Howard Memorial hospital

2024

Community Health Needs Assessment

Provided by the Office of Behavioral Research & Evaluation, Arkansas State University

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Introduction

Howard Memorial Hospital is the local, not-for-profit community hospital in Howard County, Arkansas. It has the mission of "improving the health of the communities we serve," and a commitment "to bringing friendly service, quality care and state-of-the-art technology to the Nashville and surrounding communities." As both part of its desire for continual improvement and in response to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) requirements, Howard Memorial Hospital conducts a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) every 3 years. As part of its 3-year cycle, Howard Memorial partnered with the Office of Behavioral Research and Evaluation (OBRE) at Arkansas State University to conduct an updated CHNA for 2024. The remainder of this report focuses on both quantitative and qualitative results from the 2024 assessment.

Section A: CHNA Process & Timeline

In November of 2023, Sandy Webb, the Administrative Director of Howard Memorial, contacted the Office of Behavioral Research and Evaluation (OBRE) to update the Howard Memorial Community Health Needs Assessment for 2024. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the previous CHNA was conducted using a survey in lieu of focus groups, which had been the process in both 2018 and 2015. For the 2024 CHNA, it was decided that focus groups would again be used, with 4 different groups representing 4 samples of community members: (1) a group comprised of people aged 65 and over; (2) a group comprised of grandparents, parents, and single householders; (3) a group comprised of African-American and Hispanic community members; and (4) a group comprised of people who work in public health and/or education.
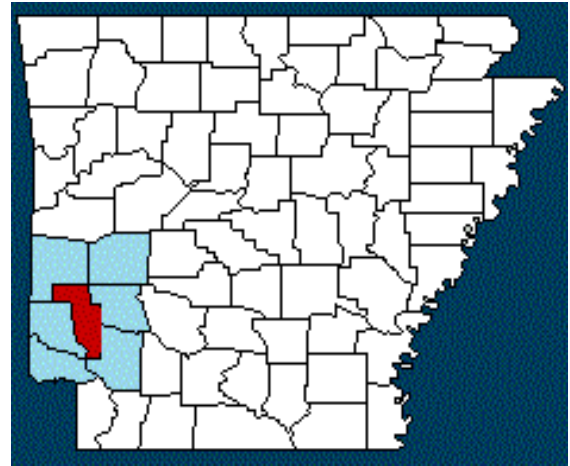
Although the focus groups were a rich source of data, it is unclear how representative of the community as a whole the members were. Even with a $10 Walmart Gift Card as an incentive, Howard Memorial had difficulty enticing participation from the community and consequently relied on hospital employees to fill slots in 3 of the 4 groups (the exception was the 65 and over group, which consisted of volunteer participants from the community). Suggestions for eliciting community participation in future focus groups are included in the Summary section of this report.

In April, OBRE sent a draft of focus group questions to be used to Sandy Webb, including a list of questions that had been added to the 2021 survey at the hospital's request. These questions were presented to the Howard Memorial administration, who decided to exclude the additional 2021 questions and only use the focus group questions that had been used prior to the pandemic.

In addition to preparing for the focus groups to be conducted in June, OBRE spent the spring of 2024 updating demographic and health profile tables for counties served by Howard Memorial from secondary, publicly available data sources (such as the Census Bureau and Arkansas Department of Health). These data sources, along with the focus group data, highlight the current health needs of both Howard County and the surrounding counties. These demographic profiles include both data that were presented in the 2021 CHNA alongside the most recent data available in 2024 so that Howard Memorial can consider how health needs have changed across the past 3 years as they use CHNA results in their strategic planning.

Section B: Demographic Profile of Howard County

Located in rural Southwest Arkansas, **Howard County** has an estimated population of 12,533 residents spread across about 600 square miles.[1] Of those residents, approximately 1/4 are under the age of 18 (26%), 19% are over the age of 65, and 51% are female. Howard County is somewhat more diverse in race than the state of Arkansas (*see Table 1 in Appendix A*). The majority of the county's residents are White (75%), 21% are Black or African American, and 14% are Hispanic or Latino.[2] Although English is the primary language spoken in the county's estimated 5,224 households (85%), Spanish is spoken in about 1 out of every 9 Howard County households (12%).[3]

There are over 5,000 households in Howard County.[4] Of households with children under 18, 61% are made up of married couples and 34% have a female householder (with no spouse present).[5] Of the county's births within the past year, almost 1/2 of them (48%) were to unmarried women.[6] Although this is a high percentage, this is a considerable drop from the previous CHNA statistic on single-mother births. In the 2021 CHNA, the most recent Census Bureau data showed that 73% of the births that year had been to single mothers. Moreover, there has been a considerable increase in the number of grandparents living with their grandchildren who are responsible for those grandchildren. Of the 369 grandparents who are living with their own grandchildren, over one-half (52%) are responsible for those grandchildren (this is up from 24% in 2021). Further, about 33% of households contain at least one person aged 65 or older.[7]

Howard County is relatively poor, although many people are making more money than they did in 2021 (to compare 2021 and 2024 data, *see Table 1 in Appendix A).* The median household income is $44,824, which is well below the national average of $74,755.[8] Almost 1 in 5 individuals (18%) in the county live below the poverty line, while almost 1 in 6 families live in poverty.[9] Of families headed by a female with no spouse present, nearly 36% live below the poverty line, and the situation is even

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[1] U. S. Census QuickFacts for Howard, Polk, Montgomery, Pike, Hempstead, Little River, Sevier Counties, Arkansas, and the United States (V2022: 2023); https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/howardcountyarkansas/PST045223

[2] ibid

[3] American Community Survey: Selected Social Characteristics (2022 5-year Estimates); https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?tid=ACSDP5Y2019.DP02&g=0400000US05_0500000US05061

[4] ibid

[5] ibid

[6] ibid

[7] American Community Survey: Selected Social Characteristics (2022 5-year Estimates); https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?tid=ACSDP5Y2019.DP02&g=0400000US05_0500000US05061

[8] American Community Survey: Selected Economic Characteristics (2022 5-year Estimates, 2022 1-year Estimates); County: https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2022.S1903?t=Income%20(Households,%20Families,%20Individuals)&g=050XX00US05061 Nation: https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST1Y2022.S1903?t=Income%20(Households,%20Families,%20Individuals)&g=010XX00US

[9] American Community Survey: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months (2022 5-year Estimates, 2022 1-year Estimates); https://data.census.gov/table?t=Poverty&g=050XX00US05061

worse for single mothers with children under 18—about 53% of them live in poverty.[10] The percentage of households making under $15,000/year in Howard County has dropped from 17% reported in the 2021 CHNA to almost 12%, which is better than the rate for the state as a whole (13%) but still higher than the national rate of 9%.[11]

Appendix A of this report provides a brief picture of Howard County in Table 1, including (a) Population, (b) Race & Language, (c) Fertility, (d) Household Composition, (e) Education & Employment, and (f) Economics, based on data from the U.S. Census QuickFacts and American Community Survey for the county.

Appendix B presents an overview and demographic profiles for the counties surrounding Howard County as supplemental information for the region (see *Table 2;* although most other counties are served by other local hospitals).

Section C: Health Profile of Howard County: Public and Secondary Data

Howard County health issues and concerns must be viewed in the larger context of the issues that exist within the state. In 2023, Arkansas ranked very low (48th out of 50 states)[12] in the overall health and well-being of its citizens. Although the state ranks slightly higher (45th out of 50)[13] when just looking at its senior citizens, it ranks 49th when looking at women and children's health[14]. As previously established, Howard County is a poor county within a relatively poor and unhealthy state. Thus, although it is critical to identify the primary health issues within the service area of Howard Memorial Hospital, including the county that serves as its principal region, many issues extend far beyond the confines of the county. A summary of health issues that exist for Howard County is presented below and detailed issues are presented in *Appendix C*, Tables 3-7. Data from surrounding counties are presented in *Appendix D,* Tables 8-12.

HOWARD COUNTY HEALTH ISSUES

Howard County does have some strengths in terms of health. For instance, the number of adults who have had a routine checkup in the last 2 years is higher than both the state and national averages, and a lower percentage of adults in Howard County have arthritis compared to the state as a whole. In addition, the percentage of adults who are physically inactive dropped dramatically since the last CHNA, from 51% to 32%. Although this is still slightly higher than the state and national averages (31% and 24% respectively), it's a remarkable improvement for Howard County that will hopefully lead to better health outcomes in the future. In the meantime, however, there are still some rather large challenges when it comes to the community's health.

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[10] American Community Survey: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months of Families (2022 5-year Estimates, 2022 1-year Estimates); https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2022.S1702?t=Poverty&g=050XX00US05061

[11] American Community Survey: Income in the Past 12 Months (2022 5-year Estimates); https://data.census.gov/table?t=Income%20(Households,%20Families,%20Individuals)&g=050XX00US05061

[12] United Health Foundation, America's Health Rankings Annual Report 2023; ahr_2023annual_comprehensivereport_final2-web.pdf (americashealthrankings.org)

[13] United Health Foundation, America's Health Rankings Annual Senior Report State Summaries 2024; ahr_2024seniorreport-statesummaries_all.pdf (americashealthrankings.org)

[14] United Health Foundation, America's Health Rankings Annual Health of Women and Children Report State Summaries 2024; unitedstates-all-hwc2023.pdf (americashealthrankings.org)

The Howard County tables in *Appendix C* (Tables 3-7) reflect the following key points, especially in comparison to State and National statistics (also shown in the tables):

1. Early pre-natal care is less likely to occur in Howard County (66%) than in the rest of the state (71%) or the nation (77%), meaning that about one-third of Howard County's new citizens get off to a poor start health-wise. (Table 3)

2. The percentage of Howard County adults with diabetes has increased since the last CHNA, with more than 22%--almost twice the national average (12%)—now having the disease. (Table 6)

3. Although rates of obesity for both adults and students have dipped slightly since the previous CHNA, rates for both groups (73% and 44% respectively) are still higher than state and available national averages. (Table 6)

4. COPD among adults is more common in Howard County (15%) compared to the state (11%) and the nation (7%). (Table 6)

5. Infant mortality is higher in Howard County (7.7 per 1,000 live births compared to 7.4 for the state and 5.4 for the nation), and life expectancy for everyone is generally lower (73 compared to 74 for the state and 77 for the nation). (Table 7)

Section D: Focus Group Data

Four focus groups were conducted on June 5, 2024, by the Office of Behavioral Research and Evaluation (OBRE) at Howard Memorial Hospital. Twenty-one participants took part in the focus groups, with seven of them participating in more than one group. Two-thirds of the respondents were female. One-third of the participants were African American, and about one in five participants were Hispanic/Latinx. Nearly one quarter (24%) of focus group members were aged 65 or older. Slightly more than 57% of focus group participants worked in (or had retired from) public health— many of whom were current hospital employees. Although having input from hospital staff gave OBRE an insider's view of Howard Memorial, there is concern that having such heavy representation from hospital employees may make it difficult to really know what the larger community believes about Howard Memorial Hospital. Efforts will be made in future CHNAs to have a smaller percentage of hospital employees participating in the focus groups so that the rest of the community can have more of a voice.

Significant Healthcare Issues

Focus group members were asked what they felt were the most significant healthcare issues in Howard County. When looking at responses across all four focus groups, three issues emerge as the most often-cited needs (briefly discussed below).

1. **Mental Health/Substance Use Disorder.** Three of the four focus groups named mental health and/or substance use issues as a significant healthcare need in the community. Specifically, participants mentioned the need for more access to facilities for mental health crises and

substance use rehabilitation. Although counseling services are available locally, those needing in-patient services have to travel to other parts of the state. One group also mentioned that stigma is often a barrier to people in the community seeking services.

2. **Health Literacy.** Three of the four groups mentioned that people in the community need more education about health. According to the public health focus group, many of the health issues in Howard County and the surrounding areas could be prevented if the community as a whole had greater health literacy. Although the hospital offers some classes on health-related topics, many community members either don't know about them or choose not to attend. As one participant said, "Health's not important to us until we're sick."

3. **Lack of Providers/Services.** Of the four focus groups, three groups cited the lack of providers and services available locally as one of the most significant health care needs in Howard County. For many services, such as emergency care, behavioral health, and dialysis, people may need to travel outside the county.

Unmet Healthcare Needs & How Howard Memorial Can Help

As part of the focus groups, community members were asked which specific needs are not being met, including what needs are referred out of town, and how Howard Memorial can better address those unmet needs. Although various themes emerged, there were 2 that stood out as the primary focus of responses (see below).

1. **Howard County residents need more local access to Mental Health, Behavioral Health, & Substance Use treatment.** Although 3 counseling centers were mentioned as being available in Howard County, including a geriatric counseling center run by the hospital, the community members participating in the focus groups said that mental health, behavioral health, and substance use treatment needs are still unmet in the community. Specifically, participants would like to see more in-patient services offered, more behavioral health services for children with special needs, and more follow-up services for people who have received mental health services.

2. **More local access to services, including specialty services, and help navigating those services is desired.** Although the hospital offers many specialty services, with visiting physicians (e.g., a cardiologist, a pediatrician) coming to Howard Memorial once a week, many community members still have to travel to receive necessary services. Although it was acknowledged that "it's hard for small hospitals to do all this themselves," the respondents would like to see more services offered, such as neuro-ophthalmology or labor and delivery, with one person suggesting that the hospital partner with another entity—perhaps another hospital—to help address issues with access to care. In addition, members of the 65 and older group would like Howard Memorial to hire a healthcare advocate to help them navigate the referral system, which is often confusing and arduous. In particular, follow-up for specialties often takes a "a month or two to get what is needed." One participant dubbed the referral system "medical volleyball." He suggested it would be very helpful, especially for older people, to have an advocate help them secure the appointments and follow-up care they need.

Awareness of Current Howard Memorial Services & Specialties

To get a sense of how aware the community is with regard to all the services and specialties offered by Howard Memorial Hospital, focus group members were asked whether they think people in the community are fully aware of the services available. The consensus was that **the community is generally unaware of many services the hospital offers**, but that this lack of awareness is not due to lack of marketing on the hospital's part. According to hospital employees, Howard Memorial has done marketing campaigns via Facebook, flyers, billboards, the radio, and their website. The only other suggestion that was brought up by focus group members was to include **marketing materials (e.g., flyers) in Spanish—and to advertise on the Spanish-speaking radio stations**--to increase awareness among the Hispanic community.

Difficulty Obtaining Services

Focus group participants were asked about populations they feel are underserved and about difficulties with receiving healthcare in Howard County. Those mentioned as underserved were **minorities**—especially those who are **Spanish speaking**, **women** in general and **young mothers** in particular, and **children**. Those in need of **mental health** services were also mentioned, as were people with **low incomes**. One group also identified **athletes** as underserved due to Howard County's lack of sports medicine providers.

When asked more generally about what prevents patients from getting the healthcare they need from Howard Memorial, **transportation** was mentioned as an issue for many people. The **lack of specialties** and **long waits** to see a specialist when one is available was also identified as a concern. In addition, **obtaining insurance approvals** and along with getting the required **paperwork** from primary care providers was brought up as a barrier for many people.

Physical Activity and Healthy Diet

Focus group participants were asked how Howard Memorial is currently helping residents improve their overall health (including physical activity) and what else they can do to encourage people to be more physically active. The top responses centered around **the hospital's gym,** which is open to the public in addition to being a place for people to complete physical therapy. They also mentioned the hospital's **dietician,** who teaches classes on healthy eating, including a class specifically for diabetics.

When asked what more can be done to help people become physically active, the top themes were to **expand the gym's hours** and to improve the **healthy food options** in the cafeteria. Currently, although Howard Memorial's gym is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., some participants said that the gym's operating hours do not match their schedule and that during the day, physical therapy patients take up much of the gym's equipment. They would like to see the hours expanded to 24-hour access. They also stated that the food offered in the hospital cafeteria could be healthier, and that nutritional information for that food needed to be provided. One focus group member pointed out that the snacks provided to the focus groups—cookies and chips—was not a good way to promote health.

Section E: Summary

The data collected and presented in this report illustrate at least 3 main points, although other specific points may be gleaned from the data presented throughout this report and in the appendices. Below is a list of some of the top concerns identified.

1. **Mental and Behavioral Health, including Substance Use Issues, is an area of need in Howard County.** This was a need that emerged throughout the focus groups. For instance, one participant said that she has to travel outside the community for behavioral health services for her child who has autism. All of the focus groups agreed that people with mental health or substance use disorders have difficulty obtaining treatment in the county, and that those in need of residential treatment must travel to other parts of the state. Although three counseling centers were mentioned, including a geriatric center, focus group members believed that there are not enough counselors and that, even when counseling services are available, stigma may keep people from seeking help.
2. **Although Howard Memorial Hospital offers many specialties in their clinic, many community members are still having difficulties accessing services, including follow-up.** Many specialists who visit the hospital only come one day a week, resulting in long waits for appointments. Moreover, there are many specialties that are not offered. Instead, patients must travel to other cities to receive care and follow-up. In addition, focus group members said it is sometimes difficult to actually see a doctor. Often, they only see the nurse practitioner. Finally, the lack of an urgent care clinic was cited as a barrier to receiving healthcare as the only local options are the emergency room or a visit to one's primary care physician.
3. **There is a need for increased Health Literacy among members of the community.** Participants noted that many of the health issues in the county would be preventable if more people were educated about health. Although Howard Memorial's dietician offers classes on nutrition and the hospital offers gym memberships to the community, focus group members agreed that these resources are often under-utilized. It was noted, however, that the hospital has already expended a lot of money and effort on marketing campaigns to increase awareness of their services in the community. There were a couple of suggestions for more targeted outreach. One was to do more advertising in Spanish to reach the Hispanic community. Another suggestion was to set up a health fair in the cafeteria area of the local Tyson plant. Although the hospital has set up information tables at Tyson in the past, they were not in a prime location to reach very many employees.

From a review of the data collected during this Community Health Needs Assessment process, it is clear that Howard Memorial Hospital has a lot to offer the community. However, there is still more work to be done to help the community to achieve greater health. It is suggested that Howard Memorial partner with the county's mental health providers to improve access to services for mental health, behavioral health, and substance use. In addition, the community needs greater access to physicians for treatment and follow-up. Finally, Howard Memorial has much to offer in terms of increasing the community's health literacy. It is suggested that the hospital find creative ways to increase engagement with their services.

In consideration of the next CHNA, which will take place in 2027, it is suggested that Howard Memorial Hospital work to recruit individuals from the community who are not hospital employees.

Increasing the percentage of Howard County residents who are not employed by the hospital in each focus group would likely be beneficial, as these participants could provide greater insight on the concerns identified during this CHNA, and may have their own concerns which are remaining unheard. To accomplish this, it is proposed that more outreach efforts be made. For instance, the educators of the Cossatot Community College of the University of Arkansas could be recruited to attend the Public Health/Education focus group. These educators would likely be a wonderful resource, and their workplace is located just minutes from Howard Memorial.

Appendix A: Howard County Demographic Profile

Table 1: U.S. Census Demographic Data – Howard County

	Howard County *(2021 CHNA)* 2024	Arkansas *(2021 CHNA)* 2024	United States *(2021 CHNA)* 2024
POPULATION[15]			
Population Estimate	*(13,202)* **12,533**	*(3,017,804)* 3,067,732	*(328,239,523)* 334,914,895
Persons per square mile	*(23.4)* **21.8**	*(56.0)* 57.9	*(87.4)* 93.8
Persons under 5 years	*(7.1%)* **6.4%**	*(6.2%)* 5.9%	*(6.0%)* 5.6%
Persons under 18 years	*(26.2%)* **25.5%**	*(23.2%)* 22.9%	*(22.3%)* 21.7%
Persons 65 years & over	*(18.1%)* **18.8%**	*(17.4%)* 17.8%	*(16.5%)* 17.3%
Female persons	*(51.7%)* **51.3%**	*(50.9%)* 50.6%	*(50.8%)* 50.4%
RACE & LANGUAGE[16] (except where otherwise noted)			
White	*(75.0%)* **74.9%**	*(79.0%)* 78.5%	*(76.3%)* 75.5%
Black or African American	*(21.1%)* **20.5%**	*(15.7%)* 15.6%	*(13.4%)* 13.6%
Hispanic or Latino	*(13.2%)* **13.8%**	*(7.8%)* 8.6%	*(18.5%)* 19.1%
Mexican Origin[17]	*(11.5%)* **12.3%**	*(5.4%)* 5.6%	*(11.2%)* 11.2%
Language other than English spoken in the home	*(13.0%)* **15.4%**	*(7.5%)* 8.1%	*(21.6%)* 22%
Spanish spoken in the home[18]	*(11.6%)* **12.3%**	*(5.4%)* 5.6%	*(13.4%)* 13.3%
FERTILITY[19]			
Number of women 15-50 years old giving birth in the past year	*(171)* **154**	*(39,242)* 39,688	*(3,987,092)* 4,036,894
% of those who were unmarried	*(72.5%)* **48.1%**	*(38.0%)* 38.4%	*(33.7%)* 30.8%
HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION[20]			
Total Households	*(5,142)* **5,224**	*(1,158,071)* 1,216,207	*(120,756,048)* 129,870,928
Married-Couple Households	*(66.6%)* **45.4%**	*(66.4%)* 47.1%	*(65.7%)* 46.9%

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[15] U.S. Census QuickFacts for Howard County, Arkansas, and the United States (V2022; V2023); https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/AR,howardcountyarkansas,US/PST045223

[16] ibid

[17] American Community Survey: Demographic & Housing Estimates (2022 5-year Estimates; 1-year Estimates); County: https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDP5Y2022.DP05?q=&g=050XX00US05061
State and Nation: https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDP1Y2022.DP05?t=Populations%20and%20People&g=010XX00US_040XX00US05

[18] American Community Survey: Selected Social Characteristics (2022 5-year Estimates; 2022 1-year Estimates); County & State: https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2022.S1601?g=040XX00US05_050XX00US05061
Nation: https://data.census.gov/table?q=language%20spoken%20at%20home

[19] American Community Survey: Fertility (2022 5-year Estimates; 2022 1-year Estimates); County: https://data.census.gov/table?q=fertility&g=050XX00US05061
State and Nation: https://data.census.gov/table?q=fertility&g=010XX00US_040XX00US05

[20] American Community Survey: Households and Families (2022 5-year Estimates; 2022 1-year Estimates); County: https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2022.S1101?q=households&g=050XX00US05061
State and Nation: https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST1Y2022.S1101?q=households&g=010XX00US_040XX00US05

Table 1: U.S. Census Demographic Data – Howard County

	Howard County (2021 CHNA) 2024	Arkansas (2021 CHNA) 2024	United States (2021 CHNA) 2024
Households with children under 18	*(28.7%)* **26.6%**	*(27.6%)* 21.5%	*(27.9%)* 19.8%
Married-Couple Family with children under 18	*(15.4%)* **17.6%**	*(17.9%)* 17.4%	*(18.8%)* 17.7%
Female Householder (no spouse present) with children under 18	*(10.7%)* **9.7%**	*(6.2%)* 5.3%	*(5.3%)* 4.8%
Households with one or more people 65 years and over	*(31.6%)* **32.9%**	*(30.1%)* 31.5%	*(29.4%)* 31.7%
Persons living alone	*(29.4%)* **29.0%**	*(29.5%)* 30.8%	*(28.3%)* 28.6%
Aged 65 or Over	*(13.6%)* **15.8%**	*(12.3%)* 12.2%	*(11.4%)* 11.5%
HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION *(continued)*[21]			
Grandparents Living with Grandchildren under 18 years	*(324)* **369**	*(71,541)* 64,394	*(7,239,762)* 6,482,530
% responsible for grandchildren	*(23.8%)* **51.8%**	*(53.1%)* 50.9%	*(34.1%)* 31.8%
EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT[22]			
High School Graduate or Higher	*(85.2%)* **88.4%**	*(86.6%)* 88.2%	*(88.0%)* 89.1%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	*(13.6%)* **15.0%**	*(23.0%)* 24.7%	*(32.1%)* 34.3%
In Labor Force (16 years+)	*(58.6%)* **57.5%**	*(57.9%)* 57.9%	*(63.0%)* 63.0%
ECONOMICS			
Median Household Income[23]	*($36,059)* **$44,824**	*($47,597)* $55,432	*($62,843)* $74,755
Persons Below the Poverty Level[24]	*(19.4%)* **18.3%**	*(17.0%)* 16.8%	*(13.4%)* 12.6%
Families Below the Poverty Level[25]	*(15.6%)* **15.6%**	*(12.4%)* 11.8%	*(9.5%)* 8.9%
Families with female householder, no spouse present	*(45.2%)* **35.7%**	*(33.2%)* 30.5%	*(26.5%)* 23.6%
With related children under 18	*(62.6%)* **53.2%**	*(42.8%)* 39.8%	*(36.1%)* 32.7%
With related children under 5 only	*(42.1%)* **11.3%**	*(50.0%)* 41.5%	*(40.5%)* 36.2%
Households making less than $15K[26]	*(17.2%)* **11.5%**	*(13.8%)* 13.2%	*(10.3%)* 9.2%

[21] American Community Survey: Selected Social Characteristics (2022 5-year Estimates; 2022 1-year Estimates);
County: https://data.census.gov/table?q=household&g=050XX00US05061
State and Nation: https://data.census.gov/table?q=household&g=010XX00US_040XX00US05
[22] U.S. Census QuickFacts for Howard, Arkansas (2022), and the United States (V2020);
https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/howardcountyarkansas,AR,US/PST045223
[23] American Community Survey: Median Income in the Past 12 Months (2022 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars);
County: https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2022.S1903?t=Income%20and%20Poverty&g=050XX00US05061
State and Nation: https://data.census.gov/table?t=Income%20and%20Poverty&g=010XX00US_040XX00US05
[24] American Community Survey: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months (2022 5-year Estimates; 2022 1-year Estimates);
County: https://data.census.gov/table?q=poverty%20level&g=050XX00US05061
State and Nation: https://data.census.gov/table?q=poverty%20level&g=010XX00US_040XX00US05
[25] American Community Survey: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months of Families (2022 5-year Estimates; 2022 1-year Estimates);
County: https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2022.S1702?q=poverty%20level&g=050XX00US05061
State and Nation: https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST1Y2022.S1702?q=poverty%20level&g=010XX00US_040XX00US05
[26] American Community Survey: Income in the Past 12 Months (2022 5-year Estimates; 2022 1-year Estimates);
County: https://data.census.gov/table?t=Income%20(Households,%20Families,%20Individuals)&g=050XX00US05061
State and Nation:
https://data.census.gov/table?t=Income%20(Households,%20Families,%20Individuals)&g=010XX00US_040XX00US05

Appendix B: Surrounding Counties Demographic Overview & Profile

There are 6 counties that directly border Howard County. Clockwise, from the northwest corner of the county, they are (1) Polk, (2) Montgomery, (3) Pike, (4) Hempstead, (5) Little River, and (6) Sevier. The 6 counties combined are home to over 85,000 residents, with Montgomery County as the least populated county (8,620 residents) and Polk the most populated (19,436 residents).[27] Like Howard County, which only has 22 people per square mile, the surrounding counties are rural, ranging from 28 people per square mile (Sevier) to only 11 people per square mile (Montgomery). The majority of the residents who live in the area surrounding Howard County are White (ranging from 65% in Hempstead County to 93% in both Polk and Montgomery Counties). There is a significant African American population in Hempstead and Little River counties (30% and 20% respectively) and a significant Hispanic population in Sevier County (35%). In addition, in one-third of Sevier County households (33%), a language other than English is spoken.[28]

Like the rest of Arkansas, the counties surrounding Howard are relatively poor, with median household incomes that range from $45,049 (Hempstead) to $58,627 (Little River). While some of these are on par with the state's median household income ($55,432), they are well below the national median income of $74,755.[29] Persons living below the poverty line range from 12% in Little River County to 23% in Hempstead. As with Howard County, the people most likely to be living in poverty are single mothers with children under 18.[30] In terms of education, most of the people served by Howard Memorial Hospital have graduated from high school, but very few of them have a four-year college degree.[31]

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[27] Census QuickFacts for Howard, Polk, Montgomery, Pike, Hempstead, Little River, Sevier Counties, Arkansas, and the United States (V2023);
Counties:https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/seviercountyarkansas,littlerivercountyarkansas,hempsteadcountyarkansas,pikecountyarkansas,montgomerycountyarkansas,polkcountyarkansas/PST045223
State and Nation: https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US,AR/PST045223
[28] ibid
[29] American Community Survey: Median Income in the Past 12 Months (in 2022 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars);
Counties:
https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2022.S1903?t=Income%20(Households,%20Families,%20Individuals)&g=050XX00US05057,05061,05081,05097,05109,05113,05133
State and Nation: https://data.census.gov/table?t=Income%20and%20Poverty&g=010XX00US_040XX00US05
[30] American Community Survey: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months (2022 5-year Estimates; 2022 1-year Estimate);
Individual Poverty Status:
https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2022.S1701?t=Poverty&g=050XX00US05057,05061,05081,05097,05109,05113,05133
Family Poverty Status:
https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2022.S1702?t=Poverty&g=050XX00US05057,05061,05081,05097,05109,05113,05133
[31] Census QuickFacts for Howard, Polk, Montgomery, Pike, Hempstead, Little River, and Sevier Counties (V2023);
Counties:https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/seviercountyarkansas,littlerivercountyarkansas,hempsteadcountyarkansas,pikecountyarkansas,montgomerycountyarkansas,polkcountyarkansas/PST045223

Table 2 on the next page offers a brief picture of each of the counties. The table includes (a) Population, (b) Race & Language, (c) Fertility, (d) Household Composition, (e) Education & Employment, and (f) Economics, based on data from the U.S. Census QuickFacts and American Community Survey for each of the counties.

Table 2: U.S. Census Demographic Data by County

	COUNTY							ARKANSAS	UNITED STATES
	Howard	**Polk**	**Montgomery**	**Pike**	**Hempstead**	**Little River**	**Sevier**		
POPULATION[32]									
Population Estimate	12,533	19,436	8,620	10,208	19,343	11,805	15,632	3,067,732	334,914,895
Persons per square mile	21.8	22.4	10.9	16.9	27.6	22.6	28.1	57.9	93.8
Persons under 5 years	6.4%	5.2%	4.8%	5.5%	6.5%	5.8%	7.0%	5.9%	5.6%
Persons under 18 years	25.5%	22.0%	18.0%	22.2%	24.9%	21.8%	28.2%	22.9%	21.7%
Persons 65 years & over	18.8%	23.5%	27.4%	21.2%	19.4%	21.5%	14.6%	17.8%	17.3%
Female persons	51.3%	50.7%	50.1%	50.0%	50.9%	51.5%	49.1%	50.6%	50.4%
RACE & LANGUAGE[33] (except where otherwise noted)									
White	74.9%	93.2%	93.2%	91.6%	65.3%	75.0%	86.7%	78.5%	75.5%
Black or African American	20.5%	0.7%	0.8%	3.8%	30.3%	19.5%	4.1%	15.6%	13.6%
Hispanic or Latino	13.8%	6.7%	4.9%	7.1%	14.2%	4.3%	34.9%	8.6%	19.1%
Mexican Origin[34]	12.3%	6.2%	4.1%	5.7%	12.7%	3.8%	33.2%	5.6%	11.2%
Language other than English spoken in the home	15.4%	5.6%	3.7%	5.6%	11.5%	1.4%	32.6%	8.1%	22.0%
Spanish spoken in the home[35]	12.3%	4.9%	2.9%	5.3%	11.2%	1.0%	30.9%	6.0%	13.3%

[32] Census QuickFacts for Howard, Polk, Montgomery, Pike, Hempstead, Little River, Sevier Counties, Arkansas, and the United States (V2023);
Counties:https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/seviercountyarkansas,littlerivercountyarkansas,hempsteadcountyarkansas,pikecountyarkansas,montgomerycountyarkansas,polkcountyarkansas/PST045223
State and Nation: https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US,AR/PST045223

[33] ibid

[34] American Community Survey: Demographic & Housing Estimates (2022 5-year Estimates; 1-year Estimates);
Counties: https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDP5Y2022.DP05?t=Populations%20and%20People&g=050XX00US05057,05061,05081,05097,05109,05113,05133
State and Nation: https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDP1Y2022.DP05?t=Populations%20and%20People&g=010XX00US_040XX00US05

[35] American Community Survey: Language Spoken at Home (2022 5-year Estimates; 1-year Estimates);
Counties: https://data.census.gov/table?t=Language%20Spoken%20at%20Home&g=050XX00US05057,05061,05081,05097,05109,05113,05133
State and Nation: https://data.census.gov/table?t=Language%20Spoken%20at%20Home&g=010XX00US_040XX00US05

Table 2: U.S. Census Demographic Data by County

	COUNTY							ARKANSAS	UNITED STATES
	Howard	Polk	Montgomery	Pike	Hempstead	Little River	Sevier		
FERTILITY[36]									
Number of women 15-50 years old giving birth in the past year	154	350	44	58	56	127	93	39,688	4,036,894
% of those who were unmarried	48.1%	8.6%	11.4%	6.9%	28.6%	37.0%	32.3%	36.8%	30.8%
HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION[37] (except where otherwise noted)									
Total Households	5,224	7,717	3,589	4,007	7,355	4,734	5,543	1,216,207	129,870,928
Married-Couple Family with children under 18	17.6%	16.7%	14.1%	21.3%	13.5%	14.3%	24.8%	17.4%	17.7%
Female Householder (no spouse present) with children under 18	9.7%	3.1%	3.2%	2.9%	6.3%	5.3%	6.0%	5.3%	4.8%
Households with one or more people 65 years and over	32.9%	38.7%	43.7%	36.8%	36.2%	38.0%	27.7%	31.5%	31.7%
Grandparents Living with Grandchildren under 18 years[38]	369	205	175	242	660	207	342	64,394	6,482,530

[36] American Community Survey: Fertility (2022 5-year Estimates; 2022 1-year Estimates);
Counties: https://data.census.gov/table?q=fertility&g=050XX00US05057,05061,05081,05097,05109,05113,05133
State and Nation: https://data.census.gov/table?q=fertility&g=010XX00US_040XX00US05

[37] American Community Survey: Households and Families (2022 5-year Estimates; 2022 1-year Estimates);
Counties:
https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2022.S1101?t=Families%20and%20Household%20Characteristics&g=050XX00US05057,05061,05081,05097,05109,05113,05133
State and Nation: https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST1Y2022.S1101?t=Families%20and%20Household%20Characteristics&g=010XX00US_040XX00US05

[38] American Community Survey: Grandparents (2022 5-year Estimates; 2022 1-year Estimates);
Counties:
https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2022.S1002?t=Families%20and%20Household%20Characteristics&g=050XX00US05057,05061,05081,05097,05109,05113,05133
State and Nation: https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST1Y2022.S1002?t=Grandparents%20and%20Grandchildren&g=010XX00US_040XX00US05

Table 2: U.S. Census Demographic Data by County

	COUNTY							ARKANSAS	UNITED STATES
	Howard	Polk	Montgomery	Pike	Hempstead	Little River	Sevier		
% responsible for grandchildren	**51.8%**	42.4%	82.3%	62.0%	49.2%	55.6%	43.6%	50.9%	31.8%
EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT[39]									
High School Graduate or Higher	**88.4%**	88.0%	86.7%	88.7%	83.9%	90.6%	73.5%	88.2%	89.1%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	**15.0%**	16.3%	16.4%	18.5%	15.8%	15.9%	11.7%	24.7%	34.3%
In Labor Force (16 years+)	**57.5%**	54.5%	48.5%	53.0%	52.3%	57.0%	60.3%	57.9%	63.0%
ECONOMICS									
Median Household Income[40]	**$44,824**	$48,449	$47,103	$49,248	$45,049	$58,627	$53,567	$55,432	$74,755
Persons Below the Poverty Level[41]	**18.3%**	17.8%	18.2%	17.5%	23.0%	11.8%	20.1%	16.8%	12.6%
Families Below the Poverty Level[42]	**15.6%**	14.2%	13.1%	12.9%	14.8%	6.9%	12.7%	11.8%	8.9%
Families with female householder, no spouse present	**35.7%**	41.6%	31.7%	38.1%	40.6%	21.9%	38.2%	30.5%	23.6%

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[39] Census QuickFacts for Howard, Polk, Montgomery, Pike, Hempstead, Little River, Sevier Counties, Arkansas, and the United States (V2019);
Surrounding Counties:
https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/polkcountyarkansas,montgomerycountyarkansas,pikecountyarkansas,hempsteadcountyarkansas,littlerivercountyarkansas,sevier countyarkansas/PST045223
Howard, State, and Nation: https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/howardcountyarkansas,AR,US/PST045223
[40] American Community Survey: Median Income in the Past 12 Months (2022 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars);
Counties: https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2022.S1903?t=Income%20and%20Poverty&g=050XX00US05057,05061,05081,05097,05109,05113,05133
State and Nation: https://data.census.gov/table?t=Income%20and%20Poverty&g=010XX00US_040XX00US05
[41] American Community Survey: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months (2022 5-year Estimates; 2022 1-year Estimates);
Counties: https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2022.S1701?t=Income%20and%20Poverty&g=050XX00US05057,05061,05081,05097,05109,05113,05133
State and Nation: https://data.census.gov/table?q=poverty%20level&g=010XX00US_040XX00US05
[42] American Community Survey: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months of Families (2022 5-year Estimates; 2022 1-year Estimates);
Counties: https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2022.S1702?t=Income%20and%20Poverty&g=050XX00US05057,05061,05081,05097,05109,05113,05133
State and Nation: https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST1Y2022.S1702?q=poverty%20level&g=010XX00US_040XX00US05

Table 2: U.S. Census Demographic Data by County

	COUNTY							ARKANSAS	UNITED STATES
	Howard	Polk	Montgomery	Pike	Hempstead	Little River	Sevier		
With related children under 18	**53.2%**	52.3%	35.8%	46.4%	52.5%	26.0%	58.1%	39.8%	32.7%
Households making less than $15K[43]	**11.5%**	11.6%	15.0%	15.9%	16.3%	10.3%	14.3%	13.2%	9.2%

[43] American Community Survey: Income in the Past 12 Months (2022 5-year Estimates; 2022 1-year Estimates);
Counties:
https://data.census.gov/table?t=Income%20(Households,%20Families,%20Individuals):Income%20and%20Poverty&g=050XX00US05057,05061,05081,05097,05109,05113,05133
State and Nation: https://data.census.gov/table?t=Income%20(Households,%20Families,%20Individuals)&g=010XX00US_040XX00US05

Table 3: Early Care Factors[44] (except where otherwise noted)	Howard County (2021 CHNA) 2024	Arkansas (2021 CHNA) 2024	United States (2021 CHNA) 2024
Low Birth Weight	(7.6%) 10.2%	(9.4%) 9.4%	(8.3%) 8.6%
Pre-Term Births	(8.8%) 11.2%	(11.6%) 11.8%	(10.0%) 10.4%
Early Prenatal Care[45]	66%	71%	77%
Singleton Births	97.4%	(96.9%) 97.0%	(96.6%) 96.8%
Cesarean Deliveries	31.2%	(34.8%) 34.4%	(31.9%) 31.9%

Table 4: Preventative Care & Behaviors[46] (except where otherwise noted)	Howard County (2021 CHNA) 2024	Arkansas (2021 CHNA) 2024	United States (2021 CHNA) 2024
Adults with Insurance Coverage	(85%) 91%	(88%) 90%	(89%) 93%
Adults with Routine Check-Up in Past 2 Years	(93%) 92%	(87%) 85%	(88%) 88%
Physically Inactive Adults	(51%) 32%	(31%) 31%	(24%) 24%
Smoking Rate	(22%) 14%	(23%) 19%	(16%) 14%
Adults that have Seen a Dentist in the Past Year[47]	51%	(57%) 56%	(66%) 65%

[44] March of Dimes Peristats, 2018 - 2022 Average;
https://www.marchofdimes.org/peristats/data?top=4&lev=1&stop=43&reg=99&sreg=05&obj=18&slev=4

[45] Aspire Arkansas, 2021-2022 Averages; https://aspirearkansas.org/health/early-prenatal-care

[46] Aspire Arkansas, 2022 Averages; https://aspirearkansas.org/health

[47] Aspire Arkansas, 2012-2022 Averages; https://www.aspirearkansas.org/health/oral-health

Table 5: Screening[48]

(except where otherwise noted)	Howard County (2021 CHNA) 2024	Arkansas (2021 CHNA) 2024	United States (2021 CHNA) 2024
Women 21 & Older Who Had Pap Smear in the past 3 years *(2021 data based on women 18 & older)*	*(75.3%)* **79.1%**	*(72.8%)* 76.9%	*(71.7%)* 77.7%
Women 40 & Older Who Had a Mammogram in the past 2 years	*(73.0%)* **67.9%**	*(66.6%)* 68.7%	*(71.8%)* 70.2%
Adults Never Tested for HIV[49]	**72%**	63.6%	--

Table 6: Obesity[50], Chronic Illness[51], & Cancer[52] Incidence

(except where otherwise noted)	Howard County (2021 CHNA) 2024	Arkansas (2021 CHNA) 2024	United States (2021 CHNA) 2024
Overweight or Obese Students	*(45%)* **44%**	*(39%)* 43%	*(33.4%)* --
Overweight or Obese Adults	*(80%)* **73%**	*(70%)* 71%	*(66%)* 68%
Adults with Asthma	*(6.8%)* **9.8%**	*(10.3%)* 9.4%	*(9.7%)* 10.4%
Adults with Diabetes	*(14.5%)* **22.4%**	*(15.1%)* 15.1%	*(10.8%)* 11.5%
Adults with COPD	*(13.3%)* **14.5%**	10.5%	6.9%
Adults with Coronary Heart Disease	*(5.4%)* **7.2%**	*(6.8%)* 7.2%	*(3.9%)* 4.4%
Adults with Arthritis	**30.7%**	34.3%	--
Colon & Rectum Cancer per 100,000	*(46.2)* **36.7**	*(44.1)* 42.2	*(38.4)* 36.5
Lung & Bronchus Cancer per 100,000	*(73.8)* **53.4**	*(77.2)* 71.3	*(58.3)* 54.0
Breast Cancer per 100,000 women	*(113.2)* **109.9**	*(118.2)* 121.1	*(125.9)* 127.0
Prostate Cancer per 100,000 men	*(74.0)* **72.7**	*(112.4)* 111.3	*(104.5)* 110.5

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[48] National Cancer Institute, State Cancer Profiles,
County: https://statecancerprofiles.cancer.gov/risk/index.php?topic=women&risk=v17&race=00&datatype=1&stateFIPS=05&type=risk&sortVariableName=name&sortOrder=asc#results
State and Nation: https://statecancerprofiles.cancer.gov/risk/index.php?topic=women&risk=v17&race=00&datatype=0&type=risk&sortVariableName=default&sortOrder=default#results

[49] Arkansas Dept. of Health, HIV – never tested 2019; https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/images/uploads/pdf/Never_tested_for_HIV_by_County_2019.xls.pdf

[50] Aspire Arkansas 2022; https://aspirearkansas.org/health/overweight-or-obese-adults

[51] Arkansas Department of Health BRFSS County Estimates (2019); https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programs-services/topics/brfss-county-estimates (For U.S. Data: https://nccd.cdc.gov/BRFSSPrevalence/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=DPH_BRFSS.ExploreByTopic&irbLocationType=StatesAndMMSA&islClass=CLASS03&islTopic=TOPIC06&islYear=2022&rdRnd=67966)

[52] National Cancer Institute, State Cancer Profiles Incidence Rates Table 2016-2020; https://www.statecancerprofiles.cancer.gov/incidencerates/

Table 7: Mortality[53] (except where otherwise noted)	Howard County (2021 CHNA) 2024	Arkansas (2021 CHNA) 2024	United States (2021 CHNA) 2024
Cancer Deaths per 100,000 *(There have been no recent updates since the 2018 CHNA)*	**159.3**	169.7	149.4
Diabetes Deaths per 100,000[54]	*(see footnote)* **32.43**	39.32	25.41
Lung & Bronchus Cancer Deaths per 100,000	*(see footnote)* **40.6**	48.4	35.0
Breast Cancer Deaths per 100,000 women	--	19.5	19.6
Cardiovascular Disease Deaths per 100,000[55]	*(see footnote)* **295.83**	231	173.78
Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births under 1 year old[56] *(new indicator for 2021)*	**7.7**	7.4	5.4
Life Expectancy in years[57]	*(75)* **73**	*(76)* 74	*(79)* 77

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[53] National Cancer Institute, State Cancer Profiles Death Rates Tables 2016-2020; https://statecancerprofiles.cancer.gov/deathrates/index.php?stateFIPS=05&areatype=county&cancer=001&race=00&sex=0&age=001&year=0&type=death&sortVariableName=rate&sortOrder=default#results NOTE: Data from 2018 were from a different source that included diabetes deaths with other types of deaths. Therefore, a comparison of the two numbers may not be an accurate depiction of the trend in the county.)

[54] World Life Expectancy.Com, Arkansas Health Ratings 2021; https://www.worldlifeexpectancy.com/usa/arkansas-diabetes(NOTE: Data from 2018 were from a different source that included diabetes deaths with other types of deaths. Therefore, a comparison of the two numbers may not be an accurate depiction of the trend in the county.)

[55] World Life Expectancy.Com, Arkansas Health Ratings 2021; https://www.worldlifeexpectancy.com/usa/arkansas-heart-disease

[56] March of Dimes Peristats, 2020 https://www.marchofdimes.org/peristats/data?top=6&lev=1&stop=91&reg=99&sreg=05&obj=18&slev=4

[57] Aspire Arkansas, 2020 Averages; https://aspirearkansas.org/health/life-expectancy

Appendix D: Surrounding Counties Health Overview & Profile

Tables depicting common health issues for the counties surrounding Howard County (Tables 8-12) are presented on the following pages. Highlights from the tables, especially in comparison to state and national figures, include the following:

1. One strength of these six counties is the high percentages of adults who have had a **routine check-up** in the past 2 years, which indicates both a high level of access to care and a willingness to seek care.

2. Although **obesity** rates remain high, and seem to be climbing among students, the percentage of **adults who are inactive** in these counties has decreased since the last CHNA, especially in Sevier County. *(see Tables 10 & 11)*

3. More adults are being diagnosed with **diabetes** in these counties than a few years ago, resulting in a widening gap between rates of the disease in these counties versus state and national averages. *(See Table 11)*

4. Incidents of **lung and bronchus cancer** are high in many of the counties, although **breast cancer** rates are lower than the national average in all six counties. *(see Table 11)*

5. Although **cancer deaths** appear to be declining in many of the counties, they are still higher than national averages. *(See Table 12)*

6. Life expectancy is lower in these counties than in the nation as a whole, although they are on par with the rest of the state. *(See Table 12)*

Health Profile Tables for Surrounding Counties

Table 8: Early Care Factors[58]	COUNTY (2021 CHNA) 2024						Arkansas	U.S.
	Polk	Montgomery	Pike	Hempstead	Little River	Sevier		
Low Birth Weight	*(6.1%)* 6.4%	*(6.1%)* 7.6%	*(7.2%)* 8.2%	*(9.1%)* 10.2%	*(8.4%)* 10.7%	*(7.2%)* 8.5%	9.4%	*(8.3%)* 8.6%
Pre-Term Births	*(8.0%)* 7.8%	*(9.9%)* 13.1%	*(10.1%)* 10.0%	*(10.6%)* 13.5%	*(11.7%)* 11.9%	*(8.1%)* 8.7%	*(11.6%)* 11.8%	*(10.0%)* 10.4%
Singleton Births	*(99.1%)* 96.5%	*(97.1%)* 96.5%	*(98.6%)* 96.8%	*(97.5%)* 97.4%	*(95.5%)* 95.9%	*(97.6%)* 98.0%	*(96.9%)* 97.0%	*(96.6%)* 96.8%
Cesarean Deliveries	*(28.2%)* 30.7%	*(30.5%)* 34.0%	*(34.2%)* 36.8%	*(36.0%)* 35.5%	*(41.5%)* 37.8%	*(31.7%)* 35.2%	*(34.8%)* 34.4%	*(31.9%)* 31.9%
Early Prenatal Care	*(73.0%)* 69%	*(74.0%)* 64%	*(68.0%)* 75%	*(70.0%)* 70%	*(80.0%)* 72%	*(60.0%)* 75%	*(69.0%)* 71%	*(76.0%)* 77%

Table 9: Preventative Care and Behaviors[59] (except where otherwise noted)	COUNTY (2021 CHNA) 2024						Arkansas	U.S.
	Polk	Montgomery	Pike	Hempstead	Little River	Sevier		
Adults with Insurance Coverage	*(93%)* 91%	*(91%)* 90%	*(85%)* 96%	*(86%)* 91%	*(88%)* 87%	*(90%)* 87%	*(88%)* 90%	*(89%)* 93%
Adults with Routine Check-Up in Past 2 Years	*(91%)* 91%	*(89%)* 88%	*(92%)* 89%	*(90%)* 94%	*(90%)* 93%	*(94%)* 91%	*(87%)* 85%	*(88%)* 88%
Adults that have Seen a Dentist in the Past Year[60]	*(48%)* 48%	*(55%)* 55%	*(53%)* 53%	*(49%)* 49%	*(45%)* 45%	*(45%)* 45%	*(56%)* 56%	*(68%)* 65%
Physically Inactive Adults	*(47%)* 29%	*(30%)* 33%	*(42%)* 37%	*(43%)* 42%	*(42%)* 40%	*(50%)* 29%	*(31%)* 31%	*(24%)* 24%
Smoking Rate	*(17%)* 15%	*(18%)* 21%	*(21%)* 22%	*(24%)* 19%	*(28%)* 13%	*(41%)* 13%	*(23%)* 19%	*(16%)* 14%

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[58] Aspire Arkansas, 2018-2021 Averages;
https://www.marchofdimes.org/peristats/data?top=4&lev=1&stop=43&reg=99&sreg=05&obj=18&slev=4
[59] Aspire Arkansas, 2018-2021 Averages; https://www.aspirearkansas.org/health
[60] Aspire Arkansas, 2018-2021 Averages ; https://www.aspirearkansas.org/health/oral-health

Table 10: Screening[61] (except where otherwise noted)	COUNTY (2021 CHNA) 2024						Arkansas	U.S.
	Polk	**Montgomery**	**Pike**	**Hempstead**	**Little River**	**Sevier**		
Women 21 & Older Who Had a Pap Smear in the past 3 Years *(2021 data based on women 18 & older)*	*(69.7%)* 67.0%	*(61.3%)* 76.1%	*(67.6%)* 75.2%	*(72.3%)* 65.0%	*(69.0%)* 69.8%	*(70.5%)* 79.2%	*(72.8%)* 76.9%	*(71.7%)* 77.7%
Women 40 & Older Who Had a Mammogram in the past 2 Years	*(61.8%)* 65.6%	*(57.6%)* 70.3%	*(58.2%)* 63.9%	*(58.9%)* 66.5%	*(61.4%)* 63.4%	*(60.6%)* 67.4%	*(66.6%)* 68.7%	*(71.8%)* 70.2%
Adults Never Tested for HIV[62]	*(70.1%)* 67.1%	*(62.0%)* 64.9%	*(53.9%)* 68.3%	*(52.6%)* 71.1%	*(63.8%)* 68.2%	*(74.6%)* 70.7%	*(60.7%)* 63.6%	*(60.1%)* --

Table 11: Obesity[63], Chronic Illness[64], & Cancer Incidence[65]	COUNTY (2021 CHNA) 2024						Arkansas	U.S.
	Polk	**Montgomery**	**Pike**	**Hempstead**	**Little River**	**Sevier**		
Overweight or Obese Students	*(36%)* 39%	*(36%)* 34%	*(39%)* 44%	*(43%)* 48%	*(44%)* 47%	*(42%)* 49%	*(39%)* 43%	--
Overweight or Obese Adults	*(75%)* 72%	*(68%)* 74%	*(72%)* 79%	*(76%)* 77%	*(75%)* 78%	*(83%)* 74%	*(70%)* 71%	*(66%)* 68%
Adults with Asthma	*(10.7%)* 7.6%	*(7.9%)* 7.0%	*(8.2%)* 11.7%	*(9.3%)* 8.0%	*(7.3%)* 4.8%	*(5.7%)* 6.7%	*(10.3%)* 9.4%	*(9.7%)* 10.4%
Adults with Diabetes	*(15.4%)* 24.2%	*(16.1%)* 16.2%	*(18.1%)* 19.7%	*(16.1%)* 21.8%	*(16.9%)* 22.9%	*(16.0%)* 22.0%	*(15.1%)* 15.1%	*(10.8%)* 11.6%
Adults with Arthritis	*(49.0%)* 31.9%	*(43.2%)* 39.3%	*(36.0%)* 36.9%	*(36.5%)* 36.3%	*(36.7%)* 35.8%	*(47.7%)* 29.9%	*(36.2%)* 34.3%	*(25.8%)* 27.1%
Adults with COPD	*(13.0%)* 10.2%	*(8.1%)* 12.1%	*(10.4%)* 17.3%	*(10.7%)* 13.0%	*(11.6%)* 10.6%	*(14.9%)* 11.3%	*(10.5%)* 10.5%	*(6.4%)* 6.7%

[61] National Cancer Institute: State Cancer Profiles, 2017-2019; Country and State Data, 2020; https://statecancerprofiles.cancer.gov/risk/index.php

[62] Arkansas Dept. of Health, HIV – never tested 2019; https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programs-services/topics/brfss-county-estimates

[63] Aspire Arkansas 2022; https://aspirearkansas.org/health/overweight-or-obese-students

[64] Arkansas Department of Health BRFSS County Estimates (2019); https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programs-services/topics/brfss-county-estimates
(For U.S. Data: https://nccd.cdc.gov/BRFSSPrevalence/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=DPH_BRFSS.ExploreByTopic&irbLocationType=StatesAndMMSA&islClass=CLASS03&islTopic=TOPIC06&islYear=2022&rdRnd=67966)

[65] National Cancer Institute: State Cancer Profiles, 2016-2020 https://www.statecancerprofiles.cancer.gov/incidencerates/index.php?stateFIPS=05&areatype=county&cancer=020&race=00&sex=0&age=001&stage=999&type=incd&sortVariableName=name&sortOrder=asc#results

Table 11: Obesity[63], Chronic Illness[64], & Cancer Incidence[65]	COUNTY (2021 CHNA) 2024						Arkansas	U.S.
	Polk	Montgomery	Pike	Hempstead	Little River	Sevier		
Colon & Rectum Cancer per 100,000	(38.0) 38.2	(44.6) 49.5	(51.4) 42.1	(43.0) 40.5	(53.1) 43.0	(50.8) 39.1	(44.1) 42.2	(38.4) 36.5
Lung & Bronchus Cancer per 100,000	(72.1) 78.3	(64.2) 61.1	(90.9) 75.7	(68.1) 62.5	(74.0) 63.5	(63.5) 50.1	(77.2) 71.3	(58.3) 54.0
Breast Cancer per 100,000 women	(102.5) 89.2	(107.3) 85.9	(91.2) 120.5	(86.6) 95.0	(113.5) 111.0	(89.4) 101.9	(118.2) 121.1	(125.9) 127.0
Prostate Cancer per 100,000 men	(106.5) 114.8	(117.6) 117.4	(86.1) 111.0	(91.1) 72.1	(92.6) 83.0	(72.9) 61.7	(112.4) 111.3	(104.5) 110.5

Table 12: Mortality[66] (except where otherwise noted)	COUNTY (2021 CHNA) 2024						Arkansas	U.S.
	Polk	Montgomery	Pike	Hempstead	Little River	Sevier		
Cancer Deaths per 100,000	(203.3) 187.9	(176.9) 174.1	(168.7) 170.2	(158.4) 150.4	(148.9) 162.8	(174.7) 159.4	(177.6) 169.7	(155.5) 149.4
Lung & Bronchus Cancer Deaths per 100,000	(59.6) 52.8	(42.3) 45.4	(61.1) 57.7	(47.7) 45.5	(47.9) 50.7	(50.7) 45.2	(52.8) 48.4	(38.5) 35.0
Life Expectancy in years[67]	(76) 73	(77) 73	(76) 74	(75) 75	(75) 72	(75) 73	(76) 74	(79) 77

[66] National Cancer Institute: State Cancer Death Rates Profiles, 2016-2020
https://statecancerprofiles.cancer.gov/deathrates/index.php?stateFIPS=05&areatype=county&cancer=001&race=00&sex=0&age=001&year=0&type=death&sortVariableName=rate&sortOrder=default#results
[67] Aspire Arkansas, 2020 Averages; https://aspirearkansas.org/health/life-expectancy