



2024-2026

Community Health Implementation Plan

Atrium Health Navicent Peach

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IDENTIFYING SIGNIFICANT HEALTH NEEDS

About Advocate Health

[Atrium Health Navicent \(AHN\)](#) is part of [Advocate Health \(AH\)](#), the third-largest nonprofit integrated health system in the United States, created from the combination of Advocate Aurora Health and Atrium Health. Providing care under the names Advocate Health Care in Illinois, Atrium Health in the Carolinas, Georgia and Alabama, and Aurora Health Care in Wisconsin, Advocate Health is a national leader in clinical innovation, health outcomes, consumer experience and value-based care, with [Wake Forest University School of Medicine](#) serving as the academic core of the enterprise. Headquartered in Charlotte, North Carolina, AH serves a population of nearly 6 million patients and is engaged in hundreds of clinical trials and research studies. It is nationally recognized for its expertise in cardiology, oncology, pediatrics and rehabilitation, as well as organ transplants, burn treatments and specialized musculoskeletal programs. AH employs 155,000 team members across 69 hospitals and over 1,000 care locations and offers one of the nation's largest graduate medical education programs with over 2,000 residents and fellows across more than 200 programs.

Committed to equitable care for all, Advocate Health provides nearly \$6 billion in annual community benefits with regional and community partners and continues to lead the nation in health equity and community benefit strategies through the development of local services and care delivery. Nationally recognized as #1 in community benefit investments, AH is the architect of the nation's leading health equity models and is committed to finding solutions for the greatest disparities affecting care gaps in rural and urban communities. Focused on affordability, learning and discovery, workforce development, health equity, safety and health outcomes and environmental sustainability, AH continues its national impact built through its network of high-quality healthcare services.

National Relevance | Regional Density | Local Presence

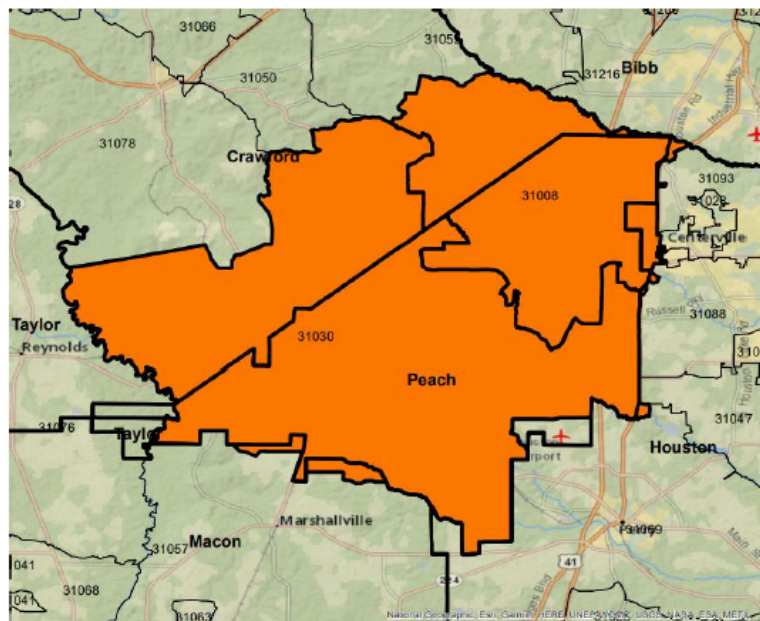
[Atrium Health Navicent Peach](#) is a critical access acute care facility located in Byron, Georgia. The 67,500 square foot healthcare facility is a "right-size" hospital with 25 spacious private rooms; 14 emergency treatment rooms; swing beds for rehabilitation; state-of-the-art orthopedic-sized operating room; two endoscopy suites; 64 slice CT machine; digital mammography for detecting breast cancer; bone density testing; ultrasounds and a mobile MRI; comfortable sleep study lab; laboratory services; IV infusion room; physical, occupational and speech therapy; cardiopulmonary testing; colonoscopy; pharmacy; surgical services; Healthy Communities Programming support; and a bronchoscopy suite. Atrium Health Navicent Peach is accredited by DNV-GL.

Our Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA)

AHN Peach recently embarked on a comprehensive Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) process to identify and address the key health issues impacting our community.

Definition of the Community Served

The AHN Peach community, as defined for the purposes of the Community Health Needs Assessment and Implementation Strategy, includes each of the residential ZIP codes that comprise the hospital's Primary Service Area (PSA) as outlined in the following map.



How CHNA Data Was Obtained

The CHNA incorporated data about the community from multiple sources, including primary and secondary data:

- A population-based survey among a representative sample of community residents
(the Professional Research Consultants (PRC) Community Health Survey)
- An online survey of public health representatives, health providers, and a variety of other community service providers and stakeholders (the PRC Online Key Informant Survey)
- A review of existing vital statistics, public health documents, census documents, and other data

The CHNA allowed for extensive comparison to benchmark data at the state and national levels. The assessment was conducted on behalf of AHN Peach by PRC, a nationally recognized healthcare consulting firm with extensive experience conducting Community Health Needs Assessments in hundreds of communities across the United States since 1994.

Identifying & Prioritizing Health Needs

Areas of Opportunity

Significant health needs (or “Areas of Opportunity”) were determined in our CHNA after consideration of various criteria, including:

- Standing in comparison with benchmark data
- Identified trends
- The preponderance of significant findings within topic areas
- The magnitude of the health concerns in terms of the number of persons affected and the potential health impact of a given health concern

The AHN Peach Implementation Strategy Team defined significant areas as the three highest opportunities identified in the CHNA. This is a multidisciplinary team comprised of the organization’s leaders from various roles such as nursing, community health, population health, social workers, community engagement, quality and data analytics, etc.

Prioritized List of Health Needs

After reviewing the Community Health Needs Assessment findings, AHN teammates and community stakeholders met to evaluate and prioritize the top health needs for our community. The participants were asked to evaluate each health concern considering two criteria: 1) scope and severity of the health issue; and 2) the hospital’s/community’s ability to impact that issue. Individual ratings for each criterion were averaged for each tested health issue, and then these composite scores were averaged to produce an overall score. This process yielded the following prioritized list of health needs for our community:

1. Diabetes
2. Heart Disease & Stroke
3. Mental Health
4. Substance Use
5. Cancer
6. Injury & Violence
7. Tobacco Use
8. Nutrition, Physical Activity and Weight
9. Access to Health Care Services
10. Disabling Conditions



ADDRESSING SIGNIFICANT HEALTH NEEDS

Hospital-Level Community Benefit Planning

This summary outlines AHN Peach's plan (Implementation Strategy) to address our community's health needs by 1) sustaining efforts operating within a targeted health priority area; 2) developing new programs and initiatives to address identified health needs; and/or 3) promoting an understanding of these health needs among other community organizations and within the public itself.

Priority Health Concerns to Be Addressed

In consideration of the top health priorities identified through the 2023 CHNA process — and considering hospital resources and overall alignment with the hospital's mission, goals and strategic priorities — the AHN Peach Implementation Strategy Team determined that AHN Peach would focus on developing and/or supporting strategies and initiatives to improve the top three significant priority health concerns:

- Metabolic Syndrome (heart disease, diabetes, and stroke)
- Mental Health

AHN Peach has been on a journey to transform healthcare delivery through an implementation strategy as outlined above. This Community Health Implementation Plan (CHIP) will highlight the strategies we will use to address the above-mentioned priority areas.

Considering data gathered from the community, AHN Peach has evaluated the region's health needs and determined that it is time to return to a grassroots approach. During the COVID-19 pandemic, like many other hospitals, our focus shifted to caring for patients who were very sick. Our community needs a strong focus on preventative care to help address the root cause of the many illnesses and social drivers of health.

The strategies in this plan are primarily focused on outreach utilizing Community Health Workers and developing programs to improve health, elevate hope and advance healing for all of Peach County and surrounding service area. Some foundational programs included in this plan have been in effect since the 2020 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) and Community Health Implementation Plan (CHIP) but are now being redesigned to better address health equity and needs in our central Georgia community through direct community programming. Our goal is to improve the community's overall health and wellness by empowering residents to make healthy life choices through education, programming, and partnerships.

Atrium Health Navicent Peach completed its last Community Health Needs Assessment in 2023.

In the 2024-2026 plan, AHN Peach will build off the foundational community health programming which has been successful to date. New innovative and advanced strategies partnered with on the ground, field interventions using Community Health Workers, will be implemented for early identification and to prevent conditions from occurring and/or advancing into chronic diseases. As the strategy unfolds there will be a growing need for direct patient interaction, innovative technology and increased partnerships, to successfully reach this population.

Health Concerns That Will Not Be Addressed During this CHIP and Why

In acknowledging the wide range of priority health issues that emerged from the CHNA process, AHN Peach determined that it could effectively focus on those which it deemed most pressing, most under-addressed, and/or most within its ability to influence. Although there are other health needs which appeared in our needs assessment being addressed by regional partners and community organizations, our focus and strategic resources will be dedicated to the two identified in this document.

2024-2026 Implementation Strategy

Action Plans

The following tables outline AHN Peach's plans to address priority health issues chosen for action in FY2024-FY2026.

Priority Area #1: Metabolic Syndrome (Diabetes, Heart Disease & Stroke)

Community Health Need	There is a lack of community awareness and management of metabolic syndrome. Metabolic syndrome is a group of five conditions that can lead to heart disease, diabetes, stroke, and other health problems. Metabolic syndrome is diagnosed when someone has 3 or more of these risk factors: high blood sugar, low levels of HDL, elevated levels of triglycerides, large waist circumference, and high blood pressure. Approximately 50.9 percent of adults surveyed have been told by a health professional at some point that their blood pressure was high. 40.3 percent have been told by a health professional that their cholesterol level was high. 16.5 percent of adults reported being diagnosed with diabetes. This is worse than the state (12.3%) and national (12.8%) percentages. (CHNA 2023)
Goal(s)	• Identify individuals/populations at-risk of having and/or developing metabolic syndrome • Increase awareness and education of metabolic syndrome, prevention and contributing factors • Reduce incidence of heart disease, diabetes, and stroke
Target Population(s)	• Communities within the counties served
Partnering Organization(s)	• North Central Health District (Georgia Department of Public Health) • Educational institutions (primary and secondary) such as Fort Valley State University, Central Georgia Technical College and public-school districts • Faith-Based Organizations • Community-Based organizations such as United Way of Central Georgia, Middle Georgia Regional Commission • Government organizations such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) • National health organizations such as American Heart Association, American Diabetes Association, and American Stroke Association
Action Plan	Strategy 1: Data Driven Identification of Vulnerable Communities Atrium Health Navicent will use heat maps to strategically identify areas of vulnerability to metabolic syndrome. Collaborate with community organizations in the identified areas to host health screenings and offer services to prevent progression of metabolic syndrome into more advanced disease states such as heart disease, diabetes, and stroke. Strategy 2: Education and Awareness Educate and increase awareness by partnering with community organizations and educational institutions to embed metabolic syndrome risk factors and prevention into curriculum and outreach efforts. Strategy 3: Empower Faith-Based Organizations Develop strong relationships with faith-based organizations who are the pillars of the community. Atrium Health Navicent will offer education, clinical services, screenings and other resources addressing metabolic syndrome to empower their ministries to serve their communities. Strategy 4: Utilize Community Health Workers Introduce a community-based healthcare delivery model with a holistic approach. Atrium Health Navicent will employ community health

	workers to provide outreach, advocacy, education, and individualized support such as relationship building, motivational interviewing and resource identification to address metabolic syndrome. Community Health Workers will be the connectors for all strategies in this priority area.
Measuring Our Impact	• Number of health screenings performed • Number of organizations committed to add cardiometabolic education to their curriculum • Number of community outreach events where education and resources were distributed • Number of Community Health Workers hired and trained

Priority Area #2: Mental Health	
Community Health Need	Approximately 24% of respondents in the AHN Peach service area reported ‘fair or ‘poor’ mental health. This marks a steady increase since 2018. There was a 10 percent increase since 2020. According to Healthy People 2030, mental disorders affect people of all ages and racial/ethnic groups, but some populations are disproportionately affected. In addition, mental health and physical health are closely connected. Mental disorders like depression and anxiety can affect people’s ability to take part in healthy behaviors. Similarly, physical health problems can make it harder for people to get treatment for mental disorders. Increasing screening for mental disorders can help people get the treatment they need.
Goal(s)	• Increase awareness and education of mental health symptoms and risk factors • Evaluate the prevalence of behavioral health/social issues to develop interventions to address specific issues. • Increase skill-based education to teammates for symptom recognition and basic intervention (i.e. Mental Health First Aid, Question, Persuade, and Refer [QPR], Zero Suicide [pediatric]) • Increase participation with partnerships to promote community-wide advocacy focused on mental health prevention
Target Population(s)	• School aged children to adults
Partnering Organization(s)	• River Edge Behavioral Health • Resilient Middle Georgia • Georgia Crisis and Access Line • Peach County Fire Department • Community Health Care Systems, Inc. • Peach County Board of Education • United Way of Central Georgia • Mental Health America • North Central Health District • Georgia Department of Public Health • National Council for Mental Wellbeing • Georgia Department of Behavioral Health

Action Plan

Strategy 1: Mental Health Screenings

We will provide mental health screenings at community, school-based and Atrium-led health fairs. Educational handouts will be distributed to all participants. Referrals will be made for individuals who screen positive.

Strategy 2: Skill-Based Training for Teammates

Teammates will take mental health first aid training and renewal on a three-year cycle. This training will increase identification of mental health signs and symptoms for appropriate intervention.

Strategy 3: Build and Enhance Community Partnerships

Collaborate with community and faith-based organizations to promote normalization of mental health disorders and treatment. Provide organizations with education and training opportunities to become proficient trainers in mental health identification and intervention.

Strategy 4: Utilize Community Health Workers

Atrium Health Navicent will employ community health workers to provide outreach, advocacy, education, and individualized support such as relationship building, motivational interviewing and resource identification to address mental health. Community Health Workers will be the connectors for all strategies in this priority area.

Measuring Our Impact

- Number of community members screened for mental health disorders
- Number of teammates that have completed Mental Health First Aid Training
- Number of Community-Based Organizations (CBO) and Faith-Based Organizations (FBO) members trained in Mental Health First Aid
- Number of CBO and FBO members who have become trainers

Implementation Strategy Adoption

On July 17, 2024, the Board of Directors of AHN Peach, approved this market-wide Community Health Implementation Plan Implementation (CHIP) Strategy to undertake the outlined measures to better address and improve the identified health needs of the community.

This CHIP is posted on the AHN Peach website, [Atrium Health Navicent Peach](#).