

Healthy Hospital Practice to Practice (P2P)

Issue #13



Key Considerations

- *Leadership engagement at all levels is important in program success.*
- *Resource leveraging and partnerships help to expand and sustain programmatic initiatives.*

To learn more about community health needs assessments and their implementation visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/policy/chna/>

Addressing Community Health in Schools, Early Care and Education, and the Clinic

CDC supports making the healthy choice the easy choice in key community settings, including hospitals.

IN THIS ISSUE...

Read how Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio, improved the health of its communities by conducting a community needs assessments, engaging partners across sectors, and supporting systems-level changes that provide community benefit.

Developing Community Strength

Nationwide Children's Hospital (NCH) in Columbus, Ohio, is a leader in its community's health efforts and has contributed to state health policy change. NCH has successfully addressed both state and federal community benefit requirements. These requirements include conducting a community health needs assessment (CHNA) with input and representation from the community, making the CHNA publicly available, and developing an implementation strategy that addresses the needs identified through the CHNA. NCH used local, regional, and national data to assess the health of the children that live in Franklin County. Starting with a community wide Behavior Risk Surveillance Survey augmented with data from primary care physicians and its managed Medicaid population, the hospital identified eight indicators of health including obesity as the focus of its community benefits strategy.

NCH collaborated with several public health agencies and organizations including Columbus Public Health, United Way of Ohio, American Lung Association, The Ohio Business Roundtable, Ohio Department of Health, The Ohio State University Medical Center, Central Ohio Hospital Association, and members of its Partners for Kids (PFK) Medicaid network in assessing and developing a comprehensive community benefit strategy. NCH created an implementation plan by forming working teams around each of the eight health areas. The teams were asked to complete an inventory of current services and identify their highest priority initiatives in the realm of policy, partnerships, and clinical care that would address community needs.

At the state level, the Healthy Choices for Healthy Children (HCHC) Ohio Bill, signed on NCH's campus, addresses the need to increase physical activity for children during the school day, reduce access to sugar sweetened beverages, and ensure that body mass index (BMI) screenings are available in schools. This Bill reflects areas prioritized by the CHNA teams including a focus on settings most likely to have the highest effect on childhood obesity and an emphasis on partnerships between health care, public health, and community organizations.

Dr. Ihuoma Eneli, pediatrician and Medical Director of the Center for Healthy Weight and Nutrition at NCH, emphasizes the importance of leadership buy-in and indicates that Steven Allen, MD, and chief executive officer (CEO) of NCH leads the charge to address childhood obesity at the hospital and the community level.

