

Executive Summary

Franklin County is pleased to present its 2018 Community Health Needs Assessment. This report provides an overview of the methods and process used to identify and prioritize significant health needs in Franklin County.

Service Area

The service area for this report is defined as the geographical boundary of Franklin County, North Carolina. Franklin County is located inland from the coastal area of the state and covers an area of 494 square miles, of which 492 square miles is land and 2.8 square miles is water.

Methods for Identifying Community Health Needs

Secondary Data

Secondary data used for this assessment was collected and analyzed from Conduent Healthy Communities Institute's community indicator database. The database, maintained by researchers and analysts at Conduent HCI, includes over 100 community indicators from various state and national data sources such as the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Community Survey. See Appendix B for a full list of data sources used.

Indicator values for Franklin County were compared to North Carolina counties and U.S. counties to identify relative need. Other considerations in weighing relative areas of need included comparisons to North Carolina state values, comparisons to national values, trends over time, Healthy People 2020 targets and Healthy North Carolina 2020 targets. Based on these seven different comparisons, indicators were systematically ranked from high to low need. For a detailed methodology of the analytic methods used to rank secondary data indicators see Appendix B.

Primary Data

The primary data used in this assessment consisted of (1) a community survey distributed through online and paper submissions and (3) focus group discussions. Over 350 Franklin County residents contributed their input on the community's health and health-related needs, barriers, and opportunities, with special focus on the needs of vulnerable and underserved populations.

See Appendix C for all primary data collection tools used in this assessment.

Summary of Findings

The CHNA findings are drawn from an analysis of an extensive set of secondary data (over 100 indicators from national and state data sources) and in-depth primary data from community leaders, health and non-health professionals who serve the community at large, vulnerable populations, and populations with unmet health needs. Through a synthesis of the primary and

secondary data, the significant health needs were determined for Franklin County and are displayed in Table 1.

Table 1. Significant Health Needs

Access to Health Services
Diabetes
Economy
Exercise, Nutrition & Weight
Maternal, Fetal & Infant Health
Mental Health & Mental Disorders
Social Environment
Substance Abuse
Transportation

Selected Priority Areas

The prioritization process took place in February 2019 by the Franklin County Health Steering Committee. The meeting consisted of individuals with a broad range of expertise on a variety of issues and populations in the county, ensuring objectivity during the prioritization process. The Franklin County Health Steering Committee ranked the issues based on data from the community surveys and focus groups held during the summer of 2018. Through this process, the following was determined as the top 4 health priority areas:

- Access to Health Services
- Exercise, Nutrition & Weight
- Mental Health & Mental Disorders
- Substance Abuse

Conclusion

This report describes the process and findings of a comprehensive health needs assessment for the residents of Franklin County, North Carolina. The prioritization of the identified significant health needs will guide community health improvement efforts of Franklin County. Following this process, Franklin County will outline how they plan to address the prioritized health needs in their improvement plan.