

FACT SHEET

2025 Hill Country Community Health Needs Assessment: Gillespie

Produced by



KEY MESSAGE

Although Gillespie appears stable in terms of age, diversity, and population size, the 2025 Community Health Needs Assessment reveals growing social and health challenges beneath the surface.

The county faces high food insecurity, rising communicable diseases, and concerning child wellbeing trends, including elevated child abuse reports and teen pregnancies.

Encouragingly, Hispanic residents fare better than in many neighboring areas, suggesting potential for improvement through targeted community efforts.

DATA HIGHLIGHTS

Population Overview

- Gillespie has the largest population, about seven times that of Mason County, and the highest share of residents who moved within the county during the past year.
- Gillespie is tied with Mason County for the second-highest share of residents aged 65+, though that share has remained stable.

Housing & Economic Stability

- Gillespie has the largest percentage of people who would rather rent than own their home.
- Job patterns are balanced:
 - The largest number of workers both live and work in Gillespie County, with similar numbers commuting in and out for work.
- The county reports one of the highest rates of food insecurity in the region
- High levels of poverty and households earning above the poverty line but below a living wage.

Safety & Wellbeing

- Gillespie shows lower rates of family violence, violent crime, sexual assault, and elder abuse or neglect.
- It ranks second-highest for child abuse or neglect reports, with many cases undetermined

Community Health

- COVID-19
 - The county has the second-lowest COVID-19 hospitalization rate among residents aged 65 and older.
 - Hispanic residents fare better than in other counties on several measures, including COVID-19 and injury hospitalizations.
- Asthma
 - High asthma hospitalization rates among children and adolescents.
- Sexual Health Concerns
 - Gillespie County has one of the highest teen birth rates among girls aged 15–19.
 - Chlamydia cases in 2023 were 2.4× higher than in 2019.
 - Hepatitis A was diagnosed for the first time since 2019.
 - Early latent syphilis reached a five-year low.



CRITICAL ISSUES

HEALTH DRIVERS

- Access to healthy fresh food
- Green & safe spaces
- Clean air & water

HEALTH OUTCOMES




- Mental health
- Chronic pain
- Teen births

Source: 2025 Hill Country CHNA (The Health Collaborative, Create Healthy, CINow)

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REPORT
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