

Community Health Assessment: 2017 & 2022

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING

FEBRUARY 7, 2024



The University of Texas at Austin
Dell Medical School



School of Public Health

Overview

- Background
- CHA/CHIP definition
- 2022 CHA methods
- CHA findings
- Stakeholder summit & priority area ranking
- CHIP Timeline & next steps

Community Health Plan

The Austin/Travis County Community Health Plan is a collaborative planning initiative spearheaded by 11 partner organizations and facilitated by Austin Public Health.

The planning process is comprised of two major components:

Community Health Assessment (CHA) is conducted to identify the health-related needs and strengths of Austin/Travis County. This includes research with community members, stakeholders and epidemiological data.

Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) is a long-term, systematic effort to address public health problems, developed based on results from the Community Health Assessment.

2017 CHA Findings

- Inequity in socioeconomic levels and health impacts
- Education and workforce development efforts
- Health care access and affordability
- Transportation
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Access to safe recreation spaces
- Access to healthy food
- Environmental health

Priority Areas

- Access to and affordability of health care
- Chronic Disease
- Sexual health
- Stress, mental health, and wellbeing

2022 CHA

Methodology

- Started in 2021 and completed in May 2022
- Overarching goals:
 - Examine the current health status across A/TC
 - Explore the current health priorities
 - Identify community strengths, resources, forces of change, and gaps in services
- **MAPP** (Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnership framework)
- Developed by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)

2022 CHA Data Collection

- Community Partner Assessment: held a summit – 27 participants
- Community Partner Assessment : analyzed existing social and health data
- Community Context Assessment: mostly qualitative data
 - Key informant interviews: n = 20
 - In-depth interviews: n = 2
 - Focus group: 7 FG, n = 48
 - Radio talk show: 1 RTS, n = 3
 - Community forum: n = 16
 - Photo outreach campaign: n = 23



Findings

Key Themes

Social Determinants of Health

Participants focused on upstream **issues of daily life**, which are referred to as social determinants of health, such as access to **healthy food** and **financial security**.

Housing Affordability

High and rising **cost of housing** disproportionately affects low-income residents, residents of color, older adults, and persons with disabilities, and **displaces residents** from urban areas to rural areas.

COVID-19 Pandemic

Impact of the pandemic: worsened food security, economic suffering, increased social isolation, exacerbated mental health issues, and **highlighted barriers** to accessing information and health care resources for lower-income residents, LEP, and communities of color.

Emergency Preparedness

Most residents reported experiencing a natural disaster emergency in the past decade and many described the **immediate an ongoing personal and community challenges** these emergencies have caused.

“...organic food [...] is very expensive. So, the more practical option is to eat fast food and we know that in the long run that could cause problems for our health. But it is what we have most accessible to us [...] because it's fast, for all of us that work outside the home.”
– Focus Group Participant

Key Themes (cont.)

Mental Health

Significant mental health needs, **stigma** around mental health, and limited **access** to mental health care were common, particularly given the pandemic and **additional stress, trauma, isolation, and economic suffering**.

Healthcare Access - Costs

Gaps in health insurance coverage for low-income residents, including **lapses** of health insurance coverage, few providers who **accept Medicare**, and difficulty **accessing preventive care** (e.g., primary, vision, dental), emergency services, specialists, and providers who care for older adults.

Strong Networks

- **Community-based institutions** were seen as important access points for information and access to services.
- Community residents are supportive of each other and generous with **sharing resources and information**.
- **Cross-sector partnerships** among schools, community-based organizations, private companies and others also represent a community strength.
- **Faith-based organizations** were highlighted as a key strength and a bridge between **historically marginalized communities** and local/county government.



2022 CHA Priority Area - Ranking

FOCUSED AREAS

#1 Mental Health (all 3 priority groups)

#2 Social Determinants of Health (PG 1 & 3)

- Health education

OTHER AREAS

Additional Themes

- Cultural competency

Additional Areas for Consideration

- Healthcare access
- Housing

Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)

SDOH DOMAINS (CDC)

Economic Stability

Education Access and Quality

Health Care Access and Quality

Neighborhood and Built Environment

Social and Community Context

SDOH (CCC)

Screening & Closed Loop Referrals

Income: Economic Wellness, Financial Security

Housing Affordability & Homelessness

Food Insecurity

Targeted Intervention

Pollutants & Other Environmental Hazards

Model Communities

Mental Health

DEFINITION & PREVALENCE (CDC)

Mental health includes our emotional, psychological, and social well-being

It affects how we think, feel, and act

It also helps determine how we handle stress, relate to others, and make healthy choices

1 in 5 Americans will experience a mental illness in a given year

MENTAL HEALTH (CDC)

Substance abuse disorders

Stress Management

Stigma & Harm Reduction

Promoting Safe Drug Use

Mental Health Workforce: CHW/Peer Support

Pediatric & school Mental Health Services

Where is CHA/CHIP now?



- Priority Areas

1. Mental Health
2. Economic Stability
3. Built Environment

Thank you!

To get involved with CHA/CHIP or request a presentation, please reach out to the CHA/CHIP Planner or team at

ATC.CommunityHealthPlan@austintexas.gov

