

2023 Community Health Assessment Forest, Oneida, and Vilas Counties

Key Informant Interviews

Key informant interview results

Interviews were held with key stakeholders in Forest, Oneida, and Vilas counties including members of local law enforcement, health care professionals, AODA and mental health specialists and others. The purpose of the interviews was to gain a deeper understanding of ways in which the community needs to be supported.

The key informant interviews identified common themes across three counties. In Vilas County, the themes were food insecurity, mental/behavioral health, ADOA (especially youth vaping), aging population, lack of local support for older adults, and lack of healthcare resources. In Forest County, the themes were accessibility to resources/community assistance with resources, access to medical care, mental health and AODA, activity and nutrition, and transportation needs. In Oneida County, the themes were access to affordable mental health and ADOA services, isolation, access to transportation and healthcare, affordable housing, lack of strong economy/jobs, affordable childcare services, and lack of community members' energy/momentum for change. Themes for each county and the original questions are listed below.

KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1. How does your agency contribute to the health and well-being of the community?**
- 2. What is working well for the population you serve to help overcome their challenges and barriers? How can we leverage this in the future?**
- 3. What do you feel your clients would indicate as their most pressing health concerns?**
- 4. What are the most important barriers or challenges of the population you serve to being healthy?**
- 5. Over the past five years, do you think the health of the population you serve has changed? If so, in what ways has it changed, and what do you think are the contributing factors driving those changes?**
- 6. In your opinion, what actions that need to be taken to address the health issues for the population you serve? AND/OR Where do you think there is momentum or community energy? Where is there community readiness to address issues?**
- 7. In what ways does the population you serve have unique challenges or barriers to health compared with the general population in our counties?**

Vilas County Common Themes are the following:

- ◇ Food (insecurities & cost/affordability)
- ◇ Mental Health/Behavioral Health
- ◇ ADOA (esp. youth vaping)
- ◇ Aging population/Older adults
- ◇ Lack of local support for older adults
- ◇ Lack of healthcare resources (including specialties & mental health)

Forest County Common Themes:

- ◇ Accessibility to resources/community assistance with resources
- ◇ Access to medical care (Distance to facilities, lack of options in the county, lack of transportation)
- ◇ Mental Health and AODA
- ◇ Activity and Nutrition (especially healthy eating)
- ◇ Transportation needs

Oneida County Common Themes:

- ◇ Access to affordable Mental Health services/ increase in providers (in youth and adults)
- ◇ Access to affordable AODA services/ increase in providers
- ◇ Isolation
- ◇ Access to transportation services
- ◇ Access to affordable Health Care
- ◇ Access to affordable housing
- ◇ Lack of strong economy/jobs (staffing & well trained individuals)
- ◇ Access to affordable childcare services
- ◇ Lack of energy/momentum for community members to want change

If you would like to serve on a coalition that helps meet the aims of this report, or have another comment on this assessment, please contact one of the participating health departments for more information.

Participating Health Departments:

Forest County Health Department
200 E. Madison St.
Crandon, WI 54520
Phone: 715-478-3371

Oneida County Health Department
100 West Keenan St.
Rhineland, WI 54501
Phone: 715-369-6111

Vilas County Health Department
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Eagle River, WI 54521
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