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Essex County Community Health Assessment and Plan Now Available

Elizabethtown, NY – The Essex County Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan has been released. The report, available online, sets forth a strategy to address community health needs in Essex County.

The Essex County Health Department, the UVM Health Network - Elizabethtown Community Hospital, and Adirondack Health – Adirondack Medical Center led the year-long effort to develop the plan. “The plan was built on a foundation of community assets and spans community and health care system environments,” said Linda Beers, Director of Public Health at the Essex County Health Department. Collaborative work groups identified evidenced-based strategies that are most likely to result in measurable health gains locally. “Engaging multiple agencies to lead portions of the plan demonstrates a community commitment to health,” Ms. Beers added.

According to the UVM Health Network - Elizabethtown Community Hospital Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer, Julie Tromblee, “We have to look at prevention as much as intervention if we want to keep our community healthy. The strong partnerships established and clear goals set forth through the Community Health Assessment and Service Plan process will help us do exactly that.”

Working within the New York State Department of Health Prevention Agenda Framework, project partners selected the following areas of focus for the plan: Prevent Chronic Disease; Promote Healthy Women, Infants, and Children; and Promote Well Being and Prevent Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders. The report guides community health initiatives and funding priorities through 2021.

The assessment includes perceptions of hundreds of residents and stakeholders as well as health outcome data. The document also investigates contributing factors such as community and social context.

“The feedback we got from community members and stakeholders during the assessment is invaluable and makes this assessment robust,” said Heidi Bailey, Population Health Manager at Adirondack Health. “We heard about their health care needs and concerns, and we used that to help us create a roadmap for improved population health in Essex County.”

A downloadable PDF of the *Essex County Community Health Assessment 2019 and Community Health Improvement Plan 2019-2021* is available at the links below.

Adirondack Medical Center-Adirondack Health:

<https://www.adirondackhealth.org/uploads/community-health-needs-assessment>

Essex County Health Department:

<https://www.co.essex.ny.us/Health/community-health-assessment/>

UVHN-ECH:

<https://www.ech.org/Commitment-to-Quality>

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