



Healthy Columbia Willamette Collaborative

2022 Community Health Needs Assessment

Key Takeaways

Clackamas, Multnomah, & Washington counties in Oregon
and Clark County, Washington



Priority area:

A neighborhood for all

All people should have access to safe, affordable, and accessible places to live, work, and play.

Priority issues:

- Safe and affordable housing
- Physical safety in the community
- Cultural displacement due to gentrification

Recommendations for community health improvement planning:

- Engage local politicians, including city councils and commissioners, as necessary advocates for creating a neighborhood where members of the community are safe, have access to quality housing, and have healthier living environments.
- Invest proactively rather than reactively in equity-centered and community-informed solutions to rising violent crime rates.
- Support sustainable civic engagement and education programs, particularly for immigrant and refugee communities.



Priority Area: **Essential Community Services & Resources**

All people should have access to opportunities for education, employment, nutritious food, and get where they need to go.

Priority Issues:

- Economic opportunity
- Educational opportunity
- Culturally specific and healthy foods
- Transportation
- Virtual resources

Recommendations for Community Health Improvement Planning:

- Create more opportunities and capacity for workforce development programs that support individuals to earn a living wage.
- Invest in ways to support not just the delivery of services but the infrastructure and capacity to sustain those services.
- Invest in addressing areas with limited grocery store options and ensuring culturally relevant and healthy food access to communities most impacted by these geographic disparities.
- Work to eliminate education disparities, starting with equitable access to affordable and quality child care and preschools.
- Invest in technology infrastructure to increase access to virtual resources.
- Ensure any community engagement efforts in the region include resources to address internet access barriers.



Priority Area:

Access to Culturally & Linguistically Responsive Health Care

All people should have access to health care that aligns with their cultural, behavioral, and communication needs.

Priority Issues:

- Affordable health care
- Culturally & Linguistically Responsive Health Care
- Trauma-informed care
- Delayed or avoided health care

Recommendations for Community Health Improvement Planning:

- Support more trauma-informed physical and mental health services and supports, clinics and/or community centers.
- Increase workforce development pipelines to health care workers that reflect and represent the region's diversity in language, ability, culture, sexual orientation, and gender.
- Expand investments in traditional health workers to increase community representation in the workforce.
- Invest in building/repairing trust between the health care system and priority populations.
- Invest in efforts to address gaps in insurance eligibility for Hispanic/Latinx and multi-racial populations.
- Ensure adequate resources for language accessibility in services and education and invest in health literacy efforts.



Priority Area:

Support for Family and Community Ways

All people should have to access to foods and healing medicines or practices specific to their communities of origin. In addition, all people should have access to land which supports physical activity and connection to the natural world, and to opportunities for ceremonial, religious, cultural, educational, and celebratory community gatherings.

Priority Issue:

- Social connection

Recommendations for Community Health Improvement Planning:

- Offer culturally specific community spaces for community and educational events to take place.
- Build awareness and engagement of health resource and supports through supporting and leveraging existing collaborative efforts with community organizations to reach those in need.
- Invest in non-academic youth development programs as well as for peer mentorship programs and access to peer education services.
- Invest in and prioritize data collection with respect to race and ethnicity, sexual orientation, ability, and gender to guide policy making and allocation of resources.