



COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

2020

Hardin County General Hospital
Rosiclare, Illinois

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INTRODUCTION - Executive Summary

Hardin County General Hospital and Clinic came together to undertake a comprehensive regional community health needs assessment (CHNA). The purpose of the assessment was to gather information about local health needs and health behaviors. The assessment examined a variety of indicators including risky health behaviors and chronic health behaviors. Hardin County General Hospital conducted a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) spanning a period of several weeks in the fall of 2019. The CHNA is a systematic process involving the community to identify and analyze community health needs as well as community assets and resources in order to plan and act upon priority health needs.

The CHNA took a comprehensive approach to identifying the needs in the communities it serves. A variety of quantitative and qualitative research components were implemented as part of the CHNA. Through focus group interviews and surveys, we have been able to find insight into the needs of the area.

In consideration of the quantitative as well as qualitative feedback, these are a few of the community health needs were identified:

- Substance abuse services
- Mental and behavioral health services
- Chronic health conditions
- Lifestyle/dietary education focusing on healthy living, diabetes management, etc.

The findings from the assessment will help Hardin County General Hospital & Clinic to use its current resources and partner with other community organizations to best meet the needs related to these issues and will create an implementation plan to help guide these efforts.

PURPOSE OF A COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) of 2010, nonprofit 501(c)(3) hospitals are required to perform a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) every three years to be in compliance with IRS Notice 26 CFR Parts 1, 53 (published 12/31/2014). An implementation strategy must also be developed to address identified needs.

In addition to compliance with ACA, establishing the community's health needs help to prioritize resources allocation and to determine what services are currently available in our area and how we can coordinate activities with other organizations. The process of a community health needs assessment also ensures that needs are identified, efforts are not duplicated, and that the correct organizations that handle specific issues are involved in the process.

HARDIN COUNTY GENERAL HOSPITAL

Hardin County General Hospital is a 25 bed, non-profit Critical Access Hospital licensed by Illinois Department of Public Health and is a member of the Illinois Hospital and Health Systems Association. The full scope of patient care is provided only by those professionals who are also competent to assess patients and plan of care based on findings from that assessment.

Scope of Services Provided by Hardin County General Hospital include:

24 hour emergency room coverage by 3 physicians and 1 Family Nurse Practitioner – board certified.

The hospital also employees 31 nurses on staff, of which 9 are ACLS certified; 3 are trauma certified and 12 are nurses that are Pediatric Advanced Life Support certified.

Services provided include:

- Respiratory
- Radiology
- Ultrasound
- Rehabilitation Therapy
- CAT Scan
- Mammography
- MRI
- Social Services
- Swing Bed
- Behavioral Health
- Provider-based Rural Health Clinic
- Sleep Study

Hardin County General Hospital & Clinic accepts patients regardless of ability to pay. Charity care losses for the Fiscal Year 2019 were \$830,029 which represents approximately 608 charity claim visits.

Patient Data for the Fiscal Year 2019:

- 379 Inpatient Discharges
- 61 Swing Bed Discharges
- 302 Observation Discharges
- 15,694 Outpatient Visits, including 5,586 Emergency Room Visits and 192 ER transfers
- 4,375 Radiology Procedures
- 148,145 Total Lab Procedures
- 8,066 Physical Therapy Treatments
- 2,197 Occupational Therapy Treatments
- 818 Speech Therapy Treatments
- 8,571 Respiratory Procedures
- 877 Ultrasound Procedures
- 203 Echo Procedures
- 40 Sleep Studies
- 1,341 EKG Procedures
- 56 Holter Monitoring Procedures

COMMUNITY SERVED BY THE HOSPITAL

HARDIN COUNTY GENERAL HOSPITAL (HCGH) PRIMARY SERVICE AREA



Hardin County General Hospital & Clinic's primary service area includes Hardin and Pope Counties. Key facts about our communities from the U.S. Census data are:

- 8,122 reside in the two counties
- The median age for Hardin County is 46.8 and for Pope is 52.2
- 25.8% of residents in Hardin County are over 65 with Pope having 26.9%
- Age distribution under 18 years of age is 17.2% for Hardin County and 12.2% for Pope with the State of Illinois being 22.6% under 18 years of age
- Median income for Hardin is \$39,524 and \$41,139 for Pope with the State of Illinois Median income being \$65,030 and US having median income of \$61,937
- On average 16.6% of our population is below the poverty level in Hardin Co. and 12.7% for Pope Co.
- Unemployment rate currently for our population is 5.9 for Hardin and 5.1 for Pope as compared to the state of Illinois at 3.5 and the U.S. at 3.4.

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Statistics of Hardin and Pope Counties in Illinois:

	Hardin County	Pope County
Population, 2018	3,910	4,212
Persons under 5 years, percent, 2017	3.1%	4.3%
Persons under 18 years, percent, 2017	17.4%	13.2%
Persons 65 years and over, percent 2017	20.5%	27.9%
Female persons, percent, 2017	47.8%	50.2%
White alone, percent, 2017	93.9%	91.4%
Black or African American alone, percent, 2017	3.8%	5.1%
Hispanic or Latino, percent, 2017	1.8%	1.9%
High School graduate or higher, percent of persons age 25+, 2017	81.6%	86.6%
Bachelor's Degree or higher, percent of persons age 25+, 2017	8.9%	9.0%
Housing Units, 2017	2,195	2,778
Homeownership rate, 2017	80.2%	86.6%
Households, 2017	1,915	1,829
Persons per household, 2017	2.25	2.23
Median household income, 2017	\$39,524	\$41,139
Persons below poverty line, percent 2017	16.6%	12.7%

Health Statistics of Hardin and Pope Counties in Illinois:

Birth Characteristics, 2018	Hardin County	Pope County
Births (per 1,000 women of child-bearing age) 2018	33	30
Teenage Births (per 1,000 women age 15-19)	3	3
Pre-term Births, 2018	3	4
Low Birth weight, 2018	5	3

Disease and Death	Hardin County	Pope County
Heart Disease Deaths	14	13
Cancer Deaths	12	6
Stroke Deaths	3	3
Prevalence of Diabetes	12%	11%
Drug Overdose 2013-2018	5	6

- In Hardin County 9.1% of the births are by teenage mothers, as are 10% in Pope County.
- Heart Disease is now the leading deaths in both Hardin and Pope Counties followed by cancer.

PROCESS / METHODOLOGY

ASSESSMENT TOOLS & PROCESS

The community health needs assessment is both a document and a process. Elements of the Hardin County General Hospital's process include:

1. A collection and analysis of data from existing data sources regarding community demographics, socioeconomic and health statistics, and health care resources.
2. Community surveys and area service provider interviews.
3. Staff and Committee Meetings held within the Hardin County General Hospital.
4. An analysis of existing community IPLAN from Southern Seven Health Department

This document is a synopsis of available information collected during the initial cycle of community health needs assessments required by the IRS. It will serve as a resource until the next assessment cycle. Both the process and document serves to assist in identifying and prioritizing community health needs and will aid in planning to meet those needs.

PRIMARY DATA

Primary data was collected from community surveys and from the focus group interviews with key collaborative partners as well as data from staff and committee meetings within the hospital and clinic.

COMMUNITY SURVEY

Primary data was collected through a survey of Hardin and Pope County residents. Participants were asked their gender, race, education and income levels. All of the surveys were anonymous. We surveyed Hardin and Pope County residents from October 2019 to December 2019. We created and used an online survey to collect the data. In five to ten minutes, respondents answered 25 questions related to individual health and access to care, health services, challenges and risk factors; and sources of health information (Appendix A)

Through the survey we learned the following:

- Nearly 46.2% of the respondents considered their overall health as excellent or very good.
- 89% of the respondents have utilized services at Hardin County General Hospital or clinic and they can see a doctor when needed.

- 88.5% of respondents describe the overall quality of Hardin County General Hospital and Clinic as Very Good or Good.
- With over 20% of the total population of Hardin and Pope County over the age of 65, the need for more services geared toward senior citizens is likely.

Regarding health services, challenges, and risk factors, the results were:

- 62.5% of the respondents indicated that high blood pressure was a challenge along with 46.2% indicating high cholesterol being a problem.
- Diabetes or high blood sugar was 37.5% from the respondents as a challenge that they face
- The top three items that respondents felt were the most pressing health problems impacted the health of the community were 1) Substance and/or Drug abuse both prescription and illegal 2) Affordability of healthcare and 3) Cancer with cost of prescription medication and lack of healthcare in general rounding the top 5.

FOCUS GROUP INTERVIEWS:

Focus group interviews were held with key community providers in November 2019 and December 2019. We selected the focus group members based on their ability to understand the most prominent health issues affecting Hardin and Pope County residents, as well as their ability to identify existing community strengths and resources. The results of the focus group interviews are in listed below. The focus group members included:

- Sherri Crabb, Family Counseling Center
- Rhonda Andrews-Ray, Southern Seven Health Department

Our focus group determined that the following was the top list of significant health factors in Hardin and Pope Counties:

1. Substance Abuse (Prescription Drug Abuse and Illicit Drug Abuse) – The need to address substance abuse among the youth and adults emerged from the focus group especially prescription drug abuse and use of synthetic drugs. It is supported by the secondary resources, including the local IPLAN.
2. Chronic disease coupled with mental health issues – the need for additional mental health and behavior services was also an issue for the focus group. Issues raised included availability of local crisis care, intervention counseling and access to transfer. Additional providers for these services could be available with community partners and other providers. More educational support for groups of patients and families facing cancer, heart disease, diabetes and asthma.
3. Wellness and its many components was discussed by the focus group. Giving the community a variety of wellness education programs and healthy living options was discussed by the group.
4. Partnerships with other local health professionals and organizations. Outside partnerships and cultivation of an environment of collaboration to ensure the whole patient is treated to improve the overall health and well-being of all of the citizens within the community.

Our focus group also indicated that the hospital is doing a good job with inpatient care however concluded that a better job of marketing of services provided by the hospital and in conjunction with other community providers organizations is always needed.

SECONDARY DATA

In the second phase, we analyzed readily available data from secondary sources to identify priority areas of concern when compared to survey data. We gathered health and demographic data from various sources. (Appendix B)

Health Indicators	Hardin	Pope
Adult Obesity	29%	29%
Physical Inactivity	26%	23%
Uninsured Adults	13%	7%
Primary Care Physicians	1349:1	Data unavailable
Mammography Screenings	40%	36%
Flu Vaccinations	16%	29%
Children in Poverty	36%	28%
Limited Access to Healthy Foods	5%	8%

Health Status and Outcomes: County Health Rankings

County Health Rankings are a way to measure and understand how healthy communities, served by the Hardin County General Hospital facilities are. The ranks are based on four types of measures: health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic, and physical environment factors. Actual health outcomes such as causes of death and quality and length of life are measured along with the other counties in the state to draw comparisons. High ranks (e.g., 1 or 2) area estimated to be the 'healthiest' areas. In general, a poor ranking on health factors translates to poor health outcomes. The Hardin County General Hospital service area posts some of the *lowest* ranks out of 102 counties in Illinois.

County Health Rankings 2019: Illinois (102 counties)			
County	Health Outcome Rank	Health Factor Rank	Health Behavior Ranking
Hardin	100	99	79
Pope	44	87	39

Consistently Hardin and Pope Counties struggle with obesity and inactivity in comparison to the state averages.

Once again, both Hardin and Pope Counties have more children living in poverty than the state average and have a higher of percentage of people without access to health foods.

HEALTH PRIORITY ISSUES

Identified Needs and Priorities Issues

Our purpose was to identify health challenges and risk factors that can be modified or prevented to improve the health of our community.

We identified and prioritized community needs for Hardin and Pope Counties. Hardin County General Hospital can address and have an impact on certain needs by implementing programs, education and preventative screenings.

Hardin County General Hospital will not be able to address all of the identified needs of the community but will rely on other resources better positioned to address specific needs.

Issues identified and discussed that Hardin County General Hospital can address and make an impact on certain needs includes:

- 1) **Substance abuse prevention/education and treatment.** Primarily OPIOID abuse and treatment. Working with a collaborative team and/or group to implement resources and treatment either as inpatient services or outpatient literature and referred resources. Improving access to care and services to address causes of substance use/abuse.
- 2) **Education and Support for prevalent chronic diseases.** As High Blood Pressure and Diabetes and Obesity were the top diagnosis in the community, the creation or identification of educational programs and activities to encourage healthy lifestyles for staff and community members. Provide programs on how to prepare healthy foods. Encourage nutritional strategies that are designed to reduce the probability of such diseases through education to improve high blood pressure and rate of diabetes.
- 3) **Mental and Behavioral Health.** Identifying and improving access of specialty physicians or providers for referral of patients for mental and behavioral health services. Partnering with community service providers, organizations, local schools and other interested parties to discuss specific concerns related to mental health issues and behaviors.
- 4) **Public Awareness.** Since lack of knowledge about all of the services provided by the hospital and clinic was identified as a need, creating a marketing strategy for the hospital should be a priority. The key concept should be to clearly identify who we are and what we do. Working closely with leadership staff to help optimize patient experience and expand the patient base to include family, friends and visitors and surrounding community members.
- 5) **Collaborative Partnerships.** Multisector collaborations that support shared ownership of all phases of community health improvement, including assessment, planning, investment, implementation, and evaluation.

RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO MEETING PRIORITY HEALTH NEEDS

Major Center and Services at Hardin County General Hospital

- * Hardin County General Hospital Clinic
- *Case management/Social Services
- *Dietary
- *Education and Infection Control
- *Emergency Room
- *Imaging/Radiology
- *Geriatric Behavioral Health
- *Inpatient Services
- *Laboratory
- *Nursing
- *Pharmacy
- *Physical Therapy (Inpatient & Outpatient)
- *Respiratory Therapy

Community Organizations, Health Partners and Government Agencies

Organizations identified through the process that were current or potential partners in addressing health needs and related issues:

- * Southern 7 Health Department
- *Shawnee Development Counsel
- *Area Churches & Organizations
- *Southeastern IL Regional Planning
- *Area Agency on Aging
- *SIU School of Medicine
- *Rosiclare Rehab and Healthcare Center
- *Hardin County K-12 Schools
- *Illinois Dept. of Public Health
- *Family Counseling Center
- *Pope & Hardin Ambulance Service
- *Southeastern Illinois College
- *Delta Regional Authority
- *American Cancer Society
- *Hardin County Pharmacy
- *Rides Mass Transit District
- *Pope County K-12 Schools
- *Illinois Dept. of Healthcare Family Services (HFS)

APPENDIX A

Hardin County General Hospital - Community Health Needs Assessment Survey 2019

1. What County do you live in?

Answer Choices	Responses
Hardin	78%
Pope	22%

2. What is your gender?

Answer Choices	Responses
Male	84.6%
Female	13.2%
Choose not to answer	2.2%

3. What is your age?

Answer Choices	Responses
18-24	6.6%
25-34	5.5%
35-44	16.5%
45-54	24.2%
55-64	20.9%
65 and over	24.2%

4. What is your race?

Answer Choices	Responses
Black or African America	0%
Caucasian / White	97.8%
Asian	0%
American Indian / Alaska Native	0%
Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	0%
Other	2.2%

5. What is your current employment status?

Answer Choices	Responses
Employed Full Time	56%
Employed Part Time	7.7%
Student	4.4%
Disabled	3.3%
Unemployed	1.1%
Retired	24.2%
Homemaker	3.3%

6. What is your household income?

Answer Choices	Responses
\$0-\$24,999	18.9%
\$25,000 - \$49,000	20%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	12.2%
\$75,000 - \$99,000	10%
\$100,000 or more	22.2%
Prefer not to answer	16.7%

7. What is the highest level of education that you have completed?

Answer Choices	Responses
Some high school	2.2%
High School Graduate	11%
Some College	38.5%
College Graduate	48.3%

8. What type of healthcare coverage do you have?

Answer Choices	Responses
Medicare A	15.9%
Medicare B	16.8%
Commercial Health Insurance	60.5%
No healthcare coverage	5.8%
Other: Veterans	1%

9. How would you describe your overall health?

Answer Choices	Responses
Excellent	11%
Very Good	35.2%
Good	34.1%
Fair	17.6%
Poor	2.1%

10. Choose all of the statements that apply to you?

Answer Choices	Responses
I exercise at least 3 times per week	35.2%
I eat at least 5 servings of fruits and vegetables each day	22%
I eat fast food more than once per week	40.7%
I smoke cigarettes	14.3%
I chew tobacco	2.2%
I use illegal drugs	0%
I abuse or overuse prescription drugs	0%
I consume more than 4 alcoholic drinks per day	0%
I use sunscreen or protective clothing for planned time in the sun	37.4%
I receive a flu shot each year	52.7%
I have access to a wellness program through my employer	13.2%
None of these apply to me	8.8%

11. Have you ever been told by a doctor that you have one of the following conditions?

Answer Choices	Responses
Adult Asthma	10.7%
Angina or coronary heart disease	7.1%
Bacterial Pneumonia	1.8%
Heart Attack	3.6%
Cancer	14.3%
CHF (Chronic Heart Failure)	0
COPD (Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)	5.4%
Diabetes or high blood sugar	37.5%
High Cholesterol	46.2%
Hypertension (high blood pressure)	62.5%
Stroke	1.8%

12. Where do you normally go for routine healthcare?

Answer Choices	Responses
Physician's office	89%
Health Department	1.1%
Emergency Room	2.2%
Urgent Care Clinic	2.2%
Clinic in grocery or drug store	0.00%
I do not receive routine healthcare	7.7%

13. How long has it been since you last visited a doctor for a routine checkup?

Answer Choices	Responses
Within the past year	85.7%
Within the past 2 years	6.6%
Within the last 5 years	6.6%
Five or more years ago	1.1%
Never	0%

14. If your last visit was more than a year ago, is it because you--

Answer Choices	Responses
Do not have a medical condition that requires any care and receive health screening from other provider service	38.1%
Do not routinely receive any health screenings	14.3%
Could not schedule due to work or personal conflicts within normal business hours	28.6%
Could not afford visit	19%
No transportation	4.8%
No appointment available	4.8%

15. Have you or anyone in your household had any difficulty finding a doctor within the past two years?

Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	93.4%
No	6.6%

16. Have you or anyone in your household had any difficulty finding a doctor that treats specific illnesses or conditions in your area within the past two years?

Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	16.5%
No	83.5%

17. How would you rate the quality of care at Hardin County General Hospital and Clinic?

Answer Choices	Responses
Very Good	56.3%
Good	32.2%
Okay	9.2%
Poor	2.3%
Very Poor	0%

18. What do you think are the most pressing health problems in your community?

Answer Choices	Responses
Ability to pay for care	52.2%
Alcohol – dependency or abuse	36.7%
Alcohol – underage binge or abuse	16.7%
Drug Abuse – prescription medication	70.00%
Drug Abuse – illegal substances	71.1%
Cancer	48.9%
Child Abuse	5.6%
Cost of healthcare	43.3%
Domestic Violence	5.6%
Lack of health insurance	44.5%
Lack of transportation to health care services	18.9%
Lack of dental care	34.4%
Lack of prenatal care	10
Mental health	37.8%
Obesity in adults	36.8%
Obesity in children and teens	30%
Prescription medical too expensive	44.4%
Teen pregnancy	8.9%
Tobacco use / smoking among adults	35.6%
Tobacco use / smoking among teenagers	34.4%
Other	1.1%

19. What does Hardin County General Hospital and clinic do well?

Answer highlights:

- Provide quality care
- The doctors, nurses and hospital provide great care. This is an awesome thing for such a rural community. Without the hospital and clinic people would have to travel a minimum of 45 minutes to see a doctor.
- Emergency room
- They always get me in as soon as possible. I like my doctor. He tries his best to solve my problems.
- Provide resources for the community
- We are very fortunate to have wonderful doctors
- They are friendly
- Check on patients routinely
- They take patient no matter what
- Working with the clients and referring to other places if they are not able to fix the problems
- Help families in time of need
- They seem very caring toward their patients
- Personable
- They do well in meeting whatever your needs are. They provide a needed medical service especially for our senior citizens that have problems driving to the next available place of medical services
- Knows when a trauma or sickness is too much, so they transfer
- Caring about patients and bend over backwards to help you out
- Good personal care
- Send bills
- Quick service
- If they cannot help you, they will refer you to a doctor who can
- Amazing staff
- Appointments
- They will try to work to fit you in for an appointment. They work well with insurance to do all the claims for you
- Provide the best medical services. Including hospitals that surround HCGH
- Prompt service, competent, caring doctors and staff
- Amazing amount of testing available locally
- Nice facilities

20. What does Hardin County General Hospital and Clinic NOT do well?

Answer Highlights:

- They do not have specialist in anything to come to the hospital or clinic
- Drug dependency; Doctors write prescription for pain meds instead of trying other options
- Offer comprehensive preventative health care option for everyone
- Some doctors will not go into the same room as patient if they believe that you may be contagious
- The nursing staff needs to be better trained for emergency events.
- I think the prescription drug abusers are very good at faking symptoms to the health care providers. They also know how to use the system and go to another physician. Until we get a better computer system between pharmacies and physicians the county will have this opioid crisis.
- Reschedule appointments due to schedule changes
- Confidentiality is questionable
- Not enough discount for self-payers

21. Which of the following preventative procedures have you received at the Hardin County General Hospital in the past 12 months?

Answer Choices	Responses
Mammogram	22.5%
Flu/Shingles/Pneumonia Shot	31%
Blood Sugar check	23.9%
Physical/Occupational Therapy	21.1%
X-Rays	49.3%
Pap Smear	7%
Blood Pressure Check	39.4%
Lab Services	73.2%
Behavioral/Mental Health Therapy	4.3%
Other	1.4%

22. What medical services are most needed in your community?

Answer Choices	Responses
Adult Primary care services	40.2%
Alcohol and drug abuse treatment	54.9%
Cancer treatment	40.2%
Counseling / mental health services	41.5%
Diabetes care	30.5%
Emergency /Trauma Center	26.8%
Heart care services	25.6%
Orthopedic care (bone & joint)	25.6%

Pediatric services	28%
Women's services, such as obstetrics / gynecological services	34.1%
Other	1.2%

23. Where do you get most of your health information?

Answer Choices	Responses
Internet (Facebook / Twitter)	34.1%
Newspaper/Magazine	9.1%
Doctor / Health Professional	80.7%
Television	13.6%
Hospital	12.5%
Health Department	4.5%
Radio	3.4%
Religious Organizations	3.4%
Library	1.1%
School	3.4%
Other – Social Media	8.0%

24. Which health screenings or education/information services are needed in your community?

Answer Choices	Responses
Blood Pressure	58.3%
Cancer	63.1%
Cholesterol	42.9%
Dental	42.9%
Diabetes	54.8%
Disease outbreak prevention	13.1%
Drug & Alcohol abuse	66.7%
Eating disorders	16.7%
Emergency Preparedness	21.4%
Exercise/physical activity	32.1%
Falls prevention for the elderly	20.2%
Hearing screenings	25.0%
Heart disease	34.5%
HIV/AIDS & STD's	15.5%
Routine well checkups	41.7%
Memory Loss	33.3%
Mental Health / Depression	53.6%
Nutrition	31.0%
Prenatal care	16.7%
Quitting Smoking / Vaping	34.5%
Suicide Prevention	42.9%

Vaccination/Immunizations	32.1%
Vision Screenings	22.6%
Weight-Loss help	38.1%

25. What can Hardin County General Hospital and Clinic do to better the health needs of your community?

- Continue being a tremendous and much needed resource to this area and providing more services as financing and resources made available for HCGH and HCGH Clinic
- Get more specialist to come in at least once a week to see patients
- Apply for more funds to help with costs
- Mental health professionals at the clinic
- Offer more preventative care
- Education
- Help with the opioid addiction
- Later hours for people who work late
- Provide pain management alternatives to prescription/opioids
- Start a pain management clinic other primary health clinics could send their patients that have problems to.
- Remind people of your services and that you exist. Advertise
- Offer specialists
- More focus on prevention/wellness
- Get a gym or fitness center to help people lose weight
- If registration at the doctors' offices would try to collect co-pays at time of visit it would help with getting the money and unnecessary visits to the doctor.

APPENDIX B

SOURCES OF DATA

- Professional Advisory Committee Meeting – Annual Rural Health Clinic Program Evaluation
- CAH Annual Meeting
- <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/sites/default/files/publications/death-demographics-resident-county-2018.pdf>
- <http://dph.illinois.gov/sites/default/files/publications/causes-death-resident-county-2018.pdf>
- <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/data-statistics/vital-statistics/birth-statistics>
- <http://www.census.gov/>
- www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/illinois/2018/county/snapshot
- Southern Seven Health Department – IPLAN, June, 2015
- Aging & Disability Guide for Southern Illinois – Egyptian Area Agency on Aging, Inc
- SIU Medicine Rural Community Opioid Response Program – Hardin County Needs Assessment Survey Data Report