Will County Community Health Needs Assessment
To all Will County Residents and Partners in our Public Health System,

It is my pleasure to present to you the 2019 Community Health Needs Assessment for the County of Will. This document is a culmination of a great amount of effort from our Mobilizing for Action in Planning and Partnership (MAPP) Collaborative.

I use the word “our” because it is truly a group effort. The many partner organizations that devote their time to this process have donated countless hours, in addition to the responsibilities of their jobs, to make Will County a better place to live and work. Additionally, many of these member partners have been with the Collaborative for several years, and have proven to be a vital part of the process. This is evident by the successes we have been able to celebrate by documented improvements in our community.

This Community Health Needs Assessment will provide the blueprint for the MAPP Collaborative and its partner organizations for the next three years. It will assist residents, institutions, and leaders of Will County by informing them of factors that can improve health, prevent illness, and move towards health equity.

I am motivated by the opportunities this assessment provides in improving the health and wellness of Will County and look forward to working with all our community partners, and hopefully gathering additional community health partners in the process!

Susan Olenek
Executive Director
Will County Health Department
Chairman, Will County MAPP Collaborative
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Will County Community Health Needs Assessment Executive Summary

The Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) is a collaborative effort of the Will County Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) Collaborative. The purpose of the CHNA is to provide a community plan that is developed by and for the community. The assessment and planning process is required every three years for hospitals and every five years for local health departments. The Will County Health Department has aligned its assessment process with the three-year hospital requirements to avoid a duplication of efforts and to expand on the evidenced-based needs of the community.

**Vision, Mission, and Value Statements**

**Vision Statement**
Achieving equitable and optimal health in body and mind for all Will County residents.

**Mission Statement**
The Will County MAPP Collaborative will assess the health needs of the community and develop, implement, and evaluate initiatives to promote the highest quality of life for all residents.

**Value Statements**
- Health Equity: All individuals have the opportunity to realize their full potential and to achieve the highest quality of life.
- Collective Impact: We strive to be a progressive community that maximizes the use of community partnerships and collaboration among all sectors to ensure, enhance, and promote comprehensive, quality, and equitable education, healthcare, and social services.
- Respect: Every life has value.
- Communication: We commit to sharing our data, assessments, and plans in order to educate and engage the community.
- Quality: We believe in evaluation, continuous improvement, and innovation.
- Inclusiveness: We are a community rich in diversity, where involvement and commitment have deep roots among our residents.

**Collaborative Process and Assessment Methodology**

In 2018, the Will County MAPP Collaborative convened to conduct the fourth iteration of the MAPP process. MAPP is a community-driven, strategic planning framework that assists communities in developing and implementing efforts around the prioritization of public health issues and the identification of resources to address them, as defined by the 10 Essential Public Health Services. The MAPP process has six phases which include four assessments. The Mobilizing and Organizing Partners to Achieve Health Equity supplemental guide was used during this assessment process.

**Community Health Status Assessment**
The Community Health Status Assessment (CHSA) is one of four assessments conducted as a part of the MAPP process. During this assessment, information regarding demographics, health status, health
behaviors, and social determinants in the community is gathered and analyzed. Data is collected from a variety of resources and analyzed comparing local, state, and national benchmarks when available.

**Community Themes and Strengths Assessment**

The Community Themes and Strengths Assessment (CTSA) aims to gather community members’ perceptions, thoughts, opinions, and concerns regarding quality of life in Will County. This input provides valuable insight into the issues of importance to the community. The CTSA was conducted June-July 2019.

**Forces of Change Assessment**

The Forces of Change Assessment (FOCA) aims to identify all the forces and associated opportunities and threats that can affect, either now or in the future, the local public health system. Forces may be social, economic, political, technological, environmental, scientific, legal, and/or ethical in nature. Forces can be trends, factors, or events. The FOCA was conducted March-April 2019.

**Local Public Health System Assessment**

The Local Public Health System Assessment (LPHSA) was conducted in May 2019. The LPHSA is used to understand the overall strengths and weaknesses of the public health system based on the 10 Essential Public Health Services.

**Prioritization of Strategic Issues**

On September 13, 2019, Forty Will County public health stakeholders participated in a planning session at Presence Saint Joseph Medical Center to review key findings from the four MAPP assessments, identify cross-cutting themes and potential strategic issues, and prioritize a set of strategic issues. The meeting was facilitated by the Illinois Public Health Institute. Attendees identified five potential strategic issues but could not come to consensus.

In September, MAPP Executive Committee members were asked to use a Prioritization Criteria and Planning Worksheet during the discussion of the previously identified strategic issues. All attendees agreed that transportation and housing stabilization is a concern, but that it could be nested under all strategic issues and become a goal of the MAPP Executive Committee. A prioritization on supporting a community of wellness, as it relates to social determinants of health, focusing on Access to Food and Nutrition, Access to Health Care, Behavioral Health and Substance use, and the Built Environment. These task forces were devised entering 2020 to measurably reduce adverse health outcomes for target populations of Will county.

MAPP Executive Committee members decided that behavioral health and substance use, access to health care, access to food and nutrition, and the stabilization of the built environment would be the top three strategic issues for the next three years entering 2020.
Access to Health Care

Access to comprehensive, quality healthcare services is important for promoting and maintaining health, preventing and managing disease, reducing unnecessary disability and premature death, and achieving health equity. Access is a complex issue with multiple components including availability, affordability, proximity and timeliness. Findings from the assessments detail access issues to healthcare services and resources. Specific priority needs identified in the assessment process include:

- Coordination and Linkage to Primary Medical Home
- Access to services and resources
- Benefits enrollment
- Policy, Education, Empowerment
- Data Collection and Sharing strategies to identify and prioritize issues
- Technological Assistance and Advancements

### Access to Dental and Primary Care

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Insurance Coverage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Issue</strong></td>
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</table>
| 10.36% of the Will County working age population (18-64) was uninsured in 2016. There has been an overall decrease in the percentage of uninsured population since 2010. 16.43% of the Hispanic/Latino population in Will County reported no health insurance coverage, compared to 5.42% of the non-Hispanic/Latino population. | Males  
African American and Asian races  
Hispanic ethnicity  
60432, 60433, and 60484 |

### Provider Availability

Will County has a total of 391 primary care physicians, yielding a ratio of population to primary care physicians of 1,760:1. Will County has a total of 361 dentists, yielding a ratio of population to dentists of 1,830:1 compared to 1,310:1 for Illinois. 15.9% of adults in Will County report that they do not have at least one person that they consider to be their primary care provider. There is one community on the East side of Joliet designated by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) as an area having shortages of primary care, dental care, and mental health providers.

- 60433 zip code  
- Non-white males, ages 25-44 with an income less than $35,000

### Preventable Hospital Visits

Will County’s ambulatory care sensitive condition discharge rate was 69 per 1,000 Medicare enrollees in 2014, which is higher than both Illinois (59) and the U.S. (38), but has decreased since 2010. Ambulatory care sensitive conditions include pneumonia, dehydration, asthma, diabetes, and other conditions which could have been prevented if adequate primary care resources were available and accessed by those patients.

- Medicare beneficiaries
**Improving Behavioral Health**

Behavioral health is a term used to include both mental health and substance use disorders. Mental health disorders are among the most common causes of disability. Mental disorders attributed to 7.8% (5,783) of Will County hospitalizations in 2014, and is the third leading cause of hospitalizations overall. Findings from the assessments detail access issues to behavioral health services, as well as resources.

Behavioral health issues impact population groups across income levels as well as racial and ethnic groups. Specific priority needs and populations identified in the assessment process include:

- Coordination and Linkage to mental health services
- Data Collection and Sharing strategies to identify and prioritize issues
- Technological Assistance and Advancements
- Policy, Education, Empowerment

### Improving Behavioral Health

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provider Availability</th>
<th>Target Population</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Issue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will County has a total of 645 mental health providers, yielding a ratio of population to mental health providers of 1,010:1, compared to 480:1 for Illinois. There is one community on the East side of Joliet designated by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) as an area having a shortage of mental health providers. According to providers, three barriers for clients to access services were identified: cost of needed services, wait for services, and proximity to access services. They also reported that psychiatric services are the most difficult to access.</td>
<td>60433 zip code, Southern Will County</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Emotional and Mental Health

37% of Will County adults, aged 18 and older, self-reported that they experienced at least one and up to 30 “not good” mental health days in the past month. 19.2% of adults self-reported that they receive insufficient emotional and social support all or most of the time. 35% of 12th graders experienced depression in 2018, 7% increase from 2014.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target Population</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adults</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school youth</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Substance Use

23.6% of adults, aged 18 and older, reported binge or heavy alcohol consumption in 2012. 13.4% reported regular tobacco use in 2014. 23% of 12th graders report binge alcohol consumption in the past two weeks in 2018. 45% of 12th graders report using alcohol, 35% of 12th graders report using e-cigarettes or vaping, and 26% report using marijuana in the last 30 days, Illinois Youth Survey (IYS) 2018. 26% of all 12th graders also reported experiencing two or more consequences due to substance use.

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<tr>
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<tbody>
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<td>Adults</td>
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<tr>
<td>High school youth</td>
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</table>

### Drug Overdose

In 2017, there were 117 total overdose deaths, 73% of which were male. Of the 117 accidental overdoses, 87 deaths were heroin related. Combined drug intoxication was the second leading cause of accidental overdose. 57% of overdoses were in Joliet, followed by Romeoville and Lockport.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target Population</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
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### Suicide

In 2017, there were 324 unnatural deaths in Will County, of which approximately 25% were attributed to suicide, which has doubled since 2014; Of which, 81.25% testing positive for substances. 14% of 12th graders and 16% of 10th graders reported considering suicide in the past year in 2018.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target Population</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High School Youth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adults</td>
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</table>
**Stabilizing the Built Environment**

In Will County, housing security, and transportation security has been nested as an issue in all major strategic categories. Being housing insecure reduces life expectancy by nearly half. Individuals experiencing housing insecurity tend to present multiple chronic illness conditions and have the least access to resources to improve quality of life and health outcome. Findings from the assessments detail access issues to housing and transportation security and resources. Specific priority needs, and populations identified in the assessment process include:

- Vocational Training
- Data Collection and Sharing strategies to identify and prioritize issues
- Technological Assistance and Advancements
- Health Service linkage and coordination
- Evaluate the environment
- Policy, Education, Empowerment

### Stabilizing the Built Environment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Target Population</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In Will County, 341 individuals were identified as Housing insecure or “homeless” under the definition in 2018 and over 30% were children. Children tend to be of the majority of Medicaid recipients and individuals experiencing poverty. Being housing insecure reduces life expectancy by nearly half. Individuals experiencing housing insecurity tend to present multiple chronic illness conditions and have the least access to resources to improve quality of life and health outcome.</td>
<td>• Housing Insecure populations of 60433, 60432, 60435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vacancy</strong></td>
<td><strong>Owners/Renters</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will County has a housing vacancy rate of over 6%. Central, Eastern and Southern Will County experience the highest rates of vacancies amongst the county at over 20%.</td>
<td>• Housing Insecure population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overcrowding</strong></td>
<td><strong>Owners/Renters</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overcrowding in specific geographies of Will County has become an issue due to housing insecurity, hitting primarily the socially vulnerable areas of the east side of Joliet; with over 4% of homes being overcrowded. Rent cost, socioeconomics, and Illinois law all effects the housing security of an individual.</td>
<td>• 60433, 60432, 60435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Substandard Conditions</strong></td>
<td><strong>Renters; Housing Insecure Population</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of those living in socially vulnerable zip codes of Will County 60433, 60432, 60435, 35% are living in or experiencing substandard housing conditions, effecting habitation and access to resources required to limit social determinants verdict on health.</td>
<td>• 60433, 60432, 60435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Transportation</strong></td>
<td><strong>Renters; Housing Insecure Population</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will County residents without a vehicle in the home to commute to services in socially vulnerable areas is over 8%. Public Transportation is available in segments of the county and might be inaccessible due to socioeconomic factors or safety. Communities have limited sidewalks and bike paths for safe commuting to local health services and educational centers.</td>
<td>• Homes with No motor vehicle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Access to Food and Nutrition

Food insecurity in Will County effects nearly 10% of all residents, of which even more have no access to healthy food retailers. Of the more than 34,000 children experiencing food insecurity, 46% are ineligible for assistance programs. Residents residing primarily in the central and northwestern areas of the county have less access to healthy food and only 15 per every 100,000 have access to WIC authorized food stores.

Findings from the assessments detail access issues to healthcare services and resources. Specific priority needs and populations identified in the assessment process include:

- Coordination and linkage for food insecure population
- Access to Nutritional Food
- Data Collection and Sharing strategies to identify and prioritize issues
- Technological Assistance and Advancements
- Policy, Education, Empowerment

### Access to Food and Nutrition

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| Food insecurity in Will County effects nearly 10% of all residents, of which even more have no access to healthy food retailers. Of the more than 34,000 children experiencing food insecurity, 46% are ineligible for assistance programs. Residents residing primarily in the central and northwestern areas of the county have less access to healthy food and only 15 per every 100,000 have access to WIC authorized food stores. | • Youth  
60417, 60432, 60433, 60436, 60440, 60441, and 60484 zip codes |

**Chronic Disease**

Over the past decade, mortality due to diabetes has slowly decreased in Will County. In 2014, the age-adjusted mortality rate of diabetes was 17.7 deaths, well below the Healthy People 2020 target of 66.6 deaths. The concern with diabetes is the high percentage of Medicare beneficiaries with diabetes. Excess weight is a prevalent problem in the U.S., as it indicates an unhealthy lifestyle and puts individuals at risk for further health issues. Coronary Heart disease plagues more Non-Hispanic African Americans than counterparts. Males were more likely to be obese than females. Additionally, 37.9% of adults aged 18 and older self-reported that they have a BMI between 25-30 (overweight), with the highest percentage being Non-Hispanic White. Additionally, obesity is an issue in Will County youth.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Target Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • Youth  
Non-Hispanic White  
Males  
African American population  
60417, 60432, 60433, 60436, 60440, 60441, and 60484 zip codes |

**Healthy Food Consumption**

Healthy food consumption is an issue among youth and adults in Will County. Among Will County adults, 80.7% are consuming less than five servings of fruits and vegetables each day, compared to 76.3% in Illinois and 75.7% in the U.S. Nearly 95% of all youth 8th through 12th report not consuming the adequate number of fruits and vegetables per day. Joliet residents of 60433, 60432 experiences a food desert.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Target Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • Youth  
60433, 60432, 60436 |

**Food Access**

An environment that provides access to healthy food and recreational opportunities is important to maintaining and improving community health. There are 81 neighborhoods in Will County that are within food deserts, affecting approximately 437,000 residents, located in or around Joliet. Also, 31.8% of the population do not have access to healthy foods.
Introduction

Demographic Profile of Will County

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Will County has grown rapidly over the past decade. Will County total population is approximately 692,661 as of 2017. Will County’s population has and is expected to continue outpacing the growth rate for Illinois.

Will County has a total of 849 square miles (12 of which are water), 31 zip codes, 23 cities, and five area codes. A majority of these Will County residents reside in Joliet, Plainfield, Bolingbrook, and Romeoville. Will County is predominantly urban, with 96.07% of the total population living in urban areas. Geographically, southern Will County is largely rural.

The median age of Will County is 36.2 years, and the County’s population is slightly younger than Illinois’ population. According to the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau, 63% of Will County’s population is below the age of 45, compared to 60% statewide.

In 2016, the majority of Will County’s population was White (74.2%), followed by Black/African American (11.2%), Asian (5.1%), and American Indian/Alaska Native (0.7%). The population for all races increased since 2010, however the White population has decreased overall since 2000. The Hispanic/Latino ethnicity has nearly doubled since 2000, including Spanish speaking homes. Hispanic and Latino account for roughly 16.5% of all residents.

The population of foreign-born residents in Will County increased slightly between 2011 and 2016 (an increase of 2,767 residents). Currently, the foreign-born population constitutes 11.7% of the Will County population. As of 2016, a little over half of the foreign-born population had become U.S. citizens. Almost 50% of Will County’s foreign-born population originated from Latin America (47.1%) and Asia (30.6%). A higher concentration of Will County’s foreign-born population resided in northern Will County and in the Joliet area.

As of 2016, there are 91,485 families with children (under age 18) which accounts for 40.7% of total households in Will County. This percentage is just under 10% higher than in Illinois (31.5%)

In Will County, 8.76% of the population, or 56,202 people has a disability. This percentage is slightly lower than Illinois (10.87%). Large concentrations of this population resided in certain areas in northern, eastern, and southern Will County, as well as Joliet.

In Will County, 6.4% of the total population, or 31,953 people, are veterans, who mostly reside in southern and eastern Will County.
The Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) is a collaborative effort of the Will County Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) Collaborative. The purpose of the CHNA is to provide a community plan that is developed by and for the community. The assessment and planning process is required every three years for hospitals and every five years for local health departments. The Will County Health Department has aligned its assessment process with the three year hospital requirements to avoid a duplication of efforts.

The MAPP Project was established in 2008 as an effort to meet the IRS guidelines for not-for-profit hospitals and the requirements of the Illinois Department of Public Health for local health department certification. A 25 member steering committee guided the community through the MAPP Strategic Planning Framework. The assessment phase was completed in 2010, with approval of the plan in January 2011.

The Will County MAPP Collaborative was formed following the completion of the MAPP Project in 2011. The second iteration of the MAPP process began in September 2012 and was completed in May 2014. The third round of the MAPP process began in January 2016. The Fourth iteration of MAPP was conducted through 2018-2019 and the Fifth cycle begins as 2020 ensues.

The MAPP Executive Committee meets quarterly to provide oversight to the ongoing MAPP process and make recommendations to the overall operations of the MAPP Collaborative. A program coordinator was appointed in June 2019. The coordinator is a full-time staff member of the Will County Health Department, with partial funding by the Will County MAPP Collaborative. Action Teams task forces were established around the identified priorities and have been implementing action plans and strategies to address those needs. The action teams are led by chairs and co-chairs from partner organizations. Most of the teams meet monthly or bi-monthly as needed. Organizations involved in the MAPP Executive Committee are listed below.

- AMITA Health Adventist Medical Center
  Bolingbrook
- Aunt Martha's Youth Services
- Catholic Charities
- Chestnut Health Systems
- Easterseals Joliet Region, Inc.
- Edward Hospital
- Governors State University
- AMITA Health Saint Joseph Medical Center
- Senior Services of Will County
- Silver Cross Hospital
- Stepping Stones, Inc.
- United Way of Will County
- Will County Community Health Center
- Will County Executive's Office
- Will County Health Department
- Will-Grundy Medical Clinic
The Data, Evaluation, and Monitoring Team (DEM) was established to review and monitor the progress of the Action Teams, and maintain and update data for the Community Health Status Assessment. The team also serves as a resource for the data needs of the Action Teams; providing technical assistance through the use of software, secure drop box sharing sites, and more.

The general membership consists of partners who are not involved directly with an Action Team, but participate as appropriate for their organization. They contribute to the overall assessment process and implementation of strategies.

Many partners participated in developing this Community Health Needs Assessment, which are listed:

1. Agape Missions, NFP
2. Agency on Aging Northeastern IL
3. AMITA Health Adventist Medical Center Bolingbrook
4. Aunt Martha's Youth Services
5. Bluestem Earth Festival
6. Bolingbrook Fire Department
7. Braidwood Area Healthy Community Coalition
8. Breast Intentions of Illinois
9. C.W. Avery Family YMCA
10. Catholic Charities Diocese of Joliet
11. Channahon Park District
12. Chestnut Health Systems
13. Child and Family Connections #15
14. Child Care Resource & Referral
15. CITGO Petroleum Corp
16. Coldwell Banker Residential Communities
17. Community Alliance & Action Network
18. Community Lifeline Ministries, Inc.
19. Cornerstone Services Inc.
20. Easterseals Joliet Region, Inc.
21. Edward-Elmhurst Health
22. Riverwalk Holmes Apartments
23. Food Allergy Research & Education
24. Forest Park Center
25. Franciscan Communities, Inc.- Marian Village
26. Glenwood Rehab Center
27. Governors State University
28. Greater Joliet Area YMCA
29. Guardian Angel Community Services
30. Harvey Brooks Foundation
31. Heritage Woods of Plainfield
32. Illinois Department of Children & Family Services
33. Illinois Department of Employment Security
34. J.F. Holder Foundation
35. Joliet Fire Department
36. Joliet Junior College
37. Joliet Police Department
38. Joliet Public School District 86
39. Joliet Township Government
40. Lakewood Nursing Center
41. Lewis University
42. Mari Gallagher Research & Consulting Group
43. Mokena Police Department
44. Mt. Zion Baptist Church
45. New Life Church
46. PACE Suburban Bus
47. Plainfield Counseling Center LLC
48. Amita Home Care
49. Amita Health Saint Joseph Medical Center
50. PT Solutions Physical Therapy
51. Rasmussen College
52. Senior Services Center of Will County
53. Silver Cross Healthy Community Commission
54. Silver Cross Hospital
55. Illinois Department of Public Health
56. Stepping Stones, Inc.
57. TEC Services Consulting Inc.
58. The Community Foundation of Will County
59. Trinity Services, Inc.
60. United Way of Will County
61. University of Illinois Extension
62. University of St Francis
63. Valley View School District
64. VNA Health Care
65. Warren-Sharpe Community Center
66. Will County Adult Detention Facility
67. Will County Board
68. Will County Board of Health
69. Will County Center for Community Concerns
70. Will County Circuit Clerk
71. Will County Community Health Center
72. Will County Emergency Management Agency
73. Will County Executive's Office
74. Will County Forest Preserve District
75. Will County GIS
76. Will County Health Department
77. Will County Land Use Department
78. Will County Medical Reserve Corps
79. Will County Residents
80. Will County Veterans Assistance Commission
81. Will Grundy Center for Independent Living
82. Will-Grundy Medical Clinic
83. Joliet Township Government
Vision, Mission, and Value Statements

The Will County MAPP Collaborative chose to revise the current vision statement, but also add mission and value statements. The collaborative used the current vision statement to develop the new value statements. There were three rounds of voting on developed statements. Approximately 100 MAPP members participated in this voting process. MAPP Executive Committee members gave final approval in November 2016 on the statements listed below.

Vision Statement

Achieving equitable and optimal health in body and mind for all Will County residents.

Mission Statement

The Will County MAPP Collaborative will assess the health needs of the community and develop, implement and evaluate initiatives to promote the highest quality of life for all residents.

Value Statements

Health Equity: All individuals have the opportunity to realize their full potential and to achieve the highest quality of life.

Collective Impact: We strive to be a progressive community that maximizes the use of community partnerships and collaboration among all sectors to ensure, enhance and promote comprehensive, quality and equitable education, healthcare and social services.

Respect: Every life has value.

Communication: We commit to sharing our data, assessments and plans in order to educate and engage the community.

Quality: We believe in evaluation, continuous improvement and innovation.

Inclusiveness: We are a community rich in diversity, where involvement and commitment have deep roots among our residents.
Collaborative Process and Assessment Methodology

Framework

In 2018, the Will County Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) Collaborative convened to conduct the fourth iteration of the MAPP process. MAPP is a community driven, strategic planning framework that assists communities in developing and implementing efforts around the prioritization of public health issues and the identification of resources to address them as defined by the 10 Essential Public Health Services. The MAPP process includes four assessments, as shown in the graphic to the right.

Community Health Status Assessment

The Community Health Status Assessment (CHSA) is one of four assessments conducted as a part of the MAPP process. During this assessment, information regarding demographics, health status, health behaviors and social determinants in the community is gathered and analyzed. Data is collected from a variety of resources and analyzed comparing local, state, and national benchmarks when available.

The CHSA provides a picture of our community by answering three questions:

1. Who are we and what do we bring to the table?
2. What are the strengths and risks in our community that contribute to health?
3. What is our health status?

The MAPP process recommends and identifies health indicators in the following eleven categories for conducting the CHSA:

- Demographics
- Socioeconomics
- Health Resource Availability
- Quality of Life
- Behavioral Risk Factors
- Environmental Health
- Social and Mental Health
- Maternal and Child Health
- Death, Illness and Injury
- Communicable Diseases
- Sentinel Events

In the spring of 2018, the Mapp Coordinator and Mapp Collaborative collected and summarized data in the above categories. County level data from public and proprietary sources were used. The MAPP Data, Evaluation, and Monitoring (DEM) Team, which was established by the Will County MAPP Collaborative in 2019, reviewed, edited, and provided data for the report. Additional partnering organizations provided staff and interns to assist in collecting additional data for the report.
Community Themes and Strengths Assessment

The Community Themes and Strengths Assessment (CTSA) aims to gather community members’ perceptions, thoughts, opinions, and concerns regarding quality of life in Will County. This input provides valuable insight into the issues of importance to the community. This assessment engages the community by requesting their input on the following questions:

1. What is important to our community?
2. How is quality of life perceived in our community?
3. What are the assets in our community?

Community engagement is key to the success of any community-wide initiative, and provides residents with a sense of ownership and participation in their county. The Will County MAPP Collaborative conducted a survey among Will County residents to answer the questions above.

The Will County MAPP Collaborative participated in the CTSA through the use of a community-wide survey. The survey contained 64 questions on a variety of topics, including quality of life, health status, access to resources, social support, economic opportunity, health equity, and social issues. Residents were able to report on their perceptions of health and quality of life issues within their homes, community, and county. Most of the survey questions asked participants to rate issues on a Likert scale, however, some questions were open-ended, giving respondents opportunities to comment on their responses.

The CTSA survey was developed using Survey Monkey, and made available online in both English and Spanish. The survey was open to all Will County residents and the collection period ran from June-July 2019. 1,688 surveys were collected during the collection period (1,657 English and 31 Spanish). Survey results were analyzed by the CTSA Subcommittee and used to gather the top identified health and quality of life issues in Will County.

Upon a mid-collection period review of the random sample of survey participants, it was identified that the demographics were not reflective of the entire Will County population. Underrepresented populations included the following groups: Latino/Hispanic, African American, men, youth/young adults, and residents from University Park, Crete, Monee, Bolingbrook, and Romeoville. The CTSA Subcommittee attempted to further reach these populations by distributing paper copies of the survey to various groups throughout the county, including the Spanish Community Center, Northern Illinois Food Bank Mobile Pantry sites and YMCA. Surveys were also collected from clients of the Will County Community Health Center in waiting areas, incentives such as water and healthy snacks were provided.

Questions addressing health equity were included in the survey to measure the effects of discrimination on health. Respondents were asked to identify perceptions of discrimination due to race, ethnicity, and color in Will County. These questions were adapted from “Experiences of discrimination: Validity and reliability of a self-report measure for population health research on racism and health.”
Forces of Change Assessment

The Forces of Change Assessment (FOCA) aims to identify all the forces and associated opportunities and threats that can affect, either now or in the future, the local public health system. Forces may be social, economic, political, technological, environmental, scientific, legal, and/or ethical in nature. Forces can be trends, factors, or events.

- Trends are patterns over time, such as migration in and out of a community or a growing disillusionment with government.
- Factors are discrete elements, such as a community’s large ethnic population, an urban setting, or the jurisdiction’s proximity to a major waterway.
- Events are one-time occurrences, such as a hospital closure, a natural disaster, or the passage of new legislation.

During the FOCA, participants answer the following questions:

1. What is occurring or might occur that affects the health of our community or the local public health system?
2. What specific threats or opportunities are generated by these occurrences?

The Will County MAPP Collaborative participated in the FOCA. In March 2019, the Will County MAPP Collaborative participated in the first phase of the FOCA. MAPP members were emailed and invited to participate in a survey through Survey Monkey to identify the forces of change affecting Will County’s local public health system and the community. The survey contained open-ended questions, with guided prompts, intended to identify the forces of change. The survey used eight categories of forces, as well as an “other” option, to elicit broad community input.

Survey results were analyzed by the FOCA Subcommittee and used to gather the top identified forces. An additional health equity question was included asking if any forces identified will impact equal opportunity for health and access to care. While an answer was not required for every question, diverse community input was encouraged. A definition of each force was provided by clicking a hyperlink that was directed to the Merriam-Webster online dictionary. This survey was open to anyone who lived or worked in Will County. Those who selected the answer option “I do not live or work in Will County” in Question 1 was directed to the end of the survey.

The Forces of Change Assessment (FOCA) elicited broad community input to identify forces of change impacting the local public health system in Will County. 66 Participants from cross sector organizations reported on current trends, events, and factors that may have implications on the local public health system and quality of life for Will County residents. FOCA participants also addressed threats and opportunities posed by each of the major forces.

An analysis of the forces reported by MAPP Partners and community members throughout the FOCA process produced ten cross-cutting issues, listed below.

- Access to transportation
- Access/affordability of healthy foods
- Access/affordability of housing
- Air and water quality
- Behavioral health/substance abuse
- Equitable and quality health care
- Funding for social service agencies
- Political climate
- Unemployment/underemployment
- Use and influence of technology/social media

When asked to rank the top three forces with the most impact, survey participants ranked (1) Economic Forces, (2) Political Forces, and (3) Social Forces as key issues in Will County.

Regarding these issues, community members identified several opportunities to create positive change in Will County. In general, the following themes of opportunities were identified for each force: Increase advocacy

- Increase partnership/coordination
- Increase education
- Increase jobs/employment opportunities
**Local Public Health System Assessment**

The Local Public Health System Assessment (LPHSA) was conducted in May 2019. The LPHSA is used to understand the overall strengths and weaknesses of the public health system based on the 10 Essential Public Health Services shown in Figure 5.

Conducting the Local Public Health System Assessment (LPHSA), answers the following questions:

1. What are the activities, competencies, and capacities of the local public health system?
2. How are the 10 Essential Public Health Services being provided to the community?

The National Public Health Performance Standards (NPHPS) Assessment is the instrument used to measure the performance of the local public health system – defined as the collective efforts of public, private, and voluntary entities, as well as individuals and informal associations that contribute to the public’s health within a jurisdiction. Any organization or entity that contributes to the health or wellbeing of a community is considered part of the public health system. Ideally, a group that is broadly representative of these public health system partners participates in the assessment process. By sharing diverse perspectives, all participants gain a better understanding of each organization's contributions, the interconnectedness of activities, and how the public health system can be strengthened. The NPHPS does not focus specifically on the capacity or performance of any single agency or organization.

The Local Public Health System Assessment survey instrument was designed in 2019 to collect data from our local public health stakeholders, policy makers, health professionals and collaboratives to address essential public health service needs and gaps that may exist within the existing public health structure. The survey used on-line data collection. A Survey Monkey questionnaire was distributed to a list of community members and partners who are part of the local public health system in Will County. Sixty-six total participants responded to questions related to essential public health service frameworks. This survey closed as of May 2019. In an analysis of the local public health system, stakeholders were asked to rank, from No Activity to Optimal Activity, their and/or their organizations involvement in sectors related to innovation, technological advancements, addressing inequities, and surveillance as it related to personal health service exposures. Participants were individuals whom held roles mainly linking individuals to services, educating and informing the public about available public health services.
Prioritization of Strategic Issues

On September 13, 40 Will County public health stakeholders participated in a three hour meeting at AMITA Health Saint Joseph Medical Center to review key findings from the four MAPP assessments, identify cross-cutting themes and potential strategic issues, and prioritize a set of strategic issues. The meeting was facilitated by the MAPP Coordinator, Program Manager Community Planning and a representative from Kankakee Health Department.

Following the discussion of assessment findings and updates on previous Community Health Implementation Plan priorities, participants individually reflected on the top strategic issues by noting up to five top strategic issues for Will County. Individuals participated in a voting poll to determine if the prior strategic issues were still reflective of the current community needs. Individuals voted that Behavioral Health and Substance Use, Access to Healthy Food and Nutrition, Access to Health Care, and Stabilizing the Built Environment to be of top priorities. Individual reflections were discussed in small groups to build a consensus around the top goals and objectives for each of these categories using a set of defined prioritization criteria (Figure 6).

Figure 6. Process for Prioritization of Strategic Issues

Next, each small group shared their recommendations and rationale for the top four strategic issues, followed by a facilitated discussion to further explore and define the potential priorities. This discussion yielded a consolidated list of potential top strategic issues, as well as consensus agreement from the large group. Thus, the following top priorities were identified:

- Lack of access to Health care
- Access to Food and Nutrition
- Transportation
- Behavioral Health
- Substance Use
- Housing stabilization
The results of the voting activity are presented in Figure 6.1.

**Figure 6.1. Results of Voting Activity to Narrow Priorities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priorities</th>
<th>Number of Votes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Access to Health Care</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to Food and Nutrition</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behavioral Health and Substance Use</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stabilizing the Built Environment</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Strategic Planning respondents indicated that creating a Community of Wellness as it relates to Social Determinants of Health should be an overarching theme, goal, or vision that is embedded into all other priorities. Integration of Wellness will remain a theme, providing goals and objectives specific to the inclusion of wellness into each of the four priority task forces; incorporating such things as wellness policy integration into the workforce, mental health policy, and engagements that prioritizing wellness within cross sector organizations of the local health system. Figure 6.2 provides an outline of the top priorities discussed and key aspects of each strategic priority.

**Figure 6.2. Priority Areas Identified by the Overall Group**

In September 2019, MAPP Executive Committee members were asked to use a Prioritization Criteria and Planning Worksheet during the discussion of the previously identified strategic issues. A focus on Social Determinants of Health as it relates to the Community of Wellness will be the theme embarking on 2020.

MAPP Executive Committee members and action team committee members decided that behavioral health, access to health care, behavioral health and substance use, stabilizing the built environment, and access to food and nutrition would be the priority focus for the next three years. Goals and action plans will be developed or updated for each of these priority health issues. These action plans will be implemented and aligned to improve the local public health system, and ultimately the health and wellbeing of the Will County community in alignment with our vision. A community of wellness as it relates to social determinants of health will provide education, empowerment, and engagement to guide the health system and community alike to cohesively improve the community of wellness, the work and school environments, and improve health outcomes for all.
**Health Equity**

One of the core values of the Will County MAPP Collaborative is health equity, with the belief that all individuals have the opportunity to realize their full potential and to achieve the highest quality of life. Healthy People 2020 defines health equity as the "attainment of the highest level of health for all people." To achieve health equity, avoidable health inequities and health disparities must be eliminated. This requires short- and long-term strategies addressing the root causes of health inequities and health disparities, specifically social determinants of health. The *Mobilizing and Organizing Partners to Achieve Health Equity* supplemental guide was used during this assessment process. Equity as it relates to workforce development, in the measures of the delivery of essential public health services, leadership development, the use of ubiquitous and robust technologies that provide a secure sharing framework, and the opportunity to develop inclusion and diverse policy and empowerment for our community.

*Figure 6.3. Health Equity*

Source: Saskatoon Health Region,

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*Figure 6.4 LPHSA Equity scores (Mean values)*

![2019 LPHS Equity Scores Chart](image-url)
Key Findings of Strategic Issue: Access to Health Care

Overview

Access to comprehensive, quality healthcare services is important for promoting and maintaining health, preventing and managing disease, reducing unnecessary disability and premature death, and achieving health equity. Access to healthcare improves both individual and community health. Access is a complex issue with multiple components including availability, affordability, and timeliness. Findings from the assessments detail access issues to healthcare services, as well as resources. Certain communities in Will County labeled as a healthcare provider shortage area also experience issues with social economic, and environmental inequities.

Specific priority needs and populations identified in the assessment process include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Needs</th>
<th>Populations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coordination and Linkage to Primary Medical Home</td>
<td>Medicaid recipients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to services and resources</td>
<td>Medicare recipients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Benefits enrollment</td>
<td>Underinsured and uninsured population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy, Education, Empowerment</td>
<td>Hispanic/Latino population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data Collection and Sharing strategies to identify and prioritize issues</td>
<td>East side of Joliet (60432, 60433, 60435)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technological Assistance and Advancements</td>
<td>Southern Will County</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assessment Findings

The Forces of Change Assessment and Local Public Health System Assessment identified the lack of equitable and quality healthcare as a major concern in Will County. The top identified forces of change were:

- Economic
- Political
- Social

Opportunities pinpointed in these assessments include:

- Improve population health by developing county-wide healthcare programs
- Increase advocacy and funding for equitable healthcare
- Increase capacity for provision of services
- Improve system interoperability of electronic medical records
Insurance Coverage

The lack of health insurance is considered a key driver of health status and is a primary barrier to healthcare access including regular primary, specialty, dental, and other healthcare services. According to the US Census Bureau, 7.24% of the Will County population is uninsured. There has been an overall decrease in the percentage of uninsured population since 2013 which could be attributed to IL Medicaid Expansion and the opening of the Federal Health Insurance Marketplace. According to the 2016 American Community Survey, 16.43% of the Hispanic/Latino population in Will County reported no health insurance coverage, compared to 5.42% of the non-Hispanic/Latino population. A larger percentage of uninsured residents reside in the Joliet area as well as parts of eastern Will County in the zip codes 60432, 60433, and 60484. compared to 7.1% of the non-Hispanic/Latino population. Along with disparities in ethnicity, there are geographical inequities as displayed in Figure 7.

Figure 7. Percent of Uninsured Will County Adults by Zip Code, 2016

Figure 7.1 Poverty Threshold 2016

Poverty is considered a key driver of health status. According to Community Commons, "poverty creates barriers to access including health services, healthy food, and other necessities that contribute to poor health status." This indicator provides data on the number of population 100% below the federal poverty level. In 2016, 7.69% of Will County residents (or 51,976 people) lived below the federal poverty level. In 2016, more than 11% of children under the age of 18 were living under the poverty level in Will County. Fourteen percent of the Hispanic/Latino population was living in poverty, compared to 6.39% of the Non-Hispanic population. Fifteen percent of the Black or African American population was also living in poverty. The highest percent of the population living in poverty reside in the Joliet area in the 60432, 60433, and 60436 zip codes.

Provider Availability

In terms of clinical care, Will County is ranked 33rd out of 102 counties in the state. These measures suggest a shortage of providers available in the community. Will County has a total of 391 primary care physicians, yielding a ratio of population to primary care physicians of 1,760:1. Will County has a total of 361 dentists, yielding a ratio of population to dentists of 1,830:1 compared to 1310:1 for Illinois. 15.9% of adults in Will County report that they do not have at least one person that they consider to be their primary care provider. There is one community on the East side of Joliet designated by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) as an area having shortages of primary care, dental care, and mental health providers.

There are more than 120,000 Medicaid enrollees in Will County. Approximately one in seven residents are enrolled in Medicaid, with 50% of the enrollees being children. There are 757 physicians and 138 nurse practitioners participating in Medicaid. 355 of these physicians are primary care providers. The rate of primary care providers to Medicaid enrollees is three for every 1,000 Medicaid enrollees. There is one pediatrician per 1,000 children enrolled. There are 91 dentists participating in Medicaid, which is a rate of less than one dentist for every 1,000 Medicaid enrollees.

Figure 7.2 Population of Medicaid Recipients 2016

![Figure 7.2 Population of Medicaid Recipients 2016](image)

Data Source: HFS Medical Enrollment Data 2016

Figure 7.3 Distribution of Medicaid Recipients 2016

![Figure 7.3 Distribution of Medicaid Recipients 2016](image)

Data Source: HFS Medical Enrollment Data 2016
The U.S. Department of Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA) has developed shortage designations that are used to determine if areas or population groups are Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA). HPSAs may be designated as having a shortage of primary medical care, dental, or mental health providers. In Will County, the east side of Joliet has been identified as a HPSA for primary care, dentists, and mental health providers, as identified on the map below. 12.9% (87,398) of Will County residents live in a HPSA.

Figure 7.4. Map of Provider Shortage in Will County, 2016

Data Source: Health Resources and Services Administration, Health Professional Shortage Area Database, 2016
In 2014, 84.1% of adults had a primary healthcare provider, which is a slight decrease from previous years. The percentage in Will County is higher than what was reported for Illinois in 2013 (79.9%) and the HP2020 Target (83.9%). Even though Will County meets the HP2020 target, there are significant disparities in gender, income, race, and age, as displayed in Figure 7.5.

Figure 7.5. Will County Adults Who Report Having a Regular Provider, 2010-2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>$15-35,000</td>
<td>Non-white</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>$35-50,000</td>
<td>White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>&gt; $50,000</td>
<td>85.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>90.6%</td>
<td>76.9%</td>
<td>77.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77.5%</td>
<td>95.0%</td>
<td>85.0%</td>
<td>86.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Figure 7.6 Policy Effects Health Care Model

Preventable Hospital Events

Figure 7.8 reports the discharge rate (per 1,000 Medicare enrollees) for conditions that are ambulatory care sensitive (ACS). ACS conditions include, pneumonia, dehydration, asthma, diabetes, and other conditions which could have been prevented if adequate primary care resources were available and accessed by those patients. This indicator is relevant because analysis of ACS discharges allows the demonstration of possible “ROI” Return on Investment from interventions that reduce admissions (i.e. uninsured Medicaid patients) through improved access to primary care services and resources.

Figure 7.7. Medicare Preventable Hospital Events in Will County

![Preventable Hospital Events by Year, 2008 through 2012](image)

Data Source: Dartmouth College Institute for Health Policy & Clinical Practice, Dartmouth Atlas of Healthcare, 2012

Figure 7.8. Ambulatory Care Discharge Rate 2014

![Ambulatory Care Sensitive Condition Discharge Rate, 2010-2014](image)

Data Source: Dartmouth College Institute for Health Policy & Clinical Practice, Dartmouth Atlas of Healthcare, 2014
Community Survey

In the Community Themes and Strengths Assessment (CTSA), a survey was distributed to the community. Survey respondents were asked where they receive healthcare, mental health and dental services. The majority of respondents (85.27%) visit a private dentist for dental services. With respect to healthcare services, respondents visit a variety of locations. 85.27% receive healthcare from a private practice or family healthcare provider, 48% go to the Immediate Care Center, 20.6% visit the hospital emergency rooms, 24.5% visit Quick Clinics, such as Walgreens or CVS, and 2.98% visit Community Health Centers.

Respondents receive health-related information from a variety of sources as well. The majority (65.36%) get their information from the internet. Other prominent sources of health information identified include: the doctor (54.56%), online/print newspaper (39.5%), village/township newsletter (38.9%), social media (40.8%), the hospital (20.2%), family members (29.8%), and the local health department (21.79%).

Figure 7.9 CTSA 2019 Health Information Obtainment by respondents

Residents indicated the high cost of healthcare as their main concern, noting that the high cost limits their use of services and resources. Also, out of pocket expenses place a huge financial burden on individuals and families in the County.

When asked to rate the quality of life in Will County, the majority of survey respondents (74.7%) perceive life in Will County as “very good” or “good.” The most commonly mentioned issues regarding the quality of life, related to healthcare, include:

- High cost of living
- Lack of quality healthcare
- Lack of access to transportation
- Lack of access to resources
- Lack of services for senior citizens
- Discrimination

Survey participants mentioned a few issues in particular, including a shortage of hospitals and medical facilities, low quality service at the existing hospitals, a lack of mental/behavioral health providers, and difficulty locating Medicaid providers. It should be noted that many respondents mentioned having to drive out of Will County, often long distances, to find a medical provider that accepts their insurance. Lack of public
transportation to services remain an issue as well. Multiple mentions of a lack of healthcare services in Southern and Eastern Will County are of importance as well. Comments show that navigating and accessing healthcare in Will County is especially challenging for senior citizens and residents that remain under, uninsured or with Medicaid.

Discrimination was ranked among the top themes of concern, were it relates to race, ethnicity, gender, and treatment at school, work and on the streets of our community, at least 13 percent of respondents identified with discrimination three or more times in these settings. Respondents were asked in which settings they experienced discrimination, such as getting housing, receiving medical care, applying for loans or with encounters with the local municipalities and law enforcement, in which participants stated in all categories they were discriminated a minimum of 3 or more times. Six percent of all respondents stated that they perceive discrimination to be an issue all or most of the time within the county. Among the resident respondents, 11 percent of all individuals identified with feeling concerned with “unfair treatment due to race, ethnicity and color.

**Figure 8 CTSA 2019 Discrimination Experiences by respondents**

As access to public transportation remains a top concern for individuals in the Home, Illegal Drug Use debuts as a top concern among the community and the county with 67 percent of participants stating it as, the primary, “somewhat or large problem”. Prescription drug use within the county and illegal drug use among the community follow closely behind at just under 50 percent. Depression remains a top concern “within the home”, following just after access to public transportation, with nearly 20 percent of respondent rankings, while individuals rate vaping and mental health following.

**Figure 8.1 CTSA 2019 Large Issues Experienced by respondents**
Key Findings of Strategic Issue: Behavioral Health and Substance Use

Overview

Behavioral health is a term used to include both mental health and substance misuse disorders. Mental health is defined as a state of well-being in which every individual realizes their own potential, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively, and is able to make a contribution to their community. The existing model for understanding mental health and mental disorders emphasizes the interaction of social, environmental, and genetic factors throughout the lifespan. In behavioral health, researchers identify:

- Risk factors, which predispose individuals to mental illness
- Protective factors, which protect them from developing mental disorders

Mental health disorders are among the most common causes of disability. Mental health disorders attributed to 7.8% (5,783) of Will County hospitalizations in 2014, and it is the third leading cause of all hospitalizations.

Substance abuse refers to the harmful or hazardous use of psychoactive substances, including alcohol and illicit drugs. 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.

Findings from the assessments detail access issues to behavioral health services, as well as resources. Behavioral health issues impact population groups across income levels, as well as racial and ethnic groups. Certain communities in Will County labeled as mental healthcare provider shortage areas also experience issues with social, economic and environmental inequities.

Specific priority needs and populations identified in the assessment process include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Needs</th>
<th>Populations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Coordination and Linkage to mental health services</td>
<td>• 60433 zip code</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Data Collection and Sharing strategies to identify and prioritize issues</td>
<td>• Southern Will County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Technological Assistance and Advancements</td>
<td>• Youth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Policy, Education, Empowerment</td>
<td>• White population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Males</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Mental Health First Responders</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assessment Findings

The Forces of Change Assessment and Local Public Health System Assessment identified behavioral health as a major concern in Will County. Opportunities pinpointed in these assessments include:

- Increase education, advocacy, and prevention efforts to decrease substance abuse trends and stigma around behavioral health
- Increase coordination of care between social service agencies, law enforcement, and healthcare agencies
- Advocacy for increased funding and reimbursements for services
- Increase and improve ubiquitous and robust technologies for care linkage and referral networks

**Provider Availability**

Behavioral health continues to be a concern among Will County residents. The term behavioral health is inclusive of mental health and substance use disorders. Resources in Will County are limited for hospitalizations for mental health disorders as well as inpatient and outpatient treatment for substance use disorder. Individuals who lack insurance or are Medicaid recipients are additionally limited in their ability to find services.

The closing of the Tinley Park Mental Health Facility in June of 2012 reduced the availability of hospital beds for Will County residents due to mental health disorders. While there are other mental health services in Will County, none are inpatient facilities. All three hospitals in Will County have inpatient mental health units, totaling 75 beds. Will County MAPP Collaborative assessment findings in 2016 and 2018 confirmed that mental and substance use disorder treatment was difficult to access for many residents. In response to this need, Silver Cross Hospital partnered with US Health Vest to bring a 100-bed behavioral health hospital to Will County in early 2019.

Will County has a total of 645 mental health providers, yielding a ratio of population to mental health providers of 1,010:1, compared to 370:1 for Illinois and 560:1 nationally.

The U.S. Department of Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA) has developed shortage designations that are used to determine if areas or population groups are Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA). The East side of Joliet (zip code 60433) has been identified as a HPSA for mental health providers.

The Will County MAPP Collaborative has found through a capacity assessment of key stakeholders that behavioral health is a key area of need in Will County. The MAPP Behavioral Action Team, with guidance from the University of Saint Francis, surveyed providers and referrers in 2016 to get a picture of system capacity. In this survey, three barriers for clients to access services were identified: cost of needed services (34%), wait for services (32%), and distance to services (30%). The survey also found that, according to providers, psychiatric services were hardest to access, especially for mental health disorders.

**Self-Reported Emotional and Mental Health**

One of the indicators in the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS) is to measure the number of days residents report their mental health to be 'not good,' during the last 30 days.

**Figure 9. Will County Adults Who Report Bad Mental Health Days**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BRFSS Round</th>
<th>1-7 Mental Health Days ‘Not Good’</th>
<th>8-30 Mental Health Days ‘Not Good’</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Collective %</td>
<td>Collective %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010-2014</td>
<td>22.0%</td>
<td>15.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-2009</td>
<td>17.3%</td>
<td>17.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004-2006</td>
<td>25.8%</td>
<td>11.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001-2003</td>
<td>26.8%</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Source: Illinois Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2001-14

**Emotional Support**

The percentage of adults, aged 18 and older, who self-report that they receive insufficient social and emotional support all or most of the time in Will County is 19.2% (91,148).
Youth Depression

When asked, “During the past 12 months did you ever feel so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that you stopped doing some usual activities?,” 35% of 12th graders responded yes in 2018, which is an increase from 30% reported in 2016.

Figure 9.1. Percent of Will County Youth Who Experienced Depression in the Past Year

Suicide

When asked, “During the past 12 months did you ever seriously consider attempting suicide?,” 16% of 12th graders and 14% of 10th graders responded yes, which has increased from 2016, as shown in the figure below.

Figure 9.2. Percent of Will County Youth Who Considered Suicide in the Past Year
Unnatural deaths include all suicides, homicides, traffic fatalities, work-related accidents, all other accidental deaths, and any deaths where the cause or manner cannot be determined. In 2017, there were 285 unnatural deaths in Will County. Of those 285 unnatural deaths, approximately 24% were attributed to suicide.

This indicator reports the rate of death due to suicide per 100,000 population. Will County's suicide rate is 11.5. There are significant disparities within gender and race, with males more likely to commit suicide, 58% were male versus 22% female. The methods in which individuals are committing suicide has changed since 2016; suicide due to gunshot was diminished by nearly half while hanging nearly doubled.

**Figure 9.3. Will County Adult Suicide Mortality Rate 2017**

Data Source: Will County Coroner report 2017

**Substance Use**

**Youth Substance Use**

Will County youth substance use in 2018:

- 45% of 12th graders and 22% of 10th graders reported drinking alcohol in the past 30 days
- 23% of 12th graders reported binge drinking at least once in the past two weeks
- 26% of 12th graders and 12% of 10th graders reported using marijuana
- In the past year, 3% of 12th graders reported using any illicit drug excluding marijuana
- 3% of 12th graders and 3% of 10th graders reported using prescription drugs to get high in the past 30 days
- 29% of 12th graders experienced two or more negative consequences from drug use, indicating the potential need for substance abuse assessment

**Figure 9.4 Substances used in last 30 days by Youth**

Data Source: (IYS) Illinois Youth Survey 2018
Alcohol Use

Less than a quarter (23.6%) of adults, aged 18 and older, reported binge or heavy alcohol consumption (defined as more than two drinks per day for men and one drink per day for women).

Liquor store access reports the number of beer, wine, and liquor stores per 100,000 population. In 2016, Will County (10.29) had a slightly lower rate of liquor establishments than in Illinois (10.32), and a still lower than the United States (10.5).

The percent of driving deaths which include alcohol is declining statewide and nationally, but is on the rise in Will County, as illustrated in the graph below. 36% of all Driving Deaths were related to being alcohol impaired in 2017.

Figure 9.5 Percent of Driving Deaths with Alcohol Involvement

Data Source: Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS). County Health Rankings Key Findings, 2017
Overdoses and Drug Induced Mortality

In 2017 36% of accidental deaths in Will County were attributed to overdose. According to the Will County Coroner's Office, heroin deaths continue to be the leading cause of accidental overdose deaths.

Of the 117 accidental overdoses, 87 deaths were heroin related. Combined drug intoxication was the second leading cause of accidental overdose. Figure 14.6 displays the causes of accidental deaths in Will County.

Drug induced mortality reports the rate of death due to drug overdose per 100,000 population. Will County is above the Healthy People 2020 target of 11.3 deaths per 100,000 population, as indicated in Figure 9.6.
Community Survey

In the Community Themes and Strengths Assessment (CTSA), a survey was distributed to the community. Survey respondents were asked where they receive mental health services. Those seeking mental health services visit a private practice or family health care provider (85.27%), the hospital emergency room (20.6%), Community Health Centers, such as Aunt Martha’s or the Will County Community Health Center (2.98%), or an Immediate Care Center (48%).

Questions on a variety of health issues were asked in the survey and respondents were able to rate the impact of each issue in their home, in their community, and in the county on a Likert scale. The following health issues were identified by survey respondents, combining the answers “It is somewhat a problem” and “It is a large problem.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#1. Access to Public Transportation</th>
<th>#1. Illegal Drug Use</th>
<th>#1. Illegal Drug Use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#2. Depression</td>
<td>#2. Vaping</td>
<td>#2. Prescription Drug Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#4. Mental Health</td>
<td>#4. Tobacco Use</td>
<td>#4. Underage Drinking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#5. Tobacco Use</td>
<td>#5. Mental Health</td>
<td>#5. Vaping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#6. Vaping</td>
<td>#6. Depression</td>
<td>#6. Tobacco Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#10. Self-Harm</td>
<td>#10. Alzheimer’s/Dementia</td>
<td>#10. Self Harm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following figures display the number of respondents rating health issues as a problem in their homes, communities, and in Will County.

Figure 9.8. CTSA 2019 Top Health Issues Identified as ‘Somewhat’ or a ‘Large’ Problem

Figure 9.9. CTSA 2019 Health Issues Rated as a Problem at Home
Residents were invited to list any further comments to help us understand their ratings. Of the 1,688 respondents, 405 chose to leave a comment. Of these comments, the main area of concern was on discrimination, employment, and Access to services. Depression, drug, and vaping problems in the home and within the community. Specifically, respondents mentioned the rise of heroin overdoses and illegal drug abuse in recent years. Qualitative responses included concerns relating to lack of services, diversity inclusion, public transportation and housing for individuals.

Figure 10.1 CTSA 2019 Qualitative Responses by respondents
Tobacco Use

In 2010-2014, 13.4% of Will County adults were smokers. For the state of Illinois and the U.S, this figure was similar with 16.7% and 16.8% of adults reporting they were current smokers. The percentage of smokers in Will County has declined since 2001 but is still higher than the Healthy People 2020 target of 12%. Tobacco use is also an issue among Will County youth, as shown in Figure 19.

Figure 10.2. Percent of Will County Youth Tobacco Use, Past 30 Days, 2014

![Tobacco Use Past 30 Days](image)

Data Source: Illinois Youth Survey, 2014

The Smoke-Free Illinois Act [PA 95-0017] enacted on January 1, 2008, and amended on February 4, 2009, prohibits smoking in all public places and within 15 feet of any entrance, exit, window, and ventilation intake. Tobacco-free outdoor policies have become a growing trend in Will County. As of 2016, 55% of Will County municipalities have a partial or 100% smoke/tobacco-free outdoor policy, as shown in Figure 19.1. The Tobacco 21 law went into effect in July 2019 and amendments to include e-cigarettes and vaporizing devices will be included.

Figure 10.3. Will County Municipalities with Outdoor Tobacco-Free or Smoke-Free Policies, 2016

![Will County Municipalities](image)

Data Source: Will County Health Department, Tobacco Control & Prevention Program, 2016
Key Findings of Strategic Issue: Access to Food and Nutrition

Overview

Food insecurity in Will County affects nearly 10% of all residents, of which even more have no access to healthy food retailers. Of the more than 34,000 children experiencing food insecurity, 46% are ineligible for assistance programs. Residents residing primarily in the central and northwestern areas of the county have less access to healthy food and only 15 per every 100,000 have access to WIC authorized food stores.

Many chronic diseases are linked to lifestyle choices, or health risk behaviors, which are unhealthy behaviors that can be changed. Four of these health risk behaviors—lack of physical activity, poor nutrition, tobacco use, and excess alcohol consumption—cause much of the illness, suffering, and early death related to chronic diseases and conditions. Eating nutritious foods, becoming more physically active, and avoiding tobacco can help avoid developing many of these diseases and conditions. Becoming or being housing insecure reduces an individual’s life expectancy to nearly half.

Findings from the assessments detail access issues to healthcare services and resources. Specific priority needs and populations identified in the assessment process include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Needs</th>
<th>Populations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Coordination and linkage for food insecure population</td>
<td>• Housing insecure population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Access to Nutritional Food</td>
<td>• Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Data Collection and Sharing strategies to identify and prioritize issues</td>
<td>• Joliet, University Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Technological Assistance and Advancements</td>
<td>• Parts of Bolingbrook &amp; Romeoville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Policy, Education, Empowerment</td>
<td>• African American population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 60417, 60432, 60433, 60436, 60440, 60441, and 60484 zip codes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assessment Findings

The Forces of Change Assessment identified access to and affordability of healthy foods as a major concern in Will County. Opportunities pinpointed in these assessments include:

- Increase advocacy and funding for healthy eating campaigns and policies to support healthy eating
- Focus on bringing new healthy businesses, grocery stores, farmers markets, and community gardens to Will County
- Technological Assistance and Advancements to link services and Map service locations
- Reduce barriers in the built environment that effect health outcomes for targeted populations.
Chronic Disease Management

The percentage of adults with a reported chronic disease is similar to state and national percentages, as shown in Figure 11; however, the Medicare population has a higher percentage of reported heart disease, high cholesterol, and diabetes.

**Figure 11. Percent of Adults with a Chronic Disease, 2014-15**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease</th>
<th>Total Adults</th>
<th>Medicare Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Will County</td>
<td>Illinois</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart Disease</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Blood Pressure</td>
<td>28.2%</td>
<td>28.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Cholesterol</td>
<td>38.89%</td>
<td>38.02%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
<td>8.47%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Source: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, 2015 and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2014

Will County's coronary heart disease mortality rate of 95.6 is slightly higher than both Illinois' mortality rate and the Healthy People 2020 target at 103.4 per 100,000. The White population has the highest rates of reported heart disease, however, heart disease mortality is highest among African Americans, as shown in Figure 11.1.

**Figure 11.1. Will County Heart Disease Mortality Rate by Race/Ethnicity, 2016**

Over the past decade, mortality due to diabetes has slowly decreased in Will County, as shown in Figure 11.2. In 2014, the age-adjusted mortality rate of diabetes was 17.7 deaths, well below the Healthy People 2020 target of 66.6 deaths. The concern with diabetes is the high percentage of Medicare beneficiaries with diabetes, as shown in Figure 11.2.

**Figure 11.2. Will County Diabetes Mortality Rate**

![Deaths per 100,000 residents with an underlying cause of Diabetes, 2014](chart.png)


**Figure 11.3 Medicare Population, Percent with Diabetes 2015**

![Medicare Population, Percent with Diabetes, 2015](chart.png)

Data Source: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. 2015.
Obesity

Excess weight is a prevalent problem in the U.S., as it indicates an unhealthy lifestyle and puts individuals at risk for further health issues. The graph below reports the percentage of adults aged 20 and older who self-report that they have a Body Mass Index (BMI) greater than 30.0 (obese). Males were more likely to be obese than females. Additionally, 37.9% of adults aged 18 and older self-reported that they have a BMI between 25-30 (overweight), with the highest percentage being Non-Hispanic White. Additionally, obesity is an issue in Will County youth.

Figure 11.4. Percent of Will County Adult Population Who Are Obese

Figure 11.5. Percent of Overweight and Obese Will County Youth, 2018

Data Source: 2014 Will County Round 4 Illinois County BRFS; 2014 Will County Round 5 Illinois County BRFS

Data Source: Illinois Youth Survey, 2018 County Report
Healthy Food Consumption

Healthy food consumption is an issue among youth and adults in Will County. Among Will County adults, 80.7% are consuming less than five servings of fruits and vegetables each day, compared to 76.3% in Illinois and 75.7% in the U.S. Nearly 95% of all youth 8th through 12th report not consuming the adequate number of fruits and vegetables per day.

Figure 11.6 Fruit and Vegetable Consumption by Youth 2018

Physical Inactivity

Physical inactivity is a contributing factor to obesity and many chronic diseases. The figure below reports the number, per 100,000 population, of recreation and fitness facilities. A lack of access to recreation and fitness facilities contributes to low levels of physical activity.

Figure 11.7. Rate of Will County Recreational Facilities per 100,000 Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Will County</th>
<th>Illinois</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>10.04</td>
<td>10.11</td>
<td>9.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>10.48</td>
<td>9.82</td>
<td>9.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>9.45</td>
<td>9.67</td>
<td>9.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>9.15</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>9.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>7.82</td>
<td>10.05</td>
<td>9.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>8.26</td>
<td>10.23</td>
<td>9.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>10.50</td>
<td>10.90</td>
<td>10.66</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Among adults and older adults, physical activity can lower the risk of early death, coronary heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure, type 2 diabetes, cancer, falls, and depression. Adults are recommended to get 150 minutes of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity per week, however many adults are physically inactive as show in Figure 11.8.

**Figure 11.8. Percent of Adults Physically Inactive**

![Graph showing physical inactivity in Will County, IL.](image)

*Data Source: County Health Rankings 2016*

On an average school day, youth are spending more than the recommended screen time on electronics (not including time for school work), as shown in Figure 11.9.

**Figure 11.9. Screen Time Spent On an Average School Day, 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>5+ Hours Screen Time</th>
<th>5+ Hours Television</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8th Grade</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th Grade</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12th Grade</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Data Source: Illinois Youth Survey, 2018*
Food Access

An environment that provides access to healthy food and recreational opportunities is important to maintaining and improving community health. There are 81 neighborhoods in Will County that are within food deserts, affecting approximately 437,000 residents, located in or around Joliet, as shown in Figure 12.1. Also, 31.8% of the population do not have access to healthy foods as shown in Figure 12.

Figure 12. Will County Food Desert by Census Tract, 2015

Figure 12.1 Percent of population with Low Food Access 2016

Access to healthy, affordable food is a key component of obesity and chronic disease prevention. Retailers who accept SNAP and WIC provide a measure of food security and healthy food access for women and children in poverty, as well as environmental influences on dietary behaviors. Figure 12.3 depicts that Will County has a shortage of retailers which accept SNAP or WIC compared to the state rate.

**Figure 12.2. Percentage of Population Living In Census Tracts with No or Low Access to Healthy Retail Food Stores, 2011**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Report Area</th>
<th>% Population with No Food</th>
<th>% Population with No Healthy Food</th>
<th>% Population with Low Healthy Food</th>
<th>% Population with Moderate Healthy Food Access</th>
<th>% Population with High Healthy Food</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Will County</td>
<td>1.08%</td>
<td>16.36%</td>
<td>37.11%</td>
<td>43.14%</td>
<td>2.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>0.79%</td>
<td>21.04%</td>
<td>38.50%</td>
<td>36.13%</td>
<td>3.53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>0.99%</td>
<td>18.63%</td>
<td>30.89%</td>
<td>43.28%</td>
<td>5.02%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity, 2011

**Figure 12.3 Food Environment 2011**

Access to healthy, affordable food is a key component of obesity and chronic disease prevention. Retailers who accept SNAP and WIC provide a measure of food security and healthy food access for women and children in poverty, as well as environmental influences on dietary behaviors. Figure 12.3 depicts that Will County has a shortage of retailers which accept SNAP or WIC compared to the state rate.

**Figure 12.4. Rate of Grocery Stores, SNAP and WIC-Authorized Retailers per 100,000 Population**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Report Area</th>
<th>Grocery Store Rate</th>
<th>SNAP-Authorized Retailers Rate</th>
<th>WIC-Authorized Food Store Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Will County</td>
<td>17.8</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>28.1</td>
<td>7.09</td>
<td>18.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>29.9</td>
<td>8.07</td>
<td>15.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Source: US Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, USDA - SNAP Retailer Locator. Additional data analysis by CARES,
Key Findings of Strategic Issue: Stabilizing the Built Environment

Overview

In Will County, housing security, and transportation security has been nested as an issue in all major strategic categories. 341 individuals were identified as Housing insecure or “homeless” under the definition in 2018 and over 30% were children. Children tend to be of the majority of Medicaid recipients and individuals experiencing poverty. Being housing insecure reduces life expectancy by nearly half. Individuals experiencing housing insecurity tend to present multiple chronic illness conditions and have the least access to resources to improve quality of life and health outcome. Overcrowding has become an issue due to housing insecurity, hitting primarily the socially vulnerable areas of the east side of Joliet; with over 4% of homes being overcrowded and more than 30% are substandard conditions. Will County has a housing vacancy rate of over 6%. Will County residents without a vehicle in the home to commute to services in socially vulnerable areas is over 8%.

Findings from the assessments detail access issues to housing and transportation security and resources. Specific priority needs and populations identified in the assessment process include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Needs</th>
<th>Populations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Vocational Training</td>
<td>• Housing and transportation insecure population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Data Collection and Sharing strategies to identify and prioritize issues</td>
<td>• 60417, 60432, 60433, 60436, 60440, 60441, and 60484 60468 zip codes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Technological Assistance and Advancements</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Health Service linkage and coordination</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Evaluate the environment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Policy, Education, Empowerment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assessment Findings

The Forces of Change Assessment identified access to and affordability of healthy foods as a major concern in Will County. Opportunities pinpointed in these assessments include:

• Increase advocacy and funding for housing stabilization, housing security, and improving housing and transportation safety measures
• Technological Assistance and Advancements to link services and Map service locations
• Reduce barriers in the built environment that effect health outcomes for targeted populations.
Stabilization of the Built Environment

Assisted Housing

This indicator reports the total number of HUD-funded assisted housing units available to eligible renters, as well as the unit rate (per 10,000 total households). Affordable housing is important to the health and well-being of individuals and families. Low-income families may not have enough money to spend on necessities such as food and health care due to the cost of rent. There are 3,822 HUD-assisted housing units at a 160.93 rate per 10,000 units which is lower than the rate for Illinois and the United States.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Report Area</th>
<th>Housing Choice Voucher Units</th>
<th>Project-Based Section 8 Units</th>
<th>Section 236 Units (Federal Housing Authority Projects)</th>
<th>Public Housing Authority Units</th>
<th>Section 202 Units (Supportive Housing for the Elderly)</th>
<th>Section 811 Units (Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities)</th>
<th>Other Multi-Family Program Units (RAP, SUP, Moderate Rehab, Etc.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Will County</td>
<td>1,616</td>
<td>987</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>878</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>103,232</td>
<td>62,033</td>
<td>674</td>
<td>50,464</td>
<td>5,412</td>
<td>1,669</td>
<td>1,897</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>2,474,400</td>
<td>1,243,178</td>
<td>33,100</td>
<td>1,074,437</td>
<td>124,704</td>
<td>34,463</td>
<td>31,612</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 13 Assisted Housing Units 2016

Data Source: US Department of Housing and Urban Development 2016
**Homeless Population**

One method calculating homelessness is using the Point-in-Time (PIT) count, which is a count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons on a single night in January, according to the Will County Continuum of Care. On January 31, 2018, 341 unique individuals experienced homelessness in Will County, including 43 unsheltered individuals and 31.9% were children.

**Figure 13.1 Homeless Population 2018**

![Graph showing homeless population in Will County, 2009-2018](image)

**Data Source:** Will County Continuum of Care 2018
Households with No Motor Vehicle
This indicator reports the number and percentage of households with no motor vehicle based on the 2016 Community Survey and U.S. Census estimates. 3.77% of Will County households have no vehicle compared to 10.82% of Illinois households.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Report Area</th>
<th>Total Occupied Households</th>
<th>Households with No Motor Vehicle</th>
<th>Percentage of Households with No Motor Vehicle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Will County</td>
<td>224,959</td>
<td>8,482</td>
<td>3.77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>4,802,124</td>
<td>519,694</td>
<td>10.82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>117,716,237</td>
<td>10,562,847</td>
<td>8.90%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2016

In addition, there is a significant difference in this measure which is dependent on whether one resides in an owner-occupied household (1.66%) or a rental household.
Overcrowded Housing

This indicator reports data on overcrowded housing from the latest 2016 American Community Survey. The Census Bureau has no official definition of crowded units, but this report considers units with more than one occupant per room to be crowded. Will County has a smaller percentage of overcrowded units than the percentages in Illinois and the United States. Overcrowding in Will County is occurring in the Joliet and Bolingbrook areas, as well as, parts of southern Will.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Report Area</th>
<th>Total Occupied Housing Units</th>
<th>Overcrowded Housing Units</th>
<th>Percentage of Housing Units Overcrowded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Will County</td>
<td>224,959</td>
<td>4,402</td>
<td>1.95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>4,802,124</td>
<td>125,589</td>
<td>2.61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>117,716,237</td>
<td>3,932,606</td>
<td>3.34%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Figure 13.3 Overcrowding Housing 2014

Substandard Housing
This indicator reports the number and percentage of owner- and renter-occupied housing units having at least one of the following conditions: 1) lacking complete plumbing facilities, 2) lacking complete kitchen facilities, 3) with 1.01 or more occupants per room, 4) selected monthly owner costs as a percentage of household income greater than 30 percent, and 5) gross rent as a percentage of household income greater than 30 percent. Selected conditions provide information in assessing the quality of the housing inventory and its occupants. This data is used to easily identify homes where the quality of living and housing can be considered substandard. A higher concentration of substandard housing units are located in the Joliet area and northern Will County. The percent of occupied housing units with one or more substandard conditions in Will County is similar to Illinois and the United States.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Report Area</th>
<th>Total Occupied Housing Units</th>
<th>Occupied Housing Units with One or More Substandard Conditions</th>
<th>Percent Occupied Housing Units with One or More Substandard Conditions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Will County</td>
<td>224,959</td>
<td>79,010</td>
<td>35.12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>4,802,124</td>
<td>1,775,655</td>
<td>36.97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>117,716,237</td>
<td>44,022,167</td>
<td>37.39%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2010-14.

Figure 13.4 Substandard Housing Units 2014

**Vacancy Rate**
This indicator reports the number and percentage of housing units that are vacant. A housing unit is considered vacant by the American Community Survey if no one is living in it at the time of interview. Units occupied at the time of interview entirely by persons who are staying two months or less and who have a more permanent residence elsewhere are considered to be temporarily occupied and are classified as “vacant.” Will County has a lower percentage of vacant housing units (6.24%) than Illinois (9.57%) and the United States (12.18%). A higher concentration of vacant housing units is in southern Will County, as well as, parts of Joliet and eastern Will.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Report Area</th>
<th>Total Housing Units</th>
<th>Vacant Housing Units</th>
<th>Vacant Housing Units, Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Will County</td>
<td>239,953</td>
<td>14,994</td>
<td>6.24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>531,327</td>
<td>508,203</td>
<td>9.57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>134,054,899</td>
<td>16,338,662</td>
<td>12.18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2016

**Figure 13.5 Vacant Housing Units 2014**

*Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2010-14. Source geography: Tract*
References


Cook County Department of Public Health (2016), WePlan2020 Suburban Cook County Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan (unpublished document), Oak Forest, IL.


Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2016) Mental and Substance Abuse Disorders, United States, 2016. Available at: www.samhsa.gov/disorders


Community Health Status Assessment Executive Summary

Executive Summary

Based on the information gathered through this Community Health Status Assessment and the guidelines set forth in Healthy People 2020, the following “areas of opportunity” represent the significant health needs of the community.

### Areas of Opportunity Identified by the Will County Community Health Status Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area of Opportunity</th>
<th>Data Identified</th>
<th>Target Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cancer</td>
<td>Leading cause of death and 5th in hospitalizations</td>
<td>All of Will County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Breast cancer mortality rate</td>
<td>Females</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pap screenings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prostate cancer</td>
<td>• African American or Black</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Males</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>Adults who have been told they have diabetes</td>
<td>All of Will County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Population with diabetes</td>
<td>Medicare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Diabetes hospital admission rates</td>
<td>• African American or Black</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Hispanic/Latino ethnicity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Ages 65+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart Disease</td>
<td>High blood pressure prevalence and many report not taking prescribed medication</td>
<td>All of Will County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High total blood cholesterol prevalence</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Second cause of death and second cause of hospitalizations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stroke mortality rate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stroke hospital admission rate</td>
<td>Hispanic/Latino ethnicity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maternal and Child Health</td>
<td>Fertility rate</td>
<td>All of Will County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Infant mortality rate</td>
<td>African American or Black</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pre-term live births</td>
<td>All of Will County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prenatal care</td>
<td>African American or Black</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Health</td>
<td>8-30 days adult mental health not good</td>
<td>All of Will County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mental health professional shortage area designation</td>
<td>60432 and 60433</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mental health provider ratio</td>
<td>All of Will County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Third cause of hospitalizations</td>
<td>All of Will County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Youth experiencing depression</td>
<td>8th – 12th grades</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition, Physical Activity</td>
<td>Low grocery store and healthy food retailer access and lack of retailers that</td>
<td>All of Will County and low income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and Weight</td>
<td>accept SNAP and WIC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Obesity</td>
<td>Adults</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical inactivity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Health</td>
<td>Dental health professional shortage area designation</td>
<td>60432 and 60433</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dental health provider ratio</td>
<td>All of Will County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substance Abuse</td>
<td>Accidental drug overdoses</td>
<td>All of Will County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Drug-induced mortality</td>
<td>All of Will County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Heavy alcohol consumption</td>
<td>Adults and Youth 8th – 12th grades</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Substance use assessment need</td>
<td>12th graders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobacco Use</td>
<td>Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths</td>
<td>All of Will County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Outdoor tobacco-free areas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tobacco and E-cigarette use</td>
<td>Adults and Youth 8th – 12th grades</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Social Determinants of Health

The CDC defines Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) as conditions in the places where people live, learn, work, and play affect a wide range of health risks and outcomes.

Social determinants of health are conditions in the environments in which people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks. SDOH include both social and physician conditions. Examples of SDOH including:

- Access to health and health care
- Economic Stability
- Education
- Neighborhood and Built Environment
- Social and Community Context

### Areas of Opportunity Identified by the Will County Community Health Status Assessment that Correlates with the Social Determinants of Health

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social Determinant of Health</th>
<th>Data Identified</th>
<th>Target Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Access to Health Services</td>
<td>Health professional shortage area designation</td>
<td>60432 and 60433</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lack of consistent source of primary care</td>
<td>• Males</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Non-white</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Ages 25-44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Incomes less than $35,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lack of health insurance</td>
<td>• Males</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• African American or Black, Asian, and other races</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Hispanic/Latino ethnicity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• 60432, 60433, and 60484 zip codes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Stability</td>
<td>All of Will County</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affordable housing</td>
<td>All of Will County</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low access to food stores</td>
<td>All of Will County</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low income and low access to food</td>
<td>Joliet, University Park, Parts of Bolingbrook &amp; Romeoville</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low household income</td>
<td>Hispanic/Latino ethnicity, 60433, 60432</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High poverty</td>
<td>60433, 60432, 60436, Black and other race, Hispanic/Latino ethnicity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High unemployment</td>
<td>60433, 60484, 60468, Black or African American, Ages 20-24</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uncertain access to food</td>
<td>Children</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school diploma obtainment</td>
<td>Males, American Indian/Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander and other races, Hispanic/Latino ethnicity, 60432, 60433, 60436</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school four-year graduation rate</td>
<td>Joliet Central High School, Joliet West High School</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language barrier (speak English less than “very well”)</td>
<td>Spanish speakers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households with no vehicle</td>
<td>Parts of Joliet, Lockport, Bolingbrook and University Park</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical environment</td>
<td>All of Will County</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public transportation for commuting to work</td>
<td>All of Will County</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social and Community Context</td>
<td>All of Will County</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to social associations</td>
<td>All of Will County</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of access to social and emotional support</td>
<td>All of Will County</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Healthy People 2020**

Healthy People 2020 (HP2020) provides a comprehensive set of 10-year, national goals and objectives for improving the health of all Americans. A smaller set of HP2020 objectives, called Leading Health Indicators (LHIs), have been selected to communicate high-priority health issues and actions that can be taken to address them. For this report, a selection of HP2020 LHIs are outlined below. The data shown is the most current data available. Additional HP2020 statistics are included within the report narrative.
# APPENDIX C: FOCA EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Leading Health Indicator Category

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES</th>
<th>HP2020 Target</th>
<th>Will County</th>
<th>Illinois</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Persons with medical insurance</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persons with a usual primary care provider</td>
<td>83.9%</td>
<td>84.1%</td>
<td>79.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults receiving colorectal cancer screening based on the most recent guidelines</td>
<td>70.5%</td>
<td>69.9% (2014)</td>
<td>68.3% (2016)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## INJURY AND VIOLENCE

| Homicides | 5.5 homicides per 100,000 population | 3.6 homicides per 100,000 population | 7.01 homicides per 100,000 population |

## MATERNAL, INFANT, AND CHILD HEALTH

| All Infant deaths | 6.0 infant deaths per 1,000 live births | 6.7 infant deaths per 1,000 live births | 6.4 infant deaths per 1,000 live births |
| Total preterm live births | 9.4% | 10.4% (2016) | 10.4% (2018) |

## MENTAL HEALTH

| Suicide | 10.2 suicides per 100,000 population | 11.5 suicides per 100,000 population (2017) | 10.3 suicides per 100,000 population (2016) |
| Adolescents with a major depressive episode in the past 12 months | 7.5% | 35% | 31% |

## NUTRITION, PHYSICAL ACTIVITY, AND OBESITY

| Obesity among adults | 30.5% | 31.1% | 28.4% |
| Obesity among children and adolescents | 14.5% | 11% (2018) | 11% (2016) |

## ORAL HEALTH

| Children, adolescents, and adults who visited the dentist in the past year | 49% | 74.3% - Adults (2014) | 65.5% - Adults (2016) |

## SOCIAL DETERMINANTS

| Students graduating from high school 4 years after starting 9th grade | 87% | 93% | 85% |

## SUBSTANCE ABUSE

| Adolescents using alcohol or illicit drugs in past 30 days | 12.8% | 21.6% (2018) | 24.3% (2016) |
| Binge drinking in past month—Adults | 24.2% | 23.6% | 20% |

## TOBACCO

| Adult cigarette smoking | 12% | 13.4% | 16.7% |
| Adolescent cigarette smoking in past 30 days | 16% | 1.9% (2018) | 4.4% (2016) |

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### Source: Healthy People 2020

## Community Themes and Strengths Assessment Executive Summary

The Community Themes and Strengths Survey was disseminated among Will County residents utilizing a social survey platform, Survey Monkey. Sixty-four total questions related to demographics, community engagement, perception of emerging threats, vulnerabilities and discrimination, as well as health care system perceptions related to access to care, food insecurity,
and social determinants were asked. The community responded by the thousands, as there was a total of sixteen hundred and eighty-eight total responses gathered, with 96% of all reach targeting Will County resident. The data represents a two percent margin of error at a 95% confidence interval and the reach was approximately a .25% response rate.

The community responded qualitatively with the top three following themes of concerns:

1. **Access to Services**
2. **Discrimination**
3. **Employment**

Survey respondents are represented by a disproportionate number of non-Hispanic, white females aged 35-55 years whom earned over 75,000 annually in income, owned their homes, see private healthcare providers via employer-based health insurance and obtained the majority of their health information from the internet, however, the responses were captured from each zip code represented within the county, with 96 percent of the total reach targeted Will County residents strictly. The reach was ubiquitous with social platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, web domain, QR codes, and web-based applications to reach resident participants, in person interviews and events were hosted during peak patient times at local health care organizations to discuss the survey and educate residents of the importance of providing input on a community-based notice and comment opportunity within their integrated public health system.
Quality of life questions were asked to residents. Respondents rated quality of life within the county as good or better 83 percent of the time. Eighty one percent of the time respondents rated Will County as a good or better place to raise their children in. Eighty five percent of residents stated that they have enough money most of the time or more and 87 percent of residents stated that they have access to health care services most of the time or more. Just 49 percent of residents felt that this was a place that most of the time or more individuals worked together to solve issues, and 61 percent of the time felt that this county was a good place to grow old most of the time or more. Discrimination was ranked among places and number of occurrences; with 17 percent of residents perceiving that discriminations was occurring 3 or more times on the streets and 16 percent stating that discrimination occurred 3 or more times at the place of work and 13 percent occurring at school 3 or more times. Transportation was declared as an issue with 30 percent perceiving there to be rarely or never access to transportation within the local communities and 28 percent perceiving the issue to be within their home and 13 percent perceiving this issue to be with the county in general. Substance abuse was rated as a top issue among respondents, with 67 percent stating it to be somewhat or large problem within the county. Among this was prescription drug us at 49 percent of responses, underage drinking at 43 percent, violence at 44 percent, Vaping at 40 percent, and mental health issues at 34 percent. Qualitative responses were collected in addition to the likert scale ranking of issues among the questions asked by the survey. The themes of concerns were ranked below in order from most discussed to least discussed:

1. Access to Services (Healthcare, Mental Health, Dental, Vision, etc.)
2. Discrimination
3. Employment
4. Crime
5. Infrastructure (Roads, Building and Land Development)
6. Economics
7. Politics (Current Legislation, Police, Government Leadership, partisans)
8. Education
9. Mental Health
10. Transportation
11. Community Engagement
12. Opinions
Forces of Change Assessment Executive Summary

The Forces of Change Assessment (FOCA) elicited broad community input to identify forces of change impacting the local public health system in Will County. Participants reported on current trends, events, and factors that may have implications on the local public health system and quality of life for Will County residents. FOCA participants also addressed threats and opportunities posed by each of the major forces.

An analysis of the forces reported by MAPP Partners and community members throughout the FOCA process produced ten cross-cutting issues, listed below.

- Access to transportation
- Access/affordability of healthy foods
- Access/affordability of housing
- Air and water quality
- Behavioral health/substance abuse
- Equitable and quality health care
- Funding for social service agencies
- Political climate
- Unemployment/underemployment
- Use and influence of technology/social media

When asked to rank the top three forces with the most impact, survey participants ranked (1) Economic Forces, (2) Political Forces, and (3) Social Forces as key issues in Will County.

Regarding these issues, community members identified several opportunities to create positive change in Will County. In general, the following themes of opportunities were identified for each force: Increase advocacy

- Increase partnership/coordination
- Increase education
- Increase jobs/employment opportunities

Below are notable opportunities associated with each of the ten cross-cutting issues.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Force of Change</th>
<th>Opportunities Identified</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Access to transportation | • Improve partnerships with transportation agencies  
  • Increase advocacy and funding to expand transportation options |
| Access/affordability of healthy foods | • Increase awareness of resources to access healthy food options  
  • Encourage healthy food options in workplaces |
| Access/affordability of housing | • Increase advocacy for affordable housing options |
| Air and water quality | • Increase advocacy to improve air and water quality standards |
| Behavioral health/substance abuse | • Increase advocacy and funding to expand treatment facilities and providers  
  • Increase coordination of care with existing Will County agencies  
  • Improve community perception and decrease stigma of behavioral health services |
| Equitable and quality health care | • Increase advocacy and funding for more equitable and quality health care services  
  • Increase collaborations with community agencies such as schools to reach youth and other target populations |
The issues and opportunities mentioned above will inform future strategic planning in Will County to improve the health and overall quality of life of Will County residents. The FOCA and other MAPP assessments are key in identifying and prioritizing health issues in Will County.

| Funding for social service agencies | Increase advocacy for stable state funding  
|                                  | Increase awareness and education of public health issues to elected officials |
| Political climate                | Increase advocacy efforts and support for vulnerable and minority populations  
|                                  | Increase awareness and education of public health issues to elected officials  
|                                  | Encourage bipartisanship over issues regarding social determinants of health and other public health issues |
| Unemployment/underemployment     | Encourage businesses to bring employment opportunities to Will County  
|                                  | Increase advocacy for fair wages |
| Use and influence of technology/social media | Improve technology access and education for the senior population  
|                                  | Expand telehealth opportunities |
Local Public Health Status Assessment Executive Summary
Cross-Cutting Themes from the Will County Local Public Health System Assessment (LPHSA)

The Local Public Health System Assessment survey was designed in 2019 to collect data from our local public health stakeholders, policy makers, health professionals and collaborators to address essential public health service needs and gaps that may exist within the existing public health structure. The survey used online data collection. A Survey Monkey questionnaire was distributed to a list of community members and partners who are part of the local public health system in Will County. Sixty-six total participants responded to questions related to strengths and activities associated with essential public health service frameworks. This survey closed as of May 2019. In an analysis of the local public health system, stakeholders were asked to rank, from No Activity to Optimal Activity, their and/or their organizations involvement in sectors related to innovation, technological advancements, addressing inequities, and surveillance as it related to personal health service exposures. Participants were individuals whom held roles mainly linking individuals to services, educating and informing the public about available public health services. Frameworks associated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strengths</th>
<th>Weaknesses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EPHS 6: Enforce Laws</td>
<td>EPHS 9: Evaluate Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPHS 7: Link Services</td>
<td>EPHS 8: Assuring Workforce</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opportunities</th>
<th>Threats</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enforce laws and create policies that are comprehensive to the goals and objectives created by the health care system</td>
<td>Community insecurities with the goals and objectives of the health system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support collaborative research that is inclusive to the equity development of the community</td>
<td>Workforce Development inclusive of the diversity of the community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engaging the community in policy and regulation design</td>
<td>Community may have challenges obtaining services due to social determinants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilize more robust and ubiquitous social platforms</td>
<td>Integrating the necessary technologies and resources required to maintain a standard of service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobilize the health care system to assess and report on cross cutting public health issues</td>
<td>Monitor and Surveillance of inequities, emerging threats and respond with adequate and efficient information to the vulnerable populations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collaborating and aligning adequate training for workforce to support health service linkage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A (SWOT ) Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats analysis is depicted above related to the essential public health services and the responses from the survey. The threats and opportunities mentioned above will enhance future strategic planning in Will County to improve the health and overall quality of life for Will County residents.
The table above depicts the 10 essential public health service frameworks that mold the system assessment to diversity and reduce error to the data collection mechanisms and provide a comprehensive schematic of the areas required for focus.

Essential Public Health Services yielded most Activity: Optimal Activity established from the survey stemmed from EPHS framework 6; most organizations that participated felt that their activity related to enforcement and regulation of laws and policies was optimal. Essential Public Health Services yielded least Activity: No Activity was attributed to EPHS framework 8, Assuring a complete and competent workforce.
The table above depicts the scores related to equity and social determinants as they apply to our public health system of care deliverance. Equity addresses disease through surveillance and advocacy, inclusive of youth and racial and ethnic approaches to health. Equity measured most optimally within the framework: • Inclusive Policy • Inclusive Partnerships

Equity measured least activity or no activity within the framework: • Developing a leadership workforce representative of community