

COMMUNITY HEALTH 2024 REPORT

Bozeman Health

TO OUR COMMUNITY



At Bozeman Health, improving community health and quality of life through exceptional

care isn't just our mission – it's our passion. Every day we are honored to provide compassionate care to all, ensuring that everyone feels supported, valued, and empowered in their health journey. In 2024, we were able to invest heavily in the services we offer to better meet the needs of the community. This includes opening an Ophthalmology clinic, a walk-in mental health clinic and a new care site on the northwest side of town, our Wellness Way Clinic. We're also proud to work hand in hand with local organizations, businesses, and community leaders to expand access to vital resources and innovative health programs. Community partnerships is at the heart of so much of what we do, because we know that we are stronger when we work together. Together, we're creating lasting change, making sure that everyone has access to the care and resources they deserve. Thank you for allowing us to be part of your lives and for trusting us with your health and wellbeing.

With gratitude,
Dr. Kathryn Bertany
CEO, Bozeman Health

DEFINITION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH

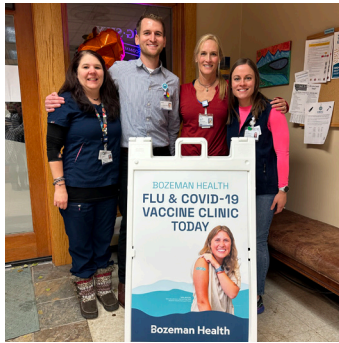
Through engaging in meaningful partnerships, cultivating community relationships, and strengthening community capacity, Bozeman Health's Community Health Program is not only evaluating but actively addressing local health disparities. In 2024 alone, we have created programs to address needs, partnered with key community organizations, and provided financial support to our community partners. Our Community Health department is part of our overall Community Benefit program, which means providing medically necessary healthcare services for all patients, regardless of their financial ability to pay. As a nonprofit, tax-exempt hospital, it is our obligation to provide care for all who come to us. We strive to provide the best care possible, every time.

As part of our commitment to meaningfully contribute to the health and wellbeing of our community, Bozeman Health conducts a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) every three years for both Deaconess Regional Medical Center and Big Sky Medical Center to identify major health problems, gaps in services, and factors that may contribute to health disparities in our communities. With this information, we can craft and implement an informed, collaborative, and meaningful Community Health Action Plan (or CHAP). Through the CHNA and CHAP, it is Bozeman Health's goal to play an active role in community health initiatives, and to support the work of our partners. The most recent CHNA was conducted in 2023, and informs the CHAP for 2024-2026.

With the results of the 2023 CHNA, the 2024-2026 CHAP Goals are:

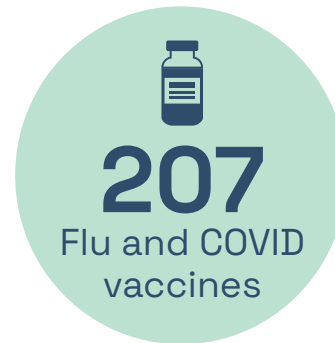
- 1 Increase access to behavioral health services across the care continuum
- 2 Increase access to care for patients affected by health equity challenges
- 3 Reduce the impact of chronic disease and cancer by promoting healthy lifestyles and access to low cost or free prevention activities
- 4 Bolster existing work on local affordable housing options while investigating new pathways forward to promote "Housing is Healthcare"

COMMUNITY HEALTH INITIATIVES



HEALTHCARE CONNECTIONS MOBILE VACCINE CLINICS

The HealthCare Connections (HCC) bus was back on the road in the fall of 2024 to provide no-cost flu and COVID vaccines to community members who might face barriers to access. The HCC bus hosted clinics at the Warming Center, Gallatin Valley Food Bank, Fork and Spoon, West Yellowstone, Big Sky Food Bank, and Bozeman and Belgrade Head Starts.



MEDICAL RESPITE PROGRAM

The Medical Respite Program is a partnership between Bozeman Health, Human Resource District Council (HRDC), and Community Health Partners (CHP) to provide a safe discharge plan from the hospital for people who are experiencing housing instability or homelessness. The Medical Respite Program started during the COVID pandemic as an intervention to limit the spread of contagious diseases among community members in congregate living settings, such as the Warming Center. The program also allows for safe discharge from the hospital for individuals who may not have access to running water, but have medical needs such as wound care, that require



regular washing. Patients are able to stay in the Medical Respite program for up to two weeks or until their acute diagnosis is resolved. The 2023-2024 medical respite program ran from November 1, 2023 through April 31, 2024.

COMMUNITY HEALTH INITIATIVES

COMMUNITY-BASED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Bozeman Health leaders spent more than 1,500 hours in 2024 on community-based behavioral health initiatives, including Gallatin Behavioral Health Coalition and Gallatin County Local Advisory Council (LAC) meetings, activities, and initiatives as well as collaborative initiatives throughout Gallatin, Park, and surrounding counties.



PRODUCE PRESCRIPTION PROGRAM

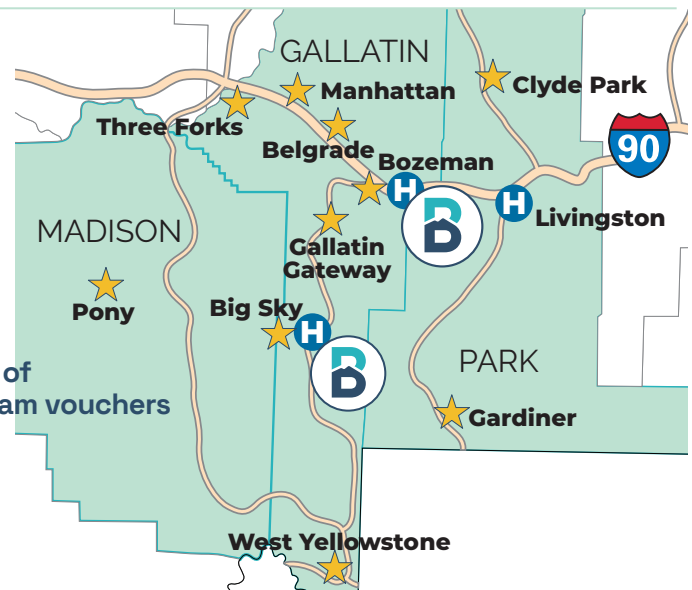
To help address chronic disease prevention, Bozeman Health piloted a Produce Prescription Program (PPP) in 2023-2024. Bozeman Health providers identified families with at least one child under 18, who also had a household member with a diagnosis that could be improved with nutrition, and who indicated that the cost of fresh produce was a barrier to the family. Enrolled families received weekly produce boxes delivered to their doors. Local food boxes were procured and distributed through Root Cellar Foods located in Belgrade, MT.



MAMMOGRAM PROJECT

In partnership with Advanced Medical Imaging, Bozeman Health is able to provide no-cost mammogram vouchers for eligible women. These vouchers provide screening and diagnostic services for uninsured or underinsured community members with a goal of increasing early detection of breast cancer. These vouchers strive to ensure that finances are never a barrier to annual mammograms.

★ Locations of mammogram vouchers



POST-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS VOUCHERS

In 2024, Bozeman Health launched a new partnership with Bridgercare to increase timely access to Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP). When taken within 72 hours, PEP helps reduce the contraction of HIV by more than 80 percent.

COMMUNITY HEALTH INITIATIVES



COMMUNITY COOKING CLASSES WITH DR. JOE

Bozeman Health's Lifestyle Medicine provider, Dr. Joe Sofianek, partnered with local organizations across the Bozeman community to provide no-cost cooking classes. These classes aim to increase awareness about the role food has in health, as well as give participants ideas and recipes for cooking healthy meals. In 2024, Dr. Sofianek hosted six cooking demonstrations at the Bozeman Library test kitchen and the HRDC food bank, as well as two presentations to Cancer Support Community on how lifestyle can impact cancer risk.



INJURY PREVENTION PROGRAMS

Our Trauma Services Injury Prevention team's mission is to improve community health and quality of life through programs to reduce traumatic injury. The team meets this mission, in part, through community education and awareness initiatives. Some of the 2024 Injury Prevention highlights include:



115 Bike, ski, and snowboard helmets distributed for no cost



118 Fall prevention education participants at 8 classes



96 Gunlocks distributed



174 Participants at 5 Impact Teen Drivers classes

335
STOP THE BLEED®
participants at
20 classes



The only thing more tragic than a death...
is a death that could have been prevented.



NEW GRANT PROCESS

Bozeman Health has a long history of providing Community Benefit Grants to organizations working to support its mission to improve community health and quality of life. In 2024, Bozeman Health redesigned its grant program to more tightly align community funding and partnerships with organizations whose work impacts priority areas outlined in the CHAP.

The Community Benefit Grants program now offers two types of grants:

Partners in Health grants are worth \$20,000 and are awarded annually.

Community Collaboration grants are worth \$5,000 and are awarded quarterly.

Recipients for Community Benefit Grants are selected by a committee based on evaluation and scoring of applications relative to established criteria. Recipients provide reports to Bozeman Health on the impact of their work supported by the grants.

We celebrate the 2024 recipients:

Partners In Health

- **Thrive – Spanish Speaking Parent Liaison Program:** connecting parents to community resources and helping Spanish

Thrive



speaking families navigate new communities. Thrive's Parent Liaison Program helps schools and families work together toward the common goal of student success. Parent Liaisons (PLs) work directly in schools to support parent-teacher collaboration, connect parents to community resources, teach parenting classes, and improve parent/child engagement. PLs also help parents meet basic needs and ensure a safe, supportive home environment for children.

- **Bridgercare – Behavioral Health Coordination Program:** expanding access to Bridgercare's collaborative care mental health services. The Collaborative Care model provides automatic mental health screenings and allows patients to work with a Care Manager to receive comprehensive mental healthcare. This model provides affordable counseling and mental health support for low-income patients and leads to earlier detection, increased diagnosis, and increased likelihood of successful treatment.

Bridgercare



- **Wellness in Action – Affordable Counseling Program (ACP)** supporting mental and behavioral health needs across the health care continuum for those who live and work in Big Sky through reduced cost or no cost services. The ACP provides a continuum of care which includes services by licensed counselors, counselors in-training (interns), a community health worker, group therapy offerings, and

NEW GRANT PROCESS

Wellness in Action



education/training opportunities, available at varying discounted costs.

- **CHP/One Health – Pathways to Wellness Program:** expanding Behavioral Health coordination for patients. The Behavioral Health Care Coordination program directly addresses the root causes of poor health by offering non-clinical behavioral health support within CHP's primary care model, ensuring that individuals with complex mental health and social needs can access and follow through with their treatment plans.



In 2024, Bozeman Health Invested more than **\$400K in community health initiatives** through our grants, programming, and partner support.

Community Collaboration

- **Gallatin Valley YMCA – ReCharge program:** Supporting the health and wellness of individuals who are facing or previously battled cancer.
- **Befrienders – Strengthening Connections program:** Empowering Seniors through Community Engagement and Support.
- **Intermountain Deaconess Children's Services –** Expanding school-based mental health services in Gallatin County.
- **World Language Initiative – Spanish for Healthcare program:** creating specialized Spanish-language training for healthcare professionals.
- **Greater Gallatin United Way – KidsLink** afterschool program supporting scholarships to decrease financial barrier for care.
- **Suffer Out Loud –** Mental health scholarships to residents of Gallatin County.
- **Montana Mindfulness Project –** Improving community well-being and resilience through mindfulness education in Gallatin Valley.



We also know that the biggest needs in our community are not felt or experienced equitably. Black, Indigenous, and other people of color (BIPOC), older adults, individuals who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community, people with disabilities, people experiencing homelessness, and individuals with lower incomes all experience health disparities. As we work to implement the CHAP strategies, our grounding intention is to advance health equity, and ensure that all people have access to resources and opportunities that empower them to lead healthy lives.

Bozeman Health

in the Community

