**McIntosh County Community Health Needs Assessment Executive Summary**

As part of its responsibility to identify and plan for the health needs of the communities it serves, Coastal Health District authorized a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) for McIntosh County in August 2013. A copy of the complete report is available at <http://www.gachd.org/counties/mcintosh-1/mcintosh_county_community_heal.php> and at local libraries.

The assessment was built on four pillars: public data, survey data from 251 McIntosh citizens, input from a focus group held in Darien, and data analysis. Information from this CHNA will be used, with the help of Family Connection McIntosh and other community partners, to develop a Community Health Improvement Plan.

*Demographics:*  About 48% of residents make less than $35,000 per year, while 21% make more than $75,000. In 2011, 17% of the population received food stamps, and 22% of all citizens and 35% of children were in poverty. Unemployment was 11.7% in late 2013. In 2011 over 17% of McIntosh residents were 65 or older, almost 5% more than in 2003. Approximately 464 residents, over 3% of the population, receive SSI or SSI plus disability. Currently, only 47% of survey respondents are married, which may be a factor in the low mean household income.

*Education and Health:* McIntosh County’s graduation rate fell from a high of 92% in 2010 to 82% in 2012. In 2011, just over 60% of McIntosh residents aged 25 and older had a high school diploma or less. McIntosh County residents with higher educational levels report better health status, while the least healthy are those without a high school diploma.

*Mortality:* Between 1999 and 2010, the leading cause of death from disease was cancers, followed by heart disease, stroke, and chronic respiratory disease. Lung cancer was the primary cancer followed by colon cancer. The greatest cause of death from injury for the same time period was motor vehicle accidents, followed by firearms and drowning. Years of potential life lost, a measure of preventable deaths, was 7872 in 2013.

*Morbidity:* Hospital discharge rates per 100,000 for major disease processes provide information about disproportionate occurrence of disease. Note the following: lung cancer, whites – 101.8; colon cancer, whites – 40.83; high blood pressure, whites – 47.44, blacks – 194.5; kidney disease, whites – 56.6, blacks 116.7; obstructive heart disease, including heart attack, whites – 373.3, blacks – 252.8; diabetes, white males – 263, black females – 134.1 (no other data); bone and muscle diseases , whites – 397.9, blacks – 277.75. White males and females had a much higher rate of pneumonia discharges, 569.6 and 430.3 respectively, than blacks. In 2010, 67 cases of sexually transmitted diseases were reported. Of all survey respondents, 25% consider themselves to be in poor or fair health.

*Health Utilization and Resource Use:* According to County Health Rankings, 23% of McIntosh residents are uninsured. Survey participants identified the cost of services as a major barrier to health care. McIntosh is considered undeserved in both medical and dental services. Of survey respondents, 15% had not seen a doctor in the last two years and 41% had not seen a dentist in the past two years.

*Risk Factors:* The average number of fatalities in motor vehicle accidents was 4.4 between 2007 and 2011. Of survey respondents, 21% of men and 7% of women say that they binge drink several times a month or more often. According to the Georgia Drug and Narcotics Agency, 1.01 prescriptions per capita for controlled substances were written in the first 8 months of 2013. Over 18% of births in 2010 were to mothers who smoke or use tobacco. Of survey respondents, 24% say that they smoke or use tobacco, well above the national average of 13% in 2013. None of the respondents who have excellent health report smoking. In 2012, there were 24 substantiated reports of child abuse, 7.4 per 1000.

*Environmental Factors:* Of 47 water systems in McIntosh County, only the City of Darien adds fluoride. In McIntosh, 98 homes lack complete plumbing.

More data and detailed analysis are provided in the full report.