



Dignity Health St. Joseph's Westgate Medical Center's 2025 CHNA Executive Summary

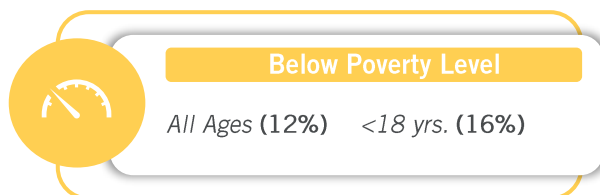
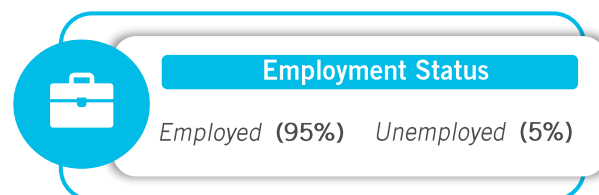
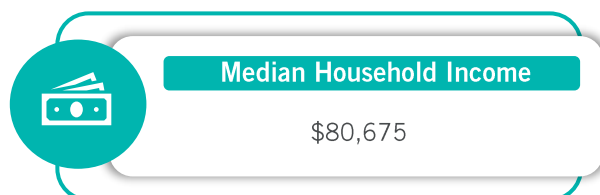
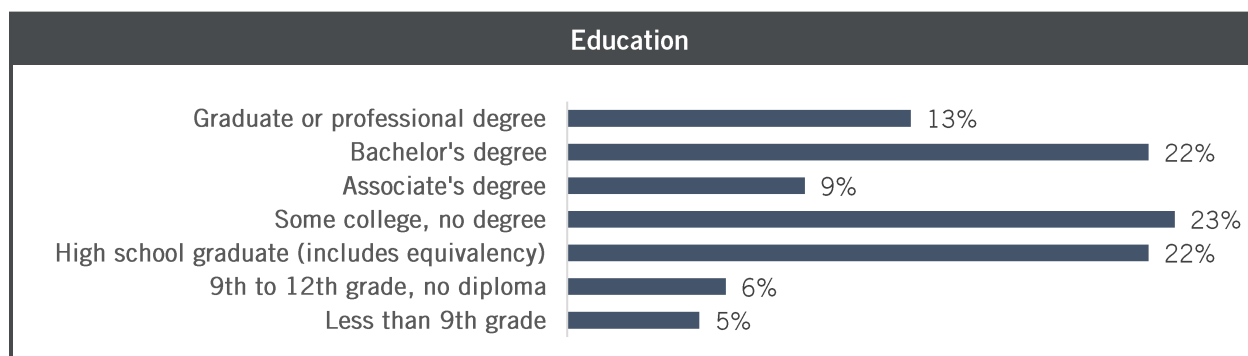
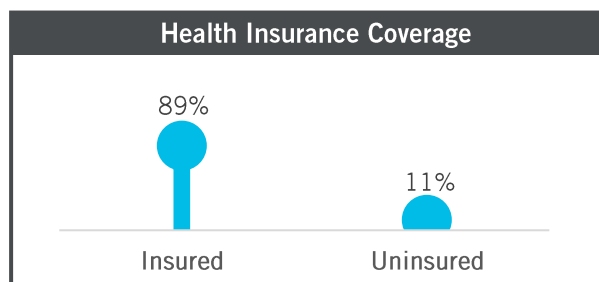
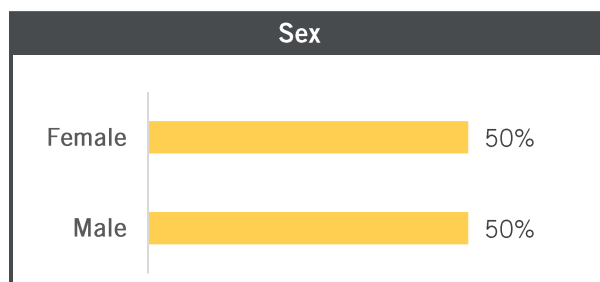
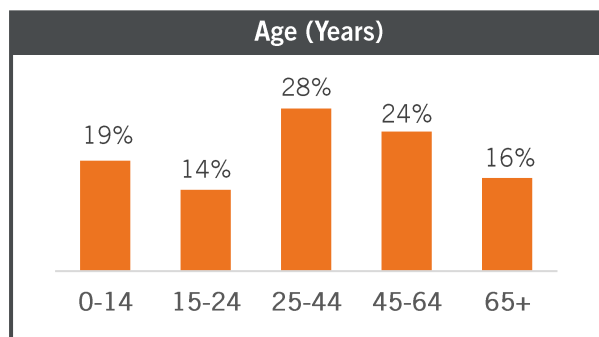
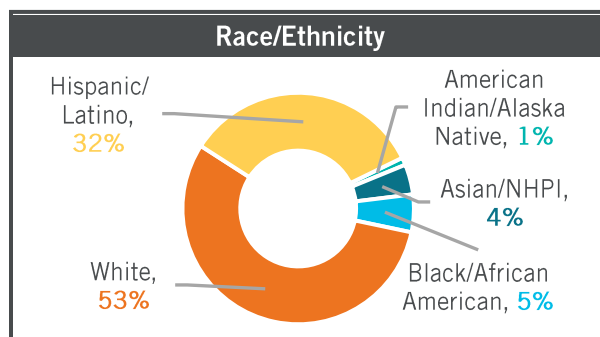
This executive summary provides a snapshot of identified health disparities among selected priorities for Dignity Health St. Joseph's Westgate Medical Center's (SJWMC) in Maricopa County. When available, the data provided for the health disparities are 2022 age-adjusted rates per 100,000 people and is based on the Maricopa County population. SJWMC selected the following health priorities for the 2025-2028 community health needs assessment:

Equity Lens

- **Mental Health**
- **Social Determinants of Health**
(Housing, Heat)
- **Access to Care**
- **Chronic Conditions**
(Diabetes, Cardiovascular Disease, Chronic
- **Substance Use**
- **Cancer**
- **Maternal and Child Health**
(Preterm Births)
- **Violence and Injury Prevention**
(Fall-related, Assault-related injuries)

Demographic Profile (Maricopa County)

The following demographic data are provided for 2022. Residents in Maricopa County were predominantly **White** and aged **25-44 years**. Despite the **median household income** exceeding **\$80,000**, approximately **12%** of the population live **below the poverty level** and **11%** **lack insurance coverage**, while **5%** are **unemployed**. Education levels vary, with **over 1 in 5** having some college education, holding a **bachelor's degree**, or being **high school graduates**. Additionally, **over 1 in 4** of residents **spoke a language outside of English** at home, reflecting the area's diversity.ⁱ

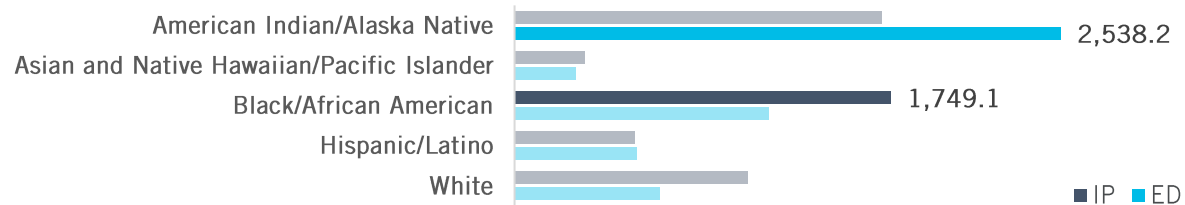


Mental Health

Mental health is essential to overall well-being, affecting how people handle stress and connect with others. Issues like mental and behavioral disorders are a priority area for SJWMC. Data is provided for Maricopa County.^{ii, iii, iv} Only nonfatal rates - inpatient hospitalization (IP) and emergency department visits (ED) were reported.

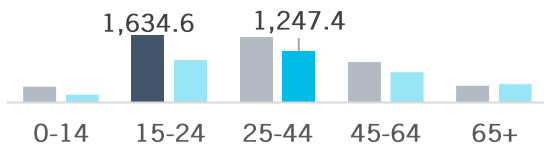
Disparities by Race/Ethnicity

In 2022, **Black/African Americans** had the highest age-adjusted rate of IP hospitalizations due to all mental & behavioral disorders per 100,000 people. **American Indians/Alaska Natives** had the highest rate of ED visits.



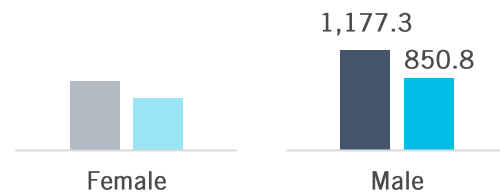
Disparities by Age

Those aged **15-24 years** had the highest crude rate of IP hospitalizations due to all mental & behavioral disorders per 100,000 people. Those aged **25-44 years** had the highest rate of ED visits.

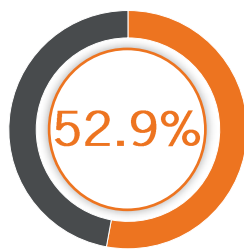


Disparities by Sex

Males had the highest age-adjusted rates of IP hospitalizations & ED visits due to all mental & behavioral disorders per 100,000 people.



Community Insights in Maricopa County



of 2023 CHNA survey respondents rated their **mental health** such as their mood & how they handle stress day to day as **"Fair"** or **"Poor"**

Words from a Focus Group Participant

The biggest struggle that I have found is finding a therapist or a psychiatrist who are willing to see transgender patients, even when it does not have to do with gender affirming care. Even it's just depression or anxiety, I've been turned away for the simple fact that I'm transgender, even though it had nothing to do with why I was going to need the mental health professional.

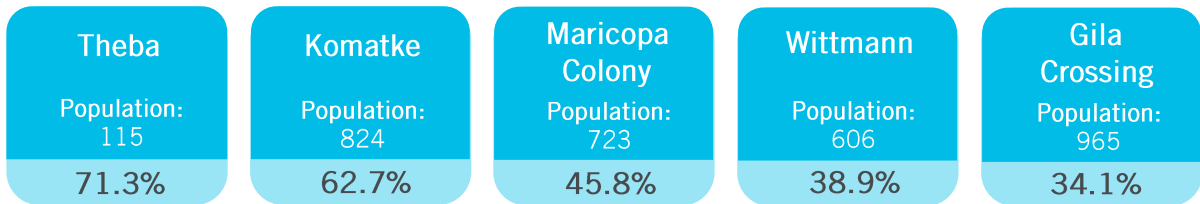
- 2023 LGBTQ+ Focus Group Participant

Sources: 2022 Hospital Discharge Data, 2023 CHNA Survey & Focus Groups

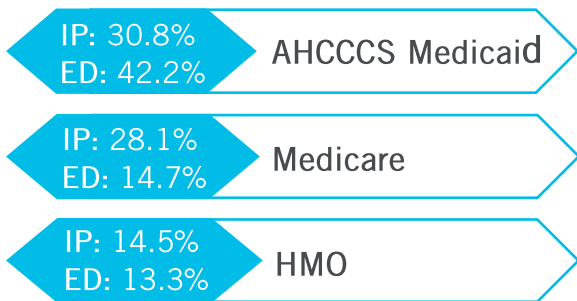
Access to Care

Access to care is vital for ensuring timely medical treatment, preventing serious health issues, and promoting overall well-being. Health insurance enables access to necessary healthcare, but effective access also depends on affordable and available providers who are located nearby.^v Access to care is a priority area for SJWMC. Data is provided for Maricopa County.^{vi, ii, i, iii, iv}

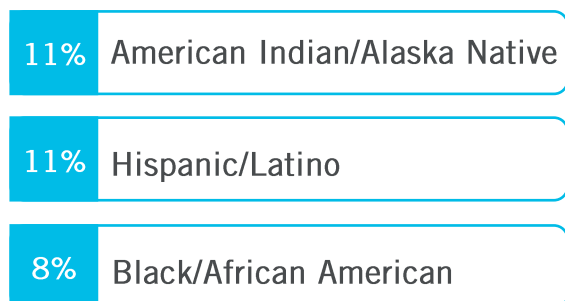
Which communities in Maricopa County have the highest proportion of all people without health insurance?



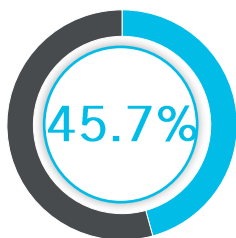
Top Three Primary Payer Types (IP & ED)



Top Race/Ethnicities Living Below Poverty



Community Insights in Maricopa County



of 2023 CHNA survey respondents indicated **evening or weekend appointments** would help them get the care they need

Words from a Focus Group Participant

You can't get AHCCCS if you make over a certain amount a year but the thing is, like, the amount that I could be making, it's only enough for me to survive. So they're saying like, Okay, well you make over this amount so you're not going to get AHCCCS anymore but this money that I'm making is barely paying my bills and I'm barely surviving off of this money.

- 2023 Previously Incarcerated Focus Group Participant

Sources: 2019-2023 PolicyMap, 2022 Hospital Discharge Data, 2022 U.S Census, 2023 CHNA Survey & Focus Groups

Social Determinants of Health (Housing)

Social determinants of health (SDOH), such as economic stability, social and community support, the built environment, access to quality health care, and education, all play a key role in shaping health outcomes and advancing health equity.^{vii} SDOH like housing is a priority area for SJWMC. Data is provided for Maricopa County^{vi, viii, iii, iv}

Top Communities in Maricopa County with Severely Cost-Burdened Renters

- Citrus Park – 52.9%
- Tolleson – 50.9%
- Sun Lakes – 44.1%
- Sun City – 42.0%
- Litchfield Park – 40.2%

Top Communities in Maricopa County with Severely Cost-Burdened Homeowners

- Wintersburg – 42.3%
- Wittmann – 21.8%
- Cave Creek – 21.5%
- Maricopa Colony – 18.8%
- Guadalupe – 17.6%

Top Communities with an Unsheltered Homelessness Count in Maricopa County

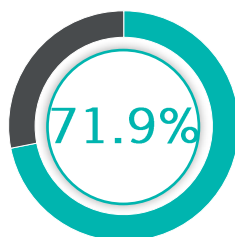
Mesa 451 Tempe 384 Chandler 133 Scottsdale 114 Guadalupe 64

Point-in-Time Homelessness Count by Race/Ethnicity, Gender & Age in Maricopa County



In 2022, majority of the Point-in-Time count has identified as **White** (63%), **male** (65%) & adults aged **25+ years** (78%).

Community Insights in Maricopa County



of 2023 CHNA survey respondents rated **access to affordable housing** as **“Fair”** or **“Poor”** in the community where they live

Words from a Focus Group Participant

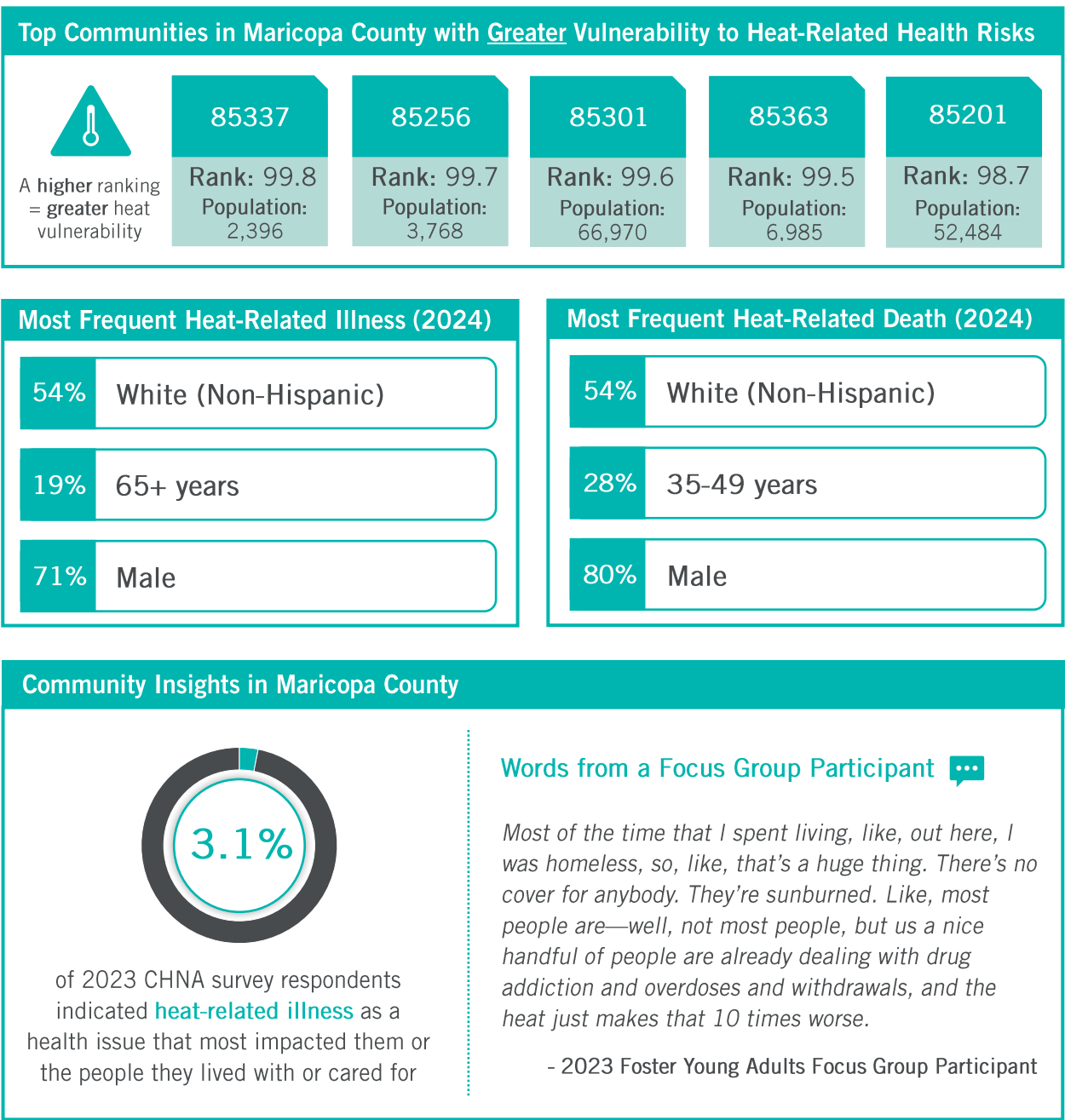
I just recently had a loved one pass away on the streets, actually...I don't think there's enough information on our televisions, on our computers, that say, “This is available to people.” We don't have enough shelters for people...but the homeless population and the mental health issues, that's really been heavy on my heart.

- 2023 Rural Focus Group Participant

Sources: 2019-2023 PolicyMap, 2022 MAG Point-in-Time Count Report, 2023 CHNA Survey & Focus Groups

Social Determinants of Health (Heat)

The number of people experiencing extreme heat is rapidly increasing across all regions as a result of climate change.^{ix} Heat stress, the leading cause of weather-related deaths, can exacerbate underlying illnesses such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, mental health disorders, and asthma.^x SDOH like heat is a priority area for SJWMC. Data is provided for Maricopa County.^{vi, x, iii, iv}



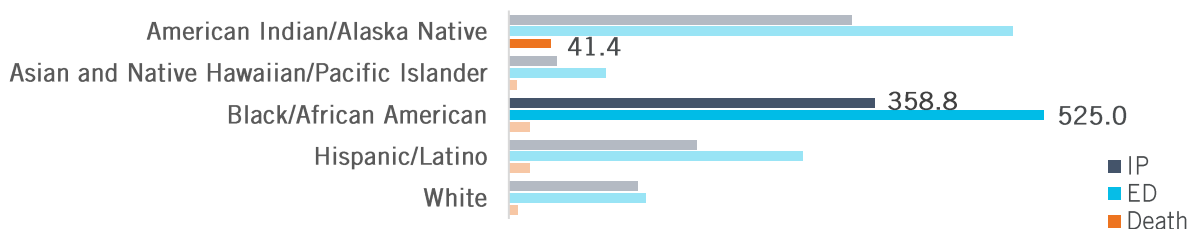
Sources: 2024 PolicyMap, 2024 Maricopa County Public Health Heat-related Illness and Death Dashboard, 2023 CHNA Survey & Focus Groups

Chronic Conditions

Diabetes is an important health issue as it impacts quality of life and health complications like kidney failure, heart attacks, stroke, etc.^{xi} Chronic condition issues like diabetes is a priority area for SJWMC. Data is provided for Maricopa County.^{ii, iii, iv} All rates - inpatient hospitalization (IP), emergency department visits (ED), and death were reported.

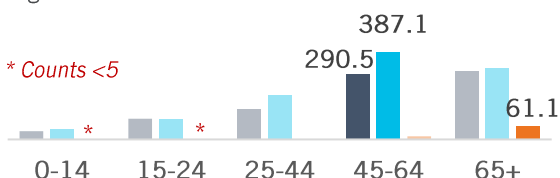
Disparities by Race/Ethnicity

In 2022, **Black/African Americans** had the highest age-adjusted rates of IP hospitalizations and **ED** visits due to diabetes per 100,000 people. **American Indians/Alaska Natives** had the highest **death** rate.



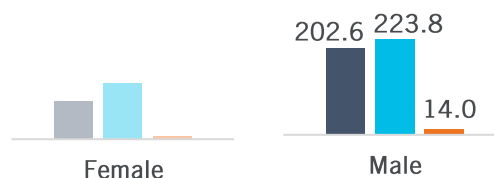
Disparities by Age

Those aged **45-64 years** had the highest crude rates of IP hospitalizations & **ED** visits due to diabetes per 100,000 people. Those aged **65+ years** had the highest **death** rate.

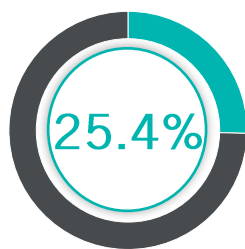


Disparities by Sex

Males had the highest age-adjusted rates of IP hospitalizations, **ED** visits, & **death** due to diabetes per 100,000 people.



Community Insights in Maricopa County



of 2023 CHNA survey respondents indicated **diabetes** as a health issue that most impacted them or the people they lived with or cared for

Words from a Focus Group Participant

...I'm fighting with these doctors, far as my diabetes is concerned...My doctor took me off of this one medicine, 'cause it wasn't doing right. Then she sent me to a specialist. Well, the specialist never called me...Now, I'm referred back to another doctor...She took me off of this one medicine. Well, my diabetes is over 200, and I'm not hearing from any of these doctors to get in, to get new medicine. I went back on my old medicine, because I don't wanna die...

- 2023 Seniors Focus Group Participant

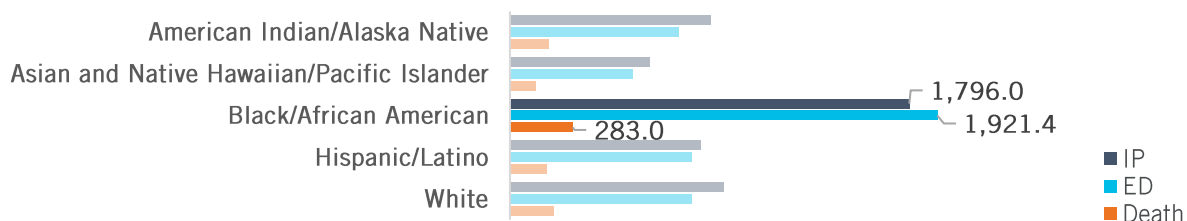
Sources: 2022 Hospital Discharge Data, 2022 Death Data, 2023 CHNA Survey and Focus Groups

Chronic Conditions

Cardiovascular disease is a leading cause of hospitalization, emergency department visits, and deaths in Maricopa County, highlighting the need for prevention to improve heart health.ⁱⁱ Chronic condition issues like cardiovascular disease is a priority area for SJWMC. Data is provided for Maricopa County.^{ii, iii, iv} All rates - inpatient hospitalization (IP), emergency department visits (ED), and death were reported.

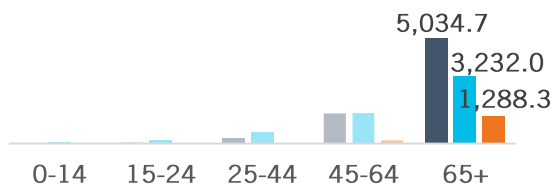
Disparities by Race/Ethnicity

In 2022, **Black/African Americans** had the highest age-adjusted rates of IP hospitalizations, **ED** visits, & **death** due to cardiovascular disease per 100,000 people.



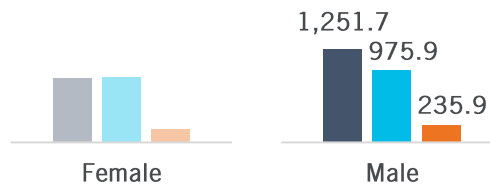
Disparities by Age

Those aged **65+ years** had the highest crude rates of IP hospitalizations, **ED** visits, & **death** due to cardiovascular disease per 100,000 people.

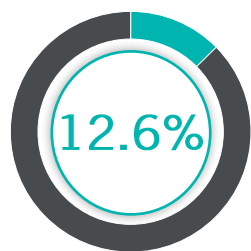


Disparities by Sex

Males had the highest age-adjusted rates of IP hospitalizations, **ED** visits, & **death** due to cardiovascular disease per 100,000 people.



Community Insights in Maricopa County



of 2023 CHNA survey respondents indicated **heart disease** as a health issue that most impacted them or the people they lived with or cared for

Words from a Focus Group Participant

Feel like, with obesity on the rise, heart disease, things like that, it would be very important for people to be active, and I feel like, not just in Goodyear, but all communities in Maricopa County, it's really hard for people to be active, especially during summer, when they're aren't places that you can really do that, that are indoors.

- 2023 Rural Focus Group Participant

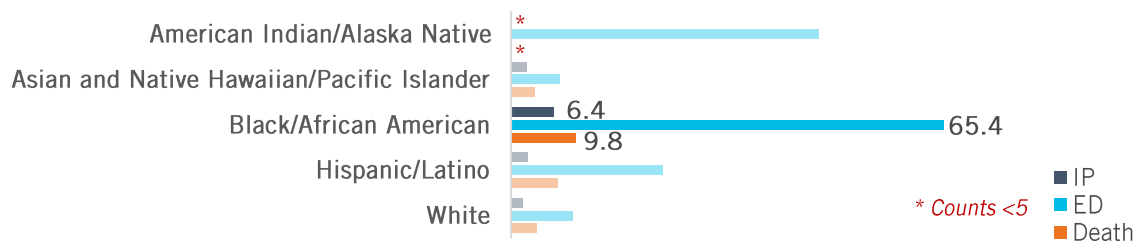
Sources: 2022 Hospital Discharge Data, 2022 Death Data, 2023 CHNA Survey and Focus Groups

Chronic Conditions

The leading cause of kidney failure is diabetes, followed by high blood pressure.^{xii} Chronic condition issues like chronic kidney disease is a priority area for SJWMC. Data is provided for Maricopa County.^{ii, iii, iv} All rates - inpatient hospitalization (IP), emergency department visits (ED), and death were reported.

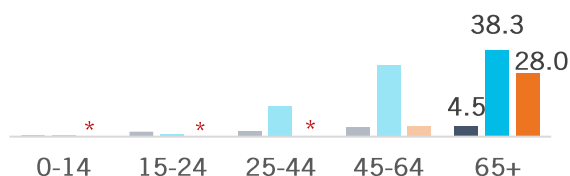
Disparities by Race/Ethnicity

In 2022, **Black/African Americans** had the highest age-adjusted rates of IP hospitalizations, **ED** visits, & **death** due to chronic kidney disease per 100,000 people.



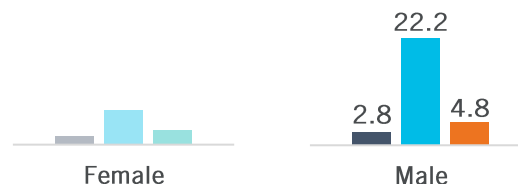
Disparities by Age

Those aged **65+ years** had the highest crude rates of IP hospitalizations, **ED** visits, and **death** due to chronic kidney disease per 100,000 people.



Disparities by Sex

Males had the highest age-adjusted rates of IP hospitalizations, **ED** visits, and **death** due to chronic kidney disease per 100,000 people.



Community Insights in Maricopa County



of 2023 CHNA survey respondents indicated **kidney diseases and conditions** as a health issue that most impacted them or the people they lived with or cared for

Words from a Survey Participant

Need affordable transportation to and from dialysis treatment. Also free transportation for Kidney transplant recipients.

- 2023 Asian Survey Participant

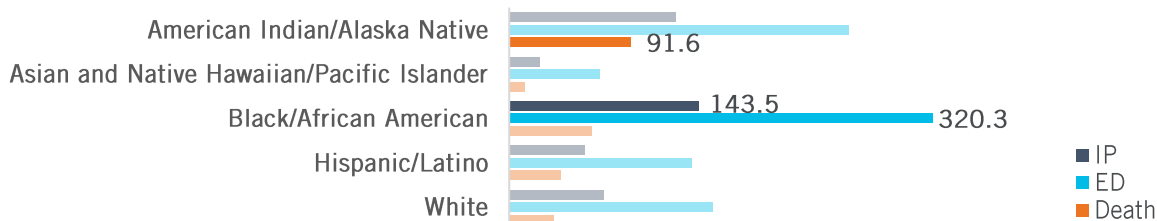
Sources: 2022 Hospital Discharge Data, 2022 Death Data, 2023 CHNA Survey

Substance Use

Substance use disorders are linked with many health issues and significantly increase the risk of overdose and death. Opioid use disorder, has seen a sharp increase in fatalities in recent years, highlighting the need for prevention and treatment efforts.^{xiii} Beyond health, substance use impacts families, burdens healthcare systems, and impacts economic productivity and public safety.^{xii} Substance use is a priority area for SJWMC. Data is provided for Maricopa County.^{ii, iii, iv}

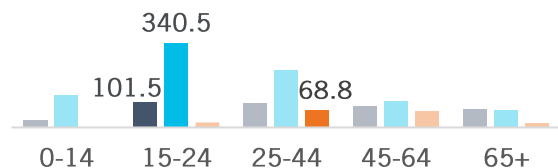
Disparities by Race/Ethnicity

In 2022, **Black/African Americans** had the highest age-adjusted rates of **IP** hospitalizations and **ED** visits due to all drug overdoses per 100,000 people. **American Indian/Alaska Natives** had the highest **death** rate.



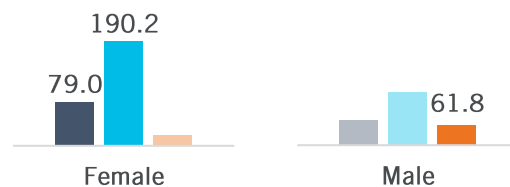
Disparities by Age

Those aged **15-24 years** had the crude rates of **IP** hospitalizations and **ED** visits due to all drug overdoses per 100,000 people. Those aged **25-44 years** had the highest **death** rate.

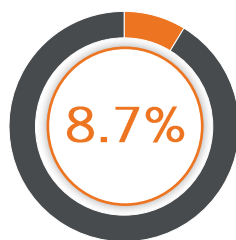


Disparities by Sex

Females had the highest age-adjusted rates of **IP** hospitalizations & **ED** visits due to all drug overdoses per 100,000 people. **Males** had the highest **death**



Community Insights in Maricopa County



of 2023 CHNA survey respondents indicated **alcohol/substance misuse** as a health issue that most impacted them or the people they lived with or cared for

Words from a Survey Participant

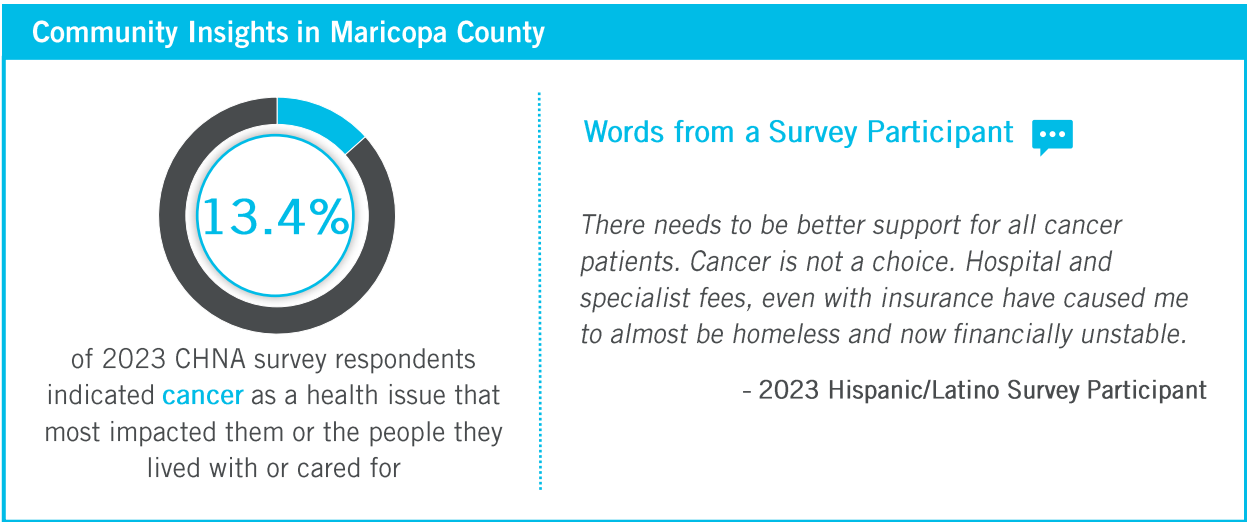
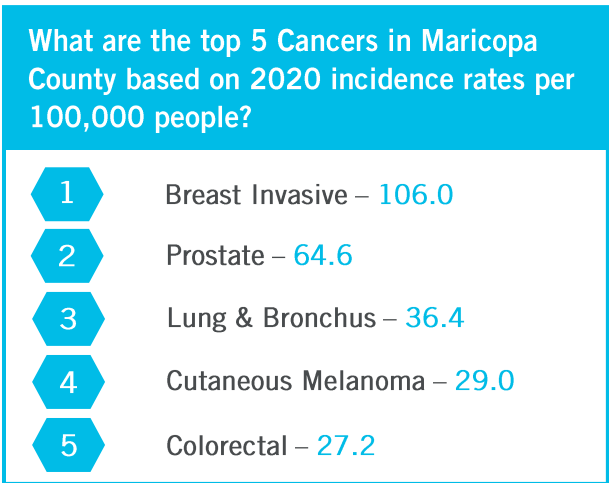
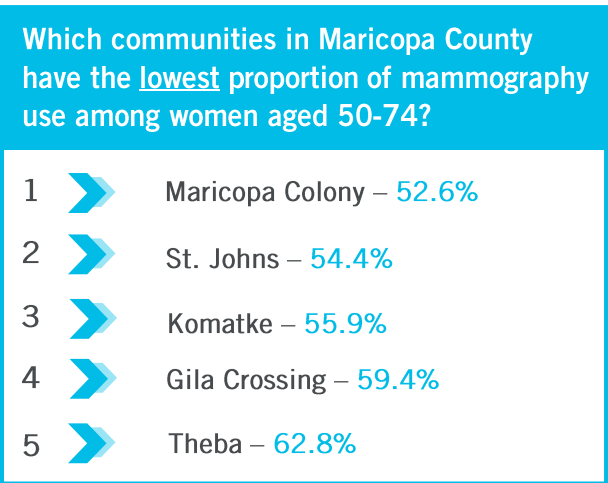
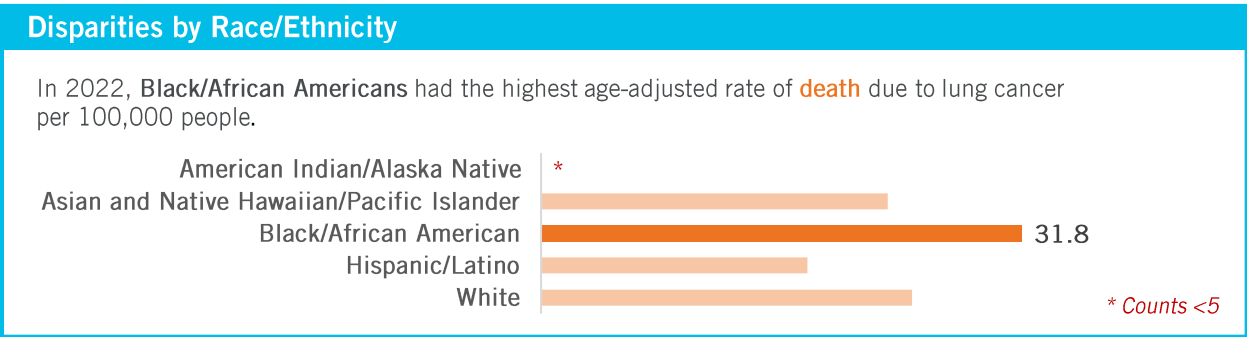
I believe we need more substance abuse and mental health assistance. Too many of my children's friends have died due to these issues. They have nowhere to turn no funding and the ones I have seen are a bit scary. Maricopa county needs to spend more on mental health care, or we will all pay with the horrible incidents that are occurring everywhere USA. Hire more school counselors to help identify the issues prior to suicide or self-medication overdosing.

- 2023 White Survey Participant

Sources: 2020 PolicyMap, 2023 CHNA Survey

Cancer

Cancer is a leading cause of death worldwide and the most common cancers are breast, lung, colon, and rectum.^{xiv} In Maricopa County, “all cancers” ranked as the second cause of death based on overall rates. In Maricopa County, lung cancer had the greatest death rate in 2022. Data is provided for Maricopa County.^{ii, vi, xv, iii, iv} Only fatal (death) rates were reported.



Sources: 2022 Death Data, 2022 PolicyMap, 2020 ADHS Cancer Registry, 2023 CHNA Survey

Maternal and Child Health

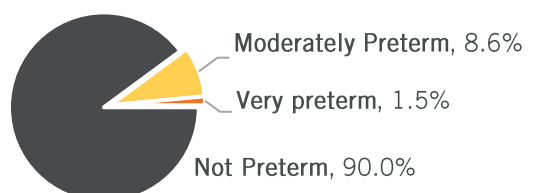
Maternal and child health, particularly pre-term births is a priority area for SJWMC. Maternal and child health is critical for ensuring the well-being of families and communities. Early health interventions and care during pregnancy, childbirth, and the child's early years lay the foundation for a child's long-term physical, emotional, and cognitive development.^{xvi} Data is provided for Maricopa County.^{ii, xvii, iv}

Disparities by Race/Ethnicity

In 2022, American Indian/Alaska Natives had the highest age-adjusted rates of **pre-term births** per 100 live



Distribution of Gestational Age Categories in Maricopa County (2023)



Moderately preterm: 32-36 completed weeks of gestation
Very preterm: less than 32 weeks gestation
Not preterm: greater than or equal to 37 weeks gestation

Which race/ethnicities in Maricopa County have the highest proportion of pre-term birth rates?

- Black – 13.3%
- American Indian/Alaska Native – 12.9%
- Asian/Pacific Islander – 10.6%
- Hispanic – 10.0%
- White – 9.2%

Community Insights in Maricopa County



of 2023 CHNA survey respondents indicated **sexual and reproductive issues** as a health issue that most impacted them or the people they lived with or cared for

Words from a Focus Group Participant

I'd say access to reproductive health. I know for myself, it's because my name and gender have all been legally changed, but I really, really needed to see an OBGYN. I was having a lot of issues, and I called 10 places that refused to treat me, which is crazy, because they all accepted AHCCCS...I feel like they should be mandated to be educated on trans healthcare needs. I don't know, but I don't know how they could enforce it, but yeah. Definitely access to care.

- 2023 Queer, Transgender, Black, and Indigenous People of Color Focus Group Participant

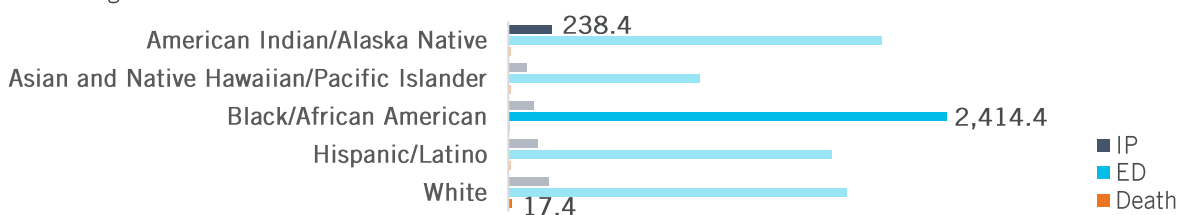
Sources: 2022 Birth Data, 2023 March of Dimes, 2023 CHNA Survey and Focus Groups

Violence and Injury Prevention

Violence and injury prevention is important because it saves lives, reduces healthcare costs, and creates safer communities. Unintentional and violence-related injuries account for around 4.4 million deaths worldwide each year, representing nearly eight percent of all fatalities.^{xvii} Violence and injury prevention, particularly fall-related injuries is a priority area for SJWMC. Data is provided for Maricopa County.^{ii, iii, iv} Rates for fall-related injuries - inpatient hospitalization (IP), emergency department visits (ED), and death were reported.

Disparities by Race/Ethnicity

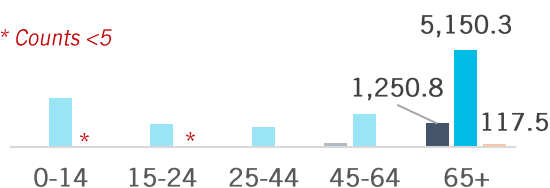
In 2022, **American Indians/Alaska Natives** had the highest age-adjusted rates of **IP** hospitalizations due to fall-related injuries per 100,000 people. **Black/African Americans** had the highest rate of **ED** visits. **Whites** had the highest **death** rate.



Disparities by Age

Those aged **65+ years** had the highest crude rates of **IP** hospitalizations, **ED** visits, and **death** due to fall-related injuries per 100,000 people.

* Counts <5

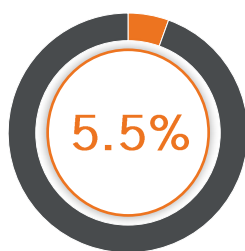


Disparities by Sex

Females had the highest age-adjusted rates of **IP** hospitalizations & **ED** visits due to fall-related injuries per 100,000 people. **Males** had the highest **death** rate.



Community Insights in Maricopa County



of 2023 CHNA survey respondents indicated **unintentional/accidental injury** as a health issue that most impacted them or the people they lived with or cared for

Words from a Focus Group Participant

My mother is home, and she's very, I won't say disabled, but she is very limited to doing things. We were trying to get Arizona Long-term Care. I applied for [it] three times and they denied it and finally got approved once she fell. After that, she got approved and after approval took three or four months to get it.

- 2023 Asian Seniors Focus Group Participant

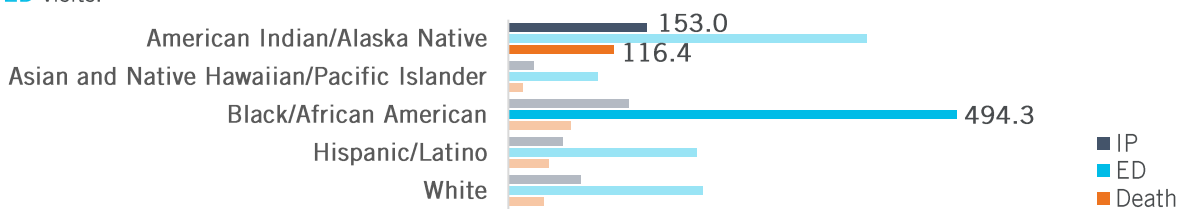
Sources: 2022 Hospital Discharge Data, 2022 Death Data, 2023 CHNA Survey and Focus Groups

Violence and Injury Prevention

Assault-related injuries can lead to physical and emotional trauma. Exposure to trauma, especially in childhood, can lead to an increased risk of mental illness, suicide, substance abuse, chronic disease, and social issues like violence.^{xvii} Violence and injury prevention, particularly assault-related injuries is a priority area for SJWMC. Data is provided for Maricopa County.^{ii, iii, iv} Rates for assault-related injuries - inpatient hospitalization (IP), emergency department visits (ED), and death were reported.

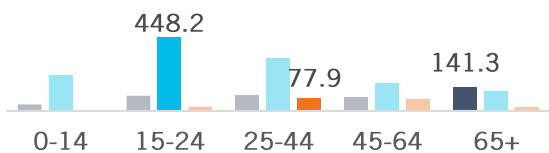
Disparities by Race/Ethnicity

In 2022, **American Indian/Alaska Natives** had the highest age-adjusted rates of **IP** hospitalizations and **death** due to assault-related injuries per 100,000 people. **Black/African Americans** had the highest rate of **ED** visits.



Disparities by Age

Those aged **15-24 years** had the highest crude rate of **ED** visits due to assault-related injuries per 100,000 people. Those aged **65+** had the highest rate of **IP** hospitalization. Those aged **25-44 years** had the highest **death** rate.

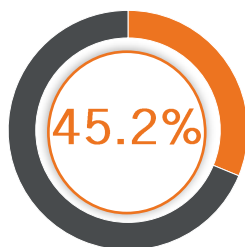


Disparities by Sex

Females had the highest age-adjusted rate of **ED** visits due to assault-related injuries per 100,000 people. **Males** had the highest **IP** hospitalizations & **death** rates.



Community Insights in Maricopa County



of 2023 CHNA survey respondents rated **feeling safe in your home** as **"Fair"** or **"Poor"** in the community where they live

Words from a Focus Group Participant

It's different when they were teenagers, like 10 years ago. They used to take the bus everywhere. I used to take the bus everywhere. I don't feel safe for [him] to go anywhere by himself 'cause I think, I worry. Is he gonna get jumped? Are they gonna try to rob him?

- 2023 Hispanic Focus Group Participant

Sources: 2022 Hospital Discharge Data, 2022 Death Data, 2023 CHNA Survey and Focus Groups

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