

A Qualitative Assessment of Needs for Medicare/Medicaid Seniors

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Introduction

The purpose of this research:

- To explore and identify the social determinants Medicare/Medicaid(M/M) seniors face accessing vital health care and community resources.
- To determine whether community services meet the needs of M/M seniors

Participant Demographics

Race:

- Hispanic (1)
- African American (14)
- White (9)

Insurance Coverage:

- 12 Medicare Only
- 12 Medicaid & Medicare

Age:

- 65-69: (5)
- 70-79: (12)
- 80-89: (6)
- Over 65 but unidentified: (1)

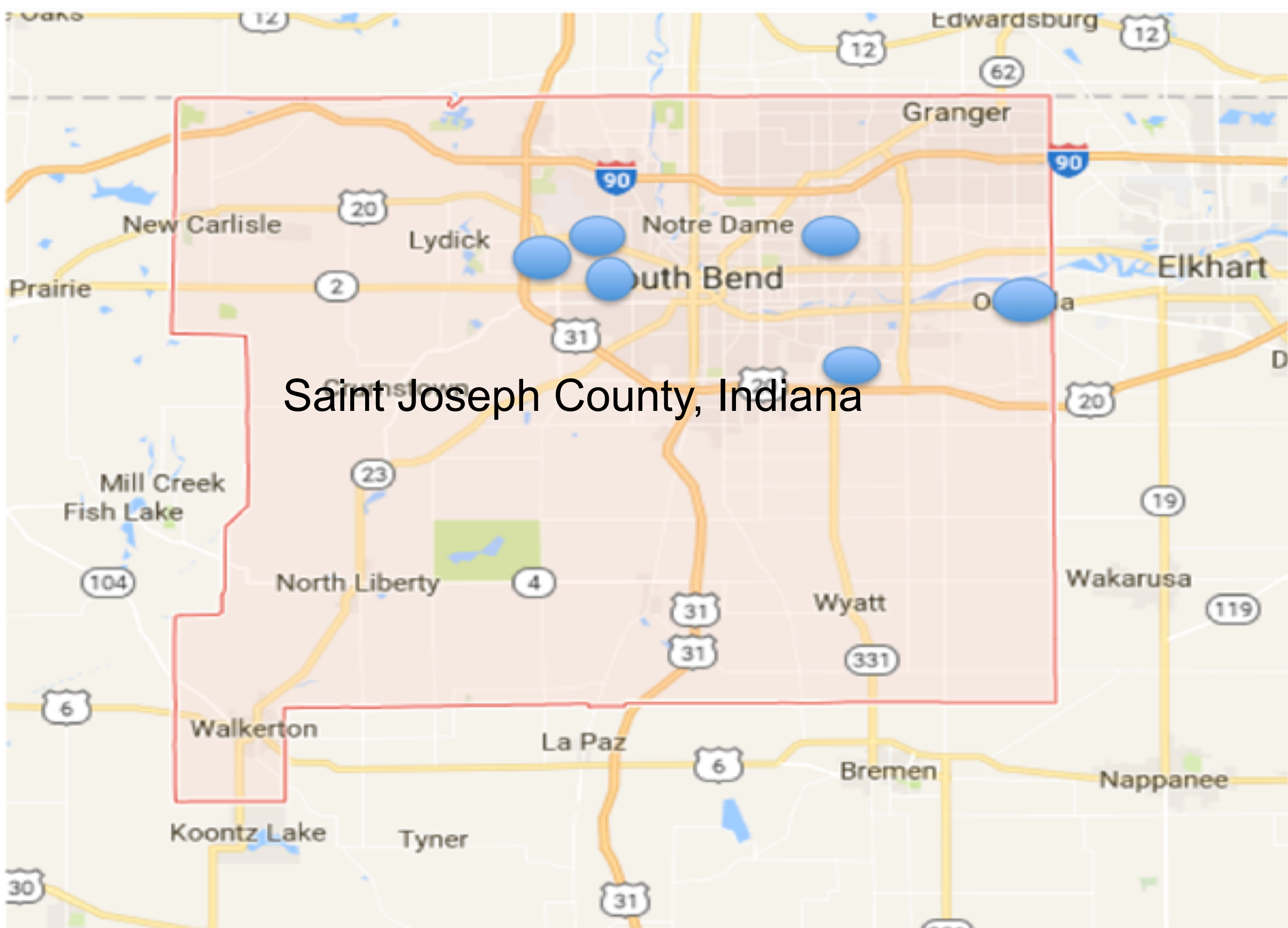
Participant Conditions

	Medicare & Medicaid - 12	Medicare Only - 12
# Chronic Conditions	None: 0 1-2: 4 3-4: 4 5+: 4	None: 1 1-2: 3 3-4: 8 5+: 0
# Emergency Department Visits	None: 9 1: 2 2: 1	None: 9 1: 3 2: 0
Hospital Stays	None: 8 1: 3 2: 1	None: 9 1: 2 2: 1

Why is this important?

- Medicare/Medicaid beneficiaries are one of our nation's most vulnerable populations.
- 40% of Medicare/Medicaid seniors have a cognitive or mental impairment
- Medicare/Medicaid recipients are three times more likely to represent a racial minority
- 24% of Medicaid's spending goes toward Medicare/Medicaid seniors

Community Sites



Interview Questions

1. What are your priorities? Top priority? (food, housing, medications, or utilities)
2. Plans to age healthfully?
3. Personal experience with accessing services?
4. Services you find most accessible in the community?

Findings

- 42% of Medicare participants said all of the options were necessary
- 50% of M/M participants were able to reason out their priority choice
- 79% said they did not have a plan set in place
- 32% said they believed God would provide
- The hospital identified as most dependable resource.
- Community resources were found to be most accessible. (nutrition sites, local recreation centers, and churches)

Results

Dependence on informal supports and locality, dependence on hospitals when in need of a service, and most seniors had no set plan for aging. Needs identified were: housecleaning services, transportation/bus line access, sidewalk feasibility, home repair, and Medicare navigation.