

Introduction

In 2018, Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County (Public Health) participated in the Southwest Ohio Regional Health Needs Assessment which involved 26 counties in 3 states, 35 hospitals, and 31 local health departments. This comprehensive and collaborative health needs assessment informed nonprofit hospitals and local health departments of the concerns faced by the larger communities they serve.

Public Health used the results of the regional assessment and health issues identified in focus groups to identify a central theme, **Social Determinants of Health**, of Montgomery County's 2019 Community Health Assessment.

“Social determinants of health are the conditions in the environment in which people are born, live, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health and quality-of-life outcomes” - Healthy People 2020

Ideally, everyone should have an equal opportunity to lead a healthy, fulfilling, and productive life. Unfortunately, some communities experience poorer health outcomes due to unfavorable social and environmental conditions such as poverty, unstable housing, unsafe neighborhoods, limited access to healthy food, and substandard education.

Social determinants are organized into 5 key areas:

Neighborhood and Built Environment

- Access to Healthy Food
- Quality Housing
- Transportation
- Public Safety
- Environmental Conditions (e.g., green space & air and water quality)

Health and Health Care

- Access to Health Care
- Health Literacy
- Provider Availability
- Provider Cultural Competency
- Quality of Care

Social and Community Context

- Discrimination
- Incarceration
- Social Cohesion and Support
- Community Engagement

Economic Stability

- Employment
- Food Insecurity
- Housing Instability
- Poverty

Education

- Early Childhood Education
- High School Graduation
- Language and Literacy
- Higher Education/Vocational Training



Tools for Understanding This Report

Report Layout

The first section of this Community Health Assessment (CHA) is a summary of findings from the 6 focus groups representing underserved populations within Montgomery County. The following section includes Montgomery County data organized into 8 categories each containing several subcategory topics. These categories are population characteristics, behavioral health, maternal and child health, chronic disease risks and outcomes, health risks and outcomes, access to care, and built environment. If applicable, a narrative describing the Public Health Importance (PHI), and/or the relationship to Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) is associated with each subcategory topic. In addition, an Across the Nation table is included to compare Montgomery County to Ohio, the United States, and the Healthy People 2020 goal. The final section contains small area snapshots of sub-county level data, which highlight differences in health by geographic location within Montgomery County.

Data Sources

American Community Survey (ACS)

The U.S. Census Bureau conducts the ACS each year to provide communities with population estimates during the years between the Population and Housing Census, which is conducted every 10 years. Survey participants are selected via random sampling of addresses from every state to produce population, demographic, and housing unit estimates.

Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

The BRFSS is the largest health survey system in the U.S. conducted on a continuous basis. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) collects interview data through landline and cell phone surveys of adults 18 and older. The BRFSS provides estimates of the population's health-related risk behaviors, chronic health conditions, use of preventive services, and emerging health issues.

Greater Dayton Area Hospital Association (GDAHA) Healthcare Database

The GDAHA Healthcare Database is the central collection point for hospital data for all GDAHA member hospitals. This database is managed by ASCEND Innovations, Inc.

Vital Statistics – Ohio Department of Health (ODH)

ODH retains records of all births and deaths that occur in the state of Ohio and all births and deaths of Ohio residents that occur outside of the state.

Healthy People (HP) 2020

Healthy People produces science-based, 10-year objectives aimed at enhancing the health of all Americans. HP 2020 serves to identify nationwide health improvement priorities and provide measurable objectives and goals at the national, state, and local levels.

Technical Note

While the population of Montgomery County is becoming more diverse, certain races and ethnicities still cannot be represented alone in this assessment. A population needs to be large enough to provide an accurate representation of the population's health. An analysis based on small numbers is less reliable.