This summary provides findings from the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), a comprehensive review of health data and community input on health issues relevant to Chittenden and Grand Isle counties. The Assessment covers a large range of topics, but is not a complete analysis of any one issue. Rather, these data help to identify priorities which lead to productive community discussion and the creation of goals. We invite the reader to investigate and use the information in this report to move toward solutions for healthier communities.

**access to healthy food**
Access to affordable, healthy food was cited by all survey respondents as both an important need in the community as well as an asset.

**affordable housing**
Affordable housing was cited by survey respondents, focus group participants, and community leaders as an integral component of a healthy community.

**chronic conditions**
The Centers for Disease Control state that chronic disease is the “the public health challenge of the 21st century.”

**oral health and health care**
Affordable oral health and health care services were notable concerns among survey respondents as well as focus group participants.

**healthy aging**
Survey respondents and community leaders consistently ranked the following senior subtopics as having the highest needs in 2016: Affordable In-Home Services; Access to Long-Term Health Care; and Transportation to Services.

**mental health**
Residents in both Chittenden and Grand Isle counties have fewer poor mental health days, on average, than Vermont overall.

**economic opportunities**
Community leaders did not limit economic issues to jobs and wages; the topic also included discussion of such topics as affordable childcare and disparities.

**early childhood & family supports**
Community leaders cited the importance of a strong, well-functioning family as integral to children’s success.

**healthy aging**
Survey respondents and community leaders consistently ranked the following senior subtopics as having the highest needs in 2016: Affordable In-Home Services; Access to Long-Term Health Care; and Transportation to Services.

**STI’s and teen births**
Questions about healthy sexual behavior and sexually transmitted diseases were not specifically asked on the community survey or of community leaders, however quantitative data paints a concerning picture in Chittenden and Grand Isle counties.

**substance abuse**
The needs surrounding substance abuse are similar to those described for mental health, including integrated services and acute care.
Overview of the Community

Chittenden County

**Characteristics**
- Home to the largest population in Vermont
- Ranks better than the statewide averages in most areas
- 291.7 residents per square mile

**Population**
- 160,000 residents

**Providers: Residents**
- Lower ratio of residents to health care providers

**Uninsured Rate**
- Lower uninsured rate than the statewide rate

**Unemployment Rate**
- Lower than statewide statistics

**Children Living in Poverty**
- Lower than statewide statistics

**Median Household Income**
- Higher than statewide statistics

**Education**
- Better educated than the statewide average

**Diversity**
- Most diverse county in the state, with 8.3% of its residents from a racial or ethnic minority group, compared to only 5% for the state as a whole

Grand Isle County

**Characteristics**
- More rural than Chittenden County
- Ranks similarly to the statewide averages in most areas

**Population**
- Just under 7,000

**Providers: Residents**
- Higher ratio of residents to health care providers

**Uninsured Rate**
- Only slightly higher than the statewide rate

**Unemployment Rate**
- Close to the statewide statistics

**Children Living in Poverty**
- Close to the statewide statistics

**Median Household Income**
- Close to the statewide statistics

**Education**
- High school graduation rate unavailable

**Diversity**
- 5.2% slightly higher than the state as a whole (5%)

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Overview of the Study

PURPOSE

This brochure highlights findings for Chittenden and Grand Isle counties, Vermont from the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA).

WHO

The CHNA was planned by the CHNA Community Steering group, a nine-member team representing a wide range of community agencies and perspectives.

- Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission
- Community Health Centers of Burlington
- Howard Center
- OneCare Vermont
- Synchrosaic
- United Way of Northwest Vermont
- Burlington District Office of the Vermont Department of Health
- The University of Vermont Medical Center
- Visiting Nurse Association of Chittenden & Grand Isle Counties

WHY

The purpose of the assessment is

- to identify significant priority health needs
- to enable UVM Medical Center to better target resources to improve the health of our community as described in its implementation strategy
- to meet State and Federal requirements

HOW

The information presented in this assessment was gathered through a community-wide survey, a community leader breakfast and individual interviews, and a focus group.

Study results are put into context in this report by the 2015 Robert Wood Johnson County Health Rankings, along with Vermont Department of Health and UVM Medical Center data. Contextual data accompany each of the priorities indicated by the CHNA.

Because the survey and community discussion offered areas for open-ended responses, the research yielded both statistical evidence and anecdotal evidence. The combination of these two data types informed prioritization, as well as enhancing and supporting the statistical analysis contained in this report.

To read the full report, visit:

https://www.uvmhealth.org/medcenter/Pages/About-UVM-Medical-Center/The-Community/Needs-Assessment.aspx

1 Vermont’s Act 53 requires that hospitals maintain awareness of community needs and report on how these are met. The Affordable Care Act requires that all tax-exempt hospitals and health systems conduct CHNAs at least once every three years. This process is to be reported on UVM Medical Center’s IRS Form 990, Schedule H.