

2022

COMMUNITY HEALTH

Needs Assessment and 2023-2025 Implementation Strategy
for Chicago infants, children, youth and families

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



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An essential part of Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago's mission is to advance health equity for all infants, children and youth. Every three years, we conduct a comprehensive Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) to inform our community health efforts. Based on our learnings from significant community input and an extensive analysis of key health and social metrics, we have developed a Community Health Implementation Strategy for 2023-2025 that prioritizes community health efforts for which Lurie Children's is uniquely positioned to have the most impact.

2022 CHNA Key Findings and Priority Areas

Nearly 30 percent of Chicagoans are under the age of 25 years. Eighty percent of Chicago's youth are Black, Hispanic/Latinx, Asian and other youth of color. Although it is racially and ethnically diverse, Chicago is also among the top five most segregated cities in the country. Therefore, throughout this report, we present data based on race and ethnicity, where available. We also highlight health disparities, which are rooted in social and structural inequities and were exacerbated by the interrelated pandemics of COVID-19, the youth mental health crisis and racism.

Faced with these challenges, Chicago communities have demonstrated tremendous resilience and a groundswell of grassroots leadership. Working in partnership with our communities, Lurie Children's is taking concrete steps to address the following key priority health areas:

Priority Area A: Social and structural influencers of health and access to care

- Communities emphasized that they need economic opportunity, stable housing, healthy foods, quality childcare and education, social cohesion and safe environments to be healthy.
- Communities prioritized an immediate need for holistic, integrated physical and mental healthcare and accessible, appropriate community programs and services.
- Life expectancy in Chicago dropped a full 2 years in 2020, with the most significant drop among Hispanic/Latinx and Black Chicagoans.
- Most Chicagoans under the age of 18 years have health insurance and less than 4 percent are uninsured. Despite this, inequities in cost, proximity, availability and quality of healthcare services are significant barriers to care.
- Although infant mortality overall in Chicago has been trending slightly downwards since 2000, Black infants continue to die at a rate three times higher than white infants.

Priority Area B: Chronic health conditions

- Chicago has been identified as an asthma epicenter with prevalence higher than state and national levels, specifically in the city's West and South Sides.
- One in 3 of Chicago's children and teenagers are overweight or have obesity, a number that has increased during the pandemic. Youth with obesity are more likely to experience severe asthma, type 2 diabetes, poorer disease control and overall poorer quality of life.
- Families and caregivers of youth with medical complexities report significant physical, emotional and financial challenges related to providing quality care at home.

Priority Area C: Mental and behavioral health

- In 2019, 39 percent of Chicago high school students reported experiencing symptoms of depression – a 125 percent increase since 2007. The pandemic exacerbated youth depression and anxiety, with estimates suggesting a doubling effect.
- The availability of mental and behavioral health preventative services and treatment is severely limited despite continuously rising rates of youth depression, anxiety and suicide attempts.
- In 2019, more than 30 percent of Chicago’s high school students reported being offered, sold or given an illegal drug on school property.
- In 2019-2021, substance use related Emergency Department visits and hospitalizations for Black Chicago youth were up to 3 times as high as those of Hispanic/Latinx, white or Asian youth.

Priority Area D: Violence and Injury

- Firearm injuries are now the *single* leading cause of death for children and adolescents 0-19 years of age, with an 83 percent increase in youth firearm fatalities over the past decade.
- Black youth had an unprecedented 40 percent increase in firearm deaths between 2019 to 2020.
- Considered altogether, unintentional injuries remain the leading cause of death and disability for children and youth ages 0-24 years in the United States.

2023-2025 Community Health Implementation Strategy

Health equity is not possible when communities do not have access to the conditions and resources that enable them to live their healthiest lives. To address the priority health issues/areas we identified in our CHNA, Lurie Children’s has developed an impact framework comprised of the following domains – each of which is essential to achieving health equity for youth:

- **EQUITABLE and INCLUSIVE CARE** | *Goal: Expand the availability and accessibility of physical, mental and behavioral health and social services closer to home for youth living in disinvested communities.*
- **EDUCATIONAL and ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY** | *Goal: Foster educational and economic opportunities to help infants, children, youth and their families and communities thrive.*
- **SAFE and NURTURING SPACES** | *Goal: Cultivate safe, supportive and nurturing physical and social environments for youth where they live, learn and play.*

Across the three domains, we have identified 13 distinct strategies that address each of the priority areas listed above. This framework moves us towards an impact-focused, asset-based and inclusive approach to address the priority health issues of the populations we serve more holistically and comprehensively. Each of these domains and their associated goals are interconnected; for example, safe and nurturing learning environments are essential building blocks for future academic achievements and economic success.

The 2023-2025 Community Health Implementation Strategy will be facilitated, monitored and supported by the Patrick M. Magoon Institute for Healthy Communities, in collaboration with clinical divisions across Lurie Children’s and community partners across Chicago.