



Healthy!CapitalCounties

a community approach to better health

Project Summary and Talking Points

What is a “community health assessment”?



Everyone wants to be healthy. Some of us aren't. This project will **measure how healthy we are**, what health conditions we suffer from, and the **root causes** of those health problems.



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.

Why should community members be involved?



Community involvement is vital for an effective health assessment and improvement project. Community members are needed to **prioritize the health needs**. There will be several opportunities for community members to share their views and experiences and suggest strategies for action.

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. **By all of us moving in the same direction, we will maximize our impact on important health problems.**

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 scarce resources.

What geographic area does this 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.

Funded by a partnership of non-profit hospitals and local public health departments:

◆ Sparrow Health System ◆ Ingham Regional Medical Center ◆ Hayes Green Beach Memorial Hospital ◆ Eaton Rapids Medical Center ◆ Barry-Eaton District Health Department ◆ Ingham County Health Department ◆ Mid-Michigan District Health Department
And a grant from the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) with funding from the R. W. Johnson Foundation.