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**WISE**  
COUNTY

COMMUNITY  
HEALTH NEEDS  
ASSESSMENT

▶ **ACTION PLAN**

 **Wise Health System**



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## Executive Summary

### Background

As a result of the Affordable Care Act, tax-exempt hospitals are required to assess the health needs of their communities and adopt implementation strategies to address the identified needs. Compliance with section 501(r) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) requires that a tax-exempt hospital facility conduct a Community Health Needs Assessment every three years and provide a publicly offered plan for health improvement. Wise Health System conducted Wise County's first Community Health Needs Assessment in 2014 where the identified needs developed into adopting the Texas 1115 Waiver, DSRIP Projects. Seven projects were established to tackle the pending needs identified in the 2014 CHNA. Healthy Wise County was formed from the results of the 2017 Community Health Needs Assessment and the 3 committees have been working to address the needs identified for the past 3 years. In 2023, the positive impact of these projects and the work of the Healthy Wise County Committees were validated as many of the top needs identified in 2020 moved places and new health needs moved forward. The following health needs were identified based on the information collected and analyzed through the Community Health Needs Assessment conducted by Wise Health System. These needs have been prioritized based on information gathered through the Community Health Needs Assessment.

### Identified Community Health Needs

1. Lack of Mental Health Services
2. Substance Abuse
3. Obesity (Adult & Pediatric)
4. Diabetes
5. Physical Inactivity
6. Uninsured / Lack of Access to Services
7. Diseases of the Heart
8. Food Insecurity
9. Issues Associated with Ageing
10. Child Abuse/Neglect



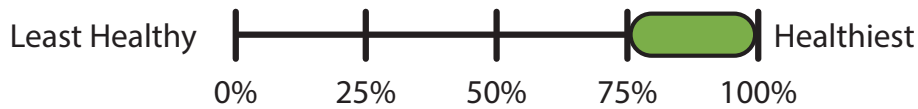


## Introduction

Wise County is approximately an hour Northwest of Dallas, Texas. Just west of Denton County and north of Tarrant and Parker counties. As of 2020, the United States Census Bureau estimated the total population of Wise County was 68,632. Claritas, a data analytics software company, estimates the 2028 total population of Wise County to be 77,919. A potential growth of 13% from 2020 to 2028. We see great results from the 2022 County Health Rankings. Wise County is ranked as one of the healthier counties in Texas scoring between 75%-100% on health outcomes. Wise County was also ranked as one of the healthier counties in Texas based on health factors. Out of 244 counties Wise ranked 35th healthiest of all counties in Texas.

### Health Outcomes

- Health outcomes represent how healthy a county is right now, in terms of length of life but quality of life as well.
- Wise (WIS) is ranked among the healthiest counties in Texas (Highest 75%-100%).



### Health Factors

- Health Factors represent those things we can modify to improve the length and quality of life for residents.
- Wise (WIS) is ranked in the higher middle range of counties in Texas (Higher 50%-75%).





## Community Health Improvement

Wise County is faced with an extraordinary opportunity for change. With growth coming from the east and south, we can transform the infrastructure of our county's health for the imminent future. The 2024-2026 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) is Wise County's commitment to improvement for the health of current and future residents. Healthy Wise County has established three committees to set goals, objectives and help develop this strategic plan in alignment with their overall needs. These committees should include individuals and organizations from many different sectors of the community including developers, businesses, education, government, philanthropists, faith-based organizations, healthcare providers, public health, insurance, and non-profits.

### How Can We All Participate in Healthy Wise County?

- Implement community health improvement by joining HWC and participating in one or multiple committees

#### How Can Local Government Participate?

- Incorporate CHIP into strategic and future planning
- Advocate for policies and resources that improve the health priorities

#### How Can Businesses and Employers Participate?

- Promote worksite wellness policies and resources that focus on the health priorities
- Encourage employees to participate in a committee

#### How Can Health Care Systems, Insurers and Clinicians Participate?

- Work to increase insurance coverage and access to healthcare to Medicaid, low income and uninsured individuals, especially for mental health

#### How Can Early Learning Centers, Schools, Colleges Participate?

- Share CHIP with fellow educators
- Equip educators with skills to promote and improve health

#### How Can Community, Non-Profit and Faith-Based Organizations Participate?

- Align health improvement efforts with the CHIP
- Leverage additional resources by referencing the CHIP

#### How Can Individuals and Families Participate?

- Practice and promote health behaviors in the community
- Advocate for community health improvement in the places where you live, work, worship, play and learn



## Healthy Wise County Community Partners

Adult Protective Services  
Aetna Better Health  
Alcoholics & Narcotics Anonymous  
Alzheimer's Association  
Amerigroup  
Angel's Home Healthcare  
Better Living for Texans – Texas A&M AgriLife Extension  
Boyd ISD  
Bridgeport Economic Development Corporation  
Bridgeport ISD  
Bridgeport Public Library  
Cancer Center at Wise Health System  
CASA of Wise and Jack Counties  
Center for Emotional Wellness  
Celebrate Recovery – Crossroads Church Decatur  
Celebrate Recovery – The Rock Church Bridgeport  
Chico ISD  
Chico Public Library  
Children's Advocacy Center for North Texas  
Cigna  
City of Bridgeport  
City of Decatur  
Connections Wellness Group  
Cook Children's Health System  
Cornerstone Community Action Agency (Headstart)  
Decatur Church of Christ  
Decatur Economic Development Corporation  
Decatur Housing Authority  
Decatur Public Library  
Early Childhood Intervention of North Central Texas  
Family Connects  
Family Resource Center Parker County  
Feeding Wise Kids  
First United Methodist Church of Decatur  
Heart of Town  
Help Me Grow North Texas  
Help Me Thrive North Texas  
HOPES Program through My Health My Resources of Tarrant County  
Kris Cross Health  
Maximus-Texas Star Programs & Texas Health Steps  
My Health My Resources of Tarrant County  
My Wise Choices  
North Texas Area Health Education Center  
Opening Doors International Services, Inc.  
Right at Home  
Solaris  
Stagecoach Rehabilitation  
STAR Council  
STARRY Counseling  
TAPS –Texoma Area Paratransit System  
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Services- Wise County  
Texas Department of Family Protective Services - Wise County  
Texas Health Resources  
The Helen Farabee Centers  
United Way of Wise County  
Wise Area Relief Mission (WARM)  
Wise Choices Pregnancy Resource Center  
Wise Coalition for Healthy Children  
Wise County  
Wise County 4-H  
Wise County Christian Counseling  
Wise County Committee on Aging  
Wise County Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse  
Wise County Meals on Wheels  
Wise County Messenger  
Wise Health Foundation  
Wise Health System  
Wise Health System Auxiliary  
Wise Hope



## Committees for Healthy Wise County

### Healthy Living Assigned Community Needs:

- Obesity (Adult & Pediatric)
- Diseases of the Heart
- Diabetes
- Physical Inactivity

Improve Wise County citizen's ability to live a healthy life by reducing obesity and diabetes rates by increasing physical activity opportunities through community activities.

### 2023 Community Health Needs Assessment Findings and Plan:

**Obesity:** The percentage of adults that report a BMI (Body Mass Index) of  $\geq 30$  in Wise County was 37% in 2022 and 34% in Texas. Our next goal would be to align with the Texas average. Implement the "Smart Swaps" campaign throughout the Wise County community and in our schools.

**Diseases of the Heart:** Healthy People 2030 established a target of 90.9 heart disease deaths per 100,000 however, Texas has surpassed that target at 168 deaths per 100,000. Wise County surpassed this with 217.6 heart disease deaths per 100,000 and 294 actual deaths. In Wise County, we plan to reduce coronary heart disease by 10%.

1. Promote Heart Safe Community
2. Increase Primary Care and Cardiology Care awareness
3. Work with Wise County school districts to implement various cardiac care programs

**Diabetes:** CountyHealthRankings.org identified Wise County as having a diabetes prevalence rate of 11% with the Texas average being 12% and top performers at 9%. Our goal is to increase awareness of the resources available throughout the community to meet the goal of 9% diabetes prevalence rate.

1. Promote healthy diabetic living education provided by Wise Health System and Community Partners
2. Continue to support a diabetes specific provider to address the needs of our Hispanic community

**Physical Inactivity:** The Healthy People (HP) 2030 goal of adults that are physically inactive is 21.2%. According to countyhealthrankings.org in 2022 Wise County had a 30% adult physical inactivity rate. The goal is to reach the HP 2030 goal of 21.2%.

***"There are not enough sidewalks, bike paths, parks. People aren't able to get outside as much as they would like, these also have to be safe places for people to be."***

1. Increase awareness of healthy physical activities happening in and around Wise County
2. Create more awareness of parks in Wise County and support new parks

### Unite Us Assigned Community Needs:

- Uninsured / Lack of Access to Services
- Food Insecurity • Issues Associated with Ageing

The previous Community Resource committee will now be replaced with the Untie Us platform.



## 2023 Community Health Needs Assessment Findings and Plan:

**Uninsured/ Lack of Access:** Wise County has made great strides to continue decreasing the number of residents that are uninsured. At 25% in 2015, 23% in 2016 and 20% in 2017, due to COVID we saw a slight increase to 25% in 2020 and decrease to 22% in 2022. Wise County did surpass the Texas average by 1%. Healthy People 2030 objective is 92.1% of people to have medical insurance. By 2026, we plan to work towards meeting the Texas uninsured rate of 21%.

**Food Insecurity:** 14% of the Wise County population was considered food insecure in 2022. This is on par with the Texas average with 11% being the top U.S. performers in this measure. Our 2026 goal is to reduce our food insecurity to meet the top performers goal of 11%.

**Issues Associated with Ageing:** Wise County has a slightly lower life expectancy 76.4 as compared to Texas at 78.4. Texas has an Alzheimer's Disease or Dementia rate of 7% while Wise County is slightly higher at 8%.

Unite Us is a technology company that builds coordinated care networks of health and social service providers nationwide and also right here in Texas. With Unite Us' end-to-end solution, providers across sectors identify social care needs, send and receive secure electronic requests addressing these needs, report on tangible outcomes, and transform payment models within a secure and collaborative ecosystem. Unite Us' community engagement teams build sustainable partnerships with local organizations to ensure networks have solid foundations, launch successfully, and continue to grow and thrive. This HITRUST-certified social care infrastructure helps communities address social determinants of health and advance health equity.

Wise Health System has been developing a network of community-based organizations (CBOs) in partnership with Unite Us, the enterprise technology company connecting health and social care. Through which, Wise Health System will leverage Unite Us' technology to securely connect the community, patients, health care providers, and organizations with needed resources while tracking outcomes in a person-centered model.

Wise Health System, Wise County, United Way Wise County, Wise Health Foundation, City of Decatur, City of Boyd, City of Bridgeport, City of Chico and City of New Fairview and these CBOs are connected by Unite Us' technology solution within one, comprehensive, closed-loop communication network. With consent, the technology would track the activities and outcomes of people who are seeking assistance. "We want to connect those with needs to resources in our community in an effective and comprehensive way, addressing all their social-care needs at once," said WHS Community Health Services Coordinator Jordan Holzbog.

This first-of-its kind partnership helps usher in an era of value-based care in Wise County. The collaboration among the Decatur Hospital Authority and its hospital system, community health organizations, and healthcare agencies across the county will connect the community through the Unite Us Platform. It will also connect the Wise County community with technology to enable medical providers to connect patients to community resources that support better health outcomes through services and support.

### **This model has far-reaching impact for multiple reasons:**

- The organizations will combine their operation, technology, and resources to build a sustainable, common ecosystem that includes the county healthcare and community sectors.
- Communities across Wise County will be able to identify gaps in care and funding and address them through new partnerships and differentiate funding streams.
- CBOs will have access to technology tools to show the impact of their work and real-time outcomes data.

Creating a connection between health outcomes and CBOs has been a challenge in Wise County for many years. "This platform will be instrumental in allowing Wise Health System, CBOs, and others to all interconnect the needs of our community members to direct solutions, creating a lasting impact for generations," said WHS Community Health Improvement Coordinator Heather Beal.





## Mental Health, Substance Abuse & Child Abuse/Neglect

### Mental Health, Substance Abuse & Child Abuse/Neglect Assigned Community Needs:

- Lack of Mental Health Services
- Substance Abuse
- Child Abuse/Neglect Greater promotion and increased public awareness of existing mental health, substance abuse and child abuse/neglect prevention resources.

### 2023 Community Health Needs Assessment Findings and Plan:

**Lack of Mental Health Services:** 2022 data provided by CountyHealthRankings.org states Wise County is severely underserved by mental health providers – 2,630 patients to one provider. The state average is currently 760:1. Wise County sits well above the Texas average. Healthy People 2030 does not have a goal for mental health providers. By 2023, we plan to increase usage of existing and available mental health resources and encourage Telemedicine Services for mental health services.

1. Encourage Wise Health System to recruit an additional mental health provider to Wise County
2. Work with Wise County schools to inform them of available mental health resources
3. Utilize multiple platforms to increase awareness of mental health resources in Wise County

**Substance Abuse:** The percentage of adults that drink excessively was on par in the county (20%) with Texas and the United States. The county met the HP 2030 SU-10 target of less than 25.4% of adults drinking excessively in the previous 30 days. However, alcohol related driving deaths, per 100,000, were slightly higher in the county (28%) than the state (25%) in 2022.

1. Provide education and resources for schools
2. Increase detox beds at WHS
3. Utilize multiple platforms to increase awareness of substance abuse resources in Wise County

**Child Abuse/Neglect:** In 2020 Wise County had 14.61 confirmed child abuse victims per 1,000 population while Texas had 9.11. 77% of confirmed allegations in Wise County were for neglectful supervision.

*“We need to make our families stronger and support our parents to stop child abuse/neglect.”*

This is a new need identified for this CHNA and there are several resources throughout Wise County working to address this need. HWC currently partners with several of these organizations and will continue to in order to address this need.

## References:

<https://health.gov/healthypeople>

<https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/>

<http://www.healthytexas.org>

<https://www.healthytexas.org/indicators/index/view?indicatorId=2051&localeId=2823>

<https://www.cookchildrenscommunity.org/abuse/data>

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**Healthy Wise County**  
led by **Wise Health System**