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 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

### 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


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