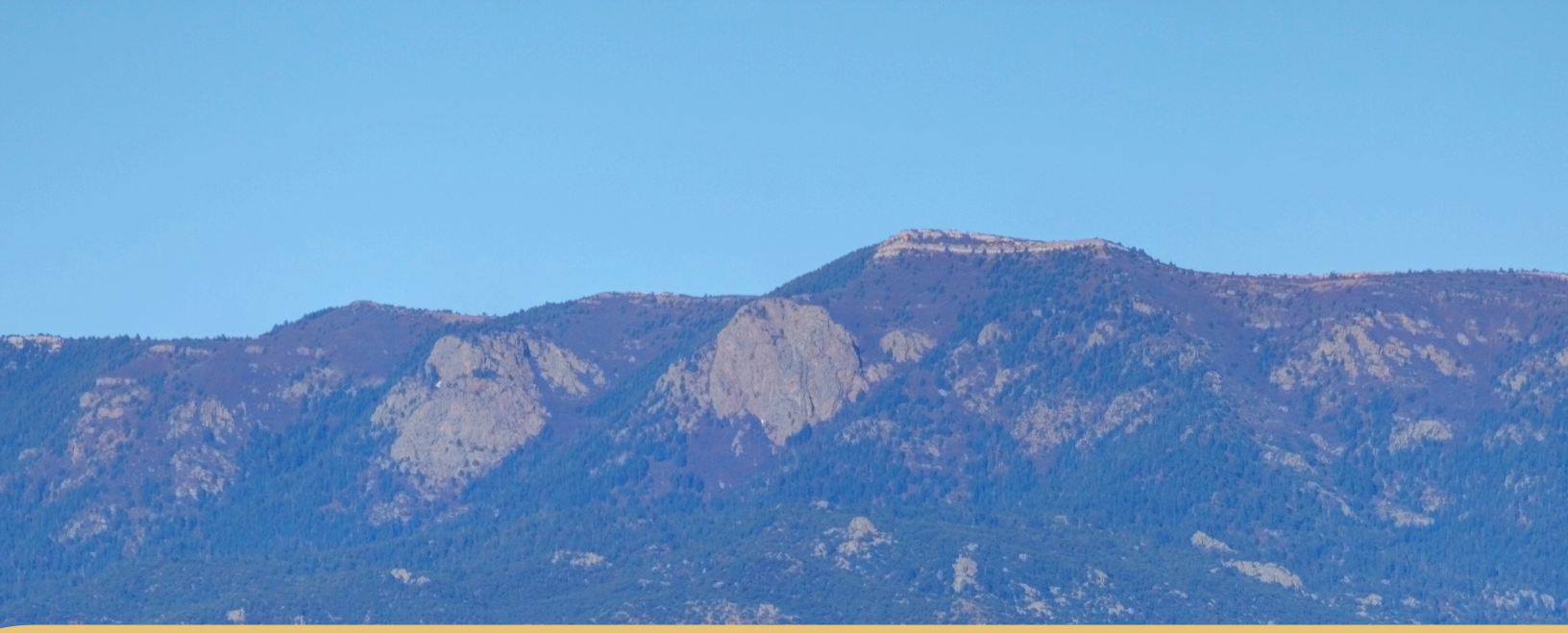


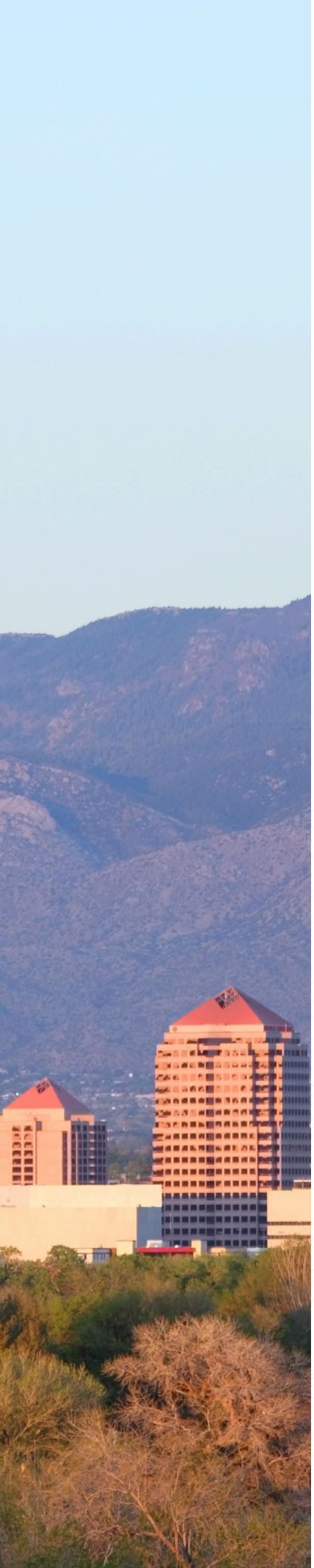
BERNALILLO COUNTY

COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN



2025

Prepared By The Health Equity Council



Acknowledgements

We extend our sincere gratitude to the individuals whose dedication and contributions have been instrumental in the development and completion of this Community Health Improvement Plan for Bernalillo County.

We also express our gratitude to the numerous stakeholders, community members, and organizations that have generously shared their knowledge, experiences, and perspectives throughout the process. Your collaboration and engagement have been invaluable in shaping the content and ensuring the relevance and applicability of this profile to the needs of our community.

Finally, we extend our appreciation to the residents of Bernalillo County for their continued commitment to improving the health and well-being of our community. It is through your collective efforts and shared vision that we can strive towards a healthier, more vibrant future for all.

About the Health Equity Council

The Health Equity Council, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is a dynamic coalition dedicated to advancing health equity and promoting the well-being of all residents in Bernalillo County. Our mission is to create environments that support equitable access to healthcare services, social determinants of health, and opportunities for healthy living

Through advocacy, education, and partnership building, the Health Equity Council seeks to amplify the voices of marginalized communities, advocate for policy change, and mobilize resources to address systemic barriers to health and well-being. We are committed to fostering a culture of inclusivity, diversity, and social justice, where everyone has the opportunity to thrive and reach their full health potential.

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Executive Summary

The 2025 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) serves as a strategic roadmap for advancing health equity and addressing the most pressing health issues in Bernalillo County. Building on the findings of the 2024 Community Health Profile and insights from the 2022 CHIP, this plan prioritizes systemic solutions aimed at creating a healthier, more equitable community. This CHIP incorporates public health frameworks from national organizations such as the CDC and NACHO, aligning with their essential services and strategies.

The priorities established in this CHIP are based on comprehensive community health data and stakeholder input. Four key areas have been identified for action:



Improving Women's Health and Maternal-Child Health
Disparities in women's health, especially among women of color, require targeted interventions. With significant challenges around maternal and child health, this CHIP prioritizes improving access to prenatal care, advocating for equitable care policies, and supporting programs that ensure better outcomes for women and infants.



Housing Insecurity
Housing instability continues to be the most frequently cited issue by Bernalillo County residents. Residents describe struggles with affordability, displacement and difficulty accessing safe shelter. This CHIP provides strategies to combat housing insecurity in the county.



Expanding Access to Mental Health and Substance Use Treatment
Mental health and substance use issues are pervasive in Bernalillo County, with high rates of distress, binge drinking, and drug overdoses. The CHIP calls for increased community-based mental health services, harm reduction strategies, and the expansion of behavioral health outreach efforts.



Reducing Violence and Promoting Community Safety
Violence—both systemic and interpersonal—continues to have a detrimental impact on health outcomes. This plan emphasizes reallocating resources toward community-led violence prevention initiatives, promoting non-violent dispute resolution, and supporting restorative justice programs.

This 2025 Community Health Improvement Plan sets the stage for Bernalillo County to tackle health inequities head-on, leveraging data-driven solutions and community collaboration. By addressing the social determinants of health and enhancing community resilience, we aim to create a healthier, more inclusive future for all residents.

Introduction

The 2025 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) for Bernalillo County is a strategic effort aimed at addressing the most pressing public health challenges in our community, with a strong focus on health equity and social justice. This plan builds on the findings from the 2024 Community Health Profile and incorporates key lessons from the 2022 CHIP. It represents a collaborative, data-driven approach to improving the health and well-being of all residents, particularly those in marginalized and underserved communities.

Informed by national public health frameworks, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), this CHIP reflects the values and principles of the 10 Essential Public Health Services. These services emphasize the need for a robust public health infrastructure, equity-centered policy development, and a commitment to community engagement.

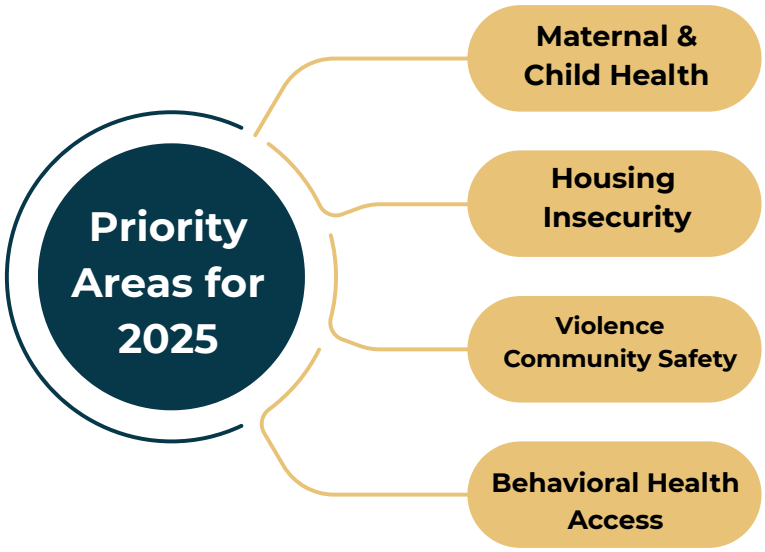
The 2025 CHIP identifies four key health priorities: (1) Housing Security, (2) Behavioral Health Access (3) Maternal and Infant Health and (4) Violence and Community Safety—each rooted in the analysis of local health data and guided by input from community stakeholders. These priorities focus on addressing the social determinants of health, expanding access to behavioral health services, reducing violence, improving maternal and child health, and strengthening the public health workforce.

This plan serves as a roadmap for action, providing clear goals, objectives, and strategies to improve health outcomes. It aims to mobilize resources, build cross-sector partnerships, and implement innovative solutions to ensure that all residents have the opportunity to lead healthy lives. By fostering collaboration and leveraging the strengths of our local public health infrastructure, this CHIP strives to create a healthier, more equitable future for Bernalillo County.

We invite community members, health professionals, local organizations, and government agencies to engage with this plan and work together in addressing the deep-rooted health inequities that affect our most vulnerable populations. Through this shared commitment, we can transform our vision of health equity into reality, ensuring that all individuals have the support and resources they need to thrive.

Priority Areas for 2025

The 2025 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) for Bernalillo County focuses on four key priority areas. These priorities were identified based on data from the 2024 Community Health Profile and insights from the 2022 CHIP, aligning with public health frameworks from the CDC and NACHO. Each priority addresses critical health disparities and social determinants of health, aiming to improve health outcomes and equity in our community.



Overview of the Bernalillo County Community Health Survey (2025)

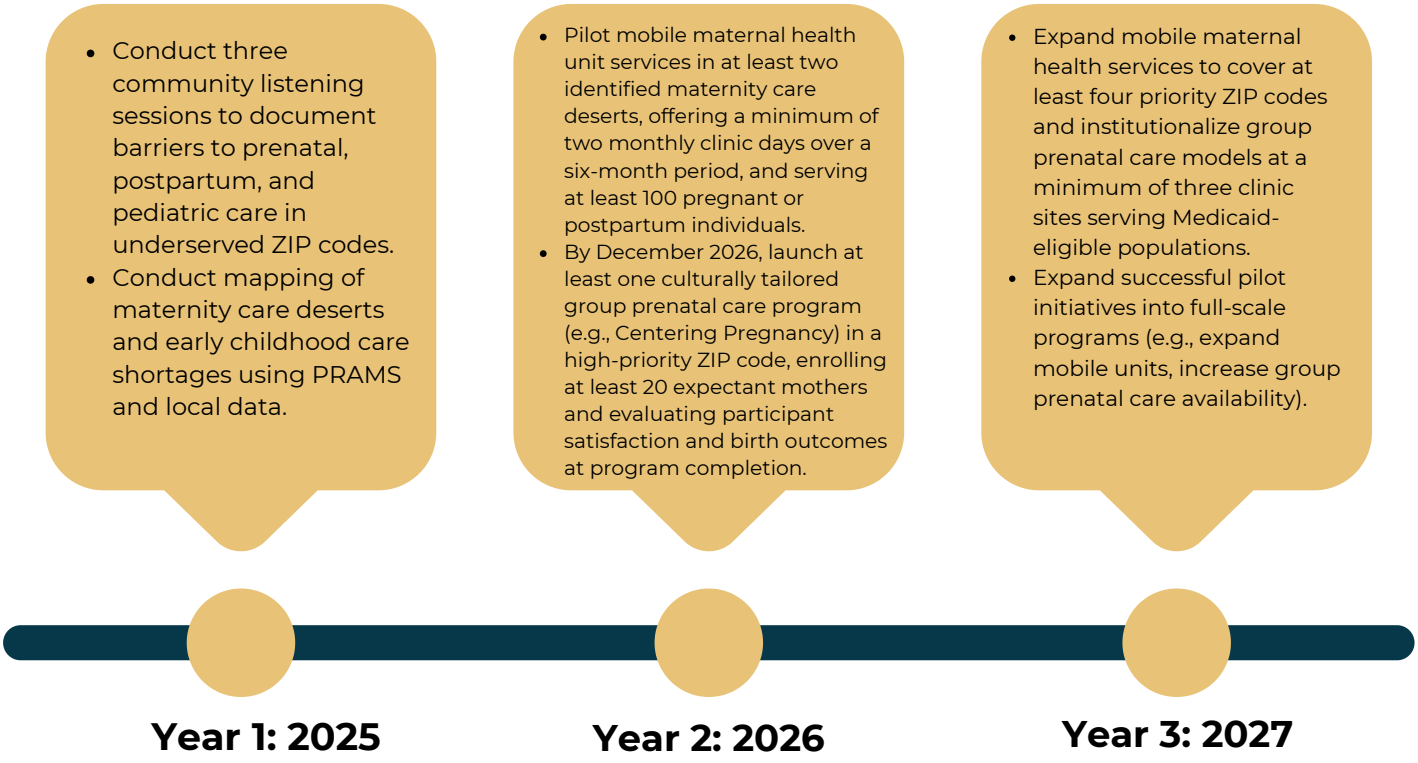
The 2025 Bernalillo County Community Health Survey was designed and administered by the Health Equity Council to elevate resident voices and guide the development of this year's Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). Conducted online, the voluntary and anonymous survey gathered responses from 35 Bernalillo County residents representing diverse racial, ethnic, linguistic, and geographic backgrounds. The survey asked residents to identify top health concerns in their communities, describe barriers they've faced when accessing healthcare or social services, and rate their satisfaction with existing support systems. Respondents also provided demographic information such as age, ZIP code, race/ethnicity, and language spoken at home. This community-informed data adds depth to secondary sources and ensures the CHIP reflects the lived experiences and priorities of Bernalillo County residents. The survey's findings highlight the need for community-rooted, culturally responsive strategies.

Implementation Plan

The implementation of the 2025 CHIP requires a strategic approach, ensuring that all four priority areas are addressed efficiently and equitably. This section outlines the detailed implementation plan, broken down by the timeline, key stakeholders, partnerships, and resource allocation for each priority.

Priority Area #1: Maternal and Infant Health

Significant disparities in maternal and infant health persist in Bernalillo County, particularly among Hispanic, Native American, and Black populations, driven by limited access to culturally competent care and systemic barriers to quality prenatal services. Community feedback and secondary data highlight childcare shortages, transportation barriers, and lack of affordable reproductive and postpartum care as major access gaps for families.



Key Stakeholders and Partnerships

- UNM Hospital – Maternal Child Health Program
- New Mexico Department of Health – Family Health Bureau

Resources:

- Personnel: CHWs, doulas, lactation counselors, and program coordinators
- Infrastructure: Mobile health units, multilingual services, data tracking tools
- Partnerships: Contracts with CBOs and providers for outreach and service delivery

"Accessing childcare is almost impossible for working parents."
— Survey Respondent

"We need services that support families across generations."
— Survey Respondent

Priority Area #2 : Housing Insecurity

Housing instability continues to be the most frequently cited issue by Bernalillo County residents. Respondents described struggles with affordability, displacement, and difficulty accessing safe shelter. Those experiencing housing instability also face compounding barriers to healthcare access.

Year 1: 2025

- Initiate partnerships with local housing authorities and economic support organizations.
- Develop rental assistance and eviction diversion referral guide tailored for frontline organizations

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Year 2: 2026

- Expand rental assistance programs through partnerships with CHWs and local nonprofits, ensuring outreach to historically marginalized communities.
- Track and publish displacement trends annually, focusing on the intersection of race/ethnicity, income, and health outcomes.

Year 3: 2027

- Develop a Housing Equity Dashboard publicly tracking metrics such as eviction filings, affordable unit construction, and CHW-led referrals.

Key Stakeholders and Partnerships
Albuquerque Housing Authority
New Mexico Workforce Connection
Roadrunner Food Bank & local pantries
Faith-based shelters
School-based resource coordinators

Resource Allocation
Federal Grants: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding for affordable housing.

State Grants: New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority and Workforce Development Program funds.

51.4% of survey respondents flagged housing as a critical health-related challenge. It underpins many social determinants of health and is one of the most commonly co-cited concerns in this survey.

•Many respondents reported difficulty paying for housing or rent.

•Housing challenges intersect with economic stress and food insecurity.

"Affordable housing is the biggest health crisis in our community."
— Survey Respondent

"We need housing options that don't put families in survival mode."
— Survey Respondent

Priority Area #3: Violence and Community Safety

Year 1: 2025

- Launch 3 trauma-informed community dialogue sessions and healing circles in areas with high rates of domestic and youth violence, co-facilitated by behavioral health providers and community leaders.
- Train frontline staff (CHWs, youth workers, peer navigators) on de-escalation techniques, mental health first aid, and trauma-informed care.

Year 2: 2026

- Expand trauma-informed care training to law enforcement, judicial, and emergency response personnel, in partnership with DOJ best practices.
- Embed peer advocates and case managers in local hospitals to support victims of interpersonal violence through wraparound services.

Year 3: 2027

- Release a Bernalillo County Community Safety Scorecard, tracking reduction in violent incidents, increased trust in systems, and resident perceptions of safety.
- Advocate for long-term policy changes, such as reallocating public safety funds toward prevention and community mental health.

Key Stakeholders and Partnerships
New Mexico Department of Health – Injury Prevention
Faith-based organizations and youth mentoring programs

Resources

- SAMHSA's National Child Traumatic Stress Initiative (NCTSI) – to support trauma-informed training and care infrastructure.
- Albuquerque Community Safety Department (ACS)

Respondents referenced safety concerns, trauma, and systemic mistrust.

–"Train police and judicial staff on mental health and trauma." — Survey Respondent

"It's not a very welcoming community — especially if you're different." — Survey Respondent

Priority Area #4: Behavioral Health Access

Year 1: 2025

- Launch a culturally responsive public awareness campaign on behavioral health resources and stigma reduction, tailored for underserved ZIP codes.
- Begin data monitoring: Prototype a Behavioral Health Equity Dashboard using local data (e.g., provider ratios, wait times, service usage by ZIP), establishing baselines for future evaluation.

Year 2: 2026

- Strengthen inter-agency alignment: Convene cross-sector partners (e.g., hospitals, schools, police) to streamline referrals and reduce duplicated efforts identified in Year 1 analysis.
- Collect feedback from pilot sites, navigators, and participants; refine strategies based on equity, effectiveness, and feasibility.

Year 3: 2027

- Publish and maintain a Behavioral Health Infrastructure Map and Dashboard with metrics such as wait times, insurance access, and community navigation success rates.
- Build cross-sector funding strategies through Medicaid billing, city general funds, and public-private partnerships to support long-term behavioral health access improvements.

Key Stakeholders and Partnerships

- New Mexico Department of Health – Behavioral Health Collaborative & LC2
- City of Albuquerque Department of Family and Community Services
- Albuquerque Public Schools (APS)
- NM Medicaid/Medicaid MCOs (e.g., Blue Cross, Presbyterian)
- Coalition for a Safer Albuquerque
- Peer-led and lived experience advocacy organizations

Resources:

- Funding: SAMHSA Community Mental Health Block Grants, NM Medicaid 1115 Waiver, City Behavioral Health Initiatives
- Personnel: Behavioral health navigators, CHWs, peer recovery specialists, trauma-informed facilitators, data analysts

Over 45% of survey respondents report critical behavioral health access gaps, aligning with top concerns and desired interventions.
46% cited lack of providers and long wait times.

26% named cost/insurance as a major barrier.

37% identified substance use or mental health as a top issue.

"We need culturally relevant mental health support and trauma-informed care." — Survey Respondent

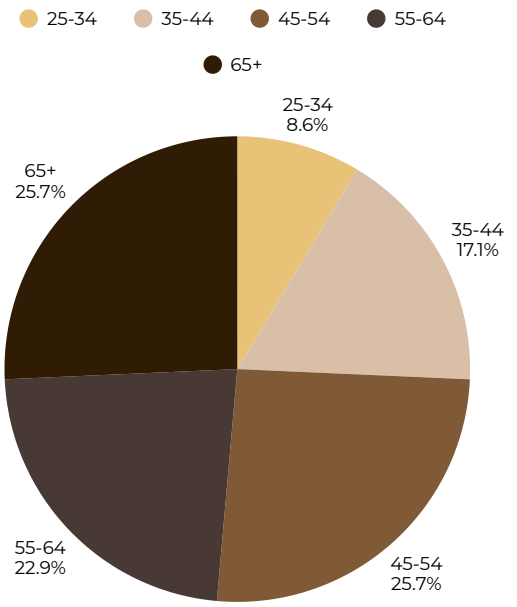
"It's nearly impossible to get therapy unless you're wealthy or insured." — Survey Respondent

Next Steps

Albuquerque and Bernalillo County are a resilient metro community, with community and political leadership committed to moving towards health equity. We also face unique challenges, hosts of health and social inequities, and an inefficient infrastructure that can slow that progress. Implementing structural and systemic changes outlined in the CHIP will require leadership and community ownership. The Health Equity Council is committed to serve the community through providing public health expertise and facilitation of community processes. We look forward to working with you as part of creating more vibrant and healthy communities for Albuquerque and Bernalillo County.

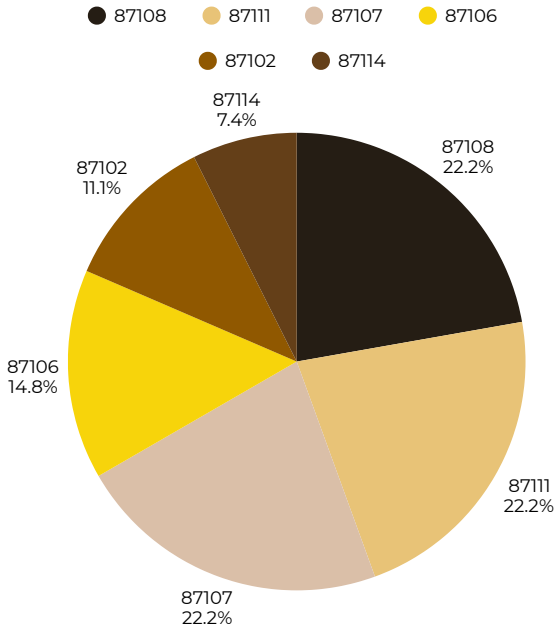
Appendix A: Survey Results

Age Distribution of Survey Respondents

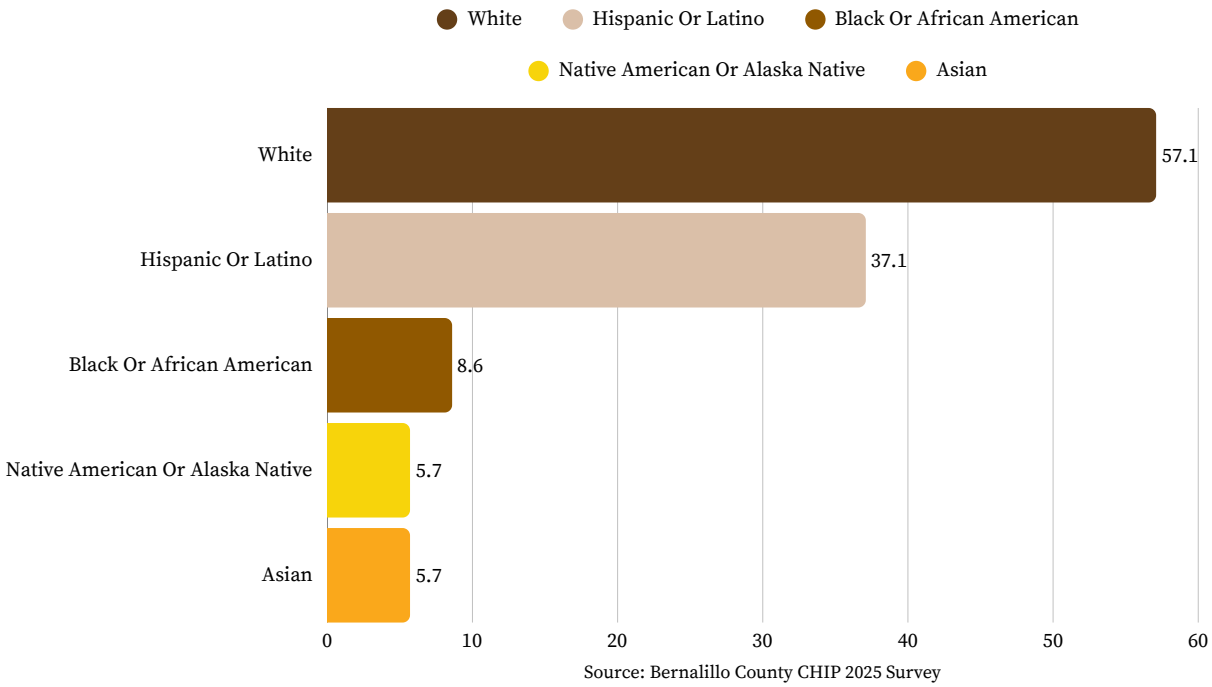


Source: Bernalillo County CHIP 2025 Survey

Survey Respondent Zip Distribution

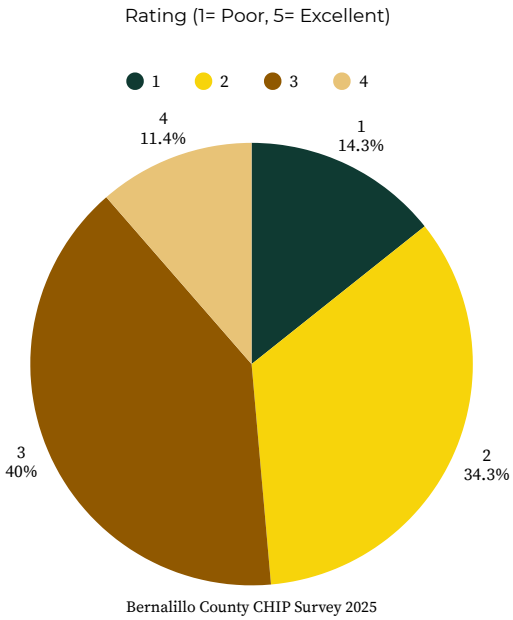


Race/Ethnicty of Survey Respondents

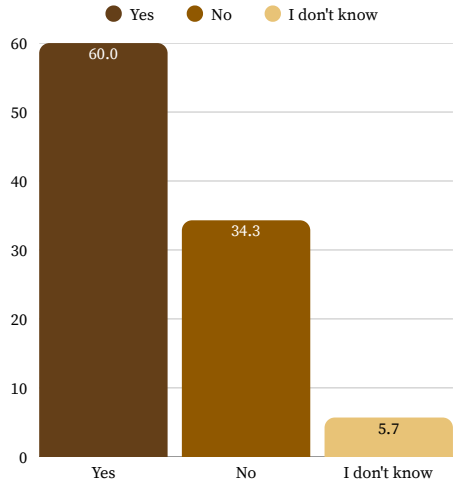


Source: Bernalillo County CHIP 2025 Survey

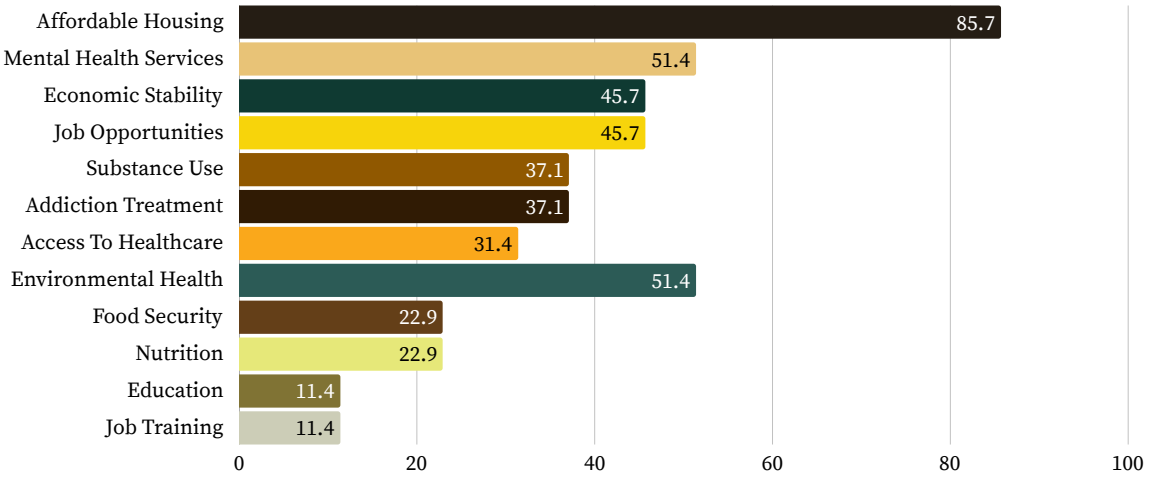
How satisfied are you with the healthcare services available in your community?



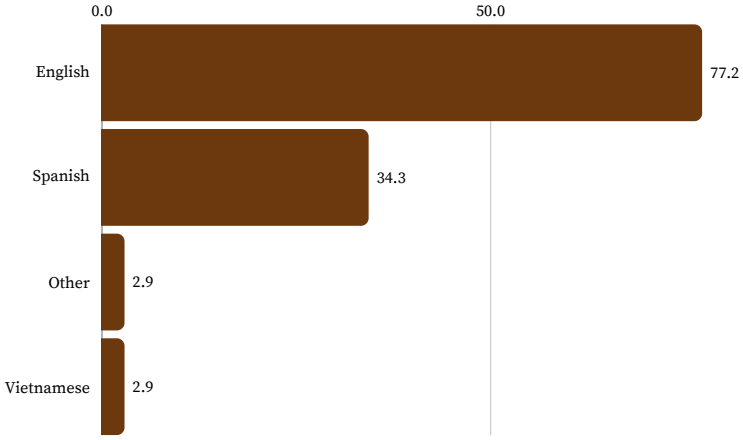
Have you or your family ever had to delay or skip medical treatment due to cost or other barriers?



Top Three Health Issues in Your Community

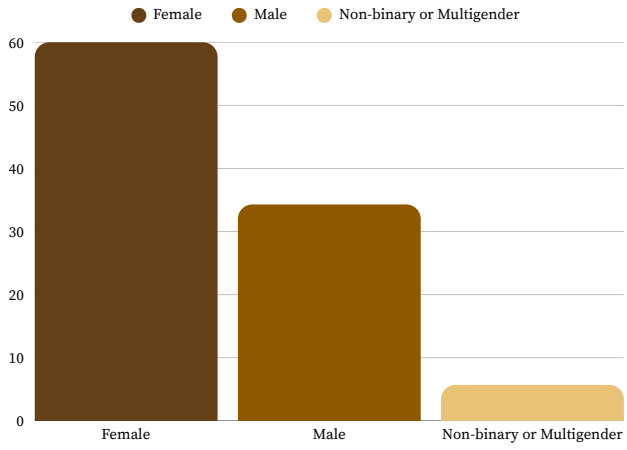


Language Distribution



Source: Bernalillo County CHIP 2025 Survey

Gender Distribution





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