

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Community Health Needs Assessment Completed

The purpose of the 2013 War Memorial Hospital Community Health Needs Assessment is to collect data on specific information regarding community perception of the Use of Healthcare Services, Awareness of Services, Community Health, and Health Insurance. Additionally, data were collected regarding the demographics of survey responders. The data are presented in a format that can be useful to War Memorial Hospital administration, health care providers and community.

A comprehensive nine-page survey was developed by the National Center for Rural Health Works and modified for this study. War Memorial Hospital CEO David Jahn approved the survey design and content.

A survey cover letter was sent to 2,000 random community members in the War Memorial Chippewa County service areas. A company named AccuLeads provided randomized mailing addresses for the cities of Barbeau, Brimley, Dafter, De Tour Village, Drummond Island, Eckerman, Fibre, Goetzville, Hulbert, Kincheloe, Kinross, Paradise, Pickford, Racoon, Rudyard, Sault Sainte Marie, Stalwart, Strongs, and Trout Lake. The first survey was sent on March 5, 2013; a follow up survey was mailed to all new recipients on June 3, 2013, and thru local efforts to deliver surveys to specific locations. Altogether, 1,144 completed surveys were returned (57%). The data was entered into a Survey Monkey database and are presented in the Survey Results section of this report.

In 2012, War Memorial Hospital contracted the Michigan Center for Rural Health to provide a Community Health Needs Assessment for its primary service areas. The assessment was provided to meet the requirements of The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) for all not-for-profit 501(c) (3) hospitals.

A part of this requirement is that an assessment take place at least every three years; that the hospital adopt an implementation strategy to meet needs identified through the assessment; that the hospital include persons “representing the broad interests of the community served by the hospital facility,” including those “with special knowledge of or expertise in public health;” and that the assessment is made widely available to the public.

War Memorial Hospital will utilize this assessment as a guide to providing programs intended to address needs identified in the project. The survey design, analysis, and findings are provided in the report.

WMH would like to acknowledge David Martin, Chippewa County Health Department and Victoria Lantzy and Angie Emge, from the Michigan Center for Rural Health.

The completed assessment document and implementation plan are available in separate PDFs on the News page at www.warmemorialhospital.org.