



Taking Community Health Needs Assessments to the Next Level

CASE STUDY | JUNE 2019

HEALTH ENC: EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA

Health ENC, a program of the Foundation for Health Leadership & Innovation (FHLI), coordinates a regional community health needs assessment (CHNA) in 33 counties of eastern North Carolina. In service of this regional assessment, leaders from health departments and hospitals have partnered to standardize the CHNA process and synchronize all participant organizations onto the same assessment cycle.



Combining traditionally siloed efforts into a regional CHNA is expected to improve the quality and utility of population health data, allow for comparisons of information and interventions across geographic boundaries and reduce costs from duplicative assessments. Simultaneously, the process maintains local control and decision-making with regard to the selection of health priorities and interventions chosen to address those priorities, and creates opportunities for new and better ways for organizations to collaborate with one another.

During the data collection process, individual counties were responsible for distributing a standardized survey as well as organizing and facilitating 3-5 focus groups. With funding from The Duke Endowment, FHLI contracted with a third-party vendor to collect secondary data, aggregate the primary data and author 33 county level reports (in addition to the regional report). The regional analysis of primary and secondary data looks at pervasive health issues and needs across eastern North Carolina and identifies opportunities to improve population health through collaboration.

Health departments and hospitals received their CHNA reports in November of 2018 and held county-specific “prioritization sessions” to select the health issues they would focus on for the next three years. Moving forward, Health ENC will act as the coordinating body, using these priorities and the results of the regional CHNA to identify areas for regional collaboration. Health ENC aims to convene partners and seek funding for interventions to address health priorities and other issues identified in the CHNA process.

MORE ABOUT HEALTH ENC

ENTITY WITH CHNA OBLIGATION	Hospitals, Local Health Departments and FQHCs
PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS	Health ENC is a program of the Foundation for Health Leadership & Innovation (FHLI), a nonprofit organization focused on improving health in North Carolina. FHLI helps Health ENC in building its network and enhancing its overall impact.

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MORE ABOUT HEALTH ENC

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS	All hospitals, health systems and public health departments in the 33-county area
BEST PRACTICES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Community goals, needs and solutions are identified through a community-driven process. » This effort coordinates the activities of multiple institutions obligated to conduct needs assessments within and across communities. » The process is inclusive, including efforts to engage individuals experiencing the greatest inequities, such as communities of color. » Participating organizations collaborate to systematically address community needs, when appropriate.
RESOURCES	<p>2018-2019 Regional Community Health Needs Assessment – Summary Report [link]</p> <p>Program Website: www.foundationhli.org</p>

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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About This Series

The Healthcare Value Hub takes a careful look at the evidence and consults with experts in order to clarify for advocates, media and policymakers the important healthcare cost drivers, drivers of health inequities and the promising policy solutions. More information on community health needs assessments is available at www.HealthcareValueHub.org/Community-Health-Needs-Assessments.

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