

EXISTING COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENTS

2022 Cuyahoga County Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA)

The Cuyahoga County CHNA Steering Committee conducted a Community Health Needs Assessment to determine and prioritize the health needs of the community served by hospitals and health departments in the county. The 2022 CHNA report highlighted three priority areas, including Behavioral Health (Mental Health & Drug Use/Misuse), Accessible and Affordable Health Care and Community Conditions (Access to Healthy Food & Community Safety). Additionally, the report identified two priority populations — maternal, fetal and infant health, and older adults — and two overarching focal areas — eliminating structural racism and enhancing trust across sectors, people and communities. Based on community feedback, accessible and affordable health care was deemed the top health need. In the secondary data scoring for Community Conditions, the Prevention and Safety indicators ranked #1 in the overall data scoring, with people 65+ living alone and single-parent households scoring in the worst 25% of Ohio and U.S. counties.

“Policy is important to think and talk about, and policy is in direct alignment with direct services and how we provide services; these two have to work together; look at the policy makers and who are making those decisions and what that means to communities experiencing the impact of racism.”

Key Informant in the 2022 Cuyahoga County Community Health Needs Assessment



Livable Cuyahoga Needs Assessment 2023

In April 2022, Cuyahoga County became a member of the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities and introduced the Livable Cuyahoga initiative. The goal of Livable Cuyahoga is to create safe and walkable streets, age-friendly housing and transportation options, access to essential services and opportunities for residents of all ages to engage in community life. Livable Cuyahoga is dedicated to diversity, equity and inclusion. The Livable Cuyahoga Needs Assessment conducted focus groups and surveys with adults aged 50 and above to identify areas of improvement related to aging in Cuyahoga County.

The focus groups with older adults revealed that some doctors do not listen to older patients, show frustration or display a lack of empathy towards patients on Medicare. Participants felt rushed during appointments and highlighted a lack of listening and empathy from providers. Homebound seniors were the most disadvantaged as they are not connected to centers or other resources to assist them.

Several participants expressed frustration that some cities receive services that others do not, and that some older adults are not eligible for services offered on a sliding scale. Instead, all residents should have access to the same health and community services with the same level of quality. These individuals suggested a tiered payment system so that those with slightly higher income can still qualify but pay slightly more than their neighbors with lower income. Older adults would like to see eligibility guidelines expanded to include more individuals.

Overall, residents would like to see agencies do more to help them understand available services and programs, be more patient on phone calls for services and consider simple improvements to the application process, such as larger print on applications

