{overview of CHA}

Overview

Overview

What is the Community Health Assessment?

Community assessment is the foundation for improving and promoting the health of community members. The role of the community assessment is to identify factors that affect the health of a population and determine the availability of resources within the community to adequately address these factors. Through collaborative efforts forged among community leaders, public health agencies, businesses, schools, recreation centers, and hospitals, the community can begin to answer key questions such as: "What are the strengths in our community?", "What health concerns do community members have?", and "What resources are available and what do we need in the community to address these concerns?".

Healthy Carolinians is "a network of public-private partnerships across North Carolina that shares the common goal of helping all North Carolinians to be healthy." In communities where there is an active Healthy Carolinians partnership, the coalition of partners with support from the local health department take the lead role in forming partnership, gathering health related data, determining priority health issues, identifying resources, and planning community health programs. The assessment process starts with the people who live in the community and gives the community primary responsibility for determining the focus of assessment activities at every level, including collection and interpretation of data, evaluation of health resources, identification of health problems, and development of strategies for addressing these problems. This way, community assessment is done by the community rather than for the community.

Local health departments in North Carolina are required to conduct a comprehensive Community Health Assessment once every four years for local health department accreditation through the NC Local Health Department Accreditation Board. During this cycle, we have collaborated with both hospitals: Forsyth Medical Center and Wake Forest Baptist Health to meet the Affordable Care Act/IRS 990 Schedule H Requirements for Not for Profit Hospitals.

This community health assessment is intended to study the current health status of the community, what has changed since the past assessment, and what still needs to change to improve the health of the community. The process involves the collection and analysis of a large range of data, including demographic, socioeconomic and health statistics, environmental data, and public and professional opinion. The document is a summary of all the available evidence, and serves as a resource until the next assessment.

Forsyth County Department of Public Health (FCDPH) along with community partners conducted a comprehensive community- wide assessment between November 2010 and May 2012. In November 2010, a team of FCDPH staff was assembled to develop and lead the community assessment process. In addition, the Forsyth County Healthy Community Coalition (an Healthy Carolinians partnership), helped guide and respond to the work of the Community Assessment Team. *Forsyth County Healthy Community Coalition is a community coalition whose mission is to create, build, and sustain efforts that improve the quality of life of the residents of Forsyth County.*

The Community Health Assessment team was made up of community residents and representatives from several organizations which reflect all facets of the community. The various teams and working groups met frequently to review the various primary and secondary data already collected and collated. The findings from the 2011 Forsyth County Community Health Assessment (CHA) were used to develop seven (7) community action plans addressing the identified priority issues. This document is a summary of all the available evidence and serves as a resource until the next assessment.

Changes in Health Status Since CHA 2007

The Community Health Assessment (CHA) is completed every four years. Community health data is analyzed to identify community health changes and establish priority issues. Since 2007 CHA, some areas have shown improvement, some worsened and some have remained the same.

CHA Comparison Legend	*Symbol*	*Meaning*
	←	Worsening
	↔	Similar
	→	Improvement

	Selected Health Indicators	Forsyth County Community Health Assessment Year			National Healthy People 2020 Benchmark
Maternal and Child Health	***Selected Health Indicators***	***2005***	***2009***	***CHA Comparison***	***Benchmark***
	Infant Mortality (Rate per 1,000 Live Births)	8.9	9.9	←	6
	Teen Pregnancy (Rate per 1,000 Females ages 15-17)	38.1	38.6	↔	36.2
Leading Causes of Death (Age-Adjusted Rate per 100,000 Population)	***Selected Health Indicators***	***2001-5***	***2005-9***	***CHA Comparison***	***Benchmark***
	All Cancers	199.3	183.5	↔	160.6
	Heart Disease	193.0	150.5	→	100.8
	Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	65.0	49.6	→	98.5
	Stroke	47.3	49.5	↔	33.8
	Alzheimer's	36.7	27.9	→	**
Injury (Age-Adjusted Rate per 100,000 Population)	***Selected Health Indicators***	***2001-5***	***2005-9***	***CHA Comparison***	***Benchmark***
	Unintentional	23.3	25.6	↔	36
	Motor Vehicle	12.4	12.0	↔	12.4
	Suicide	10.4	10.8	↔	10.2
	Homicide	7.1	6.6	↔	5.5
Communicable Disease (Rate per 100,000 Population)	***Selected Health Indicators***	***2001-5***	***2005-9***	***CHA Comparison***	***Benchmark***
	Primary/Secondary Syphilis	1.8	10.5	←	Females-1.4; Males-6.8
	Gonorrhea	237.7	230.4	↔	Females-257; Males-198
	Tuberculosis	4.0	2.3	→	1.0
Behavioral/ Environmental Health Risks (% of Adults Over 18 Years of Age)	***Selected Health Indicators***	***2005***	***2009***	***CHA Comparison***	***Benchmark***
	Smoking	18.5	21.2	↔	12
	Obesity	21.5	27.6	←	30.6
	No Physical Activity	17.3	12.8	→	32.6