



Spartanburg County **Community Health Improvement Plan**

2026 - 2028







table of contents

- 06** About Spartanburg County
- 07** About Live Healthy Spartanburg
- 08** Coalition History
- 10** A Letter from the Team
- 11** Data-Driven Decisions
- 12** Results-Based Accountability
- 14** Our Priority Areas
- 16** Access to Care
- 20** Healthy Eating, Active Living
- 26** Resilient Children & Families
- 30** Behavioral Health
- 34** How to Get Involved
- 35** Thank You to Our Partners

about Spartanburg County

Spartanburg County, located in the Upstate region of South Carolina, is recognized for its strong international business presence, diversified manufacturing base, and rich cultural history. The county also offers abundant outdoor recreation opportunities, making it an attractive place to live, work, and play.

Although the majority of residents live in urban and suburban areas, Spartanburg County retains a balance of both developed and rural landscapes. Long-range planning indicates that land use and population density will continue to shift through 2040, reflecting ongoing growth and development.

In terms of health, Spartanburg County performs on par with the state and the nation. According to the 2024 County Health Rankings, the county's overall health outcomes are similar to the average county in South Carolina and to counties across the United States. Despite strengths of the county, notable gaps in health outcomes will require focused effort from partners to ensure measurable improvements in priority areas are made.



4.2%

Unemployment Rate
in 2024 compared to
SC's 4%.



345,831

residents living in
Spartanburg
County in 2023.



17 year

difference in life
expectancy within a
two mile radius.

about Live Healthy Spartanburg

WHO?

Live Healthy Spartanburg is a countywide health coalition made up of multi-sector partners—including healthcare providers, public health agencies, nonprofits, schools, faith-based organizations, businesses, and grassroots community members—working with the mission to achieve health equity and improve health outcomes for all Spartanburg County residents.



WHAT?

We serve as a unifying force for collective action, aligning community partners to identify health needs, reduce disparities, and implement strategies and evidence-based interventions that promote equity and improve quality of life. Our work is guided by community voice, data-driven insights, and a commitment to long-term impact.

WHY?

Because where people live, work, and play directly impacts their health. We believe that everyone deserves the opportunity to live a healthy life, and that achieving this requires intentional collaboration, community engagement, and equity at the core of every effort.



HOW?

By aligning goals, combining resources, and leveraging local leadership, Live Healthy Spartanburg serves as a community health coalition that convenes partners together to drive sustainable change and address the root causes of health and wellness challenges in our community.

coalition history

ORIGINS & EARLY COLLABORATIVES

Road to Better Health (RTBH) was established in 2008 by a group of community leaders and organizations, co-championed by Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System. The initiative brought together over 40 multi-sector partners to identify health priorities, analyze local data, and launch targeted strategies to improve community health. It focused on areas such as access to care, adult oral health, behavioral health, birth outcomes, health equity, obesity prevention, and tobacco cessation.

In 2015, Spartanburg was selected as one of five communities nationwide to participate in the Way to Wellville challenge—an initiative aimed at accelerating community health through innovative, equitable solutions. In the same year, Spartanburg County was also awarded the Robert Wood Johnson Culture of Health Award.

Both RTBH and Way to Wellville collaborated on key community health assessments, including the 2019 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). This process, grounded in surveys, focus groups, and interviews, revealed that having two similarly scoped initiatives led to confusion within the community regarding their roles and identities.

During its tenure, RTBH garnered significant achievements: notably, a 66% decline in the teen birth rate since 2008, improved dental access through the creation of a dental residency program, trauma-informed training for educators, and engagement with the Racial Equity Institute to strengthen equity-focused efforts.

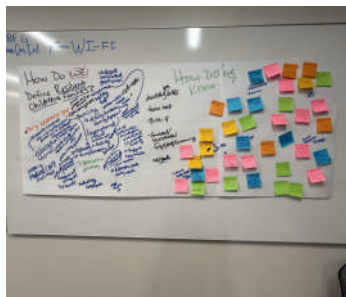
coalition history

COALITION UNIFICATION & LAUNCH OF LIVE HEALTHY SPARTANBURG

In 2020, after a consultant-led review, the recommendation emerged to unify the two initiatives under a single, streamlined coalition to enhance clarity, coordination, and impact.

Consequently, in 2021, Live Healthy Spartanburg (LHS) was launched as the consolidated successor to both RTBH and Way to Wellville. The new coalition combined their strengths under a unified mission to achieve health equity and improve outcomes for all residents of Spartanburg County

The coalition now operates with dedicated staff and funding, housed within Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System's Community Health Department, and supported by foundational partners including the City of Spartanburg, Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM), the Mary Black Foundation, OneSpartanburg Inc., Play Advocate Live Well (PAL), ReGenesis Health Care, Spartanburg County, Spartanburg Academic Movement (SAM), Spartanburg County Foundation, Spartanburg Regional Foundation, Strategic Spartanburg, South Carolina Department of Public Health, United Way of the Piedmont, and University of South Carolina Upstate.



a letter from the team

Greetings Spartanburg Community,

On behalf of Live Healthy Spartanburg, I am proud to share our 2026 - 2028 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), which reflects the voices, data, and commitments of partners across Spartanburg County. This plan is more than a document—it is a roadmap for collective action that will shape healthier futures for our families and neighbors.

This report provides a high-level overview of our community's most pressing priorities. Committees for each identified priority area met from July 2025 to November 2025 to select indicators, strategies, and performance measures that will allow us to measure progress and impact over time.

All relevant data and details associated with the priority areas outlined in this report will be made available online. Updates regarding accessibility can be found at our website, linked here or the QR code located below.

With your help, we look forward to building a healthier Spartanburg County.

Sincerely,



JaLisa Jordan, DrPH, MPH
Coalition Manager
Live Healthy Spartanburg Coalition



data-driven decisions for a healthier community

BACKGROUND

The 2024 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) and the county-wide *Data Walk* hosted in partnership with the SC Department of Public Health (SC DPH) provided LHS with a comprehensive picture of the factors shaping health and well-being. These efforts **engaged residents, partners, and subject matter experts to examine data on health outcomes, social determinants, and equity gaps.** Together, they highlighted both areas of progress and persistent challenges facing the community. A copy of the 2024 CHNA can be found on Live Healthy Spartanburg's [website](#).

Data collection is the first step—lasting improvement requires shared agreement on which health priorities need immediate focus. The CHIP is designed to do just that.

By moving from data to action, Spartanburg County ensures that the community is not just identifying health issues, but also developing targeted strategies and shared accountability to address them.

OUR PROCESS

Between July and November 2025, Live Healthy Spartanburg engaged in review of the 2024 CHNA and identified the following priority areas:

- Access to Care
- Behavioral Health*
- Chronic Conditions/ Healthy Eating, Active Living (HEAL)
- Resilient Children and Families

Guided by the Results-Based Accountability framework, each committee systematically identified the desired results for each identified priority area, selected indicators to monitor progress, established strategies, and performance measures within their designated priority area.

*To ensure alignment with existing community efforts, LHS has adopted Spartanburg County's Collective Mental & Behavioral Health Action Plan.

results-based accountability

In order to increase accountability to action and maintain alignment with frameworks utilized by state-level entities, the LHS team utilized **Result-Based Accountability** to drive the 2026 - 2028 CHIP development process.



What is Results-Based Accountability?

Results-Based Accountability (RBA) is a disciplined, data-driven framework that helps communities move from talk to action. It begins with the end in mind—defining the results we want for a community and then works backward to identify the indicators that show whether we are making progress.



How will we monitor progress?

In Spartanburg, RBA is being used as the guiding framework for the new Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). Each CHIP priority is linked to a results statement, indicators, and strategies. Partners use RBA to track data, share the story behind the numbers, and coordinate actions that can “turn the curve” on data trends identified.



What does this mean for our work?

The use of RBA and online ScoreCard ensures that our work moves beyond this single, point-in-time report. The CHIP is a living plan that will continuously be updated as LHS partners bring the identified strategies to life, review emerging data, and adjust activities to ensure real, measurable impact.

a common language

To ensure clarity and consistency throughout this report, the following glossary provides definitions of **common terms used in the Results-Based Accountability (RBA) framework**. These terms guide the process of moving from data to action and are essential for understanding how progress will be measured and sustained.



What is a Results Statement?

A broad condition of well-being for a population (e.g., “All children are healthy and ready to learn”).



What is an Indicator?

A measure that helps track progress toward a population-level result (e.g., high school graduation rate, rate of uninsured residents).



What is a Strategy?

A coordinated approach or set of actions designed to improve an indicator and achieve the desired result.



What is a Performance Measure?

A way to track how well a program or initiative is working. It helps determine whether the activities are producing the desired results.

OUR PRIORITIES



An aerial photograph of a city at sunset, with a white rectangular text box in the center. The text box has a green vertical bar on its left side. The text is in a serif font, with 'our' in blue and 'priority areas' in green. The background shows a cityscape with various buildings, including a large multi-story building in the foreground, and a road with a parking lot. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue.

our priority areas

2026 – 2028

priority access to care

OUR BELIEF



Everyone deserves access to quality and affordable health care services. Live Healthy Spartanburg believes increasing access and removing barriers to care are essential to improving health outcomes for Spartanburg County residents.



Results Statement

All Spartanburg County residents have access to affordable health care services.



priority access to care

Overview

The **Access to Care** committee has identified the following headline indicators to monitor as it relates to understanding how well residents are able to access appropriate and affordable health care services from a population level.

- *Health Insurance Status*
- *Avoidable Emergency Department Utilization*
- *Provider Ratios*
- *Early & Adequate Prenatal Care*

A cross-section of relevant stakeholders worked to identify **indicators** that will be monitored over time through state-level and locally available data sources. Following the identification of those indicators, the team discussed **local strategies** led by partners that can create favorable outcomes.

Performance Measures were also identified and will be tracked by the local partners responsible for implementation of its corresponding strategy. The strategies included in this report lift up existing efforts that are already working well and new strategies that will be explored and developed throughout implementation of the 2026 - 2028 CHIP.

All relevant data and details associated with the Access to Care Priority Area will be made available online. Updates regarding accessibility can be found at our website, www.livehealthyspartanburg.org.



indicators access to care

Indicators

► **Health Insurance Status**

Percentage of adults with health insurance coverage, under the age of 65.

Source: U.S Census, American Community Survey (ACS)

► **Avoidable Emergency Department Utilization**

Rate of avoidable emergency department visits per 100,000 population.

Source: CMS, 2022

► **Provider Ratios**

Primary Care, OBGYN, Pediatric, Dental, and Mental Health providers per number of residents

Source: SC Office of Revenue & Fiscal Affairs (SCRFA)
SC Area Health Consortium (SC AHEC)

► **Early & Adequate Prenatal Care***

The timing of the first prenatal visit and the number of follow-up visits throughout pregnancy.

Source: SC Department of Public Health

*Adequate prenatal care is measured using the Kotelchuck Index. Adequate is defined as care started within the first trimester and 80-109% of recommended visits.

our approach access to care

Strategies	Performance Measures
1.1 Strengthen coordination across all safety-net providers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of individuals that have established care with medical home • # of referrals for care & % of patients that follow through
1.2 Increase reach of mobile units throughout Spartanburg County.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of sites/days that partner units are available in the community
1.3 Support existing transportation services for healthcare accessibility.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of transit services available in the community • # of rides provided for healthcare services
1.4 Increase the reach of initiatives supporting access to prenatal care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of individuals participating in a supportive program during pregnancy • % of those individuals receiving early & adequate prenatal care
1.5 Increase the reach of initiatives supporting access to dental care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of individuals receiving services through dental safety-net providers • % decrease in emergency department utilization due to dental needs
1.6 Support efforts to recruit & retain a skilled healthcare workforce.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # residents and fellows coming to SRHS • % of residents and fellows being retained in Spartanburg County after their training

priority healthy eating, active living



OUR BELIEF

The places where people live, work, and play shape their ability to lead healthy lives. This includes supporting healthy behaviors and advocating for policy, systems, and environmental changes that make healthy choices easier.



RESULTS STATEMENTS

- All Spartanburg County residents have ***access to healthy foods.***
- All Spartanburg County residents have ***access to a safe place to exercise.***



priority healthy eating, active living

Overview

The **Healthy Eating, Active Living (HEAL)** committee focuses on upstream approaches to preventing chronic diseases and improving overall community health. Recognizing that **access to nutritious foods** and **opportunities for physical activity** are deeply connected, the group chose to organize its strategies separately under each area while acknowledging their strong interdependence.

Using data and community input, the committee selected a set of **Indicators**—population-level measures that best reflect food accessibility and access to physical activity opportunities. Both sets of strategies are listed below:

Healthy Eating

- *Food Insecurity*
- *Fruit & Vegetable Consumption*
- *Limited Access to Healthy Foods*

Active Living

- *Adult Physical Inactivity*
- *Access to Physical Activity Opportunities*

Members then identified what is already working well locally, such as existing programs and partnerships, and where gaps remain that may require **new or strengthened strategies**. For each selected strategy, **performance measures** were established to help track implementation progress and understand how well interventions are working over time.

All relevant data and details associated with the Healthy Eating, Active Living Priority Area will be made available online. Updates regarding accessibility can be found at our website, www.livehealthyspartanburg.org.

indicators healthy eating

INDICATORS

► **Food Insecurity**

Percentage of residents experiencing food insecurity.

Source: Feeding America, 2023

► **Fruit & Vegetable Consumption**

Percentage of adults eating less than one serving of fruits and vegetables per day.

Source: US Department of Agriculture, 2019

► **Limited Access to Healthy Foods**

Percentage of low-income residents living in low-access census tracts.

Source: SC Department of Public Health, BRFSS, 2013-2021





our approach healthy eating

Strategies	Performance Measures
2.1 Increase the reach of local partners working to increase access to local, healthy foods.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers market utilization • FoodShare utilization • Food hub utilization • # of food pantries implementing changes to promote healthier options
2.2 Increase participation in nutrition support programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of residents participating in SNAP • # of residents participating in WIC • # of residents participating in Senior Nutrition Supports • # of children receiving school and summer meals
2.3 Promote and deliver nutrition education opportunities through evidence-based programming.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of individuals reached through Cooking Up Confidence & other nutrition education programming • % of participants with improved knowledge
2.4 Support the expansion of Culinary Medicine initiatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of individuals participating in Culinary Medicine programming • Improvements in health among participants

priority active living

INDICATORS

► **Adult Physical Inactivity**

Percentage of adults reporting no physical activity outside of work.

Source: SC Department of Public Health, BRFSS, 2023

► **Access to Opportunities for Physical Activity**

Percentage of residents living close to a park or recreation facility.

Source: County Health Rankings & Roadmaps, 2024



our approach active living

Strategies	Performance Measures
3.1 Promote and support the expansion of trails within Spartanburg County.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of miles of trails under development • # of miles of trails built • % of households living near a trail
3.2 Promote the utilization of parks and recreation facilities and programming.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks and community center utilization • Parks and recreation programming participation





priority resilient children & families



OUR BELIEF

Resiliency is possible when there is access to support, resources, and environments that allow children and families to be healthy, safe, and prepared for lifelong success.



RESULTS STATEMENT

All children and families in Spartanburg County can thrive in healthy, safe, and connected communities.



priority resilient children & families

Overview

The **Resilient Children & Families** committee focuses on strengthening the conditions that allow every child and family in Spartanburg County to thrive in healthy, safe, and connected communities. Recognizing that resilience is built through stable relationships, supportive environments, and equitable access to opportunities, the group's efforts center on fostering both individual and community-level protective factors.

Through the use of data and community input, the committee selected key **Headline Indicators**—population-level measures that best reflect progress toward family well-being and child resilience. The following indicators were selected:

- *Kindergarten Readiness*
- *Third Grade Literacy*
- *Abuse & Neglect*
- *Adverse Childhood Experiences*
- *Asset Limited, Income Constrained (ALICE) Families*

Selected **strategies** aim to strengthen family supports, improve access to early childhood and parenting resources, and expand trauma-informed practices within systems that serve children and families. For each strategy, **performance measures** were developed to track implementation and assess how well interventions are working over time.

All relevant data and details associated with the Resilient Children & Families Priority Area will be made available online. Updates regarding accessibility can be found at our website, www.livehealthyspartanburg.org.



indicators resilient children & families

Indicators

► Kindergarten Readiness

Percentage of students demonstrating readiness to learn using the Early Development Instrument

Source: Spartanburg Academic Movement, 2025

► Abuse & Neglect

Number of children referred for investigation of maltreatment for abandonment, including all types of abuse & neglect.

Source: SC Department of Social Services

► Asset Limited, Income Constrained (ALICE)

Percentage of households that earn more than the Federal Poverty Level, but less than the basic cost of living.

Source: United for ALICE

► Third Grade Literacy

Percentage of third graders testing below standards in English/Language Arts.

Source: SC Department of Education, School Report Cards, 2025

► Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES)

Percentage of adults that self-report childhood ACES.

Source: SC Department of Public Health, BRFSS, 2019-2021



our approach resilient children & families

Strategies	Performance Measures
4.1 Strengthen coordination across organizations and programs supporting children and families.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• # of families connecting to Hello Family for support• % of families connecting with an appropriate resource
4.2 Increase the reach of home-visiting programs supporting families with young children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• # of families participating in home-visiting programs• % of participating families with positive outcomes
4.3 Support existing parenting education and support programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• # of people participating in parenting education• % of participating individuals increasing their parenting knowledge or confidence
4.4 Support initiatives promoting quality early learning environments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• # of centers participating in Quality Counts• % of centers improving their Star Rating
4.5 Support efforts working to foster resilience and mitigate the impacts of trauma among children and families.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• # of individuals participating in training with the Center for Resilient Schools and Communities
4.6 Support efforts to create healthy environments for youth beyond school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• # of organizations participating in the OST Collaborative

priority behavioral health

OUR BELIEF



Access to mental health and substance use services is essential for overall well-being. LHS supports Spartanburg County's Collective Mental & Behavioral Health Action Plan to strengthen behavioral health resources and ensure every resident can access the supports they need.



SPARTANBURG COUNTY 2030 GOAL

Support the mental health and well-being of all Spartanburg County residents, particularly our most vulnerable, serving as an exemplar for other communities and resulting in meaningful improvement in key measures of well-being.



priority behavioral health

Overview

Live Healthy Spartanburg is committed to leveraging the existing efforts of community partners. Results from the 2024 CHNA continue to identify Behavioral Health as an ongoing priority for Spartanburg County.

In support of these existing efforts, outcomes and priorities identified with Spartanburg County's Collective Mental & Behavioral Health Action Plan have been adopted by Live Healthy Spartanburg. A high-level overview of the three identified priority areas are included in this report.

- **Priority 1:** Support thriving families and youth by focusing on mental well-being and connections to appropriate supports.
- **Priority 2:** Promote well-being of individuals with serious mental illness, with focus on most vulnerable populations (including unhoused, incarcerated, uninsured, low-income).
- **Priority 3:** Support individuals and families impacted by substance use disorder.

All relevant data and details associated with the Behavioral Health Priority Area will be made available online. Updates regarding accessibility can be found at our website, www.livehealthyspartanburg.org.

priority behavioral health

PRIORITY 1

Support thriving families and youth by focusing on mental well-being and connections to appropriate supports.

Anchor Outcomes:

- **Youth:** Reduce rates of **persistent sadness/hopelessness** and increased protective outcomes by **at least 15%**
- **Parents:** Reduced **parental mental health conditions** by **at least 25%**

PRIORITY 2

Promote well-being of individuals with serious mental illness, with focus on most vulnerable populations (including unhoused, incarcerated, uninsured, low-income).

Anchor Outcomes:

- Reduce **hospital readmissions & behavioral-health related EC visits** by **5% & 10%**, respectively
- Reduce rates of **frequent mental distress** by **5%**
- Reduce **suicide rates** by **10%**

PRIORITY 3

Support individuals and families impacted by substance use disorder.

Anchor Outcomes:

- Reduce **opioid overdoses and deaths** by **50%**, with corresponding increase in patient access, treatment admissions, and 90-day continuations



how to get involved

This report offers a high-level snapshot of the shared priorities that will guide Live Healthy Spartanburg's efforts over the next three years. For greater detail—including access to relevant data, strategy-level updates, performance measures, and current progress—community members and partners are encouraged to visit our website for updates regarding our online ScoreCard.

Looking ahead, committees for each priority area will continue to meet regularly to monitor progress, review performance data, and celebrate milestones. These groups will also remain responsive to emerging community needs, ensuring that strategies stay relevant, equitable, and aligned with the evolving health landscape of Spartanburg County.

Together, we remain committed to building a healthier, more connected community—where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

If you or your organization would like to join our efforts, please email us at lhs@srhs.com or visit www.livehealthyspartanburg.org for more information.





thank you to our partners

Live Healthy Spartanburg extends sincere gratitude to all members of the priority committees, partner organizations, and community contributors who dedicated their time, expertise, and insight to the 2026 - 2028 CHIP process.

Your contributions have been the cornerstone of this effort, and we look forward to continuing this shared journey toward innovation and impact.



our community advisory board

A special thank you is extended to the members of the Live Healthy Spartanburg Community Advisory Board. Our team is grateful for their partnership and commitment to building a healthier, more resilient Spartanburg County—together.

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