

The Bellevue Hospital is proud to be a member of Sandusky County Health Partners, which began in 1993. The goal of the Sandusky County Health Partners is to have a community that focuses on wellness, improving the population's general health status, increasing the access to services and addressing unmet needs. Through the assessment process of primary research, data analysis, validation and prioritization, key themes of need are identified. These assessments are completed every three years in our ongoing effort for healthier communities.

The Sandusky County Health Partners have been conducting CHAs since 2001 to measure community health status. The most recent Sandusky County CHA was cross-sectional in nature and included a written survey of adults within Sandusky County. The questions were modeled after the survey instruments used by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for their national and state Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). This has allowed Sandusky County to compare their CHA data to national, state and local health trends. Community stakeholders were actively engaged in the early phases of CHA planning and helped define the content, scope, and sequence of the project. The Sandusky County Health Department contracted with the Hospital Council of Northwest Ohio (HCNO), a neutral, regional, nonprofit hospital association, to facilitate the CHIP. The health district invited various community stakeholders to participate in the community health improvement process. Data from the most recent CHA was carefully considered and categorized into community priorities with accompanying strategies. This was done using the National Association of County and City Health Officials' (NACCHO) national framework, Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP).

The Sandusky County Health Partners met in early 2021 to review the 2019/2020 Community Health Assessment and develop the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). The first meeting was held in January 2021 and three priorities of focus were chosen. The final Sandusky County CHIP report was officially released on April 26, 2021.

Health Priorities

- 1. Health Behaviors**
- 2. Mental Health and Addiction**
- 3. Infant Mortality**

Over the next three years, these priorities and strategies will be implemented at the county-level with the hope to improve population health and create lasting, sustainable

change. It is the hope of the Sandusky County Health Partners that each agency in the county will tie their internal strategic plan to at least one strategy in the CHIP.

Hospital-based Implementation Plan

After participation in the community efforts, The Bellevue Hospital developed a hospital-based implementation plan, including goals and a budget. With review of our community needs assessment, we will implement programs and services to address the following health needs, listed in order of priority:

1. **Cardiovascular Disease Risk Factors (Health Behaviors)**
2. **Mental Health and Addiction**
3. **Maternal and Infant Health**

The Bellevue Hospital Community Service Area

The Bellevue Hospital participated in the Sandusky County surveys and plans and in the Huron County Surveys, 2017 Huron County Health Assessment Report. The Bellevue Hospital continues to provide convenient access to high quality primary and specialty care to individuals and families living in our primary service area defined as the cities of Bellevue, Green Springs, and Clyde, Ohio with approximately 60% of the patients provided care coming from these cities. The cities of Green Springs and Clyde are entirely in Sandusky County, Ohio. Bellevue is a city in Erie, Huron, Sandusky and Seneca counties in Ohio with a population of 8,249, according to the 2020 U.S. Census. For the purposes of the Community Health Needs Assessment and this plan, the health statistics and factors for all four counties were reviewed; however, the information used and contained within this report utilizes the primary county of Sandusky County and used the information in completing this community health assessment.

Demographics of the Community

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the population of Sandusky County, Ohio, as of April 1, 2020, was 58,896. The median household income (in 2019 dollars) was \$54,089. Those residents with incomes under \$25,000 were considered in poverty. As of the 2020 census, 10.4% of the Sandusky County population were in poverty.

The majority (83.2%) of the population are Caucasian. The remainder of the population is African American (3.6%), Hispanic (10.7%), Asian (0.4%) and two or more races (2.8%). The median household income for Sandusky County is \$55,245. An estimated 10.4% of all Sandusky county residents had an income below the poverty level in 2020. Of all the households with children under 18, 18% had incomes which fell below the federal poverty level. An estimated 7.3% of adults are uninsured.

Health Behaviors

Working to decrease chronic disease risk factors by promoting and educating area residents on the importance of a healthy lifestyle with a specific emphasis on decreasing cardiovascular disease and cancer.

- **Decrease inactivity and obesity among adults and children**
 - Continue to use Anytime Fitness Center, opened in fall 2018, as a way to promote fitness in the adult population.
 - Collaborate with the Bellevue Recreation Center to help increase the community's health.
 - Promote the use of the therapy pool for independent aquatic exercise.
 - Inform the community of the hospital's Wellness and Walking Trail
 - Host a 5K race through the Foundation
 - Renovate The Bellevue Hospital 's existing Community Garden to create a better environment to raise produce to donate to Bellevue and Clyde Food Banks.
 - Continue the projects and programs associated with the garden including educational programs and involvement of schools and community members.
 - Partner with the Shop Bellevue Committee to provide blood pressure screenings and health tips in downtown businesses to promote healthy lifestyles in Bellevue residents.
 - Engage employees in contributing non-perishable food items to benefit area food banks.
 - Collaborate with Drown's Market to provide a location for a farmer's market monthly from May until September.
 - Investigate the Produce Prescription program, organized through the Sandusky County Creating Healthy Communities Coalition and possibly find ways for TBH to participate.
 - Continue to offer Game On program for the Bellevue, Clyde and ICS schools.
 - Work with Fish & Loaves Food Pantry to help supply nutritional food to children in Bellevue City Schools who are part of the Weekend Back Pack program.
 - Investigate ways to offer fresh food samplings (with recipe cards, etc.) at food pantries and farmer's markets

- **Increase awareness of preventative health screenings, educational programs and local activities to decrease chronic disease**
 - Create a Direct Access Lab program for community members to visit the lab to get diagnostic screenings at a reduced cost. Menu of test created that community members may select for nominal fees.
 - Promote healthy lifestyles in The Bellevue Hospital's employees through fun challenges, annual health screenings, and hospital-wide educational programs.

- Attend Creating Healthy Communities Coalition Meetings and help with distribution of education materials and announcements through marketing channels.
 - Educate patients on how to manage diabetes and live a healthy lifestyle.
 - Continue to increase community awareness of diabetes through support groups and one-on-one sessions.
 - Work with Sandusky County Health Partners subcommittee to help establish an online community wellness calendar and maintain TBH events on that calendar.
- **Educate community members on the dangers of using tobacco products**
 - Work with businesses to assist with providing education on tobacco cessation programs.
 - Continue to offer classes in tobacco cessation.
 - TBH will support the effort to promote the mass media campaign by sharing messages and engaging audiences on social networking sites like Facebook.
 - Support effort through our print community newsletter and other avenues.
 - Develop a plan to share our own social media post once per quarter to talk about the dangers of smoking and promote our smoking cessation program.
 - Promote and raise awareness of the Ohio Tobacco Quit Line on social media and in promotional materials.
 - **Promote cancer awareness and prevention for community and employees**
 - Continue to offer benefits to employees for participating in screenings, attending classes, and completing educational surveys.
 - Work with outside agencies to educate public on cancer.
 - Purchase state-of-the-art 3D mammography to increase breast cancer detection in community women.
 - Continue to find opportunities for The Bellevue Hospital Foundation Mammography Fund to provide financial support for those unable to pay or meet their high deductibles.
 - Develop and expand Cancer Care Program at TBH

Mental Health and Addiction

TBH will partner with Sandusky County Mental Health Coalition and actively participate in educational activities.

- **Continue to be a referring partner for area agencies providing mental health programs.**
 - Work with the Prevention Partnership of Sandusky County.
 - Continue to work with patients at risk for developing or having depression because of chronic pain.
- **Provide educational programs and support for our employees.**
 - Identify if TBH workforce is trained on Mental Health First Aid
 - Work collaboratively with Sandusky County Public Health to train staff on Mental Health First Aid.

- Provide information on Promedica's Employee Assistance Program through Weekly Employee Communications, Employee Wellness Events and New Hire Orientations
- **Investigate ways the hospital's Substance Task Force can provide education and support for the community, including:**
 - Continuing education
 - Blessing Bags in the Emergency Department and Family Health Services
 - Offering free drug testing kits and education in the Emergency Department
 - Continue to improve the Suboxone Clinic

Maternal and Infant Health

Improve the health of infants and their mothers with a long-term goal of decreasing the percentage of infant deaths in Ohio

- **Increase first trimester prenatal care**
 - TBH will begin to work with our family medicine and OB/GYN offices to educate women of childbearing age on prenatal health, such as taking vitamins and folic acid before getting pregnant.
 - Distribute pregnancy education materials when a patient confirms a pregnancy.
 - Connect women to health care coverage and increase care coordination.
- **Continue to work to promote breastfeeding to help reduce the risk of SIDS.**
- **Work to educate and stress the importance of Ohio Hospital Association's Safe Sleep Campaign with new parents and families.**