

2023

Community Health Assessment

Franklin County



The Community Health Assessment (CHA) identifies key health needs and issues through comprehensive data collection and analysis. The assessment gives counties information about the community's current health status, needs, and issues. This CHA is our starting point for work with a focus in a few priority areas that will be revisited, revised, and built upon as needed to assure progress in each area or changes as they are appropriate in the following years.

We work with many partners in the community and throughout the region to identify health needs and issues in a variety of ways. Through data collection, meetings, collaboratives, surveys, and more we are able to work together to address concerns and work to make an impact on positive change in specific areas.

In turn, this information can help with developing a community health improvement plan (CHIP).

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Franklin County, Iowa was formed on January 15th, 1851 and was named after Benjamin Franklin. Census data reports the population for the county was 10,019 in 2020. The Census data currently estimates the population as of July 2022 at 9,916.

We work on a regular basis with multiple partners in the community including Franklin General Hospital and Clinics, MercyOne North Iowa, Hampton-Dumont Schools, West Fork Schools, and other community agencies such as the Senior Center, ACCESS, INC, and the local pharmacies. Through work with all of these different partners we feel we are able to address the needs of individuals in the county. We have a large presence in Hampton, the county seat and cover multiple other cities to include Ackley, Alexander, Bradford, Chapin, Coulter, Dows, Geneva, Hansell, Latimer, Popejoy, and Sheffield.

According to Data USA, in 2021, Franklin County, Iowa had a population of 10,056 and the median age was reported at 43.3 years old. It is important to consider the uniqueness and differences of all the individuals within our community, whether that is their age, race, gender, etc. The diversity of the population may require unique approaches and strategies for success. In Franklin County, Iowa there were 8.73 times more White (Non-Hispanic) residents than any other race or ethnicity. Approximately 13.4% of the people are Hispanic. Data from the CARES report indicates that in 2020, there were approximately 2,337 individuals under the age of 18, another 5,569 individuals between the ages of 18 and 64, and finally 2,185 individuals over the age of 65. In 2020, 8% of the population reported some form of disability. These are all points we took into consideration when determining our priorities during this assessment.

Poverty and lack of insurance are both considered to be key drivers to the health status of individuals. Poverty creates barriers to access to health services, healthy foods, and other necessities that contribute to poor health status. The data from the CARES report from 2020 indicates that approximately 15.85% of individuals in Franklin County live in poverty. Lack of insurance is a primary barrier to healthcare access including regular primary care, specialty care, and other health services that contribute to poor health status. The CARES report shows that approximately 11.41% of the population of Franklin County is without health insurance, which is more than double that of the state of Iowa at 4.69%. The Franklin County Community Health Assessment Survey along with partner work within the community also indicated this to be a large concern.

There are a lot of factors that come in to play when it comes to Access to Care in Franklin County. Quality health services can be tough to find related to our rural locations. Transportation is a huge concern for individuals to get to appointments, especially specialized services that are often times not available locally but require traveling 30 miles or more for care. There are more and more open positions and staffing concerns within the health care profession these days since the COVID-19 pandemic. Health insurance is a difficult field to navigate related to all the options that are available, the different benefits each offers, and the cost for certain plans. What assistance programs are available to what groups? Where does poverty and education come into play? What about inflation and workforce? All of these things affect each individual's access to care. What can we do to address these concerns? Some things are limited by lack of human resources and staff as well as financial resource limitations. What we do feel we can address and work to improve is the amount of education we provide, guiding individuals to the community partners who can help individuals navigate these things.

Strokes are a leading cause of death in the United States and cardiovascular health was determined to be another top priority in Franklin County related to the following data. The CARES report states that during the years 2016 to 2020 there were 36 deaths reported due to strokes. The age-adjusted death rate for strokes is equal to 41.9% per 100,000 population which is higher than that at the state level. In the state of Iowa, the age-adjusted death rate is equal to 32.4% per 100,000 population. The CARES report also shows that of the population in Franklin County that are Medicare beneficiaries, 28.2% report having heart disease (24.0% for the state of Iowa) and 52.9% report having high blood pressure (54.2% for the state of Iowa).

Finally, our third top priority at this time in our community health assessment is immunization status and compliance with the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) Immunization recommendations. The ACIP comprises medical and public health experts who develop recommendations on the use of vaccines in the civilian population of the United States. The recommendations stand as public health guidance for safe use of vaccines and related biological products. In our specific county we have seen a large number of students coming from Mexico and Honduras without vaccine records or

without the recommended vaccines, therefore have established a good partnership with the HD School nurses to work to ensure families have the access they need to get caught up with the recommendations.

We had our VFC Quality improvement site visit on July 28th, 2023 in which data suggests that those kids under the age of 18 are not staying up to date on their vaccines. The data presented indicated that there were 4 individuals under the age of 2 that were served within our agency for vaccines and only 25% of those completely up to date on vaccines. For those individuals served within our agency through their 13th birthday (50 total individuals), 92% were up to date with Tdap vaccine, 84% were up to date with Meningitis vaccine, and 18% were up to date with the HPV vaccine. We did review a lot of data within the IRIS system that would be specific to Franklin County and specific to our Public Health agency with this site visit.

With all of the data presented above we hope to continue to grow this CHA/CHIP and plan to expand on other areas of need as we are able to accomplish our goals and gain insights from more partners in our communities. Staffing changes throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and overall change in the healthcare system with shortages and increased difficulties with access to care for rural Iowa have and will continue to impact the capacity our Public Health department. With that said, the communities of Franklin County remain a top priority in our approach and day-to-day work.

<https://hhs.iowa.gov/cha-chip/Data>

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/franklincountyiowa/PST045222>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Franklin_County,_Iowa

<https://datausa.io/profile/geo/franklin-county-ia>

2023

Community Health Improvement Plan Franklin County

PRIORITY #1: ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND INSURANCE OPTIONS

Goal: By 2025, increase access to care through education.

Objective: By 2025, increase the number of people in Franklin County with insurance coverage. Through education and guidance to appropriate community resources, our main objective is to decrease the percentage of individuals without insurance from 11.41% to 8%.

Strategy #1: Work together with our community partners to utilize the community agencies that can assist individuals with insurance plans and benefits such as the SHIP Representative, the DHS office to work with Medicaid applications and enrollment, the community resource building for WIC/SNAP benefits.

Strategy #2: Provide education and guidance to individuals who are looking for assistance and provide referrals to appropriate agencies as appropriate.

Strategy #3: Promote transportation options through guidance/education on what options are available to individuals. Franklin General Hospital recently began offering transportation within their service area for all appointments that occur within their hospital/clinics. Transit options and Medicaid transportation offered with insurance.

Strategy #4: Reestablish community partnerships for a Community Health fair which would include screenings, education, and guidance to different services and benefits within the community.

Progress Notes/Follow-Up:

PRIORITY #2: CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE AND HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE

GOAL: By 2025, decrease the number of deaths and significant health issues caused by cardiovascular disease/strokes.

Objective: By 2025, decrease the age-adjusted death rate for stroke from 41.9% by 10-15% through education and health screening events within the communities of Franklin County.

Strategy #1: Through 2025 and beyond, work to educate the public on the importance of eating healthy and being physically active to reduce their risk of developing heart disease.

Strategy #2: Continue to hold blood pressure screenings, medical minutes, and community health screening events each month in the communities of Franklin County. Work to grow these screenings events again since the COVID-19 pandemic limited our outings in communities outside of Hampton, bringing them back to Latimer and Sheffield to start.

Strategy #3: Identify opportunities to improve healthy behaviors within the county and increase resource utilization through education, information sharing, and marketing. One example would be working with the extension office to help promote their events and strategies for healthy living.

Strategy #4: Create an event that would be specific to the rising Hispanic population in our communities to help identify strategies specific to this population to improve healthy behaviors. Screening events at LaLuz in Hampton and with growth could include a health fair with specific ideas tied to this population.

Progress Notes/Follow-Up:

PRIORITY #3: IMMUNIZATION RATES FOR THOSE UNDER THE AGE OF 18

GOAL: By 2025, Increase the vaccination rates within Franklin County according to the ACIP recommendations.

Objective: By 2025, Increase the vaccination rates for those through age 18 within Franklin county in accordance with the ACIP recommendations by at least 10% through education, increased vaccination efforts, and partnerships with the schools in our county to reach those who need vaccines.

Strategy #1: Review and update IRIS information to make corrections to ensure we are only collecting the data for those individuals within Franklin County.

Strategy #2: Continue to work in partnership with the schools and build-up on those partnerships to help ensure vaccines are offered regularly and appropriately for all individuals along with education to parents and students regarding the importance of vaccines and staying up to date.

Strategy#3: Continue to use social media, radio, newspapers, etc to promote our vaccination efforts and provide education to the community in whole related to the importance of vaccinations and guidance from the ACIP.

Strategy #4: Work to establish a partnership with La Luz Centro Cultural, a non-profit in Hampton, Iowa that works specifically with the Hispanic population and new families that have moved to the Franklin County area. This partnership would allow an increase in vaccination awareness and education within this very specific population in Franklin County.

Progress Notes/Follow-Up: