

2020 Community Assessment Annual Update
Subpart A 1302.11 (b)(2)

Any significant changes:

According to the 2019 Community Health Needs Assessment for McPherson County, there has been a shift in the top three county health concerns. The 2016 assessment indicated that the “top three concerns were obesity, cancer and mental health issues”¹. In the most recent assessment, the top three health concerns are now drug abuse, mental health, and obesity.¹

Drug abuse is ranked as the top concern with statistical data showing an increase of 2.4 deaths due to drug poisoning from the years 2013 to 2015.¹

Mental health is ranked second as a health concern for those in McPherson County. The 2013 survey did not register mental health as a concern but in “2016 it was considered third highest area for concern and now it is ranked second in 2019.”¹ There is a lack of statistical data for Kansas counties when it comes to mental health and it makes it difficult to capture the extent of mental health conditions within McPherson County. One of the data points the Community Health Needs Assessment looked into was “medicare recipients who had been treated for depression”¹ and “to track the number of hospital admissions as a result of mental behavior disorders”¹. Both data points show an increase and support the survey results.

Mental health has also been selected by the McPherson Community Coalition as a top issue for the community. At one of the community meetings, the chief of the police department shared that in 2018 they only dealt with 10 incidents of juveniles (ages 10-17) in crisis but by the end of January 2019 they had already dealt with over 10 juveniles who were in crisis.

The needs assessment published by the Kansas Head Start Collaboration Office also cited “accessing appropriate mental health services for families”² as a top challenge faced by programs in Kansas.

The Early Childhood Task Force of Marion County has reported a main and continuous issue for families is the lack of transportation. Marion County does not have public transportation and most agencies are not able to provide transportation. Most families have to travel to receive services and many services are not located in the county.

The Kansas Early Childhood Needs Assessment identified that parenting knowledge is the greatest unmet need for the region that both counties are in.⁸ This need has been discussed in Marion county early childhood task force as a major need for families. There is not currently a parenting class offered to the public that encompasses birth to 5.

Another notion observed from the Kansas Early Childhood Needs Assessment was that, “many middle- to lower-middle-income families in this region also report feeling excluded – they are not poor enough to qualify or wealthy enough to afford. Additionally, affordable housing is listed as a

high need in this area, compounding the struggles of those working families who must pay full price for child care, while simultaneously spending a significant percentage of their income on rent.”⁸ This has been reflected more in McPherson county but is definitely prevalent in Marion county as well for families.

Increased availability of publicly-funded pre-kindergarten and an assessment of how the pre-kindergarten available in the community meets the needs of the parents and children served by the program, and whether it is offered full school day).

Marion Elementary School is currently looking into the Early Learning Kansans grant and requesting 20 slots to fill for a four year old at risk program. They are only expecting to fill 12 slots for four year old at risk students that would be offered for one half day session.

Rates of family and child homelessness

McPherson County Point In Time count for 2019 was collected from three different sites: Mount Hope, Omega House, and the McPherson Housing Coalition. Mount Hope reported 6 women and children, Omega House reported 40 individuals and families, and McPherson Housing Coalition reported 9 adults and 17 kids.³

The McPherson school district, USD 418, reported 54 students qualifying under the McKinney-Vento definition for homeless children.⁴

Marion County is served by Main Street Ministries, which is a homeless shelter for women and children. They have 4 bedrooms and normally have a waitlist.⁵ Marion County is also served by the Harvey county homeless shelter, New Hope. New Hope reported a year to date as of September 2019, that 81% of 198 intakes were from Marion, McPherson and Harvey County, of those 198 there were 116 men, 63 women, 4 teens, and 15 children.⁶

No school district in Marion county reported a number over 10 students that fell under the McKinney-Vento definition of homeless and therefore they were not included in the published number by the Kansas State Department of Education.

Significant shift in community demographics

There are no significant shifts in community demographics in McPherson or Marion County.

Significant shift in community resources

McPherson and Marion County are now being served by Healthy Families through the Kansas Children’s Service League. “Healthy Families is a free, reliable support to strengthen your family and assist parents who are overburdened by stress factors. A Healthy Families home visitor will meet with your family regularly, usually once each week. This process begins during pregnancy and continues until your child is 3 to 5-years-old.”⁷

The McPherson Community Coalition has put on multiple community wide training and forums for mental health. The McPherson school district provided mental health first aid to administration, school counselors and other selected staff. The Early Childhood had two staff members who were able to attend the training.

Resources

1. 2019 Community Health Needs Assessment for McPherson County, Kansas
2. 2019 Needs Assessment and 2019-2021 Strategic Plan
3. McPherson Housing Coalition
4. KSDE Education for Homeless Children and Youth 2018-2019 Data
5. Main Street Ministries Website
6. New Hope September Newsletter
7. Kansas Children's Service League Healthy Families website
8. Kansas Early Childhood Systems Building Needs Assessment