



# 2021 COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH  
ASCENSION PARISH

**A JOINT ASSESSMENT OF THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS:**

- BATON ROUGE GENERAL MEDICAL CENTER
- LANE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
- OSCHNER MEDICAL CENTER BATON ROUGE
- OUR LADY OF THE LAKE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
- SURGICAL SPECIALTY CENTER OF BATON ROUGE
- WOMAN'S HOSPITAL



# Mission Statement

"To foster a movement based on communication, coordination, and collaboration that promotes a better, and healthier life for all people of the great city of Baton Rouge."

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"As Baton Rouge General continues to see a surge in growth, paired with the city's other healthcare providers and collaborators like Pennington Biomedical and the Baton Rouge Health District, we have an opportunity to better coordinate the assets we already have. This means tackling projects with huge impacts, like identifying the disparities in care that have come even more to light during the pandemic."

- Edgardo Tenreiro, President & CEO, Baton Rouge General

"At Lane Regional Medical Center, our mission is to provide exceptional healthcare services to every patient, every time. We have a proud history of investing in community health programs and partnering with other organizations to identify and address the most urgent health needs in the communities we serve. We are pleased to be part of such a collaborative effort that will benefit the entire region."

- Larry Meese, CEO, Lane Regional Medical Center

"Ochsner believes there is tremendous value in a collaborative process that identifies community health needs. We are proud to participate with our peers in Baton Rouge as well as conduct an independent assessment within our health system. Our work creates validation in uncovering the most important issues facing our community. Once identified, action plans to address these needs and the creation of systemic change have resulted in the most positive and innovative improvements to health in the region."

- Chuck Daigle, CEO, Ochsner Baton Rouge

"The progress we've made as a collaboration of healthcare providers to identify, address, and improve the health of our community is simultaneously humbling and inspiring. While our unique CHNA approach has been recognized by many for its innovation and example, I'm even more encouraged by the open platform it's given us for working together. Today's challenges can often be too many to count. By working together on a few priority issues, we can focus our efforts and share creative solutions that make a bigger impact for everyone. Today's work builds tomorrow's good health."

- K. Scott Wester, President/CEO, Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center

"One of our highest priorities is to collaborate with our colleagues in healthcare to address critical health needs of our community. The work we are doing around maternal and infant health is so important to creating a healthier Baton Rouge, and we hope that through a coordinated effort we can ensure moms receive adequate prenatal care, and our babies are given the best chance for a healthy start."

- Paul Cleckner, Interim President/CEO, Woman's Hospital



Since taking office in 2017, I have strived to make Baton Rouge a healthier place for all the people living here. As Mayor-President, I have a heightened understanding of how racial and health equity disparities negatively impact community health in Baton Rouge. In March 2020, Baton Rouge was hit with a public health crisis as none had ever seen before. The COVID-19 virus infected thousands of people in East Baton Rouge Parish, and tragically, hundreds died due to COVID-19 related illnesses.

The pandemic shattered our local economy amid unprecedented levels of civil unrest related to police brutality. We have seen how our community's health issues do not exist in solitude; they are interwoven, complex, and rooted in racial disparity. The pandemic exacerbated these health disparities. Our response in East Baton Rouge Parish was grounded in health equity, which has led to the disparities between races being less than in other communities.

While there is no blanket solution to these disparities, Healthy BR is committed to addressing them through critical analysis of community health needs and the development of collaborative solutions. The following Community Health Needs Assessment is a comprehensive health analysis in East Baton Rouge Parish. Healthy BR's collaborative research and assessment design bring together more than 90 hospitals, non-profit organizations, local businesses, schools, and governmental institutions to shift our city's health priorities in the direction they are needed most. It is my sincere hope that our model of public health management continues to serve as a best practice model for other communities.

**As we move forward, we must transform every facet of our community's issues.**

In 2022 and beyond, HealthyBR will engage in tactical coalition building to change the healthcare sector in Baton Rouge.

Sincerely,

**MAYOR SHARON WESTON BROOME**

When Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome took office in 2017, her vision for East Baton Rouge Parish was one of peace, prosperity, and progress. Part of her vision has always included promoting health and well-being throughout the Parish. For this purpose, Mayor Broome leads a coalition of organizations and stakeholders named the Mayor's Healthy City Initiative or HealthyBR. Originally established in 2008, HealthyBR serves as the conduit through which healthcare organizations, city and state agencies, for-profit businesses, educational institutions, faith-based organizations, and nonprofit agencies join forces to impact the health of our community positively.

The HealthyBR Board of Directors oversees this coalition of more than 100 organizations and 400 individual members. HealthyBR's collective impact model allows organizations and individuals to work together and share information to solve complex problems. Overall, the HealthyBR coalitions work to address the significant health needs identified through a joint Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) and Community Health Implementation Plan (CHIP). (Appendix A)

While priorities of the groups may differ, regular meetings and status updates serve the common purpose of identifying and sharing resources, programs, initiatives, and opportunities for collaboration, a process known as organizational asset mapping.

A CHNA workgroup combined and analyzed local, state, and national data sources, assessed current programs and identified gaps. The Med BR Advisory Board and community members supported the process. This inclusionary process identified emerging trends not visible in historical data. Consultation with partner organizations, healthcare providers, and community members shaped the top 10 list of health priorities, helping us select the top five Significant Health Needs in our community.

The CHNA, following a local life expectancy case study, has been adopted by Baton Rouge General Medical Center, Lane Regional Medical Center, Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center, Surgical Specialty Center of Baton Rouge, and Woman's Hospital.

For this community health needs assessment, the boards of the individual hospitals have defined East Baton Rouge Parish (EBRP) and Ascension Parish (AP) as their communities. We have not excluded medically underserved low-income or minority populations who live in EBRP and AP. This assessment does not exclude any patient populations based on their eligibility for insurance or whether they are eligible for financial assistance. No independent contractors were used in the preparation of this report.

The 2018 Community Health Needs Assessment is published publicly on the HealthyBR website and the websites of Baton Rouge General Medical Center, Lane Regional Medical Center, Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center, Surgical Specialty Center of Baton Rouge, and Woman's Hospital. The general public submitted no written comments or questions.

## Baton Rouge General Medical Center

**Organization Type:** Baton Rouge General was the area's first full-service hospital, with more than 600 licensed beds between three campuses. The hospital opened its doors in 1900 and has provided the southeastern region with high-quality healthcare for generations. Also affiliated with BRG is Baton Rouge General Physicians, an employee network of more than 60 physicians and 20 practices owned and operated under General Health System.

**Services Offered:** With a staff of nearly 800 physicians representing more than 80 medical specialties and subspecialties and 3,500 employees, BRG is a regional leader in primary care and specialty programs. Treating about 300,000 patients each year, BRG offers programs including Emergency; the states only verified Regional Burn Center, Pediatrics, Heart and Vascular, Cancer, Birth Center, Behavioral Health, Hyperbaric, and Wound Care, Imaging and Radiology, Robotic Surgery, Neurosciences, Orthopedics, Rehabilitation, and Wellness and Lifestyle. An accredited teaching hospital since 1991, Baton Rouge General is affiliated with several medical school programs and offers other medical education programs, including a School of Nursing, School of Radiologic Technology, Family Medicine Residency Program, Internal Medicine Residency Program, and Sports Medicine Fellowship Program.

**Primary Service Area:** For the purposes of this assessment, Baton Rouge General's primary service area is defined as East Baton Rouge Parish, Ascension Parish, and Livingston Parish. Secondary service areas include the surrounding parishes of St. Helena, West Feliciana, Pointe Coupee, and West Baton Rouge.

## Lane Regional Medical Center

**Organization Type:** Lane Regional Medical Center values community and takes pride in their role as caregivers. Lane began as a community hospital in 1960. Over the years, they evolved into a 131-bed healthcare system by continually adding new capabilities and technologies. With more than 850 dedicated team members, Lane is the largest employer within the city of Zachary. The hospital continues to grow and invest in the community by recruiting new physician specialists and providing access to exceptional healthcare services, technologies, and programs. Lane's core values are Quality, Service, Stewardship, Teamwork, and Innovation.

**Services Offered:** Offering a full range of inpatient and outpatient diagnostic services, Lane supports Interventional Cardiology, Medical & Radiation Oncology, OB/GYN, Gastroenterology, Pediatrics, Wound Care and Hyperbaric, as well as Orthopedics, Labor & Delivery, ENT, Vascular & General Surgeries, In-Patient Rehabilitation, Home Health, Family Medicine, Audiology, Occupational Medicine, Outpatient Therapy, Emergency Services, and After-Hours Urgent Care.

**Primary Service Area:** For the purposes of this assessment, Lane Regional Medical Center's service area is defined as East Baton Rouge Parish based on its location and the population it serves. It is located in the northern part of the parish. It serves as the primary healthcare resource for approximately 200,000 of its neighbors throughout Zachary and the surrounding region of Baker, Central, Clinton, Jackson, St. Francisville, New Roads, North Baton Rouge, and Southern Mississippi.

## Ochsner Medical Center Baton Rouge

**Organization Type:** Ochsner Health is a system delivering health to the people of Louisiana, Mississippi, and the Gulf South with a mission to Serve, Heal, Lead, Educate and Innovate. Ochsner Health is a not-for-profit committed to giving back to the communities it serves through preventative screenings, health and wellness resources, and partnerships with innovative organizations sharing our vision. Ochsner Health healed more than 900,000 people from across the globe in 2020, providing the latest medical breakthroughs and therapies, including digital medicine for chronic conditions and telehealth specialty services. Ochsner Health is a national leader, named the top hospital in Louisiana and a top children's hospital by U.S. News & World Report. As Louisiana's leading healthcare educator, Ochsner Health and its partners educate thousands of healthcare professionals annually. Ochsner Health is innovating healthcare by investing in new technologies and research to make world-class care more accessible, affordable, convenient, and effective. Ochsner's team of more than 32,000 employees and 4,500 providers are working to reinvent the future of health and wellness in the region.

**Services Offered:** Ochsner Baton Rouge delivers quality healthcare for families throughout the region. With a 150-bed hospital, 13 health centers, 4 urgent care locations, Ochsner Cancer Center – Baton Rouge, and a team of more than 300 skilled physicians, Ochsner is known for comprehensive, convenient care. Ochsner offers a full range of inpatient and outpatient services, including Family Medicine and Pediatrics; Emergency Services; Women's Services, including midwifery; cancer treatment; Cardiology; Orthopedics; Bariatric Surgery; Gastroenterology; Neurology; Imaging Services, and much more.

**Primary Service Area:** For the purposes of this assessment, Ochsner Baton Rouge defines its primary service area as East Baton Rouge Parish. In addition to Baton Rouge, Ochsner also services the surrounding areas of Zachary, Plaquemine, Prairieville, Denham Springs, and Tangipahoa, offering 13 health centers, two emergency rooms, and four urgent care locations.

## Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center

**Organization Type:** Inspired by the vision of St. Francis of Assisi and in the tradition of the Roman Catholic Church, Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center extends the healing ministry of Jesus Christ to God's people, especially those most in need. OLOLRMC is one of the largest private, not-for-profit, academic medical centers in the state, operating under the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady Health System. The health system serves patients throughout Louisiana with a network of hospitals, clinics, physicians, elderly housing, and integrated information systems. Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center has a complement of 1,184 physicians and 7,705 team members. OLOLRMC has 1,020 licensed beds and treats 36,000 inpatients and 500,000 outpatients per year. Joint Commission-accredited, the hospital is Magnet-designated with many specialty certifications, including but not limited to Stroke, Trauma, Bariatric Surgery, and Chest Pain. OLOLRMC is the only Level 2 Trauma Center in the region. In addition to the 798 licensed bed Main campus, the 82-bed Children's campus, and the 47 bed mental and behavioral Health campus in East Baton Rouge Parish, Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center has two other hospitals campuses located in Ascension and Assumption Parishes. The Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center Ascension location offers community healthcare to its patients and stakeholders through licensed acute care 78-bed facility and an extensive physician group providing ambulatory care. The hospital's key service segments are general inpatient care, emergency services, and outpatient

services. Ascension Parish, Lake Physician Group (LPG), the largest physician group, employs 82 physicians and advanced practice providers representing nine specialties and primary care. OLOLA has worked industriously to respond to the community through a partnership with Mary Bird Perkins – Our Lady of the Lake Cancer Center to bring advanced cancer services to the area. The hospital also partnered with Ascension Parish Government to establish a Community Clinic to treat uninsured and underinsured members of the community. The Assumption location is a 15 licensed bed community access hospital.

OLOLRMC operates a standalone children’s hospital in Baton Rouge, which opened in October 2019. It’s the second-largest pediatric facility in Louisiana, treating 90,000 children each year. The hospital treats children statewide and beyond with the most local pediatric patient beds and the largest local pediatric intensive care unit. In addition, the hospital offers the region’s only 24/7 pediatric emergency department.

**Services Offered:** Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center provides a comprehensive range of services for the community it serves. With 73 different medical specialties, services include the Mary Bird Perkins – Our Lady of the Lake Cancer Program, Children’s Hospital, Diabetes, and Nutrition Center, Emergency Department, free-standing Emergency Departments in Livingston and North Baton Rouge, Endoscopy Center, Hearing and Balance Center, Heart and Vascular Institute, Imaging Services, Laboratory and Diagnostics, Mental and Behavioral Health, Neurosciences Services, Orthopedic Services, Palliative Medicine, Inpatient, and Outpatient Pharmacy, Rehabilitation, Respiratory Care Services, Senior Services, Surgical Services, Robotic Surgery, Trauma Services, Voice Center, Weight Loss, LSU Health Baton Rouge, Wound Ostomy Center and more. In partnership with OLOLRMC, LSU, and Tulane, the hospital hosts a vast array of Graduate Medical Education residents and training programs, including Pediatrics, Psychiatry, Internal Medicine, Emergency Medicine, and more. OLOLRMC also has a joint venture partner, the Surgical Specialty Center of Baton Rouge. The joint venture was completed in September 2008.

**Primary Service Area:** For purposes of this Joint CHNA, Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center has defined East Baton Rouge and Ascension Parishes as its primary service area. Secondary service areas include the surrounding parishes of Livingston, St. Helena, West Feliciana, Pointe Coupee, and West Baton Rouge. Fifty-four percent of the inpatient discharges from OLOLRMC come from their primary service area, and 19% from their secondary service area.

### Surgical Specialty Center of Baton Rouge

**Organization Type:** Located in the state capital of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Surgical Specialty Center of Baton Rouge (SSCBR) is a healthcare provider for the Greater Baton Rouge area and surrounding parishes. The hospital opened in April 2003 and has eight operating rooms, two minor procedure rooms, and 16 licensed beds. The hospital provides surgical services in the following specialties: ENT, General Surgery, General Pediatric Surgery, Hand, Orthopedics, Spine, and Urology. Other services include Imaging (CT, X-Ray), Lithotripsy, and Pain Management. SSCBR completed a joint venture with Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center (OLOLRMC) in September 2008. SSCBR has nearly 150 physicians on staff and 200 team members. SSCBR has 16 licensed inpatient beds and admitted more than 1,000 patients to the inpatient unit in 2020. SSCBR performed approximately 10,000 surgical procedures 750 Lithotripsy procedures in 2020. Additionally, 5,500 Imaging studies were conducted. As a licensed hospital, SSCBR is accredited by The Joint Commission.

**Services Offered:** SSCBR and staff Urologists have provided free prostate screenings

since 2005, conducting approximately 40 free screenings per year. SSCBR provides services to those with Medicare and Medicaid coverage and charity care.

**Primary Service Area:** SSCBR’s primary service area is the same as OLOLRMC’s market. For purposes of the Community Health Needs Assessment, the primary service area has been defined as East Baton Rouge Parish.

### Woman’s Hospital

**Organization Type:** As the nation’s only freestanding, non-profit specialty hospital for women and infants, Woman’s is consistently recognized for innovative programs and quality care. With more than 2,000 team members, Woman’s has 168 licensed adult hospital beds and 84 licensed NICU beds and provides an array of treatments for women and infants. Woman’s is currently the 17th largest delivery service in the U.S. and the largest in Louisiana; patients deliver more than 8,000 babies at Woman’s every year. With a mission to improve the health of women and infants, Woman’s performs more than 7,000 surgeries and more than 30,000 breast procedures annually. Woman’s was recently listed on Newsweek’s list of World’s Best Hospitals 2021, one of only 16 specialty hospitals in the United States to earn this distinction for care provided at the Pavilion. Woman’s is accredited by The Joint Commission, is a Magnet-designated hospital, and maintains patient engagement scores in the 95th percentile. An accredited teaching hospital, Woman’s has partnered with Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center, Louisiana State University, and Tulane University Medical School to provide Graduate Medical Education for residents in Obstetrics and Gynecology, General Surgery, Emergency Medicine, Plastic Surgery, Psychiatry, and Pediatric programs. More information can be found at [www.womans.org](http://www.womans.org).

Woman’s also operates the Woman’s Center for Wellness, which includes fitness, therapy, and nutrition services. The Foundation for Woman’s is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization whose primary purpose is to raise and manage private support for Woman’s Hospital.

**Services Offered:** Woman’s provides an array of services for patients in East Baton Rouge Parish and the surrounding communities, including Obstetrics and Gynecology, Antepartum and Postpartum Care, Neonatal and Adult Intensive Care, Neonatal and Maternal Transport, Breast and Gynecologic Cancer Surgery, Cosmetic Surgery, Bariatric Surgery, General Surgery, Fetal Surgery, and Maternal-Fetal Medicine. Outpatient services include Same-Day Surgery, Nutrition and Weight Loss Counseling, Audiology, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Speech Therapy for men, women, and children, and Laboratory and Imaging services, in addition to a variety of outpatient clinic services.

**Primary Service Area:** For purposes of this joint CHNA, Woman’s has defined East Baton Rouge Parish as its primary service area. More than 50 percent of patients presenting during the fiscal year 2017 (October 2016 – September 2017) were from East Baton Rouge Parish. Significant secondary service areas include the surrounding parishes of Ascension and Livingston.

# CASE STUDY:

## LIFE EXPECTANCY BETWEEN NEIGHBORS IN EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH AND ASCENSION PARISH

The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) published an article in 2017 titled, "Inequalities in Life Expectancy among US Counties, 1980 to 2014: Temporal Trends and Key Drivers." (1) The researchers' key findings were inequalities exist in life expectancy among counties based on socioeconomic and race/ethnicity factors, behavioral and metabolic risk factors, and health care factors. The two case studies below will explore this research in the local context of East Baton Rouge Parish (EBRP) and neighboring Ascension Parish (AP).

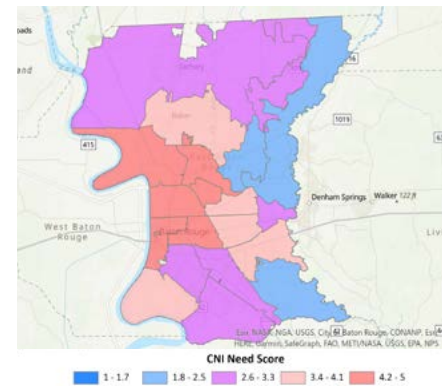


Figure 1. Life Expectancy of East Baton Rouge Parish

### East Baton Rouge Parish

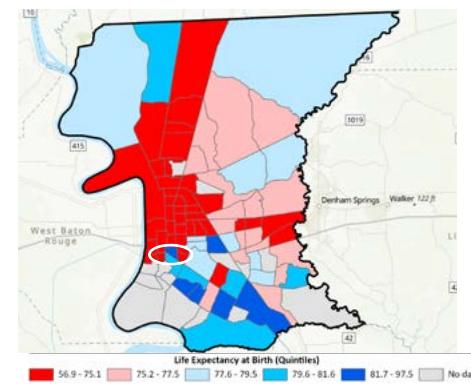


Figure 2. Life Expectancy Census Tract 22 and 23



Figure 3. Map of Census Tract 22 and 23

In EBRP, the findings published in JAMA are demonstrated by an analysis of two neighboring U.S. Census tracts.

A census tract is a spatial grouping used by the United States Census Bureau to count people. Made up of between 1,200 and 8,000 residents, each census tract is assigned a reference number based on the county or parish in which they are located. Figure 2 above shows the census tracts of East Baton Rouge Parish, with two specific tracts circled in white. Figure 3 above shows where the two specific census tracts are located within the City of Baton Rouge.

Park Boulevard separates the two census tracts used for this case study. The community to the west of Park Boulevard is 79% Black, with a median age of 34.7. Of the people who live within this census tract, 31% live below the poverty line, 33% are unemployed, 25% of people over the age of 25 do not have a high school diploma, and only 20% have a bachelor's degree or higher. The household median income in the community is \$22,100. Additionally, only 34% of residents own a home, with a median home value of \$76,900.

The statistics are vastly different to the east of Park Boulevard. The East of Park Boulevard community is 95% white with a median age of 40.3. Only 5% of people in this census tract live below the poverty line, and 24% are unemployed. Of people over the age of 25, a mere 2% do not have a high school diploma, while 78% of people have a bachelor's degree or higher. The household median income in this community is \$89,722. Additionally, 78% of residents own a home, with a median home value of \$314,400.

A breakdown of relevant demographic and socioeconomic data between the two census tracts is displayed below.

EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH CASE STUDY DATA					
	Census Tract: 22(2)	Census Tract: 23(3)		Census Tract: 22(2)	Census Tract: 23(3)
<b>DEMOGRAPHIC</b>			<b>DEMOGRAPHIC</b>		
<b>POPULATION</b>	1,226	2,444	<b>POPULATION</b>	1,226	2,444
<b>RACE</b>			<b>EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE</b>		
WHITE	19.7%	94.5%	# of people who could be in the labor force	1,067	2,020
BLACK	79.8%	2.7%	% in Labor Force	67%	76.6%
OTHER	0.5%	2.8%	<b>Education (over the age of 25)</b>		
<b>AGE</b>			Did not Graduate High School	25%	2.1%
MEDIAN AGE	34.7	40.3	High School Diploma	32.2%	4.5%
0-24	33.9%	26.7%	Some College or Associate's Degree	22.8%	15.7%
25-64	52.4%	56%	Bachelor's Degree	14.8%	41.5%
65+	13.7%	17.3%	Masters or higher	5.2%	36.2%
<b>ECONOMIC</b>			<b>HOUSING</b>		
# OF PEOPLE LIVING IN POVERTY*	382 (31% OF THE POPULATION)	140 (5.7% OF THE POPULATION)	Housing Units	694	1421
WHITE	51	129	% Vacant	35.7%	17.1%
BLACK	325	-	Owner Occupied	34.8%	77.9%
OTHER	6	11	Renter Occupied	65.2%	22.1%
<b>INCOME</b>			Median House Value	\$76,900	\$314,400
INDIVIDUAL INCOME	\$16,283	\$53,435	<b>HEALTHCARE</b>		
HOUSEHOLD INCOME	\$22,100	\$89,722	<b>Health Insurance Coverage</b>		
WHITE	\$33,750	\$88,889	% of People with No Coverage	24.4%	1.9%
BLACK	\$20,913	-	Private Coverage	38.1%	86.3%
			Public Coverage	46%	20.3%

\*To learn more about how the US Census defines poverty, visit: <https://www.census.gov/topics/income-poverty/poverty/guidance/poverty-measures.html>

The chart at below is a continuation of the comparison of the two census tracts but narrowed to the comparison of the neighborhoods on either side of Park Blvd in Baton Rouge:

West of Park Boulevard (Census Tract: 22)	East of Park Boulevard (Census Tract: 23)	Difference
79.8% Black	94.5% White	
The median age of 34.7	The median age of 40.3	6.6 years difference
31% living in Poverty	5% living in Poverty	26% difference
25% without a high school diploma	2% without a high school diploma	23% difference
20% with a bachelor's degree or higher	77.7% with a bachelor's degree or higher	57.7% difference
\$22,100 household median income	\$89,722 household median income	\$67,622 difference
34.8% homeownership	86.3% homeownership	48.2% difference
\$76,900 median home value	\$314,400 median home value	\$237,500 difference

## Ascension Parish

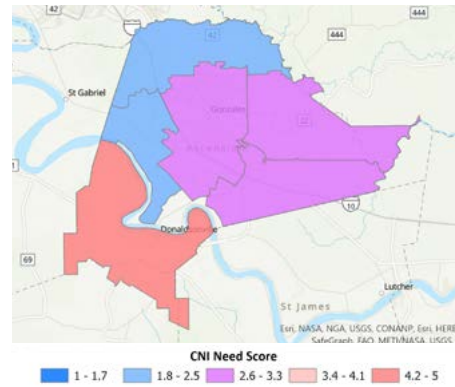


Figure 4. Life Expectancy of Ascension Parish

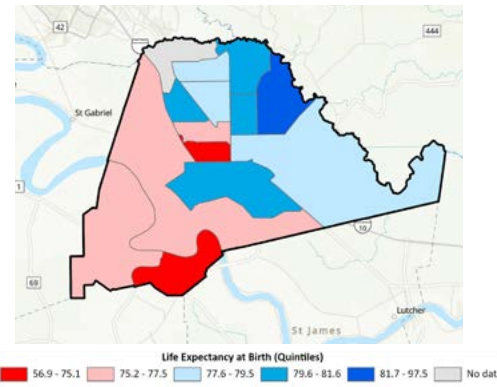


Figure 5. Life Expectancy Census Tract

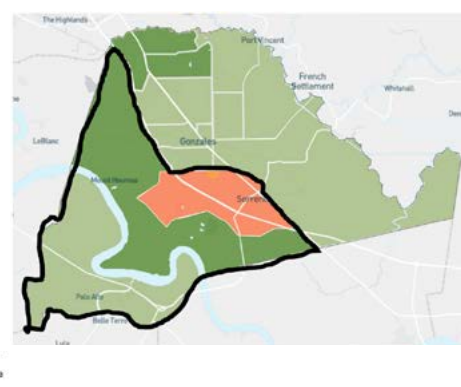


Figure 6. Life Expectancy Census Tract

In Ascension Parish, the JAMA findings are most evident in two sets of neighboring census tracts; one set east of the Mississippi River and another west of the Mississippi.

The community west of the Mississippi River is 66.6% Black, with a median age of 38. Of the people who live in this census tract, 30% live below the poverty line, 50.2% are unemployed, and 22% of people over the age of 25 do not have their high school diplomas. Only 15% of people in this area have a bachelor's degree or higher. The household median income is \$32,909, with White residents making 36.6% more than their Black neighbors. Additionally, 60% of residents own a home, with a median home value of \$125,250.

The statistics differ to the east of the Mississippi—where 70% of residents are White with a median age of 34. 8.5% of people live below the poverty line, with 28.5% unemployed. 10% of people over the age of 25 do not have a high school diploma, while 23.6% have a bachelor's degree or higher. The household median income in this community is \$82,780. Additionally, 77% of residents own a home, with a median home value of \$200,100.

On the next page is a table with the breakdown of demographic and socioeconomic data between the two neighborhoods:

## ASCENSION PARISH CASE STUDY DATA

	Census Tract: 309(4) & 310(5)	Census Tract: 303(6) & 306(7)		Census Tract: 309(4) & 310(5)	Census Tract: 303(6) & 306(7)
<b>DEMOGRAPHIC</b>			<b>DEMOGRAPHIC</b>		
<b>POPULATION</b>	<b>11,422</b>	<b>22,746</b>	<b>POPULATION</b>	<b>11,422</b>	<b>22,746</b>
<b>RACE</b>			<b>EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE</b>		
WHITE	30.8%	70.3%	# of people who could be in the labor force	9,138	16,879
BLACK	66.6%	25.6%	% in Labor Force	49.8%	71.5%
OTHER	2.6%	4.1%	<b>Education (over the age of 25)</b>		
<b>AGE</b>			Did not Graduate High School	22.8%	10.2%
MEDIAN AGE	38.65	34.3	High School Diploma	38.7%	33.9%
0-24	30.2%	38.2%	Some College or Associate's Degree	23.2%	32.3%
25-64	51.2%	52.1%	Bachelor's Degree	12.5%	18.8%
65+	18.6%	9.7%	Masters or higher	2.8%	4.8%
<b>ECONOMIC</b>			<b>HOUSING</b>		
# OF PEOPLE LIVING IN POVERTY*	3,444 (30% OF THE POPULATION)	1,943 (8.5% OF THE POPULATION)	Housing Units	4,598	7,939
WHITE	163	922	% Vacant	9.3%	6.7%
BLACK	3,135	845	Owner Occupied	60.4%	77.4%
OTHER	146	176	Renter Occupied	30.3%	15.9%
<b>INCOME</b>			Median House Value	\$125,250	\$200,100
HOUSEHOLD INCOME	\$32,909	\$82,780			
WHITE	\$71,400	\$93,634			
BLACK	\$21,214	\$57,875			

East of the Mississippi	West of the Mississippi	Difference
66.6% Black	70.3% White	
30% living in Poverty	8.5% living in Poverty	21.5% difference
22.8% without a high school diploma	10.2% without a high school diploma	12.6% difference
15.3% with a bachelor's degree or higher	23.6% with a bachelor's degree or higher	8.3% difference
\$32,909 household median income	\$82,780 household median income	\$49,871 difference
60.4% homeownership	77.4% homeownership	17% difference
\$125,250 median home value	\$200,100 median home value	\$74,850 difference
\$76,900 median home value	\$314,400 median home value	\$237,500 difference



## What does this have to do with health?

The case studies on pages 10-13 outline the data surrounding the existing disparities in these neighboring communities. Each of these data points represents the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH). The Center for Disease Control (CDC) defines the SDOH as the “Conditions in the places where people live, learn, work, and play that affect a wide range of health risks and outcomes.” These SDOH affect every aspect of a person’s daily life, including life expectancy.

The data points outlined above demonstrate how a community’s economic stability, physical environment, and education can affect the community’s overall health, just as the JAMA research suggested. **In East Baton Rouge Parish, the life expectancy difference between either side of Park Boulevard is 17 years.** The life expectancy of the residents west of Park Blvd is 66 years, while to the east, the life expectancy is 83.1. <sup>(9)</sup> Similar to Ascension Parish, the life expectancy of the residents west of the Mississippi River is 74.8 years. In comparison, the residents who live east of the Mississippi have a life expectancy of 78.25 years. What is more drastic in Ascension Parish is the difference in household median income. **The difference between household median incomes is \$49,871 depending on which side the Mississippi residents live on.** The household median income for a home east of the Mississippi River is \$32,909 compared to \$82,780 for a household west of the Mississippi River.



## Conducting the 2021 Community Health Needs Assessment:

### Identifying Community Needs

HealthyBR began writing the 2021 CHNA in the fall of 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the collaborative process necessary for creating the CHNA was mainly conducted remotely via teleconference. The CHNA workgroup who helped identify the 2021 top 10 health needs consisting of representatives from Baton Rouge General Medical Center, Lane Regional Medical Center, Ochsner Health System – Baton Rouge, Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center, Woman’s Hospital, Pennington Biomedical Research Center, The Baton Rouge Clinic, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana, Louisiana Department of Health, East Baton Rouge Parish School System, American Heart Association, Capital Area Reentry Program, The Bridge Center for Hope, Gilead-Focus Initiative, Nikky Scott Inc., Impact Nurse Consulting, Louisiana Chapter of Positive Women’s Network, and community residents.



East Baton Rouge Parish and Ascension Parish Demographic Analysis		
Age and Racial Demographic Data(9)	Ascension Parish	East Baton Rouge Parish
Population estimates, July 1, 2019,	126,604	440,059
Population, percent change – 4/1/10 (estimates base) to 7/1/19	18.10%	-0.10%
Persons under five years, percent	7.00%	6.50%
Persons under 18 years, percent	26.60%	22.70%
Persons 65 years and over, percent	12.30%	14.60%
Female persons, percent	50.80%	52.30%
White alone, percent	72.60%	47.60%
Black or African American alone, percent	24.00%	47.20%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, percent	0.40%	0.30%
Asian alone, percent	1.40%	3.40%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, percent	0.10%	Z
Two or More Races, percent	1.50%	1.60%
Hispanic or Latino, percent	6.00%	4.40%
Housing, Education, Health and Economic Data(9)	Ascension Parish	East Baton Rouge Parish
Housing units, July 1, 2019, (V2019)	49,462	196,145
Owner-occupied housing unit rate, 2015-2019	81.50%	59.80%
The median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2015-2019	\$207,400	\$194,000
Median gross rent, 2015-2019	\$982	\$933
Households, 2015-2019	43,032	164,346
High school graduate or higher, % of persons age 25 years+, 2015-2019	88.60%	90.50%
Bachelor's degree or higher, % of persons age 25 years+, 2015-2019	26.40%	34.90%
With a disability, under age 65 years, percent, 2015-2019	9.20%	11.20%
Persons without health insurance, under age 65 years, percent	6.50%	8.80%
Median household income (in 2019 dollars), 2015-2019	\$80,527	\$54,948
Persons in poverty, percent	9.60%	17.70%

### Data Collection and Analysis

The workgroup compiled information from more than 40 local and national community data sources (Appendix B). Various external agencies supplied additional data. This information was analyzed to identify areas of need, deficiencies in services or access to care, and duplicative efforts to provide baseline measures for action planning. The following key data sources were used to identify the top health priorities for EBRP and AP.

### County Health Rankings

The County Health Rankings (CHR) Report measures how long people live (mortality) and quality of life (morbidity). These outcomes are the result of a collection of health risk factors. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation works with the National Center for Health Statistics, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Dartmouth Institute to calculate the data for each state's counties (parishes). EBRP ranks 19th of 64 parishes in Louisiana in health outcomes (8 spots better than in 2018) and 5th of 64 in health factors (1 spot worse than in 2018). AP was ranked 2nd in health outcomes and 2nd in health factors.

County Health Rankings for East Baton Rouge Parish			
	East Baton Rouge (EB) Parish	Louisiana	Top U.S. Performers
<b>HEALTH OUTCOMES</b>			
<b>Length of Life</b>			
Premature death	10,000	9,500	5,400
<b>Quality of Life</b>			
Poor or fair health	19%	21	14%
Poor physical health days	3.9	4.3	3.4
Poor mental health days	4.8	5.0	3.8
Low birthweight	12%	11%	6%
Additional Health Outcomes (not included in overall ranking) +			
<b>HEALTH FACTORS</b>			
<b>Health Behaviors</b>			
Adult smoking	19%	21%	16%
Adult obesity	34%	36%	26%
Food environment index	7.0	5.2	8.7
Physical inactivity	27%	28%	19%
Access to exercise opportunities	98%	75%	91%
Excessive drinking	18%	20%	15%
Alcohol-impaired driving deaths	33%	32%	11%
Sexually transmitted infections	900.6	774.8	161.2
Teen births	26	32	12
Additional Health Behaviors (not included in overall ranking) +			
<b>Clinical Care</b>			
Uninsured	9%	9%	6%
Primary care physicians	1,090:1	1,470:1	1,030:1
Dentists	1,320:	1,780:1	1,210:1
Mental health providers	240:1	330:1	270:1
Preventable hospital stays	3,729	5,651	2,565
Mammography screening	43%	42%	51%
Flu vaccinations	50%	44%	55%
Additional Clinical Care (not included in overall ranking) +			
<b>Social &amp; Economic Factors</b>			
High school completion	90%	85%	94%
Some college	67%	57%	73%
Unemployment	4.4%	4.8%	2.6%
Children in poverty	25%	26%	10%
Income inequality	5.6	5.7	3.7
Children in single-parent households	38%	35%	14%
Social associations	12.3	9.5	18.2
Violent crime	583	541	63
Injury deaths	93	90	59
Additional Social & Economic Factors (not included in overall ranking) +			
<b>Physical Environment</b>			
Air pollution - particulate matter	12.1	8.7	5.2
Drinking water violations	No		
Severe housing problems	18%	16%	9%
Driving alone to work	83%	83%	72%
Long commute - driving alone	30%	34%	16%

<https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/louisiana/2021/rankings/east-baton-rouge/county/outcomes/overall/snapshot> (10)

Figure 7. County Health Rankings for East Baton Rouge Parish

County Health Rankings for Ascension Parish			
	Ascension (AS) Parish	Louisiana	Top U.S. Performers
<b>HEALTH OUTCOMES</b>			
<b>Length of Life</b>			
Premature death	7,000	9,500	5,400
<b>Quality of Life</b>			
Poor or fair health	18%	21%	14%
Poor physical health days	3.9	4.3	3.4
Poor mental health days	4.8	5.0	3.8
Low birthweight	9%	11%	6%
Additional Health Outcomes (not included in overall ranking) +			
<b>HEALTH FACTORS</b>			
<b>Health Behaviors</b>			
Adult smoking	20%	21%	16%
Adult obesity	35%	36%	26%
Food environment index	7.9	5.2	8.7
Physical inactivity	25%	28%	19%
Access to exercise opportunities	73%	75%	91%
Excessive drinking	20%	20%	15%
Alcohol-impaired driving deaths	36%	32%	11%
Sexually transmitted infections	507.5	774.8	161.2
Teen births	21	32	12
Additional Health Behaviors (not included in overall ranking) +			
<b>Clinical Care</b>			
Uninsured	7%	9%	6%
Primary care physicians	2,440:1	1,470:1 1,030:1	1,030:1
Dentists	3,250:1	1,780:1	1,210:1
Mental health providers	970:1	330:1	270:1
Preventable hospital stays	4,498	5,651	2,565
Mammography screening	45%	42%	51%
Flu vaccinations	50%	44%	55%
Additional Clinical Care (not included in overall ranking) +			
<b>Social &amp; Economic Factors</b>			
High school completion	89%	85%	94%
Some college	67%	57%	73%
Unemployment	4.1%	4.8%	2.6%
Children in poverty	13%	26%	10%
Income inequality	4.7	5.7	3.7
Children in single-parent households	24%	35%	14%
Social associations	5.2	9.5	18.2
Violent crime	337	541	63
Injury deaths	67	90	59
Additional Social & Economic Factors (not included in overall ranking) +			
<b>Physical Environment</b>			
Air pollution - particulate matter	10.1	8.7	5.2
Drinking water violations	Yes		
Severe housing problems	11%	16%	9%
Driving alone to work	86%	83%	72%
Long commute - driving alone	50%	34%	16%

<https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/louisiana/2021/rankings/ascension/county/outcomes/overall/snapshot> (11)

Figure 8. County Health Rankings for Ascension Parish

**Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE)**

United Way produces the ALICE Report as a method for analyzing the portion of the population earning more than the federal poverty level (\$12,880 for a single adult and \$26,500 for a family of four), but less than the basic cost of living. In the 2020 ALICE report, it was identified that 52% of EBRP (163,274 households) and 38% of AP(42,649 households) were identified as ALICE in 2018. (12)

**Community Needs Index**

The Community Needs Index (CNI) uses data compiled by Thomson Reuters to identify the severity of health disparities for every zip code in the nation and demonstrates the link between community need, access to care and preventable hospitalizations. The CNI is an average of five barrier scores that measures socioeconomic indicators of each community: income, culture, education, insurance, and housing. A score of 1.0 indicates a zip code with the least need, while a score of 5.0 represents a zip code with the highest, most immediate need. Unless these needs are addressed, they present a threat to the population's overall health within a community. (13)

East Baton Rouge Parish

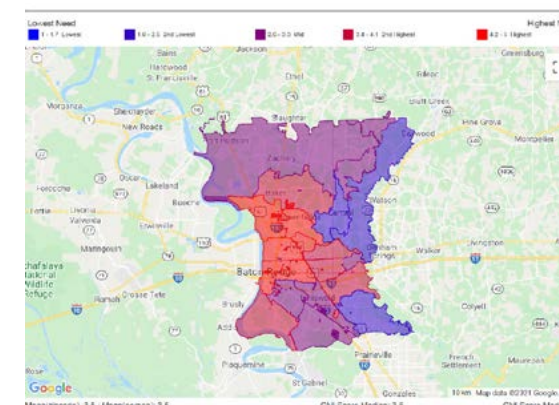


Figure 9. East Baton Rouge Parish CNI Map

Ascension Parish

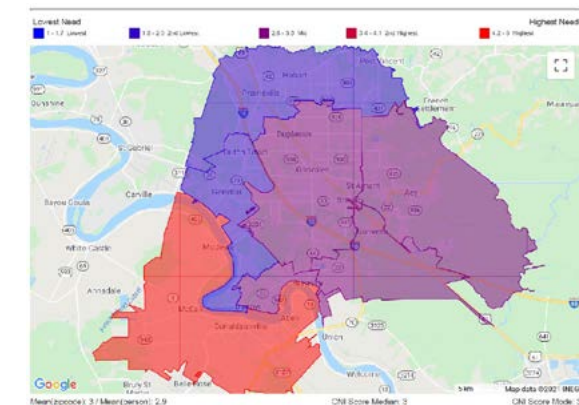


Figure 10. Ascension Parish CNI Map

The CNI score of EBRP illustrates the health disparities among residents in a specific area of the parish. Seven zip codes within the parish have a CNI score of 4.2 and are identified as areas of highest need based on income, culture, education, insurance, and housing barriers. Located in the northwestern part of the parish, zip codes 70801, 70802, 70805, 70806, 70807, 70811, and 70812 represent a combined total of 121,287 individuals or 29% of the EBRP population. Conversely, three zip codes are defined as low need with a score of 2.4 or below. These zip codes, 70817, 70818, and 70739, are located in the eastern and southern parts of the parish and have a combined population of 54,627, or 13% of the population. The remaining 59% of EBRP residents live in middle-to-high need areas.

Similarly, in AP, there is one zip code with a CNI score of 4.2 or higher, which is 70725. 1,631 residents live in this zip code and makeup 1% of the total population. Conversely, two zip codes, 70734 and 70769, have a score of 2.2 or lower. They have 53,791 residents who live in these zip codes and make up 46% of the population. Like Baton Rouge, AP has a geographic difference in CNI scores and geographic location. 70725 is the only zip code west of the Mississippi River were 70734 and 70769 border each other east of the Mississippi River.

**Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)**

The Center for Disease Control defines SDOH as: "Conditions in the places where people live, learn, work, and play that affect a wide range of health risks and outcomes." Efforts to improve health in the U.S. have traditionally used the healthcare system to drive outcomes. With the adoption of the Affordable Care Act and the expansion of the Medicaid program, access to health care has increased. Yet, access is only one component of the many changes needed to improve population health. Research demonstrates that health equity must also be addressed. This will require healthcare systems to evaluate and resolve issues related to SDOH.

The image below are provided by the Kaiser Family Foundation illustrates the categories and subcategories of SDOH impacting health risks and outcomes.

**What Goes Into Your Health?**

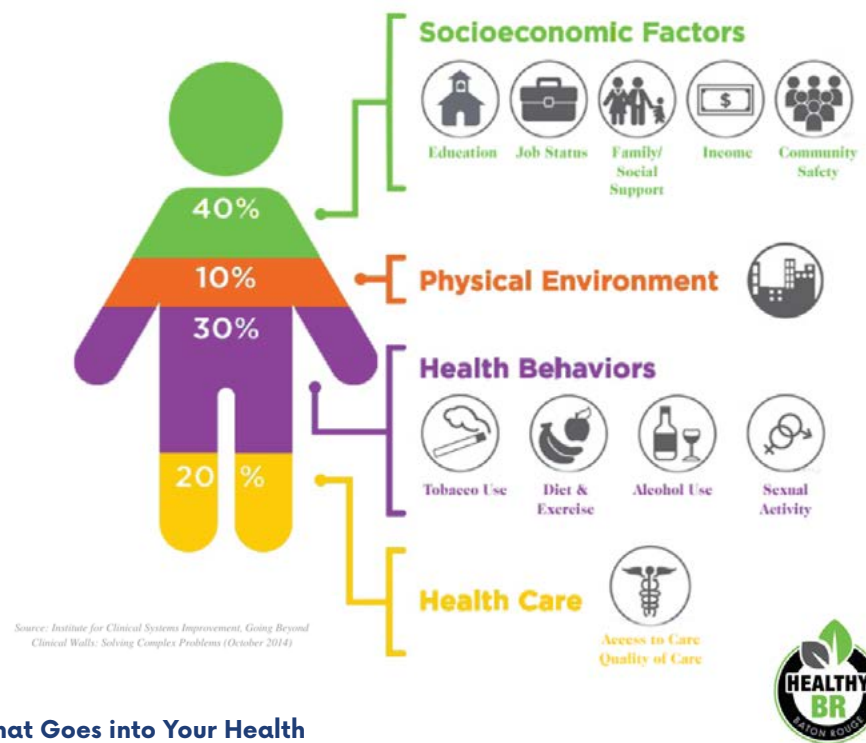


Figure 11. What Goes into Your Health

**Top 10 Community Health Needs Identified**

The CHNA workgroup recommended the following 10 community needs below based on data analysis, SDOH, and CNI disparities. These needs were confirmed by the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) and the Office of Public Health for Region 2. Dr. Dawn Marcelle, the Region 2 Medical Director, participated in the multiple CHNA Work Group meetings in the fall of 2020, which identified the 10 community health needs, and participated as a member of the MedBR work Group that met in 2021 to confirm the significant health needs. Dr. Jimmy Guidry, the state Health officer for the Louisiana Department of Health, also reviewed and approved the CHNA as a member of the HealthyBR Board of Directors in 2020 and 2021.

- Behavioral Health
- Chronic Disease
- Health Equity and Racial Disparities
- Healthy Living/Lifestyle
- Maternal and Infant Health
- Pediatric and Adolescent Health
- Public Health Emergency Preparedness
- Sexually Transmitted Infections/HIV/ Hepatitis C
- Social Determinants of Health
- Violence Prevention



**Identifying Significant Community Needs**

**Community and Stakeholder Engagement**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in-person events were not recommended. As a result, subject matter experts recorded videos to talk about the importance of each of the top 10 community health needs. These videos were promoted via social media and embedded in the community survey disseminated.

Community Health Need	Subject Matter Expert	Title /Organization
Behavioral Health	Dr. Jan Laughinghouse	Capital Area Human Services
Chronic Disease	Dr. Edward Jefferies	Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana
Health Equity and Racial Disparities	Raegan Carter	Louisiana Primary Care Association
Healthy Living / Lifestyle	Dr. Tiffany Stewart	Pennington Biomedical Research Center
Maternal and Infant Health	Dr. Barbara Griffith	Woman's Hospital
Pediatric and Adolescent Health	Kristen Gradney	Health Care Centers in Schools
Public Health Emergency Preparedness	N/A*	N/A*
Sexually Transmitted Infections/HIV/ Hepatitis C	Natalie Cooley	Louisiana Department of Health
Social Determinants of Health	Coletta Barrett	Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center
Violence Prevention	Eugene Collins	National Association for the Advancement of Colored People – Baton Rouge

\*Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we were unable to film someone to speak on the topic of public health emergency preparedness. A summary of the topic was provided in the survey.

**MedBR Advisory Board Meeting**

The MedBR advisory board is composed of key stakeholders and organizational representatives who advise the HealthyBR coalitions while also providing feedback and guidance on the CHNA and CHNA process. In place of an in-person meeting, an anonymous survey was sent to the members to get their feedback on the top 10 community health needs. We received 34 responses.

The MedBR advisory board has representatives from the following organizations at the time of writing the 2021 CHNA:

Organization	Population Served	Organization	Population Served
American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)	All citizens, Medically underserved, Low income, Minority, Seniors	LSU Ag Center	All citizens, Other
Baton Rouge General Hospital	All citizens, Medically underserved, Low income, Minority, Senior, Other	LSU Health Center	All citizens, Medically underserved, Low income, Minority, Senior, Homeless, HIV, Other
Baton Rouge Health District	Other	Mary Bird Perkins Our lady of the Lake Cancer Center,	Medically underserved, Other
Baton Rouge Ryan White Program	Medically underserved, Low income, Minority, HIV	Ochsner Health System	All citizens, Medically underserved, Low income, Minority, Senior, Homeless, HIV, Other
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana	Other	Open Healthcare Clinic	All citizens, Medically underserved, Low income, Minority, Senior, Homeless, HIV, Other
Capital Area Human Services	All citizens, Medically underserved, Low income, Minority, Senior, Homeless, HIV, Other.	Our Lady of Lake Regional Medical Center	All citizens, Medically underserved, Low income, Minority, Senior, Homeless, HIV, Other
Gilead	Medically underserved, HIV	Pennington Biomedical Research Center	Other
Health Care Centers in Schools	Medically underserved, Low income, Minority, Youth and Adolescent, Other	Southern University Ag Center	All citizens, Low income, Minority, Other
Humana	Other	Start Corporation	All citizens, Medically underserved, Low income, Minority, Senior, Homeless, HIV, Other
Lane Regional Medical Center	All citizens, Medically underserved, Low income, Minority, Senior, Other	The Baton Rouge Clinic	All citizens, Senior, Other
Louisiana Department of Health - Office of Public Health	All citizens, Medically underserved, Low income, Minority, Senior, Homeless, HIV, Other.	Veteran Affairs	Veteran's
Louisiana Primary Care Association	All citizens, Medically underserved, Low income, Minority, Senior, Homeless, HIV, Other.	Woman's Hospital	All citizens, Medically underserved, Low income, Minority, Senior, HIV, Woman, Other.

The following are the community health needs that were identified as results of the 2021 CHNA survey of the MedBR advisory board in rank order.

1. Health Equity/Racial Disparities
2. Behavioral Health
3. Social Determinants of Health
4. Violence Prevention
5. Maternal and Infant Health
6. Healthy Living/Lifestyle
7. Pediatric and Adolescent Health
8. Sexually Transmitted Infections/HIV/Hepatitis C
9. Public Health emergency Preparedness
10. Chronic Disease

The top five significant community need areas selected by MedBR were Health Equity/Racial Disparities, Behavioral Health, Social Determinants of Health, Violence Prevention, Maternal and Infant Health.



### East Baton Rouge Parish Community Survey

HealthyBR collaborated with the East Baton Rouge Public Library System to assist in administering the community survey to residents across the parish to access what residents believe are the top health needs. The library system serves approximately 312,500 registered cardholders (who have used library cards within the past three years). Fourteen library branches are scattered strategically throughout the parish, and all are open seven days per week. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing fewer computers were available than in previous years. The Libraries hours of operation were 928 per week: Monday – Thursday, 9 am till 8 pm; Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. till 6 p.m.; Sunday 2 p.m. till 6 p.m. at all branches and 2 p.m. till 8 p.m. at the Main Library at Goodwood. In addition to the survey being available at the public libraries, the survey was also promoted across HealthyBR partners and on social media. The survey consisted of the following questions:

Rank the top 10 health community needs from 1 (most important) to 10 (least important)\*

1. Zip code\*
2. Email address
3. Comments

\*denotes required field

HealthyBR received 341 responses from 49 zip codes; 18% represented the seven zip codes identified as priorities based upon the CNI score of 4.2 or higher. The top four significant community needs are based on the overall average community survey response were Health Equity and Racial Disparities, Behavioral Health (Mental and Substance Use), Maternal and Infant Health, and Healthy Living/Lifestyle.

East Baton Rouge Parish Community Survey Results		
	Average Score	% Selected as Top 4 Priority
Health Equity and Racial Disparities	2.938	65%
Behavioral Health	3.223	61%
Maternal and Infant Health	4.006	41%
Healthy Living/Lifestyles	4.243	43%
Public Health Emergency Preparedness	4.411	43%
Violence Prevention	4.504	38%
Chronic Disease	4.78	34%
Pediatric and Adolescent Health	5.34	25%
Social Determinants of Health	5.557	30%
Sexually Transmitted Infections, HIV and Hepatitis C	5.997	21%

### Ascension Parish Community Survey

In 2020, a survey was distributed by the Ascension Parish Public Health Unit. They received 78 responses from 17 zip codes; 8.97% represented the one zip code identified as priorities based upon the CNI score of 4.2 or higher. The top four significant community needs are based on the overall average community survey response were Maternal and Infant Health, Behavioral Health (Mental and Substance Use), Violence Prevention, and Healthy Living/Lifestyle.

Rank the top 10 health community needs from 1 (most important) to 10 (least important)\*

1. Zip code\*
2. Email address

\*denotes required field

Ascension Parish Community Survey Results		
	Average Score	% Selected as Top 4 Priority
Maternal and Infant Health	3.62	71%
Behavioral Health (Mental and Substance Use)	3.53	68%
Violence Prevention	3.94	62%
Healthy Living/Lifestyles	4.09	60%
Pediatric and Adolescent Health	4.06	59%
Public Health and Emergency Response	4.34	55%
Health Equity and Racial Disparities	4.78	53%
Chronic Disease	5.39	38%
Sexually Transmitted Infections, HIV and Hepatitis C	5.79	38%
Social Determinants of Health	5.93	29%

### Final Priority Selection

Stakeholder results are compiled in the chart below. The top five final significant community health needs (revised based on priority categorization by MedBR) are: Health Equity/Racial Disparities, Behavioral Health, Maternal and Infant Health, Healthy Living, and STI/HIV (HCV).

Overall Results				
	Med BR Ranking	EBRP Community Survey Ranking	AP Community Survey Ranking	Final Ranking
Health Equity/Racial Disparities	1	1	7	1
Behavioral Health	2	2	2	2
Maternal and Infant Health	5	3	1	3
Healthy Living/Lifestyle	6	4	4	4
Sexually Transmitted Infections/ HIV/Hepatitis C*	8	10	9	5
Violence Prevention**	4	6	3	6
Public Health Emergency Preparedness**	9	5	6	7
Chronic Disease**	10	7	8	8
Pediatric and Adolescent Health**	7	8	5	9
Social Determinants of Health**	3	9	10	10

\*Although STI/HIV was not ranked in the top 5, the MedBR team decided it was a significant health need based on the prior work and successes in our community as well as the continued need based on the prevalence in our community and state.

\*\*Although these community health needs were not identified as significant health needs in the 2021 CHNA and as a result will not be reported on in the 2021 JOINT CHIP, HealthyBR and other community partners will be addressing these community health needs through collaborative programs and initiatives.



# Top 10 Community Health Needs

## East Baton Rouge Parish and Ascension parish 2021-2023

### Community and Stakeholder Engagement

In summary, the top five significant community health needs were chosen by evaluating primary and secondary data for trends by the CHNA workgroup. The significant community needs were then validated by the more than 70 partner organizations of the Mayor's Healthy City Initiative as well as the Board of Directors of each hospital and confirmed by constituent surveys.

Through this process, no significant information gaps were identified that limited our ability to assess the community's health needs. There were no circumstances where the CHNA workgroup could not obtain adequate and relevant information.

The final top ten community needs for EBRP in alphabetical order are:

- Behavioral Health\*
- Chronic Disease
- Health Equity and Racial Disparities\*
- Healthy Living/Lifestyle\*
- Maternal and Infant Health\*
- Pediatric and Adolescent Health
- Public Health Emergency Preparedness
- Sexually Transmitted Infections/ HIV/Hepatitis C\*
- Social Determinants of Health
- Violence Prevention

\* Top 5 Healthy BR Significant Community Needs

## 1. Behavioral Health

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) defines behavioral health as mental health and substance use.<sup>(14)</sup> Mental health and substance use were identified as a top significant community health need in 2012, 2015, and 2018 CHNAs.

Mental health refers to psychological, emotional, and social well-being. Mental illnesses affect a person's mood and how they feel, perceive, and behave. Among the most common mental illnesses are mood disorders that include major depression.

Substance use is defined as excessive drug or alcohol consumption that affects mental and physical health. Alcohol in excess can contribute to heart disease, some forms of cancer, sexual behavior, and accidents.

The below data has been compiled by the National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI) and was last updated in March 2021. To view the original studies mentioned below you can visit their website.<sup>(15)</sup>

### Prevalence

- 21% of U.S. adults experienced mental illness in 2020 (52.9 million people). This represents 1 in 5 adults
- 5.6% of U.S. adults experienced serious mental illness in 2020 (14.2 million people). This represents 1 in 20 adults
- 16.5% of U.S. youth aged 6-17 experienced a mental health disorder in 2016 (7.7 million people)
- 6.7% of U.S. adults experienced a co-occurring substance use disorder and mental illness in 2020 (17 million people)

### Effects of Mental Illness

- Individuals
  - People with depression have a 40% higher risk of developing cardiovascular and metabolic diseases than the general population. People with serious mental illness are nearly twice as likely to develop these conditions
  - 32.1% of U.S. adults with mental illness also experienced a substance use disorder in 2020 (17 million individuals)
  - The rate of unemployment is higher among U.S. adults who have a mental illness (6.4%) compared to those who do not (5.1%)
  - High school students with significant symptoms of depression are more than twice as likely to drop out compared to their peers
  - Students aged 6-17 with mental, emotional, or behavioral concerns are 3x more likely to repeat a grade
- Family
  - At least 8.4 million people in the U.S. provide care to an adult with a mental or emotional health issue
  - Caregivers of adults with mental or emotional health issues spend an average of 32 hours per week providing unpaid care

- Community
  - Mental illness and substance use disorders are involved in 1 out of every 8 emergency department visits by a U.S. adult (estimated 12 million visits)
  - Mood disorders are the most common cause of hospitalization for all people in the U.S. under age 45 (after excluding hospitalization relating to pregnancy and birth)
  - Across the U.S. economy, serious mental illness causes \$193.2 billion in lost earnings each year
  - 20.8% of people experiencing homelessness in the U.S. have serious mental health conditions
  - 37% of adults incarcerated in the state and federal prison system have a diagnosed mental illness
  - 70% of youth in the juvenile justice system have a diagnosable mental health condition.
  - 8.4% of Active Component service members in the U.S. military experienced a mental health or substance use condition in 2019
  - 15.3% of U.S. Veterans experienced a mental illness in 2019 (31.3 million people)

According to the 2022 State of Mental Health in America, Louisiana has the following rankings when it comes to mental health: <sup>(16)</sup>

2022 State Of Mental Health In America Louisiana Overall Rankings	
Category	Louisiana Ranking
Overall	19th
Adult	26th
Youth	25th
Access to Care	35th

\*Appendix C

2022 State of Mental Health in America			
Category	Louisiana Ranking	Percentage	Number
Prevalence of Mental Illness	14th		
Adults Prevalence of any Mental Illness	30th	21.21%	734,000
Adult with Substance use disorder in the past year	33rd	8.06%	279,000
Adults with a mental illness that did not receive treatment	45th	59.6%	453,000
Youth with at least 1 Major Depression Event in the past year	10th	14.14%	51,000
Youth with Substance use disorder in the past year	2nd	3.29%	12,000
Youth with major depression event who did not receive services	34th	62.50%	32,000

The Baton Rouge Coroner's Office puts out an annual report with the following information:

EBRP Coroner Annual Report*	2018	2019	2020	2021
Accidental Overdose Statistics for EBRP	102	126	242	300
Deaths related to Heroin and Fentanyl	44	99	193	
Non-heroin/fentanyl overdoses	58	27	48	
Suicide	54	65	50	
Order of Protective Custody Issues	1,138	1,143	1,213	
Coroner Emergency Certificate issued	7,539	7,861	7,650	

\*As of 1/26/22 based on reporting by the EBRP coroner's office website: <https://www.ebrcoroner.com/news>

HealthyBR's partners are working to address behavioral health in our community through Mayor Broome's Behavioral Health Task Force. The task force was formed in 2018 with the intention of

bringing together a diverse set of stakeholders to address behavioral health in EBRP. The group focuses on the following areas:

- Increasing **integrated and collaborative behavioral health** services in the primary care setting
  - **The Baton Rouge Clinic (BRC)** partners with **Capital Area Human Services** to integrate psychiatry into its primary care practice. Social workers are located in an office at BR Clinic where a warm transfer can occur if an acute psychiatric episode is identified.
    - In 2020, 686 patients were connected to behavioral health services, with most seen the same day.
  - **Baton Rouge General** physician groups 18 primary care clinics integrate behavioral health screenings for alcohol, substance use, depression, and anxiety, for all patients.
    - Between January and December 2021, more than 800 patients were referred for behavioral health services.
  - **CareSouth Medical & Dental** has a social worker located at their clinics five days a week for people to be referred to when they visit their primary care doctor.
    - In 2020, 5,189 patients were screened for depression and 85 had a positive screen. These patients were referred and connected to a licensed clinical social worker.
  - **Lane Regional Medical Center** screens all primary care patients using a behavioral health questionnaire. Social workers than work closely with the clinicians to help connect patients who need behavioral health services.
  - **Open Health Care Clinic** utilizes a Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) model in the clinical setting. All primary care patients are screened for depression, anxiety, alcohol, and illicit substance use. All patients with positive screens are referred to Behavioral Health Case Managers who are integrated in the clinical setting. The case managers provide further assessment, brief interventions, and referrals to address the needs of the patients. These services are available in their clinics five days a week.
    - Open Health has completed 11,360 screenings for depression between 2018 and 2020. Of these screenings 1,125 patients were referred to an internal licensed clinical social worker, licensed professional counselor, clinical psychologist, or medical psychologist for further assistance in addressing behavioral health needs.
  - **Ochsner Baton Rouge** has an integrated care model in the primary care setting which includes a depression screening conducted once a year for patients 12 years of age and older. The Emergency Department conducts a depression and abuse screening with each patient encounter.
    - Between April and December 2021, there were 198 patients referred for services, with 93 patients following up about services and approximately 50 patients currently receiving behavioral health services.
  - **Our Lady of the Lake's** four LSU Health Outpatient Clinics in Baton Rouge have a collaborative care program that integrates mental and behavioral health care into the primary care setting, which involves short-term/problem-focused treatment of depression and anxiety in the primary care setting. Through this model, the primary care team treating patients can receive consultation





from a psychiatrist. The clinic also provides individual brief/in-clinic counseling and referral for acute Mental Health needs.

- To date, 921 patients have participated in the collaborative care program since it began in 2018.
- **Woman’s Hospital** implemented an integrated care model within the LSU clinics as well as its private physician offices.
  - Since 2018, a total of 6,352 patients have been screened during their visit, and resources were provided.
- Community **awareness** around **stigma** and **trauma** and the available resources that exist in our community
  - Through a collaborative approach, Mayor Broome’s Behavioral Health Taskforce created a social media campaign to inform the community and highlight critical topics related to behavioral health. The campaign has covered the following topics: Mental Health Treatment, Breaking the misconceptions of Mental Health Stigma, and Self-Care.
    - The social media campaign features a monthly toolkit that more than 20 partner organizations amplified on their social media platforms.
    - The campaign launched in September 2021, and through its first 3 months, we have been able to target HealthyBR’s social media audience of more than 5.5K followers and our partner’s audiences.
- Supporting **jail diversion, reentry, and homeless** coalitions by connecting them to behavioral health resources and services in our community
  - In 2020, a comprehensive list of available behavioral health services and resources in our community was compiled. This list will be integrated into the HealthyBR website and distributed among community-based organizations that work in the fields of jail diversion, reentry, and homelessness in 2022.
- Addressing the growing number of **overdoses** in our community through collaboration with law enforcement, hospitals, public health officials, and community-based organizations.
  - In 2021, Mayor-President Sharon West Boome and District Attorney Hillar Moore signed a joint letter announcing the creation of the East Baton Rouge Overdose Coalition. The launch of the coalition will begin in 2022.

Members of Mayor Broome’s Behavioral Health Task Force are working to address behavioral health in our community:

#### **Bridge Center for Hope**

- In 2018, the voters in EBRP passed a 10-year millage of \$1.5 million for the Bridge Center for Hope. The Bridge Center for Hope is an independent nonprofit that operates the State of Louisiana’s first-ever adult crisis receiving facility. The Center offers short-term crisis stabilization to treat individuals 18 years or older who are experiencing mental health and/



or substance use challenges, operating under a no-wrong-door approach that allows anyone experiencing a crisis to receive services.

- The Bridge Center has four units and offers six programs: a 23-hour observation unit, a short-term psychiatric unit, a medical detoxification unit, a center-based respite unit, a mobile response team, and a care management team. The Bridge Center opened on February 11, 2021.
- Between February 11, 2021, and October 31, 2021, the Bridge Center for Hope received:
  - 1,915 have come to the Bridge Center for services with 1,780 admissions.
    - 1,009 have come to the Bridge Center for services themselves (57%)
    - 771 guests were escorted by First-responder (43%)
      - 49% Baton Rouge Police Department (BRPD)
      - 26% East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff’s Office (EBRSO)
      - 24% were escorted by EMS
      - 1% were escorted by other law enforcement agencies
        - First Responder average drop-off time is 3.5 minutes
        - 90% are EBR Residents, 10% are out-of-parish residents
  - 1,509 unduplicated guests
  - 4% readmission rate
  - 45% of guests received mental health services
  - 47% of guests received substance use treatment

#### **Baton Rouge Emergency Medical Services (EMS)**

- In 2021, Baton Rouge EMS participated in a Medicare pilot program called Emergency Triage, Treat, and Transport (ET3). One component of the program is to transport patients experiencing mental illness to mental health facilities versus going to an Emergency Department. Below are the number of direct transports to partnering facilities between January and December 15. (These numbers are lower than actual transports because Baton Rouge received support from FEMA and Acadian ambulances during the Delta surge of COVID-19 and as a result cannot track their transport.)
  - Bridge Center for Hope: 180
  - Seaside Health System: 26
  - Ocean’s Behavioral Health Hospital: 3
- In 2022, EMS is working with the Bridge Center for Hope to implement a Mobile Response Unit. This unit will respond in place of a traditional ambulance and first responder vehicle, when a mental health call comes into the 911 system and is deemed appropriate through a screening.

#### **Baton Rouge General Medical Center (BRG)**

- In 2020, the BRG received more than 12,000 behavioral health referrals from their emergency departments (Main campus, Mid City and Ascension) and outside referrals.
- BRG offers outpatient behavioral health services and expanded its outpatient substance use program in 2021.
- BRG offers inpatient services including:
  - 50 beds serving adults 50 years and older
  - 32 beds serving adults 18 and older
    - The 32 beds serving adults 18+ were added during the COVID-19 pandemic to meet the developing behavioral health needs of the community.
- BRG partnered with Lifeline Behavioral Health Systems in November 2021 and opened a residential substance use center named Baton Rouge Recovery Health.

#### **Capital Area Reentry Program (CARP)**

- CARP operates the only Syringe Service program within 100 miles of EBRP. Their program is called “Be Safe” Syringe Service Program and is a harm reduction initiative that takes a holistic approach to syringe services by offering sterile syringe access, sharps disposal (needle disposal), education, and linkage to rehabilitative and supportive services.
  - CARP’s Safe Injection kits include: 20 syringes, Cooker, Cotton, Tourniquet, and Naloxone (when requested)
    - In 2020, 9,893 kits were distributed that included 197, 860 sterile syringes and 9,862 doses of Naloxone

- People can access services at CARP's office or through their mobile unit.
  - 6,363 people were served during normal business hours
  - 2,606 people were served during after business hours
  - 924 people were served through the mobile unit
- CARP offers free HIV, Hepatitis C, and Syphilis screenings and referrals. CARP uses sterile injection equipment & storytelling to encourage People Who Inject Drugs (PWID) to be screened for HIV, Hepatitis C & Syphilis and offer referrals to treatment as needed.
- Below is a breakdown of the demographics of the clients CARP serves:
  - Ages:
    - 18-35 years old served: 4,554
    - 36-60 years old served: 5,091
    - 61+ years old served: 247
  - Gender:
    - Males: 5,074
    - Females: 4,811
  - Race:
    - White: 8,515
    - Black: 1,276
    - Hispanic: 71
    - Asian: 32
  - Location:
    - Urban (East Baton Rouge): 5,661
    - Rural: 4,232

#### Capital Area Human Services (CAHS)

- Provides treatment for mental health, addictive disorders, and developmental disabilities. In 2021, CAHS provided behavioral health services for 8,298 individuals.
- CAHS provides outpatient services including screening, assessments; individual, family, and group therapy; teletherapy and telemedicine, medication management, and crisis evaluations are provided at three Baton Rouge locations:
  - North Baton Rouge Behavioral Health (adult clinic)
  - Baton Rouge Behavioral Health (adult clinic)
  - Children's Behavioral Health (children ages 5-18)
- CAHS provides outpatient treatment for addictive disorders including screening, assessments, outpatient and intensive outpatient groups (including a gender-specific recovery group for women), individual and family therapy, medication-assisted treatment, and treatment for problem gambling.
- CAHS provides the following school-based behavioral services at twelve East Baton Rouge Parish schools (EBRPSS): health screening, assessments; individual, family, and group therapy; teletherapy and telemedicine; medication management, community psychiatric supports, and treatment (CPST), psychosocial rehabilitation (PSR), and crisis evaluations.
- CAHS provides reentry services in partnership with the 19th Judicial District Recovery Court, the United States District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana-US Probation/Parole, and New Beginnings (Department of Public Safety & Corrections).
  - Since January 2021, a CAHS peer support specialist and licensed mental health professional have provided the following services inside East Baton Rouge Parish Prison:
    - 186 GAINS (Global Appraisal of Individual Needs) assessments and referrals to treatment for behavioral health disorders
    - 90 psychoeducational groups
- Residential services are provided at Capital Area Recovery Program (CARP), a 40-bed adult male unit for the treatment of substance use and co-occurring disorders.

- CAHS provides outreach services that include:
  - A Crisis/Mobile Team
  - First Episode Psychosis Program
  - Be Safe Opioid mobile unit: in 2021 completed 229 screenings, brief interventions, and referrals to treatment and distributed 1,929 Narcan kits
  - LA Spirit Crisis Counseling Program: in 2021 fielded 7,736 phone calls, 12,494 brief encounters (less than 15 minutes), and 754 individual encounters (more than 15 minutes)
  - A CAHS peer support specialist and licensed mental health professional is embedded at the Louisiana department of Children & Family Services (DCFS) to provide screening, assessments, and referral to treatment and Family Preservation Court for individuals who have substance use disorders and are in danger of having their children removed from their homes.
  - Nurse-Family Partnership has completed 3,281 home visits.
- CAHS provides prevention services that include the following:
  - Louisiana Partnerships for Success II (July 1, 2021-November 30, 2021) has enrolled 6,189 children, adolescents, and adults in primary prevention programs.
  - Four community-based Narcan training (79 individuals trained)
  - 389 Narcan kits distributed

#### Family Road of Greater Baton Rouge (FRGBR)

- FRGBR provides mental health screening services and referrals for expecting mothers, pregnant persons, and fathers during pregnancy and postpartum through their Maternal Morbidity Specialist/Nurse Practitioner and case managers. Counseling services are provided by staff and referral agencies in both English and Spanish.
- Family Road also provides several support groups for parents of young children, fathers, and breastfeeding persons.

#### Lane Regional Medical Center

- Lane works with businesses in the region to provide occupational medicine services, such as establishing drug screening protocols and conducting pre-hire drug testing, random drug testing, post-accident testing, onsite drug/alcohol testing, employee assistance referrals, and on-site stress management classes.

#### Mental Health Association of Greater Baton Rouge (MHAGBR)

- MHAGBR has been in operation since 1954 with a mission to provide services for persons with or at risk for mental health and substance use issues. MHAGBR provides the following programs and services:
  - Alliance House Drop-In Center: The center is a peer-run day program for people with chronic mental health issues that provides stability, education, stimulation, and socialization while also providing respite for their caregivers. Since the inception of the center in 1970, they have served an estimated 900 clients. Clients participate at a minimum of three days per week with the main goal of decreasing hospitalizations.
  - Target Health: This is a 10-12 week program that trains peers in leading group programs focused on holistic health including exercise, nutrition, mediation, and other aspects of holistic health. Target Health was implemented in June 2018 and to-date have trained 540 individuals in whole health and wellness.
  - The Fisher Project: A six-month case management program providing screening for suicide, ongoing assessment, safety planning and means restriction, discharge planning, and transition of care for those individuals at risk for suicide and have shown chronic suicide ideation. The Fisher Project was implemented in November 2020 and has seen more than 200 referrals. To-date, more than 100 people enrolled in the program, with 61 active participants.
  - Behavioral Health 911: A statewide series intended to help individuals and families learn about the behavioral health system and resources in their community. Behavioral Health 911 launched in 2019, and 1,695 individuals have participated and gained knowledge on critical behavioral topics affecting Louisiana.

- **Training, Capacity Building and Advocacy:**
  - MHAGBR provides trainings on suicide prevention and capacity building for behavioral health peer support
  - MHAGBR is hosting its 5th Annual Conference in April 2022. Since 2018 there have been more than 750 participants who have gained knowledge and continued education on behavioral health topics at the annual conference.
  - MHAGBR held its Inaugural Public Policy Summit in March of 2021 where 244 individuals participated.
  - MHAGBR supported the Behavioral Health Day at the Capitol with 241 participants.

#### **National Alliance on Mental Illness – Louisiana (NAMI)**

- NAMI Louisiana provides advocacy, educational programs, trainings, and support to people with mental illness and their loved ones. They offer the following programs: NAMI Peer-to-Peer, NAMI Family-to-Family, NAMI Connection, NAMI Family Support Group, In Our Own Voice, and NAMI SMARTS
- NAMI hosts discussions for specific identity groups:
  - Sharing Hope for the African American community
  - Compartiendo Esperanza for the Hispanic/Latinx community
- NAMI offers a wide variety of community engagement programs including mental health fairs, free lunch drives, annual conferences, and mental health first aid trainings.
- NAMI Baton Rouge offers free, confidential support groups that meet weekly to support family members of people with mental health conditions.
  - Since 2020, 8-10 people a week have engaged in this support group virtually.

#### **Ochsner Medical Center – Baton Rouge**

- Ochsner Baton Rouge provides adult, pediatric, and adolescent psychiatry and psychology services.
  - Since 2020, the behavioral health department has tripled in size, adding four Psychiatrists, two Psychologists, two Nurse Practitioners, and seven Licensed Clinical Social Workers, and expanded services to three new locations in Baton Rouge.
  - Virtual appointments are also available allowing further ease of access to Behavioral Health services across the state.
- In response to COVID-19, free behavioral health support groups and individual therapy were offered to frontline healthcare workers and educators. More than 50 individuals benefited from these offerings.
- In 2018, Ochsner Health partnered with Acadia Healthcare to open River Place Behavioral Health, an 82-bed inpatient facility serving adolescents ages 12 and up. Through this joint venture, Acadia manages the hospital while Ochsner providers deliver inpatient behavioral health services to adults and adolescents.

#### **Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center Hospital (OLOLRMC)**

- Health Care Centers in Schools operates seven school-based health clinics (SBHC) in EBRP. Social workers provide case management, crisis intervention, and individual, family, and group counseling through in-person, telehealth visits and community partnerships.
- OLOLRMC expanded the Collaborative Assessment and Management of Suicidality (CAMS) program across adult behavioral health, emergency department, and acute care settings in 2020. This comprehensive suicide program puts OLOLRMC in compliance with national standards.
  - 814 CAMS consults provided over the last three years for OLOLRMC patients
  - 34 psychiatry residents, 7 psychiatry supervisors, 8 LCSWs, 7 PhD students in clinical psychology and all St. Ann's mental and behavioral health staff are trained in CAMS at OLOLRMC.
  - Trained entire COPE team in Crisis Prevention Planning in 2020
- In 2021, OLOLRMC received a new Taxpayer Identification Number for the LSU Residency Clinic at O'Donovan so the clinic would be able to bill Medicaid. Previously, OLOLRMC could

only accept cash payments from patients.

- In 2021, the Family Center O'Donovan Clinic purchased a TMS (Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation) machine, which is a non-invasive electric brain stimulation to treat patients whose conditions have not improved through conventional approaches, such as medication and therapy. It is mainly used to treat patients with depression.
- In 2021, the Tau Center Unit increased inpatient adolescent bed capacity by 36% from 14 to 19 beds.
- The OLOLRMC Psychology Internship program is a one-year internship that is required by psychology PhD and PsyD doctorate degree candidates. The program hosts two interns per year. The first class completed the program in 2021.
  - The program has expanded their abilities to perform psychological testing, group and individual therapy in their psychiatry units, and brief interventions with patients hospitalized on the med/surg/ICU floors in the hospital.
- LPG offers the following services:
  - Pediatric patient services:
    - Applied Behavioral Analysis therapy, parent education groups and on-site social workers who support children with complex medical needs in the ambulatory specialty clinics.
  - Adult patient services:
    - Outpatient medication management and therapy, Medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for opioid addiction, Spravato treatment for major depressive disorder (MDD), group therapy, psychoeducation and psychological testing. The psychiatric center is supported by 19 psychiatry residents, four psychology externs and seven attending psychiatrists.

#### **Seaside Health System – Baton Rouge**

- Between January and October 2021, Seaside Health System – Baton Rouge hospital had
  - 308 patient admits for the partial hospitalization program
  - 2,167 patient admits for the inpatient program

#### **Woman's Hospital**

- The Behavioral Health Clinic at Woman's offers both inpatient and outpatient consultations for peripartum and postpartum women with a focus on medication management and psychotherapy treatment plans. The clinic is staffed by a full-time psychiatrist who specializes in women's perinatal mental health as well as child psychiatry.
- The GRACE (Guiding Recovery and Creating Empowerment) program was formed in 2018 to provide care management services to pregnant women misusing opioids with a goal of improving outcomes for both mom and baby. The program was funded by a three-year grant from the United Health Foundation.
  - During the grant period, the program received more than 230 referrals and enrolled 154 patients; 71 patients graduated from the program.
  - Beginning in 2022, the GRACE program intends to expand the inclusion criteria to women misusing any substances, including alcohol.



## 2. Chronic Disease

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) defines chronic diseases broadly as, “conditions that last 1 year or more and require ongoing medical attention or limit activities of daily living or both.”<sup>(17)</sup> Examples of different types of chronic diseases are heart disease, cancer and diabetes. These three diseases are also the leading causes of death and disability in the United States. Additionally, 90% of the \$3.8 trillion spent on healthcare in the United States are for people with chronic and mental health conditions.

Chronic Disease Data		
	EBRP	AP
Adult Obesity (10) (11)	34%	35%
Diabetes Prevalence (10) (11)	12%	13%
Age-adjusted death rate due to coronary heart disease*(10)	100.3	70.6
Cancer Rate* (18)	481	474
Cancer death Rate*(18)	168	156
Rate of new cancers by race rate** (18)	White: 464.5	White: 488.3
	Black: 495.4	Black: 412.3
Rate of cancers deaths by race rate* (18)	White: 147	White: 151.2
	Black: 206	Black: 175.9

\*Rate is per 100,000

According to the CDC (17), many chronic diseases are caused by behaviors such as:

- Tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke
- Poor nutrition; including diets low in fruits and vegetables, high in sodium and saturated fats
- Lack of physical activity
- Excessive alcohol use

Risk Behaviors Associated with Chronic Diseases <sup>(10) (11)</sup>				
	EBRP	AP	Louisiana	Top US Performer
Adult Smoking	19%	20%	21%	16%
Food Environment Index	7.0	7.9	8.7	5.2
Food Insecurity	14%	11%	16%	9%
Physical Inactivity	27%	25%	28%	19%
Excessive Drinking	18%	20%	20%	15%

### Ranking For the Leading Cause of Death in Louisiana<sup>(19)</sup>

	Deaths	Rate***	State Rank*	U.S. Rate**	Top US Performer
1	Heart Disease	11,260	214.4	5	165.0
2	Cancer	9,513	174.9	5	152.5
4	Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	2,467	46.6	19	40.9
5	Stroke	2,460	47.4	3	37.6
6	Alzheimer's Disease	2,188	43.7	7	31.0
7	Diabetes	1,272	23.9	14 (tie)	21.5
8	Septicemia	1,080	20.4	1	10.6
9	Kidney Disease	1,076	20.6	2	13.0

\* Rankings are from highest to lowest.

\*\* Rates for the U.S. include the District of Columbia and (for births) U.S. territories. Refer to notes in publication tables for more detail.

\*\*\* Death rates are age-adjusted.

### Cancer

HealthyBR community partners are **working together** to address cancer in our community through

- **BRG** partners with the **YMCA's** Livestrong program to provide group nutrition counseling to cancer survivors.
  - Launched a few months prior to COVID-19, 24 people participated in the program before shutting down due to COVID-19.
- **Lane** partners with **BRG** to provide radiation treatment to cancer patients through a state-of-the-art Radiation Oncology Center located on Lane's campus in Zachary.
- **Lane** partners with **Mary Bird Perkins/Our Lady of the Lake Cancer Center** to provide medical hematology/oncology services at Lane Cancer Center.
- **Woman's** and **Mary Bird Perkins – Our Lady of the Lake Cancer Center** partner to offer comprehensive care for women with breast and gynecological cancers. Care is available at Woman's Breast and GYN Cancer Pavilion (opened in 2018), Mary Bird Perkins – OLOL Cancer Center, or Louisiana State University's North Baton Rouge Clinic.
- **OLLRMC** is engaged in research efforts at **Pennington Biomedical Research Center**, including a pilot project to understand how diabetes is related to pancreas cancer development and progression.
- The **St. Jude Baton Rouge Affiliate Clinic** at **Our Lady of the Lake Children's Health** includes a 10-bed pediatric hematology/oncology unit and large outpatient clinic with an attached 16-bay Infusion Center. Serves children from Southern Louisiana and Southern Mississippi with leukemia, lymphoma, solid tumors, brain tumors, sickle cell anemia, hemophilia, and general hematological conditions.

HealthyBR partners are working to address cancer in our community through:

#### Baton Rouge General Medical Center (BRG)

- BRG is an active partner in the following American Cancer Society programs:
  - Return to Screening: A national initiative that has a goal of improving screening rates.
    - Between July and October 2021, BRG has screened more than 5,100 patients for breast and colorectal cancer alone.



- Road to Recovery Program: Provides transportation to and from treatment for people with cancer who don't have a ride or are unable to drive themselves.
- BRG's Pennington Cancer Center is the first treatment center in Louisiana to utilize SpaceOAR™ VUE Hydrogel, an innovative technology that helps patients with prostate cancer avoid some of the negative effects of radiation therapy.
- BRG piloted a new Lung Screening Clinic, using artificial intelligence and a dedicated patient navigator to screen patients who meet certain criteria and recommend an annual low-dose CT scan. A low-dose CT scan can recognize tiny nodules that would otherwise go undetected long before the patient has any symptoms. It also creates less exposure to radiation than a traditional CT scan.
- BRG opened The Healing Boutique, a first-of-its-kind retail shop offering supplies and resources for both men and women with all types of cancer. The full-service store, located in the BRG Gift Shop, specializes in cancer-related items that span the full spectrum of patient needs, from pillows and journals to lotions and hats, to eyebrow kits, wigs, and prosthetics.
- BRG is the only comprehensive treatment program in Louisiana recognized by the National Lymphedema Network, bringing much-needed relief to hundreds of cancer patients and others with lymphedema each year. Lymphedema affects up to 10 million Americans and is common after cancer surgery or radiation of the head, neck, breast, and legs.
- As a member of the Mayo Clinic Care Network, BRG's patients have access to specialized consultations and second opinions from Mayo Clinic physicians at no cost.

#### The Baton Rouge Clinic (BRC)

- The BRC launched an initiative that automatically books a prostate cancer screening for patients receiving testosterone treatments because they are at an increased risk of prostate cancer and elevated hemoglobin.
- As a member of the Mayo Clinic Care Network, BRC's patients have access to specialized consultations and second opinions from Mayo Clinic physicians frequently at no cost to the patient.

#### CareSouth Medical & Dental

- CareSouth refers patients for colorectal and breast cancer screening.
  - In 2020, 675 patients were screened for mammograms and 450 patients were screened for colon cancer.
- CareSouth screens female patients for cervical cancer.
  - In 2020, 1,700 women screened for cervical cancer



#### Lane Regional Medical Center (Lane)

- Lane conducts free annual skin cancer, colon cancer, and prostate cancer screenings, and has reached more than 180 participants.
- Lane also provides free on-site cancer education presentations to local businesses and has reached more than 300 participants.

#### Ochsner Medical Center – Baton Rouge

- Through the Gayle and Tom Benson Cancer Center, Ochsner Baton Rouge provides a comprehensive, freestanding cancer center in Baton Rouge with infusion/chemotherapy, radiation oncology, subspecialty care, and a wide range of clinical trials for all cancer types.
  - Patients are connected to many resources and services such as bone marrow transplants and the largest array of Phase 1 clinical trials available in South Louisiana.
- To date, Ochsner Baton Rouge employs four Oncologists, four Advanced Practice Providers, and two physicians who rotate from New Orleans.
  - In 2020, Ochsner Baton Rouge saw 8,000 unique patients, performed 4,500 radiation treatments, had 19,800 clinic visits, and completed 16,600 infusions.
  - Ochsner Cancer Center – Baton Rouge currently houses 15 Infusion chairs, and offers Radiation Oncology and Radiation Therapy services.
  - Ochsner Medical Complex – The Grove currently houses 22 Infusion chairs.
    - Nurse navigators, social workers, and Palliative Care are available at each location to ensure comprehensive care. Oncology providers also rotate through satellite locations located in Prairieville and Hammond.
- Ochsner offers Low-Dose Computerized Tomography (CT) to screen for lung cancer and Smoking Cessation services.
  - To date, 960 Low-Dose CT screenings have been completed since 2014. Ochsner Cancer Center – Baton Rouge has recently added Mohs micrographic surgery to their service line to treat skin cancer.
- Once the pediatric expansion at Ochsner Medical Complex – The Grove is complete, Pediatric Oncology services and infusions will be provided, starting mid-2022.

#### Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center Hospital (OLOLRMC)

- Accreditations
  - OLOLRMC is the only comprehensive cancer program in the region that is accredited by the Commission on Cancer, and received the Commission on Cancer Outstanding Achievement Award for the three consecutive survey cycles.
  - OLOLRMC is the only program in Louisiana accredited by the Commission on Cancer's National Accreditation Program Rectal Cancer (NAPRC)
  - OLOLRMC Medical Oncology and Hematology Associates practice is accredited by Quality Oncology Practice Initiative (QOPI)
- OLOLRMC Cancer Institute has five Multidisciplinary Cancer Teams; Head and Neck, Lung, Colorectal, Skin and Soft Tissue, and Hepatobiliary/Upper GI.
  - Each team consists of participation from surgery, medical oncology, radiation oncology, pathology, radiology, and support services.
  - Working to improve outcomes and reduce mortality in lung cancer, OLOLRMC is the only program in the region to use the EON technology, aiding to identify incidental pulmonary nodules which can lead to early diagnosis.
    - In 2021, more than 800 patients have been screened and 21 diagnosed with lung cancer.
- OLOLRMC is an active participant in the Gulf South Minority Underserved Clinical Trials Network in the NCI Community Oncology Research Program (NCORP) that brings cancer clinical trials to people within the Baton Rouge Community
- In 2020, more than 3,000 patients were assisted by the navigation team, providing important resources, such as transportation, physical/emotional needs, housing, and financial resources.
- OLOLRMC LSU Health is participating in a collaborative project between the Commission on

Cancer and the American Cancer Society to improve cancer screening rates with a goal of achieving 85% compliance with mammogram screening within the service area.

- OLOL Head and Neck Department has been featured multiple times in US News & World Report, and is ranked in the top 1% of the nation for excellence in the field of Otolaryngology.

#### Open Health Care Clinic (OHCC)

- Open Health Care Clinic (OHCC) had 5,549 patients complete preventive cancer screenings since 2018.
  - In 2019, OHCC provided 1,381 Cervical cancer screening, 477 Colorectal cancer screening, and 399 Mammograms.
  - In 2020, OHCC provided 1,151 Cervical cancer screening, 404 Colorectal cancer screening, and 202 Mammograms.

#### Woman's Hospital (Woman's)

- The Oncology RN Navigation team provides a comprehensive care delivery model focusing on the unique needs of each cancer patient at the Breast and GYN Cancer Pavilion.
  - RN Navigators provide support beginning at the point of diagnosis and provide education, management of symptoms, advanced care planning/end of life needs, survivorship care planning/delivery, surveillance, and follow-up care after active treatment.
  - An Oncology Social Worker provides support and links to community resources.
  - An Oncology Dietitian provides nutrition recommendations for diet and managing nutrition-related symptoms associated with treatment.
- Woman's has 2 of only 12 mammography coaches in the U.S. currently featuring 3D technology. A second mammography coach was added in 2017 to increase access for women in underserved parishes.
- In 2020, Woman's screened 3,845 women at 96 sites in 21 parishes, where 16 cancers were detected.
- Since 2016, there have been 26 cancer-related active research studies at Woman's.

## Diabetes

HealthyBR community partners are **working together** to address diabetes in our community through:

- **BRC, Ochsner,** and **OLOL** Physician Group participate in the Together 2 Goal initiative as a part of the American Medical Group Association national collaborative. This initiative allows a collective approach to help patients with diabetes to live longer lives with a better quality of life.
  - The BRC was recognized as Goal-Getters their program that integrates alerts within the Electronic Health Record system. In addition, the BRC was awarded the Best Performance Small Group in 2018.
- **The American Diabetes Association** runs a camp for two weeks in July called Camp Victory. The Camp is located in Leesville, Louisiana for children ages 6-14 with diabetes.
  - OLOLRMC and BRC, along with many other healthcare facilities throughout Louisiana provide more than 75 physicians, nurses, dietitians, and social workers who volunteer their time to see that the medical needs of the campers are met. While at camp, campers learn how to carbohydrate count, draw up and inject insulin, change their insulin pump sites, and much more while having fun at camp.
- There are 5 CDC-recognized National Diabetes Prevention Programs in EBRP:
  - A.C. Lewis YMCA; BRG; OLOLRMC; True Care Health & Wellness Center; and Woman's Hospital.
- There are 6 Diabetes Self-Management and Education Support (DSMES) programs in EBRP/AP:
  - The BRC; BRG; OLOLRMC; OHCC; and Woman's.
- There are 4 organizations that offer diabetes management programs accredited by the American Association of Diabetes Educators:

- BRG, Ochsner, OLOLRMC, and Woman's
- Ochsner's Outpatient Diabetes Management Program has been recognized for Quality Self-Management Education by the American Diabetes Association.
- OLOLRMC's Outpatient Comprehensive Diabetes Education Program provides education to adults and children living with diabetes using both in-person and telemedicine sessions. Their program has helped to reduce patients' HbA1c by an average of 2 points.

HealthyBR partners are working to address diabetes in our community through:

#### The Baton Rouge Clinic (BRC)

- The BRC has a high-definition retinal imaging system in order to diagnose diabetic eye disease. The diabetic eye exam allows providers to refer the diabetic patients to the internal lab for their annual diabetic eye exam, rather than needing to be referred out to a specialist.

#### Baton Rouge General Medical Center

- In 2021, BRG launched a yearlong Diabetes Prevention Program for pre-diabetic patients.
  - The program, led by a trained lifestyle coach and fitness team member, focuses on long-term changes and lasting results to help prevent the onset of diabetes.
- Almost 300 people participated in the program in its first year.

#### Lane Regional Medical Center

- Lane provides diabetes prevention and education through social media posts, website blogs, and classes held at wellness events for area businesses and organizations.

#### Ochsner Medical Center – Baton Rouge

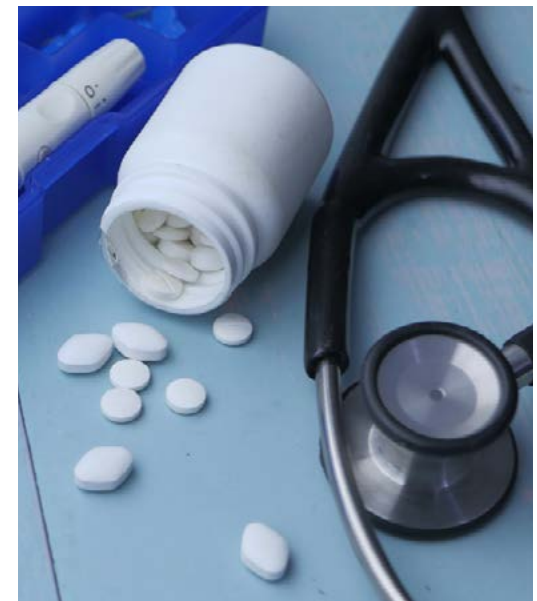
- Ochsner utilizes Digital Medicine for patients with diabetes.
- Ochsner's Diabetes Management Program is for adults ages 18 and older who have been diagnosed with Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes. The program is led by certified diabetes educators who are also registered nurses or registered dietitians. Through group classes and individual appointments, patients are supported and educated on topics such as: blood sugar monitoring, prevention, and management of diabetes-related complications; medication management; nutrition; and weight management. Ochsner also provides support groups for patients, eye screenings, foot exams, and pharmacy assistance.

#### Our Lady of the Lake Hospital (OLOLRMC)

- OLOL Physician Group has developed clinical guidelines and standards which have been implemented for the treatment and management of diabetes within the Health Leaders' Network. Additionally, OLOL provides care management and social services for patients that qualify for complex care management and provide diabetes education to adults in select primary care clinics.
- OLOLRMC Endocrinology Clinic provides a full range of endocrinology services with two full-time Endocrinologists, 2 part-time Endocrinologists, and 1 mid-level. OLOLRMC accepts Medicaid and sees patients 18 and older. OLOLRMC has a Wellness Clinic in Ascension that providers refer to help patients gain additional control of diabetes through medication management. LPG Primary Care Clinics are now able to perform retinal eye screens in select primary care offices.

#### Pennington Biomedical Research Center

- Pennington partnered with the LDH to establish a clinic for Type 2 diabetes and pre-diabetes in an underserved population of the state's Medicaid recipients. The program supplements the efforts of primary care physicians, helping prevent people at risk of Type 2 diabetes from developing the disease and reversing the effects of Type 2 diabetes in those that have already been diagnosed.



- Sixty-five patients have been enrolled in the Pennington Diabetes Clinic. In the first three months, participants have seen weight loss of up to 53 pounds with an average weight loss of 7.8%. In the first six months, they saw a weight loss of up to 60 pounds with an average weight loss of 8.4%. At the end of the first year, they saw a weight loss of up to 69 pounds with an average weight loss of 8.55%. These milestones show preliminary data that demonstrates the ability of the program to potentially reduce weight in ways that can be sustained over time.
- Patients who were enrolled in the program reported satisfaction scores of 5/5 for clinic staff metrics, 4.9/5 for low-calorie diet metrics, and 5/5 for program enjoyment. Patients reported they would recommend the program to their friends, family, and acquaintances. Patients also reported their overall quality of life improved, with increases in mood, confidence, energy levels, and sleep. Friends and family members also benefited from patients' participation in the program by joining in on making healthy changes and also losing weight as a result.

#### Well-Ahead Louisiana (Well-Ahead)

- Well-Ahead works to increase access to CDC-recognized lifestyle change programs, which can help prevent or delay diabetes, by providing technical assistance to establish new sites, marketing campaigns and establishing community-clinical linkages.
- Well-Ahead works to improve access to Diabetes Self-Management Education and Support (DSMES) programs, which help to improve outcomes for diabetes, by providing technical assistance to establish ADA-recognized/ADCES-accredited sites and increasing access to telehealth DSMES.

#### Woman's Hospital (Woman's)

- At Woman's, postpartum patients who are diagnosed with gestational diabetes prior to giving birth receive counseling while in the hospital on the importance of managing the condition and the correlation between gestational diabetes and the development of Type 2 diabetes later in life.
- Woman's offers an accredited Diabetes Prevention Program, a CDC-recognized lifestyle change program.

### Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke

HealthyBR community partners are **working together** to address cardiovascular disease and stroke in our community through:

- **The American Heart Association (AHA)** partners with **Well Ahead Louisiana** and **Louisiana Primary Care Association** to perform Quality Improvement in Health Systems and support chronic disease management. AHA collaborates on the promotion of tools and best practices through the Target: Blood Pressure (Target:BP) program; Check. Change. Control. Cholesterol program; and Target: Type 2 Diabetes program.

HealthyBR partners are working to address cardiovascular disease and stroke in our community through

#### American Heart Association (AHA)

- The AHA teamed with The Joint Commission and the Society of Cardiovascular Patient Care to launch a Certification and Accreditation program for hospitals that meet proven standards of care based on the latest clinical guidelines. The program helps identify hospitals that meet these standards for the treatment of stroke, heart failure, and heart attack by authorizing accredited and certified hospitals to display the American Heart Association's familiar Heart-Check mark.

#### Baton Rouge General Medical Center (BRG)

- BRG's cardiothoracic surgeon Dr. Antoine Keller is conducting a study to determine the prevalence of aortic valve disease in the Baton Rouge community and surrounding areas. After the study, his team will look for patterns, such as if a certain demographic is more at risk for undetected heart murmurs, or if a lack of access to a cardiologist is an issue.

- As of December 2021, 400 people were enrolled in the study.

#### Lane Regional Medical Center

- Lane provides cardiovascular education and diagnostic testing in partnership with Cardiovascular Institute of the South. Lane conducts free heart screenings, CPR training, and smoking cessation classes to local businesses, schools, and churches. Lane also provides free Automated External Defibrillator (AED) devices to local churches and schools.
- Lane partners with WBRZ ( a local news station) to produce 15 patient testimonial segments on how to reduce one's risk for heart disease.
- Lane provided 12 free CPR training classes to the community and trained more than 300 participants.
- Lane offers stroke recovery services at Lane Rehabilitation Center.

#### Ochsner Medical Center – Baton Rouge

- Ochsner partners with more than 58 participating hospitals throughout Louisiana to provide a Telestroke Program. Through this program, hospitals have access to vascular neurologists 24 hours a day to determine the best treatment option for stroke patients.
- Ochsner utilizes Digital Medicine for patients with hypertension. Digital Medicine is a nationally recognized, clinically proven program revolutionizing how Ochsner treats chronic conditions by combining digital tools and engagement from a dedicated care team.
- Ochsner BR's Emergency Department and Cardiac Catheterization Lab continue to maintain the Average Time from First Medical Contact to Device Time of less than 90 minutes. Cardiothoracic Surgery is also available at Ochsner Medical Center – Baton Rouge.

#### Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center.

- OLOLRMC stroke treatment time is 30 minutes compared to the national average of 42 minutes.
- OLOLRMC has developed a Non-Invasive Cardiovascular Lab to efficiently complete outpatient procedures in a cost-effective manner for our community's ambulatory population.
- OLOLRMC also participates in the American Heart Association's Ambulatory Cardiovascular Risk Registry.
  - Registry participation provides meaningful data sets to inform local and national medical professionals of outcomes building evidence to improve care quality.
  - OLOLRMC Cardiopulmonary Rehab supports inpatient and outpatient populations. The programs have expanded their outreach to chronic CV disease types, pre-procedural therapy, surgical oncology therapy, and chronic pulmonary diseases.
  - OLOLRMC'S's Tele-Stroke program develops and maintains best-practice care protocols for rural medical facilities to ensure high-quality care standards across the state with limited access to stroke specialized care.
  - OLOLRMC and LPG have expanded involvement of enhanced wearable and remote monitoring systems to meet community needs.

#### Well-Ahead Louisiana (Well Ahead)

- Well-Ahead WISEWOMAN program provides no-cost screenings to determine the overall risk of heart disease and connects eligible participants to programs that help women make healthy lifestyle changes. The program is for women between the ages of 40 and 64.
- Approximately 150 of the women between the ages of 40 to 64 who were screened by the Louisiana Breast and Cervical Health Program were referred to Louisiana's WISEWOMAN program.



**Woman’s Hospital (Woman’s)**

- Woman’s provides blood pressure monitors to at-risk patients. Nurses contact patients at home to ensure compliance.
  - From March to December 2017, case managers visited 1,123 patients with hypertension and called each patient a minimum of two times for follow-up after discharge.
  - From January 2018 to October 2021, case managers visited 2,512 patients with hypertension and followed up with a total of 1,983 phone calls after discharge.
  - Recently, the Southeastern Louisiana University’s schools of nursing have started working with the case managers during their rotation on the MMother-Babyunits. These nursing students are educating patients at high risk, as well as teaching patients how to properly check their blood pressures at home following discharge.

**Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke Accreditation/Certifications**

- American Heart Association (AHA)
  - AHA’s Get With The Guidelines programs provide hospital teams with the most up-to-date research-based clinical guidelines for heart and stroke care. Studies have shown that consistent use of these guidelines increases survival rates of all cardiovascular diseases and lowers patients’ risk of ending back up in the hospital.
    - Between 2018–2020, these local systems of care were accredited:
      - **Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center**
        - Heart Failure Award Silver Plus
        - Stroke Award Gold Plus
        - Target Stroke Elite Plus Honor Roll
        - Primary Stroke Center Certification
      - **Ochsner Medical Center Baton Rouge**
        - Stroke Award Silver
    - Target: BP™ is a national initiative formed by the AHA and the American Medical Association (AMA) in response to the high prevalence of uncontrolled blood pressure (BP). Target: BP helps health care organizations and care teams, at no cost, improve BP control rates through an evidence-based quality improvement program and recognizes organizations committed to improving BP control.
      - Between 2018–2020, AHA has recognized these partners for best practices and their unwavering commitment to achieving better blood pressure control, cholesterol control, and management of Type 2 Diabetes, with the ultimate goal of reducing the number of Americans who have heart attacks and strokes:
        - Baton Rouge Cardiology Center, BRG, Cardiovascular Institute of the South, CareSouth, EXCELth, Inc., OLORMC, St. Gabriel Health Clinic
  - **Baton Rouge General Medical Center**
    - Baton Rouge General is the only hospital in Baton Rouge with the Primary Stroke Certification, Chest Pain Certification, and Certified Cardiac Rehab Program.
    - Baton Rouge General’s Pulmonary Rehabilitation Program is certified by the American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation.
  - **Lane Regional Medical Center**
    - Lane is a recipient of full Cycle VI Chest Pain Center Accreditation with PCI (Percutaneous Coronary Intervention) from the American College of Cardiology (ACC). This accreditation indicates a higher level of expertise in treating patients who arrive with symptoms of a heart attacks as well as streamlining processes for admission, evaluation, diagnosis, treatment, discharge, and post-discharge care.
  - **Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center**
    - OLORMC is one of 23 hospitals in the country awarded the American College of Cardiology’s Heart CARE Center designation, which is a prestigious national distinction of excellence in cardiovascular patient care.

**3. Healthy Equity and Racial Disparities**

Health equity is when every person has the ability to be their healthiest self, no matter their gender, race, sexual orientation, the zip code they live in, or their status in a community. Health disparities based on race are one of the more common barriers to reaching health equity. These disparities are reflected in differences in length of life; quality of life; rate of disease, disability and deaths; and access to healthcare. According to a US News & World report’s, EBRP has a health equity score of 30 out of 100 <sup>(20)</sup> and Ascension Parish has a score of 60 <sup>(21)</sup>.

Health Equity and Racial Disparities Data				
	East Baton Rouge Parish	Ascension Parish	Louisiana	Top US Performers
Life Expectancy	76.1	79.5	76.1	81.1
Asian	87.3	89.4		
Black	73.1	76.5		
Hispanic	83.6	100+		
White	78.3	79.8		
<i>Life Expectancy measures the average number of years from birth a person can expect to live.</i>				
Children in Poverty	25%	13%	26%	10%
Asian	25%			
Black	38%	34%		
Hispanic	30%	15%		
White	5%	6%		
<i>Children in Poverty is the percentage of people under age 18 living in poverty.</i>				
Residential Segregation (Black/White)	58	43	56	23
<i>Racial/ethnic residential segregation refers to the degree to which two or more groups live separately from one another in a geographic area. 0 (complete integration) to 100 (complete segregation).</i>				
Years of Potential Life Lost Rate	10,000	7,000	9,500	5,400
Asian	3,200			
Black	13,200	8,800		
Hispanic	6,600			
White	7,700	6,900		
<i>Years of potential life lost is an estimate of the average years a person would have lived if they had not died prematurely.</i>				

Source: County Health Rankings (10) (11).

Following the outbreak of COVID-19, the world began to engage in a deeper conversation surrounding health equity and the health disparities that exist in low-income and minority communities.

Following the COVID-19 pandemic, social and racial injustice, and inequity have moved to the forefront of public conversation and public health. COVID-19 highlighted the inequities found in public health by





disproportionately impacting racial and ethnic minorities. The CDC defines the term racial and ethnic minority groups to include people of color with a wide variety of backgrounds and experiences. Negative experiences are common to many people within these groups, and varying SDOH have historically prevented them from having fair opportunities for economic, physical, and emotional health.<sup>(22)</sup>

COVID-19 Cases and Deaths by Race						
East Baton Rouge Parish						
Race	Deaths	Cases	Population (2018)	% of total Deaths	% of total Cases	% of total Population
Black	608	51,464	204,036	49.75%	50%	46%
White	588	35,300	210,236	48.12%	34.33%	47%
Other	26	7,363	29,822	2.13%	7.16%	7%
Unknown	0	8,692	N/A	0%	8.45%	
Total	1,222	102,819	444,094			
Ascension Parish						
Race	Deaths	Cases	Population (2018)	% of total Deaths	% of total Cases	% of total Population
Black	91	8,536	26,398	35.27%	26.40%	22%
White	161	19,633	88,396	62.4%	60.71%	73%
Other	6	2,153	6,382	2.33%	6.66%	5%
Unknown	0	2,017	N/A	0%	6.24%	
Total	258	32,339	121,176			

Data Reported as of 1.26.22 on Louisiana Dept. of Health Website <https://ladhh.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/4ecc2bfa2fa54b6eb5c0eccda972d203>

**Access to Care**

Increased access to healthcare is an important part of addressing health equity and racial disparities. The following are examples of how the healthcare community is increasing access to care:

- In 2020, the Mayor’s Office brought Oceans Healthcare, Capital Area Human Services (CAHS), and Ochsner Health together to revive an old vacant surgical hospital building in an underserved community in our parish.
  - Oceans Healthcare will provide inpatient hospital and group therapy outpatient services
  - CAHS will provide community-based social and mental health services.
  - Ochsner Community Health – Brees Family Center clinic will provide primary care services, and is expected to provide services to 10,000 patients within its first year of operation. The Brees Family Center provides Primary Care, Pediatrics, and Women’s Services. In addition, they provide Smoking Cessation, Laboratory and Radiology services, as well as Behavioral Health and Diabetes Education.
    - The Brees Family Center has a Community Health Worker to assist patients with behavioral health and social determinant resources.
    - Serving as a pilot site with Lyft, patients located within a 25-mile radius with transportation challenges can schedule free rides to their appointments.

**Baton Rouge General Medical Center**

- In 2020, BRG reopened their Mid-City acute care and emergency services, which increased access to care for the surrounding areas. After its first year, more than half of the patients cared for lived in the seven surrounding zip codes.

**CareSouth Medical & Dental**

- CareSouth performs outreach in zip codes that are traditionally underserved.

- In 2020, 48% of CareSouth patients were on Medicaid and 19% were uninsured.
- Open Health Care Clinic (OHCC)**
- OHCC performs outreach in zip codes that are traditionally underserved.
  - In 2020, 51% of OHCC patients were on Medicaid and 29% were uninsured.

HealthyBR partners are **working together** to address Healthy Equity and Racial Disparities in the community through:

- **Community Partnerships**
  - **BRG, Ochsner, and OLOLRMC** partnered with I-CARE to form the Community Outreach Today advisory committee, to address health disparities in schools, and to bring a broader perspective on the role of health in schools.

HealthyBR partners are working to address healthy equity and racial disparities in the community through:

**Baton Rouge General Medical Center**

- BRG created a Diversity and Inclusion Council that includes employees, nurses, and physicians from across the organization. The council enacted focus groups to learn more about the barriers for both community members and employees and created its mission to provide an inclusive work environment that celebrates the contributions of all employees.
- BRG Foundation started the Community, Access, Resources, and Education (CARE) Initiative to address health inequality and barriers to care among the hospital’s patients at Mid-City. Initiatives include addressing transportation needs, and access to medical equipment like at-home ramps, food insecurity, and help with medical bills.

**Big River Economic and Agricultural Development Alliance (BREDA)**

- BREDA operates Main Street Market, a public marketplace in downtown Baton Rouge that is open six days a week. Of the eight permanent Main Street Market vendors, six are woman- or minority-owned businesses.

**Lane Regional Medical Center**

- Lane is a training site for student nurses and heavily recruits graduating nurses from historically black colleges, such as Southern University.
- Lane’s Board of Commissioners has nine racially diverse members, a direct reflection of the patient base within the hospital’s service district.

**Ochsner Medical Center – Baton Rouge**

- Ochsner is committed to maintaining a diverse and inclusive environment where employees and patients feel comfortable being who they really are. Under the leadership of the Chief Diversity Officer, the Baton Rouge leadership team also includes the regional Diversity and Inclusion Director. The regional Diversity and Inclusion Director leads the development and recruitment of the diversity council and oversees the local Ochsner Resources Groups.
- Ochsner Baton Rouge has multiple active Ochsner Resources Groups, including PRIDE (LGBTQ+), ABLE (African-American Building & Leading Equality), and WoW (Women Empowering Women).
  - In 2021, Ochsner Resource Groups WoW and ABLE collaborated to hold virtual workshops on maternal health and racial health disparities in Louisiana.



- Ochsner’s Research Department, in conjunction with academic researchers at other institutions, conducted and published a study examining racial and workplace disparities in the seroprevalence of COVID-19 in Baton Rouge.
- Ochsner Health physicians and researchers published a study on hospitalization and mortality among black patients and white patients with COVID-19 in the New England Journal of Medicine.

**Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center.**

- In 2020, FMOLHS implemented an integrated health system Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Strategy to address both structural processes, relationships, and practices. As a result, a system-level DEI Council was created to create strategic accountability for results, provide governance and oversight on DEI efforts, and promote organization-wide communication in progress. The results to date are as follows:
  - FMOLHS appointed an Executive Sponsor and Accountable Leader for DEI. DEI Councils have been established within all our geographical footprints to ensure system integration and frontline team member involvement. Each council held a listening session with their Market President to share their stories
  - FMOLHS hired a DEI Integration Program Manager to focus on the integration of the efforts of the councils created across the organization and to lead the DEI Workgroups
  - FMOLHS hired a Workforce Development Specialist to manage programs and partnerships in its Outside In, Inside Up Strategy. Additionally, in Summer 2020: CHA pledge and HAN commitment signed; 700 leaders taught on DEI and unconscious bias; executive sponsor and accountable leader were named; DEI added to HR strategic plan; System council and ministry councils that were not previously established were chartered; Integrated DEI Model adopted; DEI Metric questions added to the Employee Engagement Survey.
- The OLOLRMC DEI Council has collaborated with the Mayor-President to hold a Town Hall discussion on Social Justice and Corporate Responsibility. Four workgroups were created to tackle the structural elements of DEI and to create a seamless integration into daily practices and processes.
  - The Community Workgroup leader partnered with the Clinical Research team to launch the SDOH Module in Epic to be used in both the Inpatient and Ambulatory setting.
  - The Talent Workgroup created a DEI Talent Strategy
  - The Operations workgroup worked to get the DEI Budget approved and set goals for Minority, Women, Veteran-Owned Business spend
  - The Compliance Workgroup worked to create a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion policy and is reviewing current policies through the lens of DEI Impact.



- The pediatric residency program at OLOLRMC has a diversity, equity, and inclusion committee.
- Health Care Centers in Schools provides high quality, culturally sensitive healthcare to underserved communities at clinics located at 7 schools throughout EBRP.
- 340B has been instrumental in supporting programs and services for people in high need areas. 340B savings allows the hospital to provide low-cost or free drugs to qualifying patients in five retail pharmacies spread across its service area. Also, uninsured or underinsured patients needing costly infusion therapy drugs for cancer and other life-threatening diseases can receive affordable treatment at OLOLRMC. 340B also provides flexible resources to meet immediate needs. For example, 340B savings provides support for the mobile buses providing COVID-19 vaccines.
- The hospital is a sponsor of the Walls Project, a local initiative working toward city beautification and economic development. The initiative provides a Tech Academy that trains high school students and adults in programming and other career technology skills.

**Pennington Biomedical Research Center**

- Peter Katzmarzyk, Ph.D., FACSM, FAHA, FTOS published his findings in September 2020, for the **Promoting Successful Weight Loss in Primary Care in Louisiana (PROPEL)** in The New England Journal of Medicine. The program partnered with 18 primary care clinics that had patients who were part of a low-income population with a high percentage of Black residents from both urban and rural areas across Louisiana. This population was selected as they traditionally face the most barriers to weight loss and the highest levels of obesity. The study looked at traditional weight loss care provided by primary care, compared to an intervention that included a coaching program. The health coaches and doctors set up treatment plans tailored to participants and their community culture and resources.
  - The study found that patients enrolled in a tailored obesity intervention program lost more weight than counterparts who received traditional care and that the plans helped participants establish the skills needed for long-term weight loss success, such as healthy eating habits.
- Woman’s Hospital (Woman’s)**
- Woman’s hired a Diversity and Inclusion consultant, Katrice Albert, PhD, to provide guidance to Woman’s leadership team on updates to organizational policies and to help develop programs that foster a greater culture of inclusion.
  - The Foundation for Woman’s “Patient Support Fund” assists patients experiencing financial hardship by providing transportation to medical appointments, purchasing discharge medications, providing a safe sleep space or car seat for a newborn, and other support based on each patient’s individual needs.



## 4. Healthy Living/Lifestyle

In 2018, Monique Tello, MD, MPH, wrote a blog in Harvard Health Publishing titled, "Healthy lifestyles: 5 keys to a longer life".<sup>(23)</sup> In her work, Dr. Tello cites a study titled, "The Impact of Healthy Lifestyle Factors on Life Expectancy in the US Population".<sup>(24)</sup>

The study identifies five areas that have a large impact on a person's risk of premature death:

- **Healthy diet**, which was calculated and rated based on the reported intake of healthy foods like vegetables, fruits, nuts, whole grains, healthy fats, and omega-3 fatty acids, and unhealthy foods like red and processed meats, sugar-sweetened beverages, trans fat, and sodium.
- **Healthy physical activity level**, which was measured as at least 30 minutes per day of moderate to vigorous activity daily.
- **Healthy body weight**, defined as a normal body mass index (BMI), which is between 18.5 and 24.9.
- **Smoking**, which is defined as never having smoked.
- **Moderate alcohol intake**, which was measured as between 5 and 15 grams per day for women, and 5 to 30 grams per day for men. Generally, one drink contains about 14 grams of pure alcohol. That is 12 ounces of regular beer, 5 ounces of wine, or 1.5 ounces of distilled spirits.

The research found when people met all five habits, women lived 14 years longer and men lived 12 years longer if they practiced these habits at age 50. People who had none of these habits were far more likely to die prematurely from cancer or cardiovascular disease. The research also calculated the life expectancy of a person if they had just one of the healthy habits (it did not matter which one). The study found having just one of the healthy habits increased life expectancy increased by two years for both men and women.

Healthy Lifestyle Data				
	EBRP	AP	Louisiana	Top US Performer
Food Environment Index	7.0	7.9	8.7	5.2
Food Insecurity	14%	11%	16%	9%
Physical Inactivity	27%	25%	28%	19%
Adults 20+ who are Obese (25)	11.9%	12.6%	12.6%	8.5%*
Adult Smoking	19%	20%	21%	16%
Excessive drinking	18%	20%	20%	15%
Excessive drinking	18%	20%	20%	15%

Source: County Health Rankings (10) (11)  
\* National %

### Nutrition/Food Access

#### Food Insecurity

The USDA defines food insecurity as a lack of access to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members. In EBRP:

- 1 in 7 individuals and 1 in 5 children are food insecure
- Of the 64,120 food insecure individuals in EBRP, 33.2% are not eligible for most Federal Nutrition programs

- More than 70,000 people in Baton Rouge live in "food deserts" with even more living in "food swamps" where fast food is available and affordable, but fresh food often is not.
  - Food deserts are defined as urban low-income census tracts with more than one mile from a supermarket.

This shapes the health outcomes of residents within these regions of our community. They experience disproportionately high rates of chronic diseases like obesity, diabetes, and heart disease.

#### Addressing Food Insecurity and Food Deserts

In 2019, HealthyBR launched **Geaux Get Healthy** (GGH) through co-funding by the Humana Foundation and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation. GGH is a program aimed at increasing equitable access to affordable fresh food and the educational resources to live a healthy life. We do this by leading and supporting a coalition of organizations that produce and distribute fresh food and by providing educational opportunities that connect community members with resources to improve both their food security and overall health.

In its first year, the program focused on zip code 70805. This zip code was chosen based on its CNI score, the density of population, and lack of locations to purchase fresh and affordable food.

In its first year, GGH funded:

- Top Box Foods, a grocery delivery service that was previously operating in New Orleans, Louisiana
- The Walls Project, which established Baton Roots Community Farm at Howell Park

In year two, GGH expanded to include six additional high need zip codes in EBRP based on their CNI score and availability of fresh affordable food. They were: 70802, 70806, 70807, 70811, 70812, and 70815. In addition, GGH added the following funded partners in year 2:

- The American Heart Association (AHA) who provides food literacy, nutrition, and provide community cooking demos



- OLOLRMC/LSU Health North Clinic who worked with HealthyBR to co-create a wellness program in the clinic that includes: Cooking classes, fresh food tours, and classes with a nutritionist provided in partnership with AHA
- In year three, GGH selected nine additional community-based organizations to expand its reach across the community. A Kingdom Connection Changing Lives
  - Perfectly Suited
  - Scotland Saturdays
  - Scotlandville Community Development Corp
  - Baton Rouge Garden Alliance
  - Sweet Jones Farms
  - Cofé Concepts, LLC
  - Front Yard Bikes
  - YMCA of the Capital Area

In 2022, GGH was awarded the fourth year of funding from Humana Foundation and project evaluation support from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation. In Year 4, GGH will build on previous years' work to support system-level change by:

- Leading a collaborative gap analysis to evaluate a food hub model for further improving access to affordable, fresh food and building local food culture infrastructure;
- Creating a centralized, city-wide community gardening program to ensure the sustainability of existing and new community garden assets; and
- Institutionalizing existing GGH programs within partner organizations including Community Wellness Programs, Community Garden Volunteer Certification, and in-school Wellness Programs.

Since January 2019, the GGH coalition has collectively:

- Reached more than 38,000 community members to ask about their lived experience with food insecurity and to connect them with GGH program resources and health information;
- Surveyed 2,466 people about their food security and overall health.
- Grown more than 32,178 pounds of produce;
- Distributed 221,784 pounds of fresh food;
- Provided more than 350 education experiences - cooking demos, cooking classes, grocery store tours, and virtual learning experiences.

HealthyBR partners are **working together** to address healthy living/lifestyles in our community through nutrition education and food access:



- **BRG** partners with the **YMCA** to offer members free and reduced nutrition consultations, including Nutrition Boot camp.
- **BREC** partnered with **The Walls Project** to dedicate four acres of land in Howell Park for the establishment of an urban farm as a part of **HealthyBR's** GGH Program.
- **OLOLRMC** sponsors **BREADA's** operation of the Red Stick Mobile Farmers Market located at the ExxonMobil YMCA, in North Baton Rouge.

HealthyBR partners are working to address healthy living/lifestyles in our community through nutrition education and food access:

#### **Baton Rouge General**

- BRG partners with Rouses Market to offer monthly grocery store tours where attendees learn how to choose fresh, healthy foods while also understanding how to read nutrition labels. Dietitians also share tips on how to plan meals, create a shopping list and prepare healthy dishes with custom recipes.
  - During the COVID-19 pandemic, BRG created virtual tours to continue to make education accessible to the community.

#### **Big River Economic and Agricultural Development Alliance (BREADA)**

- BREADA was founded in 1996 and hosts up to four weekly mobile Red Stick Farmers Markets. BREADA also operates Main Street Market, a public marketplace in downtown Baton Rouge that is open six days a week. Red Stick Farmers Market (RSFM) and Main Street Market support more than 45 local Louisiana farmers and fishers, 35 local food artisan businesses, and 6 local restaurants from 14 different parishes across the state.
- BREADA has been a SNAP-approved market for more than 10 years. All market locations not only accept SNAP benefits, but the Red Stick Rewards program also matches—dollar for dollar—every SNAP purchase up to \$15, doubling a family's buying power for fresh, healthy food.
  - In 2020, more than \$25,000 of SNAP/Red Stick Rewards were spent at Red Stick Farmers Markets.
- RSFM also accepts WIC (Women, Infants, Children) and (SFMNP) Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program vouchers that assist low-income seniors and pregnant and nursing people.
  - In 2020, 877 seniors received \$20 farmer's market coupons to shop for fresh fruits and vegetables, which resulted in a 61% redemption rate. BREADA works with the WIC office to host representatives at farmer's markets to encourage low-income mothers to shop for fresh, healthy foods. This partnership has increased WIC redemption rates.

#### **Family Road of Greater Baton Rouge (FRGBR)**

- Family Road of Greater Baton Rouge provides nutrition classes weekly with LSU Cooperative Extension and Agriculture Center.
  - Between February and December 2021, 30 people attended the nutrition classes.
- Provided 85 Thanksgiving dinners to families in need in partnership with BRC, Kean Miller, LLP, SB Wellness Group, TWRU, and private donors.
- Between February and December 2021, FRGBR provided more than 250 containers of formula for infants.

#### **Lane Regional Medical Center**

- Lane provides healthy eating education and recipes through monthly e-newsletters, social media posts, group classes, and website blogs.
- Lane hosts a monthly Food Addicts support group.

#### **LSU and Southern University Ag Centers**

- The SNAP-ed Program at the Southern University Ag Center is designed to work with participants that receive SNAP benefits or who are eligible for SNAP.
  - 893 youth participate in nutrition education
  - 20 youth participate in the gardening program to increase fruit and vegetable consumption and accessibility
  - 1,347 adult participants monthly at Senior/Commodity Sites received nutrition education

- 370 adult participants monthly at adult shelters received nutrition education
- 2,436 views of the Facebook Live Series on the following topics:
  - Healthiest Vegetables
  - 7 Types of Nutrients
  - Physical Activities During Colder Months
  - 4 Types of Food to Support Memory
  - Incorporating MyPlate 5 Food Groups into Meals

• Engaged 12 youth in community gardening at GEO Prep Mid-City School.

#### **Ochsner Medical Center – Baton Rouge**

- Ochsner Health's Eat Fit program is a nonprofit initiative designed to help the community live their healthiest, strongest lives possible. The team of Eat Fit dietitians works closely with local restaurants, markets, and other foodservice establishments to identify and develop dishes that meet the Eat Fit nutritional criteria.
  - Eat Fit BR currently has 93 partners, including restaurants and grocery stores/markets. Across the state, there are more than 500 partners.
- In 2018, the Eat Fit app was launched for smartphones, allowing users to find participating Eat Fit restaurants with full nutrition facts of Eat Fit menu items, as well as recipes, shopping guides, community wellness resources, and connections with health professional. To date, this app has been downloaded more than 11,000 times.
- Other community outreach since 2018 includes more than 85 community wellness events and 32 nutritional presentations across the state of Louisiana.
- Each year, the Eat Fit team encourages the community to participate in the AFF40 (Alcohol-Free 40 days) challenge by giving up alcohol from Ash Wednesday to Easter. The Eat Fit team provides participants with pre-and post-challenge metrics to identify the impact that 40 days alcohol-free has on the body. Metrics include bloodwork, body composition, before and after pictures, and blood pressure measurement. In 2021, AFF40 had 96 participants from the Baton Rouge area, and 86 completed the program. The Eat Fit team provides resources throughout the challenge including Mindful Monday seminars, Happy Hour Workouts, and a Facebook support group.
- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Eat Fit team launched the Eat Fit YouTube channel providing healthy cooking videos to encourage the community to cook healthy at home. Monthly informational Zoom meetings were offered to all Eat Fit partners to increase partner morale and collaboration. Topics included: COVID-19 Response, Diversity, and Social Media Planning.

#### **Pennington Biomedical Research Center**

- Pennington dietitians held monthly Rolling Store Cooking Demonstrations in 12 low-income neighborhoods. The dietitians used nutrition research to make it easier for people to incorporate fruits and vegetables into their diets. Staff showed community members easily prepared and inexpensive dishes with fruits and vegetables, offered tips on buying seasonally to get the best prices, and explained how to use SNAP benefits to stretch budgets further.

- Through 12 events, Pennington served 616 participants

#### **Woman's Hospital (Woman's)**

- Woman's offers grocery tours, cooking classes, and nutrition education free of charge to the



community. Woman's social media includes links to healthy recipes and blogs on nutrition education.

#### **YMCA of the Capital Area**

- YMCA partnered with the Three O'Clock Project to provide 44,000 healthy snacks and meals to Summer Campers at no cost to families.
- YMCA hosted multiple food share events and helped to distribute more than 27,500 pounds of food in 2021. YMCA hosted an end of the year food drive and collected more than 1,000 pounds of food to donate to the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank.

### **Obesity/Wellness**

HealthyBR partners are working to address obesity and wellness in our community through:

#### **American Heart Association**

- AHA has a workplace health achievement index where it recognizes employers for their commitment to a culture of health. The Baton Rouge companies honored are :
  - AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana
  - Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady Health System
  - Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center
  - Our Lady of the Lake – Ascension
  - Woman's Hospital
- Since 2018, AHA has provided more than 40 Lunch & Learns on cardiovascular-related topics to local companies.

#### **Baton Rouge General Medical Center**

- In 2019, BRG launched its Living Lean Weight Management program which is designed to address the physical, emotional, and mental barriers of weight loss. The program includes monthly consultations with a nurse practitioner or physician's assistant and bi-weekly consultations with a registered dietitian to help patients not only lose weight but sustain long-term results.
- BRG began a series of free wellness screenings aimed at seniors age 65 and older. The screenings include blood pressure, cholesterol, and glucose, as well as balance assessments, cognitive memory assessments, grip strength, and hearing tests.
  - Approximately 150 seniors have been screened.

#### **BREC (Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge)**

- BREC offers SB Wellness program to all of its 1,000+ full-time employees each year. The program targets obesity through regular screening and one-on-one coaching. Out of 280 participants who participated in both the 2019 and 2020 programs, 135 lost weight, 89 lowered their waist circumference, and 41 maintained their weight.

#### **CareSouth Medical & Dental**

- CareSouth screens all patients for BMI and refers them to a clinical pharmacist for nutritional counseling.

#### **Lane Regional Medical Center**

- Lane conducts and coordinates free heart health screenings, education, on-site flu shots, weight loss, and walking challenges to promote healthy behaviors at work for local schools and businesses.

#### **Ochsner Medical Center – Baton Rouge**

- Ochsner's Corporate Wellness opened the Baton Rouge location in August 2018. Corporate Wellness provides Biometric Screenings in the workplace in order to identify risk factors, educate on diet and lifestyle to improve health and connect participants to primary care services.
  - In 2019, the Baton Rouge Corporate Wellness Team held 120 health fairs, 30 flu fairs, and connected 215 new patients to primary care services.
  - In 2021, Baton Rouge's Corporate Wellness hosted 61 Biometric Screening Health Fairs, caring for nearly 1,700 participants to date.

- Ochsner Connected Wellness, is a lifestyle medicine program created by local Obstetrician-Gynecologist, Ewelina Griffin, MD, in 2020. This program complements each patient's general health maintenance with Primary Care. If a participant does not have a primary care provider (PCP), an Ochsner PCP will be established, serving as a gateway to care. It is designed to have groups of patient participants move through a multi-week program teaching them the tools for optimizing health. Topics include nutrition, fitness, stress management, sleep science, and mental health. In addition, patients get a one-hour 1:1 session with a registered dietitian for an individualized nutrition plan, weekly links to an exercise program, and another 1:1 one-hour visit with a medical provider for a holistic health assessment. This model not only provides education but allows patients access to specialty and subspecialty referrals based on the patient's individual barriers to incorporating lifestyle changes.

#### Open Health Care Clinic

- Open Health Care Clinic screens all patients for BMI and refers to services such as LSU Health Baton Rouge Nutrition Therapy to address weight management.

#### Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center

- OLOLRMC Children's Hospital opened its Children's Hospital Healthy Weight Clinic in 2021. The goal of the clinic is to offer help before weight causes long-term health problems and to prevent and treat complications such as diabetes and high blood pressure. Patients meet with a pediatrician certified in pediatric obesity medicine, a dietitian, and other specialists as needed. Patients receive specialized care and support to create healthy habits that will last a lifetime.
- In 2020, OLOLRMC with LPG and Pennington combined expertise in world-class research, medical, surgical, and behavioral interventions to partner in launching the Bariatric and Metabolic Institute (BMI) on the Pennington Biomedical campus. The newly constructed 15,000 square-foot outpatient clinic facility, which opened October 2021 is a state-of-the-art metabolic disease treatment institute designed to accommodate patients with all degrees of obesity and metabolic disease including extreme obesity and complex comorbid conditions under one roof.
- The multidisciplinary team including obesity medicine, bariatric psychology, bariatric nutrition specialists, and bariatric surgeons work collaboratively utilizing evidence-based care pathways and a variety of treatment approaches. These treatments include lifestyle interventions, medication and combination therapies, and surgical procedures performed at OLOLRMC, Baton Rouge, and Our Lady of the Lake Ascension, Gonzales. Both campuses are accredited by the American College of Surgeons Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Accreditation and Quality Improvement Program (MBSAQIP) as Comprehensive Centers meeting the highest standards for patient safety and quality of care.



- Patients are provided ongoing support, coaching, and other tools and techniques including a library of patient-centric educational material authored by BMI staff regarding pre and post-operative nutrition, physical activity, medical optimization, and mental health to aid in the achievement of health goals and continued weight loss journey.
- Healthy Lives (HL) provides Health Assessment and Screening to local employers.
  - Level 1 provides a turnkey health-risk assessment and on-site screening from our fully-trained staff, which is convenient and efficient. Employees receive their results at the time of screening, including a detailed, confidential, individual health-risk report and one-on-one health coaching session. While individual information is confidential, the overall information provides a health risk profile for the company's workforce. Employers receive an aggregate report that identifies the health conditions posing the highest risk to the organization's members, today and in the future.
  - Level 2 provides screening and worksite wellness assessment. The Healthy Lives team works with employers to understand the company's culture and unique issues. Employers receive a detailed workplace assessment profile. Healthy Lives provides a tailored wellness plan and policy recommendations to support healthier behaviors for employees. Strategies are implemented to achieve specific health goals.
  - Level 3 provides screening, wellness services, and wellness coaching. Employees receive the ultimate support and accountability through health coaching. Health coaches are registered nurses, registered dietitians, or certified health coaches. All are certified and trained in motivational interviewing. Health coaches work with members in person, on the phone, by video conference, and electronically. This personalized support helps individuals set realistic paths to lead healthier lives.
- Healthy Lives also offers innovative programs such as Farm to Work and the Living Well Seminar Series to supplement and energize wellness efforts. The Healthy Lives team works with area farmers to bring employees easy and affordable access to fresh produce with convenient and online registration and payment options. Healthy Lives also provides affordable onsite health and wellness education utilizing a team of professional speakers, including registered dietitians, registered nurses, and exercise specialists. Topics include nutrition, fitness, and developing healthy habits.

#### Pennington Biomedical Research Center

- In 2021, Pennington Biomedical architected Obesity, USA, a global awareness and advocacy campaign to help solve the obesity epidemic by 2040. The campaign created a fictional city whose residents face a real and growing health crisis. Pennington Biomedical hopes to end the stigma surrounding obesity by dispelling the many myths about the disease and to arm individuals and communities with evidence-based research to help them lead longer, healthier lives.
- Pennington Biomedical combined expertise in research, surgery, and behavioral interventions under one roof to create advanced treatments for obesity and diabetes. The Research Center assembled a world-class team of scientists, surgeons, physicians, nurses, and psychologists to help patients achieve their health goals. The program uses a variety of approaches to help people improve their health and feel better. The program provides participants tools and techniques they need to change their lives as well as surgical procedures resulting in the loss of 75% to 80% of excess weight.
- Pennington Biomedical launched Healthy Beginnings, a three-year study designed to improve lifestyle habits and promote healthy weight gain for low-income mothers during pregnancy. Gaining too little or too much weight in pregnancy increases the risks for heart disease and Type 2 diabetes in the mother and child. The study's findings could help break the transmission of obesity from moms to babies.
- Pennington Biomedical discovered a chemical compound named BAM15. This compound acts as an energy uncoupler and could be an effective drug for treating obesity and related diseases. BAM15 differs from the existing weight-management medications, which largely work by reducing the amount of food a person eats or the calories their bodies absorb. BAM15 works by making the mitochondria, the power plants of the cell, less efficient. The

result is that the mitochondria burn more energy. Researchers believe BAM15 could be used to treat a number of health conditions, including diabetes, fatty liver disease, and some forms of cancer.

#### Well-Ahead Louisiana (Well Ahead)

- WellSpots are spaces and places in Louisiana that voluntarily implement healthy changes in their environment to help their employees and community live well. These changes lead to healthier employees, students, hospitals, and medical environments. These changes lead to healthier, happier employees, who miss less work and are more productive, healthier students who are better learners, and healthier hospital and medical environments that can improve patient outcomes. They also help to prevent or delay the effects of the chronic conditions affecting many residents in Great Baton Rouge.
  - There are more than 3,000 WellSpots in the state, with 462 in EBRP and 42 in AP.
- Woman's Hospital (Woman's)**
- Grant funding by the Foundation for Woman's and partnership with Rouses Market and Family Road of Baton Rouge, Woman's provided 100 food boxes, recipes, and simple cooking videos to those experiencing food insecurities.
- Woman's launched Balance® program in 2016 that utilizes registered dietitians, fitness specialists, and health coaches to provide nutrition, fitness, and accountability to participants.

#### YMCA of the Capital Area

- BRG partnered with YMCA to provide diabetes screenings reaching more than 70 people in 2021.
- YMCA of the Capital Area offers individual and group nutritional education regarding prediabetes and diabetes with a registered dietitian.

### Physical Fitness

HealthyBR partners are working to address physical fitness in our community through

#### Baton Rouge General Medical Center

- BRG hosts an annual 5k and 1-mile fun run, "Hustle for your Health", at its Bluebonnet campus with an average attendance of 150 participants.

#### BREC (Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge)

- BREC currently has 65 miles of trails across EBRP for free use by residents for walking, jogging, and biking. Through the bicycle/pedestrian master plan, BREC will continue to work with the City-Parish to implement all 400+ miles of trails in the plan to provide parish citizens with safe and connected ways to move around the parish.
- BREC is the largest landowner in EBRP and currently manages more than 6,600 acres of green space, some containing various recreational amenities, including 175 parks, 54 recreation centers, 9 nature conservation areas, 9 adult leisure centers, 213 basketball courts, 227 athletic fields, 5 golf courses, 2 boxing centers, 4 disc golf courses, 17 outdoor fitness courts, 7 splash pads, 102 lake acres, 4 boat launches, and much more available to the public free of charge for physical activity. BREC is also actively seeking more green space to make



available to residents with a vision for all urban residents to be within a 10-minute walk to a park or green space by the year 2050.

#### Lane Regional Medical Center

- Lane conducts several walking programs on its fitness trail, including Walk with a Doc and Walk with the Mayor, as well as establishing walking and fitness challenges for area businesses.

#### Ochsner Medical Center – Baton Rouge

- Ochsner offers walking/biking paths at its hospital locations:
  - The path at the Ochsner Medical Center – Baton Rouge campus is a half-mile loop that includes a trail with accompanying fitness equipment stations.
  - The path at Ochsner Medical Complex – The Grove is owned by BREC, but Ochsner Health financially contributed to the completion of the path. Ochsner Medical Complex - Iberville also has a walking path maintained by Iberville Parish.

#### Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center

- OLOLRMC has AHA-approved walking paths on four of its campuses, all available for community use.
- OLOLRMC offers a fully equipped Health Center to team members, vendors, and cardio-rehab patients. The Health Center consists of three exercise areas: cardiovascular area with treadmills, bikes, Adaptive Motion Trainer ellipticals. A second area is made up of 17 weight machine stations to complete exercises. The third area is the free weight section with barbells, dumbbells, benches, and other equipment.
- OLOLRMC hosts an annual Half Marathon boosted as south Louisiana's most AMAZING family running event. All of the AMAZING races (The Kids' Mini Marathon, 5K, and Half Marathon) are great for seasoned and beginner runners of all ages. The race is an extension of the vision to create a healthier Louisiana through teaching families healthy habits.

#### Woman's Hospital (Woman's)

- Woman's offers Walk with Ease, a free program provided in conjunction with the National Arthritis Foundation for anyone who suffers from arthritis.
- Woman's offers online virtual fitness including a virtual Fit for Birth workout for prenatal women.

### Smoking Cessation

HealthyBR partners are **working together** to address smoking in our community through:

- The **smoke-free EBR coalition** which is composed of the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, the American Lung Association in Louisiana, the **American Heart Association**, Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights, the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, the **Louisiana Campaign for Tobacco-Free Living (TFL)**, the Louisiana Cultural Economy Foundation, HealthyBR and numerous other local and national organizations.
- The Communities of Color (CoC) Network is a joint initiative created by the **Louisiana Campaign for Tobacco Free Living, LDH**, and Hospitals Tobacco Control Program. Facilitated by the Southern University Agriculture Research and Extension Center, the CoC aims to eliminate tobacco-related health disparities in vulnerable populations with a focus on African-Americans, low socioeconomic communities, and LGBT individuals. CoC provides support and technical assistance to ensure members of these communities affected by health disparities are well-informed about the dangers of tobacco and are prepared to act to protect themselves from unhealthy exposure. The CoC Network builds capacity by coordinating, organizing, and implementing tobacco prevention, control programs, and



activities to offset these health disparities in Louisiana. In 2019 and 2020, the CoC has:

- Engaged **57 churches** with outreach events and introduced the Smoke-Free Church Curriculum
- **9 churches** passed smoke-free policies
- Hosted 409 events, including tabling, in-person presentations, virtual presentations, community, and college campus events and programs, and reached more than 20,000 people
- Established new partnerships and provided tobacco education to 88 Black owned businesses
- Enrolled 208 Black in the Smoking Cessation Trust

HealthyBR community partners are working to address smoking in our community through:

#### **Baton Rouge General Medical Center**

- BRG incorporates their Smoking Cessation Trust resources into the Lung Screening Clinic to further decrease the risk of lung cancer for current smokers.

#### **I-CARE**

- The I-CARE Program provides prevention education to students in public, parochial, and private schools in the areas of alcohol, tobacco, other drugs, violence, crisis response, and management. I-CARE equips students for a healthy, safe, and drug-free future.
  - I-CARE works with Well Ahead, LSU Ag, OLOL Children's Hospital, OLOLRMC Health Centers in Schools, and BRG Tobacco Prevention program to combat vaping and tobacco use in the EBRP schools and community.
  - A "KICK BUTTS" campaign takes place yearly in November and March.

#### **Lane Regional Medical Center**

- Lane offers free on-site and telemedicine smoking cessation programs to local businesses in partnership with the Cardiovascular Institute of the South.

#### **Ochsner Medical Center – Baton Rouge**

- Ochsner Smoking Cessation clinics offer services to patients to help stop smoking or vaping. Partnering with the Smoking Cessation Trust, patients have access to free counseling to make a healthy lifestyle change. Smoking Cessation clinics are available at Ochsner Medical Complex – The Grove, Ochsner Health Center – O'Neal, Ochsner Medical Complex – Iberville, Ochsner Health Center – Denham Springs, and Ochsner Community Health – Brees Family Center. In 2020, nearly 600 patients participated in the program with more than 3,300 total visits, and an overall quit rate of 30.8%.

#### **Open Health Care Clinic**

- Open Health offers patient education and/or referrals to smoking cessation programs.

#### **Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center**

- OLOLRMC's smoking cessation program has served more than 3,000 patients, which includes more than 1,200 patients since 2020. The program is offered at the following clinics; Baton Rouge OLOLRMC, Lake Livingston, OLOLRMC Ascension, and PCH New Roads.
  - 99% of OLOLRMC team members who report they smoke are referred to the tobacco cessation program for assistance.
  - Services are provided to addiction programs in the Baton Rouge and Gonzales area.
  - Adapting to the environment, the OLOLRMC Smoking Cessation program added a focus on vaping to its comprehensive management of tobacco cessation.

#### **Well-Ahead Louisiana (Well Ahead)**

- Well Ahead Tobacco Cessation and Prevention programming support the Louisiana Tobacco Quitline (1-800-QUIT-NOW) and quitwithusla.com. The Louisiana Quitline provides up to two weeks of nicotine replacement therapy and up to 10 phone counseling sessions to all Louisiana residents who call 1-800-QUIT-NOW or visit Quitwithusla.com.
  - In FY 2020, 352 Greater Baton Rouge residents (303 EBR/49 Ascension) called 1-800-QUIT-NOW.

## Children and Youth

HealthyBR community partners are **working together** to address healthy living/lifestyles of children and youth in our community through:

- **BRG** partners with the **YMCA** to host a summer camp for more than 500 kids each summer.
  - BRG's dietitians and fitness team work with the kids on a range of healthy living topics, including building a healthy plate, snacking, and daily activity versus screen time.
- **BREC** partners with the **YMCA** to offer affordable swimming lessons through the summer.
  - In 2021, the YMCA provided 500 free swimming lessons.
- Through **Pennington's** Translational Research Clinic for Children, researchers at Pennington focus on childhood obesity. This center opened in 2014 and is dedicated to the study of pediatric obesity and diabetes through onsite clinical and population-based research.
  - Pennington investigators partnered with **HealthyBR** on a study examining preschool children's physical activity and screen time. The goal is to identify community strategies to improve young children's behaviors to prevent obesity.
  - **Woman's Hospital's** Child Development Center partnered with Pennington on the previously mentioned study and other related studies to evaluate the causes of obesity in preschool-aged children.

HealthyBR community partners are working to address healthy living/lifestyles of children and youth in our community through:

#### **BREC (Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge)**

- BREC offers hundreds of different types of recreational programs and facilities for children of all ages and abilities throughout the parish each year with recorded registration and attendance of more than 1.5 million in an average year.
  - Program areas include sports and adventure, arts and culture, health and wellness, science and nature, aquatics, adaptive recreation, leisure events, camps, and more.
  - Most notably, BREC's summer camp programs keep children engaged and active through the summer.
    - In 2021, approximately 8,000 summer camp spots were filled, with \$51,000 in scholarships provided to children in low-income families by generous partners and donors in the community. Special facilities, which all offer subsidized rates, include BREC's Baton Rouge Zoo, Liberty Lagoon Waterpark, Bluebonnet Swamp Nature Center, Independence Theater, and Magnolia Mound Historic and Cultural Center.
- BREC partners with the Greater Baton Rouge Area Kids Fore Golf Foundation to offer the First Tee Program to youth in schools and on BREC's golf courses. The program teaches children crucial life skills through the game of golf.
  - In 2021, approximately 320 kids participated in the program.
- BREC partners with Baton Rouge Soccer Association to provide recreational and competitive soccer opportunities to youth in EBRP at BREC parks.
  - The program serves approximately 5,000 recreational players and approximately 800 competitive players each year.





**Big River Economic and Agricultural Development Alliance (BREDA)**

- BREDA's Red Stick Sprouts nutrition incentive program encourages kids to learn about their local food system through the farmer's market experience. Each time a child ages 2-12 visits the market, they can receive \$2 in Sprouts tokens to make healthy decisions about what they eat by spending their own market tokens. More than 2,000 local children have joined the Sprouts program.
- A school garden project at Ryan Elementary School in North Baton Rouge emphasizes both healthy eating and the science of gardening for third-grade students. Kids get to participate in the planting, growing, and harvesting process, and get to taste the foods they grew which are often new to them. A portable teaching kitchen, the Charlie Cart, allows BREDA to host classes for up to 30 school children at a time, exposing them to interactive cooking lessons and integrating math and science concepts from the classroom into fun outdoor activities.

**I-CARE**

- I-CARE facilitated and connected local health educators, doctors, residents, and nurses to students who requested nutrition and health information throughout the year and also to parents who needed wrap-around type services.
  - Individual needs were assessed through direct student referrals with more than 600 students being connected to services in 2021.
- Roughly 400 students at four local schools received direct ongoing weekly sessions. All schools in the East Baton Rouge Public School System, about 40,000 students, had access to this information virtually or in person. The prevention education topics were:
  - Alcohol Prevention
  - Drug Prevention
  - Healthy Coping Skills and Stress Management Coping Skills
  - Mindfulness Techniques for Students and Families
  - Nutrition and Hygiene - educational session provided by external partners such as Southern University Nursing Department and Health Centers in Schools upon request

**LSU and Southern University Agricultural Centers**

- The Expanded Nutrition and Education Program (EFNEP) works with limited resource audiences that have children under the age of 19.
  - The program consisted of the following topics:
    - The Food Groups/MyPlate
    - Physical Activity
    - Food Safety
    - Food Resource Management
  - A total of 225 participants representing families in EBRP completed the program.
    - 98% (220 of 225) of participants showed improvement in one or more diet quality indicators (i.e., eating fruits, vegetables, red and orange vegetables, dark green vegetables, drinking less non-diet-soda, drinking less fruit punch, fruit drinks, sweet tea, or sports drinks, and cooking dinner at home).
    - 86% (194 of 225) of participants showed improvement in one or more physical activity behaviors (i.e., exercising for at least 30 minutes a day, doing workouts to build and strengthen muscles, or making small changes to be more active).
    - 80% (181 of 225) of participants showed improvement in one or more



food safety practices (i.e., washing hands before preparing food, washing all items and surfaces after cutting raw meat or seafood, not thawing frozen food at room temperature, or using a meat thermometer).

- 71% (160 of 225) of participants showed improvement in one or more food security indicators (i.e., not eating less than you wanted so there was more food for your family or having enough money to get food for your family).
- The Expanded Food and Nutrition Program (EFNEP) worked with youth at 12 schools, three afterschool programs, and spring and summer camps (Gardere Initiative and BREC respectively). Summary data indicated the following:
  - 2,023 School Enrichment youth were provided nutrition education
  - 31 youth at afterschool programs
  - 25 youth at Spring Camp (Gardere)
  - 288 youth at Summer Camp (BREC)

**Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center**

- The 5210+10 message and curriculum were developed by HealthyBR and the Our Lady of the Lake Children's Hospital along with other area hospitals. This message about healthy eating and active living for children and teens teaches five servings of fruits and vegetables, two hours or less of recreational screen time, one hour or more of physical activity, no sweetened drinks, and 10 hours of sleep for children each day. The curriculum is taught in clinics, camps, and community outreach events.
- Health Care Centers in Schools (HCCS) supports summer well check events at school-based clinics partnering with Healthy Blue and plans to get students up to date on well checks and vaccinations.
- HCCS works with multiple insurance companies to offer opportunities for well checks and vaccinations. Additionally, HCCS works with insurance companies to coordinate transportation and offer comprehensive services on site for the day, including vaccinations and behavioral health services. HCCS links kids to care at their respective schools or through LPG with a pediatric provider.

**Pennington Biomedical Research Center**

- Pennington partnered with the Louisiana Department of Education's Division of Nutrition Support in 2015 to launch the Louisiana Fit Kids project to strengthen Louisiana's child nutrition programs, helping bolster academic achievement and children's success through a variety of key initiatives, including:
  - Supporting schools in implementing the updated meal patterns and nutrition standards set by the federal Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act; ensuring students are offered fruits and vegetables every day; substantially increasing offerings of whole grain-rich foods, and offering only fat-free or low-fat milk varieties.
  - Developing an interactive Louisiana Department of Education Child Nutrition Programs website.
  - Generating an assessment of Louisiana schools to determine training needs and technical assistance requirements, helping to set priorities for future action and will allocate resources where they are most needed.

**The Safety Place**

- The Safety Place's Stroll into Safety Program educates children, caregivers and community



members about the importance of pedestrian and bicyclist skills; the rules of the road; personal safety, improving health and environmental conditions. This program is designed to bring attention to bike and pedestrian safety issues in the Greater Baton Rouge Area to create safer, and more bike/pedestrian-friendly communities. The program offers the following programs:

- **Stroll into Safety Classroom Lessons:** Program and lessons will teach students the benefits of walking and/or biking and how to do so safely. Bike and ped safety messages tie into the elementary school curriculum, justifying its relation to the educational subject matter and state education standards.
- **Safety Town:** This hands-on learning adventure is designed for children grades K-2nd to practice "Safe Routes" through Safety Town. The curriculum teaches children how to put safety first, while having fun, staying active, and learning the rules of the road. Participants ride three-wheeled bicycles around a miniature town to learn about pedestrian and bicycle safety while mastering traffic safety rules. Participants not owning a helmet may receive a free bike helmet. Helmets must be worn to participate.
- **Bike ROADeo:** This clinic/obstacle course will help teach 3rd-5th children the importance of riding a bicycle safely, and what skills and precautions are needed to have a fun and safe experience while biking. Bike rodeos will be held in order to bring awareness to travel safety, as well as the physical and environmental benefits of traveling by bike. Rodeos will highlight and reinforce skills such as bicycle inspections, hand signals, proper helmet fit, traffic safety, handling, breaking/stopping distance, and physical fitness. Participants not owning a helmet may receive a free bike helmet. Helmets must be worn to participate.
- **Walk-A-Thon:** This extravaganza is designed to increase health and safety awareness for all ages. This event will allow families and students to walk together and enjoy valuable health and safety messages in a fun and educational manner. The event will include demonstrations, seminars, and hands-on activities, all while promoting safe walking.
- **Bike-O-Rama:** This event will model the Walk-A-Thon event while focusing on families and students biking together, all while promoting safety! During the Walk-A-Thon and Bike-O-Rama parents will learn how to teach their children to walk and bike safely. If parents feel they have been educated and have taken an active role in their children's safety education, the likelihood of allowing those children to walk or bike in the community may increase.
- **Pedestrian Parade:** This event will be held in celebration of International Walk to School Day. This event will promote safe behaviors for motorists and child pedestrians while creating safer, more walkable communities. Parents will be encouraged to walk their children to and/or from school during this safety holiday.

- In 2020, the above bike programs reached 1,139 people with 218 bike helmets distributed, 150 bike lights distributed.

- In 2021 between January and May, the above bike programs reached 808 people with 394 bike helmets distributed, 394 bike lights distributed.



### YMCA of the Capital Area

- In 2021, the YMCA hired a Director of Nutrition and Community Engagement to further their work around healthy living. This position:
  - Offers cooking demos in-house for members and out in the community.
  - Develops social media content including; cooking videos and nutritional education posts.
  - Individual counseling for general wellness and chronic disease management.
- The YMCA supports disabled Veterans with membership discounts and connectivity of services allowing them access to physical activity.
- The YMCA offers Enhance Fitness, an evidence-based group exercise program for older adults that uses simple, easy-to-learn movements motivating individuals to stay active throughout their lives.
  - 8 individuals improved their strength, balance, and flexibility.
- The YMCA's Parkinson's Program helps participants learn skills to improve strength, balance, mobility and posture.
  - 79 individuals engaged in this program.

### Policy

Below is a list of policies passed since the last CHNA:

- 2018 - EBRP Smoke-Free Ordinance
- 2018 - Telephone-CPR policy passed statewide:
  - Requires all 911 telecommunicators that provide dispatch for emergency medical conditions, be trained in the delivery of high-quality telephone CPR.
  - Telecommunicators are the true, first responders and a critical link in the cardiac arrest chain of survival. It is the telecommunicator, in partnership with the caller, who can identify a patient in cardiac arrest, providing the initial level of care by delivering telephone CPR instructions to the caller and quickly dispatching the appropriate level of help. It is through these actions the telecommunicator can make the difference between life and death.
- 2018 Fresh Food Initiative launched
  - The Metro Council approved \$1,500,000 over 3 years toward a fresh food initiative in partnership with HOPE Credit Union, HealthyBR, and the national food trust.
    - \$750,000 General Fund (\$250,000 a year for 3 years)
    - \$750,000 Community Development Block Grant
    - \$300,000 HealthyBR
- 2018 - MOVEBR
  - EBRP voters agreed to a 30-year half-cent sales tax dedicated to more complete streets. This will raise \$912 million toward more than 70 projects around the parish for bike lanes, crosswalks, sidewalks, green spaces, and other road improvements. This provides our community with more opportunities to make healthy choices.
- 2020 - Water Access in Schools
  - The EBRPSS Board voted on December 3 to improve water access in schools. The policies requires water bottle filling stations in all newly constructed schools and schools scheduled to undergo renovation, and allow children to bring their own water bottles to school. Local American Heart Association advocates advocated the school board in support of this policy.
    - The benefits of a water filling station are:
      - Water bottle filling stations, paired with students' personal water bottles, may help reduce the spread of disease and germs.
      - Water bottle filling stations in schools can nearly triple how much water students drink at lunchtime, which has a positive impact on children's health and cognitive performance.
      - The cost of a water bottle filling station compared to a water fountain is nominal in the process of renovation or construction of a school and can save dollars over time.

## 5. Maternal and Infant Health

Maternal health refers to the health of a person during pregnancy, childbirth and the time after giving birth. Infant/toddler health refers to the health of a baby in its first three years. According to the 2017-2019 Louisiana Child Death Review (26) Louisiana ranks 4th highest in infant mortality.

Maternal and Infant Health Data				
	East Baton Rouge Parish	Ascension Parish	Louisiana	Top US Performers
Low Birthweight	12%	9%	11%	6%
Asian	10%	10%		
Black	15%	15%		
Hispanic	7%	7%		
White	7%	7%		
<i>Low Birthweight is the percentage of live births where the infant weighed less than approximately 5 lbs. 8 oz.</i>				
Infant Mortality Rate	11	6	8	4
Black	16	9		
White	5	5		
<i>This indicator shows the mortality rate in deaths per 1,000 live births for infants within their first year of life.</i>				
Teen Birth Rate	26	21	32	12
Asian	4	-		
Black	37	27		
Hispanic	78	50		
White	7	16		
<i>Teen Births is the number of births to females ages 15-19 per 1,000 females in a county.</i>				
Mothers who received early/ adequate prenatal care (28)	72.8%	79.5%	75%	77.5%
Non-Hispanic Black	67.7%	74.1%	69.8%	
Hispanic	58.3%	59.1%	62.4%	
Non-Hispanic White	86.2%	85.5%	80.9%	
<i>Early prenatal care is defined as beginning in the first, second, third, or fourth month of pregnancy. Adequate prenatal care is defined as receiving 80% or more of expected prenatal visits</i>				

Source: County Health Rankings (10) (11).

### 2018 Pregnancy-Associated Deaths in Louisiana (27)

	# of Deaths	Rate of Death	Racial Disparities	Rate of Death by Race	Age Group at Increased Risk
Pregnancy-Associated Deaths	55 deaths	92.5 per 100,000 births	2 Black birthing persons (2.1) in Louisiana died for every 1 White birthing person.	69.6 per non-Hispanic White 145.3 per non-Hispanic Black	
Pregnancy-Related*	12 deaths (22%)	20.2 per 100,000 births	3 Black birthing persons (3.2) in Louisiana died for every 1 White birthing person.	9.9 per non-Hispanic White 31.8 per non-Hispanic Black	Increased risk for birthing people ages 30-34
Pregnancy-Associated, but Not Related**	35 deaths (64%)	58.9 per 100,000 births	2 Black birthing persons (1.7) in Louisiana died for every 1 White birthing person.	53.0 per non-Hispanic White 86.3 per non-Hispanic Black	Increased risk for birthing people ages 30-34
Pregnancy-Associated, but Unable to Determine Relatedness***	8 deaths (14%)				Increase risk for people under 25 years old

\*A death during pregnancy or within one year of the end of pregnancy from a pregnancy complication, a chain of events initiated by the pregnancy, or the aggravation of an unrelated condition by the physiologic effects of pregnancy

\*\* A death during pregnancy or within one year of the end of pregnancy from a cause that is not related to pregnancy

\*\*\*A pregnancy-associated death where the cause of death is unable to be determined as "pregnancy-related" or "pregnancy-associated, but not related."

### 2018 Pregnancy-Associated Deaths in Louisiana (27)

	% of Deaths Deemed Preventable	Contributing
Pregnancy-Related*	67%	System-level factors related to policies and procedures were the most commonly-identified contributing factors.
Pregnancy-Associated, but Not Related**	83%	Systems-level issues were most frequently related to policies and procedures
Pregnancy-Associated, but Unable to Determine Relatedness***	75%	System-level factors related to policies and procedures were the most commonly-identified contributing factors. These included violence, access/financial factors, communication, continuity of care/care coordination, lack of referrals, and inadequate assessment

\*A death during pregnancy or within one year of the end of pregnancy from a pregnancy complication, a chain of events initiated by the pregnancy, or the aggravation of an unrelated condition by the physiologic effects of pregnancy

\*\* A death during pregnancy or within one year of the end of pregnancy from a cause that is not related to pregnancy

\*\*\*A pregnancy-associated death where the cause of death is unable to be determined as "pregnancy-related" or "pregnancy-associated, but not related."

### The Louisiana State Child Death Review Panel

The Louisiana State Child Death Review Panel is a multidisciplinary panel of Louisiana state and non-governmental agencies and organizations. The State Child Death Review Panel reviews all unexpected deaths among children under the age of 14 years, including SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome) to better understand the cause and contributing risk factors. Review findings are also used to act to prevent other deaths and to improve the health and safety of Louisiana's children.

In addition to the statewide panel, there are also Local/Regional Child Death Review teams that review reports of all unexpected deaths among children ages 14 years and younger. Local teams are responsible for making and implementing recommendations for child safety and injury prevention in their respective regions. Below is a summary of the 2017-2019 Louisiana Child Death Review Report. (26)

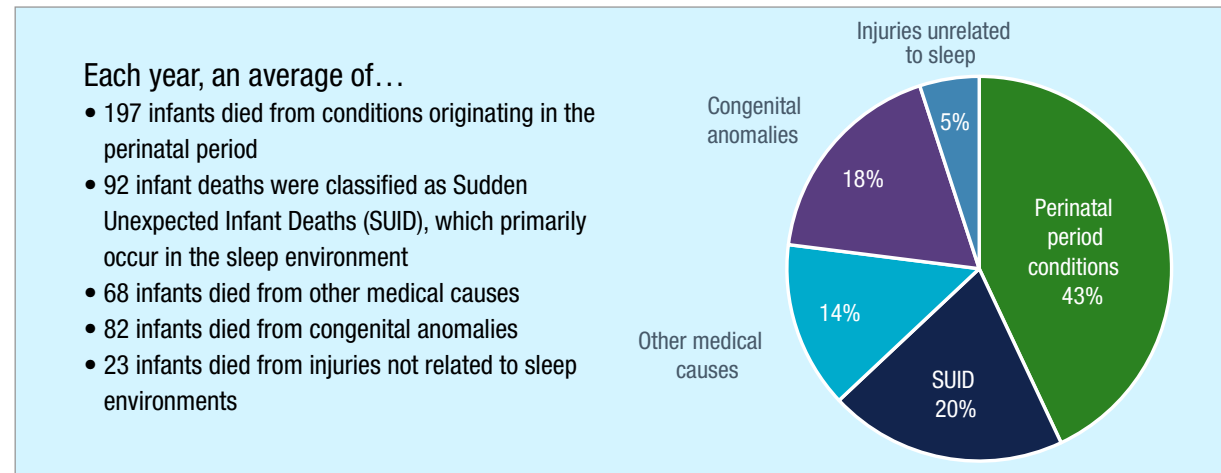
**State of Louisiana and Region 2 Data on Infant Mortality 2017-2019 <sup>(26)</sup>**

The Infant Mortality rate for **Louisiana** is **7.7 deaths per 1,000 live births**.

The Infant Mortality rate for the **United States** is **5.6 deaths per 1,000 live births**.

The Infant Mortality rate for LDH's **Region 2** is **8.1 deaths per 1,000 live births**.

- Louisiana has the **4th highest rate** of infant mortality
- **125 fewer babies** would have died each year if Louisiana had the same infant mortality rate as the U.S.



**Figure 13: Causes of Infant Death**

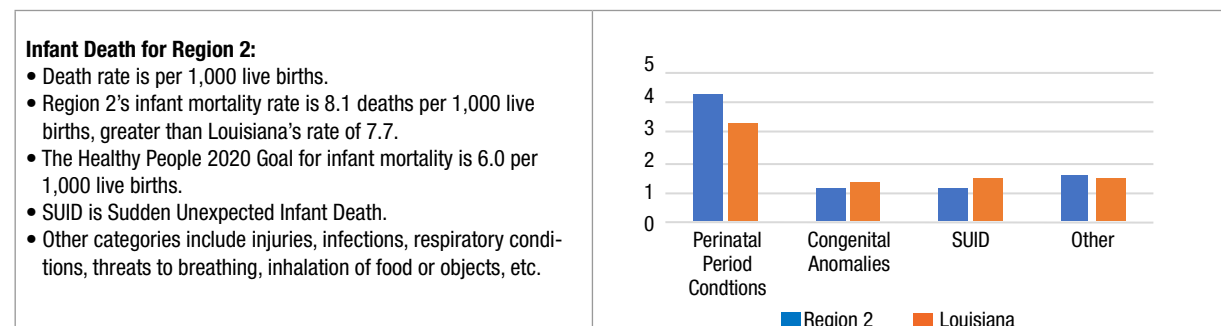
Causes of death for Infants are closely linked to maternal health before conception and during pregnancy, which affects the perinatal period. Almost half of infant deaths are due to these conditions. This is due to low birthweight and premature birth, which are both risk factors for the second leading cause of infant death: Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID).

SUID refers to any sudden and unexpected death occurring during infancy, whether explained or unexplained. This category includes Accidental Suffocation or Strangulation in Bed (ASSB), SIDS, and ill-defined deaths.

Infant Mortality Rate, 2017-2019 <sup>(26)</sup>		
Age Group	Black	White
Infants, birth to 1 year	11.8 deaths per 1,000 live births	5.3 deaths per 1,000 live births

*\*In Region 2, Black infants are 2.2 times more likely to die as white infants.*

Rank	Top Causes of Unexpected Death by Age Group in Region 2 for Age 0-1	
1	SUID	70% of sleep-related deaths in Louisiana occurred by 3 months of age
2	Homicide	83 infants and children in Louisiana were victims of homicide from 2016-2018



**Figure 14: Causes of Infant Death Top Causes SUID of Infant Death (Medical and Injury) between 2017-2019**

**Baton Rouge Diaper Bank**

According to the National Diaper Bank Network, the average family spends \$70-\$80 per child per month on diapers. The 2020 Louisiana ALICE Report provided by the Capital Area United Way states the average hourly wage for the most common occupation in Louisiana, a cashier is \$9.10 per hour or \$1,456 per month. Factoring in rent, food, daycare, and other expenses, leaves very little for diapers needed to ensure proper childhood health and hygiene. In addition, most childcare centers require parents to provide a day's supply of diapers – without this, babies cannot go to daycare, and parents cannot go to work.

As a result, the **Junior League of Baton Rouge (JLBR)** operates the region's only Diaper Bank as a part of the National Diaper Bank Network. The Diaper Bank is a 100% volunteer-run program. Members of the JLBR receive donated and purchased diapers and bundle them into packs of 25, as the National Diaper bank has found that is the number of diapers a family falls short each month. JLBR partners with 22 organizations across EBRP to distribute diapers. In 2021, these partners disturbed 478,495 diapers. Roughly, 19,140 infants have received diapers through the Diaper Bank in 2021.

HealthyBR partners are **working together** to address maternal and infant health in our community through:

- **East Baton Rouge Parish Safe Sleep Taskforce**
  - The goal of the taskforce is to educate parents about safe sleep practices and to reduce the number of sleep-related deaths in infants.
  - The members of the taskforce are **EBRP Coroner's Office, EBR Parish EMS, BRPD, EBRSO, DCFS, LDH, OLOLRMC, and The Safety Place.**
  - The EBRP Safe Sleep Taskforce partners to distribute portable cribs/Pack n' Plays to low-income families to prevent infant injury from unsafe sleeping environments.
- **OLOLRMC** offers car seat safety checks in partnership with **The Safety Place** and the Alliance Safety Council.
- **The Safety Place** partners with **Junior League of Baton Rouge Diaper Bank** to support area families in need of diapers and wipes.
- **Region 2 Child Death Review Panel**
  - The goal of the review panel is to implement programs, services, and resources related to child safety and injury prevention.
  - The members of the review panel represent the following agencies: **EBRP Coroner's Office, EBRSO, Family Road of Greater BR, DCFS, LDH, OLOLRMC, The Safety Place, and Woman's Hospital.**



HealthyBR partners are working to address maternal and infant health in our community through:

- The **BRC, Lane,** and **Woman's** offer free prenatal classes for expectant parents.

- Lane has offered 12 classes with more than 120 participants
- Woman's has offered 33 "Pregnancy 101 classes" with 311 participants
- BRC has offered 5 prenatal classes in 2021 with more than 75 participants

- **BRG, Ochsner,** and **Woman's** train all NICU parents and guardians on CPR techniques. Many NICU infants have underdeveloped respiratory systems, so these techniques can help save an infant's life when they go home with their guardian.

- In 2021, Ochsner's NICU team taught more than 90 guardians CPR upon discharge.
- BRG trains an average of 150 guardians each year.
- Between 2018 and 2021, 4,374 guardians were required to watch a CPR and Safe Sleep video prior to discharge from Woman's.

#### The Baton Rouge Clinic (BRC)

- Our pediatricians visit newborns in the hospital to do their first examinations.

#### Baton Rouge General Medical Center

- The Fresh Start Program at BRG's Birth Center aims to treat patients who are pregnant and struggling with substance abuse, supporting both the patient and baby through Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome at no cost.
- BRG brings music therapy to its tiniest patients through an expansion of its Arts in Medicine program. Babies in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) are exposed to calming, rhythmic sounds that are designed to help babies grow and heal. Studies show music therapy in the NICU provides a host of benefits, including a stabilized heart rate and improved breathing, feeding, weight gain, and sleep.
- BRG's Birth Center encourages all parents, grandparents, and babysitters to take an infant CPR class and requires parents and guardians of infants in the NICU to take the free class.
- BRG is the first hospital in South Louisiana to offer a new treatment for postpartum depression (PPD). PPD affects an estimated one in nine women in the U.S. either during pregnancy or after childbirth.
- BRG offers classes for infants, including Baby Food Basics, which is led by speech-language pathologists and feeding specialists. The objective of the class is to provide families with education and skills needed to confidently guide their little one into stress-free solid feeding.

#### Family Road of Greater Baton Rouge (FRGBR)

- FRGBR serves nearly 4,000 families through direct delivery service programs both on and off-site in the form of classes, educational opportunities, outreach, and referrals. These free services are offered virtually, in-person onsite, in-person off-site, one-on-one, and in Spanish. The following services are open to the general public:

- Prenatal Classes and Infant/Child Support group
- Parenting Class from 0-18
- Pre-Teen/Teen Pregnancy and Parenting Education (collaboration with Southern University Cooperative Extension Agriculture Center)
- Breastfeeding Class and Support Group
- Baby and Me Tobacco Free Smoking Cessation Program



- Centering Pregnancy Center
- Car Seat Safety (distributing more than 100 car seats and car seat safety classes)
- Medicaid Application Center
- Nutrition Classes for Expecting Mothers (Collaboration with University Cooperative Extension Agriculture Center)
- Free Sonograms-collaboration with Baton Rouge Community College
- Financial Planning Classes and Home Ownership through Mid-City Redevelopment and UREC
- Free pregnancy testing
- FRGBR is the **Healthy Start** provider in EBRP. Healthy Start is a federally funded program by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Healthy Start aims to improve health outcomes before, during, and after pregnancy and to reduce racial and ethnic differences in rates of infant deaths and negative maternal health outcomes.
  - The program serve more than 800 expecting mothers, pregnant persons, babies, and their families through medical and prenatal home visits, including virtual and bilingual services in EBRP.
  - The Healthy Start Fatherhood program provided 100 expecting and parenting dads with one-on-one support, prenatal and parenting classes, job placement assistance, and sessions to promote and teach responsible and committed fatherhood within families.
  - Well Women Health Services and Family Planning Session are provided by a nurse practitioner.
  - Monthly Mommy and Daddy Hour include health education and an opportunity for expecting parents to learn and ask questions about their pregnancy, infant care, and
    - Family Road Healthy Start provides risk reduction workshops on perinatal health, postpartum health, and interconnectional health to the community and providers.
  - Families earn baby items by participating in-home visits, classes, and attending health appointments such as strollers, breast pumps, car seats, diaper bags, and high chairs.
  - Families can also earn Family Road bucks that can be redeemed to purchase items in the Family Store such as diapers, formula, breast pump, clothing, etc.
  - The program also aids families enrolled in the program with basic needs such as food, rent, utilities, and obtaining licenses/certifications for work.
  - The outreach team participated in 37 community health fairs and resource activities reaching more than 12,000 community participants and distributing more than 25,000 program and health-related brochures.



**LSU and Southern University Ag Centers**

- The Southern University Ag Center in partnership with the Family Road Healthy Start Program provided a 6-week series of virtual classes. The topics were the following:
  - Prenatal Care
  - Caring for Baby and You
  - Keeping Baby Safe
  - Child Development
  - Nutrition
  - Family Communication

- The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) participated in the Community Baby Shower, which had 33 participants.

**Ochsner Medical Center – Baton Rouge**

- Ochsner Baton Rouge continues to be the only hospital in the area to offer a midwifery program to its patients and provides alternative birthing options.
  - In 2020, this location had 1,438 deliveries and 225 NICU admits.
- The Connected Maternity Online Monitoring (Connected MOM) program allows expecting mothers to digitally send their weight and blood pressure readings to their medical team from the convenience of home.
- In early 2021, Louisiana Women's Healthcare (LWH) joined Ochsner Health which serves more than 70,000 women each year.

**Our Lady of the Lake**

- OLOL Children's Hospital teaches CPR to all caregivers of at-risk children who require hospitalization.
- LPG pediatricians educate caregivers on Bright Futures, a national health promotion and prevention initiative developed by the American Academy of Pediatrics and supported by the Department of Health Human Services, U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureaus.

**The Safety Place**

- The Sleep & Sound program provides safe-sleep education and resources for parents and caregivers to prevent those sleep-related deaths in infants. The program focuses on the ABCs of safe sleep; A: Alone, B: on their Back, and C: in a Crib.
  - In 2020, the program reached 3,141 people while distributing 75 portable cribs.
  - In 2021, between January and May, the program reached 160 people and distributed 26 cribs.
- The Buckle Boogie Program is designed to educate the community about the proper use of car seats, booster seats, and proper seat belt fit. During 30-45 minute sessions, caregivers meet with Nationally Certified Child Passenger Safety professionals who aim to share key information to better protect children in and around vehicles.
  - These sessions are offered by way of private appointments, group presentations, and community events.
  - The Safety Place also assists families who travel with their medically fragile children with special healthcare needs and can help clinics and daycare facilities to ensure transportation situations for children are as safe as possible when utilizing agency vans/buses.
  - In 2020, the program reached 1,182 people while inspecting/installing 167 car seats and distributing 78 car seats to families in need.
  - In 2021, the program reached 677 people while inspecting/installing 269 car seats and distributing 156 car seats to families in need.

**Woman's Hospital (Woman's)**

- Woman's was instrumental in championing the development and implementation of the Association for Woman's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nursing "Go the Full 40" campaign in EBRP. This initiative educates pregnant women and the community on the health benefits of delivering after 40 weeks of gestation.

- Woman's distributes free pregnancy journals, offers free support groups/classes and a free mobile phone app to educate and support healthy pregnancies.
- Woman's offers fetal therapy, a form of highly complex surgery performed while the baby is still in the womb to correct issues such as spina bifida, congenital pulmonary airway malformation, and twin-to-twin transfusion syndrome.
- Woman's is a designated Level III Regional Referral Center for neonates. At 84 private beds, the NICU unit is the largest in the state.
- Woman's sends parents home with infant CPR kits, including mannequins to practice their skills at home.
- Woman's partnered with the Louisiana Children's Trust Fund to implement a Safe Sleep for Newborns public awareness campaign in EBRP beginning in 2021.

**Task Force and Collaborative**

- Woman's Hospital helped form the Perinatal/Neonatal Addiction Disorders Task Force in 2015 to reduce the effects of maternal substance misuse in newborns.
  - In 2017, the task force focused on identifying resources and developing relationships to support programs for pregnant people as well as educating physicians and residents. Team members, including more than a dozen physicians, participated in workshops on screening, brief intervention, and referrals to treatment and developed evidence-based screening tools to identify, reduce and prevent problematic use and dependence on alcohol and illicit drugs.
    - From this work, a method was implemented to reduce the number of opioids prescribed to pregnant women under the care of local OB/GYNs.
      - **Woman's Hospital** partnered with **CAHS**, Baton Rouge Comprehensive Treatment Center, Addiction Counseling and Educational Resource Center and **OLLRMC** Mental and Behavioral Health Service on this.
  - Ochsner Medical Center – Baton Rouge is participating in the Louisiana Perinatal Quality Collaborative's (LaPQC) Safe Births Initiative to decrease maternal mortality in Black women from hemorrhage and preeclampsia.



**Accreditation/Certifications**

- In 2021, the LDH and LaPOC recognized 16 hospitals that have achieved new designations for committing to practices that improve quality and outcomes for persons giving birth.
  - Ochsner Medical Center Baton Rouge received Birth Ready+ designation
  - BRG, Lane, and Woman’s received Birth Ready designation
- BRG, Lane, Ochsner, and Woman’s have received national Blue Distinction® Center for Maternity Care designation. As Blue Distinction Centers for Maternity Care, the hospitals are recognized for delivering quality specialty care safely and effectively, based on objective measures developed with input from the medical community.
- BRG, Ochsner, and Woman’s are designated Baby-Friendly hospitals by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).
  - Ochsner was the first hospital in Louisiana to earn this distinction. Baby-Friendly hospitals support exclusive breastfeeding and mother-baby bonding practices clinically proven to support the thriving development of newborns.
  - BRG, Ochsner, and Woman’s sponsor human donor breast milk programs that provide breast milk, sometimes free -of-charge, to infants in the neonatal intensive care units.
- Lane is a certified GIFT (Guided Infant Feeding Techniques) Facility and offers a free breastfeeding class and support group.
- The Mothers’ Milk Bank of Louisiana at Ochsner Baptist collects, processes, and provides human milk to premature and sick babies. The Human Milk Banking Association of North America (HMBANA) has accredited this as the first program in the state of Louisiana and the 24th non-profit milk bank to be established in the United States.
  - Ochsner is a drop off location for mothers to donate breastmilk once donor screening is complete.
  - Ochsner is also recruiting for Mommy’s Milk’s COVID-19 & Breast Milk study and the University of Idaho and Washington State University’s study of breastfeeding COVID-19 positive women.



**6. Pediatric and Adolescent Health**

Pediatric health refers to the health of a child from ages 4-11. Adolescent health refers to the health of a child from ages 12-19.

Pediatric and Adolescent Health Data				
	East Baton Rouge Parish	Ascension Parish	Louisiana	Top US Performers
Child Mortality	80	50	70	40
Black	110	80		
Hispanic	50	-		
White	50	50		
<i>Child Mortality measures the number of deaths among children under age 18 per 100,000 population.</i>				
Teen Birth Rate	26	21	32	12
Asian	4	-		
Black	37	27		
Hispanic	78	50		
White	7	16		
<i>Teen Births is the number of births to females ages 15-19 per 1,000 females in a county.</i>				
Uninsured Children	4%	3%	3%	3%
<i>Uninsured Children is the percentage of the population under age 19 who has no health insurance coverage</i>				
High School Graduation	70%	88%	83%	95%
<i>High School Graduation is the percentage of the ninth-grade cohort who graduates from high school in four years.</i>				
Disconnected Youth	7%	10%	10%	4%
<i>Disconnected Youth is the percentage of teens and young adults ages 16 to 19 who are neither working nor in school.</i>				
Children in Poverty	25%	13%	26%	10%
American Indian & Alaska Native	33%			
Asian	25%	-		
Black	38%	34%		
Hispanic	30%	15%		
White	5%	6%		
<i>Children in Poverty is the percentage of people under age 18 living in poverty.</i>				
Children eligible for free or reduced-price lunch	52%	41%	53%	32%
<i>Children eligible for free lunch live in a family with an income less than 130% of the federal poverty level. Children eligible for reduced-price lunch live in a family with an income less than 185% of the federal poverty level.</i>				

Source: County Health Rankings (10) (11).

**State of Louisiana and Region 2 Data on Child Mortality 2017-2019 <sup>(26)</sup>**

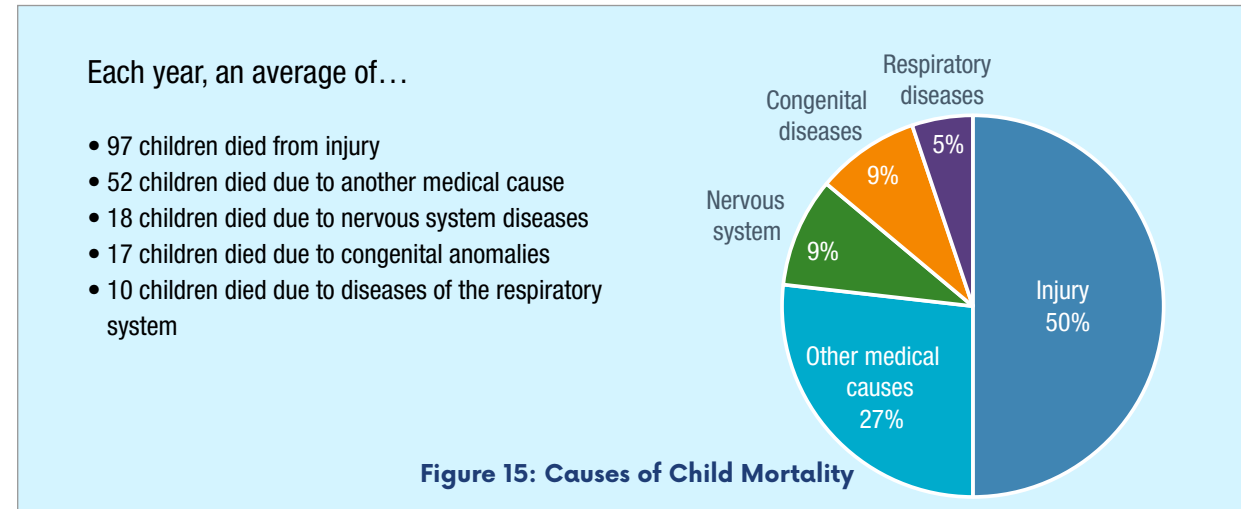
From 2016-2018 in Louisiana, an average of **194 children** between **ages 1 and 14** died each year.

The mortality rate for children ages 1 to 14 years in the **United States** was **16.3 deaths** per 100,000 children.

The mortality rate for children ages 1 to 14 years in **Louisiana** was **22.7 deaths** per 100,000 children.

The mortality rate for children ages 1 to 14 years in **LDH Region 2** was **23.3 deaths** per 100,000 children.

- Louisiana has the **6th highest rate** of mortality
- **55 fewer children** would have died each year if Louisiana had the same mortality

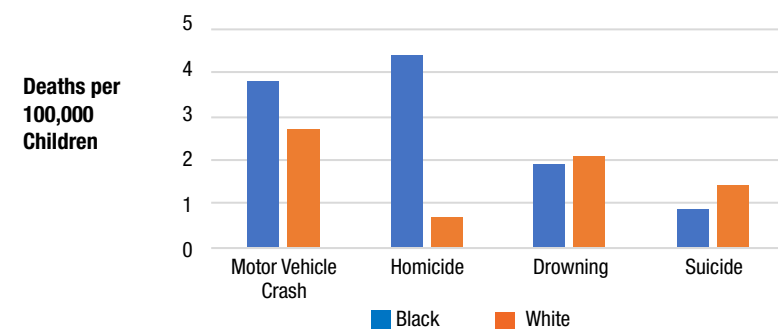


**Key Points**

- 50% of childhood deaths (ages 1 to 14 years old) were due to injuries. Most of these deaths are considered preventable.
- The other half (50%) of childhood deaths were due to a medical cause. The most common medical causes are diseases of the nervous system, diseases of the respiratory system, and deaths related to congenital anomalies

Race Disparity in Mortality Rate, 2017-2019 <sup>(26)</sup>		
Age Group	Black	White
Children, 1 to 14 years	30.9 deaths per 1,000 live births	18.9 deaths per 1,000 live births

*\*In Louisiana from 2017 to 2019, Black children were 1.6 times as likely to die as White children..*



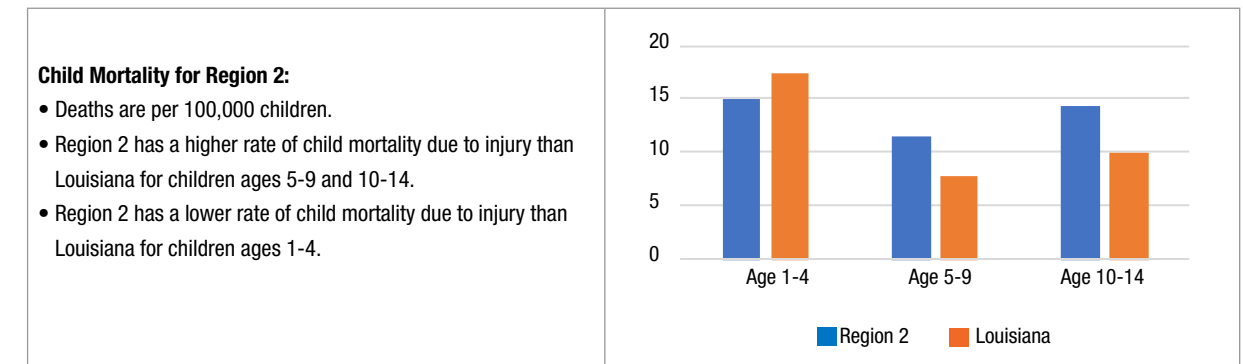
**Figure 16: Mortality Rates by Top Causes of Death & Race**

In Louisiana from 2017 to 2019, Black children in Louisiana were more likely than White children to die in a motor vehicle crash or due to homicide. White children in Louisiana were more likely than Black children to die by drowning or suicide

- Between 2017-2019, Black children were six times as likely to die from homicide as White children.
- Mortality data for Hispanic infants and children were not included in racial disparity calculations because of insufficient counts – i.e. the number of Hispanic children who died in Louisiana during this time period was too small for a reliable comparison against mortality rates for white and Black children.

Child Mortality, 2017-2019 <sup>(26)</sup>				
	U.S. Rate	Louisiana Rate	Louisiana Ranking	# of fewer children who would have died if Louisiana had the same mortality rate as the US
Ages 1-4	10.0	17.4	4th	18 fewer children in this age group would have died
Ages 5-9	4.5	7.7	4th	10 fewer children in this age group would have died
Ages 10-14	7.4	10	10th	8 fewer children in this age group would have died

- Children Ages 1-4 had the greatest disparity between Louisiana and U.S. child mortality rates. Children between ages 1-4 had the highest injury-related mortality rate among all children in Louisiana.



**Figure 17: Top Causes of Infant Death (Medical and Injury) between 2017-2019**

Top Causes of Unexpected Death by Age Group in Region 2 <sup>(26)</sup>			
Rank	Age 1-4	Ages 5-9	Age 10-14
1	Motor Vehicle Crashes	Motor Vehicle Crashes	Suicide
2	Drowning and Fire (tie)	Fire	Motor Vehicle Crashes

*Suicides exceed homicides for children ages 10-14. Louisiana CDR case reviews indicate that the top risk factors for suicide in this age group include: access to lethal means of self-harm – such as firearms – and a history of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). ACEs include all types of abuse, neglect, and other potentially traumatic experiences that happen to people under the age of 18.*

HealthyBR partners are working together to address pediatric and adolescent health in our community through:

- One week each summer Our Lady of the Lake Children’s Hospital and BREC host an asthma camp for 60 children between the ages of 6-12 years old. Most of the children who attend the camp have visited an Emergency Department in the Baton Rouge area more than 2 times in 1 year.



- While referring children to camp, the respiratory therapists and the asthma educators focus on the children who have recurring visits to the ED, so those children can receive education about their asthma diagnosis at camp. The camp is staffed with respiratory therapists, nurses, child life specialists, and social workers.

HealthyBR partners are working to address pediatric and adolescent health in our community through:

#### **Baton Rouge Clinic (BRC)**

- The BRC has a pediatric psychology department for children and teens.
  - The BRC has put in place several strategies or quality improvement initiatives to improve teenage vaccination rate for the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine. HPV is a common virus that can cause cancer later in life. The CDC recommends children as young as 11 to begin receiving the HPV vaccine. The strategies put in place include:
    - In the medical record system, reminders are put in place to prompt conversations between the physician, the patient, and the parents regarding the importance of the vaccine.
    - Physician and nurses receive regular reports of patients eligible for the HPV vaccine, who then contact the patient and review information regarding the importance of the vaccine.
    - The clinic also shares best practice strategies with their physicians on how to effectively discuss the topic with families. Studies have shown the order in which clinicians present the vaccines, the informational handouts offered and the overall delivery can have an impact on whether or not a family will elect to take the vaccine.

#### **Baton Rouge General Medical Center (BRG)**

- BRG offers parenting classes called Girl Talk and Boys to Men to help parents start the conversation surrounding puberty.
  - Each year more than 100 participants attend a class.
- BRG began a class called Building Brave Bites, helping parents develop a healthy appetite with a variety of flavors and textures in their child's diet. The monthly class provides hands-on tips and helps determine when picky eating has gone too far.
- BRG offers classes for infants, including Baby Food Basics, which is led by speech-language pathologists and feeding specialists. The objective of the class is to provide families with the education and skills needed to confidently guide their little one into stress-free solid feeding.

#### **Lane Regional Medical Center**

- Lane Pediatrics is a full-service clinic for newborns through adulthood and accepts all insurances, including Medicaid and LA Chip.
  - Lane has provided six free annual sports physicals to local high school and middle school athletes and served more than 1,200 students.
  - Lane also offers educational classes at local schools and daycare facilities.

#### **Ochsner Medical Center – Baton Rouge**

- Opening in late 2021, Ochsner expanded their pediatric clinic at the Grove with access to pediatric specialty services. In 2018, Ochsner Health expanded the Ochsner Sports Medicine Institute.
  - They have 6 Sports Medicine providers and 27 Certified Athletic Trainers serving nearly 30 high school and collegiate campuses.
  - Prior to 2018, only 25% of high



schools in the region had Athletic Trainers. Now, nearly 90% of high schools in the region have Athletic Trainer coverage.

- Ochsner Hospital for Children's School Nurse Program serves four schools in the Baton Rouge region.
  - The services they provide range from a full-time nurse dedicated to the school to an On-Demand service to assist schools without a nurse with a Pediatric Physician Hotline.
- In 2021, Ochsner welcomed Associates in Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine to Ochsner Health. This alignment with Ochsner Health will allow better coordination of care from Primary Care, Pediatrics, and OB/GYN in the Baton Rouge region.

#### **Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center (OLOLRMC)**

- Health Centers in Schools (HCCS) serves seven school-based health centers and serves more than 90 schools through the school nurse program.
  - The unique concept provides a totally integrated primary/mental health care model in the state of Louisiana. Health Center teams include nurse practitioners, registered nurses, licensed clinical social workers, and medical assistants (clinic coordinators).
  - In partnership with the Baton Rouge Orthopedic Clinic Foundation, Health Centers in Schools has impacted more than 3000 athletes who were able to receive athletic training services on the campus of their schools. Together, HCCS serves Dutchtown High School, St. Amant High School, Donaldsonville High School, East Ascension High School, Central High School, and Denham Springs High School. Not only are athletic training services provided, but also annual physicals, coaches' education, concussion management, and comprehensive care of the athlete.
- OLOLRMC has pediatric LPG clinics that support pediatric and adolescent health:
  - There are 33 primary and secondary pediatric clinics in the Baton Rouge market.
  - Physical Medicine services have been expanded with an additional location at the Catholic High campus.
  - Genetic Services and Sports physicals are offered at clinics throughout the region by LPG Pediatrics.
- OLOLRMC has the only regional Level 2 trauma program that treats more than 700 patients per year as well as an injury prevention program offering Car Seat Safety checks.
- Our Lady of the Lake Children Hospital's (OLOLCH) SAFE Clinic helps promote emotional and physical wellbeing for pediatric patients who have been sexually abused.
- OLOLCH offers the Parenting U platform for patients and families to be able to access specific health topics by trained pediatric specialists. In 2021:
  - 65,793 emails were read
  - 3,979 podcasts were downloaded
  - The Parenting U blog was viewed by 7,658 individuals
- OLOLCH Developmental and Therapy Center offers pediatric physical, speech, and behavioral therapy services for patient's birth to 12 years of age. The services provided are:
  - Social Engagement Clinic (SEC) which is a multidisciplinary (including a developmental-behavioral pediatrician (DBP), Occupational Therapist, and Speech Therapist) clinic that assesses patients for autism spectrum disorder (ASD).
  - Pediatric Feeding Clinic (PFC) which is a multidisciplinary (including a developmental-behavioral pediatrician (DBP), Occupational Therapist, and Speech Therapist) clinic that assesses patients with a range of feeding issues.



- Infant Toddler Clinic (ITC) which is a multidisciplinary (including Nurse Practitioners and Occupational Therapists) clinic that assesses a patient from birth to age 3 for early childhood delays.
- Spasticity Management Clinic which is a multi-disciplinary (including a Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrician (DBP), Neurosurgeon, and Physical Therapist) clinic that assesses patients with concerns of spasticity to determine the best course of treatment (Botox, surgery, therapy, or a combination).
- OLOLCH Outpatient Pediatric Physical Medicine serves patients birth to 16 years of age. Services include:
  - The following forms of therapy:
    - Parent-Child Interactive Therapy (PCIT), Child Play Therapy, Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) Therapy, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, Hearing Therapy
  - The following assessments and tests:
    - Psychology testing for other developmental concerns, Neuropsychological evaluations, Autism assessments, and testing (testing may be performed by the Nurse Practitioner, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Occupational Therapist, or Speech Therapist. All who are trained in the ADOS - autism diagnostic observation scheduling)
  - Developmental services, including medication management
  - Durable Medical Equipment (DME) evaluations including wheelchair and medical special needs car seats



#### Pennington Biomedical Research Center

- Amanda Staiano, PhD is currently working on a study called "Treatment Efforts Addressing Child Weight Management by Unifying Patients, Parents & Providers (TEAM UP)". The study is evaluating two of the most common treatments for children who have obesity. One program includes counseling by a primary care provider focusing on healthy eating and activity habits. The other combines provider counseling and family-based behavioral therapy for children and their parents. In Baton Rouge, Pennington Biomedical is working with Red Stick Pediatrics, the BRC, and OLOLCH.

#### The Safety Place

- The Safety Place's Stroll into Safety Program educates children, caregivers, and community members about the importance of pedestrian and bicyclist skills; the rules of the road; personal safety; improving health; and environmental conditions. This program is designed to bring attention to bike and pedestrian safety issues in the Greater Baton Rouge Area to create safer, and more bike and pedestrian friendly communities. The program offers classroom presentations, bike rodeos, safety towns, community education events, bike/pedestrian school events. Program participants receive bike helmets and reflective lights when funding permits.

## 7. Public Health Emergency Preparedness

EBRP has experienced many natural disasters, such as hurricanes and floods, as well as served as a "receiver" community when neighboring communities are impacted by a disaster. Since Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the Baton Rouge Emergency Responders and the healthcare community have come together in both "blue sky days" (days when there is not an emergency) and during disasters to ensure they work together to serve the Baton Rouge community. Throughout the year, first responders and healthcare providers came together to run practice exercises for situations such as mass casualty, radiation, active shooter, chemical explosion, and airport disasters. COVID-19 is another type of emergency that has threatened the health and safety of families and communities. There are many programs and initiatives in place to ensure the healthcare community is ready to respond in times of need.

#### East Baton Rouge Parish All-Hazards Recovery Plan (EBRPAHRP)

The EBRPAHRP provides an overview of how the parish's government and other partners collaborate, plan, prepare for, and recover from a hazardous incident that threatens lives, property, economies, and natural resources. The EBRPAHRP describes the policies, planning assumptions, the concept of operations, and recovery operations when a disaster or emergency challenges the local government's ability to return to normalcy. While there are some responsibilities for recovery during the response phase, the EBRPAHRP is specific to recovery operations. The goal of the EBRPAHRP is to incorporate the whole community in recovery—restoring, redeveloping, and revitalizing EBRP quickly and efficiently following a disaster and to identify mitigation best practices to decrease impacts of future disasters.

The EBRPAHRP enhances the stability, resilience, and economic recovery of the EBRP community. EBRP is proud to be the first in the state to adopt such a holistic plan. It's a unified, all-hazard recovery planning initiative, and is believed to be looked upon as a "best practice" by federal, state, and local emergency personnel.

#### Emergency Support Function 8 (ESF-8) <sup>(29)</sup>



ESF-8 is a group of governmental, private, and nonprofit organizations working together to provide support, resources, program implementation, and services most likely needed to save lives, protect property, and the environment, restore essential services and critical infrastructure, and help victims and communities return to normal following community-wide emergencies. There are 17 different ESFs in Louisiana. ESF-8 is a public health and medical services. In Louisiana, ESF-8 falls under the LDH. It is composed of nine regional coalitions and one state-level coalition. One of the main functions of ESF-8 coalitions is to maintain the ESF-8 Portal. The ESF-8 Portal was created to provide a way to gather and communicate emergency information about health facility operational status to give the state and local emergency responders visibility on hospital operational status to better manage response resources during disasters.

There are four functions of the ESF-8 Portal <sup>(30)</sup>:

- **At Risk Registry:** A patient tracking program used by hospitals during large-scale events requiring evaluations and shelter-in-place activities.
- **Hazard Vulnerability Analysis Application:** An electronic tool used to assist with determining and tracking risk for all-hazards planning.
- **MSTAT:** Program used by hospitals to report operational status and resource data during events in which a facility and its resources are impacted.
- **Resource Management:** System used to report census, bed availability by type, and emergency room status to assist with EMS routing trauma, stroke, STEMI and burn patients. This portal was also used during COVID-19 to track bed availability and ventilator use.

#### The Louisiana Emergency Response Network (LERN)

LERN is an agency of state government created by the Louisiana Legislature in 2004 charged with the responsibility of developing and maintaining a statewide system of care coordination for patients suddenly stricken by serious traumatic injury or time-sensitive illness (such as heart attack and stroke). It is a system also designated to serve as a vital healthcare resource in the face of larger-scale emergencies and natural disasters. Similar to ESF, LERN is also broken into nine geographic regions across the state.

One important aspect of LERN is the LERN Communication Center (LCC). LCC interacts with the resource management section of the ESF-8 portal to support LERN's day-to-day network operations and the statewide interoperability mission in times of disaster. The LCC serves as the "first call" helpdesk and the 24/7/365 information coordinator for unfolding events in Louisiana and at the regional level.

The LCC is responsible for multiple roles in an event that include:

- Receiving information about specific incidents
- Alerting appropriate hospitals and state emergency preparedness personnel of events and updated information as necessary



- Coordination of responding agencies and help facilitating which facilities should take patients
- Coordination of transferring patients when necessary

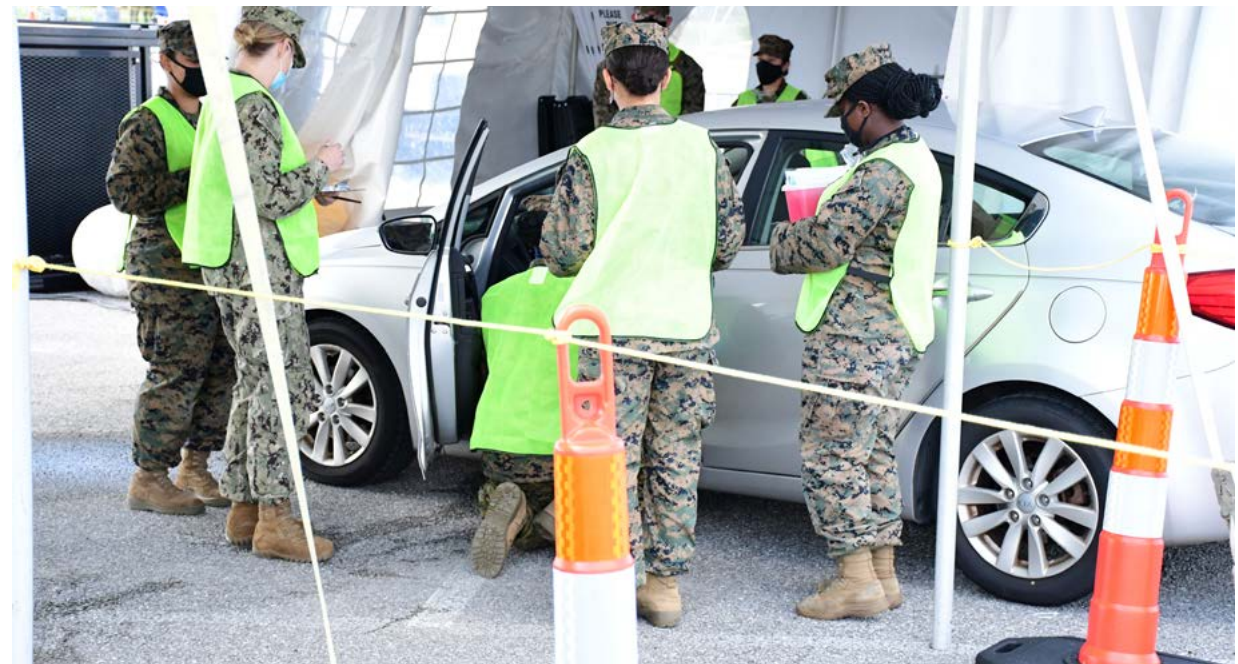
#### COVID-19

The LDH is structured into nine regions. The Office of Public Health is structured similarly. EBRP and AP represent two of the seven parishes located in Region 2. Other large cities across the United States were able to utilize their local health department or office of public health to respond to COVID-19. HealthyBR, the Mayor's Office, and the Mayor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (MOHSEP) partnered with the Region 2 Office of Public Health, five local area hospitals, the largest private clinic, and local federally qualified health clinics to respond to COVID-19.

#### COVID-19 Community Testing

On March 10, 2020, HealthyBR hosted the first meeting of healthcare providers to begin discussing COVID-19. Louisiana's first COVID-19 community testing site was available after six days of this group of medical providers continuously meeting and making this need a reality. The site was set up at Baton Rouge General – Mid City and staffed by the BR Clinic, BRG, Ochsner, OLOLRMC, Woman's, and MOHSEP. The site operated Monday through Friday from March 16 until March 30. On March 30, the site moved to operate three days a week. Throughout the duration of the site, HealthyBR hosted nightly After Action Report calls to create a space for hospitals and community partners to discuss the testing site, but also surge capacity, and planning for community response to COVID-19. On March 23, 2020, a first responder and healthcare worker-specific testing site were opened and on April 27, 2020, an additional community testing site was opened at OLOLRMC North Emergency Room. In June 2020, HealthyBR in partnership with community testing site partners published a COVID-19 Community Testing Site packet to document the process of setting up and operating a community testing site.

Since March 2020, HealthyBR has continued to host weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly meetings with the original group that came together to create the community testing site. This group has remained active throughout the five surges of COVID-19 in our community. They have informed messaging campaigns, advocated at press conferences, and been a trusted voice for Mayor Broome to consult when making challenging decisions.



**COVID-19 Community Vaccinations**

Once COVID-19 vaccines became available to the general public, HealthyBR worked with healthcare partners to ensure messaging around the vaccine was accurate and to have local vaccine locations available on the City of Baton Rouge website and social media.

In April 2021, Baton Rouge was selected as a federal vaccination site. From the end of April 2021 to early June, the Mayor’s office and HealthyBR worked in partnership with FEMA, the Louisiana National Guard, and the LDH to administer roughly 9,000 COVID-19 vaccines. Vaccines were administered at three standing locations, which included the Bon Carre Mall parking lot, Mall of Louisiana, and LSU. Thirty-seven community outreach vaccine sites were located at community centers, churches, community parks, grocery stores, community feedings, homeless shelters, high schools, and even a nightclub.

The goal of the federal vaccination site was to provide access to the vaccine in the community at places familiar and comfortable for people. No ID or insurance was required at the federal vaccination sites. This created an environment where people were not fearful of receiving the vaccine because of either lack of insurance, ID, or citizenship. In addition to providing vaccinations, the Mayor’s office partnered with a local nursing group to ensure education around the vaccine was available at sites in the community.

Health literacy and vaccine awareness were identified as essential pieces to vaccination rates. Using the Social Vulnerability Index data, the Mayor’s office identified areas of highest need and risk, which are zip codes: 70805, 70807, 70802, 70811, 70812, 70815, 70814, and 70820. Those audiences were targeted with outreach through digital media, radio, robocalls, and mailers. Through the partnership with community organizations, we were also able to directly contact citizens at their homes through canvassing efforts in neighborhoods of highest need.

East Baton Rouge Parish				Ascension Parish			
Race	Series Initiated	Series Completed	Population (2018)	Race	Series Initiated	Series Completed	Population (2018)
Black	41.79%	40.81%	45.94%	Black	33.12%	32.3%	29.97%
White	47.31%	48.88%	47.34%	White	61.91%	63.11%	67.97%
Other	9.91%	9.46%	6.72%	Other	4.23%	3.93%	2.06%
Unknown	0.99%	0.86%	N/A	Unknown	0.74%	0.66%	N/A
			267,879 series initiated 240,198 series completed				11,321 series initiated 10,193 series completed

Data Reported as of 1.26.22 on Louisiana Dept. of Health Website <https://ladhh.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/e3d40ebd0b594202893c033fb4541ae9>

HealthyBR partners are **working together** to address public health emergencies in our community through:

- BRC and **Woman’s Hospital** partnered to provide vaccines to the greater community.
- **BRG** partnered with **YMCA** locations in the Baton Rouge area to bring drive-up flu events to the community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

HealthyBR partners are working to address public health emergencies in our community through:

**Baton Rouge General Medical Center (BRG)**

- BRG is the Region 2 designated HazMat response hospital, and its Regional Burn Center is critical to Louisiana’s petrochemical, manufacturing, and oil and gas industries.
- BRG participates in annual drills, including surge scenarios and mass shooting exercises, to help the team remain prepared for a public health emergency.

**Ochsner Medical Center – Baton Rouge**

- For the Baton Rouge region, Emergency Management assisted with mass COVID-19 testing and vaccination events (flu and COVID-19) which vaccinated more than 22,884 members of the Baton Rouge community.
- The Emergency Management team conducts Active Shooter and Infant/Child Abduction drills in the hospital and clinic settings to address workplace violence, violence prevention, gun violence, child abduction, and trafficking. Furthermore, Emergency Management has participated in coalition-based exercises and drills with organizations such as the Baton Rouge Airport, MOHSEP, and GOHSEP.

**Open Health Care Clinic (OHCC)**

- Between December 2020 and October 2021 OHCC administered:
  - 2,488 1st dose COVID vaccines, 1,997 2nd dose vaccines, and 273 booster doses

**Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center**

- In addition to the collaborative community and LGP COVID-19 testing sites, OLOLRMC provided to the community, OLOLRMC also managed its own testing and vaccine sites.
- Observing how under-represented minorities were in the receipt of the COVID-19 vaccine in our communities and in our facilities, OLOLRMC began offering an outreach ministry program for COVID-19 vaccinations, working in partnership with local churches and community centers. OLOLRMC connected with predominantly brown and black congregations to offer the COVID-19 vaccine. In the early weeks of vaccine administration, OLOLRMC provided up to 200 vaccine appointments per week for those 65 years and up through this outreach program.
- Through OLOLRMC’S clinics, community pop-ups, pharmacies, hospitals, and a large vaccine site established at Pennington, OLOLRMC provided more than 133,400 COVID-19 vaccines through November 2021.
- OLOLRMC also presents the Stop the Bleed program for our community. Stop the Bleed is a national awareness campaign and call-to-action. Stop the Bleed is intended to cultivate grassroots efforts that encourage bystanders to become trained, equipped, and empowered to help in a bleeding emergency before professional help arrives. OLOLRMC’s trauma department, in collaboration with the Community Impact Department, presents this training to employers, civic groups, and schools (older students and staff).

**Pennington Biomedical**

- Pennington and the Louisiana Clinical and Translational Science Center (LA CaTS) partnered with HealthyBR to secure a major National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant to help in the fight against COVID-19 in Louisiana. This work is focused on helping identify the barriers to testing in underserved Black communities and finding the best strategies to get more people tested. Researchers employed a multimedia campaign to promote and conduct rapid testing at clinics, churches, schools, and community centers. Researchers expect the study will lead to a better understanding of how the COVID-19 spreads, the role disparities play in COVID-19’s impact on residents of underserved communities, and the equitable deployment of vaccines and treatments in these communities.

**Woman’s Hospital (Woman’s)**

- Emergency Management has participated in coalition-based exercises and drills.



## 8. Sexually Transmitted Infections/HIV/Hepatitis C

Sexually transmitted infections (STI) are infections transferred from person to person through sexual contact. Examples of STI's are Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Syphilis, and Hepatitis C (HCV). STI's are associated with increased morbidity (disease) and mortality (death), as well as other severe complications including infertility, liver disease, and some forms of cancer. There are numerous ways to reduce the risk of transmission (transfer from one person to another) of STI's, such as using condoms and seeking regular STI testing and treatment.

### Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)

HIV attacks and destroys the cells in your body that fight off infections, making it difficult for the body to fight other infections and certain cancers. Without treatment, HIV can gradually destroy the immune system and advance to Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS). A person can reduce or eliminate the transfer of HIV from person to person by engaging in the following activities:

- Utilizing condoms during sex
- Preventive treatment, such as PrEP (Pre-exposure Prophylaxis).
  - PrEP is a once a day pill that prevents HIV infection.
- Using sterile supplies when injecting drugs
- Participating in regular HIV testing and seeking medical care for those who test positive

#### HIV Care Continuum

The HIV Care Continuum is a public health model that outlines the steps and stages people living with HIV go through from diagnosis to achieving and maintaining viral suppression (a very low or undetectable amount of HIV virus in the body).

The steps are:

- **Persons living with HIV (PLWH):** Someone who has tested positive for HIV
- **Engaged in HIV care:** PLWH who has been connected to care (physician) and had their blood drawn to identify the amount of HIV in their system at least 1 time
- **Retention in HIV care:** PLWH who has been connected to care (physician) and had their blood drawn to identify the amount of HIV in their system at least 2 times at least 90 days apart
- **Viral suppression:** PLWH whose viral load or amount of HIV in their body is low enough to be undetectable by blood test
- **PLWH in care virally suppressed:** PLWH who are engaged in care and are virally suppressed.

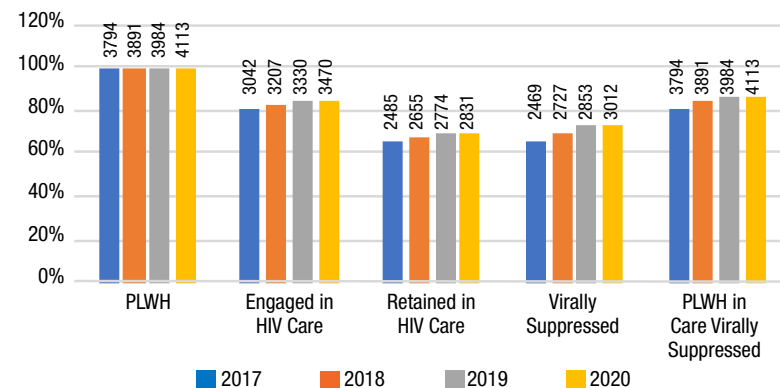


Figure 18: HIV Care Continuum in East Baton Rouge Parish

The Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program provides a comprehensive system of HIV primary medical care, essential support services, and medications for low-income people with HIV. The program funds grants to states, cities, counties, and local community-based organizations to provide care and treatment services to people with HIV to improve health outcomes and reduce HIV transmission.

More than half of people diagnosed with HIV in the United States receive services through the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program each year. More than half a million people receive services through the Ryan White Program.

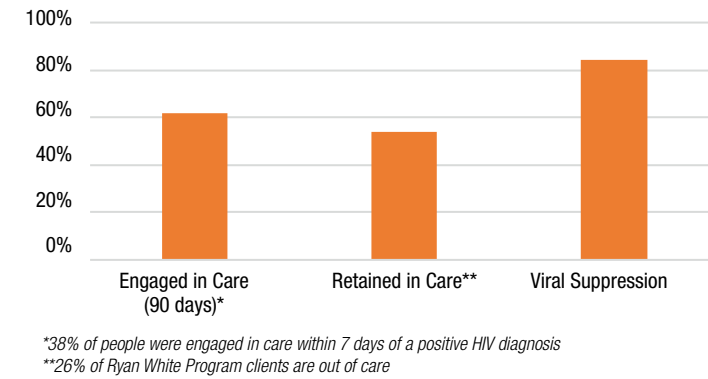


Figure 10: Baton Rouge Ryan White Continuum of Care 8/17/20 to 6/15/21

82% of **Open Health Care Clinic** clients achieved viral suppression in 2020.

**Family Services of Greater Baton Rouge** has assisted 212 clients in medical care linkage from 2018 to 2020.

HIV Surveillance Report Baton Rouge MSA*			
	2019	Rate**	Ranking
HIV Diagnosis National Ranking and Rates		23.5	4th
AIDS Diagnosis National Ranking and Rates		10.9	6th
		# of cases	Ranking
New HIV Diagnosis and National Ranking		201	36th
New AIDS Diagnosis and National Ranking		93	n/a
		# of cases	Ranking
New HIV Diagnosis and National Ranking		159	n/a
New AIDS Diagnosis and National Ranking		87	n/a

Source: Update Report-LDH,OPH, STD/HIV/Hepatitis Program

\*Baton Rouge MSA includes the following Parishes: Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Livingston, Pointe Coupee, St. Helena, West Baton Rouge and West Feliciana

\*\*Rate per 100,000 people

Key demographic information surrounding HIV in EBRP:

- In 2020, there were 126 new HIV diagnoses in EBRP. The number of new HIV diagnoses decreased 19% from 2019 to 2020. Data for 2020 should be interpreted with caution due to the impact of COVID-19 on access to HIV testing and care-related services.
- In 2020, there were 4,217 PLWH in EBRP. In 2020, nearly half of PLWH EBRP resided among four zip codes: 70802 (15%), 70805 (15%), 70806 (9%), and 70807 (9%).
- Black residents in EBRP make up 42% of the population, but in 2020:
  - 83% of new HIV diagnoses
  - 88% new AIDS diagnoses
  - 86% PLWH
- EBRP has a large proportion of women living with HIV (37%). In 2020, 21% of new HIV diagnoses were female. In 2019, 28% of new HIV diagnoses were female. The number of female HIV diagnoses decreased by 55%, from 44 females in 2019 to 20 females in 2020.
- High-risk heterosexuals (HRH) typically comprise a significantly larger proportion of EBRP's new HIV diagnoses and PLWH as compared to most other parts of Louisiana. However, due to the large decrease in new HIV diagnoses among females from 2019 to 2020, 26% of new HIV diagnoses in 2020 were among HRH in both EBRP and in Louisiana. Whereas in 2019, 45% of new HIV diagnoses in EBRP were among HRH as compared to 27% of all new diagnoses in Louisiana.
- Persons under 25 years old made up 29% of new diagnoses in 2020. An additional 39% were persons 25-34 years old.

### Hepatitis C (HCV)

HCV is an infection that can cause chronic inflammation of the liver and sometimes lead to liver damage. (31) HCV can lead to either an acute infection (an infection that typically lasts less than 6 months) or chronic infection (an infection that develops slowly and can worsen over months or years). There is treatment available to cure HCV. Similar to other STI's, HCV is transmitted when blood from a person who has HCV enters the body of a person who does not have HCV. The most common forms of transmission for HCV are:

- Injection drug use
- Donated blood, blood products, and organs before 1992
- Needlestick injuries
- Birth to a HCV infected mother
- Can be transmitted sexually, but the risk is low
- Tattoos in unlicensed facilities

New STI cases in Baton Rouge MSA –2020 Calendar Year	
	# of cases
New Primary and Secondary Syphilis	107
New Early Non-P&S Syphilis Diagnoses	77
New HIV Diagnoses	159
New AIDS Diagnoses	87
Acute Hepatitis C	93
Chronic Hepatitis C	1526
Hepatitis B	Acute HBV=9 Chronic HBV=162
Chlamydia	6,436
Gonorrhea	2,910

Source: Update Report-LDH,OPH, STD/HIV/Hepatitis Program

HIV shares several risk factors with other STIs and HCV. As a result, persons diagnosed with an STI or HCV are more likely than others to be co-infected with HIV.

East Baton Rouge Parish Co-Infection % between STI and HIV in 2020	
STI	% of patients with HIV
Chlamydia	3%
Gonorrhea	7%
Primary and Secondary Syphilis	30%
Hepatitis C	3%

Source: Update Report-LDH,OPH, STD/HIV/Hepatitis Program

### Community HIV/STI Testing

Getting tested for HIV and STIs are an important part of routine healthcare if a person is sexually active. Getting tested allows a person to know their status if they are HIV positive or positive for other STI's.

Testing by Organization				
Organization	HIV Tests	HCV Tests	Syphilis Tests	Date Range
LDH Community Health Workers	473	383	396	Since 2019
Family Service	1,698			
Metro Health		21,649		Since 2018
Care South	3,670	1,631		
Open Health Clinic	2,894	2,787		Since 2020
Gilead FOCUS opt-out testing program	98,608			Between 2018-2020

- Since 2018, 937 patients have been diagnosed with a STI and 486 patients were diagnosed with HCV through OHCC HAART testing services.
- Gilead FOCUS Opt-out HIV testing: (28,502 in 2018; 37,929 in 2019; 32,177 in 2020) While COVID-19 caused most, if not all, HIV testing in the community to be discontinued in 2020, routine HIV screening in the OLOLRMC and Ochsner emergency departments was resilient, yielding 113% and 85% of the number of tests conducted in 2018 and 2019 respectively.



**Outreach and Services**

**• Community Health Outreach Workers**

- In 2019, LDH, Office of Public Health, STD/HIV/Hepatitis Program launched a community health outreach worker program in Baton Rouge. The outreach team consists of five outreach workers and has engaged more than 5,000 EBRP residents. Each person they engage receives information about ending the HIV epidemic and other services and information.
  - The outreach team has provided more than 3,000 referrals for more than 1,600 people.
- In addition to providing information about HIV and other services, they also accompany community members to medical and/or social service appointments, including STI testing, HIV/HCV Medical Care treatment, accessing Syringe Services, and support accessing PrEP/PEP

**• Health Models**

- Health Models is a pay-for-performance program aimed at improving health outcomes and viral suppression rates and reducing health disparities among PLWH living in Louisiana. This program incentivizes qualifying events during a client's medical visit and continuously engages clients to more effectively prioritize and understand their HIV care.
- Since 2018, Health Models has served 1,249 clients living with HIV in two different clinics in EBRP. These two clinics are Open Health Care Clinic and Care South Medical and Dental. Among the clients served in these two locations, 794 were enrolled since 2018, and 455 were enrolled prior to 2018. Of all clients engaged in the program, 225 entered the program after being out of care for six months or more, and 140 entered as newly diagnosed clients, making up 29% of the program population. Among all clients engaged in care since 2018, the program-wide viral suppression rate is 86%.

**• Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)**

- HOPWA is funding provided by the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development to provide housing assistance and related supportive services to meet the housing needs of low-income persons and their families living with HIV. These resources help clients maintain housing stability, avoid homelessness, and improve access to HIV treatment and related care while placing a greater emphasis on permanent supportive housing.

People Served by Baton Rouge MSA HOPWA Programs						
	Start Corp	HAART	Volunteers of America	Metro Health	Our Lady of the Lake	TOTAL
2018	232	297	144	148	25	846
2019	244	333	140	107	25	849
2020	224	315	143	98	21	801
<b>Total</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>945</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>2,496</b>

**• PrEP and PEP**

- Open Health provides PrEP or PEP to roughly 300 clients making the program one of the largest PrEP and nPEP programs in EBRP.
- Family Service of Greater Baton Rouge has referred 66 clients/partners to multiple PrEP referral clinics and prescribers. In 2021, they opened a PrEP Pharmacy.

**• Ryan White Services**

- Every year, the Baton Rouge Transitional Grant Area Ryan White Program reviews the unmet needs of the Ryan White client experience. From January 1, 2020, through December 31, 2020, people who are in care and enrolled in Ryan White Services

reported the following unmet needs to their providers. In 2020, the number of clients enrolled and in care was 2,402.

1. Education Services 15%
2. Employment assistance 56%
3. Food Insecurities 55%
4. Geriatric Care (Aging Populations) 47%
5. Homelessness/Unstably housed 45%
6. Legal Services specifically expungement 6%
7. Mental Health 30%
8. Prescription Coverage for hormones and individuals transitioning 5%
9. Substance Use Disorders 22%
10. Transportation 8%

**• Youth services**

- Metro Health has engaged 448 youth (ages 11-19) since 2018 around two programs, Project AIM and LYFE. Program AIM uses group discussions and interactive activities to help youth imagine their future selves and learn about positive and negative influences. LYFE provides adolescents with the knowledge, confidence, and ability to abstain from sex to reduce unwanted pregnancy and the transmission of STIs.
- Outstanding Mature Girlz is an organization that works to create fun, informative public awareness platforms for girls in the Greater Baton Rouge area to help service, mentor, and educate them in the areas of HIV/STD, humanitarian leadership, self-sufficiency, self-worth, courage, wellness, and other health-related fields.
  - Since launching in 2013, they have served more than 4,700 girls across the state by educating them on making responsible choices, as it pertains to; healthy and unhealthy relationships, STIs, the importance of knowing your HIV status, and stigma associated with knowing your HIV status, PrEP knowledge, sexual health, consent, body positivity, menstrual cycles, and peer education.
  - 98% of girls who participate in the club attend college after high school.

**Ending the HIV Epidemic in the City of Baton Rouge** <sup>(32)</sup>

In 2019, the City of Baton Rouge was identified as an Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) jurisdiction by the CDC. They were also recognized as a jumpstart city receiving more than \$1 million to begin EHE initiatives throughout the parish. One of the core components of these EHE grants was to hire an EHE Coordinator who would be located in the Mayor's Office under HealthyBR. The EHE Coordinator is responsible for leading the EHE Commission and implementing the EBRP EHE Plan.



The EHE plan was completed in 2020. The plan focuses on the four pillars of EHE: Diagnose, Treat, Prevent, and Respond. The Baton Rouge community was engaged throughout the writing of the EHE Plan through a variety of methods.

- Focus Groups and in-depth interviews were conducted with priority populations impacted by HIV:
  - People living with HIV
  - People of color
  - Women of trans experience
  - Same gender-loving men of color
  - People who inject drugs
- A provider survey was conducted to assess local practitioners' knowledge, attitudes, and medical practices as it relates to STIs and HIV.

#### U=U Campaign

In 2019, Mayor Broome signed on to support the U=U Campaign. The U=U campaign is a national effort to highlight evidence that people living with HIV cannot transmit the virus to sexual partners if they are receiving care and taking medications to control the virus to the point it cannot be detected in the blood. In other words, Undetectable=Untransmittable.

#### Louisiana HCV Drug Subscription Model

In 2019, Louisiana established a new HCV drug subscription model that provides unlimited amounts of the authorized generic drug Epclusa for five years for a flat fee. This model makes it possible to expand access to HCV treatment for the Medicaid population.

#### 2020 HIV Summit

Community engagement and education is a large component of addressing HIV, STIs, and HCV. In December 2020, we hosted the first virtual Baton Rouge HIV Summit. The theme for the virtual summit was "Humans of Impeccable Valor: Rewriting Our Story". Roughly 100 people attended the virtual summit via Facebook and were able to engage in breakout sessions and chat features with the session leaders.

HealthyBR partners are working to address STI's and HIV in our community through:

#### Baton Rouge General Medical Center

- As part of each annual physical at a BRG primary care clinic, patients are screened for potential STIs and HIV, and if needed, provided the necessary testing. BRG works closely with local Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) to ensure patients receive the best, specialized treatment and resources.

#### Capital Area Reentry Program, Inc. (CARP)

- Harm Reduction
  - CARP has provided approximately 475,000 syringes between January 2019 and August 2021 to those living in a 100-mile radius
  - Since January 2020, they have supplied 14,806 doses of Naloxone
  - 23,000 condoms have been passed out since August 2020
- Mobile Unit Engagement
  - In 2020, Capital Area Human Services District launched a Mobile Outreach unit. In partnership with CARP, they have had contact with approximately 1,400 people through the first six months of service.

#### Family Road of Greater Baton Rouge (FRGBR)

- FRGBR provided abstinence-only education to more than 100 youth ages 10-18 through the LYFE (Louisiana Youth for Excellence) program.
- FRGBR provided 1,200 youth education as a part of the Believe in Youth-Louisiana (BY-LA) program.
  - BY-LA is a teen pregnancy prevention program that teaches age-appropriate

sexual and emotional health to Louisiana youth. BY-LA's curriculum is taught in middle schools, high schools, community organizations, faith-based organizations, after-school programs, and juvenile justice institutions. The goal is to reduce rates of teen pregnancy, HIV, and other STI's in children and young adults ages 11-19.

- FSGBR provides services through the following programs: Ryan White Part A Program, HIV Women & Children Program, HIV Counseling, Testing, Referral & Linkage to Care, and ViiV Rural Initiative.

#### Lane Regional Medical Center

- Lane selective HIV testing in the Emergency Room and provides Rapid HIV testing for needle sticks in the clinical setting after potential exposures. Lane performs preliminary Hepatitis B screenings and the 3-shot series on-site for local fire departments, police departments, maintenance companies, and healthcare facilities. They also incorporate testing in their annual and retirement physicals for local law enforcement and fire personnel.

#### Ochsner Medical Center – Baton Rouge

- In an effort to end the HIV and HCV epidemics happening in Baton Rouge, Ochsner Medical Center – Baton Rouge and Ochsner Medical Complex-Iberville implemented opt-out HIV/HCV testing in the Emergency Departments to all qualifying patients in early 2019. Baton Rouge was the first region within Ochsner Health to implement opt-out HIV/HCV testing. Since then, other Ochsner Health locations have followed the lead of the Baton Rouge area and now offer opt-out HIV/HCV testing options to all qualifying patients who come to the Emergency Department.
- Project ECHO, a virtual education series, was offered to all Emergency Department nurses to increase awareness of the need to reduce the stigma of persons who use drugs and persons living with HIV or HCV. Handouts were made to educate patients who inject drugs on the potential health risks of injecting drugs, the proper use, and disposal of needles and syringes, the importance of knowing one's status, and options available for those who are HIV/HCV positive.
- In collaboration with the LDH, Ochsner hosted an HIV testing event in observation of National HIV Testing Day on June 25, 2021. Social workers were onsite to provide counseling and linkage to care.

#### Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center

- In response to 2006 CDC guidelines and "Ending the HIV Epidemic: A plan for America", launched by the US Department of Health and Human Services in 2020, OLOLRMC, Gilead Sciences, and the Louisiana Office of Public Health are in partnership to provide opt-out HIV





testing and early linkage to care services to patients ages 13-64, through the OLOLRMC Emergency Departments and Urgent Care facilities.

- OLOLRMC’s Early Intervention Center (EIC) is the largest provider of comprehensive HIV primary medical care services in the Baton Rouge area and the State of Louisiana. In 2020, across the total patient population of the clinic, a viral suppression rate of 85.5% was achieved. The EIC is committed to staying on that forefront of treatment advances, innovative interventions, and service enhancements to ensure the delivery of quality healthcare to patients living with HIV. In conjunction with LDH/OPH-STD/HIV/HCV Program, the Early Intervention Clinic has hired two contract HIV testing counselors to screen patients for HIV in the OLOL LSU Health Clinics in Baton Rouge. This pilot program of the Early Intervention Clinic started in August 2019. The counselors provide INSTI HIV-1/HIV-2 testing and HIV prevention education in multiple clinics across the 4 locations of OLOL LSU Health Baton Rouge. The test is performed during the patient’s appointment with the provider.
- OLOLRMC’s Health Care Centers in Schools (HCCS) program also offers STI testing to high school students who consented to use the clinic. Additionally, they host “Get Yourself Talking, Get Yourself Tested” during National STI Awareness Month, to provide education on sexual behavior. Students are given surveys about STIs, and education is conducted by both the nursing and licensed mental health provider.

**Woman’s Hospital (Woman’s)**

- Established in 2002, Woman’s Mother-to-Child HIV Transmission Prevention program focuses on preventing the transmission of HIV from birthing people to newborns during birth. With this program, the chance of transmission can be decreased to less than 2%. The program provides case management for pregnant people living with HIV and their babies from diagnosis during prenatal lab tests to one year after delivery. When a pregnant person living with HIV comes to Woman’s, a specially trained nurse develops a care plan based on their specific needs. The nurse schedules their physician appointments, ensures they are taking their medications, and offers education around safe sex practices. After delivery, the baby is placed on anti-retroviral medication for six weeks. This service is provided at no charge to the patient. Since 2005, Woman’s has not had a baby born with HIV to a pregnant person enrolled in the program.
- The PrEP (Pre-exposure Prophylaxis) program was recently started in the LSU OB/GYN Clinic. If increased risk is noted from a short risk assessment, the program is discussed and labs are ordered. Once a patient is enrolled in the program, they are followed every three months. Education on reducing the transmission of HIV is discussed, and free condoms are provided if the patient is interested. They also provide a three-day dose pack of PEP (post-exposure prophylaxis) to patients who experience sexual assault treated during non-business hours.



9. Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)

The SDOH are the places where people live, learn, work, and play and how they affect a person’s health. Some SDOH are access to healthcare, education, jobs, safe neighborhoods, and a connection to the community.

Social Determinates of Health Data				
	East Baton Rouge Parish	Ascension Parish	Louisiana	Top US Performers
<b>Uninsured</b>	9%	7%	9%	6%
<i>The percentage of the population ages 18 to 64 who have no health insurance coverage in a given county.</i>				
<b>Primary Care physicians</b>	1,090:1	2,440:1	1,030:1	1,470:1
<i>The ratio represents the number of individuals served by one physician if the population was equally distributed across physicians</i>				
<b>Mental Health Providers</b>	240:1	970:1	330:1	270:1
<i>The ratio represents the number of individuals served by one mental health provider if the population were equally distributed across providers</i>				
<b>High School Completion</b>	90%	89%	85%	94%
<i>High School Completion is the percentage of the population age 25 and over who received at least a high school diploma or equivalent.</i>				
<b>Some College</b>	67%	67%	57%	73%
<i>Some College is the percentage of the population age 25-44 with some post-secondary education, such as enrollment in vocational/technical schools, junior colleges, or four-year colleges. It includes individuals who pursued education following high school but did not receive a degree, as well as those who attained degrees</i>				
<b>Unemployment</b>	4.4%	4.1%	4.8%	2.6%
<i>The percentage of the county's civilian labor force, ages 16 and older, who are unemployed but seeking work</i>				
<b>Air Pollution – particulate matter</b>	12.1	10.1	8.7	5.2
<i>Air Pollution measures the particulate matter in the air</i>				
<b>Homeownership</b>	60%	82%	66%	81%
<i>Home Ownership is the percentage of occupied housing units that are owned</i>				
<b>Renters (36)</b>	40% (66,112)	18% (7,953)	34% (598,292)	-
<i>% Renters of total number of households</i>				
<b>Severe Housing Cost Burden</b>	16%	8%	14%	7%
<i>Severe Housing Cost Burden is the percentage of households that spend 50% or more of their household income on housing</i>				
<b>Food Environment Index</b>	7.0	7.9	8.7	5.2
<i>The Food Environment Index ranges from a scale of 0 (worst) to 10 (best) and equally weights two indicators of the food environment: 1) Limited access to healthy foods estimates the percentage of the population that is low income and does not live within one mile of a grocery store 2) Food insecurity estimates the percentage of the population who did not have access to a reliable source of food during the past year .</i>				
<b>Food Insecurity</b>	14%	11%	16%	9%
<i>The percentage of the population who did not have access to a reliable source of food during the past year</i>				
<b>Limited Access to Healthy Foods</b>	11%	8%	10%	2%
<i>The percentage of the population who are low income and do not live close to a grocery store.</i>				

Source: County Health Rankings (10) (11).

**Food Insecurity**

See Page 51 in the Healthy Living section, to learn more about the work addressing food insecurity.

**Economic Development and Diversity Initiatives**

- In 2019, Mayor Broome released the first-ever commissioned Disparity Study.
  - The study was conducted by Keen Independent Research, which examined more than 11,000 City-Parish purchases between 2013-2017 and interviewed more than 1,000 businesses within the Capital Region. This study was in partnership with BREC and the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport.
- They found of available businesses, 41% are owned by people of color and/or women, and 9% are owned by veterans. Based on a pool of businesses this size, an average of 21% of contracts would go to these businesses -- but the City-Parish only awarded 4% of contracting to these businesses within that four-year period.
  - This Disparity study confirmed the city-parish significantly underutilized small businesses in City-Parish contracts, particularly for women-owned, minority-owned, and veteran-owned companies.
- In April 2021, Mayor Broome passed an ordinance unanimously through the Metro Council to establish a Division of Supplier Diversity and contracting goals for the Socially & Economically Disadvantaged Businesses (SEDBs) program.
  - The ordinance aims to create a level and more inclusive playing field for firms owned by minorities, women, veteran, and small businesses who bid on City-Parish contracts. It will also expand the pool of eligible firms, ultimately benefiting East Baton Rouge Parish taxpayers through increased competition and lower costs.
  - The Division of Supplier Diversity will be tasked with closing the disparity gap and establishing participation goals by contract type. It will have oversight of certification eligibility, contract compliance, business outreach, training & capacity building for local SEDBs.
  - The certification program will build upon programs like BRPOP, by allowing small businesses to unilaterally receive certification to work with the City, BREC, and BTR.
- In December 2018, the voters of EBRP voted for a dedicated tax called MOVEBR, which provided the largest investment in transportation infrastructure in the history of EBRP with \$1 Billion in projects.
  - Since the fall of 2019, the City-Parish has spent 35% (\$19.3 Million) of MOVEBR spending with Minority-Owned, Women-Owned, and Veteran-Owned businesses.
- The Baton Rouge Procurement Opportunity Partnership initiative (BR-POP) is a program that facilitates bids for services or products from large, local companies and agencies being procured from local, small businesses veteran, women, and/or minority-owned. This public-private, Business to Business initiative is designed to assist the development and growth of local, historically under-represented companies' by providing access to business and public purchasing opportunities. BR-POP shares upcoming contract opportunities with small businesses, thereby promoting supplier diversity and equity within various industries.
  - BR-POP is a partnership between Mayor Broome and the city-parish of East Baton Rouge, Baton Rouge Area Chamber, and MetroMorphosis, and includes procurement partners such as BASF, Baton Rouge General, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana, BREC, CATS, Coca-Cola Bottling, Community Coffee, East Baton Rouge Housing Authority, East Baton Rouge Parish School System - Fair Share Program, Entergy, ExxonMobil, Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady (FMOL), Jacobs, L'Auberge Casino, Lyons Specialty, Louisiana State University, LSU Athletics, Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center, Methanex, Ochsner Health, Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center, Southern University and Turner Industries.
- Between May 2019 and June 2020, BR-POP estimates more than 40 contract awards and purchase orders with small businesses, representing more than \$5 million in value by BR-POP partners have been facilitated.

**Workforce Development**

Between 2018 and 2020, more than 1,500 youth have participated in Mayor Broome's Youth Workforce Experience (MYWE). Since taking office in 2017, Mayor Broome has grown the number of youths involved in the program by 440%. The goal of the program is to create a pathway to success by providing young adults with a chance to discover interests, build skills, and explore careers through experiences that can serve as the foundation for educational and professional success. The summer program consists of mentorship, training and enrichment courses, civic engagement, volunteerism, and classes that build on social-emotional skills.

MYWE also partners with the Division of Human Development and Services (DHDS) to utilize Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funding to provide paid workforce experience to youth with barriers to employment. Through this partnership, the following was accomplished:

Mayor Broome's Youth Workforce Experience (MYWE) Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act funded programs			
	2018	2019	2020
Work Experience – Summer Only			
In – School Youth	41	104	-
Out-of-School Youth	33	39	-
Youth Incentive			
In School			46
ITA ( Individual Training Account)			
Out-of-School Youth only	18	31	64
Work Experience			
Out-of-School	7	57	5
In-School	-	15	1
<b>Total Youth Served</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>150</b>



**Education**

The EBRPSS has implemented several programs and initiatives to help address the SDOH. They include:

- Free credit recovery to increase the graduation rate
- Dual advanced placement enrollment for students to earn college credit while in high school
  - Establishing pathways for students to earn an Associate’s Degree in high school
- Expanded number of Pre-K seats
- Expanding district literacy initiative
- Increased number of nurse’s district-wide
- Increased number of social workers provided
- Implementing Social Emotional Learning curriculum district-wide
- Transition school counselors from test coordination to responsive services
- Migrating school bus fleet from diesel to propane to improve air quality
- Providing free (virtual and holiday) home delivery meals to the district, private, parochial, and out-of-district youth aged 18 and younger (to age 21 if special needs)



**Housing**

Stable, affordable, and healthy housing is essential to community health and well-being. According to the American Hospital Association and their report titled “Housing and Health: A Roadmap for the Future” by providing permanent supportive housing for individuals experiencing homelessness:

- Healthcare cost reduced by 59%;
- ED costs decreased by 61%; and
- Inpatient hospitalizations decreased by 77%.

Housing initiatives can address various points of the housing insecurity continuum based on the needs of the community. Over the past three years, hospitals and health systems in the U.S. have invested at least \$1.6 billion in housing-related interventions. <sup>(33)</sup>

Children’s Health Watch released a study in July 2017 that estimates families with children under age 18 who are unstably housed had \$8 billion in avoidable health care and education costs in 2016. (Adjusted for inflation and projected increases in health and education costs will result in \$111 billion over the next ten years.) <sup>(34)</sup>

Additionally, a study conducted in Birmingham, Alabama followed 58 families (103 children ages 2-16 years) who experienced homelessness and were rehoused, compared to 21 families (54 children ages 2-16 years) of low socioeconomic status who experienced homelessness and were rehoused. The study found:

- Children experiencing homelessness and their mothers have a high level of mental health problems
- Families experiencing homelessness face many risk factors, such as domestic violence, abuse and family and social disruption
- Forty percent of children and 25% of mothers showed persistent mental health problems due to rehousing.
- In contrast with a comparison group of families of low socioeconomic status, a substantial proportion of families experiencing homelessness remained residentially and socially unstable.

The conclusion of the study found families experiencing homelessness have a high level of complex needs that cannot be met by conventional health services and arrangements. Local strategies



for rapid rehousing into permanent accommodation, effective social support and health care for parents and children, and protection from violence and intimidation should be developed and implemented. <sup>(35)</sup>

For thousands of families who rent, the risks of homelessness are greater than their peers who own their own homes. In addition, many of these families have complex needs and as a result, are not only struggling with housing stability but oftentimes must choose between paying rent and other essential needs, including medicines and healthcare. Below is a snapshot of rental affordability in Louisiana, EBRP, and AP according to the National Low Income Housing Coalition’s report. “Out of Reach 2021: Louisiana” <sup>(36)</sup>

Affordability for Rentals in EBRP and AP					
	0 Bedroom	1 Bedroom	2 Bedroom	3 Bedroom	4 Bedroom
Housing Wage*	\$15.27	\$16.46	\$19.48	\$24.81	\$30.44
Fair Market Rent**	\$794	\$856	\$1,013	\$1,290	\$1,583
Annual Income***	\$31,760	\$34,240	\$40,520	\$51,600	\$63,320
# of Hours a Week at Minimum Wage**	84	91	107	137	168

\*Housing wage is the estimated hourly wage a full-time worker must earn to afford a modest rental home at HUD’s fair market rent (FMR) without spending more than 30% of their income on housing cost  
 \*\* Fair Market Rent (FMR) is an estimate of what a family moving today can expect to pay for a modestly priced home in a given area  
 \*\*\*Yearly income needed to rent a home  
 \*\*\*\* # of hours a person making minimum wage needs to work a week to rent a home

	LA	EBRP	AP
Minimum Wage	\$7.25	\$7.25	\$7.25
Affordable rent (minimum wage)	\$377	\$377	\$377
Average Renter Wage	\$14.54	\$15.77	\$14.88
Affordable rent (average wage)	\$756	\$820	\$774
% and # of Household Renters	34% (598,292)	40% (66,112)	18% (7,953)

The report also highlights the income gap that exists for housing cost-burdened families, which predominantly includes those making minimum wage and spending 50% or more on housing costs. For example, in EBRP where the minimum wage is \$7.25 (or \$20,300 annually) the housing wage for a family to afford a two-bedroom unit at a fair market rate is \$19.48 per hour (\$40,520 annually).

EBRP has a large Black community, and a growing Latinx population, but home ownership for these groups has lagged behind Non-Latinx White households. In East Baton Rouge Parish, there is a large disparity between White applicants (72.8% approved) and minority applicants (54.8% approved) according to 2018 HMDA data. Income was an important factor as there was a clear increase in approval rates with increased income. However, as the loan amounts increased, incomes became less a factor of approval. Findings from logistic regression models for EBRP consistently show when controlling for other factors, including income, minority status was a statistically significant predictors of the probability of loan approval.

The probability that mortgage applications from minority primary applicants would be approved was 36.3% lower than of White applicants. The primary reason for denial in 2018 was credit history; 33.6% of applications denied listed this as one of the three reasons for denial. Debt-to-income ratio (32.7% of applications denied) and lack of collateral (19.9% of applications denied) were also common reasons for denial.

#### Other Initiatives

##### Baton Rouge General Medical Center (BRG)

- BRG's Community Enhancement Award program allows the hospital to support large projects with significant, multi-year grants, focusing on transformative initiatives for the Baton Rouge community and addressing complex challenges such as SDOH, quality of place, and population health. BRG has given \$300,000 in grants since the program's inception, to HOPE Ministries, Front Yard Bikes, and the Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge.
- BRG is committed to improving the quality of place in Baton Rouge and continues its work with Mid City Redevelopment Alliance on revitalization projects. Another large revitalization project is in the works for Florida Boulevard, side of the hospital. It will add green space to create a true gathering place and an ideal location for screenings and community events.
- BRG Foundation's Community, Access, Resources, and Education (CARE) Initiative addresses health inequality and barriers to care among the hospital's patient base at Mid-City and tackles some of the most common issues keeping patients from achieving full health, including transportation, medical equipment, and food insecurity.

##### East Baton Rouge Parish Housing Authority (EBRPHA)

- In 2020, the EBRPHA served 12,799 people through housing choice vouchers and through the affordable housing communities they operate.
  - 10,817 people received housing choice vouchers in partnership with 1,176 landlords. The Housing Choice Voucher program is a federal government program that helps extremely-low and very-low-income families, senior citizens, and people with a disability with the ability to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market. Since housing assistance is provided on behalf of the family or individual, participants are able to find their own housing, including single-family homes, townhomes, and apartments. The participant is free to choose any housing in the private market that meets the requirements of the programs.
  - 1,982 residents lived in one of the 879 units located at the 12 Affordable Housing Communities maintained by EBRPHA.
    - Three of these communities have special accommodations for seniors, handicapped, and disabled families.

##### Lane Regional Medical Center

- Lane Foundation provides up to \$1,000 in monetary assistance to staff members in crisis through the Employee Benevolent Fund.



##### Ochsner Medical Center – Baton Rouge

- Health and wellness resources include medical, dental, vision, and pharmacy benefits. For growing families, Ochsner offers adoption assistance to new parents by offsetting some of the costs associated with the adoption process. During the COVID-19 response, Ochsner partnered with Bright Horizons to provide childcare solutions for employees. The partnership is still in place providing childcare solutions, education and homework help, nanny placement services, and care for adult/elderly family members. Ochsner's wellness program, Go365, rewards employees for living a healthy lifestyle. Employees also have access to smoking cessation programs and once proof of completion is submitted, the healthcare benefit premiums revert to the tobacco-free rate. Employees can also enjoy discounted rates with Weight Watchers to achieve their weight loss goals.
- UniteUs is a community resource referral platform that allows Ochsner team members to connect patients with community-based resources providing services and closing gaps of patients' non-clinical needs.
- Across Louisiana, there are critical shortages in the healthcare workforce, contributing to Louisiana's health disparities and limiting healthcare services where they are needed most. Ochsner Health's Workforce Development team has multiple programs in place to provide underserved employees and eligible community participants the skills and knowledge to support current and future healthcare demands. Programs include EVS Academy for Environmental Service, Ancillary, and Support Staff workers; Pharmacy Technician program; Medical Laboratory Technician program; and Medical Assistant Now.
- Other lifestyle benefits for Ochsner employees include auto and home insurance, pet health insurance, and access to legal services.

##### Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center

- OLOLRMC has recommitted to expanding opportunities for workforce development. The healthcare industry is experiencing unprecedented shortages exacerbated by the pandemic. In an effort to continue to meet community health needs, OLOLRMC invested in many programs resulting in accelerated certifications and associate degrees, and learn-and-earn apprenticeships, on-the-job training, and continuing education incentives to increase earning potentials. In just a short six to nine months, more than 100 team members participated in these programs. Additionally, OLOLRMC examined its purchasing practices and found it could increase the use of local minority-owned vendors by breaking up large projects, resulting in an expansion from 7 to 32 contracts with local vendors.
- OLOLRMC continues to promote community education to decrease the over-utilization of the ED. Social workers in the ED help direct patients to primary care and the appropriate follow-up resources. Since adding social workers to the ED team to build relationships with the "familiar faces", the statistics changed from 23% of patients keeping their appointments to 76%. The resident and primary care clinics collectively provide approximately 138,000 visits, 75% of which are to uninsured or Medicaid patients.
- LSUHBR Urgent Care Clinics continue to meet the needs of more than 43,000 patients annually.
- OLOLRMC continues to implement a SDOH screening system in order to screen more than 5,000 patients for the SDOH in our primary care practice during their annual checkups. LPG Pediatrics conducts risk assessments to assess and address SDOH and MBH in adolescents seen in the Adolescent Health ministry.



- Health Centers in Schools mobile units, clinics, and school nursing currently provide access to quality healthcare, mental health services, and health education to more than 41,000 students in EBR and charter schools that may have transportation and insurance barriers to healthcare services.
- OLOLRMC helped establish The Faith Fund in 2018 after failed legislation to cap payday loans interest rates. Launched in 2018, its goal is to help families become more financially stable through:
  - 1,182 team members participated in financial counseling and coaching and were provided access to 1,076 loans for \$1,986,560. This resulted in team members saving \$4,273,991 in fees and interest rates.
  - The Franciscan Ministry Fund provided \$150,000 contribution over 3 years to open a storefront for The Faith Fund in January 2021, which provides space for financial education in a zip code with a CNI of 5.0
  - In 2021, a physical location was opened on Plank Road which is in the heart of the targeted zip codes for this program.
- In addition to The Faith Fund, OLOLRMC implemented PayActiv in January 2021. This program provides team members access to their payroll dollars between pay periods since data showed team members accessed payday loans between pay periods.
- OLOLRMC responds to pressures in the environment for example, during COVID-19 and Hurricane Ida, OLOLRMC identified a need and quickly pivoted to create products to assist with the negative financial impact on team members created by the pandemic and natural disaster.
- In 2021, OLOLRMC published an article in the Catholic Health Association’s Health Progress. (“ Financial Programs for Our Workers: The Ultimate Return on Investment”)
- OLOLRMC partners with HOPE Ministries to provide skill-based programs to team members to help maintain employment.

**Woman’s Hospital**

- Woman’s has embedded social workers within the community-based clinics to provide screenings to patients to assess for any SDOH. These social workers are able to provide brief interventions for pregnant women early in their pregnancies to help reduce preterm birth.



## 10. Violence Prevention

Violence is a public health problem and affects everyone no matter their age. Survivors of violence often suffer from physical, mental, and/or emotional health problems for the rest of their lives. Addressing violence through a public health lens gives a framework on how to address violence at the root cause rather than addressing the effects of violence.

Violence Data				
	East Baton Rouge Parish	Ascension Parish	Louisiana	Top US Performers
<b>Violent Crime Rate</b>	583	337	541	63
<i>Violent Crime is the number of violent crimes reported per 100,000 population.</i>				
<b>Injury Deaths</b>	93	67	90	59
Asian	22			
Black	98			
Hispanic	65			
White	95			
<i>Injury Deaths is the number of deaths from planned (e.g. homicide or suicide) and unplanned (e.g. motor vehicle deaths) injuries per 100,000 population.</i>				
<b>Homicides</b>	20	7	13	2
Black	36	19		
Hispanic	17	-		
White	5	3		
<i>Homicides is the number of deaths from assaults per 100,000 population.</i>				
<b>Firearm Fatalities</b>	27	13	21	8
Black	41	16		
Hispanic	18	-		
White	16	13		
<i>Firearm Fatalities is the number of deaths due to firearms in a county per 100,000 population.</i>				

Source: County Health Rankings (10) (11).

Homicides in EBRP by Year						
2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	
83	124**	105	97	136***	170****	
Domestic Violence in EBRP by Year*						
2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	
7	14	9	4	19	-	

\*EBRDA Annual Domestic Violence Report (cite: <https://www.ebrda.org/pdfs/Domestic%20Violence%20ANNUAL%20REPORT%202020%203.15.2021.pdf>)  
 \*\*In the summer of 2016, Baton Rouge experienced a high profile police shooting of Alton Sterling, an ambush on police, and a 1,000-year flood which experts say contributed to a violent summer the following year  
 \*\*\*After the COVID-19 lockdown, there were increases in violent crime across the country  
 \*\*\*\*As of 12/06/21 based on reporting by the EBRP coroner’s office website: <https://www.ebrcoroner.com/news>

## Violence as a Public Health Problem

The World Health Organization defines violence as “the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community that either result in or have a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation.”<sup>(37)</sup>

The CDC has identified a four-step approach to addressing violence that is rooted in the scientific method.<sup>(38)</sup>

1. Define and monitor the problem
  - Identifying and analyzing data of “who”, “what”, “when”, “where” and “why”.
2. Identify risk and protective factors
  - By identifying the risk factors (likelihood of a person becoming a victim or perpetrator of violence) and protective factors (what will decrease the likelihood of a person becoming a victim or perpetrator of violence), one is able to then identify where prevention efforts can be focused.
3. Develop and test prevention strategies
  - Identifying evidence-based approaches and utilizing data to drive decisions. Then one must evaluate the effectiveness of these interventions.
4. Assure widespread adoption
  - Once an intervention is identified, it is important to share that information with the community and encourage widespread adoption.

The American Public Health Association put out a policy statement titled, “Violence Is a Public Health Issue: Public Health Is Essential to Understanding and Treating Violence in the U.S.”. In a policy statement, APHA outlines why it is important for the public health community to focus on violence prevention. They argue “this approach not only prevents harm and injustice but also saves a significant amount in funding. In Maryland, the cost of gun violence alone is estimated at \$3.6 billion; the overall U.S. estimate is \$460 billion, including \$318 billion in lost productivity and \$93.5 billion related to suicide alone.”<sup>(39)</sup>

## Addressing Violence through a Public Safety Ecosystem

In September 2020, Mayor-President announced the creation of Safe Hopeful Healthy Baton Rouge, an initiative whose mission is to create a sustainable wellness plan, rooted in prevention strategies, that aligns resources and fruitful partnerships between diverse stakeholders to accelerate progress on complex social conditions, policies, and practices that advances health, public safety, and wellbeing in Baton Rouge.

### Safe Hopeful Healthy Baton Rouge (SHHBR)

SHHBR approaches violence prevention through a public health lens by looking at prevention with four key pillars:

- **Stabilize Youth, Family, and Community:** In late 2021 and early 2022, SHHBR launched the School Outreach Dream Academy (SODA) at Glen Oaks High School. SODA will focus on in-school, after-school, and summer programming with a focus on academic achievement, social-emotional learning, career exploration and readiness, health and wellness, and person-centered case management. These programs will be offered through collaboration with a diverse group of stakeholders including Big Buddy, Health Care Centers in Schools, HealthyBR, Baton Rouge Area Chamber, City of Baton Rouge, and EBRPSS.
- **Community-Based Public Safety:** In partnership with Annie E Casey Foundation and the White House Task Force on Crime and Prevention, Baton Rouge launched the Baton Rouge Community Street Team (BRCST) in June 2021. The BRCST uses credible messengers to intervene and prevent violent incidents from occurring in 70802 and 70805. They also use person-centered case management to connect mentees to community resources such as counseling, grief and victim services. In addition, BRCST supports rental assistance and legal services.

- **Equitable Community Development:** Through a partnership with the Bridge Agency, monthly workshops focused on Nonprofit Leadership and Capacity Building will be held with topics including Grant Writing; Strategic Planning; Financial Wellness; and Board Development.
- **Health in All Policies:** In partnership with Set Free Addiction Recovery, “When You Are Ready” an outreach program was launched. The program is geared toward citizens struggling with opioid addiction. The program provides opioid overdose training to law enforcement, community-based organizations, and faith leaders. In addition, they distribute Narcan and host Sober Saturday outreach events to connect with those interested in addressing their addiction.

There is various violence interrupting programs communities have implemented to address violence in their communities. Addressing violence cannot be a one size fits all approach and as a result, Baton Rouge has adopted a public safety ecosystem using best practices to address violence. Below are some best practices implemented across the country and the programs and initiatives in Baton Rouge they have influenced.

**Group Violence Intervention (GVI):** The Group Violence Intervention (GVI) is an evidence-based strategy that originated from “Operation Ceasefire” in Boston during the 1990s, which resulted in a 63% reduction in youth homicide victimization. GVI is designed to reduce homicides and gun violence by addressing group-involved crimes. “Groups” refer to any social network whose members commit violent crimes together. They can be organized gangs to loose neighborhood crews.

This model involves partnerships between law enforcement, community members, and social service providers that directly engage the small and active number of people involved in violent street groups. They do this by delivering credible moral messages against violence; they provide prior notice about the consequences of further violence, and a genuine offer of help for those who want it. This face-to-face meeting between group members and the strategy’s partners is a central method of communication.<sup>(40)</sup>

### TRUCE

TRUCE was established in October of 2017 with a mission to identify and support the youth of Baton Rouge who are at-risk by providing them and their communities with continued outreach and resources. TRUCE focuses on youth and young adults between the ages of 14 and 24. TRUCE works closely with the juvenile court system to identify and refer youth who are currently associating with violent groups. TRUCE’s model is based on GVI, which includes



a partnership between Law Enforcement (EBRDA, BRPD, EBRSO) community members/faith-based organizations, and social service providers.

The TRUCE model uses a focused deterrence approach as a prevention strategy. TRUCE provides three levels of interventions: Individual/Family, Law Enforcement, and Community. The TRUCE case manager creates individualized care plans based on the identified needs of the clients and their families. They assist these individuals and their families with social service referrals, appointments, and transportation. Law enforcement strategies include: homicide reviews, group audits, and call-ins. TRUCE also does community walks and outreach to help spread the TRUCE message and improve the community's perception of TRUCE and law enforcement.

Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD): (41) The City of Los Angeles Mayor's Office of Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD) was established in July 2007 to address gang violence in a comprehensive and coordinated way throughout the City. GRYD implements a Comprehensive Strategy to drive funding and practice decisions across areas designated as GRYD Zones. GRYD currently provides gang intervention and prevention services in 23 GRYD Zones throughout the City of Los Angeles, along with community engagement programming, and various other initiatives.

GRYD's Comprehensive Strategy is driven by two mission statements. The mission statements and related goals for GRYD programming are to improve the overall health and well-being of youth, young adults, families, and communities and to provide positive alternatives to promote prosocial decisions.

GRYD Comprehensive Strategy Goals:

- Increasing the community's knowledge of and access to equitable resources.
- Increasing youth and family protective factors and resiliency while reducing gang joining among youth between the ages of 10 and 15.
- Increasing youth and family protective factors and resiliency while reducing gang embeddedness for gang-involved youth and young adults between the ages of 14 and 25.
- Facilitating effective communication and coordinated responses to prevent gang violence.
- Facilitating effective communication and coordinated responses to reduce the likelihood of retaliation when violent incidents occur.
- Providing training opportunities on how to recognize and address vicarious trauma and prevent the reactivation of individual trauma.

Providing ongoing training and support to connect GRYD provider staff to best practices in the delivery of services.



Cure Violence: (42) Gary Slutkin, MD, who is the former head of the World Health Organization's (WHO) Intervention Development Unit., and the founder/executive director of Cure Violence. He launched Cure Violence in West Garfield Park, Chicago in 2020 and saw a 67% reduction in shooting in its first year of implementation. Cure Violence, formerly known as Cease Fire, stops the spread of violence by using the methods and strategies associated with disease control:

1. Detecting and interrupting conflicts: Training violence interrupters and outreach workers to prevent shootings by identifying and mediating potentially lethal conflicts in the community and following up to ensure the conflict does not reignite.
2. Identifying and treating the highest risk individuals: Trained, culturally appropriate outreach workers work with people who are identified as the highest risk of committing violence. They build relationships by meeting them where they are, talking to them about the costs of using violence, and helping them to obtain the social services they need – such as job training and drug treatment.
3. Changing social norms: Workers engage leaders in the community as well as community residents, local business owners, faith leaders, service providers, and those who are at high risk of committing violence by conveying the message that the residents, groups, and the community do not support the use of violence.

Hospital-Based Violence Intervention (HVIP): Hospital-based violence intervention programs (HVIPs) are multidisciplinary programs that identify patients at risk of repeat violent injury and link them with a hospital and community-based resources aimed at addressing underlying risk factors for violence. HVIPs combine the efforts of medical staff with trusted community-based partners to provide safety planning, services, and trauma-informed care to people who have been victims of violence.

HVIPs alter risk trajectories by operating at multiple levels of the social ecology model:

1. Intervention: Begins with a brief intervention in the emergency department or at the hospital bedside
2. Care: Followed by intensive, long-term community-based case management services in the months following the injury
3. Follow-up Services: Crisis intervention, linkages to community-based services, mentoring, home visits, follow-up assistance, and long term case management is provided by culturally competent frontline workers who are from the same or similar communities as the clients they serve
4. Addressing the SDOH: HVIPs elevate the issues of the revolving door of violence while addressing inequity and building partnerships with communities and survivors of violence.

(43)

**EBRP Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program**

The EBRP Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program is a partnership between the EBRP District Attorney's Office and OLOLRMC. This initiative focuses on patients who are victims of violent intentional injuries and domestic violence, with a goal to reduce recidivism of violent crimes and domestic violence among adults age 18 to 28. The program was created as a hybrid of the Chatham County Hospital Violence Intervention Program, the Drexel University College of Medicine Healing Hurt People program, and the "Caught in the Crossfire" Program in Oakland, California.

In many situations, victims who have been shot and/or stabbed have reported that while receiving emergency treatment, their thoughts are either to change their way of life or to retaliate. The same can be said of those that survive domestic violence. Most of these individuals return, without any support, to the same environment in which they were injured. The hospital-based intervention program utilizes a trauma-informed approach to capitalize on this potentially life-changing moment while addressing the patient's immediate needs. This approach recognizes that trauma experienced by victims of violence or catastrophe is manifested in ways that often

mask the true feelings and/or in ways that are extreme, and pose further risk to themselves, their families, or their community.

The goals are to break the cycle of arrest and emergency room readmission for victims of violent injury and domestic violence. To assess issues of retaliation and witness intimidation at the earliest opportunity, provide wraparound social services immediately after the injury and a safety plan before returning home. The Victim Advocate typically begins their work at the hospital, immediately after the victim has been stabilized. The relationship between the Victim Advocate and the victim will begin at the hospital bedside and will continue for up to one year. The assistance provided includes support for employment, mental health services, introduction to social support networks, and legal advocacy. Services are also provided to the victim's family to ensure the new behaviors are reinforced and the environment is safe. A case plan is developed with the victim to map out short-and-long term goals relevant to the victim's needs and wants. This support will be provided through wraparound type services that utilize family and friends, mentors, and human service agencies who work to provide a comprehensive approach to intervention.

President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing: In 2014, former President Barack Obama issued an executive order creating the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing "to identify the best means to prove an effective partnership between law enforcement and local commits that reduces crime and increases trust."<sup>(44)</sup> The task force recommendations fall under six categories that include the following:



(45)

Mayor Broome's Implementation of President Obama's 21st Century Policing Recommendations Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome took office in 2017, and one of her first tasks was to bring reform to the BRPD. Through alignment with President Obama's 21st Century Policing Recommendations, Mayor Broome implemented the following policies:

- Building Trust and Legitimacy
  - Adopt procedural justice as guidance principal
    - In February 2019, 10 BRPD training officers participated in train-the-trainer courses on how to implement procedural justice training during BRPD's training academy.
      - The train-the-trainer session was funded by the Collective Healing grant Baton Rouge was awarded by the U.S. Dept. of Justice in 2018.
    - The National Initiative for Building Community Trust & Justice defines procedural justice as, "Procedural justice focuses on the way police and other legal authorities interact with the public and how the characteristics of those interactions shape the public's views of the police, their willingness to obey the law, and actual crime rates."

- Law Enforcement should participate in non-enforcement activities to engage communities with high rates of investigations and enforcement
  - BRPD officers have attended more than 600 events
- Diverse Workforce
  - In 2019, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana lifted the consent decree for Baton Rouge, first issued in December 1980. The consent decree was imposed to address discrimination against Black and female applicants.
- Other actions
  - Mayor Broome hired Chief Murphy Paul through an open and transparent process that included public meetings and interviews of the candidates. The committee consisted of local residents, community activists, attorneys, metro council members, faith-based leaders, and state representatives.
- Policy and Oversight
  - Adopt Use of Force policy
    - In May 2018, BRPD adopted a new Use of Force policy in alignment with the 21st Century Policing Recommendations.
    - In this adoption, the use of chokeholds was banned.
- Technology and Social Media
  - Baton Rouge Real Time Crime Center (or RTCC)
    - The Baton Rouge Real Time Crime Center was launched in 2020 and is a 21st Century Law Enforcement approach to leveraging existing assets in real-time to improve public safety. The mission of the Baton Rouge RTCC is to utilize staff, technology, and investigative tools to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of police services throughout the Baton Rouge Capital Area to rapidly respond to community needs and public safety concerns.
  - Equipping all officers with body cameras
    - In 2017, the city purchased body cameras for all BRPD officers.
- Community Policing and Crime reduction
  - BRPD officer's participate in multiple initiatives to improve community-police relations including:
    - Collective healing, TRUCE, RECAST, and Safe Hopeful healthy Baton Rouge.
- Training and Education
  - Make Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) a part of basic training
    - Since 2013, BRPD officers have received Crisis Intervention Training by Capital Area Human Services.





- Officer wellness and safety
  - Improved and intensified the police departments officer wellness program

Collective Healing

The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), supported by the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), U.S. Department of Justice, launched an initiative addressing the needs of communities directly impacted by community-police tensions or harm. The initiative was designed to help communities develop both a preventative and reparative focus to reduce tensions, maximize communication, ensure victims receive a just and meaningful victim-centered response, address officer health and wellbeing, and promote problem-solving between law enforcement and the communities they serve. Specifically, the initiative was designed to:

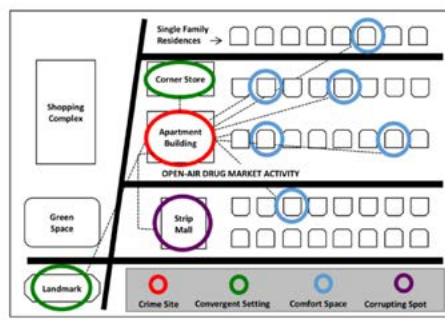
- Assist law enforcement in developing, implementing, and assessing comprehensive evidence-based and trauma-informed response strategies, protocols, and interventions that promote community engagement and healing related to divisive events; and
- Develop and disseminate comprehensive, expert technical assistance resources for law enforcement on trauma-informed culture and practice

Baton Rouge was one of five cities selected. Between October 2017 and September 2020 community members and law enforcement came together to work on these initiatives and identify recommendations. What they found was; Baton Rouge is a city that has endured much hardship in recent times, caused by natural disasters and human errors. These concerns point to a larger need to build bridges spanning dissimilar communities, focusing on greater community unity, and collectively and transparently addressing divisive problems and issues. BRPD has a unique opportunity to build bridges with the City and its policies. Four key areas of improvement suggested are: leadership, trust, community policing, and becoming a trauma-informed police department.<sup>(46)</sup>

Community Policing

The U.S. Dept. of Justice: Community Outreach Policing Services (COPS) in a 2014 report titled “Community Policing Defined”, states that, “Community policing is a philosophy that promotes organizational strategies that support the systematic use of partnerships and problem-solving techniques to proactively address the immediate conditions that give rise to public safety issues, such as crime, social disorder, and fear of crime.”<sup>(47)</sup>

Place Network Investigations (PNI):<sup>(48)</sup> Place Network Investigations is a research-based strategy to eliminate violence and other longstanding crime problems in a city. The strategy is grounded in evidence that suggests when crime happens over and over again in a certain area there are signs of underlying crime place networks. Crime place networks consist of specific locations offender groups use to conduct on-going illegal activities. These locations provide the “infrastructure” necessary to operate illicit markets and often promote violent interactions.



**CRIME PLACE NETWORKS**

Crime place networks can include four types of places:

- **Crime sites** – specific high-crime places that facilitate offender and victim/target interactions
- **Convergent settings** – public places routinely used by offenders
- **Comfort spaces** – private places controlled by offenders and their associates
- **Corrupting spots** – businesses that support criminal activity in other locations

Skilled PNI investigators, working in longstanding violent micro-locations, identify crime place networks and build cases against individuals who own and operate these locations. These findings are then reported to a City PNI Board. Members of these boards include police, other city department leaders (Department of Public Works, Parks System, Health Department, EMS,

Fire etc.) as well as community stakeholders who work with police to prevent/stop crime from happening. The board then coordinates and strategically deploys existing city resources to dismantle crime place networks and disrupt offender networks operating in these locations. An example is using code enforcement or city resources to address the network without interacting directly with the violent offenders. When interventions happen at these convergent settings (public places routinely used by offenders), it disrupts the criminal systems and helps dismantle criminal activity.

Baton Rouge Place Network Investigations (PNI) Board

Baton Rouge signed on to be one of seven participating cities in 2019. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was not until June 2021, the board first met. With the support of the research team, the BRPD team looked at crime data and identified three locations to focus on. The Board has continued to meet regularly to begin the process of identifying crime place networks.

**Domestic Violence (DV)**

The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) defines domestic violence as, “the willful intimidation, physical assault, battery, sexual assault, and/or other abusive behavior as part of a systematic pattern of power and control perpetrated by one intimate partner against another. It includes physical violence, sexual violence, threats, and emotional abuse. The frequency and severity of domestic violence can vary dramatically.”<sup>(49)</sup>

**Domestic Violence in East Baton Rouge Parish**

In 2018, the National Network for Safe Communities executed a deep dive of both BRPD and EBRSO reports. They determined that approximately 30% of all crimes in EBR involved an intimate partner and/or extended family.

In 2020, the District Attorney’s office performed a less intensive analysis and found the following data:<sup>(50)</sup>

- 19 domestic violence-related deaths
- Approximately 42.0% of BRPD Major Assaults
- Approximately 2,800 cases involving BRPD Misdemeanor Domestic Abuse Battery
- Approximately 1,300 cases involving EBRSO Misdemeanor Domestic Violence (including Domestic Abuse Battery, Stalking, and Violation of Protective Order)

Below is a breakdown of demographic data for victims served by the district attorney’s office:

Age	
0-17	2%
18-24	16%
25-59	79%
60+	3%

Self-Identified Race	
Asian	2%
Black	74%
Hispanic	4%
White	20%

Gender	
Male	18%
Female	82%

Domestic Violence in Louisiana

- 35.9% of Louisiana women and 35.2% of Louisiana men experience intimate partner physical violence, intimate partner sexual violence, and/or intimate partner stalking in their lifetimes.<sup>(51)</sup>
- In 2018, Louisiana had the fifth highest rate of females murdered by males in the United States.<sup>(52)</sup>
  - 100% of victims were murdered by someone they knew
  - 64% were wives, common-law wives, or girlfriends of the offenders
  - 69% were killed with a gun

- 63% were Black
- 35% were White
- 2% was an unknown race
- As of December 31, 2019, Louisiana had submitted 34,873 domestic violence misdemeanors and 3,363 active protective order records to the NICS Index<sup>(53)</sup>
- In between 2006 and 2015, there were 13,674 active protection orders in the National Crime Information Center for Louisiana; 9,167 of the protection orders had a disqualifying Brady Indicator. <sup>(54)</sup>

#### Domestic Violence Nationally

- 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have experienced some form of physical violence by an intimate partner. <sup>(55)</sup>
- On a typical day, local domestic violence hotlines receive approximately 19,159 calls, approximately 13 calls every minute. <sup>(56)</sup>
- In 2018, domestic violence accounted for 20% of all violent crimes. <sup>(57)</sup>
- Abusers' access to firearms increases the risk of intimate partner femicide at least five-fold. When firearms have been used in the most severe abuse incident, the risk increases 41-fold. <sup>(58)</sup>
- 65% of all murder suicides involved an intimate partner; 96% of the victims of these crimes are female. <sup>(59)</sup>

#### Domestic Violence Globally

The World Health Organization reports the proportion of women who had ever experienced physical or sexual violence or both by an intimate partner ranged from 15% to 71%, with the majority between 29% and 62%. <sup>(60)</sup>

#### Baton Rouge: Stop the Loss Initiative <sup>(48)</sup>

An initiative launched by the EBRPDA office with support from the National Network for Safe Communities, Stop the Loss is an initiative designed to coordinate a community response to domestic violence calls and identify and intervene in patterns of abuse as early as possible. The ultimate goal is stopping domestic and dating violence as well as the loss of life from intimate partner homicide. The initiative is a collaboration between the EBRPDA, EBRSO, BRPD, BR City Court, and Probation and Parole.



The initiative has six strategies which include:

1. Identification - Identifying those persons committing violent crime and the patterns of violent criminal behavior.
2. Investigation/Prosecution - Thoroughly investigating cases to produce criminal charges and working toward a successful prosecution in court (conviction on the charge).
3. Notification/Messaging - Communicating to violent offenders any future crimes they commit will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law, to include maximum prison time. Then, offenders are offered a variety of community resources to help them change their lifestyles and to stop committing violent crimes.
4. Support and Outreach - Providing community resources to both abuser and victim.
5. Follow-Through - Checking the progress of the individual and enforcing consistently and appropriately.
6. Evaluation - Evaluating each case individually for the success or failure to assist the individual.

#### Capital Area Family Justice Center (CAFJC)

CAFJC was created by the 2018 Justice Reinvestment Act of the Louisiana Legislature to empower victims of family violence with the resources necessary to maintain safety and stability for themselves and their families. The Center opened in 2019 and serves as a central point where survivors can access services in the eight-parish capital region. The CAFJC provides the following services:

- Safety Planning
- Meet with law enforcement officers
- Referrals to mental health resources, educational programs
- Assistance applying for shelters, housing, and other supportive services
- Legal consultation for order of protection, custody, visitation, child support, divorce, and housing.

#### The Butterfly Society

The Butterfly Society was launched in August 2014. They are a volunteer-based organization whose sole mission and vision is dedicated to ending domestic violence through providing direct services to both victims and survivors, promoting community engagement, spreading education and awareness, and partnering with other agencies. They serve the following parishes: East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge, Ascension, and the surrounding parishes. Since launching they have served more than 500 clients by providing or connecting clients to; advocacy, case management, counseling, information, legal services, outreach, referrals, safety planning, and support groups.

#### Iris Domestic Violence Center

Iris Domestic Violence Center is a local nonprofit that empowers survivors, prevents relationship violence, and promotes justice for victims of domestic and dating violence, as well as their children, and the community. Iris operates a 24-Hour Domestic Violence Crisis Response Hotline and an emergency safe house shelter. Iris also offers the following services:

- Safety planning
  - Advocacy
  - Information
  - Referral services
  - Legal representation for individuals seeking personal protective orders against abusers.
- Iris offers community outreach and education on the nature of domestic violence and its physical, emotional, and psychological impact on its victims. They serve the Greater Baton Rouge area and include outreach offices in AP, Iberville Parish, and West Baton Rouge Parish.

In their 40 years, Iris has served more than 2,477 clients through:

- Housing
  - Supported 220 people in emergency sheltering
  - Found permanent housing for 50 people
  - Helped house 1,528 people
- Legal
  - Helped issue 2,257 orders of protection
  - Advocated for 683 people in court
- Social Services
  - Counseled 826 people
  - Helped 350 leave their negative relationship

### Youth Violence

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), Youth Violence (youth are defined as ages 10-29) is a global public health problem. It includes a range of acts from bullying and physical fighting to more severe sexual and physical assault to homicide. <sup>(61)</sup>

- Bullying <sup>(61)</sup>
  - A study of 40 developing countries showed that an average of 42% of boys and 37% of girls were exposed to bullying.
- Homicides <sup>(61)</sup>
  - Worldwide, an estimated 200,000 homicides occur among youth 10-29 years of age each year, making it the fourth leading cause of death in people aged 10-29 years
  - 84% of these homicides involve male victims while most perpetrators are also male
- Sexual Violence <sup>(61)</sup>
  - One in eight young people reports sexual abuse.
  - In one study, from 3-24% of women report that their first sexual experience was forced.
- Violent Crime
  - Between 2016 and 2020, the City of Baton Rouge experienced 80,163 violent crimes.
    - Age
      - 32,683 (40%) were crimes among youth ages 10-24
      - 47,480 (60%) among adults 24 and over
    - Location
      - 70805 experienced 8,427 (10%) violent crimes while (12,936)
      - 70802 experienced 5,657 (7%) violent crimes

### Victim Services

The Office of Victims of Crime (OVC) was established in 1988 through an amendment to the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) of 1984. The OVC is charged by Congress with administering the Crime Victims Fund (the Fund). The fund was set up as part of VOCA and is funded by fines and penalties paid by convicted federal offenders. As of 2020, the Fund balance is more than \$6 billion and includes deposits (also known as receipts) from federal criminal fines, forfeited bail bonds, penalties, and special assessments collected by U.S. Attorneys' Offices, federal courts, and the Federal Bureau of Prisons. Through OVC, the Fund supports a broad array of programs and services focused on helping victims in the immediate aftermath of crime and continuing to support them as they rebuild their lives. Millions of dollars are invested annually in victim compensation and assistance in every U.S. state and territory, as well as for training, technical assistance, and other capacity-building programs designed to enhance service providers' ability to support victims of crime in communities across the Nation. <sup>(62)</sup>

### East Baton Rouge Parish District Attorney's Office

The 19th JDC District Attorney's Office Victim Assistance Bureau consists of 15 Victim Coordinators. Each Victim Assistance Coordinator (VAC) is assigned to a trial section, along with sex crimes and domestic violence units. EBRPDA has a Hospital Victim Assistance Coordinator and a Victim

Assistance Coordinator who is stationed at the Capital Area Family Justice Center. The main objective for EBRSO VAC's is to ensure all victims are treated with dignity, respect, courtesy, and sensitivity. VAC's act as liaisons between prosecutors and victims so there is an unbiased party to speak on their behalf and ensure they understand the process. Each victim is informed of their rights, educated about the criminal justice process, provided with updates on court proceedings, and connected with resources throughout the process. We have also established a Hospital Violence Intervention program that allows the opportunity to work with gunshot victims immediately post-discharge from the hospital regardless of their reporting or not. In addition, EBRPDA provides witness protection assistance to victims in need of safe housing.

### East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office (EBRSO)

The Victim Service Division of the EBRSO mission is to assist innocent victims of violent crime by informing them of their rights, assisting them with the crime victim's reparations process, and assisting with the referrals of needed resources.

Crime victims' reparations can assist innocent victims of crime and their families with out-of-pocket crime-related expenses such as; funeral and burial costs, medical bills, mental health costs, lost wages and loss of support, crime scene clean-up, child care, and temporary emergency shelter when necessary for safety of the victim or witness to a crime.

HealthyBR partners are working to address violence in our community through:

#### Baton Rouge General Medical Center

- BRG is a mandated reporter for suspected abuse, including against children and elders, as well as for cases of assault with deadly weapons.

#### Ochsner Medical Center – Baton Rouge

- In addition to being mandated reporters for suspected abuse, Ochsner Health providers and frontline staff recognize the importance of violence prevention for patients and employees. In the EDs, multiple screenings are in place for elder abuse (Elder Abuse Suspicion Index), domestic abuse, suicidal/homicidal ideation, and HIV/HCV screening. Ochsner Health is taking a stance against human trafficking and is developing a screening tool and education for frontline staff to identify and escalate suspected human trafficking.
- For employees experiencing domestic issues, Ochsner's Security team encourages and guides employees to take steps to work with law enforcement (i.e. restraining orders, pressing charges). Security also offers escort to and from vehicles during a threat of violence or domestic abuse scenario when reported.

#### Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center

- Through the Mayor's office, OLOLRMC received a grant to help prevent violence in the community. The program "Safe, Hopeful, Healthy" started in the summer of 2022 and will involve five schools in EBR and four outreach workers.



**Next Steps**

This CHNA is only the first step in an ongoing process. HealthyBR partner organizations use this information as a resource for working within their organizations to develop strategies and partnerships to further address the top 10 community health needs. While there are common areas of focus among HealthyBR partners, each individually considers resources, costs, future impacts, and limitations of the implementation plan.

The top five final significant community health needs - Health Equity / Racial Disparities, Behavioral Health, Maternal and Infant Health, Healthy Living/Lifestyles, and STI/HIV/HCV - have the potential to greatly influence more than one area of need and the greatest potential for community-wide positive impact. Partner organizations will collaborate on a three-year Joint Implementation Plan that will address these needs across the EBRP and AP community. Through issue-focused coalitions, partner hospitals will assume leadership roles in addressing the significant health needs of our community.

HealthyBR and their partner Hospitals are open to feedback on the following 2021 CHINA. All questions and feedback may be emailed to [Healthybr@brla.gov](mailto:Healthybr@brla.gov).

**Priority Progress 2018-2020****Baton Rouge General Medical Center****Healthy Living**

- **Obesity:** BRG has maintained its nationally accredited Diabetes and Nutrition Program to help those living with or at high risk of developing the disease understand the importance of lifestyle changes as well as how to monitor and interpret blood glucose levels. BRG's employee wellness program includes incentives for healthy weight, healthy blood pressure readings, and healthy waist measurements. BRG cafeterias also include healthy food choices for employees and guests.
  - BRG launched its Living Lean Weight Management in 2019, designed to address the physical, emotional, and mental barriers of weight loss. The program includes monthly consultations with a nurse practitioner or physician's assistant and bi-weekly consultations with a registered dietitian to help patients not only lose weight but sustain long-term results.
  - BRG teamed up with Rouses Market to offer monthly Grocery Store Tours designed to help attendees learn to choose fresh, healthy foods while also understanding nutrition labels. As part of the tour, BRG dietitians share tips on how to make a meal plan, create a shopping list, and prepare healthy dishes with custom recipes. During the COVID-19 pandemic, BRG created virtual tours to continue making education accessible to the community.
  - BRG hosted its annual 5k and 1-mile fun run, "Hustle for your Health", at its Bluebonnet campus.
- **Smoking Cessation:** Resources through the Smoking Cessation Trust are folded into BRG's Lung Screening Clinic, to further decrease the risk of lung cancer for current smokers.
- **Senior Wellness:** BRG began a series of free wellness screenings aimed at seniors ages 65 and older providing important health information and tips for staying active. The screenings include blood pressure, cholesterol, and glucose, as well as balance assessments, cognitive memory assessments, grip strength, and hearing tests.
- **Community Outreach:**
  - BRG hosted numerous community health events with Matherne's Market and Rouses, educating community members on health and nutrition.
  - BRG family medicine physician Wayne Gravois, MD, and a team of residents formed the Community Outreach Today advisory committee, working with EBRPSS and other healthcare professionals to address health disparities in schools and bring a broader perspective on the role of health in schools.
  - BRG is involved with the ICARE program, from its annual Prevention Day to sitting on the program's advisory committee.
  - BRG's Graduate Medical Education program includes a team of residents who regularly educate students in their own classroom on a range of healthy habits including nutrition, tobacco prevention, and screen time.
  - BRG teamed up with various YMCA locations in the Baton Rouge area to bring drive-up flu events to the community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Behavioral Health**

- BRG offers an outpatient behavioral health center and an inpatient behavioral health unit, as well as free health risk assessments for anxiety and depression.
- BRG added 32 inpatient beds to serve the adult population.

- BRG expanded its Intensive Outpatient Program, more than doubling the number of patients treated.
- BRG implemented a telehealth option for outpatient services.
- BRG offers confidential consultations for the men and women of the BRPD.

#### **STI/HIV**

- As part of each annual physical at a BRG primary care clinic, patients are screened for potential STIs and HIV, and if needed, provided the necessary testing. BRG works closely with local Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) to ensure patients receive the best, specialized treatment and resources.
- If at-risk behaviors are identified on BRG behavioral health units, social workers help with resources, referrals, and emotional support.

#### **Access to Care**

- **Emergency Care:** BRG added two emergency rooms in the Greater Baton Rouge area, at the Mid-City campus and the new Ascension neighborhood hospital.
- **Acute Care:** During the pandemic, BRG was able to re-open acute care services at the Mid-City campus.
- **Primary/Specialty Care:** BRG has added new access points across Greater Baton Rouge, including four primary care clinics, two OB/GYN clinics, and other specialty care clinics like cardiovascular surgery and dermatology.
- **Ambulatory Care:** BRG has added a new outpatient surgery center on its Bluebonnet campus.
- **Urgent Care:** BRG works with community partners to decrease overuse of emergency departments. The hospital added two new Express Care locations, in addition to its location in AP, to its footprint. Non-emergent patients in the emergency rooms are directed to BRG Express Care or to the appropriate physicians for care.

#### **Lane Regional Medical Center**

**Healthy Living:** Lane provided free heart health testing and stroke education to more than 5,500 people during 177 events and speaking engagements. Lane also offered a variety of free Good Health wellness classes and screening events to organizations and community members to help reduce obesity, including healthy cooking classes, biometric screenings, nutritional counseling, and more. An employee wellness program offers cash incentives for better health, and the hospital provides a free fitness trail to the community, as well as a variety of healthy food choices on the cafeteria menu. Lane screened more than 700 people for skin, colon, and prostate cancers during 18 screening events. Free smoking cessation programs are available, and ongoing education for all chronic diseases was provided through newsletters, social media posts, group classes, and website blogs. Lane conducted several walking programs on its fitness trail, including Walk with a Doc and Walk with the Mayor, as well as established walking and fitness challenges for area businesses.

**Mental and Behavioral Health:** Lane offered a comprehensive, physician-supervised, outpatient behavioral health center for individuals needing assistance with substance abuse, chronic mental illness, depression, anxiety, and eating disorders. Lane's social workers worked closely with local centers to help place patients needing additional services, and primary care physicians pre-screened patients to help identify and address underlying concerns before they become major emotional issues. Lane also utilized safe practices for prescribing and dispensing controlled substances such as opioids, stimulants, and benzodiazepines.

**HIV and other STIs:** Lane incorporated HIV testing into annual and retirement physical protocols, offered elective HIV testing in the ED, and provided HIV education and screening information to assist individuals who want to be tested. Social workers provide patients with resources, referrals, and emotional support.

**Access to Care:** Lane increased its access to care by launching four new service lines, including Pediatrics, Gastroenterology, Outpatient Therapy, and a Retail Pharmacy for prescription medications. Lane also recruited seven new physicians in the specialties of Pediatrics, Gastroenterology, OB/GYN, Family Medicine, General Surgery, Audiology, and Orthopedics. In 2019, Lane announced plans for its \$50 million expansion project focused on patient-centered care and plans to break ground in the summer of 2022. During the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, Lane performed more than 13,000 COVID-19 tests, administered more than 4,000 vaccines, and cared for more than 500 infected patients. In addition to a 24-hour emergency room, Lane provided care to more than 30,000 patients through its after-hours urgent care clinic. Lane also announced plans to expand its Nursing Home by adding 51 additional beds for assisted living and memory care services to its current 39 skilled nursing beds, for a total of 90 long-term care beds.

#### **Ochsner Baton Rouge**

**Healthy Living:** Ochsner Health has several signature programs to promote healthy living. Lifestyle programs include Eat Fit BR and Corporate Wellness.

Ochsner Health's Eat Fit program is a nonprofit initiative designed to help the community live their healthiest, strongest lives possible. The team of Eat Fit dietitians works closely with local restaurants, markets, and other food service establishments to identify and develop dishes that meet the Eat Fit nutritional criteria. These items are identified directly on the menu with the Eat Fit seal of approval, making the healthy choice the easy choice when dining out. Free to all restaurants and food service partners, Eat Fit encourages nutritious choices whether an individual is looking to lose weight, feel better, or look better, as well as help to manage health issues including diabetes, cholesterol, and high blood pressure.

With more than 500 partners throughout Louisiana, Eat Fit has expanded across the state to include Eat Fit Northshore, Eat Fit BR, Eat Fit Acadiana, Eat Fit Shreveport, and Eat Fit Monroe. Eat Fit BR currently has 93 partners, including restaurants and grocery stores/markets.

In 2018, the Eat Fit app was launched for smartphones, allowing users to find participating Eat Fit restaurants with full nutrition facts of Eat Fit menu items, as well as recipes, shopping guides, community wellness resources, and connections with health professionals. To-date, this app has been downloaded more than 11,000 times. Other community outreach since 2018 includes more than 85 community wellness events and 32 nutritional presentations. Each year, the Eat Fit team encourages the community to participate in the AFF40 (Alcohol-Free For 40 days) challenge by giving up alcohol from Ash Wednesday-Easter. The Eat Fit team provides participants with pre-and post-challenge metrics to identify the impact that being 40 days alcohol-free has on the body. Metrics include bloodwork, body composition, before and after pictures, and blood pressure measurement. In 2021, AFF40 had 96 participants from the Baton Rouge area, and 86 completed the program. The Eat Fit team provides resources throughout the challenge including: Mindful Monday seminars, Happy Hour Workouts, and support through a Facebook support group.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Eat Fit team launched the Eat Fit YouTube channel providing healthy cooking videos to encourage the community to cook healthy at home and collaborated with partners to provide an average of 90,000 meals daily throughout Baton Rouge and Jefferson Parish, with the majority of items Eat Fit-approved. Monthly informational Zoom meetings hosted by the Eat Fit team were offered to all Eat Fit partners to increase partner morale and collaboration. Topics include COVID-19 Response, Diversity, Social Media Planning.

Ochsner Corporate Wellness opened its Baton Rouge location in August 2018. Corporate Wellness provides biometric screenings in the workplace to identify risk factors, educate on diet and lifestyle to improve health, and to connect participants to primary care services. In 2019, the Baton Rouge Corporate Wellness Team held 120 health fairs, 30 flu fairs, and connected 215 new patients to

primary care services. The Safe to Return Campaign was Corporate Wellness's COVID-19 response during 2020 to provide temperature checks stations for businesses, Ochsner clinics, and Urgent Cares and offer COVID-19 Antibody testing for employers in Baton Rouge. In 2021, Baton Rouge's Corporate Wellness hosted 61 Biometric Screening Health Fairs, caring for nearly 1700 participants to date.

Ochsner Health's Smoking Cessation clinics offer services to patients to help stop smoking and/or vaping. Partnered with the Smoking Cessation Trust, patients have access to free counseling for anyone wanting to make the health lifestyle change. Smoking Cessation clinics are available at Ochsner Medical Complex – The Grove, Ochsner Health Center – O'Neal, Ochsner Medical Complex – Iberville, Ochsner Health Center – Denham Springs, and Ochsner Community Health – Brees Family Center. In 2020, nearly 600 patients participated in the program with more than 3,300 total visits with an overall quit rate of 30.8%.

Another program, Ochsner Connected Wellness, is a lifestyle medicine program created by local Obstetrician-Gynecologist, Ewelina Griffin MD, in 2020. This program complements each patient's general health maintenance with Primary Care. If a participant does not have a primary care provider (PCP), an Ochsner PCP will be established, serving as a gateway to care. It is designed to have groups of patient participants move through a multi-week program teaching them the tools for optimizing health. Topics include nutrition, fitness, stress management, sleep science, and mental health. In addition, patients get a one-hour 1:1 session with a registered dietitian for an individualized nutrition plan, weekly links to an exercise program, and another 1:1 one-hour visit with a medical provider for a holistic health assessment. This model not only provides education but allows patients access to specialty and subspecialty referrals based on the patient's individual barriers to incorporating lifestyle changes.

A healthy lifestyle also includes preventative screenings. Ochsner Health has developed a systematic approach to empower all members of the clinic team to proactively identify and close overdue preventative screenings and immunizations. This process is called Proactive Ochsner Encounters (POE). POE engages all clinic team members to help patients stay healthy by reminding patients of overdue screenings and immunizations and offering to schedule the screening prior to the patient's leaving the clinic – making sure patients remain healthy. Health screenings and immunizations include mammography, eye examination, colorectal screening, influenza, tetanus, and HPV vaccination.

Lastly, Ochsner Health supports healthy lifestyles and habits by offering walking/biking paths at multiple campuses, including the hospital and Ochsner Medical Complex – The Grove. The path at the Ochsner Medical Center – Baton Rouge campus is a half-mile loop that includes a trail with accompanying fitness equipment stations. The path at Ochsner Medical Complex – The Grove is owned by BREC, but Ochsner Health financially contributed to the completion of the path. Ochsner Medical Complex – Iberville also has a walking path that is maintained by Iberville Parish.

**Behavioral Health:** Ochsner recognizes the relationship between mental health and total well-being. Ochsner Baton Rouge, in addition to adult psychiatric services, now provides pediatric and adolescent psychiatry and psychology. From 2020 to today, the behavioral health department has tripled in size, adding four Psychiatrists, two Psychologists, two Nurse Practitioners, and seven Licensed Clinical Social Workers. Behavioral Health services are now available at three new locations along the I-12 corridor, providing patients ease of access to a location of their choice. Virtual appointments are also available and have increased to 48% usage, allowing further ease of access to Behavioral Health services across the state.

COVID-19 response from the Behavioral Health service line included free support groups and individual therapy to frontline healthcare workers and educators.

In 2018, Ochsner Health partnered with Acadia Healthcare to open River Place Behavioral Health, an 82-bed inpatient facility. Through this joint venture, Acadia manages the hospital while Ochsner providers deliver inpatient behavioral health services to adults and adolescents. River Place Behavioral Health treats adolescents starting at age 12.

**STI/HIV/HCV:** Ochsner Baton Rouge's Infection Control nurses routinely work with OPH regarding communicable diseases in the local population.

In an effort to eliminate HIV and HCV, Ochsner Medical Center – Baton Rouge and Ochsner Medical Complex – Iberville implemented the opt-out HIV/HCV testing in the Emergency Departments to all qualifying patients in early 2019. Baton Rouge was the first region within Ochsner Health to accomplish this. Since then, other Ochsner Health locations began offering opt-out HIV/HCV testing options to all qualifying patients who come to the ED.

The key to this initiative is the LPN Care Coordinator housed in the Baton Rouge ED. This LPN Coordinator connects patients to care and coordinates education for frontline staff. Care Coordinators work closely with all tested patients to ensure that they receive their results in a timely manner and are linked to a care provider as efficiently as possible to review their care options. These Care Coordinators work with Rapid Start Navigators, employed by the State, to ensure patients are seen by a provider as quickly as possible. A virtual series, Project ECHO, was offered to all Emergency Department nurses to create further awareness of the need to reduce the stigma of persons who use drugs and/or persons living with HIV or HCV. Handouts were made to educate patients who inject drugs on the risks involved, the proper use and disposal of needles and syringes, the importance of knowing one's status, and options available for those who are HIV/HCV positive.

In collaboration with the LDH, Ochsner Baton Rouge hosted an HIV testing event in observation of National HIV Testing Day on June 25th, 2021. Social workers were onsite to provide counseling and linkage to care.

**Access to Care:** From 2018 to date, Ochsner Baton Rouge has grown tremendously in the Baton Rouge region and has added multiple specialties and subspecialties to serve more patients.

Ochsner Health has three Urgent Care locations in the Baton Rouge region, Ochsner Urgent Care – Lagniappe Center, Ochsner Urgent Care and Occupational Health – Highland Park, and Ochsner Health Center – Denham Springs South. Three more urgent care locations are expected to open within the next two years. Services provided through Urgent Care include onsite radiologic technologists, multiple points of care testing, and limited lab services.

Ochsner Health's Urgent Care clinics provide occupational health services such as worker's compensation visits, pre-employment physicals, and drug screens. In partnership with Ochsner Employer Connect, the Urgent Care locations participated in the Safe to Return to Work program that was initiated during the COVID-19 pandemic to provide COVID testing to employees and employees of outside organizations, including schools.

Open 365 days a year, Ochsner Health's Urgent Care clinics provide access to care on weekends, holidays, and extended hours until 7:30 p.m. on weekdays. Patients may use Find Care Now through the Ochsner website to schedule and pre-register Urgent Care visits to skip the registration process and decrease wait time. Fee-for-service pricing for patients who have no insurance or high-deductible insurance is also available.

Ochsner Medical Center – Baton Rouge and Ochsner Medical Complex – Iberville's Emergency Departments have added multiple services so patients have more access to specialized care. Of largest note is the implementation of Telemedicine services: TeleTRIAGE, TelePSYCH, TeleSTROKE,

TelePEDS, and Virtual Hospital Medicine (only at Ochsner – Iberville). HIV/HCV opt-out testing was added in early 2019. Spine and cranial services were added in 2019. In response to COVID-19, rapid COVID-19, and influenza point of care testing have been added. Both Emergency Departments have introduced ED Paramedics and is the first hospital to do so in the Baton Rouge Region.

Complimentary to the focus of decreasing patients returning to the ED within 24 hours, all Ochsner patients have access to the 24/7 nurse care line (Ochsner On Call) free of charge. Registered Nurses are available to discuss health concerns and can recommend self-care techniques and decide if your symptoms require a visit to urgent or emergency care. Ochsner On Call is URAC-accredited.

As part of the COVID-19 pandemic response, Ochsner Medical Center – Baton Rouge brought access to care in the community setting. Ochsner Health participated in HealthyBR's collaboration at BRG Mid-City location with other area hospitals to provide COVID-19 testing to the community. At the conclusion of Mid-City, Ochsner Health continued to provide testing at no charge to patients in the community setting, performing more than 5,900 PCR tests. In March 2021, the community testing efforts converted into COVID-19 vaccinations. As of early June 2021, more than 44,500 COVID-19 vaccine doses have been administered in the Baton Rouge region with approximately 7,000 of those doses administered in the community setting.

The following clinics were opened starting in 2019:

- **Ochsner Medical Complex – The Grove: Opened January 2019**  
Ochsner Medical Complex – The Grove is a \$116 million investment in the Baton Rouge community located between the Mall of Louisiana and Siegen Lane. Construction started in September 2017 and opened in January 2019. The facility is a five-story, 255,000-square-foot medical complex that includes a multispecialty clinic and attached overnight stay 10-bed surgical hospital. The Grove has 269 exam/procedure rooms and has the capacity to see more than 2,000 patients per day. The Grove offers a range of primary and specialty outpatient services, including surgery, endoscopy, pain management, occupational and physical therapy, aqua therapy, and all imaging and lab services.
- **Ochsner Urgent Care – Highland Park: Opened November 2019**
- **Ochsner Urgent Care – Lagniappe Center: Opened November 2019**
- **Ochsner Health Center – Bluebonnet South: Opened July 2020**  
Facility located near Bluebonnet Boulevard and Burbank Drive on the south side of Baton Rouge. This is an 11,000-square-foot facility that has the potential to add additional clinic space. The health center has 15 exam rooms focused on primary care, OB/GYN, and pelvic floor therapy services. This facility also has lab services and OB ultrasound.
- **Ochsner Health Center – Prairieville Expansion: Opened September 2020**  
The center expanded the existing building by 13,725 -square-foot, adding 26 exam rooms, and added six treatment-type rooms. They added additional specialty services including ophthalmology, OB/GYN, orthopedics, podiatry, general surgery, audiology, ENT, pulmonary, cardiology, hematology/oncology, nephrology, diabetes, speech, neurology, rheumatology, gastroenterology, and urology.
- **Ochsner Therapy and Wellness – Hammond: Opened August 2020**  
Ochsner Therapy & Wellness is committed to providing excellent comprehensive patient care through physical and occupational therapy, providing care to individuals who are experiencing an injury, pain, or any conditions that impact their ability to function in their daily lives. Ochsner Therapy and Wellness offers treatment for the following conditions: musculoskeletal injury or pain, sports injuries, neck and back pain, neurological conditions and diseases, hand injuries, and balance problems.

- **Ochsner Therapy and Wellness – Gonzales: Opened August 2020**  
3,650-square-foot of clinic space.
- **Ochsner Community Health – Brees Family Center: Opened March 2021**  
Added 5,000-square-foot primary care health clinic located inside the New Era Medical Complex near the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport. The center is named after its main donor's nonprofit, the Brees Dream Foundation, created by retired New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees and his wife, Brittany. EBRP allocated \$100,000 from its community development funds to support the new clinic. The clinic offers primary care for preventive health care alongside social and mental health services. There are 10 exam rooms, a registration area, laboratory, and X-ray services.
- **Ochsner Health Center – Gonzales: Opening Summer 2022**  
This new clinic will be at the intersection of LA 30 and South Burnside Avenue.

Clinical Research opportunities are also available to patients in the Baton Rouge area. The Ochsner Baton Rouge research team participated in the Mayo Clinic Convalescent Plasma Study, expanding program access for treatment of COVID-19. The COVID-19 Baton Rouge Prevalence Study (Racial and Workplace Disparities in Seroprevalence of SARS-CoV-2, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, USA) included more than 2,000 participants, and the data was used to help states with their reopening plans. The Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine Study was part of Operation Warp Speed. More than 150 patients participated across three sites within Ochsner Health, including Baton Rouge.

**Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center**

**Healthy Living:** OLOLRMC has successfully established a service line dedicated to both weight loss and diabetes management and prevention. The Nutrition and Metabolic Service Line consists of Bariatric Services, Lake Health Center, OLOLRMC, and LSUHBR Diabetes and Nutrition Centers.

OLOLRMC served as a key partner on the Geaux Get Healthy (GGH) Grant to address food insecurity. The GGH program at OLOL North Clinic is a combination of education from an OLOLRMC dietician and a nutritionist/program coordinator. The program also offers resources such as cooking classes, nutrition classes, and grocery store tours to participants. OLOLRMC provided approximately 16 classes per month and two grocery store tours per month through the GGH program.

Additionally, OLOLRMC hosted the Willie Hawkins Health Fair where, in addition to traditional tabletop exhibits, physicians gave presentations on four chronic diseases.

OLOLRMC continued to provide smoking cessation services on multiple campuses and treated more than 1,210 new patients during this three-year period. OLOLRMC also made multiple presentations on school campuses throughout the area. OLOLRMC's smoking cessation program has treated more than 3000 patients since the program's inception.

**HIV/STI/HCV:** Opt-out HIV testing continued to be offered at four OLOL emergency rooms, all the LSUHBR urgent care centers, and at a few other clinics. OLOLRMC has seen an increase from 19% of ED/UC patients tested (2015 was the first full year of data) to a current testing rate of 25-28% for the last 18 months. Testing rates have remained consistent even with decreased patient volume in the ED secondary to the COVID epidemic.

Social workers in the EDs serve as a transition to care liaisons for follow-up care. OLOLRMC linked 83% of newly diagnosed patients to care. The hospital continues its support of the HIV community through the Early Intervention Clinic (EIC) at LSUHBR, Mid City Clinic. Community events were also held where more than 300 tests were provided. In addition, OLOLRMC began HCV testing at the same locations in 2020 and the EIC implemented a substance abuse therapy group for its patients.

**Mental and Behavioral Health:** OLOLRMC's psychiatry program has grown to include 18 residents. The hospital opened a new outpatient Psychiatric Clinic staffed by residents and faculty. This allowed for a doubling of the number of patients able to serve. The hospital offers 24/7 inpatient consult services and has increased the number of psychiatrists from four in 2010 to now 15 full-time psychiatrists.

As an extension of the main emergency department, OLOLRMC has dedicated psychiatric safe spaces that are staffed with psychiatrists, registered nurses, and social workers. These spaces are used for the evaluation and treatment of patients suffering from emergency mental and behavioral health issues.

LSUHBR also started mental health integration into primary care in 2017. Originally, there was one primary care site, which has expanded into four primary care clinics. This provides patients with depression and anxiety treatment through the consultation of a psychiatrist as well as follow-up until the symptoms improve. This integrated model, which OLOLRMC invested \$300,000 to start, has already served more than 600 patients since inception.

Additionally, OLOLRMC invested \$498,000 for its psychology intern program to increase specialists and \$175,000 in a psychiatry residency program. Health Care Centers in Schools (HCCS) have worked to increase knowledge of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). They have trained approximately 100+ OLOLRMC team members. OLOLRMC's ER is host to two violence interrupter positions staffed by social workers. These positions are funded by the EBRPDA's office and support the healthcare anti-violence intervention program.

**Access to Care:** OLOLRMC continues to promote community education to decrease the over-utilization of the ED. Social workers in the ED help direct patients to primary care and the appropriate follow-up resources. LSUHBR Urgent Care Clinics continue to meet the needs of more than 43,000 patients annually.

During the last CHNA period, OLOLRMC implemented an SDOH screening system. The system has screened more than 5,000 patients for the SDOH in our primary care practice during their annual checkups. To address some of the barriers, OLOLRMC invested \$150,000 to expand Faith Fund into communities of need.

OLOLRMC also contributed \$500,000 to LSU's School of Engineering for engineers to help healthcare organizations solve problems associated with SDOH. Complimentary to this work, OLOLRMC physicians have contributed their time and expertise to guide a full analysis of the effects of Medicaid expansion and the effects that the opening of the BR North ED had on the patient population.

In 2019, OLOLRMC opened a freestanding Children's Hospital serving Baton Rouge as well as the entire state. Since its opening, it has treated 48,486 patients in the ER, provided 6,820 surgeries, and provided 4408 admits. OLOLCH anchors a collaborative and coordinated statewide pediatric health network that provides patients with more access to physicians and providers specifically trained to care for children.

### Woman's Hospital

**Healthy Living:** The employee wellness program offers premium discounts and cash incentives for participation and through a combination of efforts has resulted in a health and prescription drug claim reduction of more than \$2 million in the three-year period the program has been in effect. Woman's café offers a wide variety of healthy choices, with lower prices than less healthy options.

Woman's offers a variety of services that support health and wellness. Woman's Center for Wellness offers a trademarked weight and lifestyle management program to the public and to local employers, and also offers complimentary and affordable fitness classes and educational seminars, including cooking demonstrations. The Center is a certified Medical Fitness facility. Woman's also operates a metabolic weight loss clinic, and offers bariatric surgery. Woman's Research Department continues to conduct research studies each year related to gestational diabetes, Type II diabetes, and Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome.

**Behavioral Health:** In a pilot program collaboration with LaPQC, Woman's worked to embed social workers within the community clinics to perform SBIRT screenings. These screenings allowed early intervention by Social Services to assist with any mental health needs during pregnancy or within postpartum timeframe.

**HIV/STI:** Woman's continues to operate the Mother-to-Child Transmission Prevention Program, which offers voluntary testing, case management, free medication, and treatment for mom and baby. Voluntary testing for HIV/STI is offered to all patients in the Assessment Center. The HIV program works with patients to assist them with any SDOH such as homelessness, food insecurity, unsafe living conditions, mental health and substance use, lack of transportation, and insurance/medical/dental co-pays/deductibles.

**Behavioral Health:** Woman's recently received a large grant supporting the funding of a perinatal outcomes project, which is currently in the planning stage. The new program will offer a multidisciplinary case-management approach to facilitate patient-centered care for opioid-dependent pregnant women with the goal of improved outcomes for mother and baby and ongoing addiction management leading to recovery. The next phase of the project is to expand eligibility criteria to include other substance abuse.



## Evaluation of 2018 CHNA

Healthy Living		2012	2015	2018	2019	2020	Data Range Used for 2018-2020 Data
Population Health Measures	Food Environment Index		6.3	6.5	6.5	7.0	2015-2017
	Food Insecurity		17%	18%	18%	14%	2015-2017
	Physical Inactivity	26%	25%	27%	25%	27%	2014-2016
	Access to Exercise Opportunities		93%	97%	98%	98%	2016-2019
	Adults 20+ Who Are Obese*	32%	33%	32%	32%	34%	2014-2016
	Diabetes Prevalence	11%	11%	12%	12%	12%	2014-2016

Source: County Health Rankings (10) (11)

HIV / STI		2012	2015	2017	2018	2019	2020
Population Health Measures	East Baton Rouge Parish Data						
	Primary and Secondary Syphilis Rate per 100,000	12	24	16	20	24	19
	Chlamydia Rate per 100,000	577	749	909	913	929	988
	Gonorrhea Rate per 100,000	201	282	311	331	337	466
	Reported HIV Case Rate per 100,000	48	47	38	40	35	26
	Baton Rouge MSA Data						
	Reported Stage 3 AIDS Case Rate per 100,000	25.3	16.1	17.4	9.4	10.9	10.4
	Acute HBV Diagnoses	7	35	29	16	19	9
	% of Dates Acute HBV Diagnoses	16%	44%	33%	29%	26%	24%
	Acute HCV Diagnoses *	9	8	6	0	12	93
	% of States Acute HCV Diagnoses	53%	31%	46%	0%	22%	22%

Source: Update Report-LDH,OPH, STD/HIV/Hepatitis Program

\*The sharp increase in Acute HCV cases is because negative testing went into effect May 2019. Prior to that, we could only identify cases via the clinical case definition, but with negative reporting and an increase in testing at-risk populations, we can now identify people who go from antibody negative to antibody positive within 12 months.

Behavioral Health		2012	2015	2018	2019	2020	Data Range Used for 2018-2020 Data
Population Health Measures	Poor Mental Health Days	2.7	2.6	4.0**	4.0**	4.8*	2016-2017
	Mental Health Providers	2,661:1	736:1	340:1	260:1	240:1	2017-2019
EBRP Coroner Report**	Accidental OD Statistics for EBRP	28	82	102	126	245	2018-2020
	Order of Protective Custody Issues			1,138	1,143	1,213	2018-2020
	Coroner Emergency Certificate issued			7,539	7,861	7,650	2018-2020

\*Source: County Health Rankings

\*\*Source: East Baton Rouge Coroner Annual Report 2020

Access to Care		2012	2015	2018	2019	2020	Data Range Used for 2018-2020 Data
Population Health Measures	Uninsured	21%	17%	12%	11%	9%	2015-2017
	Primary Care Physicians		1,143:1	1,110:1	1,120:1	1,090:1	2015-2017
	Dentists	1,582:1	1,455:1	1,400:1	1,370:1	1,320:1	2016-2018
	Mental Health Providers	2,661:1	736:1	340:1	260:1	240:1	2017-2019
	Preventable Hospital Stays		44	33	41	37	2015-2017
	Other Primary Care Providers		1,100:1	783:1	698:1	560:1	2017-2019

\*Source: Baton Rouge MSA 2019 STD/HIV Update Report-LDH, OPH, STD/HIV/Hepatitis Program

\*\*Source: East Baton Rouge Coroner Annual Report 2020

With the creation of a Joint CHNA in 2021, a Joint Community Health Implementation Plan (CHIP) was adopted by each hospital Board of Directors. Both the CHNA and CHIP are posted on The Mayor's Healthy City Initiative Website (HealthyBR.com). During quarterly MedBR meetings, hospitals update the CHIP plan by reporting progress made on the top four Prioritized Significant Community Needs.

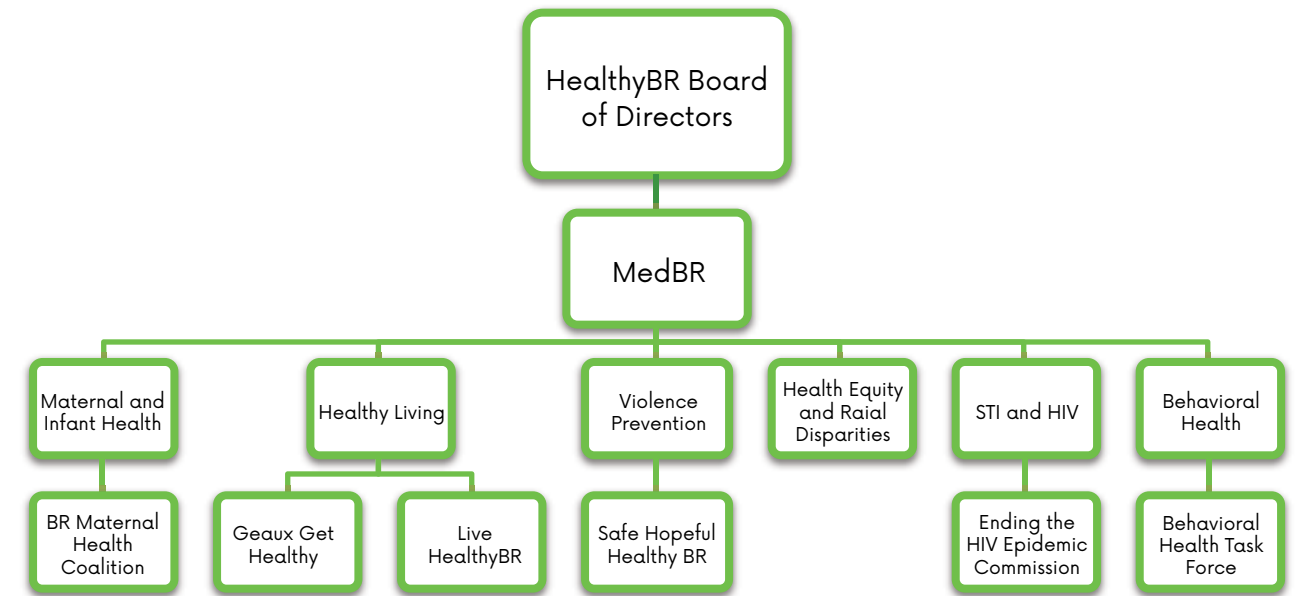
Glossary of Terms	
American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)	AARP
Ascension Parish	AP
Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed	ALICE
Baton Rouge General Medical Center	BRG
Baton Rouge Police Department	BRPD
Big River Economic and Agricultural Development Alliance	BREDA
Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge	BREC
Capital Area Human Services	CAHS
Center for Disease Control and Prevention	CDC
Collaborative Assessment and Management of Suicidality	CAMS
Community Health Implementation Plan	CHIP
Community Health Needs Assessment	CHNA
Community Needs Index	CNI
County Health Rankings	CHR
Diversity Equity and Inclusion	DEI
East Baton Rouge Parish	EBRP
East Baton Rouge Public School System	EBRPSS
East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office	EBRSO
Ending the HIV Epidemic	EHE
Family Road of Greater Baton Rouge	FRGBR
Franciscan Missionary of Our Lady Health System	FMOLHS
Health Care Centers in Schools	HCCS
Hepatitis C	HCV
Journal of the American Medical Association	JAMA
Lane Regional Medical Center	Lane
Licensed Clinical Social Workers	LCSW
Louisiana Department of Children & Family Services	DCSF
Louisiana Department of Health	LDH
Mental Health Association of Greater Baton Rouge	MHAGBR
National Alliance on Mental Illness – Louisiana	NAMI
Our Lady of the Lake Children Hospital	LOLCH
Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center	LOLRMC
Our Lady of the Lake Physician Group	LPG
Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment	SBIRT
Sexually Transmitted Infections	STI
Social Determinants of Health	SDOH
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration	SAMHSA
The Baton Rouge Clinic	BRC
Woman's Hospital	Woman's

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Appendix A



- MedBR Advisory Board is an internal medical group who advises and provides leadership to the HealthyBR team on the other coalitions.
- Baton Rouge Maternal and Infant Health Coalition focuses on improving health outcomes for both mothers and their babies.
- Live Healthy BR focuses on healthy eating and physical activity.
- Safe Hopeful Healthy BR is a coalition of organizations who look at public safety and violence prevention through a community development framework and a public health lens.
- Ending the HIV Epidemic Commission focuses on addressing HIV/STI/HCV in EBRP
- Behavioral Health Task Force is a diverse coalition of organizations addressing the intersectionality and root causes of mental health and substance abuse

Appendix B

List of National and Local data Sources

Organization	Title of source	Year	Service Area
500 Cities Project	Local Data for Better Health	2016	City of Baton Rouge
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality	2018 National Healthcare Quality and Disparities Report	2018	National
AIDSVu	Local Data: East Baton Rouge, LA	2018	EBRP
Annie E. Casey Foundation	Kids Count Data Center	-	LA / EBRP/AP
Annual Review of Public Health	Racism and Health: Evidence and Needed Research	2019	National
Baton Rouge Area Foundation	City Stats	2020	EBRP
Baton Rouge Coroner	Yearly Data	2020	EBRP
Baton Rouge Coroner	Annual Report	2019	EBRP
Blue Cross Blue Shield	Understanding Local Barriers	2020	BR/LA /AP
BR City Key	All Data	-	All
Capital Area United Way	ALICE in Louisiana	2020	LA/EBRP/AP
Capital Region Planning Commission	Capital Region Coordinated Human Services Plan	2020	State
Cares Engagement Network	CHNA Report	-	EBRP
CDC	Data and Statistics	-	National
CDC	Lack of Change in Perinatal Mortality in the United States	2014-2016	National
CDC	Data and Statistics About Opioid Use During Pregnancy	-	National
CDC	500 Cities Project: Baton Rouge	2016	BR
Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services	Medicare Disparities	2020	National / EBRP/AP
Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services	Chronic Conditions Charts	2017	National
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services	Update Data	2020	National
County Health Rankings	Rankings	-	EBRP / AP
DHH Office of Minority Health	Black/African Americans Profile	-	National
Emory University	COVID-19 Health Equity Dashboard	2020	EBRP /AP
Kaiser Family Foundation	State Health Facts	-	LA
Louisiana Budget Project	It's Time to Raise the Wage in Louisiana	2018	LA
Louisiana Budget Project	Summer Meals for Healthy Kids	2020	LA
Louisiana Department of Health	Louisiana Birth Defects Monitoring Network	2019	LA
Louisiana Department of Health	Louisiana Pregnancy Associated Mortality Review	2017	LA
Louisiana Department of Health	Bureau of Family Health Communications Data Report	2018	LA
Louisiana Department of Health	Louisiana Fathers: An Analysis of the Fathers of Children Born in Louisiana	2013-2018	LA
Louisiana Department of Health	Louisiana Health Report Card	2019	LA
Louisiana Department of Health	Louisiana Child Death Review	2015-2017	LA
Louisiana Department of Health	Caring Communities Youth Survey	2018	LA
Louisiana Policy Institute	How Childcare Impacts Louisiana's Workforce Productivity	2017	LA
Louisiana Policy Institute	How Childcare Impacts Louisiana's Workforce Productivity	2017	LA
Louisiana Policy Institute	How Childcare Impacts Louisiana's Workforce Productivity	2017	LA
March of Dimes	State Report Card	2019	LA
National Low Income Housing Coalition	Out of Reach 2020	2020	LA
National Low Income Housing Coalition	Out of Reach 2020: Louisiana	2020	LA
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation	State of Childhood Obesity	2019	National
State of childhood Obesity	The State of Obesity in Louisiana	-	La
Trust for Public Land	ParkScore	2020	National/City
U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development	Comprehensive Housing Market Analysis	2016	Baton Rouge Market Area
US News	Race and Risk Post-Surgery	2020	National
Wallet Hub	Best and Worst States to Have a Baby	2020	LA

Appendix C

2022 Measures for Rankings for The State of Mental Health in America

1. Adults with Any Mental Illness (AMI)
2. Adults with Substance Use Disorder in the Past Year
3. Adults with Serious Thoughts of Suicide
4. Youth with At Least One Major Depressive Episode (MDE) in the Past Year
5. Youth with Substance Use Disorder in the Past Year
6. Youth with Severe MDE
7. Adults with AMI who Did Not Receive Treatment
8. Adults with AMI Reporting Unmet Need
9. Adults with AMI who are Uninsured
10. Adults with Cognitive Disability who Could Not See a Doctor Due to Costs
11. Youth with MDE who Did Not Receive Mental Health Services
12. Youth with Severe MDE who Received Some Consistent Treatment
13. Children with Private Insurance that Did Not Cover Mental or Emotional Problems
14. Students Identified with Emotional Disturbance for an Individualized Education Program
15. Mental Health Workforce Availability
16. Adults with AMI who Did Not Receive Treatment
17. Adults with AMI Reporting Unmet Need
18. Adults with AMI who are Uninsured
19. Adults with Disability who Could Not See a Doctor Due to Costs
20. Youth with MDE who Did Not Receive Mental Health Services
21. Youth with Severe MDE who Received Some Consistent Treatment
22. Children with Private Insurance that Did Not Cover Mental or Emotional Problems
23. Students Identified with Emotional Disturbance for an Individualized Education Program
24. Mental Health Workforce Availability

2022 State of Mental Health in America Ranking Measures	
Category	Measures
Overall	1-15
Adult	1-3 and 7-10
Youth	4-6 and 11-14
Access to Care	16-24

