Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNA): A National Perspective

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Prepared for “Community Health Assessments: Successful Montana Models” by Montana’s Rural Health Initiative
“Community health assessment is a critical strategic planning and management tool for health care organizations.”

Community Health Assessment Checklist.
VHA, Inc. 1994.
"We underestimate the degree to which the transformation of care must extend beyond medical care to social services, transportation, self-care and community-based support."

Ian Morrison, Health Care Futurist
“Massively Coordinated Care,” H&HN Daily. May 1, 2012
www.assesstoolkit.org

ACHI and AHA members have access to this guide using their member log-in.
CHNA and Affordable Care Act of 2010

- **Act created new community benefit requirements**
  Requires community health needs assessments (CHNA) by tax exempt hospitals every three years
  - “Input from persons who represent the broad interests of the community... including those with special knowledge of or expertise in public health”
  - Adopt an “implementation strategy to meet the community health needs identified”
Needs Assessment Components *

1. Community served, and how determined

2. Assessment process and methods
   - Data sources & dates, analytical methods, gaps, collaborators, contractors

3. Prioritized community health needs, including methods/criteria to determine

4. Existing health care and other resources available to meet needs

Implementation Strategy Components*

1. Describes how hospital plans to meet each identified community health need
2. Identifies programs and resources, and anticipated impact
3. Describes any planned collaboration
4. Approved by hospital’s “governing body”

Other Organizations Conduct CHNAs

- Public Health Departments (accreditation)
- Federally Qualified Health Centers (required)
- United Ways
- A wide array of health, social and human service organizations
Community Health Assessment in a Context of Health System Change
Suggests partnerships to “conduct CHNAs and develop community health improvement plans”

- Its health priorities are reflected in many hospitals’ existing community programs

- Many of its recommendations lend themselves to action based on CHNA data
Current Context and Related Factors

- **National Quality Strategy (March 2011)**
  - **One of three Aims**: “Improve the health of the U.S. population by supporting proven interventions to **address behavioral, social and environmental determinants of health** in addition to delivering higher-quality care” *(emphasis added)*
  
  - **One of six Priorities**: “Working with communities to promote wide use of best practices to enable healthy living”

Source: [www.healthcare.gov/center/reports/nationalqualitystrategy032011.pdf](http://www.healthcare.gov/center/reports/nationalqualitystrategy032011.pdf)
Current Context and Related Factors

- **Accountable Care Organizations**
  - **Patient-Centeredness Criteria**: Evaluate health needs of assigned population, identify high-risk individuals and develop care plans for targeted populations, including use of community resources. (emphasis added)
  - **Quality Measurement**: Includes measures for readmissions, and admissions for ambulatory care sensitive conditions

Source: AHA Regulatory Advisory on ACO Final Rule, Nov. 8, 2011
Managing Population Health: The Role of the Hospital

April 2012

http://www.hpoe.org/resources-and-tools/1610009735
Supplemental Material
A Few Resources Used by Hospitals

- Association for Community Health Improvement’s ACHI Community Health Assessment Toolkit (www.assesstoolkit.org)

- Catholic Health Association’s Assessing and Addressing Community Health Needs (www.chausa.org/communitybenefit)

- Many state- and national-level organizations, academic institutions, and firms are offering assessment tools and services, to both hospitals and public health
Examples of State and Regional Resources

- **Hospital Council of Northwest Ohio** ([www.hcno.org](http://www.hcno.org)) has been conducting collaborative CHNAs since 1999.

- **Dallas–Fort Worth Hospital Council Foundation** ([www.dfwhcfoundation.org](http://www.dfwhcfoundation.org)) offers a community health data warehouse and assessment tools.

- **Iowa, Missouri** and **New Jersey** hospital associations have offered CHNA training (webinars, conferences).

- The **North Carolina** hospital association’s “collaborative CHNA” program with public health, focused on reducing care costs and health disparities.
Community Health Needs Assessment in the trade press...