2023 COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

SIGNIFICANT HEALTH NEEDS

healthy montgomery

DHHS MONTGOMERY COUNTY
Department of Health and Human Services

MONTGOMERY COUNTY MARYLAND 1776

Access to Behavioral Health and Substance-Use Disorder Services

Good mental health is vital for achieving optimal health. Access to mental, behavioral, and substance use services can have profound positive effects for a person's emotional, psychological, and social well-being and is key to a healthy community.

Access to Human Services' Needs, Such as Education, Income, Housing, Employment, Food, and Personal Social Services

These services are vital for achieving optimal health. Without access to good human services to meet basic needs, communities cannot experience thriving and healthy lives.

Access to Technology

"Digital divide" describes the gap between communities that have access to reliable technology, such as internet service, computers, and cell phones, and communities who do not. The digital divide impacts access to health care. Lack of access to technology is a social determinant of health and deepens health disparities.

Access to Quality Primary Care Health Services

Primary care services are the first line of defense to prevent and treat common diseases and injuries in a community. Communities where individuals have limited access to care are more likely to experience poorer quality of life and length of life.

Access to Parks, Public Spaces, Wellness, and Recreation

Inequitable access to parks and recreational facilities are associated with higher prevalence of chronic diseases in communities.

Access to Quality Dental Health Services

Regular dental care is an important aspect of optimal health. Disparities in oral health reflect unequal opportunities to be healthy, impacting a person's ability to thrive.

Access to Transportation

Transportation among communities is critical for accessing health care services. There is growing concern among community residents that individuals will become increasingly transportation disadvantaged when attempting to access health care services.

Access to Specialty and Extended Care

Specialty care is an extension of primary care and includes medical care services to treat specific health care problems. Extended care refers to services beyond primary and specialty care such as urgent care clinics and home health care. Without access to specialists, community residents are often left to manage their chronic illnesses on their own.

Active Living and Healthy and Nutritious Eating

Regular physical activity and healthy and nutritious eating is vital for overall health and well-being and disease prevention. Physical inactivity and unhealthy eating are associated with lower health status, including an increased likelihood of developing a chronic disease.

Cultural and Linguistic Competence

Cultural and linguistic competence refers to the ability of those bringing health and human services to the community, including health care providers and human services professionals, to deliver services that meet an individual's social, cultural, and language needs.

Environmental Health

Environmental health focuses on the environmental conditions that affect our health and well-being. Environmental hazards, such as air pollution, water pollution, radon in the home, crowding, and other factors or conditions in the environment can increase the risk of human injury, disease, or death.

Safe and Violence-Free Environment

When people feel safe from hurt or harm in their community and home, they experience improved physical, emotional, psychological, and social well-being. The importance of community safety can reduce unintentional and intentional injuries.

Injury and Disease Prevention and Management

Prevention aims to reduce risks or threats to health. Injury and disease are the unfortunate result of challenges and barriers to health care.
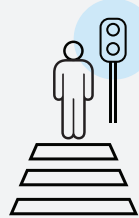
Pedestrian Safety

Pedestrian safety requires that people have safe places to walk and play. Pedestrian safety is a shared responsibility between all members of the community.

Waste Management

Managing the constant accumulation of waste from households, agriculture, and businesses through collection, source reduction, product reuse and recycling, treatment, and disposal is important for the health of the community and environment.

Social Associations and Community Connectiveness

Social associations and community connectiveness refer to the ability of individuals in a community to "have relationships that create a sense of belonging and being cared for, valued, and supported."

Health and Human Services' System Navigation

Help in navigating health care and human services' systems and obtaining support services is necessary to improve health outcomes. Challenges in navigating the complex U.S. health care system may result in access barriers and has been associated with health disparities and may increase social vulnerabilities in communities.

Maternal and Early Childhood Health

Maternal and early childhood health encompasses the health of women of childbearing age from pre-pregnancy to pregnancy, labor, delivery, and the post-partum period, and the health of the child prior to birth up to adolescence. Supporting health and well-being during pregnancy, childbirth, and the postnatal period has important implications for both mother and child for the positive birth and maternal health outcomes as well as the reduction of infant and maternal mortality.