

# Community Health Needs Assessment for Monterey County

The **Community Health Needs Assessment** (CHNA) was conducted on behalf of the Monterey County Health Needs Collaborative, a partnership among the County of Monterey Health Department, Mee Memorial Healthcare System, Montage Health, Natividad, Salinas Valley Health, United Way Monterey County, California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB), and Central California Alliance for Health (Alliance). The Hospital Council of Northern & Central California assisted in coordinating efforts related to the assessment process. PRC, a leading comprehensive market research company with nationwide experience in conducting CHNA's, facilitated the survey locally.

The Collaborative meets regularly, establishing the goals for the assessment, identifying common objectives across the collaborating institutions, and developing the final survey in partnership with the consultants. To view the full report, as well as those of the individual partners, please visit [www.healthymontereycounty.org](http://www.healthymontereycounty.org).

A Community Health Needs Assessment is a systematic, data-driven approach to determining the



health status, behaviors, and needs of residents in Monterey County. The customized local health assessment provides information so that communities may identify issues of greatest concern, and may be used to inform decisions and guide efforts to improve community health and wellness. The assessment incorporates data from multiple sources, including the PRC Community Health Survey, PRC Online Key Informant Survey and other existing health-related data. The area for this survey effort is defined as Monterey County, California, including all residential ZIP codes with significant population within the county. In all, 3,005 surveys were completed.

The following "Areas of Opportunity" represent the significant health needs of the community, based on the

information gathered through this CHNA. From this data, opportunities for health improvement exist in the area with regard to the following health issues (see also the summary tables presented in the following section). The Areas of Opportunity were determined after consideration of various criteria, including: standing in comparison with benchmark data (particularly national data); identified trends; the preponderance of significant findings within topic areas; the magnitude of the issue in terms of the number of persons affected; and the potential health impact of a given issue. These also consider those issues of greatest concern to the key informants giving input to this process.

***See Areas of Opportunity table below.***

## Areas of Opportunity Identified through this Assessment

- Access to Health Care Services
- Cancer
- Diabetes
- Heart Disease & Stroke
- Housing
- Infant Health & Family Planning
- Injury & Violence
- Mental Health
- Nutrition, Physical Activity & Weight
- Respiratory Disease
- Substance Use
- Tobacco Use

## Community Health Needs Assessment, continued

### Community Feedback on Prioritization of Health Needs

On October 7, 2025, the Monterey County Health Needs Collaborative convened an online meeting attended by 116 local providers and other community leaders (representing a cross-section of community-based agencies and organizations) to evaluate, discuss and prioritize health issues for the community, based on findings of this Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). Stakeholders were asked to evaluate each health issue with two criteria: Scope and Severity, and Ability to Impact. This process yielded the following **prioritized list of community health needs**; see below.

#### Prioritized list of community health needs



1. Diabetes



2. Nutrition, Physical Activity & Weight



3. Access to Health Care Services



4. Mental Health



5. Heart Disease & Stroke



6. Cancer

### How You Utilize the Community Health Needs Assessment

Understanding the needs of our community allows for transparent conversations on potential solutions. As an individual, you can utilize the CHNA as a resource to identify organizations with possible resources, healthcare agencies available to address your healthcare needs and institutions that have the ability to support your overall well-being. As an organization in Monterey County, you should utilize the CHNA to identify collaborative partners, to understand who in our community provides resources that may be of benefit to your members, and you should utilize the data available to assist in your grant or advocacy work.

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