as resources allow.

### SELECTED PRIORITIES

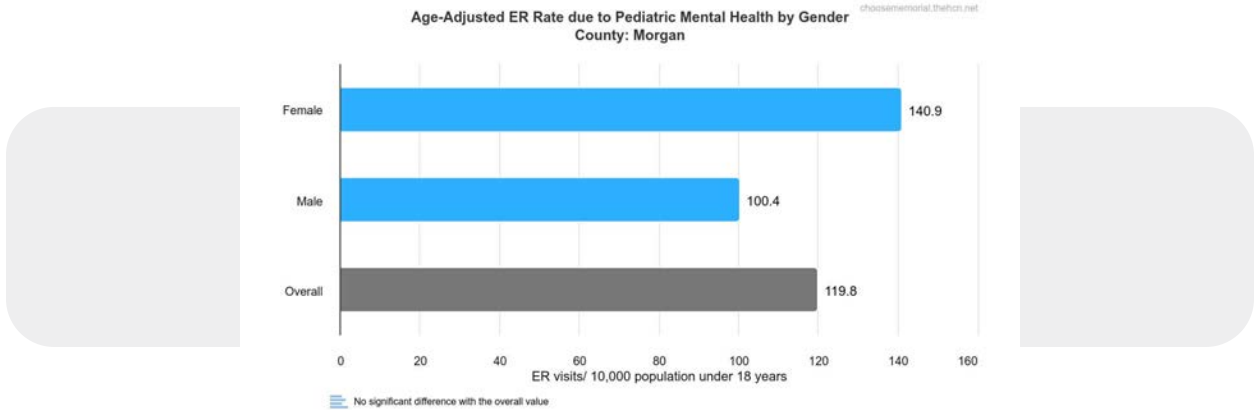
Using a prioritization matrix to calculate the weighted scores from the forced rankings of the final seven priorities considered, the following priorities were selected:

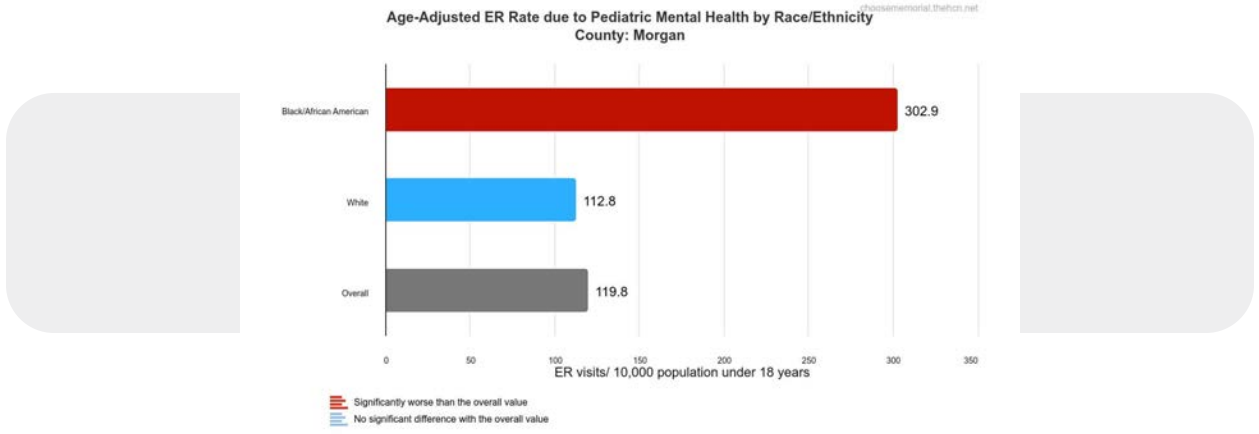
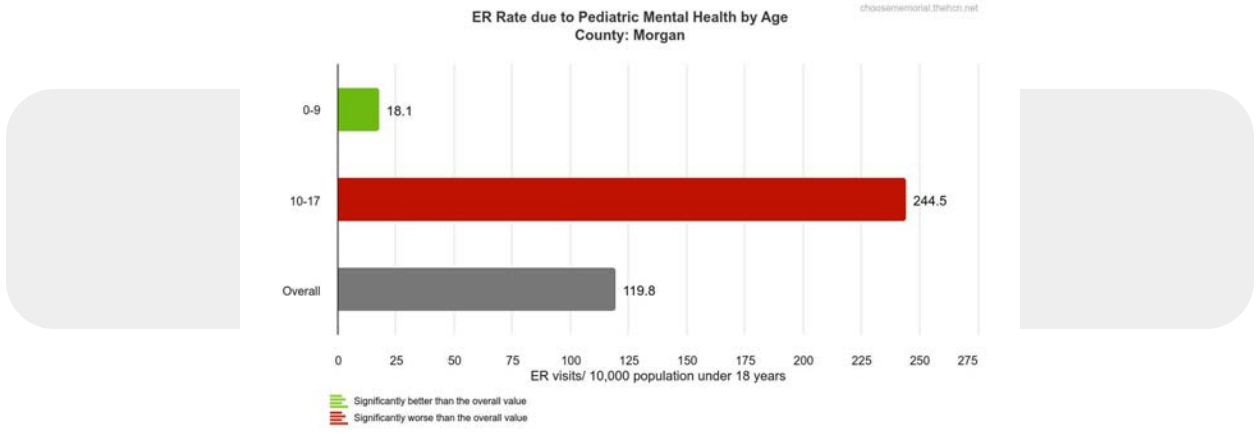
1. **Mental Health – Score of 11.3**
2. **Heart Disease – Score of 10.9**
3. **Cancer – Score of 9.4**
4. **Healthy Eating – Score of 8.1**

### MENTAL HEALTH

Mental Health was a consistent theme of concern throughout the CHNA process. In our secondary data research, the 2020 Illinois Youth Survey found that 16 percent of Morgan County 12th graders reported that they had considered suicide in the past year. In addition, 38 percent of 10th graders reported that they had experienced recent depression. Twenty-one percent of adults in Morgan County have been diagnosed with depression, which is higher than the U.S. rate of 19.5 percent. The county seat of Jacksonville (zip code 62650) was rated a score of 93.9 out of a 100, showing a high need on the Mental Health Needs Index created by Healthy Communities Institute. Morgan County also reported an incidence rate (per 100,000) of 16 deaths by suicide.

Disparities were evident by age, gender and race regarding the annual age-adjusted emergency room visit rate due to mental health (per 100,000). In the 2020-2022 reporting period, the Illinois Health and Hospital Association reported that pediatric hospitalizations due to mental health in Morgan County were at a significantly higher rate (119.8) than in the state of Illinois (58). Children ages 10-17, girls and Black/African American children are most impacted by mental health emergency room visits.





We also acknowledge that LGBT youth across the country experience higher rates of mental health challenges as compared to heterosexual peers due to bias, discrimination, family rejection and other stressors related to how they are treated.

According to the Illinois Health and Hospital Association, 25–44-year-olds are seen in the emergency room due to mental health more than any other adults. However, we found that 17 percent of Medicare beneficiaries were treated for depression.

Men are seen in the emergency department slightly more with a rate of 183.1 as compared to women with a rate of 162. The Hispanic population in Morgan County is significantly more impacted by mental health concerns, with a rate of 348.5 in comparison to their Black and white counterparts who have rates at 182 and 180. In focus groups, language barriers were cited as a barrier to receiving healthcare services, which could indicate a lack of preventive services.

## HEART DISEASE

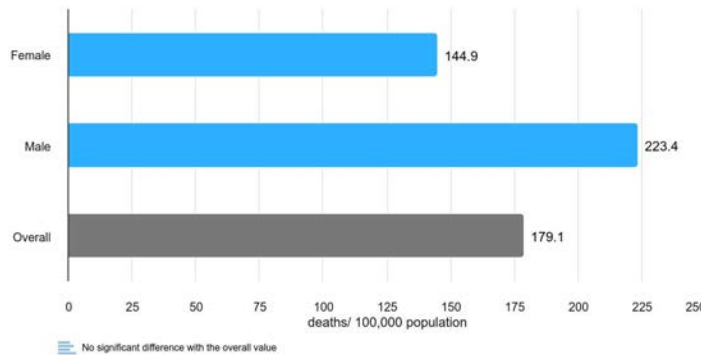
As the number one cause of death in Morgan County, it was clear to the internal advisory committee that heart disease should be included in the upcoming community health implementation plan. Heart disease includes various conditions affecting the heart, with coronary artery disease being the most prevalent. This type of heart disease can lead to heart attacks, angina, heart failure and arrhythmias. Key modifiable risk factors include smoking, obesity, lack of physical activity and an unhealthy diet. Managing high blood pressure and cholesterol levels is also crucial for prevention. In Morgan County, 43.8 percent of adults have high cholesterol, significantly higher than the Illinois average of 31.5 percent and the national average of 35.7%. Additionally, 7.4 percent of adults are diagnosed with coronary heart disease and 36.6 percent have high blood pressure, which is higher than the US average of 32.7 percent.

Heart disease was selected as a priority due to its top ranking across all criteria, from magnitude to potential for collaboration.

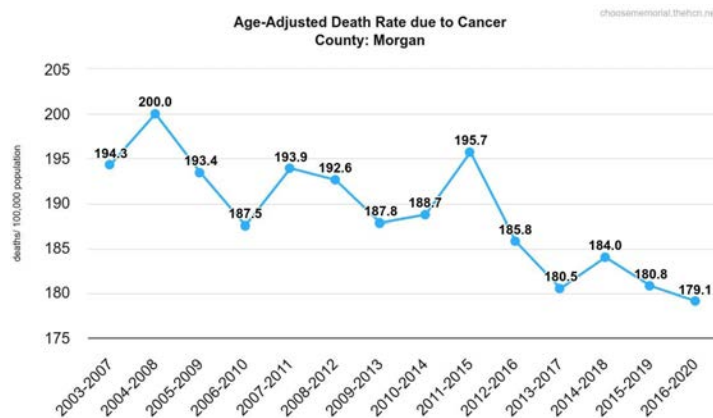
## CANCER

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in Morgan County. According to the National Cancer Institute, Morgan County has a cancer incidence rate of 556.7 per 100,000, which is higher than both the Illinois average of 459 and the national average of 442. The Morgan County death rate for the 2016-2020 reporting period was 179.1 as compared to 155 for Illinois and 149 for the nation. Males die from cancer more often than women, with a death rate of 223.4 compared to women at 144.9.

Age-Adjusted Death Rate due to Cancer by Gender  
County: Morgan



Age-Adjusted Death Rate due to Cancer  
County: Morgan

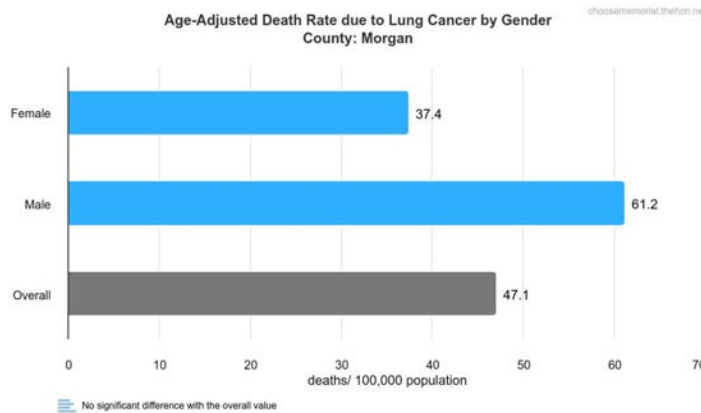
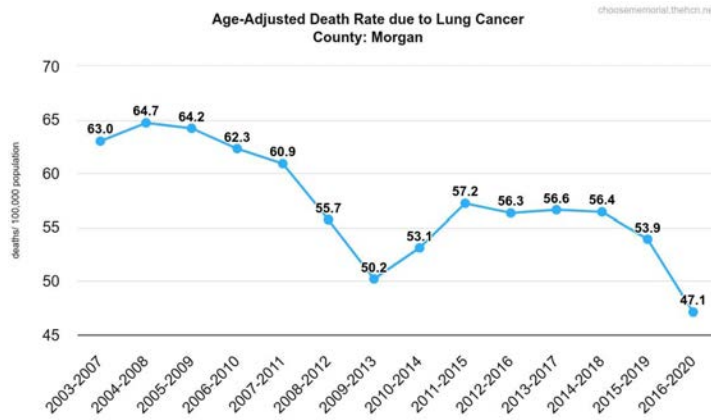


Cancer was also listed as one of the biggest concerns on the community survey. In community focus groups, members highlighted the need for increased cancer education and awareness, as well as the importance of campaigns addressing alcohol and tobacco abuse, both of which are significant risk factors for cancer. Emphasizing the importance of early detection and educating our community about the risk factors for certain cancers is crucial.

The IAC reviewed high-level cancer data but also specific data on the cancers with the highest incidence and death rates in Morgan County. The incidence rates and death rates are listed below:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Lung cancer incidence rate – 85.8<br>Lung cancer death rate – 47.1      | 3. Colorectal cancer incidence rate – 56.4<br>Colorectal cancer death rate – 16.2 |
| 2. Breast cancer incidence rate – 162.7<br>Breast cancer death rate – 21.8 | 4. Prostate cancer incidence rate – 124.4<br>Prostate cancer death rate – 18.7    |

The National Cancer Institute reports that more men die of lung cancer (a rate of 61.2) than women (a rate of 37.4). And while the trend does continue to decrease, likely to decreased tobacco smoking, the rates are still higher than the state and national rates and vaping education and prevention may help continue trends of lower lung cancer incidence and death.



The Internal Advisory Committee recognized tremendous community support to address cancer, including existing partnerships and strategies to address cancer.



## HEALTHY EATING

Research has shown that when people can't access healthy food they are more likely to have negative health outcomes, including obesity, premature death, chronic diseases and lack of physical activity. Feedback from the external advisory committee showed that food insecurity and access to food was a high need in Morgan County. By recognizing these barriers, we can implement evidence-based strategies to address them, promote healthy eating and work to improve access to healthy foods and education for those facing food insecurity.

In Morgan County, 49 percent of community health survey respondents cited "access to healthy foods" as a challenge to maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Food insecurity stands at 11 percent, higher than the Illinois average of 8 percent. The 2023 Food Insecurity Index referenced earlier in the report rated Morgan County a 39.5 but the zip codes 62665 and 62692 are both over 70, showing a high need.

About 21 percent of Morgan County residents receive SNAP benefits, compared to 16 percent in Illinois. Robert Wood Johnson's County Health Rankings scores Morgan County as a 7.2 out of 10 on the food environment index, which measures access to healthy foods by distance from groceries stores and cost barriers to recognize food deserts. The U.S. average is 7.7. Additionally, 10 percent of 12th graders in Greene County report consuming no vegetables daily. In addition, 17.7 percent of children are living in a household projected to experience food insecurity at some point in the year. The rate of limited access to healthy food is 13 percent, which is higher than the Illinois value of 5 percent.

During focus groups, community members emphasized the need for better access to healthy food in Morgan County and for education on cooking and nutrition. They noted that poor nutrition is a major underlying cause of various health issues. Survey results revealed that limited access to healthy foods and a lack of education and knowledge are significant challenges faced by residents of Morgan County.

Because healthy eating is a root cause for so many positive health outcomes and because it impacts so many people, the IAC ranked it high, and it was selected as a priority. It also ranked for the ability to have measurable impact and find evidence-based strategies.

## HEALTH NEEDS NOT SELECTED

Often, organizational capacity prohibits JMH from implementing programs to address all significant health needs identified during the CHNA process. JMH chose to focus efforts and resources on a few key issues to develop a meaningful CHIP and demonstrated impact that could be replicated with other priorities in the future.

**Binge Drinking** – Binge drinking is acknowledged as a concern for Morgan County due to a rate of motor vehicle crash deaths involving alcohol that is significantly higher than the IL (29 percent) and U.S. (27 percent) values. However, after reviewing the prioritization criteria, it was scored as a 4.8. JMH does not have the capacity and resources to address this issue in addition to those that ranked higher during the selection process.

**Income Disparities/Poverty** – While the internal advisory committee recognizes that poverty and income disparities are a root cause of several issues, JMH does not feel it has the expertise or resources necessary to effectively address this need at this time. It was ranked as a 4.7 during the prioritization process. There are several existing services in place to support low-income families who reside in Morgan County and the surrounding counties JMH serves. Further, food insecurity will be addressed as part of the chosen "healthy eating" priority.

**Lack of Concern for Health** – A root cause of poor health could be due to the cultural lack of concern for health in Morgan County and the surrounding counties. During the prioritization process, this was ranked a 4.0. The internal advisory committee felt it would be difficult to have an impact on this priority until other barriers to health were removed. Some existing strategies administered by JMH to encourage a culture of health include the local farmers market SNAP matching program, a 5K/10K race and community walking program. When possible, JMH will continue to support community partners who develop health education and recreation opportunities to foster a culture of health throughout the service area.

## COMMUNITY RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO ADDRESS SIGNIFICANT NEEDS

Gaps, assets, collaborative partnerships and existing work for each of the final priorities will be explored with existing partners and community stakeholders. Members of the organizations who participated in the external advisory committee and focus groups will provide important feedback to the development of the FY25-27 CHIP.

Below are some examples of existing or potential partnerships that can be leveraged to address the final priorities selected.

**Locust Street Resource Center** – A partnership with this community health resource could result in increased access to services or mental health awareness.

**Jacksonville School District 117** – JMH hopes to continue the Walking for Wellness program with JSD 117 to promote exercise to improve mental health and prevent heart disease. JMH would like to explore potential collaborations with JSD 117 to get students connected early to services.

**Jacksonville Farmers Market** – JMH will continue its partnership with the farmers market to oversee the SNAP matching program. This program increases consumption of local produce for those with limited resources.

**Healthy Communities Food/Nutrition Coalition** – JMH facilitates this coalition and plans to continue partnerships with Salvation Army, Spirit of Faith Soup Kitchen, Jacksonville Area Food Center, and Prairieland United Way to address food access and healthy eating opportunities.

**University of Illinois Extension** – We hope to continue partnerships with the U of I Extension to increase education about healthy eating.

**The Mia Ware Foundation** – JMH plans to continue its longtime partnership to offer cancer screenings and potentially expand education for community members.

**Regional Cancer Partnership** – Facilitated by Memorial Health, the RCP brings partners from across the region together to identify and facilitate opportunities for cancer education, support and screenings.

**Southern Illinois University School of Medicine** – JMH has an established partnership with SIU to provide skin cancer screenings and plans to continue.

**Morgan County Health Department** – JMH intends to maintain its longstanding partnership with the Morgan County Health Department and work together to enhance access to services.

## IMPACT OF 2021 CHNA AND THE FY22-24 CHIP

In 2021, Jacksonville Memorial Hospital completed a Community Health Needs Assessment for Morgan County, Illinois, as required of nonprofit hospitals by the Affordable Care Act of 2010. As an affiliate of Memorial Health, JMH worked with four other affiliate hospitals to produce the overall CHNA but completed its Morgan County assessment and plan independently from those hospitals in collaboration with local community partners.

Jacksonville Memorial Hospital collaborated with the Morgan County Health Department to complete the 2021 CHNA. Community health needs were prioritized from a Community Advisory Committee, community focus groups and a community health survey that sought input from the community and those who are minoritized and underserved. Access to health, the social determinants of health and racial inequalities were considered in all parts of the process.

*Final priorities selected by JMH are listed below.*

- Mental health (also approved as a priority across the health system)
- Obesity
- Cancer

*Recognizing that initiatives often address multiple priorities, the following broad goals were established:*

**Mental Health** – To improve mental health

**Obesity** – To reduce overweight and obesity

**Cancers** – To reduce the incidence of cancers

**Mental Health (system priority)** – To improve mental health in Christian, Logan, Macon, Morgan and Sangamon counties

*Below are highlights of strategies employed to address the established needs.*

**Trauma-Informed Care Trainings** – After extensive planning and promotion during the first two years of the CHIP, eight free trauma-informed care trainings were held in 2024 for communities throughout the Memorial Health service area, including Morgan County. These were provided in partnership with Memorial Behavioral Health and were held both in-person and virtually to increase access. Continuing education units were made available. In addition, we partnered with community-based organizations to promote 988 and other mental health services via posters, presentations and promotional materials.

**Cancer Screenings** – In partnership with the Mia Ware Foundation and the Regional Cancer Partnership, free skin cancer screenings, mammographies and colorectal cancer screening kits were distributed to the community in 2022, 2023 and 2024.

**Farmers Market SNAP Program** – To address obesity and promote cancer prevention, JMH obtained a grant from the USDA to oversee a SNAP matching program at the Jacksonville Farmers Market. Over \$20,000 in SNAP benefits have been matched.

**Bicycle-Friendly Designation** - JMH earned the bronze designation as a Bicycle-Friendly Business with the League of American Cyclists. The efforts leading to this designation included promoting cycling through bicycle events, bike month activities and supporting local efforts to explore bicycle trails and paths.

**Summerfest** – In 2023, in partnership with several community-based organizations, JMH held a community event to promote summer activities for children, including a large free food distribution. The event took place for a second time in 2024 with an additional wellness fair to promote local resources, services and provide free health screenings to families.

**Walking for Wellness** – The walking program held in partnership with Jacksonville School District was held each year during the FY22-24 CHIP. Free indoor walking is available to the public and promotes mental health and physical activity to prevent cancers and obesity. Since 2022, people have participated in the opportunity over 15,000 times.

**Healthy Jacksonville** – Community health workers employed by JMH provided individualized case management to provide referral and advocacy while navigating life challenges. More than 100 individuals have received services during FY22-24, helping to avoid unnecessary emergency room visits, evictions, hunger and homelessness.

## APPENDIX 1

### Morgan County Community Health Needs Assessment

CONDUCTED BY JACKSONVILLE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AND THE MORGAN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

**THANK YOU!** *The data gathered will help us identify and address health and quality-of-life issues in Morgan County.*

The following questions are for analysis purposes only. This information will NOT be used to identify you as a participant but is important to ensure we have responses from all members of our community.

**In what year were you born?**

**What is your gender?** *Select the option that best describes your gender identity.*

- Male
  Transgender Man
  If not listed; please specify:
- Female
  Transgender Woman
- Non-binary
  Prefer not to answer

**What is your highest level of education?**

- Less than high school
  Some college
- Some high school
  Four-year college degree
- High school diploma or equivalent
  More than four-year degree
- Trade or technical school beyond high school

**What was your household's income last year before taxes?**

- Less than \$20,000
  \$60,001 – \$80,000
  Retired
- \$20,001 – \$40,000
  \$80,001 – \$100,000
  Prefer not to answer
- \$40,001 – \$60,000
  \$100,000+

**What categories describe you?** *(Please check all that apply.)*

- American Indian or Alaska Native (Navajo Nation, Blackfeet Tribe, Mayan, Aztec, Native Village of Barrow Inupiat Traditional Government, Nome Eskimo Community, etc.)
- Asian (Chinese, Filipino, Asian Indian, Vietnamese, Korean, Japanese, etc.)
- Black or African American (African American, Jamaican, Haitian, Nigerian, Ethiopian, Somalian, etc.)
- Hispanic, Latino or Spanish Origin (Mexican, Mexican American, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Dominican, etc.)
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (Native Hawaiian, Samoan, Chamorro, Tongan, Fijian, etc.)
- White (German, Irish, English, Italian, Polish, French, Lebanese, Egyptian, Iranian, Slavic, Cajun, etc.)
- Some other race, ethnicity, or origin

**What is your zip code?**

## Morgan County Community Health Needs Assessment

CONDUCTED BY JACKSONVILLE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AND THE MORGAN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

### What is your disability status?

- Do not have a disability     Have a disability     Prefer not to say

### How would you rate YOUR overall health?

- Very healthy     Healthy     Somewhat healthy     Not very healthy

### How would you rate the health of your county?

- Very healthy     Healthy     Somewhat healthy     Not very healthy

### Why don't local residents access health care when they need it? *(Please check all that apply.)*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Lack of health insurance coverage       | <input type="radio"/> Availability of providers/appointments             |
| <input type="radio"/> Inability to pay for prescriptions      | <input type="radio"/> Lack of child care                                 |
| <input type="radio"/> Lack of transportation                  | <input type="radio"/> Lack of access to mental health providers          |
| <input type="radio"/> Basic needs not met (food/shelter)      | <input type="radio"/> Lack of access to a dentist                        |
| <input type="radio"/> Language/cultural barriers              | <input type="radio"/> Lack of access to physicians/providers             |
| <input type="radio"/> Inability to pay out-of-pocket expenses | <input type="radio"/> Time limitations                                   |
| <input type="radio"/> Lack of trust                           | <input type="radio"/> Lack of concern or health is not a priority/valued |

### Check any populations that you feel are not receiving sufficient healthcare in your county:

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Underinsured/uninsured | <input type="radio"/> Hispanic/Latino       | <input type="radio"/> Low-income                                |
| <input type="radio"/> Asian                  | <input type="radio"/> I don't know          | <input type="radio"/> Children/Youth                            |
| <input type="radio"/> LGBTQIA+               | <input type="radio"/> Seniors/aging/elderly | <input type="radio"/> Individuals with mental health challenges |
| <input type="radio"/> None of these          | <input type="radio"/> Homeless              |   |
| <input type="radio"/> Black/African American | <input type="radio"/> Young adults          |   |
| <input type="radio"/> Disabled               | <input type="radio"/> Immigrant/Refugees    |   |

### Check any challenges you feel local residents face when trying to maintain a healthy lifestyle?

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Recreation opportunities  | <input type="radio"/> Safety/Crime                | <input type="radio"/> I don't know                |
| <input type="radio"/> Cultural barriers         | <input type="radio"/> Lack of education/knowledge | <input type="radio"/> Other: <input type="text"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> Access to healthy foods   | <input type="radio"/> Affordable housing          |   |
| <input type="radio"/> Motivation/Effort/Concern | <input type="radio"/> Time/Convenience            |   |

### Have you witnessed anyone in your county being treated negatively because of their race?

- Never     Sometimes     Frequently

### Do you agree or disagree with this statement? *Racism is a problem in this county.*

- Strongly disagree     Disagree     Unsure     Agree     Strongly Agree

## Morgan County Community Health Needs Assessment

CONDUCTED BY JACKSONVILLE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AND THE MORGAN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

**Have you or anyone in your household EVER experienced any of the following?** *(Check all that apply.)*

- Physical abuse (push, grab, slap, throw something at you, kicked, threatened with a weapon, bruised)
- Emotional abuse (swear at, insult, put you down, humiliate, act in a way you were afraid)
- Sexual abuse
- Physical neglect (not enough to eat, had to wear dirty clothes, parents too drunk or high to take care of you)
- Emotional neglect (often feel that no one in your family loves you, family does not support one another)
- Mental illness in the household
- Mother treated violently
- Parents divorced or separated
- Chronic substance use/dependency (alcohol, prescription opioids, recreational drugs, etc.)
- Household member incarcerated
- Gun violence

**What do you think is/are the biggest health problem(s) in your county right now?**

**What is the ONE thing you would do to make the health of your county better?**

**RANK THESE 10 health concerns FROM 1 to 10. (1 most important health concern to address, 10 being the least):**

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Access to food                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental health                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol misuse          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Homelessness and housing concerns | <input type="checkbox"/> Poverty                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Access to healthcare    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heart disease                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Early childhood development and prenatal care | <input type="checkbox"/> Racism & discrimination |
|  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> Lung health             |









