



Intermountain®  
Healthcare



**Intermountain Healthcare Community Health Needs Assessment 2022**

## DETAILED FINDINGS – PRIMARY CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL

Primary Children’s Hospital is a pediatric specialty hospital located in urban Salt Lake City, Utah. This hospital is one of 24 Intermountain Healthcare owned and operated hospitals in Utah and southeast Idaho and is a regional pediatric Trauma I referral center for the Intermountain West. Primary Children’s has 332 staffed beds and a broad spectrum of inpatient and outpatient medical services. In 2022, they participated in a community health needs assessment to understand how to help people live the healthiest lives possible®. This hospital participated in a collaborative, system approach to identify health indicators, gather community input, and determine the significant health needs to address over the next few years. Primary Children’s Hospital identified the significant health needs as: **Improve Mental Well-Being, Improve Chronic & Avoidable Health Outcomes, and Address & Invest in the Social Determinants of Health.**

What we heard from this community - participants in the community input meeting identified the following issues as key health needs in their community:

- Mental health affecting children:
  - o Isolation as a result of COVID-19 changes and stress;
  - o Parent and other adults mental health issues;
  - o Social isolation in children, lacking conflict resolution skills;
  - o Lack of affordable treatment;
  - o Providers cannot meet high demand; and
  - o Fear and intergenerational trauma.
  - o Considered a top priority for community leaders;
  - o Lack of motivation to remove barriers; and
  - o Lack of resources and assets to remove barriers.
  - o “I think that’s another big part of mental health, is because children are not on these services that could give them access. And I think that that is really cause from public charge, not enough providers that maybe speak other languages, or just not having enough Medicaid providers in general in rural areas. I think that’s another big, important piece, is that access to care.”
- Suicide effecting children and adolescents:
  - o More risk in ages 10 and up
  - o “It’s only a subset of all kids who really are frankly at risk from a suicidal standpoint. And yet that’s what a lot of people are seeing has these, whether its suicidality, not being able to deal with the kids in crisis, seeing things on the SHARP survey, seeing things in our primary care settings, that raises it to the top. Whereas all these other things are things that clearly impact all kids. And yes, and we’re definitely seeing it in younger kids, but it’s something that’s certainly fortunately much rarer in the younger kids relative to the older kids.”
- Accidental Injury:
  - o “Injury is always at the top of the list of childhood and particularly adolescent morbidity, so that’s always going to be there. I think obviously addressing that at a population level is what works best. I work in the emergency department at Primary Children’s Hospital, and about 40% of our patient volume are injuries. 60% is illness...It’s been a big public health concern in pediatrics for a long time, and I imagine it will be.”

- Nutrition and Hunger affecting children:
  - o Financial stress;
  - o School meals paused due to COVID closures;
  - o Exclusion to communities that offer assistance to meet needs.
  - o “We have been working with certain school districts, mostly Salt Lake, Davis, and Ogden, and kind of looking at their different food pantries and really it’s just that access to getting fresh foods, fresh produce into food pantries, barriers with infrastructure, transportation, with food spoiling and things... There’s a lot of organizations supporting, but just when we ask, ‘can we add fresh food or produce?’ They’re like ‘no, that’s not going to happen.’”
- Other community concerns include:
  - o Immigration status;
  - o Uninsured children;
  - o Intergenerational poverty; and
  - o Lack of knowledge about resources available.
- Community Strengths include:
  - o Parks, recreation, and access to the outdoors;
  - o Strong social connections and family life;
  - o Arts and Cultural events; and
  - o Good jobs and healthy economy.
- Community Opportunities
  - o Transportation services;
  - o Safe, affordable, quality housing;
  - o Childcare and afterschool programs;
  - o Celebration of diversity;
  - o Affordable healthcare; and
  - o Policy and funding for resources.

A snapshot of health-related indicators and outcomes for children in Utah can be accessed through this link: <https://utahchildren.org/kidscount>