



**South Georgia Medical Center
Community Health Needs Assessment &
Implementation Plan**



2019





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A Letter from the Chairman to the Community

Dear Friends,

The Hospital Authority of Valdosta and Lowndes County, Georgia d/b/a South Georgia Medical Center is pleased to present our Community Health Needs Assessment and Implementation Plan.

With input from local professionals with an understanding of health needs in south central Georgia, we have reviewed, identified and prioritized community health needs of residents of Valdosta, Lowndes County and our surrounding counties.

These individuals provided professional knowledge, expertise, and valuable guidance in assisting South Georgia Medical Center in assessing existing programs and resources, and provided thoughtful input into ways to enhance local residents' health and wellness in collaboration with other community-based organizations.

Our Board of Trustees has reviewed and adopted the 2019-2022 Community Health Needs Implementation Plan and continues its commitment to leveraging existing programs, services, and resources to assist area residents in achieving their highest level of health and wellness. South Georgia Medical Center will continue its focus of working with other organizations to address the health needs of persons residing in our primary service area of Valdosta and Lowndes County.

Please visit us at www.sgmc.org for more information and follow our progress.

Warm Regards,
Sam Allen

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sam Allen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chairman
Hospital Authority of Valdosta and Lowndes
County, Georgia
Board of Trustees



Acknowledgement

South Georgia Medical Center's Community Health Needs Assessment and Implementation Plan was developed by SGMC staff with the assistance of LEGACY CONSULTING GROUP and generous input from a broad group of people representing the health interests of residents of Valdosta, Lowndes County, and our surrounding counties.

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

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About South Georgia Medical Center

South Georgia Medical Center is a not-for-profit medical system dedicated to being the leader in improving the health, wellness and quality of life in the community.

With 373 licensed beds and more than 300 affiliated physicians and 2,600 employees, SGMC, its campuses, and affiliates provide a broad range of high quality healthcare services. SGMC serves 350,000 residents across a 9-county service area on four campuses.

South Georgia Medical Center

2501 North Patterson Street
Valdosta, Georgia 31602



SGMC Berrien Campus

1221 McPherson Avenue
Nashville, Georgia 31639



SGMC Outpatient Plaza

4280 North Valdosta Road
Valdosta, Georgia 31602



SGMC Lanier Campus

1160 West Thigpen Avenue
Lakeland, Georgia 31635



SGMC was established to care for the sick and injured, regardless of sex, race, creed, color, nationality, handicap or disability. A self-supporting medical system, SGMC proudly provides care for the sick and injured with no local tax support. Because SGMC is a not-for-profit organization, any earnings are reinvested back into the system's facilities and services. This also allows SGMC to fund valuable outreach and education programs that benefit local students, seniors, the uninsured and many others.

SGMC is accredited by The Joint Commission, the highest mark of quality in the healthcare field, and has earned additional recognition at the state and national level. SGMC is licensed by the Health Facility Regulation Division of the Georgia Department of Community Health.

SGMC is a member of:

- The American Hospital Association
- The Georgia Hospital Association
- The Southwest Georgia Hospital District
- Vizient MidSouth
- Georgia Alliance of Community Hospitals

At South Georgia Medical Center we are committed to providing our community with quality care, and we are proud to be recognized for exceptional care to our patients. South Georgia Medical Center encompasses South Georgia Medical Center (Valdosta, GA), SGMC Outpatient Plaza (North Valdosta, GA), SGMC Berrien Campus (Nashville, GA), and SGMC Lanier Campus (Lakeland, GA). These facilities serve a large, diverse population with a wide variety of inpatient and outpatient services.



Our Mission

- We exist to serve people.
- Our primary service is restoration of health.
- We will be a provider of most aspects of health care.
- We will provide leadership to improve and develop the healthcare delivery systems of the future.
- We will work with others to improve the health of the people in the communities we serve.
- We will participate in making our community a better place to live.

Our Vision

SGMC will be the leader in improving the health, wellness and quality of life in our communities.

Purpose and Scope

The purpose of South Georgia Medical Center's community health needs assessment (CHNA) and implementation plan is to enhance the health and wellness of individuals living in our community.



While SGMC is a regional health care provider serving south central Georgia and north central Florida, the scope of this CHNA focuses on addressing the health needs of residents who live within our primary service area community of Valdosta and Lowndes County.

Approach and Process

South Georgia Medical Center’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 SGMC’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 target community.

After the health needs are identified, individuals representing the target community establish the health improvement priorities for the community.



From the list of health improvement priorities developed by health advocates of our community, the leadership at SGMC met to develop strategies and plans to address the identified health need priorities.

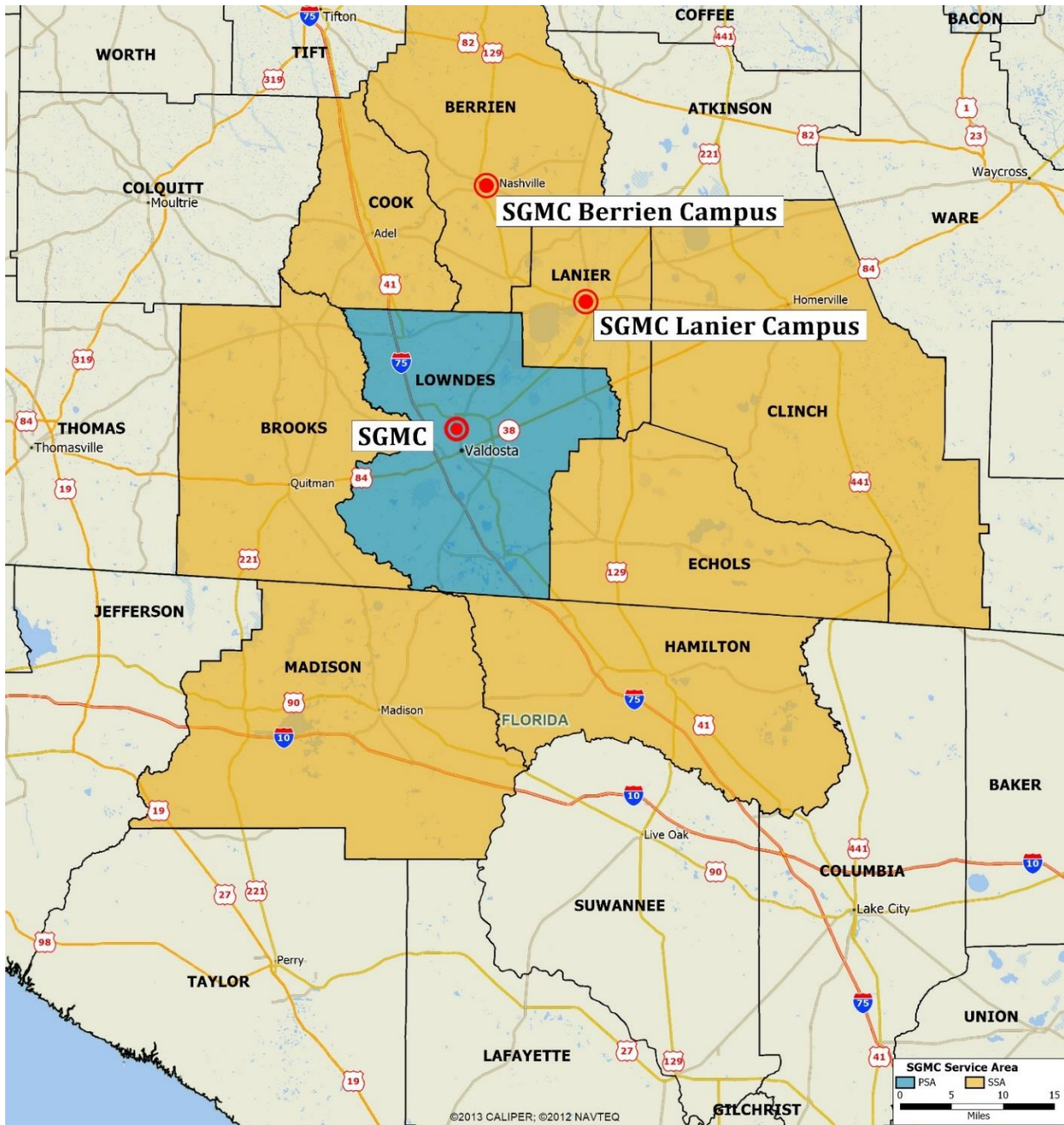
These strategies and plans are then implemented and reported to the public via the hospital’s website as SGMC’s Community Health Needs Assessment and Implementation Plan.



SGMC's Community

In 2018, SGMC received 53% of its admissions from Lowndes County, and another 38% of admissions coming from Berrien, Echols, Brooks, Lanier, Cook and Clinch counties in south central Georgia and Madison and Hamilton counties in north central Florida.

SGMCs Primary and Secondary Service Area



Based on residence of admissions, SGMC defines its primary service area community as Lowndes County, Georgia. SGMC's secondary service area is defined as Berrien, Brooks, Clinch, Cook, Echols and Lanier counties in south central Georgia and Hamilton and Madison counties in north central Florida.

SGMC 2018 Admissions by County

Service Area	County	Inpatient Admissions	Percent of Admissions	Cumulative Admissions
Primary	Lowndes, GA	7,577	52.8%	52.8%
Secondary	Brooks, GA	2,187	15.2%	68.0%
Secondary	Berrien, GA	901	6.3%	74.3%
Secondary	Lanier, GA	638	4.5%	78.8%
Secondary	Cook, GA	570	4.0%	82.8%
Secondary	Clinch, GA	363	2.5%	85.3%
Secondary	Echols, GA	229	1.6%	86.9%
Secondary	Madison, FL	289	2.0%	88.9%
Secondary	Hamilton, FL	205	1.4%	90.3%
	All other	1,390	9.7%	100.0%
Total Inpatient Admissions		14,344	100.0%	

SGMC Admission Demographics

In 2018, SGMC admitted 14,344 patients with 19% of admissions for women’s and children’s services, 75% for medical/surgical services, 4% for critical care services and 2% for rehabilitation services. In addition, SGMC received 66,995 Emergency Visits - averaging 180 visits per day.



What do we mean by access to health services?

Access to health services means the timely use of personal health services to achieve the best outcomes. (1) It requires three distinct steps:

- 1) Gaining entry into the health care system
- 2) Accessing a health care location where needed services are provided
- 3) Finding a health care provider with whom the patient can communicate & trust

Why is access to health services important?

Access to health care impacts:

- Overall physical, social, and mental health status
- Prevention of disease and disability
- Detection and treatment of health conditions
- Quality of life
- Preventable death
- Life expectancy

What are the barriers to health services?

Barriers to health services include:

- Lack of availability
- High cost
- Lack of insurance

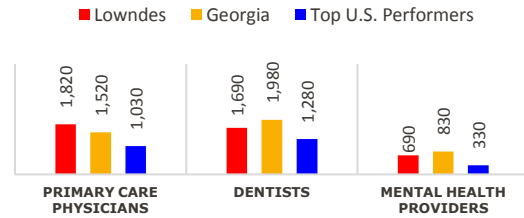
What do barriers to health services lead to?

Barriers to health services and health care lead to:

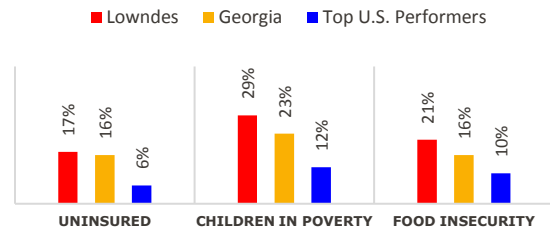
- Unmet health needs
- Delays in receiving appropriate care
- Inability to get preventive services
- Hospitalizations that could have been prevented

Sources: "Healthy People 2020" U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, December 2010. (1) Institute of Medicine, Committee on Monitoring Access to Personal Health Services, National Academies Press, 1993.

2018 Primary Care Physicians, Dentists & Mental Health Providers (Residents Served by Provider)

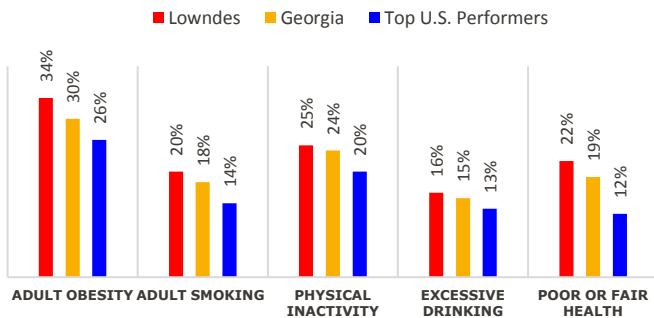


2018 Social & Economic Indicators Influencing Health



Sources: "2018 County Health Rankings" Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute.

2018 Other Selected Health Indicators (Percent of Population)



What is Obesity & Overweight?

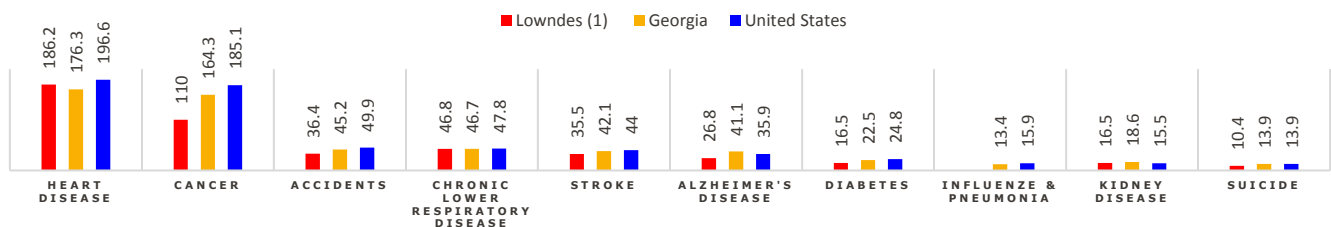
Obesity has been defined as a condition in which excess body fat has accumulated to an extent that health may be adversely affected. Adults with a Body Mass Index (BMI) of 30 or higher are classified as obese. Adults with a BMI between 25 and 29.9 are classified as overweight.

Why are Cause of Death Indicators Important?

Death rates for leading causes of death are the number of deaths from each cause per 100,000 of the area's total population.

Cause of death indicators show where health improvement and prevention programs can be targeted to affect the most people. By looking at sub-categories (e.g. lung and breast cancer vs. all cancers or hypertensive disease vs. all cardiovascular diseases targeted programs to improve health can be implemented).

2016/2017* Ten Leading Causes of Death

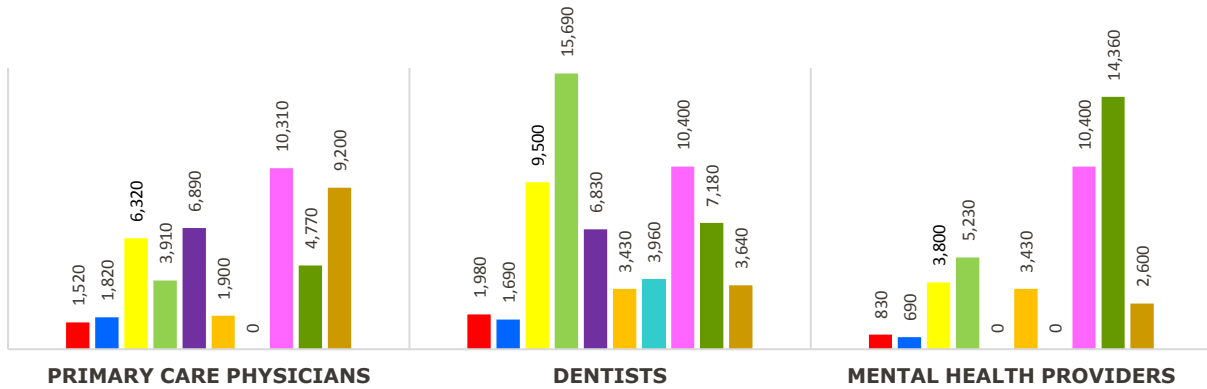


Sources: National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 67, No. 6, July 26, 2018 United States 10 Leading Causes of Death 2016: All races and origins, both sexes, all ages. * State of Georgia Department of Public Health OASIS: 2017 Leading Causes of Death: Georgia and Lowndes County.

SGMC Primary and Secondary Service Area Counties

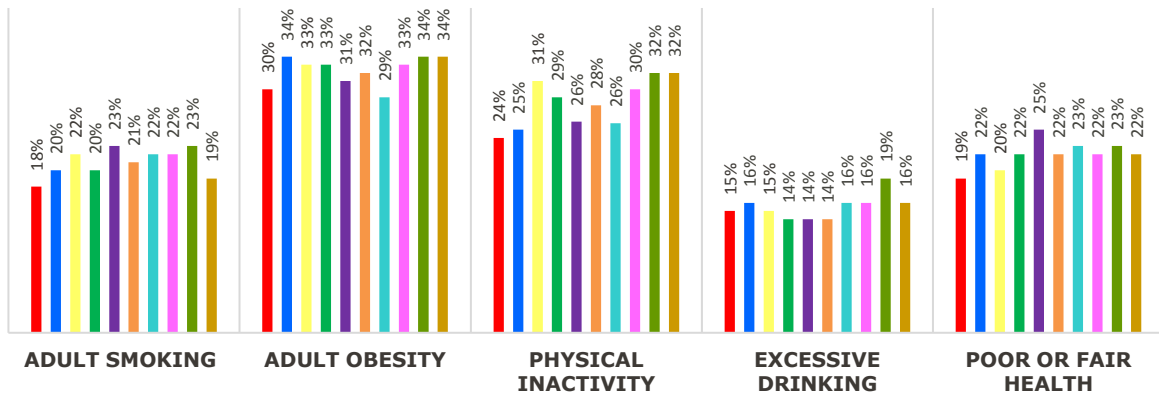
2018 Primary Care Physicians, Dentists & Mental Health Providers (Residents Served by Provider)

■ Georgia ■ Lowndes ■ Berrien ■ Brooks ■ Clinch ■ Cook ■ Echols ■ Lanier ■ Hamilton, FL ■ Madison, FL



2018 Other Selected Health Indicators (Percent of Population)

■ Georgia ■ Lowndes ■ Berrien ■ Brooks ■ Clinch ■ Cook ■ Echols ■ Lanier ■ Hamilton, FL ■ Madison, FL



Sources: "2018 County Health Rankings" Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute.

County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

Building a Culture of Health, County by County

A Robert Wood Johnson Foundation program

2019 Community Health Need Priorities

- # 1 Need for increased access to primary care services for uninsured, Medicaid recipients, and persons with high insurance deductibles to avoid inappropriate use of the Emergency Room.
- # 2 Need for partnerships to enhance promotion of healthy nutrition, lifestyle and exercise to reduce the prevalence of cancer, diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, obesity and overweight. * See also Appendix A – Cancer Needs Assessment.
- # 3 Need for increased access to behavioral health services for uninsured, Medicaid recipients, and persons with high insurance deductibles.
- # 4 Need for a “sliding scale” clinic to provide specialty care services for uninsured, Medicaid recipients, and persons with high insurance deductibles.
- # 5 Need for selected medical sub-specialists within the community (endocrinology, hematology and neurosurgery).
- # 6 Need for enhanced access to non-emergency medical transportation to physician offices for persons with limited resources and mobility.
- # 7 Need for partnerships to enhance access to dental services for persons with limited resources.
- # 8 Need for partnerships to provide education, screening and treatment for sickle cell.

SGMC’s Community Health Needs Implementation Strategy

Due to limited resources and the extraordinary cost of maintaining state-of-the-art medical diagnostic and treatment services to meet the needs of its inpatient and outpatient populations, SGMC’s community health needs implementation strategy is focused on leveraging existing programs, services, and resources. In addition, SGMC will focus on health need priorities of residents who reside in our primary service area.

Whenever possible and financially feasible, SGMC will assist other community health need efforts in partnership with other community, regional and statewide organizations.





Community Health Needs Implementation Plan

While SGMC currently provides programs and services to meet the community health needs of residents of its service area, no single healthcare organization has the resources to address all of the unmet health needs within its community.

The overall objective of SGMC's 2019-2022 Community Health Needs Implementation Plan is to ensure that most of the pieces of the "community health needs puzzle" are in place to assist each person in the community in achieving their highest level of health and wellness.



For each of the eight community health needs assessed by persons with specialized knowledge and expertise of community health needs we will provide the following:

Description of Need

Objectives for Addressing Need

SGMC's Ongoing Programs / Services Related to Need

Progress in Addressing Need



Community Health Need: Need for increased access to primary care services for uninsured, Medicaid recipients, and persons with high insurance deductibles to avoid inappropriate use of the Emergency Room.

Description of Need

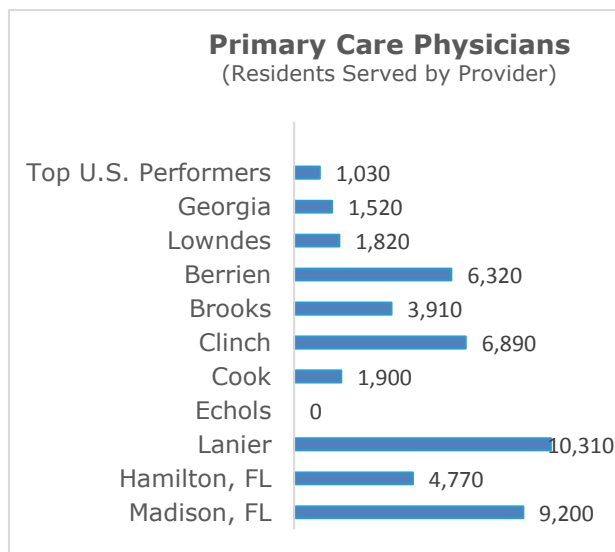
There continues to be consensus among community representatives of the need for increased access to primary care options for persons who are uninsured, Medicaid recipients and unable to find physicians willing to accept Medicaid payment, and individuals who have high insurance deductibles that must be met prior to receiving coverage for primary care services.

Many area residents continue to utilize the Emergency Department at SGMC for primary care services as they know that they will not be turned away for lack of financial resources.



While there are urgent care centers in the community, upfront charges required to be seen at urgent care centers make them unaffordable, and thus non-accessible to the same clientele who are utilizing Emergency Departments for primary care services.

Similarly, many primary care physicians do not accept Medicaid and/or require payment at time of service further reducing the affordability and access to services for the target populations described previously.



Compounding the primary care access issue, within each of SGMC's nine service areas counties, primary care physician to population ratios are substantially higher than Georgia overall and Top Performing U.S. counties. At present, the number of residents served per primary care physician exceeds 2,000 in six of nine service area counties.

The local community has not fully embraced cost effective alternative access options for primary care such as the use of nurse practitioners and physician's assistants to extend the reach of primary care physicians.

Objectives for Addressing Need

- ❖ Continue to provide free and low cost primary care services through the Partnership Health Center.
- ❖ Continue to identify appropriate opportunities for nurse practitioners and physician's assistants to extend primary care access options within the community.
- ❖ Continue to facilitate recruitment efforts to attract new primary care physicians to the service area, particularly physicians willing to accept Medicaid patients.

SGMC's Ongoing Programs / Services Related to Need

SGMC donated the medical building and provided approximately \$1 million in grant funds to the Partnership Health Center (PHC), for the provision of primary care services to uninsured individuals between the ages of 18 and 64.



In addition, the PHC is served by a medical director, Dr. Laura Guadiana-Sanchez, who practices at SGMC Family Medicine and donates her services to the Partnership.



In March of 2018, SGMC expanded its primary care network with the opening of family medicine offices at 3386 and 3374 Greystone Way in Valdosta.



Progress in Addressing Need

Over the past three years, SGMC has made substantial progress in addressing the need to expand access to primary care services for uninsured, Medicaid recipients, and persons with high insurance deductibles. It has expanded its primary care network through employment of four family medicine physicians in Valdosta and one family medicine physician in Lakeland to address this community need.

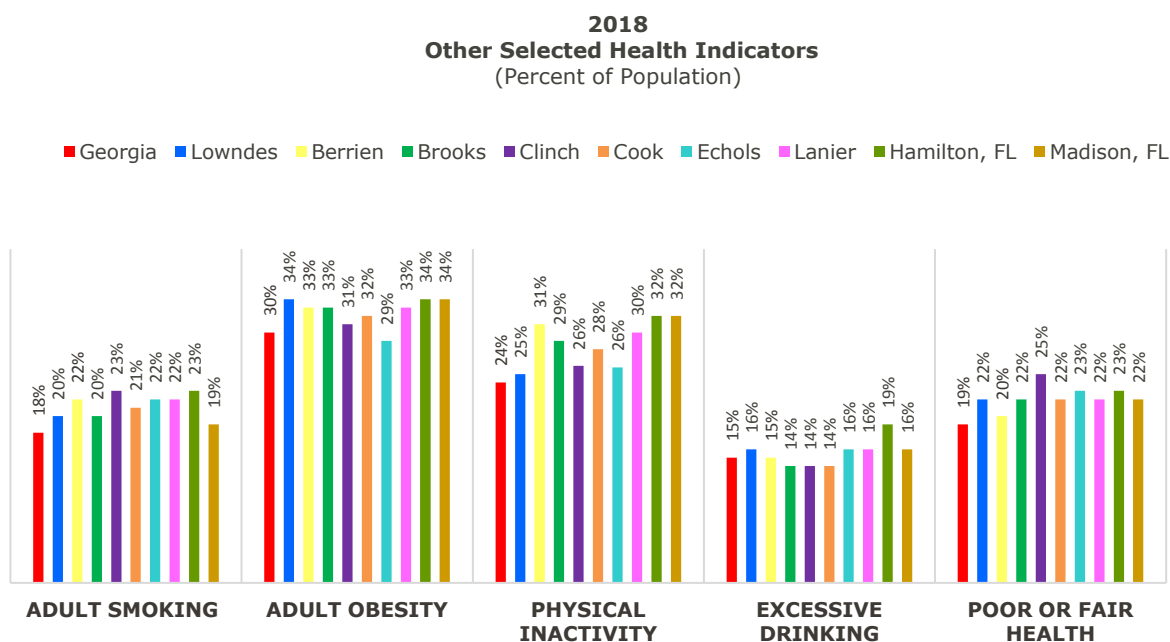
In addition, through SGMC's substantial financial support of the Partnership Health Center, the Partnership is now open 7 days per week and will provide over 18,000 patient visits and \$13 million in donated medication this year. Over the past three years, with generous support from SGMC and others the Partnership has dramatically increased annual patient visits from 6,734 in 2016, to 10,953 in 2017, and 17,014 in 2018.

While there continues to be a need to expand access to primary care services, substantial progress has been achieved in addressing this community health need.

Community Health Need: Need for partnerships to enhance promotion of healthy nutrition, lifestyle and exercise to reduce the prevalence of cancer, diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, obesity and overweight.

Description of Need

In 2018, residents of each of SGMC’s service area counties ranked below Georgia as a whole in terms of health behavior indicators related to percentage of adults who smoke, are obese, physically inactive OR drink excessively. In terms of quality of life indicators, each of SGMC’s service area counties reported a higher average number of poor physical health days per month compared to Georgia as whole (3.9 days/month) or “Top U.S. Performers” (3.0 days/month).



Sources: “2018 County Health Rankings” Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute.

Related to lifestyle choices, service area residents experienced significantly higher preventable hospital stays with a regional average of 80 preventable hospital stays per thousand, versus 50 preventable hospital stays per thousand across Georgia, and 35 preventable hospital stays per thousand in “Top U.S. Performing Counties”.



Physicians and healthcare providers report a significant portion of the local population has diabetes, hypertension and heart disease and need enhanced educational outreach to assist their patients in understanding the nature of their disease and developing appropriate tools for managing their chronic conditions.

Objectives for Addressing Need

- ❖ Continue to support existing initiatives within the community that promote healthy nutrition, lifestyle, exercise, and smoking cessation programs.
- ❖ Continue to identify opportunities to enhance communication channels and social support networks to promote healthy nutrition, lifestyle and exercise choices.
- ❖ Evaluate the feasibility of developing disease education and condition management training videos for use in helping patients understand their disease processes and available management tools.

SGMC's Ongoing Programs / Services Related to Need

SGMC has multiple programs and activities to promote healthy nutrition, lifestyle and exercise to reduce the prevalence of cancer, diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, obesity and overweight. In addition, SGMC works collaboratively with local community partners to support healthy nutrition, lifestyle and exercise choices. See also "Appendix A – Cancer Needs Assessment – Continuum of Care Services".

Specific programs that SGMC sponsors and supports in collaboration with local community partners include:

- Healthy Lifestyle: Through its Speakers' Bureau, SGMC provides speakers for Lowndes County civic organizations, clubs and hospital sponsored "Lunch & Learn" programs.
- Smoking Prevention: SGMC sent 5 clinicians to the American Lung Association's Freedom from Smoking Trainer's sessions in Atlanta as well as provides education on the effects of smoking at the Boys and Girls Club and YMCA in Valdosta.
- Cancer Awareness: SGMC promotes and sponsors cancer awareness programs and events including: Pink Party (breast cancer), Shine the Light (lung cancer) and prostate screenings.

Community-based Ongoing Programs / Services Related to Need

Several community organizations provide numerous programs, activities and facilities to promote healthy nutrition, lifestyle and exercise which supports reduction in the prevalence of cancer, diabetes, heart disease, obesity and overweight. Selected programs from from each organization are described.





Valdosta-Lowndes County Parks & Recreation Authority

“Kids Kitchen” – a one week summer camp where kids become junior chefs as they have the opportunity to create healthy meals while learning about positive food choices. Kids go on field trips to farms and grocery stores to learn how food makes it from the ground to their table. They wrap up the week cooking and serving lunch to their parents.

Valdosta State University

The Center for Exercise Medicine and Rehabilitation: Fitness and Wellness Clinic serves VSU faculty and staff as well as members of the community. CEMR provides exercise prescription, supervision and education to address the following conditions: diabetes, coronary heart disease, cancer survivor, metabolic syndrome, pediatric obesity, peripheral arterial disease and weight loss.



Valdosta-Lowndes County Family YMCA



Team Lean is an 8-week community wide healthy weight loss challenge sponsored by the Valdosta-Lowndes County Family YMCA. Team Lean is a proven program to help people sustain a healthy lifestyle. Why does it work? The team concept provides accountability and motivation to work hard and achieve healthy results. Participants

are allowed to decide what exercise and nutrition program works for their health and well-being. The YMCA supports “Team Leaners” through exercise classes and nutritional education that promote healthy lifestyle changes.

Progress in Addressing Need

Valdosta and Lowndes County have multiple partnerships to enhance the promotion of healthy nutrition, lifestyle and exercise for members of the community.

Over the past three years there has been mixed progress in terms of health behavior indicators in Lowndes County with adult obesity increasing from 28% to 34% of the population, smoking increasing slightly from 19% to 20%, while individuals who are physically inactive has declined from 29% to 25%. Excessive drinking has remained unchanged at 16% of the population.

In terms of health outcomes, persons reporting poor or fair health has increased from 20% to 22% of the population. Yet, the regional average of preventable hospital stays has declined from 84 per thousand to 80 per thousand.

In conclusion, progress has been achieved in promoting partnerships to enhance health with mixed progress in the reducing the prevalence of specific health indicators.

Community Health Need: Need to increase access to behavioral health services for uninsured, Medicaid recipients, and persons with high insurance deductibles.

Description of Need

There continues to be consensus on the need to increase access to behavioral health services for uninsured, Medicaid recipients, and persons with high insurance deductibles as these target populations are not able to access private behavioral health services within the community.



Objectives for Addressing Need

- ❖ SGMC does not provide inpatient or outpatient treatment services for patients with behavioral health issues at its facilities in Valdosta or Lakeland. However, South Georgia Medical Center does provide emergency stabilization services as necessary to ensure patient safety when individuals with acute psychiatric and/or substance abuse issues present in the emergency department.
- ❖ SGMC provides inpatient treatment for geriatric psychiatric patients at its SGMC Berrien Campus.
- ❖ SGMC will continue to meet with regional and statewide behavioral health advocates to discuss the need for increasing access to behavioral health services for the target populations identified.

SGMC's Ongoing Programs / Services Related to Need

Other than its inpatient geriatric psychiatry program at SGMC - Berrien Campus, SGMC does not provide inpatient or outpatient behavioral health services. The Medical Center accepts patients within its emergency department in Valdosta who are in need of stabilization, pending transfer to an appropriate behavioral health facility.

Progress in Addressing Need

SGMC does not provide inpatient or outpatient behavioral health services on its campuses in Lowndes County other than stabilization services at its main campus emergency department in Valdosta.

At this time, community representatives indicate an ongoing need for behavioral health services for uninsured, Medicaid recipients, and persons with high insurance deductible. Productive meetings are underway with Legacy Behavioral Health Services, the state funded mental health provider, to expand clinic locations and advertise their services.

Community Health Need: Need for a “sliding scale” clinic to provide services for uninsured, Medicaid recipients, and persons with high insurance deductibles.

Description of Need

There continues to be consensus among community representatives of the need to develop additional “sliding scale” clinics to address the specialty care needs and follow-up medical care needs of patients previously seen at SGMC facilities. Many individuals may forego follow-up medical visits or specialty care services as they are uninsured, are Medicaid recipients and cannot find specialists willing to accept Medicaid, have high insurance deductibles or otherwise lack the financial resources to pay for follow-up or specialty care.



Objectives for Addressing Need



- ❖ Continue grant support of the Partnership Health Center.
- ❖ Continue to utilize liberal financial policies for indigent and self-pay patients seen in SGMC owned medical practices providing specialty care services.
- ❖ Continue to encourage independent local physician specialists to provide limited services to the target populations on a “sliding scale”.

SGMC’s Ongoing Programs / Services Related to Need

SGMC currently does not own a “sliding scale” specialty care clinic for individuals requiring non-urgent, on-going or follow up physician care within the target population. Over the past three years, SGMC has established liberal financial policies that apply to indigent and self-pay patients seen by physicians working in SGMC owned medical practices providing specialty care services. SGMC provides a building and generous grant support for a community non-profit clinic, the Partnership Health Center, to provide primary care services on a sliding fee scale.

Progress in Addressing Need

Over the past three years, SGMC has expanded the number of employed medical specialists through the establishment of SGMC Cardiology, SGMC Surgery, SGMC Urology, and hiring two hematologists/medical oncologists for the Pearlman Cancer Center. Through employment of medical and surgical specialists, SGMC has increased access to specialty care services for the target populations. However, there continues to be a need for additional physician specialists willing to provide limited services to the target population on a “sliding scale”. Significant progress has been made, but further progress needs to continue to meet the growing needs of the target population.

Community Health Need: Need for selected medical sub-specialists within the Community (endocrinology, neurology, neurosurgery).

Description of Need

Community representatives continue to indicate a need for selected medical sub-specialties within the community, in particular endocrinology, neurology, and neurosurgery.



Objectives for Addressing Need

- ❖ Continue to monitor demand for medical sub-specialty referrals within SGMC's service area and determine the magnitude of unmet sub-specialty demand within the community.
- ❖ Identify potential options for addressing quantifiable unmet demand for medical sub-specialties.

SGMC's Ongoing Programs / Services Related to Need

SGMC currently has 461 physicians with admitting privileges on its Medical Staff with coverage of most medical sub-specialties. The Medical Center has an on-going program to recruit physicians, but continues to experience challenges in attracting selected medical sub-specialists to maintain open and active practices within the community. SGMC will continue to evaluate the feasibility of recruiting selected medical sub-specialists to the community.



Other Ongoing Programs / Services Related to Need

The Lowndes County Health Department through its Georgia Telemedicine Program provides pediatric sub-specialty Children's Medical Services. Patients can potentially see more than 20 specialists, such as cardiologists, dermatologists, endocrinologists, neurologists, pediatricians, psychiatrists and others.

Progress in Addressing Need

Over the past three years, SGMC has made significant progress in addressing the need for specific medical sub-specialists. The Medical Center has recruited two hematologists/medical oncologists, two general surgeons, and urologist. In addition, through its Telemedicine Program the Lowndes County Health Department has substantially increased access to pediatric subspecialists, reducing the need for children to travel out of the community for medical services.

Community Health Need: Need for enhanced access to non-emergency medical transportation to physician offices for persons with limited resources and mobility.

Description of Need

Community representatives continue to report a need for non-emergency medical transportation to physician offices for individuals who live within the service area, but outside of Valdosta. Most of these visits are related to follow up care or on-going physician office appointments for patients with chronic conditions.



Target populations for non-emergency medical transportation services include the elderly, persons with limited income, and families of children with disabilities. In addition, veterans may need assistance in getting to the VA Hospital in Lake City for follow up care.

Objectives for Addressing Need

- ❖ Continue to educate patients about existing resources to assist persons with limited resources and mobility in obtaining non-emergency medical transportation to physician offices.

SGMC's Ongoing Programs / Services Related to Need

SGMC does not provide non-emergency medical transportation services to physician offices for persons with limited resources and mobility. Due to the high cost of providing regional EMS services within the community, SGMC has no plans to provide non-emergency medical transportation services to physician offices for the targeted population groups.

Progress in Addressing Need

There has been minimal progress in addressing the need for enhanced access to non-emergency medical transportation to physicians' offices for persons with limited resources and mobility.

Georgia Medicaid provides services to eligible Medicaid members through a service contract with Logisticare. Transportation services must be scheduled at least three days in advance of the medical appointment.

MIDS also provides limited transportation for specific patient populations contracted through the states broker. MIDS operates ADA accessible vans serving Valdosta. Valdosta does not have public bus services.

There continues to be a need for enhanced access to non-emergency medical transportation services for persons with limited resources and mobility.

Community Health Need: Need for partnerships to enhance access to dental health services for persons with limited resources.

Description of Need

There continues to be a need for enhanced access to dental services for persons with limited financial resources. The need for access to dental health services is most pronounced in the service area counties surrounding Lowndes County.



Objectives for Addressing Need

- ❖ Continue to encourage local dentists to volunteer time at the Partnership Dental Clinic.
- ❖ Continue to increase awareness of existing dental health services available to target population groups.
- ❖ Continue to support partnerships that have enhanced access to volunteer dental clinic services.



SGMC's Ongoing Programs/ Services Related to Need

SGMC provides limited children's dental services at the Medical Center's Smith Northview campus. This service primarily provides major dental extractions for children.

SGMC provides substantial financial support to the Partnership Health Center. The Partnership provides dental cleaning, extractions, fillings and dentures to persons with limited resources based on the availability of volunteer dentists.

Progress in Addressing Need

The Medicaid Children's Dentistry Program provides services to its enrolled target population. In addition, a dental bus comes to select elementary schools four times a year and provides routine cleanings and fillings to eligible children.

Adults with limited resources may receive dental services through the Partnership Health Center although this is limited as this service is provided by volunteer dentists.

While some progress has been made in addressing this community need, many persons with limited resources continue to be unable to access dental services. Therefore, further progress in developing partnerships to enhance access to dental services for persons with limited resources is needed.

Community Health Need: Need for partnerships to provide education, screening and treatment for sickle cell.

Description of Need

Community representatives continue to stress the need for partnerships to provide education, screening and treatment for persons with sickle cell disease. SCD is a group of inherited red blood cell disorders in which people have abnormal hemoglobin in their red blood cells. Normally, hemoglobin in red blood cells takes up oxygen in the lungs and carries it to all the tissues of the body. Red blood cells that contain normal hemoglobin are disc shaped (like a doughnut without a hole). This shape allows the cells to be flexible so that they can move through large and small blood vessels to deliver oxygen. Sickle hemoglobin is not like normal hemoglobin. It can form stiff rods within the red cell, changing it into a crescent, or sickle shape. Sickle-shaped cells are not flexible and can stick to vessel walls, causing a blockage that slows or stops the flow of blood. When this happens, oxygen can't reach nearby tissues. Cells in tissues need a steady supply of oxygen to work well. The lack of tissue oxygen can cause attacks of sudden, severe pain, called pain crises. These pain attacks can occur without warning, and a person often needs to go to the hospital for effective treatment. The red cell sickling and poor oxygen delivery can also cause organ damage. Over a lifetime, SCD can harm a person's spleen, brain, eyes, lungs, liver, heart, kidneys, penis, joints, bones, or skin. It is a lifelong disorder and the severity of the disease varies widely from person to person.

(1) National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute. U. S. Department of Health and Human Services.



Objectives for Addressing Need



- ❖ Refer patients to the South Health District for sickle cell education.
- ❖ During discharge planning, educate patients about ways to avoid situations that may trigger a crisis, and appropriate treatment for pain when a crisis occurs.

SGMC's Programs / Services Related to Need

SGMC provides emergency services to persons when they are experiencing a SCD crisis. SGMC works with local, state and national organizations to develop best practices for screening, ongoing health maintenance and treatment for persons with SCD within the service area.

Progress in Addressing Need

There has been some progress in increasing awareness of healthy lifestyle choices, ways to avoid situations that may trigger a crisis, and appropriate treatment for pain when a crisis occurs. SGMC will support screening efforts through the South Health District. SGMC discharge planners will provide education about sickle cell to inpatients.

Community Inventory – Healthcare Facilities & Resources Available to Respond to Community Health Needs

ACUTE HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

South Georgia Medical Center is a not-for-profit, Joint Commission accredited, 285-bed general hospital providing a full range of acute care and outpatient medical services including:

- Advanced Diagnostic Imaging Center
- Ambulatory Surgery Center
- Birthplace
- Cancer Center
- Cardiology
- Cardiac Rehabilitation
- Cardiopulmonary Services
- Diabetes Management Center
- Diagnostic Imaging
- Endoscopy / Gastrointestinal Laboratory
- Emergency Department
- Intensive Care
- Laboratory
- Neonatal Intermediate Care
- Occupational & Industrial Medicine
- Open Heart Surgery
- Orthopedics and Spine Surgery
- Pediatrics
- Pharmacy
- Physical, Occupational, and Speech Therapy
- Radiation Therapy
- Rehabilitation
- Sleep Disorders
- Stroke Program
- Surgical Services
- Urological Services
- Vascular Services
- Women's Services
- Wound Care & Hyperbaric Medicine

2501 North Patterson Street, Valdosta, GA 31602

(229) 433-1000

SGMC Outpatient Plaza provides diverse outpatient healthcare services including ambulatory surgical services, a burn clinic, diagnostic imaging, endoscopy/gastrointestinal laboratory, and urgent care.

4280 North Valdosta Road, Valdosta, GA 31602

(229) 433-8000

SGMC Berrien Campus is a not-for-profit, Joint Commission accredited, 63-bed acute care hospital providing cardiopulmonary services, diagnostic imaging, emergency services, family medicine, hospital-based rehabilitation, laboratory, and SGMC Dogwood Senior Health Center - a 12-bed, secured geriatric psychiatric program providing behavioral health care for adults age 55 and older.

1221 East McPherson Avenue, Nashville, GA 31639

(229) 433-8600

SGMC Lanier Campus is a not-for-profit, Joint Commission accredited, 25-bed critical access hospital providing acute inpatient care, ambulance services, diagnostic imaging, emergency services, ECG, stress test and respiratory services, hospital-based and outpatient rehabilitation, physical, occupational and speech therapy, and skilled nursing swing beds.

116 West Thigpen Avenue, Lakeland, GA 31635

(229) 482-8440

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Legacy Behavioral Health Services is the leading agency in providing mental health, substance abuse, intellectually and developmentally disabled services for over 20 years. An array of services to children, adults, and families are provided within 10 counties in south central Georgia including: Ben Hill, Berrien, Brooks, Cook, Echols, Irwin, Lanier, Lowndes, Tift and Turner counties. Walk-in behavioral health and crisis intervention services are provided 24/7.

Health Crisis Center (24 crisis beds, 6 temporary observation beds)

3116 North Oak Street EXT, Valdosta, GA 31602 (229) 671-3500

3120 North Oak Street, Suite C, Valdosta, GA 31602 (229) 671-6100 Crisis 24/7: (800) 715-4225

1108 South Patterson Street, Valdosta, GA 31601 (229) 245-6410

325 West Savannah Avenue, Valdosta, GA 31601 (229) 333-5276

1905 South Hutchinson Avenue, Adel, GA 31620 (229) 896-4559

Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities provides treatment and support services to people with mental health challenges and substance use disorders, and assists individuals who live with intellectual and developmental disabilities. DBHDD has six regional field offices across Georgia and each field office coordinates a community-based system of care through contracted providers. Valdosta and ten south central Georgia counties are located in Region 4, Community Service Area 22. Legacy Behavioral Health Services is the local Community Service Area Provider.

2 Peachtree Street NW, 24th Floor, Atlanta, GA 30303 (404) 657-2252

Greenleaf Center is a private, 103-bed acute care psychiatric hospital, open 24 hours per day, providing behavioral health and substance abuse treatment programs for adults and adolescents including: inpatient hospitalization, partial hospitalization, intensive outpatient, and traditional outpatient programs for children, teens, and adults struggling with depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, behavioral issues, mental health illnesses, and substance abuse.

2209 Pineview Drive, Valdosta, GA 31602 (229) 588-8215

DIABETES

American Diabetes Association is the leading organization heading the fight against the deadly consequences of diabetes. www.diabetes.org

233 Peachtree Street, Suite 2225, Atlanta, GA 30303 (404) 320-7100

Georgia Diabetes Coalition is a 501c3 membership organization that serves as a unified voice for those members dedicated to improving the quality of life for those with and affected by diabetes.

P.O. Box 162160, Atlanta GA 3032 (678) 310-4432

Georgia Diabetes Prevention and Control Resource Guide provides a general listing of services and resources for Georgians diagnosed with diabetes, prediabetes or gestational diabetes mellitus, their loved ones as well as healthcare and public health professionals providing care and support to them developed by the Georgia Department of Public Health Diabetes Prevention and Control Program.

www.dph.ga.gov/diabetes-prevention

SGMC Diabetes Management Center is a multi-disciplinary program that provides evaluation, treatment and education of diabetes and diabetes related conditions including Type 1 Diabetes, Type 2 Diabetes and Gestational Diabetes.

3018 North Patterson Street, Valdosta, GA 31602 (229) 249-4121

END STAGE RENAL DIALYSIS CLINICS

Kings Way Dialysis is an 18-station end stage renal disease treatment center.
4358 Kings Way, Valdosta, GA 31602 (229) 244-6923

Oak Street Dialysis is a 21-station end stage renal disease treatment center.
2704 North Oak Street, Building H, Valdosta, GA 31602 (229) 247-4857

US Renal Care Central Valdosta is an 18-station end stage renal disease treatment center.
506 North Patterson Street, Valdosta, GA 31602 (229) 219-0099

US Renal Care South Georgia Dialysis is a 21-station end stage renal disease treatment center.
3564 North Crossing Circle Suite A, Valdosta, GA 31602 (229) 249-3222

USRC Valdosta Home Program is an in-home end stage renal disease treatment service.
3564 North Crossing Circle Suite B, Valdosta, GA 31602 (229) 671-4298

Valdosta Dialysis Clinic is a 22-station end stage renal disease treatment center.
1115 South Patterson Street, Valdosta, GA 31602 (229) 242-9610

FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS

Betty Dupree Health Center is a federally qualified health center in Berrien County (26 miles).
201 North Barton Street, Nashville, GA 31639 (229) 686-2774

Madison Medical Center is a federally qualified health center in Madison County (27 miles).
235 SW Dade Street, Madison, FL 32340 (850) 948-2840

Migrant Farmers Clinic is a federally qualified health center in Lowndes County (15 miles).
224 Frank Culpepper Road # J, Lake Park, GA 31636 (229) 259-4552

Tri-County Family Health Center is a federally qualified health center in Madison County (33 miles).
193 NW US 221, Greenville, FL 32331 (850) 948-2840

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Georgia Medicaid is a medical assistance program that provides low-income families with access to free and low-cost medical care. The Georgia Department of Community Health administers the Medicaid Program and PeachCare for Kids program, a comprehensive health care program for uninsured children living in Georgia. 2 Peachtree Street NW, Atlanta, GA 30303 (866)211-0950 www.compass.ga.gov

Lowndes County DFCS
206 South Patterson Street, Valdosta, GA 31603 (229) 219-1282

HealthCare.gov is the official site of the Affordable Care Act and site for the health insurance marketplace.

PeachCare for Kids® is a comprehensive health care program for uninsured children living in Georgia. The health benefits include primary, preventive, specialist, dental care and vision care. PeachCare for Kids also covers hospitalization, emergency room services, prescription medications and mental health care. Each child in the program has a Georgia Families Care Management Organization (CMO) who is responsible for coordinating the child's care. www.peachcare@dch.ga.gov

2 Peachtree Street NW, Atlanta, GA 30303 (404)656-0386

HEALTHY LIFESYTLLE

Eat Right is a service of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics that provides easy web-based access to resources on food (nutrition, planning and preparation, vitamins and supplements), health (lifestyle, weight loss, diseases and conditions, allergies and intolerances, wellness, pregnancy), and fitness (sports and performance, training and recovery, exercises) for kids, parents, men, women and seniors.
www.eatright.org

Fitness.gov is home of the President's Council on Fitness, Sports, and Nutrition. The President's Council engages, educates, and empowers all Americans to adopt a healthy lifestyle that includes regular physical activity and good nutrition. It provides a wealth of programs and resources including physical activity and nutrition guidelines for all Americans.
www.fitness.gov

Let's Move! is a comprehensive initiative, dedicated to solving the challenge of childhood obesity within a generation, so that children born today will grow up healthier and be able to pursue their dreams. Combining comprehensive strategies with common sense, Let's Move is about putting children on the path to a healthy future during their earliest months and years. The program gives parents helpful information and fostering environments to support healthy choices. Providing healthier foods in our schools, ensuring that every family has access to healthy, affordable food and, helping kids become more physically active is what it is all about.
www.letsmove.gov

Valdosta and Lowndes County Parks and Recreation Authority strives to be the leading force in superior, affordable recreation services and facilities for all residents of Valdosta and Lowndes County. The Authority aims to promote a high quality of life for the entire population and support residents' values while growing a healthy, safe, and environmentally responsible community.
www.vlpra.com

VSU Campus Wellness is a service of Valdosta State University designed specifically for faculty, staff and students that provides easy access to multiple web-based resources and programs to assist you in developing a healthy lifestyle.
www.valdosta.edu/administration/finance-admin/campus-wellness/

Wellness Council of America is one of the nation's premier resources for workplace wellness, serving business leaders, workplace wellness practitioners, public health professionals and consultants of all kinds by promoting membership, producing leading-edge workplace wellness publications and health information, conducting trainings that help workplace wellness professionals create and sustain results-oriented wellness programs, and creating resources that promote healthier lifestyles for all working Americans.
www.welcoa.org

What's on Your Plate is a detailed resource guide for smart food choices for healthy aging that introduces the basic facts for making good food choices a part of your daily life and adjusting those choices as you grow older. What's on Your Plate was developed by the National Institute of Aging, National Institute of Health (NIH), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
www.nia.nih.gov/sites/default/files/whats_on_your_plate.pdf

YMCA is a community-based, nonprofit organization established in 1844 with recreational programs and services for all ages.

Valdosta 2424 Gornto Road, Valdosta, GA 31602	(229) 244-4646	www.valdostaymca.org
Lake Park 5285 Mill Store Road, Lake Park, GA 31636	(229) 559-8886	www.valdostaymca.org

HEART DISEASE / HYPERTENSION PREVENTION

American Heart Association works to help kids, families and communities live heart-healthy lives. It provides Healthy Living Information to help you get active and stay active for life including: healthy eating, physical activity, healthy kids, weight management, stress management, quit smoking, and workplace health. www.heart.org

Georgia Cardiovascular Health Initiative (CVHI) works to refine and improve the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's four goal areas of the Heart Disease and Stroke program: 1) prevention of risks factors associated with cardiovascular disease (CVD), 2) detection and treatment of CVD risk factors, 3) early identification and treatment of CVD, and 4) prevention and recurrent CVD events. As part of CVHI, the South Health District has initiated a Faith-Based Program of Excellence in the city of Valdosta that includes a faith network of churches that adopted formal wellness policies, a strategic plan for network members, and a faith-based Wellness Center that offers health screenings, exercise classes, chronic disease education classes, heart healthy and diabetic cooking classes, and a community garden for the local community. www.dph.ga.gov

Georgia Stroke and Heart Attack Prevention Program (SHAPP) is an educational and direct-service program targeted to low-income Georgians with hypertension. Patient services are provided through county health departments and include screening, referral to doctors, diagnosis, and treatment. Of the more than 15,000 patients served by SHAPP, most are aged 30-69 and are African-Americans who are not covered by either public or private health insurance.

Go Red for Women® is the American Heart Association's national movement to end heart disease and stroke in women. It provides resources targeted for women to live healthy including: how to prevent heart disease, stress management, heart-healthy recipes, and heart-healthy exercise. www.goredforwomen.org

The Million Hearts Initiative™ is a national initiative to prevent 1 million heart attacks and strokes over 5 years. Million Hearts™ is a public-private initiative that involves multiple federal agencies and key private organizations, including the American Heart Association, the American Pharmacists' Association, the YMCA, Walgreens, and United HealthCare, among others. Collectively, these partnerships will help leverage and advance existing investments in cardiovascular disease prevention. www.heart.org

U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPTF) is an independent, volunteer panel of national experts in prevention and evidence-based medicine. The Task Force works to improve the health of all Americans by making evidenced-based recommendations about clinical preventive services such as screenings, counseling services, and preventive medications. All recommendations are published on the Task Force's website and /or in a peer-reviewed journal. The Task Force assigns each recommendation a letter grade (A, B, C, or D grade or I statement) based on the strength of the evidence and balance of benefits and harms of a preventive service. The recommendations apply only to people who have no signs or symptoms of the specific disease or condition under evaluation, and the recommendations address only services offered in the primary care setting or services referred by a primary care clinician. Since, 1998, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality has been authorized by the U.S. Congress to convene the Task Force and to provide ongoing scientific, administrative, and dissemination support of the Task Force. www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org

HOME HEALTH AGENCIES

Amedisys Home Health of Valdosta is a Medicare certified home health agency.
2947 North Ashley Street Suite C, Valdosta, GA 31602 (229) 245-0646

Georgia Home Health Services is a Medicare certified home health agency.
3404 Greystone Way, Valdosta, GA 31605 (229) 247-4663

Intrepid USA Healthcare Services is a Medicare certified home health agency.
355 Northside Drive, Valdosta, GA 31602 (229) 247-7760

Public Health Home Health is a Medicare certified home health agency.
3169 Inner Perimeter Road, Valdosta, GA 31602 (229) 253-1242

HOSPICES

Bethany Hospice *is an in-home hospice provider.*
2517 Bemiss Road, Suite D, Valdosta, GA 31602 (229) 249-8687

Halcyon Hospice *is an in-home hospice provider.*
101 Northside Drive, Building E, Valdosta, GA 31602 (229) 333-5005

Hospice of South Georgia & Langdale Hospice House *provides in-home and residential hospice services.*
2263 Pineview Drive, Valdosta, GA 31602 (229)249-4100 www.hospiceofsouthgeorgia.org

UniHealth Source of Valdosta *is an in-home hospice provider.*
407 Cowart Avenue, Valdosta, GA 31602 (229) 241-8750

MEDICARE CERTIFIED RURAL HEALTH CLINICS

Brooks Medical Associates *is a Medicare certified rural health clinic in Brooks County.*
907 North Court Street, Quitman, GA 31643 (229) 263-4531

Cook Primary Care *is a Medicare certified rural health clinic in Cook County.*
308 North Parrish Avenue, Adel, GA 31620 (229) 896-8134

Cook Family Wellness Center *is a Medicare certified rural health clinic in Cook County.*
103 East James Street, Adel, GA 31620 (229) 896-3424

North Florida Pediatrics *is a Medicare certified rural health clinic in Hamilton County.*
1117 US HWY 41 NW, Jasper, FL 32052 (904) 758-0003

NURSING HOMES

Crestwood Nursing Home *is a Medicare/Medicaid certified skilled nursing facility.*
415 Pendleton Place, Valdosta, GA 31602 (229) 242-6868

Holly Hill Healthcare *is a Medicare/Medicaid certified skilled nursing facility.*
413 Pendleton Place, Valdosta, GA 31602 (229) 244-6968

Lakehaven Health & Rehabilitation *is a Medicare/Medicaid certified skilled nursing facility.*
410 East Northside Drive, Valdosta, GA 31602 (229) 242-7368

Heritage House Nursing Home *is a Medicare/Medicaid certified skilled nursing facility.*
2501 North Ashley Street, Valdosta, GA 31602 (229) 244-7368

OVERWEIGHT/OBESITY

See "Healthy lifestyle"

PRIMARY CARE (FREE OR LOW COST ELIGIBILITY-BASED SERVICES)

Partnership Health Center *is a free or low cost primary healthcare facility staffed by volunteer physicians, nurse practitioners, physician extenders, nurses and administrative staff who serve the healthcare needs of the uninsured in Lowndes County. Services include non-emergency healthcare and referrals to specialists and labs. Proof of eligibility is required. Funding for the clinic is provided by donations and grants, including a generous donation from South Georgia Medical Center.*

520 Griffin Avenue, Valdosta, GA 31601 (229) 245-0020 www.pfhvaldosta.org

Valdosta Community Based Outpatient –VA provides a broad range of services for eligible Veterans. Primary Care services feature Preventive and Patient-Centered care approaches that offer a wide variety of specialty care services that include: Women’s Clinic, Laboratory & Vaccinations, Wound Care, Mental Health Care (individual, group, couples), Nutrition & Weight Management, Pain Psychology, Social Work, Substance Abuse & Tobacco Cessation, and Telehealth Services for a wide-variety of medical issues. Veterans in need of other specialty services are referred to the Lake City VA Medical Center in Florida.

2841 North Patterson Street, Valdosta, GA 31602 (229)293-0132

SICKLE CELL DISEASE

Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta Sickle Cell Disease Program is home to the country’s largest pediatric sickle cell disease program, caring for more than 1,800 children and young adults with a focus on prevention, treatment and follow-up care for sickle cell disease and its complications.

Children’s HealthCare of Atlanta (404) 755-1112 www.choa.org/sicklecell

Georgia Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center at Grady Health System is the world’s first 24-hour comprehensive primary care clinic for adult patients with sickle cell syndromes. Services include: routine health care by appointment, newborn screening and genetic counseling, 24-hour acute care for adults age 18 and older, chronic transfusion services, pain management, leg ulcer and hydra clinics, transition clinic – to ease the transition from pediatric to adult services, patient counseling, and sickle cell education and outreach. www.gradhealth.org/specialty/sickle-center

Grady Health System (404)616-3388

Sickle Cell Foundation of Georgia (SCFG) is one of the oldest sickle cell-focused institutions in the nation. Its mission is to reduce the incidence of sickle cell disease, to monitor the incidence of sickle cell, and to help improve the quality of life for persons afflicted with the disease. The Foundation sponsors educational programs, conducts testing, counsels families, supports healthcare providers, and coordinates activities that benefit patients through the year.

2391 Benjamin E Mays Jr Drive, Atlanta, GA 30311 (404)755-1641 www.sicklega.org

TRANSPORTATION

Georgia Medicaid NET Program is the non-emergency transportation program providing transportation for eligible Medicaid members who need access to medical care or services. This program only provides services to members when other transportation is not available and eligibility is determined at the time of the contact. Eligible Medicaid members must contact the broker serving their county three days in advance of their appointment to schedule transportation. Urgent care situations can be arranged more quickly. Each broker has a toll free number to schedule transportation and is available Monday through Friday from 7am to 6pm. LogistiCare is the broker providing Georgia Medicaid NET services in Berrien, Brooks, Clinch, Cook, Echols, Lanier, and Lowndes counties.

Logisticare (888) 224-7985

Lowndes County Transit has eight passenger vans, one of which is equipped with an ADA lift. This system provides rural public transportation services designed to allow convenient, dependable, accessible transportation for Lowndes County residents who, due to financial and/or physical burdens, do not have access to other means of transportation. Lowndes County Transit is operated by MIDS, Inc.

Lowndes County Transit (229) 316-2153

MIDS Inc. operates a fully coordinated transportation system running a mixed fleet of DOT 5311 vehicles and company owned 15 passenger vans. MIDS Inc. performs DCH, DHS, GDOT (Public trips), vocational rehabilitation, workmen’s compensation, private pay contracts and transportation for special events. The NET trips are contracted and performed through the states broker. DHS trips are contracted with Regional Development Centers which in turn contracts with MIDS Inc. to perform the DHS trips within their region. MIDS Inc. contracts with Bacon, Berrien, Brooks, Cook, Lowndes, Turner, and Ware County to be the Third Party Operator for the DOT 5311 Program in their area.

MIDS – 1610 River Street, Valdosta, GA 31601 (229)316-2153

APPENDIX A – Cancer Needs Assessment – Continuum of Care Services



A requirement of the Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons

Top Four Cancers in Lowndes County:

1. Breast
2. Lung
3. Colon
4. Prostate

Prevention and Early Detection Programs

- ❖ SGMC will offer a Smoking Prevention program targeting youth
- ❖ SGMC will offer a Smoking Cessation program for adults
- ❖ SGMC will offer educational sessions on prevention and early detection of cancer and provide training tools
- ❖ SGMC will collaborate with area health partners to provide community-based screening programs at no charge to attendees

Evaluations will be completed at the end of each program to assess access and effectiveness

Identified Barriers

- ❖ Lack of insurance/rising costs of care
- ❖ Lack of transportation to medical visits & follow-up

Plans to Address Barriers

SGMC will work with area health agencies to provide improved access to care.

SGMC will address transportation needs with community agencies.



South Georgia Medical Center is a not-for-profit medical system dedicated to being the leader in improving the health, wellness and quality of life in the community.



2501 North Patterson Street
Valdosta, Georgia 31602

www.sgmc.org