



2023 Community Health
Needs Assessment

Benefis Missouri River Medical Center



Table of Contents

Executive Summary.....	2
Our Background.....	3
Our Current Capabilities.....	3
Implemented Programs and Community Partnerships/Outreach.....	4
Newly Acquired Facility – Initial Year.....	5
2023 Community Health Needs.....	6
Community Health Needs Assessment.....	7
Community Description.....	8
Defining Our Community.....	8
Service Area County Demographics.....	9
Chouteau County Demographics.....	9
Existing Healthcare Facilities.....	10
Data Collection Approaches.....	12
Summary of Findings from Health and Community Data.....	14
Findings From Community Input Process.....	17
Process for Consulting with Persons Representing the Community’s Interests.....	18
Community Survey Results.....	18
Focus Group Discussion Results.....	18
Information Gaps.....	20
Appendix A: Community Survey Results.....	21
Appendix B: Focus Group Discussion Participants.....	39
Appendix C: Service Area County HPSA, MUAs/MUPs.....	41

Executive Summary



Our Background

Missouri River Medical Center has been an active healthcare provider in Fort Benton, Montana since 1882. Since then, Missouri River Medical Center has expanded its service offering and size to provide effective healthcare to the people of Fort Benton and the surrounding Chouteau County community.

In July 2023, Benefis Health System (Benefis) acquired Missouri River Medical Center expanding on the two parties' management contract executed in 2015 to increase the level of care for the citizens of Chouteau County. The acquisition changed the facility's name to Benefis Missouri River Medical Center (BMRMC). BMRMC's mission has been and remains to save lives and improve the quality of life in Fort Benton and the surrounding Chouteau County community through compassionate, accessible healthcare and education.

Our Current Capabilities

BMRMC is a 25-bed critical access hospital for adults and children in central Montana whose primary market covers Chouteau County.¹ BMRMC's care team includes primary care and emergency providers, physicians assistants, nurse practitioners, nurses, imaging technologists, and respiratory therapists among others. These healthcare professionals provide family and emergency medicine services in emergency room, inpatient, and outpatient settings.²

BMRMC staff serves patients in its critical access hospital, family practice clinic, intermediate care facility, round-the-clock emergency room, physical therapy clinic, laboratory, and home visiting nurse service. BMRMC's staff is readily available at all hours of the day, week, and year in order to give the people of Chouteau County access to the following services:³

- Acute Care.
 - Rehabilitation Swing Bed/Swing Bed
 - Long Term Care.
 - Emergency Room.
 - X-Ray(s).
 - Laboratory.
 - Physical Therapy.
 - Occupational Therapy.
 - Speech Pathology.
 - Dietary Counseling.

1 Definitive Healthcare Missouri River Medical Center Report Accessed June 27, 2023.

2 Benefis Missouri River Medical Center *We're Here For You 24/7* Page Accessed October 31, 2023. <https://www.benefis.org/missouri-river-medical-center/clinical-services/clinical-services-mrmc>

3 Benefis Missouri River Medical Center Management provided detail.

BMRMC can provide family medicine services at its rural health clinic and provides annual check-ups, follow-up care, and more for citizens of Chouteau County. The family medicine providers that staff this clinic deliver a range of acute, chronic, and preventative medicine services to their patients. Further, these particular providers serve the surrounding Chouteau County rural population. In addition to their diagnosing and treatment responsibilities, BMRMC providers are able to promote healthy lifestyle initiatives to their patients through annual check-ups, health-risk assessments, and immunizations.⁴

National and state-registered radiologic technologists and laboratory technicians staff BMRMC's laboratory and radiology department. These individuals assist with the emergency room's 24-hour seven-days-a-week coverage by offering patients on-site diagnostic x-ray exams, computed tomography scans, and digital mammography.⁵

BMRMC also offers its patients sports physicals, speech therapy, and occupational therapy as well as lactation services through its Internationally Board Certified Lactation Consultant.⁶

Implemented Programs and Community Partnerships/Outreach

BMRMC has partnered with the Chouteau County Public Health Department (Public Health Department) for the betterment of those living within the community. The Public Health Department has established and implemented several public health advancing programs and services over the years. BMRMC works with the Public Health Department on the following programs and services:⁷

- Chouteau County Disaster Emergency Services: Provide Chouteau County residents emergency plans to help community members prepare for natural disasters.
- Peace Hospice of Montana: Cares for Chouteau County's terminally ill patients by creating comfort, care, and meaning in the home environment.
- Montana Chronic Disease and Prevention: Promotes quality of life for individuals in Chouteau County by ensuring tobacco-free public spaces and helping healthcare providers improve care practices for patients with chronic conditions.
- Montana Tobacco Use Prevention Program: Works to eliminate tobacco use, especially among young people, through statewide programs and policies.
- Women, Infants, Children (WIC): Educates Chouteau County women on the importance of nutrition and health as well as provides breastfeeding support, healthy food access, and specialty care referrals to other medical services free of charge.

4 Benefis Missouri River Medical Center *Specializing in Your Health* Page Accessed October 31, 2023. <https://www.benefis.org/missouri-river-medical-center/clinical-services/primary-care-mrmc>

5 Benefis Missouri River Medical Center *Laboratory and Radiology Offering* Page Accessed October 31, 2023. <https://www.benefis.org/missouri-river-medical-center/clinical-services/lab-rad-mrmc>

6 Benefis Missouri River Medical Center *Other Services* Page Accessed October 31, 2023. <https://www.benefis.org/missouri-river-medical-center/clinical-services/other-services-mrmc>

7 Chouteau County, Montana Public Health Department website Accessed June 27, 2023.

- Shape Up Montana: Offers residents of Chouteau County an interactive three-month, team-based wellness program to integrate healthy behaviors into their lifestyles.
- Immunization Clinics: Gives students annual opportunities to receive vaccinations needed to pursue higher education free of charge.
- Alliance for Youth: Creates social change to advance youth health and family development within North Central Montana communities through educational and collaborative approaches.
- Senior Care Coordinator Schedule: Monitors the health of elderly patients in Chouteau County and offers provider referrals, blood pressure checks, and other medical services for patients in need.
- Mental Health Resources: Gives residents of Chouteau County access to Nationwide 24 Hour Crisis Line, Voices of Hope, Teen Help, Veterans Crisis Line, Veterans Mental Health Resources, Montana Crisis Hot Line, Postpartum Help Line, and Montana Child Abuse Hotline.
- Question, Persuade, and Refer (QPR) Training Programs: Allows for residents of Chouteau County to learn the QPR method for suicide prevention.
- Chouteau County Cancer Support Group: Aides community members through cancer treatments by way of counseling, providing meals, etc.
- Backpack Buddies Program: Addresses food insecurities among kindergarten through sixth grade children in Chouteau County by providing meals all 7 days of the week for these students and their families.
- Violence Prevention: Offers 24-hour coverage to Chouteau County residents to prevent domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, elder abuse, stalking, and other types of abuse.

Newly Acquired Facility – Initial Year

BMRMC has not previously been required to participate in the preparation, documentation, or approval of a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) as the organization was not classified as a hospital organization under Section 501(c)(3). As such, the organization also did not develop or implement a Community Health Needs Implementation Plan. The organization was considered a hospital organization as part of the governmental hospital district of Chouteau County.

2023 Community Health Needs

In 2023, BMRMC conducted a CHNA that allowed BMRMC to identify the current community health needs. The needs identified are listed in no particular order below.

- Obesity or Weight Gain.
- Tobacco Use.
- Mental Health.
- Drug and Alcohol Abuse.
- Diabetes.
- Heart Disease.
- Cancer.
- Nutrition and Physical Activity.
- Automobile Accidents.
- Child Abuse/Neglect.
- Dental Health.

In the coming months, BMRMC will develop a three-year Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) to respond to the identified prioritized needs in Chouteau County. This plan will include key objectives, activities, collaborating community partners, needed resources, and desired outcomes, among others. The 2024 – 2026 CHIP will be approved and made publicly available no later than May 15, 2024.

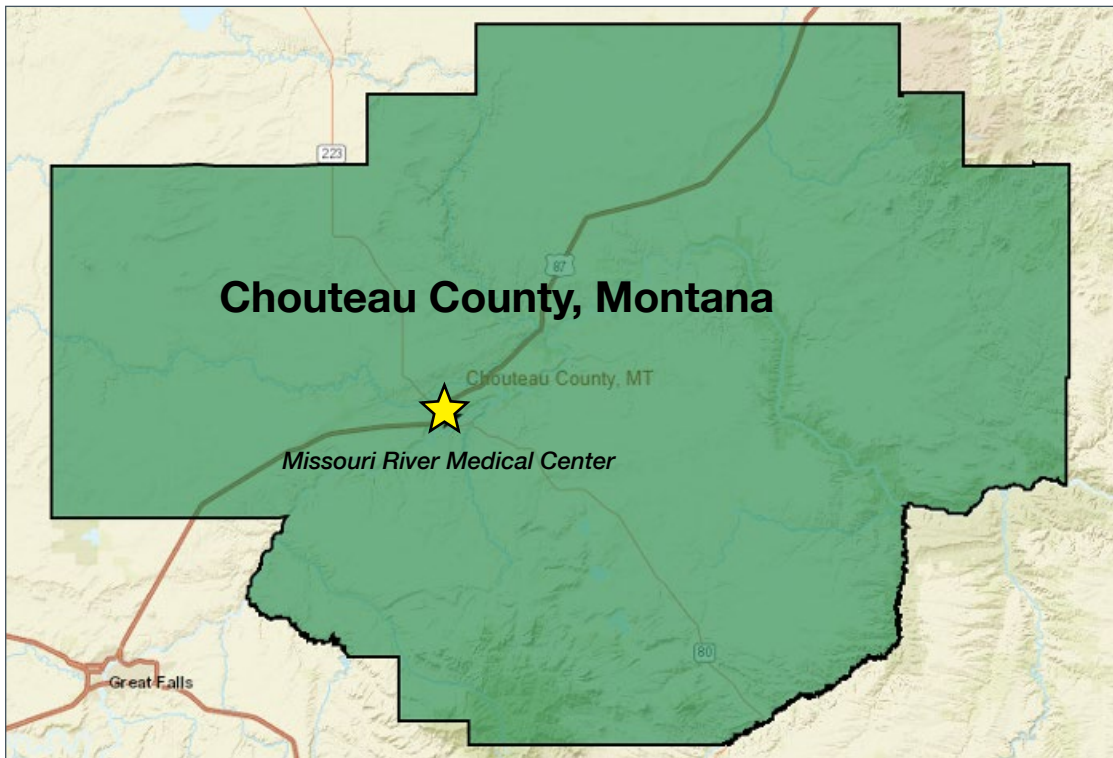
Community Health Needs Assessment



Community Description

Defining Our Community

BMRMC is a critical access hospital for adults and children in North Central Montana. The facility serves the people of Chouteau County, Montana as indicated in the map below.



Chouteau County is home to several nationally known different historical and natural landmarks, including but not limited to the Old Fort Benton, Museum of the Northern Great Plains, Shep Memorial, Lewis & Clark Memorial, Missouri River, and Helena-Lewis & Clark National Forest. In addition to supporting tourism at these locations, a significant portion of the county’s employment comes from the county’s two hospitals as is shown in the table below.⁸

Employer	Number of Employees
Missouri River Medical Center	50 – 99
Big Sandy Medical Center	50 – 99
Big Sandy Activities, Inc.	20 – 49
Cenex Harvest States	20 – 49
Mountain View Co-op	20 – 49

⁸ Montana Government Official Website Accessed August 16, 2023.

The Chouteau County population for 2023 includes 5,920 individuals.

2023 Population⁹

Service Area	Ages 00-14	Ages 15-19	Ages 20-24	Ages 25-34	Ages 35-44	Ages 45-54	Ages 55-64	Ages 65+	Total
Chouteau County	1,099	346	319	663	598	551	917	1,427	5,920
Total	1,099	346	319	663	598	551	917	1,427	5,920
% Population ¹⁰	18.6%	5.8%	5.4%	11.2%	10.1%	9.3%	15.5%	24.1%	100.0%

Service Area County Demographics^{11 12 13}

Chouteau County Demographics

- 2023 Population consists of 5,920 individuals:
 - 50.1% of the population is female and 49.9% is male (2023).
 - 71.5% of the population is White, 23.5% is American Indian, and 5.0% is Other (2023).
 - 3.0% of the population is of Hispanic or Latino origin (2023).
 - 0.9% are foreign-born individuals (2017-2021).
 - 1.0% speak a language other than English at home (2017-2021).
 - 14.4% of individuals are persons in poverty, compared to 11.5% for the U.S (2017-2021).
 - \$52,037 is the median household income (2023).
- 2017 to 2021 high school graduate or higher, percent of persons age 25+ years was 92.1%, compared to 94.4% for Montana and 88.9% for the U.S.
- 2017 to 2021 bachelor’s degree or higher, percent of persons age 25+ years was 27.3%, compared to 33.7% for Montana 33.7% for the U.S.
- 2017 to 2021 in civilian labor force, total percent of population age 16+ years was 56.9% compared to 62.9% for Montana and 63.1% for the U.S.
- 2021 rate of uninsured individuals was 14.3%, compared to 10.2% for Montana and 9.3% for the U.S.

9 ESRI – Community Profile Report for Chouteau County based on the 2020 US Census data.

10 Because of rounding, the total percentage may not equal exactly 100%.

11 See Footnote #11.

12 US Census Bureau’s State & County Quick Facts: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/chouteaucountymontana,US/PST045221>

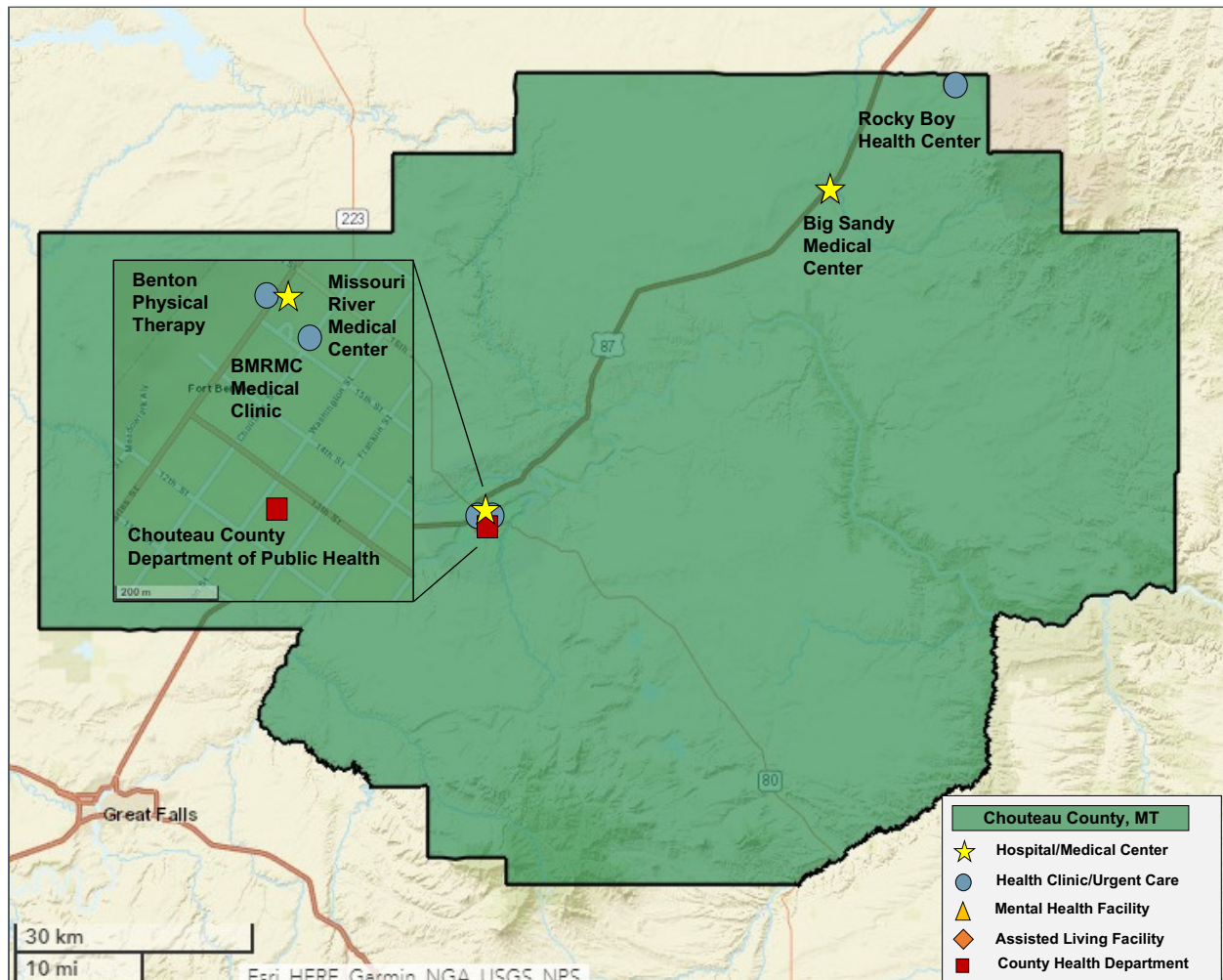
13 Note: “Other” under percent population by race includes Black, Asian, Pacific Island, Some Other Race Alone, and persons reporting more than two races (Based on ESRI Community Profile Report).

Existing Healthcare Facilities

BMRMC is one of two hospital-providers within Chouteau County, Montana. Other specialty-specific clinics and practices are present in the county. The map below identifies all healthcare facilities (Hospitals, Ambulatory Surgery Centers, Mental Health Facilities, Urgent Care/Clinics, etc.) within Chouteau County. Details regarding each of these facilities are included on the following pages.

It is important to note that Chouteau County has designated health professional shortage areas (HPSAs) for primary medical care, dental, and mental health as well as a medically underserved area (MUA) designation. Additional detail related to HPSAs and MUAs are presented in **Appendix C**.

Chouteau County, Montana Healthcare Facilities Map



Additional Hospital(s) ¹⁴					
Facility	Entity Type	# of Beds	Miles from BMRMC	Services	Insurance/ Uninsured
Big Sandy Medical Center	Non-Profit	25	38.9 miles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural Health Clinic Family Medicine/ Wellness Check-ups Chronic Disease & Medication Management Women's Health Care Long-Term Swing Bed Emergency Room Imaging (CT, X-Rays, Mammography, etc.) Laboratory Diabetic Screening Physical Therapy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commercial Insurance Medicaid Medicare Uninsured

The following table lists other healthcare facilities (i.e., medical and specialty clinics, urgent cares, mental health facilities, and assisted living centers) that are available in Chouteau County.¹⁵ Nursing homes and assisted living centers are present in the county, but are housed on the medical center’s campuses.

Additional Healthcare Facilities/Locations				
Facility	Entity Type	Miles from BMRMC	Services	Insurance/ Uninsured
Benton Physical Therapy	Privately Owned	472 feet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical Therapy Sports Rehabilitation Occupational Therapy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most Commercial Insurance Medicare Medicaid Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
BMRMC Medical Clinic		489 feet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical Primary Care Substance Abuse/ Addiction Vision Pharmacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uninsured Underinsured Commercial Insurance Medicare Medicaid

¹⁴ All of the facilities are within Chouteau County. The facility-related information was acquired from the individual facility websites.

¹⁵ All of the facility-related information was acquired from individual facility websites.

Additional Healthcare Facilities/Locations				
Chouteau County Department of Public Health	Municipal	0.3 miles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counseling/Mental Health Services • Food Bank • Foot/Podiatry Clinic • Immunizations • Family Planning • Chronic Disease Management • Tobacco Use Prevention • Emergency Preparedness • Mental Health • Cancer Care Support Groups • Violence Prevention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All
Rocky Boy Health Center	Tribal Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC)	56.2 miles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wellness Center • Diabetes Management & Prevention • Mental & Behavioral Health • Counseling • Dental Care • Optometry • Family Medicine & Wellness Check-ups • Pharmacy • Laboratory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial Insurance • Medicaid • Medicare • Uninsured – Assist Patients In Application For Insurance

Data Collection Approaches

Through various quantitative and qualitative data collection methods, the CHNA process utilized different sources of information to identify the most pressing health needs in Chouteau County, Montana. In the section below, the different data collection models are described in detail, including each of their target audiences, questions asked, and survey/discussion locations among others.

I. Community Survey Questionnaire:

- In 2023, BMRMC developed a community survey questionnaire to provide to individuals within Chouteau County, Montana. Quick Response (QR) code flyers linking directly to the questionnaire were made available to members of the community at locations including but not limited to the BMRMC check-in area, patient rooms at various community health clinics, and entrances to businesses and restaurants across the county. QR code flyers were also posted at several Chouteau County community events, such as the Chouteau County 4-H and FFA Fair. BMRMC and Chouteau County Department of Public Health staff encouraged community members to complete the survey, but participation was not financially incentivized.
- The survey questionnaire included 24 topic questions related to demographics, socioeconomic status, individual health, and community healthcare perceptions. BMRMC received 112 returned responses. The participants' races were largely (94%) "White", which slightly differed from the racial make-up of Chouteau County; however, all other measured demographics/financial measures were at or just above/below their respective median value for Chouteau County. Respondents were predominately female, not atypical for this type of survey. Detailed survey results are included in **Appendix A**.

II. Focus Group Discussions:

- During the summer of 2023, BMRMC and the Chouteau County Department of Public Health conducted a series of three focus group discussions with members of the community representing key demographic cohorts (i.e., senior citizens, religious groups, school administrators, healthcare/business leaders, and District Board members). Eleven individuals participated in discussion groups ranging in size from three to five. Each group was asked around 10 questions which aimed to assess the most serious health issues in Chouteau County, access to care in the area, quality of local care provided, reasons for healthcare outmigration, and additional health services needed. Data was compiled from the focus groups' discussions and answers, and results are discussed later in this report.

III. Statistical Data Sources:

The following sources were used to identify statistical information related to education, jobs, access to and quality of healthcare, environment, and individual behaviors for the state of Montana and Chouteau County:

- 2023 County Health Rankings & Roadmaps for Montana:
<https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings>
- US Census Bureau's State & County Quick Facts:
<https://www.data.census.gov>
- 2022 U.S. News & World Report Healthiest Communities:
<https://www.usnews.com/news/healthiest-communities/montana/chouteau-county>

The statistical findings are presented on the following pages.

Summary of Findings from Health and Community Data¹⁶

The tables below highlight several health-related measures (education, jobs, access to and quality of healthcare, environment, and individual behaviors) and corresponding statistical data for national, state, and county levels. Gray highlighted boxes identify counties that are either significantly higher or lower than the state benchmark/finding, defined as greater or less than 25% from the mean.

Social/Economic Demographics ¹⁷	United States	Montana	Chouteau County, Montana
High School Graduation Rate (2021)	89%	94%	92%
Some College (2021)	67%	69%	56%
Unemployment Rate (2021)	5.4%	3.4%	2.7%
Children in Poverty (2021)	17%	15%	20%
Children in Single-parent Households (2021)	25%	20%	25%
Violent Crime 1/per 100,000 (2020)	76	94	101

Overall, Chouteau County, Montana has significantly lower levels of college education compared to the state of Montana and the US. Children living in poverty is more prevalent in Chouteau County than the rest of the state and nation. Violent Crime per 100,000 population is significantly higher than the state and national averages, but the unemployment rate is well below state and national averages.

Related to healthy behaviors, Chouteau County, Montana is slightly higher than the state and national averages for Adult Smoking, Adult Obesity, and Excessive Drinking. Alcohol impaired driving deaths are significantly higher in Chouteau County compared to the state and national averages. The Food Environment Index in Chouteau County is well below state and national averages.

¹⁶ 2022 County Health Rankings & Roadmaps for Montana: <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings/montana/chouteau?year=2023>

¹⁷ Ibid.

Health-Related Behaviors ¹⁸	United States	Montana	Chouteau County, Montana
Adult Smoking (2020)	16%	18%	20%
Adult Obesity (2020)	32%	29%	33%
Food Environment Index (2020)	7.0	7.7	6.7
Physical Inactivity (2020)	22%	18%	22%
Excessive Drinking (2020)	19%	24%	25%
Alcohol Impaired Driving Deaths (2020)	27%	46%	69%
Sexually Transmitted Infections per 100,000 population (2020)	481.3	386.7	ISD
Teen Birth Rate per 1,000 (Females Aged 15 – 19) (2020)	19	20	ISD

Clinical Care ¹⁹	United States	Montana	Chouteau County, Montana
Uninsured under Age 65 (2020)	10%	11%	14%
Primary Care Physicians (2020)	1,310:1	1,210:1	ISD
Preventable Hospital Stays per 1,000 (2020)	28.09	19.26	15.78

The preceding table reveals the percentage of individuals without insurance coverage under the age of 65 is higher in Chouteau County, Montana compared to the state of Montana and national average. Also significant is the level of preventable hospital stays per 1,000 people is significantly lower than state and national averages, potentially indicating a high quality of care or increased medical education in the community.

18 Ibid.

19 Ibid.

The table below identifies the county rankings for health outcomes and health factors; the lower the number, the healthier the county. In summary, Chouteau County, Montana is very highly ranked in Montana in Mortality and Physical Environment but lowly ranked in Morbidity and Health Behaviors.

Health Rankings by County (of 57) ²⁰	Chouteau County
Health Outcomes	
Mortality	13
Morbidity	39
Health Factors	
Health Behaviors	41
Clinical Care	24
Social & Economic Factors	30
Physical Environment	8

Additionally, the table below identifies Chouteau County’s rankings in key metrics which are ultimately used to assess the healthiness of a community; higher numbers significantly increase the county’s overall health grade. In summary, Chouteau County, Montana’s Healthiness score (47/100) is significantly below the Montana median line (61/100), aligned with the national median line (47/100), and significantly above the rural, up-and-coming peer group median line (30/100).

Health Category Rankings (of 100) ²¹	Chouteau County
Category	Score
Population Health	61
Equity	23
Education	21
Economy	41
Housing	78
Food & Nutrition	58
Environment	72
Public Safety	52
Community Vitality	74
Infrastructure	69
Overall	47

20 Ibid.

21 2022 U.S. News and World Report Healthiest Communities: “Overview of Chouteau County, Montana.

Findings From Community Input Process



Process for Consulting with Persons Representing the Community's Interests

BMRMC developed and distributed a community survey questionnaire to receive input from the residents of the community regarding current health behaviors and health needs. In addition, as part of the assessment of the community and the community's needs, focus group discussions were conducted with both physicians and community leaders (refer to **Appendix B** for list) in order to ascertain the current health of the community, its health needs, and any programs currently implemented to address these needs.

Community Survey Results

The questions on the community survey focused on health behaviors and concerns. Full results of the survey are included in **Appendix A**. Highlights of the results included the following:

- Approximately 30% of respondents have delayed healthcare for themselves or someone in their household due to lack of money and/ or health insurance.
- Approximately 80% of respondents rated their personal health as “Good” or better.

Approximately 86% of respondents viewed Chouteau County as either “Somewhat Healthy” or “Healthy.” The respondents also indicated substance abuse (i.e., alcohol, drugs, tobacco), mental health, obesity or weight gain, nutrition and physical activity, diabetes management, cancer, and heart disease as the biggest health concerns in the community. In addition, more respondents indicated blood pressure, diabetes management, nutrition advising, and exercise/physical activity as needed free services in the community. Insufficient resources (i.e., no insurance, inability to pay for visits, limited childcare options, and lack of transportation), lack of knowledge (i.e., community medical services unknown or limited specialty/pediatric care), and Fear/Stigma were the biggest issues related to seeking medical care.

Focus Group Discussion Results

The following outlines the top responses received from the interviews in each category. See **Appendix B** for a list of the individuals that participated in the discussions.

1. What are the most serious health issues or concerns in your community?
 - a. Obesity
 - b. Heart Disease
 - c. Diabetes
 - d. Aging
 - e. Alcohol, Tobacco, and Substance Abuse
 - f. Mental Health
 - g. Transportation
 - h. Access to medical series (e.g., pediatric, and geriatric specialty care)

2. What do you think Chouteau County and BMRMC could do to increase the health in the community?
 - a. Need more specialty care available to the public (Dermatology, Gastroenterology, Psychiatry, Nephrology, etc.)
 - b. Increased care coordination and management
 - c. Additional mental health resources
 - d. More access to dental care
 - e. Space for specialty care providers to practice in Chouteau County

3. When it comes to access, what are some strengths of health services offered at Benefis Missouri River Medical Center and elsewhere in the county?
 - a. Primary care and general/family medicine is easily accessible
 - b. Specialty and pediatric care are not available
 - c. Emergency department has extremely low wait times
 - d. Qualified medical staff
 - e. More transportation options are being provided to community members

4. When it comes to quality, what are some strengths of health services offered at Benefis Missouri River Medical Center and elsewhere in the county?
 - a. Well qualified nursing and staff members
 - b. Kind, responsive staff that get effectively manage patients' care
 - c. Modern facilities
 - d. Ease in scheduling new patient and follow-up visits

5. What are some barriers of health services available in the county?
 - a. Specialty care is limited (patients have to travel great distances)
 - b. Limited childcare
 - c. Winter weather and extreme conditions affecting roadways
 - d. Medical staff turnover
 - e. Medical billing issues (e.g., late bills for the wrong amount)
 - f. Low interaction between healthcare community and schools – students aren't aware of available resources

6. Are there new services you would like to see locally?
 - a. Perinatal and Neonatal care
 - b. Increased OBGYN presence
 - c. Occupational therapy
 - d. Specialty care partnerships

7. What are benefits to keeping health services available locally?
 - a. Increased livelihood and health in the area
 - b. Improvement to community's quality of life
 - c. Patients would not have to travel long distances with potentially dangerous weather

8. Why might people leave the community for care?
 - a. No specialty care present
 - b. Prefer anonymity of care – “Know providers too well”
 - c. Do not know level of care services offered

9. How has the Benefis transaction impacted the community?
 - a. Increased advertising has increased health awareness
 - b. Community members fearful of corporate medicine impacting level of local care

10. What are other thoughts and areas that need to be addressed in the community?
 - a. Need more engagement with schools on health initiatives
 - b. More free options (i.e., health fairs, bike programs, etc.) need to be offered. Usually are well represented and attended
 - c. Need increased coordination between ambulance drivers and medical providers
 - d. Home health and/or support groups needed for aging population
 - e. Lack of day care limits activities that women and families can do

Information Gaps

There may be some gaps in the information provided in the support data tables due to the absence of current statistical data available, especially on a county level.

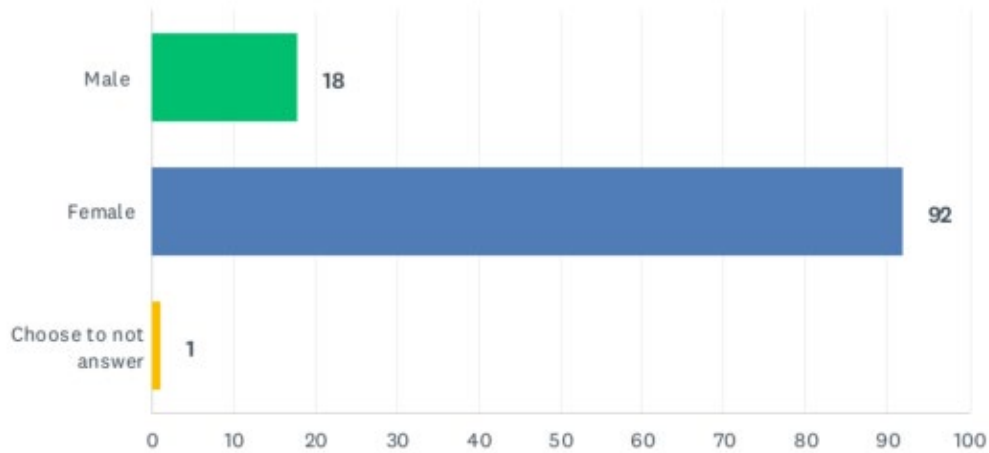
Appendix A: Community Survey Results



The following are the results of the community-wide survey that was conducted during 2023. A total of 112 surveys were returned to BMRMC.²²

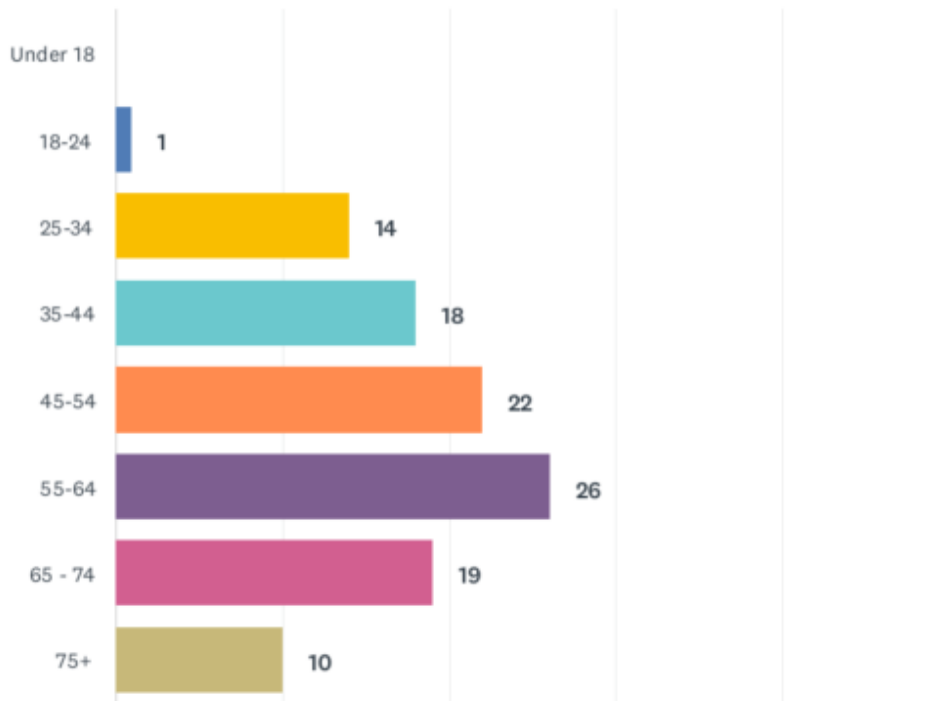
Q1 I am...

Answered: 111 Skipped: 1



Q2 What was your age on your last birthday?

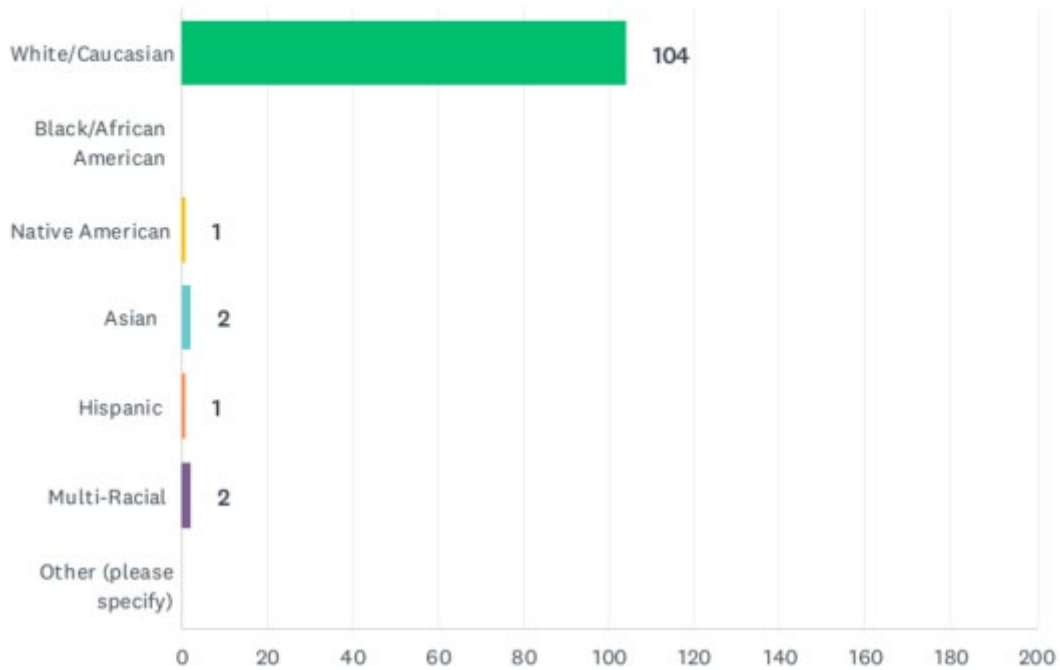
Answered: 110 Skipped: 2



²² The survey was operated by SurveyMonkey and the graphs in **Appendix A** were generated by SurveyMonkey.

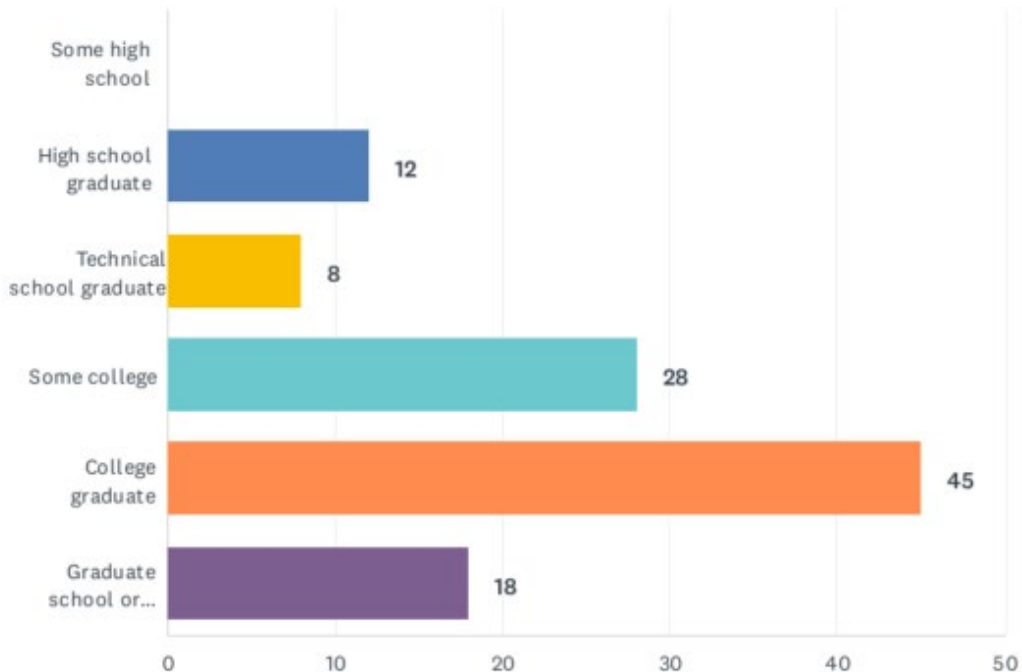
Q3 My racial/ethnic identification is:

Answered: 110 Skipped: 2



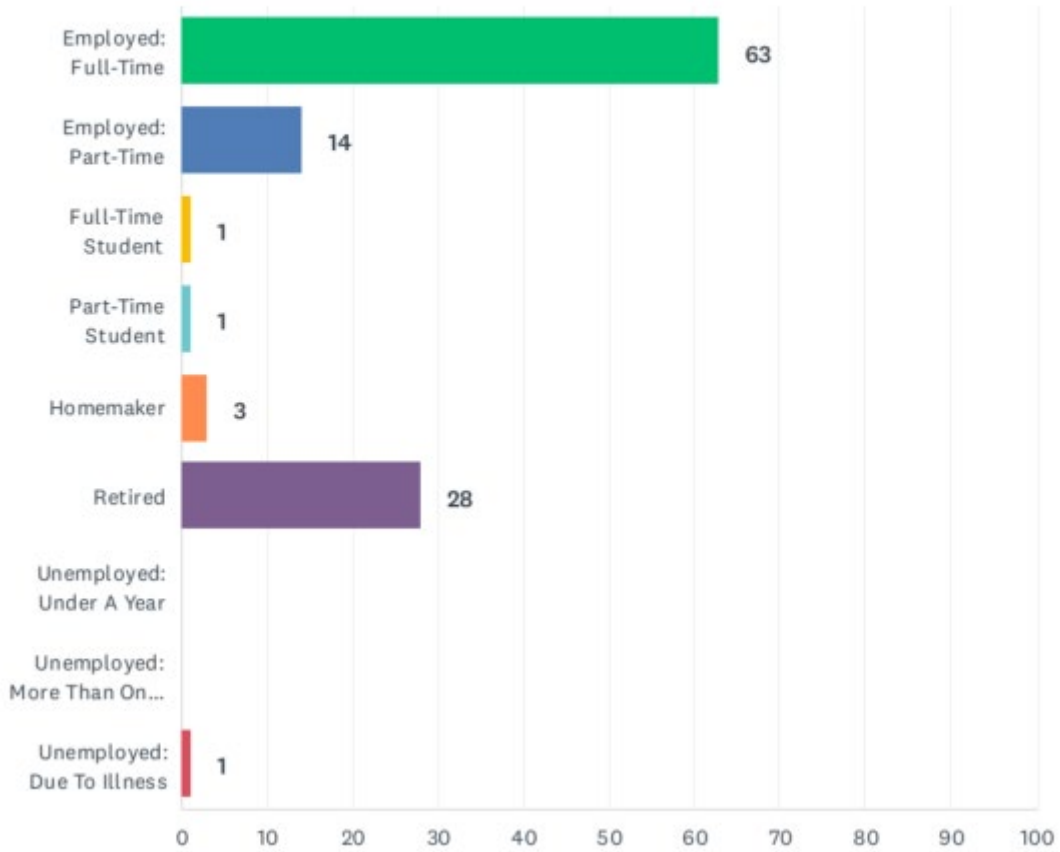
Q4 What is your highest level of education?

Answered: 111 Skipped: 1



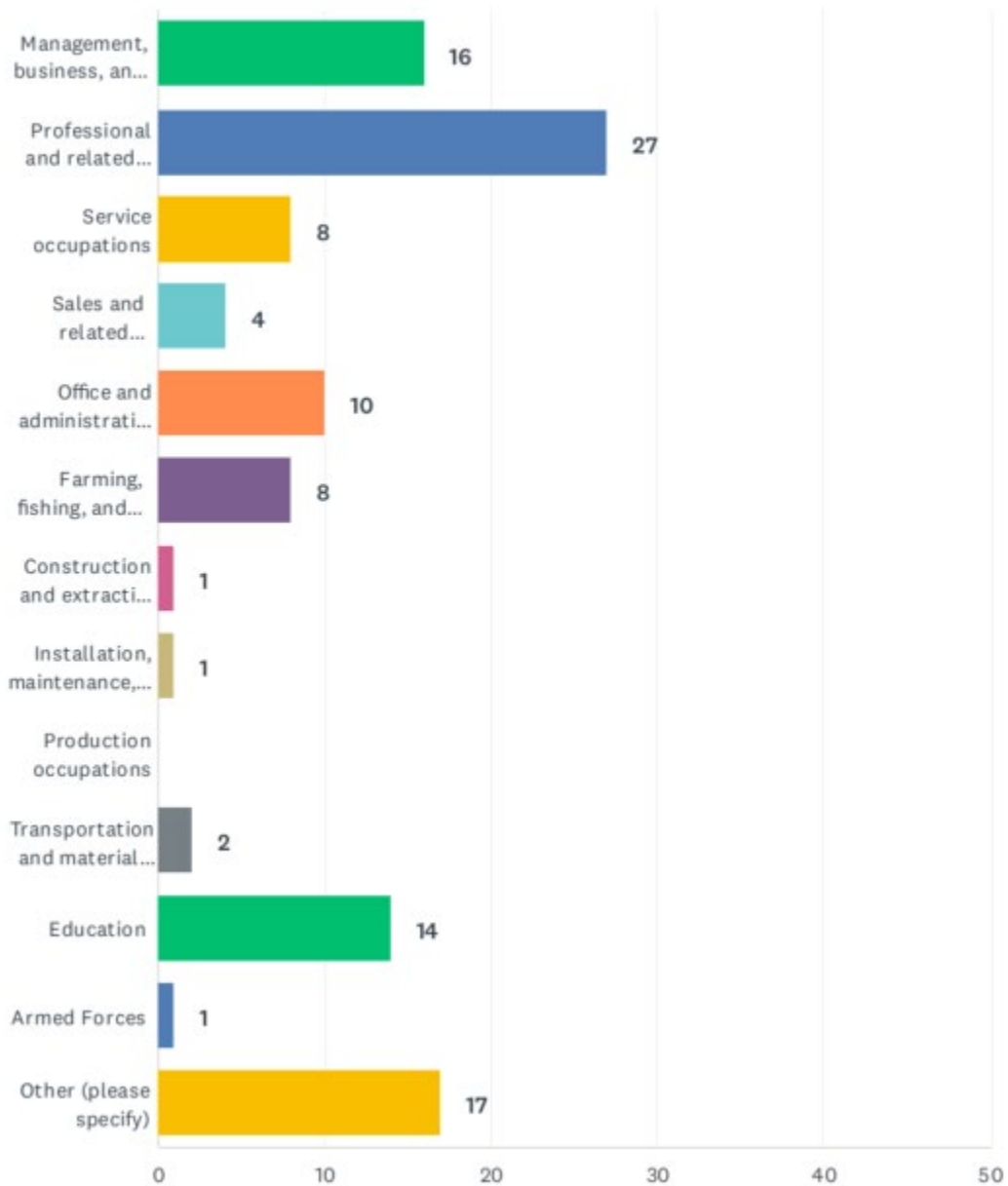
Q5 What is your current employment status?

Answered: 111 Skipped: 1



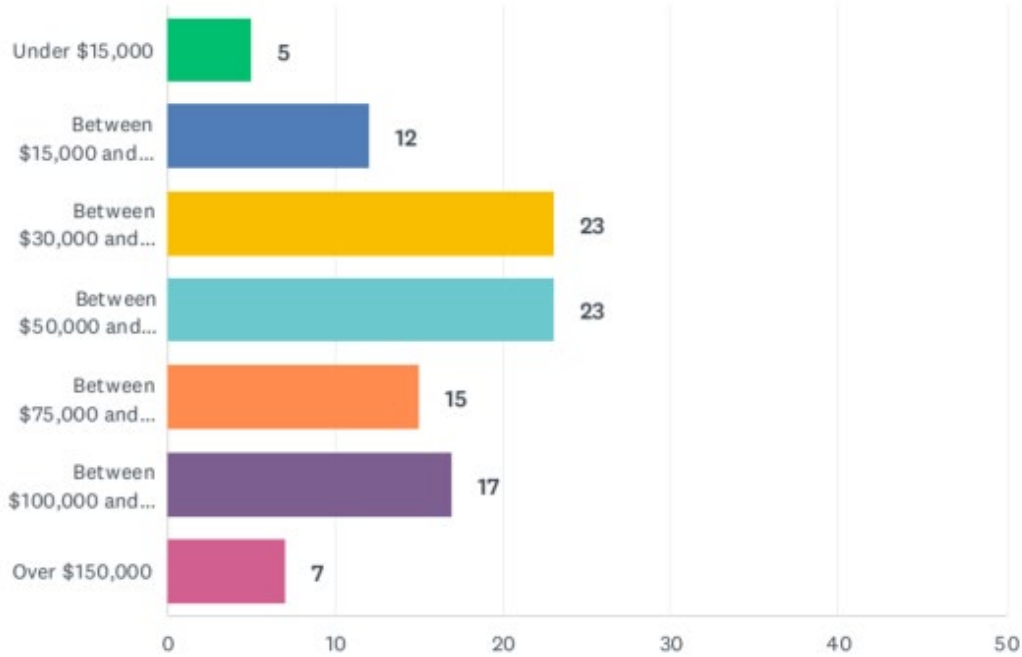
Q6 Which best describes your field?

Answered: 109 Skipped: 3



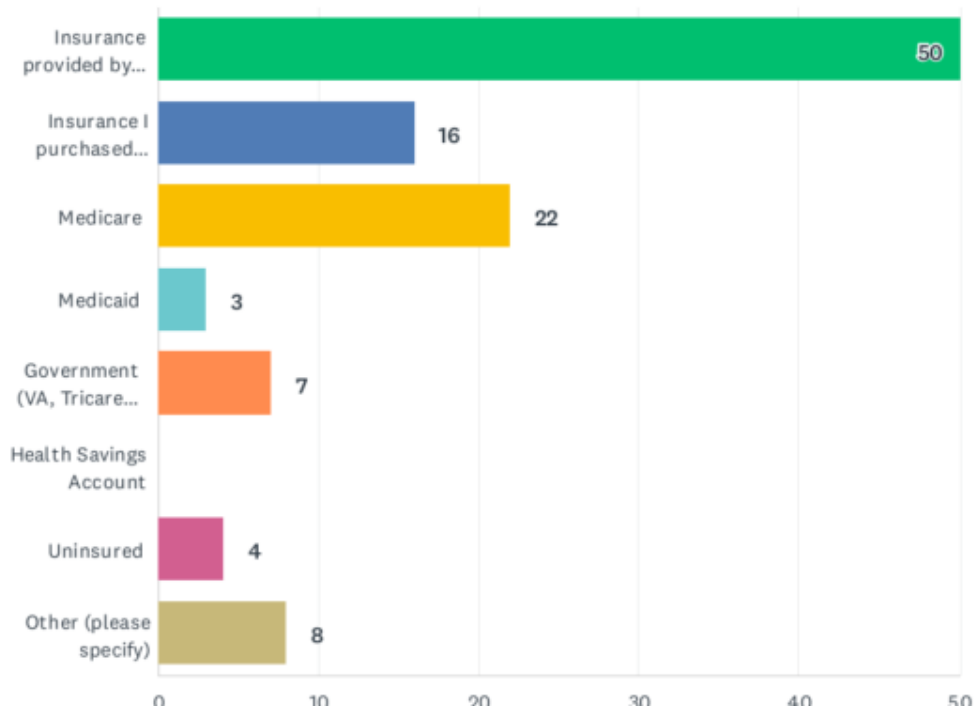
Q7 What is your total yearly household income?

Answered: 102 Skipped: 10



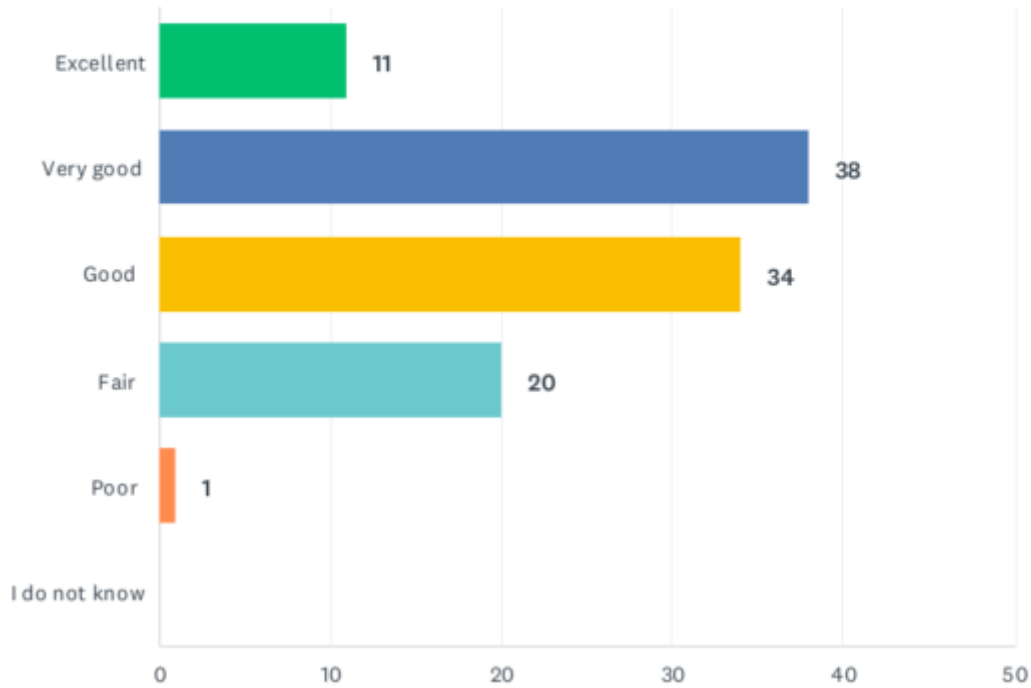
Q8 What is the source of your health insurance coverage?

Answered: 110 Skipped: 2



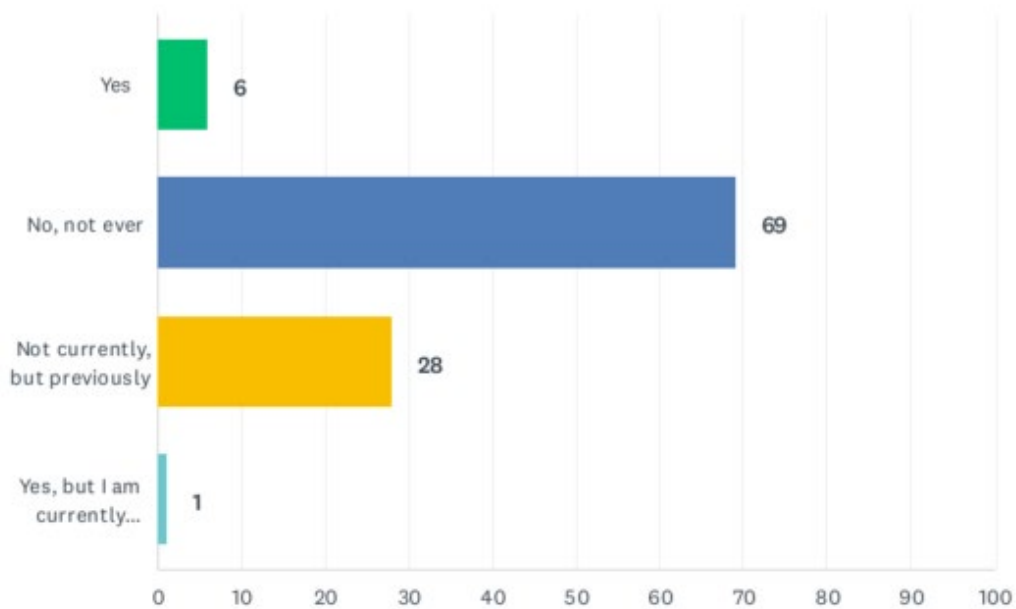
Q9 How would you rate your personal health?

Answered: 104 Skipped: 8



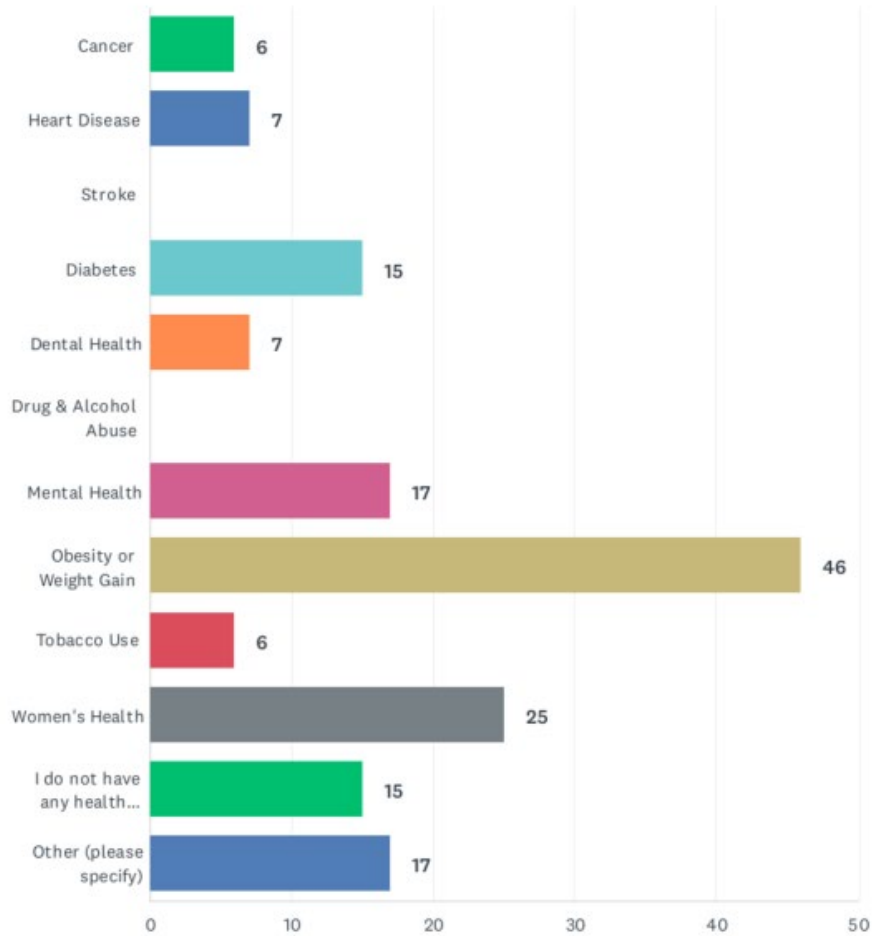
Q10 Are you a smoker?

Answered: 104 Skipped: 8



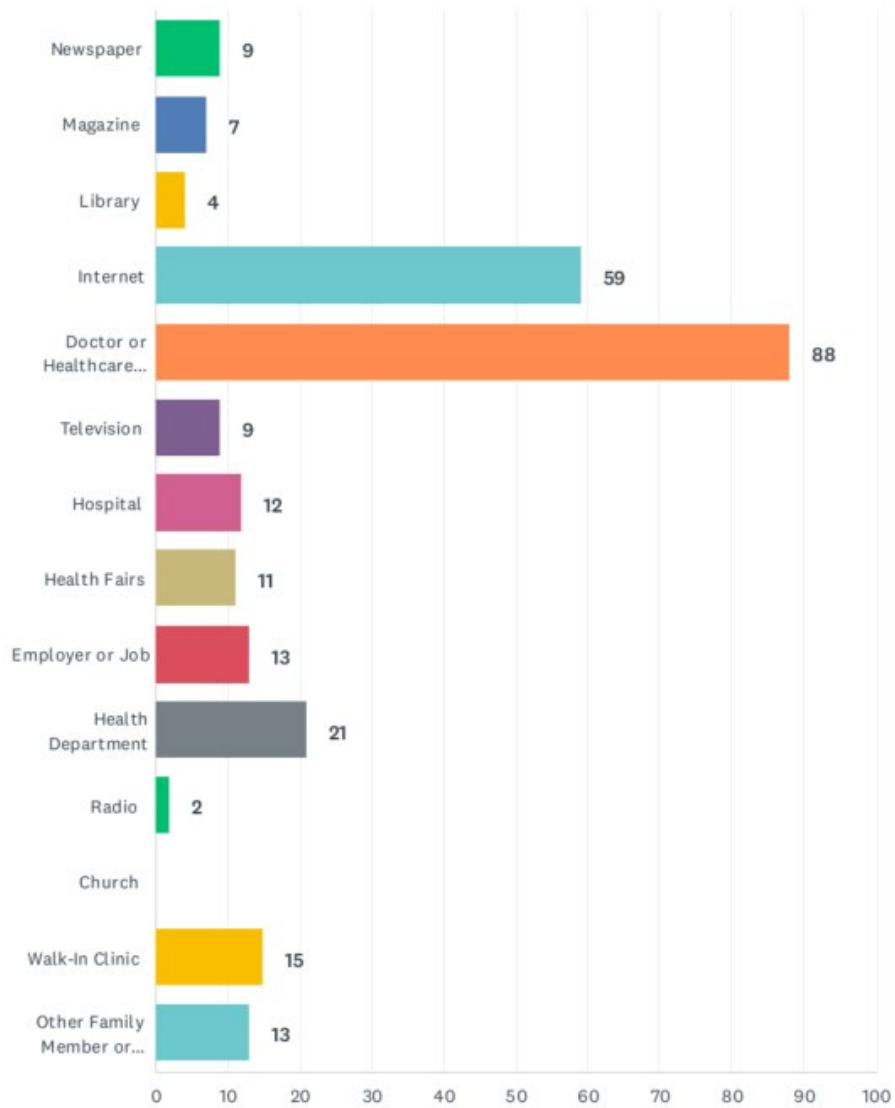
Q11 What are the top health challenges you face? (Choose all that apply)

Answered: 102 Skipped: 10



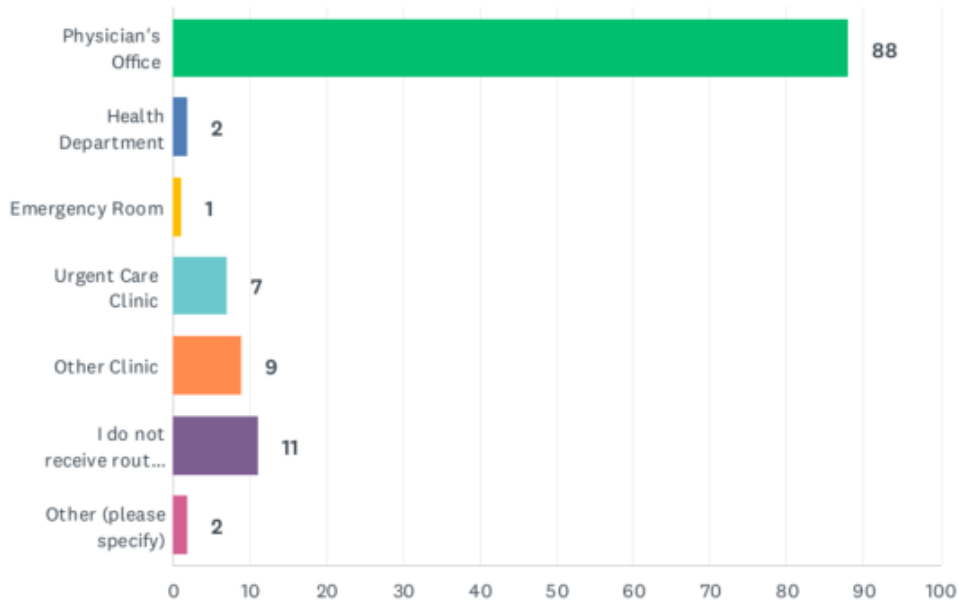
Q12 Where do you or your family get health information? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 103 Skipped: 9



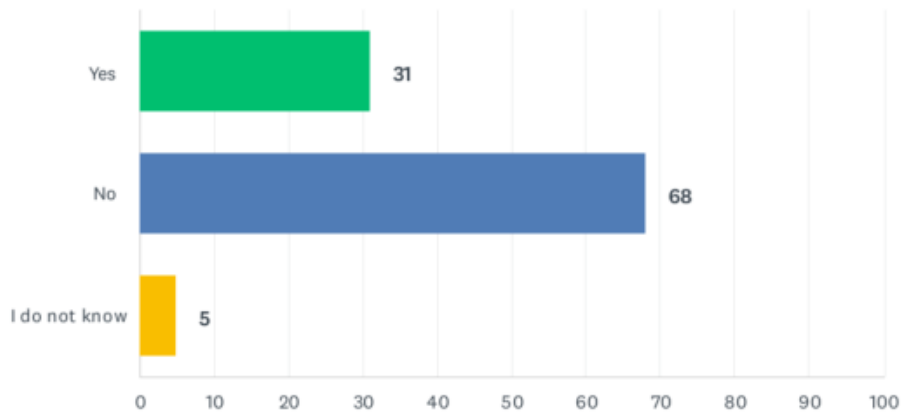
Q13 Where do you go for routine medical care? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 104 Skipped: 8



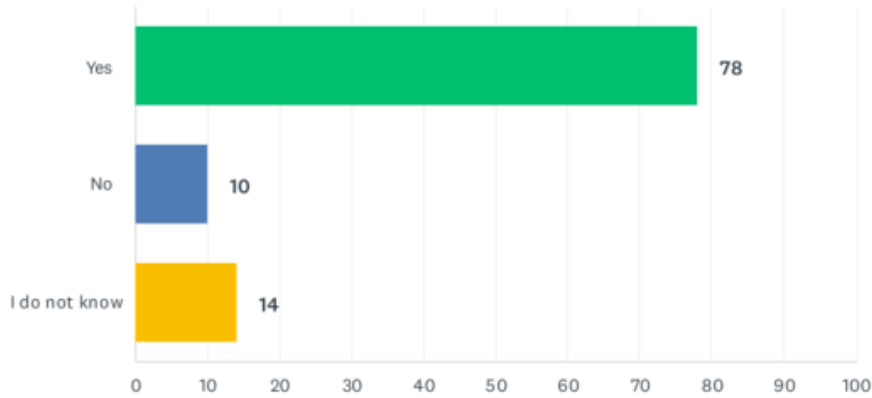
Q14 Have you or someone in your household delayed health care due to lack of money and/or insurance?

Answered: 104 Skipped: 8



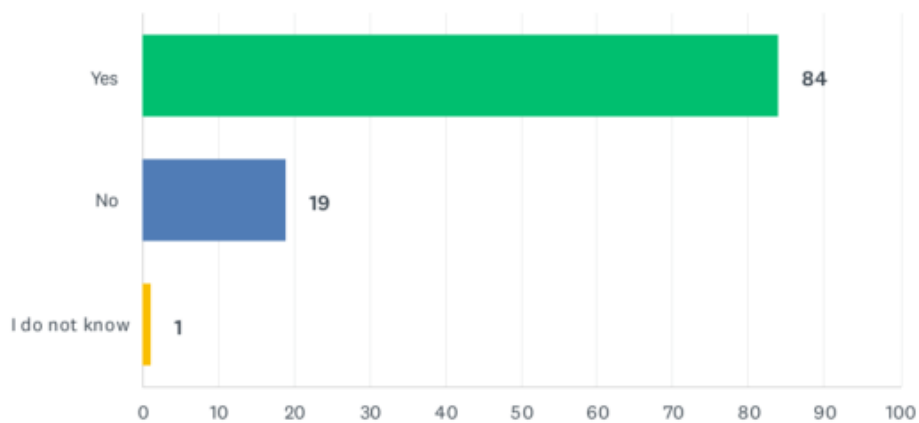
Q15 Are you able to get an appointment with your primary care (family) doctor, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner in Chouteau County when you need one?

Answered: 102 Skipped: 10



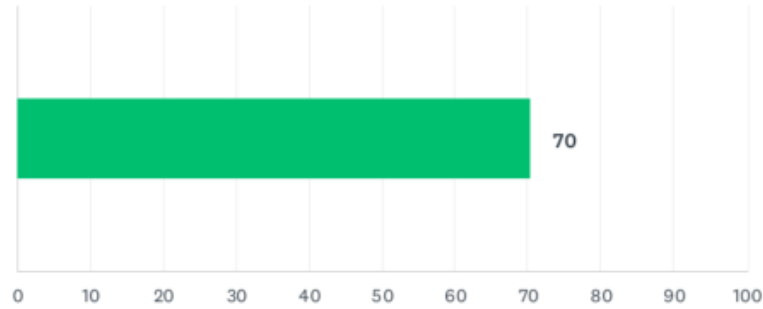
Q16 Have you or someone in your household used medical services in Chouteau County in the past 24 months?

Answered: 104 Skipped: 8



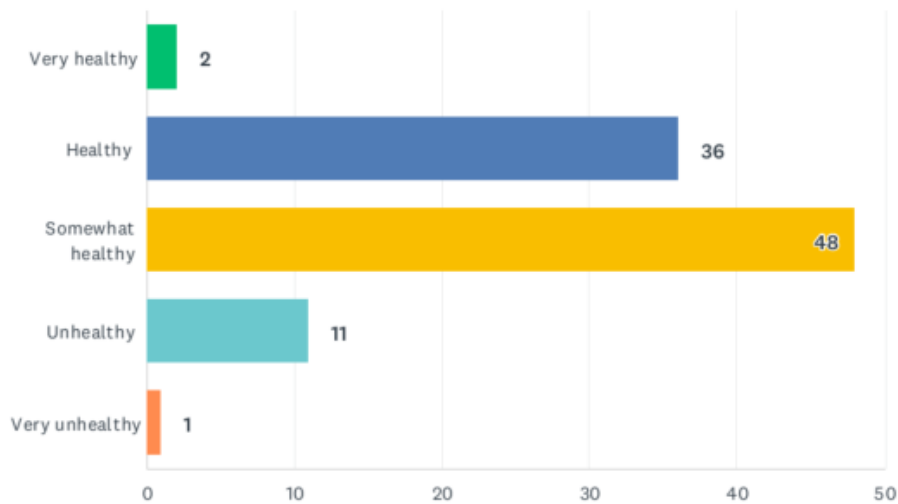
Q17 On a scale of 0 to 100 (0 - Low and 100 - High), how satisfied were you or someone in your household with the quality of physician care (or physician assistant or nurse practitioner) received in Chouteau County?

Answered: 95 Skipped: 17



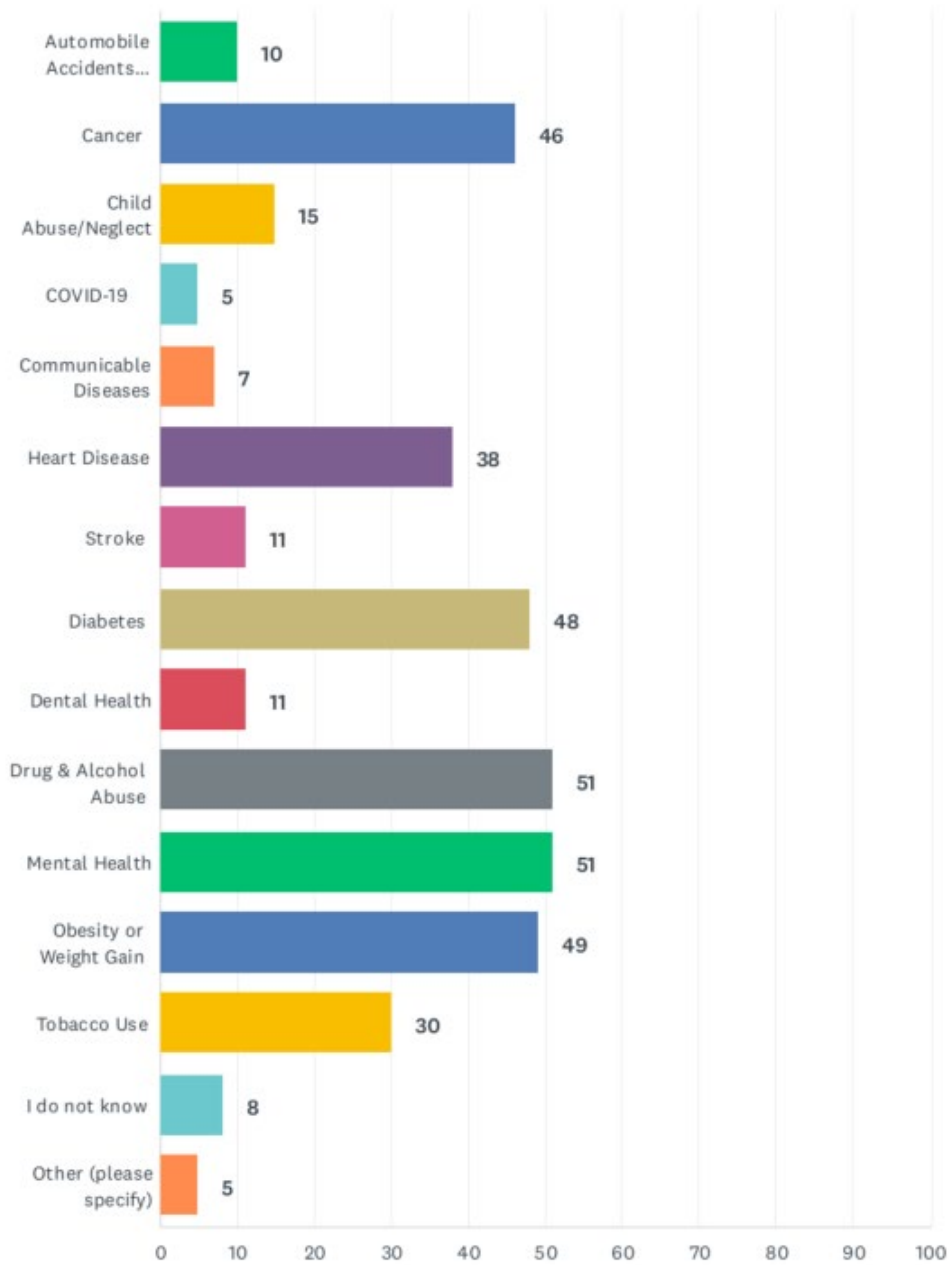
Q18 What is your impression of the general health of Chouteau County?

Answered: 98 Skipped: 14



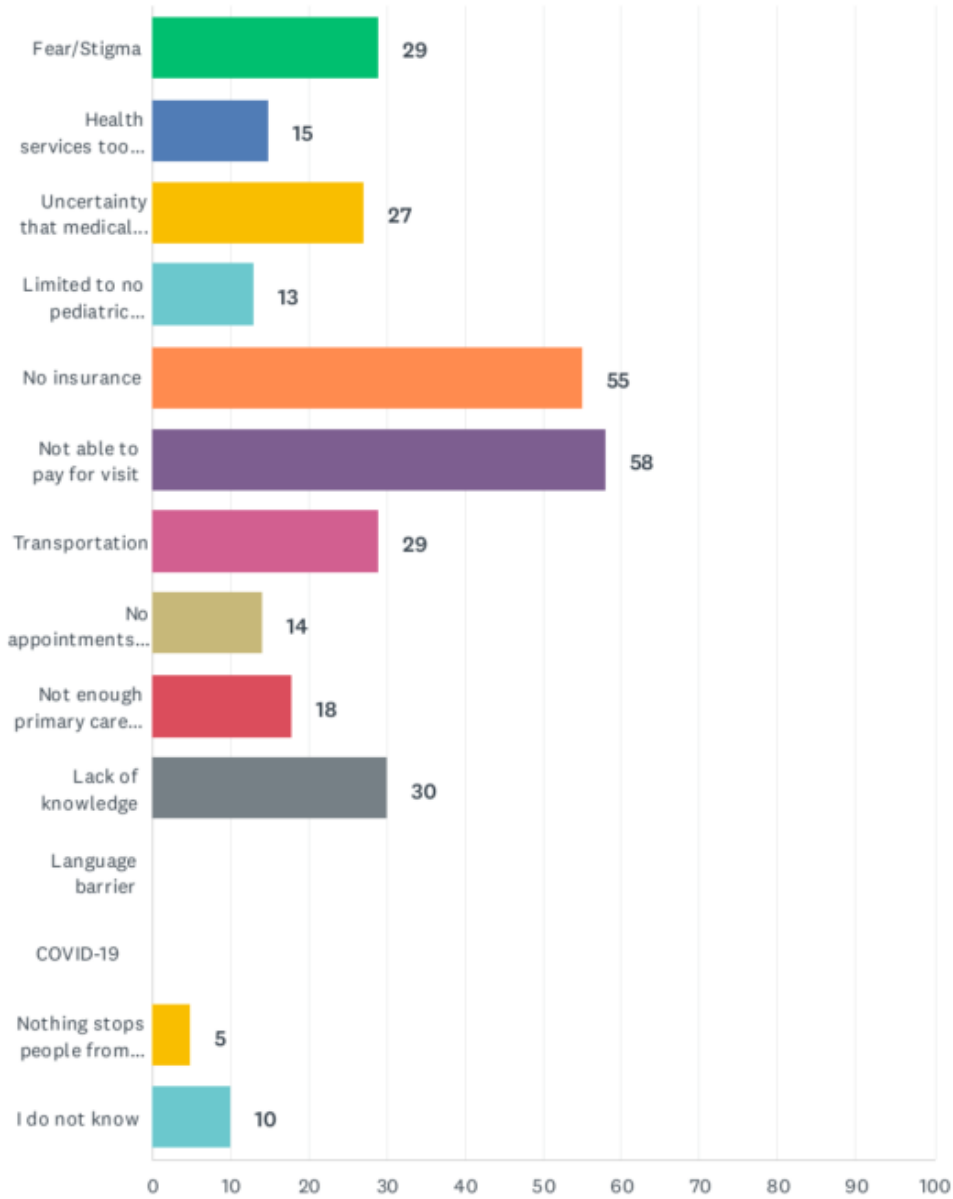
Q19 What do you feel are the biggest health concerns in your community? (Select all that apply)

Answered: 97 Skipped: 15



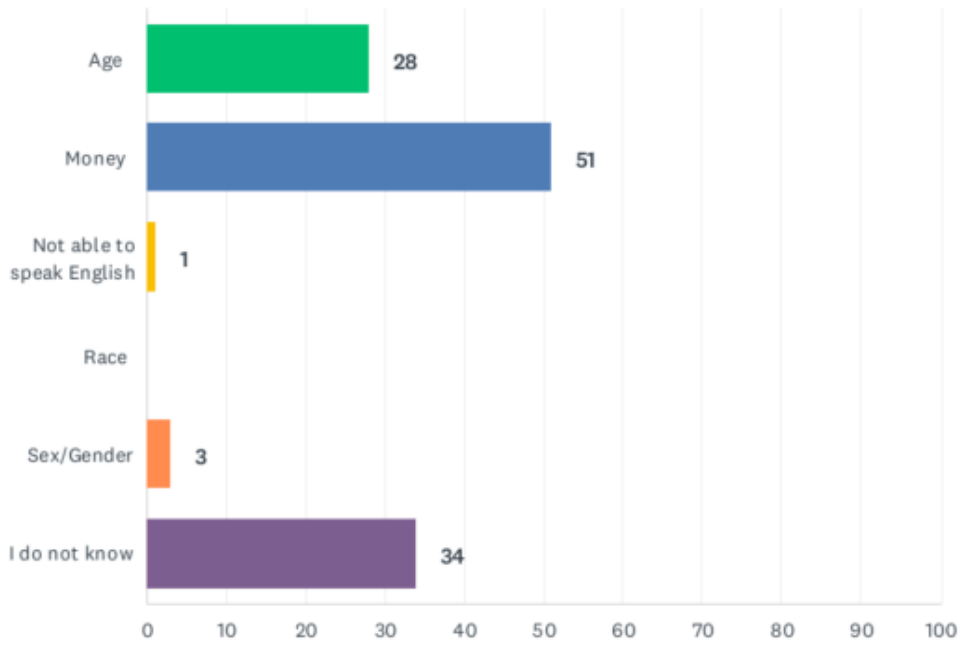
Q20 What do you think stops people in your community from seeking medical care? (Select all that apply)

Answered: 98 Skipped: 14



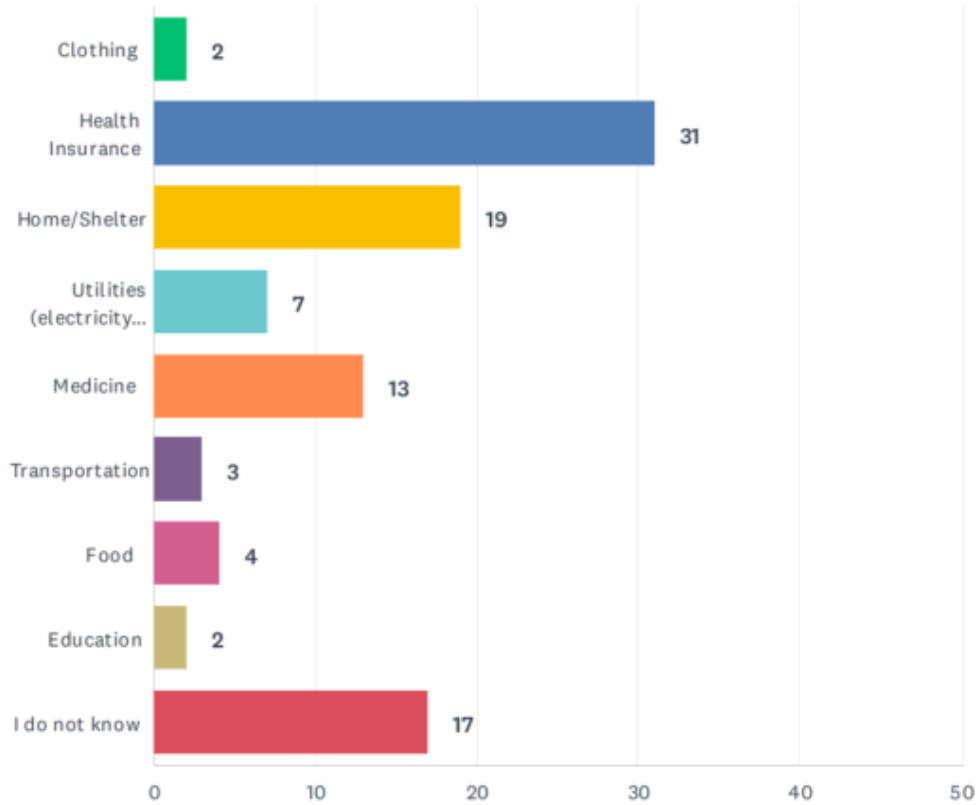
Q21 What do you think most affects the quality of health care you or others in your community receive? (Select all that apply)

Answered: 96 Skipped: 16



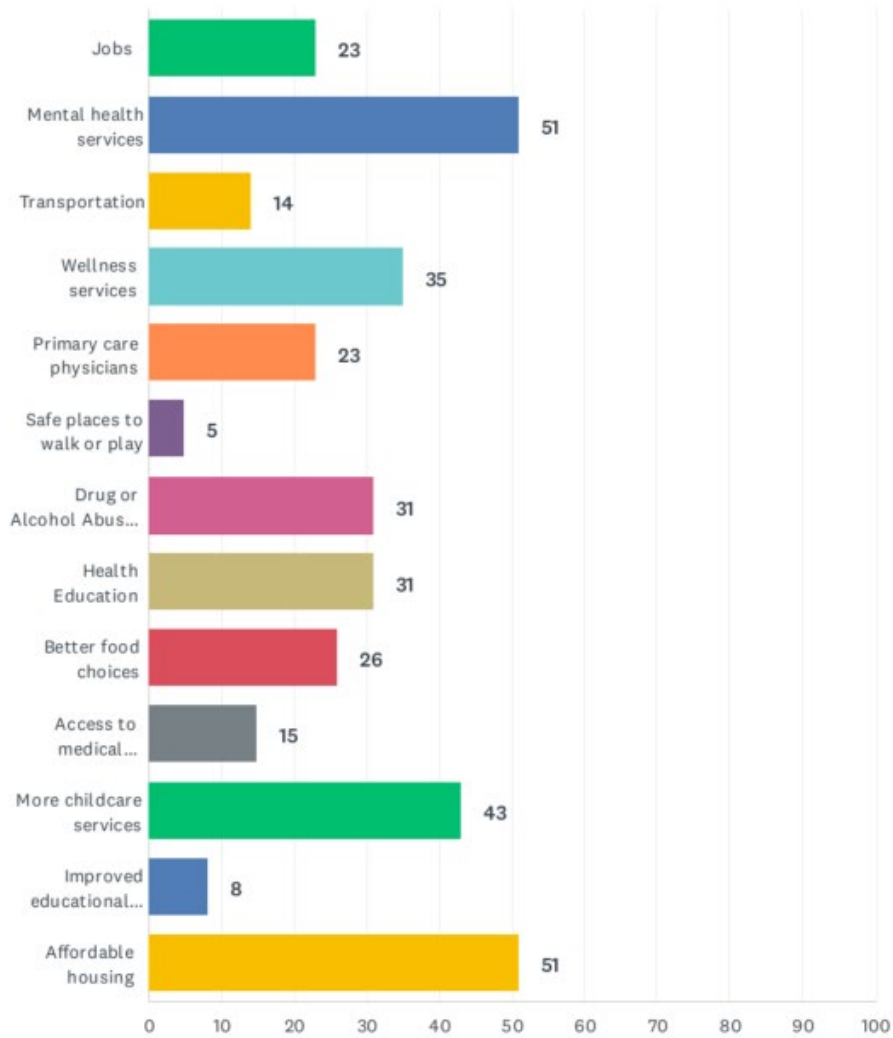
Q22 What do you feel people in your community lack the ability to purchase most?

Answered: 98 Skipped: 14



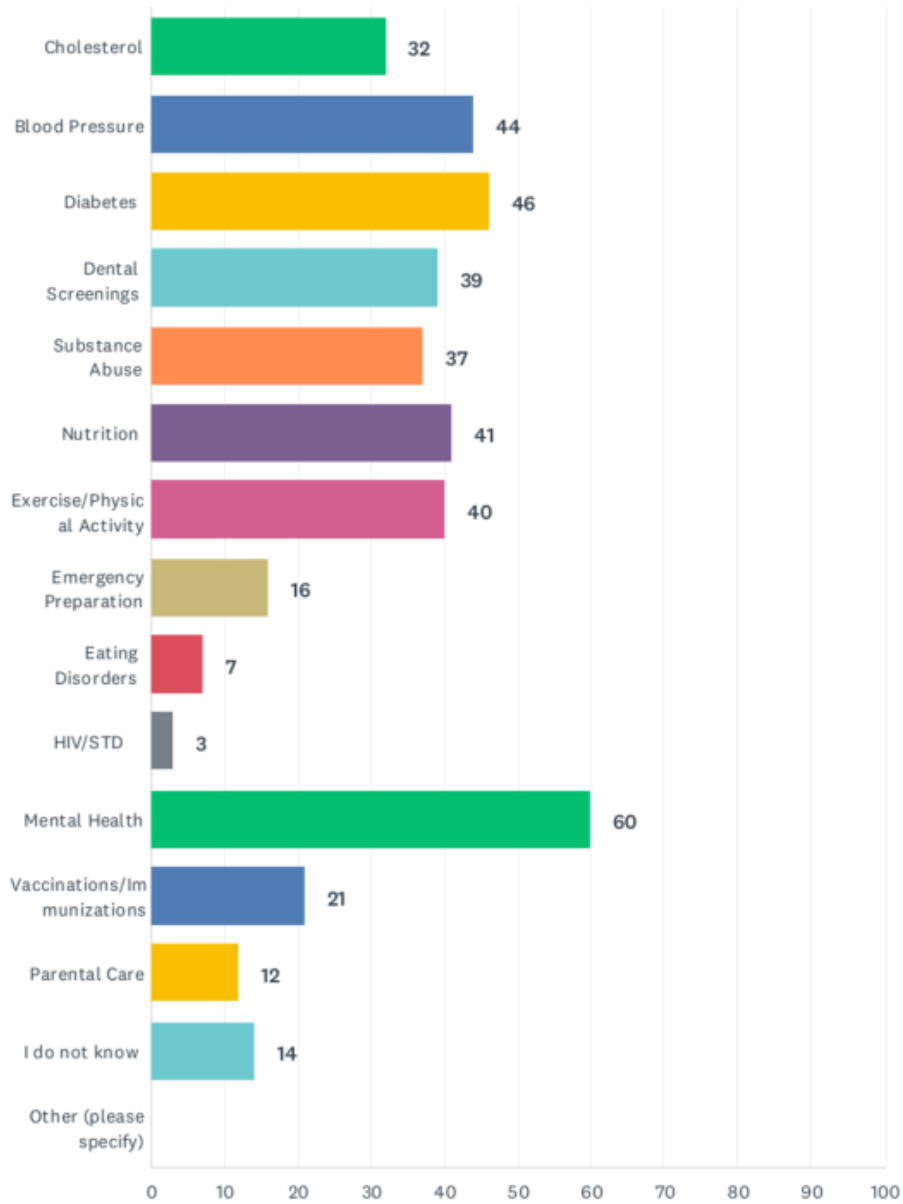
Q23 What should your community focus on to improve its health? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 94 Skipped: 18



Q24 What health screenings, education, or free services are most needed in your community? (Select all that apply)

Answered: 97 Skipped: 15



Appendix B: Focus Group Discussion Participants



Community Leaders

- Janell Barber
 - Works for the Montana State University Extension
 - Previously involved in market/community research in Chouteau County
- Jennifer Rose
 - Human Resources Manager at Ind. Hemp
- Pat Hould
 - Fort Benton Public School Superintendent
- Amber Hurt
 - Ambulance Manager in Chouteau County
 - Senior Care Coordinator and Youth Alliance Substance Prevention at Chouteau County Public Health Department
- Jace Bird, DO
 - Family medicine physician in Fort Benton
 - Serves as Medical Director at BMRMC
- Sissy Felton
 - Director at BMRMC
- Angel Johnson
 - Director at the Chouteau County Department of Public Health
 - Public Health Nurse
- Nancy Lachapelle
 - Director of Community Outreach at Chouteau County Department of Public Health
- Emily Wicks
 - Public Library Director in Fort Benton
- Linda Williams
 - Involved community member
- Kyla Wright
 - LCPC, Mental Health, and WIC Director at Chouteau County Department of Public Health

Appendix C: Service Area County HPSA, MUAs/MUPs



Health Professional Shortage Areas By County²³

The following table highlights HPSAs for each county within BMRMC's service area counties.

Chouteau County, Montana had designated HPSAs in all three disciplines: primary medical care, dental, and mental health.

County Name	County FIPS Code	HPSA ID	HPSA Name	HPSA Discipline Class	Designation Type	HPSA Status	HPSA Designation Last Updated Date
Chouteau County	30015	1307012953	Choteau County	Primary Care	Geographic HPSA	Designated	8/4/2021
Chouteau County	30015	6306006513	Choteau County	Dental Health	Geographic HPSA	Designated	8/4/2021
Chouteau County	30015	7303017282	North-Central Montana	Mental Health	High Needs Geographic HPSA	Designated	9/2/2021

²³ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration website: <http://hpsafind.hrsa.gov/HPSASearch.aspx>.

Medically Underserved Areas And Populations²⁴

The following table highlights medically underserved areas (MUA) for Chouteau County, Montana. The index of medical underservice (IMU) scale is from 0 to 100, where 0 represents completely underserved and 100 represents best served or least underserved. Under the established criteria, Chouteau County, Montana was found to have an IMU of 62.0 or less (55.7), which qualifies the county for designation as an MUA. As reflected below, Chouteau County, Montana is designated as an MUA.

County Name	County FIPS Code	Service Area Name	MUA/P Source ID Number	Designation Type	Index of MUA/P Score	MUA/P Designation Date	MUA/P Update Date
Chouteau County	30015	Chouteau Service Area	01961	Medically Underserved Area	55.7	11/1/1978	11/1/1978

²⁴ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration website: <https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/shortage-area/mua-find>.