**NR531 Case Study Background Information**

St. Louis Medical Center (SLMC)

St. Louis Medical Center (SLMC) has proudly served Summerville, Ironridge and the surrounding communities of Chamberlain County, South Carolina, for over 50 years. The organization has remained a key component in maintaining the health of the community at large. SLMC has over 500 physicians, approximately 450 nurses, and is one of the largest employers of the Chamberlain County area. SLMC takes pride in its ability to remain a leader in the healthcare industry statewide. The hospital has a continuous commitment to delivering the highest quality care by addressing crucial issues, such as patient safety, technology, and expanding services to meet community needs. SLMC has placed special emphasis on optimizing the quality of life of all those served by expanding beyond the traditional focus on medical needs to the needs of the whole person.

SLMC has seen a sharp increase in the number of hospital admissions of elderly patients with heart failure and cardiovascular disease. Specifically, in the last 3 years, SLMC has had a 10% increase each year in the number of heart failure hospital admissions, of which, most were readmissions in the same year. Even though there is an increasing trend in the number of patients 65 years and older with heart failure on a national level, Summerville, in particular, has had to treat explosive numbers of this vulnerable population.

**Market Analysis**

**Summerville, SC History**

Summerville is a city in South Carolina in the United States. It is bounded by Ironridge, SC, on the West, the Atlantic Ocean on the South and East, and Chamberlain 2 Island on the North. According to city records, the city has a total land area of 2.99 square miles. The city government consists of a Mayor, three township supervisors, and a solicitor. Summerville has its own police department.

By 1790, Summerville had become a thriving village with business houses dispersed among the huts and log cabins. In 1817, a stage coach stop was added to this growing town. Harvey Summer, a successful logger, purchased a large parcel of ground and began to sell off lots. This brought more people to the town that was subsequently named after him. Summerville added a steel mill, and Mr. Summer’s logging company was relocated there. By 1940, Mr. Summer’s descendants opened an auction house after closing the logging company. This was a huge commercial attraction for the area and Summerville continued to grow. Other businesses moved to Summerville. This commercial core was the beginning of the Summerville we know today.

Summerville has been thriving in this challenging economic time and has increased its population by 10% since 2010. This is an upscale community with modern, well-maintained homes. The SLMC is located within the Summerville city limits. There is also a city hall with a WIC office, movie theatre, shopping center, restaurants, grocery store, and several homes that line the Summerville streets. This is a suburban area with modern looking buildings and clean streets. There is a taxi service as well as a bus that transports people around Summerville and into Ironridge.

**Summerville, SC Statistics**

**Population** in August, 2013: 16,599 SC: 4,625,364 (2010, 24th largest state)

Females: 8,598 (51.8%) SC Females: 51.3%

Males: 8,001 (48.2%) SC Males: 48.7%

White: 60% SC White: 66.2% (2008, ranked 26th)

Black: 23% SC Black: 27.9% (2008, ranked 14th)

Hispanic: 9.5% SC Hispanic: 5.1% (2008, ranked 30th)

Asian: 7.5%

**Age**

Median age: 64.3 years SC median age: 37.9 years

Under 18: 18.7% Under 18: 23.7% (2009)

Between 18–64: 62.8% Between 18–64: 62.6% (2009)

65 and older: 18.5% 65 and older: 13.7% (2009)

**Education**

Residents 25–64 years old with high school diploma: 88.6%  
SC residents 25–64 years old with high school diploma: 86.4% (2008)

Residents 25 years and older with associate degree or higher: 34.5%

Associate degrees: 10.3%

Baccalaureate degrees: 18.7%

Master’s degrees: 4%

Post Master’s: 1.5%

SC Residents 25 years and older with associate degree or higher: 30.7%

**Income per capita: $**74,900 SC income per capita: $33,884 (2010—ranked 45th in U.S.)

Median household income: $68,594

SC median household income: $42,580

**Health Statistics**

**Births**

Live births: 124 Teen moms: 14 out of the 124

White: 69 White: 4

Black: 41 Black: 4

Hispanic: 11 Hispanic: 5

Asian: 3 Asian: 1

Abortions: 12

White: 4

Black: 2

Hispanic: 5

Asian: 1

Infant mortality: 7

White: 2

Black: 2

Hispanic: 3

**Deaths:** 79

Death rate:4.8 per 1,000

Causes of Death

White Black Hispanic Asian

Heart disease 12 6 2 1

Malignant neoplasms 10 4 3 1

Accidents 3 3 2 2

Cerebrovascular accident 3 2 1 0

Chronic lower respiratory disease 2 1 1 0

Alzheimer’s disease 2 2 1 0

Diabetes 2 1 1 0

Pneumonia 2 2 2 0

Influenza 1 1 1 0

Kidney disease 0 1 1 0

**Ironridge, SC History**

Ironridge is a city in South Carolina in the United States. It is bounded by Summerville, SC, on the East, the Atlantic Ocean on the South and West, and Chamberlain 1 Island on the North. According to city records, the city has a total land area of 2.95 square miles. The city government consists of a Mayor and City Council. The City Council has five members, including its president, secretary, solicitor, and treasurer. Ironridge has its own police department.

Ironridge was founded in 1887 as a company town by J.J. Newberry Company as the site for its foundry. The foundry employed as many as 6,000 workers in its prime. In 1900, 20,966 people lived in Ironridge. In 1992, the J.J. Newberry Company went out of business and the foundry was closed.

Ironridge has been hit hard by the economic decline of our time and is in a critical stage of urban decay or urban blight. It has lost more than 20% of its population from 2010 and continues to deal with a large number of homeless people, increased illegal drug use, and high crime rate. Ironridge has grungy and dilapidated buildings and homeless people clearly evident on the streets. The mental health clinic and in-patient facility located in Ironridge typically treats 40–60 patients every day. Ironridge is also home to an OB/GYN out-patient clinic. The industrial area near the bridge leading to Summerville has a disaster occurring. There is a taxi service as well as a bus that transports people around Ironridge and also into Summerville.

**Ironridge, SC Statistics**

**Population** in August, 2013: 12,682 SC: 4,625,364 (2010, 24th largest state)

Females: 6,899 (54.4%) SC Females: 51.3%

Males: 5,783 (45.6%) SC Males: 48.7%

Black: 48.7% SC Black: 27.9% (2008, ranked 14th)

Hispanic: 32.3% SC Hispanic: 5.1% (2008, ranked 30th)

White: 10.1% SC White: 66.2% (2008, ranked 26th)

Asian: 8.9%

**Age**

Median age: 42.2 years SC median age: 37.9 years

Under 18: 22.8% Under 18: 23.7% (2009)

Between 18–64: 73.7% Between 18–64: 62.6% (2009)

65 and older: 3.5% 65 and older: 13.7% (2009)

**Education**

Residents 25–64 years old with high school diploma: 44.5%  
SC residents 25–64 years old with high school diploma: 86.4% (2008)

Residents 25 years and older with associate degree or higher: 19.3%

Associate degrees: 14.1%

Baccalaureate degrees: 4.2%

Master’s degrees: 1%

Post Master’s: 0

SC Residents 25 years and older with associate degree or higher: 30.7%

**Income per capita:** $21,679 SC income per capita: $33,884 (2010—ranked 45th in U.S.)

Median household income: $29,835

SC median household income: $42,580

**Health Statistics**

**Births**

Live births: 179 Teen moms: 42 out of the 179

Black: 86 Black: 22

Hispanic: 74 Hispanic: 16

White: 12 White: 3

Asian: 7 Asian: 1

Abortions: 19

Black: 10

Hispanic: 6

White: 2

Asian: 1

Infant mortality: 32

Black: 17

Hispanic: 12

White: 3

**Deaths:** 118

Death rate:9.3 per 1,000

Causes of Death

Black Hispanic White Asian

Homicide 12 8 6 1

Heart disease 10 6 2 1

Malignant neoplasms 10 4 3 1

Accidents 9 8 4 3

Cerebrovascular accident 3 2 1 0

Chronic lower respiratory disease 2 1 1 0

Cancer 2 2 1 0

Diabetes 2 1 1 0

Pneumonia 2 2 2 0

Influenza 1 1 1 0

Kidney disease 0 1 1 0

References

SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC). Public health statistics and information services. Retrieved from https://www.scdhec.gov/co/phsis/biostatistics/index.asp?page=pubreps

South Carolina’s Information Highway (SCIWAY). (2013). South Carolina - Fast facts. Retrieved from http://www.sciway.net/facts/