ValVerde Regional Medical Center

- **2023 Community Health Needs Assessment**

Community Health Needs Assessment

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Special Thanks

- Linda Walker, CEO
- VVRMC District Board and Corp. Board
- VVRMC Medical Staff
- VVRMC Leadership & Management Team
- Community Participants – Diverse, wide range
- Area Health Providers
- Laughlin Air Force Base Participants
- Becky Alexander and Avery Goodson

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Overview of Community Health Needs Assessment

- In 2014 the Affordable Care Act required CHNA for all 501 (c) (3) hospitals every 3 years
- The main purpose is to provide a comprehensive review of health needs among diverse constituents, how well those needs are being met, and identify any gaps in services available or constituent groups who receive those services
- Another purpose is to identify partnership opportunities with other providers or agencies
- CHNA serves as basis for development of a required action plan that must be developed with an intent to improve community health and reduce gaps among those who receive services

Data Sources

Public data sources	• CMS, U.S. Census Bureau, see bibliography
Written questionnaire	• 35 community participant responses / diverse cross-section of public and private stake holders residing or working in the hospital service area
Personal Contact Interviews	• 43 VVRMC Boards of Directors, Medical Staff, Leadership Team, and Department Leaders • **Total 78 participants**

Overview of VVRMC Governance

- Val Verde Hospital District Board is the sole owner of Val Verde Hospital Corporation
  - Val Verde Hospital District Board is elected and oversees distribution of tax revenue to support access to healthcare provided through Val Verde Hospital Corporation
- Val Verde Hospital Corporation is a separate 501 (c) (3) corporation that oversees the day-to-day operation of Val Verde Regional Medical Center

Overview of VVRMC Service Lines

- **Women's Center**
- **Emergency Department**
- **Emergency Medical Services, EMS**
- **Lab**
- **Radiology**
- **Physical Rehabilitation Services**
- **Surgery**
- **Cardiology**
- **Clinics – both primary and specialty**

VVRMC Medical Staff

Family Medicine

- Jose Mendoza, MD
- Brandon Boenicke, PA
- Eric Cavahaugh, PA
- Sasha Valdez, NP

Pediatrics

- Paul Hessler, MD
- Crystal de la Certa, MD
- Jorge Olaya, MD
- Jorge Oviedo, MD

Orthopedic Surgery

- Ira Floyd, MD

OB/GYN

- Daniel Chartrand, MD
- Gerardo Astudillo, MD
- Mostafa Salama, MD
- Monica Escobedo, NP

General Surgery

- Lisa Palacheck, MD
- Mark Manning, MD
- Terry Lindsey, MD
- Wyn Nguyen, MD

VVRMC Medical Staff

Urology

- Kenneth Moore, MD
- Shannon Doctor, MD
- Vanessa Ortiz-Avalos, NP

Vascular Surgery

- Boulos Toursarkissian, MD

Podiatry

- Jordan Deliman, DPM
- Lee Keenan, Jr., DPM

Interventional Radiology

- Julio Ortazo, MD

Internal Medicine / Oncologist / Hematologist

- Susan Taylor, MD

Hospitalist

- Aurelio Laing, MD
- Jaime Gutierrez, MD
- Others through South Texas Hospitalist Associates

VVRMC Medical Staff

Walk-in-Care Clinic

- Dennis Ong, NP
- Felix Escobedo, JR., NP
- Hugh Freitas, NP

Cardiology

- Cynthia Hernandez, NP
- Contract physician service agreement with a group that provides diagnostic and interventional cardiology at VVRMC

VVRMH Medicare Quality & HCAHPS Patient Satisfaction Rating

- Overall Star Rating 
- Patient Survey Rating 

- Source: Medicare.gov. Hospital Compare. July 26, 2023

Driving Distance from Del Rio to Next Nearest Other Hospitals

• Fort Duncan Medical Center (101 beds)	66 miles
• Uvalde Memorial Hospital (66 beds CAH)	86 miles
• Lillian Hudspeth Hospital, Sonora (12 bed CAH)	105 miles
• Peterson Regional Medical Center, Kerrville (124 beds)	153 miles
• Shannon Medical Center, San Angelo (403 beds)	156 miles
• Methodist Hospital, San Antonio (1536 beds)	175 miles
• University Health System, San Antonio (1034 beds)	175 miles

The long distance between Val Verde Regional Medical Center and the next nearest hospitals highlights the critical importance of the hospital and medical services to a large region. The nearest hospitals that offer a higher level of care are over 2-1/2 hours away in San Antonio and San Angelo.

Val Verde County Demographics

Population

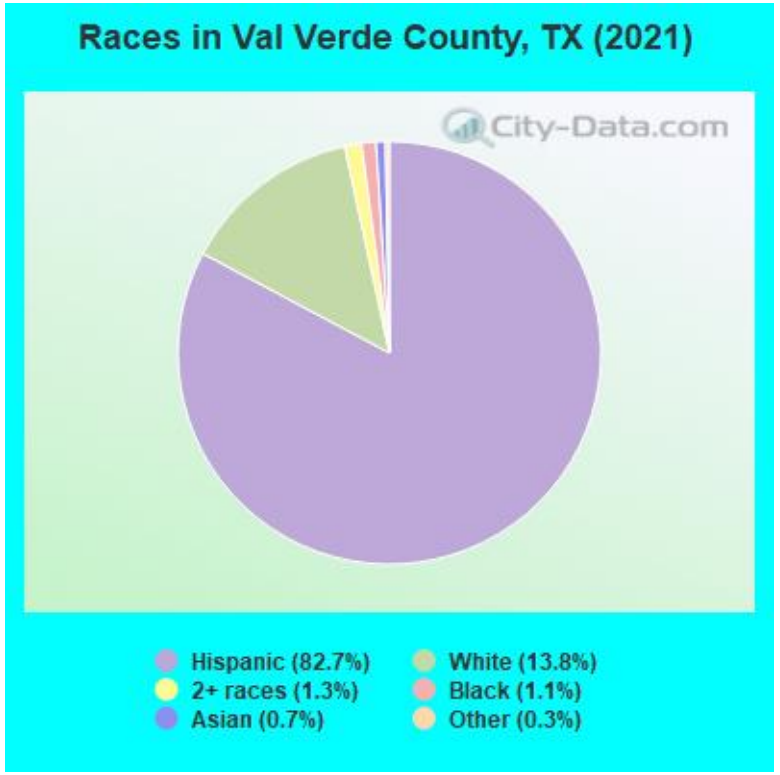
Source: U.S. Census.gov/quickfacts. 2022. https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/valverdecountytexas,US/PST045222

Population	2010	2022
Val Verde County	48,879	47,606
Del Rio	35,591	34,543

Races

Source: City-data.com. 2021.

https://www.city-data.com/county/Val_Verde_County-TX.html



Comparison of Health Outcomes and Factors

Source: County Health Rankings & Roadmaps
https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings/texas/val-verde?year=2023

	Val Verde 2021	Val Verde 2022	Texas2021	Texas 2022
Overall Health Ranking	47	66		
HEALTH OUTCOMES (Rank)	Top Quartile	2nd Quartile		
Life Expectancy	78.5	76.8	79.1	78.4
Child Mortality (per 100k)	30	30	50	50
Diabetes Prevalence	8%	16%	10%	12%
Frequent Mental Distress	14%	16%	12%	13%
Poor Physical Health Days / 30 days	4.7	4.3	3.7	3.0
Poor Mental Health Days / 30 days	4.3	4.6	3.8	3.4
HIV Prevalence	113	126	375	405

Comparison of Health Outcomes and Factors

Source: County Health Rankings & Roadmaps
https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings/texas/val-verde?year=2023

	Val Verde 2021	Val Verde 2022	Texas 2021	Texas 2022
Health Behaviors				
Adult Smoking	17%	18%	14%	13%
Limited Access to Healthy Food	18%	22%	9%	8%
Alcohol Impaired Driving Deaths (per 100k)	30	25	26	25
STI's (per 100k)	416.6	432	517.6	466
Teen Births (per 1,000)	60	56	31	29
Adult Obesity	27%	43%	31%	36
Physical Inactivity	19%	35%	23%	25%

Comparison of Health Outcomes and Factors

Source: County Health Rankings & Roadmaps
https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings/texas/val-verde?year=2023

Health Factors	Val Verde 2021	Val Verde 2022	Texas 2021	Texas 2022
Clinical Care				
Uninsured Adults	27%	30%	24%	24%
Uninsured Children	11%	14%	11%	12%
Primary Care Physicians	3280:1	2880:1	1640:1	1640:1
Dentists	2890:1	3170:1	1680:1	1610:1
Mental Health Providers	1890:1	1830:1	830:1	690:1
Mammogram Screening	29%	20%	37%	34%
Flu Vaccinations	26%	31%	46%	48%

Comparison of Health Outcomes and Factors

Source: County Health Rankings & Roadmaps
https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings/texas/val-verde?year=2023

Health Factors	Val Verde 2021	Val Verde 2022	Texas 2021	Texas 2022
Social and Economic Factors				
Median Household Income	$45,000	$50,500	$64,000	$67,000
Children in Poverty	29%	28%	19%	20%
Children Eligible for Free Lunch	73%	69%	61%	60%
Suicides (per 100k)	10	10	13	6
Firearm Fatalities (per 100k)	7	9	12	13
Injury Deaths (per 100k)	49	48	57	60
High School Completion Rate	68%	71%	84%	85%
Some College	56%	58%	62%	64%
Child Care Cost Burden		22%		25%
Severe Housing Problems	16%	18%	17%	17%

Comparison Val Verde Health Factors to Texas and U.S.

Favorable

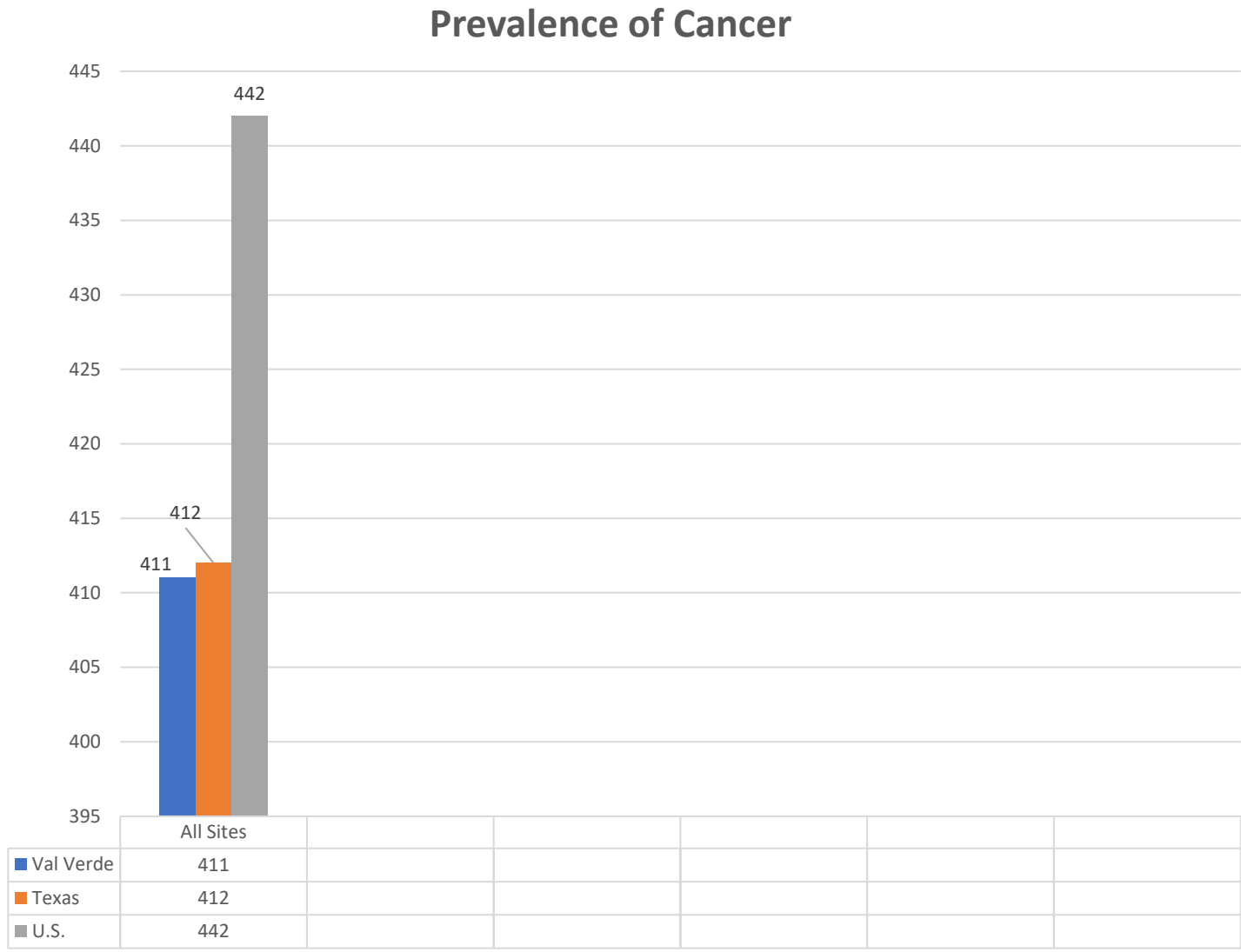
- Child Mortality
- HIV and other STI's
- Firearm Fatalities
- Injury Deaths

Unfavorable

- Diabetes
- Mental Health Distress
- Adult Obesity
- Uninsured Adults & Children
- Number of Physicians, Dentists, other Health Providers
- Household Income
- Child Poverty
- High School and College Education

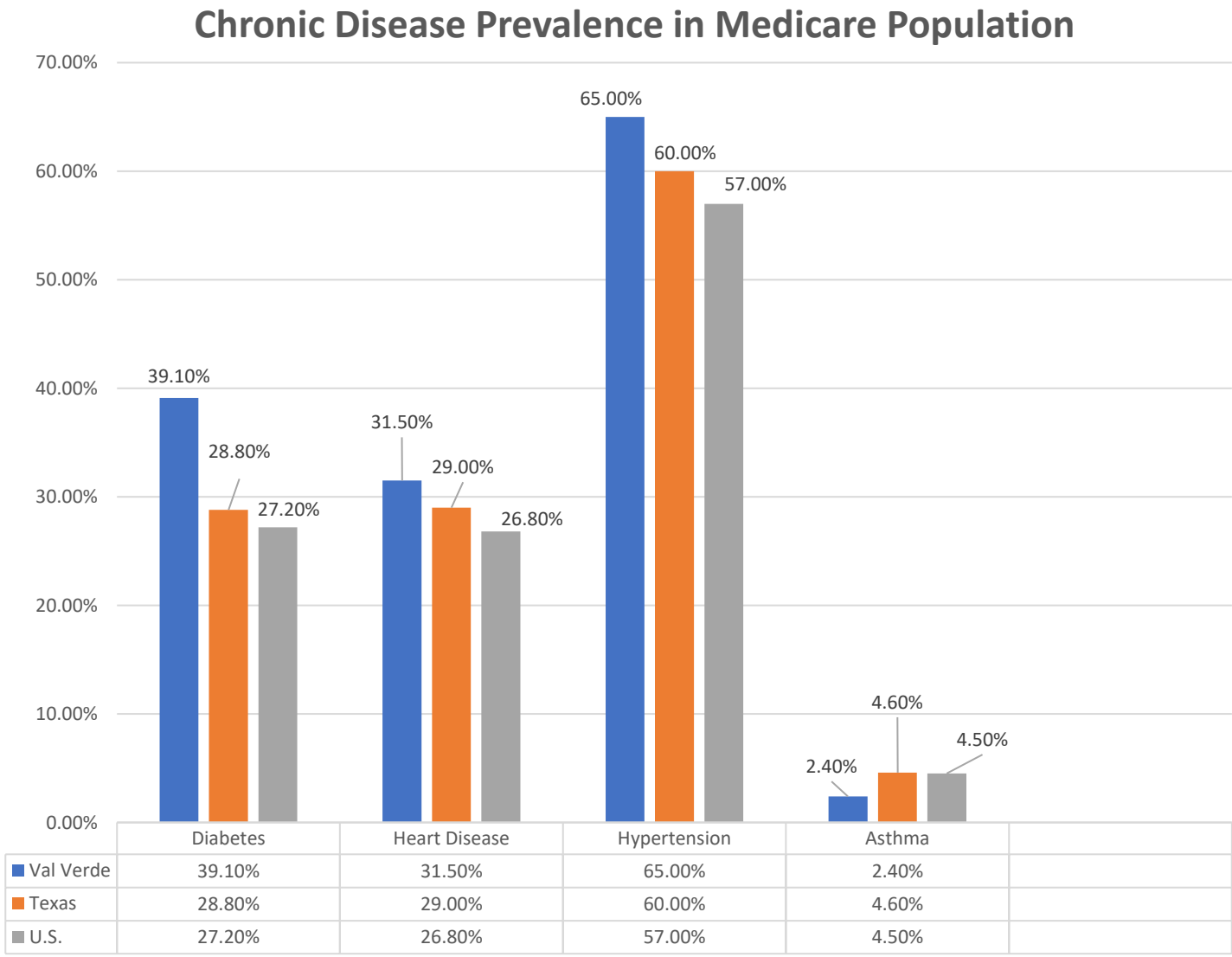
Prevalence of Illness and Disease

- *Source: Data Source: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services - Chronic Conditions](). 2018. Source geography: County*



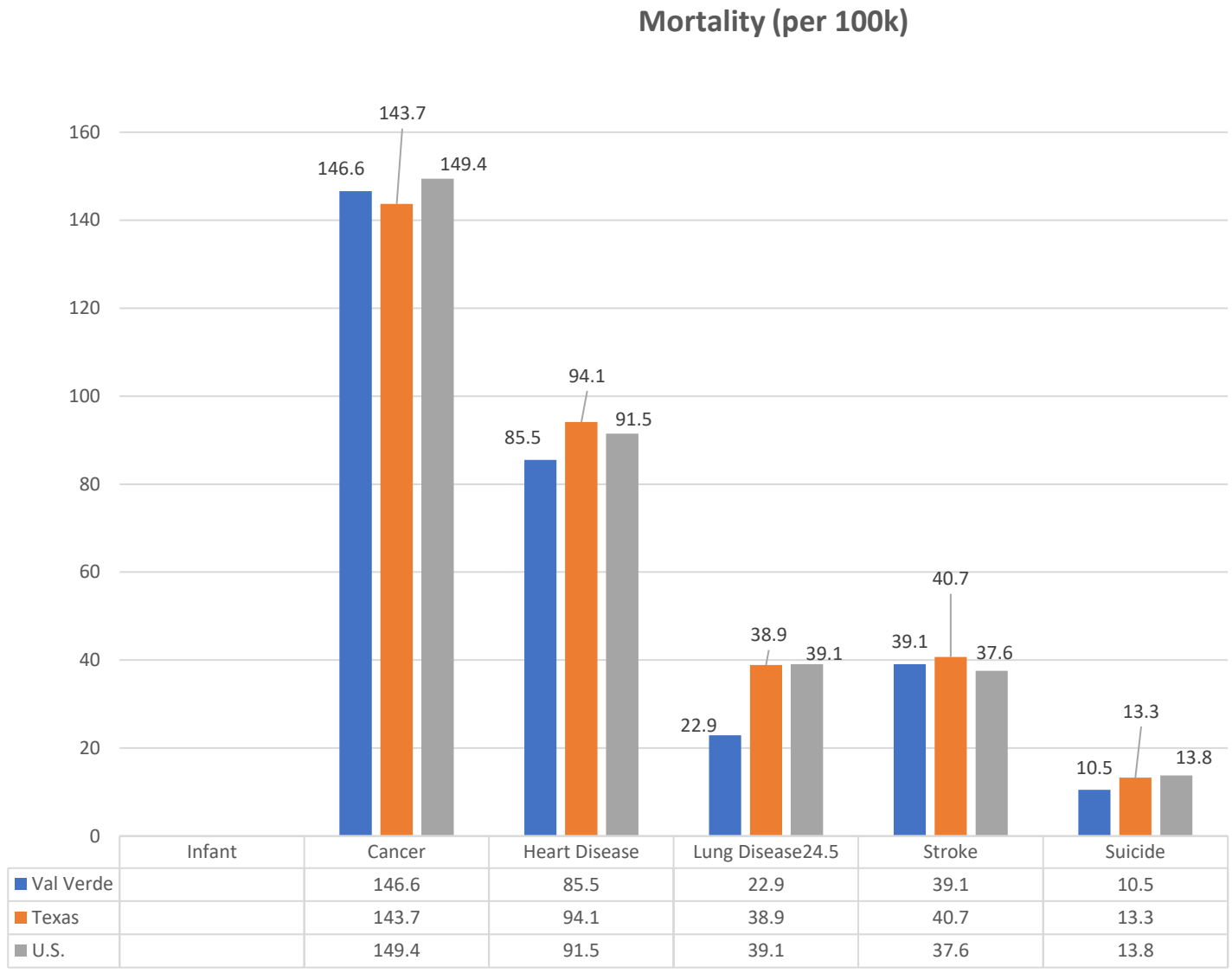
Prevalence of Illness and Disease

- *Source: Data Source: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services - Chronic Conditions](). 2018. Source geography: County*



Mortality

- *Source: Sparkmap. Data Source: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services - Chronic Conditions. 2018. Source geography: County.*
- *Source: Sparkmap. State Cancer Profiles. 2017-2021*



	Infant	Cancer	Heart Disease	Lung Disease24.5	Stroke	Suicide
Val Verde		146.6	85.5	22.9	39.1	10.5
Texas		143.7	94.1	38.9	40.7	13.3
U.S.		149.4	91.5	39.1	37.6	13.8

Comparison Val Verde Health Factors to Texas and U.S.

https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings/texas/val-verde?year=2023

Favorable

- Cancer Prevalence
- Asthma – Medicare prevalence
- Mortality
  - Cancer
  - Heart Disease
  - Lung Disease
  - Stroke
  - Suicide

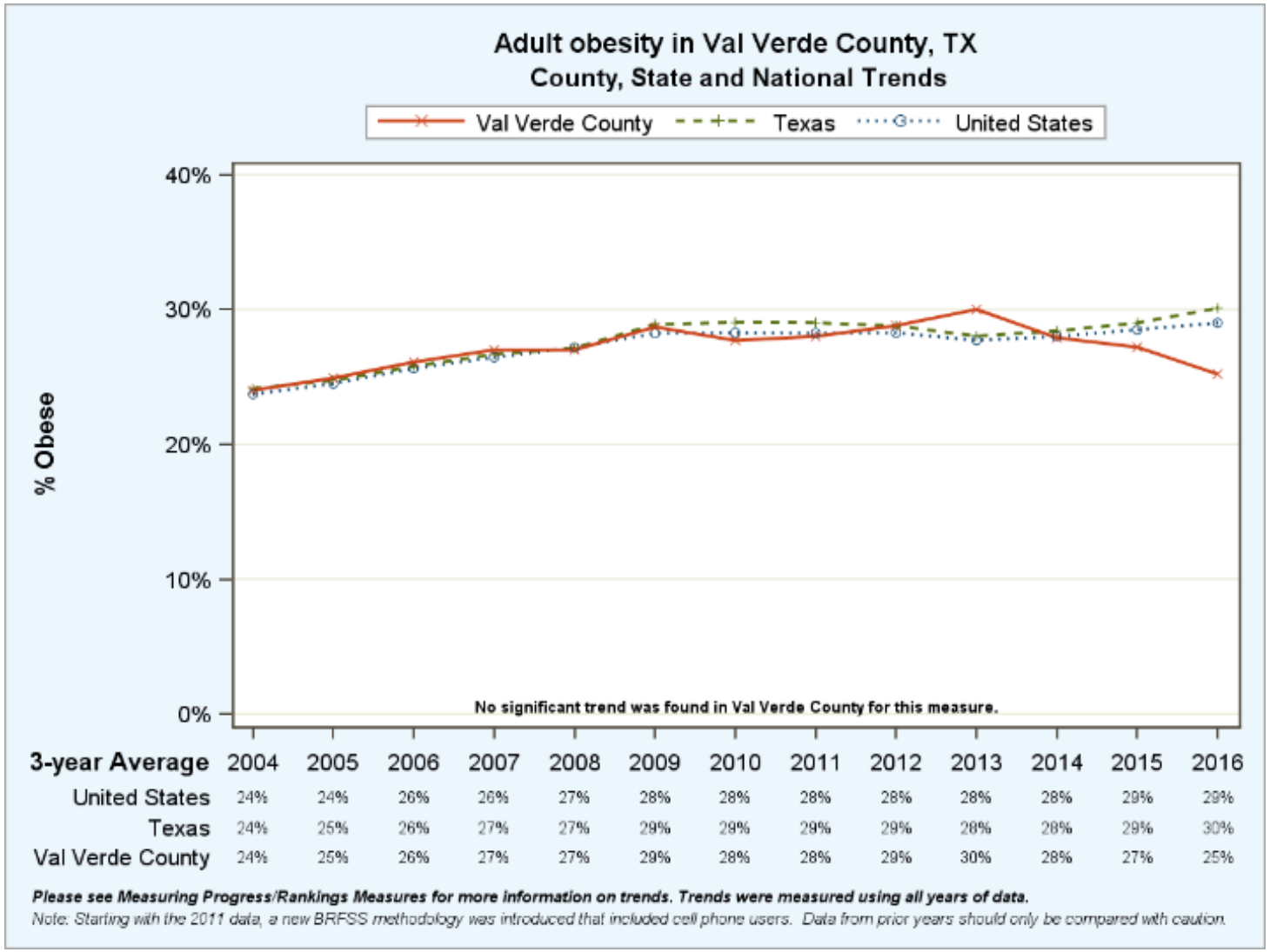
Unfavorable

- Prevalence
  - Diabetes
  - Heart Disease
  - Hypertension

Adult Obesity

- Source: County Health Rankings.org. Val Verde County. 2020.

- Note: Obesity in Val Verde County has been trending downward since 2013 while the State of Texas and U.S. both are trending upward.



3-year Average	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
United States	24%	24%	26%	26%	27%	28%	28%	28%	28%	28%	28%	29%	29%
Texas	24%	25%	26%	27%	27%	29%	29%	29%	29%	28%	28%	29%	30%
Val Verde County	24%	25%	26%	27%	27%	29%	28%	28%	29%	30%	28%	27%	25%

Please see Measuring Progress/Rankings Measures for more information on trends. Trends were measured using all years of data.

Note: Starting with the 2011 data, a new BRFSS methodology was introduced that included cell phone users. Data from prior years should only be compared with caution.

Community Health Survey & Interviews

- A Community Health Survey was distributed to a diverse cross section of the population living and working in Val Verde County. The Survey contained multiple questions related to two components: 1. Access to Healthcare; 2. Chronic Illness and Disease.
- Written Survey – 35 responses from diverse stake holders of Val Verde County Hospital District representing private and public sectors, multi-cultural populations, various occupational classifications, etc.
- Face-to-face Interviews – Focus group interviews took place with 43 participants representing the hospital, medical providers, and elected governing body.
- Total 78 diverse participants contributed to this Community Health Needs Assessment

Community Health Written Survey Questions

Survey Questions probed responses from the following categories:

Category I

Access to Healthcare Services

- Questions asked pertaining to:
  - Access to healthcare
  - Most critical services that are available
  - Most critical services not available but needed
  - Specialty physician services not available or need improvement
  - Services or specialties people are most likely to travel out of town
  - Confidence rating in locally provided services
  - Area resources available

Category II

Community Health & Wellbeing

- Describe the health and well-being of the community based upon:
  - Social and Physical Environment
  - Chronic Illness and Disease
  - Mental Health and Substance Abuse
  - Lifestyle Behavior

Access to Healthcare Services

Current access and availability of health services	What are most critical health needs in the county	How well are these critical needs being met in the county
• Limited to primary care • Lack local access to specialty physicians and services • Average to below average	• Cardiac • Diabetes • Pediatrics • Women's Health • Chronic Care Management • Renal • Mental Health	• Overall poor

Access to Healthcare Services

What service lines provided by the hospital are considered most critical to the community	What would the impact be if these services were not available?	What services lines are *not* available that are most needed?
• Urgent Care • ER • EMS • Women's Health • Prenatal, OB, Newborn, Pediatrics • Diagnostic Services	• Life threatening • Unnecessary deaths	• Endocrinology (frequently cited) • Allergy • Cardiac • Orthopedic services (consistency) • Mental Health • Ophthalmology • Dermatology • Outpatient chemotherapy

Access to Healthcare Services

What physician specialties are not available that are most needed

- Most Frequently Cited
  - Endocrinology (Chemotherapy)
  - Dermatology
  - Oncology
- Next Most Cited
  - Allergy
  - Rheumatology
  - Gastroenterology
  - Nephrology
  - Ophthalmology

What Physician Specialties Are Residents Most Likely to Travel Out of Town?

- All specialties

Access to Healthcare Services

What Physician Specialties are Available but Most Need Improvement

- Orthopedics – Improve consistency of availability and expanded procedures
- Urology – Improve consistency of availability
- Cardiology – Improve rotation so patients can see their physician
- Mental Health – Improve local access other than virtual
- General Surgery – Improve access and consistency of local providers

Access to Healthcare Services

What hospital service lines need improvement

- Most cited:
  - Business Office, Registration, Billing, Coordination of services between hospital and clinics

Also cited:

- ER
- Urgent Care / Walk-in Clinic

Access to Healthcare Services
Community Confidence in Hospital and Other Local Health Providers

Confidence level expressed in services provided by the hospital	• Overall poor perception Lack trust • Greater confidence frequently expressed in Uvalde and San Antonio
What hospital service lines are considered to be high quality	• OB Radiology Lab General Surgery
Community Perception Rating – Hospital services (scale 1 to 10)	• On a scale of 1 to 10, average score given was 5.3 among survey responses
Community Perception Rating - Overall community (scale 1 to 10)	• On a scale of 1 to 10, average score given was 5.4 among survey responses

Community Health & Wellbeing

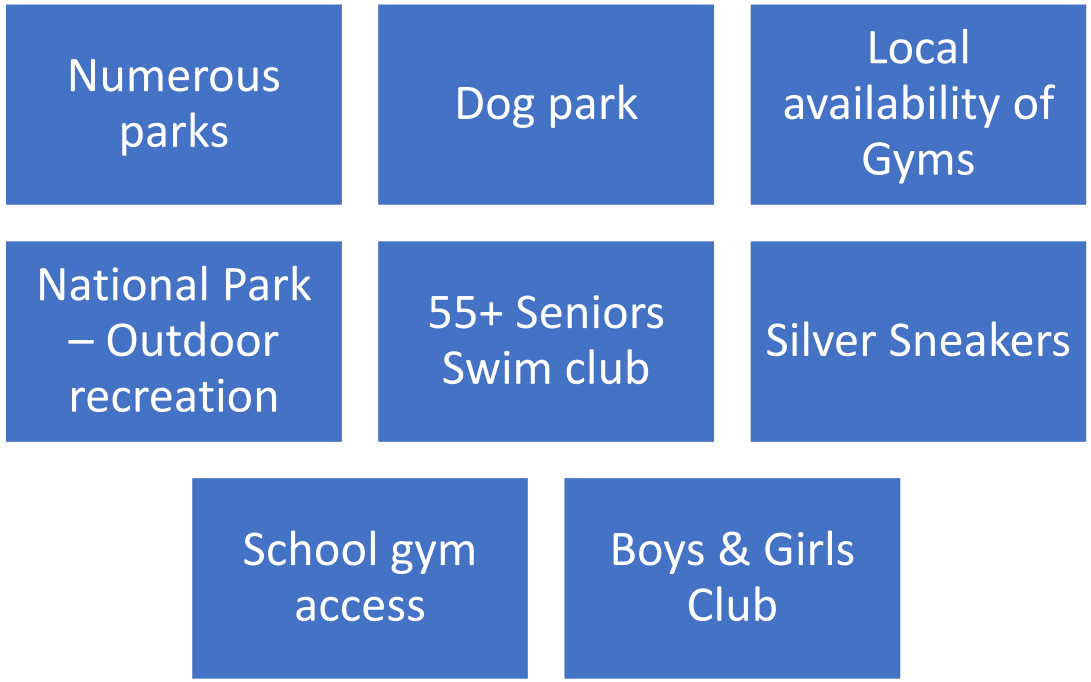


Community Health & Wellbeing

Healthy Aspects of Val Verde County

(cited by focus group participants)

Healthy



Unhealthy

- Lack of healthy food and activity choices for lower income families often cited
  - Community issue … opportunity for local health providers to work together to raise awareness, provide education, and encourage restaurants and grocery stores to promote healthy food options

What Do You Consider General Aspects of a Healthy Community

- Population Health Status such as Weight, Diet, Nutrition, Fitness, Movement
- Crime Rate
- Sexual Assault
- Drug Abuse

Categories of Community Health & Wellbeing

Social and Physical Environment

Nutrition, Housing, Transportation, Domestic Abuse, others

Chronic Illness and Disease

Diabetes, Hypertension, CHF, COPD, etc.

Mental Health and Substance Abuse

Lifestyle Behaviors

Community Health & Wellbeing

Social and Physical Environment

Nutrition, Housing, Transportation, Violence, Domestic Abuse, others

Community Health & Wellbeing

Social and Physical Environment

(Biggest needs cited by focus groups)

- Nutrition
- Elderly Services

Community Health & Wellbeing

Social and Physical Environment

- Residents of Val Verde County have local access to a broad range of social services available to diverse populations
- Services are provided by diverse private, public, and faith organizations
- VVRMC and United Medical Center maintain a long and impressive list of community and social services available

Community Health & Wellbeing

Social and Physical Environment

Nutrition Services

(partial list of local services available)

Nutrition & Social Service for the Elderly	• Lunch – Group or Home Delivery • Activities • Transportation and other support services
Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)	• Food, Nutrition and other parental education to children and parents • Government eligibility based
Val Verde Loaves and Fishes	• Food distribution for the needy
Val Verde Community Center Food Pantry	• Food Distribution for the needy
Faith Mission Food & Clothing	• Offers meals and clothing

Community Health & Wellbeing

Social and Physical Environment

Elderly Services

(partial list of local services available)

La Vida Serena Nursing & Rehabilitation

- Long Term Care; Skilled Nursing; Rehab; Respite

Del Rio Nursing & Rehabilitation

- Long Term Care; Skilled Nursing; Rehab; Memory; Respite

Val Verde Nursing & Rehabilitation

- Long Term Care; Skilled Nursing; Rehab; Respite

Community Health & Wellbeing

Social and Physical Environment Elderly Services

(partial list of services available)

Department of Aging and Disability (formerly DADS)

Area Agency on Aging

Community Health & Wellbeing

Social and Physical Environment

Housing Services

(partial list of services available)

- Del Rio Housing Authority
- Women's and Children's Shelter
- Department of State health Services
- Department of State Health Specialized Health/Social Services
- American Red Cross

Community Health & Wellbeing

Social and Physical Environment

Domestic Abuse and Family Services (partial list for representation)

- Department of Family and Child Protective Services (CPS)
  - Child/Family Protection
- BCFS – Human Services/Star Program
  - Domestic Violence / Support Groups / Self Defense Classes
- Val Verde Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)
  - Law Enforcement
- Voice of Hope
  - Human Trafficking Assistance
- Youth Prevention Indicated Program

Community Health & Wellbeing

Other Local Social Service Programs

(partial list for representation)

Home-bound Program	• Food delivery to home-bound residents
St. Vincent de Paul	• Various social services offered to any person in need without qualification
Bethel Center	• Food, clothing, and bill assistance
Utility Assistance Community Council	• Financial assistance for utility bills for low income consumers
Home & Rental Assistance	• Offers financial assistance based upon income and disabilities

Community Health & Wellbeing

Chronic Illness and Disease

Diabetes, Hypertension, CHF, COPD

Community Health & Wellbeing

Chronic Illness and Disease

The need for more community education on chronic disease management was frequently expressed. Public classes teaching nutrition, lifestyle and behavioral adjustments were recommended.

Collaborative efforts to encourage local restaurants and grocery stores to increase or promote healthy food options was recommended



Community Health & Wellbeing Chronic Illness and Disease

- VVRMC Clinics have recently become certified as Primary Care Medical Homes (PCMH)
  - As PCMH, VVRMC reported plans to expand Clinic and integrate chronic disease education and management into their primary care
- Little coordination of health education and services between VVRMC and the school district was expressed

Community Health & Wellbeing

Mental Health and Substance Abuse

Community Health & Wellbeing

Mental Health and Substance Abuse

Biggest Issues

- Lack of on-site Psychiatrist
- Lack of availability for interventional services for substance abuse
- Lack of availability for preventive services and education
- Lack of social workers and licensed professional counselors

Community Health & Wellbeing

Lifestyle Behaviors

Community Health & Wellbeing

Lifestyle Behaviors

Biggest issues cited by focus groups

- Obesity
- Teen Pregnancy
- Drugs & Substance Abuse

Community Health & Wellbeing
Top 3 Priority Needs to Improve

- Mental Health
- Chronic Disease Education
- Obesity

Recommendations

- **Physician Specialists – Priority Needs:**
  - Mental Health
  - Orthopedics
  - Urology
  - Obstetrics / Gynecology
  - Cardiology
  - General Surgery
- **Chronic Disease Management Education**
- **Mental Health Counseling**
- **Walk-In Primary Care Clinic**
- **Business Services / Revenue Cycle Management Improvement**
- **Image and Public Relations Improvement for VVRMC**

RECOMMENDATION

Physician Specialists

Orthopedic Surgery

Orthopedics is cited in all groups to be one of the biggest physician specialty needs in Val Verde County.

VVRMC is served by one orthopedic surgeon who works 2 weeks on followed by 2 weeks off. His scope of services is often limited by his time, availability, and other factors.

Recruitment of an orthopedic surgeon is underway. This CHNA supports these recruitment efforts as a high priority.

- Dissatisfaction with inconsistent availability of current orthopedic services was loudly cited
- Lack of full-time coverage
- Limited service and procedure options
- Patients who should be able to be served locally often have to be transferred out of town
- Needed for all ages, youth, adult, geriatric
- The community need for an additional full-time orthopedic surgeon is widely requested and supported by this assessment

RECOMMENDATION

Physician Specialists

Urology

The need for an additional Urologist was solidly expressed by the community, providers, and hospital leaders.

Recruitment efforts are actively underway but slow and challenging. This CHNA supports the community need for another Urologist.

- One Urologist plus Nurse Practitioner maintain local practice
- Urologist MD works 2 weeks on and 2 weeks off
- Locum tenens provided
- Demand supports full-time practice
- Priority need recruitment

RECOMMENDATION

Physician Specialists

OB/Gyn

VVRMC has a long history of providing high quality OB/Gyn services in Val Verde County. The hospital maintains a modern women's health center and serves as the only hospital in the county to deliver babies. The hospital provides obstetrical services for both the civilian population and Laughlin Air Force Base.

VVRMC is actively searching for an additional OB/Gyn physician at this time. This is considered to be a high priority search and is supported by this CHNA.

- Approx. 800 deliveries annually
- Large child-bearing population between civilian and LAFB
- Currently 2 FT plus 1 PT providers
- 66 miles to next nearest hospital

RECOMMENDATION

Physician Specialists

Cardiology

Heart Health Care is an interventional cardiology program offered at VVRMC. VVRMC maintains a team of Cardiology physicians to provide diagnostic and interventional catheterization services locally. Cardiologists maintain a rotational schedule at VVRMC to ensure that these services are locally available.

Due to the rotation schedule, patient complaints are heard that follow-up visits are often with a cardiologist who is not their personal physician or who performed their interventional procedure.

Reducing long-distance travel by patients to see their cardiologist continues to be a major goal.

- Priority need to improve the rotation of physicians to strengthen patient/provider relationship.
- Promote and increase utilization of procedures that can be performed locally
- Goal to reduce outmigration to other cities

RECOMMENDATION

Physician Specialists

General Surgery

General Surgery is an essential and life-saving service line. In addition to its remote location with a long footprint on the U.S. and Mexico border, the outdoor occupational, cultural, law enforcement, transportation, and recreational lifestyle presents plenty of urgent surgical demands.

An active search is underway for another full-time General Surgeon and is supported by this CHNA.

- 3 current General Surgeons with full-time practice.
  - One surgeon is in his first year on staff
  - Two surgeons are considering reduced schedule or retirement
  - 1 part-time surgeon on staff with limited hours
- Locum tenens coverage used to fill gaps

RECOMMENDATION

Chronic Disease Education and Self-Management

- VVRMC has plans underway to expand chronic disease education and self-management into the Rural Health Clinic as part of its newly designated Primary Care Medical Home.
  - The prevalence of hypertension, heart disease, and diabetes exceeds State and National numbers
  - The need for education pertaining to chronic disease, diet, and lifestyle behavior was strongly expressed and is supported by data.
- Collaborative efforts with other providers, agencies, schools, social service organizations, etc. linking community resources should be actively initiated.
- Continuation of these efforts is a strong recommendation of this CHNA

RECOMMENDATION

Mental Health Counseling

- Public comments plus published data supports mental health counseling as a strong need for Del Rio and Val Verde County.
- VVRMC has plans underway to add mental health counseling as a new service line integrated into the expanded Rural Health Clinic as part of its newly designated Primary Care Medical Home.
  - Recruitment efforts are already underway
  - The number of mental health providers in Val Verde County is far fewer than State and National averages
- Expansion of mental health counseling and integration into primary care is a recommendation of this CHNA

RECOMMENDTION

Walk-in Primary Care Clinic

- Walk-in visits are available at one of the VVRMC clinics
- Numerous requests for a WICC received from community surveys indicate a general lack of awareness about the location or hours of operation
- It is recommended that VVRMC promote greater awareness within the community of the WICC as an alternative to the ER

RECOMMENDATION

Revenue Cycle Management / Business Services Improvement

- Improvement efforts have been and continue to be made in the integration of IT systems between the clinics and hospital since the last CHNA.
- Efforts to improve a seamless exchange of information continues.
  - Billing and duplication of registration issues continue to be expressed but less frequently
- It is recommended that efforts continue to improve RCM and integration of business services throughout the system

Summary

VVRMC is a vital and essential resource providing healthcare services to remote populations dispersed across a large geographic area. Val Verde County Hospital District and Val Verde Hospital Corporation partner as good stewards to stretch its resources to serve its diverse communities. Services provided by VVRMC are available to all who present for care regardless of income or other discriminating factors.

VVRMC shows advancement in addressing recommendations from its 2020 CHNA. VVRMC has gained designation for its clinics as Primary Care Medical Home. Plans are actively underway to improve chronic disease management and education through its primary care centers. Plans are also underway to incorporate mental health services into its primary care model. A new electronic health system has been implemented to improve information management and integration between the hospital and clinics, though this is ongoing venture.

VVRMC serves a large and diverse constituency as a U.S. border city, home of a U.S. Air Force Base, headquarters for multiple federal and state public agencies, and multi-generational families. Recruitment of physicians, providers, and other skilled health professionals is difficult and challenging.

Summary (cont.)

Improving the health and well-being of the diverse needs in Val Verde County is larger than VVRMC can accomplish alone. Del Rio is fortunate to be served by many public, private, health, and social service organizations. Collaborative efforts should be made to engage each of these organizations to work together toward a common goal to improve local health and well-being. Willingness to work together was expressed by each of the leaders who participated in this CHNA.

The Community Health Improvement Coalition (CHIC) is a local non-profit comprised of local representatives organized to seek funding and opportunities to improve community health and well-being. CHIC serves a good “non-competitive” forum to pull together collaborative resources.

Thank you to all who contributed to this Community Health Needs Assessment. VVRMC Leadership team, Hospital staff, Medical Staff, and Board of Directors are to all be commended for maintaining a well-run and successful community hospital. The findings in this report are intended to serve as a platform to further your efforts to improve care, identify solutions, and overcome obstacles to improve community health.

Next Steps

- *Next Steps:*

  - *A next step will be to present this CHNA to the Board of Directors and hospital leadership team.*

  - *It is recommended that this CHNA be shared with all focus group participants who contributed to this assessment, and post on the hospital website for public access. Sharing this assessment with the focus group participants and community will likely create synergy as the community sees that the hospital is focused on strategic efforts to improve the health and wellbeing of people living in Val Verde County.*

  - *These recommendations, with consideration for comments provided by community focus groups and supporting data, should be prioritized and used as a basis for planning and allocation of resources to improve community health and well-being.*