

2025

COMMUNITY HEALTH
NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Bonner
General
Health



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Board of Directors



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) conducted by Bonner General Health (BGH) provides an overview of the current health status and needs of residents in Bonner County, Idaho. This assessment identifies critical health priorities and informs the hospital's strategies to address these needs, aligning with its mission to provide high-quality, accessible healthcare to the community.

The CHNA process involved reviewing local, state, and national health data, conducting community surveys, and gathering input from residents, public health experts, and representatives of vulnerable populations. Engagement with community partners and review by BGH's Senior Leadership Team and Board of Directors ensured the assessment reflects both statistical trends and lived experiences in the county.

Through this process, four priority health needs were formally identified and accepted: Women's Health, Mental Health, Obesity & Healthy Lifestyles, and Access to Care. These priorities highlight areas where community members face significant health challenges and where targeted interventions can have the greatest impact.

The findings from the CHNA will guide the development of an implementation plan outlining programs, partnerships, and strategies to improve health outcomes, expand access to care, and address health disparities across Bonner County over the next three years.

INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

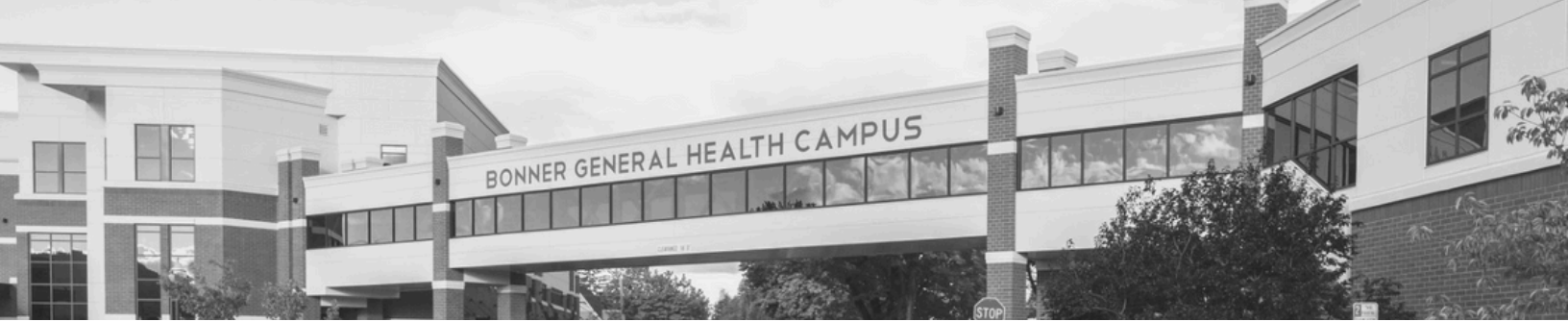


Established in 1949, Bonner General Health (BGH) is a 25-bed critical access hospital providing comprehensive healthcare services to Bonner County and the surrounding region of rural North Idaho. Our mission is to Improve Health, Inspire Wellness and Save Lives. Established to meet the needs of a growing and geographically dispersed community, BGH operates a network of clinics, specialty services, and community programs designed to support residents across all stages of life. As the only hospital in Bonner County, BGH plays a vital role in ensuring access to essential medical care, emergency services, and preventive health programs for local families.

BGH offers a full continuum of care, including emergency medicine, surgical services, behavioral health, women's health, cardiopulmonary services, diabetes education, physical rehabilitation, hospice, diagnostic imaging, and more. Through partnerships with local organizations, schools, and public health agencies, BGH is committed to improving the health and wellness of the community while addressing the unique challenges of delivering care in a rural environment.

The purpose of the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) is to gain a comprehensive understanding of the health status, behaviors, and needs of the residents of Bonner County. Conducting a CHNA enables BGH to identify key health priorities, guide strategic planning, and ensure programs and services align with community needs.

The CHNA also fulfills federal requirements outlined in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, which mandates nonprofit hospitals conduct a CHNA every three years. This report demonstrates BGH's commitment to transparency, accountability, and ongoing collaboration with community partners. The assessment incorporates both quantitative data—such as health indicators, demographic statistics, and hospital utilization trends—and qualitative input from residents, healthcare providers, public health experts, and representatives of medically underserved populations.



Bonner General Health serves the residents of Bonner County, an area characterized by its rural setting, mountainous terrain, and significant seasonal tourism. The primary communities included in this CHNA are Sandpoint, Ponderay, Sagle, Cocolalla, Kootenai, Priest River, Priest Lake, Hope, and Clark Fork.

Bonner County is home to approximately 53,995 residents and continues to experience steady population growth. The region's rural nature presents unique challenges, including limited access to specialty care, transportation barriers, workforce shortages, and socioeconomic disparities. Key demographic features include an aging population, a rising number of young families, and a workforce influenced by industries such as healthcare, education, retail, construction, tourism, and natural resources.

Understanding the characteristics, strengths, and challenges of the community helps shape BGH's efforts to improve health outcomes and enhance access to care.

Hospital Overview

Bonner General operates a 25-bed critical access hospital, a network of clinics, and programs serving Bonner County and the surrounding area. The following clinical and hospital services are provided:

- Acute Care Unit
- Anticoagulation Clinic
- Behavioral Health
- Bereavement Services
- Cardiopulmonary Services
- Community First Aid & CPR Classes
- Diabetes Education
- Diagnostic Imaging
- Emergency Department
- Family Practice
- Hospice
- Immediate Care Clinic
- Infusion and Procedures Clinic
- Intensive Care Unit
- Laboratory Services
- Ophthalmology
- Orthopedics
- Physical, Occupational & Speech Therapy
- Support Groups
- Surgical Services
- Women's Health

Methodology

Bonner General Health (BGH) used a combination of quantitative data, qualitative feedback, and collaborative review to complete the 2025 Community Health Needs Assessment for Bonner County. This mixed-methods approach ensured a well-rounded understanding of community health strengths, challenges, and gaps.

Data Sources

BGH used both primary and secondary data. Primary data came from the Community Health Survey, open to the public from May–September 2025, which gathered input on health concerns, barriers to care, and access to local services, with an optional section covering mental health, women’s health, and food insecurity. Secondary data came from reputable public health sources, including the Idaho Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), County Health Rankings & Roadmaps, the 2024 Panhandle Health District Community Health Improvement Plan, and additional state and federal health datasets. These sources provided current statistics on health behaviors, chronic disease, and social determinants of health.

Community Input

To better understand how the data reflects real community experiences, BGH held a focus-group discussion with the Bonner County Coalition for Health in November 2025. Participants reviewed survey findings, shared observations from their organizations, and helped validate whether the identified health issues matched what they see in the community. This ensured lived experience informed the assessment.

Analysis Process

Survey results, secondary data, and community feedback were reviewed together to identify consistent themes and areas of concern. The analysis focused on trends, disparities, and health issues repeatedly highlighted across multiple data sources.

Prioritization Process

BGH’s Senior Leadership Team and Board of Directors then reviewed the findings and selected priority health needs based on severity, community impact, feasibility, and alignment with BGH’s mission. Through this process, four priority needs were identified: Women’s Health, Mental Health, Obesity & Healthy Lifestyles, and Access to Care.

Conclusion

This simplified but rigorous methodology ensured the 2025 CHNA reflects both reliable data and genuine community input. The findings provide a solid foundation for BGH’s Implementation Strategy to improve health outcomes in Bonner County.

Community Profile



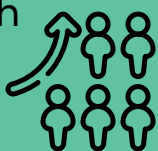
Population (2024)
53,995

Population under 18 years
19.6%

Median Age
46.2

Population 65 years & older
26.5%

Population Growth (2010-2022)
25.7%



No healthcare coverage
10.5%



Veteran Status
10.4%



Education
Bachelor's Degree or Higher
28.9%

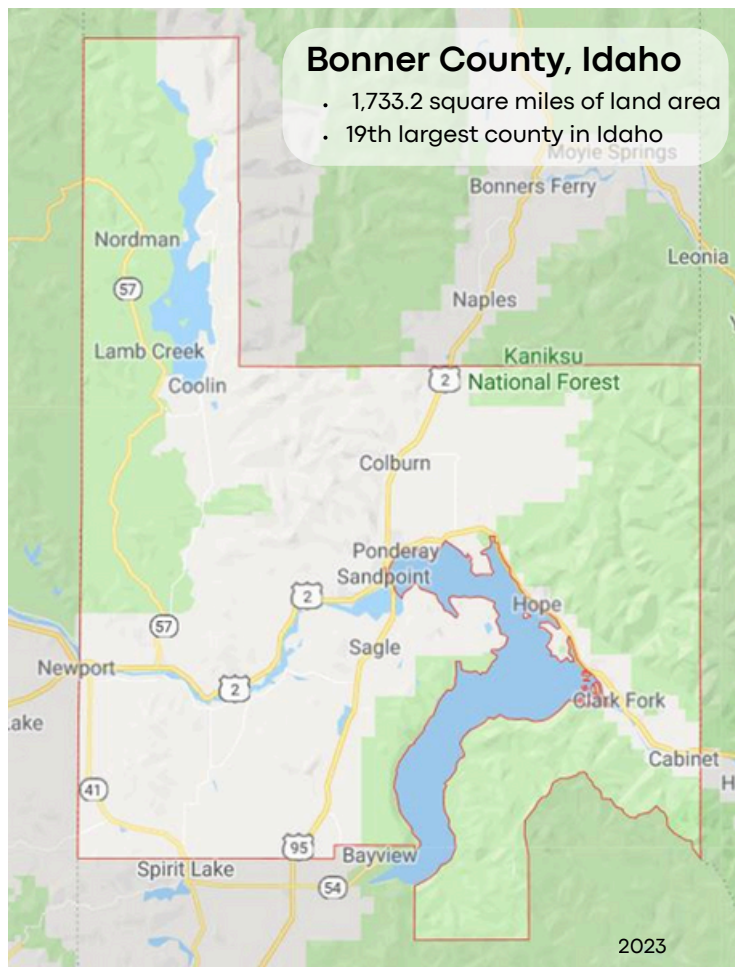


Unemployment Rate
5.2%
(Aug 2025)

Top Employers:

- Lake Pend Orielle School District
- Bonner General Hospital
- Lighthouse
- Bonner County
- Wal-mart
- Schweitzer Mountain Resort
- Kodiak Aircraft Private
- Idaho Forest Group
- Super 1 Foods
- West Bonner County School District

Idaho Department of Labor:
Bonner County Labor Force And Economic Profile



Median Household Income
\$65,168



Per Capita Income
\$55,464

Poverty Rate
10.7%

Families and Living Arrangements
Total households: ~ 19,599
Average persons per household: ~ 2.5



Race and Ethnicity:

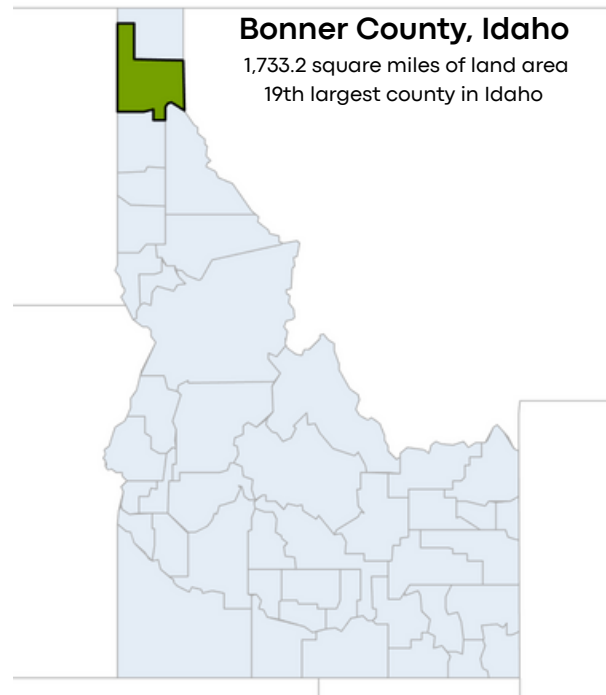
- White (90.99%)
 - Two or more races (6.04%)
 - Other race (1.51%)
 - Asian (0.62%)
 - Native American (0.53%)
 - Black or African American (0.26%)
 - Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (0.04%)
- World Population Review 2023

COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS

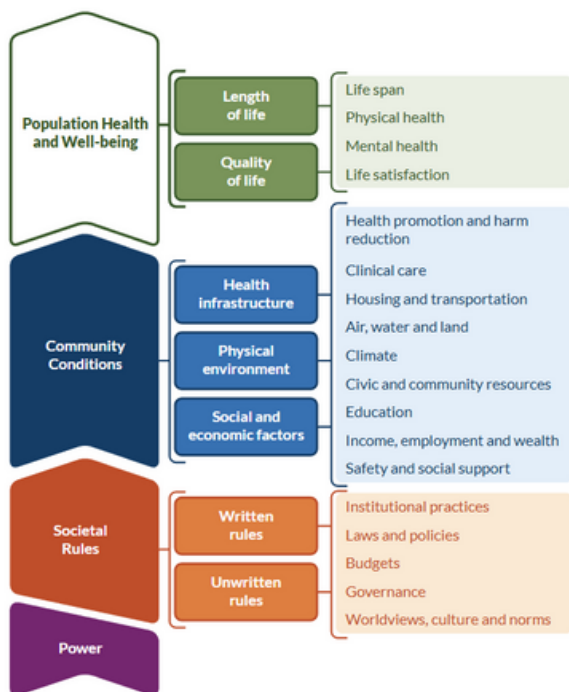
County Health Rankings & Roadmaps (CHR&R) provides communities with clear, reliable data on the social and economic factors influencing health. Developed by the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Rankings offer an annual snapshot of how local conditions—such as education, employment, housing, transportation, and access to healthcare—shape health outcomes across the nation.

The 2025 CHR&R framework emphasizes the importance of economic stability, equitable access to resources, and supportive community environments as foundational to good health. The data highlight ongoing challenges for rural counties like Bonner County, where limited healthcare access, workforce shortages, transportation barriers, and economic pressures influence the health of residents. These conditions directly connect to the priority needs identified in this CHNA, including gaps in Women’s Health services, rising concerns related to Mental Health, elevated Obesity rates, and persistent barriers affecting Access to Care.

By incorporating CHR&R data, Bonner General Health can better understand how local social and economic conditions shape these health challenges and identify opportunities to strengthen services, partnerships, and community wellness efforts.



Exploring Health Topics



The University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute Model of Health shows how the community conditions - where we live, learn, work and play - affect our collective health and well-being.

Health Snapshots house measures of population health and well-being and community conditions based on our model of population health. County Health Snapshots provide tools to help make sense of your county’s data. The snapshot and tools can help you understand your county’s current health, changes over time, and identify areas of strength or opportunities for health improvement

Bonner County Population Health and Well-being i

County Health Rankings & Roadmaps
Building a Culture of Health, County by County

Population health and well-being is something we create as a society, not something an individual can attain in a clinic or be responsible for alone. Health is more than being free from disease and pain; health is the ability to thrive. Well-being covers both quality of life and the ability of people and communities to contribute to the world. Population health involves optimal physical, mental, spiritual and social well-being.

Bonner County is faring about the same as the average county in Idaho for Population Health and Well-being, and better than the average county in the nation.

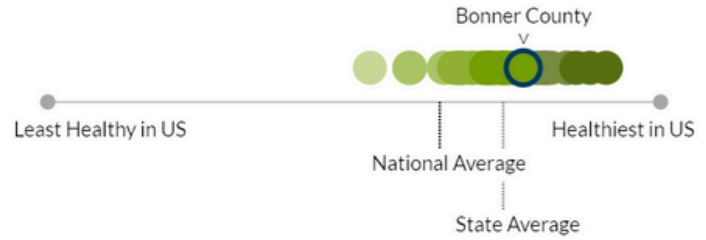


Diagram summarizes data released on 03/19/2025

† Data updated 09/24/2025

‡ Data updated 11/04/2025

Population Health and Well-being			
Length of life	Bonner County	Idaho	United States
Premature Death	6,900 ‡	7,000 ‡	8,100 ‡
Additional Length of life (not included in summary)	Bonner County	Idaho	United States
Life Expectancy	79.3 ‡	78.3 ‡	77.6 ‡
Premature Age-Adjusted Mortality	320 ‡	340 ‡	390 ‡
Child Mortality	80 ‡	50 ‡	50 ‡
Infant Mortality	7 ‡	5 ‡	6 ‡
Quality of life	Bonner County	Idaho	United States
Poor Physical Health Days	4.3	4.2	3.9
Low Birth Weight	7%	7%	8%
Poor Mental Health Days	5.2	4.9	5.1
Poor or Fair Health	16%	15%	17%
Additional Quality of life (not included in summary)	Bonner County	Idaho	United States
Frequent Physical Distress	13%	13%	12%
Diabetes Prevalence	8%	9%	10%
HIV Prevalence	27	84	387
Adult Obesity	27%	34%	34%
Frequent Mental Distress	18%	16%	16%
Suicides	26 ‡	22 ‡	14 ‡
Feelings of Loneliness	33%	30%	33%

Bonner County Community Conditions i

County Health Rankings & Roadmaps
 Building a Culture of Health, County by County

Community conditions include the social and economic factors, physical environment and health infrastructure in which people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship and age. Community conditions are also referred to as the social determinants of health.

Bonner County is faring slightly worse than the average county in Idaho for Community Conditions, and about the same as the average county in the nation.

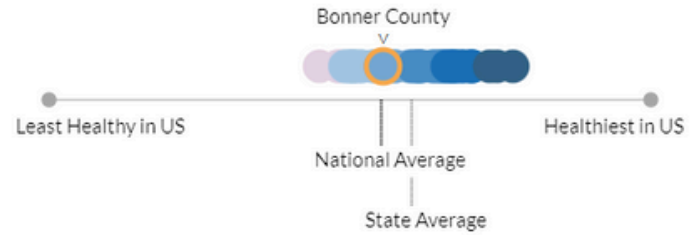


Diagram summarizes data released on 03/19/2025

† Data updated 09/24/2025

‡ Data updated 11/04/2025

Community Conditions

Health infrastructure	Bonner County	Idaho	United States
Flu Vaccinations	35%	40%	48%
Access to Exercise Opportunities	54%	77%	84%
Food Environment Index	8.4	7.6	7.4
Primary Care Physicians	2,240:1 †	1,610:1 †	1,310:1 †
Mental Health Providers	390:1 †	350:1 †	290:1 †
Dentists	2,020:1 †	1,510:1 †	1,340:1 †
Preventable Hospital Stays	1,016	1,543	2,666
Mammography Screening	38%	42%	44%
Uninsured	11%	10%	10%

Additional Health infrastructure (not included in summary)	Bonner County	Idaho	United States
Limited Access to Healthy Foods	3%	8%	6%
Food Insecurity	13%	11%	14%
Insufficient Sleep	31%	33%	37%
Teen Births	14	14	16
Sexually Transmitted Infections	130.3	308.2	495.0
Excessive Drinking	21%	18%	19%
Alcohol-Impaired Driving Deaths	38% ‡	33% ‡	26% ‡
Drug Overdose Deaths	10 ‡	19 ‡	32 ‡
Adult Smoking	15%	12%	13%
Physical Inactivity	21%	21%	23%
Uninsured Adults	13%	11%	11%
Uninsured Children	7%	6%	5%
Other Primary Care Providers	1,350:1 †	650:1 †	680:1 †

The Idaho Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) is a long-standing public health survey that gathers state and regional data on chronic disease, health conditions, injuries, and health-related behaviors linked to major causes of illness and death. Idaho has participated since 1984 in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, using random-digit-dialed landline and cell phone surveys of adults aged 18 and older. The survey uses disproportionate stratified sampling across the state's seven public health districts, including the Panhandle Health District, which encompasses Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, Benewah, and Shoshone counties. (2023)

Risk Factor	Panhandle	Idaho
Adults who did not have a personal health care provider	14.8%	17.2%
Adults who delayed medical care due to cost	10.5%	11.3%
Adults who did not have health care coverage	6.4%	8.7%
Adults who did not have a health check up in the last year	27.2%	24.9%
Adults who were overweight (BMI \geq 25)	66.5%	66.7%
Adults who were obese (BMI \geq 30)	30.7%	31.0%
Adults who did not participate in physical activity outside of work	18.1%	21.1%
Adults ever told they had diabetes	6.7%	9.8%
Adults who used nicotine	19.9%	20.4%
Adults who have ever been diagnosed with depression	20.5%	22.9%
14 or More Days of Poor Mental Health	13.7%	14.8%
14 or More Days of Poor Physical Health	15.7%	13.3%



Community Input from Public Health Partners



Panhandle Health District COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT 2024

Panhandle Health District (PHD) serves the five northern counties of Idaho—Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai, and Shoshone—through a broad range of public health programs designed to prevent disease, promote healthy living, and protect community well-being. With more than 40 services spanning healthcare support, nutrition and physical activity, licensing and environmental health, senior and adult care, and parenting and youth services, PHD plays a central role in monitoring and strengthening the region’s health.

As part of its ongoing commitment to community health, PHD regularly conducts a comprehensive Community Health Assessment (CHA). This process gathers data, engages residents, and incorporates meaningful input from stakeholders, including individuals with specialized public health knowledge and members of underserved or underrepresented populations. Findings from the CHA guide the development of a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), which identifies priority health needs and coordinated strategies to address them.

PHD’s most recent CHA (2023), developed in partnership with Crescendo Consulting Group, identified three key priority areas for the region: **Access to Care, Behavioral Health, and Youth Services**. These priorities reflect the most pressing concerns shared by community members and public health professionals and provide a valuable regional context for Bonner General Health’s own assessment and prioritization of local health needs.



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH & WELFARE

IDAHO STATEWIDE HEALTH ASSESSMENT 2024

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare’s (IDHW) 2024 Statewide Health Assessment provides a comprehensive view of the most significant health challenges affecting Idahoans. Developed with input from public health experts, community members, and stakeholders across the state, the assessment highlights the broad social, economic, and environmental factors shaping Idaho’s health landscape. These findings offer valuable context for Bonner General Health’s local assessment and help ensure statewide priorities and public health expertise are represented in our CHNA. IDHW identified seven major statewide priority areas:

1. **Access to Care:** Affordability, availability, quality, health insurance, provider shortage, doctors/providers leaving Idaho.
2. **Behavioral Health:** Mental health, suicide, deaths of despair, substance use, loneliness, isolation, social support, recovery services, building community.
3. **Housing:** Homelessness, affordability, stability, quality, access.
4. **Preventive Factors:** Food insecurity, food access, nutrition, physical activity.
5. **Childcare, Early Learning, Youth Opportunity:** Affordability, access, preschool, after school care, youth opportunity.
6. **Improving Health Outcomes:** Chronic disease screening and management.
7. **Transportation:** Access, safety, public transportation, vulnerable road users.

COMMUNITY INPUT SUMMARY

BONNER GENERAL HEALTH COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY RESULTS 2025



To gather information, the CHNA survey was distributed to the community, including those identified as medically underserved, from May - September, 2025. The community focused survey included 32 questions about the health of Bonner County, with an optional section covering women's health, obesity, and food insecurity. 1,040 surveys were completed by community members representing a mix of community demographics. The results were consolidated, reviewed, and presented to a focus group of key stakeholders in November, 2025.

The focus group consisted of individuals with direct access to community members across all subsections of Bonner County and, therefore, can address needs which may impact those populations who are medically underserved or most in need. People with special health needs, such as the elderly, children, uninsured, and unemployed, were represented by individuals who provide services to these populations:

Bonner General Health clinics: Hospice, Behavioral Health, Rehab Services

Local Non-Profit Organizations: Bonner County Coalition for Health, Ponderay Rotary,

Mountain States Early Headstart Program, The Library, Kaniksu Land Trust, Bonner Homeless

Transitions, BGH Foundation, BGH Community Development, Medical Professionals, and

Community Members.

Survey Demographics



Age

- >85 = 2.5%
- 75-84 = 17%
- 65-74 = 27%
- 55-64 = 17%
- 45-54 = 14%
- 35-44 = 14%
- 25-34 = 7%
- 18-24 = 1.5%



Gender

- Female = 77%
- Male = 21%
- Prefer not to answer = 1.5%
- Prefer to self-describe = 0.5%



Education

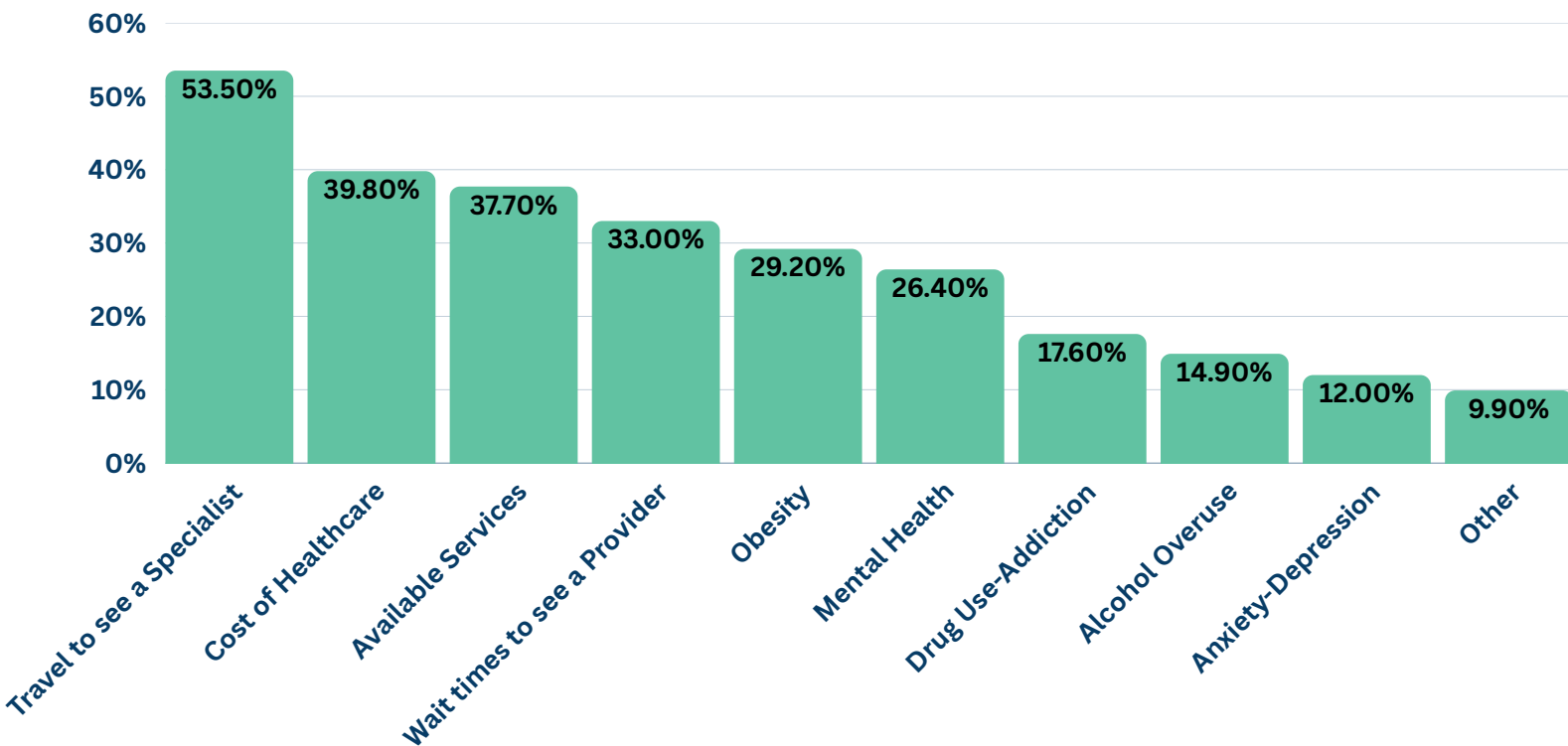
- Doctorate = 4%
- Grad School = 19%
- College Grad = 34%
- Associate-Trade = 26%
- HS-GED = 16%
- K - 8 = <1%



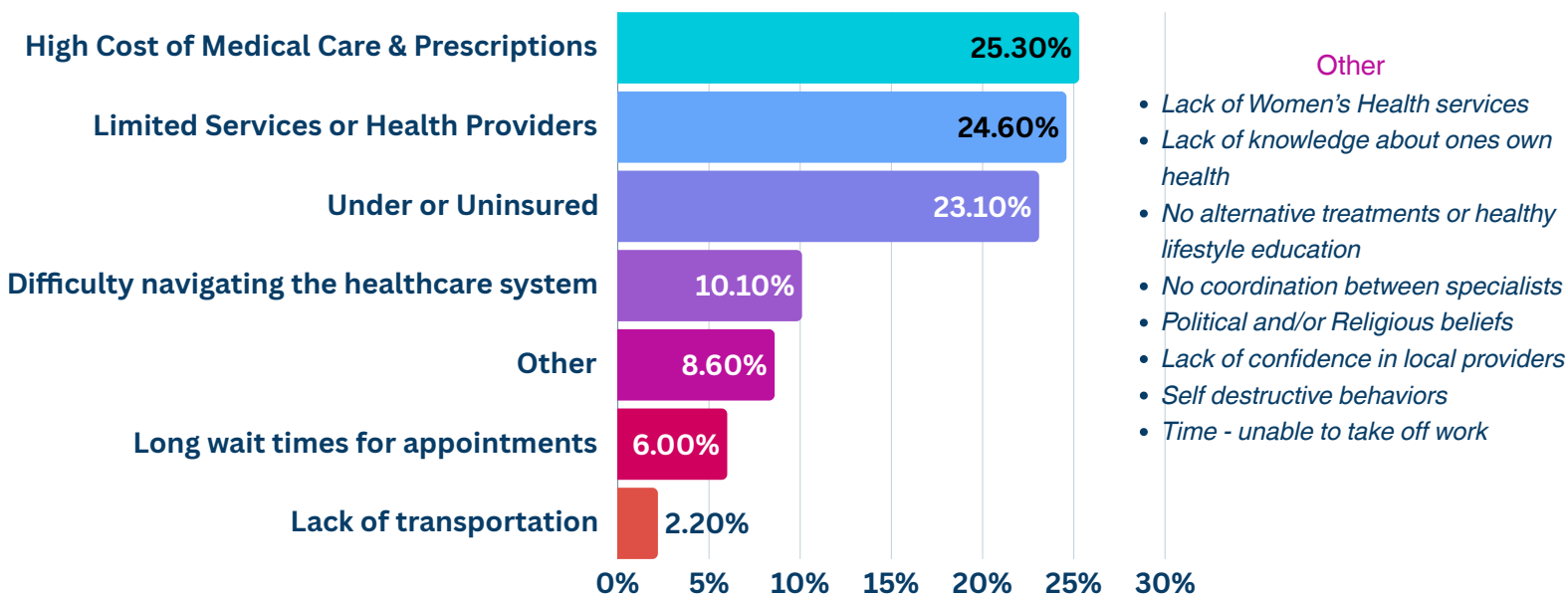
Tenure

- My whole life = 11.2%
- >20 years = 41.7%
- >10 years = 18.9%
- <10 years = 22.7%
- <2 years = 5.5%

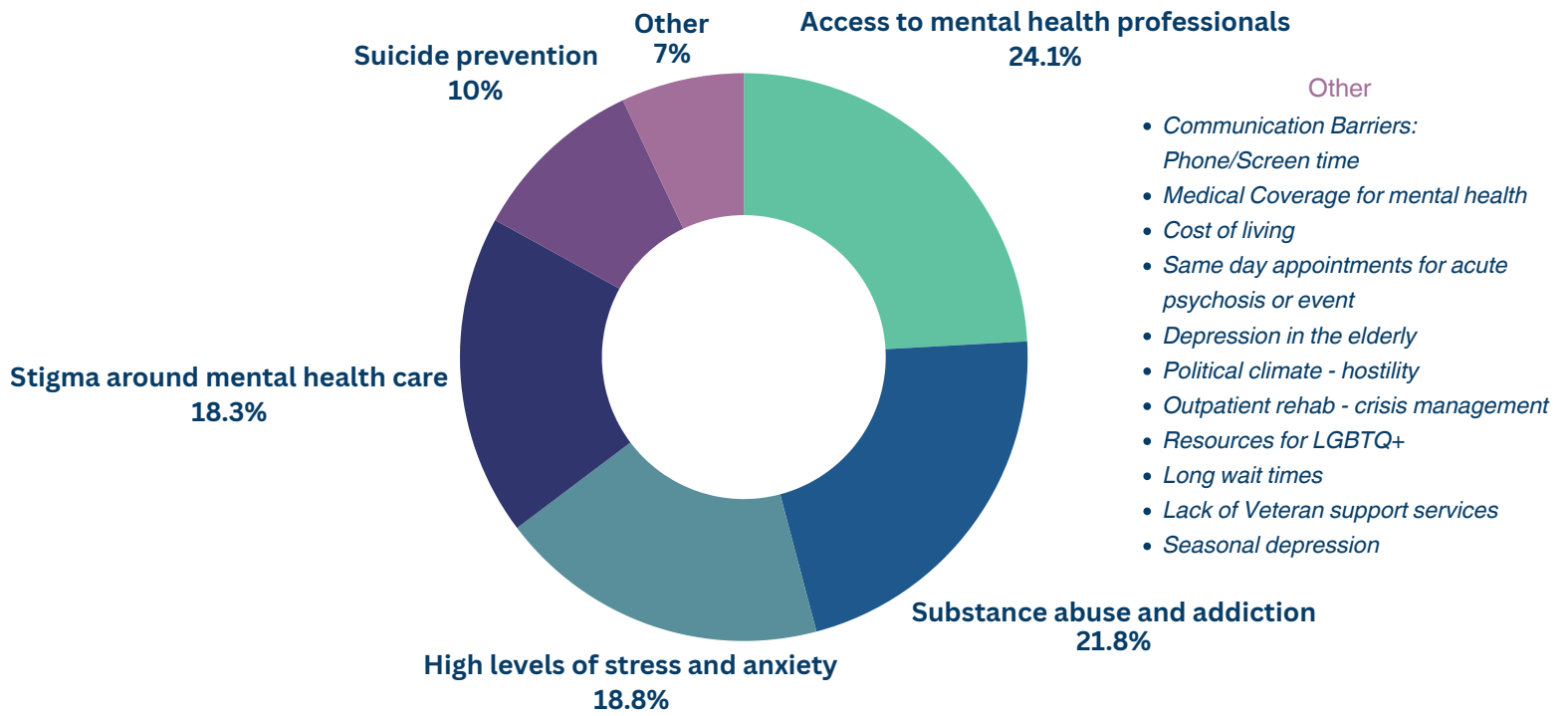
What are the top three health problems you see in Bonner County?



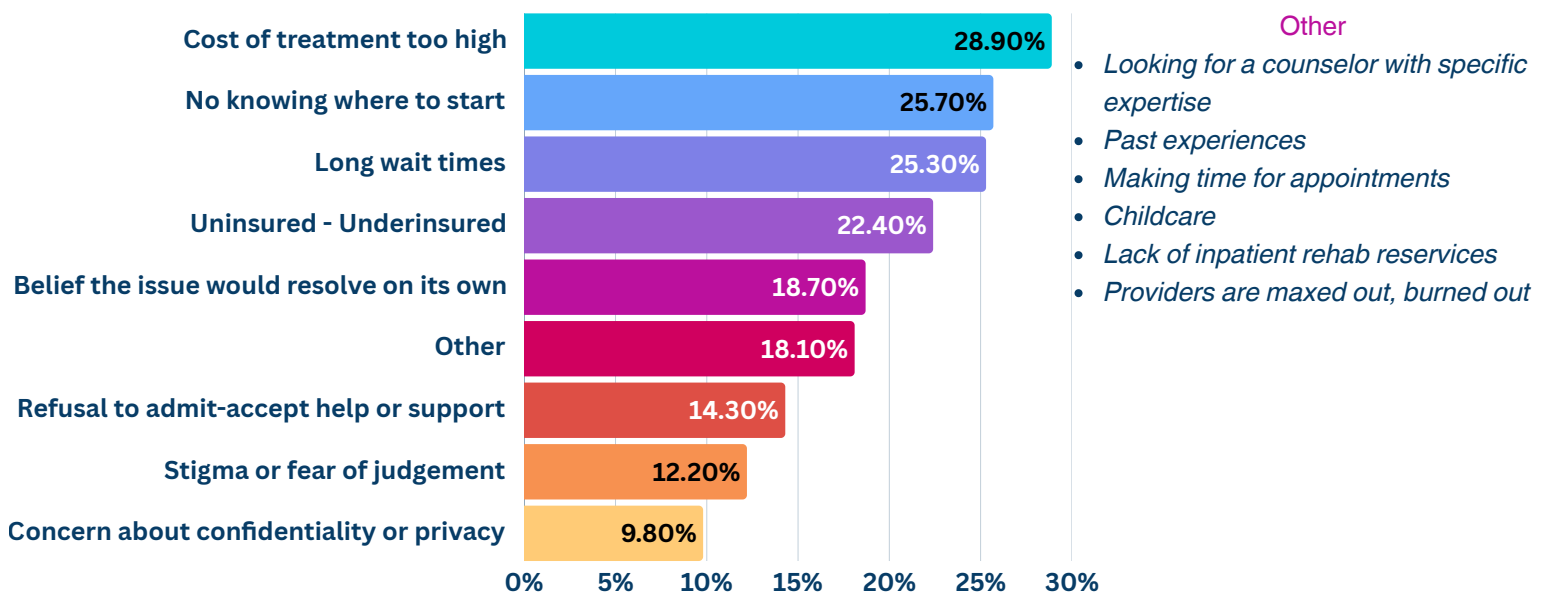
What barriers prevent people in Bonner County from seeking health care?



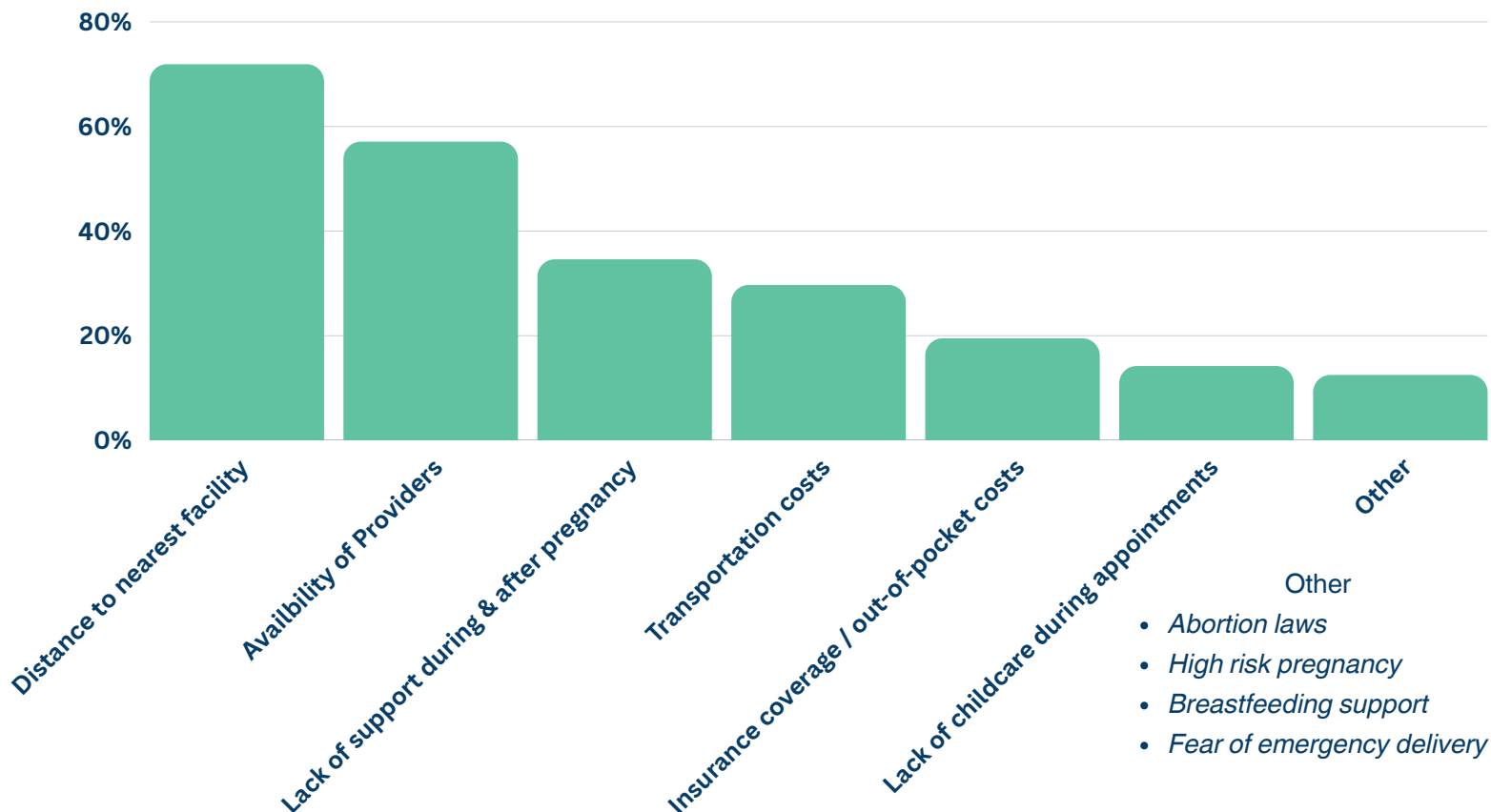
What are the most pressing Mental Health challenges facing Bonner County residents?



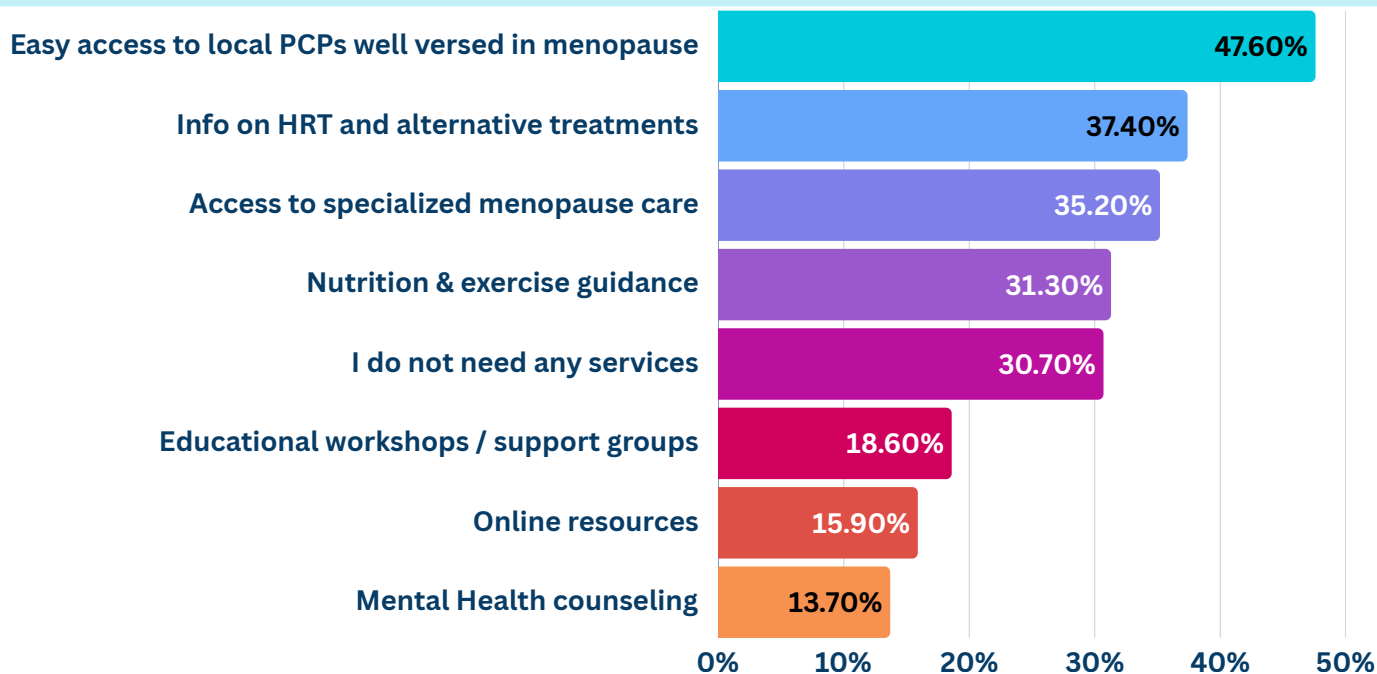
If you or someone in your household felt the need for counseling or mental health treatment but did not receive any, what were the main reasons?



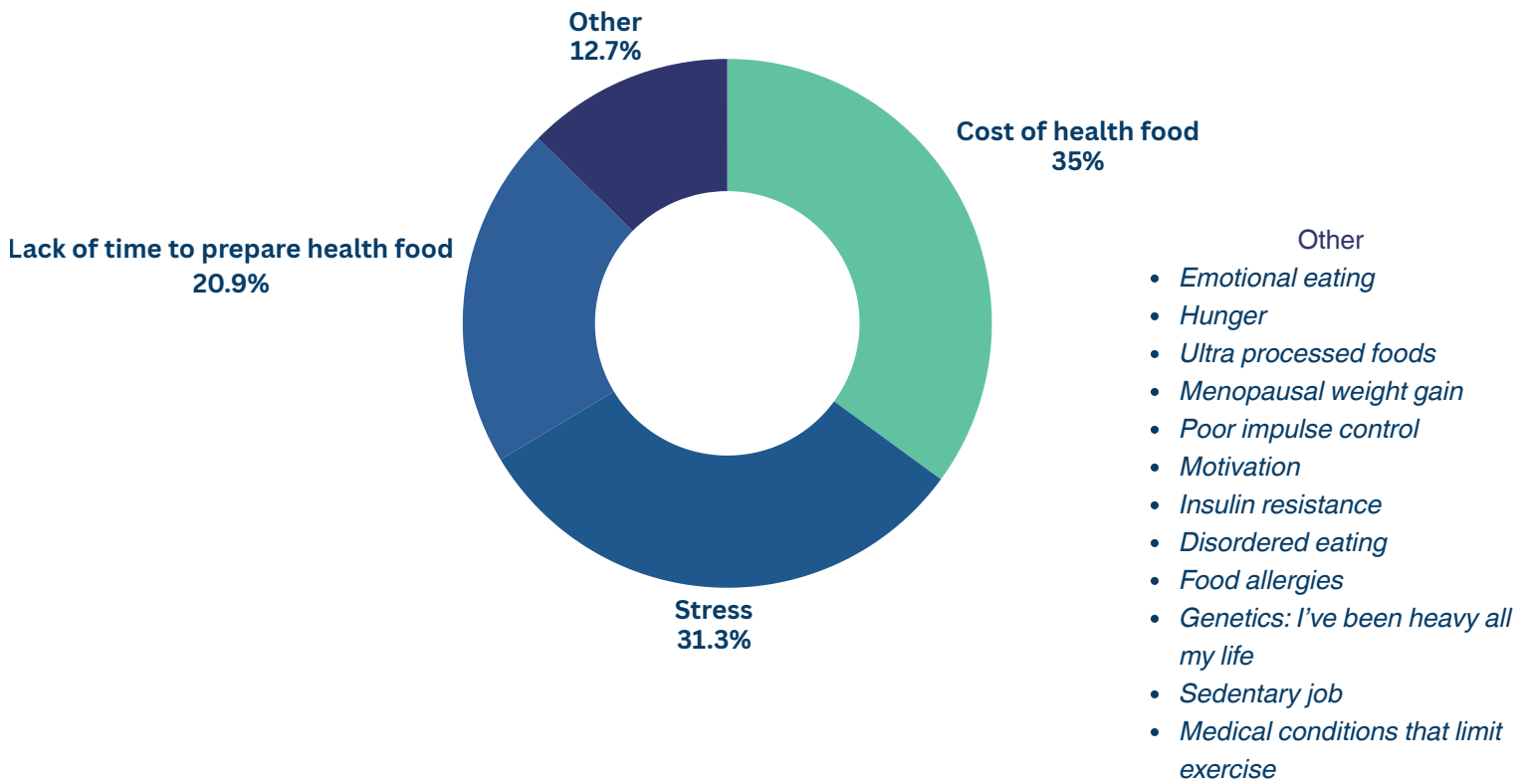
What are the most significant barriers you have experienced or anticipate experiencing when seeking prenatal or delivery care in Bonner County?



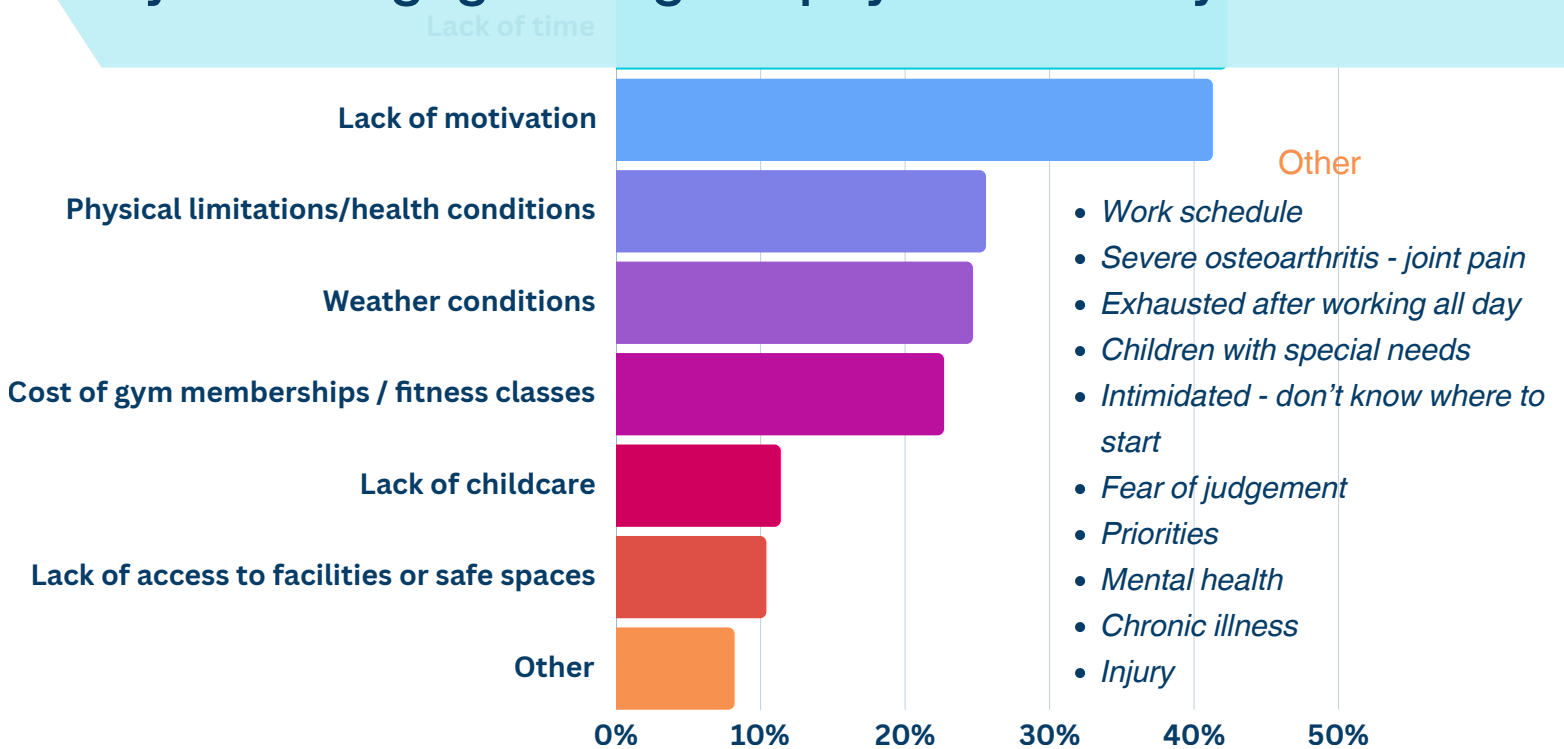
What services would be most helpful to you in managing perimenopause/menopause symptoms?



What are the biggest barriers you face in maintaining a healthy weight?

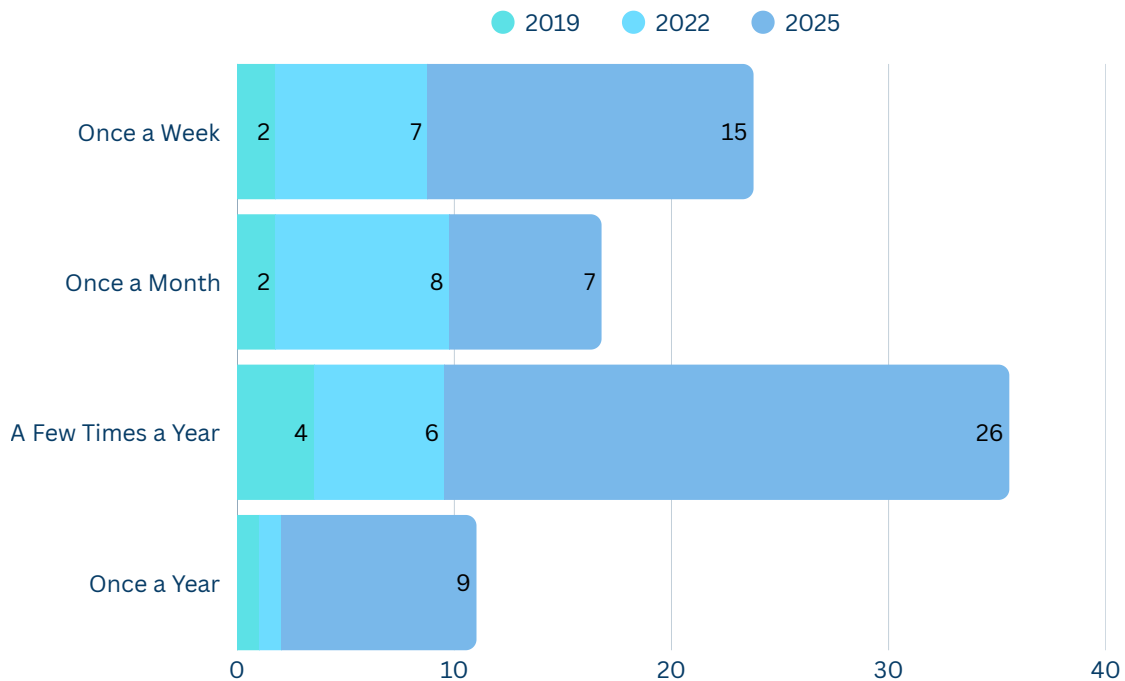


What are the primary reasons that make it difficult for you to engage in regular physical activity?



Cut or Skipped Meals

Survey participants were asked, "how often in the past 12 months did you have to cut meal size or skipped meals because there wasn't enough food?" Below is a comparison between the 2019, 2022, and 2025 assessment responses.



2025 Top Needs Identified

After analyzing the survey results, meeting with community partners, and reviewing the findings with Bonner General Health's Senior Leadership Team and Board of Directors, the following top four needs were identified and accepted.



Women's Health



Mental Health



Obesity & Healthy Lifestyles



Access to Care

Identified Health Needs

Women's Health



Key Indicators

- Loss of labor and delivery services in 2023 due to hospital unit closure.
- Departure of 4 OB/GYN physicians from our facility.
- Limited access to gynecological surgeries and procedures locally.
- Travel time 45–60 minutes for labor, delivery, and specialized gynecological care.
- Few providers with expertise in peri- and menopause management.

Challenges

- Community members report the need for local women's health options.
- Patients value continuity of care and access to women's health specialists.
- Impact on family planning and maternal health outcomes.
- Residents report challenges navigating referrals and appointments.
- Legislative restrictions regarding women's health statewide.

Community Input

- Community members report the need for local women's health options.
- Patients value continuity of care and access to women's health specialists.
- Local organizations recognize the impact on family planning and maternal health outcomes.
- Travel burden, including time and cost, to seek services out of the area.

Gaps

- Absence of local OB/GYN physicians and labor & delivery services.
- Limited surgical and procedural women's health services.
- Scarcity of peri- and menopause-focused providers.

Opportunities

- Continue efforts to recruit GYN Physicians to Bonner County.
- Work with community partners to expand and support women's health services.
- Develop community-based education programs and support groups on reproductive health, menopause, and preventive screenings.

Identified Health Needs



Mental Health

Key Indicators

- Bonner General Behavioral Health Clinic provides outpatient mental health services for adults and children.
- Staff includes two Clinical Psychologists, two Psychiatric Nurse Practitioners, and a two Licensed Master Social Workers.
- Community programs and partnerships support mental health awareness.
- Increased utilization of services.

Challenges

- Limited access to mental health services, particularly timely appointments and crisis intervention.
- Community members may not know where to start for mental health support.
- Referral pathways between Primary Care Providers (PCPs) and community resources are not always clear.
- Ongoing need for coordinated crisis accessibility and follow-up.

Community Input

- Residents and community partners emphasize the need for better navigation of services.
- Feedback highlights the importance of local, integrated care for both adults and youth.
- Mental health support still ranks as a top health barrier in Bonner County, as in previous surveys.

Gaps

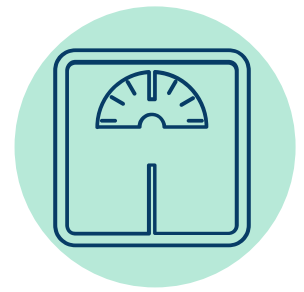
- Persistent access barriers despite added providers.
- Limited community knowledge of available mental health services.
- Need for expanded crisis management and emergency support.
- Insufficient clinic space to accommodate private sessions for all providers.

Opportunities

- Continue expanding behavioral health workforce and clinic capacity.
- Enhance community education on accessing mental health services.
- Provide additional support groups and education for residents and professionals.
- Strengthen partnerships with community PCPs, schools, and local organizations for coordinated mental health care and crisis response.
- Explore clinic expansion to increase private session space for providers.

Identified Health Needs

Obesity & Healthy Lifestyles



Key Indicators

- Elevated adult obesity rates in Bonner County (≈29–31% of adults).
- Limited access to structured fitness programs and recreational opportunities.
- High prevalence of lifestyle-related chronic conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, and chronic pain.
- Survey respondents frequently cited “lack of time to exercise” as a barrier to maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

Challenges

- Rural geography limits access to gyms and participation in community-based activities more difficult.
- Residents face competing priorities (work, family) that limit time for exercise or healthy meal preparation.
- Awareness of local wellness resources and nutrition education.
- Healthy food options including access and affordability.

Community Input

- Community members express interest in programs to support healthy lifestyles for all ages.
- Local organizations see the need for partnerships to improve access to nutrition education, physical activity, and preventive health initiatives.
- Feedback highlights the importance of targeting both youth and adult populations to prevent chronic disease.

Gaps

- Limited availability of local programs promoting physical activity and healthy eating.
- Few coordinated initiatives targeting obesity prevention across the county.
- Lack of widespread access to community resources addressing lifestyle-related health behaviors.

Opportunities

- Expand community-based wellness programs and recreational opportunities.
- Develop additional nutrition education and chronic disease prevention initiatives.
- Partner with schools, workplaces, and local organizations to promote healthy lifestyles.

Identified Health Needs



Access to Care

Key Indicators

- Limited number of primary care providers and specialists. (OB/GYN, allergist, urologist, neurologist, geriatrics, psychiatrist).
- Long wait times for appointments and referrals.
- High rates of underinsured or uninsured residents.
- Difficulty navigating the healthcare system and understanding referral or authorization processes.

Challenges

- Recruitment and retention of healthcare providers in rural areas.
- Patients face travel and transportation barriers to reach specialized care.
- Community members may be unaware of available services or referral pathways.
- Time off work, caregiving responsibilities, and schedule conflicts hinder access to care.
- Insurance coverage gaps (Medicare, private, or underinsured) limit affordability.

Community Input

- Residents emphasize the need for local, timely, and coordinated care.
- Community members report difficulty accessing preventive care and mental health services.
- Feedback highlights the need for more primary care and specialty providers, and better care coordination.

Gaps

- Shortage of primary care providers and specialists.
- Limited access to preventive, surgical, and behavioral health services locally.
- Lack of centralized information and clear pathways for accessing care.
- Persistent barriers related to cost, insurance, and time availability.

Opportunities

- Recruit additional healthcare providers and specialists to expand local capacity.
- Improve community education and referral systems to navigate care.
- Strengthen partnerships with local agencies, schools, and organizations to improve access and care coordination.
- Develop initiatives to reduce financial and logistical barriers, including transportation support and flexible scheduling.

PRIORITIZATION OF HEALTH NEEDS

Following the analysis of community survey results, review of county-level health data, and discussion with community partners, Bonner General Health's Senior Leadership Team and Board of Directors prioritized four health needs which demonstrated the greatest impact on overall community well-being and the most significant gaps in local services. **Women's Health** was identified as a top concern due to the loss of local labor and delivery services, limited gynecologic care, and ongoing challenges in accessing peri- and menopause support. **Mental Health** emerged as a major need based on widespread reports of stress, anxiety, depression, substance use concerns, and difficulty knowing how to access care. **Obesity & Healthy Lifestyles** was selected due to high rates of chronic disease, survey responses citing lack of time and resources for exercise and healthy eating, and the need for more community-based wellness programs. **Access to Care** was prioritized due to long wait times, limited provider availability, insurance and cost barriers, difficulty navigating the healthcare system, and the need to travel for many services. Together, these four priorities reflect the most consistent, urgent, and actionable needs identified throughout the CHNA process.

Community Resources:

The Community Focus Group and BGH teams identified the following community resources available to work in collaboration with Bonner General Health to address the needs identified:

- Bonner General Health Outpatient Clinics and support services.
- Bonner County Drug Court
- Bonner County Coalition for Health
- Bonner Partners in Care Clinic
- CASA
- Early Head Start
- Food for Our Children
- Kaniksu Community Health Services
- Kootenai Health
- Lake Pend Oreille School District
- Newport Hospital
- Northwest Hospital Alliance
- Panhandle Alliance for Education
- Panhandle Health District
- Private Practice Providers
- Sandpoint Community Resource Envision Center
- School Counselors
- Underground Kindness
- VA Medical Services
- WIC
- YMCA/Community Recreation

Next Steps:

The Community Health Needs Assessment report was approved by the Bonner General Health Board of Directors on December 19, 2025.

Bonner General Health is required to adopt an organization-specific implementation strategy in response to the Community Health Needs Assessment report. In the coming months, this implementation strategy will be discussed and approved by the Board of Directors of Bonner General Health and reviewed annually. The CHNA process and public report will be repeated every three years, as federal regulations require.

Community members who wish to provide comments on the needs identified or provide input on the next CHNA process are encouraged to contact the Bonner General Health Community Development Department via email: development@bonnergeneral.org.

Evaluation of Impact: CHNA 2022

Bonner General Health completed a Community Health Needs Assessment between May and December 2022. No written comments have been received from this assessment. Bonner General Health identified the following needs during the prior assessment and has conducted activities in collaboration with community partners to address the identified needs.

Obesity

- **Proposed activities in 2022:**

- Continue and grow the Bonner General Health Foundation's "Find Your Strength" 5k & 1k promoting physical exercise and establishing healthy habits for our youth and families.
- Participate in community partnerships to promote and educate a healthy diet and nutrition.
- Participate in Food for Our Children program.
- Continue to sponsor and support community events involving exercise (run/walk/swimming/biking events).
- Implement a pediatric/family active lifestyle program through our Performance Therapy Services Department led by one of our Pediatric Occupational Therapists.
- Continue to support community programs focusing on youth sports, promoting health, strength, and self-confidence.

- **Implemented activities:**

- Continued to grow the Bonner General Health Foundation's "Find Your Strength" 5k & 1k promoting physical exercise and establishing healthy habits for our youth and families.
- Continued partnership in the Food for Our Children program, with a mission to eliminate childhood hunger in Bonner County, Idaho by providing nutritious weekend food and mid-morning snacks for children during the school year.
- Continue to sponsor and support community events involving exercise.
 - CHAFE 150 Gran Fondo bike ride
 - Long Bridge Swim
 - Find Your Strength 5k and 1K
 - Walk for Hope
 - NAMI Walks
 - Design for Change Mental Health Awareness Walk
- Continue to support community programs focusing on youth sports, promoting health, strength, self-confidence, and scholarships for underserved youth.
- Partnership with LPOSD on the 7B - Health Me! challenge, incorporating a new health challenge each month for students, focusing on nutrition, physical fitness, sleep, and mental wellness. Kids track their progress and earn incentives for participating.
- Internal revision of the Bonner General Health inpatient menu. Modifications made to support and provide the most nutritious, diet specific options to our patients and their loved ones while in our care.
- Our registered dietitian earned a certificate of training in obesity for pediatrics and adults and works with patients in an inpatient and outpatient setting.
- Restarted Diabetes Education program.

Evaluation of Impact: CHNA 2022

Mental Health

- **Proposed activities in 2022:**

- Continue to support our Behavioral Health Clinic and add providers as resources allow.
- Develop partnerships with other organizations and the Lake Pend Oreille School District to improve our community's access to mental health services.
- Identify, organize, and lead, when appropriate, support groups related to mental health.
- Encourage staff to participate in Boards or Committees of organizations focusing on mental health & suicide prevention.
- BGH will collaborate with community partners and advocate for reduced tobacco use, alcohol, and substance abuse by increasing education and awareness within the school and community.
- BGH will collaborate with the community, regional, and state partners to provide educational materials and programs to help individuals sustain an applicable lifestyle and behavioral change due to alcohol, drug, and tobacco use.
- Collaborate and support medication drop-off site(s) within the community.
- Expanding services by hiring a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor specializing in children and adolescents.

- **Implemented activities:**

- Bonner General Behavioral Health Clinic continues to provide outpatient mental health services for both adult and pediatric patients. BGH has added professionals to its Behavioral Health Clinic team and now employs two Clinical Psychologists, two Psychiatric Nurse Practitioners, and two Licensed Master Social Workers.
- BGH continues to work with law enforcement, the court system, and physicians to improve the mental health hold process.
- Addition of a Behavioral Health Consultant to our Family Practice and Internal Medicine clinic, offering patients an additional resource to create a healthier lifestyle, reflect on harmful habits, cope with stress, and apply selfcare techniques.
- BGH staff continue participating in community organizations dealing with mental health and suicide (Bonner County Children Mental Health Coalition, Region 1 Behavioral Health).
- BGH continues to support events and organizations promoting awareness of mental health & suicide prevention, such as Walk for Hope, NAMI Far North, and Sandpoint Middle School's Design for Change program.
- Partner with Priest River High School for concussion testing in student athletes.
- ADHD Education: support group for parents and families with strategies and understanding of ADHD and how to support your loved one. Continuing Education for providers to elevate their understanding of ADHD. Both offerings led by our Clinic Psychologist, Dr. Megan Fox. Other courses include Co-Parenting and Conflict Resolution.
- Provider continuing education offerings including Ethics in the Digital Age: Telehealth, AI, and Youth Counseling.
- Our providers have developed partnerships with Lake Pend Oreille School District to provide education and improve our community's access to mental health services.

Evaluation of Impact: CHNA 2022

Preventative Health

- **Proposed activities in 2022:**
 - Participate in the Bonner County Coalition for Health monthly meetings to learn about community needs and resources.
 - Seek out and participate in opportunities that provide free health screenings or health education to our community.
 - Continue supporting Panhandle Alliance for Education through fundraising events and distribution of books to parents when their child is born.
 - Hire additional Family Practice Providers to increase access to our current and new patient population.
- **Implemented activities:**
 - Participation in the Bonner County Coalition for Health monthly meetings to invite opportunities for collaboration. We present to the group once a year to share updates and challenges at BGH, and invite feedback and problem-solving strategies.
 - Bonner General Health Emergency Department provides community outreach and education on safety, awareness, and trauma's in alignment with the Idaho Time Sensitive Emergency (TSE) System; created to address the top three preventable causes of death: trauma, stroke, and heart attack.
 - Implemented a Poison Prevention Program through our Pharmacy Department to provide education to elementary aged students in partnership with Lake Pend Oreille School District.
 - Implemented a Reach Out & Read program through our Family Practice Clinic offering free books to pediatric patients and their families.
 - Hired an additional Family Practice Nurse Practitioner (NP) to increase access to our current and new patient population. Two Physicians and one NP will be joining the team in 2026.
 - Added a Behavioral Health Consultant in our Family Practice and Internal Medicine Clinics.
 - Added a second mammography machine to our Imaging Department to increase capacity for screening and diagnostic mammograms.
 - Added a second endoscopy tower to our Surgical Services Department to increase capacity for screening colonoscopies.
 - Granted privileges to an additional General Surgeon in our surgical services department.
 - The BGH Emergency Department was named the first Critical Access Hospital in Idaho to be recognized as Pediatric Capable by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, ensuring the Emergency Department have pediatric-specific policies, equipment, procedures, staff, and resources available to meet the unique needs of the specialized emergency care required to care for children (birth-teen).
 - Support of High School Grad night, providing a safe, drug and alcohol free graduation celebration.

Evaluation of Impact: CHNA 2022

Access to Care

- **Proposed activities in 2022:**
 - Continue to support Bonner Partners in Care in providing services to the uninsured.
 - Continue seeing patients regardless of their insurance coverage.
 - Participate in opportunities that provide free health screenings to our community, such as the One Health Clinic hosted by Better Together Animal Alliance.
 - Continue expanding our clinics and services to meet the needs of our growing community.
 - Continuation of the SANE Program
 - Continued collaboration with LillyBrooke Family Justice Center
 - Continuation of the Bonner General Health Foundation Advisory Council for community feedback & input.
- **Implemented activities:**
 - Acquired Internal Medicine Associates and opened Bonner General Internal Medicine Clinic in 2023.
 - Continue to support Bonner Partners in Care in providing services to the uninsured.
 - Continue seeing patients regardless of their insurance coverage.
 - Expanded our Family Practice and Behavioral Health clinics by adding providers and services including screening, medication management, primary care, and educational services to meet the needs of our growing community.
 - Enhancement of the SANE Program; now called the The MAST Team (medical assessment of specialized trauma), consists of specially trained RNs and APRNs who perform medical assessments and provide care to victims of specialized trauma including sexual assault, domestic violence and child abuse. In partnership with Kaniksu Community Health, BGH, and MAST RNs work closely with Lillybrooke Family Justice Center, area law enforcement and the prosecutor's office to help victims of specialized trauma. The Mast team currently has six RNs who take call 24/7 to care for victims of specialized trauma.
 - Expanded our Diagnostic Imaging services with additional equipment and increased capacity.
 - Expanded our Surgical Services Department by adding equipment, robotics and providers (Orthopedics, Orthopedic Spine, General Surgery) to increase offerings and capacity.
 - Transitional Care (Swing Bed Program) was added to BGH inpatient services, allowing patients to transition from acute care to post-acute care without leaving the hospital, avoiding delays in recovery and potential transfers out of the area.
 - Doubled our lab space, adding draw rooms, increasing our capacity for outpatient lab services.
 - Introduced cash pay options for MRI and CT Imaging services.
 - Added specialty rehab equipment to our Performance Therapy Services Rehabilitation Department. Idaho's only outpatient exoskeleton therapy program, helping patients regain mobility after stroke, spinal cord injury, multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy. Additional: Recumbent Bike, Bariatric Therapy Table, and EMG & Nerve Conduction studies.

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bonnergeneral.org/share-your-thoughts/

