Harvey County Community Health Needs Assessment - 2017

Executive Summary

Understanding the health status and perceptions of a community is vital to prioritizing efforts by local resources and administrations to provide services that are the most needed for its population. Community health assessments have served as validated tools for accomplishing just this throughout the past several decades across communities throughout the United States.

Community collaboration is needed in the development of a comprehensive plan that will both directly address the needs of a community and promote a sense of belonging and purpose within it. A community health assessment consists of two major stages: the first stage consists of collection primary and secondary data to assist community members and leadership to made evidence-based decisions regarding community health; secondly, health priorities are selected using the data collected to guide and synchronize local efforts for improving the community's health.

Primary data includes all data gathered directly from their source. This community health assessment implemented two methods of collecting primary data, a community health survey and focus groups, to gather qualitative data regarding community opinions of health within Harvey County.

Secondary Data includes data originally collected by someone else. Data gathering in this manner were collected from state and federal public health databases and consisted of objective data regarding the demographics, socioeconomic status factors, and health outcomes of Harvey County.

One major consideration of a community health assessment is identifying special populations in the community. Special populations may include subpopulations of a particular age group, those without healthcare coverage, those of a specific race or ethnicity, or those who do not speak English as a first language. Essentially every county is made up of its own unique geography, natural resources, and demographic makeup. Integrating a county's strengths and special populations is a major step for all communities to achieve the highest level of inclusivity and comradery.

As a product of this year's community health assessment conducted by the Harvey County community health assessment core team in collaboration with local stakeholders, community leaders, and other invaluable residents, three health priorities were selected as the focus for Harvey County's health initiatives for the next three years, until 2020. The data collected, along with the health priorities identified by the core team will be used for selecting SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound) goals that will be included as part of Harvey County's Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

Health priorities identified by the 2017 Harvey County Community Health Assessment include:

1. Improve Well-being/Mental Health/Behavioral Health
2. Prevent & Manage Chronic Disease
3. Develop Viable Transportation Options for Health Needs

CORE TEAM PARTNERS: