



# Executive Summary



## Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) Lubbock County, Texas

From September 2023 to June 2024, Lubbock Public Health Department collaborated with Initium Health of Denver, Colorado to conduct a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) in Lubbock County, Texas. The Initium Health team was hired to evaluate emerging data and local health needs, then outline strategic initiatives to enhance community well-being in Lubbock and the surrounding areas.

Not only did Lubbock Public Health Department staff collaborate in this effort, but Initium Health’s comprehensive community engagement strategy ensured that voices of the community were also fairly represented. Lubbock is a city known for its amiable community and affordability, but it faces unique health challenges despite its appeal as a desirable place to reside.

This CHNA report builds upon knowledge gained from previous analyses performed by UMC Health System and Covenant Health from 2019 to 2022, adding to those findings through current data review and the results of the community engagement.

## Methodology

The methodology for this CHNA included quantitative and qualitative data collection from primary and secondary sources. Primary data were collected in Lubbock through 21 key informant interviews, a community survey that garnered responses from over 2,180 residents, a university survey that garnered 241 responses, a workshop with Lubbock Public Health Department Staff, and 3 listening sessions in 3 different zip codes, attended by residents throughout Lubbock.



These primary data were organized into themes and addressed based upon the level of community concern about the issue.

To inform understanding of the issues, Initium Health collected secondary data from the previous UMC and Covenant community health assessments mentioned above; U.S. Census Data; County Health Rankings; KFF; the Commonwealth Fund; The State of Texas; the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and the homelessness Point-in-Time (PIT) survey for Lubbock.

## Key Findings and Priorities

The CHNA identified five critical health priorities for the people of Lubbock.

- 1. Access to Healthcare:** Increasing the availability of and accessibility to healthcare services.
- 2. Mental Health, Substance Use, and Homelessness:** Addressing mental health challenges, reducing substance use, and providing support for the homeless population.
- 3. Chronic Conditions:** Focusing on the prevention and management of chronic diseases like heart disease and diabetes, alongside improvements to the built environment to promote health.
- 4. Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and Teen Pregnancy:** Reducing the rates of sexually transmitted infections and teen pregnancies through targeted interventions and education.
- 5. Coordination of Information, Services, and Resources:** Improving the integration and dissemination of health-related information and services, ensuring they are accessible and understood by all community members.

## Vision and Next Steps

Lubbock Public Health aims to create a community where every resident has access to comprehensive health services and information, including a well-coordinated system of care that supports both physical and mental health needs.

To improve the health of our community, the information discovered in the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) was used to develop recommendations for the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), a strategic plan to guide community initiatives and address health needs. The CHIP is intended to provide a roadmap for local government agencies and community groups to collaborate on initiatives to improve health within the community.

## Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)

To develop the CHIP, Initium Health used a scoring rubric that assessed the level of community need, then prioritized initiatives based on engagement scores, feasibility, and potential positive impacts on the health outcomes of the community. Several proposed CHIP initiatives address multiple CHNA priorities simultaneously, reflecting a holistic and interconnected approach to health improvement in the community.

The CHIP for Lubbock focuses on recommended improvement strategies for each priority need identified in the CHNA, including:

- **Access to Healthcare:** Increasing the number of low barrier points of access to healthcare; developing a health literacy program; increasing the number of residents with insurance; and increasing access to low-cost medications.
- **Mental Health and Substance Use:** Continuing to support the work of the West Texas Mental Health Collaborative (WTMHC) and educating the public about their initiatives; implementing a mass media campaign against impaired driving; improving local data collection about substance use disorders; and creating a detox center.
- **Chronic Conditions:** Assess the possibility of a Chronic Disease department within Lubbock Public Health; create collaborations between health sector and parks/ planning to improve urban walkability, increasing options for physical activity while reducing injuries.
- **Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs):** Initiating community education campaigns on prevention of STIs and unplanned pregnancy; training providers on sexual health assessment; and improving follow-up for STI diagnoses, especially for HIV and syphilis.

- **Coordination of Information, Services, and Resources:** Increase collaboration among community partners to address healthcare and social services needs, specifically by continuing to develop the Lubbock Community Collaborative with the United Way as the “backbone” organization; continued development of the coordinated software platform known as the LBK Community Network, making collaboration and follow-up easier for partner organizations.

## Conclusion

The current Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) utilizes both historical data and new insights from the community to create a targeted approach to health improvement in Lubbock County and surrounding areas. This assessment underscores the Lubbock Public Health Department’s dedication to fostering a healthy Lubbock, where every individual can access the care and information they need to lead a healthy life.

The next phase of the process will be ongoing, and will involve implementing the elements of a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). The community coming together to implement the CHIP, just as they came together to create the CHNA, will be critical in turning these insights into actionable outcomes that will benefit the entire community.

