

2015 Braxton County Memorial Hospital
Community Health Needs Assessment





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2015 Community Health Needs Assessment

I. Executive Description

Braxton County is a rural county located in the central area of the State of West Virginia. Braxton County's population is approximately 14,500 as of the 2010 census. The county was formed in 1836 and has a total area of 516 square miles (US Census Bureau). The county is currently designated as a Primary Care Health Professional Service Area and a Medically Underserved Area. In 1981, Braxton County Memorial Hospital (BCMh) was established. The BCMh is a non-profit Critical Access Hospital and is the only hospital in the county. BCMh serves the Braxton County area along with segments of Clay, Gilmer, Lewis, Nicholas, and Webster counties. BCMh is located in Gassaway, WV and is placed close to I-79. BCMh continues to offer healthcare services to residents of these areas while remaining a critical access point for those seeking immediate healthcare treatment.

II. CHNA Preparation

The Community Health Needs Assessment was conducted by the Braxton County Memorial Hospital to appraise the current needs of individuals within BCMh's range of service. The project was started in December 2014 and completed in April of 2015. The project's facilitator was William King, an interning MBA student and Braxton County local. He worked closely with Ben Vincent, CEO of the hospital, in order to perform the assessment. Through careful consideration, it was determined necessary to question local healthcare professionals upon the health needs they most often see in their day-to-day activities. This provided the assessment with health needs from sources that are credible in the healthcare field.

CHNA Survey Questionnaire

Through close collaboration with Dr. Susan Aloj, Director of MBA studies at West Virginia Wesleyan College, and Ben Vincent, CEO of BCMh, a survey questionnaire was developed (Appendix A). The purpose of this questionnaire was to gather data required to accurately assess the state of healthcare needs being experienced within the county. The target audience of this survey were healthcare professionals and key healthcare stakeholders within the Braxton County region. Each participant was asked to complete the survey which was made available electronically and physically. In total, 56 individuals were selected to participate in the survey. A total of 30 responses were received, resulting in a 53.5% response rate. The majority of responses came from medical doctors (MD) and doctors of osteopathic medicine (DO) with the second largest response group being registered nurses (RN) and licensed practical nurses (LPN). The collection period was between April 2nd and April 16th. A total of 29 electronic surveys were completed and one physical survey was completed.

After the surveying period was closed, the data was analyzed and utilized in the preparation of the CHNA. From the obtained results, BCMh was able to develop a list of health priorities in order to implement measures to better serve these healthcare needs. The following report will address the results from the survey along with strategic health priorities to improve services.

III. Secondary Data Review

Below, supplied by the United States Census Bureau, is a comparison of demographic characteristics

Subject	U.S. Estimate	West Virginia Estimate	Braxton County, West Virginia Estimate	Clay County, West Virginia Estimate	Gilmer County, West Virginia Estimate	Lewis County, West Virginia Estimate	Nicholas County, West Virginia Estimate	Webster County, West Virginia Estimate
SEX AND AGE								
Total population	311,536,594	1,853,619	14,524	9,352	8,678	16,411	26,168	9,073
Male	153,247,412	913,201	7,331	4,701	5,131	8,171	12,799	4,492
Female	158,289,182	940,418	7,193	4,651	3,547	8,240	13,369	4,581
Under 5 years	20,052,112	103,607	769	563	365	947	1,495	514
5 to 9 years	20,409,060	104,752	537	731	448	1,086	1,353	688
10 to 14 years	20,672,609	109,686	1,078	479	213	765	1,526	335
15 to 19 years	21,715,074	117,142	900	617	708	925	1,540	530
20 to 24 years	22,099,887	121,840	801	430	775	861	1,542	446
25 to 34 years	41,711,277	219,486	1,533	1,028	1,462	1,838	2,760	890
35 to 44 years	40,874,162	235,469	1,796	1,193	1,224	2,078	3,284	1,124
45 to 54 years	44,506,268	268,438	2,203	1,390	1,157	2,483	4,014	1,374
55 to 59 years	20,165,892	140,033	1,337	781	592	1,243	2,080	861
60 to 64 years	17,479,211	128,197	927	592	455	1,182	1,962	605
65 to 74 years	22,957,030	169,620	1,528	882	706	1,713	2,737	1,009
75 to 84 years	13,220,447	98,092	866	480	375	917	1,339	474
85 years and over	5,673,565	37,257	249	186	198	373	536	223
Median age (years)	37.3	41.5	43.7	42.2	38.0	44.0	44.1	45.1
18 years and over	237,659,116	1,468,456	11,610	7,183	7,429	13,040	20,840	7,191
21 years and over	223,923,579	1,391,511	11,085	6,866	6,730	12,390	19,871	6,943
62 years and over	51,916,934	377,161	3,213	1,789	1,549	3,675	5,798	2,077
65 years and over	41,851,042	304,969	2,643	1,548	1,279	3,003	4,612	1,706
18 years and over	237,659,116	1,468,456	11,610	7,183	7,429	13,040	20,840	7,191
Male	115,463,694	716,528	5,868	3,624	4,526	6,392	10,005	3,546
Female	122,195,422	751,928	5,742	3,559	2,903	6,648	10,835	3,645
65 years and over	41,851,042	304,969	2,643	1,548	1,279	3,003	4,612	1,706
Male	18,160,481	134,007	1,259	749	588	1,363	2,130	820
Female	23,690,561	170,962	1,384	799	691	1,640	2,482	886

for the areas served by BCMH.

Source: US Census Bureau 2010



Overall Health

Braxton County ranks fairly well in Overall Health Rank at #27 out of 55 counties. Gilmer ranks #22, Clay ranks #40, Webster ranks #43, Lewis ranks #45, and Nicholas ranks #46.¹ Notably, several of these ranks are in the bottom half of the county. Overall health rankings are comprised of Health Outcomes, Health Factors, Clinical Care, Social and Economic Factors, and Physical Environment. The presence of BCMH in Braxton County helps increase the ranking of the county significantly.¹

IV. Provider Survey Results

When asked to assess a number of health conditions within their areas of practice, respondents answered that “Access to Care,” “Obesity,” “Nutrition,” “Substance Abuse,” and “Tobacco Use” were the most concerning conditions present. Conversely, “Environmental Quality” and “Injury (from violence)” were the least concerning health conditions.

When asked how common specific health-related issues were in their areas of practice, respondents answered that “Pulmonary conditions,” “Cardiac-related problems,” “Diabetes/Metabolic problems,” “Obesity/Nutritional problems,” “COPD,” and “Pneumonia” were the most prevalent issues encountered. “Urological problems” and “Pediatric issues” were the less prevalent issues. In addition, respondents were asked if resources were available within the community to address these prevalent issues. A total of 19 (63.3%) individuals responded that resources

The lower violent crime rate of Braxton County when compared to West Virginia is positive.¹

The Physical Environment also ranks high for Braxton County and Gilmer County, but is low for Nicholas County and Webster County.¹

Braxton County ranks very low on Health Factors. These factors consist of Adult smoking, Adult obesity, Food environment index, Physical activity, Access to exercise opportunities, Excessive Drinking, Alcohol impaired driving deaths, STD’s, and Teen births. Braxton is ranked #52 out of 55 in Health Factors. Gilmer County ranks #35 in Health Factors, while Clay County ranks #47, Webster #52, Lewis #29, and Nicholas #36.¹

were available to address the issues. Four (13.3%) respondents answered that resources are unavailable to address these issues.

The next question addressed the issue of barrier to access of care within the service area of the respondents. The survey results suggest that the most concerning barriers to access are “Cost,” “Geographic barriers,” “Transportation,” “Lack of insurance,” and “Poor health literacy.” The least concerning barriers to access were concluded to be “Confidence/Trust in providers” and “Confidence in using services without compromising privacy.” Respondents were once again asked if resources were available within the community to address the most concerning barriers to healthcare access. A total of 15 (50.0%) respondents stated that resources were available to address these issues while only 4 (13.3%) respondents answered that resources were unavailable to address these issues.

¹ US Census Bureau, Demographic Health Statistics, WV, 2010

Next, respondents were asked to rate the effect that the provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) have on the patients' ability to access care, obtain affordable health insurance, qualify for Medicaid, cover minor dependents up to the age of 26, address previously unaffordable health needs, and address previously unmet health concerns. In all categories, the ACA was determined to have a significant effect.

[All data tables located in Appendix B.](#)

V. Discussion and Health Priorities

Based on input received from the provider survey, the following priorities were identified and form the foundation of Braxton County's health initiative.

Health Priorities

Chronic disease management

- a. Obesity
- b. Diabetes
- c. Heart disease
- d. Nutrition
- e. Physical inactivity

Health behaviors and community health education

- a. Take personal responsibility in regard to obesity and physical activity
- b. Increased health education for obesity, nutrition and wellness

Access and affordability

- a. Access to primary care providers, especially for Medicaid/Medicare beneficiaries and the uninsured
- b. Affordable health insurance

Behavioral health

- a. Access to substance abuse treatment services
- b. Increased health education for smoking and alcohol use



Priority 1. Chronic Disease Management

Chronic disease management is a supported priority based on:

- Increasing percentage of elderly in the service area of BCMH.
- Provider survey respondents identified chronic disease health issues as major factor.
- The Braxton County's, the primary service county of BCMH, median age of residents is 38.9, higher than the national average of 37.2. Older residents are more likely to develop one or more chronic diseases than younger residents. Due to the higher proportion of residents aged 45 and older, the community may have a greater chronic disease rate than the state/national average.

Priority 2. Health Behaviors and Community Health Education

As seen from the secondary data, behavior and lifestyle health issues are a problem in the service area of BCMH. From the provider survey, Smoking, Nutrition, and Cardiac problems were some of the most concerning issues in the service area. An attempt to correct these issues can be made by increasing the amount of health education within the service area through community outreach programs and institutional education activities.

Priority 3. Access and Affordability

Access and affordability is a supported priority based on:

- Rural area classification
- Area demographics
- Concerning access issues from provider survey

Major issues in regard to access and affordability include:

- Lack of insurance
- Lack of access to physicians (transportation, distance to provider, geographic barriers)
- Large geographic service area with widely varying health care needs

Priority 4. Behavioral Health

Behavioral health is a supported priority based on:

- Provider survey responses identification of smoking, alcohol abuse, and substance abuse as concerning issues



VI. Summary and Conclusion

This study revealed community health needs and issues as acknowledged from health providers in the service area of the Braxton County Memorial Hospital. Given the diversity of respondents as well as the statistically relevant number of survey responses, data from this survey should be taken into consideration when assessing the health needs of the community.

When health conditions were addressed, Substance abuse and Tobacco abuse were the most concerning. When health issues were addressed, Pulmonary conditions, Diabetes and Metabolic problems, Obesity and Nutritional problems, and COPD were the most prevalent issues. The concerning barriers to entry were Cost, Geographic barriers, Transportation, and Health literacy. Respondents stated that resources were available within the community to address these issues.

The health priorities were established from the provider survey and secondary data sources and contribute a basic roadmap of issues within the service area of the Braxton County Memorial Hospital. Community education of factors such as nutrition, physical activity, substance abuse, and obesity should be employed to increase the health conditions of individuals within this areas. Additionally, access to care should be addressed in a manner that promotes attendance to providers, something the ACA will likely address as the plan matures.

Appendix A: Provider Survey



Braxton County Memorial Hospital
100 Hoylman Dr.
Gassaway, WV 26624

Community Health Needs Assessment Health Provider Survey

Please take a few minutes to fill out this survey on the health needs of individuals within the service area of the Braxton County Memorial Hospital (BCMh). This information will be used for the hospital's IRS-required Community Health Needs Assessment. BCMh welcomes your feedback and your answers will be kept confidential and shredded after analysis. Thank you for your voluntary participation. For questions or concerns regarding this survey, please contact William King at king_wj@wvwc.edu.

General Information

Please select your professional category:

- ☐ MD/DO ☐ PharmD/RPh ☐ PA/NP
☐ RN/LPN ☐ Other (Healthcare worker) ☐ Community member ☐ Other

Community Health Concerns

Question 1. Please assess the following health conditions in your area of practice on a scale of 1 for "Least Concerning," to 10 for "Most Concerning."

ITEM	LeastMost									
Access to care	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Obesity	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Nutrition	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10



Mental health	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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Clinical preventative services	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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Maternal, infant, and child health	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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Injury (accidental)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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Injury (from violence)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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Substance abuse	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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Social determinants	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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Tobacco use	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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Sexual health	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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Environmental quality	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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Question 2. In your practice, how common are the following health-related issues? Please rate each with 1 being “not prevalent” to 10 being very prevalent.



ITEM	Not Prevalent							Very Prevalent		
Pulmonary conditions	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Cardiac related problems	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Malignancies	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Diabetes/Metabolic problems	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Obesity/Nutritional problems	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Gastrointestinal problems	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Urological problems	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Orthopedic needs	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Women's health issues	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Pediatric Issues	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
COPD	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Pneumonia	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Stroke	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Other (Please specify) _____	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

With regards to the “Very Prevalent” health issues in Question #2, are resources available in your community to address these issues?

☐ Abundant resources are available
 ☐ Resources are available
 ☐ Not Sure

☐ Resources are unavailable, but unobtainable
 ☐ Resources unavailable and unobtainable

Question 3. Please assess the following barriers to healthcare access on a scale of 1 for “Least Concerning,” to 10 for “Most Concerning.”

ITEM	Least										Most
Cost	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Transportation	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Geographic barriers	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Lack of insurance	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Confidence/Trust in provider(s)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Confidence in using services without compromising privacy	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	

Confidence in quality of care	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Healthcare work force shortages	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Distance to Provider	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Poor health Literacy	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

With regards to the “Most Concerning” health barriers in Question #3, are resources available in your community to address these issues?

- ☐ Abundant resources are available
 ☐ Resources are available
 ☐ Not Sure
☐ Resources are available but unobtainable
 ☐ Resources unavailable and unobtainable

Question 4. Please rate the effect that the provisions of the Affordable Care Act (Health Insurance Marketplace and Medicaid Expansion) have on the patients’ ability:

(1 being “no effect” and 10 being “a very significant effect.”)

ITEM	Least										Most
To Access Care	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
To obtain Affordable Health Insurance	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
To Qualify for Medicaid	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
To Cover minor dependents up to age 26	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	



To Address Previously Unaffordable Health Needs	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
To Address Previously Unmet Health Concerns	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Additional Feedback

Please feel free to share any additional comments and feedback:

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. We rely on your feedback to help us improve BCMH’s social and health-related impact. Your input is greatly appreciated. For questions or concerns, please contact William King at king_wj@wwwc.edu or my advisor Dr. Susan Aloï at aloi_s@wwwc.edu or the chair of the WVWC Institutional Research and Review Board, Dr. Dan Martin at martin_d1@wwwc.edu.



Appendix B. Survey Results Summary Tables

Please select your professional category:

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
MD/DO	36.7%	11
PharmD/RPh	6.7%	2
PA/NP	13.3%	4
RN/LPN	20.0%	6
Other (Healthcare Worker)	10.0%	3
Community Member	0.0%	0
Other	13.3%	4
<i>answered question</i>		30
<i>skipped question</i>		0

Please select your professional category:

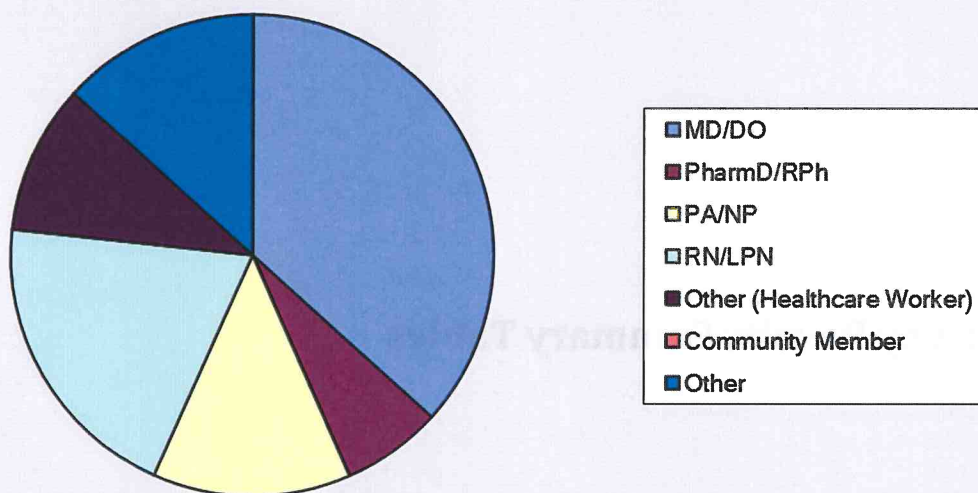


Figure 1 Professional Category

Please assess the following health conditions in your area of practice on a scale of 1 for "Least Concerning," to 10 for "Most Concerning."

Answer Options	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Response Count
Access to care	1	0	1	2	2	4	5	2	8	5	30
Obesity	0	0	0	0	2	2	3	12	5	6	30
Nutrition	0	0	2	1	5	2	3	11	3	3	30
Mental health	0	1	1	1	6	1	4	4	6	6	30
Clinical preventative services	0	1	2	3	3	8	2	5	3	3	30
Maternal, infant, and child health	1	1	1	3	3	3	2	7	4	5	30
Injury (accidental)	1	2	3	3	4	2	3	4	4	5	30
Injury (from violence)	3	0	3	4	7	2	4	3	2	2	30
Substance abuse	0	0	1	1	3	0	3	5	4	13	30
Social determinants	0	2	0	1	6	4	5	6	3	3	30
Tobacco Use	0	0	0	1	0	2	5	6	2	14	30
Sexual health	1	2	3	2	4	8	3	3	1	3	30
Environmental quality	2	0	5	3	4	5	2	5	2	2	30
answered question											30
skipped question											0

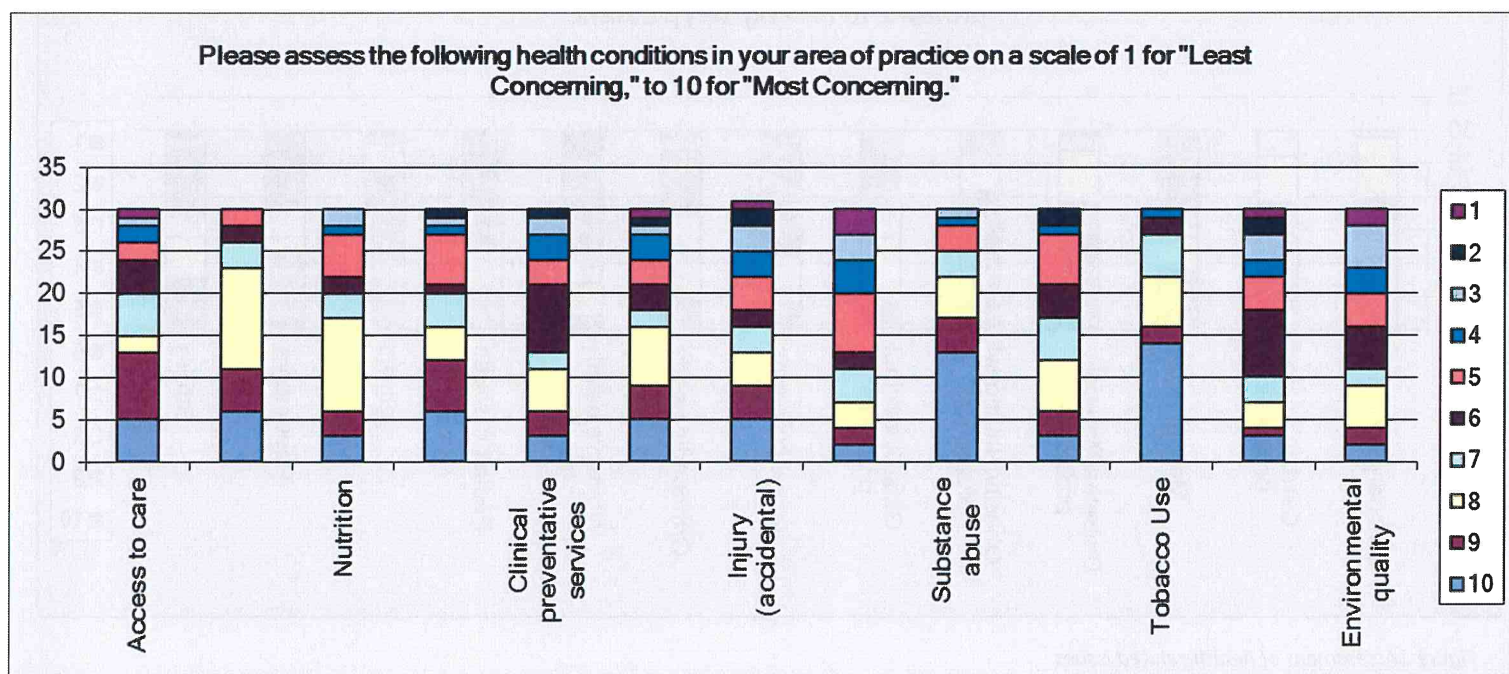


Figure 2 Assessment of Health Conditions

In your practice, how common are the following health-related issues? Please rate each with 1 being "not prevalent" to 10 being "very prevalent."

Answer Options	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Response Count
Pulmonary condition	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	9	4	16	30
Cardiac related problems	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	7	5	14	30
Malignancies	0	0	1	1	5	5	4	5	2	7	30
Diabetes/Metabolic problems	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	8	7	12	30
Obesity/Nutritional problems	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	4	8	13	30
Gastrointestinal problems	0	0	0	0	6	3	7	10	1	3	30
Urological problems	1	0	1	1	9	7	5	2	2	2	30
Orthopedic needs	1	0	2	0	6	4	9	3	1	4	30
Women's health issues	0	4	2	1	3	8	5	5	0	2	30
Pediatric issues	4	3	2	1	4	3	5	2	1	5	30
COPD	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	10	14	30
Pneumonia	1	1	1	1	1	6	5	3	3	8	30
Stroke	0	1	2	5	2	3	3	6	2	6	30
Other (please specify and provide a rank)											2
											answered question 30
											skipped question 0

In your practice, how common are the following health-related issues? Please rate each with 1 being "not prevalent" to 10 being "very prevalent."

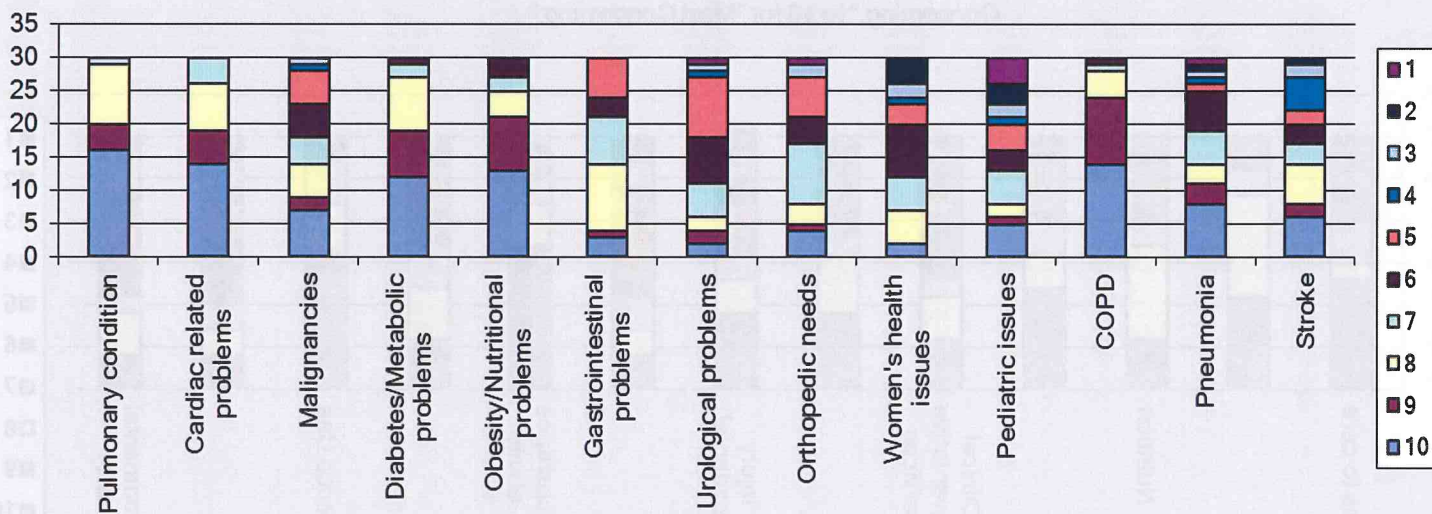


Figure 3 Assessment of health-related issues

With regards to the "very prevalent" health issues in Question #3, are resources available in your community to address these issues?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Abundant resources are available	3.3%	1
Resources are available	60.0%	18
Not sure	13.3%	4
Resources are available, but unobtainable	10.0%	3
Resources are unavailable and unobtainable	13.3%	4
<i>answered question</i>		30
<i>skipped question</i>		0

With regards to the "very prevalent" health issues in Question #3, are resources available in your community to address these issues?

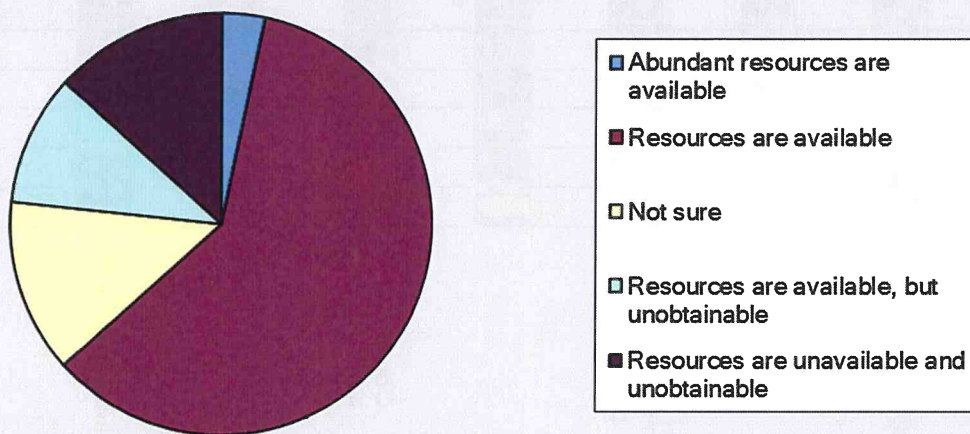


Figure 4 Resources available to address health issues?

Please assess the following barriers to healthcare access on a scale of 1 for "least concerning," to 10 for "most concerning."

Answer Options	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Response Count
Cost	0	2	0	0	5	2	2	4	5	10	30
Transportation	0	1	0	3	6	1	3	9	2	5	30
Geographic barriers	0	0	1	1	8	2	5	5	2	6	30
Lack of insurance	1	2	3	1	4	3	5	3	2	6	30
Confidence/Trust in provider(s)	6	1	7	1	5	2	5	2	0	1	30
Confidence in using services without compromising privacy	8	7	3	1	3	2	2	3	1	0	30
Confidence in quality of care	4	5	2	2	4	1	2	6	2	2	30
Healthcare work force shortages	4	2	0	2	4	5	4	2	3	4	30
Distance to provider	1	1	1	3	4	5	4	2	6	3	30
Poor health literacy	1	0	2	0	0	3	9	4	2	9	30
Other (please specify and rank)											2
answered question											30
skipped question											0

Please assess the following barriers to healthcare access on a scale of 1 for "least concerning," to 10 for "most concerning."

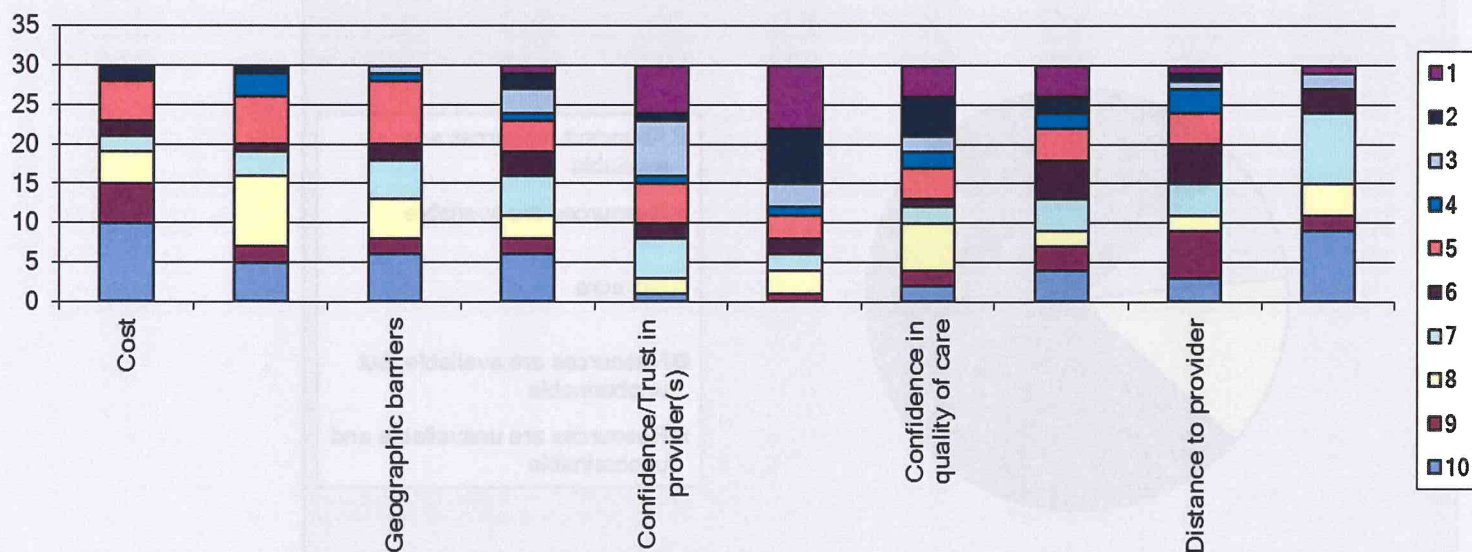


Figure 5 Barriers to Healthcare

With regards to the "most concerning" health barriers in Question #5, are resources available in your community to address these issues?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Abundant resources are available	0.0%	0
Resources are available	50.0%	15
Not sure	30.0%	9
Resources are available but unobtainable	6.7%	2
Resources are unavailable and unobtainable	13.3%	4
<i>answered question</i>		30
<i>skipped question</i>		0

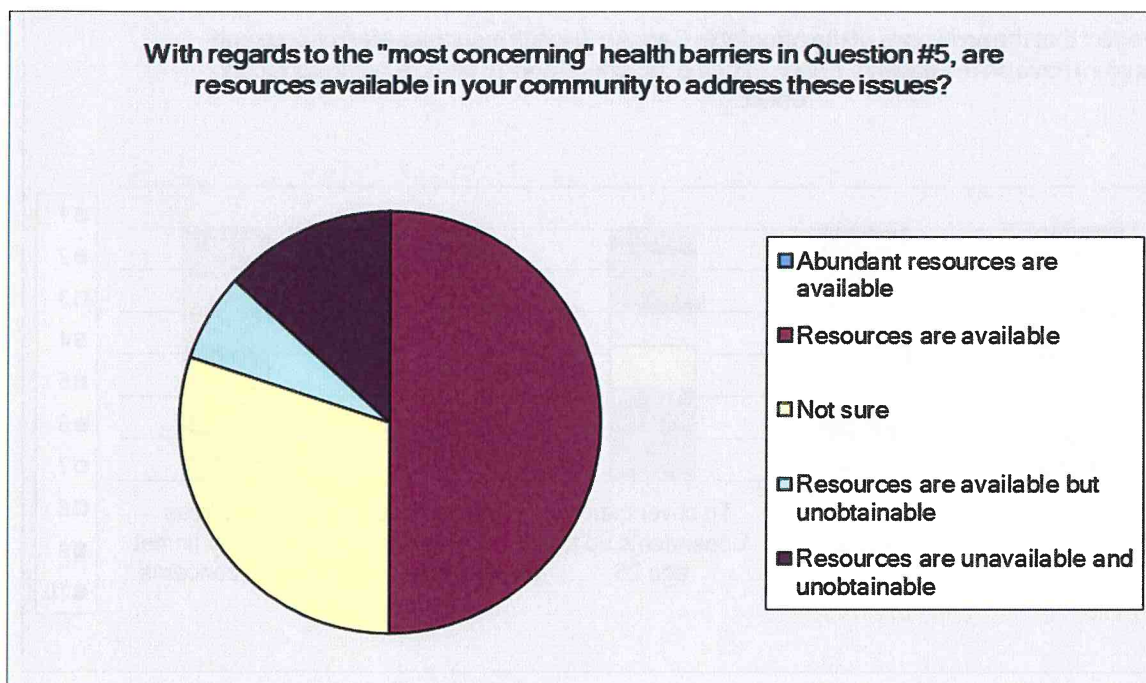


Figure 6 Resources available to address health barriers

Please rate the effect that the provisions of the Affordable Care Act (Health Insurance Marketplace and Medicaid Expansion) have on the patients' ability: (1 being "no effect" and 10 being a "very significant effect.")

Answer Options	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Response Count
To access care	3	2	0	3	7	1	0	3	8	3	30
To obtain affordable health insurance	2	3	4	2	3	1	2	5	4	4	30
To qualify for Medicaid	0	2	0	1	6	0	5	7	4	5	30
To cover minor dependents up to age 26	2	1	2	1	3	1	4	5	5	6	30
To address previously unaffordable health needs	2	2	1	0	8	1	3	6	5	2	30
To address previously unmet health concerns	3	3	1	0	7	2	3	2	4	5	30
<i>answered question</i>											30
<i>skipped question</i>											0

Please rate the effect that the provisions of the Affordable Care Act (Health Insurance Marketplace and Medicaid Expansion) have on the patients' ability: (1 being "no effect" and 10 being a "very significant effect.")

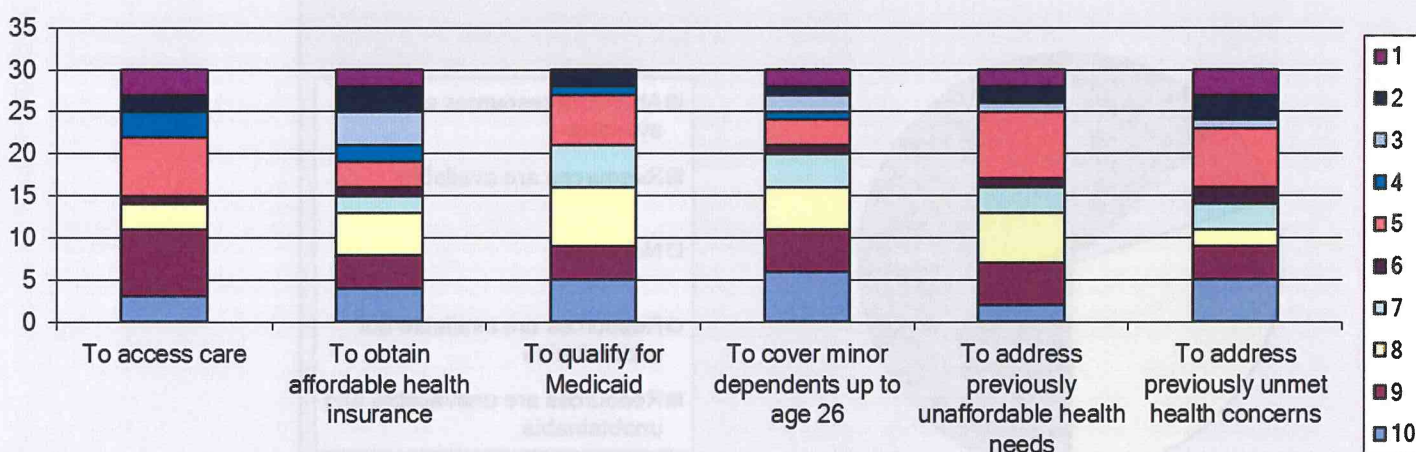


Figure 7. Effect of ACA on patients' access