

## 2013-2016 Lane County Community Health Improvement Plan

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Lane County has a strong foundation for a healthy community. Built around abundant natural resources, collaboration across organizations, hardworking residents, caring neighborhoods, and innovation; we are proud of these assets, but there is still much work to be done.

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### Assessing Community Health

In the spring of 2012, a collaboration of community members and organizations launched a comprehensive health assessment.



The goal of the work was to identify key priority areas where the community could take action to improve overall health.

Based on a review of public health data from multiple sources, as well as key stakeholder interviews and community engagement activities, the 2013 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) identified critical health issues for Lane County and some key data for South Lane County.

- Tobacco use among pregnant women has increased in recent years – in Cottage Grove, 20% of births have prenatal tobacco exposure, a rate significantly higher than that for all of Lane County.
- Lane County residents are more likely to experience poor mental health and substance abuse issues than the rest of Oregon.
- Childhood vaccination rates in the County are too low to effectively protect against some communicable diseases, such as pertussis and measles.
- 36.6% of Cottage Grove residents are on Medicaid, that number is expected to grow.
- Tobacco and obesity are the two leading root causes of death in Lane County – and more than 25% of Cottage Grove 11<sup>th</sup> graders are overweight or obese.

- Access to care is difficult due to the cost of receiving care, and Cottage Grove is designated as an area with a shortage of health professionals.

### Developing a Plan

Review of the data and information from the CHNA led to the identification of key objectives to improve community health in Lane County. The 2013-2016 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) is a framework for developing and implementing short and long term strategies to focus the attention and work of policy makers, nonprofits, business leaders and community members over the next three years.

### Key Objectives of the 2013-2016 Lane County Community Health Improvement Plan

1. Advance and Improve Health Equity
2. Improve Access to Health Care
3. Prevent and Reduce Tobacco Use
4. Slow the Increase of Obesity
5. Prevent and Reduce Substance Abuse and Mental Illness

Even though there has been decades of progress in reducing disease and early death,

- tobacco use continues to be the leading cause of preventable death and disease in Lane County;
- obesity and diabetes affect more people every year;
- rates of substance abuse and poor mental health are of serious concern;
- and access to health care remains a challenge for many; and
- health inequities persist for communities of color, low-income populations, sexual minorities, and others.

These are complex challenges that impact our community far beyond health care. There are education and economic implications for poor health; addressing these issues successfully requires resources, effort, innovations and most importantly, participation from everyone.