

COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

POWELL COUNTY, MONTANA

2012-2013



1100 HOLLENBACK LANE, DEER LODGE, MT 59722

(406) 846-2212

www.dlmed.org



CONTACT INFORMATION

Tony Pfaff, CEO
Deer Lodge Medical Center
1100 Hollenback Lane
Deer Lodge, MT 59722
Phone: (406) 846-7715
Email: tpfaff@dlmed.org

Jaena Richards, COO
Deer Lodge Medical Center
1100 Hollenback Lane
Deer Lodge, MT 59722
Phone: (406) 846-7717
Email: jrichards@dlmed.org

Whitney Wilson, Admin. Assistant
Deer Lodge Medical Center
1100 Hollenback Lane
Deer Lodge, MT 59722
Phone: (406) 846-7723
Email: wwilson@dlmed.org



View from the top of Mt. Powell near Deer Lodge, MT

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Deer Lodge Valley

BACKGROUND

Community health needs assessments are tools that are used to collect and analyze health data for a specific region or community. The data gathered through the health assessment can be utilized to identify outstanding community health needs, barriers for accessing services, and to prioritize the most effective use of resources to address the identified community health needs.

The recent Health Care Reform Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act requires all non-profit hospitals to conduct a community health needs assessment every three years and adopt an implementation strategy to meet the outstanding community health needs identified through the assessment.

DATA COLLECTION

COLLABORATORS

Deer Lodge Medical Center conducted the research and assembled this community health needs assessment for Powell County, MT. Data from a wide variety health organizations in conjunction with input from local public health officials and the general public was utilized. No contractors were used for the development of this report.

DATA SOURCES

The data used in this community health needs assessment was collected from a wide variety of sources including: government agencies, health departments, rural health organizations, state universities, local health officials, and the general public. The majority of the data was used from third party organizations that specialize in data collection. The primary sources of data include the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, the United States Census Reports, Montana State University Office of Rural Health and the Area Health Education Center. All data sources were verified to ensure accuracy. To collect information and input from Powell County health officials both personal interviews and surveys were utilized. The interviews and surveys gave local health officials the opportunity to give their input on the health needs of the residents of Deer Lodge and Powell County. A survey was also distributed to community members to gather feedback from the general public.

DATA LIMITATIONS

Due to the small number of residents living in Powell County and the rural nature of the area, detailed data is not always available for the residents of Powell County or Deer Lodge, MT. In some situations, Powell County data is lumped together with data from all Southwest Montana. This limits the data to a specific region of Montana rather than specifically for Powell County.

Data collection and accuracy is also impacted by time. The United States Census was utilized as an accurate and reliable source but this data is not current. It is only accurate until the most recent census collection year. The United States Census is a reliable data source but as time passes a small margin of error is created by outdated data figures. This is especially true for the demographic information of the community health needs assessment.

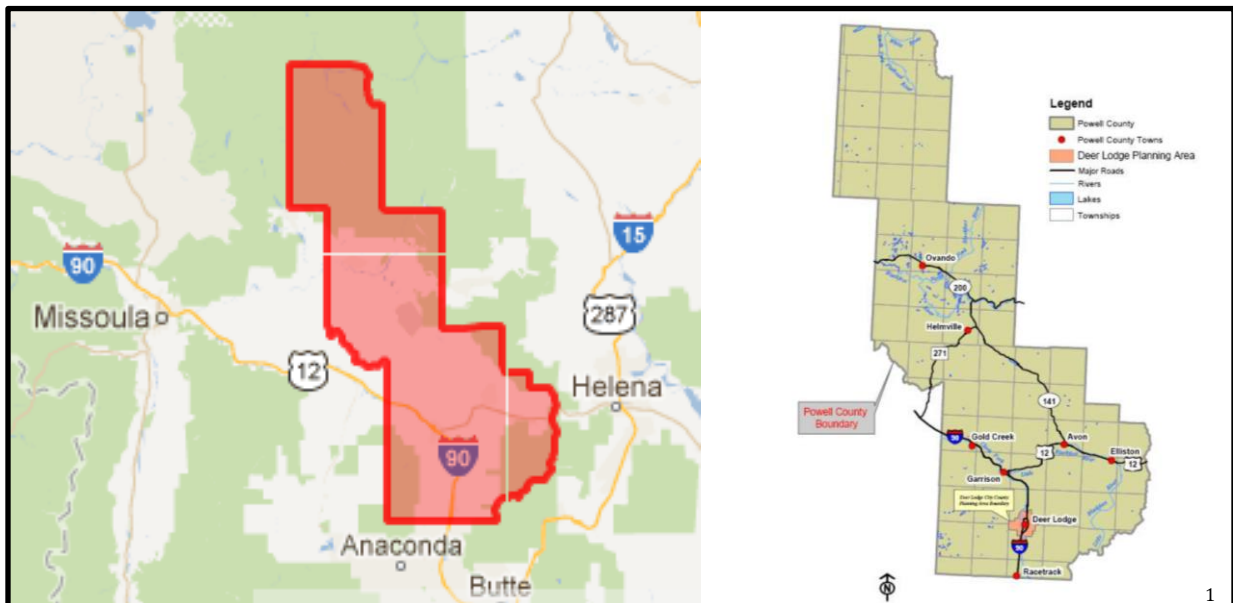
SERVICE AREA - POWELL COUNTY

Deer Lodge Medical Center is a 16 bed critical access hospital located in Powell County in Western Montana. Deer Lodge Medical Center is the only hospital operating within Powell County. Powell County is the primary community served by Deer Lodge Medical Center.



Deer Lodge Medical Center

Powell County covers 2,323 square miles. There are approximately 3 people living per square mile throughout the region. Deer Lodge is the largest town within the county at about 3,130 people. Other towns within Powell County include: Ovando, Helmsville, Gold Creek, Garrison, Avon, Elliston, and Racetrack.

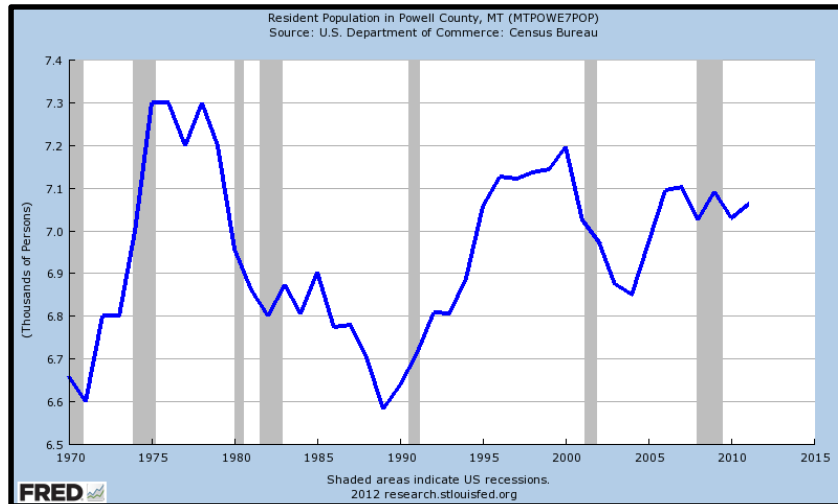


¹ <http://www.usa.com/powell-county-mt.htm>

POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS

POPULATION TRENDS

Powell County had a maximum population in 1975 when 7,300 people lived within the county. By 1989 the population had dropped by 718 people to 6,582. The population however did increase again during the 1990's and has since remained fairly consistent with slight fluctuations. From April 2000 to April 2010 the population of Powell County declined by 2.1% while the population of Montana grew by 9.7%.² Of the 7,063 residents in Powell County today, 3,130 reside in the town of Deer Lodge, MT.



MONTANA STATE PRISON

The Montana State Prison is a 68-acre compound located just west of the town of Deer Lodge, MT. Inmates at the Montana State Prison are included in the census for Powell County, therefore impacting the population figures slightly. There are currently 1,457 inmates housed at the Montana State Prison. In 1970 there were only 300 inmates. This dramatic increase of inmates at the Montana State Prison over the last 40 years more than accounts for the growth in population in Powell County.⁴

POPULATION BY CENSUS YEAR					
	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
MONTANA	694,409	787,690	799,065	902,195	989,415
POWELL COUNTY	6,660	6,958	6,620	7,180	7,027
MONTANA STATE PRISON	300	698	1,159	1,403	1,455
DEER LODGE	4,306	4,023	3,378	3,421	3,130

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² <http://www.indexmundi.com/facts/united-states/quick-facts/montana/population-growth#map>

³ [http://research.stlouisfed.org/fred2/graph/?chart_type=line&width=800&height=480&preserve_ratio=true&s\[1\]\[id\]=MTPOWE7POP](http://research.stlouisfed.org/fred2/graph/?chart_type=line&width=800&height=480&preserve_ratio=true&s[1][id]=MTPOWE7POP)

⁴ <http://www.cor.mt.gov/content/Resources/Reports/2011BiennialReport.pdf>

⁵ http://www.powellcountymt.gov/janda/files/home/1282171448_Powell%20County%20Growth%20Policy%2010-2006-p.pdf

POPULATION PROJECTIONS

The population of Powell County is expected to continue to remain fairly stable over the next decade. The rural areas within the county are expected to experience slow growth, while the population of Deer Lodge is predicted to continue to see a reduction in population size. Several factors have the potential to influence this population change.⁶

MONTANA STATE PRISON

The Montana State Prison completed their most recent expansion in 2008, increasing the total capacity of inmates to 1,495. With a current number of housed inmates at over 1,450 an additional future expansion is possible. An additional expansion would increase population growth in the area by increasing the number of inmates as well as the number of Montana State Prison employees residing within Powell County.⁷

SUN MOUNTAIN LUMBER AND LOGGING

Sun Mountain Lumber, Inc. is a privately-held, family owned forest products company based in Deer Lodge. 20 years ago the wood products manufacturing industry comprised 50% of Montana's total economy. Today that number has dropped to 17%. Despite the changing economy, Sun Mountain Lumber is still the largest private employer in Deer Lodge. Any future staffing changes at Sun Mountain Lumber have the potential to influence Powell County's population as people move in and out of the area in search of work.⁸



Log Deck at Sun Mountain Lumber

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

AGE

The general population in the United States is aging as people live longer and the birth rate declines. The median age in the United States is increasing, but the average age in Powell County is still significantly higher. Compared to both Montana and the United States, Powell County has an older than average population. In Powell County only 21.2% of the population is under the age of 18 compared to 30.2% nationally. 16.8% of Powell County's population is over 65 compared to 13.3% nationally.

⁶ http://www.epa.gov/ttn/naaqs/ozone/areas/pop/popp_mt.pdf

⁷ <http://www.cor.mt.gov/content/Resources/Reports/2011BiennialReport.pdf>

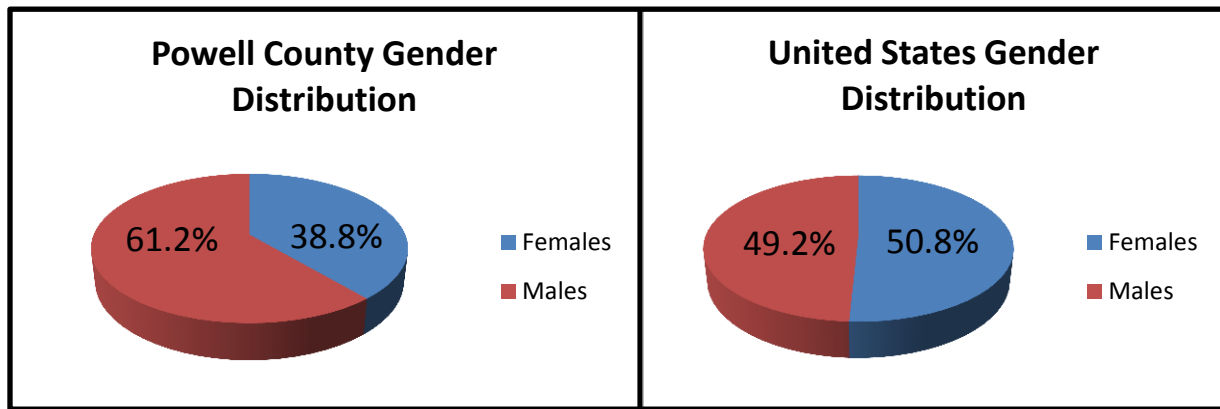
⁸ http://www.energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/files/serve?File_id=2d4c338f-802a-23ad-4502-1e695f8179e0

Age	Powell County	Montana	United States
Persons Under 5	4.4%	6.2%	6.5%
Persons 5 to 17	16.8%	22.3%	23.7%
Persons 18 to 64	62.0%	56.3%	56.5%
65 and Older	16.8%	15.2%	13.3%
Median Age	42.3	37.5	36.6

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GENDER

The general population of the United States is fairly evenly distributed between men and women. Women comprise about 50.8% of the general US population. In Powell County, females make up only 38.8% of the total population. Again, this figure is impacted by the Montana State Prison population within Powell County.



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RACE/ETHNICITY

According to the 2010 Census, the majority (98.73%) of the Powell County population claim one race. Of those, 92.47% classify themselves as white. The largest single minority race is American Indian and Alaska Native which comprises 4.41% of the county population. 1.27% of the population claim two or more races and 1.67% of the population claim Hispanic or Latino ethnicity.

Population by Race in Powell County	
Race	Percentage
American Indian and Alaska Native	4.41%
Asian	0.47%
Black or African American	0.98%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Native	0.03%
Other Race	0.43%
Two or More Races	1.27%
White	92.47%

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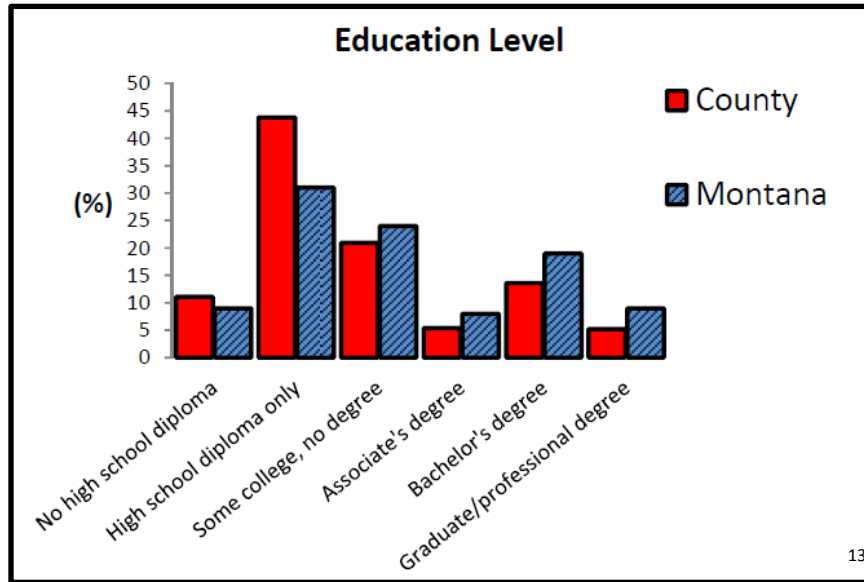
⁹ <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/30/30077.html>

¹⁰ <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/30/30077.html>

¹¹ <http://censusviewer.com/county/MT/Powell>

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

89% percent of individuals over the age of 25 living in Powell County have graduated from high school. This is slightly lower than the 91% of Montana residents over the age of 25 that have graduated from high school, but higher than the 85% nationwide. In Powell County only 18.7% of the population age 25 and older has a Bachelor’s degree or higher compared to state and national figures which are at 27.9%.¹²



Clark Fork River

¹² <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/30000.html>

¹³ Montana State University Office of Rural Health and Area Health Education Center: Powell County Secondary Data Analysis July 23, 1012

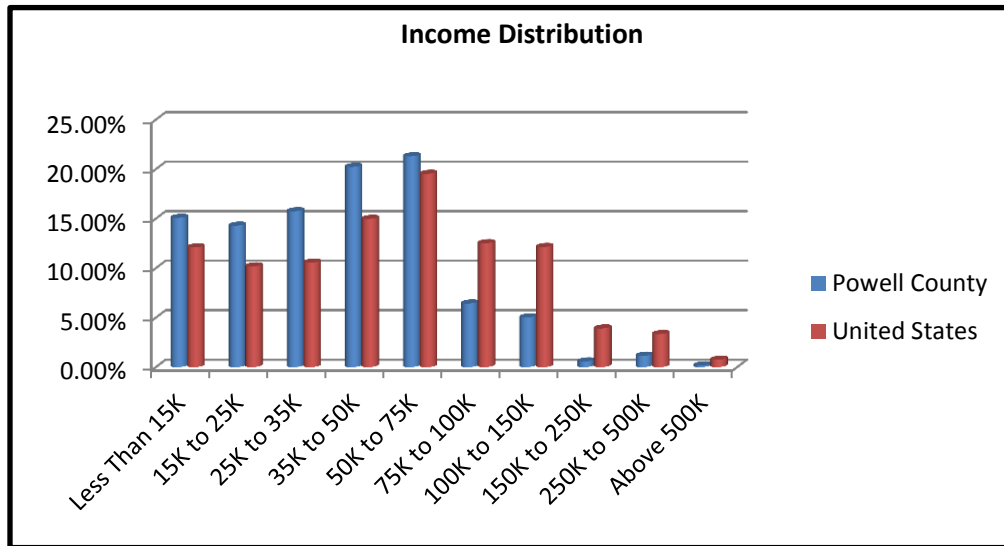
SOCIOECONOMIC FACTORS

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME (MHI)

The real median household income for Montana peaked in 2007 at \$45,775 but has since dropped to \$43,000. The median household income in Powell County is \$37,027. The per capita income in Powell County is \$17,044 compared to Montana at \$23,552 and the United States at \$26,059. 16.2% of residents in Powell County are uninsured compared to 19% of all Montanans.^{14 15}

Socioeconomic Measures ¹ (%)	County	Montana	Nation ^{7,8}
Median Income ¹	\$37,027	\$43,000	\$51,914
Unemployment Rate ⁷	8.4%	6.3%	7.7%
Persons Below Poverty Level ¹	10.0%	14.0%	13.8%
Uninsured Adults (Age <65) ¹	16.2%	19.0%	18.2%
Uninsured Children (Age <18) ⁹	N/A	11.0%	10.0%

¹Community Health Data, MT Dept of Health and Human Services (2010)
²Montana Dept of Labor and Industry, Research & Analysis Bureau. Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS). Non-Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate. (Retrieved April 2012)
³Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Health Insurance Coverage (2011)
⁴Montana KIDS COUNT (2009)



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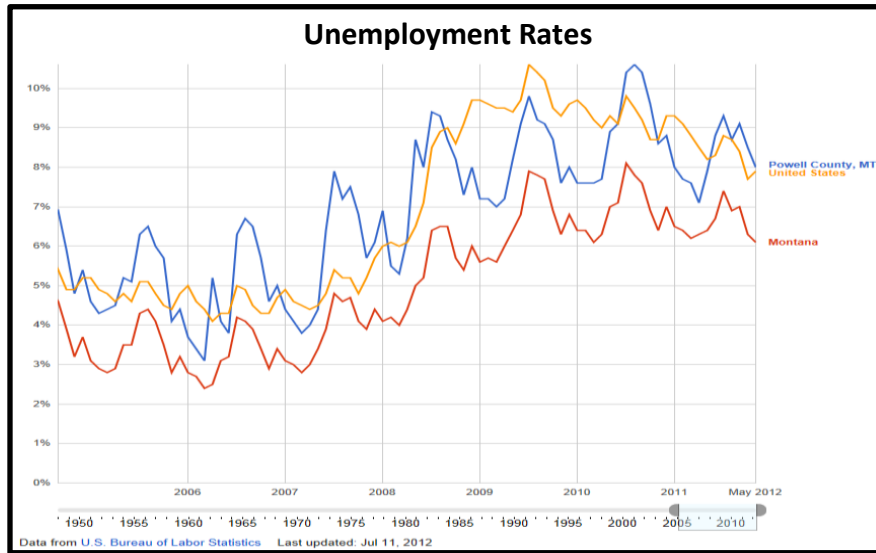
¹⁴ <http://www.deptofnumbers.com/income/montana/>

¹⁵ http://www.city-data.com/county/Powell_County-MT.html

¹⁶ <http://www.bestplaces.net/economy/county/montana/powell>

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Unemployment rates in Powell County have gone up slightly over the past ten years, but have maintained fairly consistent compared to the overall unemployment rates in Montana and the United States. As of May 2012, the unemployment rate in Powell County was 8.2%, compared to 6% for the state of Montana and 7.8% overall for the United States.



POVERTY

The individual poverty rate in Montana has remained above 14% since 2005. Montana has had a higher poverty rate than the United States since 1995. In 2009, Montana had an estimated 142,000 people living in poverty.¹⁷ Currently, in Montana 14.5% of the population lives in poverty, compared to the 13.8% nationwide. 17.3% of the total population of Powell County is currently living at or below the federal poverty level.¹⁸



Old Montana Prison, Deer Lodge, MT

¹⁷ <http://www.montana.edu/extensionecon/countydata/statewidereportdec2011.pdf>

¹⁸ <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/30/30077.html>

HEALTH FACTORS

LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH

The United States, Montana, and Powell County all have the same three leading causes of death: heart disease, cancer and chronic lower respiratory disease (CLRD). In Powell County and the United States, heart disease is the leading cause of death, followed by cancer and CLRD.

	County ¹	Montana ^{1,2}	Nation ²
Leading Causes of Death	1. Heart Disease 2. Cancer 3. CLRD*	1. Cancer 2. Heart Disease 3. CLRD*	1. Heart Disease 2. Cancer 3. CLRD*
	¹ Community Health Data, MT Dept of Health and Human Services (2010)	² Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Vital Statistics (2012) <i>*Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease</i>	

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CHRONIC DISEASE BURDEN

In southwest Montana the prevalence of stroke, diabetes, and heart attacks are slightly lower than the rate of each in Montana and throughout the United States. In Southwest Montana, the stroke prevalence is 1.9%, diabetes is 5.1%, and the Myocardial Infarction (heart attack) prevalence is 3.4%.

Chronic Disease Burden ¹	Region 4	Montana	Nation ^{3,4}
Stroke prevalence	1.9%	2.5%	2.6%
Diabetes prevalence	5.1%	6.2%	8.3%
Acute Myocardial Infarction prevalence (Heart Attack)	3.4%	4.1%	6.0%
All Sites Cancer	416.6	455.5	543.2
	¹ Community Health Data, MT Dept of Health and Human Services (2010)	<i>Region 4 (Southwest): Lewis and Clark, Granite, Powell, Deer Lodge, Jefferson, Broadwater, Meagher, Silver Bow, Gallatin, Park, Madison, and Beaverhead</i>	
	³ Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (2012)		
	⁴ American Diabetes Association (2012)		

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SUBSTANCE USE

An estimated 45.3 million people, or 19.3% of all adults (aged 18 years or older), in the United States smoke cigarettes. Cigarette smoking is more common among men (21.5%) than women (17.3%). Cigarette smoking is the leading cause of preventable death in the United States, accounting for approximately 443,000 deaths, or 1 of every 5 deaths, in the United States each year.²¹ Tobacco use is slightly lower in Southwest Montana at 17.3% of the population.

Southwest Montana does however have higher rates of binge drinking and heavy drinking. Binge drinking is defined by a pattern of drinking that brings a person's blood alcohol concentration (BAC) to 0.08 grams percent or above. One in six (16.7%) U.S. adults binge drinks about four times a month,

¹⁹ Montana State University Office of Rural Health and Area Health Education Center: Powell County Secondary Data Analysis July 23, 1012

²⁰ Montana State University Office of Rural Health and Area Health Education Center: Powell County Secondary Data Analysis July 23, 1012

²¹ http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/adult_data/cig_smoking/

consuming about eight drinks per binge. The rate of binge drinking in Southwest Montana is even higher at 17.6%. Southwest Montana also has a higher percent of heavy drinkers compared to Montana and the national average.²²

Substance Use		Southwest Montana	Montana	United States
	Tobacco Use (current smoking)	17.3%	19.3%	19.3% ²³
	Binge Drinking	17.6%	16.9%	16.7% ²⁴
	Heavy Drinking	6.4%	5.9%	5.6%

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LIFESTYLE

Throughout the United States about 85% of the population always or nearly always wears a seatbelt while traveling in a motor vehicle. Southwest Montana’s seatbelt usage rate is slightly higher at 89.80%. 74.9% of the population in Southwest Montana does not eat enough fruits and vegetables compared to 77% of the population nationwide. Residents of Southwest Montana and Montana also are more physically active. On average, 18.8% of residents in Southwest Montana do not get any leisure time physical activity compared to 25.4% nationwide.

Eating more fruits and vegetables along with more physical activity plays into a lower obesity rate in Southwest Montana. 18.8% of individuals living in Southwest Montana are considered obese compared to 35.7% of the general U.S. population. In Southwest Montana 55.2% of the population are either overweight or obese compared to 69% of the United States population.

Lifestyle		Southwest Montana	Montana	United States
	Always/Nearly Always Wears Seatbelt	89.80%	88.40%	85% ²⁶
	Inadequate Fruit and Vegetable Consumption	74.90%	75.80%	77% ²⁷
	No Leisure Time Physical Activity	18.80%	20.70%	25.4%
	Obesity	18.80%	22.60%	35.7% ²⁸
	Overweight	36.40%	37.80%	33.3%

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²² <http://www.cdc.gov/alcohol/fact-sheets/binge-drinking.htm>

²³ http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/adult_data/cig_smoking/

²⁴ <http://www.cdc.gov/alcohol/fact-sheets/binge-drinking.htm>

²⁵ Montana State University Office of Rural Health and Area Health Education Center: Powell County Secondary Data Analysis July 23, 1012

²⁶ <http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/811544.pdf>

²⁷ http://ihpr.uthscsa.edu/sites/ihpr-drupal/themes/ihpr2/files/So_tx_review/Nutrition.pdf

²⁸ <http://www.cdc.gov/obesity/data/adult.html>

²⁹ Montana State University Office of Rural Health and Area Health Education Center: Powell County Secondary Data Analysis July 23, 1012

CANCER SCREENINGS

In Southwest Montana and throughout the United States about 84% of women 18 years of age and over have had a Pap test within the past three years. 72% of women in Southwest Montana age 40 and older have had a mammogram within the past 2 years. This rate is slightly lower than the national rate of 75.4%. Colorectal cancer screening rates are also slightly lower in Southwest Montana. 14.9% of residents in Southwest Montana that are 50 or older have had a blood stool test in the past 2 years compared to 17.2% nationally. 54.9% of residents in Southwest Montana that are 50 or older have had a sigmoidoscopy or colonoscopy within the past 10 years compared to 60.3% nationally.

Screening		Southwest Montana	Montana	United States
	Pap Test in Past 3 Years	84.10%	83.00%	84.2% ³⁰
	Mammogram in Past 2 Years	72.10%	71.90%	75.4% ³¹
	Blood Stool Test in Past 2 Years	14.90%	14.60%	17.2% ³²
	Sigmoidoscopy or Colonoscopy	54.90%	54.30%	60.3% ³³

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Chlamydia is the most common STD in Montana and in Powell County.³⁵ The reported number of new cases of chlamydia has risen every year since 2009. In 2011 there were 3,406 new case of chlamydia reported in Montana. In 2012 that number rose to 3,827 new reported cases. In 2012 Powell County reported 17 new cases of chlamydia, up from 7 in 2010 and 11 in 2011.³⁶ According to Powell County Public Health Nurse, Marianne Saylor, chlamydia is the most prevalent communicable disease within the county and rates are increasing. The number of new reported cases of HIV in Montana in 2012 was 53. There were no new reported cases of HIV in Powell County for 2012.

Communicable Disease Report for Montana				
	2009	2010	2011	2012
Chlamydia	2989	3078	3406	3827
Gonorrhea	80	101	85	108
Syphilis	5	5	7	4
HIV	31	20	21	53
Total	3074	3184	3498	3992

³⁰ http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/pap_test.htm

³¹ <http://www.statehealthfacts.org/comparemaptable.jsp?typ=2&ind=479&cat=10&sub=113&sortc=1&o=a>

³² http://health.state.tn.us/statistics/PdfFiles/2010_BRFSS_State/BRFSS_US50BLST10.pdf

³³ <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/su6102a9.htm#tab1>

³⁴ Montana State University Office of Rural Health and Area Health Education Center: Powell County Secondary Data Analysis July 23, 1012

³⁵ Personal Interview Powell County Public Health Nurse Marianne Saylor

³⁶ Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services Communicable Disease Weekly Report, 10/19/12

Communicable Disease Report for Powell County, Montana			
	2010	2011	2012
Chlamydia	7	11	17
Gonorrhea	0	1	0
Syphilis	0	0	0
HIV	1	0	0
Total	7	12	17

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HEPATITIS C

Powell County Public Health Nurse, Marianne Saylor and Deer Lodge Medical Center Physician, Dr. Wayne Martin indicated that Hepatitis C (HCV) may be a larger problem in Powell County than data indicates due to the high percent of individuals that have never been tested for Hepatitis C. An estimated 75% of people infected with Hepatitis C are unaware of their HCV infection. The CDC recently updated their guidelines for HCV testing to include a one-time testing for all adults born between 1945 and 1965 (baby boomers) without prior HCV exposure risk. The CDC updated the testing guidelines due to the fact that baby boomers account for more than 75% of all HCV infections in the United States. An estimated 35% of undiagnosed baby boomers have already progressed to advanced liver disease.³⁹



Little Blackfoot Valley

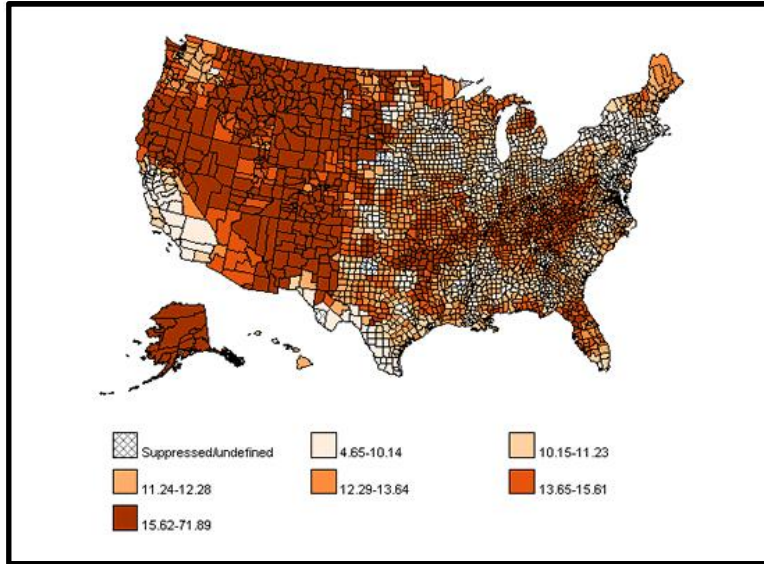
³⁷ Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services Communicable Disease Weekly Report, 10/19/12

³⁸ http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/hivstd/documents/HIV_STD_2010_Annual_Report_final_Revised.pdf

³⁹ <http://www.cdc.gov/features/HepatitisCTesting/index.html>

SUICIDE

The Powell County suicide rate is almost twice the national average. In the United States, suicide rates are predominately high in western counties. There are also high rates of suicide in certain Appalachian counties of Kentucky, West Virginia, southern Oklahoma, and northern Florida.⁴⁰ In the United States there are on average 12 suicides for every 100,000 people yearly. In Montana this rate increases to 20.3. Powell County is even higher at 22.8 suicides per 100,000 population yearly.⁴¹



Footnote: *All rates are age-adjusted to the standard 2000 population. Rates based on less than 20 deaths are statistically unreliable and are suppressed (see legend above).⁴²

Suicide Rate per 100,000 Population	
Powell County	22.8
Montana	20.3
United States	12.0

⁴³

Males complete suicide at a rate 3.6 times that of females. Females, however, attempt suicide three times more often than males. Suicide ranks third as a cause of death among young (15-24) Americans behind accidents and homicides. It is generally estimated that there are 25 attempted suicides for each death by suicide.⁴⁴ 90% of people who die by suicide have a diagnosable and treatable psychiatric disorder at the time of their death.⁴⁵

⁴⁰ http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/suicide/statistics/suicide_map.html

⁴¹ Montana State University Office of Rural Health and Area Health Education Center: Powell County Secondary Data Analysis July 23, 1012

⁴² http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/suicide/statistics/suicide_map.html

⁴³ Montana State University Office of Rural Health and Area Health Education Center: Powell County Secondary Data Analysis July 23, 1012

⁴⁴ http://www.suicidology.org/c/document_library/get_file?folderId=232&name=DLFE-244.pdf

⁴⁵ http://www.afsp.org/index.cfm?page_id=04ea1254-bd31-1fa3-c549d77e6ca6aa37

POWELL COUNTY HEALTH RESOURCES

HOSPITALS

Deer Lodge Medical Center is the only hospital operating within Powell County. It is a 16-bed critical access hospital that offers inpatient and outpatient care, 24-hour emergency care, physical therapy, general surgery, chiropractic care and some specialty services.

MEDICAL PROVIDERS

There is a medical outpatient clinic within Deer Lodge Medical Center that is staffed Monday-Friday. There is also a private family practice medical office, Premier Family Practice that is located on Main Street of Deer Lodge, MT.

DENTISTS

There are two dental practices operating in Deer Lodge, MT, Starr Family Dental and Deer Lodge Family Dental Assoc.

PHYSICAL THERAPY

There is a physical therapy department at Deer Lodge Medical Center that provides both inpatient and outpatient rehab services to members of our community. There are also two private physical therapy offices in Deer Lodge, Premier Physical Therapy and Deer Lodge Valley Therapy that focus on outpatient care.

PUBLIC HEALTH

A public health nurse recently joined the staff at Deer Lodge Medical Center. The public health nurse is available for education, testing and consultation at Deer Lodge Medical Center.

LONG TERM CARE

Deer Lodge Care and Rehabilitation Center offers skilled nursing and rehabilitation therapy to adults of all ages who need short or long term care. Deer Lodge also has an assisted living facility, Beyond Homes.

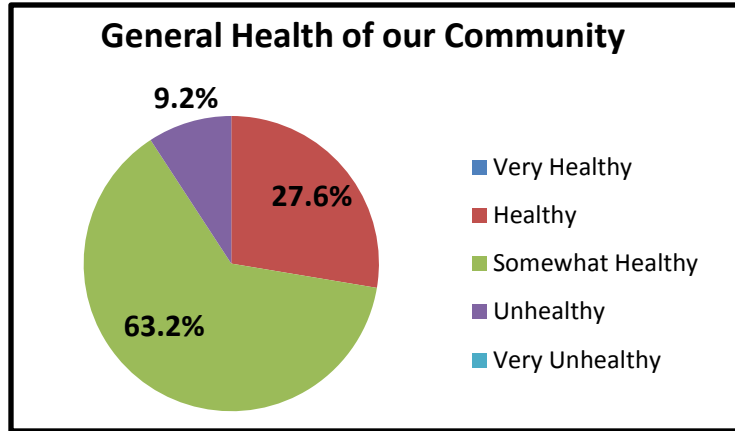


Blackfoot River near Ovando

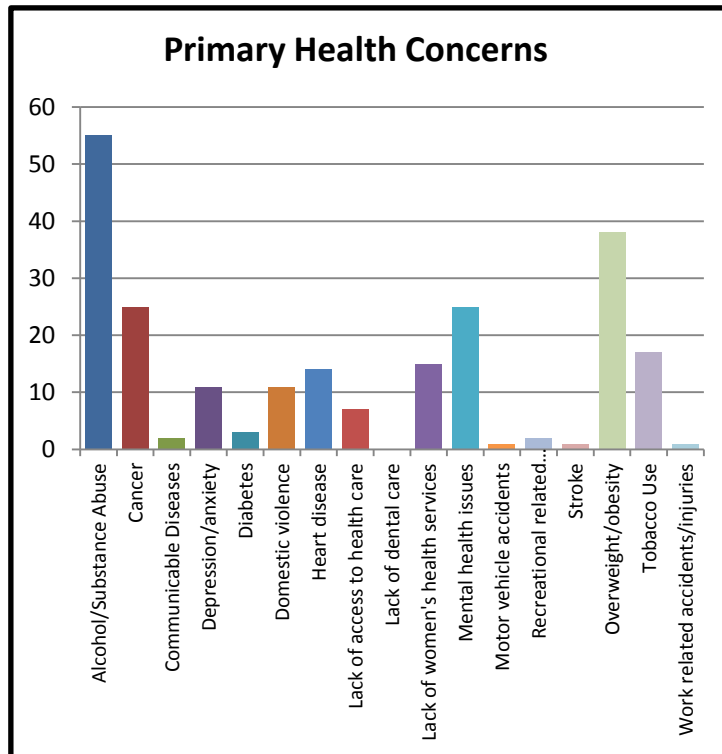
COMMUNITY SURVEYS

A public survey was conducted to gather information and data on the public view of the health needs of Powell County. The survey consisted of 13 questions. 78 community members participated in the survey.

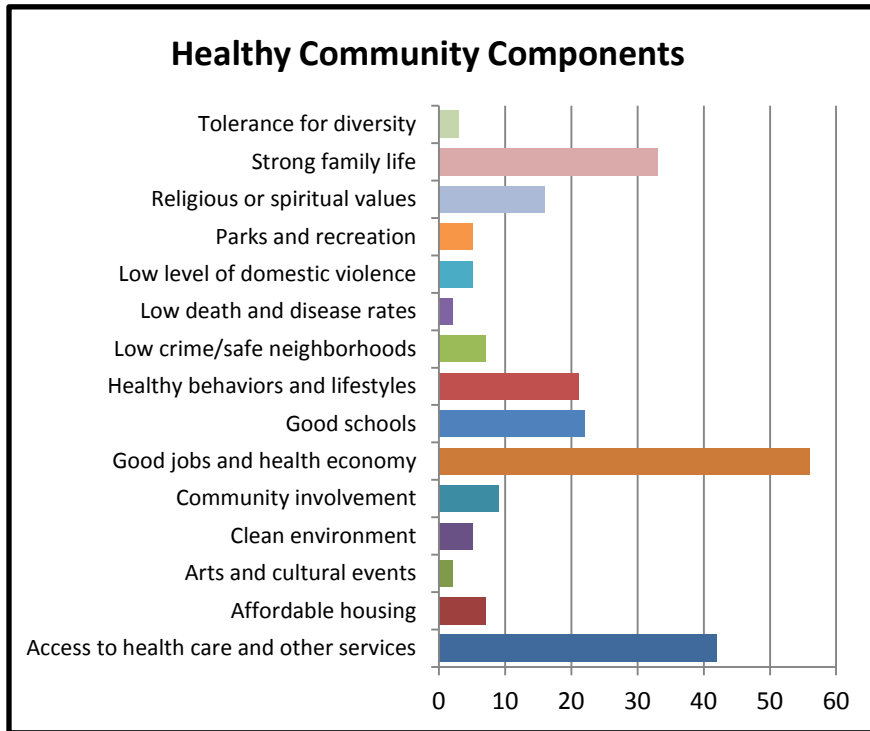
1. How would you rate the general health of our community?



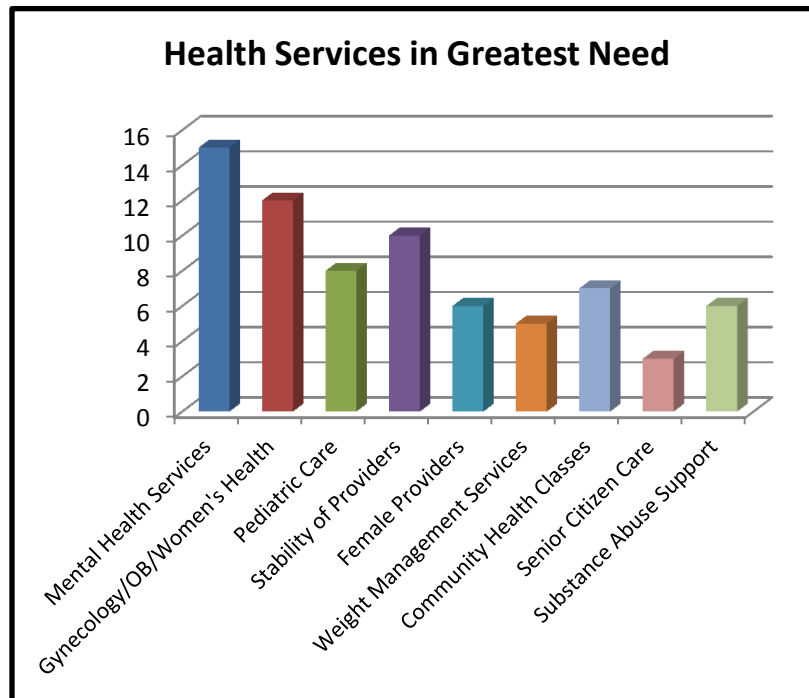
2. What do you think are the three most serious health concerns in our community?



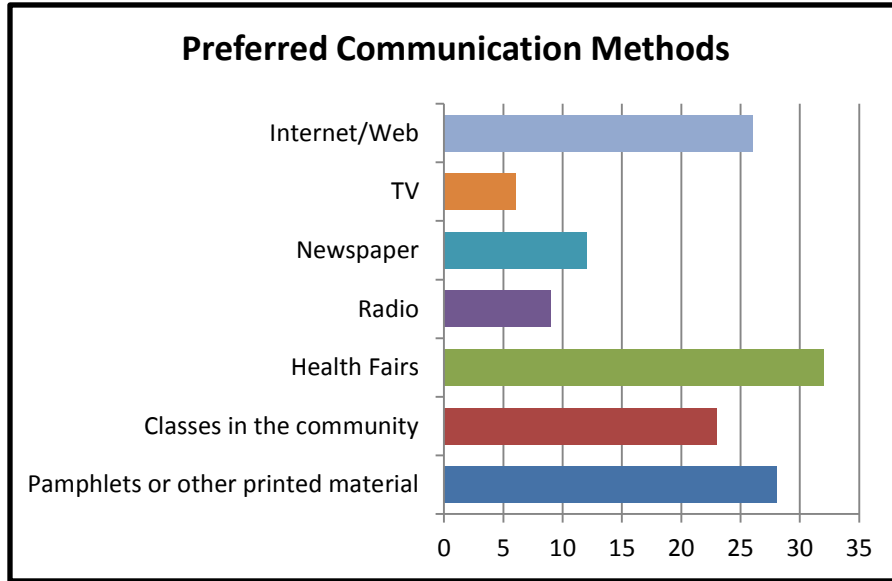
3. Select the three items that you believe are the most important for a healthy community.



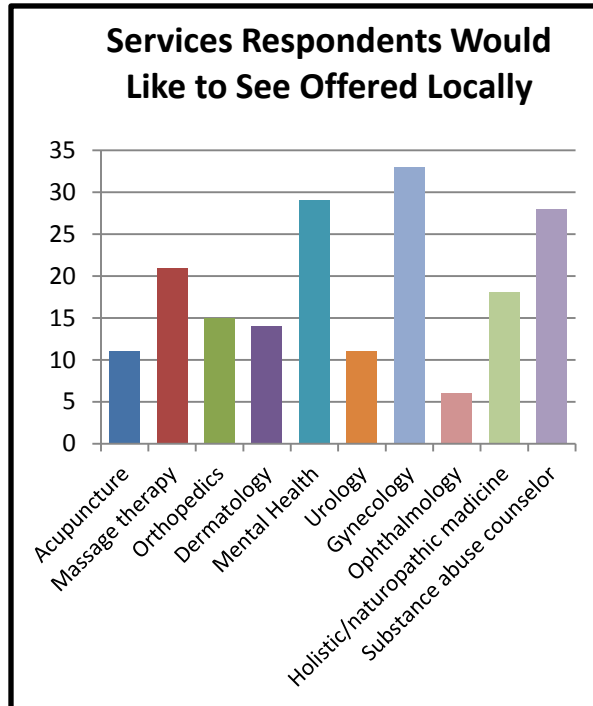
4. What health services do you feel are in the greatest need in our community?



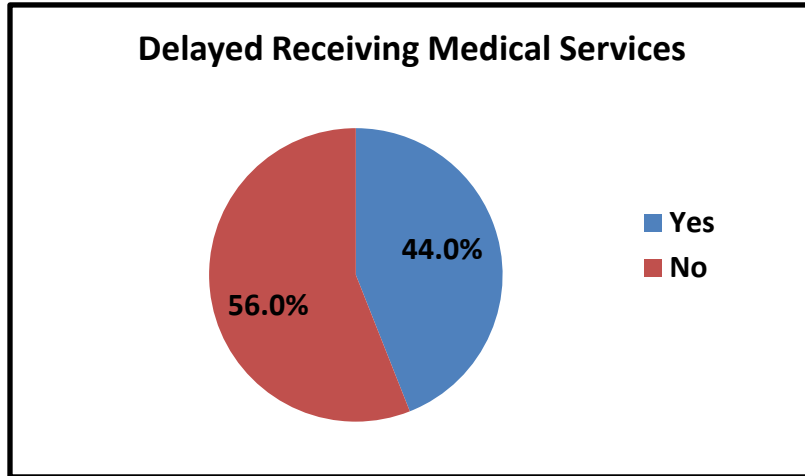
5. What is your preferred method to receive health education information?



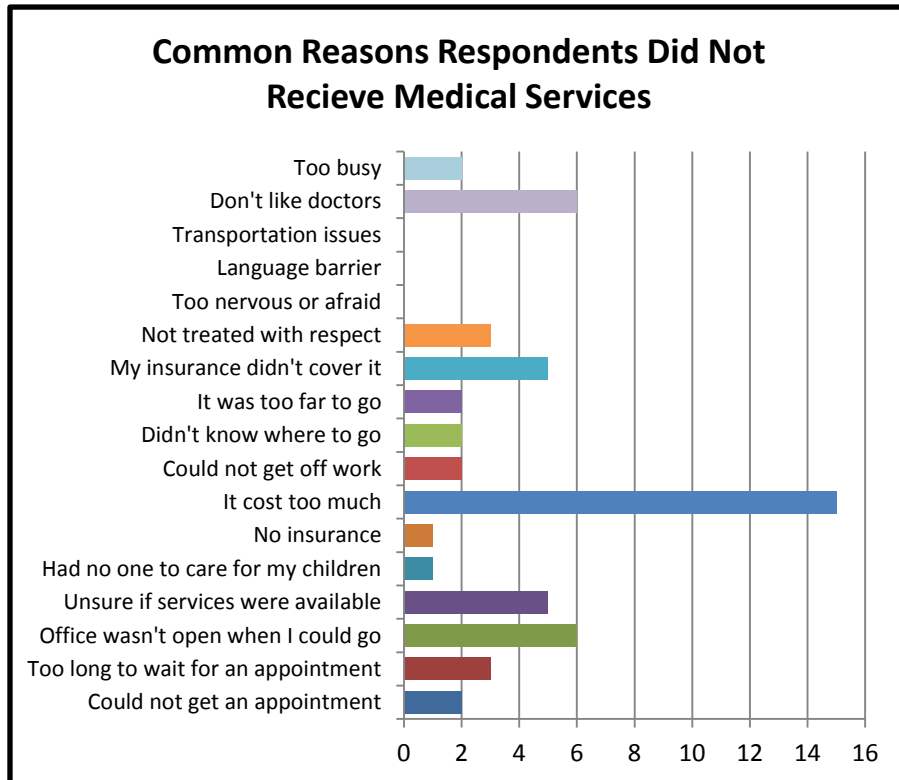
6. What specialty services would you like to see offered locally at DLMC?



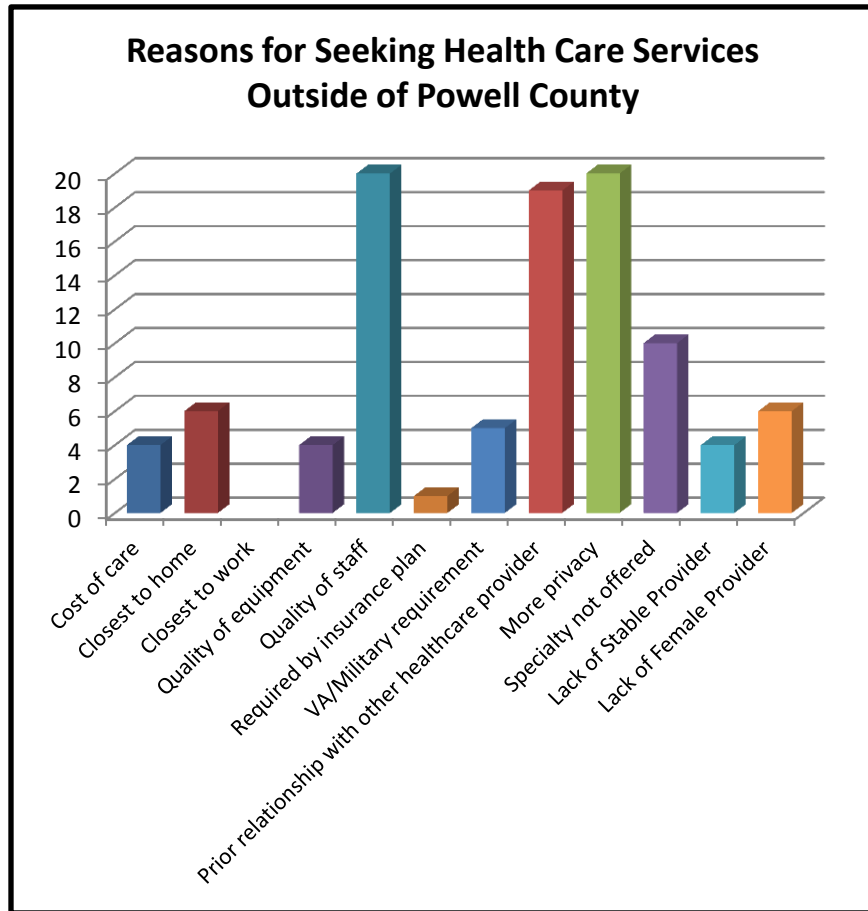
7. In past three years was there a time when you or a member of your family thought you needed health care services but did NOT get or delayed getting medical services?



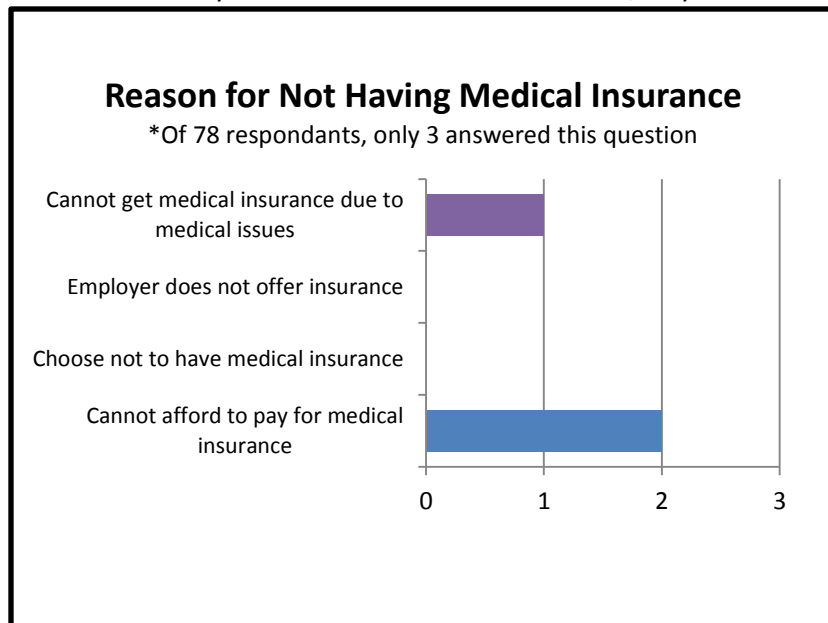
8. If yes (to question 7), what were the three most important reasons why you did NOT receive health care services?



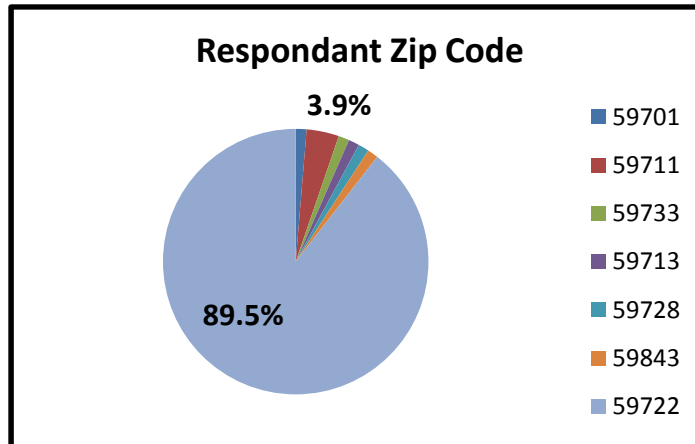
9. If you routinely seek primary health care services outside of Powell County, what are the reasons you do so?



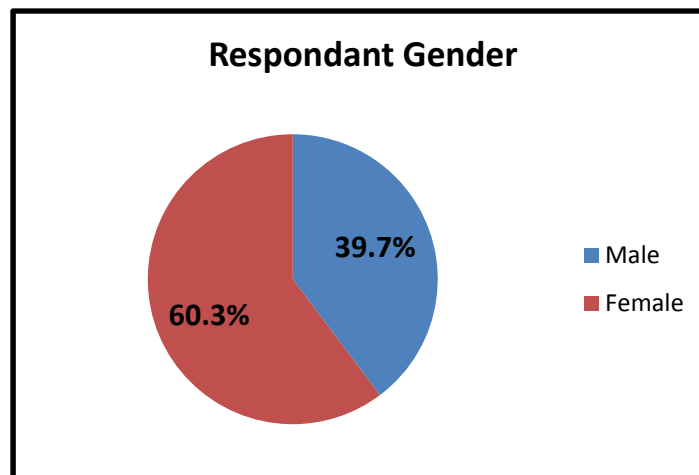
10. If you do not have medical insurance, why?



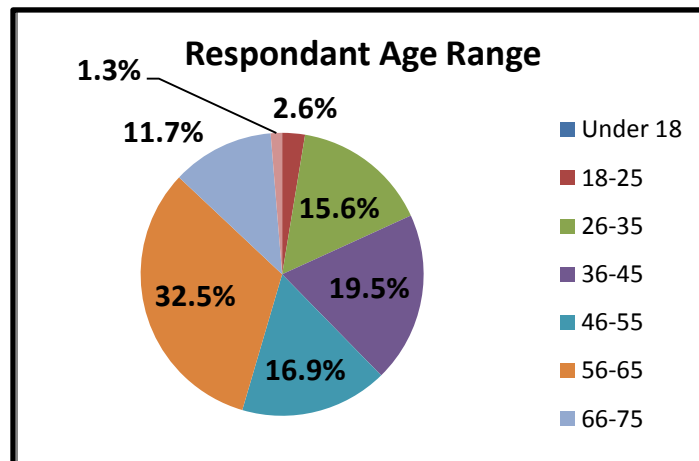
11. Where do you currently live by zip code?



12. What is your gender?



13. What is your age range?



PRIMARY COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS

By analyzing the county demographics, health factors, available community health resources and input from county health officials and the general public, the primary community health needs of Powell County were identified. Focus was placed on health concerns and statistics that were worse in Powell County when compared to the national average or the Montana average. Priority was also placed on community health concerns that are not currently being addressed by other health organizations within Powell County.

PRIMARY COMMUNITY HEALTH CONCERNS IDENTIFIED FOR POWELL COUNTY

- High Suicide Rate and Shortage of Mental Health Services
- Shortage of Women's Health Services and Female Medical Providers
- Lack of Specialty Healthcare Providers within Powell County
- Substance Abuse
- Public Health Services

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN TO ADDRESS IDENTIFIED NEEDS

HIGH SUICIDE RATE AND SHORTAGE OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The suicide rate in Powell County, MT is nearly double the national average. This problem is coupled by a shortage of mental health providers that work with the general public in Powell County and that are available to respond quickly in a crisis situation. To help respond to this need, Deer Lodge Medical Center will:

- Work to develop a mental health program at Deer Lodge Medical Center
- Collaborate with the University of Montana and the Area Health Education Center to receive grant funding to help develop and facilitate the mental health program
- Recruit Social Worker and Psychology new graduates and assist them with developing practices in Deer Lodge, MT
- Improve crisis response times for patients with emergent mental health needs

SHORTAGE OF WOMEN'S HEALTH SERVICES AND FEMALE MEDICAL PROVIDERS

According to the Powell County community surveys, the shortage of women's health services and local female medical providers is one of the top concerns for our community members. Mammography rates in Powell County are also lower than the national average. To address this need, Deer Lodge Medical Center will work to:

- Recruit a female medical provider to work full time at Deer Lodge Medical Center with experience providing women's health services
- Expand and promote the new mammography services Deer Lodge Medical Center began offering locally in March 2013
- Work with the Montana Cancer Screening Program to ensure low-income, uninsured, and underinsured women are able to receive important cancer screenings

LACK OF SPECIALTY HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS WITHIN POWELL COUNTY

The community survey indicated that the shortage of specialty providers within Powell County is a large concern and often results in community members traveling to neighboring counties to receive specialized medical care. To help alleviate this concern, Deer Lodge Medical Center will work to:

- Recruit more specialty medical providers to come to work at Deer Lodge Medical Center on a regular basis, including urology and orthopedics
- Educate the public on the specialty providers that are currently available through Deer Lodge Medical Center including podiatry, cardiology, and general surgery
- Expand available complimentary alternative medicines through the Planetree program

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

In Powell County, 24% of the population either heavily drinks or binge drinks on a regular basis, which is higher than both the national and Montana average. 17% of the population currently smokes tobacco. On the community surveys, alcohol/substance abuse was indicated as the most serious health concern for our community. To help with the substance abuse problem within Powell County, Deer Lodge Medical Center will:

- Hire a Licensed Addiction Counselor to serve as a community resource
- Introduce group therapy, addiction support groups, and individual addiction counseling locally in Deer Lodge
- Educate the public and students about substance abuse and addiction

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

In the fall of 2012, Deer Lodge Medical Center in conjunction with Powell County, resumed the county public health program. Deer Lodge Medical Center will work to:

- Continue to develop the public health program at Deer Lodge Medical Center
- Expand programs for free Hepatitis C tests and STD prevention
- Offer the WIC program to Powell County residents locally



Garnet Mountain Range