

Needham Community Health Assessment

Executive Summary 2024



Needham Public Health

January 2024



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background and Purpose

In 2021, the Needham Health Division (NPHD) launched efforts to pursue public health accreditation. Foundational to this work is a Community Health Assessment (CHA). Although the Division has conducted needs assessment for various population groups over the years, this Community Health Assessment is the first comprehensive view of health of the Needham community by the Health Division. The Community Health Assessment provides an understanding of the current health of our community and identifies needs and areas of concern. With this information, the NPHD will engage stakeholders and the broader community to develop a Community Health Improvement Plan that will identify areas that NPHD can work to improve health.

Approach

In order to complete this assessment, NPHD was able to gather primary and secondary data from many sources. Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital Needham (BID-N) conducted a Community Health Needs Assessment in 2022 which provided a baseline for our data and areas of need. Other survey data used included the Senior Assessment conducted in 2022 by NPHD, an Assessment of the Needham Housing Authority Residents conducted by NPHD 2019, The Metro west Adolescent Health Survey conducted in 2021, the Needham Parent Survey conducted in 2022, and the National Community Survey conducted by the Town of Needham in 2022. It is of significance to note that some of this data was collected prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, while some was collected in different phases of the COVID-19 pandemic. This may cause some biases and differences in data, and of course we anticipate that many aspects of health have been and will continue to be impacted by the pandemic for years to come.

Community Health Assessment Priorities

The Community Health Assessment was designed to provide a population-based assessment that covers a full range of health issues affecting the Needham community. Needham Public Health Division reviewed priority areas identified in the BID-N Community Health Needs Assessment and aligned the Public Health Division priority areas within those. After the review of local data, the Needham Public Health Division identified the following priority areas:

Community Health Assessment Priority Areas				
Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital – Needham Priority Areas	Equitable Access to Care	Social Determinants of Health	Mental Health and Substance Use	Complex and Chronic Conditions
NPHD Priority Areas	Access to Transportation Resources for Healthcare Needs	Cost of Living Burden	Mental health and substance use	Physical Health, heart disease and other risk factors

Vision for the Future

Based on data from this Community Health Assessment, the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) will outline community health priorities, initiatives, projects, and policies that will be implemented to improve community health, roles and responsibilities, timelines, and provide measures to monitor impact of efforts. NPHD will monitor progress of the initiatives outlined in the CHIP and will aim to provide another Community Health Assessment Plan in the next five years.