

Central Minnesota Alliance
Community Status Assessment Committee

Data Points of Concern with Sources (7/1/21-2/2/22 Process)

Revision on: 8/17/22 (recategorized a couple data points as discussed at the 8/3/22 Status Committee meeting). 3/14/23 (modified the titles of #18, #20, and #32 as discussed at the 3/1/23 Status Committee meeting).

Note: The data points are numbered for reference, but there is no prioritization of the data points. They are all considered data points of concern.

Central Minnesota Alliance is a partnership between the counties of Benton, Sherburne, and Stearns along with CentraCare to assess the health needs of our communities, identify priorities, and develop action plans for improvement.

The Community Status Assessment is one of three Assessment Committees conducting community health assessment tasks.

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Please note: MSS = Minnesota Student Survey

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CHILDHOOD AND FAMILY CONCERNS

1: Parenting Skills. 59% of adults in the 3-county region view parents with inadequate or poor parenting skills as a moderate or serious problem in the community. (up from 51% in 2016) Source: 2021 Central Minnesota Community Health Survey, Question: In your opinion, how much of a problem is parent with poor parenting skills? Responses: No problem, Minor problem, Moderate problem, Serious problem.

2: Out of Home Placements. 9 out of 1,000 children in the 3-county region are in out-of-home placements. (2017 data was 10 out of 1,000 children) Source: Minnesota Department of Human Services, Minnesota's Out-of-Home Care and Permanency Report 2019, Table 6: Number of children in out-of-home care by sex and agency with U.S. Census child population estimate and rate per 1,000, 2019.

3: Child Maltreatment. 28 out of 1,000 children in the 3-county region have been an alleged victim of child maltreatment. The MN state rate is 29 per 1,000. (2017 data: 3-county area 23 out of 1,000, MN=31 per 1,000) Source: Minnesota Department of Human Services, Minnesota's Child maltreatment Report 2019, Table 9: Number of alleged victims in completed assessments/investigations by maltreatment type and rate per 1,000 children by agency, 2019.

4. MSS Bullying. In 2019, 62.4% of Benton County 8th graders and 54.0% of Sherburne County 8th graders report they were bullied or harassed once or more in the past 30 days, which are both higher than the state rate of 53.7%; Stearns' rate is 50.2%. There is an upward trend from 2013 to 2019 and the rates are higher for females than males. Source: 2013, 2016, and 2019 Minnesota Student Survey via the Substance Use in Minnesota (sumn.org) website.

5. MSS Educational Engagement. There is a downward trend in students reporting higher levels of educational engagement with males trending lower than females and 11th graders trending lower than 5th graders. Sherburne County 11th graders have the lowest rates in 2019 (MN: 68.6%, Sherburne: 63.9%, Stearns: 69.7%, Benton: 72.3%). Source: 2013, 2016, and 2019 Minnesota Student Survey via the Substance Use in Minnesota (sumn.org) website.

6. Childhood lead. In 2019, 4.4% of Benton County children age 3 to less than 6 years of age tested for elevated blood levels had an elevated blood lead level (EBLL). (MN: 0.4%, Sherburne 0%, Stearns 0%). Source: Minnesota Department of Health Lead & Healthy Homes Program, 2019. Note: these data include small numbers of less than 20 EBLLs and the percent elevated can change dramatically with the addition or subtraction of one EBLL.

7. **Childhood immunizations 24-35 months.** From 2019 through 2021, the percent of children age 24-35 months old receiving the seven-vaccine childhood immunization series has dropped in Sherburne and Stearns County, following the state trend. The 2021 immunization rate for children age 24-35 months old in Stearns County is at a 5-year low. Source: Minnesota Department of Health, immunization queries, 2016-2019 and 2021.

CHRONIC ILLNESS

8: **COPD.** Benton County COPD rate is 10.3 cases per 10,000 residents. Sherburne is 9.8 COPD cases per 10,000 residents and Stearns County at 8.3 cases per 10,000 residents. Minnesota rate is 14.6 cases per 10,000 residents. (2009-2015 data: per 10,000 – 24.5 Benton, 14.6 Sherburne, 11.8 Stearns. While improving, the Committee would like to continue to track progress on this data point.) Source: Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Public Health Data Access, COPD hospitalizations query. Counties are a three-year average 2017-2019. Minnesota rate is for 2019. For additional information, the Minnesota rate per 10,000 residents for 2017=18.0 and 2018=13.3.

9: **High Blood Pressure.** 22% of residents in the 3-county region have been told by a doctor that they have High Blood Pressure. [2016 = 23%] Source: 2021 Central Minnesota Community Health Survey, Question: Have you ever been told by a doctor, nurse, or other health care professional that you had High Blood Pressure/Hypertension? Responses: Yes; Yes, during pregnancy; No.

10. **Colon Cancer Screening.** In Central Minnesota, there is a 26.9% disparity between the total population and people of color in completing colon cancer screening. As of September 30, 2021, 80.8% for the total population (3.3% above target rate of 77.5% [MN 90th percentile target]) versus 53.9% for people of color (2.3% below target rate of 56.2%) completed colon cancer screenings. Source: CentraCare EPIC, 1/1/2021 through 9/30/2021. Target goal timeframe FY2022, 7/1/2021 through 6/30/2022.

11. **Optimal Asthma Management.** In Central Minnesota, the rate of optimal asthma management is below the target rate. As of September 30, 2021, 52.2% of adults experienced optimal asthma (2.2% below the target rate of 54.4%). Source: Source: CentraCare EPIC, 1/1/2021 through 9/30/2021. Target goal timeframe FY2022, 7/1/2021 through 6/30/2022.

12. Optimal Diabetes Management. In Central Minnesota, the rate of optimal diabetes management is close to the target rate. As of September 30, 2021, 47.8% of adults experienced optimal diabetes (0.8% above the target rate of 47.0% [MN 90th percentile target]). Source: Source: CentraCare EPIC, 1/1/2021 through 9/30/2021. Target goal timeframe FY2022, 7/1/2021 through 6/30/2022.

FINANCIAL

13: Financial Stress. 64% of adults in the 3-county region view families with financial stress as a moderate or serious problem in the community. (up from 60% in 2016) Source: 2021 Central Minnesota Community Health Survey, Question: In your opinion, how much of a problem is families experiencing financial stress? Responses: No problem, Minor problem, Moderate problem, Serious problem.

14: Poverty Level. Benton and Stearns Counties poverty levels are higher than the state rate of 23.7%. Benton County 28.0%, Sherburne County 15.9%, Stearns County 28.3%. Source: Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota County Health Tables, Demographics Table 5: Selected Minnesota Socioeconomic Statistics by State/County/CHB, 2019. American Community Survey 2015-2019.

15: Single Parent Households. 30.2% of Benton County children (under 18) and 24.9% of Stearns County children are living in single parent households. As compared to Sherburne County with 23.0% living in single parent households. (2016 data: 29% Benton, 27.6% Stearns, 21.4% Sherburne). Source: Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota County Health Tables, Demographics, Table 5. Selected Socioeconomic Statistics by State/County/CHB, Minnesota Residents, 2019.

16. Food insecurity in young adults. In the St. Cloud Area, more than a third of young adults under age 24 indicated they had faced food insecurity at some point in the previous 12 months. Source: Social Capital in Central Minnesota 2020/21 Report prepared by St. Cloud State University Survey Center, May 21, 2021, Commissioned by the Central Minnesota Community Foundation. Phone survey using a sample of adults with a landline or cell phone in a 15-mile radius around St. Cloud, Minnesota, which includes residents of Benton, Sherburne, and Stearns Counties.

17. Cost Burdened Households. Cost burdened households for renters in the 3-county region is twice as much as owner cost burdened households. Benton County's all cost burdened households (28.4%) is higher than Sherburne (21.1%) and Stearns (24.9%) Counties. Source: Minnesota Compass, 2015-2019 US Census estimates.

18. [Persistent Inequities for Black Americans](#). According to a November 2021 Special Report by 24/7 Wall St., the St. Cloud Metro Area ranks as the worst United States city for Black Americans based on median income, unemployment, and home ownership data. Source: 24/7 Wall St. Special Report. Released on November 19, 2021, Author: Grant Suneson. Website: <https://247wallst.com/special-report/2021/11/19/the-worst-cities-for-black-americans-8/5/>.

MENTAL WELL-BEING/MENTAL HEALTH

19: [ACES](#). **75% of residents living below the 200% of poverty line have at least 1 Adverse childhood experience (ACE), compared to 55% of residents living above 200% poverty line.** Source: 2016 Central Minnesota Community Health Survey, Question: Combined ACE score. Responses: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4+.

20. [Happiness by Race](#). In the St. Cloud Area, respondents of Color indicated they are “not very happy” or “not happy at all” three times as frequently as White respondents (respondents of Color 15%, White respondents 5%). Source: Social Capital in Central Minnesota 2020/21 Report prepared by St. Cloud State University Survey Center, May 21, 2021, Commissioned by the Central Minnesota Community Foundation. Phone survey using a sample of adults with a landline or cell phone in a 15-mile radius around St. Cloud, Minnesota, which includes residents of Benton, Sherburne, and Stearns Counties. (see page 17 of the report) Question: All things considered, would you say you are very happy, happy, not very happy, or not happy at all?

21: [Mental Health Care Delay](#). **14% of residents in the 3-county region did not get or delayed getting Mental Health care. Among females, 21% did not get or delayed getting the Mental Health care they needed. This rate also increases among residents living below 200% of the poverty line at 22% not getting or a delay in getting mental health care.** (2016 related percentages: 10% delay, 15% females, 19% below 200% poverty). Source: 2021 Central Minnesota Community Health Survey, Question: During the past 12 months, was there a time when you wanted to speak with a health professional about mental health issues but didn't/delayed getting it. Responses: Yes or No.

22. [MSS Depression](#). In 2019, **33.7% of Benton County female 8th graders reported depressive symptoms in the past two weeks, which is 7.4% higher than the MN rate of 26.3% (Sherburne's rate 28.5%, Stearns' rate 23.2%).** Source: 2019 Minnesota Student Survey via the Substance Use in Minnesota (sumn.org) website.

23. [MSS Anxiety](#). In 2019, **over 40% of Benton County 8th and 11th grade females as well as Sherburne County 11th grade females reported symptoms of anxiety in the past 2-weeks.** (8th grade females: MN 32.1%, Benton 41.7%, Sherburne 35.3%, Stearns 26.6%; 11th grade females: MN 38.5%, Benton 40.0%, Sherburne 40.5%, Stearns 31.1%). Source: 2019 Minnesota Student Survey via the Substance Use in Minnesota (sumn.org) website.

24: Mental Health Condition. **38% of Benton County residents have been told they have a mental health condition as compared to 26% of Sherburne County residents and 32% of Stearns County residents. Overall, 31% of residents in the 3-county region have been told that they had a mental health condition.** (2016, Benton 40%, Sherburne 28%, Stearns 26%, Overall 29%) Source: 2021 Central Minnesota Community Health Survey, Question: Have you ever been told by a doctor, nurse, or other health care professional that you had depression or anxiety/panic attacks or PTSD or other mental health issues? Responses: Yes or No. The 2021 data were slightly different than the 2016 question in that PTSD was offered as a separate condition to respond to.

25. Depression 6-month remission, Adolescent. **In Central Minnesota, the rate of 6-month remission for adolescent depression is below the target rate. As of September 30, 2021, 6.5% of adolescents experienced a 6-month remission of their depression (2.6% below the target rate of 9.1%).** Source: Source: CentraCare EPIC, 1/1/2021 through 9/30/2021. Target goal timeframe FY2022, 7/1/2021 through 6/30/2022.

26. Depression 6-month remission, Adult. **In Central Minnesota, the rate of 6-month remission for adult depression is below the target rate. As of September 30, 2021, 7.4% of adults experienced a 6-month remission of their depression (1.0% below the target rate of 8.4%).** Source: Source: CentraCare EPIC, 1/1/2021 through 9/30/2021. Target goal timeframe FY2022, 7/1/2021 through 6/30/2022.

27. Alzheimer's Death Rate per 100,000. **The Benton County Age-Adjusted Alzheimer's Cause-Specific Death Rate per 100,000 is at 56.2, which is higher than the state rate of 32.6. (Sherburne 47.2, Stearns 23.8).** Source: Minnesota County Health Tables, Mortality Table 7. Age-Adjusted Cause-Specific Death Rates for 10 Leading Causes by State/County/CHB, 2015-2019. The rates are age adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population.

28: Suicide Ideation. **Over a quarter of 9th grade females in the 3-county region have ever considered suicide - 29% for Benton County, 31% for Sherburne County, and 24% for Stearns County. Female 9th graders are about two times more likely than male 9th graders to have considered suicide in the 3-county region.** (2016 data: 26% Benton, 30% Sherburne, 22% Stearns) Source: 2019 Minnesota Student Survey, Table 28, Question: Have you ever seriously considered attempting suicide (Mark all that apply)? Responses: No; Yes, during the last year; Yes, more than a year ago. (calculated by subtracting the No responses from 100)

29: [Suicide, Cause of Death](#). **In the 3-county region, suicide is the 8th leading cause of death and 4th leading cause in premature deaths (deaths under 75 years of age).** (2016 data 7th & 4th) Source: Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota County Health Tables, Mortality Table 7: Age-Adjusted Cause-specific Death Rates for 10 Leading Causes by State/County/CHB, 2015-2019, Mortality Table 8: Premature Deaths (Under age 75) for 10 Leading Causes by State/County/CHB, Minnesota, 2015-2019.

SOCIAL CONNECTION

30. [Caring Teachers and Adults](#). **In Benton, Stearns, and Sherburne Counties, 8th, 9th, and 11th grade males are more likely to feel that teachers or other adults in school care for them. In response to the question of, How much do you feel teachers/other adults at school care about you?, less than 45% of the 8th, 9th, and 11th grade females answered very much or quite a bit. The females were more likely to answer some, a little, or not at all.** Source: 2019 Minnesota Student Survey. Table 17: Perceptions of Family and Others Caring. How much do you feel teachers/other adults at school care about you? Options for response: Very much, Quite a bit, Some, A little, Not at all.

31. [MSS Student/Adult Relationships](#). **In 2019, 40.3% of Benton County 8th graders and 46.2% of Sherburne County 8th graders report that they have strong relationships with the adults in their schools, which are both lower than the state rate of 50.7% (Stearns' rate is 55.7%).** Source: 2019 Minnesota Student Survey via the Substance Use in Minnesota (sumn.org) website.

32. [Social Capital Scale and Race](#). **In the St. Cloud Area, White communities compared to Communities of Color seem to be associated with more social capital. Social Capital Scale Mean Scores: Communities of Color= 12.96, White Community = 15.47.** Source: Social Capital in Central Minnesota 2020/21 Report prepared by St. Cloud State University Survey Center, May 21, 2021, Commissioned by the Central Minnesota Community Foundation. Phone survey using a sample of adults with a landline or cell phone in a 15-mile radius around St. Cloud, Minnesota, which includes residents of Benton, Sherburne, and Stearns Counties. Social Capital is measured using 24 data elements with a minimum score of 0 and a maximum score of 23. (see p.33, 34, and 40 of the report)

SUBSTANCE USE

33: [Smoked During Pregnancy](#). **14.5% of women in Benton County smoked during pregnancy, this is double the MN state rate of 7.1%. Sherburne County and Stearns County rates are 7.8% and 8.0%, respectively; all 3 counties are above the MN state rate.** While we celebrate that these 2019 data are less than the 2016 data, they remain a concern. Source: Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota County Health Tables, Natality Table 7b: Selected Characteristics of Births by State/County/CHB, Minnesota Residents, 2019.

34: Drug Overdoses. Number of drug overdose deaths is increasing rapidly. In 2001, for the 3-county region, there were 8 deaths and in 2016, there were 38 drug overdose deaths. Source: Minnesota Department of Health, Opioid Dashboard, Drug Overdose Deaths among Minnesota Residents Report 2000-2016, Appendix 1 – Drug Category Tables, Table 1: Number of opioid-involved overdose deaths (non-exclusive), by county of residence or metro area and year, 2000-2016. [Note: 2017 and 2018 county-level data for all three counties were suppressed because the number of deaths were equal or less than 10 per year. This indicates that this data point is decreasing as it is 30 or less, yet the exact number is not known. Source: Minnesota Department of Health, Drug Overdose Deaths among Minnesota Residents, 2000-2018, Appendix 1, Table 1: Number of opioid-involved overdose deaths (non-exclusive) by county of residence or metro area and year, 2000-2018.]

35: HS Education & Smoking. 17% of residents in Benton County with less than a high school education are smokers, and 50% of Sherburne County residents with this same education level (Stearns County rate is 11% for this same population). These rates are high compared to the 3-county region rate of 10% of residents classified as a current smoker, regardless of education levels. (2016 data: 20% Benton, 25% Sherburne, 14% Stearns, 14% Region) Source: 2016 Central Minnesota Community Health Survey, Question: Cigarette Smoking Status. Responses: Current Smoker, Former Smoker, Never Smoked. This data point is about “Current Smokers”.

36. MSS E-Cig Use. From 2016 to 2019 there is an upward trend in e-cigarette use in 8th, 9th, and 11th grade males and females in Benton, Sherburne, and Stearns Counties. Source: 2016 and 2019 Minnesota Student Survey via the Substance Use in Minnesota (sumn.org) website. Percent of students reporting using an e-cigarette on one or more days within the past 30 day.

37. MSS Marijuana Harm. In Benton, Sherburne, and Stearns Counties, from 2013 to 2019, there is a downward trend of the percent of 8th, 9th, and 11th graders reporting that they believe people put themselves at a great or moderate risk of harm by smoking marijuana once or twice a week. Additionally, males report lower rates compared to females. Source: 2013, 2016, and 2019 Minnesota Student Survey via the Substance Use in Minnesota (sumn.org) website.

38. MSS Marijuana Friend Perception. In Benton, Sherburne, and Stearns Counties, from 2013 to 2019, there is a downward trend of the percent of 8th, 9th, and 11th graders reporting that they think their friends would feel it is wrong or very wrong for them to smoke marijuana. Additionally, males report lower rates compared to females. Source: 2013, 2016, and 2019 Minnesota Student Survey via the Substance Use in Minnesota (sumn.org) website.

39. Substance Use Disorder Stigma. 75.2% of the U.S. public do not believe that a person with a substance use disorder (SUD) is experiencing a chronic medical illness such as diabetes, arthritis, or heart disease. There is also increased stigma toward non-white persons with SUD. Source: Shatterproof Addiction Stigma Index, October 2021. n=7889