

2025 COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Butler County, Missouri



Butler County Health Department
www.butlercountyhealth.org

I N T R O D U C T I O N

A multitude of factors, including physical and social environments, can affect a community's health. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines health communities as "A community that is continuously creating and improving those physical and social environments and expanding those community resources that enable people to mutually support each other in performing all the functions of life and in developing to their maximum potential".

Both the Missouri Institute for Community Health (MICH) and the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) define a Community Health Improvement Plan as "a long-term, systematic effort to address public health problems on the basis of the results of a community health assessment". Further they identify that the plan "addresses at least three (3) priority health problems identified by the assessment", and that it be "an action-oriented plan outlining these issues and how they will be addressed to improve the health of a community". In concert with those definitions, the Butler County Community Health Improvement Plan is the result of a community assessment process conducted by the Butler County Health Department and a representation of community/county stakeholders.



HEALTH CENTER PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY PLANNING

Butler County Health Department has, since its' organization, been an active partner in the community, supporting and participating in community improvement processes and planning.

2019-2024: Butler County Health Department has conducted a Community Health Assessment (CHA) every three years and develops a health improvement plan for the health department based on the top three priority issues identified.

2025: In January 2025, Butler County Health Department staff joined community stakeholders in reviewing the findings of the completed Community Health Assessment. An additional review was completed by Butler County Health Department staff that were not present for the meeting. The Community Health Assessment process included a review of existing health data/indicators and input from community members. The prioritization process began with a review of all indicators and key findings in the CHA. For each health indicator, local data was reviewed and compared to state and national benchmarks. Health indicators reviewed are listed below.

2025 Community Health Assessment Indicators

Demographic/Education/Socioeconomic

- Age Analysis
- Race/Ethnicity Analysis
- Education
- Household Demographics
- Socio-Economic Indicators
- Household Incomes
- Poverty Levels
- Unemployment

Infectious/Chronic Diseases

- Sexually Transmitted Diseases
- Physical Activity
- Obesity
- Diabetes
- Screening and Detection of Diseases
- Preventable Hospitalizations

Risk Factors

- Tobacco Use (including during pregnancy)

Illegal Drug Use

Alcohol Use

Leading Causes of Death

Average Life Expectancy

Rates of Premature Death

Risk Factors for Premature Death

Community Health Improvement Capacity

Health Care Delivery System

Health Care Coverage

Mental Health Services

Dental Health Services

Health Care Access

Sight and Hearing-Impaired Services

Community Health Resource Indicators

County Health Rankings

Community Prioritization Process

After the review, attendees were requested to complete three tasks:

1. Identify and prioritize the three leading priority issues that the Health Center, and the community, should focus on over the next three years.
2. Review the Health Center's Strategic Plan.
3. Initiate an outline for a Community Health Improvement Plan.

The three priority areas identified for health improvement planning are:

- ❖ Mental Health
- ❖ Substance Use and Abuse
- ❖ Access to Healthcare

While the Butler County Health Department's current Community Health Improvement Plan focuses on the three leading priority issues identified through its Community Health Assessment, the department also continues to work with community partners to address issues identified through other processes. The intent of the plan is to outline goals, objectives, and strategies for those identified priority issues and to be utilized as a guide to improving the health of all residents.

References:

Center for Disease Control and Prevention

Missouri Institute for Community Health

Public Health Accreditation Board

PRIORTY 1: Mental Health

SCOPE OF PROBLEM: Within Butler County, 20.9% of adults have frequent mental distress.

According to the US News, 19% of residents with Medicare beneficiaries are diagnosed with depression. According to the County Health Rankings, adults reported that their mental health was not good on 6.0 of the previous days compared to the 5.2 that was Missouri's rate, measured by how many days during the last 30 days a person's mental health was not good. During the years of 2017-2021, there were 19 deaths by suicide per 100,000 people. Butler County does have an advantage compared to Missouri as a whole. Butler County has 310:1 mental health provider to people, whereas Missouri's is 410:1.

The Missouri Department of Mental Health published Community Epidemiological Profiles for each county in 2021 and stated that those who struggle with mental illnesses have an increased risk for homicide, suicide, and accidents as well as a higher risk for chronic conditions which includes respiratory and cardiovascular disease and substance use disorders.

Location	Population to Primary Care Physician Ratio	Population to Dentist Ratio	Population to Mental Health Providers Ratio
Butler County	1,050:1	1,360:1	310:1
Missouri	1,420:1	1,600:1	410:1
United States	1,330:1	1,360:1	320:1

STRATEGIC ISSUE: How do we encourage better mental health days across the county?

Goal: To increase mental wellbeing and prevent activities to aid in decreasing the overall mental health struggles that individuals face.

Objective 1: Create a series of wellness and prevention materials and campaigns for residents of Butler County to increase their frequency of good mental health days.

STRATEGY	TACTIC	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	TARGET DATE	PARTNERS/ RESPONSIBILITIES
1.1 Research Mental Health coalitions in the area. If there is not a coalition, work with local mental health organizations.	1.1.1 Join a mental health coalition that addresses community concerns of those who struggle with mental illness.	+meeting agendas, sign in sheets, minutes	January 2027	BCHD – research/join coalition and assist with efforts towards mental health
1.2 Media campaigns related to mental health awareness/services /healthy tips and overall wellness.	1.2.1 Mental Health displays 1.2.2 Media campaign throughout the county	+ number of media campaigns/displays throughout the county/local organizations and agencies	January 2027	BCHD- mental health coalition creates and/or finds materials and dispense messaging
1.3 Increase mental health information throughout schools	1.3.1 Provide education and materials to schools within the county to be dispersed to students and teachers/counselors.	+schedule meetings with school counselors to provide them with materials	January 2027	BCHD- talk with school districts on mental health issues within the county and ways to aid in this

Priority 2: Substance Use and Abuse

Scope of Problem: The total number of drug overdose-related hospitalizations have been steadily declining after a peak in 2020. Since then, drug overdose-related inpatient visits have decreased by 23%, while ER visits have decreased by 44%. Total drug overdose-related visits have decreased by 36% since 2020.

Butler County experienced 82 drug overdose deaths from 2018 – 2022. A little over half of these deaths (51%) were attributable to non-opioid substances, followed by non-Heroin opioids (48%), and Heroin (1%). Fatal overdoses have been increasing nearly every year, with a 36% increase taking place over the past five years. The primary driver for this increase was non-Heroin opioids, such as Fentanyl, which increased by 97% over this period. Most overdoses occurred within the 35 to 54 age group, with the second largest being the 15 to 34 age group. While total percentages fluctuated, all age groups have seen increases in counts over the past five years.

In 2017, 458 individuals were admitted into Substance Abuse Treatment Programs. A total of 105 were primarily due to alcohol, 124 due to marijuana, and 17 due to prescription drugs. In 2017, there was one methamphetamine laboratory seizure in Butler County.

Strategic Issue: How do we encourage healthy behaviors across the life span?

Goal: Decrease substance use in Butler County.

Objective 1: Convene stakeholders to address the growing opioid use through a countywide strategy.

STRATEGY	TACTIC	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	TARGET DATE	PARTNERS/ RESPONSIBILITIES
1.1 Convene local formal and informal groups to establish a stakeholder coalition that aligns goals and strategies while ensuring consistent messaging.	1.1.1 Identify partners and other resources from across the county who are already involved or may have an interest in the coalition. 1.1.2 Engage youth and other community members in the coalition.	+meeting agendas, sign in sheets, minutes	January 2026	BCHD – create or join coalition Substance Abuse Coalition – Identify future partners/create messaging.
1.2 Increase the number of drug disposal drop off sites.	1.2.1 Survey local pharmacies, health clinics, hospitals to determine if they offer drug disposal. 1.2.2 Survey local health organizations on being a drug disposal site.	+ Survey of local health organizations. + number of current drug disposal sites. +number of agreements from local health organizations on becoming a drug disposal site.	January 2027	BCHD- survey local health organizations/facilitate local drop off sites. Poplar Bluff Police Department – facilitate one day disposal sites. Butler County Sheriff’s Department – facilitate one day disposal sites. Local pharmacies – provide ongoing drug disposal at their sites.
1.3 Work with all school districts on a substance abuse prevention program/research school programs/class that address substance abuse while making the program sustainable.	1.3.1 Reach out to all school districts on interest of a school-based substance abuse program. 1.3.2 Hold a substance use class/program at each school district. Determination of target grade is contingent on the program and the school’s decision.	+scheduled dates for classes/programs +number of classes/programs held +pre/post surveys +grant applications	January 2027	BCHD- talk with school districts on substance abuse program

Priority 3: Access to Health Care

Scope of Problem: Several factors play a role in the need for greater access to healthcare. This includes but is not limited to a lack of insurance, lack of resources, and lack of transportation.

The lack of health insurance is considered a key driver of health status. In Missouri, the percentage of adults who reported having no health care coverage (12.4%) has not significantly changed since 2014 (12.9%). In general, the percentage of adults who lack health care coverage decreases with age, and adults 18-24 years old report a lack of coverage significantly more often than compared to adults aged 55-64.

In Butler County, 86.7% of the population has health coverage, with 33.7% on employee plans, 25.7% on Medicaid, 14.4% on Medicare, 10.6% on non-group plans, and 2.39% on military or VA plans. This leaves the remaining 13.3% of the population uninsured.

Population that Does NOT Have Medical Insurance

	Under 19 years of age	18-64 years of age	Total Population
Butler County	7.5%	16.4%	13.8%
Missouri	5.5%	12%	10.2%
United States	5.8%	10.4%	12.3%

Note: This indicator is compared with the United States average.

Data Source: US Census Bureau, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates. 2022. Source geography: County

The number and location of health care facilities designated as “Health Professional Shortage Areas” (HPSAs), is defined as having shortages of primary medical care, dental, or mental health providers. This indicator is relevant because a shortage of health professionals contributes to access and health status issues.

	Primary	Mental	Dental	Total HPSA Facility
Butler	5	5	20	30
Missouri	393	261	423	1,077
United States	8,645	6,359	9,713	24,717

Strategic Issue: How do we increase strategic collaboration between service providers?

Goal: To increase awareness and use of health services and resources through improved communication and coordination among human service providers in Butler County.

Objective 1: Create a network of community health workers in major health and human service organizations throughout the county by the end of 2027.

STRATEGY	TACTIC	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	TARGET DATE	PARTNERS/ RESPONSIBILITIES
1.1 Identify community health workers in major health and human service organizations.	1.1.1 Survey service providers to see if they have a community health worker. 1.1.2 Establish MOUs for participating agencies to formalize the network.	+number of organizations who have responded to the survey. +number of community health workers identified. +number of organizations who have signed the MOU	January 2026	BCHD – create and dispense survey. Health and Human organizations (hospitals/clinics) – completing survey/MOU with BCHD.
1.2 Create meetings to educate health workers about issues in each agency related to connecting clients to additional services.	1.2.1 Identify educational priorities to determine what would be most beneficial for community health workers through a survey of organizational leaders. 1.2.2 Hold bi-annual meetings that address the issues prioritized by the community health workers. 1.2.3 Survey members after initial meetings to determine the effectiveness of the trainings.	+ number of community health worker meetings. + completed surveys measuring effectiveness. +number of community health workers who believe the meetings are helping them connect clients.	January 2027	BCHD- facilitate meetings/create and dispense surveys. Health and Human organizations – attend meetings/complete surveys.

1.3 Connect clients to services	<p>1.3.1 Generate referral success stories from within the community health worker network to promote more referrals.</p> <p>1.3.2 Survey clients to determine if their needs are being met.</p>	<p>+number of success stories</p> <p>+number of referrals made by participating community health workers.</p> <p>+number of surveys completed by clients.</p> <p>+number of clients who say their needs are being met.</p>	January 2027	<p>BCHD- create referral stories.</p> <p>BCHD – create and dispense surveys.</p> <p>Health and Human Organizations – create referral stories.</p> <p>General Population – complete surveys.</p>
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