



2024

Community Benefit Report

Connecting with Heart – Building Healthier Tomorrows, Together



Transformation Ministries, partner



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Our Mission

We deliver
outstanding care,
inspire health and
connect with heart.

Our Values

- Trust
- Respect
- Integrity
- Compassion

Beacon Health System complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.

Beacon Health System cumple con las leyes federales de derechos civiles aplicables y no discrimina por motivos de raza, color, nacionalidad, edad, discapacidad o sexo.

Find us on social media



Greetings

“Connecting with Heart – Building Healthier Tomorrows, Together” has been more than a tagline—it’s been Beacon Community Impact’s guiding principle.


Over the past three years, Beacon Community Impact has been proud to stand beside you—our community partners, healthcare professionals, and neighbors—in a shared mission to uplift the health and well-being of individuals and families across our region.

Together, we have advanced a bold Implementation Strategy focused on expanding mental health services and increasing access to quality, inclusive health care. These priorities reflect the real and pressing needs voiced by our communities and are rooted in our commitment to building systems of care that are compassionate, responsive and built for everyone.

This progress would not have been possible without you. Through strong partnerships grounded in trust, collaboration and shared vision, we’ve connected thousands of residents with critical health education, supportive services and life-changing programs. Whether through our Early Childhood and Community Health Services teams, our grassroots nonprofit partners, or the strategic use of state and federal grant funding, our collective work has delivered measurable, lasting impact.

As we reflect on what we’ve accomplished, we also celebrate the spirit of partnership that has driven our success. Health is not created in isolation—it is built together, by people and organizations committed to lifting one another up. Your dedication, insight and leadership have helped make our communities stronger, healthier and more connected. Thank you for being part of this journey. Your partnership continues to inspire us, and we look forward to what we will achieve together in the years ahead.

With a heartfelt appreciation,



Kimberly Green Reeves, MPA
Executive Director
Community Impact
Beacon Health System



As we reflect
on what we’ve
accomplished,
we also
celebrate
the spirit of
partnership
that has driven
our success.

Beacon Health System: Caring for our Community



Beacon Health System is committed to delivering exceptional, accessible care close to home. With over 160 locations across Indiana and Michigan, we offer a comprehensive range of services tailored to meet the diverse needs of our communities. As the region's only locally owned, governed and operated health system, we ensure that every individual receives the care they need, regardless of their ability to pay.

Across all locations, our dedicated team of healthcare professionals is devoted to the well-being of our neighbors. Our approach aligns with priorities identified in the **Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA)** to address key health challenges effectively. We share this goal with multiple organizations within a health network and collaborate extensively with them, utilizing data-driven, evidence-based and transparent practices to track progress and measure health outcomes.

Through strong partnerships with community organizations and residents, we expand our reach and impact, working together to provide high-quality care and support to those who need it most.



Impact highlight

Who we serve

Beacon's core service area comprises the following counties in Indiana and Michigan.

Indiana: St. Joseph County, Elkhart County, Marshall County

Michigan: St. Joseph County

For certain services, such as trauma care and pediatrics, Beacon's reach is much wider.

We have a steadfast commitment to improving health in our communities. To achieve this, we offer a range of services and programs to help people stay well, including:

- Prevention education on important health topics.
- Tools and resources to promote healthier lifestyle choices.
- Improved healthcare access by removing barriers and meeting people where they are.

We work toward our goals by:

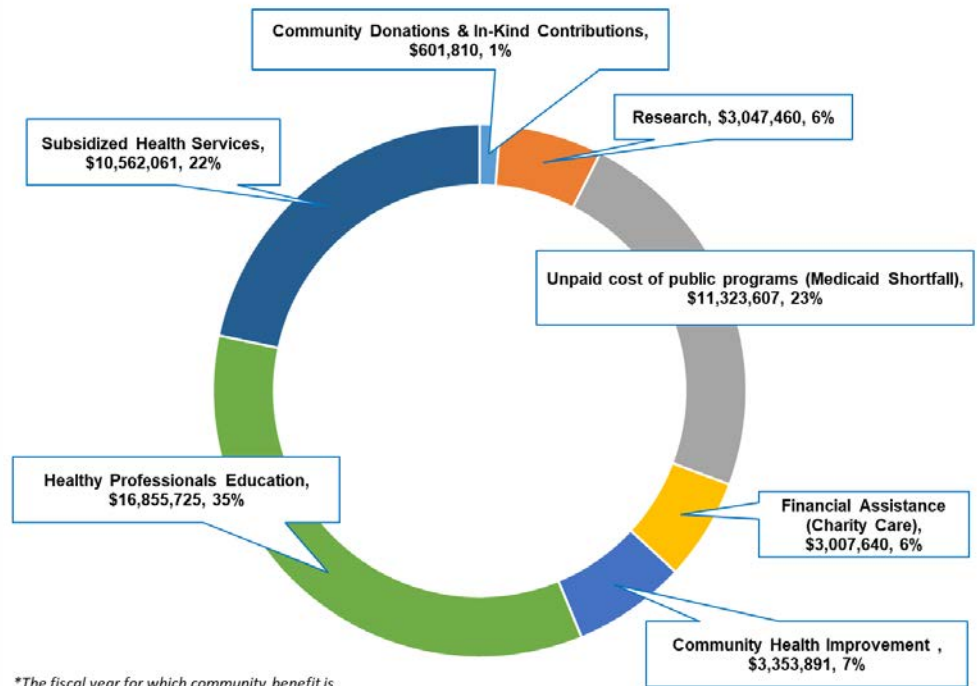
- Providing funding for nonprofit organizations that help create change in a CHNA priority area.
- Working with organizations, businesses and other groups to build the capacity of our community to respond to its top health needs.
- Directly delivering educational and clinical programming and case management services to address community health needs in our service area.



Community Benefit Numbers

Changing Lives in Our Communities

Our community benefit flows from our mission. In fiscal year 2023*, Beacon Health System provided \$48,752,194 in community benefit.



Through Beacon Community Impact, Beacon Health System was awarded over **\$7.7 million** in external grant funds to prevent child abuse, support lifelong care for individuals with sickle cell disease, improve the health of mothers and babies, address perinatal health disparities and much more.

Sickle cell disease is a lifelong, life-threatening disease that poses significant challenges for families, including constant management. To ensure the **earliest possible intervention**, Beacon Community Impact's Sickle Cell Health Educator screens newborns for the inherited sickle cell trait, involving both parents and pediatricians when the trait is found. Parents and clinicians receive education, and parents also receive counseling and assistance accessing care.

Obtaining health insurance is both complex and stressful for those who need to sign up for it independently of an employer, making them vulnerable to deception. Thanks to the Beacon Health Navigator program, a couple was able to withdraw from



2024 Highlights *Continued*



a fraudulent health insurance program and connect with a reliable, truthful source of **health insurance guidance**.

Transformation Ministries leveraged the **power of community** to help two siblings cope with their separation from their mother in Haiti and from each other in the foster care system. Not only have they been connected with counseling resources, with the help of nearby Haitian families, they have reconnected with their culture and have multiple adults to help them through difficult times.

Without guidance and support, people with substance use disorders can easily fall through available safety nets. The Support and Safe program works to **reduce the stigma around substance use disorders and helps clients access health services**. Through a partnership with the Marshall County Jail, the program even provided an incarcerated man with language services so that, for the first time, he could communicate effectively with jail staff.

An innovative program is **improving the health of expectant and postpartum mothers** and their babies by providing home blood pressure monitors that communicate readings to a nurse coordinator. In addition to educating women at risk for potentially life-threatening changes to their blood pressure, the nurse coordinator monitors their readings and intervenes to ensure they seek care when needed.



Addressing the 2021 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA)



Beacon Health System completed a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) in 2021 to better understand and prioritize the health needs of the communities we serve in Indiana (Elkhart, LaPorte, Marshall, and St. Joseph counties). The CHNA process included secondary data collection, a key informant survey and focus groups throughout Beacon's core service area in Indiana. Executive leaders approved **mental health** and **healthcare access** as the top priorities after analysis of the data collected.

Three Rivers Health, which serves St. Joseph County in Michigan, joined the Beacon family after the completion of the 2021 CHNA. They participated in their local health department's CHNA, which found mental health and resource accessibility to be among the top three health needs, which aligns with our priority areas and implementation strategy.

Our 2022–2024 implementation strategy

Beacon's implementation strategy aligns with our mission and values by enhancing the skills of patients, practitioners and the community. Over the past three years, Beacon prioritized expanding mental health services and improving healthcare access to better serve our communities. Beacon worked with community partners and internal programs to improve access to health and wellness services by improving and strengthening local social and healthcare systems.

Mental health strategy

Mental illness, especially depression, increases the risk for many types of adverse physical health outcomes, particularly long-lasting conditions like type 2 diabetes and heart disease. Similarly, the presence of chronic conditions can increase the risk for mental illness. Robert Wood Johnson's County Health Rankings model examines quality of life and tells us a lot about how people perceive their health – whether they feel healthy and satisfied. When communities have higher rates of those who do not feel

healthy, it can influence other factors of health, including mortality rates, unemployment and poverty.

Mental health metrics

% of population with frequent mental health distress

% of the population with at least one caring and competent adult connection

Healthcare access strategy

Increasing healthcare access, quality and equity addresses all major social, economic, environmental and behavioral factors that enable individuals and communities to make healthy choices and enjoy a long, healthy life. Additionally, our 2021 CHNA research indicated that individuals with low health literacy were significantly more likely to delay or forgo needed care or to report difficulty finding a provider, compared with individuals who have adequate health literacy.

Healthcare access metrics

% of population with health insurance
(adults < 65 and children)

% of adults who reported their health care providers always involved them in decisions about their care, as much as they wanted.



Our Approach

Within Beacon Health System, the Beacon Community Impact Department leads efforts to impact our priority areas of mental health and healthcare access using a combination of internal programs and collaborative partnerships. Our implementation strategy incorporates a three-pronged approach:

1. We provide direct services to clients through Beacon's Early Childhood Services and Community Health Services teams.

Early Childhood Services include the St. Joseph County (Ind.) WIC program, two sickle cell programs and our maternal and infant health programs. These programs focus on the health status of women, infants and young families, particularly the most vulnerable in Beacon's service area. Our Community Health Services team focuses on prevention through community health educators who deliver school curricula to middle and high school students in the three Indiana counties we serve. Summer programming shifts to health-related day camps and participation at community health fairs. Though it may not be their primary focus, these community health teams screen for mental health challenges and provide appropriate referrals. Likewise, they emphasize the importance of trusted adults as protective factors for youth.

2. We fund local community organizations with expertise in their service areas.

These organizations are community nonprofits with boots-on-the-ground services in the most vulnerable neighborhoods and more diverse populations. Each of the funded partners addresses the top two health priorities and reports on the number of participants and on an outcome metric for either mental health or healthcare access. In addition, Beacon partnered with the local health department in Three Rivers, Michigan, to support building out their Community Health Worker Program to increase services addressing healthcare access and mental health.

3. Beacon administers state and federal grants as the fiscal agent to deliver direct programming funded by the grants and to build out the data infrastructure in Beacon communities.

In May of 2024, Beacon Community Impact was awarded \$5.4 million from the federal Health Resources and Services Administration for The Family Journey: A Healthy Start Initiative. The program was deployed in the community to improve birth outcomes and eliminate health disparities

through a coordinated cross-sector collaboration of more than 25 clinical and community partners in Elkhart and St. Joseph counties (Indiana). We hold several other grants to support maternal and infant health programs, such as distribution of prenatal vitamins, a remote patient monitoring program for maternal patients with high blood pressures, education promoting safe sleep for infants, and the fetal infant mortality review (FIMR) program. Beacon Community Impact also provides services and collaborates with outside organizations with funding from a State of Indiana Safety Pin grant. Finally, Beacon functions as the fiscal agent for programming run by local outpatient mental health provider Oaklawn to build crisis response teams.



Acknowledgment

Beacon's work in the community would not be possible without the support and effort of our community partners. We truly value the opportunity to continue to build relationships with them and would like to thank them for all that they do to improve health in the community.

Beacon Community Impact Initiatives

Within Beacon Health System, the Beacon Community Impact Department leads efforts to impact our 2022–2024 priority areas of mental health and healthcare access using a combination of internal programs and collaborative partnerships.

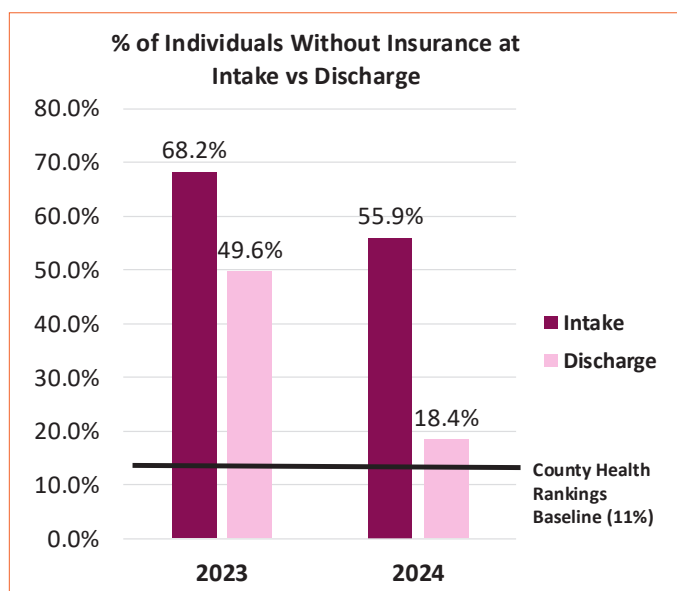
Note: Asterisks (*) denote partners and programs that address both healthcare access and mental health.

Healthcare access initiatives



Healthcare Access: Insurance Metric

Decrease the number of individuals without insurance



Implementation Strategy Target:

% of population without health insurance is 11%

*Target pulled from Robert Wood Johnson's County Health Rankings.

2023

of adults asked at intake: 3,529

of adults asked at discharge: 2,860

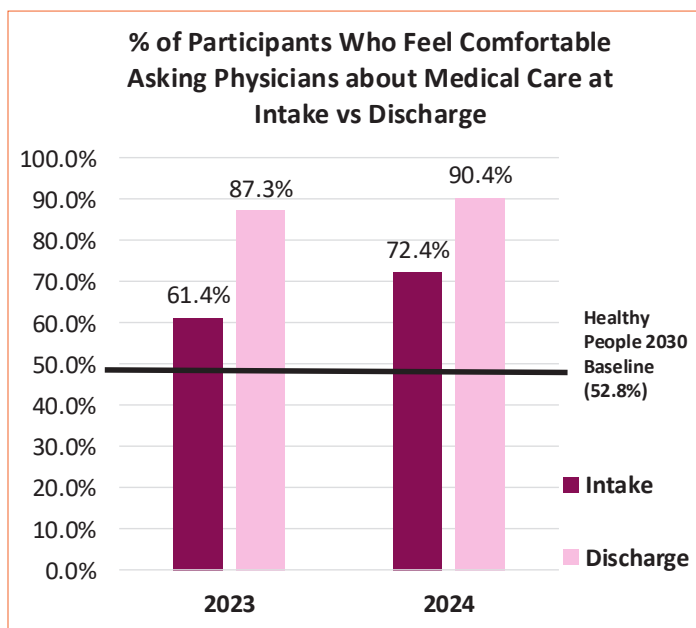
2024

of adults asked at intake: 7,512

of adults asked at discharge: 6,707

Healthcare Access: PCP Involvement Metric

Increase the number of participants who feel comfortable/confident asking their physician questions about medical care



Implementation Strategy Target:

52.8% of participants report physicians always involved them in decisions about healthcare as much as they wanted

*Target pulled from Healthy People 2030

2023

of adults asked at intake: 2,495

of adults asked at discharge: 1,539

2024

of adults asked at intake: 1,411

of adults asked at discharge: 878



La Casa de Amistad

Beacon Community Impact Initiatives *Continued*

Participating organizations (2023-2024)

Community partners

- Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph - Community Health Agency
- Center for Healing and Hope
- Child and Parent Services, Inc. (CAPS)*
- Cultivating Life
- Healthy Beginnings (Elkhart County Health Department)
- Mental Health Awareness of Michiana (MHAM)*
- United Health Services
- La Casa de Amistad
- Maple City Health Care

Beacon Community Impact programs

- Beacon Community Impact Programs
- Beacon Health Navigator
- COVID Outreach
- Family and Infant Support Program (FISP)*
- Sickie Cell - Infant Screening
- Sickie Cell Broadscope
- Women, Infants and Children (WIC)*



La Casa de Amistad

La Casa de Amistad helped a client access much-needed dental care despite their lack of health insurance by thinking creatively and utilizing local community resources. The client had been suffering from continuous dental pain, and with no insurance, traditional routes for care were not an option. At the time of intake, the client did not have a trusted adult in their life to guide them through the process. Our social service coordinator stepped into that role, becoming the support the client needed. The coordinator worked closely with the client, listening to their concerns and offering reassurance, ultimately developing a strong, trusting relationship with them. To address the client's dental needs, the coordinator identified a local program that offers dental care for uninsured individuals, on the condition that they volunteer their time. This program seemed like the perfect solution. The coordinator helped the client understand the volunteer requirement and facilitated their connection to the resource. By completing the required service hours, the client was ultimately able to receive the dental care they desperately needed. Beyond that, the process also empowered them by connecting them with a trusted adult and offering an alternative pathway to care that did not rely on insurance. Our coordinator's guidance and the community resource were key in helping the client access the care they deserved.



Beacon Health Navigator program

A couple needed health insurance, and the woman began to seek out options on the internet for health care. The company she contacted began to tell her how their health insurance product was the best. They informed her that their health coverage program would cover all her medical needs, and all her doctors would be able to be enrolled in her insurance plan. She was told that the premium would be minimal, and she was urged to sign up for the insurance coverage. She contacted the **Beacon Health Navigator program** and asked for recommendations. We supported her with knowledge and advocacy, asking the insurance representative questions about their program, including whether her preexisting condition would be covered. The response was that the insurance may cover a preexisting condition. The insurance representative had been very misleading. We further found that the insurance plan she was buying into was not valid, and she had paid \$300 for it. We ended up closing out the fraudulent insurance program and signing up the couple for Healthcare.gov. Navigators who work in an ethical and impartial manner are especially important to help patients communicate and get the accurate information they need to make decisions about their health care. Navigators must understand, care, be personable and show respect and cultural sensitivity.

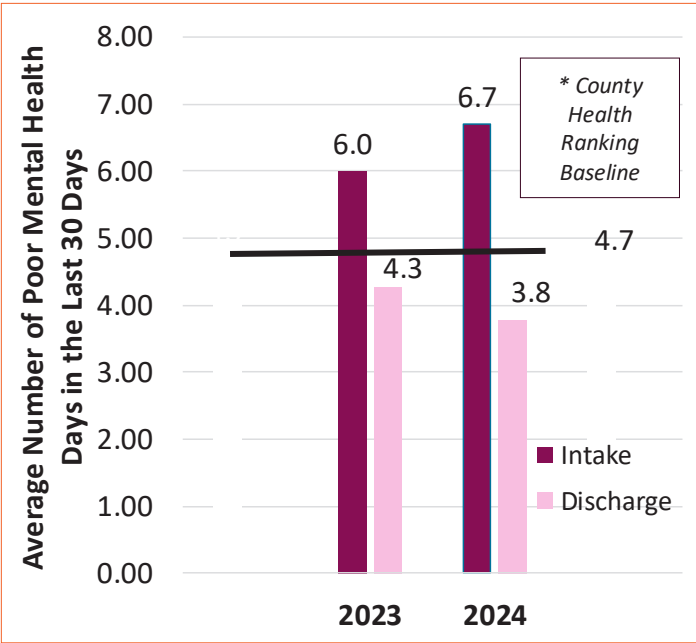


Mental health initiatives

Mental Health: Poor Mental Health Days Metric



Decrease the # of mentally unhealthy days



Implementation Strategy Target:
Average # of unhealthy days within the past 30 days is 4.7
*Target pulled from Robert Wood Johnson’s County Health Rankings.

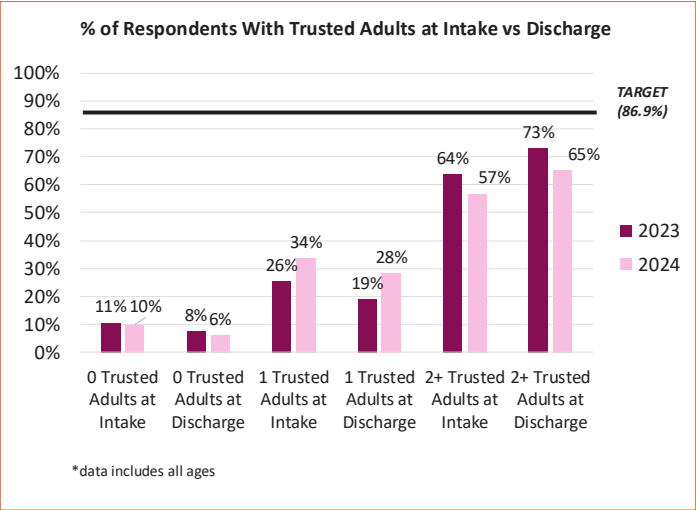
2023
of adults asked at intake: 2,447
of adults asked at discharge: 1,479

2024
of adults asked at intake: 2,430
of adults asked at discharge: 1,495

Mental Health: Trusted Adults Metric



Increase the number of youth participants with an adult to reach out to and the number of adults with a social support system



Implementation Strategy Target:
92.5% of children have an adult to reach out to 86.9% of adults have a social support system
*Target pulled from Indiana's National Survey of Children's Health and Healthy People 2030

Year	At Least 1 Trusted Adult at Intake	At Least 1 Trusted Adult at Discharge
2023	89%	92%
2024	90%	94%

2023
of adults asked at intake: 7,684
of adults asked at discharge: 6,776

2024
of adults asked at intake: 6,059
of adults asked at discharge: 5,590

Beacon Community Impact Initiatives *Continued*

Participating organizations

Community Partners

- Child and Parent Services, Inc. (CAPS)*
- Cultivating Life
- Gentlemen and Scholars Inc.
- Horizon Education Alliance (HEA)
- Imani Unidad
- La Casa de Amistad
- Maple City Health Care, Inc.
- Mental Health Awareness of Michiana (MHAM)*
- Oaklawn Psychiatric Center, Inc.
- Play Like a Champion Today, Michiana Athletic Recreation Association (MARA)
- Ribbon of Hope, Inc.
- SPA Women's Ministries Homes
- The LGBTQ Center
- Transformation Ministries
- United Health Services

Beacon Community Impact Programs

- BABE Store
- Beacon Health Navigator
- COVID Outreach
- COVID Vaccinations
- Family and Infant Support Program (FISP)*
- Sickie Cell – Infant Screening
- Sickie Cell Broadscope
- Women, Infants and Children (WIC)*



Oaklawn

Oaklawn held a safeTALK training in Elkhart County, and one of the participants was a mother who had lost a daughter to suicide. After completing the training, she shared that it had helped her understand that she had done everything she could to help/support her daughter, and the outcome wasn't her fault.



Transformation Ministries

In the midst of uncertainty and change, siblings "Nyala" and "Joseph" have found a place of stability and love through a **Transformation Ministries** program. Their story begins with a traumatic experience that separated them from their mother in Haiti, and they were further separated in foster care when placed in different homes. One afternoon, Nyala arrived at Transformation Ministries' City Light Kids weekly program visibly upset. She approached a staff member with tears in her eyes and shared that she was having a really bad day. Overwhelmed, she said, "I want to go home." Assured she was safe, the team worked to celebrate her courage and presence that day, but her sadness and longing persisted. When gently asked who she needed at home, she replied, "No, I want to go home to Haiti." It became clear that she wasn't just missing the physical place but also her birth mother, who was still living in Haiti, and the cultural connection that made her feel whole.

While sweet, loving and open-hearted, Nyala often wrestles with anxiety, depression, anger and sadness, making it challenging for her to cope. Recognizing the value of her bond with her older brother, Joseph, he was invited to help comfort his sister when he arrived at the program later. Joseph said that they could call their mother over the weekend, but Nyala has struggled to speak with her due to losing fluency in their native language, Creole. The siblings spent time together sharing laughter and love, and Joseph's presence offered Nyala a sense of calm. We then collaborated with the foster families to create opportunities for emotional safety.

A local Haitian family volunteered to cook traditional Haitian meals, speak Creole with the siblings and help immerse them in the sights, sounds



and flavors of their culture. This connection to their heritage has been a transformative step in grounding Nyala and Joseph, offering them both healing and a tangible reminder of home.

As trauma-informed staff, Transformation Ministries constantly work on ways to address their most pressing needs and create feelings of safety. Staff remain connected with the foster families about counseling and therapy services. The ministries staff were also able to secure a one-on-one mentor from Haiti for Joseph, and the children were thrilled to spend a school year together through Transformation Ministries. Joseph and Nyala now have multiple adults who help get them through difficult times. Nyala and Joseph's story is one of resilience, love and the power of community.



Beacon Community Impact Initiatives *Continued*

Initiatives supporting both healthcare access and mental health



Goal

Build capacity to serve our communities in the priority areas to address social determinants of health.



Cultivating Life at the Nexus Center

One of the most impactful stories comes from **Cultivating Life at the Nexus Center** and how they helped someone facing multiple barriers in access to care get back on medication for chronic illness. Without psychiatric medications, this individual had become so marginalized and paranoid that it was difficult for him to have much meaningful interaction with others. With the support of Cultivating Life, he is back on medication, and his attention to grooming and hygiene, as well as his general interpersonal abilities, have improved. "I will not soon forget this person's story," said staff at Cultivating Life. "It was an honor to be able to help in this capacity."



Supported and Safe Program

The Health Resources and Services Administration awarded Beacon Community Impact funding to create the **Supported and Safe Program**. This program provides comprehensive support and resources for individuals and their families experiencing the effects of psychostimulant substance use disorder (SUD). Supported and Safe provides education and services to reduce the

stigma surrounding SUD, improve access for those seeking SUD services and ultimately help create healthier communities.

The Supported and Safe Program has partnered with the Marshall County Jail to provide inmates with support and resources to prepare them for success. After one of our clients was released and living independently, he found himself in a difficult situation. He had very few clothes or personal care items and needed food. Thanks to the Safe and Supported program, he received assistance and was even taken to get food by a staffer. When they arrived to get food, the staffer went into the back to gather personal items for him and realized that none of the products on site could be used by the client due to his ethnicity. She decided to make a private donation on her own and purchase appropriate products without mentioning it to the client. Both the Safe and Supported staff and the client were touched by this care and generosity, and the client shared that this was the first time he had ever received hair and hygiene products that were made for him. "I know he felt seen and that is incredible," said the staffer.

In another interaction, Supported and Safe program staff connected with an incarcerated individual in his native language, bringing him to tears. He had many unanswered questions due to language barriers, and he was finally able to receive answers to some of them. He also had an opportunity to access resources through the Safe and Supported program, which will potentially have life-impacting results.

The outcomes and results achieved by the Safe and Supported program demonstrate positive attitude change in clients. Having a trusted connection to resources that empower individuals significantly reduces the probability of recidivism and their return to substance use after leaving the correctional system.



Study a method of training change agents to implement a trauma-informed approach to care within their organizations.



Beacon Community Impact

Beacon Community Impact is committed to fostering a trauma-informed workplace that enhances the well-being of both our associates and patients. This initiative is focused on providing our associates with the training and tools they need to promote a growth mindset, which not only improves our internal interactions but strengthens our ability to support patients effectively.

Since 2022, we've held monthly workshops covering key topics such as adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), positive childhood experiences (PCEs), protective factors, resilience and positive psychology principles. One of the core goals of these sessions is to increase hope and positivity through practices like gratitude. The workshops encourage our associates to explore self-care practices that improve overall well-being, such as using sensory gadgets, motivational cards, hand creams, inspirational materials and mindfulness tools. We've also partnered with organizations like Rhythm To You and have offered yoga sessions to further support our associates' mental and emotional health.

In 2024, we expanded this important work by partnering with the Beacon Health System e.Crew (Excellence Crew). Each year, leaders across the health system nominate rising stars within their teams to enhance their leadership skills and develop a project. While many projects aim to improve

workflows, this year's cohort focused on creating the Well-being Advocate initiative. This project integrated the principles of trauma-informed care and positive psychology with activities that promote growth and resilience in the workplace.

The impact of this initiative has been powerful. After the e.Crew associates presented their work to Beacon's executive team, leaders from across the system began collaborating to make educational resources and well-being initiatives more accessible to all associates. This is an important step toward improving patient outcomes by ensuring that our team members feel a strong sense of belonging and purpose at Beacon.



Additional Beacon Health System Community Initiatives



Promoting maternal and infant health

Both of Beacon Health System's top health priorities directly impact maternal and infant health in our core service areas. Infant mortality serves as a key indicator of the social, economic and environmental conditions affecting families, including access to health care. Recognizing this, Beacon made maternal and infant health a strategic system priority in 2023, with continued efforts in 2024 to improve maternal health outcomes in the community.

Beacon's strategy focuses on care coordination between clinical providers and Community Impact programs to address perinatal conditions such as hypertension, depression and social needs. This coordination spans hospitals, Beacon Medical Group outpatient offices and the community, ensuring comprehensive support for mothers from pregnancy through 18 months postpartum.

Expectant mothers are connected to this program through hospitals and BMG offices, where they receive personalized support from a dedicated care team, including a doula, community health worker, registered nurse and social worker. This team works alongside clinical providers to coordinate patient services and available resources, helping to ensure healthier outcomes for both mothers and their infants. The activities include:

- A continuum of care unique to patients' needs.
- Pregnancy, labor and delivery education and training.
- Providing mothers with navigator and cognitive behavioral health services.
- Linking mothers to resources identified through a social determinants of health screening.



Support for mothers and infants

Beacon Community Impact's Sickle Cell Program's Health Educator screens

newborns for the inherited sickle cell trait and communicates the results to pediatricians and parents. Should the newborn carry the sickle cell trait, parents and pediatricians are provided with educational literature. Counseling and access to care are also provided to parents, in addition to empowering them with a voice to advocate for their child and seek valuable resources within their communities.

Here is an example of the work being done in this wonderful program:

When our Sickle Cell Health Educator attempted to verify an infant's newborn well visit with their assigned provider, she discovered that the infant had missed several appointments. Attempting to contact the infant's parents, she found that their phone number was not accurate and contacted the birth center at the hospital for more accurate information. She was given several numbers and finally was able to reach the mother through a family member. The mother stated that her baby's pediatrician was out of network, she was feeling overwhelmed and she just had not been feeling well. She shared that she felt exhausted, depressed and emotional.

The Sickle Cell Health Educator asked if she had support or someone to assist her with the care of her baby, and she started crying. Our Beacon Sickle Cell Health Educator spoke to her for over an hour and arranged the baby's first well visit with the provider as well as transportation to and from their appointment. She then connected the mother with other services within our department that support pregnant and postpartum women. With the help of our programs and resources in the community, this mother was able to get back on track with her goals, and we later learned that she completed her degree — and the best part is that her baby is thriving.



Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency

Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency is working with a mom who is still in school. She wanted to continue breastfeeding once she returned to classes. Through the WIC program, we provided her with information and equipment for a successful experience. We educated her and the school to ensure there was time built into her day allowing her to pump. She has shared that without our support, she would not have had the confidence to stick with breastfeeding, or the knowledge to navigate or advocate for herself with school administration.



The Family Journey: A Healthy Start Initiative

In May 2024, Beacon Community Impact was awarded \$5.4 million from the federal Health Resources and Services Administration for **The Family Journey: A Healthy Start Initiative**. The program will improve birth outcomes and eliminate health disparities through a coordinated cross-sector collaboration of more than 25 clinical and community partners in Elkhart and St. Joseph counties (Indiana).

Within the first few months of the grant, we established a consortium of more than 50 diverse individuals from multiple clinical and community-based organizations. The consortium aims to advise and inform strategies for providing direct services to empower Family Journey participants. We will also develop cross-sector partnerships to provide participants with access to needed services.

After convening the consortium, Beacon Community Impact staff and other community partners started referring and enrolling participants into the program as the first members of the community to join this ecosystem of comprehensive and continued care. The consortium and community partners helped us enhance our program through the development of a new data capture infrastructure that allows Family Journey partners to share pertinent information with the participant's care coordinator.

While the program is still in its nascent stages, the Beacon Community Impact team is highly enthusiastic about its potential to significantly impact the community by removing barriers to service and improving health outcomes for mothers and families in our region.



Additional Beacon Health System Community Initiatives



B.A.B.E. Store

B.A.B.E. is a unique “store” that offers goods and services that new parents need to nurture healthy babies and foster skills to help the family through life. B.A.B.E. coupons are earned by keeping prenatal appointments, attending B.A.B.E. classes (on-site or Zoom) or parenting classes, and participating in other activities that improve child development and family health. Provider clinics and social service agencies distribute the coupons, which can be redeemed at the B.A.B.E. store for items ranging from diapers to child-proofing essentials. We have B.A.B.E. store locations in Indiana (South Bend, Elkhart and Goshen), with plans and partnerships in place to expand to Three Rivers, Michigan in 2025.

Also in 2024, we digitized our B.A.B.E. coupons to improve program efficiency, effectiveness and impact. A total of 37,533 digital coupons were issued to 4,901 individuals, and 1,211 individuals used 16,614 coupons in B.A.B.E. stores.



Birth Doula Support Program

In August of 2024 Beacon Community Impact started its first **Birth Doula Support Program**. This program allows patients to benefit from one-on-one labor and birth support: physically, mentally and emotionally. Our Birth Doula program offers various educational and physical support services such as Birth & Post partum education, comfort measure support, lactation support, being the patient's advocate, and helping create a safe environment for patients to feel comfortable in.

Our Birth doula program provides opportunities to allow the hospital care team to connect and create a safe space for our diverse communities. It allows families to be empowered to ask questions about their care. In 2024, two doulas from Community Impact's Early Childhood Services team served 114 individuals through their birthing experience.





The Remote Patient Monitoring Program

In 2024, we launched a new Maternal and Infant Health initiative addressing blood pressure. **The Remote Patient Monitoring Program** enables prenatal and postpartum obstetric patients with gestational or chronic hypertension or pre-eclampsia to take their blood pressures at home and share them electronically with a nurse coordinator who provides close monitoring between appointments and up to six weeks postpartum. The initiative aims to reduce maternal mortality risks and support a smooth transition to a primary care provider after obstetric care ends.

Patients are identified during prenatal visits or at delivery and invited to enroll in the program. They receive a Bluetooth-compatible blood pressure cuff and a device to record blood pressure readings once or twice daily based on provider recommendations. Patients receive verbal and written instructions on how to respond to abnormal readings.

All vital signs and screenings are transmitted to the Biofourmis platform, where a community health nurse monitors data, provides interventions and communicates directly with the on-call provider. The nurse adds weekly updates to patient charts to assist in ongoing care management. The nurse can also chat or video chat with patients for assessments and additional education between appointments.

In 2024, the nurse provided care to 65 residents in Elkhart County and 56 residents in St. Joseph County (Indiana). Of these participants, fewer than 5% of the babies needed NICU stays, and only three patients delivered before 37 weeks.



Nutritional support for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

WIC was established as a permanent program in 1974 to safeguard the health of low-income women, infants and children up to age five who are at nutritional risk; it was recently noted that 53% of all infants born in the United States are on the WIC program. This program is carried out by providing nutritious foods to supplement their diets, nutrition education (including breastfeeding promotion and support) and referrals to health and other social services. St. Joseph County (Indiana) serves approximately 11,500 participants throughout the area. St Joseph County WIC has assumed the management responsibility of Marshall County and Starke County WIC programs, adding an additional 1,500 participants a month to the caseload.



St. Joseph County WIC

The breastfeeding initiation rate for the St. Joseph County WIC has maintained a rate of 80%, putting it in the top five of 36 WIC agencies in Indiana. For the past three years, St. Joseph County WIC has hosted a World Breastfeeding Event at the South Bend Cubs Stadium with great success. In 2023, 31 vendors provided education and referrals to managed health care organizations with over 475 attendees. This event helps some of our vendors achieve a larger outreach in the community.



Additional Beacon Health System Community Initiatives



Improving access to care for individuals experiencing homelessness

The Beacon Memorial Family Medicine Residency program launched the **Street Medicine South Bend (SMSB)** program in December 2022. This program is based on an emerging field of medicine that began in 1992 in Pittsburgh, PA, and has now reached over 85 communities that have established their own street medicine programs. This approach aims to address the health needs of individuals experiencing homelessness and meet them where they are to provide care.

SMSB's goal is to improve the health care of individuals experiencing homelessness by understanding their realities, building trust, minimizing barriers to accessing medical care and reducing these individuals' cost of care (as well as the overall cost of healthcare delivery in the South Bend community). In collaboration with the Beacon Health System Foundation, SMSB travels to the Knights Inn in South Bend, where Motels4Now is providing shelter to those experiencing homelessness. SMSB provides on-site evaluation, diagnostic testing and treatment, and volunteer clinicians connect patients to long-term primary care through one of the local federally qualified health centers, HealthLinc. In 2024, SMSB launched its Hepatitis C Testing Program aimed at providing free testing for the virus to interested individuals through the Health First St. Joseph County Grant.



Street Medicine South Bend (SMSB)

Since the program's inception, SMSB clinicians have seen 171 unique patients and had more than 390 total patient encounters. The SMSB Hepatitis C Testing Program has tested over 70 individuals for Hepatitis C, has six individuals in the process of receiving treatment and had two individuals complete treatment and clear the virus. Presently, research is being pursued to

see what impact SMSB has had on emergency department utilization in St. Joseph County. Currently, preliminary results suggest that patients' interactions with SMSB are associated with a decrease in both days of hospitalization and emergency department visits.



Fighting hunger

The Food Pantry at Family Medicine Residency Clinic was started in the summer of 2022 by Deb Pavey, one of the Memorial Family Medicine Residency residents who has since graduated. She saw the impact food insecurity has on our patients and dedicated her longitudinal service project for the residency's Care of the Underserved curriculum to meet this need.



Food Pantry and Family Medicine Residency Clinic

The Food Pantry gives an average of about 75 bags of food to families and individuals experiencing food insecurity each month. The pantry is now even more accessible, especially to our patients with transportation issues, through a food delivery program made possible by volunteers from the University of Notre Dame. About 20 patients are able to receive regular deliveries every other week. At the end of 2024, we began our partnership with Cultivate Food Rescue, South Bend, to distribute frozen meal packs to our patients. We look forward to seeing how often our patients use this resource in the upcoming year. Our food pantry and the clinic signage advertising it have decreased barriers to accessing food assistance. Patients are very appreciative of this program, and many patients use our pantry more than once.



Addressing the nursing shortage

In 2022, Beacon Health System and Ivy Tech Community College South

Bend-Elkhart partnered to create the Beacon School of Nursing and the Beacon Scholar Program to address the nursing shortage in our community and support equitable economic prosperity in underrepresented communities and minorities.

The Beacon Scholar program and partnership with Ivy Tech is two-tiered. Beacon supports nursing education by helping Ivy Tech cover the cost of faculty to assist in maintaining state-required faculty-student ratios and expand the program's capacity over the next five years. Beacon also covers the cost of students' tuition, fees and books, while providing them with a living stipend. Students graduate from the program as registered nurses with a job awaiting them at one of Beacon's hospitals. A central component of the program is to increase access to education for lower-income, underrepresented groups to ensure the workforce is reflective of the communities they serve.



BEACON SCHOLAR



Beacon Scholars

Since 2022, we have seen a 35% increase in the number of minority students enrolled in the Beacon Scholars Program. In 2024, 32% of Beacon Scholars were the first in their family to go to college, and 39% came from vulnerable ZIP codes.



Encouraging associates to volunteer

Beacon recognizes that volunteering enriches the lives of the workforce and the community, and "Beacon's Helping Hands" supports community involvement by encouraging Beacon associates to participate. Associates who volunteer with a 501(c)(3) charitable organization whose activities align with the Mission and Values of Beacon Health System may be compensated for their community service, up to four hours a year for full-time associates and up to two hours a year for part-time associates.



Beacon Volunteer Hours

In 2023, Beacon associates collectively logged 298.6 hours of helping charitable organizations in their community and living the Beacon Mission of connecting with heart.





Bringing the Community Together with Physical Activity

Held in South Bend, Indiana, Sunburst features a half marathon, 10K run, 5K run and family friendly 5K Fitness Walk. Open to all ages and fitness levels, it's the perfect opportunity for community members to challenge themselves and enjoy a fun-filled race day.

Each year, over 4,000 participants cross the finish line while supporting Beacon Children's Hospital. The funds specifically support the Child Life and Creative Services Program, which helps kids cope with the challenges of hospitalization through art, music, pet therapy and more. Sunburst is more than just a race—it's a tradition that brings the community together for a great cause.



Sunburst Races

The race has been a special and beloved community tradition since 1984. In 2024, the 40th anniversary of the Sunburst races, we had 4,064 participants ranging in age from infant to 89 years old and more than 300 volunteers supporting the event. The 2024 races brought \$74,000 in sponsorships and \$7,315 in donations and fundraising – totaling \$81,315 to support patient care at Beacon Children's Hospital.



Half marathon - 718
10K run - 710
5k run - 1,516
5k walk - 1,120



Educating clinicians

Beacon Health System's Medical Education Committee looks to provide the system's medical professionals with timely and relevant educational sessions for which providers can earn continuing education credits. Beacon is accredited by the Indiana State Medical Association and can provide these sessions free of charge. In addition, Memorial Hospital of South Bend and Elkhart General Hospital each host two Grand Rounds educational sessions every month; attendance is free and open to the public. Topics addressed include disease and condition management, updates on new studies, discussions of social determinants of health and more.

Topics with high interest included a presentation by our Indiana State Health Commissioner, Lindsey Weaver, MD, FACEP, on street drug contamination, as well as a Valvular Heart Disease Management presentation by Beacon Interventional Cardiologist Mayank Mittal, MD, FACP, FACC. These topics align with the goal to improve community wellness. Also, Beacon actively helps educate doctors-in-training at the Indiana University School of Medicine and the Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine. These efforts also support physician recruitment efforts, which ultimately improve access to care.



Grand Rounds

Grand Rounds sessions can be attended in person, live online or on demand via recordings. Throughout 2024, 546 individuals participated.

To the Future and Beyond!



Now: We completed our 2024 CHNA, which identified access to providers as the priority area for the next three years for Beacon's core service area in Indiana and Michigan. We engaged community partners, stakeholders and internal Beacon leaders to ensure the voices of patients and community members across the region are heard.

Near: We plan to leverage the expertise, tools and resources of Beacon Health System and collaborate with our community partners to deliver a continuum of care with improved health outcomes. This includes addressing access to providers with community health workers, a mobile clinic and efforts to improve community trust.

Far: Ultimately, we are striving to improve health outcomes for all individuals throughout Beacon's service area.



Grants Awarded to Beacon

In 2024, Beacon Community Impact secured more than \$7.7 million in external grant funds. Beacon is committed to responsible stewardship and continues to seek out grant opportunities to fund projects that align with our priorities to create a healthier community.

Program	Community Impact
Hypertension Remote Patient Monitoring	Served 150 high-risk maternal clients with blood pressure monitoring services
B.A.B.E. Store car seats	Distributed more than 300 car seats to families in need
Family and Infant Support Program (FISP) Programming	Provided nearly 100 Pack 'n Plays to support family care
Hypertension Remote Patient Monitoring Memorial Hospital	Supported remote blood pressure equipment for the hypertension (HTN) program
Healthy Start: The Family Journey Partner Training - Memorial Hospital	Provided training curriculum to serve county maternal health needs
Hypertension Remote Patient Monitoring Elkhart General	Supported remote blood pressure equipment for the hypertension (HTN) program
Healthy Start: The Family Journey Partner Training - Elkhart General	Training curriculum to serve county maternal health needs
Women, Infants & Children	Provide participants access to fresh, locally grown produce
Michiana Mobile Opioid Recovery/Response Plan with Oaklawn	Partnered with Oaklawn to provide a mobile crisis unit for SUD support
Family and Infant Support Program (FISP) Staffing	Registered nurse to support hypertensive patients in maternal health remote monitoring
Maternal Care: Hypertension Remote Patient Monitoring	Community Health Worker to support patients in maternal health remote monitoring program



Program	Sum of New Awards in 2024	St. Joseph County, IN	St. Joseph County, MI	Elkhart County, IN	Marshall County, IN	LaPorte County, IN
B.A.B.E. Store Pack 'n play	\$5,600.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Family and Infant Support Program (FISP)	\$1,000.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Hypertension Remote Patient Monitoring and Healthy Start: The Family Journey Partner Training Memorial Hospital	\$40,000.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Hypertension Remote Patient Monitoring and Healthy Start: The Family Journey Partner Training Elkhart General	\$24,000.00			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Women, Infants & Children (WIC)	\$1,765,155.56	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Women, Infants & Children (Nutrition Program)	\$6,532.15	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Women, Infants & Children (United Way)	\$1,200.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Healthy Start: The Family Journey	\$5,487,894.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Newborn Screening	\$162,500.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sickle Cell Lifelong Care	\$87,500.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mobile Maternal Health Unit	\$150,000.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Prenatal vitamins for the Family and Infant Support Program (FISP)	In-Kind	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
200 car seats	In-Kind	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Total	\$7,731,381.71					

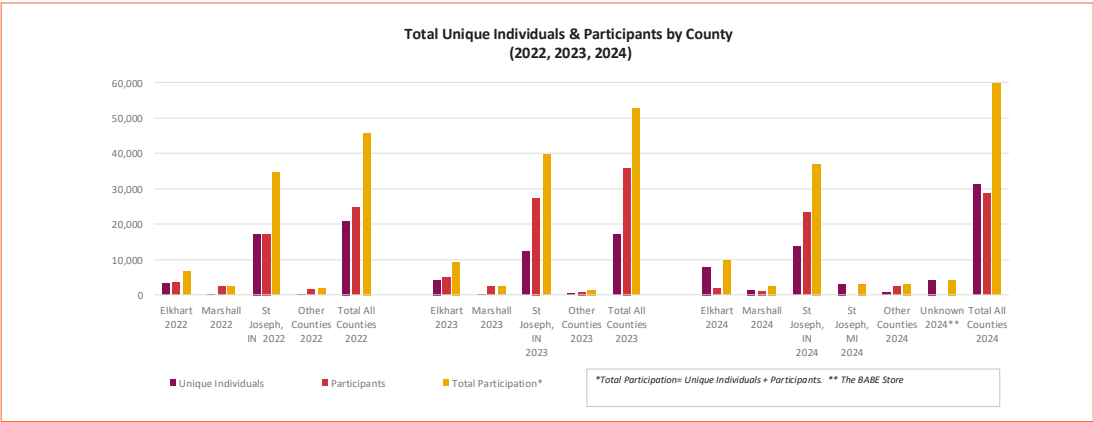
Our Reach

Counties and associated hospitals

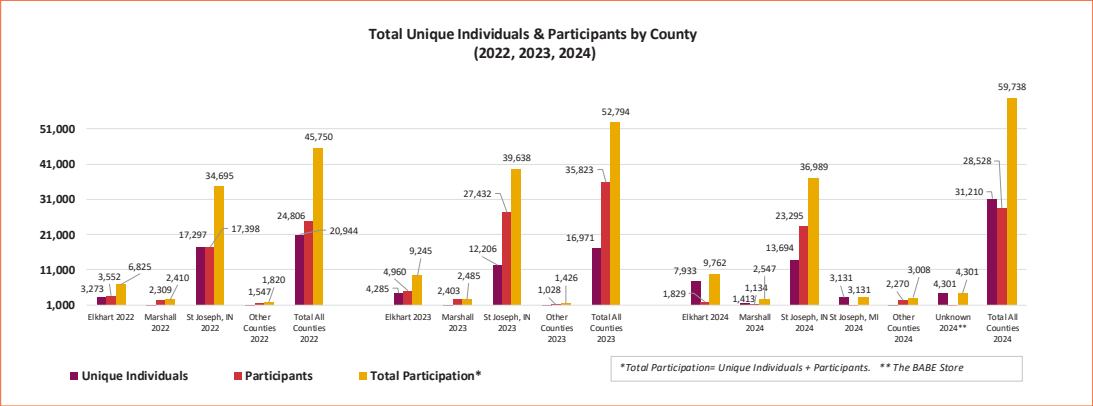
Community Hospital of Bremen • Elkhart General Hospital • Memorial Hospital of South Bend



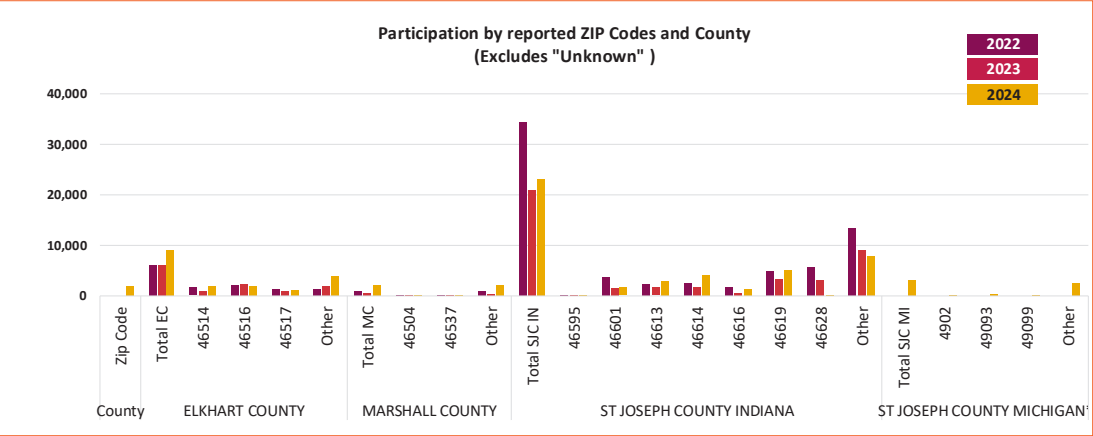
Who you served in
2022, 2023 & 2024
Participation



Who you served in
2022, 2023 & 2024
Participation

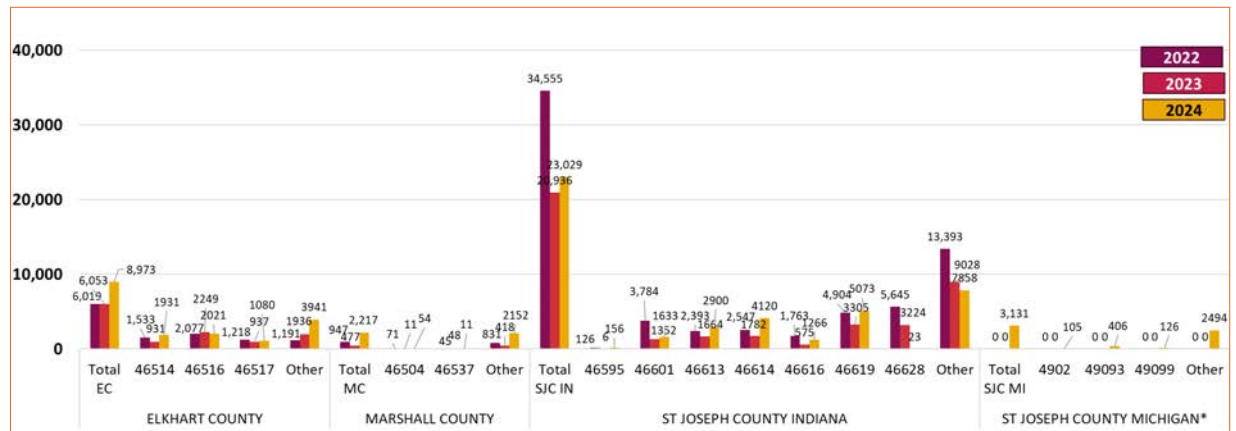


Who you served in
2022, 2023 & 2024
ZIP Code

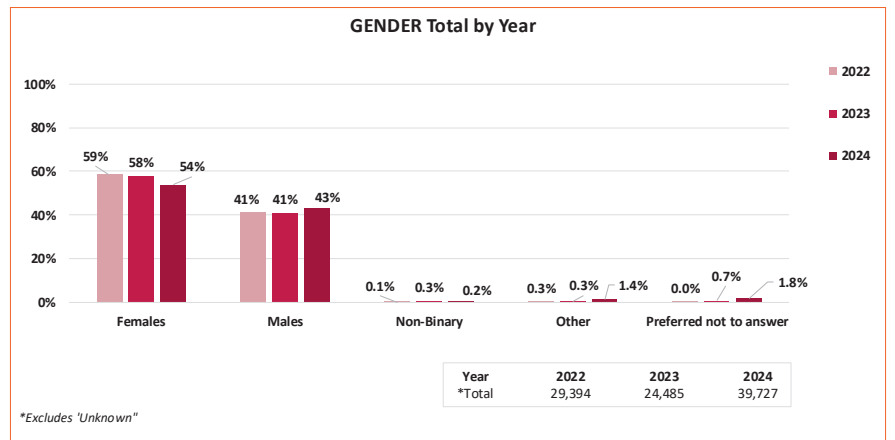




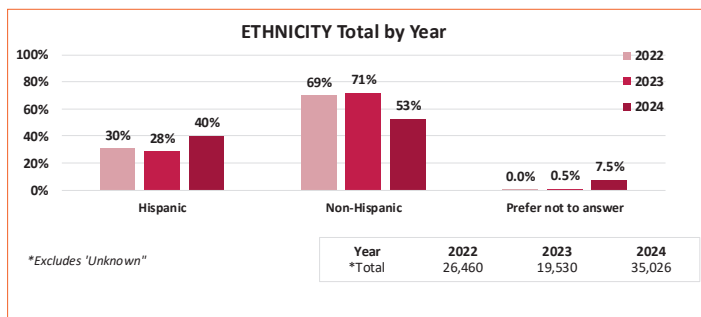
Who you served in 2022, 2023 & 2024 ZIP Code



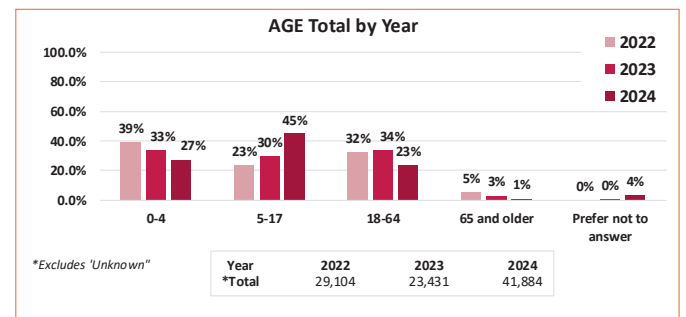
Who you served in 2022, 2023 & 2024 Gender



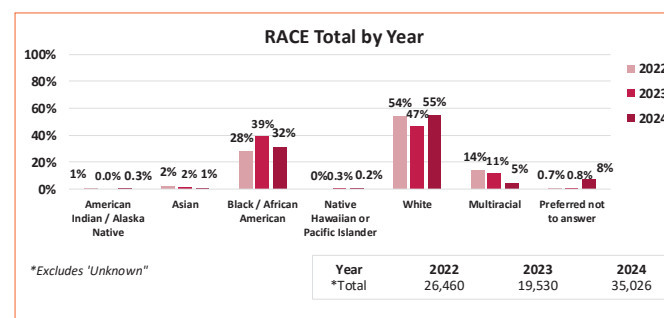
Who you served in 2022, 2023 & 2024 - Ethnicity



Who you served in 2022, 2023 & 2024 - Age



Who you served in 2022, 2023 & 2024 - Race





beaconhealthsystem.org/community-impact