



Community Health Improvement Plan Update 2026

Andrew County, Missouri



Overview

As of summer 2026, collaboration among community partners has continued to strengthen. Schools, community organizations, healthcare providers, and the health department are working together to provide health education, prevention programs, and healthy living opportunities. Existing partnerships and programs have expanded, while new opportunities for collaboration have developed. Although barriers related to staffing, scheduling, funding, and participation remain, the community continues to make progress by building on existing resources and partnerships.

The following information was obtained by eight community partners who responded through a partner survey.

Goals

Healthy Living Priority

Goal: Increase community events promoting healthy living by 20% by 2029 through stronger partnerships.

Mental Health Priority

Goal: By 2026, increase standardized mental health screening protocols by 50% across schools, workplaces, and primary care settings.

Maternal & Child Health Priority

Goal: Establish School Health Advisory Councils (SHACs) in all school districts by 2029 to address student health and wellness through collaboration among educators, parents, healthcare providers, and community members.

Healthy Living Progress Highlights

- City of Savannah:
 - Sidewalks along E Hwy completed
 - Grant received for walking trails at Memorial Park
 - Starting an ordinance on electric scooters and bikes
- Andrew County Ministries (ACM) & Partners: (serve 348 individuals each month)
 - Provided food pantry cooking samples,
 - Fresh produce through the food pantry garden
- ACHD:
 - Daycare/preschool lessons on activity and healthy eating
 - 6 Clock hour/Physical Activity Learning Sessions for daycare providers
 - WIC services and WIC garden
- ACHSC (Jessica Bledsoe):
 - Exercise classes
 - Healthy lifestyle classes
 - Boy/Eagle Scouts activities
- Youth Programs:
 - Jr. Deputy (331 total students across 6 schools), partially funded by DFC
 - Drug Free Super Star (352 students), partially funded by DFC
 - Catch My Breath (564 students), partially funded by DFC
 - 4th Grade Challenge (205 students, all elementary schools)
 - Kids in the Kitchen (300 students)
- Andrew County Senior Center:
 - Exercise classes for seniors to assist with fall prevention, strength, balance, and overall health
- Parents as Teachers:
 - Group connections
 - Family nights
 - Walking club
 - Learning Latte Series
 - Open gym movement sessions
- Community Events:
 - Savannah Block Party (325 attendees), partially funded by DFC
 - Avenue City Block Party (128 attendees), partially funded by DFC
 - Docudrama (202 attendees), partially funded by DFC
 - Seatbelt Check (357 participants)

Barriers

- Scheduling
- Funding
- Insufficient food allocations
- Volunteer support

Recommended Strategies

- Continue existing healthy living programs and activities
- Incorporate more learning activities into scheduled events
- Encourage food drives and donations

Mental Health Progress Highlights

North Andrew R-VI School District:

- Reached 170 students through programming:
 - Erika's Lighthouse
 - Foster Huggins Suicide Prevention Speaker
 - Red Ribbon Week
 - How Full is Your Cup (mental wellness)

ACHSC (Jessica Bledsoe):

- Mental health presentation at the Senior Center
- Presenter at the Suicide Prevention Conference
- Held school counselor meetings
- Held sound bath events
- Mental health and suicide prevention programs at 3 schools
- How Full is Your Cup (236 students)
- Red Ribbon Week activities

ACHD:

- Continued mini mental health screenings for WIC and HIV clients
- Worked with ACHSC to provide mindfulness bags

Schools:

- Established behavioral health partnerships
- Engaged in crisis response planning

Barriers

- Scheduling and staffing needs
- Shortage of mental health providers
- Funding

Recommended Strategies

- Continue existing mental health screening practices and encourage other partners to use standardized screening tools
- Continue existing mental health education and prevention programs through schools and community partners
- Use existing meetings and partnerships to share mental health resources and referral options.

Maternal Child Health Progress Highlights

- Andrew County Health Department (ACHD):
 - Held 10 childcare provider trainings
- Parents as Teachers:
 - Held group connections and family nights
- Savannah R-III Schools/SHAC:
 - Held 4 SHAC meetings
 - Began working with Care Portal
 - Promoted events and supported ACHSC

Barriers

- Scheduling
- Family involvement/commitment to activities
- Ongoing staff challenges and limited time and resources

Recommended Strategies

- Continue to support and strengthen the SHAC with representation from all sectors
- Continue existing health programs in schools through community partnerships
- Use existing community and school events to reach families and share resources.

Conclusion

Andrew County has made steady progress toward its community health priorities since the 2024 baseline. Partnerships have strengthened, existing programs have continued, and new opportunities for collaboration have developed. While challenges with staffing, scheduling, funding, and participation remain, the hope is the community will continue building on these existing partnerships and resources, while increasing reporting from all partners to better document progress and support the health and well-being of Andrew County residents.