

Engaging Patients and Communities in Community Health Assessments

Thousands of U.S. hospitals complete a **community health assessment (CHA)** process every three years. The process can advance a hospital's **focus on illness prevention and social determinants of health** so the organization can foster community wellness and tailor health care services to particular populations. **Hospitals are engaging community members and patients** in the process.

Hospital Benefits from Engaging Patients and Communities

- **Clearer understanding of the community's health**, including social determinants of health and the availability of resources to address them
- **Greater community buy-in** and shared commitment to community health
- **Strengthened relationships with organizations and individuals** that are community assets
- **Healthier communities** where individuals have access to preventive care and seek care at the appropriate level, leading to lower costs

Community and Patient Benefits from CHA Involvement

- A **different perspective** of their community's health
- **Shared community commitment** and improved communication, fostering investment in the health of the community and involvement in the CHA process
- **Ability to apply knowledge and experiences** to improve the health of the community
- **Respect for and involvement** in the success of the CHA process and readiness for future collaboration

Community and Patient Engagement Spectrum

Participants

Have short-term involvement through surveys, focus groups or interviews

Advisers

Are ongoing participants in the process; provide feedback, serve as community liaisons, help prioritize needs and plan improvement strategies

Partners

Serve as co-leaders of the CHA, participate in a CHA governing council and in planning and decision making; typically are community members and patients



To learn more, visit www.hpoe.org/engagingCHNA

Source: Health Research & Educational Trust. (2016, June). Engaging patients and communities in the community health needs assessment process. Chicago, IL: Health Research & Educational Trust. Accessed at www.hpoe.org

