



Adams County, Illinois Community Health Assessment

Community Health Improvement Plan Executive Summary

May 2012

ALLIANCE FOR BUILDING COMMUNITY
COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT / HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN
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CONDUCTING A COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The Adams County community has adopted the MAPP (Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships) process developed by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) to guide community-planning efforts. MAPP derives its value from community participation. This strategic planning tool uses the community's strengths, needs and desires to identify priority health issues and the resources to address them. The MAPP model consists of the following steps:

- organize for success;
- partnership development;
- MAPP assessments;
- identify strategic issues;
- formulate goals and strategies; and
- action including planning, implementation and evaluation.

The MAPP process consists of four assessments:

1. **COMMUNITY THEMES AND STRENGTHS ASSESSMENT**

The Community Themes and Strengths Assessment provides a deep understanding of the issues that county residents feel are important. It identifies issues that interest the community, perceptions about quality of life and summarizes community assets. This assessment was conducted in late 2008 and early 2009.*

2. **LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM ASSESSMENT**

The local Public Health System Assessment (LPHSA) is a comprehensive assessment of all of the organizations and entities that contribute to the public's health. It measures the capacity and performance of the local public health system – all organizations and entities that contribute to the public's health. This assessment took place in April 2011 with a follow-up session in October 2011.

3. **COMMUNITY HEALTH STATUS ASSESSMENT**

The Community Health Status Assessment identifies priority issues related to community health and quality of life. It assesses data about health status, quality of life and risk factors in the community. This assessment has been ongoing since 2006 when the Alliance for Building Community identified 52 community indicators. Those indicators have been tracked since that time and presented annually in a *Community Wellness Report*.*

4. **FORCES OF CHANGE ASSESSMENT**

The Forces of Change Assessment focuses on the identification of forces such as legislation, technology, and other issues that affect the context in which the community and its public health system operates. It identifies forces that are or will be affecting the community or the local public health system.

* More specific information can be found at <https://www.allianceforbuildingcommunity.org>.



RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER EFFORTS

There are other health-related planning efforts with which we wanted to align whenever possible as we created the Adams County plan.

HEALTHY PEOPLE 2020

Healthy People 2020 (HP2020) provides science-based, 10-year national objectives for improving the health of all Americans. For 3 decades, the series of *Healthy People* initiatives have established benchmarks and monitored progress over time in order to encourage collaborations across sectors, guide individuals toward making informed health decisions, and measure the impact of prevention activities. We used the work of *HP2020* to guide the selection of our own priority issue areas and specific objectives. The narrative for each of the priority health issue areas comes verbatim from *Healthy People 2020*.



COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS

The *County Health Rankings* show us that where we live matters to our health. The health of a community depends on many different factors – ranging from individual health behaviors, education and jobs, to quality of health care, to the environment. This collection of 50 reports – one per state – helps community leaders see that where we live, learn, work, and play influences how healthy we are and how long we live. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is collaborating with the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute to develop these Rankings for each state's counties. We used the reports from 2010 and 2011, the only ones done to date, to guide the County Health Status Assessment which contributed to the selection of priority issue areas and objectives. Rankings for 2012 will be released in April 2012. We intend to use the same measures used by these researchers to track our local impact whenever possible.



ILLINOIS STATE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The *Illinois State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP)* is completed every four years, most recently in 2010. SHIP must include priorities and strategies for health status and public health system improvement in Illinois, with a focus on prevention. It also must address reducing racial, ethnic, geographic, age and socioeconomic health disparities.



The plan is produced by a team of public, private and voluntary sector stakeholders appointed by the director of the Illinois Department of Public Health. We will incorporate this work into our implementation and monitoring efforts, trying to follow many of the same strategies and measures so as to be working toward many of the same goals.

THE PROCESS AND NEXT STEPS

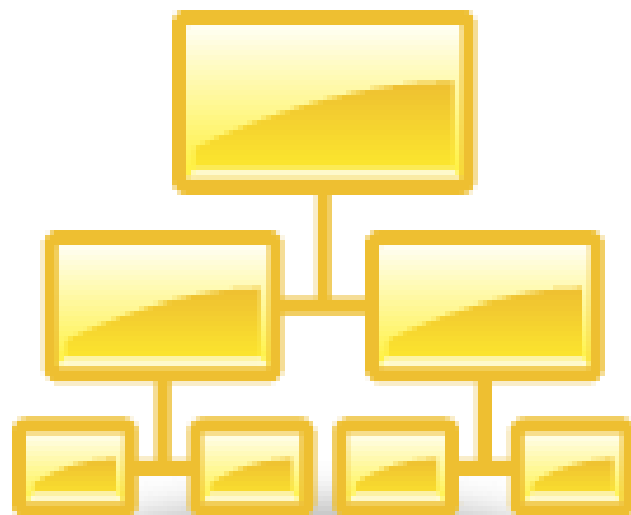
Two local institutions — United Way of Adams County, and the Adams County Health Department — had been collaborating since 2003 in community needs assessments through the Alliance for Building Community (ABC). One result of the passage of the national Affordable Care Act is that non-profit hospitals are now required to have a community health improvement plan in place. Blessing Hospital chose to align with the existing efforts of ABC, in no small part because the Health Department is also required to conduct a community health assessment and submit a summary report to the state of Illinois.

A steering committee was recruited in the spring of 2011 and began meeting monthly. Efforts were made to ensure that this group was representative of the larger community, rather than solely composed of health professionals, so that different perspectives and experiences would contribute to the creation of a health improvement plan that would be embraced by the larger community.

The process of identifying specific health priorities and objectives utilized other existing resources: Healthy People 2020 (HP2020), County Health Rankings (CHR), and the Illinois State Health Improvement Plan (ISHIP). HP2020 provided a structure, allowing us to associate with work being done in other communities across the nation. CHR is a newer initiative having begun in 2010 but has quickly become established as an important way to track progress. The data sources connected to CHR were augmented by others for those identified issue areas not tracked by CHR. ISHIP was regarded as a touchstone of sorts, not contributing to making a decision about a specific local priority but more to ratify the decisions and know that any initiatives undertaken locally might draw from work occurring in other parts of the state.

Steering Committee members were provided a summary for each of the fifty-two health issue areas as defined by HP2020 along with any local data relevant to the issue. The criteria recommended to make individual recommendations were that: 1) the evidence suggests this is an 'important' issue for our county; 2) one or more institutions are already working in the issue area and could track data; and 3) the associated objectives are measurable. This process yielded nine issue areas the Committee felt were important. HP2020 has also identified objectives for each health issue area, hundreds across the fifty-two issue areas, and the Steering Committee went through a similar process to identify those specific objectives toward which our community could work in the coming years.

The resulting document was submitted by the County Health Department as the required Illinois Project for Local Assessment of Needs (IPLAN). The Illinois Department of Public Health approved the submission without additional questions or corrections.

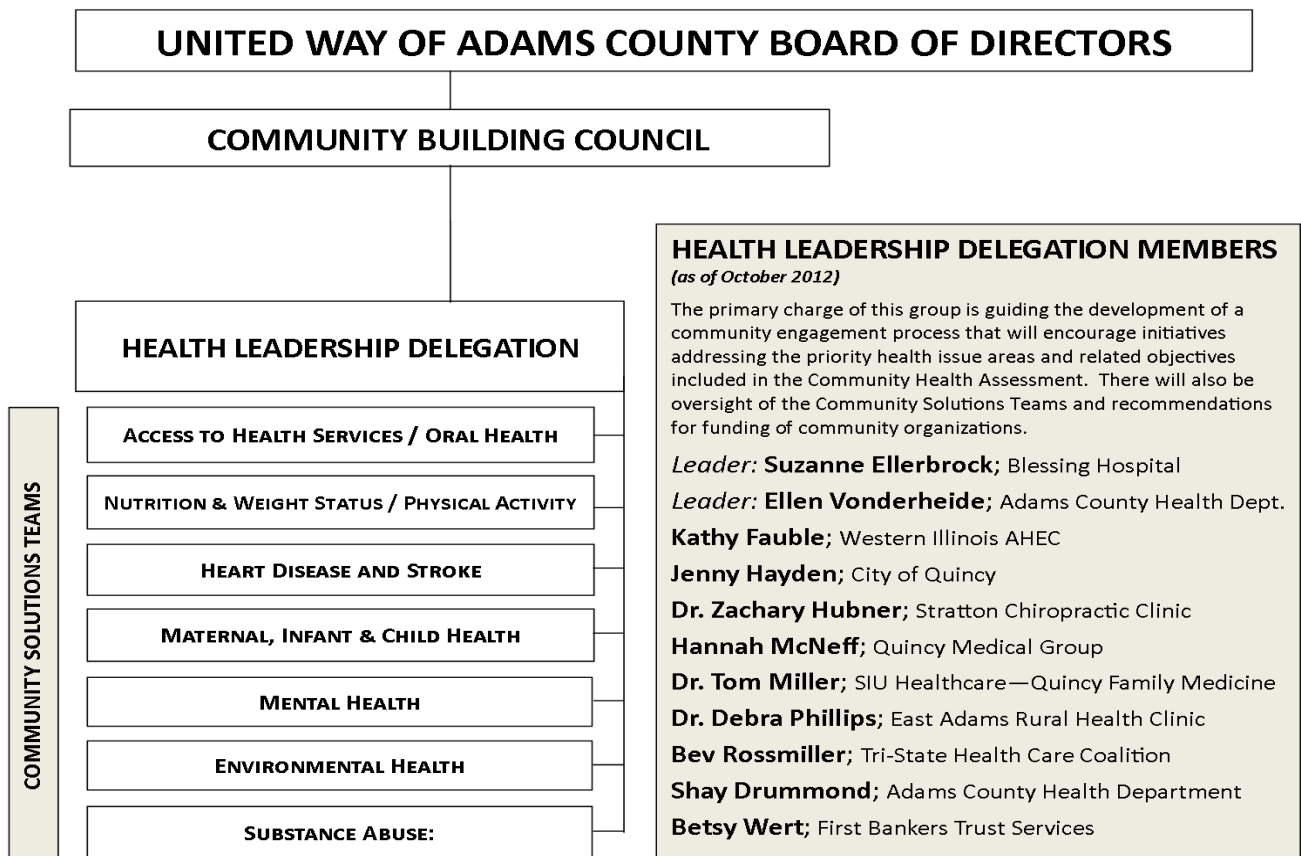




LEADERSHIP AND SOLUTIONS

A Health Leadership Delegation – community members invited to participate in decision-making about critical issues in the community—has been organized to increase dialogue between residents and leaders and to educate and create a stronger awareness of the critical issues facing our community. The Health LD is facilitated and supported by United Way staff and volunteers with data, research, and evaluation tools.

On the following pages are summaries of the nine identified health issue areas for Adams County. In the coming months and years there will be Community Solutions Teams organized around each issue area, led by one or two community organizations with a direct connection to the issue. Those Teams will be charged with inventorying current efforts, bringing all the community groups together to find ways to work together, identifying a mechanism for collecting data that will inform us about progress made in the identified objectives, and submitting an annual summary of efforts and progress for community review. This process will result in a living document that can be updated by participating community members. The next round of MAPP assessments will contribute to this document rather than start the process from scratch.



PRIORITY HEALTH ISSUE AREA:

ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES

From Healthy People 2020:

Access to comprehensive, quality health care services is important for the achievement of health equity and for increasing the quality of a healthy life for everyone. This topic area focuses on four components of access to care: coverage, services, timeliness, and workforce.



Access to health services means the timely use of personal health services to achieve the best health outcomes. It requires 3 distinct steps:

- 1. Gaining entry into the health care system.*
- 2. Accessing a health care location where needed services are provided.*
- 3. Finding a health care provider with whom the patient can communicate and trust.*

RELEVANT DATA:

- 89.1% have health care coverage in Adams County in 2008; IL=85.0% (BRFSS).
- 12.3% did not have a usual health care provider in Adams County in 2008; IL=17.3% (BRFSS)
- 9.2% did not get meds due to cost in Adams County in 2008 (BRFSS)

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

Community Goal:

- Improve access to comprehensive, quality health care services.

Outcome Objective:

- Increase the number of individuals who have health care coverage.

Impact Objectives:

- Increase the proportion of people with a usual primary care provider.
- Decrease the number of children without health coverage.
- Increase the proportion of persons who have had a routine check-up in the past year.
- Reduce the proportion of individuals who are unable to obtain or delay in obtaining necessary medical care, dental care, or prescription medicines.

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PRIORITY HEALTH ISSUE AREA:

ORAL HEALTH

From Healthy People 2020:

The significant improvement in the oral health of Americans over the past 50 years is a public health success story. Most of the gains are a result of effective prevention and treatment efforts. One major success is community water fluoridation, which now benefits about 7 out of 10 Americans who get water through public water systems.

However, some Americans do not have access to preventive programs. People who have the least access to preventive services and dental treatment have greater rates of oral diseases. A person's ability to access oral health care is associated with factors such as education level, income, race, and ethnicity. Objectives in this topic area address a number of areas for public health improvement, including the need to:

- *Increase awareness of the importance of oral health to overall health and well-being.*
- *Increase acceptance and adoption of effective preventive interventions.*
- *Reduce disparities in access to effective preventive and dental treatment services.*

RELEVANT DATA:

- 12.8% could NOT afford a dentist in Adams County in 2008 (BRFSS)
- 71.3% people in Adams County said they had a dental visit in the last 12 months in 2008 (BRFSS)
- 20.6% people in A. C. said they had a dental visit over two years or never in 2008 (BRFSS)
- 28.1% people in Adams County did not have a dental visit in the past year due to cost in 2008 (BRFSS)

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

Community Goal:

- Prevent and control oral and craniofacial diseases, conditions, and injuries, and improve access to preventive services and dental care.

Outcome Objective:

- Increase the proportion of children, adolescents, and adults who use the oral health care system.

Impact Objectives:

- Reduce the proportion of children and adolescents with untreated dental decay.
- Reduce the proportion of adults with untreated dental decay.
- Increase the proportion of children, adolescents, and adults who used the oral health care system in the past year.

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PRIORITY HEALTH ISSUE AREA:

MENTAL HEALTH

From Healthy People 2020:

Mental disorders are among the most common causes of disability. The resulting disease burden of mental illness is among the highest of all diseases. According to the National Institute of Mental Health, in any given year an estimated 13 million American adults (approximately 1 in 17) have a seriously debilitating mental illness. Mental health disorders are the leading cause of disability in the United States, accounting for 25 percent of all years of life lost to disability and premature mortality. Moreover, suicide is the 11th leading cause of death in the United States, accounting for the deaths of approximately 30,000 Americans each year.



Mental health and physical health are closely connected. Mental health plays a major role in people's ability to maintain good physical health. Mental illnesses, such as depression and anxiety, affect people's ability to participate in health-promoting behaviors. In turn, problems with physical health, such as chronic diseases, can have a serious impact on mental health and decrease a person's ability to participate in treatment and recovery.

RELEVANT DATA:

- 40.2% of Adams County residents identified mental illness as either a major or moderate problem in the county; 5.7% said mental illness was a major or moderate problem in their own home.
- 12.1% in Adams County said # mental health days not good = 8-30 in 2008 (BRFSS)
- 18% of Adams County 10th graders completing the 2010 Illinois Youth Survey stated that they had seriously considered suicide in the previous 12 months;.
- 23% of 12th graders completing the 2010 Illinois Youth Survey reported 'feeling so sad or hopeless during the past year' that they stopped their usual activities.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

Community Goal:

- Improve mental health through prevention and access to appropriate, quality mental health services.

Outcome Objective:

- Increase the proportion of children with mental health problems who receive treatment.
- Increase the proportion of adults with mental disorders who receive treatment.

Impact Objectives:

- Increase the proportion of primary care facilities that provide mental health treatment onsite or by paid referral.
- Increase the proportion of persons with co-occurring substance abuse and mental disorders who receive treatment for both disorders.
- Increase depression screening by primary care providers.

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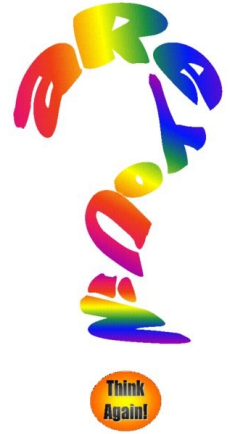


PRIORITY HEALTH ISSUE AREA:

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

From Healthy People 2020:

In 2005, an estimated 22 million Americans struggled with a drug or alcohol problem. Almost 95 percent of people with substance use problems are considered unaware of their problem. Of those who recognize their problem, 273,000 have made an unsuccessful effort to obtain treatment. These estimates highlight the importance of increasing prevention efforts and improving access to treatment for substance abuse and co-occurring disorders. Substance abuse has a major impact on individuals, families, and communities. The effects of substance abuse are cumulative, significantly contributing to costly social, physical, mental, and public health problems including: teenage pregnancy; HIV/AIDS; other STDs; domestic violence; child abuse; motor vehicle crashes; physical fights; crime; homicide; and suicide



RELEVANT DATA:

- The percentage of 12th graders reporting alcohol use in the previous year was 69%, with 14% reporting use on 40 or more occasions.
- The percentage of adults at risk for binge drinking has been higher in Adams County (worse) than the state and other rural counties or nationally since 1997.
- 30% of 12th graders reported having had 5 or more alcoholic drinks in a row, a definition for binge drinking, at least once in the previous two weeks.
- 35% of Adams County 12th graders reported using marijuana at least once in the previous year; the percentage of use of other illicit drugs was very low for this population. However, 10% of this same population reported using certain prescription drugs (e.g., OxyContin) without a doctor's prescription, and 9% said the same for 'uppers' (e.g., Ritalin)

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

Community Goal:

- Reduce substance abuse to protect the health, safety, and quality of life for all, especially children.

Outcome Objectives:

- Reduce the proportion of adults who drank excessively in the previous 30 days.
- Increase the proportion of adolescents never using substances.

Impact Objectives:

- Reduce the proportion of adolescents who report that they rode during the previous 30 days with a driver who had been drinking alcohol.
- Increase the proportion of adolescents who perceive great risk associated with substance abuse.
- Increase the proportion of adolescents who disapprove of substance abuse.
- Increase the proportion of persons who are referred for follow-up care for alcohol problems, drug problems after diagnosis, or treatment for one of these conditions in a hospital emergency department.
- Reduce past-month use of illicit substances.
- Reduce the proportion of persons engaging in binge drinking of alcoholic beverages.
- Reduce the nonmedical use of prescription drugs.

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PRIORITY HEALTH ISSUE AREA:

NUTRITION & WEIGHT STATUS

From Healthy People 2020:

The goal of promoting healthful diets and healthy weight encompasses increasing household food security and eliminating hunger.

Americans with a healthful diet:

- *Consume a variety of nutrient-dense foods within and across the food groups, especially whole grains, fruits, vegetables, low-fat or fat-free milk or milk products, and lean meats and other protein sources.*
- *Limit the intake of saturated and trans fats, cholesterol, added sugars, sodium (salt), and alcohol.*
- *Limit caloric intake to meet caloric needs.*

All Americans should avoid unhealthy weight gain, and those whose weight is too high may also need to lose weight. Diet and body weight are related to health status. Good nutrition is important to the growth and development of children. A healthful diet also helps Americans reduce their risks for many health conditions, including: overweight and obesity; malnutrition; iron-deficiency anemia; heart disease; high blood pressure; Type 2 diabetes; osteoporosis; oral disease; some cancers.

RELEVANT DATA:

- 48.8% people in Adams County intake 0-2 servings fruit/vegetables/day in 2008; IL=42.1% (BRFSS)
- 34.5% people in Adams County intake 3-4 serving fruit/vegetables/day in 2008; IL=32.9% (BRFSS)
- 16.7% people in Adams County intake 5 or more serving fruit/vegetable/day in 2008; IL=25.1 (BRFSS)
- 40.1% of people in Adams County were overweight in 2008; IL=37.6% (BRFSS)
- 30.5% of people in Adams County were obese in 2008; IL=24.4% (BRFSS)
- 33% of Adams County 12th graders described their weight as either 'slightly overweight' or 'very overweight' on the 2010 Illinois Youth Survey.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

Community Goal:

- Promote health and reduce chronic disease risk through the consumption of healthful diets and achievement and maintenance of healthy body weights.

Outcome Objectives:

- Reduce the proportion of adults who are obese.
- Reduce the proportion of children and adolescents who are considered obese.

Impact Objectives:

- Increase the proportion of schools that offer nutritious foods and beverages outside of school meals.
- Increase the proportion of primary care physicians who regularly measure the body mass index of patients.
- Increase the proportion of physician office visits that include counseling or education related to nutrition or weight.
- Increase the proportion of worksites that offer nutrition or weight management classes or counseling.

LEADERSHIP PROVIDED BY:

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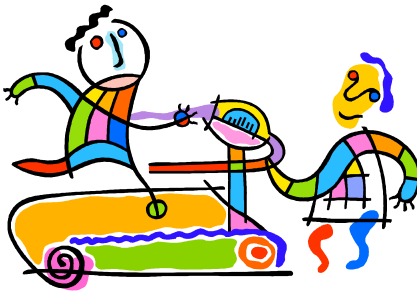
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PRIORITY HEALTH ISSUE AREA:

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

From Healthy People 2020:

More than 80 percent of adults do not meet the guidelines for both aerobic and muscle-strengthening activities. Similarly, more than 80 percent of adolescents do not do enough aerobic physical activity to

meet the guidelines for youth.

Regular physical activity can improve the health and quality of life of Americans of all ages, regardless of the presence of a chronic disease or disability. Among adults and older adults, physical activity can lower the risk of: early death; coronary heart disease; stroke; high blood pressure; type 2 diabetes; breast and colon cancer; falls; depression. Among children and adolescents, physical activity can: improve bone health; improve cardiorespiratory and muscular fitness; decrease levels of body fat; reduce symptoms of depression.

For people who are inactive, even small increases in physical activity are associated with health benefits.

RELEVANT DATA:

- 11.4% of people in Adams County are inactive in 2008; IL=11.4% (BRFSS)
- 60.6% of people in Adams County do NOT meet moderate activity of 5xwk x 30min; IL=79.4% (BRFSS)
- 74.7% of people in Adams County do NOT meet vigorous activity of 3xwk x 20min; IL=73.9% (BRFSS)
- On the 2010 Illinois Youth Survey, 23% of 12th graders reported participating in some sort of physical activity every day in the previous week.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

Community Goal:

- Improve health, fitness, and quality of life through daily physical activity.

Outcome Objective:

- Reduce the proportion of adults who engage in no leisure-time physical activity.

Impact Objectives:

- Increase the proportion of adults who meet current Federal physical activity guidelines for aerobic physical activity and for muscle-strengthening activity.
- Increase the proportion of adolescents who meet current Federal physical activity guidelines for aerobic physical activity and for muscle-strengthening activity.
- Increase the proportion of adolescents who participate in daily school physical education.
- Increase the proportion of school districts that require or recommend elementary school recess for an appropriate period of time.
- Increase the proportion of physician office visits that include counseling or education related to physical activity.
- Increase the proportion of employed adults who have access to and participate in employer-based exercise facilities and exercise programs.

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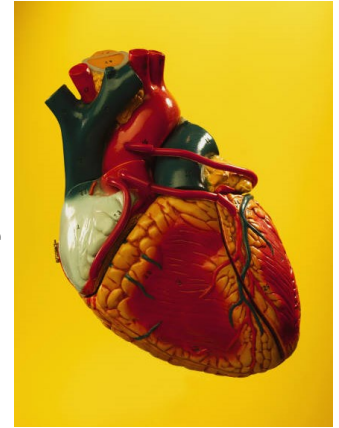
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PRIORITY HEALTH ISSUE AREA:

HEART DISEASE AND STROKE

From Healthy People 2020:

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States. Stroke is the third leading cause of death in the United States. Together, heart disease and stroke are among the most widespread and costly health problems facing the Nation today, accounting for more than \$500 billion in health care expenditures and related expenses in 2010 alone. Fortunately, they are also among the most preventable.



The leading modifiable (controllable) risk factors for heart disease and stroke are: high blood pressure; high cholesterol; cigarette smoking; diabetes; poor diet and physical inactivity; overweight and obesity. Over time, these risk factors cause changes in the heart and blood vessels that can lead to heart attacks, heart failure, and strokes. It is critical to address risk factors early in life to prevent the potentially devastating complications of chronic cardiovascular disease.

RELEVANT DATA:

- The percentage of Adams County adults who were reported as obese in 2008 (30.5%) was worse than the state percentage of 26.4%.
- 32.1% people in Adams County were told their blood pressure was too high in 2008; IL=27.9% (BRFSS)
- 78.3% of people in Adams County were prescribed blood pressure medication in 2008 (BRFSS)
- 12.7% of people in Adams County had never had blood pressure checked in 2008 (BRFSS)
- 26% mortality rate in Adams County for heart diseases; IL=26% (IPLAN)

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

Community Goal:

- Improve cardiovascular health and quality of life through prevention, detection, and treatment of risk factors for heart attack and stroke; early identification and treatment of heart attacks and strokes; and prevention of repeat cardiovascular events.

Outcome Objective:

- By the year 2016, maintain deaths in Adams County attributable to coronary heart disease at no more than the baseline of 229 per 100,000. (2006 IPLAN Data Summary)

Impact Objectives:

- Decrease the number of adults who have been told their blood pressure was high.
- Reduce the proportion of persons in the population with hypertension.
- Increase the proportion of adults who have had their blood cholesterol checked within the preceding 5 years.
- Reduce the proportion of adults with high total blood cholesterol levels.
- Increase the proportion of adults aged 20 years and older who are aware of, and respond to, early warning symptoms and signs of a heart attack.

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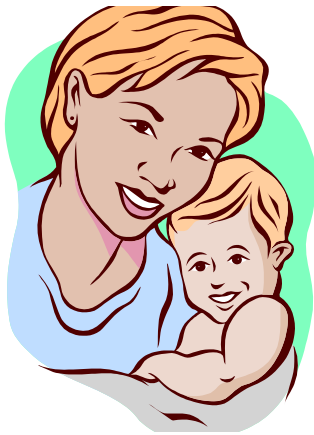
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PRIORITY HEALTH ISSUE AREA:

MATERNAL, INFANT & CHILD HEALTH

From Healthy People 2020:

Improving the well-being of mothers, infants, and children is an important public health goal for the United States. Their well-being determines the health of the next generation and can help predict future public health challenges for families, communities, and the health care system. The

objectives of the Maternal, Infant, and Child Health topic area address a wide range of conditions, health behaviors, and health systems indicators that affect the health, wellness, and quality of life of women, children, and families.

RELEVANT DATA:

- 85.6% of mothers received adequate prenatal care in Adams County in 2006; IL = 74.7% (IPLAN Data Summary)
- 27.1% of mothers smoke during pregnancy in 2006; IL=8.6% (IPLAN Data Summary)
- 805 live births in Adams County in 2006; IL=180,503 (IPLAN Data Summary)
- 5 infant mortalities per 1,000 live births in 2006; IL=1,343 (IPLAN Data Summary)
- 6.7% low birth weight in Adams County in 2006; IL=8.6% (IPLAN Data Summary)
- 1.2% very low birth weight in Adams County in 2006; IL=1.6% (IPLAN Data Summary)

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

Community Goal:

- Improve the health and well-being of women, infants, children, and families.

Outcome Objective:

- Increase the proportion of pregnant women who receive early and adequate prenatal care.

Impact Objectives:

- Increase abstinence from alcohol, cigarettes, and illicit drugs among pregnant women.
- Increase the proportion of pregnant women who attend a series of prepared childbirth classes.
- Decrease the percentage of low birth weight births.
- Decrease the percentage of teen births.
- Reduce postpartum relapse of smoking among women who quit smoking during pregnancy.
- Increase the proportion of women giving birth who attend a postpartum care visit with a health worker.
- Increase the proportion of children, including those with special health care needs, who have access to a medical home.
- Increase the proportion of children with special health care needs who receive their care in family-centered, comprehensive, coordinated systems.

LEADERSHIP PROVIDED BY: Adams County Health Department

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Adams County Children's



Mental Health Partnership

PRIORITY HEALTH ISSUE AREA:

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



From Healthy People 2020:

Humans interact with the environment constantly. These interactions affect quality of life, years of healthy life lived, and health disparities. The World Health Organization (WHO) defines environment, as it relates to health, as “all the physical, chemical, and biological factors external to a person, and all the related behaviors.” Environmental health consists of preventing or controlling disease, injury, and disability related to the interactions between people and their environment.

Maintaining a healthy environment is central to increasing quality of life and years of healthy life. Globally, nearly 25 percent of all deaths and the total disease burden can be attributed to environmental factors.

Environmental factors are diverse and far reaching. They include:

- *Exposure to hazardous substances in the air, water, soil, and food*
- *Natural and technological disasters*
- *Physical hazards*
- *Nutritional deficiencies*
- *The built environment*

RELEVANT DATA:

- Adams County has collected recyclable products (paper, cardboard, plastics, tin, aluminum) in four communities, once a month at each location, outside of Quincy for several years. In 2008 the total number of pounds collected was 283,758; in 2011 that number increased to 450,885.
- In 2010 Adams County started offering recycling for electronics. In that year there was one event which yielded 47,600 pounds of electronic equipment. In 2011 there were two collection events yielding a total of 167,484 pounds.
- The radon levels have been measured at 629 locations in Adams County through the end of 2009 with 308 of those locations, or 49%, showing a radon level greater than or equal to 4.0 pCi/L.
- There have been 147 total radon mitigations in Adams County through the end of 2009.
- 900 children received a blood level test out of 3,000 eligible in 2011.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

Community Goal:

- Promote health for all through a healthy environment.

Impact Objectives:

- Reduce blood lead levels in children.
- Increase recycling of municipal solid waste.
- Increase the percentage of homes with an operating radon mitigation system for persons living in homes at risk for radon exposure.

LEADERSHIP PROVIDED BY:

Adams County Health Department

Tony Dede

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217-222-8440, Ext. 124

Two Rivers Regional Council

Sandra Trusewych

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**We invite you to join the Alliance
for Building Community to help
identify priorities, find solutions and
improve lives.**



Alliance for Building Community (ABC) is a community partnership of individuals and groups working to improve the quality of life for all residents of Adams County.

ABC's Purpose:

- Bring people together
- Focus on priorities
- Tackle root causes
- Inspire action and encourage community support
- Participate in public policy decisions
- Research, create and test long term solutions
- Improve individual lives and our community

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

In addition to Health issues ABC also focuses on issues around Education and Income. ABC encourages individuals, groups, organizations and policy-makers to come together to explore community issues and seek solutions. This can be done by reviewing the goals and action areas listed on the ABC website and then by acting in one or more of the following ways.

<http://www.allianceforbuildingcommunity.org>

FORM A DISCUSSION GROUP

Gather a group to discuss the community goals, review data, explore solutions, increase awareness, promote involvement, and advocate for change. Please notify ABC before your discussion group meets.

JOIN A LEADERSHIP DELEGATION OR COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS TEAM

All of the objectives identified in the Community Health Assessment will require the commitment of many volunteers to make them happen. The community partners identified in this document are not meant to be an exclusive list. If you have a connection or interest in a particular issue area, don't hesitate to contact the identified Lead Organization to get involved.

QUALITY OF LIFE INVESTMENTS

If you or your organization are interested in making a long-term, well-thought out effort regarding an action area, you may be interested in a Quality of Life Investment. Investments are voluntary, formal agreements between ABC and individuals, groups, organizations, and/or policy-makers to work together to measurably improve a community goal or action area. After talking to ABC, fill out ABC's simple investment form so we can endorse your affiliation.