



Lake Charles
Memorial Health System

ADVANCING **HEALTH** AND **WELL-BEING** IN LAKE CHARLES

LAKE CHARLES MEMORIAL HEALTH SYSTEM
COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

DECEMBER 2025





Lake Charles

Memorial Health System

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MISSION

The vision of Lake Charles Memorial Health System is to continually improve our quality and safety, advance our standards, and to be the major healthcare delivery system for ALL people of Southwest Louisiana.

VISION

The mission of Lake Charles Memorial Health System is to improve the health of the people of Southwest Louisiana through superior care, innovative service, health education, and disease prevention provided in a personalized, caring, and safe environment.



Lake Charles
Memorial Health System

SERVICE EXCELLENCE

At Lake Charles Memorial Health System, we realize that it takes more than dedicated professionals with unsurpassed skills and the latest technological advancements to care for our patients. We understand that it also takes uncommon compassion and an unshakable commitment to providing excellent service. To ensure that this prevailing goal continues, a culture of Service Excellence has been adopted at Memorial. This culture is dedicated to the pursuit and recognition of superior service to our patients, physicians, and employees.

A decorative graphic element consisting of a stylized, light blue, multi-pointed shape resembling a flower or a starburst, positioned to the left of the text box.

Questions or comments regarding the CHNA can be emailed to Lisa Guerrero at lguerrero@lcmh.com.

HERE FOR YOUR HEALTH

A LETTER FROM LAKE CHARLES MEMORIAL HEALTH SYSTEM'S PRESIDENT & CEO

To our friends and patrons throughout southwest Louisiana,

Lake Charles Memorial Health System (LCMHS) exists to serve the community, striving to provide quality health care that meets the needs of the residents within the five-parish area. To achieve this goal, identification of the community's constantly evolving health landscape is necessary.

The Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), performed every three years, is required for hospitals to maintain nonprofit status. Through this comprehensive effort, LCMHS, alongside local partners and organizations, studies the complex health needs of the region and develops a plan with specific metrics for success to address access to care. We have completed the 2025 CHNA, which will now serve as the framework to guide our steps forward.

To be a responsible partner in the health of our friends and neighbors, we recognize that health equity is complex; each person faces a specific set of variables which impacts their ability to care for their own health. The ongoing improvement of community health requires addressing these complex socioeconomic factors and removing barriers to care. Working strategically with our community partners, the results of this assessment will form the foundation for developing tactics, services, and programs to address the identified 2025 health priorities: 1) Behavioral Health (Mental & Substance Use Disorder), 2) Health Behaviors, 3) Managing Population Health & Preventing Chronic Disease, and 4) Access to Care.



Improving physical well-being and addressing health disparities often doesn't start within the walls of a hospital or doctor's office. Each of our community partners brings significant and unique expertise. We utilize these insights to incorporate public health strategies along with transforming how we deliver care and developing innovative models that link patients to community resources. The strength found in our collaboration makes a greater difference in our community than anything we could accomplish on our own.

Thank you to our partners, our SWLA community, and our stakeholder participants who took time to provide data and insights during the comprehensive CHNA process. We look forward to working side-by-side with our partners and the community to execute the strategies outlined in this report and build a healthier southwest Louisiana.



LAKE CHARLES MEMORIAL HEALTH SYSTEM'S HISTORY

Lake Charles Memorial Health System has served as a cornerstone of healthcare in Southwest Louisiana for decades, evolving from a single community hospital into the region's largest, community-owned, not-for-profit health system.

Lake Charles Memorial Health System traces its origin to 1947, when the Calcasieu Parish Medical Society petitioned the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury to operate a temporary 75-bed hospital at the deactivated Lake Charles Air Force Base. Recognizing the community's urgent need for medical services during a period of rapid population growth, the Calcasieu Parish Hospital opened on April 1, 1947, with the understanding that it would serve only until a permanent facility could be built. Momentum for a new hospital accelerated the following year, an effort championed by Dr. Walter O. Moss, then president of the Calcasieu Parish Hospital Corporation. By late 1949, community leaders formally incorporated the Southwest Louisiana Hospital Association, establishing the nonprofit governance structure that still defines the system today.

On October 23, 1952, Lake Charles Memorial Hospital officially opened with 100 beds, 20 nurses, and a mission grounded in service, stewardship, and community health. Over the decades, Lake Charles Memorial expanded its facilities, services, and expertise, establishing itself as the region's leading provider of acute care. Major milestones include the opening of departments such as Physical Therapy (1953), Medical Technology (1963), the Auxiliary (1968), the ICU (1972), Cardiology (1975) and key technological advancements including its first neonatal transport isolette (1977) and CAT scan (1977). The hospital became the trauma center for Southwest Louisiana in 1980 and, in 1981, completed its landmark 10-story patient tower, a \$13.5 million project that significantly expanded capacity and modernized the campus. The 1990s brought further growth with two medical office buildings, the formation of the Memorial Medical Group, and the launch of the LSUHSC/Memorial Family Medicine Residency Program, solidifying Memorial's role as a training hub for future physicians.



The 21st century has marked an era of continued innovation and regional leadership. Lake Charles Memorial Hospital for Women opened in 2003, expanding dedicated services for women and infants. In 2018, the Archer Institute, the first stand-alone mental health facility built in Louisiana in 40 years, opened to meet urgent behavioral health needs. The health system strengthened its partnership with LSU in 2013 and has continued to add specialty clinics and advanced clinical services across the region. Notable achievements include receiving the nation's first Transcatheter Valve Certification from the American College of Cardiology in 2019, earning Level III trauma designation, and showcasing exceptional resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic, beginning with its first admitted patient on March 17, 2020. Throughout its history, Lake Charles Memorial has been defined by community support, clinical innovation, and a steadfast commitment to caring for Southwest Louisiana.



Lake Charles Memorial Health System

ABOUT LAKE CHARLES MEMORIAL HEALTH SYSTEM

Located at 1701 Oak Park Boulevard in Lake Charles, Louisiana, Lake Charles Memorial Hospital serves as the flagship facility of the Lake Charles Memorial Health System (Lake Charles Memorial). This 314-bed acute care hospital anchors a community-owned regional health system and offers a wide array of services across its main campus and affiliated facilities. The hospital is complemented by a dedicated women's facility, a behavioral health hospital, a multi-specialty physician group, and Moss Memorial which serves the underserved populations of Southwest Louisiana (SWLA), all of which form the wider health system.

Lake Charles Memorial offers comprehensive care across major service lines, including behavioral health, cancer care, heart and vascular services, women's health, orthopedics, imaging, laboratory, pharmacy, and more. The system's physician network, known as the Memorial Medical Group, comprises over 100 specialists across more than 23 specialties and subspecialties, underscoring the depth and breadth of care available locally. This integrated network means patients benefit from coordinated care with access to specialists and subspecialists under one regional health umbrella.

Lake Charles Memorial has earned multiple prestigious recognitions. It is an accredited hospital through the Det Norske Veritas (DNV), it holds the Gold Seal of Approval® from The Joint Commission as a certified Primary Stroke Center. It is also verified as a Level III Trauma Center by the American College of Surgeons. In 2025, the system was listed on Newsweek's America's Best In-State Hospitals for Louisiana, among others.

Since 1995, Lake Charles has hosted the Family Medicine Residency Program in partnership with Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center (LSUHSC). The three-year residency provides comprehensive training in family medicine, emergency medicine, obstetrics/gynecology, pediatrics, and rural medicine, among other domains, preparing graduates to serve a wide spectrum of patients in Southwest Louisiana and beyond.

Lake Charles Memorial Hospital stands as a regional leader in patient care, specialty services, medical education, and community health, anchored in Lake Charles and committed to delivering excellence.





PRIMARY SERVICE AREA

For the purposes of the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), a community is defined as the geographic area where the majority of patients who seek care from Lake Charles Memorial Health System reside. While the CHNA incorporates data and insights from a range of local healthcare providers, Lake Charles Memorial remains the region's largest provider of acute-care services. Patterns in hospital utilization offer the most accurate and relevant basis for defining the community served.

Lake Charles Memorial primarily serves residents across Calcasieu, Beauregard, Allen, Jefferson Davis, and Cameron parishes, reflecting the locations where patients most frequently access hospital and ambulatory services. The health system's core service area includes key ZIP codes within Lake Charles, Sulphur, Westlake, Iowa, Vinton, and Starks, which represent the highest concentration of patient origin within Calcasieu Parish. Additional ZIP codes in Beauregard (e.g., DeRidder, Ragley, Longville), Allen (Kinder), Jefferson Davis (Jennings, Welsh), and Cameron Parish (Cameron, Creole, Grand Chenier, Hackberry) also contribute to the broader service footprint. These ZIP codes collectively represent the population that relies most heavily on Lake Charles Memorial for emergency care, inpatient services, specialty care, and outpatient access points. Understanding this geographic distribution ensures that the CHNA reflects the needs of the patients and communities most directly connected to the health system's mission and services.

Table 1: Regions/Service Areas

City	ZIP Codes	Parish
Kinder	70648	Allen
DeRidder	70634	Beauregard
Longville	70652	Beauregard
Ragley	70657	Beauregard
Bell City	70630	Calcasieu
DeQuincy	70633	Calcasieu
Iowa	70647	Calcasieu
Lake Charles	70601	Calcasieu
Lake Charles	70605	Calcasieu
Lake Charles	70607	Calcasieu
Lake Charles	70615	Calcasieu
Lake Charles	70611	Calcasieu
Starks	70661	Calcasieu
Sulphur	70663	Calcasieu
Sulphur	70665	Calcasieu
Vinton	70668	Calcasieu
Westlake	70669	Calcasieu
Cameron	70631	Cameron
Creole	70632	Cameron
Grand Chenier	70643	Cameron
Hackberry	70645	Cameron
Jennings	70546	Jefferson Davis
Welsh	70591	Jefferson Davis

Map 1: Lake Charles Memorial Primary Service Area



LAKE CHARLES MEMORIAL HEALTH SYSTEM'S COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Lake Charles Memorial's community benefits demonstrate a significant impact on the health, stability, and well-being of residents across Southwest Louisiana. Through substantial investments in healthcare access, education, economic development, and social support, the health system strengthens both individual outcomes and the broader community. Lake Charles Memorial contributes hundreds of millions of dollars in salaries and local taxes, supporting economic vitality and job creation, while also preparing the next generation of healthcare professionals through residency training, student partnerships, and youth pipeline programs. Community outreach, including health education, sports medicine services, classes, and volunteer engagement helps improve safety, awareness, and preventive health behaviors. Additionally, targeted assistance such as financial aid for oncology patients, home health visits, interpreter services, and charitable contributions ensures that vulnerable populations receive essential care regardless of barriers. Together, these efforts enhance healthcare quality, expand opportunities, and foster a healthier, more resilient community in Lake Charles.



2024 LAKE CHARLES MEMORIAL'S COMMUNITY IMPACT

ECONOMIC STABILITY



\$253,750,000
contributed in salaries, contract labor and benefits.



44
community residents hired through student partnerships with McNeese and Sowela.



\$9,728,225
spent in local and state sales taxes.



FOUR
career employment outreach events.

EDUCATION ACCESS AND QUALITY



\$5,457,294
to educate resident physicians through the LSU Family Medicine Residency.



45
students participated in the Window to Healthcare and STEM for Healthcare programs, representing four CPSB schools.



OVER \$5,000
donated to Oak Park Middle School as a Partner in Education.



48
area first responders participated in our Trauma Symposium.

HEALTHCARE ACCESS AND QUALITY



MORE THAN 346,800
patient clinic visits.



INVESTED MORE THAN \$90,000
on language interpreter services.



MORE THAN 261,200
outpatient visits.

INTERCONNECTED TO OUR COMMUNITY



379
oncology patients received financial assistance totaling **\$79,726.49** through transportation, gas cards, lodging, nutritional supplements, breast prosthesis, wigs, and food vouchers.



PARTICIPATION IN 38
community outreach events with **157** volunteers at a cost of **\$72,000**. Potential exposure to **68,000** community attendees.



\$187,647
donated to community organizations through charitable contributions.



FIVE
hospital-based classes education **137** students in the Sudden Impact program.



635
students participated in **three** high school mock crashes at Jennings, Moss Bluff, and Washington Marion high schools.

INTRODUCTION

With continued changes in the healthcare landscape, including evolving federal requirements under the Affordable Care Act, rising operational costs, and economic challenges, maximizing existing resources and strategically investing in new programs is essential for ensuring long-term sustainability and impact. For Lake Charles Memorial Health System, resource allocation is critically important as the region faces increasing healthcare demands, shifting demographics, and ongoing disparities in access and outcomes. Lake Charles Memorial has a long history of working with community partners to develop innovative, community-centered approaches that strengthen care for underserved and vulnerable populations while also supporting the broader Southwest Louisiana community. Significant opportunities exist to refine these efforts, enhance service delivery, and reinforce Lake Charles Memorial's leadership role in advancing regional health.

Southwest Louisiana continues to confront numerous challenges, including a growing number of uninsured and underinsured residents, escalating healthcare costs, and pressures that threaten the availability of essential services. Despite these obstacles, the demand for high-quality, accessible healthcare remains strong, requiring providers to adapt proactively and respond to the evolving needs of the community. In 2025, Lake Charles Memorial launched its CHNA to gain a clearer understanding of the health status, concerns, and priorities of the residents it serves. Driven by a commitment to improving community well-being, the CHNA sought to evaluate unmet needs across the region and to assess how effectively those needs are being addressed. The resulting findings offer a critical foundation for aligning health services, community partnerships, and regional resources with the specific needs of residents.

The CHNA reflects a comprehensive, collaborative effort among Lake Charles Memorial Health System and a wide range of partners, including healthcare professionals, government agencies, educational institutions, nonprofit organizations, and community stakeholders. The assessment incorporated extensive primary and secondary data analysis, stakeholder interviews, community surveys, and a structured prioritization process to ensure a thorough evaluation of the region's health challenges and opportunities. Using both quantitative and qualitative insights, and with independent data analysis conducted by Tripp Umbach, key community health priorities were identified and classified based on severity, community impact, and feasibility. These priorities will be further developed into actionable, measurable goals during the implementation planning phase. Lake Charles Memorial Health System remains committed to advancing this work, continuing to partner with the community, and developing effective strategies to improve health outcomes and strengthen the overall health of Southwest Louisiana.

THE PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT (PPACA)

The PPACA, enacted March 23, 2010, mandates tax-exempt hospitals to conduct community health needs assessments and develop strategic plans to enhance the health and well-being of residents. These strategies, designed by hospitals and institutions, include targeted programs, activities, and initiatives to address community health needs. Implementing these strategies allows hospitals to measure and track the impact of their efforts effectively.

The high-level requirements imposed by the IRS for tax-exempt hospitals and health systems must include the following:¹

- Conduct a CHNA every three years.
- Adopt an implementation strategy to meet the community health needs identified through the assessment.
- Report on how the strategy is addressing the needs identified in the CHNA, describe the needs that are not being addressed, and explain the reasons.

This CHNA provides an in-depth review of primary and secondary data to evaluate demographic trends, health outcomes, and socioeconomic conditions affecting residents of Southwest Louisiana. Lake Charles Memorial Health System's CHNA fully meets the requirements of Internal Revenue Code 501(r)(3), as established under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. The report complies with all IRS guidelines and federal expectations, ensuring a rigorous, transparent, and accountable assessment of the region's most significant health needs.

¹ Besides standard guidelines, additional IRS requirements must be met when conducting a CHNA and an Implementation Strategy Plan (ISP). Further information on the CHNA and ISP requirements can be found [here](#).

2025 COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS

The final priority needs for the 2025 Community Health Needs Assessment were identified through a comprehensive, multi-step process that integrated quantitative data, qualitative perspectives, and collaborative community input. Analysis of extensive secondary data, including health outcomes, disease prevalence, behavioral health indicators, socioeconomic conditions, and hospital utilization patterns across Southwest Louisiana, was conducted. This was complemented by primary data collection through stakeholder interviews, discussions with healthcare providers and community organizations, and community input via a survey. Using a structured prioritization process, the Working Group and key decision-makers evaluated and identified needs based on severity, disparities, feasibility, and community urgency. Through this rigorous approach, four major categories of need emerged as top priorities for 2025:

Behavioral Health (Mental Health and Substance Abuse), including ER navigation, improved coordination among behavioral health providers, postpartum depression support, and suicide prevention;

Health Behaviors, such as health education, motor vehicle accident prevention, sexually transmitted disease prevention, and tobacco use reduction;

Managing Population Health and Preventing Chronic Diseases, focusing on cancer, diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, obesity, and stroke; and

Access to Care, including care coordination, health system navigation support, and workforce development.



Behavioral health is a critical priority for Lake Charles Memorial and the Southwest Louisiana region because mental health and substance use challenges continue to place significant strain on individuals, families, and the healthcare system. The area has experienced rising rates of depression, anxiety, substance misuse, and suicide, compounded by economic stressors, housing instability, and the lasting impacts of natural disasters. Louisiana's age-adjusted suicide rate of 14.8 deaths per 100,000 people is higher than the U.S. average, and suicide was the third-leading cause of death among Louisianans ages 10-24.² These issues often lead to increased emergency department use, delays in accessing specialized care, and significant unmet needs for both adults and youth. Strengthening behavioral health services, including crisis response, care coordination, postpartum mental health support, and suicide prevention, is essential to improving overall community well-being, reducing preventable hospitalizations, and ensuring residents can access timely, compassionate, and comprehensive care. By focusing on behavioral health, Lake Charles Memorial Health System can help address one of the region's most urgent and foundational health challenges.

Improving health behaviors is essential for Lake Charles Memorial as it works to strengthen community health and reduce preventable illness across Southwest Louisiana. Many of the region's leading health challenges such as chronic disease, injury, and poor long-term health outcomes are closely linked to changeable behaviors. Expanding health education can empower residents with the knowledge and tools needed to make informed decisions about nutrition, physical activity, substance use, and overall wellness. Motor vehicle accident prevention remains critical in a region with significant roadway travel and a high incidence of crash-related injuries among teens. Addressing sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) is equally important, as rising rates of STDs have serious consequences for reproductive health and highlight gaps in access to testing, treatment, and preventive education. Tobacco use continues to be a major driver of cancer, heart disease, and respiratory illness—conditions already prevalent in the community. By prioritizing these key health behaviors in the 2025 CHNA, Lake Charles Memorial can help reduce long-term health risks, improve quality of life, and support healthier outcomes for individuals and families throughout the region.

² [Suicide in Louisiana](#)

Addressing population health and preventing chronic diseases such as cancer, diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, obesity, and stroke is of paramount importance because these conditions collectively account for a large and growing burden on individuals, families, and the regional healthcare system. Louisiana reports adult obesity rates among the highest in the nation and a diabetes prevalence of 14.1% in 2020, placing it near the bottom in national rankings for health outcomes.³ Cardiovascular disease remains the leading cause of death statewide, and heart-disease and stroke death rates in Louisiana are about 26-30% higher than the U.S. average.⁴ Because chronic illnesses often require ongoing, costly care and lead to diminished quality of life, preventable hospitalizations, and premature mortality, it is critical for Lake Charles Memorial to focus on reducing these disease burdens. By prioritizing prevention, early detection, coordinated management, and community-based support, Lake Charles Memorial can improve health outcomes, reduce disparities, and stabilize healthcare resources in a region experiencing significant chronic disease pressure. Implementation of evidence-based strategies will help ensure that residents in the service area receive timely, equitable, and effective care and will strengthen the system's capacity to serve the community now and into the future.

Addressing access to care is critically important for Lake Charles Memorial Health System as Southwest Louisiana faces significant workforce shortfalls, care-coordination gaps, and navigation challenges that directly impact the health of the community. Louisiana has been identified as one of the states with the most severe physician shortages, which hampers access to primary and specialty services. In particular by 2030, Louisiana is projected to have the third-worst physician shortage ratio in the United States with an undersupply of 100 doctors for every 100,000 people.⁵ In addition, many regions in the state are designated as Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs), meaning too few providers are available to meet community demand.⁶ This environment makes effective care coordination and system navigation essential; when patients lack a clear path to care, delays, duplication, and unmet needs occur more frequently. Further, workforce development ensures a pipeline of local healthcare providers, training programs, and retainment strategies vital to maintaining long-term, high-quality services in the region. By focusing on care coordination, health system navigation, and workforce development, Lake Charles Memorial Health System can reduce access barriers, improve care continuity, enhance patient outcomes, and reinforce its role as a trusted community health partner.

³ [Louisiana Department of Health; 2022 Health Report Card](#)

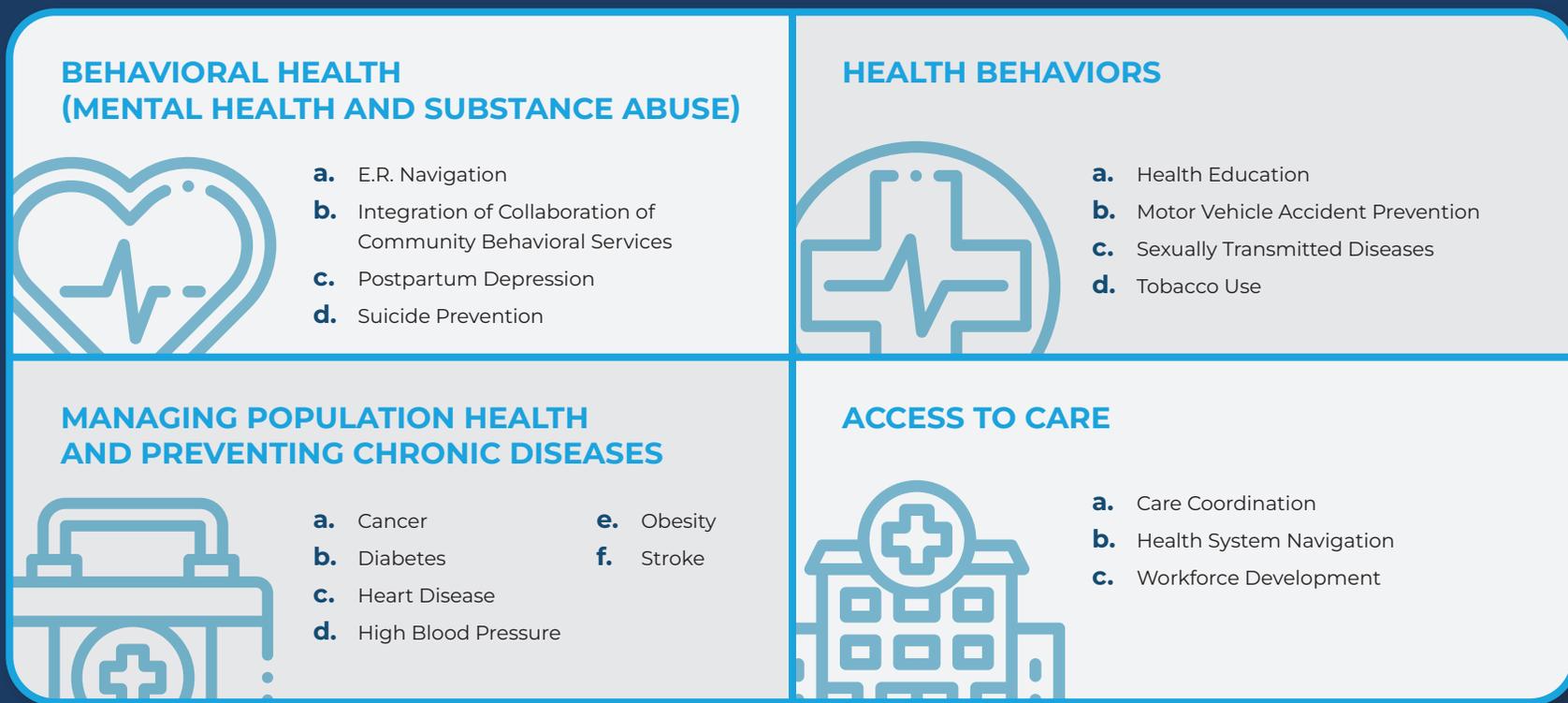
⁵ [American Medical Association](#)

⁴ [Louisiana Department of health: 2023 Health Report Card](#)

⁶ [Well-Ahead Louisiana](#)

The identified priority areas reflect the most pressing health challenges facing Southwest Louisiana residents and highlight the importance of a coordinated, community-centered response. Addressing behavioral health concerns requires strengthened partnerships and expanded access to timely support. Improving health behaviors through education is essential to reducing preventable illness. Equally critical is the management and prevention of chronic diseases, which continue to drive significant disparities across the region. Lastly, enhancing access to care will ensure that residents served by Lake Charles Memorial receive the right care at the right time. Together, these needs form a comprehensive roadmap for improving health outcomes and advancing the well-being of the community. The priorities reflect the most significant challenges facing Southwest Louisiana and will guide Lake Charles Memorial Health System’s targeted strategies to improve health and well-being across the region.

Figure 1: Lake Charles Memorial Health System CHNA Needs (2025)





COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

As the healthcare landscape continues to evolve Lake Charles Memorial recognizes that strategic use of resources and thoughtful investment in new initiatives are essential. Yet equally critical is the role of strong community engagement. Lake Charles Memorial understands that the most effective and sustainable solutions emerge when the voices of residents, local leaders, and partner organizations are actively included in defining community needs and shaping strategies. For decades, the health system has collaborated with nonprofits, public agencies, educators, and grassroots groups to build innovative programs that support underserved and vulnerable populations, partnerships that reflect a shared responsibility for improving community health across Southwest Louisiana.

The region faces complex issues, including growing numbers of uninsured residents, behavioral health needs, chronic disease burdens, and barriers to accessing timely and coordinated care. These challenges cannot be addressed by any single organization alone. Community engagement ensures that the perspectives of those most impacted inform the design of services and interventions. By engaging community members early and consistently, Lake Charles Memorial strengthens trust, elevates lived experiences, and ensures that its strategies reflect the realities of daily life across urban, rural, and coastal areas of the region.

The 2025 CHNA has a deep commitment to listening to the community and understanding its priorities. Through stakeholder interviews, community surveys, and stakeholder discussions, residents and organizations helped identify service gaps, highlight social and environmental challenges, and determine where resources are most needed. Their input shaped every stage of the assessment, ensuring that findings are grounded in real community experiences, not assumptions or isolated data points.

The CHNA represents more than an IRS requirement; it is a collaborative process that strengthens relationships, builds local capacity, and aligns diverse sectors around shared goals. Independent analysis conducted by Tripp Umbach helped synthesize both quantitative data and community insights into a clear set of priority health needs. These priorities will guide the development of actionable, measurable strategies that Lake Charles Memorial will implement alongside its community partners. This ongoing engagement, rooted in trust, transparency, and shared commitment, will continue to be essential as the health system works to improve health outcomes and enhance the quality of life for residents throughout Southwest Louisiana.



Stakeholder
Interviews

15

Community
Surveys

392

Prioritization
Session Attendees

15

A total of **422 INDIVIDUALS**
participated in the 2025 Community Health Needs Assessment.

COMMUNITY AT-A-GLANCE

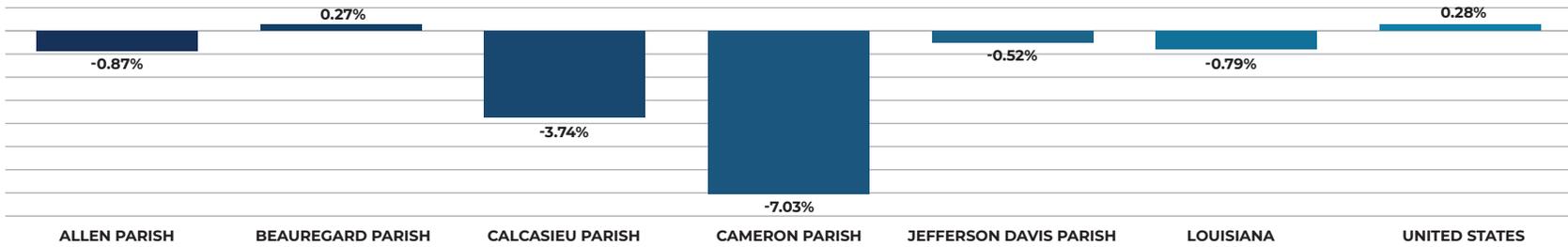
Data from Lake Charles Memorial's hospital's primary service area are presented below as they represent the core geographic locations utilizing services from the hospital. It is important to note that Lake Charles Memorial serves residents throughout Southwest Louisiana, not just residents in their primary service area. The community snapshot outside the primary service area is not presented within the report because of lower patient volumes and a low direct impact compared to Lake Charles Memorial's primary service areas.



ZIP Code	City	Total Population (2020)	Employment (2023)	Never Married (2023)	Median Household Income (2023)	Bachelor's Degree+ (2023)	Without Healthcare Coverage (2023)	Hispanic/Latino or Any Race (2020)	Median Age (2023)	Poverty (2023)	Total Housing Units
70648	Allen	7,198	43.0%	37.7%	\$50,194	10.2%	9.1%	723	38.9	27.3%	2,788
70634	DeRidder	25,039	51.3%	29.1%	\$64,359	19.4%	6.6	1,060	37.5	10.5%	11,300
70652	Longville	2,557	47.7%	22.8%	\$59,695	23.7%	12.0	65	35.0	7.7%	883
70657	Ragley	5,533	48.3%	26.3%	\$56,741	15.2%	11.3	135	36.3	14.0%	1,978
70630	Bell City	1,370	60.6%	38.4%	\$71,510	12.8%	0.1	75	31.9	5.2%	865
70633	DeQuincy	8,989	52.6%	33.2%	\$72,170	16.5%	7.3	189	37.5	13.4%	3,223
70647	Iowa	11,386	59.0%	32.9%	\$83,048	22.4%	5.0%	331	37.1	9.0%	4,702
70601	Lake Charles	34,571	53.1%	36.0%	\$49,545	24.9%	9.2%	1,481	38.2	27.4%	16,811
70605	Lake Charles	39,903	66.6%	29.1%	\$88,337	42.3%	5.9%	2,545	35.0	10.0%	17,926
70607	Lake Charles	30,339	57.8%	44.1%	\$58,427	17.6%	10.8%	1,988	32.9	26.0%	13,692
70615	Lake Charles	14,949	44.9%	41.0%	\$43,333	14.8%	10.3%	635	39.7	25.9%	5,498
70611	Lake Charles	22,457	56.4%	18.9%	\$101,146	30.0%	3.5%	974	41.6	9.5%	8,971
70661	Starks	2,179	42.5%	21.6%	\$32,763	13.7%	10.1%	22	49.7	40.9%	855
70663	Sulphur	29,325	53.8%	31.2%	\$59,444	17.1%	6.4%	1,850	37.7	17.9%	12,767
70665	Sulphur	12,532	60.7%	22.9%	\$88,328	22.6%	8.3%	603	35.2	12.7%	5,626
70668	Vinton	6,576	49.4%	25.7%	\$48,492	9.6%	9.1%	379	35.5	25.6%	2,650
70669	Westlake	9,830	52.9%	20.7%	\$68,416	18.4%	9.8%	520	41.1	10.2%	4,425
70631	Cameron	823	54.2%	35.8%	\$52,059	27.1%	8.9%	16	40.2	3.3%	411
70632	Creole	315	11.0%	15.2%	\$31,149	4.9%	4.3%	10	84.4	0.0	237
70643	Grand Chenier	224	21.9%	11.2%	--	23.0%	4.5%	13	61.5	10.5%	148
70645	Hackberry	926	63.7%	10.1%	\$115,054	14.5%	10.7%	22	55.2	2.5%	741
70546	Jennings	16,277	54.5%	25.6%	\$52,353	13.5%	6.3%	381	36.3	17.3%	7,288
70591	Welsh	5,529	54.0%	37.2%	\$66,563	13.9%	4.3%	112	36.7	18.4%	2,247

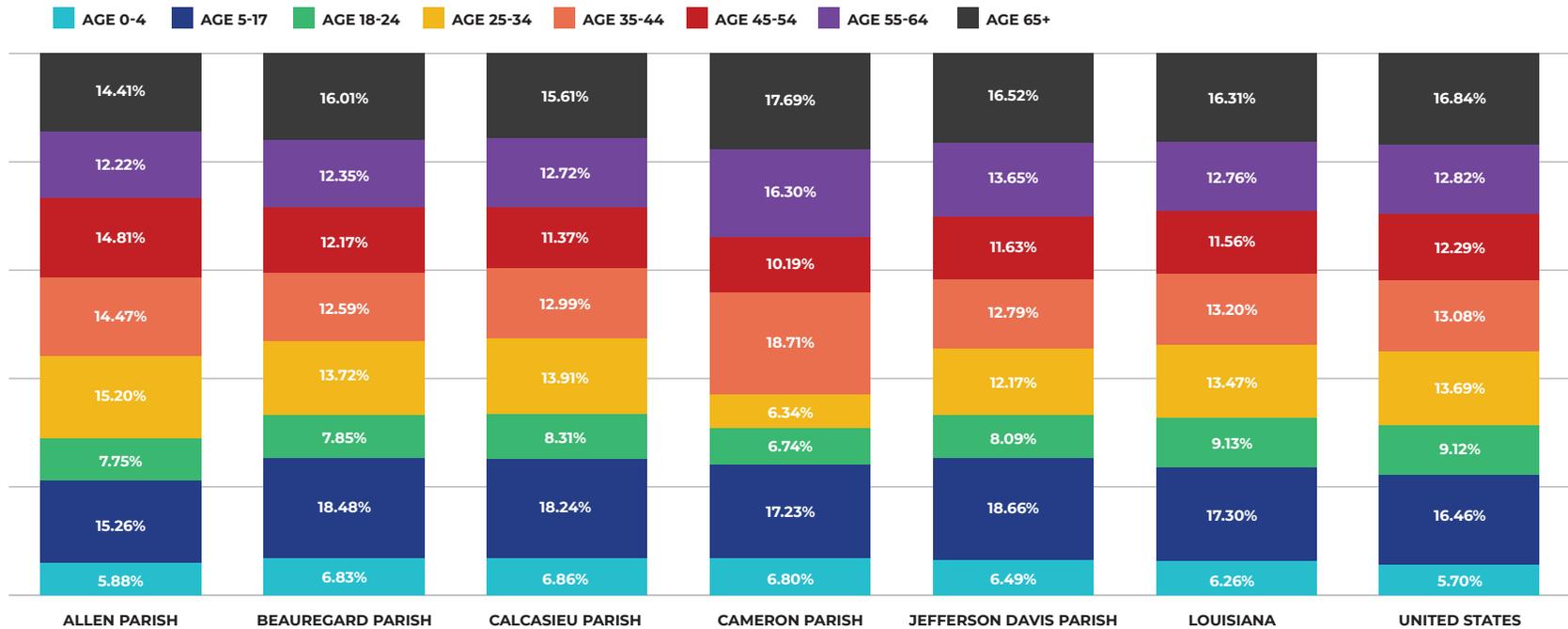
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Population Change



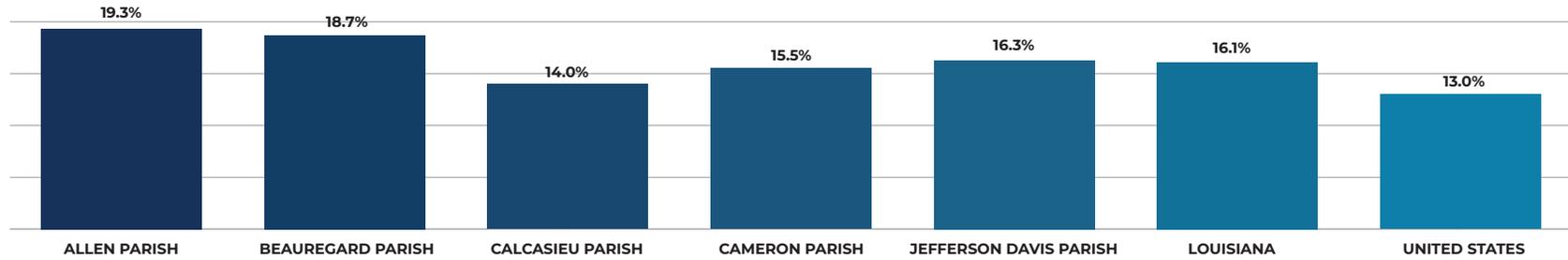
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census. 2023

Age



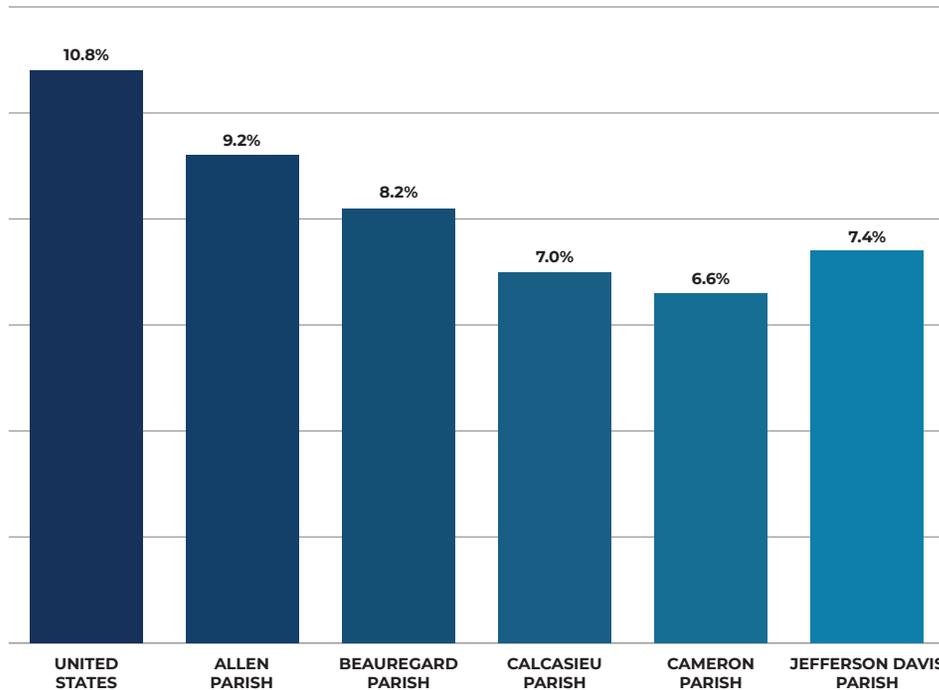
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Five Year Estimates 2019-23

Population with Any Disability



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census, 2023

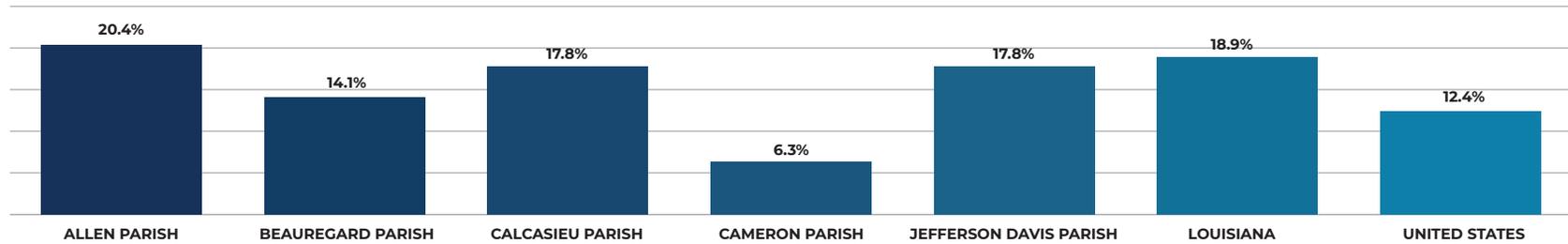
Lack of Health Insurance Among Adults aged 18-64



ZIP Code	City	% Uninsured	ZIP Code	City	% Uninsured
70648	Kinder	13.2%	70630	Bell City	8.8%
70668	Vinton	12.5%	70669	Westlake	8.6%
70615	Lake Charles	11.8%	70631	Cameron	8.2%
70601	Lake Charles	11.5%	70657	Ragley	8.2%
70607	Lake Charles	11.4%	70665	Sulphur	8.2%
70661	Starks	10.9%	70647	Iowa	8.1%
70546	Jennings	10.5%	70643	Grand Chenier	7.6%
70652	Longville	9.9%	70632	Creole	7.5%
70633	DeQuincy	9.7%	70611	Lake Charles	7.2%
70663	Sulphur	9.7%	70645	Hackberry	7.2%
70634	DeRidder	8.9%	70605	Lake Charles	6.7%
70591	Welsh	8.8%			

Source: [PLACES: Local Data for Better Health, ZCTA Data 2024 release, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2024](#)

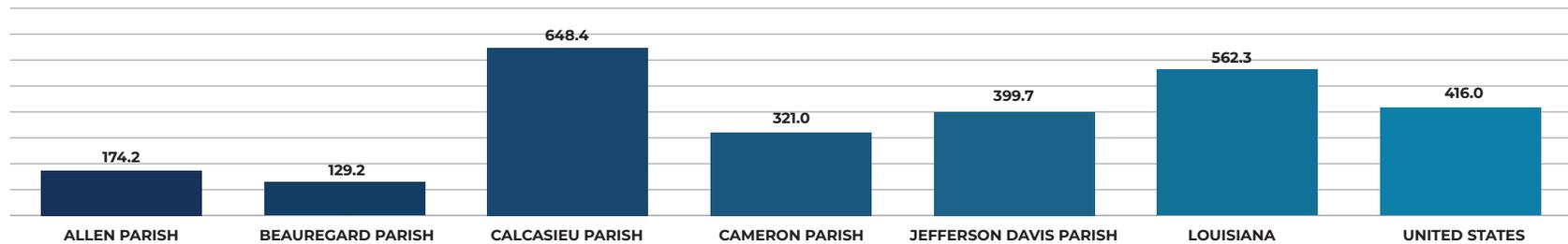
Population Below 100% Federal Poverty Level (FPL)



Note: The [2025 Federal Poverty Level \(FPL\)](#) for a family of four in the 48 contiguous states is \$32,150 per year. This is the benchmark for 100% of the poverty line, which is used for determining eligibility for certain government programs and benefits.

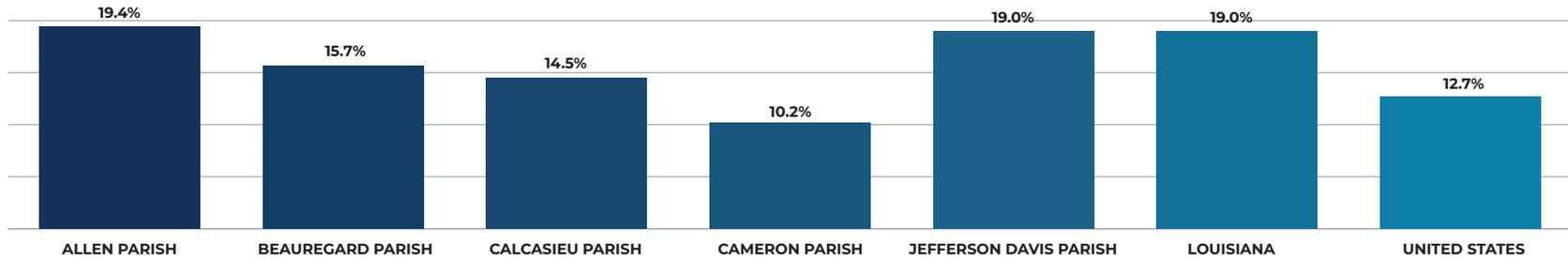
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019-23

Violent Crime (per 100,000 Population)



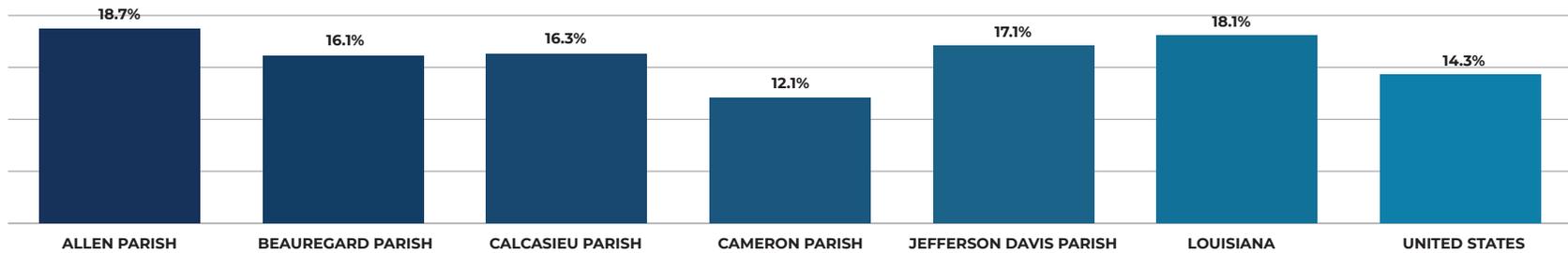
Source: FBI Uniform Crime Reports, 2015-2017

Population Receiving SNAP Benefits



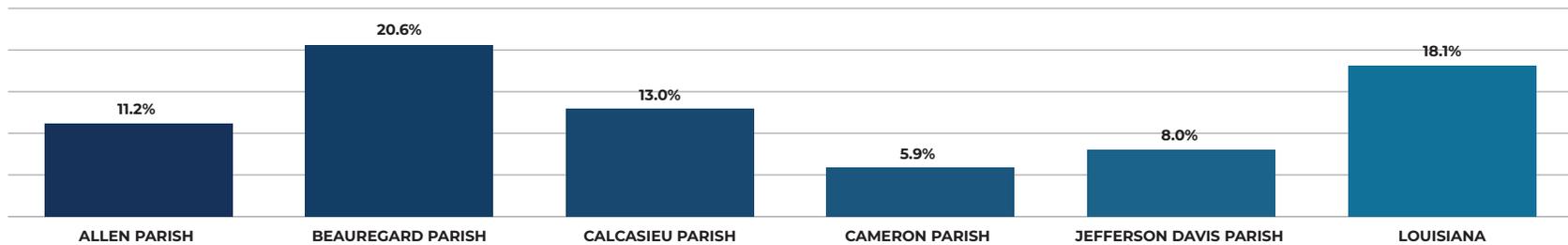
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2022

Food Insecurity



Source: Feeding America. 2023.

Limited Access to Healthy Foods



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, USDA - Food Access Research Atlas. 2023

NEXT STEPS

In the months ahead, Lake Charles Memorial Health System will build upon the insights from the CHNA to develop a comprehensive and actionable Implementation Strategy Plan (ISP). This plan will take the identified specific priorities and outline clear and measurable goals, and strategic initiatives to align with the health system's mission and long-term commitment to improving community health. A central component of this next phase will be the continued and intentional collaboration with community partners, including nonprofit organizations, schools, public health agencies, behavioral health providers, faith-based groups, and civic leaders, to ensure that the strategies developed are responsive to local needs and grounded in the lived experiences of residents across Southwest Louisiana. Together, these partners will refine intervention approaches, share resources, and coordinate efforts to reduce duplication and maximize impact.

The ISP will also focus on expanding access to essential services, reducing health disparities, and addressing systemic barriers that contribute to poor health outcomes. Lake Charles Memorial will establish performance indicators to monitor progress, evaluate effectiveness, and guide adjustments over time. Communication with stakeholders and community members will ensure transparency and keep the public informed about advancements, challenges, and opportunities for engagement.

Through this collaborative, data-driven, and community-centered approach, Lake Charles Memorial Health System reaffirms its long-standing commitment to advancing health equity, strengthening regional partnerships, and improving the overall well-being of all individuals and families in Southwest Louisiana.



Lake Charles
Memorial Health System

SPORTS MEDICINE CENTER



COMMITMENT TO ADVANCING COMMUNITY HEALTH

SPECIAL THANKS

Developing this report required a comprehensive understanding of the communities Lake Charles Memorial serves. Guided by the leadership of the CHNA Working Group, a dedicated group committed to advancing the health and well-being of Southwest Louisiana residents, the assessment reflects the collective effort of many voices. Through collaboration with community leaders, healthcare professionals, stakeholders, and representatives from local health and human service organizations, the Working Group aimed to identify unmet needs, emerging challenges, and areas where support is most needed. Tripp Umbach extends our sincere appreciation to the Working Group for their unwavering dedication. Although the issues facing our communities are complex, we are addressing them together, united with our partners, our people, and the residents we proudly serve.

In alphabetical order by last name.

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Controller, Moss Memorial Health Clinic

Jennifer Foreman

Director of Nursing Excellence

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Maria (Sol) Halliburton

Executive Director of the Foundation

Mandra Hayzlett

Practice Manager, Behavioral Health

Cheryl McCombs

Quality Clinical Analyst

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Communications Manager

Victoria Orsot

Nurse Manager, Ambulatory Oncology





ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Lake Charles Memorial Health System is committed to developing focused implementation strategies that build upon its capabilities, clinical expertise, and strong community partnerships. These strategies will drive coordinated action to address the priority health needs identified through this assessment and support improved health outcomes for residents throughout Southwest Louisiana. For questions or additional information regarding the CHNA or its results, please contact:

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CONSULTANTS

Tripp Umbach brings more than 30 years of national experience conducting CHNAs, implementation strategies, and population health planning for hospitals, health systems, public health agencies, universities, and community-based organizations. As a recognized leader in the field, Tripp Umbach has completed hundreds of CHNAs across the country, working in diverse settings ranging from large academic health centers to rural critical access hospitals. Our team is highly skilled in analyzing complex quantitative data; synthesizing community voices through interviews, focus groups, and surveys; and facilitating structured prioritization processes that lead to clear, actionable results. We have deep expertise in identifying health disparities, evaluating social determinants of health, and supporting clients as they build sustainable, community-centered strategies to improve health outcomes. Beyond assessment, Tripp Umbach works closely with organizations to develop evidence-based implementation plans, strengthen partnerships, and align resources to support long-term, measurable impact. With decades of experience and a proven track record of producing IRS-compliant, high-quality CHNAs, Tripp Umbach provides the insight, rigor, and strategic guidance necessary to help communities and health systems advance meaningful change.



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