**Community Health Needs Assessment and Community Health Improvement Process**

**What is a community health needs assessment?**  
Everyone wants to be healthy.  Some of us aren't. The community health needs assessment (CHNA) will measure how healthy we are, what health conditions we suffer from, and the root causes of those health problems. It a systematic process involving the community to identify and analyze community health needs and assets. [Click here to view the 2021 H!CC CHNA](file:///\\bedhdfileshare\HealthDepartment\e_div\Planning%20Promotion%20Evaluation%20Unit\DATA%20&%20ASSESSMENT\CAPITAL%20COUNTIES%20HEALTH%20ASSESSMENT\2021\Final%20Document%20Design\Final%20Publication%20All%20Docs\BE01-2020-Report-FINAL\BE01-2020-Report-FINAL%202.10.pdf)  
  
**Where will the information come from?**   
We will use a variety of data sources, including surveys, vital records, program and facility data, as well as interviews and focus groups.   
  
**How will this improve health?**  
Once we know what the priority health needs are (and what the root causes of those problems are) we will develop a plan to fix the problems. Hospitals, health departments, and other community organizations will use the plan to target their efforts based on what the community decides are the most important health problems. This work will be implemented in the community health improvement plan (CHIP). By all of us moving in the same direction, we will maximize our impact on important health problems.

**What is a community health improvement plan?**

A CHIP is a community-specific response to improve the health issues that were prioritized in the CHNA. A CHIP’s purpose is to drive improvements in the top health priority areas in the tri-county area, which will work to improve health outcomes and quality of life for residents. It aims to establish collective approaches that can be integrated into strategic plans and action plans of coalitions or organizations. It can be used to communicate actions that are being taken to address health issues within the community, so that future actions that are developed can be complementary and not duplicative. [Click here to view the 2023 H!CC CHIP](file:///\\bedhdfileshare\HealthDepartment\e_div\Planning%20Promotion%20Evaluation%20Unit\DATA%20&%20ASSESSMENT\CAPITAL%20COUNTIES%20HEALTH%20ASSESSMENT\2024\Tri-County%20CHIP%20Updates%202023\H!CC%20CHIP%20FINAL%20923%20UPDATES.pdf)

**Why are we doing this *now*?**  
Hospitals have a new mandate under the health reform law to conduct a ‘community health needs assessment’ every three years, starting in 2012.  Local health departments have a long tradition of health assessment and improvement activities, and those who are seeking national accreditation must conduct assessments and develop improvement plans, so partnering together just makes sense in these times of scare resources. 

**What geographic area does the project cover?**  
The Capital Counties project includes Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties.  People in the capital area share a central urban area, media market, and health and human services providers.      
  
**How long will the project take?**  
Following national best practices, our project will take about a year from starting the assessment to completion of the improvement plan.  However, effective community health improvement is part of a continuous cycle of measurement, planning, action, and evaluation...constantly refining efforts to respond to community conditions.

**How to become involved:**

We welcome broad community input and participation into the community health improvement planning processes. Visit our website at www.healthycapitalcounties.org/ for continuing updates.

**For Ingham County:**

Please contact Kara Trimbach at [KTrimbach@ingham.org](mailto:KTrimbach@ingham.org) for more information on the process for Ingham County.

**For Eaton County:**

Please contact Sydney Nicholl, MPH at [SNicholl@bedhd.org](mailto:SNicholl@bedhd.org) for more information on the process for Eaton County.

**For Clinton County:**

Please contact Sara Thelen at [SThelen@mmdhd.org](mailto:SThelen@mmdhd.org) for more information on the process for Clinton County.

**What if we serve more than one county? What if we serve all three?**

We recognize that many organizations and groups are concerned with health in more than one county — that’s why we are planning a shared regional strategy portion of the CHIP. You may participate in all of the processes if you wish, or just one. The health departments in each county will compare their plans and assure that those strategies relevant across the counties appear as regional strategies.

**The CHNA/CHIP process is facilitated by:**