



Community Health Assessments

Topics

- Community health assessments
- Stakeholder engagement
- Data
- Community health improvement plans

What is a Community Health Assessment (CHA)?

- A process that engages with community members and local public health system partners to systematically collect and analyze qualitative and quantitative health-related data from a variety of sources within a specific community
- In other words, taking steps to understand the health status and health risk in a community using data from multiple sources

Why complete a CHA?

- Understand health problems to inform community decision-making
- Development and implementation of community health improvement plans with stakeholders implementing different portions

Components of a CHA

- Participation of diverse group of community stakeholders
- Development of a shared goal or vision
- Data from a variety of sources including primary and secondary data
- Description of demographics of the population
- Description of health issues and any population groups with specific health issues
- Description of assets or resources to address health issues
- Distribution of results to stakeholders and public

Stakeholder Definition

- Persons, groups, or entities who might be affected by or influence an effort
- Might include those interested for academic, political, or philosophical reasons
- Interests depend on how they affect or are affected by the effort

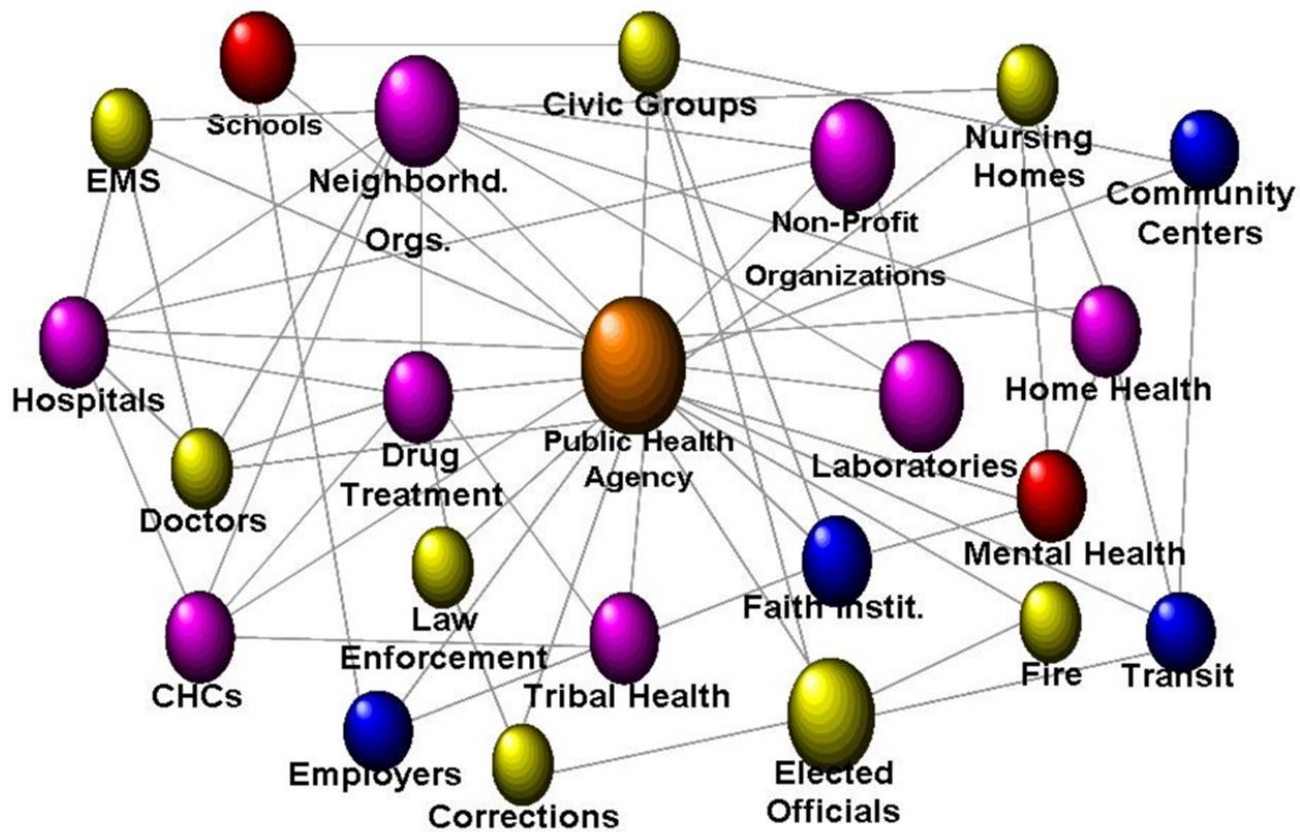
Why is selecting the correct stakeholders important?

- More perspectives from all sectors and elements of the community
- Gains buy-in and support for the effort
- More ideas on the table
- Strengthens position if there is opposition
- Creates bridging social capital for organization
- Increases chances of success for the effort

Questions to ask

- What broad, cross-sectional participation is needed?
 - Ensures membership is representative of perceptions, needs, and interests of the entire jurisdiction?
- What other criteria do they meet?
 - Consider expertise and access to key assets and other resources
- Who plays a role in the local public health system?
 - Individuals who have a hand in providing public health services
 - Need for diversity and inclusiveness
 - Need for long-term availability and interest

Public Health System



How do we address these health issues?

- Develop a community health improvement plan with stakeholders

What is a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)?

- Action-oriented plan outlining priority community health issues (based on the CHA and stakeholder input) and how these issues will be addressed, including strategies and measures, to ultimately improve the health of the community
- In other words, working together as a community to address a health issue or issues

Why complete a CHIP?

- Community participation in improving health
- Valuable information to direct health efforts
- Used to for grant applications
- Provides data for state-level health planning

Components of a CHIP

- Participation of diverse group of community stakeholders
- Results of CHA shared with stakeholders
- Prioritize community health needs with measurable objectives, strategies, and performance measures with measurable time-framed targets
- Identify **policy change** needed to accomplish objectives
- Identify individuals and organizations that accepted responsibility for implementing
- Monitor progress
- Distribution of results to stakeholders and public

Example Prioritization Criteria

- **Impact:** Based on incidence, prevalence, severity of condition, and monetary costs associated, what is the long-term impact?
- **Preventability/Controllability:** Does evidence exist this condition can be prevented or controlled?
- **Feasibility:** Is it feasible for your agency to implement strategies that contribute to improving the health issue?
- **Existing support:** Are there existing efforts to address this issue? Does support exist for this issue in your agency and with your local public health system partners?

Next Steps

- Develop measurable objectives, improvement strategies, and performance measures with measurable and time-framed targets
- Identify any policy changes needed to accomplish health objectives
- Identify individuals and organizations accepting responsibility for implementing strategies
- Measurable health outcomes or indicators to monitor progress

Final Steps

- Identify policy change needed to accomplish objectives
- Identify individuals and organizations that accepted responsibility for implementing
- Monitor progress
- Distribution of results to stakeholders and public

How are CHAs and CHIPs used?

- Used to inform a community of where to place resources and collaborative efforts for improving the health of the community
- Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services and other statewide partner use understand health concerns across the state
- Provide an opportunity to build and/or strengthen relationships with community and state partners