What are the top health priorities for communities in rural Indiana?

Every two to five years, communities examine the health of the people who live there. They look at statistics and ask residents what they think their health issues are. This information is combined to create a community health needs assessment (CHNA).

- **84%** of rural Indiana counties reported that **substance use** was a top community health need.
- **76%** of rural Indiana counties reported that **mental health** was a top community health need.
- **74%** of rural Indiana counties reported that **chronic disease** was a top community health need.
- **64%** of rural Indiana counties reported that **access to healthcare** was a top community health need.
- **42%** of rural Indiana counties reported that improved levels of **physical activity** were a top community health need.
- **36%** of rural Indiana counties reported that reduction in **tobacco use** was a top community health need.

**34%** of rural Indiana counties noted nutrition and **30%** noted maternal, infant, and child health as top priorities for the community.

A content analysis was conducted of the most recent community needs assessments across rural Indiana. Health issues were identified through the number of times a health issue was listed as a priority.

*This report was prepared by the IU Center for Rural Engagement and IU School of Public Health (Dr. Priscilla Barnes, Kaylond Mauzerolle MPH, Brittanni Wright MPH, and Jordan Meyer BS).

*Rural Indiana communities were included based on CDC guidelines at [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_02/sr02_166.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_02/sr02_166.pdf).