Elmore Community Health Needs Assessment Executive Summary

St. Luke’s 2022 Elmore Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) provides a comprehensive evaluation of people’s most important health needs in Elmore County. Identifying and addressing these needs is essential to improving population health, enhancing patient care and lowering health care costs. In our assessment, we divide health needs into four distinct determinants of health categories:

### Determinants of Health

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>20% Clinical Care and Access</th>
<th>40% Social and Economic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quality Care</td>
<td>Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to Care</td>
<td>Income</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>30% Health Behaviors</th>
<th>10% Physical Environment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nicotine Use</td>
<td>Transportation Options</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alcohol Use</td>
<td>Air and Water Quality</td>
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<tr>
<td>Activity</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
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We rank and score these health needs by analyzing a broad range of data, including:

- Interviews with community leaders representing organizations that serve medically under-resourced, low income and minority populations.
- National, state and local health indicators collected from governmental and other authoritative sources.
- Input from St. Luke’s health professionals.
- Availability of evidence-based interventions as identified by Healthy People 2030.
Prioritized Community Health Needs in Elmore

The 2022 CHNA helps us better understand the most current, significant health challenges facing our community. In collaboration with community partners, St. Luke’s will deploy resources to meet the following long-term community health objectives:

- Address high-priority health needs with a focus on prevention.
- Expand access to appropriate St. Luke’s and community-based services.
- Coordinate and integrate clinical patient care and community health strategies.
- Advance health equity by addressing social determinants of health and reducing health disparities.

The following health needs received the highest score within each category in Elmore:

**Health Behaviors – Nutrition Programs, Education and Other Opportunities**

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, fewer than 1 in 10 adults and adolescents eat enough fruits and vegetables, 9 in 10 consume too much sodium and 5 in 10 consume too much sugar, all of which are linked to poor health outcomes. We also know that diet is a modifiable risk factor for most chronic conditions. Public health interventions that focus on helping people access healthy foods as well as nutrition education, programs and opportunities are a vital part of a comprehensive health program.

**Clinical Care – Availability of Behavioral Health Services**

For the third consecutive year, in 2022 Idaho ranked 49th of 50 states on a composite score of 15 key mental health indicators for youth and adults, according to data compiled by Mental Health America, a leading mental health nonprofit. A critical component to improving mental health is access to mental health care. The lack of availability of mental health providers is a significant need across the St. Luke’s service area. Our health system has increased its behavioral health provider base 350% across our footprint in the last three years and continues to engage with community partners to address this health need.

**Social and Economic Factors – Housing Stability**

Access to a safe, quality, affordable home leads to better physical and mental health outcomes for all, as well as higher academic achievement for youth. High housing costs can make it even harder for individuals and families to meet other important needs such as medications, transportation costs, utilities, food, etc. Finding ways to increase and maintain the supply of affordable, stable housing within our community that is also near schools, jobs, transportation options and health care will have a positive impact on the overall health of our community, particularly some of its disproportionately affected groups.

**Physical Environment – Accessible Modes of Transportation**

Transportation barriers greatly impact many people’s ability to access crucial services such as medical care, filling prescriptions, grocery shopping, employment, education and social connections. Those facing the biggest transportation challenges are often those who have been economically and/or socially marginalized, including lower income families, children and older adults. Communities that work to develop easily accessible, reliable and varied forms of transportation, including safe options for walking and biking, help boost both physical and mental health of community members as well as reduce air pollution.

**Next Steps**

Visit stlukesonline.org to view the complete Elmore CHNA, which provides an in-depth look at our community’s health and how we can make improvements. St. Luke’s will collaborate with the people, leaders and organizations in our community to develop and execute plans to address the significant community health needs identified in the assessment.