

Community Health Implementation Strategy



2025-2028

ASPIRUS LANGLADE HOSPITAL & CLINICS

112 East 5th Avenue
Antigo, WI 54409

Acknowledgements

Aspirus Langlade Hospital and the Langlade County Health Department acknowledge the valuable collaboration of all partnering agencies in the development of this implementation strategy. By collaborating on community efforts, it strengthens opportunities to improve health across northeast Wisconsin. This document serves as a guiding framework for addressing key health priorities in Langlade County – mental well-being, alcohol and other drug use, and healthy and active living – over the next three years. While this document reflects the current approach, it represents a point in time for Langlade County and will continue to be adjusted as needed.

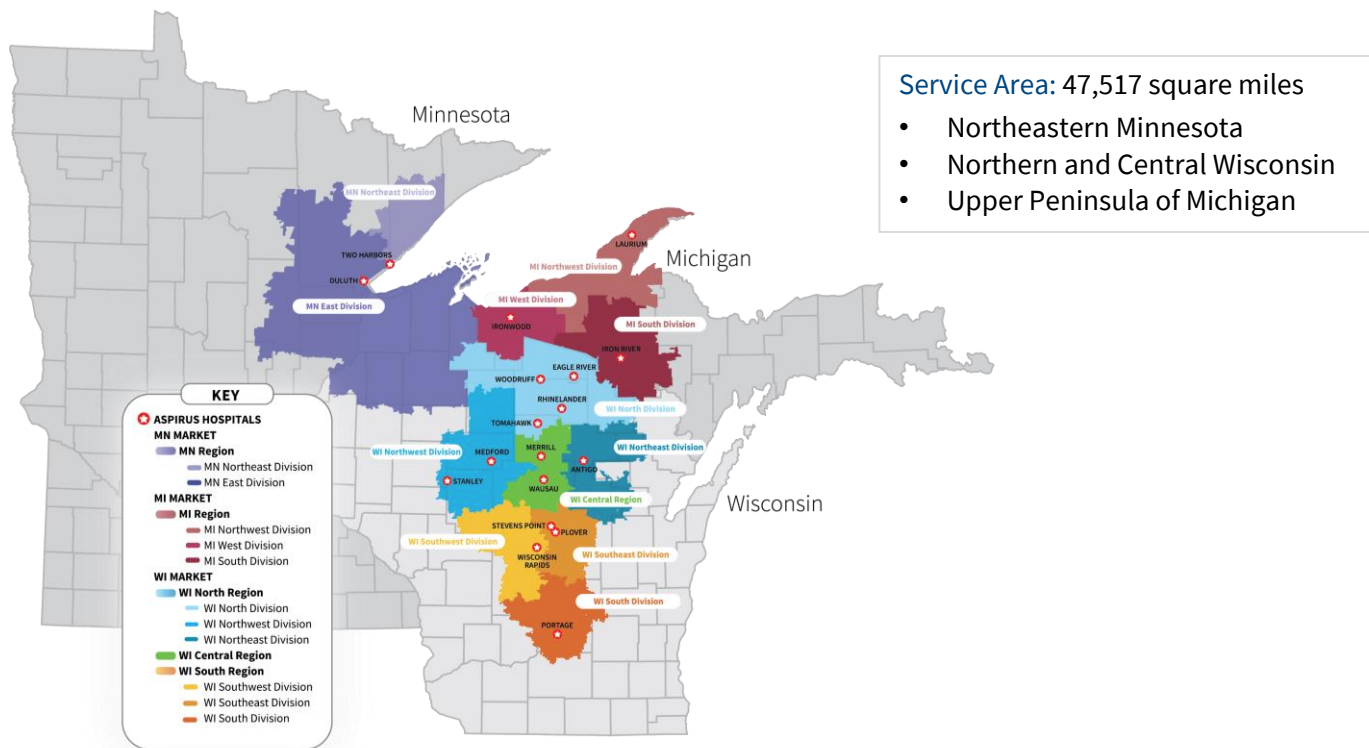
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Aspirus Health and Aspirus Langlade Hospital Profile

Aspirus Health

Aspirus Health is a nonprofit, community-directed health system based in Wausau, Wisconsin, serving northeastern Minnesota, northern and central Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The health system operates 18 hospitals and 130 outpatient locations with nearly 14,000 team members, including 1,300 employed physicians and advanced practice clinicians. Learn more at aspirus.org.



Aspirus Langlade Hospital

Aspirus Langlade Hospital is a Catholic hospital, founded by the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph, and is sponsored by Catholic Health Partners, Inc. The Corporate Members of Aspirus Langlade Hospital are Aspirus, Inc. and the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph Health Corporation. Aspirus Langlade Hospital and Clinics is committed to providing local access with high quality health care. Through collaboration with Aspirus Health, Aspirus Langlade has the opportunity to keep care local and strengthen access to primary and specialty care. Among the services provided to residents of Langlade County and beyond include inpatient hospital care, a 24/7 emergency department, urgent care, surgical services, diagnostics and outpatient therapies. The Aspirus Health and Performance Center is a medically based community fitness facility. Aspirus also offers various home care, hospice and senior living options in Antigo.

About the Implementation Strategy

For Aspirus, the community health needs assessment (CHNA) and the corresponding implementation strategy (IS) is one way to live our mission – to heal people, promote health and strengthen communities – and reach our vision – being a catalyst for creating healthy, thriving communities.

Definition / Purpose of a CHNA and Implementation Strategy

A CHNA is “a systematic process involving the community to identify and analyze community health needs and assets in order to prioritize, plan and act upon unmet community needs.”¹ The value of the CHNA lies not only in the findings but also in the process itself, which is a powerful avenue for collaboration and potential impact. An implementation strategy is “the hospital’s plan for addressing community health needs, including health needs prioritized in the CHNA and through other means”.²

Compliance

The completion of a needs assessment – and a corresponding implementation strategy – is a requirement for both hospitals and health departments. For non-profit hospitals, the requirement originated with the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). The IRS Code, Section 501(r)(3) outlines the specific requirements, including having the final, approved report posted on a public website. Additionally, CHNA and Implementation Strategy activities are annually reported to the IRS.

In Wisconsin, local health departments are required by Wisconsin State Statute 251.05 to complete a community health assessment and create a plan every five years. The statute indicates specific criteria must be met as part of the process.

¹ Catholic Health Association of the United States, <https://www.chausa.org>

² Catholic Health Association of the United States, *A Guide for Planning & Reporting Community Benefit*

Final Prioritized Needs

Over the next three years, Aspirus Langlade will formally address the following issues through its community health needs assessment and corresponding implementation strategy:

- Mental well-being
- Alcohol and other drugs
- Healthy and active living

Needs Not Selected

With the recommendation to continue the top health priorities listed above, other emerging needs were identified:

- **Childcare:** Childcare is an infrastructure issue that is essential to a strong community. Aspirus will collaborate on this and other infrastructure issues, however, Aspirus does not have the internal capacity or expertise to lead.
- **Aging population and corresponding implications (e.g., increase in falls):** Aspirus is implementing the CMS-required Age-Friendly measures to support healthy aging. As that internal work develops, Aspirus anticipates developing strategies and partnerships to strengthen the community supports for healthy aging.
- **Homelessness:** Although Aspirus will not be leading in this area due to limited capacity, Aspirus is committed to being a community partner at the table to contribute to solutions. One way Aspirus will contribute is by screening for health-related social needs and helping facilitate referrals to community agencies as appropriate.
- **Economic stability / the difficulty of taking care of basic needs:** Although Aspirus will not be leading in this area due to limited capacity, Aspirus is committed to being a community partner at the table to contribute to solutions. One way Aspirus will contribute is by screening for health-related social needs and helping facilitate referrals to community agencies as appropriate.

These needs will continue to be explored. Strategies focused on these areas will begin to be integrated into the implementation plan and continue to be refined, reevaluated and adjusted as time goes on. A focus will be placed on the emerging needs above during the 2027 Langlade County Health Department assessment process beginning early 2026.

General Approach to Implementation

For its community health improvement efforts, Aspirus Health is using the following approaches:

- *Results-based accountability.* Aspirus Health is applying the results-based accountability (RBA)³ framework to its implementation plans. RBA focuses on both population-level accountability as well as program-level accountability. The descriptions below are outlined in the RBA framework.
- *Continuum of care.* Aspirus Health is approaching complex community health issues from multiple levels, as outlined by the Institute of Medicine (IOM):⁴
 - Upstream prevention (also known as promotion): Strategies that are designed to “create environments and conditions that support behavioral health and the ability of individuals to withstand challenges. Promotion strategies also reinforce the entire continuum of behavioral health services.”⁵ Examples of upstream conditions include housing, community safety, education/learning, a living wage/income and more.
 - Prevention: Strategies that are designed to “prevent or reduce the risk of developing a behavioral health problem....”⁶
 - Treatment: Strategies that are designed for individuals “diagnosed with a substance use or other behavioral health disorder.”⁷

A description of the plans to address the top issues – prefaced by data and community input gathered in the assessment – are on the next pages. The plans:

- Are described at a general level; plans with more specificity will be created annually.
- Reflect intended efforts; circumstances may affect the completion of the efforts.
- May be modified over the course of time.
- Include program evaluation measures in the “performance indicators” section of the table.

The strategies outlined in this plan encompass both community-driven initiatives and Aspirus-specific approaches; this ensures a comprehensive and collaborative effort to address key health priorities.

³ Clear Impact, <https://clearimpact.com/results-based-accountability/>

⁴ Center for the Application of Prevention Technologies Fact Sheet, <https://www.mass.gov/doc/samhsa-behavioral-health-continuum-of-care-overview-9232019/download>

⁵ Ibid

⁶ Ibid

⁷ Ibid

Mental Well-Being

Why is it Important?

More than 1 in 5 adults in the United States (59.3 million people in 2022) has a mental illness.¹ Mental health and physical health are closely related, with a correlation between some physical chronic illnesses and poor mental health.² Some risk factors include lack of access to education, income, employment and housing; adverse childhood experiences (ACEs); social isolation; drug or alcohol use.² Untreated mental health issues can contribute to issues such as family conflicts, problems with drugs or alcohol, weakened immune system, some chronic diseases and more.³

Sources: (1) National Institute of Mental Health, <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/statistics/mental-illness>. Accessed on 2/20/2025. (2) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <https://www.cdc.gov/mental-health/about/index.html>. Accessed on 2/20/2025. (3) Mayo Clinic, <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/mental-illness/symptoms-causes/syc-20374968>. Accessed on 2/20/2025.

Disparities and Inequities

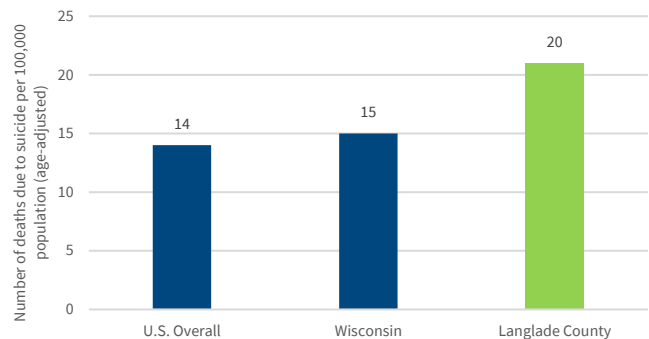
Disparities and inequities can show where interventions would be most beneficial.

- In the U.S., young adults (ages 18-25) have higher levels of any mental illness compared to adults 26-49 and over 50 years old.¹
- Individuals in marginalized groups are more likely to have poor mental health.²
- The likelihood of depression decreases as education levels increase.⁴
- Depression is higher for women compared to men.⁴
- The suicide rate for men is four times the rate for women.⁵
- Over 50 percent of the students who identified in each of the following groups reported having anxiety: LGB; with disabilities; with food insecurity; with low grades; who are Hispanic; who have a multi-racial background.⁶

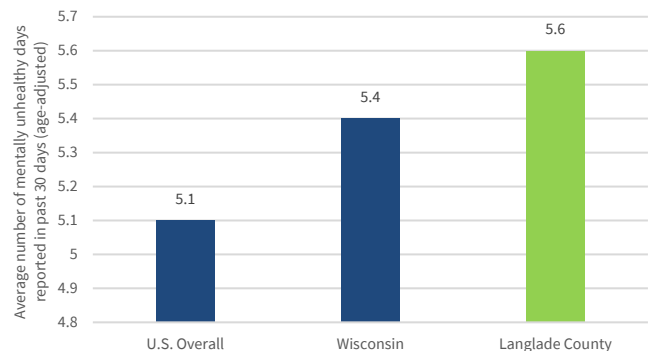
Sources: (1) National Institute of Mental Health, <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/statistics/mental-illness>. Accessed on 2/20/2025. (2) Macintyre, A., Ferris, D., Gonçalves, B. et al. What has economics got to do with it? The impact of socioeconomic factors on mental health and the case for collective action. Palgrave Commun4, 10(2018). <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41599-018-0063-2>. (3) America's Health Rankings, https://assets.america'shealthrankings.org/app/uploads/ahr_2023annual_executivebrief_final-web.pdf. Accessed on 2/20/2025. (4) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/72/wr/mm7224a1.htm>. Accessed on 2/21/2025. (5) National Institute of Mental Health, https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/statistics/suicide#part_2557. Accessed on 2/21/2025. (6) Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Survey Summary Report (2021), [Summary Report: 2021 Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Survey](https://www.wisconsin.gov/health/yrbssummaryreport). Accessed on 2/21/2025.

Data Highlights

Deaths by Suicide



Poor Mental Health Days



*2025 County Health Rankings and Roadmaps website.

Community Perceptions & Challenges

- Mental health was one of the top issues identified in the key informant interviews.
- Within the issue of mental health, and the lack of providers and services as a major challenge for mental health.
- The Mental Well-Being and Suicide Prevention coalition, comprised of approximately 20 community partners aiming to address mental health needs through coordinated and collaborative initiatives, has momentum.
- Numerous Mental Well-Being programs are in place. (Examples: teen health fair; a training event to learn more about suicide prevention.)

Mental Well-being

The strategies outlined encompass both community-driven initiatives and Aspirus-specific approaches; this ensures a comprehensive and collaborative effort to address key health priorities.

An (A) indicates Aspirus funded, led or supported initiatives.

Program Accountability		Population Accountability	
Strategies	Performance Measures	Indicators*	Results
Prevention			
Aspirus Leadership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aspirus Suicide Prevention Workgroup (A) Raise your Voice Club (Antigo School District) (A) Counseling on Access to Lethal Means (CALM) grant (A) Community Partners' Leadership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mental health and suicide prevention trainings (MH First Aid, Trauma informed care) Youth Behavior Risk Survey with Langlade County Schools (results from 2025, new survey 2027) Credible Minds education portal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # of completed standardized suicide risk screenings and suicide risk assessments # of events & activities, end of year self-reported survey # of trainers trained # of trainings, # of training participants, training evaluation results % completion of YBRS within schools Site activity (quarterly increase in users) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease the suicide rate (baseline is 20 deaths per 100,000 population (2022))⁸ Decrease the average number of poor mental health days in the last 30 days (baseline is 4.7) (2022))⁹ 	Community members of all ages obtain individual optimal health in their mental well-being.
Treatment			
Aspirus Leadership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support groups (grief support group) (A) Behavioral Health module implementation at Aspirus (A) Social Drivers of Health Screening (A) FindHelp Aspirus Community Resources (A) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # of support group participants # of patients screened # of referrals to Aspirus supported programs # of claimed programs 		

Collaborative Partners	Aspirus Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Langlade County Health Department Building a Healthier Langlade County Langlade County Social Services Langlade County Senior Center Langlade County School Districts Boys and Girls Club of the Northwoods Aging Disability Resource Center University of Wisconsin Extension North Central Health Care Langlade County Treatment Diversion Team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding opportunities through Aspirus community benefit program, Religious Hospitalers of St. Joseph Mission Fund and the Community Health Foundation and other resources Staff time – coalition participation, event planning and promotion Resource identification – FindHelp.org Aspirus Community Resources Space – hosting support groups, meetings, and resource organizations Clinical services and related infrastructure – providing direct mental health care

⁸ 2025 County Health Rankings and Roadmaps website. Accessed May 5, 2025.

⁹ 2025 County Health Rankings and Roadmaps website. Accessed May 5, 2025.

Alcohol and Other Drug Use

Why is it Important?

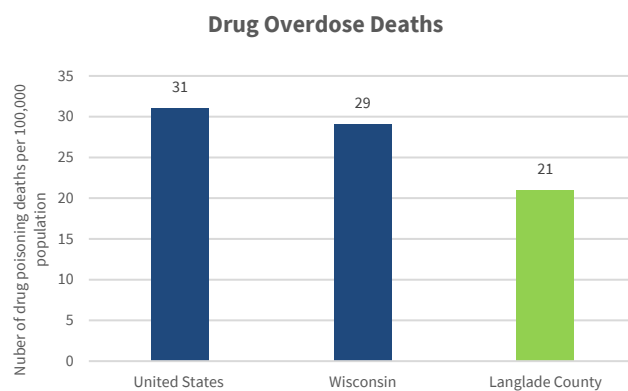
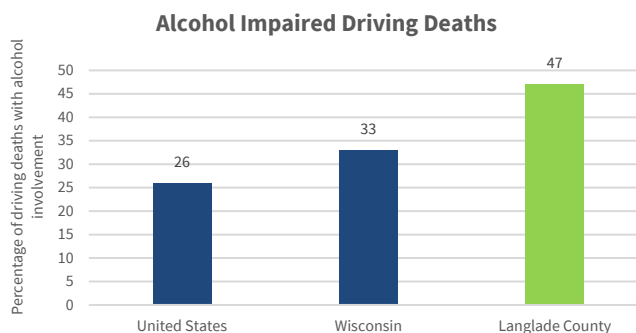
Alcohol and drug use are leading causes of preventable deaths.¹ Alcohol is the most frequently used substance in the United States (ages 12+).¹ The number of alcohol-attributed deaths due to excessive alcohol use in the United States increased by 29% in the span of 5 years, from 138K in 2016-2017 to 178K in 2020-2021.¹ Short term risks and long-term impacts of excessive alcohol use include: violence (e.g., child maltreatment); unintentional injuries (e.g., falls); cancer; high blood pressure; long term memory problems and more.⁴

After a decade of increases in deaths due to drug overdoses (2011 to 2022), recent and preliminary data (for 2023 and 2024) show a leveling or decrease in overdose deaths in the United States. Drug dependence can result in a number of complications, including job loss, injuries, sexually transmitted infections, suicide, as well as family and social relationships.⁵

Substance misuse costs everyone. The estimated annual economic impact of alcohol misuse is \$249B and for illicit drug use, the cost is \$193B.⁶

Sources: (1) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <https://www.cdc.gov/alcohol/facts-stats/index.html>. Accessed on 2/23/2025 and then revisited on 3/23/2025; page not available on 3/23/2025. (4) Medical College of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Alcohol Policy Project, <https://www.mcw.edu/departments/comprehensive-injury-center/wi-alcohol-policy-project/understanding-the-problem>. Accessed on 3/23/2025. (5) Mayo Clinic, <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/drug-addiction/symptoms-causes/syc-20365112>. Accessed on 3/23/2025. (6) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, <https://www.hhs.gov/surgeongeneral/reports-and-publications/addiction-and-substance-misuse/index.html>. Accessed on 3/23/2025.

Data Highlights



*2025 County Health Rankings and Roadmaps website.

Disparities and Inequities

Disparities and inequities can show where interventions would be most beneficial.

- Men and boys (compared to women and girls) accounted for approximately two-thirds of alcohol-attributable deaths (2020-2021)¹

Sources: (1) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [Alcohol and Public Health: Alcohol-Related Disease Impact](#). Accessed on 3/23/2025.

Community Perceptions & Challenges

- Alcohol and other drug use was one of the top issues identified in the key informant interviews. Within the issue of alcohol and other drug use, interviewees identified vaping among youth as an emerging trend.
- The Alliance for Substance Use Prevention of Langlade County, comprised of approximately 30 community partners, has made significant strides in this work.
- Numerous alcohol and drug use prevention programs are in place. (Examples: “Escape the Vape” programming in schools; Drug Take-Back Day.)

Alcohol and Other Drug Use

The strategies outlined encompass both community-driven initiatives and Aspirus-specific approaches; this ensures a comprehensive and collaborative effort to address key health priorities.

An (A) indicates Aspirus funded, led or supported initiatives.

Program Accountability		Population Accountability	
Strategies	Performance Measures	Indicators*	Results
Prevention			
Aspirus Leadership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red bag program (medication bag distribution) (A) Prescription drug monitoring program (A) Community Partners' Leadership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education and outreach (alcohol drugs, vape, cessation) Policy development and implementation Harm reduction strategies – medication drop boxes, locked medication bags, mail in drug disposal bags, drug takeback day, public health vending machines Sharps disposal, vape disposal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # of red bags distributed # of education and outreach activities, # of education and outreach participants, education and outreach evaluation # of pounds of medication collected, # of medication bags distributed, # of pounds collected, # of PHVM items distributed # of sharps and vapes disposed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce the rate of youth reporting use of vaping devices (baseline is 30% of 111gth graders and 22% of 12th graders (2023))¹⁰ Reduce the rate of opioid related emergency room visits (baseline is 24.7 visits per 100,000 residents, approx. 5-6 per year (2017-2022))¹¹ Decrease number of drug overdose deaths (baseline is 21 per 100,000 (2019-2021))¹² 	Community members of all ages and abilities are free from the physical, emotional, and social impacts of alcohol and substance misuse
Treatment			
Aspirus Leadership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovery coaching (A) Social Drivers of Health Screening (A) FindHelp Aspirus Community Resources (A) Community Partners' Leadership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support groups Langlade County Diversion Program Hope House- Langlade County 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # of referrals, # of people served # of patients screened # of referrals to Aspirus supported programs, # of claimed programs # of support group participants # of diversion participants # of patients enrolled in the Hope House, % of families reunited with kids 		

Collaborative Partners	Aspirus Resources
In addition to Aspirus Health and Aspirus Langlade Hospital, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Langlade County Health Department; Building a Healthier Langlade County Langlade County Social Services Langlade County Senior Center Langlade County School Districts Aging Disability Resource Center North Central Health Care Antigo Police/Langlade County Sheriff's Office Community churches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding opportunities through Aspirus community benefit program, Religious Hospitalers of St. Joseph Mission Fund and the Community Health Foundation Staff time – coalition participation, event planning and promotion Resource identification – FindHelp.org Aspirus Community Resources Space – hosting support groups, meetings, and resource organizations Clinical services and related infrastructure – i.e. providing referrals to recovery services

¹⁰ 2023 Youth Risk Behavior Survey. Accessed January 6,2025.

¹¹ Opioid Data Summary Dashboard 2017-2022. [Dose of Reality: Opioid Data Summary Dashboard | Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#). Accessed May 5,2025.

¹² 2025 County Health Rankings and Roadmaps website. Accessed May 5, 2025.

Healthy and Active Living																	
<p>Why is it Important?</p> <p>Food insecurity is defined as a household-level economic and social condition of limited or uncertain access to adequate food. In 2020, 13.8 million households were food insecure at some time during the year. Food insecurity does not necessarily cause hunger, but hunger is a possible outcome of food insecurity.¹ Employment, disability status, neighborhood conditions, physical access to food, and lack of transportation can all impact food security.²</p> <p>Adult obesity is a chronic condition that puts individuals at increased risk of hypertension, heart disease, type 2 diabetes, breathing problems, chronic inflammation, mental illness, and some cancers.³</p> <p>Obesity is a product of community conditions, environmental exposures, and individual factors. Environmental factors such as unavailable and unaffordable healthy, nutrient-dense foods; prevalent fast-food marketing and non-nutritive, high-calorie foods; and weight stigmatization can increase the prevalence and risk of obesity.³</p> <p>Sources: (1) Verbatim from the Healthy People 2030 website https://odphp.health.gov/healthypeople/priority-areas/social-determinants-health/literature-summaries/food-insecurity. Accessed on 3/25/2025. (2) Healthy People 2030 website https://odphp.health.gov/healthypeople/priority-areas/social-determinants-health/literature-summaries/food-insecurity. Accessed on 3/25/2025. (3) Verbatim from the County Health Rankings https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/health-data/population-health-and-well-being/quality-of-life/physical-health/adult-obesity?year=2025. Accessed 4/11/25.</p>	<p>Data Highlights</p> <div> <p>Children Eligible for Free or Reduced Price Lunch</p>  <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Entity</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>U.S. Overall</td> <td>55</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wisconsin</td> <td>40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Langlade County</td> <td>55</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </div> <div> <p>Adult Obesity</p>  <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Entity</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>United States</td> <td>34</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wisconsin</td> <td>38</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Langlade County</td> <td>40</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </div> <p><small>*2025 County Health Rankings and Roadmaps website.</small></p>	Entity	Percentage	U.S. Overall	55	Wisconsin	40	Langlade County	55	Entity	Percentage	United States	34	Wisconsin	38	Langlade County	40
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<p>Disparities and Inequities</p> <p>Disparities and inequities can show where interventions would be most beneficial.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighborhood conditions may affect physical access to food. For example, people living in some urban areas, rural areas, and low-income neighborhoods may have limited access to full-service supermarkets or grocery stores. • Food-insecure children may also be at an increased risk for a variety of negative health outcomes, including obesity. They also face a higher risk of developmental problems compared with food-secure children. <p>Sources: (1) Verbatim from the Healthy People 2030 website https://odphp.health.gov/healthypeople/priority-areas/social-determinants-health/literature-summaries/food-insecurity. Accessed on 3/25/2025. Accessed on 3/25/2025.</p>	<p>Community Perceptions & Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of physical activity was one of the top issues identified in the key informant interviews, as was the economic burden causing food insecurity. • Multiple partners are engaged in healthy and active living programs. For example, approximately 10 community organizations contribute resources to the Stockbox program which provides healthy food choices for participants. • Numerous healthy and active living programs are in place. (Examples: nutrition education at the farmers markets; ‘Fresh Flavors’ (promoting fruits and vegetables) in four local grocery stores.) 																

Healthy & Active Living

The strategies outlined encompass both community-driven initiatives and Aspirus-specific approaches; this ensures a comprehensive and collaborative effort to address key health priorities.

An (A) indicates Aspirus funded, led or supported initiatives.

Program Accountability		Population Accountability	
Strategies	Performance Measures	Indicators*	Results
Prevention			
Aspirus Leadership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aspirus Health Center for Health and Performance (medically based fitness center) (A) ALH Prevention Fund (prescription medication assistance) (A) Community Partners' Leadership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education and outreach (Fresh Flavors, nutrition access guides) Stockboxes Senior Center Programming (Living with diabetes program) ADRC programming (i.e. free meal sites, falls programs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # of referrals from, therapies, cardiac rehab, and clinic, % of compliance for blood pressure exercise program, # of participants, # of insurance reimbursed participants % of readmission within 1 year due to existing conditions and support provided # of education and outreach programs # of Stockbox recipients # of members # of individuals for meals, # of participants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease in the percentage of adults who are overweight or obese (baseline is 40% (2022))¹³ Decrease in average number of poor physical health days in the last 30 days (baseline is 4.3 days (2022))¹⁴ Decrease the percentage of adults who report no leisure-time activity (age-adjusted) (baseline is 23% (2019-2020)) Decrease in percentage of adults with diagnosed diabetes (age-adjusted) (baseline is 9% (2022))¹⁵ Decrease in the percentage of the population who have adequate access to food (baseline is 13% (2022))¹⁶ 	Improve quality of life for Langlade County residents across the continuum
Treatment			
Aspirus Leadership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support groups (Diabetes) (A) Fruit and vegetable prescription program (FVRx) (A) Nourished Rx (A) Social Drivers of Health Screening (A) FindHelp Aspirus Community Resources (A) Community Partners' Leadership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekend Backpack Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # of support group participants # of vouchers distributed (tracked, not tracked), # of vouchers redeemed # of patients referred who enroll, engagement, # who complete program # of patients screened # of referrals to Aspirus supported programs, # of claimed programs 		

Collaborative Partners	Aspirus Resources
In addition to Aspirus Health and Aspirus Langlade Hospital, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Langlade County Health Department; Building a Healthier Langlade County Langlade County Senior Center Langlade County School Districts Boys and Girls Club of the Northwoods Aging Disability Resource Center Antigo Community Food Pantry Community Churches Weekend Backpack Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding opportunities through Aspirus community benefit program, Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph Mission Fund and the Community Health Foundation Staff time – coalition participation, event planning and promotion Resource identification – FindHelp.org Aspirus Community Resources Space – hosting support groups, meetings, and resource organizations Clinical services and related infrastructure – providing direct health care Aspirus Langlade Center for Health and Performance

¹³ 2025 County Health Rankings and Roadmaps website. Accessed May 5, 2025.

¹⁴ 2025 County Health Rankings and Roadmaps website. Accessed May 5, 2025.

¹⁵ 2025 County Health Rankings and Roadmaps website. Accessed May 5, 2025.

¹⁶ 2025 County Health Rankings and Roadmaps website. Accessed May 5, 2025.

Social Drivers and Equity

Research shows that social and economic factors (social drivers) are significant ‘upstream’ contributors to individuals' and communities' health outcomes. In clinical settings, Aspirus hospitals are gathering social drivers of health data as a way to understand how to tailor care to better meet the unique needs of each patient, leading to improved health equity and better health outcomes. Using aggregated patient-level social drivers data can assist in understanding the root causes of complex health issues to improve access to preventative and chronic care services. Linking patient level SDOH data and community level data can provide stronger clinical-community linkages to help connect healthcare providers, community organizations and public health agencies.

Aspirus Langlade is committed to recognizing and addressing health-related social needs as part of its overall community health improvement efforts. A number of related strategies/approaches are being implemented within the hospital and clinics as well as with other community partners (e.g., Langlade County Health Department).

- Connecting patients with food and other basic needs resources (through FindHelp.org)
- Bus vouchers provided for transportation needs
- Medication assistance program through the Aspirus Langlade Hospital Prevention Fund

As appropriate, Aspirus Langlade Hospital staff also will be participating in coalitions and community-level efforts to address other health-related social needs (e.g., transportation, housing).

Approval by the Hospital Board

This implementation strategy report was reviewed and approved on May 20, 2025, by the Aspirus Langlade Hospital Board of Directors.

Conclusion

The community will continue to develop a detailed collaborative plan to address the top needs identified through the Community Health Needs Assessment process. Through the work of *Building a Healthier Langlade County*, a local community coalition, work groups will be implemented to help oversee and drive the implementation strategy. Aspirus Langlade is committed to the partnerships, resources and strategies listed within this document to help improve on these important health issues.



aspirus.org

May 2025