



ADVENTIST HEALTH  
Sierra Vista

Community Health Plan, FY 2024  
Period: 3/29/24 - 12/31/24

2024



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# Purpose & Summary

Adventist Health is a faith-inspired, nonprofit integrated health system serving more than 100 communities on the West Coast and Hawai'i, with over 440 sites of care. Founded on Adventist heritage and values, Adventist Health provides care in hospitals, clinics, home care agencies, hospice agencies and joint-venture retirement centers in both rural and urban communities. Our compassionate and talented team of more than 38,000 includes employees, physicians, allied health professionals and volunteers driven in pursuit of one mission: living God's love by inspiring health, wholeness and hope. Guided by our mission, Adventist Health supports purposeful work to address the social drivers of health, with a special focus on underserved members of the communities we serve. Together, we are transforming the healthcare experience of our communities with a focus on physical, mental, spiritual and social healing to support community well-being.

On March 29, 2024, Adventist Health completed the acquisition of Sierra Vista from Tenet Health. Now doing business as Adventist Health Sierra Vista (AHSI) it is part of the larger Adventist Health non-profit health care system.

Non-profit health systems, community-based organizations, and public health agencies across the country all share a similar calling: to provide public service to help improve the lives of their community. To live out this calling and responsibility, Adventist Health Sierra Vista has begun the Community Health Needs Assessment process in order to determine the health needs of the community. Non-profit hospitals are required to conduct a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) every three years by engaging our community through focus groups, key informant interviews and surveys and secondary data analysis.

The Adventist Health Sierra Vista community health needs assessment report is scheduled for completion in September 2025 and publication in December 2025. In the interim, AHSI will leverage several resources to identify significant priority health needs within their service area. This effort is crucial for the annual reporting of community benefits ensuring compliance with state and federal regulations.

In this Community Health Plan, FY 2024 you will find strategies, tactics, and partnerships aimed at addressing the health needs as previously identified by regional health organizations. This plan also incorporates insights from the current San Luis Obispo County Community Health Assessment, local hospital CHNAs and a detailed quantitative analysis of over 150 data indicators specific to the primary and secondary service areas of Adventist Health Sierra Vista. The three significant health needs discussed in this annual update were determined upon review of all available current local health resources. See page 12 for further details.

This report includes additional narrative celebrating our Mission of Living's God love by inspiring health, wholeness and hope.

- Access to Care
- Educational Attainment & Financial Stability
- Health Promotion & Prevention

## Who Sierra Vista CHNA Cares For

### Defining Our Service Area

The report area is located in the state of California and includes a total population of 178,157 (based on the 2020 Decennial Census). The largest city in the report area is San Luis Obispo city, with a population of 47,063. The report area is comprised of the following ZIP codes: 93401, 93402, 93405, 93407, 93410, 93420, 93424, 93428, 93430, 93433, 93442, 93444, 93445, 93449.

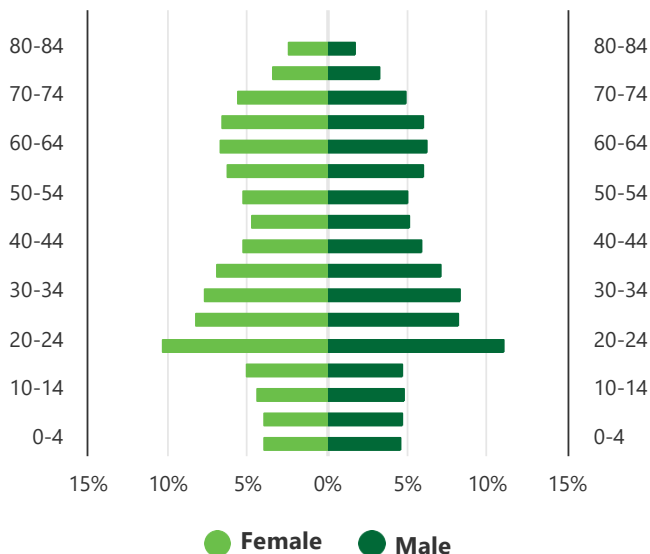


**Total Population**  
**178,157**

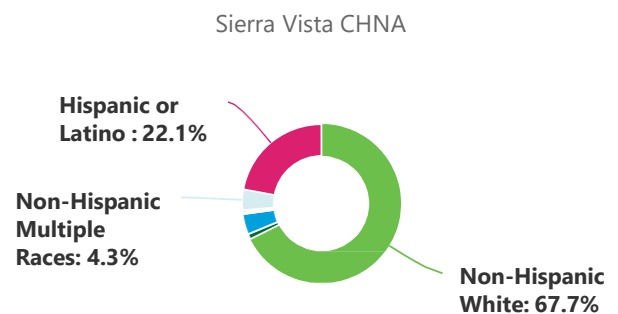
The largest city in the service area is  
**San Luis Obispo city**  
with a population of  
**47,063**

### Demographic Profile

Population by Age Group



Total Population by Combined Race and Ethnicity



Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#), 2018-22.

Note: NAAN = Native American or Alaska Native, NPI = Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander.

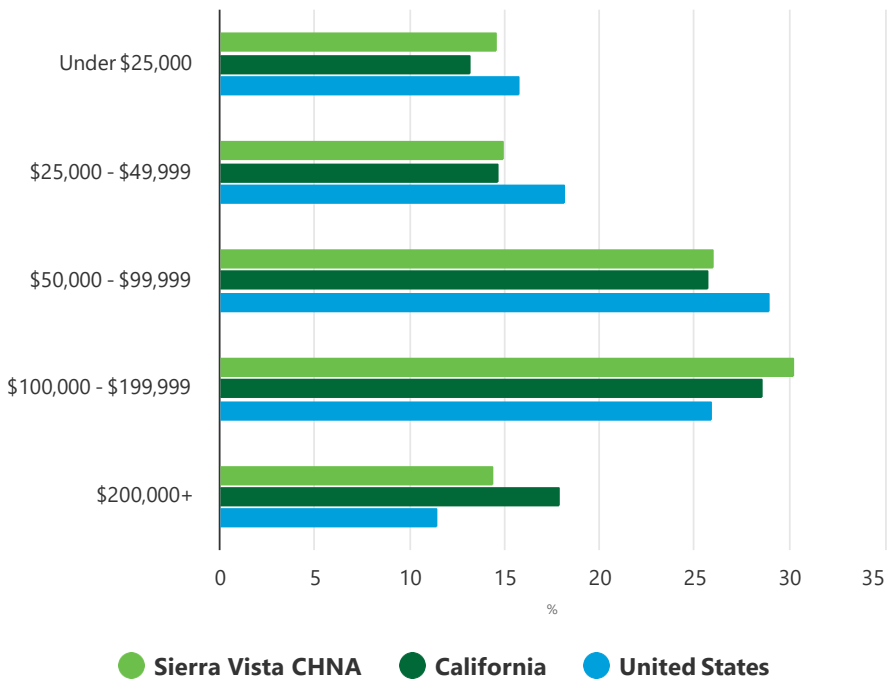
Students Experiencing Homelessness, Percent  
**11.82%**  
California: 3.89%

Associate's Degree or Higher  
**52.34%**  
California: 43.82%

Labor Force Participation Rate  
**57.20%**  
California: 63.82%

Households by Household Income Levels, Percent

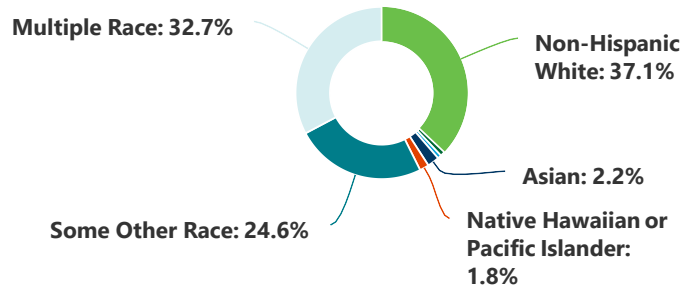
**58.69%**  
California: 55.63%  
of the population **owns** their home  
**41.31%**  
California: 44.37%  
of the population **rents** their home



Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#). 2018-22.

Children in Poverty by Race, Total

Sierra Vista CHNA



Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#). 2018-22.

Childhood Poverty Rate  
**10.27%**  
California: 15.61%

# About Us

## Adventist Health Sierra Vista

Formerly known as Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center, it is the largest hospital in San Luis Obispo County. It is a 162-bed facility that has served the community since 1959. Specializing in neurosurgery, orthopedics, perinatology, neonatology, pediatrics, cancer care and various medical, surgical and outpatient services, it houses the largest Level III Neonatal Intensive Care unit in the region, the only dedicated pediatric unit in the county and serves as the designated trauma center. Additionally, Adventist Health Sierra Vista is recognized as a Baby-Friendly USA facility.

## Adventist Health

Adventist Health is a faith-inspired, nonprofit integrated health system serving more than 80 communities on the West Coast and Hawaii. Founded on Adventist heritage and values, Adventist Health provides care in hospitals, clinics, home care agencies, hospice agencies and joint-venture retirement centers in both rural and urban communities. Our compassionate and talented team of 34,000 includes associates, medical staff physicians, allied health professionals and volunteers driven in pursuit of one mission: living God's love by inspiring health, wholeness and hope. Together, we are transforming the American healthcare experience with an innovative, yet timeless, whole-person focus on physical, mental, spiritual and social healing to support community well-being.



## Adventist Health's Approach to Community Impact

Adventist Health prioritizes well-being in the communities we serve across our system. We use an intentional, community centered approach when creating our hospital Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) to understand the health needs of each community. After the completion of the community assessment process, we address health needs such as mental health, access to care, health risk behaviors, and others through the creation and execution of a Community Health Implementation Strategy (CHIS) for each of our hospitals and their communities.

In November 2024, the Community Impact team traveled to the Central Coast as the first step in engaging the community in the CHNA process. They spoke with 53 people through 7 Focus Groups and 5 key informant interviews. Represented and vulnerable populations included: healthcare workforce, human services, law enforcement, low-income, LGBTQ community, medically underserved, substance use disorder, persons with disability, public health, unhoused population, women, men & youth.

Until the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) and Community Health Improvement Strategy (CHIS) processes are complete for our newest hospital, Adventist Health Sierra Vista (AHSI) will report its community impact based on previously identified needs through regional entities with existing community health assessments. Specifically, AHSI is aligning this report with the 2022 CHNA from Marion Regional Medical Center and Arroyo Grande Community Hospital, French Hospital Medical Center and the 2023 San Luis Obispo County Community Health Needs Assessment. In addition, we will incorporate secondary data outcomes specific to the primary and secondary service areas of AHSI. We invite you to learn about the actions, activities and programs that have been implemented in 2024.

# Action Plan for Addressing High Priority Needs

The following pages reflect the goals, strategies, actions, and resources that Adventist Health Sierra Vista provided in 2024

GOAL	To improve access to care through an increase in interventions to provide needed health services.
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Fiscal Year 2024 COMMUNITY IMPACT SUMMARY
<p>In 2024, Adventist Health Sierra Vista, in partnership with UCSF Weill Institute for Neurosciences, hosted the Second Annual Neuroscience Symposium for a day of in-depth discussions on brain tumor treatments and patient care. This year’s event highlighted innovative management techniques for brain tumors, with sessions led by top neurosurgeons and neuro-oncologists who shared their expertise on emerging therapies, surgical advancements, and patient-centered care strategies.</p> <p>A distinguished panel of physicians and surgeons shared their expertise on the latest advancements in surgical techniques, chemotherapy, and radiation treatments, as well as the evolving classification of brain tumors. This event provided physicians, nurses, and allied health professionals in the community valuable insights to enhance patient care.</p> <p>10/15/24 Diabetes Educator led an educational seminar at Trust Automation and provided stress management techniques. Our educator also provided a “lunch and learn” and delivered a presentation on cholesterol, eating habits and digestive health. The presentation provided insight into maintaining a healthy lifestyle and offered practical tips to incorporate into you daily lives for better overall well-being.</p> <p>On May 8, 2024, Twin Cities and Adventist Health Sierra Vista, which is the County’s only designated Trauma Center, took part in a successful drill that simulated a Mass Casualty Incident as part of the county’s emergency preparedness activities. The fictional scenario for the drill was for a response to a commercial passenger jet crash into a Paso Robles vineyard because of technical difficulties. Six physicians joined Adventist Health Central Coast Service Area leadership, clinical staff, facilities/security, and new nurse graduates (who played our patients) in the exercise.</p> <p>“The goal was to be prepared to receive patients of any number in 15 minutes,” said Emma Wilcox, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for Adventist Health Central Coast, who was the lead in coordinating the activities. “The emphasis to quickly set-up enough equipment to receive patients in a controlled manner was successful. It was an excellent exercise thanks to committed staff involvement. There were a lot of great take-aways from the simulation, including that we have a very, very professional team that cares deeply for our communities.”</p>



ADDRESSING HIGH PRIORITY: Educational Attainment & Financial Stability

GOAL	Collaboration with local secondary education establishments to provide space for clinical training, licensing or certification of health professionals.
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Fiscal Year 2024 COMMUNITY IMPACT SUMMARY

This is the third year a collaboration between Cal Poly and Central Coast Service Area has brought together biomedical engineering students, faculty, physicians, and hospital leaders, all focused on advancing healthcare through innovation. The summer program launched in 2022 as a partnership between Cal Poly and Sierra Vista, made possible by a five-year grant from the National Institutes of Health.

This program, which selects 10 students through a competitive process, provides participants with hands-on experience and the opportunity to participate in patient care improvement. Students completed rotations in OB, surgery, Med/Surg and ICU, NICU/pediatrics, ED, radiology and lab, learning directly from our talented team members and clinicians. The program taught students about the daily workings of a hospital and challenged them to recognize gaps in care and develop ways to address those needs through engineering. The goal is to integrate technologies and innovations into practical, everyday healthcare and make a lasting impact on patient care.

Our hospital providers and clinicians, who mentor students over the 10 weeks, make this program possible.

ADVENTIST HEALTH COMMUNITY IMPACT IN THE NEWS:

This holiday season, our hospital community once again demonstrated the incredible generosity and compassion that defines our team. For the first time, we brought our Angel Tree initiative in-house, focusing on supporting fellow employees' families who needed a little extra help this year.

Thanks to your kindness, we were able to sponsor 68 children, providing them with over 200 gifts! Your generosity extended even further, allowing us to sponsor additional children through the Salvation Army and Child Welfare Services in San Luis Obispo County.

This effort reflects not only your dedication to serving patients but also your unwavering commitment to supporting one another and our broader community. The gratitude expressed by parents was heartfelt, and we can only imagine the joy these gifts will bring to children on Christmas morning.

ADDRESSING HIGH PRIORITY: Health Promotion & Prevention

GOAL	To improve, promote and maintain health and well-being while preventing disease.
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Fiscal Year 2024 COMMUNITY IMPACT SUMMARY
<p>Stop the Bleed is a free community health education program that teaches non-medical community members how to identify life threatening bleeding, how to intervene and how to implement bleeding controls such as compression techniques including tourniquet application, direct pressure and packing. 204 people attended in 2024</p> <p>Survivorship Wellness Fair on 6/1/24 hosted by Adventist Health Sierra Vista welcomed community members, loved ones, caregivers and those who have received a diagnosis of cancer. AHSV oncologists and other local organizations that provide services to cancer patients, survivors and their loved ones were available. A special panel on nutrition with a registered dietician provided education on health eating. A Camp Kesem Kids Craft corner was available as well. Over 30 community members were in attendance. Community partners in attendance included: Cancer Resource Center, Hospice of San Luis Obispo County, Central Coast Dragon Board Association, 17 Strong, American Cancer Society, Cancer Connections, Restored by Ink and the Central Coast Lymphedema &amp; Wound Center.</p> <p>Adventist Health Sierra Vista attended Surfing for Hope Cancer Prevention event on 12/11/24 and provided community health education to over 200 community members. Cancer Survivor Nature Walk on 7/24/25 was hosted by AH Sierra Vista for cancer patients, survivors, caregivers and loved ones.</p> <p>Adventist Health Sierra Vista hosted a skin cancer screening event in recognition of Melanoma Monday, a day focusing on skin cancer awareness. Community members were screened privately by a dermatologist. Over 100 people attended the on 5/6/24.</p>

### **Adventist Health Sierra Vista Additional Narrative:**

Adventist Health Sierra Vista had the opportunity to host Leadership SLO's Health and Human Services day in 2024. Leadership SLO is a 10-week program that gives community members an insight into San Luis Obispo's government, law, education, economic development, health, arts and more. This year's participants visited Adventist Health Sierra Vista and were able to hear from numerous speakers, panelists, and representatives at the hospital. This is impactful as the participants are external stakeholders who are able to disseminate the information they received from AHSL to their community constituents.

# Top Three Significant Identified Health Needs

Resources	Educational Attainment & Financial Stability	Access to Care	Mental Health & Substance Use	Health Promotion & Prevention	Healthy Neighborhoods	Food Security
2022 CHNA Marion Regional Medical Center & Arroya Grande Community Hospital	X	X		X		
2024-2029 SLO County Community Health Needs Assessment		X	X		X	
2024 CARES Secondary Data Report	X		X			X

The Adventist Health Sierra Vista (AHS�) community health needs assessment report is scheduled for completion in September 2025 and publication in December 2025. In the interim, AHS� will leverage several resources to identify significant priority health needs within their service area. This effort is crucial for the annual reporting of community benefits ensuring compliance with state and federal regulations.

The three high priority needs were identified after review of the above resources and which identified alignment with Access to Care, Educational Attainment & Financial Stability, and Health Promotion & Prevention. These high priority needs were chosen as they had demonstrated the greatest need based on severity and prevalence, intentional alignment around common goals, feasibility of potential interventions and opportunities to maximize available resources. They are the focus of this 2024 annual report.

The remaining significant health needs are not addressed due to limited resources, expertise and feasibility of viable interventions. While they are not addressed directly, they will likely benefit from the collective efforts defined in this report.



## Community Health Financial Assistance for Medically Necessary Care Commitment

Adventist Health understands that community members may experience barriers in paying for the care they need. That is why we are committed to providing financial assistance to those who may need support in paying their medical expense(s).

Community members can find out if they qualify for financial aid in paying medical bills by completing a financial assistance application. Applications can be filled out at the time care is received or after the bill has been administered. To access the financial assistance policy for more information or contact a financial assistant counselor, please visit us at: [Adventist Health - Help Paying Your Bill](#).



**Adventist Health Sierra Vista**

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#: 106400524

<https://www.adventisthealth.org/central-coast/>



Thank you for reviewing our Community Health Plan, FY 2024.

We are proud to serve our local community and are committed to making it a healthier place for all.  
To provide feedback on this community benefit report please email [community.benefit@ah.org](mailto:community.benefit@ah.org).

You may also request a copy free of charge.