



Kane County Health Department Announces Results of the 2021 Community Health Assessment

April 5, 2021 - The Kane County Health Department (KCHD) and partner health agencies have completed the 2021 Community Health Assessment (CHA) to identify the top health priorities in the community.

The following top health needs were determined and listed in scored rankings from highest to lowest:

1. Mental Health
2. Access to Health Services
3. Immunizations and Infectious Diseases
4. Substance Abuse
5. Exercise, Nutrition, and Weight
6. Maternal, Fetal, and Infant Health
7. Teen and Adolescent Health
8. Older Adults and Aging
9. Other Chronic Diseases
10. Education
11. Environment
12. Public Safety
13. Transportation

Data revealed significant community health disparities based on race/ethnicity, particularly among the Black and Hispanic communities. The data also showed that older adults face increased health issues, while populations in certain geographic areas experience higher socioeconomic need and potentially poorer health outcomes. The full report can be found online at KaneHealthCounts.org.

“Throughout this process, we have relied on community collaboration and the support of our partners,” said Kathy Fossier, Interim Executive Director. “On behalf of the Kane County Health Department, I would like to thank all of the local organizations and agencies who gave their time, effort, energy, and resources to this process. I would also like to extend a special thank you to those Kane County residents who participated in our surveys and focus groups. Their opinions and contributions are crucial to meaningful data collection.”

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Kane County Health Department Announces Results of the 2021 Community Health Assessment – page 2

The Health Department and its partners conduct a comprehensive Community Health Assessment every three years. The data collected helps to present a complete picture of the health status of Kane County. A phone survey to more than 1,500 Kane County residents was conducted by a professional research firm. The survey included questions on health care access, health behaviors, mental health, preventative screening, and childhood development. Results of the assessment will be used to develop a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) that helps agencies make Kane County a healthier place to live, work and play.

The Kane Health Counts Executive Committee focused on the top health needs to come from the CHA and identified the following priorities for the next CHIP cycle:

- Behavioral Health
- Access to Health Services
- Immunizations and Infectious Disease
- Exercise, Nutrition, and Weight

KCHD started a collaborative CHA and CHIP process in 2011. KCHD has joined forces with the County's five local hospitals, AMITA Mercy Medical Center, AMITA Saint Joseph Hospital, Northwestern Medicine Delnor Hospital, Rush Copley Medical Center, and Advocate Aurora Sherman, along with the INC Board, a mental health "708 Board" serving the southern part of Kane County and a number of community partners. This group comes together with a mutual interest in improving the health of Kane County residents. In 2014, this collaborative group was given the name Kane Health Counts.

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Contact: Susan Stack StackSusan@co.kane.il.us
KaneHealth.com