



# WILL COUNTY COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT



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**For more information about the Will County MAPP Collaborative**

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



To all Will County Residents and Partners in our Public Health System,

It is my pleasure to present to you the 2016 Community Health Needs Assessment for the County of Will. This document is a culmination of a great amount of effort from our Mobilizing for Action in Planning and Partnership (MAPP) Collaborative.

I use the word “our” because it is truly a group effort. The many partner organizations that devote their time to this process have donated countless hours, in addition to the responsibilities of their jobs, to make Will County a better place to live and work. Additionally, many of these member partners have been with the Collaborative for several years, and have proven to be a vital part of the process. This is evident by the successes we have been able to celebrate by documented improvements in our community.

This Community Health Needs Assessment will provide the blueprint for the MAPP Collaborative and its partner organizations for the next three years. It will assist residents, institutions, and leaders of Will County by informing them of factors that can improve health, prevent illness, and move towards health equity.

I am motivated by the opportunities this assessment provides in improving the health and wellness of Will County and look forward to working with all our community partners, and hopefully gathering additional community health partners in the process!

Susan Olenek  
Executive Director  
Will County Health Department  
Chairman, Will County MAPP Collaborative

## **Will County Community Health Needs Assessment Executive Summary**

The Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) is a collaborative effort of the Will County Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) Collaborative. The purpose of the CHNA is to provide a community plan that is developed by and for the community. The assessment and planning process is required every three years for hospitals and every five years for local health departments. The Will County Health Department has aligned its assessment process with the three-year hospital requirements to avoid a duplication of efforts.

### ***Vision, Mission, and Value Statements***

#### Vision Statement

Achieving equitable and optimal health in body and mind for all Will County residents.

#### Mission Statement

The Will County MAPP Collaborative will assess the health needs of the community and develop, implement, and evaluate initiatives to promote the highest quality of life for all residents.

#### Value Statements

**Health Equity:** All individuals have the opportunity to realize their full potential and to achieve the highest quality of life.

**Collective Impact:** We strive to be a progressive community that maximizes the use of community partnerships and collaboration among all sectors to ensure, enhance and promote comprehensive, quality, and equitable education, healthcare, and social services.

**Respect:** Every life has value.

**Communication:** We commit to sharing our data, assessments, and plans in order to educate and engage the community.

**Quality:** We believe in evaluation, continuous improvement, and innovation.

**Inclusiveness:** We are a community rich in diversity, where involvement and commitment have deep roots among our residents.

### ***Collaborative Process and Assessment Methodology***

In 2016, the Will County MAPP Collaborative convened to conduct the third iteration of the MAPP process. MAPP is a community-driven, strategic planning framework that assists communities in developing and implementing efforts around the prioritization of public health issues and the identification of resources to address them, as defined by the 10 Essential Public Health Services. The MAPP process has six phases which include four assessments. The *Mobilizing and Organizing Partners to Achieve Health Equity* supplemental guide was used during this assessment process.

#### Community Health Status Assessment

The Community Health Status Assessment (CHSA) is one of four assessments conducted as a part of the MAPP process. During this assessment, information regarding demographics, health status, health

behaviors, and social determinants in the community is gathered and analyzed. Data is collected from a variety of resources and analyzed comparing local, state, and national benchmarks when available. The CHSA was conducted May – November 2016.

### Community Themes and Strengths Assessment

The Community Themes and Strengths Assessment (CTSA) aims to gather community members' perceptions, thoughts, opinions, and concerns regarding quality of life in Will County. This input provides valuable insight into the issues of importance to the community. The CTSA was conducted December 2016 – March 2017.

### Forces of Change Assessment

The Forces of Change Assessment (FOCA) aims to identify all the forces and associated opportunities and threats that can affect, either now or in the future, the local public health system. Forces may be social, economic, political, technological, environmental, scientific, legal, and/or ethical in nature. Forces can be trends, factors, or events. The FOCA was conducted September – December 2016.

### Local Public Health System Assessment

The Local Public Health System Assessment (LPHSA) was conducted on December 1, 2016. The LPHSA is used to understand the overall strengths and weaknesses of the public health system based on the 10 Essential Public Health Services.

### ***Prioritization of Strategic Issues***

On April 7, 2017, forty-one Will County public health stakeholders participated in a planning session at Presence Saint Joseph Medical Center to review key findings from the four MAPP assessments, identify cross-cutting themes and potential strategic issues, and prioritize a set of strategic issues. The meeting was facilitated by the Illinois Public Health Institute. Attendees identified five potential strategic issues but could not come to consensus.

In May of 2017, MAPP Executive Committee members were asked to use a *Prioritization Criteria and Planning Worksheet* during the discussion of the previously identified strategic issues. All attendees agreed that transportation is a concern, but that it could be nested under all strategic issues and become a goal of the MAPP Executive Committee. Access to healthy lifestyle choices would also be nested in all issues as a strategy.

MAPP Executive Committee members decided that behavioral health, access to dental and primary care, and chronic disease would be the top three strategic issues for the next three years.

### ***Access to Dental and Primary Care***

Access to comprehensive, quality healthcare services is important for promoting and maintaining health, preventing and managing disease, reducing unnecessary disability and premature death, and achieving health equity. Access is a complex issue with multiple components including availability, affordability, and timeliness. Findings from the assessments detail access issues to healthcare services and resources. Specific priority needs identified in the assessment process include:

- Better data to define and prioritize access issues, identify populations most affected, and monitor progress
- Navigating insurance and potential changes to the Affordable Care Act
- Transportation to healthcare services and resources
- Improving health literacy
- Equitable services throughout the county
- Health resources for seniors

**Figure 1.1. Summary of Key Assessment Findings Related to Access to Dental and Primary Care**

<b>Access to Dental and Primary Care</b>	
<b>Insurance Coverage</b>	
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Target Population</b>
9.2% of the Will County adult population under the age of 65 was uninsured in 2014. There has been an overall decrease in the percentage of uninsured population since 2010. 20.2% of the Hispanic/Latino population in Will County reported no health insurance coverage, compared to 7.1% of the non-Hispanic/Latino population.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Males</li> <li>• African American and Asian races</li> <li>• Hispanic ethnicity</li> <li>• 60432, 60433, and 60484 zip codes</li> </ul>
<b>Provider Availability</b>	
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Target Population</b>
Will County has a total of 372 primary care physicians, yielding a ratio of population to primary care physicians of 1,840:1 compared to 1,240:1 for Illinois. Will County has a total of 361 dentists, yielding a ratio of population to dentists of 1,950:1 compared to 1,410:1 for Illinois. 15.9% of adults in Will County report that they do not have at least one person that they consider to be their primary care provider. There is one community on the East side of Joliet designated by the Health Resources and Services Administration as an area having shortages of primary care, dental care, or mental health providers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 60433 zip code</li> <li>• Non-white males, ages 25-44 with an income less than \$35,000</li> </ul>
<b>Preventable Hospital Visits</b>	
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Target Population</b>
Will County’s ambulatory care sensitive condition discharge rate was 69 per 1,000 Medicare enrollees in 2014, which is higher than both Illinois (59) and the U.S. (38), but has decreased since 2010. Ambulatory care sensitive conditions include pneumonia, dehydration, asthma, diabetes, and other conditions which could have been prevented if adequate primary care resources were available and accessed by those patients.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medicare beneficiaries</li> </ul>

**Improving Behavioral Health**

Behavioral health is a term used to include both mental health and substance abuse disorders. Mental health disorders are among the most common causes of disability. Mental disorders attributed to 7.8% (5,783) of Will County hospitalizations in 2014, and is the third leading cause of hospitalizations overall. Findings from the assessments detail access issues to behavioral health services, as well as resources.

Behavioral health issues impact population groups across income levels as well as racial and ethnic groups. Specific priority needs and populations identified in the assessment process include:

- Better data to define and prioritize behavioral health issues, identify populations most affected, and monitor progress
- Adequate funding for expansion of services, resources, and providers
- Equitable services throughout the county

**Figure 1.2. Summary of Key Assessment Findings Related to Behavioral Health**

<b>Improving Behavioral Health</b>	
<b>Provider Availability</b>	
Issue	Target Population
Will County has a total of 645 mental health providers, yielding a ratio of population to mental health providers of 1,060:1, compared to 370:1 for Illinois and 560:1 nationally. There is one community on the East side of Joliet designated by the Health Resources and Services Administration as an area having a shortage of mental health providers. According to providers, three barriers for clients to access services were identified: cost of needed services, wait for services, and distance to services. They also reported that psychiatric services are the most difficult to access.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 60433 zip code</li> <li>• Southern Will County</li> </ul>
<b>Emotional and Mental Health</b>	
Issue	Target Population
37% of Will County adults, aged 18 and older, self-reported that they experienced at least one and up to 30, “not good” mental health days in the past 30 days. 19.2% of adults self-reported that they receive insufficient social and emotional support all or most of the time. 28% of 12 <sup>th</sup> graders experienced depression in 2014.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adults</li> <li>• High school youth</li> </ul>
<b>Substance Use</b>	
Issue	Target Population
22.4% of adults, aged 18 and older, reported binge or heavy alcohol consumption. 53% of 12 <sup>th</sup> graders and 33% of 10 <sup>th</sup> graders reported drinking alcohol in the past 30 days. 30% of 12 <sup>th</sup> graders reported binge drinking at least once in the past two weeks. 26% of 12 <sup>th</sup> graders and 16% of 10 <sup>th</sup> graders reported using marijuana. In the past year, 9% of 12 <sup>th</sup> graders reported using any illicit drug, excluding marijuana. 6% of 12 <sup>th</sup> graders and 4% of 10 <sup>th</sup> graders reported using prescription drugs to get high in the past 30 days. 35% of 12 <sup>th</sup> graders experienced two or more negative consequences from drug use, indicating the potential need for substance abuse assessment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adults</li> <li>• High school youth</li> </ul>
<b>Drug Overdose</b>	
Issue	Target Population
In 2015, there were 89 total overdose deaths, 66% of which were male. Of the 89 accidental overdoses, 52 deaths were heroin	Males

related. Combined drug intoxication was the second leading cause of accidental overdose. Will County’s drug induced mortality rate in 2014 was 12.75, which is a significant increase from 5.93 in 2003.	
<b>Suicide</b>	
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Target Population</b>
In 2015, there were 285 unnatural deaths in Will County, of which approximately 20% were attributed to suicide. Will County’s suicide rate is 9.2. There are significant disparities within gender and race, with males more likely to commit suicide at a rate of 15.1 versus females at 3.7. 13% of 12 <sup>th</sup> graders and 15% of 10 <sup>th</sup> graders reported that they had considered suicide in the past year, which has decreased since 2014.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• White males</li> <li>• High school youth</li> </ul>

***Preventing and Reducing Chronic Disease***

Chronic diseases are the most common, costly, and preventable of all health problems. Heart disease is the second leading cause of hospitalizations in Will County and cancer is the fifth. Heart disease, cancer, and diabetes account for approximately 58% of all deaths in Will County. Many chronic diseases are linked to lifestyle choices, or health risk behaviors, which can be changed. Four of these health risk behaviors—lack of physical activity, poor nutrition, tobacco use, and excess alcohol consumption—cause much of the illness, suffering, and early death related to chronic diseases and conditions. Findings from the assessments detail access issues to chronic disease resources. Specific priority needs and populations identified in the assessment process include:

- Better data to define and prioritize chronic disease problems, identify populations most affected, and monitor progress
- Healthcare services to prevent or enable early detection of disease, reduce risk factors, and manage conditions
- Strategies that link community and clinical services to ensure that people with or at high risk of chronic diseases have access to the resources they need to prevent or manage these diseases
- Access to affordable, healthy foods

**Figure 1.3. Summary of Key Assessment Findings Related to Chronic Disease**

<b>Preventing and Reducing Chronic Disease</b>	
<b>Cancer Incidence and Mortality</b>	
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Target Population</b>
In 2014, there was a total of 4,223 deaths in Will County. Cancer is the second leading cause of death. Of the total cancer deaths, lung cancer is the top cause in Will County. From 2009-2013, there were 15,268 newly-diagnosed cases of cancer in Will County, with an age-adjusted cancer incidence rate of 492.5 per 100,000 population. Men were slightly more likely to develop cancer than women. Women mostly developed breast cancer and men mostly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Males</li> <li>• Adults aged 50 to 75 years</li> <li>• Females aged 21 to 65 years</li> <li>• Females aged 50 to 74 years</li> </ul>

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

<p>developed prostate cancer. 69.9% of men have reported ever having a Colonoscopy/Sigmoidoscopy. Only 58.4% of women met breast cancer screening guidelines, which is approximately a 15% decrease from 2009. 78% of adult women met cervical cancer screening guidelines.</p>	
<p><b>Chronic Disease Mortality</b></p>	
Issue	Target Population
<p>Will County's coronary heart disease mortality rate of 107.7 per 100,000 population is slightly higher than the state rate. The White population has the highest rates of reported heart disease, however, heart disease mortality is highest among African Americans. Over the past decade, mortality due to diabetes has slowly decreased in Will County. In 2014, the age-adjusted mortality rate of diabetes was 14.9 deaths per 100,000 population, well below the Healthy People 2020 target of 66.6 deaths. The concern with diabetes is the high percentage of Medicare beneficiaries with diabetes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• African Americans</li> <li>• Medicare beneficiaries</li> </ul>
<p><b>Obesity</b></p>	
Issue	Target Population
<p>26.8% of adults in Will County are obese. Males were more likely to be obese than women. Additionally, 34.3% of adults, aged 18 and older, self-reported that they were overweight, with the highest percentage being Non-Hispanic White. 21% of adults are physically inactive. Only 30% of 6<sup>th</sup> graders and 22% of 12<sup>th</sup> graders met the recommended physical activity guidelines. 80.7% of Will County adults are consuming less than five servings of fruits and vegetables each day, compared to 76.3% in Illinois. 53% of Will County 6<sup>th</sup> graders ate fruit and 71% ate vegetables less than two times a day.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• White males</li> <li>• Middle and high school youth</li> </ul>
<p><b>Food Access</b></p>	
Issue	Target Population
<p>436,934 people live in a food desert census tract in Will County. This indicator reports the number of neighborhoods in the report area that are within food deserts.</p>	<p>60417, 60432, 60433, 60436, 60440, 60441, and 60484 zip codes</p>
<p><b>Tobacco Use</b></p>	
Issue	Target Population
<p>During 2010-2014, 13.4% of Will County adults were smokers. For the state of Illinois and the U.S., this figure was higher, with 16.7% and 16.8% of adults reporting they were current smokers. The percentage of smokers in Will County has declined since 2001 but is still higher than the Healthy People 2020 target of 12%. 12% of 12<sup>th</sup> graders reported using cigarettes, while another 10% reported using smokeless tobacco.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adults</li> <li>• High school youth</li> </ul>

Goals and action plans will be developed or updated for each of these priority health issues. These action plans will be implemented and aligned to improve the local public health system and ultimately the health and well-being of the Will County community, in alignment with the collaborative's vision.

