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Overview – Lane County’s Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan

Introduction

Live Healthy Lane conducted a Community Health Assessment (CHA) in Lane County from 2018-2019. The assessment identified the conditions necessary to create good health, and the barriers to achieving good health. The 2021-2025 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHP) was developed based on this assessment and feedback from the community. The CHP is a roadmap to guide the community in creating conditions to support good health for everyone in Lane County over the next five years.

The arrival of COVID-19 in our community slowed the process of getting from assessment to plan, but it did not alter the findings. COVID-19 has shown us that the conditions that create barriers to good health in the best of times are only made more severe when a crisis hits.

There are six separate assessments included in Lane County’s 2018-2019 CHA:

1. Community Themes and Strengths
2. Local Public Health System
3. Forces of Change
4. Community Health Status
5. Health Equity Report
6. Care Integration Assessment

Each assessment answers different questions about what supports good health and what are barriers to good health in Lane County. Information from the assessments is reviewed to identify themes and root causes. This information is then shared with the community to create priorities and develop strategies to address the themes and root causes. These priorities and strategies become the CHP.



Live Healthy Lane is the name of the partnership between Lane County Public Health, Lane Community Health Council, Trillium Community Health Plan, PeaceHealth Oregon Network, and United Way of Lane County.

Together, with input from the community, we use a process called Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnership (MAPP) to conduct a Community Health Assessment (CHA) every five years. Using information from the CHA, the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHP) is created as a guide to improving health in Lane County for the next five years.



* The Lane Community Health Council (LCHC) was formed in January 2020 to provide governance for PacificSource Community Solutions CCO in Lane County. PacificSource and LCHC have been partners in Lane County’s current CHP and have adopted the most recent CHA to guide this work.

Live Healthy Lane Vision:

Working together to create a caring community where all people can live a healthier life.

Community Health Assessment Overview

The [Community Themes and Strengths](#) assessment engages community members to answer two questions:

- **What is important for good health in Lane County?**
- **What community strengths support good health in Lane County?**

One of the key findings from this assessment was that different populations may experience barriers to good health differently but all populations in Lane County - based on race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, geography, or language spoken at home - experience the same barriers.

Community Themes and Strengths: what community members said	
What is important to good health in Lane County?	What community strengths support good health in Lane County?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Access to housing, living wage jobs, affordable childcare, healthy food, and all types of health care• Ending racism and discrimination• Improving mental health• Supporting healthy behaviors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collaboration• Policy work• The community understands the importance of the social determinants of health (e.g., jobs, housing, education, etc.) in creating a healthy community

Community Survey

*Many **addictions stem from alienation and economic stresses.** Addressing those will lead to healthier behaviors.*

-Community member

*Wages have gone up some but rent and other **basic needs are going up so much faster than wages.***

-Community member

*Even **affordable housing is reaching prices that are not reachable** to many families or singles.*

-Community member



Community Values

Compassion

We are creating a community where all people are treated with dignity and respect

Equity

We believe everyone should have the opportunity to live a healthy life

Inclusion

We strive to embrace our differences and treat the whole person

Collaboration

We have committed our collective resources to innovation, coordination and integration of services

The **Local Public Health System** assessment engages health care leaders – providers, administrators, hospitals and public health – to answer the question: how well does the system provide the **ten essential services of public health** to the community? The ten essential services are important to protect and promote health for everyone. They include:

- Building a skilled workforce
- Equitable access to health services
- Assessment and monitoring of health and the conditions that support health
- Engaging the community to create conditions to support good health
- Ensuring fair and just opportunities to be healthy

This assessment revealed that there have been improvements made since 2015 and highlighted areas for further focus and additional improvement.

Local Public Health System: what health care leaders said	
Continue to focus on:	Areas for improvement:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health promotion • Health education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data sharing and communications • Engaging with community partners

The **Forces of Change** assessment engages leaders from many parts of the community – government, health care, education, business and others – to identify threats and opportunities that come from outside the public health system.

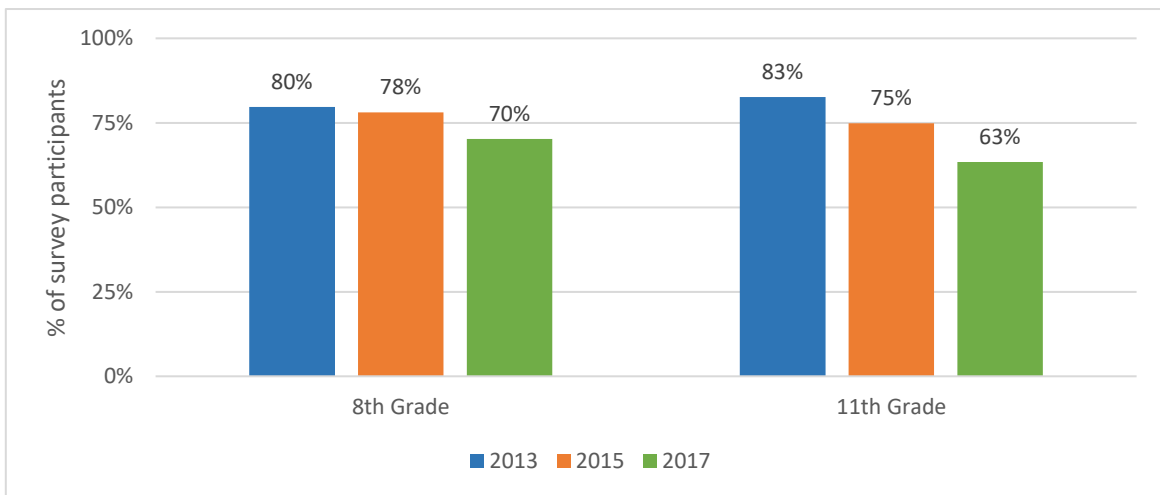
Forces of Change: what community leaders said	
Some of the threats:	Some of the opportunities:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Racism • Homelessness • Social isolation • Immigration policies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supportive housing • Telemedicine • Innovations in funding • Strengthening cultural competence of those serving the community

The [Community Health Status](#) assessment uses data from multiple sources to answer the question: **How healthy is our community?**

Overall, Lane County remains a mostly healthy community with well-educated and active residents. However, not everyone in Lane County has the same opportunities to be healthy. Differences based on race/ethnicity, geography and disability status point to inequitable access to the conditions that create health.

Community Health Status: from the data	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rates of chronic disease have stayed the same for several years.• Rates of infectious diseases, especially sexually transmitted infections, continue to increase.• The economy of Lane County continues to struggle.• People in Lane County use tobacco, alcohol, and marijuana more than people in other parts of the state.• On-time high school graduation rates are lower in Lane County than in Oregon overall.• Good mental health seems to be declining, especially among young people, in Lane County.	

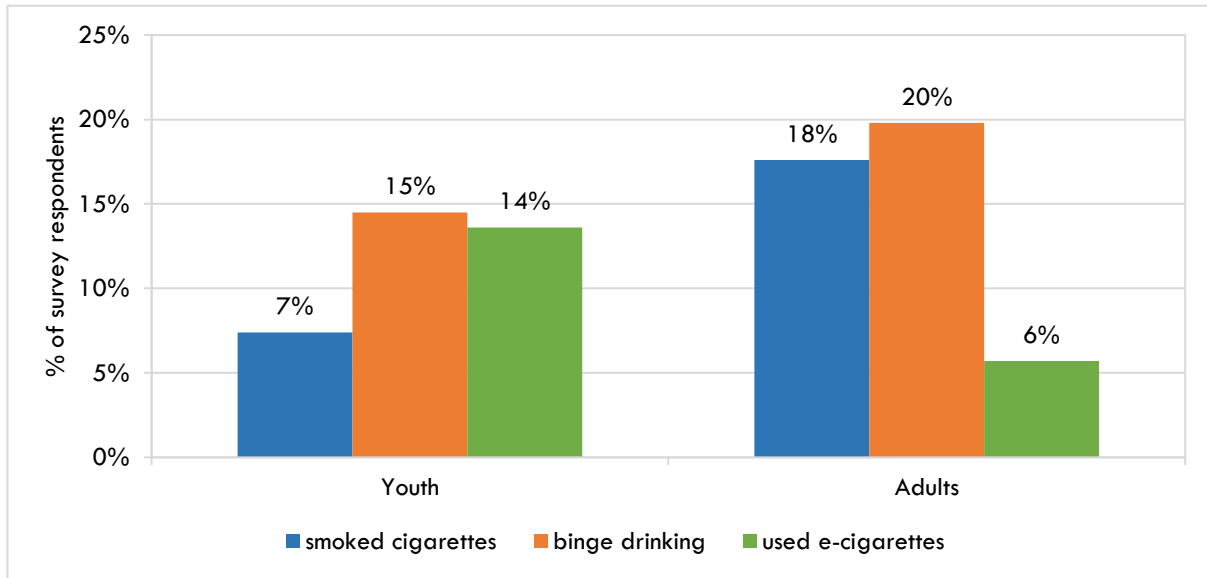
Lane County 8th and 11th graders who reported their mental health as 'good' to 'excellent' 2013-2017



Oregon Healthy Teens Survey, 2013, 2015, 2017

*Note: due to low participation in the survey, 11th grade survey data for 2017 should be interpreted with caution

Lane County 11th graders and adults
who reported substance use in the past 30 days
2017



11th grade: Oregon Healthy Teens Survey, 2017

Adults: Oregon Behavioral Risk Surveillance System, 2014-2017

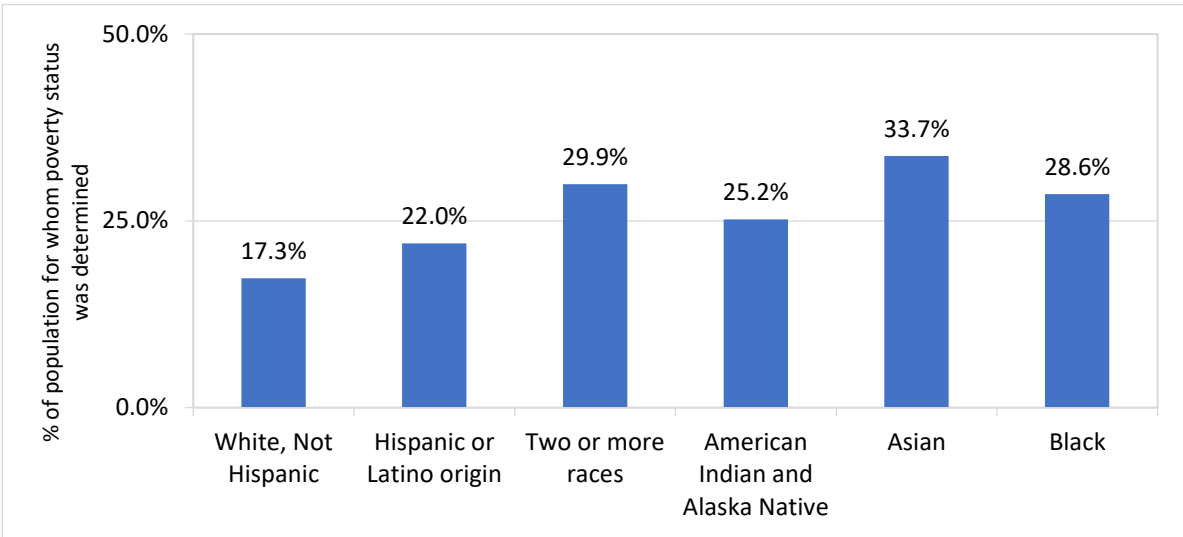
*Note: due to low participation in the survey, 11th grade survey data for 2017 should be interpreted with caution

The [Health Equity Report](#), uses publicly available data to look at disparities in health outcomes, health behaviors and the social determinants of health. Like the rest of the United States, Lane County has many systems that unjustly benefit some populations at the expense of others. These unjust systems created inequitable conditions that continue to contribute to poor health outcomes in the communities most impacted, namely Black, Indigenous, Latinx and other communities of color.

Health Equity Report: from the data

- The inequities in Lane County are not surprising because of our history of racism and racist policies.
- All racial/ethnic groups experience inequities, but they do not experience the same inequities.
- We need better local data to understand the inequities that exist in Lane County.

Percent of population living in poverty by race/ethnicity, 2013-2017



ACS 5-year estimate, 2013-2017

To create better health in Lane County for everyone, this report needs to become one of many tools used to deepen engagement with communities experiencing inequities, better learn their stories, and work collaboratively to change the structures and systems that created these inequities.

The [Care Integration](#) assessment was conducted with leaders in housing, health care, behavioral health, oral health, public health, and social services to answer the question: **how could integration of services improve quality of care?**

*The Community Advisory Council highlighted access to **transportation** and **legal services** as two areas of integration that may help provide needed support to improve overall health.*

Care Integration: what community partners said
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The public health system and the health care system are well integrated • Integrating the behavioral health system with several other systems would benefit a lot of people • The food system is not well-integrated with other systems

Four themes came from the data in the Community Health Assessment:

- A large number of Lane County residents lack access to affordable housing, living wage jobs, healthy food, and quality childcare
- There are significant differences in health outcomes and the conditions needed for good health based on race/ethnicity and geography.
- There is a concerning trend of worsening mental health among Lane County residents, especially youth.
- Changes are needed in the social and environmental conditions of Lane County in order to better support good health.

Community Health Improvement Plan Overview

Once the CHA identified the important issues influencing health, Live Healthy Lane conducted a root cause analysis to determine why those issues exist in Lane County. The root causes were presented to community groups working on the different topics.

The community identified one goal because all the priorities are interconnected: **create the conditions needed to support good health in Lane County**. The community also identified three priorities and four strategies:

- Ensure everyone has the income needed to meet basic needs
 - Ensure economic development in Lane County that creates livable incomes and keeps basic living costs affordable
- Create conditions that support good mental health and physical well-being
 - Ensure systems of care address the needs of the whole person across their life-span
 - Implement policies that support healthy choices and mental well-being
- Address the injustices that create inequities
 - Ensure equity in the future by changing the systems and structures of our racist past

For each strategy, the community helped identify effective actions that would benefit from using a collective impact framework.

Collective Impact

Collective impact is a way for everyone in the community to work together to address complicated problems. The CHA uses data and engages the community to identify the key factors that influence health in Lane County. Most of those issues are complex and cannot be addressed by a single agency or organization.

By using a collective impact model, the CHP helps to focus the efforts of many community partners and boost the impact of those efforts.

The CHP is not meant to be a work plan or to define new actions or programs. The CHP is more of a road map to help everyone in the community to coordinate their efforts and contribute to creating the conditions that support good health.

Between now and 2025, the community will work to improve community health using the strategies in the CHP. Live Healthy Lane will continue to engage the community in the work as well as measure and report on progress.

2021-2025 Community Health Improvement Plan

Goal

Create the community conditions necessary to promote behavioral health and physical wellness across the lifespan for all people in Lane County.

Priority

Ensure incomes are sufficient to meet costs of living

Priority

Establish community conditions that support behavioral health and physical well-being

Priority

Address current and historical injustices that produce disparities

Strategy

Support economic development that ensures sufficient income and affordability of basic living costs for all people in Lane County

Strategy

Ensure systems of care address the health needs - physical, behavioral, and spiritual - of the whole person and are accessible to all people across the lifespan

Strategy

Transform current institutions, policies, and resource allocations that perpetuate racism in order to correct current and historical injustices and ensure equity in the future

Strategy

Implement policies that support healthy choices and mental well-being