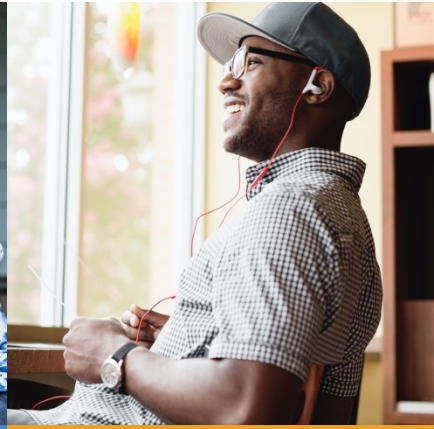
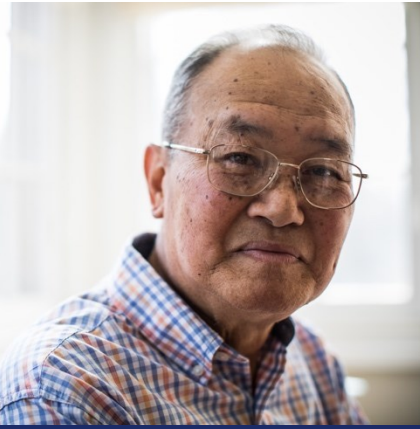
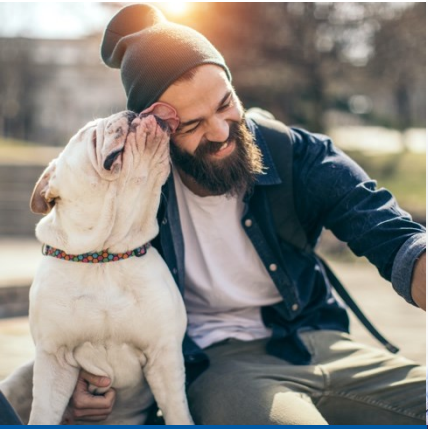


W O R K I N G T O A C H I E V E H E A L T H E Q U I T Y



CMS National Rural Health Day Webinar

November 19, 2024

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Accessibility

Closed Captions

To access this feature, go to the menu at the bottom of the screen and click on "Captions", which will display another menu where you can select "Show Captions". Selecting "Show Captions" will allow closed captioning to appear at the bottom of the screen.

ASL Interpretation

To access ASL interpretation, go to the menu at the bottom of the screen and click on the "Interpretation" icon. Under "Watch," choose American Sign Language and a video window of the interpreter that you've chosen will appear on your screen.

Agenda

- Welcome & Opening Remarks – Ashley Peddicord-Austin, CMS OMH
 - CMS Office of Minority Health
 - CMS Resources and Reports
- CMS Health Equity Award – Jessica Dawson, CMS OMH
 - 2024 CMS Health Equity Award Winners
- Augusta Health – Isaac Izzillo and Krystal Moyers, Augusta Health
- Moderated Q & A – Jessica Dawson, CMS OMH

CMS Office of Minority Health

- **The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)** is the largest provider of health insurance in the United States, responsible for ensuring that more than 150 million individuals supported by CMS programs (Medicare, Medicaid, Children’s Health Insurance Program, and the Health Insurance Marketplaces).

- **The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Office of Minority Health (CMS OMH)** is one of eight offices of minority health within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. CMS OMH works with local and federal partners to eliminate health disparities while improving the health of all minority populations.



CMS Office of Minority Health

Mission

CMS OMH will lead the advancement and integration of health equity in the development, evaluation, and implementation of CMS's policies, programs, and partnerships.

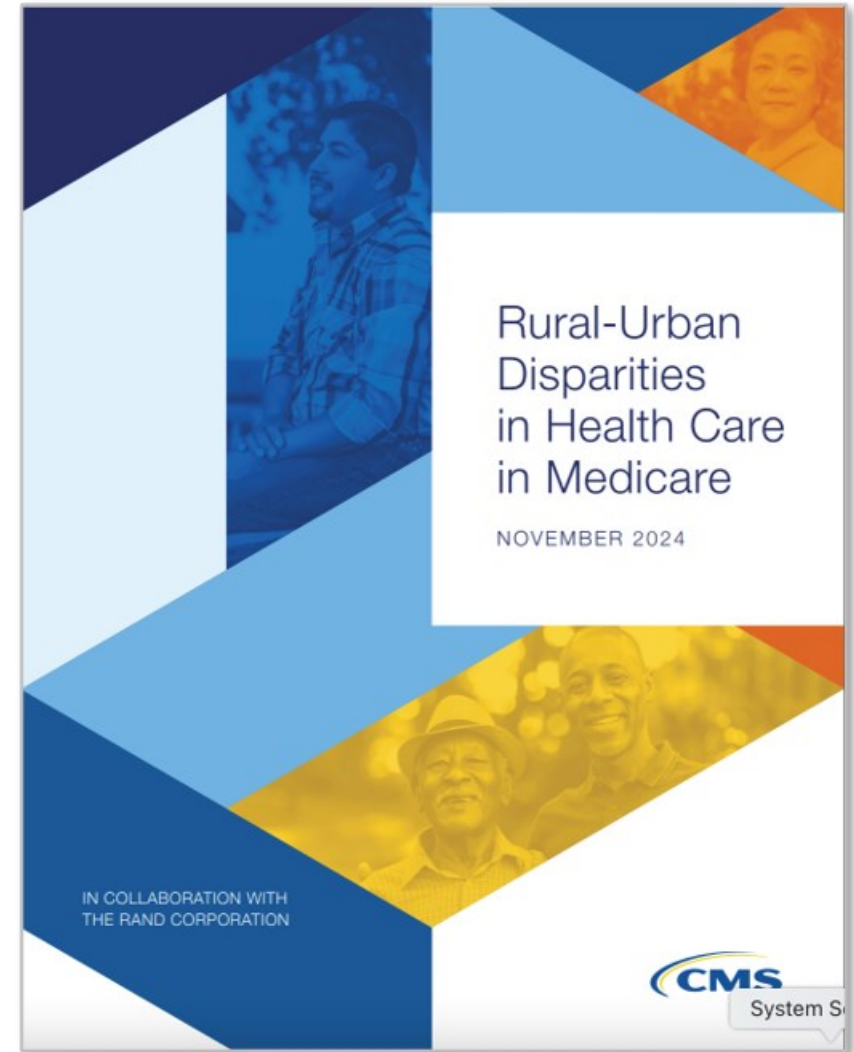
Vision

All those served by CMS have achieved their highest level of health and well-being, and we have eliminated disparities in health care quality and access.



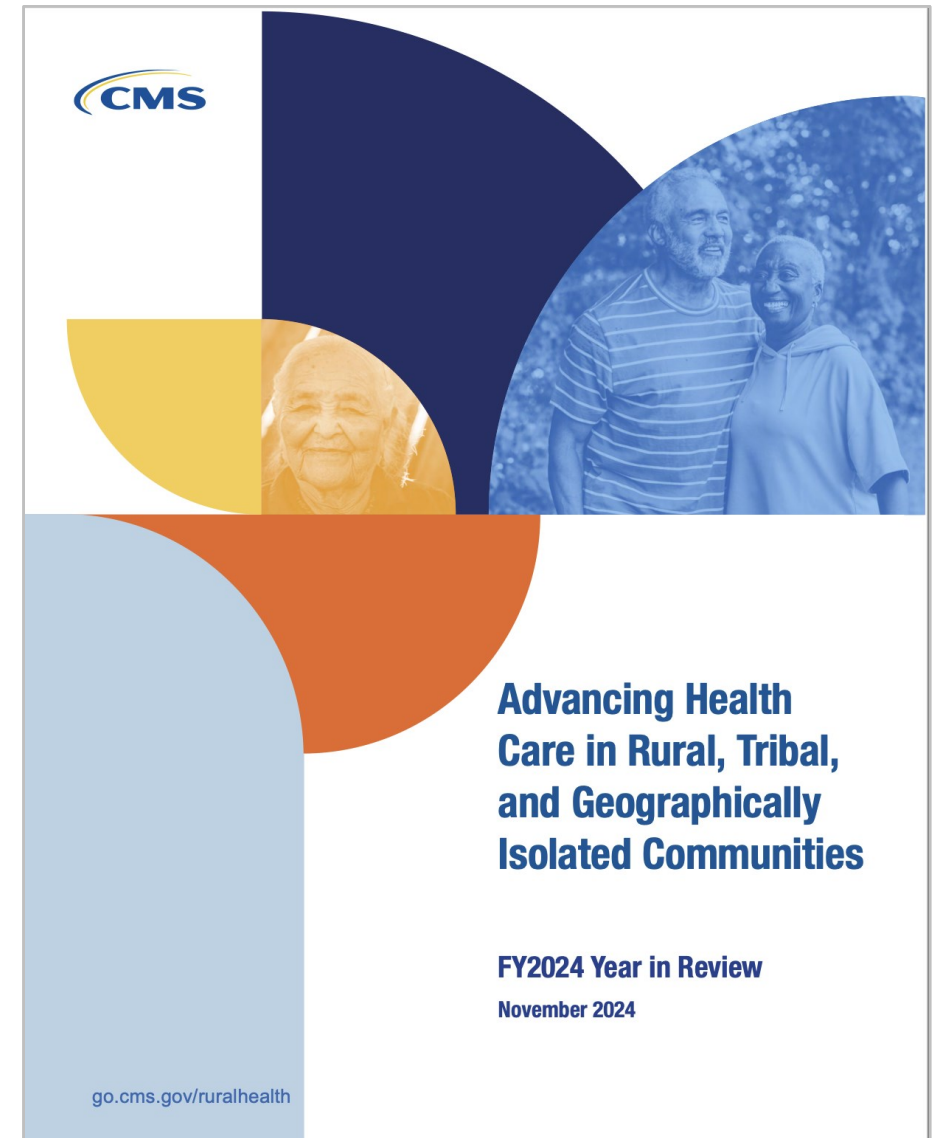
Rural-Urban Disparities in Health Care in Medicare 2024

The [Rural-Urban Disparities in Health Care in Medicare 2024](#) report, summarizes the differences in quality of health care received by people with Medicare in rural and urban areas and how the quality of care can vary by race and ethnicity.



Advancing Health Equity in Rural, Tribal, and Geographically Isolated Communities: FY 2024 in Review

The [Advancing Health Equity in Rural, Tribal, and Geographically Isolated Communities: FY2024 Year in Review](#) annual summary report to learn how CMS has met the needs of these communities throughout 2024.



CMS Resources Rural, Tribal, and Geographically Isolated Communities

- [CMS Framework for Advancing Health Care in Rural, Tribal, and Geographically Isolated Communities](#)
- [Rural Health Equity One-Pager](#)
- [Advancing Rural Maternal Health Equity Report](#)
- [Rural Health Information Hub](#)
- [CMS Rural Health Clinics Center](#)

CMS Framework for Advancing Health Care in Rural, Tribal, and Geographically Isolated Communities



NOVEMBER 2022
GO.CMS.GOV/RURALHEALTH



CMS Framework for Advancing Health Care in Rural, Tribal, and Geographically Isolated Communities

Rural Health Overview

Rural communities comprise vast and varied landscapes that encompass metropolitan, frontier, and tribal lands, as well as U.S. territories and other island communities. These communities are increasingly diverse; nearly a quarter of people living in rural areas are from racial or ethnic minority groups. CMS is working to advance health equity across the nation's health system to enable people living and working in rural, tribal, and geographically isolated communities to attain their optimal health regardless of race, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status, geography, preferred language, or other factors that affect access to care and health outcomes.

CMS Framework for Rural Health Priorities

<p>Priority 1: Apply a Community-Informed Geographic Lens to CMS Programs and Policies</p>	<p>Priority 2: Increase Collection and Use of Standardized Data to Improve Health Care for Rural, Tribal, and Geographically Isolated Communities</p>	<p>Priority 3: Strengthen and Support Health Care Professionals in Rural, Tribal, and Geographically Isolated Communities</p>
<p>Priority 4: Optimize Medical and Communication Technology for Rural, Tribal, and Geographically Isolated Communities</p>	<p>Priority 5: Expand Access to Comprehensive Health Care Coverage, Benefits, and Services and Supports for Individuals in Rural, Tribal, and Geographically Isolated Communities</p>	<p>Priority 6: Drive Innovation and Value-Based Care in Rural, Tribal, and Geographically Isolated Communities</p>

To receive the latest news on rural health care policy and programs, [sign up](#) for the rural health listserv.

To read the CMS Framework for Advancing Health Care in Rural, Tribal, and Geographically Isolated Communities, visit, [go.cms.gov/ruralhealth](#).

The CMS Office of Minority Health offers health equity technical assistance resources, aimed to help health care organizations take action against health disparities. If you are looking for assistance, visit [go.cms.gov/healthequityta](#) or email HealthEquityTA@cms.hhs.gov.

August 2023



C2C Resources

Our Coverage to Care (C2C) initiative is intended to support individuals regardless of insurance type. These resources are available in several languages and can help individuals:

- Navigate their coverage
- Access care
- Get preventive care and services
- Manage care for chronic conditions

All of these resources, plus resources for partners and providers is available on our [website](#).

The collage features several C2C resource materials:

- MANAGING DIABETES: COVERAGE & RESOURCES**: A brochure with a photo of a family and a list of 10 steps for people living with diabetes, including 'Eat well', 'Get active', 'Manage sick days', and 'Schedule your diabetes care'.
- ROADMAP TO BETTER CARE TRIBAL VERSION**: A brochure with a landscape illustration and a group of diverse people.
- TELEHEALTH: WHAT TO KNOW FOR YOUR FAMILY**: A poster with a photo of a man and child looking at a tablet, and a vertical sidebar of telehealth-related icons.
- KONSÈY POU W KONPRANN KOUVÈTI ASIRANS MEDIKAMAN W LAN AK MEDIKAMAN SOU PRESKRIPSYON W YO**: A poster with a blue background and an illustration of a woman at a pharmacy counter.

CMS Health Equity Award



About the CMS Health Equity Award

CMS recognizes organizations who have demonstrated a strong commitment to health equity by reducing disparities affecting vulnerable populations with its Health Equity Award.

The 2024 CMS Health Equity Award was awarded to Augusta Health and Latino Connection for their work to advance health equity and reduce disparities in health care access, quality, and outcomes.



Latino Connection

Their Community-Accessible Testing & Education (CATE) initiative was launched in response to the COVID-19 pandemic with the aim of addressing disparities in access to essential resources and education among underserved communities.

Latino Connection is the first Latino and LGBTQ+ organization to launch such a program, CATE represents a groundbreaking effort to provide critical support to populations disproportionately affected by the pandemic, including minorities, low-income individuals, LGBTQ+ communities, and those residing in urban areas.



Augusta Health

Augusta Health was recognized for improving access to health care in vulnerable communities.

The hospital, aiming to be a national model for community-based health care, implemented Augusta Health Neighborhood Clinics, previously known as Primary Care Mobile Clinic, to reach neighborhoods with rural geographic barriers and local cities with high poverty rates and adverse social and health barriers.



Sustaining Our Mission: Expanding Community Access to Healthcare

November 19, 2024



Care that makes a lifetime.⁴



Krystal Moyers, M.Ed., CHES
Administrative Director
Community Partnerships and
Communications

Isaac Izzillo, RN MSN
Director of Public and
Primary Care Services,
Augusta Medical Group



Augusta Health Profile

Augusta
Health



- Non-Profit Community Hospital
- Located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia
- Service area population of approximately 350,000 across rural counties and several small cities
- 255 licensed beds
- 225 active medical staff (Augusta Medical Group)
- 2,500 employees
- 11,000 annual admissions





To strengthen the health and well-being
of all people in our communities.





What Are Our Communities Telling Us?



Questions We Asked Our Communities:

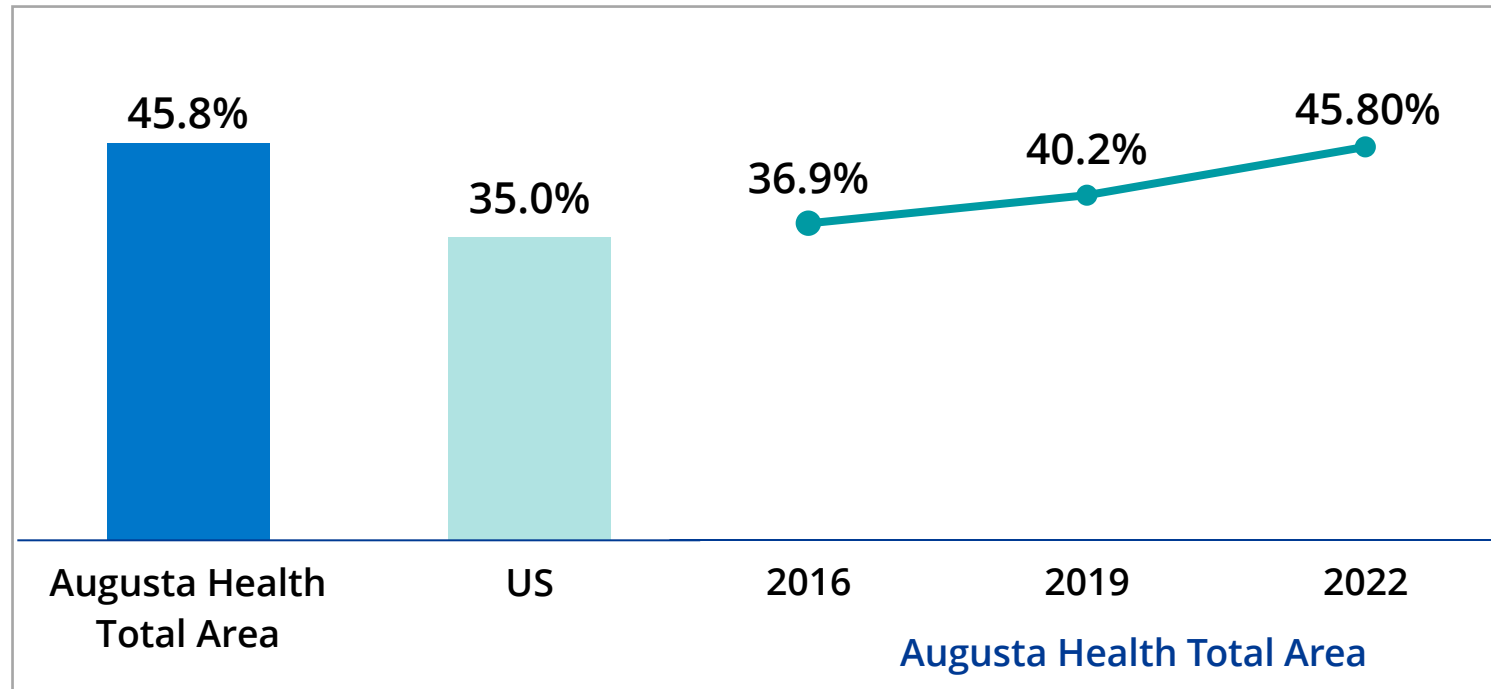
- Who is not doing well in our communities?
- Where are the disparities?
- What are the local drivers underlying health disparities?
- Who are our partners in resolving health disparities?

Local Indicators

Challenges to Accessing Care

Aging Population | Rising Patient Complexity | Shrinking Workforce

Experienced Difficulties or Delays of Some Kind in Receiving Needed Health Care in the Past Year



Source: Augusta Health 2022 CHNA

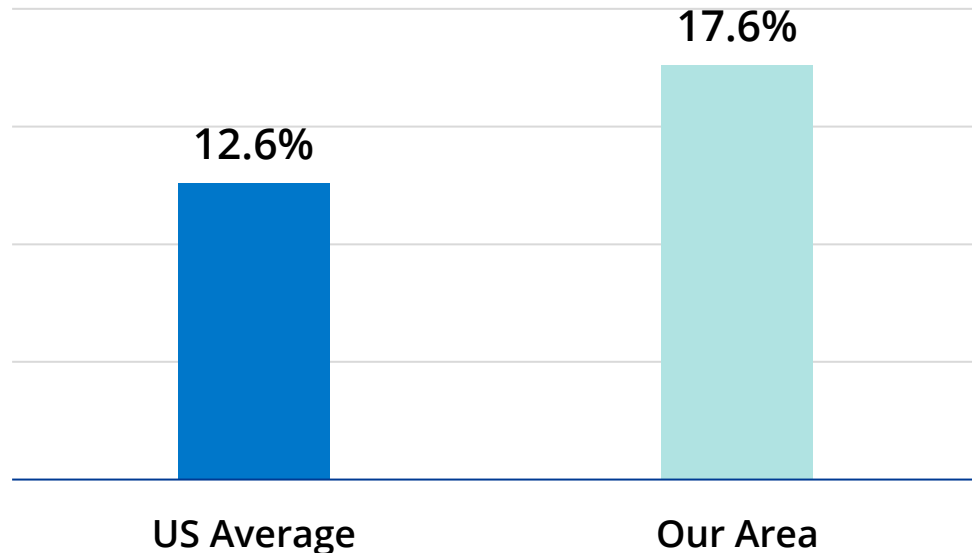


Local Indicators

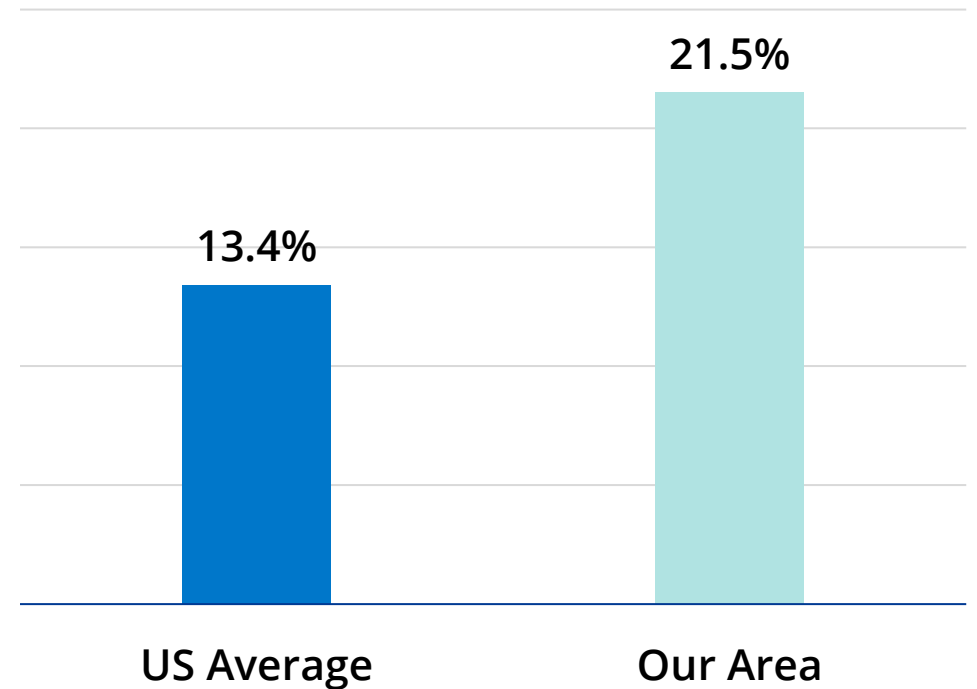
Community Member Health Ratings

Community respondents' self-reported health status worse than national benchmarks

Overall Health Rating "Fair or Poor"



Overall Mental Health Rating "Fair or Poor"

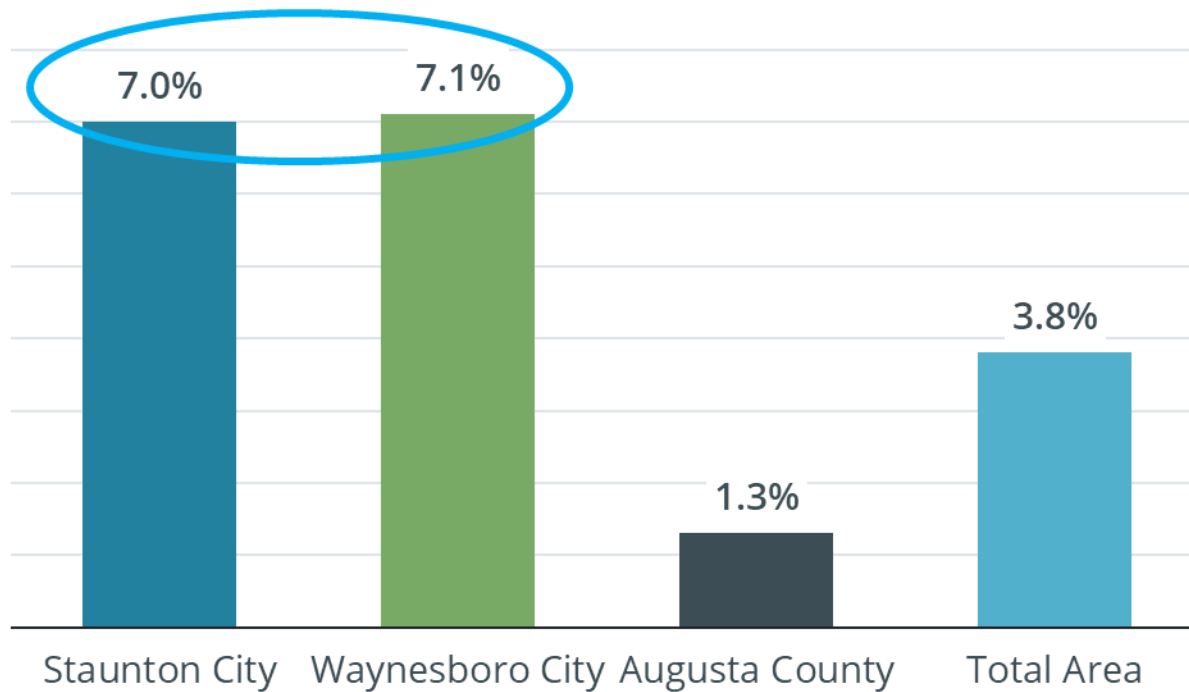


Local Indicators

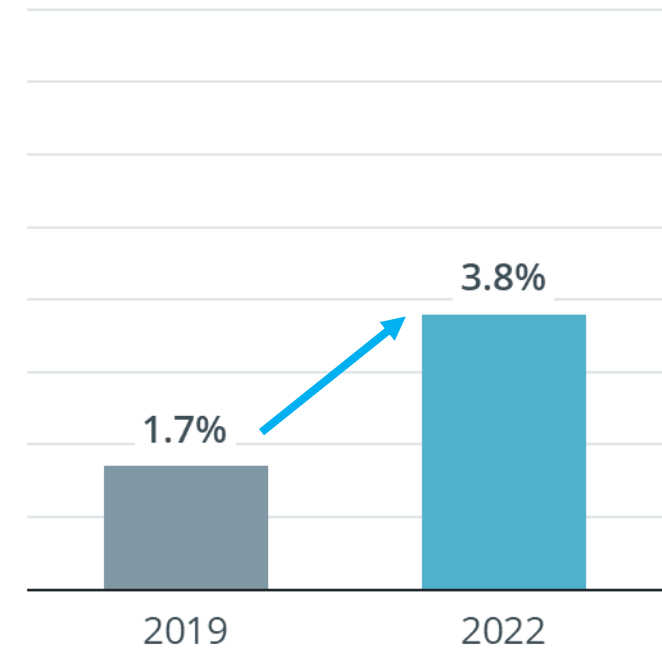
Sharp Increase in Homelessness

Increase in Percent Homeless at Some Point in the Past 2 Years

By Local Geography, 2022



Total Area Change, 2019 - 2022



Hospital Course for Those Experiencing Homelessness

*Average Hospital Length of Stay (Days)
2022 vs. 2023*



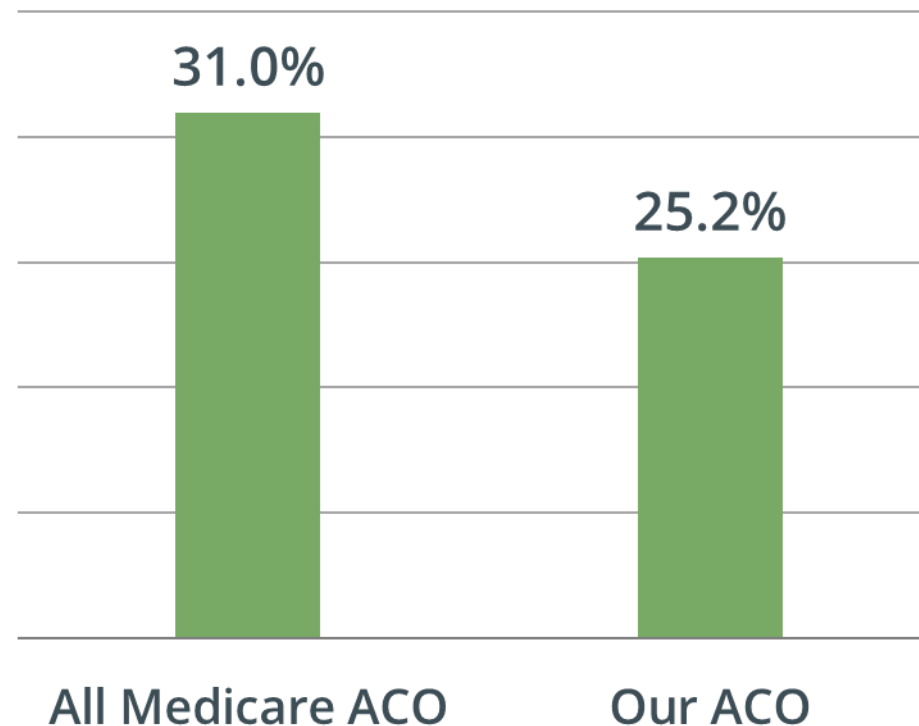
*30-Day Hospital Readmission Rates
2022 vs. 2023*



Improving Outcomes with Managed Care Patients

We are seeing success in meeting our community health mission across many health metrics

**Hospitalization Rates for Medicare Patients
with Multiple Chronic Conditions**





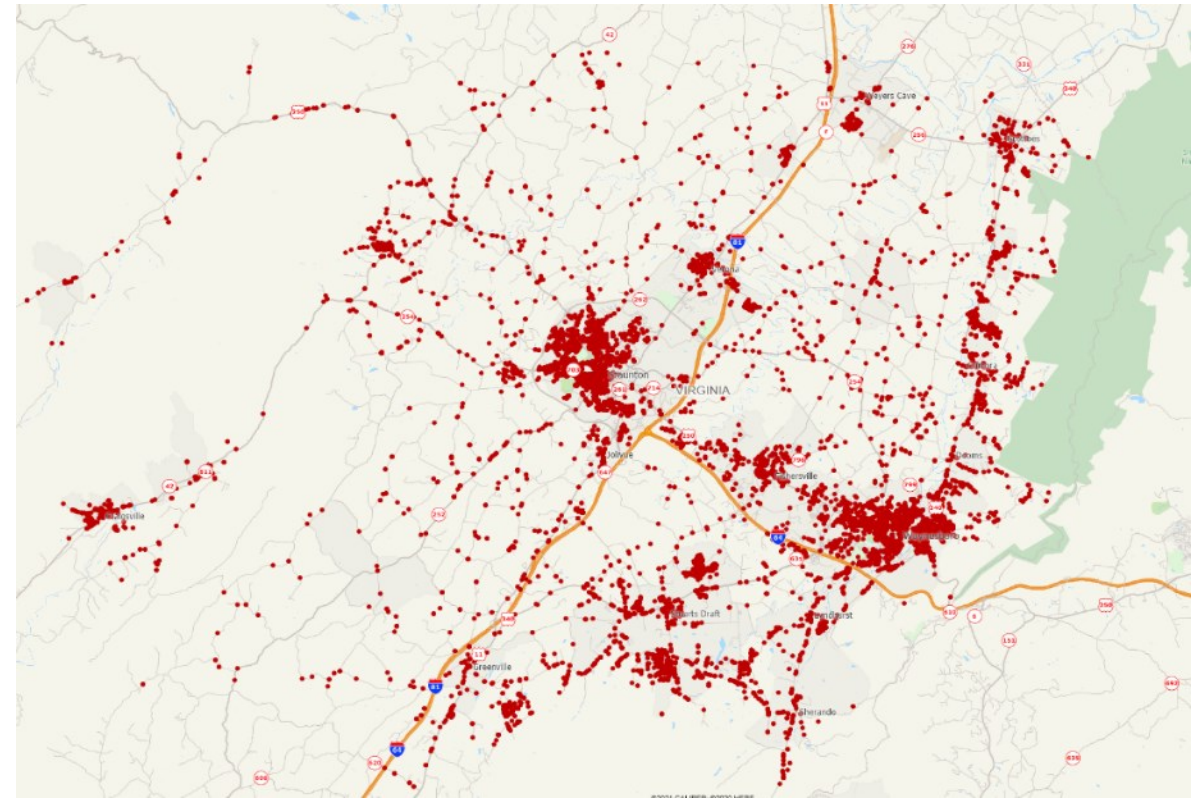
Charting the Course

How Do We Select Mobile Clinic Locations?

3 Steps to selecting Neighborhood Clinic locations:

1. Map the lack of primary care connection
2. Plan and implement with a trusted community partner
 - *Identify a church, shelter, community center, or school to set up clinic and frequency*

Mapping Medicaid Beneficiaries and/or Persons with Disabilities Who Lack Primary Care

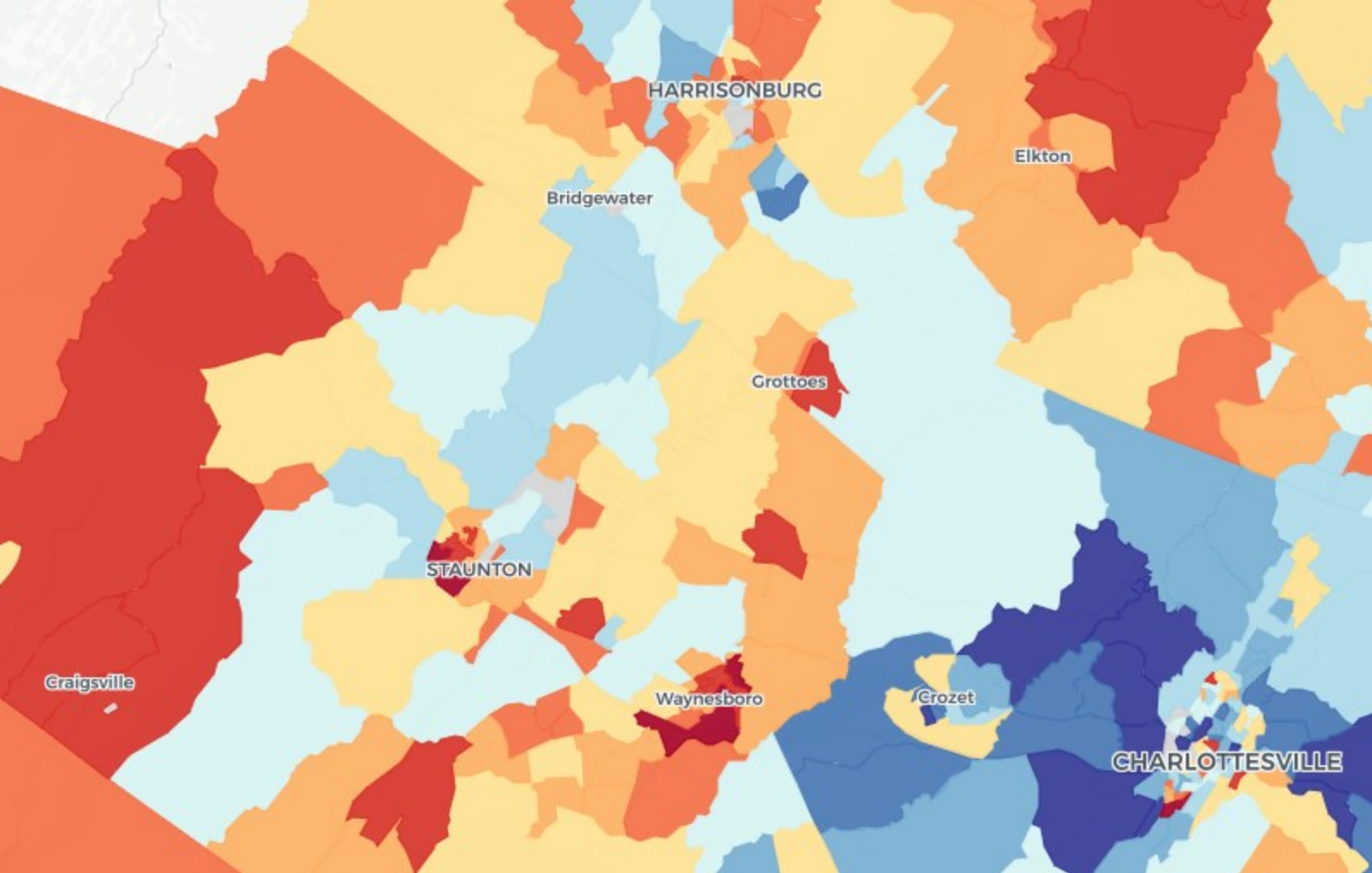


Each red dot represents a Medicaid beneficiary or disabled person with an ED or Urgent care visit in the past 2 years, but NO primary care in the past 2 years. 13,231 patients were mapped across Augusta Health primary service area.



The Area Deprivation Index (ADI)

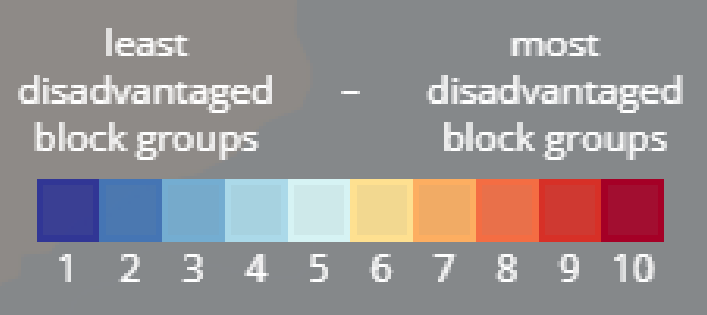
A Metric for Social Risk



Neighborhood Atlas, University of Wisconsin

Combines 17 metrics on housing quality, employment, poverty and education.

Measured at the level of census block groups → roughly 1,500 persons. - Close to neighborhood level.



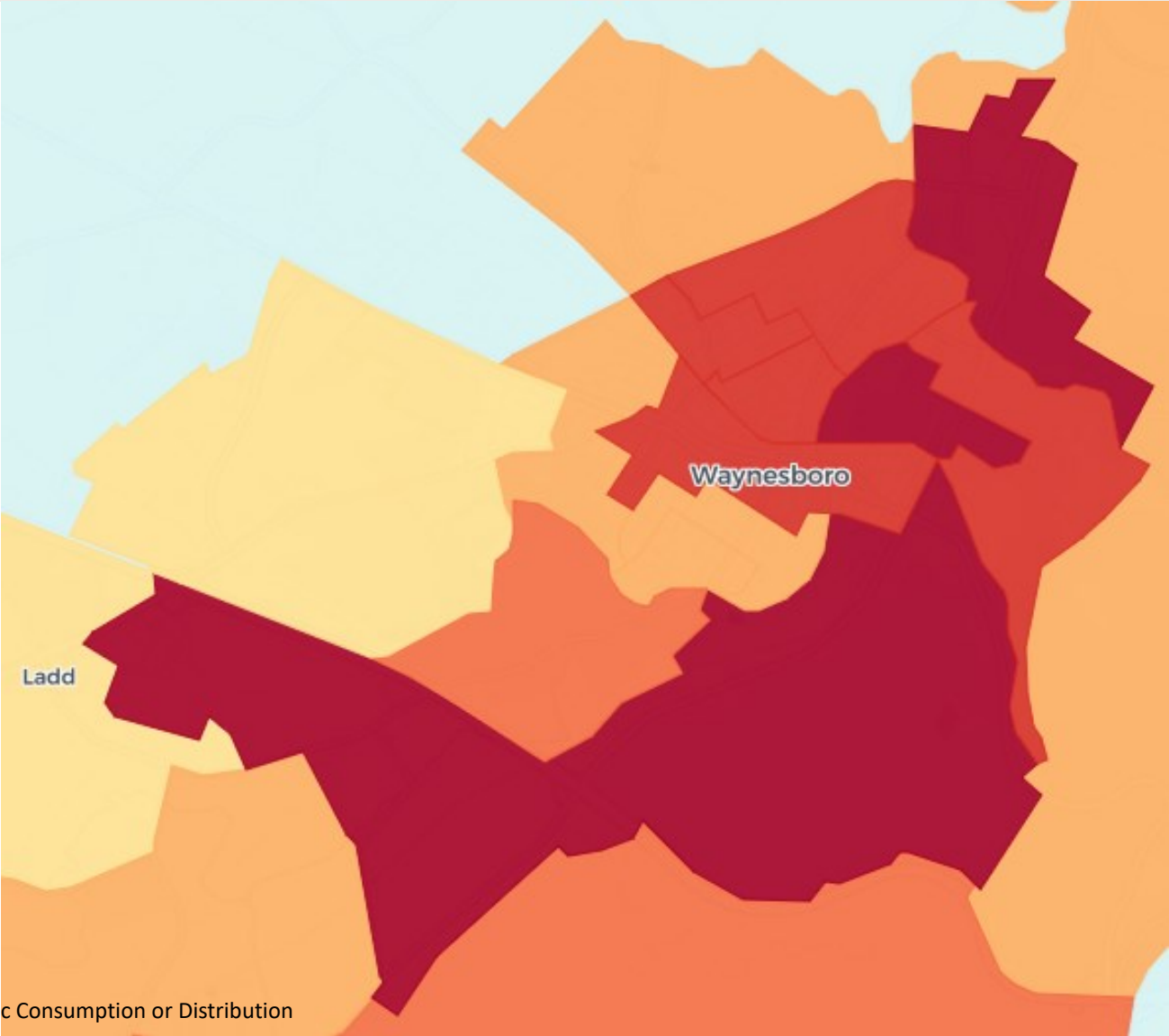
Our region's map of census tract ADI scores, 4/27/23
Source: <https://www.neighborhoodatlas.medicine.wisc.edu/mapping>

Do Local ADI Scores Predict Local Clinical Outcomes?

Lack of Primary Care in the Past Two Years
 $r = 0.914$ $p = 0.004$

ED Visits for Mental Health
 $r = 0.758$ $p = 0.011$

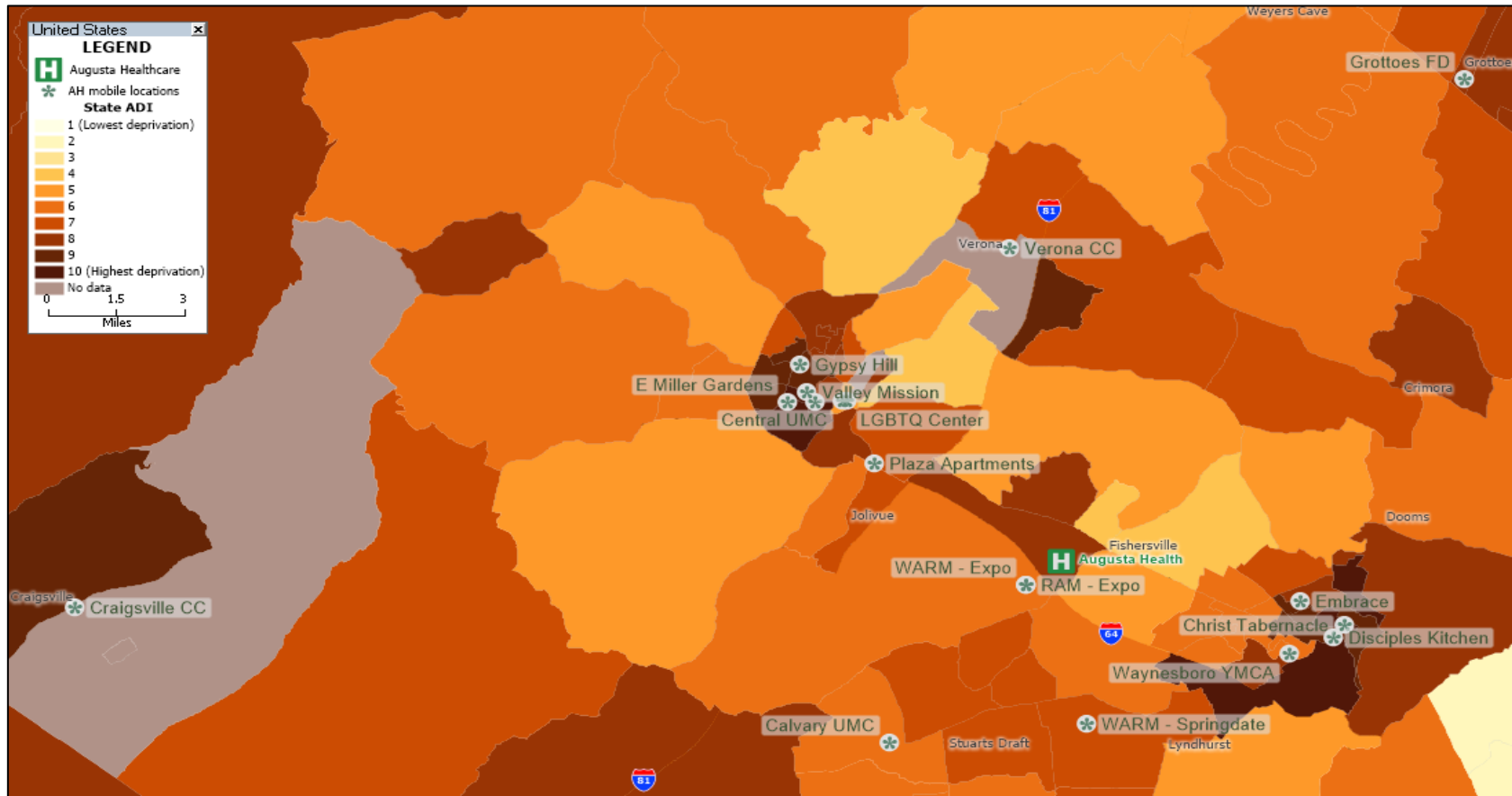
In-Hospital Mortality
 $r = 0.831$ $p = < 0.05$



Augusta Health Neighborhood Clinics

Identifying underserved neighborhoods for primary care services

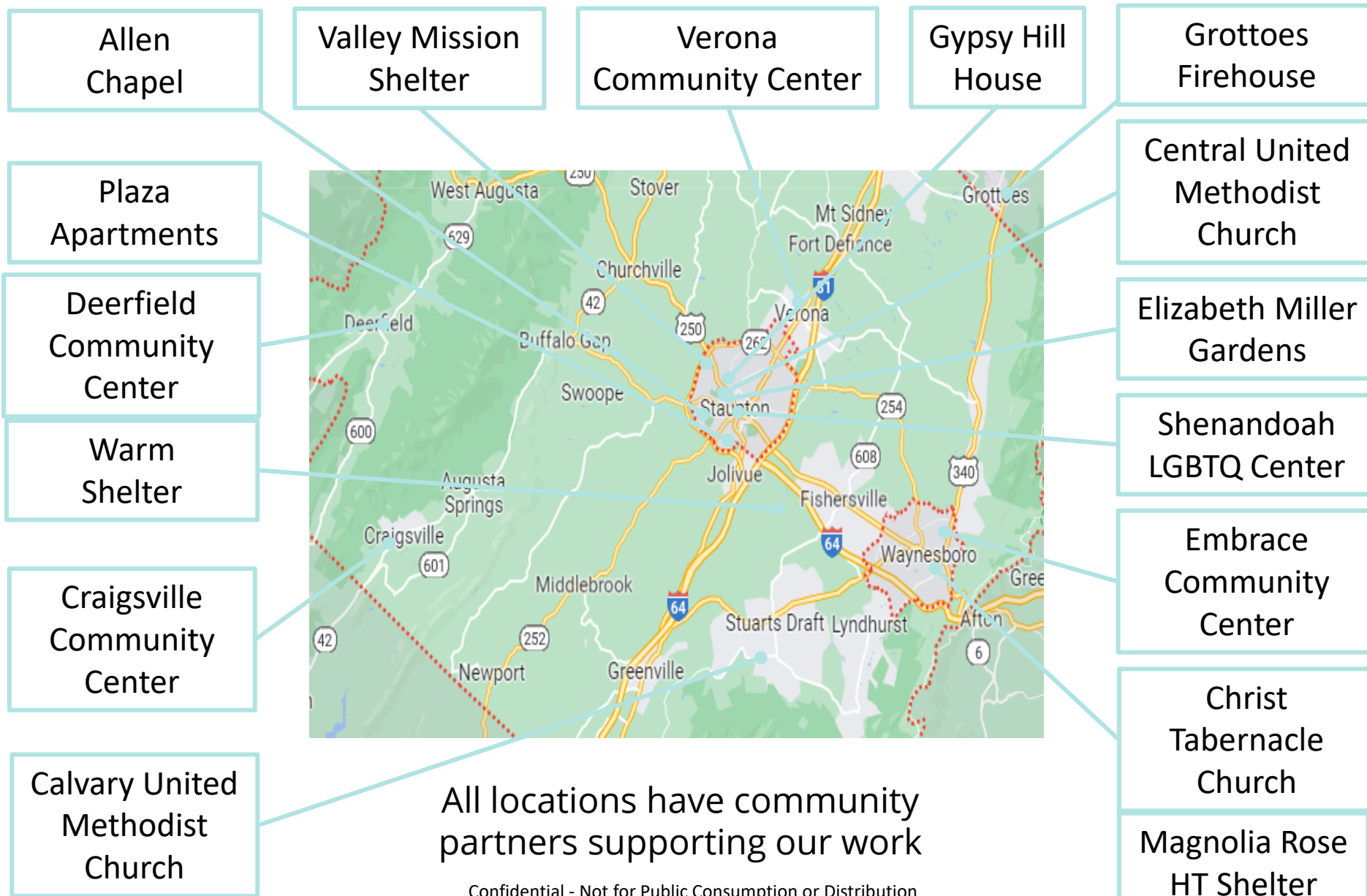
Augusta Health Neighborhood Clinic Locations 2024 and Regional Area Deprivation Index Map



Source: Augusta Health Mobile Clinic Locations and University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. 2024 Area Deprivation Index. Downloaded from <https://www.neighborhoodatlas.medicine.wisc.edu/>



Augusta Health's Neighborhood Clinics Locations



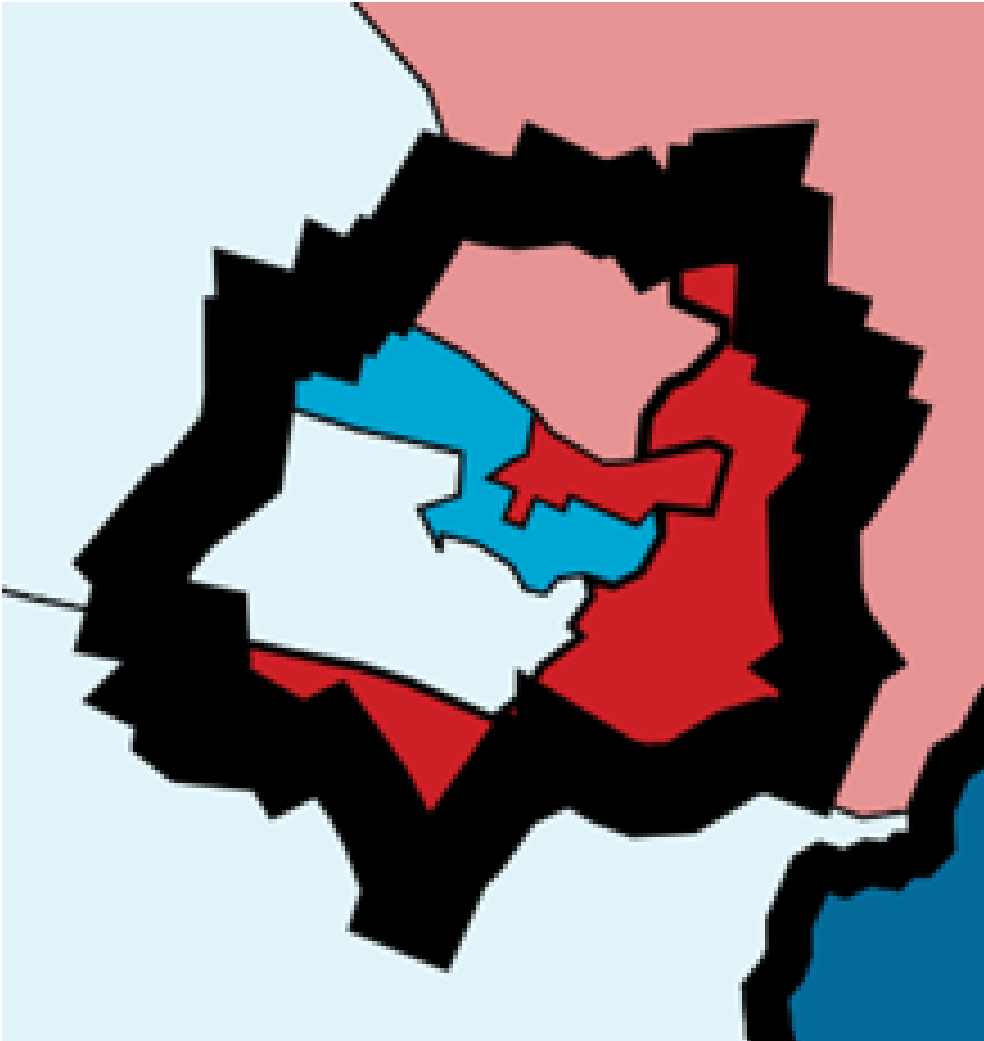
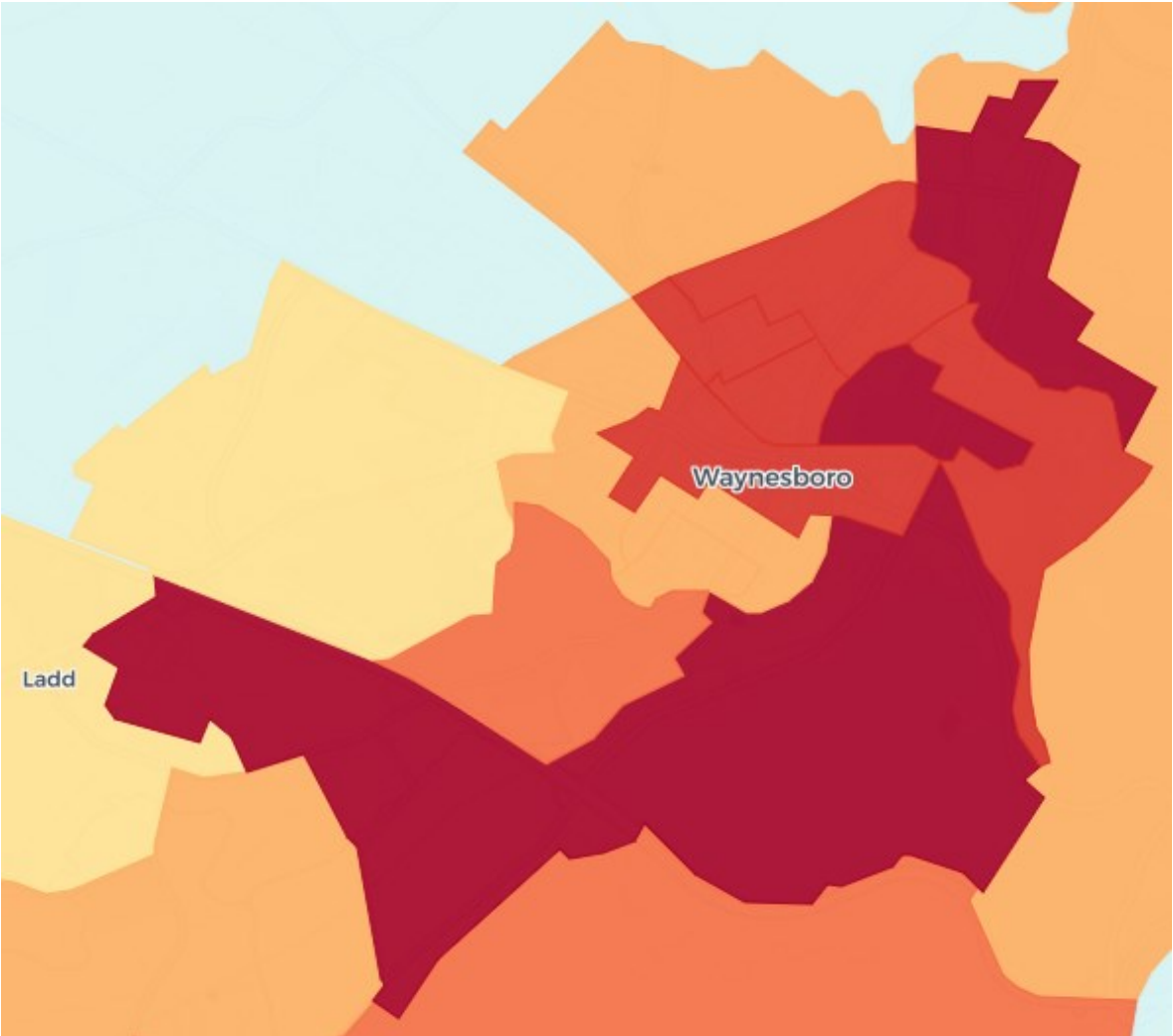
All locations have community partners supporting our work

Confidential - Not for Public Consumption or Distribution



Visual Comparison of the ADI and CDC Lifespan Maps

Waynesboro Virginia



Life Expectancy at Birth Waynesboro, Virginia

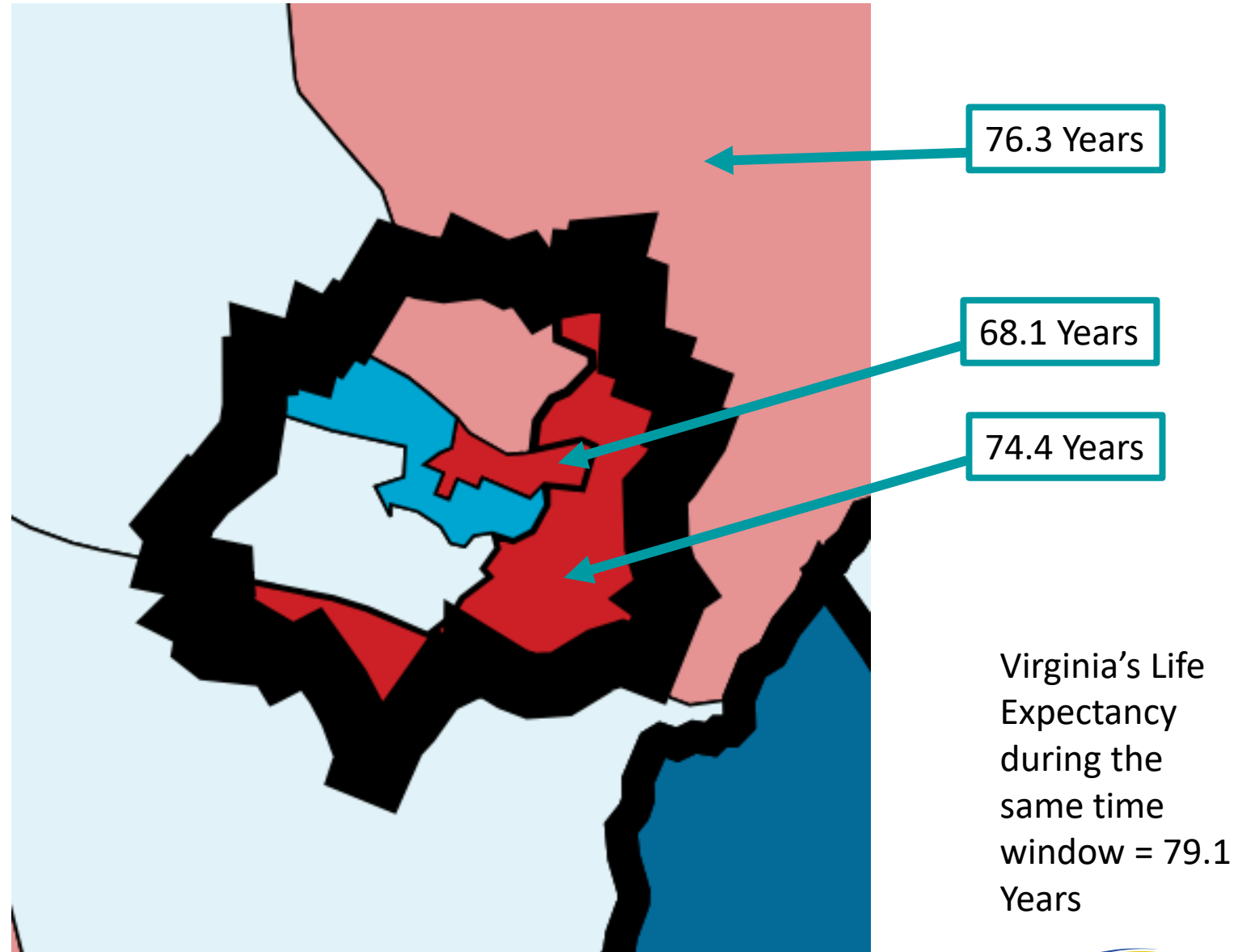
At the Census Tract Level, 2010 – 2015

CDC National Center for Health Statistics

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data-visualization/life-expectancy/index.html>

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
US Life Expectancy, 2022

Virginia = 79.1 Years
Waynesboro = 75.5 years





What Services are We Providing and Who Benefits?

Who Are We Helping?



People in our community who:

- Face **mobility** barriers
- Face **transportation** barriers
- Are experiencing **poverty**
- Live in **remote** rural locations
- Are **dual eligible**
- Live with **substance use disorders**
- Are from a **marginalized** minority
- Are **immigrants**
- Are experiencing **homelessness**
- Are **LGBTQ**
- Are **pregnant** and facing social and/or personal **barriers to healthcare**

Augusta Health Neighborhood Clinic Services



- Primary Care
- Management of chronic diseases like hypertension and diabetes
- Vaccines
- Preventative screenings
- Case management
- Maternal health navigation
- Financial assistance enrollment
- Every Women's Life Cancer Screening Program
- Medication assistance program
- Addiction screening and referral
- Referrals for needed specialty care
- STI prevention, testing and treatment
- Food Pantry & Food Farmacy Program

Who are we helping?

Neighborhood Clinic Visits



1112 Unique Patients Seen

2797 Patient Visits

260 Unique Clinics

Median age = 55

Age Range: 13 – 97 (5)

60.1% Female, 39.3% Male

0.5% American Indian, Alaskan

11.8% Black

30.6% Hispanic, Latino

53.1% White

38% Uninsured

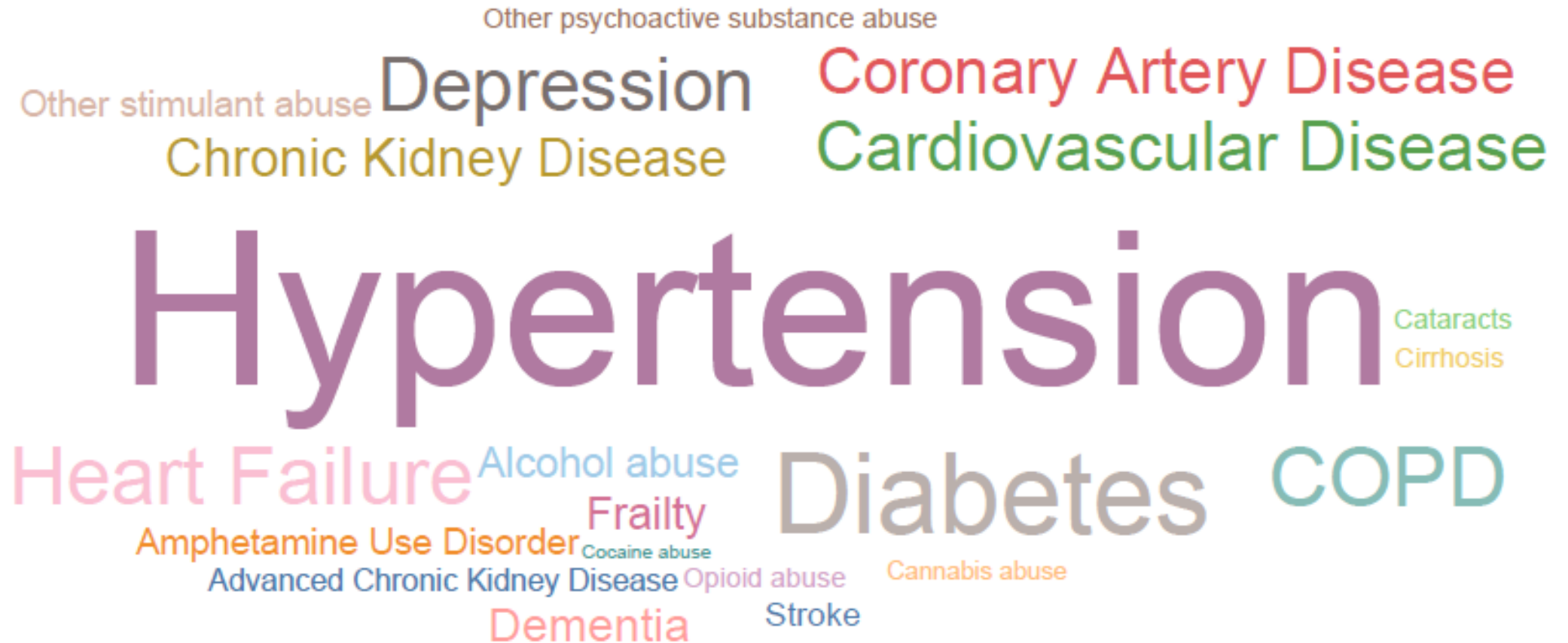
27.7% Medicare

17.5% Medicaid

17% Private Insurance

Chronic Conditions of Patients Seen

Neighborhood Clinic

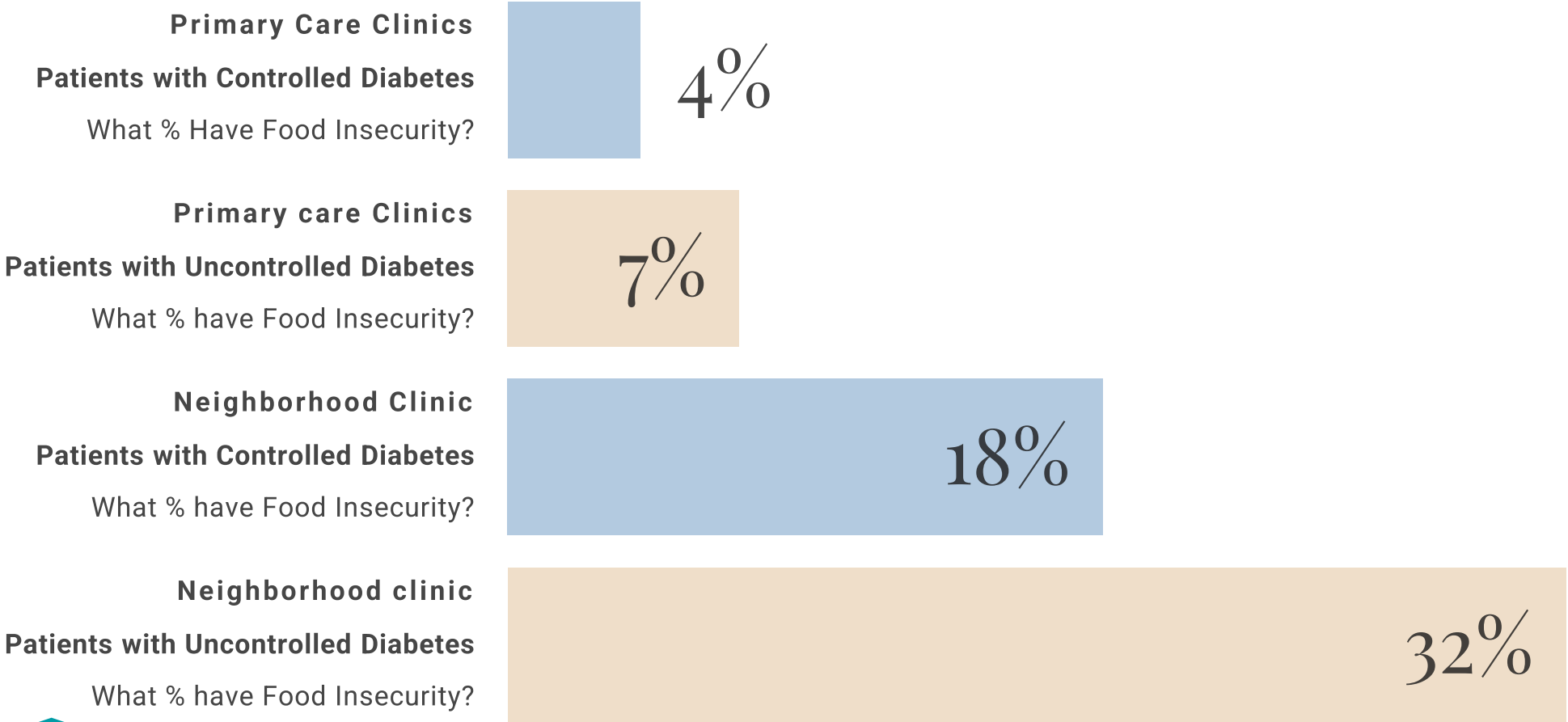


Mobile Clinic Visits 9/1/22 through 8/13/24, 1112 Unique Patients

Confidential - Not for Public Consumption or Distribution

Food Insecurity, Diabetes & Neighborhood

What are we seeing in the neighborhoods around Augusta Health in 2023 & 2024?



Neighborhood Clinic Growth and Trends

PATIENT VOLUME TO DATE

- We have seen a over 1,250 patients in the neighborhood clinic since launching in September 2022.

PATIENT HISTORY

- 848 patients had a previous encounter with Augusta Health either in an outpatient office, Emergency department, or inpatient setting.

NEW PATIENT VOLUME

- 32% growth in new patients to the Neighborhood clinic and organization.

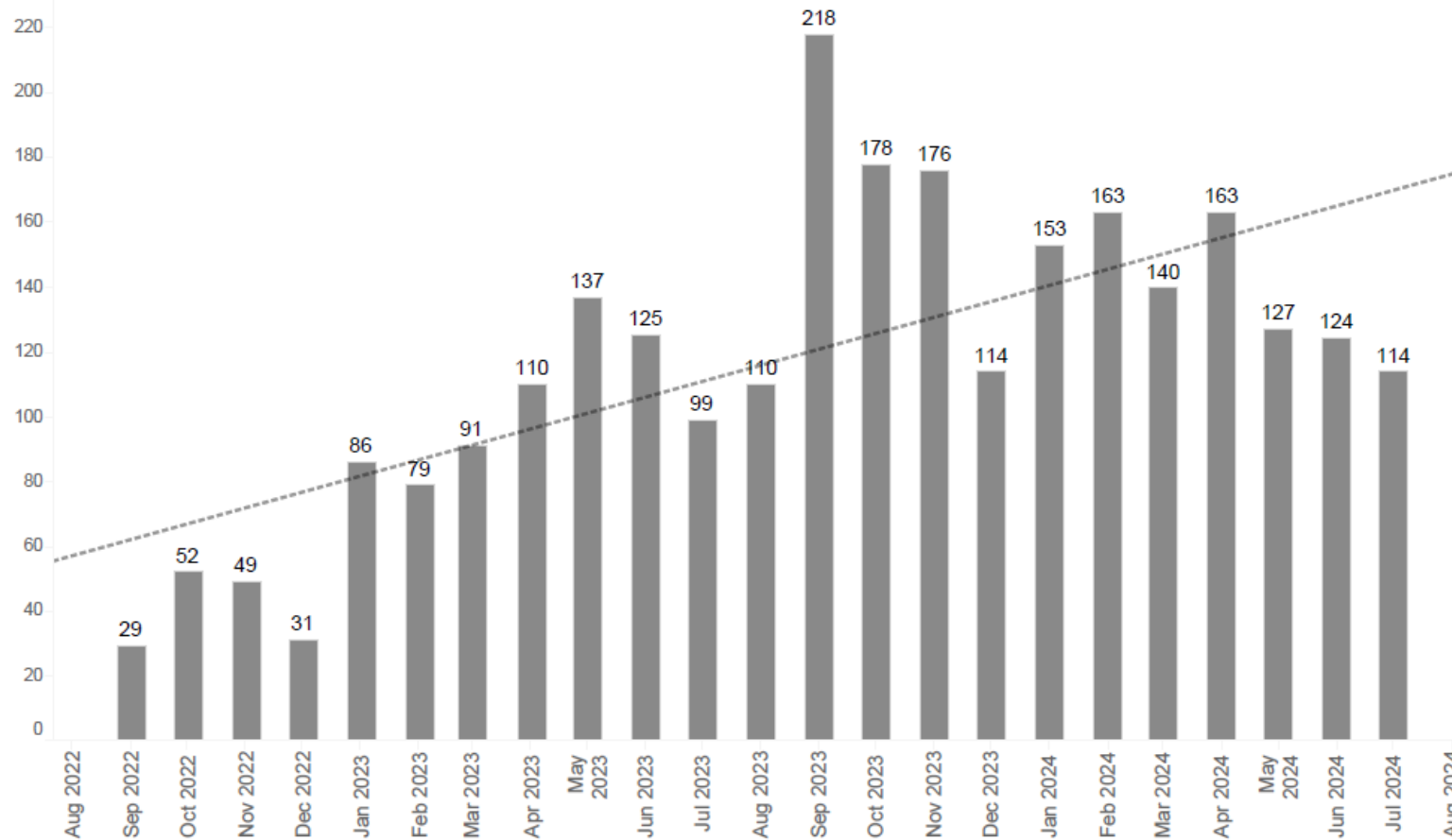
IMPACT ANALYSIS

- We analyzed the 848 established patients to determine what kind of impact was experienced by the patients two years before the implementation of the Neighborhood clinic and two years after, in regards to emergency room visits, urgent care visits, inpatient admissions, inpatient costs, hypertension diagnosis and management, and diabetes diagnosis and management.



Neighborhood Clinic Visits Growth

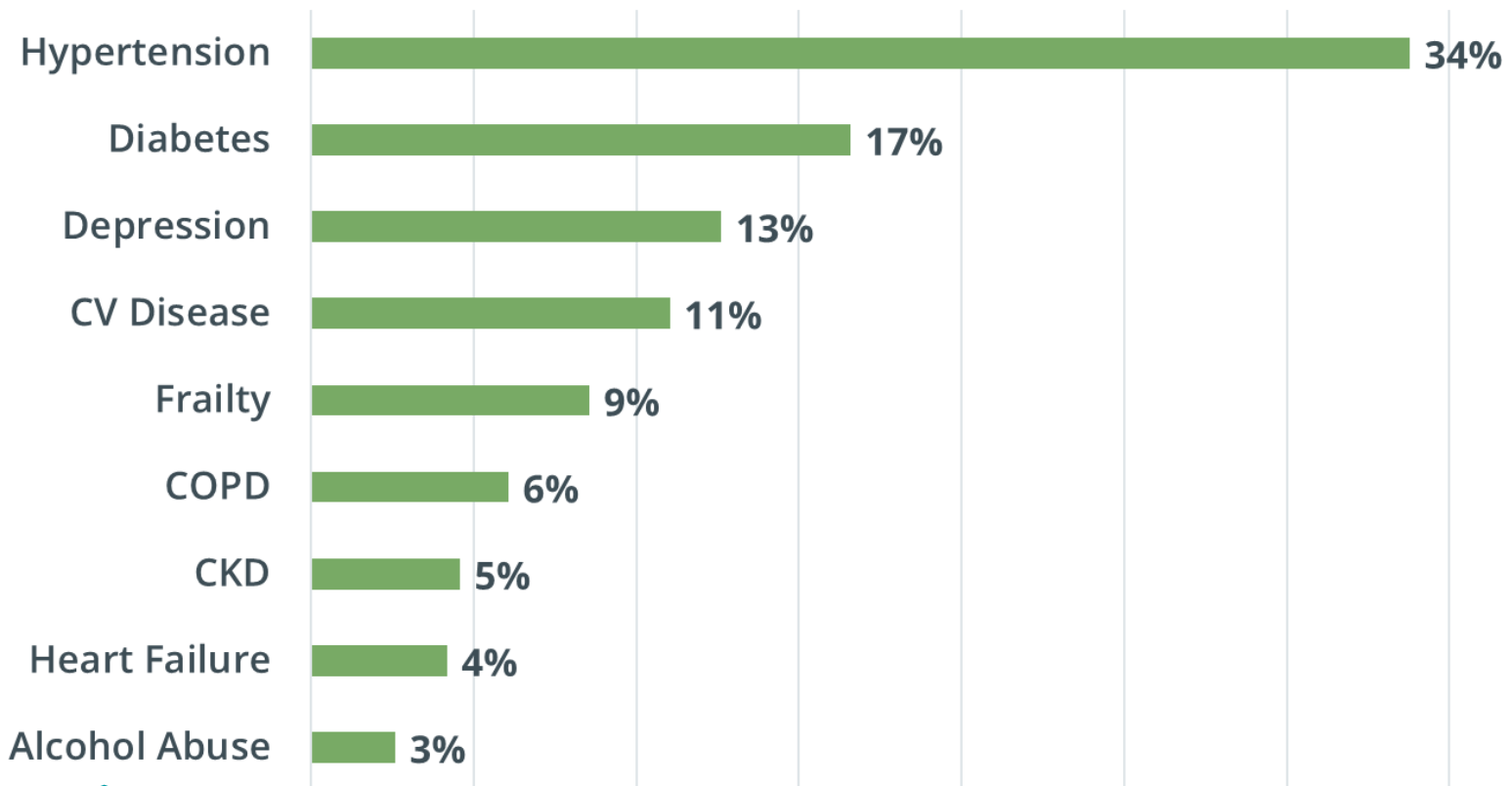
Patients Visits by Month at a Neighborhood Clinic September 2022 – July 2024



Two communities of interest are **individuals experiencing homelessness** and the **Latino population**

Most Common Conditions Seen & Payer Mix

Neighborhood Clinic Patient Mix by Chronic Condition



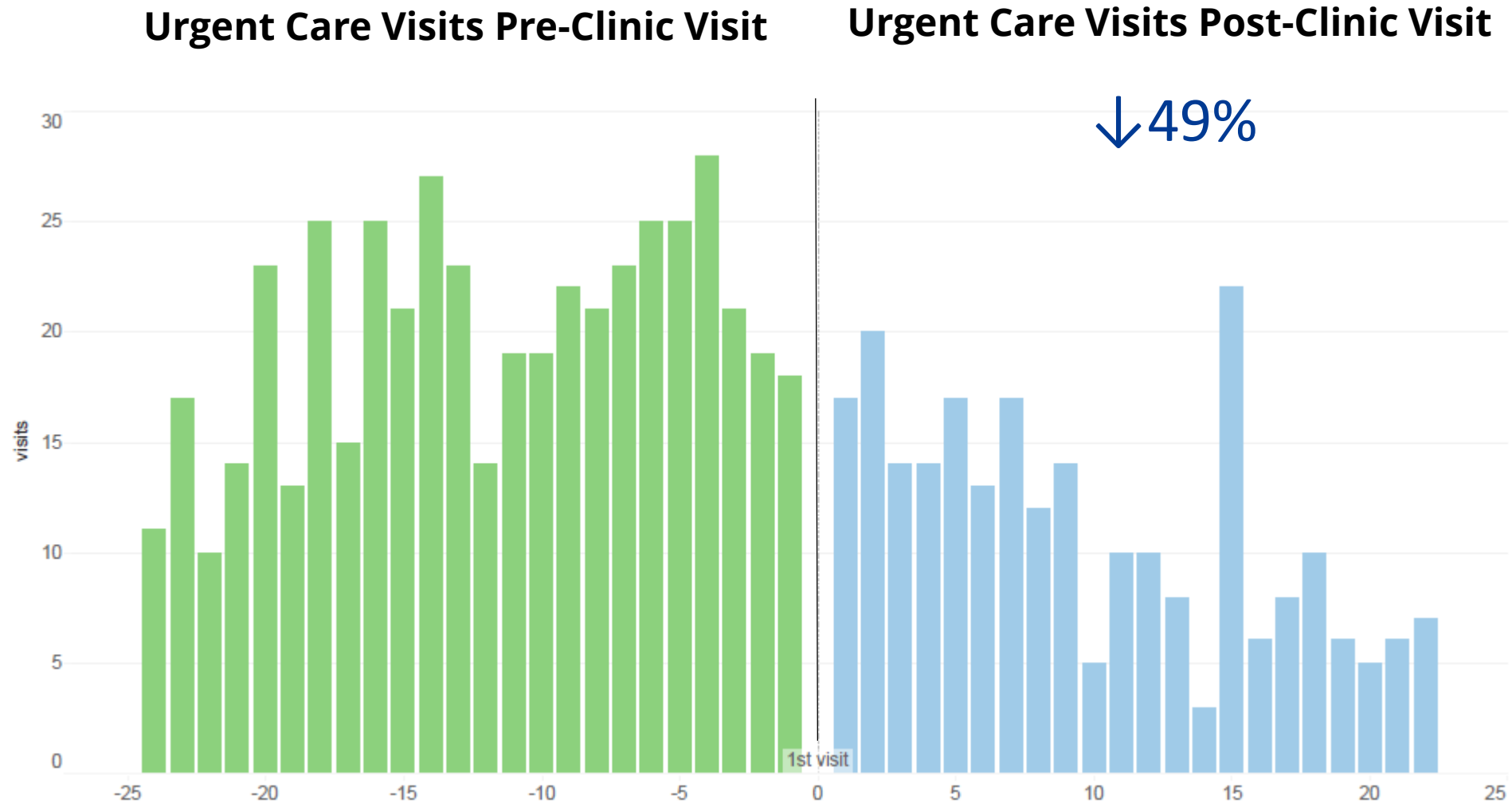
Neighborhood Clinic Payer Mix

Payer	% of Total
Commercial	13%
Medicaid	18%
Medicare	33%
Self pay	36%



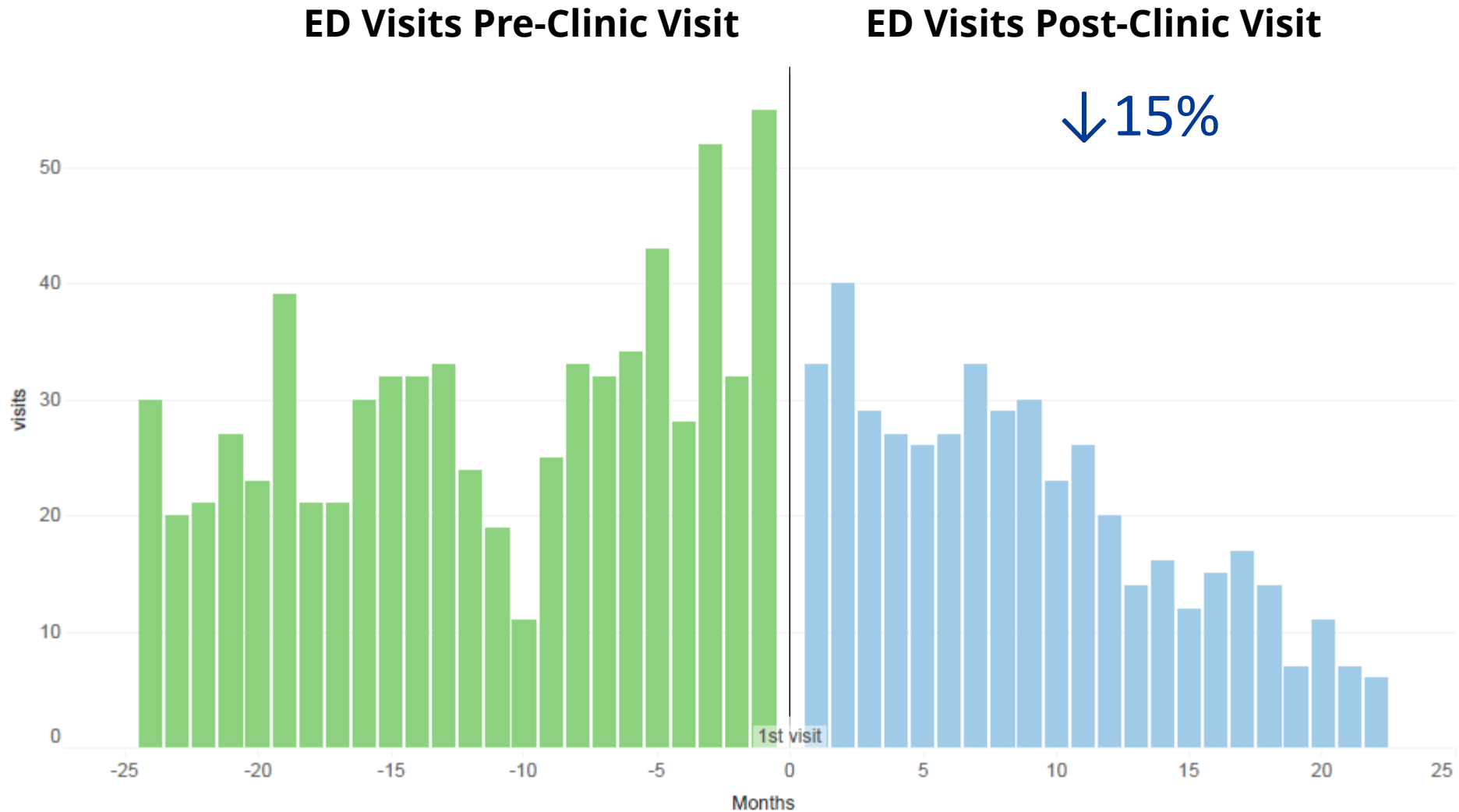
Impact of Clinic Connection on Urgent Care Visits

49% reduction in Urgent Care visits before & after 1st clinic visit



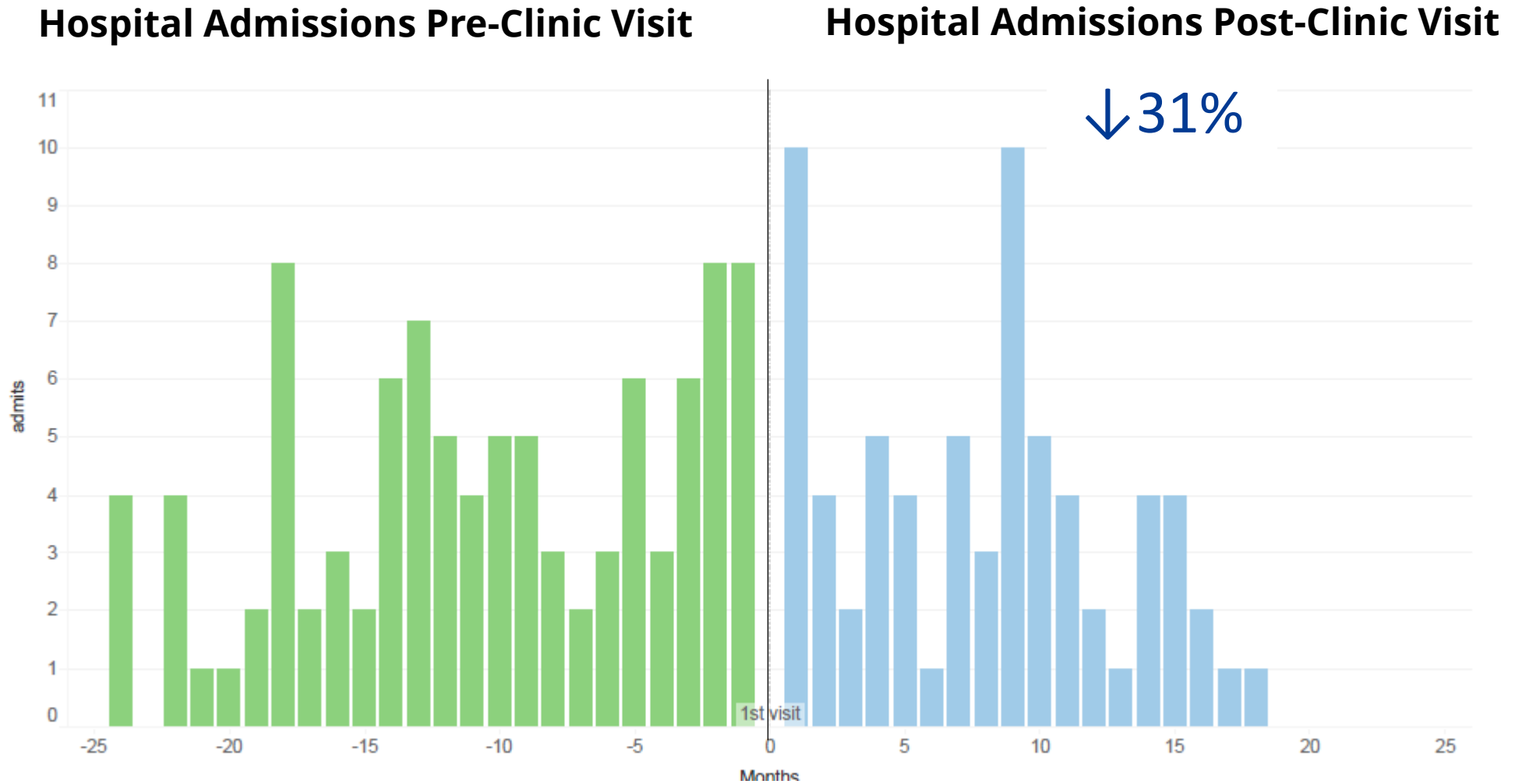
Impact of Clinic Connection on ED Visits

15% reduction in ED visits before & after 1st clinic visit



Impact of Clinic Connection on Hospitalizations

31% reduction in Hospitalizations before & after 1st clinic visit*



Impact of Clinic Connection on **Chronic Disease**

Focusing on controlling hypertension and diabetes

Reduced uncontrolled hypertension by 6%

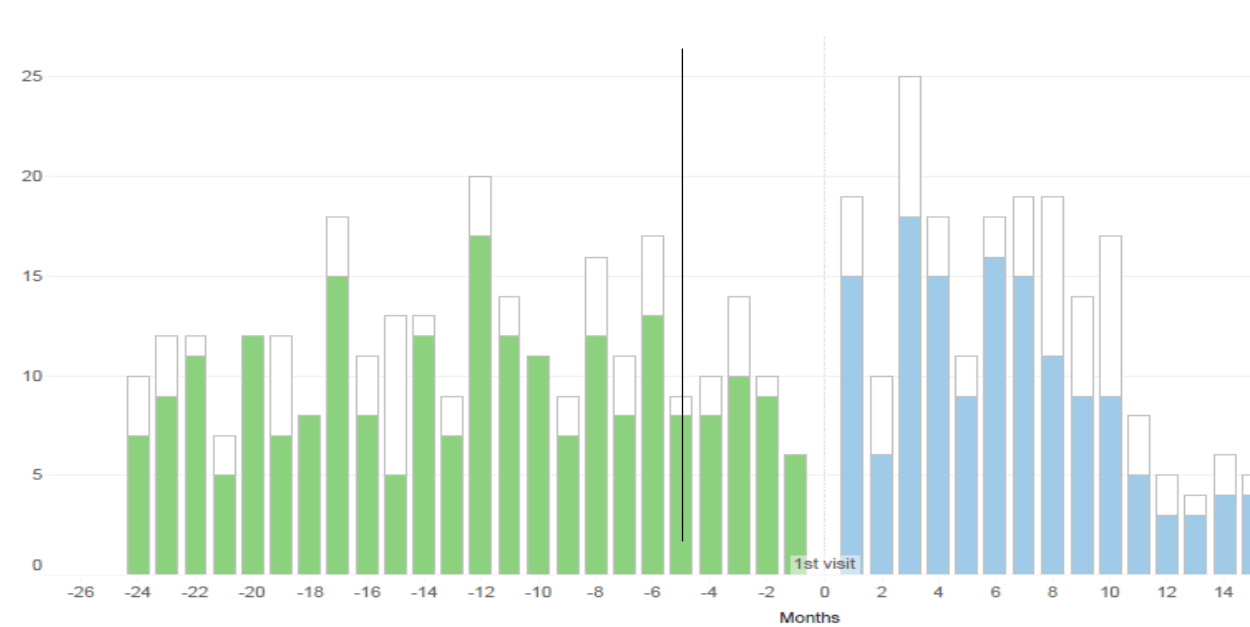
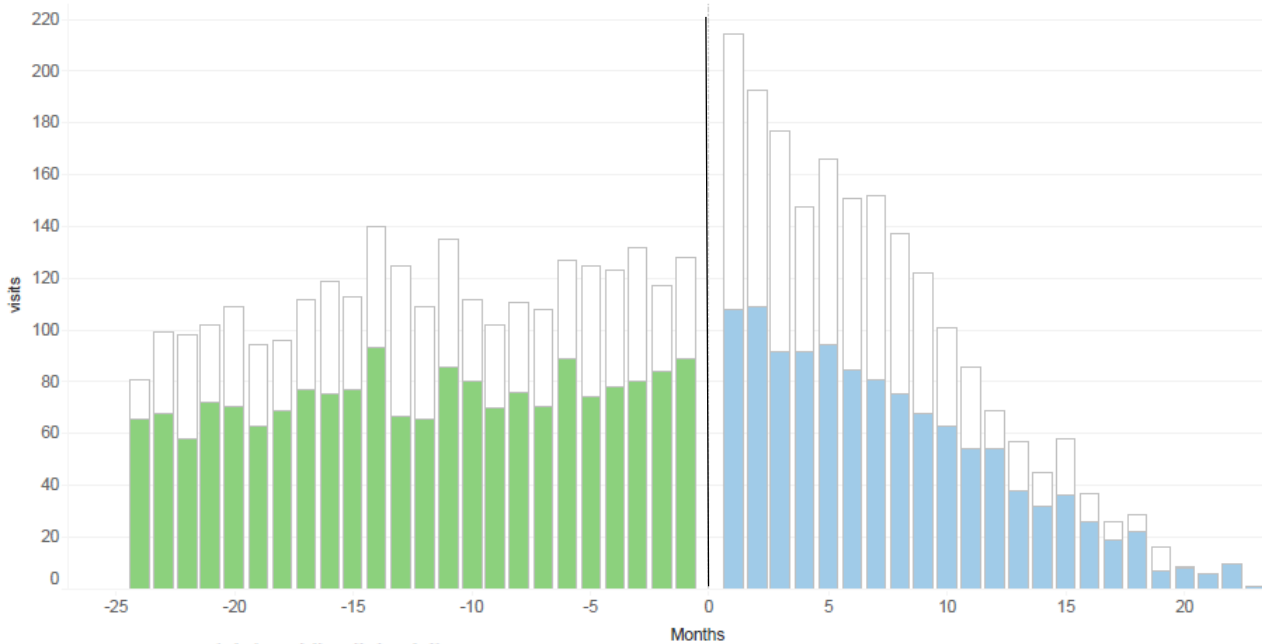
No change observed in diabetes control indicators

**Uncontrolled Hypertension
Pre-Clinic Visit**

**Uncontrolled Hypertension
Post-Clinic Visit**

**Uncontrolled Diabetes
Pre-Clinic Visit**

**Uncontrolled Diabetes
Post-Clinic Visit**



pre or post 1st mobile clinic visit

- uncontrolled
- pre controlled
- post controlled

pre or post 1st mobile clinic visit

- uncontrolled
- pre controlled
- post controlled





Community Outreach

Community Partnerships

As a national model for community-based healthcare, one of Augusta Health's critical success factors is our strong relationships with community partners. Partnering intentionally and strategically with area organizations to address the Community Health Needs Assessment priorities allows us to have a larger influence on the social, emotional, and physical well-being of our communities.



- Augusta Pediatrics
- Blue Ridge Area Food Bank
- Child Protective Services
- Comfort Care for Women
- Commonwealth's Attorney
- Cool Breeze Farms
- Dollywood Foundation
- Embrace Center for Community
- Hand in Hand Resource Mothers
- Infant & Toddler Connection
- Magnolia Rose
- Middle River Regional Jail
- New Directions
- Office on Youth
- Polyface Farm
- Strength in Peers
- The Neighbor Bridge
- The Village Prenatal Clinic
- Valley Community Services Board
- Valley Mission
- Valley Pediatric
- Virginia Department of Health
- Virginia Neonatal Perinatal Collaborative
- Waynesboro Area Refugee Ministry



Addressing SDOH: Rural Food Access

In Augusta Health's Community Health Needs Assessment Nutrition is identified as a recurring priority need for our local area. Under this priority, improving access to nutritious food is a top goal.

- **Crops to Community:** Crops to Community is a food box delivery program designed so food insecure patients, who have transportation barriers or are homebound, can have access to fresh, nutritious foods. Boxes consist of fresh meat, eggs, and produce from The Farm at Augusta Health.
- **Food Pantry:** The Augusta Health Food Pantry focuses on equitable access to nutritious food for patients who have screen positive for food insecurity. Guests receive produce from The Farm at Augusta Health and shelf stable items from our local food bank, specifically selected by our hospital's dietitians.



Crops to Community

- Began in April 2020
- Referral-based program through case management for patients who are who are food insecure and whose incomes are less than 200% of the FPL
- 50 boxes of food delivered bi-weekly to patients' doorsteps
- Total pounds of food delivered: 50,000
- Total pounds of produce delivered: 16,651
- Total market value of produce delivered: \$73,563
- Total number of unique patients served: 107
- Total number of boxes delivered: 5,150





Food Pantry

- Began in April 2021
- Eight pantry location
- 21 referring practices
- Patients are referred into the program after screening positive for food insecurity
- Outcomes:
 - Total number of patients serviced: 3,910
 - Total number of bags distributed: 9,576
 - Total pounds of produce distributed: \$11,229
 - Total market value of produce distributed: \$49,736
 - Total pounds of shelf stable food distributed: 65,920
 - Total amount of shelf stable food procured: \$12,164

Infant & Maternal Health Navigation

The Infant & Maternal Health Navigator program works with women before, during, and after deliver to provide education, resources, and baby supplies. It specifically targets teenagers, women dealing with substance use disorders, incarcerated women, cases involving complex newborn care, adoption scenarios, and resource insecure women.

Outcomes:

- 220 referrals in 2024
- \$2,500 grant from VNPC
- LARC donation for MRRJ
- 1,000+ maternity clothes donations



Neighborhood Clinic—Patient Perspectives

“When I had insurance and financial resources, I spent a lot of money on healthcare but I have never received such great care and it didn’t cost me anything.”

“Since moving back to my hometown last year, the Augusta Health Neighborhood Clinic at the Verona Community Center has been incredibly helpful in managing my diabetes. Every time I call, they always address my needs, and with various locations, they can make appointments convenient no matter where you live. Having reliable healthcare makes a big difference. From checking in when I arrive to seeing medical professionals, I know they truly care about my health.”

- Augusta Health Neighborhood Clinic Patients, 2024



Barriers to Success / Next Steps

1. **Evaluation**—Continue to monitor and measure outcomes
2. **Impact Analysis**—Analyze claims data across insurers to demonstrate impact of health equity work and savings
3. **Increase Funding Sources**—Explore and seek funding for Health Equity work through Insurers; Medicaid and any commercially insured patients.
4. **Improve Data Alignment**—Collaborate on social services data for partners; data not collected and/or shared uniformly across sectors/systems
5. **Strengthen Mental Health Services**—Exploring expansions/partnerships for behavioral health
6. **Expand Access**—Pilot Mobile Medical Clinic (Van)



Future Plans—Mobile Primary Care

Expanding Our Impact



Mobile Van Benefits and Services

- Improved access to remote rural locations
- Can service neighborhoods without a community space to donate
- Has 2 exam rooms
- Provides privacy for physical exams, confidential conversations, women's health
- Can visit occupational health sites
- Provides significant improvements in efficiency of operations—our current model has us loading and unloading supplies and equipment twice a day



Moderated Q&A



Connect with CMS OMH

Contact Us

OMH@cms.hhs.gov

Visit Our Website

go.cms.gov/omh

Listserv Signup

bit.ly/CMSOMH

Coverage to Care

CoverageToCare@cms.hhs.gov

Minority Research Grant Program

OMHGrants@cms.hhs.gov

Rural Health

RuralHealth@cms.hhs.gov

Thank You!

