HEALTHY NORTHEAST OHIO
Sharing Knowledge to Create Healthier Communities

LEVERAGING A SHARED DATA PLATFORM FOR COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENTS

A Success Story from Healthy Northeast Ohio

AT A GLANCE

In previous community health [needs] assessment (CHA/CHNA) cycles, local health departments and hospital systems in the Healthy Northeast Ohio 9-county region each had to collect "secondary data" measures of community health by independently searching and analyzing multiple websites and datasets. As a result, a uniform approach to monitoring and tracking identified top health indicators in relation to corresponding community health improvement plan (CHIP)/implementation strategy (IS) activities across the region was not possible. The launch of Healthy Northeast Ohio (healthyneo.org) created the first regional repository for health, social determinants and quality of life data. More than half of the counties in the region used secondary data from the platform for their 2022 CHA/CHNA cycle. The platform saved partners' time and effort by providing easy access to a robust set of area-specific indicators, dashboards and indices to support health assessment and improvement efforts. It also drove collaboration, aligned data for outcome monitoring, and offered progress tracking, supporting collective impact.

CHALLENGE

Local health departments and tax-exempt hospitals are required to complete CHA/CHNA, and corresponding CHIP/IS reports, to meet Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) requirements. In Ohio, local health departments and tax-exempt hospitals are mandated to collaborate on CHA/CHNAs and CHIP/ISs as well as align with the state health assessment (SHA) and state health improvement plan (SHIP).

CHA/CHNAs are conducted to identify the top health needs of a community through a robust data collection and analysis process. These assessments involve integrating data from multiple sources to get a full picture of a community's health, and to track progress on health improvement. Prior to the launch of Healthy Northeast Ohio, local health departments and hospitals across the region had to complete this important and time-consuming data collection and tracking work by accessing secondary data from numerous sources. No shared data platform existed to make these data more easily accessible to all stakeholders working to improve the health of the region, or to support a uniform approach to monitoring and tracking health indicator change between CHA/CHNA cycles.

SOLUTION

Healthy Northeast Ohio is a population health data repository that serves as a one-stop shop for data and other resources to support community health improvement efforts, such as CHA/CHNAs and CHIP/ISs, across a 9-county region. The platform includes 300+ health, social

Figure 26: Food Insecurity Index
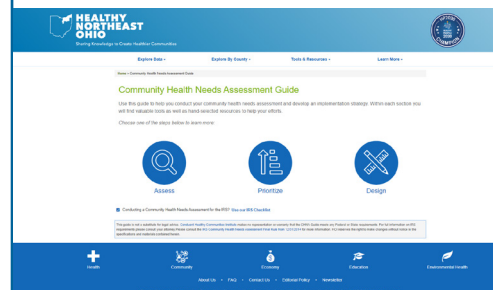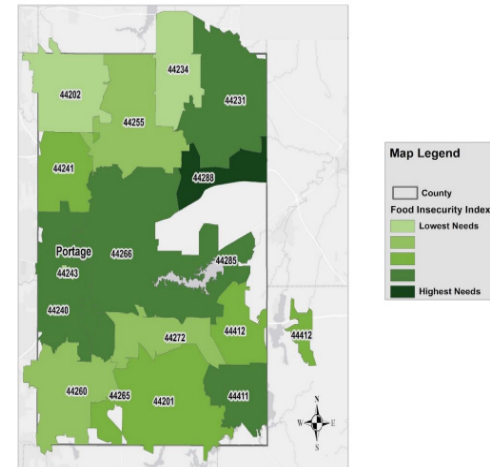
determinants and quality of life indicators from more than 30 local, state and national sources, available at various geographic levels. These indicators are complimented by several specialty dashboards, and indices that can be used to identify areas of strength and opportunity, as well as key populations and disparities. The platform allows for tracking indicators over time, and benchmarking against other communities and targets (e.g., state and U.S. values). Additionally, the platform allows stakeholders to download indicator data, maps, and graphs, and create data visualizations (e.g., custom dashboard and reports). Healthy Northeast Ohio includes other tools and resources that support the CHA/CHNA and CHIP/IS processes, including a CHNA Guide, a Promising Practices database to identify successfully implemented programs from across the county, a Resource Library, and a progress tracker tool.

RESULTS

Five of the nine counties in the Healthy Northeast Ohio region, including Ashland, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, and Portage counties, plus the Cleveland Clinic hospital system, contracted with Conduent Healthy Communities Institute (the healthyneo.org vendor), and utilized the secondary data available through Healthy Northeast Ohio for their 2022 collaborative CHAs/CHNAs. Through the completion of these CHAs/CHNAs, Healthy Northeast Ohio supported partners from these counties in meeting PHAB and IRS requirements. These reports are featured in the Regional CHNA & CHIP Reports Resource Collection on the platform.

Healthy Northeast Ohio provided local health departments and hospitals in these counties with easy access to secondary data from multiple websites for the CHAs/CHNAs. The platform's robust Demographics Dashboard, comprised of 250 demographic variables, allowed for reporting out on the demographics of the communities served by these partners. Where available, the platform displays indicator data broken out by race/ethnicity, age, and gender that helped with identifying disparities and populations to focus on. Because data on the platform is available at a granular level (e.g., census tract), maps were used to identify areas for opportunity. For example, the Portage County Health District used the Food Insecurity Index map, from the SocioNeeds Index® Suite, to identify specific zip codes to focus on to address food insecurity in their upcoming CHIP activities.

Vickie Taylor, the Health Commissioner at the Ashland County Health Department (ACHD), commented that *"having access to secondary data from a variety of sources all on one platform is especially important for small organizations that have limited staff and resources. The ACHD could not have completed our Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan in such a timely manner without Healthy Northeast Ohio."*

The Healthy Northeast Ohio platform allowed more than half of the counties in the region to use the same secondary data in their CHNAs to monitor and track the health of the communities they serve. Using the same data allows for making comparisons between counties, and for driving collaboration and collective impact, as similar priority areas were identified across the region. Additionally, because the data on Healthy Northeast Ohio is routinely updated, it will allow local health departments and hospitals in these counties to track progress towards targets (e.g., Healthy People 2030), and the impact of health improvement activities outlined in their CHIPs/ISs. Healthy Northeast Ohio will also allow these partners to have increased transparency with other stakeholders, and the community, by tracking progress on priorities and goals through a CHIP progress tracking tool.

"The Healthy Northeast Ohio site has been, and continues to be, a tremendous asset and resource to the Cuyahoga County Board of Health, as we coordinate our local, collaborative health improvement planning process. Healthy Northeast Ohio offers us the opportunity to access secondary data more efficiently because it is all in one place. We also now have access to current and updated indicators for tracking and monitoring progress on our priority strategies. The site has fostered collaboration and data sharing since it serves as a publicly accessible and neutral data platform," commented Martha Halko, Director of Population Health at the Cuyahoga County Board of Health.

ABOUT HEALTHY NORTHEAST OHIO

Healthy Northeast Ohio provides hospitals, public health departments, community-based organizations, philanthropic agencies and other stakeholders with data and resources to support regional and community health improvement activities and strengthen collaboration in the 9-county region. Healthy Northeast Ohio serves as a neutral repository of de-identified health information that facilitates a collective impact approach toward positive health outcomes. It allows for easy identification of top health needs and under-resourced populations, and comparisons by community and over time. Vetted and verified data comes from more than 30 sources.

HEALTHY NORTHEAST OHIO
Sharing Knowledge to Create Healthier Communities

Visit us at healthyneo.org

Questions? Please contact us to learn more or to share your own success story.

LIBBY MCGRAW - Regional Community Health Improvement Manager
libby.mcgraw@chanet.org

SARAH SZABO - Data Analyst
sszabo@ccbh.net

The work of Healthy Northeast Ohio is supported by a grant from the HealthComp Foundation and partner contributions.