



Small Town, Big Impact

How Boone County Health Center Modernized Population Health in Rural Nebraska



Overview

For more than 75 years, <u>Boone County Health Center</u> (<u>BCHC</u>) in Albion, Nebraska, has been the cornerstone of healthcare for 12,000 residents across seven rural counties. The non-profit, county-owned hospital operates 22 private suites and serves as the hub in Albion along with 6 satellite clinics in Spalding, Newman Grove, Fullerton, Elgin, St. Edward, and Cedar Rapids.

BCHC has built a reputation for quality and sustainability with over 350 employees, including eight family physicians, six physician assistants, and five nurse practitioners. BCHC is the largest employer in the region and the only comprehensive healthcare provider across 14 rural communities. The health center performs more than 60,000 procedures annually, ranging from surgeries and imaging to wellness screenings, obstetrics, rehabilitation, and mental health.

Powered by i2iTracks®, BCHC evolved from manual reporting to a realtime, data-driven model for better decisions and measurable results.



Boone County Health Center At-a-Glance



Location

Albion, Nebraska



Founded

1950



Service Area

7 counties / 14 rural communities



Population Served

12,000 residents



Facilities

22-bed critical access hospital in Albion 6 satellite clinics



Employees

350+

Largest employer in region



Annual Procedures

60,000+

Challenge

By 2020, BCHC had launched its population health program, but data access and accuracy quickly became barriers to success. Extracting information from their Oracle Health CommunityWorks (Cerner) system was difficult, cumbersome, and time-consuming.

"We needed data we could trust and use in real time," said Beverly Nelson, RN, Clinical Quality and Population Health Manager at BCHC. "Our providers doubted the accuracy of what they were seeing, and that made it hard to act on performance metrics or track patient outcomes confidently."

The clinic relied on manual Excel spreadsheets to track metrics like A1C levels, blood pressure, and preventive screenings for Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) and MSSP (Medicare Shared Savings Program) programs. Staff would enter each patient's data by hand, a process that consumed hours each week and

BCBS Before i2iTracks®

- + Relied on manual spreadsheets to track BCBS and MSSP quality metrics.
- + Providers questioned data accuracy and timeliness.
- + Staff spent hours each week reconciling patient charts.

After i2iTracks® Implementation:

- + Automated pre-visit planning and real-time quality dashboards.
- + Perfect BCBS scorecards and increased ACO shared savings.
- + Data-driven, payer-agnostic population health workflows.
- + Expanded engagement across care teams and leadership.

limited the organization's ability to scale value-based initiatives.

With multiple payers, overlapping quality measures, and growing demands for real-time reporting, BCHC needed a unified, automated system that could provide reliable, actionable data across all populations.

Solution

In 2022, BCHC partnered with i2i Population Health, an Azara Healthcare company, to bring structure and scalability to its population health efforts. Implementing i2iTracks®, BCHC gained a centralized platform to manage quality performance, coordinate care, and translate data into daily action across its primary care clinics.

i2iTracks integrates seamlessly with Oracle Health's CommunityWorks EHR, providing a single view of patient and population health data. The platform supports hundreds of clinical measures and streamlines frontline workflows by surfacing actionable insights, flagging high-risk patients, and helping staff close care gaps efficiently, all within existing clinical routines.

Working closely with the i2i and Oracle Health teams, BCHC designed an implementation that prioritized automation, standardization and visibility. The goal: to replace manual chart reviews and disconnected spreadsheets with a unified, data-driven workflow that informed every patient encounter.

Using i2iTracks, BCHC developed Patient Visit Summaries for Pre-Visit Planning, a pivotal tool that allowed staff to close care gaps using real-time data rather than manual chart reviews. This approach decreased preparation time for visits and ensured patients were up to date on screenings, lab work, and chronic condition follow-up. "It didn't just give us data, it gave us structure," said Nelson.

Initially deployed to support BCBS quality measures and MSSP ACO (Accountable Care Organization) metrics, BCHC has since expanded its use of i2iTracks into a payer-agnostic model, allowing the same workflows and dashboards to support all populations. This shift has streamlined data tracking, risk stratification, and quality reporting across the enterprise, laying the groundwork for consistent, system-wide improvement.

Results

Since adopting the i2iTracks platform, BCHC has redefined what's possible for a small rural hospital, transforming its approach to population health from reactive, spreadsheet-driven tracking to proactive, real-time management. Staff can instantly see where each patient stands on key measures, and leadership can track performance across all payers with a single click.

"Before i2i, we had to hunt for information across multiple systems," said Nelson. "Now, everything we need for a patient visit is at our fingertips. It's transformed how we prepare for appointments and follow through on care."

The result is not only operational efficiency but also measurable clinical and financial impact.

Significant highlights include:

- Perfect BCBS quality scorecards and increased shared savings through ACO contracts, validating the return on investment for BCHC's population health strategy.
- Dramatic efficiency gains, freeing care teams from hours of manual data entry and enabling them to focus on direct patient care.
- Significant quality improvement across major measures from 2022 to 2024 as seen to the right.
- Strengthened provider confidence in data accuracy and timeliness, driving broader engagement in quality improvement initiatives.
- · A culture shift toward proactive care management—turning data into a daily decisionmaking tool rather than an end-of-quarter report.

Beyond performance metrics, BCHC's success with i2i has positioned the clinic as a rural leader in value-based care. Their achievements have been shared across Nebraska as a model for how small, independent clinics can use data to thrive in changing reimbursement environments.

Key Quality Improvements from 2022 to 2024

- **Breast Cancer Screening** +8.7 72.3% to 80.9% completion rate
- **Cervical Cancer Screening** +9.1 60.6% to 69.7% completion rate
- +11.7 Colorectal Cancer Screening 63.7% to 75.4% completion rate
- +14.7 Controlling High Blood Pressure (of hypertensive patients below 140/90) 55.0% to 69.7%
 - **Glycemic Status Assessment** -8.6 (A1c less than 8) Reduced from 21.2% to 12.6%
- **Kidney Health Evaluation for** +19.3 **Patients with Diabetes** 64.0% to 83.3% completion rate





"We've gone from reactive to proactive. Our providers can see exactly where each patient stands, including who needs follow-up, which measures are lagging, and where we're succeeding. It's truly taken the guesswork out of population health."

Beverly Nelson, RN Clinical Quality and Population Health Manager at BCHC

Looking Ahead

BCHC is deepening its partnership with i2i and Oracle Health to advance its population health strategy leveraging i2iPRiZiM® analytics to enhance risk stratification, referral management, and populationlevel cost tracking. This next phase will help leadership align clinical and financial performance, deliver payeragnostic reporting, and proactively identify high-risk patients to better manage utilization and reduce avoidable costs.

The organization also plans to integrate i2iPRiZiM® analytics to strengthen payer-agnostic reporting and align clinical quality with financial performance. By pairing actionable data with local care team leadership, BCHC aims to translate analytics into measurable community impact.

"Our goal is simple," said Jason Olnes PA-C, ACO Provider Champion at BCHC. "Use data to drive smarter care, support our clinicians, and make sure every patient gets the right care at the right time. With i2i, we finally have the infrastructure to make that happen. The next step is using that foundation to push preventive care even further and keep our communities healthy for generations to come."

As BCHC moves forward, its data journey demonstrates how even the most rural hospitals can use technology, teamwork, and trusted data to deliver big-city performance with small-town heart.

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To learn more about how our solutions can empower your organization, contact info@i2ipophealth.com.



In 2025, Azara Healthcare and i2i Population Health merged to further enhance Azara's offerings and serve the needs of critical access and community hospitals, Indian Health Services and health plans. The combination of i2i and Azara's platforms empowers provider and payer organizations to unify disparate data, identify and act on care opportunities, and improve patient outcomes and financial performance in value-based care.