

Somerset Hospital
2016 Community Health Needs Assessment
Executive Summary



Background and Community Benefit

Somerset Hospital is a not for profit 111-bed community hospital located in Somerset Borough, Somerset County, Pennsylvania. Somerset Hospital is licensed through the Pennsylvania Department of Health and accredited with the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO). It offers a wide range of services. Somerset Hospital also operates Somerset Health Services, which includes the outpatient offices of Somerset Family Practice, Somerset Orthopedics, Somerset Cardiology, Somerset Pulmonary Medicine, Somerset Pain Management, and Somerset Surgical Services. Somerset Hospital also has Twin Lakes Center for Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation and In Touch Hospice.

The last Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) was completed June 30, 2013. During this process, the top priority areas were identified as Heart Disease, Obesity, Childhood Obesity and Diabetes. Through this process we were able to implement a childhood obesity program, as well as continue our diabetes education and the support of the Botvin Lifeskills program, which is administered through Twin Lakes Center and is implemented in 10 out of the 11 school districts in the county. The CHNA was made widely available and over the course of the three years that the report has been made available, no feedback has been received, besides the acknowledgement of the magnitude of the childhood obesity problem in our community.

Methodology

The purpose of this process and report is to identify the most prevalent health issues in our community and determine programs and services to address these issues. This process also assists the hospital to better define the community which is being served.

Data for this assessment was collected from a variety of primary and secondary sources and incorporated both qualitative and quantitative data.

Steering Committee:

A steering committee was formed to direct this process. Over the last 8 months, the steering committee met in person three times to discuss the Community Health Needs Assessment. To accommodate members' outside demands, additional actions were taken through email.

Steering Committee Members

Name	Organization	Role
Adam Bowser	Pennsylvania Highlands Community College	Director-Somerset Campus
Aimee Krause	Somerset Hospital	Clinical Nutrition Manager
Alyssa Paros	Somerset Hospital	Diabetes Education Coordinator
Andy Rush	Somerset Hospital	Chief Operating Officer, Chief Executive Officer-SHS
Arthur Gotjen	Next Step Center	Volunteer
Brian Whipkey	Daily American	Editor
Brooke McKenzie	Twin Lakes Center	Director
Chuck Crimone	Children and Youth Services	Director
Craig Saylor	Somerset Hospital	Chief Executive Officer
Debbie Lepley	Somerset Tapestry of Health	Director/Nutritionist
Erin Howsare	Single County Authority	Director
Greg Chiappelli	Somerset Hospital	Director of Corporate Communications
Jeanette Croner	Somerset Hospital	Director of Quality
Kay Mihelcic	PA Department of Health	Community Health
Kerri Burtner	Boys and Girls Club of Somerset County	Chief Professional Officer
Krista Mathias	Somerset Area School District Somerset Hospital	Superintendent Board Member
Manjit Bhullar	Somerset Hospital	Director of Emergency Room
Matt Kociola	Somerset Hospital	Chief Financial Officer
Rebecca Witt	SCI-Laurel Highlands	Re-Entry Specialist
Ron Aldom	Somerset Chamber of Commerce Somerset Hospital	Executive Director Board Member
Ronna Yablonski	Twin Lakes Center Somerset County Drug Free Communities	Prevention Coordinator Director
Sally Manges	Somerset Hospital	Director of Regulatory Infection Prevention Coord.
Sarah Deist	Somerset Hospital	Public Relations Coord.
Suellen Lichtenfels	Somerset Hospital	Chief Nursing Officer
Tracy Shultz	Behavioral Health Services Somerset and Bedford County	Program Manager
Travis Hutzell	United Way	Grant Writer



Primary Data Collection:

Community Survey:

A community survey was utilized to obtain input from a large sample of our communities. The Steering Committee met to develop the survey tool. This tool was then inputted into Survey Monkey, which is a site that allows individuals to anonymously submit their results. Once the survey was complete on Survey Monkey, the Steering Committee was asked to review prior to the survey going live. The survey was also made available in hard copy so that individuals, who were unable to access a computer, were able to participate in the survey.

The survey went live in January 2016. The link to the survey was placed on Somerset Hospital’s website, Facebook page, emailed out to all steering committee members and emailed to all hospital employees. Additionally, an invitation to participate in the survey was mailed out to approximately 6,000 households in our primary service area. A total of 1,023 individuals completed the survey. Data received from the survey was analyzed by Survey Monkey.

The survey included questions about personal health, as well as the perception of health in the community.

Key Informant Interviews:

Five key informant interviews were conducted. The interviewees were selected based on their role in working with Somerset Hospital’s priority populations. This includes the aging community, those with physical and mental disabilities, economically disadvantaged, women and children and those without health insurance.

Name	Organization	Role
Beth Hollis	Area Agency on Aging	Somerset/Boswell Senior Center Director
Amanda Webreck	Community Action Partnership	Homeless Assistance Case Manager
Michelle Younkin	PA Link to Aging and Disability Services	Lead Coordinator
Debbie Lepley	Somerset Tapestry of Health	Director/Nutritionist
Kay Mihelcic	PA Department of Health	Community Health Nurse

Focus Groups:

One focus group was conducted with a group of individuals who participate in the Housing program/Home Grown (Community Garden) at the Community Action Partnership of Somerset County. The group consisted of four males and two females. Ages ranged from 17 to 59.



Lunch was given to the individuals as an incentive for participation. The Focus Group lasted approximately 1 hour.

Secondary Data Collection:

Secondary Data was collected from the following sources:

- Demographic and socioeconomic data was collected from the United States Census Bureau
- Pennsylvania Department of Health and the Pennsylvania Department of Vital Statistics
- County Health Rankings, which is provided by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute within the School of Medicine and Public Health.
- Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS) 2016
- American Lung Association State of the Air Report
- Healthy People 2020, from the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion
- Community Health Status Indicators, from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Somerset County Hunger Profile, a publication of the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank
- Pennsylvania Center for Workforce Information and Analysis
- Pennsylvania State Police
- Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Priority Needs Identification Process:

The Steering Committee met to discuss all of the data that had been collected during this process. Participants were then asked to review the data. A survey created on Survey Monkey was then made available to the Steering Committee to prioritize the needs. Members of the committee were asked to rate the health issues based on:

- Severity of the Issue- Severity of the issue refers to the potential for the health issue to result in death, disability or impaired quality of life. It also refers to the prevalence of the problem in our community.
- Capacity to address issue- Capacity to address issue refers to the hospital's ability to either address the issue or partner with another organization in the community to address the issue.
- Accountability- Accountability refers to the extent the hospital is responsible for addressing health issue.

Demographic Information

- Somerset Hospital is located in Somerset County, which is classified as rural county.
- Approximately 75,522 people live in Somerset County.



- About 95% of the population is Caucasian.
- 13.5% of the population is living at or below the poverty line.
- The average annual unemployment rate for 2015 was 9.2%.

Service Area

- Primary Service Area: Somerset Borough, Berlin, Boswell, Confluence, Friedens, Rockwood and Stoystown
- Secondary Service Area: Jennerstown, Jenners, Markleton, Meyersdale, Salisbury, Shanksville and Ursina

Community Health Status

- 21% of Somerset County report their overall health as being fair or poor
- 40% of Somerset County report their physical health not being good for at least one day in the last month
- 35% report their mental health not being good for at least one day in the past month.
- 23% report being limited in activity due to physical, mental or emotional problems.

Access

- About 13% of the population in Somerset County does not have health insurance.
- 11% report not having a Primary Care Provider (PCP)
- The ratios of people to healthcare providers is much higher in Somerset County
- Transportation is a large indicator for access to health care and other resources in our Community.
- Also, properly accessing health information and utilizing a PCP over the Emergency Department is an issue in our county.

Heart Disease/Stroke

- Heart disease is the number one cause of death in Somerset County. Stroke is the number four cause of death.
- 7% of the population in Somerset County have been diagnosed with heart disease. 8% have been told that they experienced a heart attack.
- Over the four years of data available, heart disease and heart attack mortality has been declining.
- Stroke mortality is slightly lower in Somerset County than Pennsylvania.
- Rates of heart disease mortality and stroke mortality are not meeting the Healthy People 2020 goals.



Cancer

- Somerset County is meeting the Healthy People 2020 goals for breast cancer mortality, lung and bronchus cancer mortality and prostate cancer mortality, but not colorectal cancer mortality.
- Both the incidence rate and mortality rate of breast cancer and bronchus and lung cancer in Somerset County is lower than the state.
- The incidence rate of Prostate Cancer in Somerset County is lower than the state; however the mortality rate is slightly higher than the state.
- The incidence rate of Colorectal Cancer in Somerset County is higher than the state; however the mortality rate is slightly lower than the state.
- There is an opportunity for improvement on the number of people that are receiving their recommended cancer screenings.

Diabetes

- Diabetes is the 6th leading cause of death in Somerset County
- 11% of the population in Somerset County has been diagnosed with Diabetes.
- The mortality rate of Diabetes is higher than Pennsylvania; however the rate is still meeting the Healthy People 2020 guidelines.

Respiratory Illness

- The percentage of people diagnosed with Asthma in Somerset County is slightly lower than the state average.
- The mortality rate of Pneumonia in Somerset County is almost identical to Pennsylvania.
- 70% of the eligible population has received their recommended pneumonia vaccination.

Overweight/Obesity

- The percentage of people who are overweight or obese in Somerset is higher than the state average (69% overweight, 37% obese).
- About 20.97% of children in grades kindergarten through 6th grade are obese. 18.23% of children in grades 7-12 are obese.
- Somerset County is not meeting the Healthy People 2020 goal for obesity or childhood obesity.
- Identified in the community survey, key informant interviews and focus group as one of the greatest health problems in our community.

Prenatal Behaviors

- The percentage of women receiving prenatal care in the first trimester in Somerset County is higher than the state average and meeting the Healthy People 2020 goal.
- The percentage of low birth weight babies is also lower than the state average.



- 44.3% of mothers are receiving WIC (must be at 185% of the federal poverty income guidelines).
- Tobacco use among expecting mothers and those who are quitting 3 months prior to getting pregnant is higher than the state average and not meeting Healthy People 2020 goals.

Sexually Transmitted Infections

- Rates of sexually transmitted infections in Somerset County are lower than the state rates.
- Only 25% of residents of Somerset County have been tested for HIV, which is very low compared to the Healthy People 2020 goal.

Tobacco Use

- Tobacco use is more prevalent in Somerset County than the state of Pennsylvania.
- A greater percentage of youth in Somerset County have reported using tobacco including smoking cigarettes, using smokeless tobacco and e-cigarettes, when compared to the state.

Drug/Alcohol Use

- The drug induced mortality rate in Somerset County is higher than the state rate, as well as being higher than the Healthy People 2020 goal.
- 7% of the population in Somerset County admits to chronic drinking
- When looking at youth in Somerset County, there are higher rates for the use of heroin, cocaine, crack, methamphetamines and performance enhancing drugs and lower rates of use of narcotic prescriptions, prescription tranquilizers, prescription stimulants, use of OTC drugs to get high, hallucinogens, ecstasy/molly and synthetic drugs when compared to the state of Pennsylvania.
- Drug use and prescription abuse were repeatedly listed as the biggest health problem in Somerset County reported by the community.

Mental Health

- For the last four years of data available, the mortality rates for all mental and behavioral disorders is lower in Somerset County than the state and shows a trend of declining.
- The suicide mortality rate is about equal to that of the state.
- About 20% of the population in Somerset County has been diagnosed with a depression disorder.
- Looking at youth, about 35% report feeling depressed most days out of the last 30 days. This number has been increasing since 2011.



- Mental Health Issues were named as a major health issue in our community by many who completed the community survey, as well as the key informant interviews and focus group.

Motor Vehicle Accidents/Deaths/Seatbelt Usage

- The rate of motor vehicle mortality in Somerset County is about twice as high as the state rate and exceeds the Healthy People 2020 goal.
- Between 2012-2015, there was 425 alcohol related motor vehicle accidents and 29 accidents involving cell phones.
- Community Survey respondents reported wearing their seatbelt 88.27% of the time and 60.18% reported never texting and driving.

Crime

- Property offenses are the most common type of crime in Somerset County.
- From 2014 to 2015, rates of sex related offenses, assaults, property offenses, drug violations and other alcohol crimes has increased in Somerset County.
- For the same time frame, rates of criminal homicide, robbery and arson have decreased.

Environment

- Somerset County received a grade of C for High Ozone days from the State of the Air Report from the American Lung Association.
- Somerset County does not monitor particle pollution.
- Public water, supplied by the Quemahoning Dam, has had no violations in regards to the level on contaminants that are found in the water.



Need Prioritization Results

Community Survey:

The following issues were rated by those that participated in the Community Survey, whether or not the issue is a serious problem in our community. The following issues are in order of severity from highest to lowest:

1. Illegal Drug Abuse
2. Prescription Drug Abuse
3. Tobacco Use
4. Obesity and Overweight
5. Employment Opportunities in General
6. Lack of Exercise
7. Alcohol Abuse
8. Cancer
9. Lack of Parenting
10. Hypertension/High Blood Pressure
11. High Cholesterol
12. Diabetes
13. Crime
14. Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke
15. Poverty
16. Heart Disease
17. Domestic Violence
18. Access to Affordable Health Care
19. Sexual Behaviors (unprotected, irresponsible/risky)
20. Disabilities (mental and/or physical)
21. Child Abuse
22. Delinquency/Youth Crime
23. Access to Insurance Coverage
24. Violence
25. Teenage Pregnancy
26. Access and Affordability of Prescription Drugs
27. Availability of Specialists
28. Access to Transportation
29. Access to High Quality Affordable Foods
30. Affordable and Adequate Housing
31. Recreation Opportunities
32. Asthma
33. Access to Mental Health Care and Services
33. Early Childhood Development/Child Care



34. Sexually Transmitted Infections
35. Access to Dental Care
36. Safe Roads and Sidewalks
37. Quality of Public Education
38. Access to Adult Immunizations
39. Access to Medical Care Providers
40. High School Graduation Rates
41. Access to General Health Screenings
42. Access to Emergency Care Services
43. Access to Women's Health Screenings
44. Access to Men's Health Screenings
45. Access to Prenatal Care
46. Access to Childhood Immunizations
47. Language Barriers

Community Survey Respondents were also given the option to list the top community health priority for Somerset County. Responses were recorded in an open ended format. 744 people responded to this question. The responses were then coded based on the subject they were related to. The top ten responses are as follows:

1. Drug Use/Abuse
2. Affordability of Health Care
3. Transportation/Access to Health Care
4. Obesity
5. Cancer
6. Poverty/Lack of Jobs
7. Mental Health Care
8. Heart Disease
9. Elder Care/Resources for Senior Citizens
10. Parenting



Steering Committee:

The steering committee was asked to consider all of the data, including the community’s opinion of the top health priorities. Health issues presented were then rated on the severity of the issue, the capacity for the hospital to address the issue, and the degree to which the hospital is responsible for addressing the health issue (accountability). The ratings are as follows:

Health Issue	Magnitude of Problem	Capacity	Accountability	Total
Heart Disease	8.62	8.71	8.36	25.69
Diabetes	8.77	8.54	8.36	25.67
Cancer	8.46	8.29	8.21	24.96
Stroke	7.85	8.57	8.36	24.78
Overweight/Obesity	8.54	7.5	7.08	23.12
Mental Health Disorders	7.38	7.29	7.92	22.59
Childhood Obesity	8.15	7.5	6.93	22.58
Prescription Drug Misuse/Abuse	8.17	7.14	7.15	22.46
Access to Mental Health Care Services	7	7.21	7.64	21.85
Access to Primary Care Physicians	5.77	7.71	8.21	21.69
Tobacco Use	7.71	6.86	7	21.57
Illegal Drug Use	8.64	6.46	5.92	21.02
Access to Affordable Health Insurance/Co-Pays/Deductibles	7.69	6	7	20.69
Access to Prenatal Care	4.38	7.64	8.64	20.66
Asthma	6.08	7.23	7.23	20.54
Tobacco Use in Pregnancy	6	6.71	7.5	20.21
Physical Activity	7.15	6.64	6.23	20.02
Alcohol Use	8	6	5.93	19.93
Nutrition/Access to Healthy Foods	7.09	5.69	5.38	18.16
Transportation to and from Medical Appointments	6.69	5.86	5.29	17.84
Teenage Pregnancy	5.07	6	6.21	17.28
Access to Dental Care	5.62	5.57	5.43	16.62
Sexually Transmitted Infections/Risky Sexual Behaviors	4.54	5.36	6.15	16.05
Motor Vehicle Accidents/ Motor Vehicle Deaths/Seatbelt Usage	5.54	3.64	4.08	13.26
Unemployment Rates/Poverty	7.21	3.21	2.69	13.11
Adolescent Crime/Delinquency	5	4.07	3.38	12.45
Crime/Violence	5.15	3.93	3.31	12.39
Environmental Health-Air & Water Quality	3.31	3.36	2.77	9.44



Discussion

In many aspects, results from this data collection process are to be expected. Chronic disease continues to be present in the list of top ten causes of death nationwide. This is no different for Somerset County, especially with high rates of heart disease, hypertension, obesity and high cholesterol. It is a community expectation that the hospital offer services to treat these diagnoses, as well as programs to prevent these issues.

Results from this process have been very similar to those that were completed three years ago, with the exception of the concern of drug abuse. There has been increasing attention placed on the heroin epidemic in Western Pennsylvania. This has garnished a large amount of media attention, which has allowed the community to become more informed about the problem.

The data collection process does have some flaws. From a primary data collection stance, there are inherently the potential for biases. While the surveys were mailed out to random households throughout the Primary Service Area of Somerset Hospital and Survey Monkey was set to completely anonymously collect the data, the majority of the surveys were completed through links provided in emails or Facebook, therefore decreasing the likelihood of a blind random collection of data. In order to collect as many responses as possible, the Survey Monkey program was set up to allow collection the survey to be completed twice on the same device. There is the potential for someone to have completed the survey multiple times. As far as the informant interviews and the focus group, there is the potential for results to be skewed based on personal and professional needs, rather than the general needs of our priority populations. With that being said, interviewees were selected from a wide variety of human service agencies to alleviate the potential for biases. The biggest issue in the secondary data collection process is finding data that is current. While this report is supposed to cover the past three years, data has not necessarily been updated yet to reflect this.



Action Planning

Through the Community Health Needs Assessment process, the areas identified for action are as follows:

Heart Disease

Goal: Reduce heart disease morbidity and mortality in Somerset County.

Target Population: Residents of Somerset County over the age of 18

Activities:

- Community education seminars/events
- Offer CPR courses to the community and businesses
- Promote availability and services of the Cardiac Catheterization Lab
- Offer Cardiac Rehabilitation to those patients with a cardiac diagnosis

Measures:

- # of participants for education events
- # of individuals becoming certified in CPR
- Total # of CPR classes offered during the year
- # of people receiving cardiac catheterization related procedures
- # of people enrolling in cardiac rehabilitation
- For those individuals completing cardiac rehab:
 - Change in blood pressure
 - Lipid management (whether or not pt. is on moderate-high dose statin)
 - Change in weight
 - Waist circumference
 - Change in depression screen

Resources:

- Cardiologists
- Primary Care Providers
- Marketing team
- CPR Instructors
- Cardiac Catheterization Lab Staff
- Cardiac Rehabilitation Staff



Diabetes

Goal: Reduce diabetes morbidity and mortality in Somerset County

Target Population: All residents of Somerset County, individuals diagnosed with pre-diabetes or diabetes

Activities:

- Offer community education seminars
- Promote the availability of diabetes self-management education

Measures:

- # of individual participants of education seminars
- # of individuals participating in diabetes education self-management program
 - For those completing program:
 - Reduction in A1C
 - Increase in knowledge
 - Increase in confidence in managing diabetes

Resources:

- Diabetes Education Center
 - Registered dietitians
- Primary care physicians
- Marketing
-

Tobacco Use

Goal: Reduce tobacco use in Somerset County

Target Population: All individuals living in Somerset County

Activities:

- Offer free tobacco cessation classes
- Promote the PA Quitline for Tobacco Cessation
- Provide additional training to respiratory therapists in tobacco cessation
- Participate in community education/outreach activities

Measures:

- Participants of Class:
 - % of people quitting tobacco
 - Increase in knowledge of dangers of tobacco use
 - Increase in confidence of quitting/remaining tobacco free
- # of inpatients referred to PA Quitline
- # of therapists receiving training

Resources:

- Respiratory Therapists
- Physicians
- Marketing



Cancer

Goal: Increase awareness about the importance of early detection for certain cancers and reduce barriers to individuals getting recommended screenings for cancer.

Target Population: Adult residents living in Somerset County

Activities:

- Offer community education for the prevention of cancer/early detection
- Offer annual mammogram program which provides mammograms to women who are uninsured, underinsured or have insurance that does not cover mammogram in conjunction with the Susan G. Komen Foundation
- Assist in promoting the annual Colorectal Cancer Screening program that is conducted through the Somerset Oncology Center
- Promote the availability of low dose CT scans for individuals who are high risk for lung cancer

Measures:

- # of education seminars conducted
- # of participants
- # of participants in each screening
- # of people requiring follow up

Resources:

- Radiology Department
- Primary Care Physicians
- Marketing

Partnerships:

- Susan G. Komen Foundation
- Somerset Oncology Center (Allegheny Health Network)
- Foundation Radiology
- Johnstown Free Medical Clinic
- American Cancer Society



Stroke

Goal: Reduce Stroke Mortality in Somerset County

Target Population: All residents of Somerset County, people at risk for having a stroke

Activities:

- Educate the community on the signs and symptoms of Stroke, as well as the importance of early medical intervention
- Develop and promote Primary Stroke Center

Measures:

- # of community outreach events completed
- # of people attending outreach events
- For those patients being admitted with a stroke:
 - % of people coming in by ambulance
 - Reduction of time between last known well and arrival at ED
 - Length of Stay
 - Early anti thrombotic: Measure door to needle time
 - Stroke Education
 - Discharge on Statin
 - Discharge on Antithrombotic
 - Smoking Cessation
 - Diabetic Education
 - Number of Stroke Alerts
 - Teleneurology consults

Resources:

- Members of the Stroke Team
 - Administrative Director
 - Clinical Coordinator
 - Medical Director
- Medical Staff
 - Physicians (Emergency Department and Hospitalists primarily)
 - Nurses
 - Laboratory
 - Radiology
- Marketing

Partnerships

- Allegheny Health Network
- Ambulance Services in Somerset County



Mental Health Disorders/Access to Mental Health Caregivers

Goal: Increase access to Mental Health Care

Target Population: Adults living in Somerset County

Activities:

- Through a variety of media outlets, promote the availability of Mental Health Care at Somerset Hospital
- Promote the availability of mental health support groups in the county

Measures:

- Track growth in outpatient visits
- Track growth in geriatric population

Resources:

- Behavioral Health Unit
- Marketing

Potential Partnerships:

- Bedford Somerset DBHS

Overweight/Obesity

Goal: Increase awareness and education about obesity

Target Population: All individuals living in Somerset County

Activities:

- Promote Rehabilitation and Wellness Center
- Promote the Availability of Outpatient Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT)
- Organize Annual Family Health Fair (offsite)
- Provide community education seminars regarding obesity

Measures:

- # of participants
- # of events
- Outpatient MNT
 - % of participants losing weight
 - Average weight loss

Resources:

- Dietitian
- Staff of Somerset Hospital Rehabilitation & Wellness Center
- Marketing
- Various departments within the hospital

Potential Partnerships:

- School Districts
- WIC Office



Illegal Drug Use/Prescription Drug Abuse

Goal: Reduce drug use in Somerset County

Target Population: All individuals residing in Somerset County

Activities:

- Promote availability of Pain Management Specialist
- Increase patient education on medications through occupational therapy and pharmacy
- Promote safe disposal of medications
- Promote Twin Lakes Center
 - Drug and Alcohol Detox
 - Residential Program
 - Outpatient Program
 - Prevention/Education
 - DUI Services

Measures:

- Patient volume in pain management services
- # of inpatient consults for medication management
- Weight of medication collected through medication drop off box and prescription drug take back days
- # of individuals enrolled in programs at Twin Lakes
- # of students reached through prevention programming
- Media reach through anti-drug advertising campaigns

Resources:

- Pain Management Specialist
- Twin Lakes Center Staff
- Occupational Therapy
- Pharmacy Department

Partners:

- Somerset County Drug Free Communities
- Single County Authority
- Somerset Borough Police Department
- United Way of the Laurel Highlands



In 2013, the focus areas of the Community Health Needs Assessment were identified as Childhood Obesity, Self-Esteem in Children and Diabetes. As progress was very minimal in these areas, they will continue to be a focus of the 2016 Community Health Needs Assessment within the above topics of action.

The areas that will not be addressed in the Community Health Needs Assessment include access to primary care providers, access to affordable health insurance/co-pays/deductibles, access to prenatal care, asthma, medical transportation, access to dental care, sexually transmitted infections, motor vehicle accident/deaths/seatbelt usage, unemployment rates/poverty, crime/delinquency/violence, and environmental health. Many of these areas will still be addressed within the hospital, but the ranking of significance in our community were not as high as the rankings of the other health issues identified in this assessment. Therefore, they will not be a priority focus. The hospital does lack resources to directly address issues such as unemployment rates, poverty and crime and delinquency.

The Somerset Hospital Board of Directors approved the Community Health Needs Assessment Action Plan on Monday, October 31st, 2016. Updates will be provided to the Board of Directors every six months for the next three years.

Somerset Hospital invites the community to comment on any portion of the Community Health Needs Assessment. If you have issues you would like to see addressed or have ideas of how to address any of the identified issues, we would love to hear from you. You may contact Sarah Deist at 814-443-5735 or sedeist@somersethospital.com