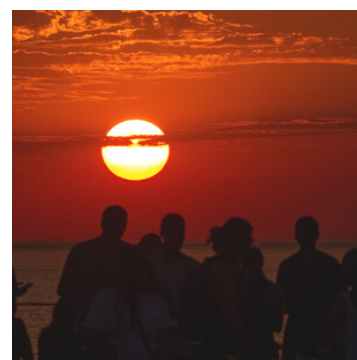


LAKEWOOD COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

20
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Executive Summary

The 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment was conducted by the Center for Community Solutions (CCS) in collaboration with the City of Lakewood, the Three Arches Foundation, and the Healthy Lakewood Foundation to identify significant community health needs and to inform the development of an Action Plan to address current needs.

An outgrowth of the Live Well Lakewood Working Group, this Assessment and Action Plan process was established to identify current community conditions, with specific focuses on the social determinants of health and racial equity. With deep experience in community health needs assessments and population-based research, CCS embarked on a three-phase process to launch the project, assess community conditions, and establish a process of prioritizing needs in the community. This document provides a high-level summary of the findings associated with the Assessment Report.

Summary of Prioritized Needs

This report is specific to the City of Lakewood, though some data compares Lakewood to other communities and some data encompasses a larger geography (e.g. Cuyahoga County). Established in 1889, Lakewood is the third largest city in Cuyahoga County, behind Parma and the City of Cleveland, and is the densest city in Ohio. Given its unique profile and its proximity to the county's urban core, Lakewood's diversity of neighborhoods and population precipitated the need for this Assessment to better define the needs of the community, especially as it transitions beyond the evolving pandemic.

Based on an assessment of primary and secondary data, using the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's definition of the social determinants of health as a framework, the following were identified as significant health needs in the city of Lakewood.

A summary of these needs is presented in the following order:

- Economic Stability
 - Financial Insecurity
 - Disparities
- Education
 - Outcomes
 - Services
 - Staffing, Policy, and Operations
- Health Care Access and Quality
 - Vulnerable Populations
 - Discrimination and Social Determinants
 - Access and Navigation
- Built Environment
 - Housing
 - Transportation and Mobility
 - Recreation and Commerce
- Social and Community Context
 - Discrimination and Racism
 - Community Services and Information
 - Social Connectedness

PROJECT OVERSIGHT

The Assessment process was overseen by:

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COLLABORATORS

The City of Lakewood
Three Arches Foundation
Healthy Lakewood Foundation
Members of the Community
The Center for Community Solutions Staff

This report is publicly available at:
www.communitysolutions.com/LakewoodHealth

Economic Stability

While many in Lakewood are doing well economically, many others face significant financial insecurity, with disparities present racially and in terms of gender. Interviewees indicated housing as a major concern, financially, with many expressing concern about long-term residents being displaced. Additionally, the impacts of the pandemic, including rising inflation, were areas of concern across interest groups, though many identified a disproportionate impact being felt by lower-income and Black residents.

Education

Education is traditionally linked to higher income, and the data from Lakewood is no exception. And while the overall four-year graduation rate in Lakewood is high at 90.9%, achievement gaps remain for students with disabilities as well as English-language learners and Black students. Additionally, diversity and training in the teaching staff are unique data considerations, given a relatively high average salary compared to other local communities.

Many parents, though they have trust in the schools, believe more supportive services for pre-kindergarten children and school-aged children are needed, notably regarding behavioral health, physical activity, and extracurriculars.

Many parents also expressed concern about the impact of public health measures implemented during the pandemic on the social well-being, educational achievement, and mental health of children.

Health Care Access and Quality

While Lakewood has a number of health providers available in the community and access to tertiary medical centers both east and west, residents still face challenges with chronic diseases, risky behavior, mental health, and the impact of COVID-19.

Generally, however, medications and services seem readily available to residents, with most indicating they have a primary care doctor and they regularly access basic services like dental and vision care. In addition, many Lakewood residents indicated some levels of adverse childhood experiences and 7.5% have experienced or witnessed gun violence.

Built Environment

The average resident has lived in Lakewood a long time, but many residents expressed concerns over displacement. Some residents are also worried about the lack of affordable housing options, including the availability of housing for individuals with vouchers. However, recent data suggests most new units are single or two family, meaning supply is constrained. If Lakewood were to develop more housing to improve supply, and thus average price of housing, it may conflict with some residents' sentiments regarding "neighborhood character" as it may include greater density through apartments.

While Lakewood prides itself on being a dense, walkable community, most people rely on cars for transportation, and infrastructure is designed to support cars more than pedestrians, cyclists, or public transit. Many have cited the impact the lack of connections north and south have on their getting to school and around town. Most residents highlighted Lakewood's parks, recreational opportunities, and commercial diversity as unique assets that often attract others from outside communities.

Social and Community Context

Lakewood residents have good connections to their city, though do not have regular sources of information regarding community events or activities. Additionally, many individuals, particularly persons with disabilities and older adults, feel isolated in the community, in part because of the pandemic.

Certain groups, including Asian Americans and individuals with disabilities, have experienced more overt and systemic discrimination. Many others have witnessed or experienced instances of discrimination or are unsure if discrimination exists. With that said, many respondents believe that Lakewood is a diverse, inclusive community and identify these assets as a reason to live in the city.