OSU College of Public Health Releases COVID-19 Populations Needs Assessment

*Minimizing the Disparate Impact of the Pandemic and Building Foundations for Health Equity*

Ohio’s COVID-19 Populations Needs Assessment is a statewide evaluation that aims to improve the ability of Ohioans to prevent COVID-19 transmission and minimize its impacts on communities. Based on input from 363 stakeholders representing six Ohio populations, this document describes critical barriers these communities face and recommends strategies for overcoming each barrier. This Needs Assessment describes specific actions that networks of collaborators at community, local, and state levels can take to facilitate access to COVID-19 protections, reduce infections and deaths, and set the stage for long term reduced health disparities and improved health outcomes across the state. The Needs Assessment can be used to inform COVID-19 response, recovery, research, and policy formulation activities.

Which populations are included in the Needs Assessment? The Needs Assessment focuses on six populations, selected because they are at risk for disproportionate burdens of disease and death during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Black and African American Communities
- Latino and Hispanic Communities
- Asian and Asian American Communities
- Immigrant and Refugee Communities
- Rural Communities
- People with Disabilities
Which public health strategies are considered in the Needs Assessment? The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends eight specific practices to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The Needs Assessment asked community members and representatives from each population to reflect on their community’s use of each of these recommended behaviors.

- Hygiene (hand washing and surface cleaning)
- Social Distancing
- Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- COVID-19 testing
- Contact tracing
- Isolation (for infected individuals)
- Self-Quarantine (for exposed individuals)
- Healthcare Access

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**Insights from the HCGC Blog**

**HCGC Hosting Six Part Webinar Series with Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute**

*by Heidi Christman, Director of Communications*

The Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute has funded HCGC to hold a series of webinars in late 2020 and into the first half of 2021. With an overall emphasis on health equity and eliminating disparities, the sessions will feature PCORI funded research, as well research and initiatives in Ohio. The planning committee for this series consists of key stakeholder representatives of the HCGC Board of Directors. Another important group working to inform the content and objectives for the webinars are a group of researchers from around Ohio that serve as PCORI Ambassadors. The PCORI Ambassador Program is a volunteer network of individuals dedicated to changing the culture of health research. In their communities and nationally, Ambassadors are shifting how research is being done by partnering with researchers, leading engagement initiatives, setting priorities, and spreading the word about the importance of stakeholder-engaged research. These two groups of diverse stakeholders have been instrumental in preparing and planning for what is sure to be a valuable learning experience for webinar attendees.

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**Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute Featured Article**

**Using Computer Alert Systems in the Emergency Room to Screen for Child Abuse**

Young children who come to the emergency room, or ER, with bruises and other injuries may be victims of physical abuse. However, hospital staff don’t always order standard tests that help detect child abuse.

The research team did two studies looking at ways to improve identification and referral of children at risk for child abuse. The first study tested a new alert system at a children’s hospital. The team wanted to know if the system helped doctors:
Identify children under age two who are at risk for physical abuse
Evaluate children for abuse
Check all children equally, without differences based on their race or income

Read more on PCORI's website

Articles of Interest & Upcoming Partner Events

Buckeye Health Plan Mammograms Help Save Lives: Survivor Testimonials

ADAMH Community Needs Assessment: Complete today!

University of Toledo Webinar: The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Opioid Epidemic

The Ninth Annual Ohio Patient-Centered Primary Care Collaborative (OPCPCC) fall conference: Primary Care and Taking on Challenges to Transform Healthcare

Center for Community Solutions 2020 Budget Training Academy

Monthly Meeting Resources

Following each Monthly Meeting and Regional Learning Session, the agenda, speaker information, slide deck and other relevant resources are uploaded to the HCGC website for your reference. View resources.

For a Calendar of Events visit:
http://www.hcgc.org/events.html

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