



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Maine Shared Community Health Needs Assessment
County Health Reports Released**
Substance Use and Mental Health named priorities in every County

Augusta, ME— Maine Shared Community Health Needs Assessment (Maine Shared CHNA) Reports show mental health and substance use, social determinants of health, and access to care are among the top health priorities identified in almost every county in Maine. Other priorities include older adult health/healthy aging, physical activity, nutrition, and weight, tobacco use, cardiovascular disease, and chronic disease.

A new emphasis on social determinants of health, which are community and societal factors that influence health, was included in this assessment. Examples of these include hunger, poverty, transportation, housing and discrimination.

The Maine Shared CHNA Reports are based on what nearly 2,000 people reported to be the biggest health issues facing their community after reviewing the Health profiles release in the summer of 2018. Input was gathered through forums, community events, surveys, focus groups, and interviews during the fall and winter of 2018-2019.

All 16 County Reports can be found on the Maine Shared CHNA website at (www.mainechna.org). Five Public Health District Reports, and a State of Maine Report are scheduled to be released later this month.

Jo Morrissey, Program Manager said, “We want to gratefully acknowledge the countless community volunteers who gave their time and passionately committed to hosting, facilitating, attending, and engaging in this effort. From Aroostook to York, Oxford, to Washington County, we want you to know, we heard you and are looking forward to working with you on some of our most pressing health concerns.”

The Health Reports will be used by

- Maine’s 33 non-profit hospitals to create health improvement plans by the end of 2019.
- Maine’s 8 District Coordinating Councils to create District Health Improvement Plans within the next two years.
- the Maine CDC to create a State Health Improvement Plan within the next two years.
- policy makers, non-profits, businesses, academics and other community partners for their own strategic planning purposes and grant writing.



The Maine Shared CHNA website (www.mainechna.org) also contains

- County, Public Health District, State, and selected City Data Health Profiles.
- Health Equity Summary Sheets on Race, Sexual Orientation, Sex, Education, Ethnicity, and Income.
- an interactive data portal.
- links to participating hospital systems' 2016 Implementation Strategies and the District Public Health Improvement Plans. Links to updated 2019 Implementation Strategies are scheduled to be posted in the coming months.

The Maine Shared CHNA is a unique public-private statewide collaborative effort between Central Maine Healthcare, the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, an office of the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, MaineGeneral Health, MaineHealth, and Northern Light Health. Funding for the Maine Shared CHNA is provided by the partnering healthcare systems with generous in-kind support from the Maine CDC and community partners.

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