

Jasper Memorial Hospital
Community Health Needs Assessment and
Implementation Plan



September 2019

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About Jasper Memorial Hospital

Jasper Health Services, Inc. located in Monticello, GA operates Jasper Memorial Hospital (JM), The Retreat Nursing Home, and Primary Care Center of Monticello. Jasper Memorial Hospital is a 17-bed critical access hospital and is the sole hospital and emergency room provider in Jasper County. Jasper Memorial Hospital provides care for inpatient, outpatient, and emergency room patients. JM is accredited by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and participates as a provider for both Medicare and Medicaid. The emergency room at JM is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Laboratory and radiology services are also available including, x-ray, ultrasound, and CT scan. Planned expansion of radiology services includes the addition of mammography and bone density scanning capabilities. These services are scheduled for implementation in the fall of 2019. Occupational, physical, and speech therapy services are available to JM patients requiring those services. The Retreat is a 55-bed skilled nursing facility and is the sole facility of its type in the county.

Jasper Memorial Hospital owns and operates Primary Care Center of Monticello. Primary Care Center is a family practice, primary care clinic, providing medical services on an outpatient basis. The clinic provides evaluation and treatment to patients of all ages and varying levels of illness.

Board of Directors

Alison Hildebrant
Board Chair

Dr. Nicole Ross
Medical Staff Chair

David Leach

Ruby Griggs

The Mission of Jasper Memorial Hospital

The mission of Jasper Memorial Hospital is to provide high quality healthcare and health education services to the citizens of Jasper County and the surrounding areas.

A Greeting from the Chairman

Dear Friends,

Jasper Memorial Hospital is pleased to present the 2019 Community Health Needs Assessment and Implementation Plan. With input from a broad range of committed citizens, gathered via interviews and an on-line survey, we have identified and prioritized the community health needs of Jasper County. JM is committed to working collaboratively with other local and regional organizations to implement strategies that advance the health and wellness of the residents of Jasper County.

The Board of Directors has adopted the 2019 Community Health Needs Implementation Plan and is committed to leveraging our existing programs, services, and resources to improve the health of the community that we serve.

Warm Regards,

Alison Hildebrant
Chairman, Jasper Health Services, Inc.

Acknowledgement

Jasper Memorial Hospital's Community Health Needs Assessment and Implementation Plan was developed by JMH staff with the assistance of LEGACY CONSULTING GROUP and generous input from a broad group of individuals representing the health interests of the residents of Jasper County, Georgia.

The individuals listed below contributed immeasurable value in the formation of this report, providing professional knowledge, expert medical information, and community input regarding the health needs of Jasper County. Jasper Memorial Hospital would like to acknowledge these individuals and thank them for their generous time and contributions to this assessment.

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Purpose and Scope

The purpose of Jasper Memorial Hospital's community health needs assessment (CHNA) and implementation plan is to enhance the health and wellness of individuals living in the communities of Jasper County.

Approach and Process

Jasper Memorial Hospital's approach to achieving community health improvement priorities follows a six-step process designed to be updated every three years to assess progress in addressing the health needs of the community. It begins with defining JMH's target community, and then assessing the health needs of the community using available health data and input from a broad range of advocates representing the health interests of the residents within the community. Input is gathered via face-to-face interviews and an on-line community survey.

From analysis of data and community input, the health needs are identified and prioritized. The leadership at Jasper Memorial Hospital meets to develop strategies and plans to address the identified health need priorities. These strategies and plans are then implemented and reported to the public via the hospital's website as Jasper Memorial Hospital's Community Health Needs Assessment and Implementation Plan.



Jasper Memorial Hospital's Community

As the sole provider of inpatient and emergency room care in the county, Jasper Memorial Hospital defines its community as Jasper County.

Demographics of Jasper County

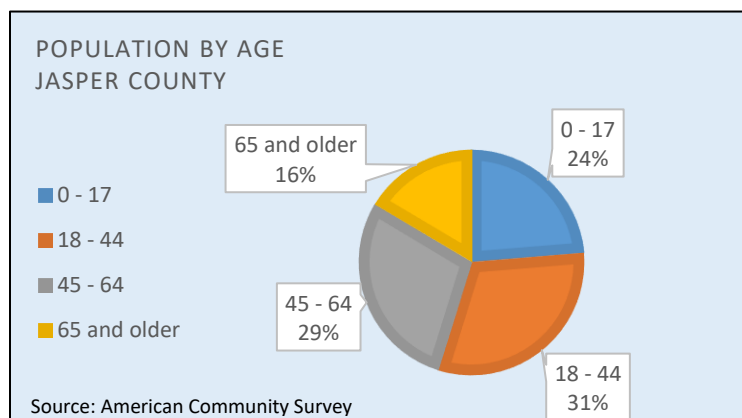
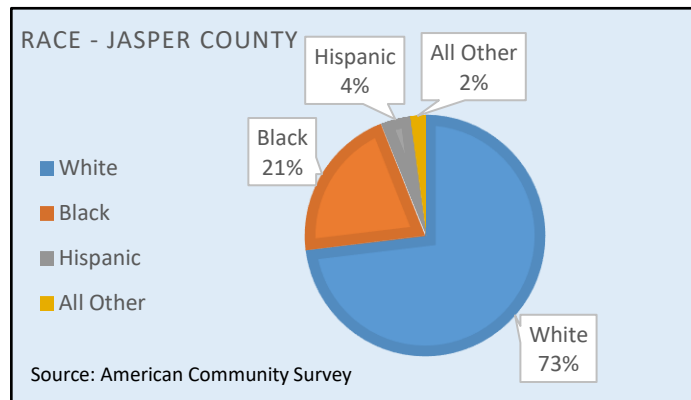
Jasper County is a rural county consisting of 373 square miles. The county seat of Monticello is located approximately 60 miles southeast of Atlanta and 35 miles north of Macon.

Jasper County Population	13,732
Median Age	42.2
Median Household Income	\$42,067
Foreign Born Population	3%
Individuals Below Poverty Level	19.4%

Source: American Community Survey

According to the Georgia Rural Health Association, Georgia has 108 rural counties. Poverty rates for rural counties exceed those in urban counties by 58%. Rural counties have approximately half as many physicians and dramatic shortages of nurses, therapists, and nutritionists (per capita) as the metro counties. The death rate is higher in rural areas than the urban county rate.

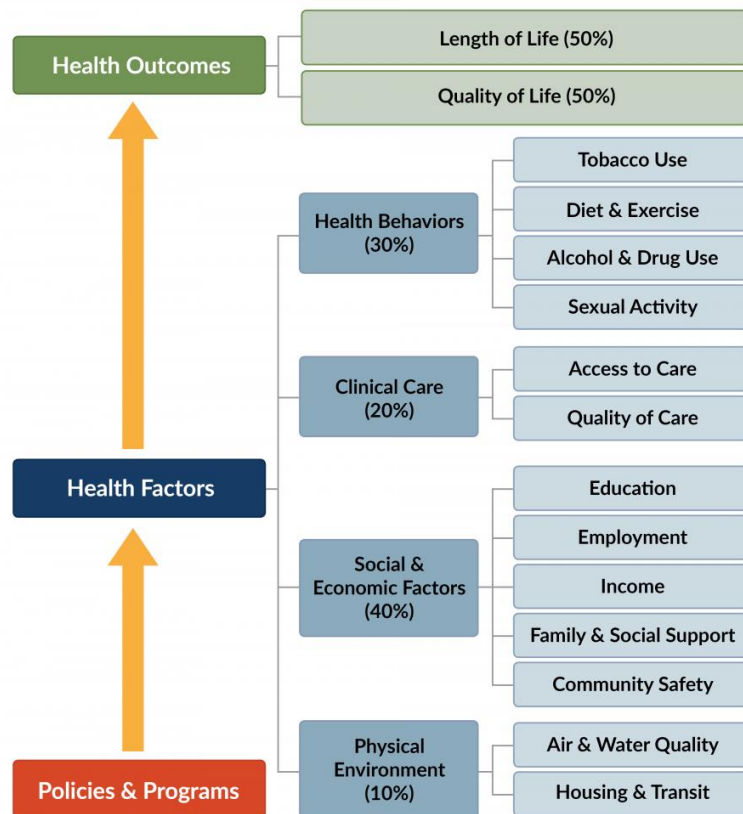
Across the country there are significant differences in health outcomes, from one county to the next and among racial/ethnic groups. Health disparities emerge when some individuals gain more than others—from consistently better access to opportunities and resources over the course of their lives. Increasing opportunities for everyone can reduce gaps in health. (Source: County Health Rankings)



Aging adults experience higher risk of chronic disease. In 2012, 60% of older adults managed 2 or more chronic conditions. Common chronic conditions include: heart disease, cancer, stroke, bronchitis, diabetes, and Alzheimer's. (Source: Healthy People 2020)

Understanding and Measuring Health

Many factors affect how well and how long we live. Conditions in the places where people live, learn, work, and play affect a wide range of health risks and outcomes. These conditions are known as social determinants of health (SDOH). Grouping common health factors helps to demonstrate the degree of impact on health outcomes. According to County Health Rankings, the four primary areas that impact health are: socioeconomic factors, clinical care, physical environment, and health behaviors. Each of these areas has a different impact on health. For instance, only 20% of a person's health is related to clinical care. The remaining 80% is related to socioeconomic factors, physical environment, and health behaviors.



County Health Rankings model © 2014 UWPHI

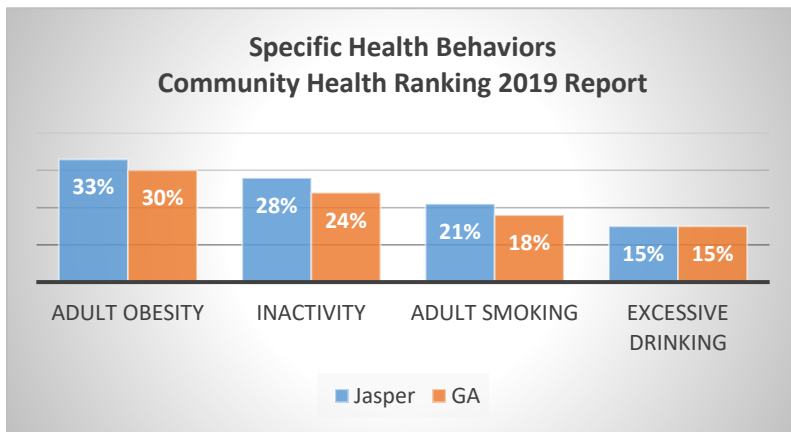
According to Health People 2020, health starts in our homes, schools, workplaces, neighborhoods, and communities. We know that taking care of ourselves by eating well and staying active, not smoking, getting the recommended immunizations and screening tests, and seeing a doctor when we are sick all influence our health. Our health is also determined in part by access to social and economic opportunities; the resources and supports available in our homes, neighborhoods, and communities; the quality of our schooling; the safety of our workplaces; the cleanliness of our water, food, and air; and the nature of our social interactions and relationships. The conditions in which we live explain in part why some Americans are healthier than others and why Americans more generally are not as healthy as they could be.

In order to improve health, it is important to understand and measure the social determinants of health in the Jasper County community. Within each of the four categories (Behavior, Clinical Care, Socioeconomics, and Environment) are additional individual factors that impact health. The County Health Ranking model can be used as a guideline to develop a health profile of a community. The following pages provide a closer look at the social determinants of health for Jasper County with emphasis on areas of concern as identified through community input.

Health Profile of Jasper County – Health Behaviors

30% of an individual’s health is related to health behaviors. Health behaviors are actions individuals take that affect their health. The affect can be positive or negative. Health behaviors influence health outcomes to a greater degree than clinical care so it is important to understand and work to improve health behaviors. Improving healthy habits such as eating well and being physically active contribute to improved health. Eliminating or reducing unhealthy habits such as smoking, excessive alcohol intake, and risky sexual behavior can also contribute to improved health.

Key informants indicate that the health behaviors that they are most concerned about are: substance abuse, tobacco use, obesity, poor nutritional choices, and lack of physical activity.



In the United States, many of the leading causes of death and disease are attributed to unhealthy behaviors. For example, poor nutrition and low levels of physical activity are associated with higher risk of cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, and obesity. Tobacco use is associated with heart disease, cancer, and poor pregnancy outcomes. Excessive alcohol use is associated with injuries, certain types of cancers, and cirrhosis. (Source: County Health Rankings)

Health Profile of Jasper County – Social and Economic Factors

40% of an individual’s health is related to their social and economic factors. Social and economic factors impact health outcomes more than any other single category. Social and economic factors include education, employment, income, family and social support, and community safety.

In 2013-2017, the median household income in Jasper County was \$42,067. This is lower than the same statistic for the state of \$52,977. The percent of residents living in poverty was 19.4 for Jasper County as compared to 16.9 for the state of Georgia.

Households that pay thirty percent or more of their income on housing costs are considered cost burdened.

Cost-burdened households in Jasper County accounted for 41.5% of owners with a mortgage, 11.5% of owners without a mortgage, and 48.6% of renters. (Source: American Community Survey).

Based upon community input, the most significant socioeconomic issue impacting health for Jasper County residents is the ability to pay for healthcare services and medications. This concern is not limited to those living in poverty and the uninsured. High health insurance premiums, deductibles, co-pays, and the high cost of medications were frequently mentioned by key informants as barriers to care. Households without a reliable source of transportation were also identified as an area of concern. 7.2% of households in Jasper County did not have a vehicle for personal use (Source: American Community Survey).

Indicator	Jasper	GA
Median Household Income	\$42,067	\$52,977
Population in Poverty	19.4%	16.9%
Unemployment	4.3%	4.7%
Uninsured	18%	15%
High School Graduation Rate	77%	81%

Source: County Health Rankings, American Community Survey

Health Profile of Jasper County – Clinical Care

20% of an individual's health is related to clinical care. Access to affordable, quality, and timely health care can help prevent diseases and detect issues sooner, enabling individuals to live longer, healthier lives. Those without regular access to quality providers and care are often diagnosed at later, less treatable stages of a disease and overall, have worse health outcomes, lower quality of life, and higher mortality rates.

Jasper County is designated by the Department of Health and Human Services as a Medically Underserved Area (MUA). It is also a designated Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) for primary care, mental health, and dental care. A HPSA is a geographic area, population group, or health care facility that has been designated by the Federal government as having a shortage of health professionals. This shortage of health professionals can affect an individual's access to healthcare services.

Despite these designated shortages, Jasper County residents have several local options for primary care services including: Primary Care Center of Monticello, Jasper County Health Department, and Venture Medical Associates. Inpatient care, emergency care, and skilled nursing care are all available locally at JMH. JMH participates in numerous quality initiatives and is a provider organization in the TC2 Accountable Care Organization. Through a collaborative care delivery model, TC2 strives to improve clinical outcomes and cost effectiveness for residents in middle and South Georgia.

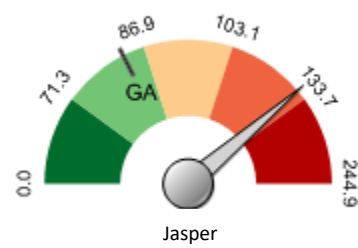
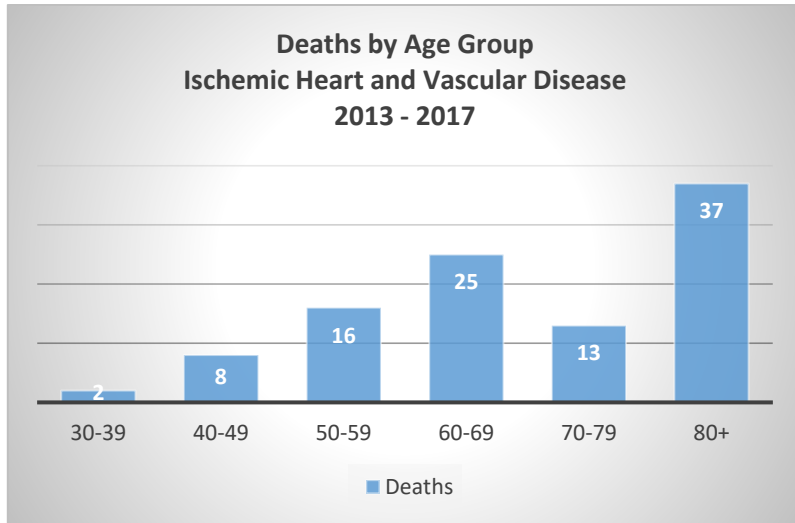
The specialty care services that are not available locally are available in the region through a variety of healthcare systems and private practice providers. Utilization patterns indicate that Jasper County residents receive emergency care and inpatient care at numerous facilities in the region.

The following section on Health Outcomes will take a closer look at those clinical conditions that have a significant impact on the health of Jasper County residents.

Health Outcomes – Cardiovascular Disease

Heart disease, stroke, and high blood pressure are all types of cardiovascular disease. For the time period of 2013 – 2017, 21% of deaths in Jasper County were caused by cardiovascular disease. 48% of those deaths occurred in the population age 69 or younger. The age adjusted death rate for cardiovascular disease in Jasper County of 190.2 is higher than the rate for rural GA (179.2) and the state (155.7). (Source: OASIS)

A closer look at cardiovascular disease statistics for Jasper County reveals that the majority of deaths in this category are from ischemic heart and vascular disease. Ischemic heart and vascular disease is the number one ranked cause of death in Jasper County. It is also the number one ranked cause of premature death. Premature death is defined as deaths occurring prior to age 75. It is the third ranked cause of inpatient care. The age-adjusted death rate for ischemic heart and vascular disease in Jasper County of 127.9 is higher than the rate for rural GA (103.7) and the state (82.9). For the period 2013-2017, there were 101 deaths of Jasper County residents from ischemic heart and vascular disease. 50% of these deaths were in the population age 69 and younger. (Source: OASIS)



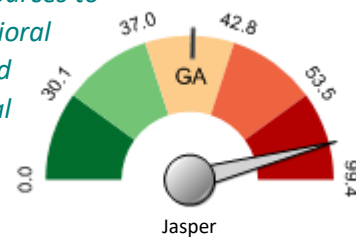
The graphic above shows the Georgia Age-Adjusted Death Rate to be 82.9. The Age-Adjusted Death Rate for Jasper County is 127.9. Additional values on the gauge represent percentiles from the lowest county rate to the highest county rate. (Source: OASIS)

In order to reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease, the American Heart Association encourages all Americans to focus on prevention and lead a heart-healthy life. Starting with even small changes can help reduce the risk of heart disease.

Health Outcomes – Mental and Behavioral Health

Mental and behavioral health is a very broad diagnostic category. According to the CDC, mental health and mental illness are not the same thing. A person can experience poor mental health and not be diagnosed with a mental illness. Mental illnesses are conditions that affect a person’s thinking, feeling, mood or behavior. Mental illness can be diagnosed in the pediatric, adult, and geriatric populations.

While it is difficult to capture county level statistics on the prevalence of all mental and behavioral health conditions, key informants consistently ranked this issue of high concern for all age, race, and socioeconomic groups. Specific areas of concerns include substance abuse, behavior disorders in the pediatric and adolescent population, and dementia in the geriatric population. Access to local, affordable, comprehensive mental health treatment is also a stated area of concern. There is broad consensus from advocates representing the community that Jasper County lacks the resources to adequately address the needs of individuals with mental and behavioral health conditions. Barriers to care include the lack of locally based treatment and providers, the lack of insurance coverage or financial means to pay for care, transportation difficulties, and the stigma surrounding mental health conditions.



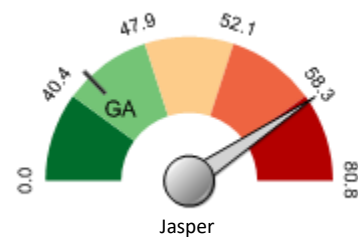
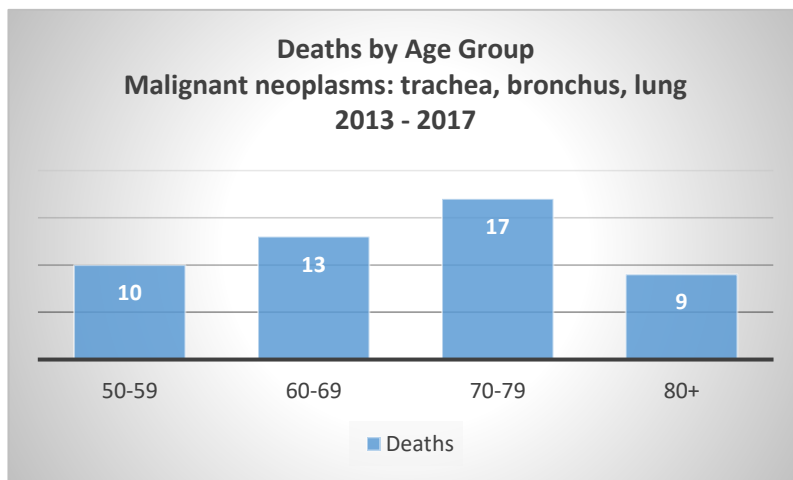
Mental and behavioral disorders is the third leading cause of death in Jasper County. The age-adjusted death rate for mental and behavioral disorders in Jasper County of 62, is higher than the rate for rural GA (41.9) and the state (39.4). This death rate places Jasper County in the top 20th percentile of all GA counties. Total deaths for the period 2013-2017 were 42. 76% of these deaths were in the population age 80 and older. (Source: OASIS)

The graphic above shows the Georgia Age-Adjusted Death Rate to be 39.4. The Age-Adjusted Death Rate for Jasper County is 62.0. Additional values on the gauge represent percentiles from the lowest county rate to the highest county rate. (Source: OASIS)

Health Outcomes – Cancer

Malignant neoplasms, commonly referred to as cancer, caused 20% of the deaths in Jasper County for the period 2013 – 2017. The age-adjusted death rate for malignant neoplasms in Jasper County of 168.7 is higher than the rate for rural GA (139.1) and the state (127.2). The age-adjusted incidence rate for all cancers in Jasper County of 503 is higher than the incidence rate for the state of 464 (Source: CDC Cancer Statistics 2011-2015). A closer look at cancer statistics for Jasper County reveals that lung, colon, and breast cancer are the leading causes of cancer deaths. (Source: OASIS)

Lung cancer is the second leading cause of death in Jasper County. It is the third leading cause of premature death (deaths occurring prior to the age of 75). The age-adjusted death rate for Jasper County of 58.5 is higher than the rate for rural GA (50.5) and the state (42.2). This death rate places Jasper County in the top 20th percentile of all GA counties. (Source: OASIS)



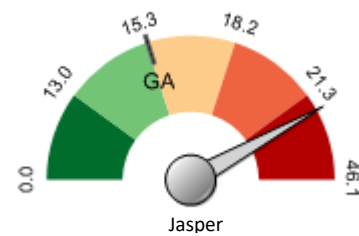
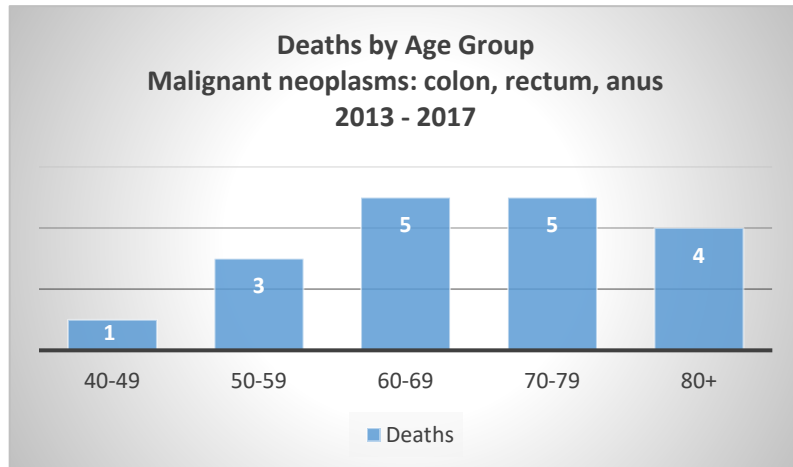
The graphic above shows the Georgia Age-Adjusted Death Rate to be 42.2. The Age-Adjusted Death Rate for Jasper County is 58.5. Additional values on the gauge represent percentiles from the lowest county rate to the highest county rate. (Source: OASIS)

For the period 2013 – 2017, there were 49 deaths of Jasper County residents from lung cancer. 47% of these deaths were in the population age 69 or younger (Source: OASIS). The incidence rate for lung cancer in Jasper County of 74 is higher than the incidence rate for the state of 65. There were 59 new cases of lung cancer diagnosed in Jasper County residents during the five year period 2011-2015 (Source: CDC Cancer Statistics).

According to the CDC, cigarette smoking is the number one risk factor for lung cancer. In the United States, cigarette smoking is linked to about 80% to 90% of lung cancer deaths.

Colorectal cancer is the sixth leading cause of death in Jasper County. The age-adjusted death rate for Jasper County of 22.2 is higher than the rate for rural GA (16.9) and the state (15.1). This death rate places Jasper County in the top 20th percentile of all GA counties. For the period 2013 – 2017, there were 18 deaths of Jasper County residents from colorectal cancer. 50% of these deaths were in the population age 69 or younger (Source: OASIS). The incidence rate of colorectal cancer in Jasper County of 49 is slightly higher than the incidence rate for the state of 42. There were 40 new cases of colorectal cancer diagnosed in Jasper County residents for the five year period 2011-2015 (Source: CDC Cancer Statistics).

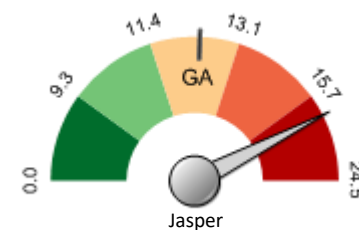
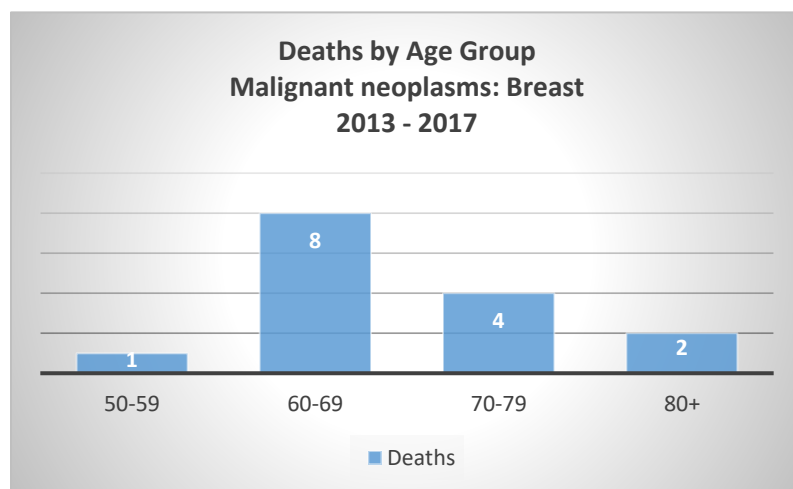
Lifestyle factors that may contribute to an increased risk of colorectal cancer include: lack of regular physical exercise, a diet low in fruits and vegetables, a high fat diet, alcohol consumption, and tobacco use.



The graphic above shows the Georgia Age-Adjusted Death Rate to be 15.1. The Age-Adjusted Death Rate for Jasper County is 22.2. Additional values on the gauge represent percentiles from the lowest county rate to the highest county rate. (Source: OASIS)

According to the CDC, the most effective way to reduce your risk of colorectal cancer is to get screened beginning at age 50. Screening can find colorectal cancer early when there is a greater chance that treatment will be most effective.

Breast cancer is the sixth leading cause of death of women in Jasper County. The age-adjusted death rate for Jasper County of 16.8 is higher than the rate for rural GA (11.8) and the state (12.3). This death rate places Jasper County in the top 20th percentile of all GA counties. For the period 2013-2017, there were 15 deaths of Jasper County residents from breast cancer. 60% of these deaths were in the population age 69 and younger (Source: OASIS). The incidence rate of female breast cancer in Jasper County of 131 is higher than the incidence rate for the state of 125. There were 53 new cases of breast cancer diagnosed in Jasper County residents for the five-year period 2011- 2015 (Source: CDC Cancer Statistics).



The graphic above shows the Georgia Age-Adjusted Death Rate to be 12.3. The Age-Adjusted Death Rate for Jasper County is 16.8. Additional values on the gauge represent percentiles from the lowest county rate to the highest county rate. (Source: OASIS)

According to the CDC, a mammogram is the best way to find breast cancer early when it is easier to treat and before it is big enough to feel or cause symptoms. Having regular mammograms can lower the risk of dying from breast cancer. Over the last decade, the risk of breast cancer has not changed for women overall, but the risk has increased for black women. Black women have a higher rate of death from breast cancer than white women.

Process of Identifying and Prioritizing Community Health Needs

The community health needs of residents within Jasper County were identified through in-depth interviews with a broad range of advocates representing the interests of the community including public health representatives, community leaders, physicians, school health, and other health care providers. Based on the collected interviews, expertise, and feedback from this group of advocates representing the interests of Jasper County and analysis of available health data a list of community health needs was developed. There was significant consensus around seven specific community health needs, based on the unprompted frequency that these needs were identified by participants.

Jasper Memorial Hospital 2019 Health Needs

- *There is a need for improved community awareness and education regarding the prevention of heart and vascular disease*
- *There is a need for improved community awareness and access to health services related to mental and behavioral health disorders*
- *There is a need for improved community awareness and education related to the prevention, screening, and early detection of cancer*
- *There is a need for improved community awareness and education regarding obesity, nutrition, and exercise*
- *There is a need for improved community awareness and education regarding the risks associated with tobacco use*
- *There is a need to improve access to clinical care by reducing economic barriers to care*
- *There is a need to enhance access by improving transportation assistance for non-emergency medical appointments*

Community Health Needs Implementation Plan

Each of the seven identified health needs have been evaluated and prioritized by input from key informants and the JMH leadership team. Health needs were prioritized based upon the scope and severity of the issue. Each need was evaluated based upon the priority of the issue, the fit with the JMH mission, the ability to achieve improvement, and the availability of resources. Five of the seven identified health needs were selected for implementation.

Two identified health needs will not be addressed in the implementation plan. While transportation difficulties do impact access to care for a small percentage of the Jasper County population, non-emergent transportation falls outside the scope and mission of JMH. Due to resource constraints, JMH is unable to address this need at this time.

An individual's access to clinical care and treatment options, is impacted by economic constraints. JMH will continue to participate in Medicare, Medicaid, and other government programs. Efforts are made to educate our patient population about insurance coverage and payment options for their care. As part of its mission to the community, JMH provides discounted and free care based on federally set income levels.

By using an integrated implementation approach, that will be explained below, the remaining five health needs can be addressed with three outcome-based priorities. The health need regarding obesity, nutrition, and exercise, and the health need regarding tobacco use are both health behaviors that are closely related to the outcomes of heart disease and cancer. In order to focus its efforts and have the greatest impact, JMH will address these health behaviors as they specifically relate to the identified health outcomes of heart disease and cancer.

JMH is committed to continued community involvement and working collaboratively with other community organizations to create a healthy Jasper County. JMH conducts outreach by regularly participating in community wide events. JMH consistently participates in community wide school events such as the Back to School Rally, Seuss on the Loose, and STEAM night. Key informants report that these events are well received and well attended by the community. A representative from JMH attends the monthly Family Connections meeting that is also attended by a representative from the Division of Family and Children Services, the Department of Juvenile Justice, Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development Authority, Get Ahead after school program, the Health Department and other local agencies. Key informants, representing a wide array of interests, report a high level of community involvement and a cooperative spirit on the part of JMH leadership and staff.

JMH will continue its practice of seeking out formal and informal strategic alliances with other health care organizations when such arrangements benefit the citizens of Jasper County. In those instances where a need exists and there is no viable strategic alliance, JMH is committed to evaluating the feasibility of establishing or expanding specific services that are in keeping with the mission and vision of the organization.

2019 Health Need Priorities and Implementation Strategies

Priority #1 - Cancer

There is a need for improved community awareness and education regarding the prevention, screening, and early detection of cancer.

JMH's prevention education, related to cancer is limited to informal education provided during outpatient primary care and emergency room visits.

Screening tests can be used to detect some cancers before a person may have symptoms. The American Cancer Society recommends that all individuals talk to their doctor about screening for cancer. Depending on a person's age, history, and risk factors, screening may be appropriate. Typical cancer screening for lung cancer may include a low dose computer tomography (CT) scan. Screening for colorectal cancer may include a stool test or a colonoscopy. Breast cancer screening may include getting a mammogram.

As of the date of this report, mammography services are not available in Jasper County. The Jasper County Health Department can provide funding for mammograms for some residents; however, due to the lack of a local provider, patients must travel outside the county for service. JMH plans to improve access to breast cancer screening by establishing local mammography service, on its existing campus, prior to the end of 2019.

A CT scan for lung cancer screening is available at JMH. JMH participates in the American College of Radiology (ACR) Lung Cancer Screening Registry (LCSR). Participation in this program is voluntary and provides access to data and information to enhance quality. Colonoscopy services to screen for colorectal cancer are not available in Jasper County. Screening via hemocult testing is available at JMH.

According to the American Cancer Society, individuals can reduce the risk of cancer by making healthy choices by eating right, staying active, and not smoking. Smoking kills more Americans than alcohol, car accidents, HIV, guns, and illegal drugs combined. JMH maintains a tobacco free campus. Employees are encouraged to participate in the wellness program that is offered by the health plan provider.

Implementation Strategy

Jasper Memorial Hospital will identify local, regional, and statewide partnerships to enhance awareness and access to cancer screening.

Jasper Memorial Hospital will focus its outreach efforts on improving the community's level of awareness and education regarding the increased risks of cancer due to smoking.

Jasper Memorial Hospital will focus its outreach efforts on improving the community's level of awareness and education regarding the link between weight, nutrition, and exercise and the risk of cancer.

Jasper Memorial Hospital will increase screening rates of individuals that meet the clinical criteria for lung cancer screening using low dose computer tomography (CT).

Jasper Memorial Hospital will increase screening rates of individuals that meet the clinical criteria for breast cancer screening using mammography.

Jasper Memorial Hospital will increase screening rates of individuals that meet the clinical criteria for colorectal cancer screening using hemocult testing.

Priority #2 – Mental and Behavioral Health

There is a need for improved community awareness and access to health services related to mental and behavioral disorders.

During the last three years JMH has implemented numerous strategic and operational initiatives to improve access to quality mental and behavioral

health services for Jasper County residents. Leadership at JMH has sought out and developed strategic alliances with established mental health provider organizations that are resulting in improved access and outcomes.

For patients that present to the emergency department in need of specialized mental health care beyond immediate stabilization, JMH provides access to evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment planning via a real-time telehealth consultation with a mental health provider. This on-site intervention provides for referral to the most medically appropriate care setting thus reducing costs and expediting treatment. Implementation of this service has improved access and significantly reduced wait times for those patients requiring inpatient care at a regional mental health treatment facility.

Implementation Strategy

Jasper Memorial Hospital will maintain an effective regional referral network for treatment options that are not locally available.

Jasper Memorial Hospital will continue to provide evaluation and diagnosis of mental health conditions, via contracted telehealth services, to individuals that present for care in the emergency department.

Jasper Memorial Hospital will increase the community's level of awareness and education regarding mental health in the geriatric population through outreach initiatives of The Retreat Nursing Home.

Jasper Memorial Hospital will increase awareness and education regarding mental health through expansion of training related to behavioral and crisis intervention techniques.

Jasper Memorial Hospital will continue to follow practice guidelines that promote collaboration with school-based mental health services for the pediatric and adolescent patients through Primary Care Center.

Patient and staff safety in the emergency department has been enhanced by the creation of a safe room. This treatment room is specifically designed to reduce the risk of intentional or unintentional self-harm of the patient and to improve the level of monitoring by staff.

Patients of The Retreat Nursing Home have access to mental health treatment via a contracted telehealth provider and on-site counseling and crisis intervention provided by a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. The Retreat continues to enhance awareness and education regarding dementia through outreach with family members of patients. An experiential learning session that simulates life with dementia has been well attended and received.

Employee awareness and education is enhanced through training focused on behavioral and crisis intervention techniques. JMH has an on-site instructor that has been trained by the Crisis Prevention Institute. All employees are given the opportunity to participate in this on-site training.

Priority #3 – Heart and Vascular Disease

There is a need for improved community awareness and education regarding the prevention of heart and vascular disease.

JMH's prevention education related to heart and vascular disease is primarily limited to informal education provided during inpatient stays, outpatient, and emergency room visits. Routine

screening such as blood pressure, cholesterol, and blood glucose are readily available at JMH and the Health Department. Additional diagnostic screening can be ordered at the discretion of the treating physician.

Emergency treatment, including cardiac monitoring, is available for patients that present in the emergency department with cardiovascular symptoms. Physicians and nurses maintain advanced cardiac life support certification. A visiting cardiologist is periodically available to see scheduled patients at the Venture Medical Associates office. At the time of this report, Primary Care Clinic, does not provide or host a cardiology clinic. In previous years, Primary Care Clinic did host a regularly recurring cardiology clinic. That clinic was discontinued upon the retirement of the visiting provider.

According to the CDC, smoking is a major cause of cardiovascular disease. The best thing that all smokers can do

for their heart is to quit. Being overweight or obese increases the risk of heart disease. Eating a healthy diet and getting enough physical exercise can reduce the risk of heart disease. High blood pressure, high cholesterol, and diabetes increase the risk of heart disease.

According the Georgia Department of Public Health, Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is the single leading cause of death in Georgia, accounting for more than 20,000 deaths a year. This is about 1 in 3 deaths overall. Most of these deaths are premature and preventable. Each year, 136,000 years of potential life lost occur in Georgia due to CVD. In 2013 alone, the cost of CVD in Georgia was \$6.1 billion.

Implementation Strategy

Jasper Memorial Hospital will improve local access to cardiology services by identifying a provider and hosting a regularly recurring cardiology clinic.

JMH will identify local, regional, and statewide partnerships to enhance awareness and prevention education regarding heart and vascular disease.

Jasper Memorial Hospital will focus its outreach efforts on improving the community's level of awareness and education regarding the increased risk of heart disease associated with smoking.

Jasper Memorial Hospital will focus its outreach efforts on improving the community's level of awareness and education regarding the link between weight, nutrition, and exercise and the risk of heart disease.

Jasper Memorial Hospital will focus its outreach efforts on improving the community's level of awareness and education regarding the importance of screening for heart disease.

Jasper Memorial Hospital will continue to offer a no-cost annual physical for employees that includes blood pressure screening, cholesterol screening, and body mass index.

Community Inventory – Health Facilities and Resources

<p>Abbey Hospice 215 Azalea Court Social Circle, GA 30025 Phone: (770) 464-5858 www.abbeyhospice.com</p>	<p>National Suicide Prevention Lifeline Phone: 1-800-273-8255 www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org</p>
<p>American Cancer Society www.cancer.org</p>	<p>Oconee Center – Mental Health Services 226 Funderburg Dr. Monticello, GA 31064 Phone: (706) 468-9417 www.oconeecenter.org</p>
<p>American Heart Association www.heart.org</p>	<p>Primary Care Center of Monticello 898 College St # A, Monticello, GA 31064 Phone: (706) 468-0988 www.jaspermemorialhospital.org</p>
<p>Amedisys Home Health of Covington 4162 Baker Street NE Covington, GA 30014 Phone: (770)787-1796 www.amedisys.org</p>	<p>The Retreat Nursing Home 898 College St, Monticello, GA 31064 Phone: (706) 468-8826 www.jaspermemorialhospital.org/retreat.shtml</p>
<p>Department of Family and Children’s Services 226 Funderburg Drive Monticello, Georgia 31064-1154 Phone: 1-800-436-7442 www.dfcs.dhs.georgia.gov/jasper-county-dfcs-office</p>	<p>US Renal Care 1393 Funderburg Dr. Monticello, GA 31064 Phone: (706)468-1240 www.usrenalcare.com</p>
<p>Family Connections 1405 College Street Monticello, GA 31064 Phone: (706) 468-4959 www.jasper.gafcp.org</p>	<p>Venture Medical Associates 545 Venture Court Monticello GA 31064 Phone: (706) 468-7002 http://venturemedicalassociates.com</p>
<p>Jasper County Community Food Bank 2171 Post Rd Monticello, GA 31064 Phone: (706) 478-6076 www.foodpantries.org</p>	
<p>Jasper County Health Department 825 Eatonton St. Monticello, GA 31064 Phone: (706) 468-6850 www.northcentralhealthdistrict.org</p>	
<p>Jasper Memorial Hospital 898 College St, Monticello, GA 31064 Phone: (706) 468-8826 www.jaspermemorialhospital.org</p>	
<p>MESEPP Community – Counseling and Support 825 A, Eatonton St. Monticello, GA 31064 Phone: (470)209-1881 www.mesepp.org</p>	

Sources

American Cancer Society
www.cancer.org

Centers for Disease Control CDC
www.cdc.gov

County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, A Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Program
www.countyhealthrankings.org

Georgia Department of Public Health
<https://dph.georgia.gov/>

Georgia Rural Health Association
<https://grhainfo.org>

Healthy People 2020, US Department of Health and Human Services
www.healthypeople.gov

OASIS – Online Analytical Statistical Information System
Georgia Department of Public Health
www.oasis.state.ga.us/

US Census Bureau
American Fact Finders/American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates
www.factfinder.census.gov