

Community Health Initiatives at the American Hospital Association

Community health encompasses nonclinical approaches for improving health, preventing disease and reducing health disparities by addressing social, behavioral, environmental, economic and medical social determinants of health in a geographically defined population.

The AHA's work in community health is guided by the AHA's Path Forward and the commitment to Advancing Health in America, which includes access, value, partners, well-being and coordination.



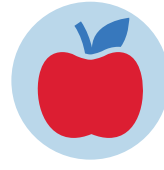
Access: Access to affordable, equitable health, behavioral and social services



Value: The best care that adds value to lives



Partners: Embrace diversity of individuals and serve as partners in their health



Well-being: Focus on well-being and partnership with community resources



Coordination: Seamless care propelled by teams, technology, innovation and data

To learn more about the Path Forward, visit <http://www.aha.org/about/pathforward.shtml>

To further our community health agenda, the AHA and the Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET) are focusing on several areas, including health equity and eliminating care disparities, community health workers, violence and safety, health system and community collaborations to advance health, and social determinants of health. AHA and HRET are working to build on this agenda through innovative campaigns, alliances, initiatives, publications and awards. Highlights from our work in these areas are described here.

[AHA and National Urban League Alliance](#)



National
Urban League

The AHA and the National Urban League are collaborating to advance health equity, diversity and inclusion in health care leadership across the U.S. As part of its work, the alliance will develop resources for the field, advocate board diversity, share best practices and promote shared policy solutions to persistent challenges that affect the health of vulnerable communities.

[Association for Community Health Improvement \(ACHI\)](#)



Association for
Community Health
Improvement

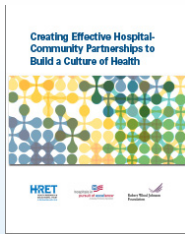
ACHI is the premier national association for community health, community benefit and population health professionals. ACHI provides educational resources, professional development and networking opportunities that help professionals expand their knowledge and enhance their performance in achieving community health goals. The annual ACHI national conference convenes 700 community health leaders to share best practices to advance the field.

[Community Health Assessment Toolkit](#)



The Community Health Assessment Toolkit is a web-based resource offering a nine-step pathway to guide and support a robust, community-engaged health assessment process. The newly updated toolkit, funded as part of a grant with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Public Health Foundation, addresses the full cycle from assessment through implementation and provides strategies for each step of the process.

Creating a Culture of Health



Funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, this project is creating tools and developing strategies for strengthening the breadth and depth of hospital and community partnerships. This work includes a report on creating effective hospital-community partnerships as well as a learning collaborative comprised of leaders from 10 diverse U.S. communities. The project also includes the development of a new groundbreaking website to serve an aggregate clearing house of community health needs assessments (CHNAs) and implementation strategies. The Health Research & Educational Trust and ACHI have collected over 3,000 CHNAs and coded them for priority needs identified and the partners involved in the assessment and implementation.

Hospitals Against Violence



Hospitals Against Violence is an AHA initiative to elevate the importance of workplace and community violence prevention as a public health issue for hospitals and health systems. The initiative has aggregated and produced numerous resources to support hospitals' violence prevention work.

Institute for Diversity in Health Management



INSTITUTE FOR DIVERSITY
in Health Management
An affiliate of the American Hospital Association

The Institute for Diversity in Health Management leads the AHA's health equity, diversity and inclusion efforts. Founded in 1994, the Institute provides resources to hospitals and health care organizations to promote equitable health care through diversity and inclusion strategies.

Integrating Patient-Centered Outcomes Research into Hospital CHNAs



Funded by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute, this project included the publication of two guides: "[Engaging Patients and Communities in the Community Health Needs Assessment Process](#)" and "[Applying Research Principles to the Community Health Needs Assessment Process](#)."

Next Generation of Community Health



The AHA's 2016 Committee on Research was charged with exploring what the next generation of community health may look like as hospitals redefine themselves to keep pace with the changing health care landscape. The committee released this work in the form of a report, "Next Generation of Community Health."

Publications



The AHA has produced numerous guides, toolkits, webinars, podcasts, case studies, infographics and articles on community health. View these resources at hpoe.org/communityhealth.

[Task Force on Ensuring Access in Vulnerable Communities](#)



Established in 2015, this task force examined the challenges faced by vulnerable rural and urban communities to ensure access to health services for individuals living in those communities. The task force has outlined nine emerging strategies for preserving access. The ultimate goal is to provide vulnerable communities and the hospitals that serve them with the tools necessary to determine the essential services they should strive to maintain locally, and the delivery system options that will allow them to do so.

Awards



The AHA sponsors several annual awards to recognize individuals, programs and organizations that are leaders in community health. These include:

- [NOVA Award](#): Honors effective, collaborative programs focused on improving community health status.
- [Foster G. McGaw Prize](#): Recognizes hospitals that have distinguished themselves through efforts to improve the health and well-being of everyone in their communities.
- [Equity of Care Award](#): Presented to hospitals and health systems that are noteworthy leaders and examples to the field in the area of equitable care.
- [ACHI's Spirit of the Community Award](#): Recognizes two outstanding leaders in community health improvement.

Social Determinants of Health

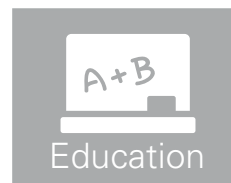
HRET, ACHI and the Institute are working to support hospitals and health systems as they address social determinants of health, eliminate health care disparities and provide comprehensive care to every patient in every community – all of which improve community health. We are currently developing a series of resources on how hospitals can address the social determinants of health in their communities. Stay tuned for reports, case studies, webinars and videos on various social determinants of health, including:



Food



Housing



Education



Transportation



Violence



Social Support



Health Behaviors



Employment