2012 PRC-MCHC Community Health Needs Assessment Report

Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area

Sponsored by
Northwestern Memorial Hospital (NMH)
In collaboration with the
Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council (MCHC)
# INTRODUCTION

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Pneumonia Vaccination

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Gonorrhea
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Chlamydia
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Birth Outcomes & Risks
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Family Planning
Births to Unwed Mothers
Births to Teen Mothers

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Nutrition
Daily Recommendation of Fruits/Vegetables
Ease of Obtaining Affordable, Fresh Produce
Health Advice About Diet & Nutrition

Physical Activity
Level of Activity at Work
Leisure-Time Physical Activity
Activity Levels
Ease of Accessing Exercise Facilities
Health Advice About Physical Activity & Exercise
Children’s Screen Time

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Adult Weight Status
Weight Management
Childhood Overweight & Obesity

Substance Abuse
Age-Adjusted Cirrhosis/Liver Disease Deaths
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High-Risk Alcohol Use
Age-Adjusted Drug-Induced Deaths
Illicit Drug Use
Alcohol & Drug Treatment

Tobacco Use
Cigarette Smoking
Other Tobacco Use
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INTRODUCTION
Project Overview

Project Goals

This Community Health Needs Assessment, a follow-up to a similar study conducted in 2009, is a systematic, data-driven approach to determining the health status, behaviors and needs of residents in the Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area. Subsequently, this information may be used to inform decisions and guide efforts to improve community health and wellness.

A Community Health Needs Assessment provides information so that communities may identify issues of greatest concern and decide to commit resources to those areas, thereby making the greatest possible impact on community health status. This Community Health Needs Assessment will serve as a tool toward reaching three basic goals:

- **To improve residents’ health status, increase their life spans, and elevate their overall quality of life.** A healthy community is not only one where its residents suffer little from physical and mental illness, but also one where its residents enjoy a high quality of life.

- **To reduce the health disparities among residents.** By gathering demographic information along with health status and behavior data, it will be possible to identify population segments that are most at-risk for various diseases and injuries. Intervention plans aimed at targeting these individuals may then be developed to combat some of the socio-economic factors which have historically had a negative impact on residents’ health.

- **To increase accessibility to preventive services for all community residents.** More accessible preventive services will prove beneficial in accomplishing the first goal (improving health status, increasing life spans, and elevating the quality of life), as well as lowering the costs associated with caring for late-stage diseases resulting from a lack of preventive care.

PRC is a nationally-recognized healthcare consulting firm with extensive experience conducting Community Health Needs Assessments such as this in hundreds of communities across the United States since 1994.

Methodology

This assessment incorporates data from both quantitative and qualitative sources. Quantitative data input includes primary research (the PRC Community Health Survey) and secondary research (vital statistics and other existing health-related data); these quantitative components allow for trending and comparison to benchmark data at the state and national levels. Qualitative data input includes primary research gathered through a series of Key Informant Focus Groups.
PRC Community Health Survey

Survey Instrument

The survey instrument used for this study is based largely on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), as well as various other public health surveys and customized questions addressing gaps in indicator data relative to health promotion and disease prevention objectives and other recognized health issues. The final survey instrument is similar to the previous survey used in the region, allowing for data trending.

Community Defined for This Assessment

The study area for the survey effort (referred to as the “Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area” or “NMH Service Area” in this report) includes each of the 59 residential ZIP Codes comprising the hospital’s primary service area. A geographic description is illustrated in the following map.

Sample Approach & Design

A precise and carefully executed methodology is critical in asserting the validity of the results gathered in the PRC Community Health Survey. Thus, to ensure the best representation of the population surveyed, a telephone interview methodology — one that incorporates both landline and cell phone interviews — was employed. The primary advantages of telephone interviewing are timeliness, efficiency and random-selection capabilities.

The sample design used for this effort consisted of a sample of 1,577 individuals age 18 and older in the Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area. All administration of the surveys, data collection and data analysis was conducted by Professional Research Consultants, Inc. (PRC).
Sampling Error

For statistical purposes, the maximum rate of error associated with a sample size of 1,577 respondents is ±2.5% at the 95 percent level of confidence.

**Expected Error Ranges for a Sample of 1,577 Respondents at the 95 Percent Level of Confidence**

Note: The “response rate” (the percentage of a population giving a particular response) determines the error rate associated with that response. A “95 percent level of confidence” indicates that responses would fall within the expected error range on 95 out of 100 trials.

Examples:

- If 10% of the sample of 1,577 respondents answered a certain question with a “yes,” it can be asserted that between 8.5% and 11.5% (10% ± 1.5%) of the total population would offer this response.
- If 50% of respondents said “yes,” one could be certain with a 95 percent level of confidence that between 47.5% and 52.5% (50% ± 2.5%) of the total population would respond “yes” if asked this question.

Sample Characteristics

To accurately represent the population studied, PRC strives to minimize bias through application of a proven telephone methodology and random-selection techniques. And, while this random sampling of the population produces a highly representative sample, it is a common and preferred practice to “weight” the raw data to improve this representativeness even further. This is accomplished by adjusting the results of a random sample to match the geographic distribution and demographic characteristics of the population surveyed (poststratification), so as to eliminate any naturally occurring bias. Specifically, once the raw data are gathered, respondents are examined by key demographic characteristics (namely gender, age, race, ethnicity, and poverty status) and a statistical application package applies weighting variables that produce a sample which more closely matches the population for these characteristics. Thus, while the integrity of each individual’s responses is maintained, one respondent’s responses may contribute to the whole the same weight as, for example, 1.1 respondents. Another respondent, whose demographic characteristics may have been slightly oversampled, may contribute the same weight as 0.9 respondents.

The following chart outlines the characteristics of the Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area sample for key demographic variables, compared to actual population characteristics revealed in census data. [Note that the sample consisted solely of area residents age 18 and older; data on children were given by proxy by the person most responsible for that child’s healthcare needs, and these children are not represented demographically in this chart.]
Further note that the poverty descriptions and segmentation used in this report are based on administrative poverty thresholds determined by the US Department of Health & Human Services. These guidelines define poverty status by household income level and number of persons in the household (e.g., the 2012 guidelines place the poverty threshold for a family of four at $23,050 annual household income or lower). In sample segmentation: “<200% FPL” refers to community members living in a household with defined poverty status or living just above the federal poverty level, earning up to twice the poverty threshold; “200%+ FPL” refers to those households living on incomes which are twice or more the federal poverty level.

The sample design and the quality control procedures used in the data collection ensure that the sample is representative. Thus, the findings may be generalized to the total population of community members in the defined area with a high degree of confidence.

### Key Informant Focus Groups

As part of the community health needs assessment, four focus groups were held among key informants (representatives from public health, physicians, other health professionals, social service providers, and other community leaders): one on June 19, 2012, with key informants from South Chicago; another on June 21, 2012, comprised of key informants from throughout Cook County; and two on June 22, 2012, with key informants from North Chicago and key informants from the Downtown/West Chicago area.

A list of recommended participants for the focus groups was provided by the sponsors. Potential participants were chosen because of their ability to identify primary concerns of the populations with whom they work, as well as of the community overall. Focus group candidates were first contacted by letter to request their participation. Follow-up phone calls were then made to ascertain whether or not they would be able to attend. Confirmation calls were placed the day before the groups were scheduled to insure a reasonable turnout.

Final participation included representatives of the organizations outlined below. Through this process, input was gathered from representatives of public health, as well as several individuals whose organizations work with low-income, minority, or other medically underserved populations.
### North Chicago
Friday, June 22nd, 7:00 to 9:00 AM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organizations Represented</th>
<th>Populations Served</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North Park University</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heartland Health Outreach</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heartland International Health Center</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thorek Memorial Hospital</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Alternatives Unlimited</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### South Chicago
Wednesday, June 20th, Noon to 2:00 PM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organizations Represented</th>
<th>Populations Served</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>La Rabida Children’s Hospital</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centers fr New Horizon</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KLEO Center</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South East Chicago Commission</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Downtown/West Chicago
Friday, June 22nd, Noon to 2:00 PM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organizations Represented</th>
<th>Populations Served</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sinai Community Institute</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horizon Hospice and Palliative Care</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westside Ministers Coalition</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preventive Medicine, Rush University Medical Center</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Cook County
Thursday, June 21st, Noon to 2:00 PM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organizations Represented</th>
<th>Populations Served</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Addiction Services, Professionals Program</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Way of Metropolitan Chicago</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campaign for Better Health Care</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rush Oak Park Hospital</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rush University</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rush University Medical Center</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Public Health, University of Illinois at Chicago</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March of Dimes, Illinois Chapter</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rush University</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cook County Department of Public Health, Oak Forest Hospital Campus</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to Care</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Audio from the focus group sessions was recorded, from which verbatim comments in this report are taken. There are no names connected with the comments, as participants were asked to speak candidly and assured of confidentiality.

**NOTE:** These findings represent qualitative rather than quantitative data. The group was designed to gather input from participants regarding their opinions and perceptions of the health of the residents in the area. Thus, these findings are based on perceptions, not facts.
Public Health, Vital Statistics & Other Data

- Centers for Disease Control & Prevention
- Illinois Department of Public Health
- Illinois State Police
- National Center for Health Statistics
- US Census Bureau
- US Department of Health and Human Services
- US Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Note that secondary data reflect city-level data (City of Chicago) where possible, and county-level data (Cook County) where city data are unavailable.

Benchmark Data

Trending

Trending data, as revealed by comparison to prior survey results, are provided throughout this report whenever available. Historical data for secondary data indicators are also included for the purposes of trending.

Regional MCHC Data

Because this survey was also conducted throughout the Metro Chicago area as part of a broader study facilitated by the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council (MCHC), comparisons can also be made at the regional level. These regional data are referred to as the "MCHC Region" and include Cook, DuPage and Lake counties, Illinois.

Illinois Risk Factor Data

Statewide risk factor data are provided where available as an additional benchmark against which to compare local survey findings; these data are reported in the most recent BRFSS (Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System) Prevalence and Trend Data published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the US Department of Health & Human Services. State-level vital statistics are also provided for comparison of secondary data indicators.

Nationwide Risk Factor Data

Nationwide risk factor data, which are also provided in comparison charts, are taken from the 2011 PRC National Health Survey; the methodological approach for the national study is identical to that employed in this assessment, and these data may be generalized to the US population with a high degree of confidence. National-level vital statistics are also provided for comparison of secondary data indicators.
Healthy People provides science-based, 10-year national objectives for improving the health of all Americans. The Healthy People initiative is grounded in the principle that setting national objectives and monitoring progress can motivate action. For three decades, Healthy People has established benchmarks and monitored progress over time in order to:

- Encourage collaborations across sectors.
- Guide individuals toward making informed health decisions.
- Measure the impact of prevention activities.

Healthy People 2020 is the product of an extensive stakeholder feedback process that is unparalleled in government and health. It integrates input from public health and prevention experts, a wide range of federal, state and local government officials, a consortium of more than 2,000 organizations, and perhaps most importantly, the public. More than 8,000 comments were considered in drafting a comprehensive set of Healthy People 2020 objectives.

Information Gaps

While this assessment is quite comprehensive, it cannot measure all possible aspects of health in the community, nor can it adequately represent all possible populations of interest. It must be recognized that these information gaps might in some ways limit the ability to assess all of the community’s health needs.

For example, certain population groups — such as the homeless, institutionalized persons, or those who only speak a language other than English or Spanish — are not represented in the survey data. Other population groups — for example, pregnant women, lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender residents, undocumented residents, and members of certain racial/ethnic or immigrant groups — might not be identifiable or might not be represented in numbers sufficient for independent analyses.

In terms of content, this assessment was designed to provide a comprehensive and broad picture of the health of the overall community. However, there are certainly a great number of medical conditions that are not specifically addressed.
Areas of Opportunity for Community Health Improvement

The following “health priorities” represent recommended areas of intervention, based on the information gathered through this Community Health Needs Assessment and the guidelines set forth in Healthy People 2020. From these data, opportunities for health improvement exist in the region with regard to the following health areas (see also the summary tables presented in the following section). These areas of concern are subject to the discretion of area providers, the steering committee, or other local organizations and community leaders as to actionability and priority.

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### Areas of Opportunity Identified Through This Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Health Priorities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Access to Health Services**       | • Health Insurance Coverage  
  o Uninsured Residents  
  o Medicaid Reimbursement Rates *(focus group concern)*  
  o Insurance Instability  
  o Medicare Supplemental Insurance  
  • Other Barriers to Accessing Healthcare Services  
    o Office Hours  
    o Cost of Doctor Visits  
    o Prescription Costs  
    o Lack of Transportation  
    o Childcare *(focus group concern)*  
    o Cultural Incompetence/Interpretive Services *(focus group concern)*  
    o Need for Patient Navigators *(focus group concern)*  
  • Access to Children’s Healthcare Services  
  • Emergency Room Utilization  
  • Availability of Trauma Care Services *(focus group concern)* |
| **Cancer**                          | • Cancer Deaths (Including Prostate, Female Breast and Colorectal Cancers) |
| **Chronic Kidney Disease**          | • Kidney Disease Deaths                                                        |
| **Family Planning**                 | • Births to Unwed Mothers  
  • Births to Teens                   |
| **Heart Disease & Stroke**          | • Heart Disease Deaths  
  • Stroke Deaths  
  • Prevalence of Hypertension       |
| **HIV**                             | • HIV/AIDS Deaths                                                               |
| **Injury & Violence Prevention**    | • Violence  
  o Violent Crime *(Offense Rate & Experience of Violent Crime)*  
  o Domestic Violence *(Offense Rate)*  
  o Child Abuse Offense Rate  
  o Homicides  
  • Firearm-Related Deaths           |
| **Maternal, Infant & Child Health** | • Lack of Prenatal Care  
  • Low Birthweight  
  • Infant Mortality                 |

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*continued next page*
### Areas of Opportunity Identified Through This Assessment (continued)

| Mental Health & Mental Disorders | • Mental Health Status  
| • Chronic Depression  
| • Mental Health Treatment  
| o Dual Diagnoses With Substance Abuse  
| o Availability of Providers/Facilities  
| o Coordination With Primary Care  
| o Stigma  |
| Nutrition, Physical Activity & Weight | • Fruit/Vegetable Consumption  
| o Access to Affordable Fresh Produce/Food Deserts  
| o Need for Nutrition Education (focus group concern)  
| • Overweight & Obesity (Adults & Children)  
| • Low Levels of Physical Activity (focus group concern)  
| o Physical Activity Options for Youth (focus group concern)  
| • Access to Safe, Affordable Places for Physical Activity  
| • Children’s Screen Time (Especially Computer Use)  |
| Oral Health | • Recent Dental Care (Adults)  |
| Respiratory Diseases | • Pneumonia/Influenza Deaths  
| • Pneumonia Vaccination (65+)  
| • Prevalence of Asthma (Adults)  
| • Tuberculosis Incidence  |
| Sexually Transmitted Diseases | • Gonorrhea Incidence  
| • Syphilis Incidence  
| • Chlamydia Incidence  |
| Substance Abuse | • Cirrhosis/Liver Disease Deaths  
| • Binge Drinking  
| • Illicit Drug Use  |
| Tobacco Use | • Exposure to Environmental Tobacco Smoke  |
| Vision | • Blindness/Uncorrectable Vision Problems  |

### Top Community Health Concerns Among Community Key Informants

At the conclusion of each key informant focus group, participants were asked to write down what they individually perceive as the top five health priorities for the community, based on the group discussion as well as on their own experiences and perceptions. Their responses were collected, categorized and tallied to produce the top-ranked priorities as identified among key informants. These should be used to complement and corroborate findings that emerge from the quantitative dataset.

1. **Access**
   - Mentioned resources available to address this issue: Schools; Faith-Based Organizations; Community Health Centers; Hospitals; UIC School of Public Health; Federally Qualified Health Centers; Heartland International; Erie Family Health Clinic; Stroger Hospital; Lawndale Christian Health Center; Access Community Health Network; Cook County Clinics; University of Illinois; Sinai Health System

2. **Education/Prevention**
   - Mentioned resources available to address this issue: City of Chicago, Faith-Based Organizations; Physicians; Community-Based Organizations; UIC School of Public Health; Schools; Health Department; Hispanic Health Care Coalition; Community Health; Irving Park Clinic; Compassionate Care; ARK; Heartland International; Erie Family Health Clinic; WIC; City College; Malcolm X; Hospitals
3. **Obesity, Including Nutrition**
   - Mentioned resources available to address this issue: Hospitals; Schools; Non-Profit Agencies; Chicago Park District; Chicago Public Schools; Business Leaders; CTA; Health Clubs; Urban Vegetable Gardens

4. **Mental Health**
   - Mentioned resources available to address this issue: Private Providers; County Providers; Federally Qualified Health Centers; School-Based Health Centers; Health Departments; Chicago Public Schools; City Colleges; Chicago Park District; Advocate Behavioral Health; Thresholds; Alternatives; C4; Hay Market; Trilogy

5. **Oral Health**
   - Mentioned resources available to address this issue: Heartland International; Health Center Dental Clinics; Erie Family Health Dental Clinic

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### Summary Tables: Comparisons With Benchmark Data

The following tables provide an overview of indicators in the Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area, including trend data. These data are grouped to correspond with the Focus Areas presented in Healthy People 2020.

**Reading the Summary Tables**

- In the following charts, Service Area results are shown in the larger, blue column.
- The columns to the right of the blue column provide trending, as well as comparisons between the service area and any available regional, state and national findings, and Healthy People 2020 targets. Symbols indicate whether the Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area compares favorably (●), unfavorably (○), or comparably (●○) to these external data.

Note that blank table cells signify that data are not available or are not reliable for that area and/or for that indicator.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Access to Health Services</th>
<th>NMH Service Area</th>
<th>NMH Service Area vs. Benchmarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% [Age 18-64] Lack Health Insurance</td>
<td>22.1</td>
<td>vs. MCHC Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% [Age 18-64] Lack Health Insurance</td>
<td>22.1</td>
<td>vs. IL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% [Age 18-64] Lack Health Insurance</td>
<td>22.1</td>
<td>vs. US</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% [Age 18-64] Lack Health Insurance</td>
<td>22.1</td>
<td>vs. HP2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Difficulty Accessing Healthcare in Past Year (Composite)</td>
<td>43.6</td>
<td>TREND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Inconvenient Hrs Prevented Dr Visit in Past Year</td>
<td>20.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Cost Prevented Getting Prescription in Past Year</td>
<td>19.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Cost Prevented Physician Visit in Past Year</td>
<td>18.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Difficulty Getting Appointment in Past Year</td>
<td>17.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Difficulty Finding Physician in Past Year</td>
<td>12.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Transportation Hindered Dr Visit in Past Year</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Skipped Prescription Doses to Save Costs</td>
<td>18.1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>% Difficulty Getting Child's Healthcare in Past Year</td>
<td>5.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>% [Age 18+] Have a Specific Source of Ongoing Care</td>
<td>73.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% [Age 18-64] Have a Specific Source of Ongoing Care</td>
<td>72.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% [Age 65+] Have a Specific Source of Ongoing Care</td>
<td>78.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Have Had Routine Checkup in Past Year</td>
<td>73.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Legend:**
- **<**: Below benchmark
- **=**: Similar to benchmark
- **>**: Above benchmark
### Access to Health Services (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>NMH Service Area</th>
<th>NMH Service Area vs. Benchmarks</th>
<th>Trend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% Child Has Had Checkup in Past Year</td>
<td>93.0</td>
<td>[90.9] [87.0] [96.5]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Two or More ER Visits in Past Year</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>[7.9] [6.5] [12.9]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Rate Local Healthcare “Fair/Poor”</td>
<td>19.7</td>
<td>[15.5] [15.3] [22.7]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Arthritis, Osteoporosis & Chronic Back Conditions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>NMH Service Area</th>
<th>NMH Service Area vs. Benchmarks</th>
<th>Trend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% [50+] Arthritis/Rheumatism</td>
<td>38.1</td>
<td>[37.3] [35.4] [34.6]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% [50+] Osteoporosis</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>[10.3] [11.4] [5.3]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Sciatica/Chronic Back Pain</td>
<td>15.5</td>
<td>[16.0] [21.5] [16.1]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Migraine/Severe Headaches</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>[13.2] [16.9] [15.9]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Chronic Neck Pain</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>[8.5] [8.3] [7.0]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Cancer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cancer</th>
<th>NMH Service Area</th>
<th>NMH Service Area vs. Benchmarks</th>
<th>Trend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cancer (Age-Adjusted Death Rate)</td>
<td>194.2</td>
<td>[179.3] [183.9] [175.6] [160.6]</td>
<td>212.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lung Cancer (Age-Adjusted Death Rate)</td>
<td>51.6</td>
<td>[46.9] [52.1] [49.5] [45.5]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prostate Cancer (Age-Adjusted Death Rate)</td>
<td>34.6</td>
<td>[26.6] [24.3] [22.6] [21.2]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female Breast Cancer (Age-Adjusted Death Rate)</td>
<td>26.9</td>
<td>[24.8] [23.7] [22.6] [20.6]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Cancer (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>NMH Service Area</th>
<th>NMH Service Area vs. Benchmarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cancer (Age-Adjusted Death Rate)</td>
<td>21.8</td>
<td>vs. MCHC vs. IL vs. US vs. HP2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Skin Cancer</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Cancer (Other Than Skin)</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% [Men 50+] Prostate Exam in Past 2 Years</td>
<td>64.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% [Women 50-74] Mammogram in Past 2 Years</td>
<td>75.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% [Women 21-65] Pap Smear in Past 3 Years</td>
<td>83.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% [Age 50+] Sigmoid/Colonoscopy Ever</td>
<td>65.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% [Age 50+] Blood Stool Test in Past 2 Years</td>
<td>29.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% [Age 50-75] Colorectal Cancer Screening</td>
<td>65.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Chronic Kidney Disease

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>NMH Service Area</th>
<th>NMH Service Area vs. Benchmarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kidney Disease (Age-Adjusted Death Rate)</td>
<td>23.0</td>
<td>vs. MCHC vs. IL vs. US vs. HP2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Kidney Disease</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TREND: better, similar, worse
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NMH Service Area vs. Benchmarks</th>
<th>NMH Service Area</th>
<th>vs. MCHC Region</th>
<th>vs. IL</th>
<th>vs. US</th>
<th>vs. HP2020</th>
<th>TREND</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Diabetes</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes Mellitus (Age-Adjusted Death Rate)</td>
<td>22.7</td>
<td>20.9</td>
<td>21.3</td>
<td>21.7</td>
<td>19.6</td>
<td>26.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Diabetes/High Blood Sugar</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td></td>
<td>11.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dementias, Including Alzheimer's Disease</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alzheimer's Disease (Age-Adjusted Death Rate)</td>
<td>15.2</td>
<td>17.8</td>
<td>21.2</td>
<td>23.5</td>
<td></td>
<td>13.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Educational &amp; Community-Based Programs</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Attended Health Event in Past Year</td>
<td>21.7</td>
<td>20.2</td>
<td>22.2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>17.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family Planning</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Births to Unwed Mothers</td>
<td>52.6</td>
<td>41.6</td>
<td>38.0</td>
<td>40.4</td>
<td></td>
<td>51.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Births to Teenagers</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td></td>
<td>15.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### General Health Status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NMH Service Area</th>
<th>NMH Service Area vs. Benchmarks</th>
<th>General Health Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>vs. MCHC Region</td>
<td>vs. IL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>% &quot;Fair/Poor&quot; Physical Health</strong></td>
<td>18.9</td>
<td><img src="" alt="15.4" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>% Activity Limitations</strong></td>
<td>18.3</td>
<td><img src="" alt="19.0" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Hearing & Other Sensory or Communication Disorders

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NMH Service Area</th>
<th>NMH Service Area vs. Benchmarks</th>
<th>Hearing &amp; Other Sensory or Communication Disorders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>vs. MCHC Region</td>
<td>vs. IL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>% Deafness/Trouble Hearing</strong></td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td><img src="" alt="5.8" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Heart Disease & Stroke

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NMH Service Area</th>
<th>NMH Service Area vs. Benchmarks</th>
<th>Heart Disease &amp; Stroke</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>vs. MCHC Region</td>
<td>vs. IL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Diseases of the Heart (Age-Adjusted Death Rate)</strong></td>
<td>199.3</td>
<td><img src="" alt="188.3" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stroke (Age-Adjusted Death Rate)</strong></td>
<td>44.8</td>
<td><img src="" alt="39.7" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>% Heart Disease (Heart Attack, Angina, Coronary Disease)</strong></td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td><img src="" alt="5.1" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>% Stroke</strong></td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td><img src="" alt="3.2" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>% Blood Pressure Checked in Past 2 Years</strong></td>
<td>94.4</td>
<td><img src="" alt="94.8" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>% Told Have High Blood Pressure (Ever)</strong></td>
<td>34.8</td>
<td><img src="" alt="33.0" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>% [HBP] Taking Action to Control High Blood Pressure</strong></td>
<td>92.5</td>
<td><img src="" alt="92.9" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>% Cholesterol Checked in Past 5 Years</strong></td>
<td>90.6</td>
<td><img src="" alt="91.4" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>% Told Have High Cholesterol (Ever)</strong></td>
<td>27.3</td>
<td><img src="" alt="29.6" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Heart Disease & Stroke (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>NMH Service Area</th>
<th>NMH Service Area vs. Benchmarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>vs. MCHC Region vs. IL vs. US vs. HP2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% 1+ Cardiovascular Risk Factor</td>
<td>83.9</td>
<td>![cloud] ![sunny] ![rainbow] ![cloud]</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

# HIV

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>NMH Service Area</th>
<th>NMH Service Area vs. Benchmarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>vs. MCHC Region vs. IL vs. US vs. HP2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV/AIDS (Age-Adjusted Death Rate)</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>![cloud] ![rainbow] ![cloud] ![cloud]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% [Age 18-44] HIV Test in the Past Year</td>
<td>32.4</td>
<td>![sunny] ![cloud] ![sunny] ![cloud]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

# Immunization & Infectious Diseases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>NMH Service Area</th>
<th>NMH Service Area vs. Benchmarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>vs. MCHC Region vs. IL vs. US vs. HP2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% [Age 65+] Flu Shot in Past Year</td>
<td>66.8</td>
<td>![cloud] ![cloud] ![cloud] ![cloud]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% [High-Risk 18-64] Flu Shot in Past Year</td>
<td>55.0</td>
<td>![cloud] ![cloud] ![cloud] ![cloud]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% [Age 65+] Pneumonia Vaccine Ever</td>
<td>55.4</td>
<td>![cloud] ![cloud] ![cloud] ![cloud]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% [High-Risk 18-64] Pneumonia Vaccine Ever</td>
<td>35.6</td>
<td>![cloud] ![cloud] ![cloud] ![cloud]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuberculosis Incidence per 100,000</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>![cloud] ![cloud] ![cloud] ![cloud]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Ever Vaccinated for Hepatitis B</td>
<td>39.8</td>
<td>![cloud] ![cloud] ![cloud] ![cloud]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injury &amp; Violence Prevention</td>
<td>NMH Service Area</td>
<td>vs. MCHC Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unintentional Injury (Age-Adjusted Death Rate)</td>
<td>33.9</td>
<td>25.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor Vehicle Crashes (Age-Adjusted Death Rate)</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% &quot;Always&quot; Wear Seat Belt</td>
<td>86.6</td>
<td>88.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Child [Age 0-17] &quot;Always&quot; Uses Seat Belt/Car Seat</td>
<td>94.2</td>
<td>94.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Child [Age 5-17] &quot;Always&quot; Wears Bicycle Helmet</td>
<td>35.9</td>
<td>32.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firearm-Related Deaths (Age-Adjusted Death Rate)</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>9.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Firearm in Home</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>12.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% [Homes With Children] Firearm in Home</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>11.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% [Homes With Firearms] Weapon(s) Unlocked &amp; Loaded</td>
<td>18.4</td>
<td>13.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homicide (Age-Adjusted Death Rate)</td>
<td>15.1</td>
<td>9.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violent Crime per 100,000</td>
<td>785.3</td>
<td>634.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Victim of Violent Crime in Past 5 Years</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Perceive Neighborhood to be &quot;Not At All Safe&quot; from Crime</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>6.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Violence Offenses per 100,000</td>
<td>1297.9</td>
<td>1068.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Ever Threatened With Violence by Intimate Partner</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>10.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Victim of Domestic Violence (Ever)</td>
<td>14.1</td>
<td>12.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Abuse Offenses per 1,000 Children</td>
<td>21.9</td>
<td>21.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maternal, Infant &amp; Child Health</td>
<td>NMH Service Area vs. Benchmarks</td>
<td>TREND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% No Prenatal Care in First Trimester</td>
<td>23.6</td>
<td>20.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Low Birthweight Births</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>8.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant Death Rate</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>6.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mental Health &amp; Mental Disorders</th>
<th>NMH Service Area vs. Benchmarks</th>
<th>TREND</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% &quot;Fair/Poor&quot; Mental Health</td>
<td>14.6</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Major Depression</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>8.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Symptoms of Chronic Depression (2+ Years)</td>
<td>31.0</td>
<td>26.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suicide (Age-Adjusted Death Rate)</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>7.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Have Ever Sought Help for Mental Health</td>
<td>22.3</td>
<td>23.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% [Those With Major Depression] Seeking Help</td>
<td>80.9</td>
<td>82.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Typical Day Is &quot;Extremely/Very&quot; Stressful</td>
<td>13.3</td>
<td>11.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% 3+ Days Without Enough Sleep in the Past Month</td>
<td>64.0</td>
<td>61.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Child [Age 5-17] Takes Prescription for ADD/ADHD</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition &amp; Weight Status</td>
<td>NMH Service Area</td>
<td>NMH Service Area vs. Benchmarks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>vs. MCHC Region</td>
<td>vs. IL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Eat 5+ Servings of Fruit or Vegetables per Day</td>
<td>41.6</td>
<td>44.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% &quot;Very/Somewhat Difficult* to Buy Fresh Produce Affordably</td>
<td>22.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Medical Advice on Nutrition in Past Year</td>
<td>44.8</td>
<td>44.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Healthy Weight (BMI 18.5-24.9)</td>
<td>29.4</td>
<td>34.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Overweight</td>
<td>68.6</td>
<td>64.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Obese</td>
<td>32.2</td>
<td>29.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Medical Advice on Weight in Past Year</td>
<td>29.7</td>
<td>28.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% [Overweights] Counselled About Weight in Past Year</td>
<td>37.6</td>
<td>38.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% [Obese Adults] Counselled About Weight in Past Year</td>
<td>52.4</td>
<td>52.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% [Overweights] Trying to Lose Weight Both Diet/Exercise</td>
<td>45.7</td>
<td>47.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Children [Age 5-17] Overweight</td>
<td>41.8</td>
<td>32.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Children [Age 5-17] Obese</td>
<td>23.5</td>
<td>18.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*indicating relative performance vs. region, individual state, US average, or HP2020 target.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Oral Health</th>
<th>NMH Service Area</th>
<th>NMH Service Area vs. Benchmarks</th>
<th>TREND</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>vs. MCHC Region vs. IL vs. US vs. HP2020</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% [Age 18+] Dental Visit in Past Year</td>
<td>62.2</td>
<td>🌞  68.8 🌞  69.7 🌞  66.9 🌞  49.0</td>
<td>☁️  60.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Child [Age 2-17] Dental Visit in Past Year</td>
<td>85.3</td>
<td>🌞  84.5 🌞  79.2 🌞  49.0 🌞  77.6</td>
<td>☁️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Have Dental Insurance</td>
<td>61.8</td>
<td>🌞  65.2 🌞  60.8 🌞  55.8 🌞</td>
<td>☁️</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical Activity</th>
<th>NMH Service Area</th>
<th>NMH Service Area vs. Benchmarks</th>
<th>TREND</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>vs. MCHC Region vs. IL vs. US vs. HP2020</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% [Employed] Job Entails Mostly Sitting/Standing</td>
<td>66.3</td>
<td>🌞  66.4 🌞  63.2 🌞</td>
<td>☁️  70.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% No Leisure-Time Physical Activity</td>
<td>20.9</td>
<td>🌞  17.8 🌞  25.7 🌞  28.7 🌞  32.6</td>
<td>☁️  24.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Meeting Physical Activity Guidelines</td>
<td>49.2</td>
<td>🌞  50.3 🌞  51.8 🌞  42.7 🌞</td>
<td>☁️  44.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Moderate Physical Activity</td>
<td>28.4</td>
<td>🌞  27.8 🌞  23.9 🌞</td>
<td>☁️  23.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Vigorous Physical Activity</td>
<td>38.1</td>
<td>🌞  39.0 🌞  31.8 🌞  34.8 🌞</td>
<td>☁️  37.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Medical Advice on Physical Activity in Past Year</td>
<td>51.9</td>
<td>🌞  49.9 🌞  47.8 🌞</td>
<td>☁️  48.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% &quot;Very/Somewhat Difficult&quot; to Access a Place for Exercise</td>
<td>21.9</td>
<td>🌞  16.8 🌞  19.7 🌞</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Child [Age 5-17] Watches TV 3+ Hours per Day</td>
<td>20.8</td>
<td>🌞  17.7 🌞  19.7 🌞</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Child [Age 5-17] Uses Computer 3+ Hours per Day</td>
<td>18.6</td>
<td>🌞  17.5 🌞  9.9 🌞</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Child [Age 5-17] 3+ Hours per Day of Total Screen Time</td>
<td>51.5</td>
<td>🌞  48.2 🌞  43.4 🌞</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory Diseases</td>
<td>NMH Service Area</td>
<td>NMH Service Area vs. Benchmarks</td>
<td>TREND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>vs. MCHC Region</td>
<td>vs. IL</td>
<td>vs. US</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLRD (Age-Adjusted Death Rate)</td>
<td>29.4</td>
<td><img src="better" alt="sun" /></td>
<td><img src="better" alt="sun" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pneumonia/Influenza (Age-Adjusted Death Rate)</td>
<td>23.1</td>
<td><img src="similar" alt="cloud" /></td>
<td><img src="similar" alt="cloud" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Nasal/Hay Fever Allergies</td>
<td>23.3</td>
<td><img src="similar" alt="cloud" /></td>
<td><img src="better" alt="sun" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Sinusitis</td>
<td>12.1</td>
<td><img src="similar" alt="cloud" /></td>
<td><img src="better" alt="sun" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Chronic Lung Disease</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td><img src="similar" alt="cloud" /></td>
<td><img src="similar" alt="cloud" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% [Adult] Currently Has Asthma</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td><img src="similar" alt="cloud" /></td>
<td><img src="similar" alt="cloud" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% [Child 0-17] Currently Has Asthma</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td><img src="similar" alt="cloud" /></td>
<td><img src="similar" alt="cloud" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sexually Transmitted Diseases</th>
<th>NMH Service Area</th>
<th>NMH Service Area vs. Benchmarks</th>
<th>TREND</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>vs. MCHC Region</td>
<td>vs. IL</td>
<td>vs. US</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gonorrhea Incidence per 100,000</td>
<td>306.2</td>
<td><img src="similar" alt="cloud" /></td>
<td><img src="similar" alt="cloud" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary &amp; Secondary Syphilis Incidence per 100,000</td>
<td>29.2</td>
<td><img src="similar" alt="cloud" /></td>
<td><img src="similar" alt="cloud" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chlamydia Incidence per 100,000</td>
<td>884.8</td>
<td><img src="similar" alt="cloud" /></td>
<td><img src="similar" alt="cloud" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% [Unmarried 18-64] 3+ Sexual Partners in Past Year</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td><img src="similar" alt="cloud" /></td>
<td><img src="similar" alt="cloud" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% [Unmarried 18-64] Using Condoms</td>
<td>47.5</td>
<td><img src="similar" alt="cloud" /></td>
<td><img src="better" alt="sun" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NMH Service Area</td>
<td>NMH Service Area vs. Benchmarks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>vs. MCHC Region vs. IL vs. US vs. HP2020</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sickle-Cell Anemia</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Sickle-Cell Anemia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>better</td>
<td>similar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substance Abuse</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cirrhosis/Liver Disease (Age-Adjusted Death Rate)</td>
<td>11.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Liver Disease</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Current Drinker</td>
<td>60.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Chronic Drinker (Average 2+ Drinks/Day)</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Binge Drinker (Single Occasion - 5+ Drinks Men, 4+ Women)</td>
<td>22.9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Drinking &amp; Driving in Past Month</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Driving Drunk or Riding with Drunk Driver</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug-Induced Deaths (Age-Adjusted Death Rate)</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Illicit Drug Use in Past Month</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Ever Sought Help for Alcohol or Drug Problem</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TRENDS**:
- Better
- Similar
- Worse
### Tobacco Use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>NMH Service Area</th>
<th>vs. MCHC Region</th>
<th>vs. IL</th>
<th>vs. US</th>
<th>vs. HP2020</th>
<th>TREND</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% Current Smoker</td>
<td>17.3</td>
<td>☁</td>
<td>☁</td>
<td>☁</td>
<td>☁</td>
<td>☁</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td>16.9</td>
<td>16.6</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>19.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Someone Smokes at Home</td>
<td>18.8</td>
<td>☁</td>
<td>☁</td>
<td>☁</td>
<td>☁</td>
<td>☁</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>16.1</td>
<td>14.9</td>
<td>16.6</td>
<td>14.9</td>
<td>18.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% [Non-Smokers] Someone Smokes in the Home</td>
<td>11.4</td>
<td>☁</td>
<td>☁</td>
<td>☁</td>
<td>☁</td>
<td>☁</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>9.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% [Household With Children] Someone Smokes in the Home</td>
<td>17.6</td>
<td>☁</td>
<td>☁</td>
<td>☁</td>
<td>☁</td>
<td>☁</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>13.8</td>
<td>12.1</td>
<td>13.0</td>
<td>12.1</td>
<td>19.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% [Smokers] Received Advice to Quit Smoking</td>
<td>74.6</td>
<td>☁</td>
<td>☁</td>
<td>☁</td>
<td>☁</td>
<td>☁</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>71.1</td>
<td>63.7</td>
<td>61.8</td>
<td>61.8</td>
<td>61.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% [Smokers] Have Quit Smoking 1+ Days in Past Year</td>
<td>56.3</td>
<td>☁</td>
<td>☁</td>
<td>☁</td>
<td>☁</td>
<td>☁</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>57.5</td>
<td>56.2</td>
<td>80.0</td>
<td>72.6</td>
<td>72.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Smoke Cigars</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>☁</td>
<td>☁</td>
<td>☁</td>
<td>☁</td>
<td>☁</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>4.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Use Smokeless Tobacco</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>☁</td>
<td>☁</td>
<td>☁</td>
<td>☁</td>
<td>☁</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Vision

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>NMH Service Area</th>
<th>vs. MCHC Region</th>
<th>vs. IL</th>
<th>vs. US</th>
<th>vs. HP2020</th>
<th>TREND</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% Blindness/Trouble Seeing</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>☁</td>
<td>☁</td>
<td>☁</td>
<td>☁</td>
<td>☁</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>11.8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Eye Exam in Past 2 Years</td>
<td>56.7</td>
<td>☁</td>
<td>☁</td>
<td>☁</td>
<td>☁</td>
<td>☁</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>58.8</td>
<td>57.5</td>
<td>62.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GENERAL HEALTH STATUS
Overall Health Status

Self-Reported Health Status

A total of 48.7% of Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area adults rate their overall health as “excellent” or “very good.”

- Another 32.5% gave “good” ratings of their overall health.

Self-Reported Health Status
(Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area, 2012)

However, 18.9% of area adults believe that their overall health is “fair” or “poor.”

- Less favorable than the MCHC regional results.
  - Less favorable than statewide findings.
  - Similar to the national percentage.

- No statistically significant change has occurred when comparing “fair/poor” overall health reports to previous (2009) survey results.

Experience “Fair” or “Poor” Overall Health

NOTE:

- Differences noted in the text represent significant differences determined through statistical testing.

- Where sample sizes permit, community-level data are provided.

- Trends are measured against baseline data – i.e., the earliest year that data are available or that is presented in this report.

Sources:
- 2012 PRC Community Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 5]
- 2011 PRC National Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc.

Notes:
- Asked of all respondents.
Adults more likely to report experiencing “fair” or “poor” overall health include:

- Adults age 40 and over (note the positive correlation with age).
- Those in low-income households.
- Blacks and Hispanics.
- Other differences within demographic groups, as illustrated in the following chart, are not statistically significant.

Experience “Fair” or “Poor” Overall Health
(Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area, 2012)

Charts throughout this report (such as that here) detail survey findings among key demographic groups – namely by gender, age groupings, income (based on poverty status), and race/ethnicity.
Activity Limitations

An individual can get a disabling impairment or chronic condition at any point in life. Compared with people without disabilities, people with disabilities are more likely to:

- Experience difficulties or delays in getting the health care they need.
- Not have had an annual dental visit.
- Not have had a mammogram in past 2 years.
- Not have had a Pap test within the past 3 years.
- Not engage in fitness activities.
- Use tobacco.
- Be overweight or obese.
- Have high blood pressure.
- Experience symptoms of psychological distress.
- Receive less social-emotional support.
- Have lower employment rates.

There are many social and physical factors that influence the health of people with disabilities. The following three areas for public health action have been identified, using the International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health (ICF) and the three World Health Organization (WHO) principles of action for addressing health determinants.

- **Improve the conditions of daily life** by: encouraging communities to be accessible so all can live in, move through, and interact with their environment; encouraging community living; and removing barriers in the environment using both physical universal design concepts and operational policy shifts.

- **Address the inequitable distribution of resources among people with disabilities and those without disabilities** by increasing: appropriate health care for people with disabilities; education and work opportunities; social participation; and access to needed technologies and assistive supports.

- **Expand the knowledge base and raise awareness about determinants of health for people with disabilities** by increasing: the inclusion of people with disabilities in public health data collection efforts across the lifespan; the inclusion of people with disabilities in health promotion activities; and the expansion of disability and health training opportunities for public health and health care professionals.

– Healthy People 2020 (www.healthypeople.gov)

**A total of 18.3% of Service Area adults are limited in some way in some activities due to a physical, mental or emotional problem.**

- Comparable to the MCHC regional prevalence.
  - Comparable to the prevalence statewide.
  - Comparable to the national prevalence.
- Statistically unchanged since 2009.
Limited in Activities in Some Way
Due to a Physical, Mental or Emotional Problem

The following population segments are more likely to be limited in activities:

- Adults age 40 and older (note the positive correlation with age).
- Lower-income residents.
- Whites and Blacks.

Related Issue:
See also Potentially Disabling Conditions in the Death, Disease & Chronic Conditions section of this report.
Among persons reporting activity limitations, these are most often attributed to **musculoskeletal issues**, such as arthritis/rheumatism, back/neck problems, fractures or bone/joint injuries, and walking problems. However, depression/mental health issues and problems with vision were also noted among residents with activity limitations.

**Type of Problem That Limits Activities**

(Among Those Reporting Activity Limitations; NMH Service Area, 2012)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Problem That Limits Activities</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arthritis/Rheumatism</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Back/Neck Problem</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fracture/Bone/Joint Injury</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walking Problem</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depression/Anxiety/Emotional</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eye/Vision Problem</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Impairment/Problem</td>
<td>46.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: • 2012 PRC Community Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 126]

Notes: • Asked of those respondents reporting activity limitations.
Mental health is a state of successful performance of mental function, resulting in productive activities, fulfilling relationships with other people, and the ability to adapt to change and to cope with challenges. Mental health is essential to personal well-being, family and interpersonal relationships, and the ability to contribute to community or society. Mental disorders are health conditions that are characterized by alterations in thinking, mood, and/or behavior that are associated with distress and/or impaired functioning. Mental disorders contribute to a host of problems that may include disability, pain, or death. Mental illness is the term that refers collectively to all diagnosable mental disorders.

Mental disorders are among the most common causes of disability. The resulting disease burden of mental illness is among the highest of all diseases. According to the national Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), in any given year, an estimated 13 million American adults (approximately 1 in 17) have a seriously debilitating mental illness. Mental health disorders are the leading cause of disability in the United States and Canada, accounting for 25% of all years of life lost to disability and premature mortality. Moreover, suicide is the 11th leading cause of death in the United States, accounting for the deaths of approximately 30,000 Americans each year.

Mental health and physical health are closely connected. Mental health plays a major role in people’s ability to maintain good physical health. Mental illnesses, such as depression and anxiety, affect people’s ability to participate in health-promoting behaviors. In turn, problems with physical health, such as chronic diseases, can have a serious impact on mental health and decrease a person’s ability to participate in treatment and recovery.

The existing model for understanding mental health and mental disorders emphasizes the interaction of social, environmental, and genetic factors throughout the lifespan. In behavioral health, researchers identify: risk factors, which predispose individuals to mental illness; and protective factors, which protect them from developing mental disorders. Researchers now know that the prevention of mental, emotional, and behavioral (MEB) disorders is inherently interdisciplinary and draws on a variety of different strategies. Over the past 20 years, research on the prevention of mental disorders has progressed. The understanding of how the brain functions under normal conditions and in response to stressors, combined with knowledge of how the brain develops over time, has been essential to that progress. The major areas of progress include evidence that:

- MEB disorders are common and begin early in life.
- The greatest opportunity for prevention is among young people.
- There are multiyear effects of multiple preventive interventions on reducing substance abuse, conduct disorder, antisocial behavior, aggression, and child maltreatment.
- The incidence of depression among pregnant women and adolescents can be reduced.
- School-based violence prevention can reduce the base rate of aggressive problems in an average school by 25 to 33%.
- There are potential indicated preventive interventions for schizophrenia.
- Improving family functioning and positive parenting can have positive outcomes on mental health and can reduce poverty-related risk.
- School-based preventive interventions aimed at improving social and emotional outcomes can also improve academic outcomes.
- Interventions targeting families dealing with adversities, such as parental depression or divorce, can be effective in reducing risk for depression among children and increasing effective parenting.
- Some preventive interventions have benefits that exceed costs, with the available evidence strongest for early childhood interventions.
- Implementation is complex, and it is important that interventions be relevant to the target audiences.

In addition to advancements in the prevention of mental disorders, there continues to be steady progress in treating mental disorders as new drugs and stronger evidence-based outcomes become available.

– Healthy People 2020 (www.healthypeople.gov)
Mental Health Status

Self-Reported Mental Health Status

A total of 62.0% of Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area adults rate their overall mental health as “excellent” or “very good.”

- Another 23.4% gave “good” ratings of their own mental health status.

Self-Reported Mental Health Status (Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area, 2012)

A total of 14.6% of NMH Service Area adults, however, believe that their overall mental health is “fair” or “poor.”

- Less favorable than the MCHC Region percentage.
- Less favorable than the “fair/poor” response reported nationally.
- Marks a significant increase in “fair/poor” responses since 2009.

Experience “Fair” or “Poor” Mental Health

Sources: ● PRC Community Health Surveys, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 120]
Notes: ● Asked of all respondents.
Adults age 40 to 64, lower-income residents, Blacks and Hispanics are more likely to report experiencing “fair/poor” mental health than their demographic counterparts.

Experience “Fair” or “Poor” Mental Health
(Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area, 2012)

Depression

Major Depression

A total of 9.3% of NMH Service Area adults have been diagnosed with major depression by a physician.

- Similar to the percentage found in the MCHC Region.
- Similar to the national findings.
- Similar to the 2009 findings.
The prevalence of major depression is notably higher among:

- Adults between the ages of 40 and 64.
- Community members living at lower incomes.

### Have Been Diagnosed With Major Depression
(Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area, 2012)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>18 to 39</th>
<th>40 to 64</th>
<th>65+</th>
<th>&lt;200% FPL</th>
<th>200%+ FPL</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>NMH Svc Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
<td>14.4%</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: ● 2012 PRC Community Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 33]

Notes:● Asked of all respondents.
● Hispanics can be of any race. Other race categories are non-Hispanic categorizations (e.g., "White" reflects non-Hispanic White respondents).
● Income categories reflect respondent’s household income as a ratio to the federal poverty level (FPL) for their household size. "<200% FPL" includes households with incomes up to 199% of the federal poverty level; and "200%+ FPL" includes households with incomes at twice or more the federal poverty level.

### Symptoms of Chronic Depression

A total of 31.0% of area adults have had two or more years in their lives when they felt depressed or sad on most days, although they may have felt okay sometimes (chronic depression).

- Less favorable than regional findings.
- Less favorable than national findings.
- Similar to that reported in the NMH Service Area in 2009.

### Have Experienced Symptoms of Chronic Depression

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NMH Service Area</td>
<td>31.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCHC Region</td>
<td>26.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>26.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: ● PRC Community Health Surveys, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 121]
● 2011 PRC National Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc.

Notes:● Asked of all respondents.
The prevalence of chronic depression is notably higher among:

- Women.
- Residents between the ages of 40 and 64.
- Adults with lower incomes.
- Blacks and Hispanics.

### Have Experienced Symptoms of Chronic Depression
(Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area, 2012)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>18 to 39</th>
<th>40 to 64</th>
<th>65+</th>
<th>&lt;200% FPL</th>
<th>200%+ FPL</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>NMH Svc Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prevalence %</td>
<td>27.3</td>
<td>34.2</td>
<td>28.4</td>
<td>34.0</td>
<td>33.0</td>
<td>40.3</td>
<td>21.4</td>
<td>27.9</td>
<td>31.7</td>
<td>35.4</td>
<td>18.2</td>
<td>31.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Stress**

Of NMH Service Area adults, 26.9% consider their typical day to be “not very stressful” and 14.4% consider it to be “not at all stressful.”

- Another 45.5% of survey respondents characterize their typical day as “moderately stressful.”

### Perceived Level of Stress On a Typical Day
(Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area, 2012)

- Not Very Stressful 26.9%
- Not At All Stressful 14.4%
- Extremely Stressful 3.3%
- Very Stressful 10.0%
- Moderately Stressful 45.5%
In contrast, 13.3% of NMH Service Area adults experience “very” or “extremely” stressful days on a regular basis.

- Comparable to the regional percentage.
- Comparable to the national findings.  
- Comparable to the 2009 findings.

Perceive Most Days As “Extremely” or “Very” Stressful

![Chart showing percentage of adults perceiving most days as extremely or very stressful in NMH Service Area, MCHC Region, and United States.]

Sources: ● PRC Community Health Surveys, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 122]
● 2011 PRC National Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc.
Notes: ● Asked of all respondents.

Note that high stress levels are statistically high among adults under age 65.

Perceive Most Days as “Extremely” or “Very” Stressful
(Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area, 2012)

![Chart showing percentage of adults perceiving most days as extremely or very stressful by gender, age group, race, income, and other categories.]

Sources: ● 2012 PRC Community Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 122]
Notes: ● Asked of all respondents.
● Hispanics can be of any race. Other race categories are non-Hispanic categorizations (e.g., “White” reflects non-Hispanic White respondents).
● Income categories reflect respondent’s household income as a ratio to the federal poverty level (FPL) for their household size. “<200% FPL” includes households with incomes up to 199% of the federal poverty level, and “200%+ FPL” includes households with incomes at twice or more the federal poverty level.
Sleep

While 24.1% of survey respondents did not experience any days during the past month in which they did not get enough rest or sleep, 75.9% report having at least one day of poor rest or sleep in the past month.

**Number of Days Without Enough Rest or Sleep in the Past Month**
(Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area, 2012)

None 24.1%
One 3.6%
Two 8.3%
Three/More 64.0%

In fact, 64.0% of service area residents report 3+ days of poor rest or sleep in the past month.

- Similar to survey findings in the MCHC Region.

**Had 3+ Days in the Past Month Without Enough Sleep**

Northwestern Memorial Hospital Svc Area: 64.0%
MCHC Region: 61.6%

The following adults are more likely to report experiencing 3+ days of poor rest or sleep in the past month:

- Young adults (note the negative correlation with age).
- Residents in upper-income households.
Whites and “Other” (Non-Black and Non-Hispanic) adults.

### Had 3+ Days in the Past Month Without Enough Sleep
(Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area, 2012)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>18 to 39</th>
<th>40 to 64</th>
<th>65+</th>
<th>&lt;200% FPL</th>
<th>200%+ FPL</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>NMH Svc Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>63.4%</td>
<td>64.6%</td>
<td>73.1%</td>
<td>58.9%</td>
<td>60.6%</td>
<td>70.0%</td>
<td>70.1%</td>
<td>61.7%</td>
<td>57.9%</td>
<td>68.0%</td>
<td>64.0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: ● 2012 PRC Community Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 124]
Notes: ● Asked of all respondents.
• Hispanics can be of any race. Other race categories are non-Hispanic categorizations (e.g., “White” reflects non-Hispanic White respondents).
• Income categories reflect respondent’s household income as a ratio to the federal poverty level (FPL) for their household size. “<200% FPL” includes households with incomes up to 199% of the federal poverty level, and “200%+ FPL” includes households with incomes at twice or more the federal poverty level.

### Suicide

Between 2006 and 2008, the City of Chicago experienced an annual average age-adjusted suicide rate of 6.5 deaths per 100,000 population.

- Lower than the regional rate (2007-2009 data).
- Lower than the statewide rate (2007-2009 data).
- Lower than the national rate data (2007-2009 data).
- Satisfies the Healthy People 2020 target of 10.2 or lower.

### Suicide: Age-Adjusted Mortality
(2007-2009 Annual Average Deaths per 100,000 Population)

- Healthy People 2020 Target = 10.2 or Lower

Sources: ● CDC WONDER Online Query System. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Epidemiology Program Office, Division of Public Health Surveillance and Informatics. Data extracted October 2012.

Notes: ● Deaths are coded using the Tenth Revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10).
- Rates are per 100,000 population, age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Standard Population.
- Local, state and national data are simple three-year averages.
- *City of Chicago rate represents 2006-2008 data.
The City of Chicago suicide rate is more than twice as high among Non-Hispanic Whites as among Non-Hispanic Blacks.

Suicide: Age-Adjusted Mortality by Race
(2006-2008 Annual Average Deaths per 100,000 Population)

Sources:
- CDC WONDER Online Query System. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Epidemiology Program Office, Division of Public Health Surveillance and Informatics. Data extracted October 2012.

Notes:
- Deaths are coded using the Tenth Revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10).
- Rates are per 100,000 population, age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Standard Population.

The City of Chicago suicide rate has decreased overall, and is similar to the statewide trend. The national suicide rate has increased.

Suicide: Age-Adjusted Mortality Trends
(Annual Average Deaths per 100,000 Population)

Sources:
- CDC WONDER Online Query System. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Epidemiology Program Office, Division of Public Health Surveillance and Informatics. Data extracted September 2012.

Notes:
- Deaths are coded using the Tenth Revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10).
- Rates are per 100,000 population, age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Standard Population.

Mental Health Treatment

Among adults with diagnosed depression, 80.9% acknowledge that they have sought professional help for a mental or emotional problem.

- Similar to the overall MCHC Region percentage.
- Similar to national findings.
- Similar to the Healthy People 2020 target of 75.1% or higher.
No change from 2009 survey findings in the NMH Service Area.

### Have Sought Professional Help for a Mental or Emotional Problem
(Among Those With Major Depression)

![Graph showing Have Sought Professional Help for a Mental or Emotional Problem](image)

**Sources:**
- PRC Community Health Surveys, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 150]
- 2011 PRC National Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc.

**Notes:**
- Asked of those respondents with major depression diagnosed by a physician.

### Children & ADD/ADHD

**Among Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area adults with children age 5 to 17, 2.9% report that their child takes medication for ADD/ADHD.**

- Comparable to the regional percentage.
- Comparable to the national prevalence.
- Comparable to the 2009 figure among children 5-17.
- By demographics, significantly high among **boys**; no difference by age.

### Child Takes Medication for ADD/ADHD
(Among Parents of Children 5-17)

![Graph showing Child Takes Medication for ADD/ADHD](image)

**Sources:**
- PRC Community Health Surveys, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 140]
- 2011 PRC National Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc.

**Notes:**
- Asked of all respondents with children age 5 to 17.
Related Focus Group Findings: Mental Health

Mental health in the community arose often during discussion, with primary issues including:

- Mental illnesses co-occurring with substance abuse
- Inadequate number of psychiatrists and treatment facilities, closing of local clinics
- Coordination with primary care physicians
- Stigma
- Importance of education
- Stress
- State budget cuts
- City mental health system

During the Downtown/West Chicago focus group, issues surrounding mental health coverage came up several times. Participants feel that due to state budget cuts, the already overwhelmed mental health system has seen a decrease in available clinics and services. The City of Chicago recently overhauled the city mental health system, so about half of the chronically, mentally ill patients have transferred to community mental health centers, while the others remain in the city system:

“There were about 6,000 to 6,500 in the city’s mental health system. They were scattered all over, which in one way was – I mean they weren’t as well run as they should have been. And there were too few people in each of them to make it really efficient. I mean people who are – this isn’t like: ‘I’m a little depressed.’ These are people who need their Prolixin shot. Because, otherwise, the voices will tell them to do things. But there was a lot – so 3,000 were kept in the system. The city actually used the money to hire additional psychiatrists for those who stayed in the system.”
— Key Informant (Downtown/West Chicago)

Downtown/West Chicago focus group participants still consider the community to suffer from inadequate numbers of psychiatrists, counselors, and treatment facilities available to address residents’ behavioral health needs. There is only one mental health clinic on the West side and it operates above capacity. Similar to overall healthcare, accessing the appointments can prove difficult for families who do not have insurance coverage, transportation, or who work multiple jobs.

During the Cook County focus group, issues surrounding mental health coverage came up several times. Group attendees agree that persons suffering from mental illness are more likely to be vulnerable and less likely to successfully navigate the complex healthcare system. The participants feel that residents suffer due to a limited number of psychiatrists and inpatient facilities available to address behavioral healthcare needs. State budget cuts have affected the number of available mental health resources, and many times community members must enter into a crisis before they can access treatment, as one participant explains:

“Frequently the trigger to actually accessing some mental health services is a bad thing has to happen to you: you have to have HIV, you have to have been shot, and you have to precipitate a psychotic crisis. Then you get hooked up -- or you go to jail.” — Key Informant (Cook County)
Many local psychiatrists have long waiting periods before initial appointments take place, and generally insurance coverage for mental health services is inadequate.

“Well, congestive heart failure(CHF) treatment is through insurance so that's covered; that's a medical disease but when you try to give some kind of counseling for somebody it's a whole different thing as far as what insurance will cover. If you have a chronic mental illness they'll cover you for six visits. Well then why can you go forever with CHF? It's always been a stepchild.” — Key Informant (Cook County)

South Chicago participants agree that the community suffers due to an inadequate number of psychiatrists, counselors, and treatment facilities available to address residents' behavioral health needs. Residents must travel to other parts of the city to access quality care; many of the public mental health clinics have shut down on the South side of Chicago and there are very few, if any, options for uninsured persons. Both insured and uninsured patients may encounter long wait times before an initial psychiatric appointment. A focus group attendee describes the severity of the situation:

“So if you don’t have insurance and you have a mental issue – sorry to hear that. And I think that’s a problem. I mean, people have a lot of issues that need to be addressed. You’ve got alcoholism, you’ve got drug addiction, you’re got trauma, you’ve got people who are schizophrenic, you just have plain old crazy people – I mean none of these people can get any help because there’s no options – people that do not have insurance are not able to get assistance.” — Key Informant (South Chicago)

Similar issues arose during the North Chicago focus group:

“The wait is so long for the appointment they forget to go, they lose their childcare, and they don’t have transportation. You know, you wait and wait and wait for this one appointment and then if anything happens...” — Key Informant (North Chicago)

North Chicago residents with private insurance have access to many options for psychiatrists and counselors; however, participants worry about the ease of individuals being able to enter the mental health system. As a participant explains:

“I would say, even for people who are insured, finding, with mental health it’s not like you - I would feel more comfortable picking my primary healthcare provider out of a list than my mental health – so I think there’s a lot of people who go without treatment because they don’t know who to go see. It’s more like the hidden world.” — Key Informant (North Chicago)

It is also important for primary care physicians to coordinate and refer to psychiatrists or counseling services. Participants in North Chicago worry that individuals do not know what to expect from the behavioral health system and may expect a quick fix. One participant describes:

“Or you don’t know what to expect. I have people who go once or twice, ‘Well, all they did was listen to me talk.’ And I’m kind of like, ‘Well, they have to figure out – yes, that’s part of it.’ But there’s just that understanding of what to expect too. So a lot of people don’t want to – they want to be fixed, they don’t want to go and talk. And they don’t give it a shot. Medication takes a little while to take effect, talking takes a little while – you know you go once or twice and you’re like, ‘I’m done.” — Key Informant (North Chicago)
South Chicago participants also worry that many individuals struggling with mental illness have a co-occurring substance abuse problem. Many residents may be suffering from mental illness due to experiencing trauma, and substance use may be a way for these individuals to cope.

Cook County group attendees are also concerned that the stigma which still surrounds mental health may hamper an individual’s ability or desire to access services. Participants believe that if psychiatrists worked in primary care physician offices, or if healthcare providers worked in teams, this might lessen the stigma attached to mental health. As one member describes:

“"I used to work in Minnesota and in the diabetes program that I worked there we had a psychiatrist on our staff and everyone who came in had to see the psychiatrist because that was part of the team so that if they ever had problems there wouldn’t be that stigma, that they would know that that’s comfortable. I have been trying for 23 years to get a psychiatrist on my staff.” — Key Informant (Cook County)

Stigma surrounding behavioral health was also discussed during the South Chicago focus group, with attendees believing that stigma greatly impacts residents’ and family members’ desire to obtain mental healthcare:

“We (African Americans) don’t go seek out psychiatric services anyway, especially if a child has been exposed to some type of trauma or experienced some type of trauma. So we’ll basically push it under the rug or we’re going to pray about it. We don’t take the time to seek professional services to help with trauma. So that means whatever is going on is going to build up. So we might have violent behavior, we might have other risky behavior.” — Key Informant (South Chicago)

Educating community members about the mental health system needs to occur in order to dispel the stigma associated with mental health in the North Chicago community. Focus group attendees believe that the negative stigma greatly impacts residents’ and family members’ desire to obtain mental healthcare.

“The stigma associated with mental health issues too is difficult; not just for the people with chronic mental health issues but for people who maybe don’t but who see the stigma and then don’t want to seek services too. So you can’t find a service, and when you do the client doesn’t want to go is what I’m trying to say.” — Key Informant (North Chicago)

In general, Medicaid psychiatrists have long waiting periods before initial appointments take place in the Downtown/West Chicago area. Overall, the needs of the community are high and available resources are low. Participants also agree that the stigma surrounding mental health may hamper an individual’s ability or desire to access services and many community members self-medicate with drugs and alcohol, as one participant explains:

“But technically, if all the people went to see the psychiatrist or the therapist that need to see ‘em, which is the whole West Side – but by our community still being under that stigma, saying that you’re crazy if you go see a psychiatrist.” — Key Informant (Downtown/West Chicago)
With the current economic climate, many residents live under a high level of stress. Cook County group attendees believe that stress contributes to high levels of obesity and other poor health outcomes.

Participants in South Chicago also consider the high levels of stress in the community to contribute to the high levels of mental illness. Many residents cannot meet their own basic needs, so they live in a state of constant stress, causing both physical and emotional effects. Focus group attendees mentioned the following as major contributors to stress: unemployment, low socioeconomic status, violence in the neighborhoods, inability to fulfill basic needs, and lack of affordable childcare. As one member describes:

"Basic needs: food, clothing, shelter. Lack thereof. Just the basic stuff and living in an unsafe environment. And then for those that don’t have those issues, it’s you’re overworked, you’re worried about being able to pay your bills." — Key Informant (South Chicago)
DEATH, DISEASE & CHRONIC CONDITIONS
Leading Causes of Death

Distribution of Deaths by Cause

Together, cardiovascular disease (coronary heart disease and stroke) and cancers accounted for nearly one-half of all deaths in the City of Chicago in 2008.

Leading Causes of Death
(City of Chicago, 2008)

- Cancer: 23.1%
- Coronary Heart Disease: 17.6%
- Diabetes-Related: 8.3%
- Stroke: 5.1%
- Unintentional Injuries: 4.0%
- CLRDR: 3.7%
- Other: 38.2%

Sources: CDC WONDER Online Query System. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Epidemiology Program Office, Division of Public Health Surveillance and Informatics. Data extracted September 2012.

Notes:
- Deaths are coded using the Tenth Revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10).
- CLRDR is chronic lower respiratory disease.

Age-Adjusted Death Rates for Selected Causes

In order to compare mortality in the region with other localities (in this case, Illinois and the United States), it is necessary to look at rates of death — these are figures which represent the number of deaths in relation to the population size (such as deaths per 100,000 population, as is used here).

Furthermore, in order to compare localities without undue bias toward younger or older populations, the common convention is to adjust the data to some common baseline age distribution. Use of these “age-adjusted” rates provides the most valuable means of gauging mortality against benchmark data, as well as Healthy People 2020 targets.

The following chart outlines 2006-2008 annual average age-adjusted death rates per 100,000 population for selected causes of death in the City of Chicago. Where city data is unavailable, Cook County rates are used (reflecting 2007-2009 data).
Age-adjusted mortality rates in the City of Chicago (or Cook County) are worse than national rates for heart disease, stroke, cancer, pneumonia/influenza, firearm-related deaths, kidney disease, HIV/AIDS and cirrhosis/liver disease.

Of the causes outlined in the following chart for which Healthy People 2020 objectives have been established, City of Chicago/Cook County rates fail to satisfy the related goals for heart disease, stroke, cancer, firearm-related deaths, homicide, diabetes mellitus, HIV/AIDS and cirrhosis/liver disease.

Age-Adjusted Death Rates for Selected Causes
(2007-2009 Deaths per 100,000)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>City of Chicago</th>
<th>MCHC Region</th>
<th>Illinois</th>
<th>United States</th>
<th>Healthy People 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diseases of the Heart</td>
<td>199.3**</td>
<td>188.3</td>
<td>189.3</td>
<td>185.8</td>
<td>152.7*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malignant Neoplasms (Cancers)</td>
<td>194.2</td>
<td>179.3</td>
<td>183.9</td>
<td>175.6</td>
<td>160.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cerebrovascular Disease (Stroke)</td>
<td>44.2</td>
<td>39.7</td>
<td>41.8</td>
<td>40.6</td>
<td>33.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unintentional Injuries</td>
<td>33.9</td>
<td>25.8</td>
<td>31.9</td>
<td>38.7</td>
<td>36.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease (CLRD)</td>
<td>29.4</td>
<td>31.5</td>
<td>39.9</td>
<td>42.4</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pneumonia/Influenza</td>
<td>23.1</td>
<td>19.0</td>
<td>18.6</td>
<td>16.4</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kidney Disease</td>
<td>23.0</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>19.5</td>
<td>14.7</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes Mellitus</td>
<td>22.7**</td>
<td>20.9</td>
<td>21.3</td>
<td>21.7</td>
<td>19.6*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alzheimer’s Disease</td>
<td>15.2</td>
<td>17.8</td>
<td>21.2</td>
<td>23.5</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homicide/Legal Intervention</td>
<td>15.1</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cirrhosis/Liver Disease</td>
<td>11.0</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>8.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firearm-Related</td>
<td>10.9**</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>9.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug-Induced</td>
<td>10.3**</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>12.6</td>
<td>11.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor Vehicle Crashes</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>13.0</td>
<td>12.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intentional Self-Harm (Suicide)</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>11.6</td>
<td>10.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources:
- CDC WONDER Online Query System. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Epidemiology Program Office, Division of Public Health Surveillance and Informatics. Data extracted September 2012.

Note:
- Rates are per 100,000 population, age-adjusted to the 2000 US Standard Population and coded using ICD-10 codes.
- *The Healthy People 2020 Heart Disease target is adjusted to account for all diseases of the heart; the Diabetes target is adjusted to reflect only diabetes mellitus-coded deaths.
- Local, state and national data are simple three-year averages. City of Chicago data is 2006-2008. **Cook County data is used here; City of Chicago rates not available.

For infant mortality data, see “Birth Outcomes & Risks” in the Births section of this report.
Cardiovascular Disease

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States, with stroke following as the third leading cause. Together, heart disease and stroke are among the most widespread and costly health problems facing the nation today, accounting for more than $500 billion in healthcare expenditures and related expenses in 2010 alone. Fortunately, they are also among the most preventable.

The leading modifiable (controllable) risk factors for heart disease and stroke are:

- High blood pressure
- High cholesterol
- Cigarette smoking
- Diabetes
- Poor diet and physical inactivity
- Overweight and obesity

The risk of Americans developing and dying from cardiovascular disease would be substantially reduced if major improvements were made across the US population in diet and physical activity, control of high blood pressure and cholesterol, smoking cessation, and appropriate aspirin use.

The burden of cardiovascular disease is disproportionately distributed across the population. There are significant disparities in the following based on gender, age, race/ethnicity, geographic area, and socioeconomic status:

- Prevalence of risk factors
- Access to treatment
- Appropriate and timely treatment
- Treatment outcomes
- Mortality

Disease does not occur in isolation, and cardiovascular disease is no exception. Cardiovascular health is significantly influenced by the physical, social, and political environment, including: maternal and child health; access to educational opportunities; availability of healthy foods, physical education, and extracurricular activities in schools; opportunities for physical activity, including access to safe and walkable communities; access to healthy foods; quality of working conditions and worksite health; availability of community support and resources; and access to affordable, quality healthcare.

– Healthy People 2020 (www.healthypeople.gov)

Age-Adjusted Heart Disease & Stroke Deaths

Between 2007 and 2009 there was an annual average age-adjusted heart disease mortality rate of 199.3 deaths per 100,000 population in Cook County (City of Chicago data not available).

- Higher than the regional rate.
  - Higher than the statewide rate.
  - Higher than the national rate.
  - Fails to satisfy the Healthy People 2020 target (as adjusted to account for all diseases of the heart).
Heart Disease: Age-Adjusted Mortality
(2007-2009 Annual Average Deaths per 100,000 Population)

By race, Cook County heart disease mortality is unfavorably high among Non-Hispanic Blacks, and is much higher among Non-Hispanic Whites when compared with Hispanics.

Heart Disease Deaths: Age-Adjusted Mortality by Race
(2007-2009 Annual Average Deaths per 100,000 Population)
The heart disease mortality rate has **decreased** in Cook County, echoing the decreasing regional, state and national trends.

### Heart Disease: Age-Adjusted Mortality Trends

**(Annual Average Deaths per 100,000 Population)**

![Graph showing mortality trends for various regions over different years.](image)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Healthy People 2020 (Adjusted)</th>
<th>Cook County*</th>
<th>MCHC Region</th>
<th>Illinois</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000-2002</td>
<td>152.7</td>
<td>269.8</td>
<td>257.9</td>
<td>253.9</td>
<td>248.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001-2003</td>
<td>152.7</td>
<td>258.5</td>
<td>246.4</td>
<td>244.3</td>
<td>240.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002-2004</td>
<td>152.7</td>
<td>245.9</td>
<td>231.5</td>
<td>221.5</td>
<td>231.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003-2005</td>
<td>152.7</td>
<td>234.9</td>
<td>222.7</td>
<td>222.8</td>
<td>220.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004-2006</td>
<td>152.7</td>
<td>224.2</td>
<td>212.9</td>
<td>212.6</td>
<td>212.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005-2007</td>
<td>152.7</td>
<td>214.4</td>
<td>204.2</td>
<td>203.8</td>
<td>209.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-2008</td>
<td>152.7</td>
<td>199.3</td>
<td>196.2</td>
<td>196.4</td>
<td>192.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-2009</td>
<td>152.7</td>
<td>188.3</td>
<td>188.3</td>
<td>189.3</td>
<td>185.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**
- Deaths are coded using the Tenth Revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10).
- Rates are per 100,000 population, age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Standard Population.
- Local, state and national data are simple three-year averages.
- The Healthy People 2020 Heart Disease target is adjusted to account for all diseases of the heart.
- *City of Chicago data not available; Cook County rates are shown here.

### Stroke Deaths

**Between 2006 and 2008, there was an annual average age-adjusted stroke mortality rate of 44.8 deaths per 100,000 population in the City of Chicago.**

- Worse than the regional rate.
- Worse than the Illinois rate.
- Worse than the national rate.
- Fails to satisfy the Healthy People 2020 target of 33.8 or lower.

### Stroke: Age-Adjusted Mortality

**(2007-2009 Annual Average Deaths per 100,000 Population)**

![Graph showing stroke mortality rates for various regions over different years.](image)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Healthy People 2020 Target = 33.8 or Lower</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City of Chicago*</td>
<td>44.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCHC Region</td>
<td>39.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>41.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>40.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sources:**

**Notes:**
- Deaths are coded using the Tenth Revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10).
- Rates are per 100,000 population, age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Standard Population.
- Local, state and national data are simple three-year averages.
- *City of Chicago rate represents 2006-2008 data.
Stroke mortality is much higher among City of Chicago Non-Hispanic Blacks than Whites.

Stroke: Age-Adjusted Mortality by Race
(2006-2008 Annual Average Deaths per 100,000 Population)

The stroke rate has declined in recent years, echoing the trends reported across the MCHC Region, Illinois and the US overall.

Stroke: Age-Adjusted Mortality Trends
(Annual Average Deaths per 100,000 Population)
Prevalence of Heart Disease & Stroke

Prevalence of Heart Disease

A total of 4.9% of surveyed adults report that they suffer from or have been diagnosed with heart disease, such as coronary heart disease, angina or heart attack.

- Similar to regional findings.
- Similar to the national prevalence.
- Statistically unchanged since 2009.

Adults more likely to have been diagnosed with chronic heart disease include:

- Residents age 40 and older (notice the positive correlation with age).
- Those from lower-income households.
- Blacks.

Prevalence of Heart Disease
(Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area, 2012)

Sources: ● 2012 PRC Community Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 151]

Notes: ● Asked of all respondents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>NMH Svc Area 2009</th>
<th>NMH Svc Area 2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adults 18 to 39</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men 40 to 64</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women 65+</td>
<td>17.2%</td>
<td>17.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White 200%+ FPL</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black 200%+ FPL</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic 200%+ FPL</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other 200%+ FPL</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NMH Svc Area</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Professional Research Consultants, Inc.
Prevalence of Stroke

A total of 3.7% of surveyed adults report that they suffer from or have been diagnosed with cerebrovascular disease (a stroke).

- Similar to regional findings.
- Similar to statewide findings.
- Similar to national findings.

- Statistically unchanged over time.

Prevalence of Stroke

Sources:
- PRC Community Health Surveys, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 43]
- PRC National Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc.

Notes:
- Asked of all respondents.

Adults more likely to have been diagnosed with stroke include:

- Community members age 40 or older (note the positive correlation with age).
- Residents in the lower income category.
- Black respondents.

Prevalence of Stroke
(Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area, 2012)

Sources:
- 2012 PRC Community Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 43]

Notes:
- Asked of all respondents.
- Hispanics can be of any race. Other race categories are non-Hispanic categorizations (e.g., “White” reflects non-Hispanic White respondents).
- Income categories reflect respondent’s household income as a ratio to the federal poverty level (FPL) for their household size. “<200% FPL” includes households with incomes up to 199% of the federal poverty level; and “200%+ FPL” includes households with incomes at twice or more the federal poverty level.
Cardiovascular Risk Factors

Hypertension (High Blood Pressure)

Controlling risk factors for heart disease and stroke remains a challenge. High blood pressure and cholesterol are still major contributors to the national epidemic of cardiovascular disease. High blood pressure affects approximately 1 in 3 adults in the United States, and more than half of Americans with high blood pressure do not have it under control. High sodium intake is a known risk factor for high blood pressure and heart disease, yet about 90% of American adults exceed their recommendation for sodium intake.

– Healthy People 2020 (www.healthypeople.gov)

High Blood Pressure Testing

A total of 94.4% of NMH Service Area adults have had their blood pressure tested within the past two years.

- Comparable to the regional findings.
  - Comparable to the national findings.
  - Comparable to the Healthy People 2020 target (94.9% or higher).

Unchanged over time.

Prevalence of Hypertension

A total of 34.8% of adults have been told at some point that their blood pressure was high.

- Similar to the MCHC Region prevalence.
  - Less favorable than the Illinois prevalence.
  - Almost identical to the national prevalence.
  - Fails to satisfy the Healthy People 2020 target (26.9% or lower).

Marks a statistically significant increase in hypertension over time.
Among hypertensive adults, 72.4% have been diagnosed with high blood pressure more than once.

Prevalence of High Blood Pressure

Healthy People 2020 Target = 26.9% or Lower

Diagnosed More Than Once: 72.4%

Sources:
- PRC Community Health Surveys, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Items 51, 152]
- 2011 PRC National Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc.

Notes:
- Asked of all respondents.

Hypertension diagnoses are higher among:

- Adults age 40 and older, and especially those age 65+.
- Lower-income residents.
- Blacks.

Prevalence of High Blood Pressure
(Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area, 2012)

Healthy People 2020 Target = 26.9% or Lower

Sources:
- 2012 PRC Community Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 152]

Notes:
- Asked of all respondents.
- Hispanics can be of any race. Other race categories are non-Hispanic categorizations (e.g., “White” reflects non-Hispanic White respondents).
- Income categories reflect respondent’s household income as a ratio to the federal poverty level (FPL) for their household size. “<200% FPL” includes households with incomes up to 199% of the federal poverty level, and “200%+ FPL” includes households with incomes at twice or more the federal poverty level.
Hypertension Management

Among respondents who have been told that their blood pressure was high, 92.5% report that they are currently taking actions to control their condition.

- Similar to MCHC Region findings.
- Similar to national findings.
- Unchanged since 2009.

### Taking Action to Control Hypertension

(Among Adults With High Blood Pressure)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>NMH Svc Area</th>
<th>MCHC Region</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>92.7%</td>
<td></td>
<td>89.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>92.5%</td>
<td>92.9%</td>
<td>89.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: ● PRC Community Health Surveys, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 52]
● 2011 PRC National Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc.

Notes: ● Asked of all respondents who have been diagnosed with high blood pressure.  
● In this case, the term “action” refers to medication, change in diet, and/or exercise.

High Blood Cholesterol

Blood Cholesterol Testing

A total of 90.6% of NMH Service Area adults have had their blood cholesterol checked within the past five years.

- Comparable to the MCHC Region findings.
- More favorable than Illinois findings.
- Comparable to the national findings.
- Satisfies the Healthy People 2020 target (82.1% or higher).

- No statistically significant change occurred since 2009.
The following demographic segment reports lower screening levels:

- Men.
- Adults under age 40.
- Hispanics and community members in the “Other” race category.

Self-Reported High Blood Cholesterol

A total of 27.3% of adults have been told by a health professional that their cholesterol level was high.

- Comparable to the regional prevalence.
- More favorable than the Illinois findings.
- More favorable than the national prevalence.
- Twice the Healthy People 2020 target (13.5% or lower).
- Statistically unchanged since 2009.

### Prevalence of High Blood Cholesterol

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>NMH Svc Area</th>
<th>MCHC Region</th>
<th>Illinois</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Healthy People 2020 Target = 13.5% or Lower</td>
<td>27.3%</td>
<td>29.6%</td>
<td>37.5%</td>
<td>31.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Sources:
- PRC Community Health Surveys, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 153]
- 2011 PRC National Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc.

#### Notes:
- Asked of all respondents.
- "The IL data reflects those adults who have been tested for high cholesterol and who have been diagnosed with it.

Note that 15.2% of NMH Service Area adults report not having high blood cholesterol, but: 1) have never had their blood cholesterol levels tested; 2) have not been screened in the past 5 years; or 3) do not recall when their last screening was. For these individuals, current prevalence is unknown.

- Considerably higher prevalence of high blood cholesterol was found among those age 40 and older (note the positive correlation between age and high blood cholesterol), as well as among Whites and Blacks.

- Keep in mind that “unknowns” are relatively among area men, young adults (age 18-39) and “Other” races.

### Prevalence of High Blood Cholesterol

(Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area, 2012)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>18 to 39</th>
<th>40 to 64</th>
<th>65+</th>
<th>&lt;200% FPL</th>
<th>200%+ FPL</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>NMH Svc Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Healthy People 2020 Target = 13.5% or Lower</td>
<td>28.8%</td>
<td>26.0%</td>
<td>14.7%</td>
<td>37.0%</td>
<td>45.1%</td>
<td>30.1%</td>
<td>25.9%</td>
<td>29.8%</td>
<td>30.4%</td>
<td>24.5%</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
<td>27.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Sources:
- 2012 PRC Community Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 153]

#### Notes:
- Asked of all respondents.
- Hispanics can be of any race. Other race categories are non-Hispanic categorizations (e.g., “White” reflects non-Hispanic White respondents). Income categories reflect respondent’s household income as a ratio to the federal poverty level (FPL) for their household size. “<200% FPL” includes households with incomes up to 199% of the federal poverty level and “200%+ FPL” includes households with incomes at twice or more the federal poverty level.
Among adults who have been told that their blood cholesterol was high, 88.2% report that they are currently taking actions to control their cholesterol levels.

- Comparable to findings in the MCHC Region.
- Comparable to nationwide findings.
- High cholesterol management was stable between 2009 and 2012.

**Taking Action to Control High Blood Cholesterol Levels**
(Among Adults with High Cholesterol)

Respondents reporting high cholesterol were further asked:

“Are you currently taking any action to help control your high cholesterol, such as taking medication, changing your diet, or exercising?”

Sources: ● PRC Community Health Surveys, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 55]
● 2011 PRC National Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc.

Notes: ● Asked of all respondents who have been diagnosed with high blood cholesterol levels.
● In this case, the term “action” refers to medication, change in diet, and/or exercise.
Total Cardiovascular Risk

Individual level risk factors which put people at increased risk for cardiovascular diseases include:

- High Blood Pressure
- High Blood Cholesterol
- Tobacco Use
- Physical Inactivity
- Poor Nutrition
- Overweight/Obesity
- Diabetes

Three health-related behaviors contribute markedly to cardiovascular disease:

**Poor nutrition.** People who are overweight have a higher risk for cardiovascular disease. Almost 60% of adults are overweight or obese. To maintain a proper body weight, experts recommend a well-balanced diet which is low in fat and high in fiber, accompanied by regular exercise.

**Lack of physical activity.** People who are not physically active have twice the risk for heart disease of those who are active. More than half of adults do not achieve recommended levels of physical activity.

**Tobacco use.** Smokers have twice the risk for heart attack of nonsmokers. Nearly one-fifth of all deaths from cardiovascular disease, or about 190,000 deaths a year nationally, are smoking-related. Every day, more than 3,000 young people become daily smokers in the US.

Modifying these behaviors is critical both for preventing and for controlling cardiovascular disease. Other steps that adults who have cardiovascular disease should take to reduce their risk of death and disability include adhering to treatment for high blood pressure and cholesterol, using aspirin as appropriate, and learning the symptoms of heart attack and stroke.

[Sources: National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention]

A total of 83.9% of NMH Service Area adults report one or more cardiovascular risk factors, such as being overweight, smoking cigarettes, being physically inactive, or having high blood pressure or cholesterol.

- Notably higher than is found in the MCHC Region.
- Similar to the national findings.
- Statistically similar to the 2009 findings.

![Chart: Present One or More Cardiovascular Risks or Behaviors]

**Sources:**
- PRC Community Health Surveys, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. (Item 154)
- 2011 PRC National Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc.

**Notes:**
- Asked of all respondents.
- Cardiovascular risk is defined as exhibiting one or more of the following: 1) no leisure-time physical activity; 2) regular/occasional cigarette smoking; 3) hypertension; 4) high blood cholesterol; and/or 5) being overweight/obese.
Cardiovascular risk factors are more likely among the following:

- Men.
- Residents aged 40+.
- Those from lower-income households.
- Blacks and Hispanics.

**Present One or More Cardiovascular Risks or Behaviors**
(Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area, 2012)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>18 to 39</th>
<th>40 to 64</th>
<th>65+</th>
<th>&lt;200% FPL</th>
<th>200%+ FPL</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>NMH Svc Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>88.5%</td>
<td>79.9%</td>
<td>89.1%</td>
<td>92.5%</td>
<td>89.7%</td>
<td>81.9%</td>
<td>80.0%</td>
<td>91.1%</td>
<td>84.8%</td>
<td>66.5%</td>
<td>83.9%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: 2012 PRC Community Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 154]

Notes:
- 2012 PRC Community Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 154]
- Asked of all respondents.
- Cardiovascular risk is defined as exhibiting one or more of the following: 1) no leisure-time physical activity; 2) regular/occasional cigarette smoking; 3) hypertension; 4) high blood cholesterol; and/or 5) being overweight/obese.
- Hispanics can be of any race. Other race categories are non-Hispanic categorizations (e.g., “White” reflects non-Hispanic White respondents).
- Income categories reflect respondent’s household income as a ratio to the federal poverty level (FPL) for their household size. “<200% FPL” includes households with incomes up to 199% of the federal poverty level, and “200%+ FPL” includes households with incomes at twice or more the federal poverty level.
Continued advances in cancer research, detection, and treatment have resulted in a decline in both incidence and death rates for all cancers. Among people who develop cancer, more than half will be alive in five years. Yet, cancer remains a leading cause of death in the United States, second only to heart disease.

Many cancers are preventable by reducing risk factors such as: use of tobacco products; physical inactivity and poor nutrition; obesity; and ultraviolet light exposure. Other cancers can be prevented by getting vaccinated against human papillomavirus and hepatitis B virus. In the past decade, overweight and obesity have emerged as new risk factors for developing certain cancers, including colorectal, breast, uterine corpus (endometrial), and kidney cancers. The impact of the current weight trends on cancer incidence will not be fully known for several decades. Continued focus on preventing weight gain will lead to lower rates of cancer and many chronic diseases.

Screening is effective in identifying some types of cancers (see US Preventive Services Task Force [USPSTF] recommendations), including:

- Breast cancer (using mammography)
- Cervical cancer (using Pap tests)
- Colorectal cancer (using fecal occult blood testing, sigmoidoscopy, or colonoscopy)

Healthy People 2020 (www.healthypeople.gov)

Age-Adjusted Cancer Deaths

All Cancer Deaths

Between 2006 and 2008, the City of Chicago experienced an annual average age-adjusted cancer mortality rate of 194.2 deaths per 100,000 population.

- Higher than the regional cancer death rate.
- Higher than the statewide rate.
- Higher than the national rate.
- Fails to satisfy the Healthy People 2020 target of 160.6 or lower.

Cancer: Age-Adjusted Mortality
(2007-2009 Annual Average Deaths per 100,000 Population)

Healthy People 2020 Target = 160.6 or Lower

Sources:
- CDC WONDER Online Query System. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Epidemiology Program Office, Division of Public Health Surveillance and Informatics. Data extracted September 2012.

Notes:
- Deaths are coded using the Tenth Revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10).
- Rates are per 100,000 population, age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Standard Population.
- Local, state and national data are simple three-year averages.
- *City of Chicago rate represents 2006-2008 data.
The City of Chicago cancer mortality rate is notably higher among Non-Hispanic Blacks than Whites.

Cancer: Age-Adjusted Mortality by Race
(2006-2008 Annual Average Deaths per 100,000 Population)

Healthy People 2020 Target = 160.6 or Lower

Cancer mortality has decreased over the past decade in the City of Chicago; the same trend is apparent regionally and both statewide and nationwide.

Cancer: Age-Adjusted Mortality Trends
(Annual Average Deaths per 100,000 Population)
Cancer Deaths by Site

Lung cancer is by far the leading cause of cancer deaths in the City of Chicago. Other leading sites include prostate cancer among men, breast cancer among women, and colorectal cancer (both genders).

As can be seen in the following chart (referencing 2006-2008 annual average age-adjusted death rates):

- The City of Chicago *lung cancer* death rate is higher than the regional rate but similar to the state and national rates.
- The City’s *prostate cancer* death rate, *female breast cancer* death rate, and *colorectal cancer* death rates are each higher than regional, state and national rates.

Note that each of the City’s cancer death rates detailed below fails to satisfy the related Healthy People 2020 target.

### Age-Adjusted Cancer Death Rates by Site
(2007-2009 Annual Average Deaths per 100,000 Population)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>City of Chicago*</th>
<th>MCHC Region</th>
<th>IL</th>
<th>US</th>
<th>HP2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lung Cancer</td>
<td>51.6</td>
<td>46.9</td>
<td>52.1</td>
<td>49.5</td>
<td>45.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prostate Cancer</td>
<td>34.6</td>
<td>26.6</td>
<td>24.3</td>
<td>22.6</td>
<td>21.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female Breast Cancer</td>
<td>26.9</td>
<td>24.8</td>
<td>23.7</td>
<td>22.6</td>
<td>20.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorectal Cancer</td>
<td>21.8</td>
<td>18.0</td>
<td>18.1</td>
<td>16.4</td>
<td>14.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources:
- CDC WONDER Online Query System. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Epidemiology Program Office, Division of Public Health Surveillance and Informatics. Data extracted September 2012.
- *City of Chicago rates represent 2006-2008 data.*
Prevalence of Cancer

Skin Cancer

A total of 1.9% of surveyed NMH Service Area adults report having been diagnosed with skin cancer.

- Better than the MCHC Regional prevalence.
- Better than the national average.

The prevalence of skin cancer has increased over time 2009.

Prevalence of Skin Cancer

Other Cancer

A total of 3.8% of adults have been diagnosed with some type of (non-skin) cancer.

- Comparable to the regional prevalence.
- Better than the national prevalence.

The prevalence of cancer remained statistically unchanged over time.

Prevalence of Cancer (Other Than Skin Cancer)
Cancer Risk

Reducing the nation’s cancer burden requires reducing the prevalence of behavioral and environmental factors that increase cancer risk.

- All cancers caused by cigarette smoking could be prevented. At least one-third of cancer deaths that occur in the United States are due to cigarette smoking.

- According to the American Cancer Society, about one-third of cancer deaths that occur in the United States each year are due to nutrition and physical activity factors, including obesity.

– National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Cancer Screenings

The American Cancer Society recommends that both men and women get a cancer-related checkup during a regular doctor’s checkup. It should include examination for cancers of the thyroid, testicles, ovaries, lymph nodes, oral cavity, and skin, as well as health counseling about tobacco, sun exposure, diet and nutrition, risk factors, sexual practices, and environmental and occupational exposures.

Screening levels in the community were measured in the PRC Community Health Survey relative to four cancer sites: prostate cancer (prostate-specific antigen testing and digital rectal examination); female breast cancer (mammography); cervical cancer (Pap smear testing); and colorectal cancer (sigmoidoscopy and fecal occult blood testing).
Prostate Cancer Screenings

The US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) concludes that the current evidence is insufficient to assess the balance of benefits/harms of prostate cancer screening in men younger than age 75 years.

Rationale: Prostate cancer is the most common nonskin cancer and the second-leading cause of cancer death in men in the United States. The USPSTF found convincing evidence that prostate-specific antigen (PSA) screening can detect some cases of prostate cancer.

In men younger than age 75 years, the USPSTF found inadequate evidence to determine whether treatment for prostate cancer detected by screening improves health outcomes compared with treatment after clinical detection.

The USPSTF found convincing evidence that treatment for prostate cancer detected by screening causes moderate-to-substantial harms, such as erectile dysfunction, urinary incontinence, bowel dysfunction, and death. These harms are especially important because some men with prostate cancer who are treated would never have developed symptoms related to cancer during their lifetime.

There is also adequate evidence that the screening process produces at least small harms, including pain and discomfort associated with prostate biopsy and psychological effects of false-positive test results.

The USPSTF recommends against screening for prostate cancer in men age 75 years or older.

Rationale: In men age 75 years or older, the USPSTF found adequate evidence that the incremental benefits of treatment for prostate cancer detected by screening are small to none.

Given the uncertainties and controversy surrounding prostate cancer screening in men younger than age 75 years, a clinician should not order the PSA test without first discussing with the patient the potential but uncertain benefits and the known harms of prostate cancer screening and treatment. Men should be informed of the gaps in the evidence and should be assisted in considering their personal preferences before deciding whether to be tested.


Note that other organizations (e.g., American Cancer Society, American Academy of Family Physicians, American College of Physicians, National Cancer Institute) may have slightly different screening guidelines.

PSA Testing and/or Digital Rectal Examination

Among men age 50 and older, 64.1% had a PSA (prostate-specific antigen) test and/or a digital rectal examination for prostate problems within the past two years.

- Lower than findings in the MCHC Region.
- Similar to national findings.
- Statistically unchanged since 2009.
Female Breast Cancer Screening

**The US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommends screening mammography, with or without clinical breast examination (CBE), every 1-2 years for women age 40 and older.**

*Rationale:* The USPSTF found fair evidence that mammography screening every 12-33 months significantly reduces mortality from breast cancer. Evidence is strongest for women age 50-69, the age group generally included in screening trials. For women age 40-49, the evidence that screening mammography reduces mortality from breast cancer is weaker, and the absolute benefit of mammography is smaller, than it is for older women. Most, but not all, studies indicate a mortality benefit for women undergoing mammography at ages 40-49, but the delay in observed benefit in women younger than 50 makes it difficult to determine the incremental benefit of beginning screening at age 40 rather than at age 50.

The absolute benefit is smaller because the incidence of breast cancer is lower among women in their 40s than it is among older women. The USPSTF concluded that the evidence is also generalizable to women age 70 and older (who face a higher absolute risk for breast cancer) if their life expectancy is not compromised by comorbid disease. The absolute probability of benefits of regular mammography increase along a continuum with age, whereas the likelihood of harms from screening (false-positive results and unnecessary anxiety, biopsies, and cost) diminish from ages 40-70. The balance of benefits and potential harms, therefore, grows more favorable as women age. The precise age at which the potential benefits of mammography justify the possible harms is a subjective choice. The USPSTF did not find sufficient evidence to specify the optimal screening interval for women age 40-49.


Note that other organizations (e.g., American Cancer Society, American Academy of Family Physicians, American College of Physicians, National Cancer Institute) may have slightly different screening guidelines.

**Mammography**

**Among women age 50-74, 75.8% had a mammogram within the past two years.**

- Similar to regional findings.
  - Similar to statewide findings (which represent all women 50+).
  - Similar to national findings.
  - Fails to satisfy the Healthy People 2020 target (81.1% or higher).
- Marks a decrease from the 2009 survey results.
- Among women 40+, 73.4% had a mammogram in the past two years.
Cervical Cancer Screenings

The US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) strongly recommends screening for cervical cancer in women who have been sexually active and have a cervix.

**Rationale:** The USPSTF found good evidence from multiple observational studies that screening with cervical cytology (Pap smears) reduces incidence of and mortality from cervical cancer. Direct evidence to determine the optimal starting and stopping age and interval for screening is limited. Indirect evidence suggests most of the benefit can be obtained by beginning screening within 3 years of onset of sexual activity or age 21 (whichever comes first) and screening at least every 3 years. The USPSTF concludes that the benefits of screening substantially outweigh potential harms.

The USPSTF recommends against routinely screening women older than age 65 for cervical cancer if they have had adequate recent screening with normal Pap smears and are not otherwise at high risk for cervical cancer.

**Rationale:** The USPSTF found limited evidence to determine the benefits of continued screening in women older than 65. The yield of screening is low in previously screened women older than 65 due to the declining incidence of high-grade cervical lesions after middle age. There is fair evidence that screening women older than 65 is associated with an increased risk for potential harms, including false-positive results and invasive procedures. The USPSTF concludes that the potential harms of screening are likely to exceed benefits among older women who have had normal results previously and who are not otherwise at high risk for cervical cancer.

The USPSTF recommends against routine Pap smear screening in women who have had a total hysterectomy for benign disease.

**Rationale:** The USPSTF found fair evidence that the yield of cytologic screening is very low in women after hysterectomy and poor evidence that screening to detect vaginal cancer improves health outcomes. The USPSTF concludes that potential harms of continued screening after hysterectomy are likely to exceed benefits.


Note that other organizations (e.g., American Cancer Society, American Academy of Family Physicians, American College of Physicians, National Cancer Institute) may have slightly different screening guidelines.
Pap Smear Testing

Among women age 21 to 65, 83.8% had a Pap smear within the past three years.

- Comparable to the MCHC Region findings.
- Comparable to the Illinois findings (which represents all women 18+).
- Comparable to national findings.
- Fails to satisfy the Healthy People 2020 target (93% or higher).
- Statistically stable over time.

Have Had a Pap Smear in the Past Three Years
(Among Women 21-65)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Healthy People 2020 Target = 93.0% or Higher</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NMH Svc Area 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources:  
- PRC Community Health Surveys, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. (Item 157)  
- 2011 PRC National Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc.  

Notes:
- Reflects female respondents age 21 to 65.
- *Note that the IL percentage represents all women age 18 and older.

Colorectal Cancer Screenings

The USPSTF recommends screening for colorectal cancer using fecal occult blood testing, sigmoidoscopy, or colonoscopy in adults, beginning at age 50 years and continuing until age 75 years.

The evidence is convincing that screening for colorectal cancer with fecal occult blood testing, sigmoidoscopy, or colonoscopy detects early-stage cancer and adenomatous polyps. There is convincing evidence that screening with any of the three recommended tests (FOBT, sigmoidoscopy, colonoscopy) reduces colorectal cancer mortality in adults age 50 to 75 years. Follow-up of positive screening test results requires colonoscopy regardless of the screening test used.


Note that other organizations (e.g., American Cancer Society, American Academy of Family Physicians, American College of Physicians, National Cancer Institute) may have slightly different screening guidelines.

Colorectal Cancer Screening

Among adults age 50-75, 65.8% have had an appropriate colorectal cancer screening (fecal occult blood testing within the past year and/or sigmoidoscopy/colonoscopy [lower endoscopy]) within the past 10 years.

- Similar to the regional percentage.
- Fails to satisfy the Healthy People 2020 target (70.5% or higher).
Have Had a Colorectal Cancer Screening
(Among Adults 50-75; 2012)

Healthy People 2020 Target = 70.5% or Higher

Sources:
● 2012 PRC Community Health Surveys, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 161]

Notes:
● Asked of all respondents age 50 through 75.
● In this case, the term “colorectal screening” refers to adults age 50-75 receiving a FOBT (fecal occult blood test) in the past year and/or a lower endoscopy (sigmoidoscopy/colonoscopy) in the past 10 years.

Lower Endoscopy

Among adults age 50 and older, nearly two-thirds (65.7%) have had a lower endoscopy (sigmoidoscopy or colonoscopy) at some point in their lives.

● Comparable to the MCHC Region findings.
● Better than the Illinois findings.
● Worse than national findings.
● Identical to the 2009 survey findings.

Have Ever Had a Lower Endoscopy Exam
(Among Adults 50+)

Sources:
● PRC Community Health Surveys, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 159]
● 2011 PRC National Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc.

Notes:
● Asked of all respondents 50+.
● Lower endoscopy includes either sigmoidoscopy or colonoscopy.
Blood Stool Testing

Among adults age 50 and older, 29.2% have had a blood stool test (aka “fecal occult blood test”) within the past two years.

- Comparable to regional findings.
- Better than the Illinois findings.
- Comparable to national findings.
- Statistically unchanged since 2009.

**Have Had a Blood Stool Test in the Past Two Years**

(Among Adults 50+)

Sources:
- PRC Community Health Surveys, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. (Item 160)
- 2011 PRC National Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc.

Notes:
- Asked of all respondents 50+.
Respiratory Disease

Asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) are significant public health burdens. Specific methods of detection, intervention, and treatment exist that may reduce this burden and promote health.

Asthma is a chronic inflammatory disorder of the airways characterized by episodes of reversible breathing problems due to airway narrowing and obstruction. These episodes can range in severity from mild to life threatening. Symptoms of asthma include wheezing, coughing, chest tightness, and shortness of breath. Daily preventive treatment can prevent symptoms and attacks and enable individuals who have asthma to lead active lives.

COPD is a preventable and treatable disease characterized by airflow limitation that is not fully reversible. The airflow limitation is usually progressive and associated with an abnormal inflammatory response of the lung to noxious particles or gases (typically from exposure to cigarette smoke). Treatment can lessen symptoms and improve quality of life for those with COPD.

Several additional respiratory conditions and respiratory hazards, including infectious agents and occupational and environmental exposures, are covered in other areas of Healthy People 2020. Examples include tuberculosis, lung cancer, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), pneumonia, occupational lung disease, and smoking. Sleep Health is now a separate topic area of Healthy People 2020.

Currently in the United States, more than 23 million people have asthma. Approximately 13.6 million adults have been diagnosed with COPD, and an approximately equal number have not yet been diagnosed. The burden of respiratory diseases affects individuals and their families, schools, workplaces, neighborhoods, cities, and states. Because of the cost to the healthcare system, the burden of respiratory diseases also falls on society; it is paid for with higher health insurance rates, lost productivity, and tax dollars. Annual healthcare expenditures for asthma alone are estimated at $20.7 billion.

Asthma. The prevalence of asthma has increased since 1980. However, deaths from asthma have decreased since the mid-1990s. The causes of asthma are an active area of research and involve both genetic and environmental factors.

Risk factors for asthma currently being investigated include:

- Having a parent with asthma
- Sensitization to irritants and allergens
- Respiratory infections in childhood
- Overweight

Asthma affects people of every race, sex, and age. However, significant disparities in asthma morbidity and mortality exist, in particular for low-income and minority populations. Populations with higher rates of asthma include: children; women (among adults) and boys (among children); African Americans; Puerto Ricans; people living in the Northeast United States; people living below the Federal poverty level; and employees with certain exposures in the workplace.

While there is not a cure for asthma yet, there are diagnoses and treatment guidelines that are aimed at ensuring that all people with asthma live full and active lives.

Healthy People 2020 (www.healthypeople.gov)

[NOTE: COPD was changed to chronic lower respiratory disease (CLRD) with the introduction of ICD-10 codes. CLRD is used in vital statistics reporting, but COPD is still widely used and commonly found in surveillance reports.]
**Age-Adjusted Respiratory Disease Deaths**

**Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease Deaths (CLRD)**

Between 2006 and 2008, there was an annual average age-adjusted CLRD mortality rate of 29.4 deaths per 100,000 population in the City of Chicago.

- Better than the regional rate.
- Better than found statewide.
- Better than the national rate.

**CLRD: Age-Adjusted Mortality**

(2007-2009 Annual Average Deaths per 100,000 Population)

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**CLRD mortality does not appear to vary significantly by race in the City of Chicago.**

**CLRD: Age-Adjusted Mortality by Race**

(2006-2008 Annual Average Deaths per 100,000 Population)

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Note: COPD was changed to chronic lower respiratory disease (CLRD) in 1999 with the introduction of ICD-10 codes. CLRD is used in vital statistics reporting, but COPD is still widely used and commonly found in surveillance reports.
The City’s CLRD mortality rate has decreased over the past decade, similar to the trends reported regionally and both statewide and nationwide.

### CLRD: Age-Adjusted Mortality Trends
(Annual Average Deaths per 100,000 Population)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>City of Chicago</th>
<th>MCHC Region</th>
<th>Illinois</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000-2002</td>
<td>33.0</td>
<td>34.1</td>
<td>39.4</td>
<td>43.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001-2003</td>
<td>31.0</td>
<td>33.2</td>
<td>39.2</td>
<td>43.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002-2004</td>
<td>29.3</td>
<td>31.4</td>
<td>38.6</td>
<td>42.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003-2005</td>
<td>29.0</td>
<td>31.4</td>
<td>38.8</td>
<td>42.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004-2006</td>
<td>29.2</td>
<td>30.7</td>
<td>38.0</td>
<td>41.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005-2007</td>
<td>29.2</td>
<td>30.4</td>
<td>37.8</td>
<td>41.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-2008</td>
<td>29.4</td>
<td>30.9</td>
<td>38.8</td>
<td>41.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: ● CDC WONDER Online Query System. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Epidemiology Program Office, Division of Public Health Surveillance and Informatics. Data extracted September 2012.

Notes: ● Deaths are coded using the Tenth Revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10).
 ● Rates are per 100,000 population, age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Standard Population.
 ● CLRD is chronic lower respiratory disease.

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### Pneumonia/Influenza Deaths

Between 2006 and 2008, the City of Chicago reported an annual average age-adjusted pneumonia influenza mortality rate of 23.1 deaths per 100,000 population.

- Higher than the regional rate.
- Higher than the rate reported statewide.
- Higher than the national rate.

### Pneumonia/Influenza: Age-Adjusted Mortality
(2007-2009 Annual Average Deaths per 100,000 Population)

- City of Chicago: 23.1
- MCHC Region: 19.0
- Illinois: 18.6
- United States: 16.4

Sources: ● CDC WONDER Online Query System. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Epidemiology Program Office, Division of Public Health Surveillance and Informatics. Data extracted September 2012.

Notes: ● Deaths are coded using the Tenth Revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10).
 ● Rates are per 100,000 population, age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Standard Population.
 ● Local, state and national data are simple three-year averages.
 ● *City of Chicago rate represents 2006-2008 data.

For prevalence of vaccinations for pneumonia and influenza, see also “Immunization & Infectious Disease.”
The City's pneumonia/influenza mortality rate is higher among Blacks than Whites.

Pneumonia/Influenza: Age-Adjusted Mortality by Race
(2006-2008 Annual Average Deaths per 100,000 Population)

Sources: ● CDC WONDER Online Query System. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Epidemiology Program Office, Division of Public Health Surveillance and Informatics. Data extracted September 2012.
Notes: ● Deaths are coded using the Tenth Revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10).
● Rates are per 100,000 population, age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Standard Population.
● Local, state and national data are simple three-year averages.

City of Chicago pneumonia/influenza mortality has decreased over the past decade; a downward trend is evident across the MCHC Region, and is reported statewide and nationwide as well.

Pneumonia/Influenza: Age-Adjusted Mortality Trends
(Annual Average Deaths per 100,000 Population)

Sources: ● CDC WONDER Online Query System. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Epidemiology Program Office, Division of Public Health Surveillance and Informatics. Data extracted September 2012.
Notes: ● Deaths are coded using the Tenth Revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10).
● Rates are per 100,000 population, age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Standard Population.
Prevalence of Respiratory Conditions

Nasal/Hay Fever Allergies

A total of 23.3% of NMH Service Area adults currently suffer from or have been diagnosed with nasal/hay fever allergies.

- Similar to the regional prevalence.
- Lower than the national prevalence.
- The prevalence of nasal/hay fever allergies among NMH Service Area residents is statistically unchanged over time.

Sinusitis

A total of 12.1% of NMH Service Area adults suffer from sinusitis.

- Similar to the regional prevalence.
- More favorable than the national prevalence.
- No change over time.
**Chronic Lung Disease**

A total of **7.6%** of NMH Service Area adults suffer from chronic lung disease.

- Similar to the regional prevalence.
- Similar to the national prevalence.
- Statistically unchanged since 2009.

**Prevalence of Chronic Lung Disease**

![Chart showing the prevalence of chronic lung disease](chart)

**Asthma**

**Adults**

A total of **9.8%** of NMH Service Area adults currently suffer from asthma.

- Similar to the regional prevalence.
- Similar to the statewide prevalence.
- Less favorable than the national prevalence.
- The prevalence of asthma has not changed significantly since 2009.

**Currently Have Asthma**

![Chart showing the prevalence of asthma](chart)
The following demographic groups are more likely to suffer from asthma:

- Women.
- Adults under 65.
- Those living in lower-income households.
- Blacks and "Other" races.

**Currently Have Asthma**
(Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area, 2012)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>18 to 39</th>
<th>40 to 64</th>
<th>65+</th>
<th>&lt;200% FPL</th>
<th>200%+ FPL</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>NMH Svc Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
<td>14.0%</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Children**

Among NMH Service Area children under age 18, 6.8% currently have asthma.

- Similar to regional findings.
- Identical to national findings.
- The prevalence of children with asthma has not changed significantly over time.

**Child Currently Has Asthma**
(Among Parents of Children Age 0-17)
Injury & Violence

Injuries and violence are widespread in society. Both unintentional injuries and those caused by acts of violence are among the top 15 killers for Americans of all ages. Many people accept them as “accidents,” “acts of fate,” or as “part of life.” However, most events resulting in injury, disability, or death are predictable and preventable.

Injuries are the leading cause of death for Americans ages 1 to 44, and a leading cause of disability for all ages, regardless of sex, race/ethnicity, or socioeconomic status. More than 180,000 people die from injuries each year, and approximately 1 in 10 sustains a nonfatal injury serious enough to be treated in a hospital emergency department.

Beyond their immediate health consequences, injuries and violence have a significant impact on the well-being of Americans by contributing to:

- Premature death
- Disability
- Poor mental health
- High medical costs
- Lost productivity

The effects of injuries and violence extend beyond the injured person or victim of violence to family members, friends, coworkers, employers, and communities.

Numerous factors can affect the risk of unintentional injury and violence, including individual behaviors, physical environment, access to health services (ranging from pre-hospital and acute care to rehabilitation), and social environment (from parental monitoring and supervision of youth to peer group associations, neighborhoods, and communities).

Interventions addressing these social and physical factors have the potential to prevent unintentional injuries and violence. Efforts to prevent unintentional injury may focus on:

- Modifications of the environment
- Improvements in product safety
- Legislation and enforcement
- Education and behavior change
- Technology and engineering

Efforts to prevent violence may focus on:

- Changing social norms about the acceptability of violence
- Improving problem-solving skills (for example, parenting, conflict resolution, coping)
- Changing policies to address the social and economic conditions that often give rise to violence

— Healthy People 2020 (www.healthypeople.gov)
Leading Causes of Accidental Death

Poisoning, motor vehicle accidents, and falls accounted for 80.9% of Cook County accidental deaths in 2009.

Unintentional Injury

Age-Adjusted Unintentional Injury Deaths

Between 2006 and 2008, the City of Chicago reported an annual average age-adjusted unintentional injury mortality rate of 33.9 deaths per 100,000 population.

- Much higher than the regional rate.
- Higher than the Illinois rate.
- Lower than the national rate.
- Satisfies the Healthy People 2020 target (36.0 or lower).
The mortality rate due to accidents is notably higher among Blacks than Whites in the City of Chicago.

### Unintentional Injuries: Age-Adjusted Mortality by Race
(2006-2008 Annual Average Deaths per 100,000 Population)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>City of Chicago Non-Hispanic White</th>
<th>City of Chicago Non-Hispanic Black</th>
<th>City of Chicago All Races/Ethnicities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Healthy People 2020 Target = 36.0 or Lower</td>
<td>28.8</td>
<td>49.0</td>
<td>33.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Notes:
● Deaths are coded using the Tenth Revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10).
● Rates are per 100,000 population, age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Standard Population.
● Local, state and national data are simple three-year averages.

The City’s unintentional injury mortality rate declined early in the last decade, but has since increased slightly. Nationally, the trend has been consistently upward.

### Unintentional Injuries: Age-Adjusted Mortality Trends
(Annual Average Deaths per 100,000 Population)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Healthy People 2020</th>
<th>City of Chicago</th>
<th>MCHC Region</th>
<th>Illinois</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Healthy People 2020 Target = 36.0 or Lower</td>
<td>36.0</td>
<td>36.0</td>
<td>36.0</td>
<td>36.0</td>
<td>36.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000-2002</td>
<td>38.3</td>
<td>36.7</td>
<td>34.3</td>
<td>32.3</td>
<td>34.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001-2003</td>
<td>29.6</td>
<td>28.7</td>
<td>27.7</td>
<td>29.0</td>
<td>28.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002-2004</td>
<td>30.7</td>
<td>28.7</td>
<td>27.7</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td>29.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003-2005</td>
<td>33.0</td>
<td>32.1</td>
<td>31.9</td>
<td>33.0</td>
<td>33.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004-2006</td>
<td>35.8</td>
<td>36.6</td>
<td>37.3</td>
<td>38.0</td>
<td>38.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005-2007</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-2008</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Motor Vehicle Safety

Age-Adjusted Motor-Vehicle Related Deaths

Between 2006 and 2008, there was an annual average age-adjusted motor vehicle crash mortality rate of 7.8 deaths per 100,000 population in the City of Chicago.

- Higher than the regional rate.
- Better than found statewide.
- Better than found nationally.
- Satisfies the Healthy People 2020 target (12.4 or lower).

Motor Vehicle Crashes: Age-Adjusted Mortality
(2007-2009 Annual Average Deaths per 100,000 Population)

The City’s 2006-2008 motor vehicle crash mortality rate was higher among Blacks than among Whites.

Motor Vehicle Crashes: Age-Adjusted Mortality by Race
(2006-2008 Annual Average Deaths per 100,000 Population)
The motor vehicle accident mortality rate has decreased in Chicago over the past decade.

**Motor Vehicle Crashes: Age-Adjusted Mortality Trends**
(Annual Average Deaths per 100,000 Population)

- Healthy People 2020: 12.4, 12.4, 12.4, 12.4, 12.4, 12.4, 12.4
- City of Chicago: 12.7, 12.0, 11.3, 10.7, 9.3, 8.7, 8.2
- MCHC Region: 10.0, 9.7, 9.4, 9.1, 8.7, 8.2, 7.2
- Illinois: 12.6, 12.4, 12.1, 11.8, 11.4, 11.0, 10.1
- United States: 15.5, 15.4, 15.4, 15.2, 15.1, 14.9, 14.1

Sources:
- CDC WONDER Online Query System. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Epidemiology Program Office, Division of Public Health Surveillance and Informatics. Data extracted September 2012.

Notes:
- Deaths are coded using the Tenth Revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10).
- Rates are per 100,000 population, age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Standard Population.
- Local, state and national data are simple three-year averages.

Seat Belt Usage - Adults

**Most NMH Service Area adults (86.6%) report “always” wearing a seat belt when driving or riding in a vehicle.**

- Less favorable than the percentage found in the MCHC Region.
- Comparable to the percentage found nationally.
- Fails to satisfy the Healthy People 2020 target of 92.4% or higher.
- Statistically unchanged over time.

**“Always” Wear a Seat Belt When Driving or Riding in a Vehicle**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NMH Service Area</th>
<th>MCHC Region</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Healthy People 2020 Target = 92.4% or Higher</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources:
- PRC Community Health Surveys, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 57]
- 2011 PRC National Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc.

Notes:
- Asked of all respondents.
Consistent seat belt usage is statistically low among area men.

"Always" Wear a Seat Belt When Driving or Riding in a Vehicle
(Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area, 2012)

Seat Belt Usage - Children

A full 94.2% of NMH Service Area parents report that their child (age 0 to 17) "always" wears a seat belt (or appropriate car seat for younger children) when riding in a vehicle.

- Almost identical to the percentage found in the MCHC Region.
- Comparable to what is found nationally.
- Statistically unchanged since 2009.

Child "Always" Wears a Seat Belt or Appropriate Restraint When Riding in a Vehicle
(Among Parents of Children Age 0-17)
Bicycle Safety

A total of 35.9% of NMH Service Area children age 5 to 17 are reported to “always” wear a helmet when riding a bicycle.

- Similar to the regional prevalence.
- Similar to the national prevalence.
- Denotes a significant increase in helmet usage over time.

**Child “Always” Wears a Helmet When Riding a Bicycle**
(Among Parents of Children Age 5-17)

Sources: ● PRC Community Health Surveys, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. (Item 147)
- ● 2011 PRC National Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc.

Notes: ● Asked of all respondents with children age 5 to 17 at home.

Firearm Safety

Age-Adjusted Firearm-Related Deaths

Between 2007 and 2009, there was an annual average age-adjusted rate of 10.9 firearm-related deaths per 100,000 population in Cook County (City of Chicago data not available).

- Higher than the regional rate.
- Higher than found statewide.
- Higher than found nationally.
- Fails to satisfy the Healthy People 2020 objective (9.2 or lower).
Firearms-Related Deaths: Age-Adjusted Mortality
(2007-2009 Annual Average Deaths per 100,000 Population)

Sources: ● CDC WONDER Online Query System. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Epidemiology Program Office, Division of Public Health Surveillance and Informatics. Data extracted September 2012.
Notes: ● Deaths are coded using the Tenth Revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10).
● Rates are per 100,000 population, age-adjusted to the 2000 US Standard Population.
● Local, state and national data are simple three-year averages.
● *City of Chicago data not available; Cook County data is used here.

The Cook County firearm-related mortality rate is dramatically higher among Blacks in Cook County than among Whites and Hispanics.

Firearms-Related Deaths: Age-Adjusted Mortality by Race
(2007-2009 Annual Average Deaths per 100,000 Population)

Sources: ● CDC WONDER Online Query System. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Epidemiology Program Office, Division of Public Health Surveillance and Informatics. Data extracted September 2012.
Notes: ● Deaths are coded using the Tenth Revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10).
● Rates are per 100,000 population, age-adjusted to the 2000 US Standard Population.
● Local, state and national data are simple three-year averages.
The Cook County mortality rate decreased over the past decade, echoing the regional and state trends. Across the US, firearm-related mortality was more stable.

**Firearms-Related Deaths: Age-Adjusted Mortality Trends**

(Annual Average Deaths per 100,000 Population)

**Presence of Firearms in Homes**

**Overall, 9.2% area adults have a firearm kept in or around their home.**

- Lower than the regional prevalence.
- Much lower than the national prevalence.

- A significant increase compared to 2009.

- Among NMH Service Area households with children, 8.1% have a firearm kept in or around the house (more favorable than reported both regionally and nationally).

- The prevalence of firearms in households with children has increased significantly over time (not shown).

**Have a Firearm Kept in or Around the Home**

**Survey respondents were further asked about the presence of weapons in the home:**

“Are there any firearms now kept in or around your home, including those kept in a garage, outdoor storage area, truck, or car? For the purposes of this inquiry, ‘firearms’ include pistols, shotguns, rifles, and other types of guns, but do NOT include starter pistols, BB guns, or guns that cannot fire.”
Reports of firearms in or around the home are statistically high among men, upper-income respondents, and Non-Hispanics.

**Have a Firearm Kept in or Around the House**
(Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area, 2012)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>18 to 39</th>
<th>40 to 64</th>
<th>65+</th>
<th>&lt;200% FPL</th>
<th>200%+ FPL</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>NMH Svc Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12.0%</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
<td>11.0%</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>12.0%</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: ● 2012 PRC Community Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 62]

Notes: ● Asked of all respondents.
  ● In this case, firearms include pistols, shotguns, rifles, and other types of guns; this does not include starter pistols, BB guns, or guns that cannot fire.
  ● Hispanics can be of any race. Other race categories are non-Hispanic categorizations (e.g., “White” reflects non-Hispanic White respondents).
  ● Income categories reflect respondent’s household income as a ratio to the federal poverty level (FPL) for their household size. “<200% FPL” includes households with incomes up to 199% of the federal poverty level; and “200%+ FPL” includes households with incomes at twice or more the federal poverty level.

### Intentional Injury (Violence)

#### Age-Adjusted Homicide Deaths

Between 2006 and 2008, there was an annual average age-adjusted homicide rate of 15.1 deaths per 100,000 population in the City of Chicago.

- Much higher than the regional rate.
- Much higher than the rate found statewide.
- Much higher than the national rate.
- Fails to satisfy the Healthy People 2020 target of 5.5 or lower.

**Homicide: Age-Adjusted Mortality**
(2007-2009 Annual Average Deaths per 100,000 Population)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Healthy People 2020 Target = 5.5 or Lower</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City of Chicago*</td>
<td>15.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCHC Region</td>
<td>9.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>5.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: ● CDC WONDER Online Query System. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Epidemiology Program Office, Division of Public Health Surveillance and Informatics. Data extracted September 2012.

Notes: ● Deaths are coded using the Tenth Revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10).
  ● Local, state and national data are simple three-year averages.
  ● *City of Chicago rate represents 2006-2008 data.

RELATD ISSUE:
See also Suicide in the Mental Health & Mental Disorders section of this report.
The homicide rate is dramatically higher among Blacks than Whites in the City of Chicago.

### Homicide: Age-Adjusted Mortality by Race
(2006-2008 Annual Average Deaths per 100,000 Population)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Healthy People 2020 Target = 5.5 or Lower</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City of Chicago</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic White</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic Black</td>
<td>35.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Races/ethnicities</td>
<td>15.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources:
- CDC WONDER Online Query System. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Epidemiology Program Office, Division of Public Health Surveillance and Informatics. Data extracted September 2012.

Notes:
- Deaths are coded using the Tenth Revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10).
- Rates are per 100,000 population, age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Standard Population.

The City’s homicide rate decreased over the past decade, following the downward trends reported regionally as well as statewide and nationwide.

### Homicide: Age-Adjusted Mortality Trends
(Annual Average Deaths per 100,000 Population)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>City of Chicago</th>
<th>MCHC Region</th>
<th>Illinois</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000-2002</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001-2003</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>11.6</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002-2004</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>10.6</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003-2005</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004-2006</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005-2007</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>6.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-2008</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>6.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources:
- CDC WONDER Online Query System. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Epidemiology Program Office, Division of Public Health Surveillance and Informatics. Data extracted September 2012.

Notes:
- Deaths are coded using the Tenth Revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10).
- Rates are per 100,000 population, age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Standard Population.
- Local, state and national data are simple three-year averages.
Violent Crime

Violent Crime Rates

Between 2007 and 2009, Cook County reported an annual average violent crime rate of 785.3 offenses per 100,000 population.

- Worse than the regional rate.
- Worse than the Illinois rate for the same period.
- Worse than the national rate.

The crime rate has declined in recent years, echoing the regional, state and national trends.

Violent Crime Rates
(2007-2009 Annual Average Offenses per 100,000 Population)

Sources: ● Illinois State Police
● US Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation
Notes: ● Rates are offenses per 100,000 population among agencies reporting.
● *City of Chicago data is unavailable; Cook County data is used here.

The crime rate has declined in recent years, echoing the regional, state and national trends.

Violent Crime Rates
(Annual Average Offenses per 100,000 Population)

Sources: ● Illinois State Police
● US Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation
Notes: ● Rates are offenses per 100,000 population among agencies reporting.

Note that the quality of crime data can vary widely from location to location, depending on the consistency and completeness of reporting among various jurisdictions.
Self-Reported Violence

A total of 9.1% of NMH Service Area adults acknowledge being the victim of a violent crime in the past five years.

- Less favorable than the MCHC Region percentage.
- Less favorable than national findings.
- Statistically unchanged over time.

**Victim of a Violent Crime in the Past Five Years**

These population segments are more likely to report being a victim of a violent crime in the past five years:

- Men.
- Young adults.
- Residents living in the lower income category.
- Blacks and “Other” community members.

**Victim of a Violent Crime in the Past Five Years**

(Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area, 2012)
A total of 55.6% of service area adults gave “extremely” or “quite safe” evaluations of their own neighborhoods.

- Another 33.5% of respondents consider their neighborhoods to be “slightly safe” from crime.

On the other hand, 10.9% of NMH Service Area respondents gave “not at all safe from crime” ratings of their own neighborhoods.

- Higher than the regional percentage.
Adults more likely to consider their neighborhood to be unsafe include:

- Those living in lower-income households.
- Blacks.

**Perceive Neighborhood to be “Not At All Safe” From Crime**
(Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area, 2012)

Family Violence

Between 2007 and 2009, there was an annual average domestic violence rate of 1,297.9 offenses per 100,000 population in Cook County.

- Higher than the regional rate.
  - Higher than the Illinois rate.

**Domestic Violence Rates**
(2007-2009 Annual Average Offenses per 100,000 Population)

The domestic violence rate decreased overall in Cook County in the past decade. In Illinois, domestic violence decreased in recent years as well.
Domestic Violence Rates
(Annual Average Offenses per 100,000 Population)

Sources: ● Illinois State Police
Notes: ● Rates are domestic calls for assistance per 100,000 population.

Self-Reported Family Violence

A total of 12.5% of NMH Service Area adults report that they have been threatened with physical violence by an intimate partner.

- Comparable to the MCHC Region percentage.
- Comparable to the US percentage.
- Comparable to that found in 2009.

A total of 14.1% of respondents acknowledge that they have ever been hit, slapped, pushed, kicked, or otherwise hurt by an intimate partner.

- Similar to the regional percentage.
- Similar to the national findings.
- Statistically unchanged over time.

Have Ever Been Hit, Slapped, Pushed, Kicked, or Hurt in Any Way by an Intimate Partner

12.5% of adults have been threatened with violence by an intimate partner.

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%
NMH Svc Area MCHC Region United States 2009 2012

Sources: ● PRC Community Health Surveys, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. (Items 60-61)
● 2011 PRC National Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc.
Notes: ● Asked of all respondents.
Reports of domestic violence were higher among respondents under age 65 (note the negative correlation with age) and Blacks in the community.

**Have Ever Been Hit, Slapped, Pushed, Kicked, or Hurt in Any Way by an Intimate Partner**
(Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area, 2012)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>18 to 39</th>
<th>40 to 64</th>
<th>65+</th>
<th>&lt;200% FPL</th>
<th>200%+ FPL</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>NMH Svc Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rate</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
<td>15.2%</td>
<td>15.1%</td>
<td>14.0%</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
<td>16.5%</td>
<td>13.9%</td>
<td>12.4%</td>
<td>18.1%</td>
<td>12.4%</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: 2012 PRC Community Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. (Item 61)

Notes:
- Asked of all respondents.
- Hispanics can be of any race. Other race categories are non-Hispanic categorizations (e.g., “White” reflects non-Hispanic White respondents).
- Income categories reflect respondent’s household income as a ratio to the federal poverty level (FPL) for their household size. “<200% FPL” includes households with incomes up to 199% of the federal poverty level, and “200%+ FPL” includes households with incomes at twice or more the federal poverty level.

Child Abuse Rates

**Between 2008 and 2010, there was an annual average child abuse offense rate of 21.9 per 1,000 children in Cook County (City of Chicago data not available).**

- Similar to the regional rate.

- More favorable than the Illinois rate for the same period.

**Reported Child Abuse Rates**
(2008-2010 Annual Average Offenses per 1,000 Children)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Cook County*</th>
<th>MCHC Region</th>
<th>Illinois</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rate</td>
<td>21.9</td>
<td>21.3</td>
<td>30.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Illinois State Police
Notes: Rates are reports of child abuse per 1,000 children.
*City of Chicago data unavailable; Cook County data is shown here.
The reported Cook County child abuse rate has decreased slightly in the past decade. In contrast, rates increased across Illinois.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Cook County</th>
<th>MCHC Region</th>
<th>Illinois</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001-2003</td>
<td>23.7</td>
<td>22.0</td>
<td>26.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002-2004</td>
<td>23.1</td>
<td>21.5</td>
<td>27.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003-2005</td>
<td>23.0</td>
<td>21.6</td>
<td>28.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004-2006</td>
<td>21.2</td>
<td>21.9</td>
<td>29.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005-2007</td>
<td>23.1</td>
<td>21.9</td>
<td>30.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-2008</td>
<td>22.5</td>
<td>21.7</td>
<td>30.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-2009</td>
<td>22.2</td>
<td>21.5</td>
<td>30.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008-2010</td>
<td>21.9</td>
<td>21.3</td>
<td>30.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Illinois State Police
Notes: Rates are reports of child abuse per 1,000 children.

Related Focus Group Findings: Violence

Violence is a community health issue of concern to many focus group participants, with discussion centered on:

- Violence and its community impact
- Relocation of residents
- Gang violence
- Domestic violence
- Long-term consequences of trauma
- Normalization of violence

According to participants, violence is pervasive in Cook County, at a level impacting both mental and physical health. The mental health repercussions of trauma are countless, and the environment surrounding violence also inhibits community members’ ability to improve physical health with physical activity because of safety concerns. A participant recalls a recent experience:

“The level of violence that a lot of my patients live within, within the neighborhoods around them, within their own homes and maybe the perimeter around the school is somewhat safe but once you leave that one-block area you’re on your own.” — Key Informant (Cook County)

According to South Chicago participants, violence is common in the community and affects all community members. Participants expressed concern about how desensitized some community members (including children) are to violence due to the pervasiveness in their neighborhoods.
South Chicago group members agree that there are many reasons behind the increase in violence, including the poor economic climate, stress from a lack of basic needs, gangs and unsupervised youth. Focus group attendees spent some time discussing how relocation of residents has also been a contributor to the increase in violence, as one participant recalls:

“When we relocated individuals in different areas that they were not used to living in – that also caused the violence to escalate. Especially on the South side because you move people from the North side to the South side. So then you’re a white teen and so we’re going to fight you because we don’t like you. So you’re mixing all of these different developments that never got along, didn’t get along before, didn’t know each other before, and that’s when you have a lot of friction.”  — Key Informant (South Chicago)

In addition, South Chicago group members report that local schools are quick to expel problem students in order to maintain high graduation rates, so youth are out on the street unsupervised. A participant describes:

“A lot of the high schools are competing against the other high schools now. And so as opposed to putting students on corrective action plans, they’re kicking them out. And so you have a student who’s been expelled from school who contributes to finding additional ways to raise funds – or to entertain themselves.”  — Key Informant (South Chicago)

Furthermore, there are limited after-school programs or safe spaces for South Chicago youth to be after school. Attendees believe that having supervised activities and keeping youth in school as long as possible would help decrease violence in their community.

South Chicago group discussion also focused on the number of gangs in the community. Gang violence continues to increase in South Chicago because of renegade gangs and a lack of leadership or consequences if a gang member acts out. A participant describes the current environment:

“There used to be a structure to the gangs; so when you had the projects and the high-rises and different things like that, you had this building belonged to this gang. They had a supreme captain and military rank. But now that all the high-rises have been knocked down you have rival gang members that are creating their own inner gang and they’re the ones that’s creating the violence on their block. So at least before if a murder happened or something happened, you could go to the head of that gang and find out who committed it and you would get justice. Now you can’t do that.”  — Key Informant (South Chicago)

According to Downtown/West Chicago participants, violence is pervasive on the West side. A major contributor to violence in the community is alcohol and drug use. This violence inhibits families’ ability to participate in outdoor activities, or physical activity, because they may be afraid to go out. The persistent violence also impacts service providers’ ability to stay positive and continue working toward improving the communities. One participant recalls a recent experience:

“I’m beginning to think that it also causes trauma for those of us who are trying to provide services. I mean something just happened a day or so ago, and I’m still shaking my head about it. You know? But it didn’t – it happened because I was involved in helping with the youth. But I didn’t know how much it really bothered me, until… I’m getting flashbacks of it.”  — Key Informant (Downtown/West Chicago)
Downtown/West Chicago focus group participants spoke at length about the **gang violence** that occurs in the community and the **long-term consequences of trauma**. Participants believe that these traumatic events can have both physical and mental consequences for community members, contributing to obesity, mental health issues, stress and hypertension. One participant explains:

“So violence – if you could have like a line that goes through a lot of the issues, I’m quite sure that you would find either violence that had in the person’s life, in their community, in their family. And it cannot help but have an effect on their health, whether it’s them personally or – if you ever try to take care of a child who’s been shot, a paraplegic – and trying to understand what they’re going to go through the rest of their life.” — Key Informant (Downtown/West Chicago)

Attendees worry that many Downtown/West Chicago youth **normalize the level of violence** in their lives because it becomes the status quo. Focus group members agree that many children suffer from post-traumatic stress disorders. Another participant expands on the anger that youth feel, stemming from the violence in their lives:

“It’s affecting them in a way that is coming out in anger and frustration. When you see children come in, in the morning with their lip poked out, angry at school, anything will set them off. Because they haven’t released the stress and the tension from the effect of seeing someone killed, their blood running all over the street. So we have to address their mental state. And we haven’t gotten to that yet.” — Key Informant (Downtown/West Chicago)

Participants also express concern about the level of **domestic violence** in Cook County. The capacity of domestic violence shelters has been threatened due to budget cuts, so despite the prevalence of community shelters, there are fewer beds and they are farther away. Local agencies also must combat cultural beliefs and the internalization and normalization some women experience as victims of domestic abuse. These agencies must figure out ways to help residents realize the severity of a volatile home life:

“When you talk about shelters, well first the individuals would need to know and understand that this isn’t the norm because it’s really like business as usual, you hear these stories and it’s so matter of fact, business as usual, that why would you think to go to a shelter if it’s business as usual to have this going on?” — Key Informant (Cook County)

South Chicago participants also have concern about the level of **domestic violence** occurring in the community. Attendees feel victims of domestic violence have limited choices for shelters because the beds fill up quickly and many victims may remain at home where it is unsafe.
Diabetes mellitus occurs when the body cannot produce or respond appropriately to insulin. Insulin is a hormone that the body needs to absorb and use glucose (sugar) as fuel for the body’s cells. Without a properly functioning insulin signaling system, blood glucose levels become elevated and other metabolic abnormalities occur, leading to the development of serious, disabling complications. Many forms of diabetes exist; the three common types are Type 1, Type 2, and gestational diabetes.

Effective therapy can prevent or delay diabetic complications. However, almost 25% of Americans with diabetes mellitus are undiagnosed, and another 57 million Americans have blood glucose levels that greatly increase their risk of developing diabetes mellitus in the next several years. Few people receive effective preventative care, which makes diabetes mellitus an immense and complex public health challenge.

Diabetes mellitus affects an estimated 23.6 million people in the United States and is the 7th leading cause of death. Diabetes mellitus:

- Lowers life expectancy by up to 15 years.
- Increases the risk of heart disease by 2 to 4 times.
- Is the leading cause of kidney failure, lower limb amputations, and adult-onset blindness.

In addition to these human costs, the estimated total financial cost of diabetes mellitus in the US in 2007 was $174 billion, which includes the costs of medical care, disability, and premature death.

The rate of diabetes mellitus continues to increase both in the United States and throughout the world. Due to the steady rise in the number of persons with diabetes mellitus, and possibly earlier onset of type 2 diabetes mellitus, there is growing concern about the possibility that the increase in the number of persons with diabetes mellitus and the complexity of their care might overwhelm existing healthcare systems.

People from minority populations are more frequently affected by type 2 diabetes. Minority groups constitute 25% of all adult patients with diabetes in the US and represent the majority of children and adolescents with type 2 diabetes.

Lifestyle change has been proven effective in preventing or delaying the onset of type 2 diabetes in high-risk individuals.

– Healthy People 2020 (www.healthypeople.gov)

Age-Adjusted Diabetes Deaths

Between 2007 and 2009, Cook County reported an annual average age-adjusted diabetes mortality rate of 22.7 deaths per 100,000 population.

- Higher than the regional rate.
- Higher than the state rate.
- Comparable to the national rate.
- Fails to satisfy the Healthy People 2020 target (19.6 or lower).
Diabetes: Age-Adjusted Mortality
(2007-2009 Annual Average Deaths per 100,000 Population)

Sources:
● CDC WONDER Online Query System. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Epidemiology Program Office, Division of Public Health Surveillance and Informatics. Data extracted September 2012.

Notes:
● Deaths are coded using the Tenth Revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10).
● Rates are per 100,000 population, age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Standard Population.
● Local, state and national data are simple three-year averages.
● The Healthy People 2020 target for Diabetes is adjusted to account for only diabetes mellitus coded deaths.
● *City of Chicago data unavailable; Cook County data is used here.

The Cook County diabetes mortality rate is notably higher among Blacks and Hispanics when compared with Whites and Asians.

Diabetes: Age-Adjusted Mortality by Race
(2007-2009 Annual Average Deaths per 100,000 Population)

Sources:
● CDC WONDER Online Query System. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Epidemiology Program Office, Division of Public Health Surveillance and Informatics. Data extracted September 2012.

Notes:
● Deaths are coded using the Tenth Revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10).
● Rates are per 100,000 population, age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Standard Population.
● The Healthy People 2020 target for Diabetes is adjusted to account for only diabetes mellitus coded deaths.
Diabetes mortality decreased over the past decade for Cook County, echoing the regional, state and national trends.

### Diabetes: Age-Adjusted Mortality Trends

(Annual Average Deaths per 100,000 Population)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>HP2020 (Adjusted)</th>
<th>Cook County</th>
<th>MCHC Region</th>
<th>Illinois</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000-2002</td>
<td>19.6</td>
<td>26.5</td>
<td>24.6</td>
<td>24.9</td>
<td>25.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001-2003</td>
<td>19.6</td>
<td>24.5</td>
<td>23.7</td>
<td>24.7</td>
<td>25.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002-2004</td>
<td>19.6</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>23.4</td>
<td>24.3</td>
<td>25.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003-2005</td>
<td>19.6</td>
<td>23.8</td>
<td>22.5</td>
<td>23.1</td>
<td>24.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004-2006</td>
<td>19.6</td>
<td>23.4</td>
<td>21.9</td>
<td>22.3</td>
<td>23.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005-2007</td>
<td>19.6</td>
<td>22.9</td>
<td>21.3</td>
<td>22.3</td>
<td>22.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-2008</td>
<td>19.6</td>
<td>22.7</td>
<td>20.9</td>
<td>21.6</td>
<td>21.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-2009</td>
<td>19.6</td>
<td>22.7</td>
<td>20.9</td>
<td>21.6</td>
<td>21.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sources:**
- CDC WONDER Online Query System. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Epidemiology Program Office, Division of Public Health Surveillance and Informatics. Data extracted September 2012.

**Notes:**
- Deaths are coded using the Tenth Revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10).
- Rates are per 100,000 population, age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Standard Population.
- Local, state and national data are simple three-year averages.
- The Healthy People 2020 target for Diabetes is adjusted to account for only diabetes mellitus coded deaths.

### Prevalence of Diabetes

A total of 11.3% of NMH Service Area adults report having been diagnosed with diabetes.

- Similar to the MCHC Regional rate.
  - Less favorable than the proportion statewide.
  - Similar to the national proportion.
  - Statistically unchanged since 2009.

### Prevalence of Diabetes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>NMH Svc Area</th>
<th>MCHC Region</th>
<th>Illinois</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sources:**
- PRC Community Health Surveys, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 47]
- 2011 PRC National Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc.

**Notes:**
- Asked of all respondents.
- Local and national data exclude gestation diabetes (occurring only during pregnancy).
The prevalence of diabetes is significantly higher among those age 40+ (note the positive correlation between diabetes and age, with one in four seniors having diabetes).

The prevalence of diabetes is also statistically high among lower-income respondents, Blacks, and Hispanics.

### Prevalence of Diabetes
(Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area, 2012)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>18 to 39</th>
<th>40 to 64</th>
<th>65+</th>
<th>&lt;200% FPL</th>
<th>200%+ FPL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4.2%</td>
<td>15.1%</td>
<td>24.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>14.1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7.9%</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NMH Svc Area</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Diabetes Treatment

Among adults with diabetes, most (83.0%) are currently taking insulin or some type of medication to manage their condition.

### Taking Insulin or Other Medication for Diabetes
(Among Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area Diabetics)

- **Yes**: 83.0%
- **No**: 17.0%
Note also that over two in three Service Area diabetics (67.6%) had 3+ medical visits in the past year related to their diabetes.

**Number of Medical Visits Due to Diabetes in the Past Year**
(Among Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area Diabetics)

- Three/More 67.6%
- Two 14.2%
- One 10.5%
- None 7.7%

Sources: 2012 PRC Community Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 49]
Notes: Asked of all diabetic respondents.
Alzheimer’s Disease

Dementia is the loss of cognitive functioning—thinking, remembering, and reasoning—to such an extent that it interferes with a person’s daily life. Dementia is not a disease itself, but rather a set of symptoms. Memory loss is a common symptom of dementia, although memory loss by itself does not mean a person has dementia. Alzheimer’s disease is the most common cause of dementia, accounting for the majority of all diagnosed cases.

Alzheimer’s disease is the 6th leading cause of death among adults age 18 years and older. Estimates vary, but experts suggest that up to 5.1 million Americans age 65 years and older have Alzheimer’s disease. These numbers are predicted to more than double by 2050 unless more effective ways to treat and prevent Alzheimer’s disease are found.

– Healthy People 2020 (www.healthypeople.gov)

Age-Adjusted Alzheimer’s Disease Deaths

Between 2006 and 2008, the City of Chicago experienced an annual average age-adjusted Alzheimer’s disease mortality rate of 15.2 deaths per 100,000 population.

- More favorable than the regional rate.
- More favorable than the statewide rate.
- More favorable than the national rate.
The City’s Alzheimer’s disease mortality rate appears higher among Blacks than Whites.

Alzheimer’s Disease: Age-Adjusted Mortality by Race
(2006-2008 Annual Average Deaths per 100,000 Population)

Sources: CDC WONDER Online Query System. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Epidemiology Program Office, Division of Public Health Surveillance and Informatics. Data extracted September 2012.
Notes: Deaths are coded using the Tenth Revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10).
Rates are per 100,000 population, age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Standard Population.
Local, state and national data are simple three-year averages.

Alzheimer’s disease mortality rate in the City of Chicago generally increased over the past decade, echoing the regional, state and national trends.

Alzheimer’s Disease: Age-Adjusted Mortality Trends
(Annual Average Deaths per 100,000 Population)

Sources: CDC WONDER Online Query System. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Epidemiology Program Office, Division of Public Health Surveillance and Informatics. Data extracted September 2012.
Notes: Deaths are coded using the Tenth Revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10).
Rates are per 100,000 population, age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Standard Population.
Kidney Disease

Chronic kidney disease and end-stage renal disease are significant public health problems in the United States and a major source of suffering and poor quality of life for those afflicted. They are responsible for premature death and exact a high economic price from both the private and public sectors. Nearly 25% of the Medicare budget is used to treat people with chronic kidney disease and end-stage renal disease.

Genetic determinants have a large influence on the development and progression of chronic kidney disease. It is not possible to alter a person’s biology and genetic determinants; however, environmental influences and individual behaviors also have a significant influence on the development and progression of chronic kidney disease. As a result, some populations are disproportionately affected. Successful behavior modification is expected to have a positive influence on the disease.

Diabetes is the most common cause of kidney failure. The results of the Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) funded by the national Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) show that moderate exercise, a healthier diet, and weight reduction can prevent development of type 2 diabetes in persons at risk.

– Healthy People 2020 (www.healthypeople.gov)

Age-Adjusted Kidney Disease Deaths

Between 2006 and 2008 there was an annual average age-adjusted kidney disease mortality rate of 23.0 deaths per 100,000 population in the City of Chicago.

- Worse than the regional rate.
- Worse than the rate found statewide.
- Worse than the national rate.

Kidney Disease: Age-Adjusted Mortality
(2007-2009 Annual Average Deaths per 100,000 Population)

Sources: ● CDC WONDER Online Query System. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Epidemiology Program Office, Division of Public Health Surveillance and Informatics. Data extracted September 2012.
- Deaths are coded using the Tenth Revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10).
- Rates are per 100,000 population, age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Standard Population.
- Local, state and national data are simple three-year averages.
- City of Chicago rate represents 2006-2008 data.

Professional Research Consultants, Inc.
The kidney disease mortality rate in the City of Chicago is twice as high among Blacks as among Whites.

Kidney Disease: Age-Adjusted Mortality by Race
(2006-2008 Annual Average Deaths per 100,000 Population)

The City’s kidney disease mortality rate was stable over the past decade, while regional, state and national mortality rates increased.

Kidney Disease: Age-Adjusted Mortality Trends
(Annual Average Deaths per 100,000 Population)
Prevalence of Kidney Disease

According to survey results, 2.2% of NMH Service Area adults suffer from kidney disease.

- Similar to the regional prevalence of kidney disease.

Prevalence of Kidney Disease

Sources: ● PRC Community Health Surveys, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 39]

Notes: ● Reflects the total sample of respondents.
- Does not include kidney stones, bladder infections or incontinence.
According to survey results, 1.0% of NMH Service Area adults suffers from sickle-cell anemia.

- Similar to the MCHC Region prevalence.

**Prevalence of Sickle-Cell Anemia**

Sources: ● PRC Community Health Surveys, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 40]
Notes: ● Reflects the total sample of respondents.

Sickle-cell anemia in the NMH Service Area is statistically high among women, lower-income respondents, and Non-Whites.

**Prevalence of Sickle-Cell Anemia**
(Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area, 2012)

Sources: ● 2012 PRC Community Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 40]
Notes: ● Asked of all respondents.
- Hispanics can be of any race. Other race categories are non-Hispanic categorizations (e.g., "White" reflects non-Hispanic White respondents).
- Income categories reflect respondent's household income as a ratio to the federal poverty level (FPL) for their household size. "<200% FPL" includes households with incomes up to 199% of the federal poverty level, and "200%+ FPL" includes households with incomes at twice or more the federal poverty level.
There are more than 100 types of arthritis. Arthritis commonly occurs with other chronic conditions, such as diabetes, heart disease, and obesity. Interventions to treat the pain and reduce the functional limitations from arthritis are important, and may also enable people with these other chronic conditions to be more physically active. Arthritis affects 1 in 5 adults and continues to be the most common cause of disability. It costs more than $128 billion per year. All of the human and economic costs are projected to increase over time as the population ages. There are interventions that can reduce arthritis pain and functional limitations, but they remain underused. These include: increased physical activity; self-management education; and weight loss among overweight/obese adults.

Osteoporosis is a disease marked by reduced bone strength leading to an increased risk of fractures (broken bones). In the United States, an estimated 5.3 million people age 50 years and older have osteoporosis. Most of these people are women, but about 0.8 million are men. Just over 34 million more people, including 12 million men, have low bone mass, which puts them at increased risk for developing osteoporosis. Half of all women and as many as 1 in 4 men age 50 years and older will have an osteoporosis-related fracture in their lifetime.

Chronic back pain is common, costly, and potentially disabling. About 80% of Americans experience low back pain in their lifetime. It is estimated that each year:

- 15%-20% of the population develop protracted back pain.
- 2-8% have chronic back pain (pain that lasts more than 3 months).
- 3-4% of the population is temporarily disabled due to back pain.
- 1% of the working-age population is disabled completely and permanently as a result of low back pain.

Americans spend at least $50 billion each year on low back pain. Low back pain is the:

- 2nd leading cause of lost work time (after the common cold).
- 3rd most common reason to undergo a surgical procedure.
- 5th most frequent cause of hospitalization.

Arthritis, osteoporosis, and chronic back conditions all have major effects on quality of life, the ability to work, and basic activities of daily living.

— Healthy People 2020 (www.healthypeople.gov)

Arthritis, Osteoporosis, & Chronic Pain

Prevalence of Arthritis/Rheumatism

A total of 38.1% of Northwest Memorial Hospital Service Area residents age 50 and older report suffering from arthritis or rheumatism.

- Similar to the MCHC Region prevalence.
- Similar to the prevalence found nationwide.
- The prevalence of arthritis/rheumatism is similar to that reported in 2009.
Prevalence of Arthritis/Rheumatism
(Among Adults 50+)

Sources:
- PRC Community Health Surveys, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 168]
- 2011 PRC National Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc.

Notes:
- Reflects respondents 50 and older.

Prevalence of Osteoporosis
(Among Adults 50+)

A total of 10.3% of survey respondents age 50 and older have osteoporosis.

- Comparable to the percentage found in the MCHC Region.
- Comparable to the prevalence found nationwide.
- Fails to satisfy the Healthy People 2020 target of 5.3% or lower.
- Statistically unchanged over time.
Prevalence of Sciatica/Chronic Back Pain

A total of 15.5% of survey respondents suffer from chronic back pain or sciatica.

- Similar to the percentage found in the MCHC Region.
- More favorable than is found nationwide.
- Unchanged from 2009 survey results.

Prevalence of Migraines/Severe Headaches

A total of 14.4% of survey respondents report suffering from migraines or severe headaches.

- Comparable to the regional prevalence.
- Comparable to the prevalence found nationwide.
- Comparable to what was reported in the NMH Service Area in 2009.
Prevalence of Chronic Neck Pain

A total of 8.5% of survey respondents currently suffer from chronic neck pain.

- Identical to regional findings.
- Similar to nationwide findings.
- Statistically unchanged since 2009.

Prevalence of Chronic Neck Pain

Sources:
- PRC Community Health Surveys, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 37]
- 2011 PRC National Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc.

Notes:
- Asked of all respondents.
Vision & Hearing Impairment

Vision is an essential part of everyday life, influencing how Americans of all ages learn, communicate, work, play, and interact with the world. Yet millions of Americans live with visual impairment, and many more remain at risk for eye disease and preventable eye injury.

The eyes are an important, but often overlooked, part of overall health. Despite the preventable nature of some vision impairments, many people do not receive recommended screenings and exams. A visit to an eye care professional for a comprehensive dilated eye exam can help to detect common vision problems and eye diseases, including diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, cataract, and age-related macular degeneration.

These common vision problems often have no early warning signs. If a problem is detected, an eye care professional can prescribe corrective eyewear, medicine, or surgery to minimize vision loss and help a person see his or her best.

Healthy vision can help to ensure a healthy and active lifestyle well into a person’s later years. Educating and engaging families, communities, and the nation is critical to ensuring that people have the information, resources, and tools needed for good eye health.

– Healthy People 2020 (www.healthypeople.gov)

Vision Trouble

A total of 10.3% of NMH Service Area adults are blind, or have trouble seeing even when wearing corrective lenses.

- Less favorable than found in the MCHC Region.
- Less favorable than found nationwide.
- Comparable to the 2009 findings.
- Among NMH Service Area adults age 65 and older, 16.5% have vision trouble.

Prevalence of Blindness/Trouble Seeing

Sources: ● PRC Community Health Surveys, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 26]
- 2011 PRC National Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc.

Notes: ● Asked of all respondents.

RELATED ISSUE:
See also Vision Care in the Access to Health Services section of this report.
Hearing Trouble

An impaired ability to communicate with others or maintain good balance can lead many people to feel socially isolated, have unmet health needs, have limited success in school or on the job. Communication and other sensory processes contribute to our overall health and well-being. Protecting these processes is critical, particularly for people whose age, race, ethnicity, gender, occupation, genetic background, or health status places them at increased risk.

Many factors influence the numbers of Americans who are diagnosed and treated for hearing and other sensory or communication disorders, such as social determinants (social and economic standings, age of diagnosis, cost and stigma of wearing a hearing aid, and unhealthy lifestyle choices). In addition, biological causes of hearing loss and other sensory or communication disorders include: genetics; viral or bacterial infections; sensitivity to certain drugs or medications; injury; and aging.

As the nation’s population ages and survival rates for medically fragile infants and for people with severe injuries and acquired diseases improve, the prevalence of sensory and communication disorders is expected to rise.

– Healthy People 2020 (www.healthypeople.gov)

In all, 5.1% of NMH Service Area adults report being deaf or having difficulty hearing.

- Similar to the regional percentage.
- More favorable than is found nationwide.
- Significantly lower than was found in 2009.
- Among Service Area seniors, 13.2% have partial or complete hearing loss.

### Prevalence of Deafness/Trouble Hearing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>NMH Service Area</th>
<th>MCHC Region</th>
<th>United States</th>
<th>NMH Svc Area 2009</th>
<th>NMH Svc Area 2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.8%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.6%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.1%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Among 65+: 13.2%

Sources: ● PRC Community Health Surveys, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. (Item 27)
● 2011 PRC National Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc.

Notes: ● Asked of all respondents.
Influenza & Pneumonia Vaccination

Acute respiratory infections, including pneumonia and influenza, are the 8th leading cause of death in the nation, accounting for 56,000 deaths annually. Pneumonia mortality in children fell by 97% in the last century, but respiratory infectious diseases continue to be leading causes of pediatric hospitalization and outpatient visits in the US. On average, influenza leads to more than 200,000 hospitalizations and 36,000 deaths each year. The 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic caused an estimated 270,000 hospitalizations and 12,270 deaths (1,270 of which were of people younger than age 18) between April 2009 and March 2010.

– Healthy People 2020 (www.healthypeople.gov)

Flu Vaccinations

Among NMH Service Area seniors, two in three (66.8%) received a flu shot (or FluMist®) within the past year.

- Similar to the MCHC Region results.
- Similar to the Illinois findings.
- Similar to the national findings.
- Fails to satisfy the Healthy People 2020 target (90% or higher).

Statistically unchanged since 2009.

Have Had a Flu Vaccination in the Past Year
(Among Adults 65+)

Sources:
- PRC Community Health Surveys, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. (Item 170)
- 2011 PRC National Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc.

Notes:
- Reflects respondents 65 and older.
- Includes FluMist as a form of vaccination.

High-Risk Adults

A total of 55.0% of high-risk adults age 18 to 64 received a flu vaccination (flu shot or FluMist®) within the past year.

- Similar to the MCHC Region findings.
- Similar to national findings.
- Fails to satisfy the Healthy People 2020 target (90% or higher).

FluMist® is a vaccine that is sprayed into the nose to help protect against influenza; it is an alternative to traditional flu shots.

“High-risk” includes adults who report having been diagnosed with heart disease, diabetes or respiratory disease.
Marks a significant increase from 2009 survey findings.

**Have Had a Flu Vaccination in the Past Year**
(Among High-Risk Adults 18-64)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>● PRC Community Health Surveys, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. (Item 171)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● 2011 PRC National Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
- Reflects high-risk respondents age 18-64.
- "High-Risk" includes adults age 18 to 64 who have been diagnosed with heart disease, diabetes or respiratory disease.
- Includes FluMist as a form of vaccination.

**Pneumonia Vaccination**

Among adults age 65 and older, 55.4% have received a pneumonia vaccination at some point in their lives.

- Comparable to the MCHC Region findings.
  - Lower than the Illinois findings.
  - Lower than the national findings.
  - Fails to satisfy the Healthy People 2020 target of 90% or higher.

Marks a significant decrease over time.

**Have Ever Had a Pneumonia Vaccine**
(Among Adults 65+)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>● PRC Community Health Surveys, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. (Item 172)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● 2011 PRC National Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
- Reflects respondents 65 and older.
High-Risk Adults

A total of 35.6% of high-risk adults age 18 to 64 have ever received a pneumonia vaccination.

- Almost identical to the MCHC findings.
- Similar to the national findings.
- Fails to satisfy the Healthy People 2020 target (60% or higher).

Statistically unchanged since 2009.

**Have Ever Had a Pneumonia Vaccine**
(Among High-Risk Adults 18-64)

Sources:
- PRC Community Health Surveys, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. (Item 173)
- 2011 PRC National Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc.

Notes:
- Asked of all high-risk respondents under 65.
- “High-Risk” includes adults age 18 to 64 who have been diagnosed with heart disease, diabetes or respiratory disease.
Viral hepatitis and tuberculosis (TB) can be prevented, yet healthcare systems often do not make the best use of their available resources to support prevention efforts. Because the US healthcare system focuses on treatment of illnesses, rather than health promotion, patients do not always receive information about prevention and healthy lifestyles. This includes advancing effective and evidence-based viral hepatitis and TB prevention priorities and interventions.

– Healthy People 2020 (www.healthypeople.gov)

Between 2008 and 2010, the annual average tuberculosis incidence rate (new cases per year) was 6.9 cases per 100,000 population in the City of Chicago.

- Above the regional incidence rate.
- Well above the Illinois incidence rate.
- Above the national incidence rate.
- Fails to satisfy the Healthy People 2020 target (1.0 or lower).

**Tuberculosis Incidence**
(2008-2010 Annual Average Cases per 100,000 Population)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2008-2010 Annual Average Cases per 100,000 Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City of Chicago</td>
<td>6.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCHC Region</td>
<td>4.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Healthy People 2020 Target = 1.0 or Lower

Sources: ● Illinois Department of Public Health
● Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Public Health Surveillance and Informatics. Epidemiology Program Office.

Notes: ● Rates are annual average new cases per 100,000 population.
The City’s tuberculosis incidence has decreased considerably in recent years. Downward trends in tuberculosis incidence are also evident across the region, as well as statewide and nationwide.

**Tuberculosis Incidence**

(Annual Average Cases per 100,000 Population)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Healthy People 2020</th>
<th>City of Chicago</th>
<th>MCHC Region</th>
<th>Illinois</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001-2003</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>12.7</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002-2004</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>11.9</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>5.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003-2005</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>11.4</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>4.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004-2006</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>11.0</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005-2007</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-2008</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-2009</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008-2010</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sources:**
- Illinois Department of Public Health
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Public Health Surveillance and Informatics. Epidemiology Program Office.

**Notes:**
- Rates are annual average new cases per 100,000 population.
The HIV epidemic in the United States continues to be a major public health crisis. An estimated 1.1 million Americans are living with HIV, and 1 in 5 people with HIV do not know they have it. HIV continues to spread, leading to about 56,000 new HIV infections each year.

HIV is a preventable disease, and effective HIV prevention interventions have been proven to reduce HIV transmission. People who get tested for HIV and learn that they are infected can make significant behavior changes to improve their health and reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to their sex or drug-using partners. More than 50% of new HIV infections occur as a result of the 21% of people who have HIV but do not know it.

In the era of increasingly effective treatments for HIV, people with HIV are living longer, healthier, and more productive lives. Deaths from HIV infection have greatly declined in the United States since the 1990s. As the number of people living with HIV grows, it will be more important than ever to increase national HIV prevention and healthcare programs.

There are gender, race, and ethnicity disparities in new HIV infections:
- Nearly 75% of new HIV infections occur in men.
- More than half occur in gay and bisexual men, regardless of race or ethnicity.
- 45% of new HIV infections occur in African Americans, 35% in whites, and 17% in Hispanics.

Improving access to quality healthcare for populations disproportionately affected by HIV, such as persons of color and gay and bisexual men, is a fundamental public health strategy for HIV prevention. People getting care for HIV can receive:
- Antiretroviral therapy
- Screening and treatment for other diseases (such as sexually transmitted infections)
- HIV prevention interventions
- Mental health services
- Other health services

As the number of people living with HIV increases and more people become aware of their HIV status, prevention strategies that are targeted specifically for HIV-infected people are becoming more important. Prevention work with people living with HIV focuses on:
- Linking to and staying in treatment.
- Increasing the availability of ongoing HIV prevention interventions.
- Providing prevention services for their partners.

Public perception in the US about the seriousness of the HIV epidemic has declined in recent years. There is evidence that risky behaviors may be increasing among uninfected people, especially gay and bisexual men. Ongoing media and social campaigns for the general public and HIV prevention interventions for uninfected persons who engage in risky behaviors are critical.

Healthy People 2020 (www.healthypeople.gov)

**Age-Adjusted HIV/AIDS Deaths**

Between 2007 and 2009, there was an annual average age-adjusted HIV/AIDS mortality rate of 8.2 deaths per 100,000 population in the City of Chicago.

- More than twice the regional death rate.
  - Much higher than found statewide.
  - Much higher than the rate reported nationally.
- Fails to satisfy the Healthy People 2020 target (3.3 or lower).

**HIV/AIDS: Age-Adjusted Mortality**
(2007-2009 Annual Average Deaths per 100,000 Population)

- Healthy People 2020 Target = 3.3 or Lower

Sources:
- CDC WONDER Online Query System. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Epidemiology Program Office, Division of Public Health Surveillance and Informatics.
- Data extracted September 2012.

Notes:
- Deaths are coded using the Tenth Revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10).
- Rates are per 100,000 population, age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Standard Population.
- *City of Chicago rate represents 2006-2008 data.

The HIV mortality rate among the City of Chicago Black population is more than five times the rate among Whites.

**HIV/AIDS: Age-Adjusted Mortality by Race**
(2006-2008 Annual Average Deaths per 100,000 Population)

- Healthy People 2020 Target = 3.3 or Lower

Sources:
- CDC WONDER Online Query System. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Epidemiology Program Office, Division of Public Health Surveillance and Informatics.
- Data extracted September 2012.

Notes:
- Deaths are coded using the Tenth Revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10).
- Rates are per 100,000 population, age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Standard Population.
- Rates are per 100,000 population, age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Standard Population.
HIV mortality has decreased in recent years in the City of Chicago. This decreasing trend is noted across the region, state and nation as well.

### HIV/AIDS: Age-Adjusted Mortality Trends

(Annual Average Deaths per 100,000 Population)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Healthy People 2020</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Chicago</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>11.7</td>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>8.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCHC Region</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: ● CDC WONDER Online Query System. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Epidemiology Program Office, Division of Public Health Surveillance and Informatics. Data extracted September 2012.  

Notes: ● Deaths are coded using the Tenth Revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10).  
● Rates are per 100,000 population, age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Standard Population.  
● Local, state and national data are simple three-year averages.

### HIV Testing

Among NMH Service Area adults age 18-44, 32.4% report that they have been tested for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) in the past year.

- Better than regional findings.
  - Much better than the proportion found nationwide.
  - Easily satisfies the Healthy People 2020 target of 16.9% or higher.
- Comparable to the percentage reporting tests in 2009.

### Tested for HIV in the Past Year

(Among Respondents 18-44)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Healthy People 2020 Target = 16.9% or Higher</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NMH Service Area</td>
<td>32.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCHC Region</td>
<td>26.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>19.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: ● PRC Community Health Surveys, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. (Item 176)  
● 2011 PRC National Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc.  

Notes: ● Reflects respondents age 18 to 44.  
● Note that the Healthy People 2020 objective is for ages 15-44.
Those more likely to report having been tested for HIV include:

- Women.
- Young adults.
- Community members living at higher incomes.
- Black respondents.

### Tested for HIV in the Past Year

(Among Respondents 18-44)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Tested in Past Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>29.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>35.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 to 39</td>
<td>33.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 to 64</td>
<td>24.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;200% FPL</td>
<td>42.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200%+ FPL</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>19.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>53.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>28.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NMH Svc Area</td>
<td>32.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources:
- 2012 PRC Community Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 176]

Notes:
- Reflects respondents age 18 to 44.
- Note that the Healthy People 2020 objective is for ages 15-44.
- Income categories reflect respondent’s household income as a ratio to the federal poverty level (FPL) for their household size. "<200% FPL" includes households with incomes up to 199% of the federal poverty level; and "200%+ FPL" includes households with incomes at twice or more the federal poverty level.
STDs refer to more than 25 infectious organisms that are transmitted primarily through sexual activity. Despite their burdens, costs, and complications, and the fact that they are largely preventable, STDs remain a significant public health problem in the United States. This problem is largely unrecognized by the public, policymakers, and health care professionals. STDs cause many harmful, often irreversible, and costly clinical complications, such as: reproductive health problems; fetal and perinatal health problems; cancer; and facilitation of the sexual transmission of HIV infection.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that there are approximately 19 million new STD infections each year—almost half of them among young people ages 15 to 24. Because many cases of STDs go undiagnosed—and some common viral infections, such as human papillomavirus (HPV) and genital herpes, are not reported to CDC at all—the reported cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis represent only a fraction of the true burden of STDs in the US. Untreated STDs can lead to serious long-term health consequences, especially for adolescent girls and young women. CDC estimates that undiagnosed and untreated STDs cause at least 24,000 women in the United States each year to become infertile. Several factors contribute to the spread of STDs.

**Biological Factors.** STDs are acquired during unprotected sex with an infected partner. Biological factors that affect the spread of STDs include:

- **Asymptomatic nature of STDs.** The majority of STDs either do not produce any symptoms or signs, or they produce symptoms so mild that they are unnoticed; consequently, many infected persons do not know that they need medical care.

- **Gender disparities.** Women suffer more frequent and more serious STD complications than men do. Among the most serious STD complications are pelvic inflammatory disease, ectopic pregnancy (pregnancy outside of the uterus), infertility, and chronic pelvic pain.

- **Age disparities.** Compared to older adults, sexually active adolescents ages 15 to 19 and young adults ages 20 to 24 are at higher risk for getting STDs.

- **Lag time between infection and complications.** Often, a long interval, sometimes years, occurs between acquiring an STD and recognizing a clinically significant health problem.

**Social, Economic and Behavioral Factors.** The spread of STDs is directly affected by social, economic, and behavioral factors. Such factors may cause serious obstacles to STD prevention due to their influence on social and sexual networks, access to and provision of care, willingness to seek care, and social norms regarding sex and sexuality. Among certain vulnerable populations, historical experience with segregation and discrimination exacerbates the influence of these factors. Social, economic, and behavioral factors that affect the spread of STDs include:

- **Racial and ethnic disparities.** Certain racial and ethnic groups (mainly African American, Hispanic, and American Indian/Alaska Native populations) have high rates of STDs, compared with rates for whites.

- **Poverty and marginalization.** STDs disproportionately affect disenfranchised people and people in social networks where high-risk sexual behavior is common, and either access to care or health-seeking behavior is compromised.

- **Access to health care.** Access to high-quality health care is essential for early detection, treatment, and behavior-change counseling for STDs. Groups with the highest rates of STDs are often the same groups for whom access to or use of health services is most limited.

- **Substance abuse.** Many studies document the association of substance abuse with STDs. The introduction of new illicit substances into communities often can alter sexual behavior drastically in high-risk sexual networks, leading to the epidemic spread of STDs.

- **Sexuality and secrecy.** Perhaps the most important social factors contributing to the spread of STDs in the United States are the stigma associated with STDs and the general discomfort of discussing intimate aspects of life, especially those related to sex. These social factors separate the United States from industrialized countries with low rates of STDs.

- **Sexual networks.** Sexual networks refer to groups of people who can be considered “linked” by sequential or concurrent sexual partners. A person may have only 1 sex partner, but if that partner is a member of a risky sexual network, then the person is at higher risk for STDs than a similar individual from a nonrisky network.

– Healthy People 2020 (www.healthypeople.gov)
Between 2008 and 2010, the annual average gonorrhea incidence rate was 306.2 cases per 100,000 population in the City of Chicago.

- Notably higher than the regional incidence rate.
- Notably higher than the Illinois incidence rate.
- Notably higher than the national incidence rate.

The City's gonorrhea incidence rate has decreased over the past decade, echoing the decreasing trends reported regionally, statewide and nationwide.

Sources:
- Illinois Department of Public Health
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics

Notes:
- Rates are annual average new cases per 100,000 population.
Between 2008 and 2010, the City’s annual average primary/secondary syphilis incidence rate was 29.2 cases per 100,000 population.

- More than twice the regional incidence rate.
- Much higher than the Illinois incidence rate.
- Much higher than the national incidence rate.

Syphilis incidence has increased considerably in the City of Chicago in recent years, mirroring the regional and state trends. The national rate increased as well, although less notably.
Between 2008 and 2010, the annual average chlamydia incidence rate was 884.8 cases per 100,000 population in the City of Chicago.

- Worse than the regional rate.
- Worse than the Illinois incidence rate.
- More than twice the national incidence rate.

Chlamydia Incidence
(2008-2010 Annual Average Cases per 100,000 Population)

Chlamydia incidence has increased in the City of Chicago over the past decade; the same is true regionally, statewide and nationwide.

Chlamydia Incidence
(Annual Average Cases per 100,000 Population)
Hepatitis B Vaccination

Based on survey data, a total of 4 in 10 (39.8%) residents report having received the hepatitis B vaccine.

- Comparable to the percentage found regionally.
- Comparable to the rate reported nationwide.
- No statistically significant change has occurred since 2009.

Have Ever Received the Hepatitis B Vaccination

Note the negative correlation between age and hepatitis B vaccination, with adults aged 40+ being considerably less likely to have received the vaccination.

Viewed by race, Blacks and Hispanics are statistically less likely to have been vaccinated.

Have Ever Received the Hepatitis B Vaccination
(Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area, 2012)

Sources: 2012 PRC Community Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 82]
Notes: 2012 PRC Community Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 82]
- Asked of all respondents.
- Hispanics can be of any race. Other race categories are non-Hispanic categorizations (e.g., "White" reflects non-Hispanic White respondents).
- Income categories reflect respondents' household income as a ratio to the federal poverty level (FPL) for their household size. "<200% FPL" includes households with incomes up to 199% of the federal poverty level, and "200%+ FPL" includes households with incomes at twice or more the federal poverty level.
Safe Sexual Practices

Sexual Partners

Among unmarried NMH Service Area adults under 65, the vast majority cites having one (45.0%) or no (31.8%) sexual partners in the past 12 months.

Number of Sexual Partners in Past 12 Months
(Among Unmarried Adults 18-64; Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area, 2012)

None 31.8%
One 45.0%
Two 11.7%
Three/More 11.5%

Sources: ● 2012 PRC Community Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 103]
Notes: ● Asked of all unmarried respondents under the age of 65.

However, 11.5% report three or more sexual partners in the past year.

- Comparable to MCHC Region results.
- Higher than that reported nationally.
- Statistically unchanged from the 2009 survey findings.

Had Three or More Sexual Partners in the Past Year
(Among Unmarried Adults 18-64)

Sources: ● PRC Community Health Surveys, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 103]
● 2011 PRC National Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc.
Notes: ● Asked of all unmarried respondents under the age of 65.
Among unmarried adults under 65, men and young adults are more likely to report having 3+ sexual partners over the past 12 months.

**Had Three or More Sexual Partners in the Past Year**
(Among Unmarried Adults 18-64; UCMC Service Area, 2012)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>18 to 39</th>
<th>40 to 64</th>
<th>&lt;200% FPL</th>
<th>200%+ FPL</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>NMH Svc Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19.3%</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>12.2%</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: ● 2012 PRC Community Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 100]
Notes: ● Asked of all unmarried respondents under the age of 65.
• Income categories reflect respondent’s household income as a ratio to the federal poverty level (FPL) for their household size. "Low Income" includes households with incomes up to 200% of the federal poverty level. "Mid/High Income" includes households with incomes at 200% or more of the federal poverty level.

**Condom Use**

Among NMH Service Area adults who are under age 65 and unmarried, 47.5% report that a condom was used during their last sexual intercourse.

- Similar to the MCHC Region findings.
- Much higher than national findings.
- No change from 2009 survey findings.

**Condom Was Used During Last Sexual Intercourse**
(Among Unmarried Adults 18-64)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>NMH Service Area</th>
<th>MCHC Region</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100%</td>
<td>47.5%</td>
<td>45.7%</td>
<td>18.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: ● PRC Community Health Surveys, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 104]
● 2011 PRC National Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc.
Notes: ● Asked of all unmarried respondents under the age of 65.
Among unmarried adults under 65, women, residents age 40 to 64, and Blacks are less likely to report that a condom was used during their most recent sexual intercourse.

**Condom Was Used During Last Sexual Intercourse**

(Among Unmarried Adults 18-64; Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area, 2012)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Category</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;200% FPL</td>
<td>48.8%</td>
<td>42.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200%+ FPL</td>
<td>48.6%</td>
<td>44.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>51.6%</td>
<td>50.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>55.8%</td>
<td>50.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>60.0%</td>
<td>55.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>47.5%</td>
<td>42.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sources:**
- 2012 PRC Community Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 104]

**Notes:**
- Asked of all unmarried respondents under the age of 65.
- Income categories reflect respondent’s household income as a ratio to the federal poverty level (FPL) for their household size. “Low Income” includes households with incomes up to 200% of the federal poverty level; “Mid/High Income” includes households with incomes at 200% or more of the federal poverty level.

**Related Focus Group Findings: Sexually Transmitted Infections**

Many focus group participants discussed sexually transmitted infections. The main issues included:

- High level of STIs, including HIV/AIDS
- Education

Focus group participants worry about the high levels of **sexually transmitted infections (STIs)** in the community, specifically **HIV/AIDS** in the Austin neighborhood. The overall health consequences and mental health repercussions of STIs can be exponential to a person. In addition, residents of all ages transmit and receive STIs, not just young people. A participant explains the concern for seniors in the community:

“But how it happens is on the first of the month, when the men meet the ladies of the night – alright? And they pay them. You don’t know what they’ve got. So during the month, the men go back to the women in the building, pass it onto them. Which the mothers don’t know they’ve got. So they’re sitting up there with it, and they don’t know they’ve got it. Then the teenagers get it from the men.” — Key Informant (Downtown/West Chicago)

Focus group participants reinforce the idea that STI diagnosis occurs at any age; therefore, **education** needs to occur in the schools, but also in faith-based organizations. Attendees recognize the private nature of sexual health and that currently the general population does not want to discuss it; however, providers and social service agencies must find a way to bridge the gap and get the information to everyone. Education must meet people where they live, work and play. A participant explains:

“So now we’ve got a whole area that’s not being addressed because they don’t want anybody to know they’ve got it. So I said, ‘Let’s go in the building, in that community room, and explain it to them.’” — Key Informant (Downtown/West Chicago)
BIRTHS
Prenatal Care

Improving the well-being of mothers, infants, and children is an important public health goal for the US. Their well-being determines the health of the next generation and can help predict future public health challenges for families, communities, and the healthcare system. The risk of maternal and infant mortality and pregnancy-related complications can be reduced by increasing access to quality preconception (before pregnancy) and inter-conception (between pregnancies) care. Moreover, healthy birth outcomes and early identification and treatment of health conditions among infants can prevent death or disability and enable children to reach their full potential. Many factors can affect pregnancy and childbirth, including pre-conception health status, age, access to appropriate healthcare, and poverty.

Infant and child health are similarly influenced by socio-demographic factors, such as family income, but are also linked to the physical and mental health of parents and caregivers. There are racial and ethnic disparities in mortality and morbidity for mothers and children, particularly for African Americans. These differences are likely the result of many factors, including social determinants (such as racial and ethnic disparities in infant mortality; family income; educational attainment among household members; and health insurance coverage) and physical determinants (i.e., the health, nutrition, and behaviors of the mother during pregnancy and early childhood).

Healthy People 2020 (www.healthypeople.gov)

Between 2007 and 2009, 23.6% of all City of Chicago births did not receive prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy.

- Less favorable than the regional proportion.
- Less favorable than the Illinois proportion.
- Fails to satisfy the Healthy People 2020 target (22.1% or lower).

Lack of Prenatal Care in the First Trimester
(Percentage of Live Births, 2007-2009)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Healthy People 2020 Target = 22.1% or Lower</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City of Chicago</td>
<td>23.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCHC Region</td>
<td>20.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>19.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Note: Numbers are a percentage of all live births within each population.
Lack of prenatal care is higher among City of Chicago Blacks than among Whites and Hispanics.

Lack of Prenatal Care in the First Trimester
(Percentage of Live Births, 2007-2009)

Healthy People 2020 Target = 22.1% or Lower

Receipt of prenatal care improved slightly for the City of Chicago during much of the past decade; however, lack of prenatal care proportions increased in the most recent reporting periods.
Low birthweight babies, those who weigh less than 2,500 grams (5 pounds, 8 ounces) at birth, are much more prone to illness and neonatal death than are babies of normal birthweight. Largely a result of receiving poor or inadequate prenatal care, many low-weight births and the consequent health problems are preventable.

Low-weight births are notably more prevalent among Blacks in the City of Chicago.

---

**Low-Weight Births**

**A total of 9.7% of 2007-2009 City of Chicago births were low-weight.**

- Higher than the regional proportion.
- Higher than the Illinois proportion.
- Higher than the national proportion.
- Fails to satisfy the Healthy People 2020 target (7.8% or lower).

**Low-Weight Births**

(Percentage of Live Births, 2007-2009)

![Graph showing low-weight birth rates in various populations, including City of Chicago, MCHC Region, Illinois, and United States, with Healthy People 2020 Target at 7.8% or lower.](graph.png)

**Sources:**
- Illinois Department of Public Health.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System.

**Note:**
- Numbers are a percentage of all live births within each population.
- Defined as an infant born weighing less than 5.5 pounds (2,500 grams) regardless of gestational age.

---

Low birthweight babies, those who weigh less than 2,500 grams (5 pounds, 8 ounces) at birth, are much more prone to illness and neonatal death than are babies of normal birthweight.
The City’s proportion of low-weight births has been relatively stable over the past decade.

**Low-Weight Births**

(Percentage of Live Births)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Healthy People 2020</th>
<th>City of Chicago</th>
<th>MCHC Region</th>
<th>Illinois</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000-2002</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001-2003</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002-2004</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003-2005</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004-2006</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005-2007</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-2008</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-2009</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources:
- Illinois Department of Public Health
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System
- US Department of Health and Human Services.

Note:
- Numbers are a percentage of all live births within each population.
- Defined as an infant born weighing less than 5.5 pounds (2,500 grams) regardless of gestational age.

Infant Mortality

Between 2007 and 2009, Cook County reported an annual average of 7.4 infant deaths per 1,000 live births.

- Worse than the regional rate.
- More favorable than the Illinois rate.
- More favorable than the national rate.
- Comparable to the Healthy People 2020 target of 6.0 per 1,000 live births.

**Infant Mortality Rate**

(2007-2009 Annual Average Infant Deaths per 1,000 Live Births)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Rate</th>
<th>Healthy People 2020 Target</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cook County*</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>6.0 or Lower</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCHC Region</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources:
- CDC WONDER Online Query System. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Epidemiology Program Office, Division of Public Health Surveillance and Informatics. Data extracted September 2012.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics.

Notes:
- Rates are three-year averages of deaths of children under 1 year old per 1,000 live births.
- *Cook County data is used here; City of Chicago data is unavailable.
The infant mortality rate is notably higher among births to Black mothers when compared with Whites, Hispanics and Asians in the county.

**Infant Mortality Rate**
(2007-2009 Annual Average Infant Deaths per 1,000 Live Births)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2007-2009 Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cook County Non-Hispanic White</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cook County Non-Hispanic Black</td>
<td>12.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cook County Hispanic</td>
<td>5.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cook County Non-Hispanic Other</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cook County All Races/Ethnicities</td>
<td>7.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**
- Rates are three-year averages of deaths of children under 1 year old per 1,000 live births.

The Cook County infant mortality rate trended downward over the past decade, echoing the trends reported regionally and for Illinois and the US overall.

**Infant Mortality Rate**
(Annual Average Infant Deaths per 1,000 Live Births)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Cook County</th>
<th>MCHC Region</th>
<th>Illinois</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000-2002</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>7.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001-2003</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>6.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002-2004</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>6.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003-2005</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>6.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004-2006</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>6.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005-2007</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-2008</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-2009</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sources:**
- CDC WONDER Online Query System. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Epidemiology Program Office, Division of Public Health Surveillance and Informatics. Data extracted September 2012.

**Notes:**
- Rates are three-year averages of deaths of children under 1 year old per 1,000 live births.
Family Planning

Family planning is one of the 10 great public health achievements of the 20th century. The availability of family planning services allows individuals to achieve desired birth spacing and family size and contributes to improved health outcomes for infants, children, and women. Family planning services include contraceptive and broader reproductive health services (patient education and counseling), breast and pelvic examinations, breast and cervical cancer screening, sexually transmitted infection (STI) and HIV prevention education/counseling/testing/referral, and pregnancy diagnosis and counseling. For many women, a family planning clinic is their entry point into the healthcare system and is considered to be their usual source of care. This is especially true for women with incomes below the poverty level, women who are uninsured, Hispanic women, and Black women.

Unintended pregnancies (those reported by women as being mistimed or unwanted) are associated with many negative health and economic outcomes. In 2001, almost one-half of all pregnancies in the US were unintended. For women, negative outcomes associated with unintended pregnancy include:

- Delays in initiating prenatal care
- Reduced likelihood of breastfeeding
- Poor maternal mental health
- Lower mother-child relationship quality
- Increased risk of physical violence during pregnancy

Children born as a result of an unintended pregnancy are more likely to experience poor mental and physical health during childhood and poor educational and behavioral outcomes.

- Healthy People 2020 (www.healthypeople.gov)

Births to Unwed Mothers

According to the CDC, an unintended pregnancy is a pregnancy that is either mistimed or unwanted at the time of conception. It is a core concept in understanding the fertility of populations and the unmet need for contraception. Unintended pregnancy is associated with an increased risk of morbidity for women, and with health behaviors during pregnancy that are associated with adverse effects. For example, women with an unintended pregnancy may delay prenatal care, which may affect the health of the infant. Women of all ages may have unintended pregnancies, but some groups, such as teens, are at a higher risk.

Because it is impossible to measure the true incidence of unintended pregnancy in the US, the following indicator looks at births occurring among unmarried mothers as a proxy measure for pregnancies that are not intended (knowing that this is not always the case).

More than one-half (52.6%) of 2007-2009 City of Chicago births were to unwed mothers.

- Higher than the regional percentage.
  - Higher than the percentage reported statewide.
  - Higher than that found nationally.
Births to Unwed Mothers
(Percentage of Live Births, 2007-2009)

Sources:
- Illinois Department of Public Health.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System.

Note:
- Numbers are a percentage of all live births within each population.

Note the high prevalence (84.4%) of births to unwed mothers in the City’s Black population.

Births to Unwed Mothers
(Percentage of Live Births, 2007-2009)

Sources:
- Illinois Department of Public Health.

Note:
- Numbers are a percentage of all live births within each population.
The percentage of births to unwed mothers in the City of Chicago has increased slightly over the past decade; regional, state and national percentages have increased as well.

### Births to Unwed Mothers

(Percentage of Live Births)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Range</th>
<th>City of Chicago</th>
<th>MCHC Region</th>
<th>Illinois</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000-2002</td>
<td>51.5%</td>
<td>36.5%</td>
<td>34.7%</td>
<td>33.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001-2003</td>
<td>51.1%</td>
<td>36.6%</td>
<td>35.0%</td>
<td>34.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002-2004</td>
<td>51.1%</td>
<td>37.1%</td>
<td>35.9%</td>
<td>34.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003-2005</td>
<td>51.3%</td>
<td>37.8%</td>
<td>35.9%</td>
<td>35.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004-2006</td>
<td>52.0%</td>
<td>38.9%</td>
<td>36.4%</td>
<td>36.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005-2007</td>
<td>52.8%</td>
<td>40.1%</td>
<td>37.1%</td>
<td>37.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-2008</td>
<td>53.0%</td>
<td>41.2%</td>
<td>37.6%</td>
<td>38.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-2009</td>
<td>52.6%</td>
<td>41.6%</td>
<td>38.0%</td>
<td>39.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources:  
- Illinois Department of Public Health  
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System

Note:  
- Numbers are a percentage of all live births within each population.

### Births to Teen Mothers

The negative outcomes associated with unintended pregnancies are compounded for adolescents. Teen mothers:

- Are less likely to graduate from high school or attain a GED by the time they reach age 30.
- Earn an average of approximately $3,500 less per year, when compared with those who delay childbearing.
- Receive nearly twice as much Federal aid for nearly twice as long.

Similarly, early fatherhood is associated with lower educational attainment and lower income. Children of teen parents are more likely to have lower cognitive attainment and exhibit more behavior problems. Sons of teen mothers are more likely to be incarcerated, and daughters are more likely to become adolescent mothers.

- Healthy People 2020 ([www.healthypeople.gov](http://www.healthypeople.gov))

#### 12.8% of 2007-2009 City of Chicago births were to teenage mothers (under age 20).

- Worse than the regional proportion.
- Worse than the Illinois proportion.
- Worse than the national proportion.
Teen births are notably more prevalent among Blacks in the City of Chicago.

The percentage of births to teen mothers decreased over the past decade.
MODIFIABLE HEALTH RISKS
Actual Causes Of Death

A 1999 study (an update to a landmark 1993 study), estimated that as many as 40% of premature deaths in the United States are attributed to behavioral factors. This study found that behavior patterns represent the single-most prominent domain of influence over health prospects in the United States. The daily choices we make with respect to diet, physical activity, and sex; the substance abuse and addictions to which we fall prey; our approach to safety; and our coping strategies in confronting stress are all important determinants of health.

The most prominent contributors to mortality in the United States in 2000 were tobacco (an estimated 435,000 deaths), diet and activity patterns (400,000), alcohol (85,000), microbial agents (75,000), toxic agents (55,000), motor vehicles (43,000), firearms (29,000), sexual behavior (20,000), and illicit use of drugs (17,000). Socioeconomic status and access to medical care are also important contributors, but difficult to quantify independent of the other factors cited. Because the studies reviewed used different approaches to derive estimates, the stated numbers should be viewed as first approximations.

These analyses show that smoking remains the leading cause of mortality. However, poor diet and physical inactivity may soon overtake tobacco as the leading cause of death. These findings, along with escalating healthcare costs and aging population, argue persuasively that the need to establish a more preventive orientation in the US healthcare and public health systems has become more urgent.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Leading Causes of Death</th>
<th>Underlying Risk Factors</th>
<th>(Actual Causes of Death)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cardiovascular disease</td>
<td>Tobacco use</td>
<td>Obesity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elevated serum cholesterol</td>
<td>Diabetes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High blood pressure</td>
<td>Sedentary lifestyle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer</td>
<td>Tobacco use</td>
<td>Alcohol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Improper diet</td>
<td>Occupational/environmental exposures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cerebrovascular disease</td>
<td>High blood pressure</td>
<td>Elevated serum cholesterol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tobacco use</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accidental injuries</td>
<td>Safety belt noncompliance</td>
<td>Occupational hazards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alcohol/substance abuse</td>
<td>Stress/fatigue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reckless driving</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic lung disease</td>
<td>Tobacco use</td>
<td>Occupational/environmental exposures</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Factors Contributing to Premature Deaths in the United States

While causes of death are typically described as the diseases or injuries immediately precipitating the end of life, a few important studies have shown that the actual causes of premature death (reflecting underlying risk factors) are often preventable.

“Actual Causes of Death in the United States”, (Ali H. Mokdad, PhD; James S. Marks, MD, MPH; Donna F. Stroup, PhD, MSc; Julie L. Gerberding, MD, MPH) JAMA, 291(2004):1238-1245.
Nutrition

Strong science exists supporting the health benefits of eating a healthful diet and maintaining a healthy body weight. Efforts to change diet and weight should address individual behaviors, as well as the policies and environments that support these behaviors in settings such as schools, worksites, healthcare organizations, and communities.

The goal of promoting healthful diets and healthy weight encompasses increasing household food security and eliminating hunger.

Americans with a healthful diet:

- Consume a variety of nutrient-dense foods within and across the food groups, especially whole grains, fruits, vegetables, low-fat or fat-free milk or milk products, and lean meats and other protein sources.
- Limit the intake of saturated and trans fats, cholesterol, added sugars, sodium (salt), and alcohol.
- Limit caloric intake to meet caloric needs.

Diet and body weight are related to health status. Good nutrition is important to the growth and development of children. A healthful diet also helps Americans reduce their risks for many health conditions, including: overweight and obesity; malnutrition; iron-deficiency anemia; heart disease; high blood pressure; dyslipidemia (poor lipid profiles); type 2 diabetes; osteoporosis; oral disease; constipation; diverticular disease; and some cancers.

Diet reflects the variety of foods and beverages consumed over time and in settings such as worksites, schools, restaurants, and the home. Interventions to support a healthier diet can help ensure that:

- Individuals have the knowledge and skills to make healthier choices.
- Healthier options are available and affordable.

Social Determinants of Diet. Demographic characteristics of those with a more healthful diet vary with the nutrient or food studied. However, most Americans need to improve some aspect of their diet.

Social factors thought to influence diet include:

- Knowledge and attitudes
- Skills
- Social support
- Societal and cultural norms
- Food and agricultural policies
- Food assistance programs
- Economic price systems

Physical Determinants of Diet. Access to and availability of healthier foods can help people follow healthful diets. For example, better access to retail venues that sell healthier options may have a positive impact on a person’s diet; these venues may be less available in low-income or rural neighborhoods.

The places where people eat appear to influence their diet. For example, foods eaten away from home often have more calories and are of lower nutritional quality than foods prepared at home.

Marketing also influences people’s—particularly children’s—food choices.

— Healthy People 2020 (www.healthypeople.gov)
Daily Recommendation of Fruits/Vegetables

A total of 41.6% of NMH Service Area adults report eating five or more servings of fruits and/or vegetables per day.

- Similar to the regional prevalence.
- Less favorable than national findings.
- Fruit/vegetable consumption has not changed significantly since 2009.

**Consume Five or More Servings of Fruits/Vegetables Per Day**

To measure fruit and vegetable consumption, survey respondents were asked multiple questions, specifically about the foods and drinks they consumed on the day prior to the interview.

Area men, lower-income residents, Blacks and Hispanics are less likely to get the recommended servings of daily fruits/vegetables.

**Consume Five or More Servings of Fruits/Vegetables Per Day**

*(Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area, 2012)*

Sources: ● 2012 PRC Community Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 178]
Notes: ● Asked of all respondents.
● For this issue, respondents were asked to recall their food intake on the previous day.
Ease of Obtaining Affordable, Fresh Produce

Over three in four (77.5%) NMH Service Area adults report that it is “not too difficult” or “not at all difficult” to obtain affordable, fresh produce in the community.

Ease of Obtaining Affordable, Fresh Produce
(Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area, 2012)

On the other hand, 22.6% of survey respondents consider it to be “very” or “somewhat” difficult to obtain affordable, fresh produce locally.

- Less favorable than the regional prevalence.

Find It “Very” or “Somewhat” Difficult to Buy Fresh Produce at an Affordable Price

Sources: ● 2012 PRC Community Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 109]
Notes: ● Asked of all respondents.
Difficulty is statistically high among adults with lower incomes, Blacks and Hispanics.

Find It “Very” or “Somewhat” Difficult to Buy Fresh Produce at an Affordable Price
(Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area, 2012)

Health Advice About Diet & Nutrition

A total of 44.8% of survey respondents acknowledge that a physician counseled them about diet and nutrition in the past year.

- Nearly identical to the MCHC Region figure.
- Similar to national findings.
- Statistically unchanged since 2009.

Note: Among obese respondents, 59.9% report receiving diet/nutrition advice (meaning that 4 in 10 did not).
Physical Activity

Regular physical activity can improve the health and quality of life of Americans of all ages, regardless of the presence of a chronic disease or disability. Among adults and older adults, physical activity can lower the risk of: early death; coronary heart disease; stroke; high blood pressure; type 2 diabetes; breast and colon cancer; falls; and depression. Among children and adolescents, physical activity can: improve bone health; improve cardiorespiratory and muscular fitness; decrease levels of body fat; and reduce symptoms of depression. For people who are inactive, even small increases in physical activity are associated with health benefits.

Personal, social, economic, and environmental factors all play a role in physical activity levels among youth, adults, and older adults. Understanding the barriers to and facilitators of physical activity is important to ensure the effectiveness of interventions and other actions to improve levels of physical activity.

Factors positively associated with adult physical activity include: postsecondary education; higher income; enjoyment of exercise; expectation of benefits; belief in ability to exercise (self-efficacy); history of activity in adulthood; social support from peers, family, or spouse; access to and satisfaction with facilities; enjoyable scenery; and safe neighborhoods.

Factors negatively associated with adult physical activity include: advancing age; low income; lack of time; low motivation; rural residency; perception of great effort needed for exercise; overweight or obesity; perception of poor health; and being disabled. Older adults may have additional factors that keep them from being physically active, including lack of social support, lack of transportation to facilities, fear of injury, and cost of programs.

Among children ages 4 to 12, the following factors have a positive association with physical activity:

- Gender (boys)
- Belief in ability to be active (self-efficacy)
- Parental support

Among adolescents ages 13 to 18, the following factors have a positive association with physical activity:

- Parental education
- Gender (boys)
- Personal goals
- Physical education/school sports
- Belief in ability to be active (self-efficacy)
- Support of friends and family

Environmental influences positively associated with physical activity among children and adolescents include:

- Presence of sidewalks
- Having a destination/walking to a particular place
- Access to public transportation
- Low traffic density
- Access to neighborhood or school play area and/or recreational equipment

People with disabilities may be less likely to participate in physical activity due to physical, emotional, and psychological barriers. Barriers may include the inaccessibility of facilities and the lack of staff trained in working with people with disabilities.

- Healthy People 2020 (www.healthypeople.gov)
Level of Activity at Work

A majority of employed respondents reports low levels of physical activity at work.

- Two in three (66.3%) employed respondents report that their job entails mostly sitting or standing, which is similar to the US figure and the MCHC percentage.
- 23.7% report that their job entails mostly walking (identical to that reported regionally and similar to the US figure).
- 10.0% report that their work is physically demanding, which is similar to the regional findings but lower than US findings.

Reports of “mostly walking” at work increased significantly over time.

Primary Level of Physical Activity At Work
(Among Employed Respondents)

Leisure-Time Physical Activity

A total of 20.9% of NMH Service Area adults report no leisure-time physical activity in the past month.

- Less favorable than in the overall MCHC Region.
- More favorable than statewide findings.
- More favorable than national findings.
- Satisfies the Healthy People 2020 target (32.6% or lower).

Statistically unchanged since 2009.
The following population segments are more likely to report a lack of leisure-time physical activity:

- Adults age 40+ (note the positive correlation with age).
- Residents in lower-income households.
- Blacks and Hispanics.

No Leisure-Time Physical Activity in the Past Month
(Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area, 2012)

Sources: ● 2012 PRC Community Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. (Item 111)
Notes: ● Asked of all respondents.
- Hispanics can be of any race. Other race categories are non-Hispanic categorizations (e.g., “White” reflects non-Hispanic White respondents).
- Income categories reflect respondent's household income as a ratio to the federal poverty level (FPL) for their household size. “<200% FPL” includes households with incomes up to 199% of the federal poverty level, and “200% + FPL” includes households with incomes at twice or more the federal poverty level.
Activity Levels

Adults (age 18–64) should do 2 hours and 30 minutes a week of moderate-intensity, or 1 hour and 15 minutes (75 minutes) a week of vigorous-intensity aerobic physical activity, or an equivalent combination of moderate- and vigorous-intensity aerobic physical activity. Aerobic activity should be performed in episodes of at least 10 minutes, preferably spread throughout the week.

Additional health benefits are provided by increasing to 5 hours (300 minutes) a week of moderate-intensity aerobic physical activity, or 2 hours and 30 minutes a week of vigorous-intensity physical activity, or an equivalent combination of both.

Older adults (age 65 and older) should follow the adult guidelines. If this is not possible due to limiting chronic conditions, older adults should be as physically active as their abilities allow. They should avoid inactivity. Older adults should do exercises that maintain or improve balance if they are at risk of falling.

For all individuals, some activity is better than none. Physical activity is safe for almost everyone, and the health benefits of physical activity far outweigh the risks.


Recommended Levels of Physical Activity

**A total of 49.2% of NMH Service Area adults participate in regular, sustained moderate or vigorous physical activity** (meeting physical activity recommendations).

- Comparable to regional findings.
- Comparable to statewide findings.
- More favorable than national findings.

Statistically unchanged since 2009.

Meets Physical Activity Recommendations

Sources:
- PRC Community Health Surveys, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 181]
- 2011 PRC National Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc.

Notes:
- Asked of all respondents.
- In this case the term “meets physical activity recommendations” refers to participation in moderate physical activity (exercise that produces only light sweating or a slight to moderate increase in breathing or heart rate) at least 5 times a week for 30 minutes at a time, and/or vigorous physical activity (activities that cause heavy sweating or large increases in breathing or heart rate) at least 3 times a week for 20 minutes at a time.
Those less likely to meet physical activity requirements include:

- Those age 40+.
- Residents in lower-income households.
- Blacks.

Meets Physical Activity Recommendations
(Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area, 2012)

![Physical Activity Graph]

Sources: ● 2012 PRC Community Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 181]
Notes: ● Asked of all respondents.
- Hispanics can be of any race. Other race categories are non-Hispanic categorizations (e.g., “White” reflects non-Hispanic White respondents).
- Income categories reflect respondent’s household income as a ratio to the federal poverty level (FPL) for their household size. “<200% FPL” includes households with incomes up to 199% of the federal poverty level, and “200%+ FPL” includes households with incomes at twice or more the federal poverty level.
- In this case the term “meets physical activity recommendations” refers to participation in moderate physical activity (exercise that produces only light sweating or a slight to moderate increase in breathing or heart rate) at least 5 times a week for 30 minutes at a time, and/or vigorous physical activity (activities that cause heavy sweating or large increases in breathing or heart rate) at least 3 times a week for 20 minutes at a time.

Moderate & Vigorous Physical Activity

In the past month:

A total of 28.4% of adults participated in moderate physical activity (5 times a week, 30 minutes at a time).

- Similar to MCHC Region findings.
- Better than the national level.
- Marks a significant improvement over time.

A total of 38.1% participated in vigorous physical activity (3 times a week, 20 minutes at a time).

- Less favorable than the regional percentage.
- Similar to the statewide figure.
- Similar to the nationwide figure.
- Unchanged since 2009.
**Moderate & Vigorous Physical Activity**  
(Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area, 2012)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical Activity</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Moderate Physical Activity</td>
<td>28.4%</td>
<td>71.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vigorous Physical Activity</td>
<td>38.1%</td>
<td>61.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sources:**  
- PRC Community Health Surveys, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. (Items 183-184)
- 2011 PRC National Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc.

**Notes:**  
- Asked of all respondents.
- **Moderate Physical Activity:** Takes part in exercise that produces only light sweating or a slight to moderate increase in breathing or heart rate at least 5 times per week for at least 30 minutes per time.
- **Vigorous Physical Activity:** Takes part in activities that cause heavy sweating or large increases in breathing or heart rate at least 3 times per week for at least 20 minutes per time.

**Ease of Accessing Exercise Facilities**

A total of 78.1% of NMH Service Area adults report that it is “not too difficult” or “not at all difficult” to access safe and affordable fitness facilities in the community.

**Ease of Access to Safe and Affordable Fitness Facilities**  
(Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area, 2012)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Difficulty Level</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very Difficult</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat Difficult</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Too Difficult</td>
<td>22.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not At All Difficult</td>
<td>55.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
On the other hand, 21.9% of survey respondents consider it to be “very” or “somewhat” difficult to access safe and affordable exercise facilities locally.

- Less favorable than the regional percentage.

**Find It “Very” or “Somewhat” Difficult to Access Safe and Affordable Places for Exercise**

Difficulty is statistically high among women, adults aged 40+, lower-income residents, Blacks and Hispanics.

**Find It “Very” or “Somewhat” Difficult to Access Safe and Affordable Places for Exercise**

(Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area, 2012)
Health Advice About Physical Activity & Exercise

A total of 51.9% of NMH Service Area adults report that their physician has asked about or given advice to them about physical activity in the past year.

- Comparable to the MCHC Region percentage.
- Better than the national average.
- Statistically similar to the 2009 survey findings.
- Note: 62.1% of obese NMH Service Area respondents say that they have talked with their doctor about physical activity/exercise in the past year.

Have Received Advice About Exercise in the Past Year From a Physician, Nurse, or Other Health Professional
(By Weight Classification)

Children’s Screen Time

Television Watching & Other Screen Time

Among children aged 5 through 17, 20.8% are reported to watch three or more hours of television per day; 18.6% are reported to spend three or more hours on other types of screen time for entertainment (video games, Internet, etc.).

- The percentage of children viewing 3+ hours of television daily is similar to both regional and national findings.
- The percentage of children with 3+ hours of screen time (other than television) is similar to the MCHC Region prevalence but less favorable than found nationally.
Children’s Screen Time
(Among Parents of Children Ages 5-17; Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area, 2012)

Hours per Day of Television

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;1 Hour</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Hour</td>
<td>27.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Hours</td>
<td>33.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3+ Hours</td>
<td>20.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hours per Day of Other Screen Time (i.e., video games, computer/Internet entertainment)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;1 Hour</td>
<td>17.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Hour</td>
<td>29.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Hours</td>
<td>19.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3+ Hours</td>
<td>18.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Screen Time

When combined, 51.5% of NMH Service Area children aged 5 to 17 spend three or more hours on screen time (whether television or computer, Internet, video games, etc.) per day.

- Comparable to the MCHC Region figure.
- Comparable to that found nationally.
- Statistically higher in Service Area boys and teens.

Children With Three or More Hours per School Day of Total Screen Time [TV, Computer, Video Games, Etc. for Entertainment]
(Among Parents of Children 5-17)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Area</th>
<th>MCHC Region</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boys 5-17:</td>
<td>58.7%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls 5-17:</td>
<td>43.5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 5-12:</td>
<td>40.1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 13-17:</td>
<td>69.9%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51.5%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48.2%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43.4%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: 2012 PRC Community Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 148-149, 185-186]
Notes: Asked of respondents with a child aged 5 to 17 in the household.

Sources: 2012 PRC National Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc.
Notes: Asked of all respondents with children aged 5-17 at home.
Statistical analysis: For this issue, respondents with children who are not in school were asked about “weekdays,” while parents of children in school were asked about typical “school days.”
"Three or more hours" includes reported screen time of 180 minutes or more per day.
Related Focus Group Findings: Physical Activity

Many focus group participants discussed physical activity in the community, with the primary discussion centered on:

- Many opportunities for physical activity
- Personal choice

North Chicago participants believe that residents have **many opportunities to participate in physical activity** in the community. Many local parks, lakes and bike paths exist in the community, facilitating physical activity. In addition, resources like the Galter LifeCenter and the park district provide excellent programs for youth, and the senior centers provide exercise classes and other organized activities for their members. Generally, local residents do not have safety concerns, especially during the day time.

Although residents have access to physical activity spaces, many community members do not make the **personal choice** to exercise. One North Chicago focus group attendee believes that if agencies can change the message, then more people may overcome their mental roadblock:

“I mean we live in a city where we can walk to things. We don’t have driveways where you pull out and go to the grocery store and pull in. Maybe that’s the difficult thing is...When you hear you got to work out three times a week for an hour, people are like, ‘I can’t do that.’ But just walking to the grocery store instead of taking the bus the four blocks. Those kinds of things too are important messages.” — Key Informant (North Chicago)

South Chicago group participants expressed concern about the **low levels of physical activity** in the community. Space for physical activity is not always available. Fitness centers are inaccessible due to **cost** and outdoor physical activity options may be limited due to **safety concerns**. A participant sums up concerns surrounding nutrition and physical activity:

“We live in a food desert. The mom and pop stores that are available in the area continue to push unhealthy foods, even though we’re campaigning to try to change those things. Also there’s not affordable health and wellness centers they can go to; when I say that, I’m talking about fitness centers where they can go to classes, where they can feel safe and comfortable when they go to the store (a) and then (b) to work out. If they wanted to go to the park are they going to feel safe and comfortable going to the park?” — Key Informant (South Chicago)

South Chicago **youth** have additional barriers to accessing physical activity, with cost becoming a major obstacle as most sports or recreation activities have an associated fee. The park districts have a limited number of slots for summer programs, but getting a space is challenging. One participant recalls her experiences with the system:

“Many of the staff in my program have young children in school. They go to Chicago public schools. Every summer they enroll their children in the park district for summer program. It’s almost like the lottery in terms of how you access it. They sit by their computer to be online and hopefully be one in a million that will get accepted for the slot. But they still have to pay a considerable amount of money for...it fills up within a matter of hours after they announce that this is the one day that you can go online and register your child for summer camp. It is a huge hurdle.” — Key Informant (South Chicago)
Weight Status

Because weight is influenced by energy (calories) consumed and expended, interventions to improve weight can support changes in diet or physical activity. They can help change individuals’ knowledge and skills, reduce exposure to foods low in nutritional value and high in calories, or increase opportunities for physical activity. Interventions can help prevent unhealthy weight gain or facilitate weight loss among obese people. They can be delivered in multiple settings, including healthcare settings, worksites, or schools.

The social and physical factors affecting diet and physical activity (see Physical Activity topic area) may also have an impact on weight. Obesity is a problem throughout the population. However, among adults, the prevalence is highest for middle-aged people and for non-Hispanic black and Mexican American women. Among children and adolescents, the prevalence of obesity is highest among older and Mexican American children and non-Hispanic black girls. The association of income with obesity varies by age, gender, and race/ethnicity.

- Healthy People 2020 (www.healthypeople.gov)

Body Mass Index (BMI), which describes relative weight for height, is significantly correlated with total body fat content. The BMI should be used to assess overweight and obesity and to monitor changes in body weight. In addition, measurements of body weight alone can be used to determine efficacy of weight loss therapy. BMI is calculated as weight (kg)/height squared (m²). To estimate BMI using pounds and inches, use: [weight (pounds)/height (inches²)] × 703.

In this report, overweight is defined as a BMI of 25.0 to 29.9 kg/m² and obesity as a BMI ≥ 30 kg/m². The rationale behind these definitions is based on epidemiological data that show increases in mortality with BMIs above 25 kg/m². The increase in mortality, however, tends to be modest until a BMI of 30 kg/m² is reached. For persons with a BMI ≥ 30 kg/m², mortality rates from all causes, and especially from cardiovascular disease, are generally increased by 50 to 100 percent above that of persons with BMIs in the range of 20 to 25 kg/m².


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification of Overweight and Obesity by BMI</th>
<th>BMI (kg/m²)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Underweight</td>
<td>&lt;18.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>18.5 – 24.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overweight</td>
<td>25.0 – 29.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obese</td>
<td>≥ 30.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Adult Weight Status

Healthy Weight

Based on self-reported heights and weights, 29.4% of NMH Service Area adults are at a healthy weight.

- Less favorable than regional findings.
- Similar to national findings.
- Fails to satisfy the Healthy People 2020 target (33.9% or higher).

“Healthy weight” means neither underweight, nor overweight (BMI = 18.5-24.9).
Marks a significant decrease in the prevalence of healthy weight over time.

Healthy Weight
(Percent of Adults With a Body Mass Index Between 18.5 and 24.9)

Healthy People 2020 Target = 33.9% or Higher

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NMH Svc Area</th>
<th>MCHC Region</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29.4%</td>
<td>34.1%</td>
<td>31.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: ● PRC Community Health Surveys, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 189]
● 2011 PRC National Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc.
● The definition of healthy weight is having a body mass index (BMI), a ratio of weight to height (kilograms divided by meters squared), between 18.5 and 24.9.

Overweight Status

More than two in three NMH Service Area adults (68.6%) are overweight.

- Less favorable than the MCHC Region prevalence.
- Less favorable than the Illinois prevalence.
- Comparable to the US overweight prevalence.

Marks a significant increase in overweight since 2009.

Prevalence of Total Overweight
(Percent of Overweight or/Obese Adults; Body Mass Index of 25.0 or Higher)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NMH Svc Area</th>
<th>MCHC Region</th>
<th>Illinois</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>68.6%</td>
<td>64.3%</td>
<td>63.2%</td>
<td>66.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: ● PRC Community Health Surveys, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 189]
● 2011 PRC National Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc.

Notes:
- Based on reported heights and weights, asked of all respondents.
- The definition of overweight is having a body mass index (BMI), a ratio of weight to height (kilograms divided by meters squared), greater than or equal to 25.0, regardless of gender. The definition for obesity is a BMI greater than or equal to 30.0.
“Obese” (also included in overweight prevalence discussed previously) includes respondents with a BMI value ≥30.

Further, 32.2% of NMH Service Area adults are obese.

- Less favorable than the MCHC Region findings.
- Less favorable than Illinois findings.
- Less favorable than the US findings.
- Similar to the Healthy People 2020 target (30.6% or lower).
- The rate of obesity is statistically unchanged since 2009.

![Prevalence of Obesity](chart)

### Prevalence of Obesity
(Percent of Obese Adults; Body Mass Index of 30.0 or Higher)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NMH Svc Area</td>
<td>32.2%</td>
<td>29.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCHC Region</td>
<td>29.0%</td>
<td>28.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>28.7%</td>
<td>28.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>28.5%</td>
<td>28.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources:
- PRC Community Health Surveys, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. (Item 189)
- 2011 PRC National Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc.

Notes:
- Based on reported heights and weights, asked of all respondents.
- The definition of obesity is having a body mass index (BMI), a ratio of weight to height (kilograms divided by meters squared), greater than or equal to 100, regardless of gender.

Obesity is notably more prevalence among adults aged 40 to 64, residents in lower-income households, Blacks, and Hispanics.

### Prevalence of Obesity
(Percent of Obese Adults; BMI of 30.0 or Higher; UCMC Service Area, 2012)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>18 to 39</th>
<th>40 to 64</th>
<th>65+</th>
<th>&lt;200% FPL</th>
<th>200%+ FPL</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>NMH Svc Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>31.3%</td>
<td>33.1%</td>
<td>28.0%</td>
<td>28.0%</td>
<td></td>
<td>40.5%</td>
<td>28.3%</td>
<td>25.3%</td>
<td>37.6%</td>
<td>38.1%</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
<td>32.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>31.3%</td>
<td>33.1%</td>
<td>28.0%</td>
<td>28.0%</td>
<td></td>
<td>40.5%</td>
<td>28.3%</td>
<td>25.3%</td>
<td>37.6%</td>
<td>38.1%</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
<td>32.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources:
- 2012 PRC Community Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. (Item 189)

Notes:
- Based on reported heights and weights, asked of all respondents.
- Hispanics can be of any race. Other race categories are non-Hispanic categorizations (e.g., “White” reflects non-Hispanic White respondents).
- Income categories reflect respondent’s household income as a ratio to the federal poverty level (FPL) for their household size. “<200% FPL” includes households with incomes up to 199% of the federal poverty level, and “200%+ FPL” includes households with incomes at twice or more the federal poverty level.
- The definition of obesity is having a body mass index (BMI), a ratio of weight to height (kilograms divided by meters squared), greater than or equal to 30.0, regardless of gender.
Actual vs. Perceived Body Weight

A total of 6.0% of obese adults and 37.0% of overweight (but not obese) adults feel that their current weight is “about right.”

- 57.3% of overweight (but not obese) adults see themselves as "somewhat overweight.”
- 31.3% of obese adults see themselves as "very overweight.”

**Actual vs. Perceived Weight Status**

(Among Adults Who Are Overweight/Obese Based on BMI; NMH Svc Area, 2012)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Perceive Self as</th>
<th>Among Adults Overweight But Not Obese (BMI 25.0-29.9)</th>
<th>Among Obese Adults (BMI 30+)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Very/Somewhat Underweight&quot;</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;About the Right Weight&quot;</td>
<td>37.0%</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Somewhat Overweight&quot;</td>
<td>57.3%</td>
<td>62.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Very Overweight&quot;</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>31.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: ● 2012 PRC Community Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 119]
Notes: ● BMI is based on reported heights and weights, asked of all respondents.
● The definition of overweight is having a body mass index (BMI), a ratio of weight to height (kilograms divided by meters squared), greater than or equal to 25.0, regardless of gender. The definition for obesity is a BMI greater than or equal to 30.0.

Relationship of Overweight With Other Health Issues

Obese (and often overweight) adults are more likely to report a number of adverse health conditions.

Among these are:

- Hypertension (high blood pressure).
- High blood cholesterol.
- Arthritis/rheumatism.
- “Fair” or “poor” physical health.
- Activity limitations.
- Diabetes.
- “Fair” or “poor” mental health.

Note also that overweight (and especially obese) NMH Service Area adults are more likely to have overweight children.
**Weight Management**

**Health Advice**

A total of 29.3% of adults have been given advice about their weight by a doctor, nurse or other health professional in the past year.

- Similar to regional findings.
- Better than national findings.
- Similar to findings of the 2009 study.

Note that 52.4% of obese adults have been given advice about their weight by a health professional in the past year (while nearly one-half has not).

- This meets the Healthy People 2020 target of 31.8% or higher.

---

**Have Received Advice About Weight in the Past Year**

**From a Physician, Nurse, or Other Health Professional**

(By Weight Classification)

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**Sources:**
- 2012 PRC Community Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. (Items 5, 28, 47, 120, 125, 152, 153, 193)
- 2011 PRC National Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc.

**Notes:**
- Based on reported heights and weights, asked of all respondents.
Weight Control

Individuals who are at a healthy weight are less likely to:

- Develop chronic disease risk factors, such as high blood pressure and dyslipidemia.
- Develop chronic diseases, such as type 2 diabetes, heart disease, osteoarthritis, and some cancers.
- Experience complications during pregnancy.
- Die at an earlier age.

All Americans should avoid unhealthy weight gain, and those whose weight is too high may also need to lose weight.

- Healthy People 2020 (www.healthypeople.gov)

A total of 45.7% of NMH Service Area adults who are overweight say that they are both modifying their diet and increasing their physical activity to try to lose weight.

- Similar to the MCHC Region findings.
- Lower than national findings.

Statistically similar to that reported among overweight adults in 2009.

Note: 50.9% of obese NMH Service Area adults report that they are trying to lose weight through a combination of diet and exercise, which is higher than what is found nationally, similar to that currently reported in the MCHC Region, and statistically unchanged over time.

**Trying to Lose Weight by Both Modifying Diet and Increasing Physical Activity**

(By Weight Classification)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weight Classification</th>
<th>NMH Svc Area 2009</th>
<th>NMH Svc Area 2012</th>
<th>MCHC Region</th>
<th>US</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overweight/Obese</td>
<td>43.1%</td>
<td>45.7%</td>
<td>47.2%</td>
<td>38.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obese</td>
<td>46.2%</td>
<td>50.9%</td>
<td>54.8%</td>
<td>41.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources:  
- PRC Community Health Surveys, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 190]
- 2011 PRC National Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc.

Notes:  
- Based on reported heights and weights, asked of all respondents.
Childhood Overweight & Obesity

In children and teens, body mass index (BMI) is used to assess weight status – underweight, healthy weight, overweight, or obese. After BMI is calculated for children and teens, the BMI number is plotted on the CDC BMI-for-age growth charts (for either girls or boys) to obtain a percentile ranking. Percentiles are the most commonly used indicator to assess the size and growth patterns of individual children in the United States. The percentile indicates the relative position of the child’s BMI number among children of the same sex and age.

BMI-for-age weight status categories and the corresponding percentiles are shown below:

- Underweight ............................................. <5th percentile
- Healthy Weight ............................... ≥5th and <85th percentile
- Overweight ............................. ≥85th and <95th percentile
- Obese .......................................................... ≥95th percentile

Based on the heights/weights reported by surveyed parents, 41.8% of NMH Service Area children age 5 to 17 are overweight or obese (≥85th percentile).

- Less favorable than MCHC Region findings.
- Less favorable than found nationally.
- Statistically unchanged over time.
- No difference by child’s gender; higher among children age 5-12 than among area teens.

Child Total Overweight Prevalence
(Percent of Children 5-17 Who Are Overweight/Obese; BMI in the 85th Percentile or Higher)

Sources:
- PRC Community Health Surveys, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. (Item 193)
- 2011 PRC National Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc.

Notes:
- Asked of all respondents with children age 5-17 at home.
- Overweight among children is determined by children’s Body Mass Index status at or above the 85th percentile of US growth charts by gender and age.
Further, 23.5% of NMH Service Area children age 5 to 17 are obese (≥95th percentile).

- Considerably higher than the MCHC Region prevalence.
- Comparable to the national percentage.
- Fails to satisfy the Healthy People 2020 target (14.6% or lower for children age 2-19).
- No change from 2009 survey findings.
- Much higher among children 5-12 than among area teens; similar by gender.

**Child Obesity Prevalence**
(Percent of Children 5-17 Who Are Obese; BMI in the 95th Percentile or Higher)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>NMH Svc Area 2009</th>
<th>NMH Svc Area 2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boys 5-17</td>
<td>23.6%</td>
<td>23.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls 5-17</td>
<td>23.6%</td>
<td>23.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 5-12</td>
<td>23.6%</td>
<td>23.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 13-17</td>
<td>23.6%</td>
<td>23.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources:  
- PRC Community Health Surveys, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 193]  
- 2011 PRC National Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc.  

Notes:  
- Asked of all respondents with children age 5-17 at home.
- Obesity among children is determined by children’s Body Mass Index status equal to or above the 95th percentile of US growth charts by gender and age.

Related Focus Group Findings: Obesity & Nutrition

Many focus group participants discussed nutrition, with the overriding themes including:

- Nutritional education
- Low levels of physical activity  
  - Cost  
  - Safety
- Youth
- Poor eating habits  
  - Convenience  
  - Misconception surrounding cost  
  - Food deserts  
  - Cost
- Organizations working to combat hunger
- Basic needs are not being met
- Hunger
Many Downtown/West Chicago residents possess poor eating habits and sometimes these residents do not have the option to eat healthier. Many times community members purchase food at corner stores because they live in a food desert, or an area where grocery stores do not operate. Often residents can buy a bag of chips for less than the cost of a banana. Fast food and microwavable meals represent a convenient option for busy families and their dollar may go farther when purchasing these things. A mobile van does operate in the West side neighborhoods and they do have farmer’s markets, but the cost is prohibitive for many community members. A participant recalls a recent experience:

“It was $6.00 for a pound of cherries. Okay. So you brought these produce markets into Austin, a low-income community, because you want to provide fresh produce. But then you’re not looking at the fact of – the cost factor that goes with that. And then this particular produce was less than eight blocks from Food for Less, Wal-Mart’s grocery store, ALDI, and Save a Lot. I said, ‘Because they can walk down the street to any of these stores and buy the same fruit for much less.’” — Key Informant (Downtown/West Chicago)

Downtown/West Chicago focus group attendees think nutritional education should target the entire family. Residents do not know how to cook healthy meals on a budget. Participants know that WIC represents one organization providing nutritional education classes to their recipients. In addition, area churches have started providing cooking classes to their congregations. A participant describes the education efforts:

“Fresh Moves. So the person will come and get some of the vegetables off of there. They’ll call all the WIC clients in, and they’ll actually, using the kitchen, show them how you can prepare this without the salt – as much salt or the butter. So it’s a movement. It's trying. Before with WIC, you couldn’t get – you couldn’t use your coupons to even get fresh vegetables or whatever else.” — Key Informant (Downtown/West Chicago)

Participants also have concern about the level of hunger on the West side of Chicago because of the high level of unemployment and low wage jobs. Many school-aged children receive free or reduced-cost lunches. Local schools offer both breakfast and lunch to enrolled students, but for some of these children this may be the only meals they eat each day. In addition, school lunches may not provide the best nutritional value, although the lunches continue to improve.

“And I think in some places that might be the one or only meal that they get, is in school. Yeah. I mean it’s 10 out of 21 meals a week are in school, if the child is in school, which poses a big ‘if.’” — Key Informant (Downtown/West Chicago)

Focus group attendees believe that many residents within Cook County cannot meet their own basic needs. The environment in which these individuals live does not support their ability to make healthy choices, like eating nutritious foods or participating in physical activity.

“I think we call too many things ‘lifestyle’ that really are ‘environment.’ I’m not talking about belching smokestacks although that’s one piece of it but if you’re living in a high crime neighborhood, how can I blame you for not getting out and exercising or not getting your kids out and exercising; it doesn’t seem very productive. If you’re living in a food desert -- I have students in West Garfield all the time and they are astonished by how few food choices there are
Attendees stressed the importance of meeting people where they live, work and play in order to make the most impact. In addition, agencies must recognize the hardships which residents face daily, as one participant explains:

“I think the problem is also small rewards. Like everybody knows pretty much that smoking isn’t good for you, but a cigarette is a reward and it’s within people’s reach, more or less. And food is a reward, God knows, and it’s within people’s reach. And so you have to think small because if you think big you aren’t going to meet these people where they really live. I serve a low income population and probably most of them are below the poverty line...So I can hardly begrudge them a cigarette or food if they’re obese because that’s it. They aren’t going to go on vacation.” — Key Informant (Cook County)

Many residents living in South Chicago possess poor eating habits and many areas of the community are considered to be “food deserts” because there are no local grocery stores. Convenient stores are abundant in the community, but these stores do not offer inexpensive “healthy foods.”

South Chicago focus group attendees agree that nutritional education should occur regularly, as many residents do not know how to cook healthy meals. KLEO, a local non-profit, offers a food pantry for residents and provides cooking classes. KLEO advertises these popular services through their website, flyers and via word-of-mouth. A participant describes the efforts:

“We bring out a chef that shows them how to cook the food that they’re about to receive and so now these individuals leave; they’ve been screened, they’ve gotten free food, now they have a recipe when they get home they can cook with it.” — Key Informant (South Chicago)

North Chicago focus group attendees agree that learning how to read labels, understand nutritional facts, and participating in cooking classes would benefit the entire community, ensuring that residents know how to cook healthy meals for their families.

North Chicago group attendees also agree that an educational class should also be a requirement for those receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits since current recipients are allowed to purchase anything, including soda and junk food. Some recipients may simply not know how to cook other foods or what other options would be healthier. Many children grow up in households where their parents do not know how to cook, so they never learn, as one participant describes:

“And if you grew up with parents who, basically single moms who didn’t know how to good food choices, and then that continues on. Where is that break? And where is that education about healthy food choices?” — Key Informant (North Chicago)

Residents living in North Chicago also possess poor eating habits. Focus group participants discussed the consumption of fast food, which has limited nutritional value but represents a convenient option and tastes good, so kids want it. In addition, residents perceive healthy foods to cost more money, as a participant explains:
“And the misconception that healthy things cost more. Yes, McDonald’s is convenient, but for your $4 happy meal, you could probably buy a lot of fruits and vegetables.” — Key Informant (North Chicago)

There are several organizations trying to **combat poor nutrition**. Many North Chicago community gardening initiatives have begun in the area. The Women, Infant and Children (WIC) program provides education and has provided coupons for participants to buy foods at local farmers markets in the past. Senior citizens also receive food vouchers. Additionally, many small local ethnic grocery stores have fresh produce available at a less expensive price than chain grocery stores, as one North Chicago participant recalls:

“There are a number of these ethnic fruit and vegetable stores that also may sell meat and not quite full-service, but pretty close. You know where the fruits and vegetables are quite reasonable, less expensive than in the main – the chain grocery stores.” — Key Informant (North Chicago)
In 2005, an estimated 22 million Americans struggled with a drug or alcohol problem. Almost 95% of people with substance use problems are considered unaware of their problem. Of those who recognize their problem, 273,000 have made an unsuccessful effort to obtain treatment. These estimates highlight the importance of increasing prevention efforts and improving access to treatment for substance abuse and co-occurring disorders.

Substance abuse has a major impact on individuals, families, and communities. The effects of substance abuse are cumulative, significantly contributing to costly social, physical, mental, and public health problems. These problems include:

- Teenage pregnancy
- Human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS)
- Other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs)
- Domestic violence
- Child abuse
- Motor vehicle crashes
- Physical fights
- Crime
- Homicide
- Suicide

The field has made progress in addressing substance abuse, particularly among youth. According to data from the national Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA) Monitoring the Future (MTF) survey, which is an ongoing study of the behaviors and values of America’s youth between 2004 and 2009, a drop in drug use (including amphetamines, methamphetamine, cocaine, hallucinogens, and LSD) was reported among students in 8th, 10th, and 12th grades. Note that, despite a decreasing trend in marijuana use which began in the mid-1990s, the trend has stalled in recent years among these youth. Use of alcohol among students in these three grades also decreased during this time.

Substance abuse refers to a set of related conditions associated with the consumption of mind- and behavior-altering substances that have negative behavioral and health outcomes. Social attitudes and political and legal responses to the consumption of alcohol and illicit drugs make substance abuse one of the most complex public health issues. In addition to the considerable health implications, substance abuse has been a flash-point in the criminal justice system and a major focal point in discussions about social values: people argue over whether substance abuse is a disease with genetic and biological foundations or a matter of personal choice.

Advances in research have led to the development of evidence-based strategies to effectively address substance abuse. Improvements in brain-imaging technologies and the development of medications that assist in treatment have gradually shifted the research community's perspective on substance abuse. There is now a deeper understanding of substance abuse as a disorder that develops in adolescence and, for some individuals, will develop into a chronic illness that will require lifelong monitoring and care.

Improved evaluation of community-level prevention has enhanced researchers’ understanding of environmental and social factors that contribute to the initiation and abuse of alcohol and illicit drugs, leading to a more sophisticated understanding of how to implement evidence-based strategies in specific social and cultural settings.

A stronger emphasis on evaluation has expanded evidence-based practices for drug and alcohol treatment. Improvements have focused on the development of better clinical interventions through research and increasing the skills and qualifications of treatment providers.

– Healthy People 2020 (www.healthypeople.gov)
Age-Adjusted Cirrhosis/Liver Disease Deaths

Between 2006 and 2008, the City of Chicago reported an annual average age-adjusted cirrhosis/liver disease mortality rate of 11.0 deaths per 100,000 population.

- Higher than the regional rate.
- Higher than the statewide rate.
- Higher than the national rate.
- Fails to satisfy the Healthy People 2020 target (8.2 or lower).

Cirrhosis/Liver Disease: Age-Adjusted Mortality
(2007-2009 Annual Average Deaths per 100,000 Population)

![Cirrhosis/Liver Disease: Age-Adjusted Mortality](image)

Sources: ● CDC WONDER Online Query System. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Epidemiology Program Office, Division of Public Health Surveillance and Informatics. Data extracted September 2012.

Notes:
● Deaths are coded using the Tenth Revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10).
● Rates are per 100,000 population, age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Standard Population.
● Local, state and national data are simple three-year averages.
● *City of Chicago rate represents 2006-2008 data.

The City’s cirrhosis mortality rate appears to be higher among Whites than Blacks.

Cirrhosis/Liver Disease: Age-Adjusted Mortality by Race
(2006-2008 Annual Average Deaths per 100,000 Population)

![Cirrhosis/Liver Disease: Age-Adjusted Mortality by Race](image)

Sources: ● CDC WONDER Online Query System. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Epidemiology Program Office, Division of Public Health Surveillance and Informatics. Data extracted September 2012.

Notes:
● Deaths are coded using the Tenth Revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10).
● Rates are per 100,000 population, age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Standard Population.
● Local, state and national data are simple three-year averages.
The mortality rate decreased slightly over the past decade, echoing the regional, state and national trends.

Cirrhosis/Liver Disease: Age-Adjusted Mortality Trends
(Annual Average Deaths per 100,000 Population)

Prevalence of Liver Disease

According to survey results, 2.0% of Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area adults suffer from liver disease.

- Similar to the regional percentage.
High-Risk Alcohol Use

Current Drinking

*Current drinkers* include survey respondents who had at least one drink of alcohol in the month preceding the interview. For the purposes of this study, a "drink" is considered one can or bottle of beer, one glass of wine, one can or bottle of wine cooler, one cocktail, or one shot of liquor.

A total of 6 in 10 (60.0%) area adults had at least one drink of alcohol in the past month (current drinkers).

- Comparable to the regional proportion.
- Comparable to the statewide proportion.
- Comparable to national proportion.

Marks a significant increase in current drinking levels over time.

**Current Drinkers**

Sources: ● PRC Community Health Surveys, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 198]
● 2011 PRC National Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc.

Notes: ● Asked of all respondents.
* Current drinkers had at least one alcoholic drink in the past month.

Current drinking is more prevalent among men, young adults, those in the higher income category, Whites and Hispanics.

**Current Drinkers**

(Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area, 2012)

Sources: ● 2012 PRC Community Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 198]

Notes: ● Asked of all respondents.
* Hispanics can be of any race. Other race categories are non-Hispanic categorizations (e.g., "White" reflects non-Hispanic White respondents).
* Income categories reflect respondent’s household income as a ratio to the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for their household size. "<200% FPL" includes households with incomes up to 199% of the federal poverty level, and "200%+ FPL" includes households with incomes at twice or more the federal poverty level.
* Current drinkers had at least one alcoholic drink in the past month.
Chronic Drinking

A total of 4.7% of area adults averaged two or more drinks of alcohol per day in the past month (chronic drinkers).

- Similar to the regional proportion.
- Similar to the statewide proportion.
- Similar to the national proportion.

Denotes a significant increase from 2009 survey findings.

Chronic Drinkers

Sources:
- PRC Community Health Surveys, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 199]
- 2011 PRC National Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc.

Notes:
- Asked of all respondents.
- Chronic drinkers are defined as having 60+ alcoholic drinks in the past month.
- The state definition for chronic drinkers is males consuming 2+ drinks per day and females consuming 1+ drink per day.

Chronic drinking is more prevalent among Service Area men and Whites respondents.

Chronic Drinkers

(Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area, 2012)

“Binge drinkers” include:

1) MEN who report drinking 5 or more alcoholic drinks on any single occasion during the past month; and
2) WOMEN who report drinking 4 or more alcoholic drinks on any single occasion during the past month.

“Chronic drinkers” include:

- Survey respondents reporting 60+ alcoholic drinks of alcohol in the month preceding the interview.

RELATED ISSUE:
See also Stress in the Mental Health & Mental Disorders section of this report.
A total of 22.9% of NMH Service Area adults are binge drinkers.

- Less favorable than the MCHC Region findings.
- Less favorable than Illinois findings.
- Less favorable than national findings.
- Similar to the Healthy People 2020 target (24.3% or lower).

Mark a significant increase in binge drinking levels over time.

Binge drinking is more prevalent among:

- Men.
- Young adults (note the negative correlation with age).
- Upper-income residents.
- Whites and Hispanics.
Binge Drinkers
(Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area, 2012)

Healthy People 2020 Target = 24.3% or Lower

Sources:
● 2012 PRC Community Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 200]

Notes:
● Asked of all respondents.
● Hispanics can be of any race. Other race categories are non-Hispanic categorizations (e.g., "White" reflects non-Hispanic White respondents).
● Income categories reflect respondent’s household income as a ratio to the federal poverty level (FPL) for their household size. "<200% FPL" includes households with incomes up to 199% of the federal poverty level, and "200%+ FPL" includes households with incomes at twice or more the federal poverty level.
● Binge drinkers are defined as men having 5+ alcoholic drinks on any one occasion or women consuming 4+ drinks on any one occasion.

Drinking & Driving

A total of 2.2% of NMH Service Area adults acknowledge having driven a vehicle in the past month after they had perhaps too much to drink.

● Comparable to MCHC Region findings.
● Comparable to the national findings.

The drinking and driving prevalence has not changed over time.

Have Driven in the Past Month After Perhaps Having Too Much to Drink

Sources: ● PRC Community Health Surveys, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 75]
● 2011 PRC National Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc.

Notes: ● Asked of all respondents.

Note: As a self-reported measure – and because this indicator reflects potentially illegal behavior – it is reasonable to expect that it might be underreported, and that the actual incidence of drinking and driving in the community is likely higher.
A total of 6.4% of NMH Service Area adults acknowledge either drinking and driving or riding with a drunk driver in the past month.

- Comparable to regional findings.
- Comparable to the national findings.
- Marks a significant increase from the 2009 NMH Service Area study.

**Have Driven Drunk OR Ridden With a Driver in the Past Month Who Had Too Much to Drink**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>NMH Service Area</th>
<th>MCHC Region</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Age-Adjusted Drug-Induced Deaths**

Between 2007 and 2009, there was an annual average age-adjusted drug-induced mortality rate of 10.3 deaths per 100,000 population in Cook County.

- Similar to the regional rate.
  - Similar to the statewide rate.
  - Better than the national rate.
  - Satisfies the Healthy People 2020 target (11.3 or lower).
Drug-Induced Deaths: Age-Adjusted Mortality
(2007-2009 Annual Average Deaths per 100,000 Population)

Sources:
● CDC WONDER Online Query System. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Epidemiology Program Office, Division of Public Health Surveillance and Informatics. Data extracted September 2012.

Notes:
● Deaths are coded using the Tenth Revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10).
● Rates are per 100,000 population, age-adjusted to the 2000 US Standard Population.
● Local, state and national data are simple three-year averages.
● *City of Chicago data unavailable; Cook County data is used here.

The drug-induced mortality rate appears to be higher among the county’s Black population when compared with Whites and Hispanics.

Drug-Induced Deaths: Age-Adjusted Mortality by Race
(2007-2009 Annual Average Deaths per 100,000 Population)

Sources:
● CDC WONDER Online Query System. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Epidemiology Program Office, Division of Public Health Surveillance and Informatics. Data extracted September 2012.

Notes:
● Deaths are coded using the Tenth Revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10).
● Rates are per 100,000 population, age-adjusted to the 2000 US Standard Population.
● County, state and national data are simple three-year averages.
The drug-induced mortality rate has fluctuated in Cook County over the past decade, but the general trend is upward. Statewide and nationwide, rates have clearly increased.

Drug-Induced Deaths: Age-Adjusted Mortality Trends
(Annual Average Deaths per 100,000 Population)

For the purposes of this survey, “illicit drug use” includes use of illegal substances or of prescription drugs taken without a physician’s order.

Note: As a self-reported measure – and because this indicator reflects potentially illegal behavior – it is reasonable to expect that it might be underreported, and that actual illicit drug use in the community is likely higher.

Illicit Drug Use

A total of 4.7% of area adults acknowledge using an illicit drug in the past month.

- Similar to the proportion found in the MCHC Region.
- Less favorable than the proportion found nationally.
- Satisfies the Healthy People 2020 target of 7.1% or lower.

Similar to the 2009 findings.

Illicit Drug Use in the Past Month

Sources: ● PRC Community Health Surveys, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 77]
● 2011 PRC National Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc.

Notes: ● Asked of all respondents.
Alcohol & Drug Treatment

A total of 4.1% of NMH Service Area adults report that they have sought professional help for an alcohol or drug problem at some point in their lives.

- Similar to MCHC Region findings.
- Similar to national findings.

Unchanged over time.

Have Ever Sought Professional Help for an Alcohol/Drug-Related Problem

![Bar chart showing the percentage of people who have sought professional help for an alcohol/drug-related problem in NMH Svc Area, MCHC Region, and United States.]

Sources: ● PRC Community Health Surveys, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 78]
● 2011 PRC National Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc.

Notes: ● Asked of all respondents.

Related Focus Group Findings: Substance Abuse

Focus group participants are concerned with substance abuse in the community, with discussion focused on:

- Prevalence of substance abuse
- Stigma
- Limited treatment facilities
- Violence
- Self-medication

A number of Cook County focus group participants express concern with the prevalence of substance abuse in the community, especially prescription drug abuse and use of heroin. Members agree that not enough prevention occurs in the community and that education on substance abuse needs to begin early. There are several substance abuse treatment facilities which anyone can enter regardless of insurance status, but the current stigma attached to substance abuse affects local agencies’ ability to make an impact on the community:

“If you’re not insured or have poor economic mobility, you have very good programs like Gateway and Haymarket. Those programs do a very good job. Resurrection has good outreach certainly for mental health in particular. But there is still a problem, a bias and a lack of education as to brain diseases, the whole spectrum.” — Key Informant (Cook County)
South Chicago attendees also expressed concern about the **prevalence of substance abuse** in the community, especially alcohol abuse. In addition, there are a limited number of treatment providers/facilities for individuals with substance abuse problems in the South Chicago area. Several non-profit organizations refer residents to Jordan House, which provides substance abuse treatment; however, Jordan House only provides services to insured or Medicaid patients, so access is a major obstacle for those without insurance.

“We partner with a group called Jordan House. And what they do is they’ll come out and do substance abuse counseling. But you have to have insurance. So that’s the only that they get the help is if they have a Medical Card.” — Key Informant (South Chicago)

North Chicago focus group participants are also concerned about the **prevalence of substance abuse** occurring in the community. Attendees believe that alcohol use occurs more frequently among the higher income populations, and drug use more often among the low income and minority populations, but that both take place within each demographic. In addition, respondents perceive a recent increase in heroin use.

“We’re seeing an upsurge in heroin usage, where we hadn’t seen for - I used to see heroin addicts a lot. I do drug use. And then it went out of favor, but now because it’s smokeable, we’re seeing an increase in heroin.” — Key Informant (North Chicago)

The number of resources to combat addiction and substance abuse remain low in the North Chicago community and there are a **limited number of treatment providers/facilities** for individuals with substance abuse problems. Finding treatment facilities that will accept under- or uninsured populations remains very difficult.

A number of Downtown/West Chicago focus group participants express concern with the **prevalence of substance abuse** in the community, especially crack, cocaine, marijuana, prescription drug abuse and alcohol dependency. Drug use and addiction affects all ages and areas of the community, but participants have specific concern for seniors overusing prescription drugs. Focus group attendees describe downtown residents as “functional users” and participate in recreational alcohol and drug use; however, attendees cite specific concern for the West side population. The West side population, predominately African American, uses drugs and alcohol to **self-medicate** and escape from the violence. Marijuana use is commonplace, as one participant explains:

“It’s medicating yourself because of everything that’s going on. So it’s easier to take a drink. Smoking marijuana on the west side of Chicago by youth is the same thing as me drinking this pop.” — Key Informant (Downtown/West Chicago)

Focus group members also consider the West side to experience a lot of **violence** due to drug trafficking.
**Tobacco Use**

Tobacco use is the single most preventable cause of death and disease in the United States. Each year, approximately 443,000 Americans die from tobacco-related illnesses. For every person who dies from tobacco use, 20 more people suffer with at least one serious tobacco-related illness. In addition, tobacco use costs the US $193 billion annually in direct medical expenses and lost productivity.

Scientific knowledge about the health effects of tobacco use has increased greatly since the first Surgeon General’s report on tobacco was released in 1964.

**Tobacco use causes:**
- Cancer
- Heart disease
- Lung diseases (including emphysema, bronchitis, and chronic airway obstruction)
- Premature birth, low birth weight, stillbirth, and infant death

There is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke. Secondhand smoke causes heart disease and lung cancer in adults and a number of health problems in infants and children, including: severe asthma attacks; respiratory infections; ear infections; and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS).

Smokeless tobacco causes a number of serious oral health problems, including cancer of the mouth and gums, periodontitis, and tooth loss. Cigar use causes cancer of the larynx, mouth, esophagus, and lung.

— Healthy People 2020 (www.healthypeople.gov)

**Cigarette Smoking**

**Cigarette Smoking Prevalence**

A total of 17.3% of NMH Service Area adults currently smoke cigarettes, either regularly (10.4% every day) or occasionally (6.9% on some days).

**Cigarette Smoking Prevalence**
(Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area, 2012)

- Regular Smoker 10.4%
- Occasional Smoker 6.9%
- Former Smoker 19.7%
- Never Smoked 63.0%

Sources: ● 2012 PRC Community Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 194]
Notes: ● Asked of all respondents.
Less favorable than regional findings.

Similar to statewide findings.

Similar to national findings.

Fails to meet the Healthy People 2020 target (12% or lower).

The current smoking percentage is statistically unchanged since 2009.

Smoking is statistically higher among men, adults under 65, residents in lower-income households, and Blacks.

Note also that 15.6% of women of child-bearing age (ages 18 to 44) currently smoke. This is notable given that tobacco use increases the risk of infertility, as well as the risks for miscarriage, stillbirth and low birthweight for women who smoke during pregnancy.
Environmental Tobacco Smoke

A total of 18.8% of NMH Service Area adults (including smokers and non-smokers) report that a member of their household has smoked cigarettes in the home an average of 4+ times per week over the past month.

- Less favorable than regional findings.
- Less favorable than national findings.
- Unchanged over time.

Note that 11.4% of NMH Service Area non-smokers are exposed to cigarette smoke at home, which is less favorable than regional and national findings.

**Member of Household Smokes at Home**

Sources: ● PRC Community Health Surveys, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Items 69, 196]
● 2011 PRC National Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc.
Notes: ● Asked of all respondents.
● "Smokes at home" refers to someone smoking cigarettes, cigars, or a pipe in the home an average of four or more times per week in the past month.

Exposure to cigarette smoke in the home is notably higher among adults with lower incomes and Blacks.

**Member of Household Smokes At Home**
(Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area, 2012)

Sources: ● 2012 PRC Community Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 69]
Notes: ● Asked of all respondents.
● Hispanics can be of any race. Other race categories are non-Hispanic categorizations (e.g., "White" reflects non-Hispanic White respondents).
● Income categories reflect respondent’s household income as a ratio to the federal poverty level (FPL) for their household size. "<200% FPL" includes households with incomes up to 199% of the federal poverty level; and "200%+ FPL" includes households with incomes at twice or more the federal poverty level.
● "Smokes at home" refers to someone smoking cigarettes, cigars, or a pipe in the home an average of four or more times per week in the past month.
Among households with children, 17.6% have someone who smokes cigarettes in the home.

- Less favorable than MCHC Region findings.
- Less favorable than national findings.
- Statistically unchanged over time.

**Percentage of Households With Children In Which Someone Smokes in the Home**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>17.6%</td>
<td>13.8%</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
<td>19.4%</td>
<td>17.6%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: ● PRC Community Health Surveys, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. (Item 197)
● 2011 PRC National Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc.

Notes: ● Asked of all respondents.
- “Smokes at home” refers to someone smoking cigarettes, cigars, or a pipe in the home an average of four or more times per week in the past month.

**Smoking Cessation**

Preventing tobacco use and helping tobacco users quit can improve the health and quality of life for Americans of all ages. People who stop smoking greatly reduce their risk of disease and premature death. Benefits are greater for people who stop at earlier ages, but quitting tobacco use is beneficial at any age.

Many factors influence tobacco use, disease, and mortality. Risk factors include race/ethnicity, age, education, and socioeconomic status. Significant disparities in tobacco use exist geographically; such disparities typically result from differences among states in smoke-free protections, tobacco prices, and program funding for tobacco prevention.

- Healthy People 2020 (www.healthypeople.gov)

**Health Advice About Smoking Cessation**

A total of 74.6% of smokers say that a doctor, nurse or other health professional has recommended in the past year that they quit smoking.

- Comparable to the regional percentage.
- More favorable than the national percentage.
- Marks a significant increase over time.
Advised by a Healthcare Professional in the Past Year to Quit Smoking  
(Among Current Smokers)

Sources:
- PRC Community Health Surveys, Professional Research Consultants, Inc.  [Item 68]
- 2011 PRC National Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc.

Notes:
- As of all current smokers.

Smoking Cessation Attempts

Over one-half (56.3%) of regular smokers went without smoking for one day or longer in the past year because they were trying to quit smoking.

- Similar to the MCHC Region percentage.
- Similar to the national percentage.
- Fails to satisfy the Healthy People 2020 target (80% or higher).
- Denotes a significant decrease from 2009 survey findings.

Have Stopped Smoking for One Day or Longer in the Past Year in an Attempt to Quit Smoking  
(Among Everyday Smokers)

Sources:
- PRC Community Health Surveys, Professional Research Consultants, Inc.  [Item 67]
- 2011 PRC National Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc.

Notes:
- Asked of respondents who smoke cigarettes every day.
Other Tobacco Use

Cigars

A total of 5.2% of Service Area adults smoke cigars every day or on some days.

- Similar to the MCHC Region findings.
- Higher than the national percentage.
- Fails to satisfy the Healthy People 2020 target (0.2% or lower).

Statistically unchanged since 2009.

Smokeless Tobacco

1.7% of area adults use some type of smokeless tobacco every day or on some days.

- Comparable to the MCHC Region findings.
- Comparable to the national percentage.
- Fails to satisfy the Healthy People 2020 target (0.3% or lower).

Comparable to the 2009 findings.
Many focus group participants are concerned with tobacco use in the community, focusing on these issues:

- Youth
- Cigarette markets
- Adults with mental illness
- No smoking ordinance
- Health consequences of secondhand smoke

Downtown/West Chicago focus group participants agree that cigarette smoking is of small concern compared with the number of residents who regularly smoke marijuana. As one participant describes:

“I’ve been in the schools on the west side for 30 years, and I was surprised to see there’s not as many teenagers as there was when I was going to school – that were smoking cigarettes. Now they are smoking them blunts. But I didn’t see a lot of children smoking cigarettes.” Downtown/West Chicago Participant

Although the level of smoking in adults has decreased due to the no smoking ordinance, attendees worry about the health consequences of secondhand smoke on children, discussing the level of asthma and other respiratory diseases seen among the westside neighborhood’s children. A focus group member explains:

“A local study showed the high rate of tobacco use in the communities. And we looked at – but it also showed the high rate of tobacco use that was in the same houses that had asthma.” — Key Informant (Downtown/West Chicago)

North Chicago focus group participants believe that cigarette smoking continues to occur throughout the community, regardless of income. Participants did agree that youth and residents with mental illness may be smoking more than in years past.

“It’s pretty much across the board. But I know our patients with mental health issues seem to have a much higher rate. I don’t think that’s really – I know typically demographically I think more low-income are smoking. But it’s not a huge difference. A lot of our private-insurance patients are smoking just as much.” — Key Informant (North Chicago)

South Chicago focus group participants feel that cigarette smoking is a concern, especially for youth in their community. Attendees believe that the non-smoking ordinance has lowered overall smoking levels, but they still see youth smoking in the neighborhoods or on their way to school.

Group members also expressed concern about illegal cigarette markets evident in the community. The cost of cigarettes now exceeds $10 dollars, so some smokers in the community participate in the purchasing of illegal cigarettes at cigarette markets, where cigarettes are sold individually:

“They do it in the open (sell cigarettes). Open street market. We have farmer’s markets and cigarette markets.” — Key Informant (South Chicago)
ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES
Health Insurance Coverage

Type of Healthcare Coverage

A total of 56.4% of NMH Service Area adults age 18 to 64 report having healthcare coverage through private insurance. Another 21.5% report coverage through a government-sponsored program (e.g., Medicaid, Medicare, military benefits).

Healthcare Insurance Coverage
(Among Adults 18-64; Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area, 2012)

Prescription Drug Coverage

92.8% of insured adults have prescription coverage as part of their insurance plan.

- Similar to the MCHC Region prevalence.
- Similar to the national prevalence.
- Statistically unchanged since 2009.

Health Insurance Covers Prescriptions at Least in Part
(Among Insured Respondents)
Supplemental Coverage

Among Medicare recipients, 53.7% have additional, supplemental healthcare coverage.

- Less favorable than found in the MCHC Region.
  - Less favorable than reported among Medicare recipients nationwide.
  - Statistically similar to the proportion reported in 2009.

Have Supplemental Coverage in Addition to Medicare
(Among Adults 65+)

Here, lack of health insurance coverage reflects respondents age 18 to 64 (thus, excluding the Medicare population) who have no type of insurance coverage for healthcare services – neither private insurance nor government-sponsored plans (e.g., Medicaid).

Source: PRC Community Health Surveys, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 92]

Notes: Asked of respondents age 65+.

Lack of Health Insurance Coverage

Among adults age 18 to 64, 22.1% report having no insurance coverage for healthcare expenses.

- Less favorable than the MCHC Region findings.
  - Less favorable than the state findings.
  - Less favorable than the national findings.
  - The Healthy People 2020 target is universal coverage (0% uninsured).
  - Statistically unchanged over time.
Lack of Healthcare Insurance Coverage
(Among Adults 18-64)

Healthy People 2020 Target = 0.0% (Universal Coverage)

The following population segments are more likely to be without healthcare insurance coverage:

- Men.
- Residents living at lower incomes.
- Non-Whites.

Lack of Healthcare Insurance Coverage
(Among Adults 18-64; Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area, 2012)

Healthy People 2020 Target = 0.0% (Universal Coverage)
As might be expected, uninsured adults in NMH Service Area are less likely to receive routine care and preventive health screenings, and are more likely to have experienced difficulties accessing healthcare.

Preventive Healthcare
(By Insured Status; Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area, 2012)

Sources: ● 2012 PRC Community Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Items 17, 53, 56, 203, 206]
Notes: ● Asked of all respondents.

Recent Lack of Coverage (Insurance Instability)

Among currently insured adults in NMH Service Area, 9.0% report that they were without healthcare coverage at some point in the past year.

- Less favorable than the regional prevalence.
- Less favorable than the US findings.
- Statistically unchanged from 2009 findings among insured adults.

Went Without Healthcare Insurance Coverage At Some Point in the Past Year
(Among Insured Adults)

Sources: ● PRC Community Health Surveys, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 94]
Notes: ● 2011 PRC National Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc.
- Asked of all insured respondents.
Among insured adults, the following segments are more likely to have gone without healthcare insurance coverage at some point in the past year:

- Respondents under 65.
- Residents in lower-income households.
- Non-Whites.

**Went Without Healthcare Insurance Coverage At Some Point in the Past Year**
(Among Insured Adults; Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area, 2012)

Sources:
- 2012 PRC Community Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 94]

Notes:
- 2012 PRC Community Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 94]
- Asked of all insured respondents.
- Hispanics can be of any race. Other race categories are non-Hispanic categorizations (e.g., “White” reflects non-Hispanic White respondents).
- Income categories reflect respondent’s household income as a ratio to the federal poverty level (FPL) for their household size. “<200% FPL” includes households with incomes up to 199% of the federal poverty level, and “200%+ FPL” includes households with incomes at twice or more the federal poverty level.
Difficulties Accessing Healthcare

Access to comprehensive, quality health care services is important for the achievement of health equity and for increasing the quality of a healthy life for everyone. It impacts: overall physical, social, and mental health status; prevention of disease and disability; detection and treatment of health conditions; quality of life; preventable death; and life expectancy.

Access to health services means the timely use of personal health services to achieve the best health outcomes. It requires three distinct steps: 1) Gaining entry into the health care system; 2) Accessing a health care location where needed services are provided; and 3) Finding a health care provider with whom the patient can communicate and trust.

– Healthy People 2020 (www.healthypeople.gov)

Difficulties Accessing Services

A total of 43.6% of NMH Service Area adults report some type of difficulty or delay in obtaining healthcare services in the past year.

- Higher than the MCHC Region findings.
- Higher than national findings.
- Marks a significant decrease (improvement) over time.

Experienced Difficulties or Delays of Some Kind in Receiving Needed Healthcare in the Past Year

This indicator reflects the percentage of the total population experiencing problems accessing healthcare in the past year, regardless of whether they needed or sought care.

Note that the following demographic groups more often report difficulties accessing healthcare services:

- Women.
- Adults under the age of 65.
- Respondents in lower-income households.
- Blacks.
Experienced Difficulties or Delays of Some Kind in Receiving Needed Healthcare in the Past Year
(Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area, 2012)

Sources: 2012 PRC Community Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 206]
Notes: ● Asked of all respondents.
● Represents the percentage of respondents experiencing one or more barriers to accessing healthcare in the past 12 months.
● Hispans can be of any race. Other race categories are non-Hispanic categorizations (e.g., “White” reflects non-Hispanic White respondents).
● Income categories reflect respondent’s household income as a ratio to the federal poverty level (FPL) for their household size. “<200% FPL” includes households with incomes up to 199% of the federal poverty level; and “200%+ FPL” includes households with incomes at twice or more the federal poverty level.

Barriers to Healthcare Access

Of the tested barriers, inconvenient office hours impacted the greatest share of NMH Service Area adults (20.3% say that inconvenient office hours prevented them from obtaining medical care in the past year).

- Reports for each barrier were higher among NMH Service Area adults than adults across the MCHC Region.
- The proportion of NMH Service Area adults impacted was statistically similar to or higher than was found nationwide for each of the surveyed barriers.

Barriers to Access Have Prevented Medical Care in the Past Year

To better understand healthcare access barriers, survey participants were asked whether any of six types of barriers to access prevented them from seeing a physician or obtaining a needed prescription in the past year.

Again, these percentages reflect the total population, regardless of whether medical care was needed or sought.

Sources: 2012 PRC Community Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Items 7-12]
Notes: ● Asked of all respondents.

[Graphs and tables showing data on barriers to healthcare access, including percentages for different demographics and regions.]

Professional Research Consultants, Inc.
Compared to baseline 2009 data, the NMH Service Area has seen significant improvements with regard to the barriers of cost (both physician visits and prescription medications), difficulty getting an appointment, and transportation as a barrier.

**Trend in Barriers to Healthcare Access**
(Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area, 2009-2012)

As might be expected, NMH Service Area adults without health insurance are much more likely to report access barriers when compared to the insured population, particularly those related to cost.

**Barriers to Healthcare Access**
(By Insured Status, Adults 18+; Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area, 2012)
Prescriptions

Among all NMH Service Area adults, 18.1% skipped or reduced medication doses in the past year in order to stretch a prescription and save money.

- Less favorable than regional findings.
- Less favorable than national findings.
- Statistically similar to 2009 findings.

Skipped or Reduced Prescription Doses in Order to Stretch Prescriptions and Save Money

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>NMH Svc Area</th>
<th>MCHC Region</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adults more likely to have skipped or reduced their prescription doses include:</td>
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</tbody>
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- Those aged 40 to 64.
- Respondents with lower incomes.
- Blacks and Hispanics.
- Uninsured adults.

Skipped or Reduced Prescription Doses in Order to Stretch Prescriptions and Save Money

(Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area, 2012)
Accessing Healthcare for Children

A total of 5.1% of parents say there was a time in the past year when they needed medical care for their child, but were unable to get it.

- Similar to MCHC Region findings.
- Less favorable than US findings.
- Statistically unchanged since 2009.

Had Trouble Obtaining Medical Care for Child in the Past Year
(Among Parents of Children 0-17)

Parents with trouble obtaining medical care for their child reported barriers due to cost or lack of insurance, insurance issues, and long waits for appointments.

Parents experiencing difficulties cited **cost or lack of insurance, insurance issues, and long waits for appointments** as primary reasons.

Related Focus Group Findings: Access to Healthcare

Many focus group participants are concerned about access to healthcare, with discussion focused on these themes:

- Barriers to accessing healthcare
  - Uninsured and under-insured
  - Cost
  - Medicaid reimbursement rates
  - Income- and insurance-dependent
  - Prescription medication cost
  - Federally Qualified Health Centers
  - Hours of operation
  - Childcare
  - Transportation
    - PACE bus system
    - City trains
Focus group participants agree that residents encounter several barriers when trying to access healthcare services in Cook County, and many disparities exist within the community (dependent upon geography). As one participant explains:

“Place plays a very large part in the disparity that we see between the healthy and those who aren’t healthy. I’d like to suggest, and this isn’t my idea, but that we actually talk about ‘sick care’ as what we now know as ‘healthcare,’ and that ‘healthcare’ we actually talk about ‘prevention’ and community programs that support a person with self-management.” — Key Informant (Cook County)

South Chicago group attendees agree that local residents encounter several barriers when trying to access healthcare services, and that access to healthcare is income- and insurance-dependent. There are several Federally Qualified Health Centers (including KOMED) which uninsured persons can access in South Chicago, but these clinics are understaffed and overwhelmed. The clinics can have lengthy wait times, so residents may need to take a whole day off work if they want to obtain care, which many residents cannot afford to do. One participant describes her recent experience:

“I got upstairs, there were a million people sitting in that waiting room. And I left. So if I’m leaving, think about all the other people that just see the amount of people that are in front of you and leave and not know what’s wrong with them.” — Key Informant (South Chicago)

The cost of prescription medication can overburden families, even those with insurance. Many families in the South Chicago community live below the poverty line, so any cost can act as a deterrent to medication. Attendees worry that with the new state legislation effective July 1st, 2012 (which limits the number of Medicaid-covered prescriptions), residents’ health will continue to deteriorate.

Downtown/West Chicago participants believe that while many residents living in the downtown area have higher incomes and private insurance, the number of insured persons is decreasing. For those residents living west of the highway, many do not have the ability to meet their basic needs, so these residents do not think about long-term health consequences or the importance of preventative healthcare. A participant explains:

“And it’s like, ‘Ten to twenty years? What are you talking about? You know? I’m trying to get through today. I’m trying to make sure my kid gets home from school without being shot. I’m trying to figure out how I’m going to stay in this house that I can’t afford, that I’m renting or buying or whatever.’ And then we’re talking about 10, 20 years. All we’ve got is bad news for these folks sometimes. So how we talk about it – it’s really – it’s a tough sell.” — Key Informant (Downtown/West Chicago)
Another participant expands:

“These guys are trying to keep their heads above water. It’s like somebody out in the ocean, treading water. And you’re saying, ‘You know have you ever thought about taking a swimming lesson.’ And it’s like, ‘Yeah that sounds like a great idea. If I get to shore and I survive this, I would love to take swimming lessons.’” — Key Informant (Downtown/West Chicago)

Focus group participants believe that residents encounter several barriers when trying to access healthcare services in North Chicago, and they agree that access to healthcare is insurance dependent: if residents possess private insurance, there are many local providers available and accessible. Several options exist for the uninsured population, including the Irving Park Clinic (which is free and staffed by volunteers), Healthcare for the Homeless, the ARK, the Compassionate Care Network, Asian Health Services, school health centers and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs); however, the FQHCs are overwhelmed and many have long waits. The FQHCs operate on a sliding fee schedule starting at $30, but do not deny services based on ability to pay. One participant explains:

“So some agencies (FQHCs) have more of a collection orientation upfront than others, and that’s just the way some people choose to operate or not. But no one gets sent to collections that I’m aware of. There could be some FQHCs doing that; we don’t. And we’re not denying services at the front desk to someone who doesn’t have money. We will ask them to pay, we will tell them what the charge for the visit is — that’s how we do business, but no one gets thrown back out the door.” — Key Informant (North Chicago)

Downtown/West Chicago focus group participants agree that residents encounter several barriers when trying to access healthcare services in the community, and new state legislation has made access even more difficult. The cost of healthcare and prescription medication can overwhelm families, even those with insurance. Participants worry about the new Medicaid prescription plan that allows for only four prescriptions at any given time and additional prescriptions require co-payments. There is much concern about the ability of residents to afford any additional medications. An attendee explains:

“If the doctor gives the best treatment in the world and sends his patient home, and he sends them home to somebody who doesn’t have enough money to buy the prescription, we are back to square one.” — Key Informant (Downtown/West Chicago)

Another Downtown/West Chicago participant expands on the disconnect between patients and providers as it relates to prescription medication adherence:

“And it’s going to be even harder to afford, now that they made the cut in Medicaid. I think I just read that they’re going to pay for four medications. But it’s like, ‘Well, good luck with that with chronic disease.’ So I think sometimes it’s not like a – I mean healthcare professionals think its ignorance. But it’s like this problem-solving. They’re figuring out how they’re going to keep themselves above water.” — Key Informant (Downtown/West Chicago)

The hours of operation for clinics in the North Chicago area may limit access to care because participants cannot afford to take an entire day off of work and clinics close before their shift ends.
In addition, the **cost of prescription medication** can overburden North Chicago families and local prescription programs have been eliminated. Residents now must travel to the county hospital for free or reduced-cost prescriptions, which can take hours via public transport, as one participant explains:

“So we could get my patients free drugs from Stroger delivered to us because we were part of the neighborhood. That doesn’t happen anymore and we can’t even write prescriptions to Cook County anymore and Cook County now has a $5 co-pay for their prescriptions and you usually have to wait at least 2 days to get your medication. So if you live up here, or in a suburb to get down there to get seen, which will take about 12 hours – then go to the pharmacy and then you have to come back.” — Key Informant (North Chicago)

**Affordability and/or availability of childcare** also limit North Chicago residents’ ability to access healthcare. Many residents need to bring their children with them to appointments because they cannot afford childcare, so if this is not an option, then residents do not go to the appointment.

Cook County focus group members report that many residents are **under-insured or uninsured**, creating additional barriers to accessing healthcare (especially specialty services). The under-insured population includes the working poor: those individuals who may qualify for employer insurance but the deductibles are too high or the monthly employee cost is too much, so they elect to go without.

“You have the people with lots of resources, insurance, then you have folks that don’t have or they have public aid. But then you have those in the middle, the working poor, so I want to just bring that up, the difficulty with those populations whereas they have employment and maybe their place of employment even offers health insurance but they cannot afford to take that.” — Key Informant (Cook County)

Some residents may qualify for **Medicaid** or **public aid**, but finding a provider who accepts that insurance can prove difficult; group participants agree that the number of physicians who accept Medicaid has decreased in recent years, due to the low **reimbursement rate** and the opportunity for primary care physicians to receive higher returns in other states.

The **cost of prescription medication** can overburden families, **even those with insurance**. Many families in the South Chicago community live below the poverty line, so any cost can act as a deterrent to medication. Attendees worry that with the new state legislation effective July 1st 2012 (which limits the number of Medicaid-covered prescriptions), residents’ health will continue to deteriorate.

Additionally, Cook County participants feel that the **cost of healthcare and prescription medication** can overburden families, **even those with insurance**.

“Well if you don’t have the money when you go to see a doctor you don’t know how much it’s going to cost. Because unlike everything else in the world there could be a basic price given to you but lab tests, medicine, x-rays. So you really don’t know. And that causes huge difficulty. Also the uninsured pay full price, unlike everybody else.” — Key Informant (Cook County)

There are several school-based clinics and federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) in the community which operate on a sliding fee schedule to provide services to uninsured
residents. However, the clinics are overwhelmed, so residents face extensive wait times or wait lists. Transportation may also hinder access. The current public transit routes don’t always travel past a clinic, so some residents do not have easy access to a clinic. As one participant describes:

“FQHCs and community health centers are in the areas but they’re overwhelmed. Also if you can’t get to a clinic then there’s no point. In suburban Cook County distances are fairly -- public transportation is fairly poor. So you combine those two things and you can’t maybe get to a FQHC even though it’s relatively near but it isn’t on a major route, or you’re not on a major route.” — Key Informant (Cook County)

Transportation also represents a major barrier to accessing healthcare services in the South Chicago communities. To easily maneuver the community, residents must have access to a personal vehicle, but parking is costly. A participant explains:

“When I went to Oak Park last week, I put a quarter in; it was 45 minutes to an hour for one quarter. You can run and go and conduct your business and handle everything that you need to handle for a quarter... But on the other side of town, the South side, one quarter in a lower economic neighborhood – one quarter was 15 minutes. The disparity doesn’t make any sense at all.” — Key Informant (South Chicago)

South Chicago residents can utilize the PACE bus system and city trains, but hours of operation and limited routes hinder access. The train may be under repair for months at a time, further limiting the accessible transportation network. In addition, many transportation vendors who previously serviced the Medicaid/Medicare populations no longer operate in the community due to low reimbursement rates.

“Transportation access totally depends on where you live and where you’re trying to go. They’ve cut back on the number of the buses; they’ve deleted a lot express routes. The train was down for four months. The red line which goes south will be closed for five months for repair – only on the South side.” — Key Informant (South Chicago)

Transportation also represents a major barrier to accessing healthcare services in the North Chicago community. The cost to ride the train ($2.25/ride or $5.75/day) can limit a person’s ability to access the train. In addition, the train does not have many routes into the North Chicago suburbs. Residents can utilize the PACE bus system, but hours of operation and limited routes hinder its utility.

South Chicago participants have concern about community members’ lack of access to a local trauma center. Focus group attendees spoke at length about the need for a trauma center due to the high levels of gun violence in the community. The closest trauma center is at least 30 minutes away and emergency rooms can go on “bypass” (diverting to other hospitals), making access more difficult. A participant explains his frustrations:

“I think the number one factor is there are no trauma centers on the South side of Chicago. And so when you look at when how many shootings that we have on the South side, and not to have a trauma center anywhere in the area that’s being affected the most is just astonishing to me.” — Key Informant (South Chicago)
Participants also feel that the lack of a medical home negatively impacts residents. Overall, the population in South Chicago is transient, and residents often do not have a regular medical provider. Many agencies have begun to offer mobile clinics and health fairs to reach this population, but continuity of care and medical records do not follow these families, often resulting in duplicative services. In addition, participants worry about the actual amount of follow-through with recommendations provided from the medical staff. Attendees stress the need for mobile clinics to somehow allow for medical records to follow the patients, as one participant explains:

“One of the challenges with the mobile model, in terms of providing healthcare as it relates to children is the inconsistent nature of it... So that school-aged children, specifically, if the families only have the mobile resource, they tend to be over-immunized because the medical record doesn’t follow them typically. So every year they’re being re-serviced and duplicated efforts.” — Key Informant (South Chicago)

North Chicago focus group members agree that the community is very diverse. The attendees believe that both physicians and social service agencies need to possess cultural competence in order to make an impact on an individual’s health. Culturally-competent providers recognize how culture affects a patient’s attitude and can tailor their message accordingly. Having someone who can interpret for a non-English speaker is also critical; a professional interpreter is preferred over a family member, as many times information may be inadvertently changed. A participant explains the importance of an interpreter:

“We have many patients like I said that are Korean, Russian – and so, there needs to be a middle man to help with interpretation. And you know what they say, something gets lost in the interpretation, right? But we try. And it’s not 100 percent effective or successful but we just – there’s always plenty of room for improvement.” — Key Informant (North Chicago)

Currently there are an inadequate number of interpretive services in the North Chicago community. Interpreters are needed for many languages (not just Spanish) as the area includes many refugee populations. Some agencies have even begun using Skype to facilitate interpretive services.

Participants also feel that patient navigators are needed to help patients maneuver the healthcare system. These individuals could potentially help patients with any questions or concerns that arise. A local hospital utilizes a patient navigator to assist with day-to-day operations and customer services complaints, as a participant explains:

“There’s a website out there and I’m not everyone here...or able to see the website. It’s ‘yelp’ – where you see all these replies and comments by, I think there’s a hospital sector there. And so everyday our patient advocate reads the comments and they’re not really kind of – you can lose your appetite just reading some of those comments. And she will answer or – not be specific, but say, ‘Let me give you a call.’ Or, ‘I’ll give you a call within the next hour.’” And she follows up on those.” — Key Informant (North Chicago)

There are federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) in the Downtown/West Chicago community, which operate on sliding fee schedules to provide services to uninsured residents. Focus group members feel that many residents are under-insured or uninsured, creating additional barriers to accessing healthcare. The uninsured include both low income and hourly employees or individuals who recently lost a job.
Some Downtown/West Chicago residents may qualify for Medicaid or public aid, but finding a provider who accepts that insurance is difficult:

“So when you’re sitting there, waiting for the state to cut a Medicare check, that they’re waiting to get their – to come from the feds – you’re sitting. You’re sitting there with no cash flow or whatever.” — Key Informant (Downtown/West Chicago)

Downtown/West Chicago physician office hours also affect residents’ ability to access healthcare. Many residents work multiple jobs, which can make seeing a doctor during normal office hours difficult. There is much fear over losing a job if the community member must miss work, as one member describes:

“For a lot of folks, they can’t afford the time off to go. You know? I had a lady today – and it’s time in general. She’s the sole caretaker of her mother with dementia. And she squeezed out the time to come see me this morning but I said, ‘Well, you need these other things.’ And she says, ‘It’s not happening. Because I don’t have the time. I’d have to pay somebody to watch my mom if I come see you guys.’” — Key Informant (Downtown/West Chicago)

Downtown/West Chicago participants also spoke about how limited transportation options hinder healthcare access. In downtown Chicago, transportation runs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, but west of the highway transportation routes are limited and hours of operation vary, and the cost of the train may limit accessibility for some riders. A participant recalls:

“Downtown has 24-hour access to transportation, whereas once you get west of the Expressway, it’s limited. So sometimes it might cut off at 6:00 p.m. So let’s say, for example, someone needs to get – has an emergency room situation at midnight. They’re depending on an ambulance to get them from wherever they are to one of the major hospitals.” — Key Informant (Downtown/West Chicago)
Primary Care Services

Improving health care services depends in part on ensuring that people have a usual and ongoing source of care. People with a usual source of care have better health outcomes and fewer disparities and costs. Having a primary care provider (PCP) as the usual source of care is especially important. PCPs can develop meaningful and sustained relationships with patients and provide integrated services while practicing in the context of family and community. Having a usual PCP is associated with:

- Greater patient trust in the provider
- Good patient-provider communication
- Increased likelihood that patients will receive appropriate care

Improving health care services includes increasing access to and use of evidence-based preventive services. Clinical preventive services are services that: prevent illness by detecting early warning signs or symptoms before they develop into a disease (primary prevention); or detect a disease at an earlier, and often more treatable, stage (secondary prevention).

– Healthy People 2020 (www.healthypeople.gov)

Specific Source of Ongoing Care

A total of 73.3% of NMH Service Area adults were determined to have a specific source of ongoing medical care (a “medical home”).

- Similar to the MCHC Region findings.
- Similar to national findings.
- Fails to meet the Healthy People 2010 objective (95% or higher).
- No significant change from 2009 survey findings.

Have a Specific Source of Ongoing Medical Care

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<th>MCHC Region</th>
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<td>100%</td>
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Sources:
- PRC Community Health Surveys, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. (Item 201)
- 2011 PRC National Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc.

Notes:
- Asked of all respondents.

Having a specific source of ongoing care includes having a doctor’s office, clinic, urgent care center, walk-in clinic, health center facility, hospital outpatient clinic, HMO or prepaid group, military/VA clinic, or some other kind of place to go if one is sick or needs advice about his or her health. This resource is also known as a “medical home.”

A hospital emergency room is not considered a source of ongoing care in this instance.
When viewed by demographic characteristics, the following population segments are less likely to have a specific source of care:

- Men.
- Adults under age 40.
- Adults in lower-income households.
- Hispanics and “Other” races.
- Among adults age 18-64, 72.5% have a specific source for ongoing medical care, similar to regional and national findings.
  - Fails to satisfy the Healthy People 2020 target for this age group (89.4% or higher).
- Among adults 65+, 78.7% have a specific source for care, which is similar to the percentage reported among seniors regionally and nationally.
  - Fails to satisfy the Healthy People 2020 target of 100% for seniors.

**Have a Specific Source of Ongoing Medical Care**
(Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area, 2012)

([All Ages] Healthy People 2020 Target = 95.0% or Higher
[18-64] Healthy People 2020 Target = 89.4% or Higher
[65+] Healthy People 2020 Target = 100%

![Chart showing the percentage of people with a specific source of medical care by demographic group.]

**Type of Place Used for Medical Care**

When asked where they usually go if they are sick or need advice about their health, 35.6% indicated a clinic and 36.1% identified a particular doctor’s office. Another 3.0% said they usually go to an ER for their medical care.
Utilization of Primary Care Services

Adults

Most (73.3%) area adults visited a physician for a routine checkup in the past year.

- Similar to regional findings.
- Better than national findings.
- Statistically similar to 2009 findings.

Have Visited a Physician for a Checkup in the Past Year
When viewed by demographic characteristics, the following population segments are less likely to have received routine care in the past year:

- Men, adults under age 65, upper-income residents, and Non-Black respondents.

**Have Visited a Physician for a Checkup in the Past Year**
(Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area, 2012)

<table>
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<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
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<th>40 to 64</th>
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<td>70.1%</td>
<td>72.1%</td>
<td>73.3%</td>
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**Children**

Among surveyed parents, 93.0% report that their child has had a routine checkup in the past year.

- Similar to MCHC Region findings.
- Better than national findings.
- Marks a significant decrease over time.
- Highest among children under 5.
A total of 10.5% of NMH Service Area adults have gone to a hospital emergency room more than once in the past year for their own health.

- Higher than the MCHC Region findings.
- Higher than national findings.
- Statistically similar to that found in 2009.

Have Used a Hospital Emergency Room More Than Once in the Past Year

Of those using a hospital ER, 63.7% say this was due to an emergency or life-threatening situation and 15.2% indicated that the visit was during after-hours or on the weekend. Another 9.7% cited some type of access barrier to primary care services.

Lower-income residents, Blacks, and Hispanic respondents were more likely to use an ER more than once.

Have Used a Hospital Emergency Room More Than Once in the Past Year
(Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area, 2012)
The health of the mouth and surrounding craniofacial (skull and face) structures is central to a person’s overall health and well-being. Oral and craniofacial diseases and conditions include: dental caries (tooth decay); periodontal (gum) diseases; cleft lip and palate; oral and facial pain; and oral and pharyngeal (mouth and throat) cancers.

The significant improvement in the oral health of Americans over the past 50 years is a public health success story. Most of the gains are a result of effective prevention and treatment efforts. One major success is community water fluoridation, which now benefits about 7 out of 10 Americans who get water through public water systems. However, some Americans do not have access to preventive programs. People who have the least access to preventive services and dental treatment have greater rates of oral diseases. A person’s ability to access oral healthcare is associated with factors such as education level, income, race, and ethnicity.

Oral health is essential to overall health. Good oral health improves a person’s ability to speak, smile, smell, taste, touch, chew, swallow, and make facial expressions to show feelings and emotions. However, oral diseases, from cavities to oral cancer, cause pain and disability for many Americans. Good self-care, such as brushing with fluoride toothpaste, daily flossing, and professional treatment, is key to good oral health. Health behaviors that can lead to poor oral health include:

- Tobacco use
- Excessive alcohol use
- Poor dietary choices

Barriers that can limit a person’s use of preventive interventions and treatments include:

- Limited access to and availability of dental services
- Lack of awareness of the need for care
- Cost
- Fear of dental procedures

There are also social determinants that affect oral health. In general, people with lower levels of education and income, and people from specific racial/ethnic groups, have higher rates of disease. People with disabilities and other health conditions, like diabetes, are more likely to have poor oral health.

Community water fluoridation and school-based dental sealant programs are 2 leading evidence-based interventions to prevent tooth decay.

Major improvements have occurred in the nation’s oral health, but some challenges remain and new concerns have emerged. One important emerging oral health issue is the increase of tooth decay in preschool children. A recent CDC publication reported that, over the past decade, dental caries (tooth decay) in children ages 2 to 5 have increased.

Lack of access to dental care for all ages remains a public health challenge. This issue was highlighted in a 2008 Government Accountability Office (GAO) report that described difficulties in accessing dental care for low-income children. In addition, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) has convened an expert panel to evaluate factors that influence access to dental care.

Potential strategies to address these issues include:

- Implementing and evaluating activities that have an impact on health behavior.
- Promoting interventions to reduce tooth decay, such as dental sealants and fluoride use.
- Evaluating and improving methods of monitoring oral diseases and conditions.
- Increasing the capacity of State dental health programs to provide preventive oral health services.
- Increasing the number of community health centers with an oral health component.

— Healthy People 2020 (www.healthypeople.gov)
Dental Care

**Adults**

62.2% area adults visited a dentist or dental clinic (for any reason) in the past year.

- Lower than regional findings.
- Lower than statewide findings.
- Lower than national findings.
- Satisfies the Healthy People 2020 target (49% or higher).

Statistically unchanged since 2009.

As might be expected, persons without dental insurance report much lower utilization of oral health services than those with dental coverage.

Also, lower-income residents, Blacks and Hispanics report statistically low levels of recent dental visits.
Children

A total of 85.3% of parents report that their child (age 2 to 17) has been to a dentist or dental clinic within the past year.

- Comparable to the regional findings.
- Better than national findings.
- Satisfies the Healthy People 2020 target (49% or higher).

Children’s dental care has increased significantly in the Service Area since 2009.

As may be expected, dental care is higher among children over the age of 4.
Dental Insurance

Most NMH Service Area adults (61.8%) have dental insurance that covers all or part of their dental care costs.

- Lower than is found in the MCHC Region.
- Similar to the national finding.
- Marks a significant increase over time.

Have Insurance Coverage That Pays All or Part of Dental Care Costs

![Bar chart showing insurance coverage percentages.]

Sources: ● PRC Community Health Surveys. Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 22]
● 2011 PRC National Health Survey. Professional Research Consultants, Inc.
Notes: ● Asked of all respondents.

Related Focus Group Findings: Oral Health

Many North Chicago focus group participants are concerned with oral health in the community, with discussion primarily centered on these issues:

- Regular or preventative dental care
- Uninsured
- Heartland International Health Center

Focus group participants believe that neglect of oral health can result in a significant decrease in a person’s overall health. Attendees recognize the importance of regular preventative dental care; however, many residents face barriers in accessing dental treatment. Many refugee residents may never have seen a dentist in their country of origin, so they face additional challenges to improving their oral health. One participant describes:

“We do see a lot of refugees coming through the dental program who have never seen a dentist in their life. And that still happens with people right here in the United States, but we’ve seen 23-year-olds going in for extractions and that is not cost effective or fair to them.” — Key Informant (North Chicago)

For those residents without dental insurance, many cannot afford basic care and end up “fall through the cracks.” Only a limited number of dentists serve community members.
with Medicaid insurance due to low reimbursement rates; upcoming Medicaid cuts will only cover emergency dental care.

The **Heartland International Health Center**, a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), has two dentists on staff and oral health services available to the public, but the demand far surpasses the resources. In turn, waiting lists become extensive, as a participant explains:

“I think we are the only more consistently open resource that will theoretically take any patient, but that’s a wonderful theory when we know how long our waiting lists get. So we always have to do a little bit of clinical triaging with our dental team and there’s really no fair and great way to do it. But even if that worked well, which is a leap—I mean we all know Medicaid doesn’t cover costs and that’s particularly true in dental care, particularly as people age.” — Key Informant (North Chicago)
Vision Care

A total of 56.7% of residents had an eye exam in the past two years during which their pupils were dilated.

- Comparable to regional findings.
- Comparable to national findings.

Marks a significant decrease from 2009.

Had an Eye Exam in the Past Two Years During Which the Pupils Were Dilated

![Graph showing comparison of eye exams between 2009 and 2012 across different regions.]

Sources:
- PRC Community Health Surveys, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 20]
- 2011 PRC National Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc.

Notes:
- Asked of all respondents.

Recent vision care is less often reported among young adults and lower-income respondents.

Had an Eye Exam in the Past Two Years During Which the Pupils Were Dilated
(Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area, 2012)

![Graph showing eye exam rates by age, gender, and income category.]

Sources:
- 2012 PRC Community Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 20]

Notes:
- Asked of all respondents.
- Hispanics can be of any race. Other race categories are non-Hispanic categorizations (e.g., “White” reflects non-Hispanic White respondents).
- Income categories reflect respondent’s household income as a ratio to the federal poverty level (FPL) for their household size. “<200% FPL” includes households with incomes up to 199% of the federal poverty level, and “200%+ FPL” includes households with incomes at twice or more the federal poverty level.

RELATED ISSUE:
See also Vision & Hearing in the Deaths & Disease section of this report.
HEALTH EDUCATION & OUTREACH
Healthcare Information Sources

Family physicians and the Internet are residents’ primary sources of healthcare information.

- 45.5% of NMH Service Area adults cited their family physician as their primary source of healthcare information.
- The Internet received the second-highest response, with 23.2%.
  - Other sources mentioned include hospital publications (5.3%), friends and relatives (4.8%), and books/magazines (3.6%).
- Just 1.7% of survey respondents say that they do not receive any healthcare information.

**Primary Source of Healthcare Information**
(Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area, 2012)

- Family Doctor 45.5%
- Internet 23.2%
- Other 12.8%
- Hospital Publications 5.3%
- Friends/Relatives 4.8%
- Books/Magazines 3.6%
- Uncertain 3.1%
- Don’t Receive Any 1.7%

Sources: ● 2012 PRC Community Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 127]
Notes: ● Asked of all respondents.
Participation in Health Promotion Events

Educational and community-based programs play a key role in preventing disease and injury, improving health, and enhancing quality of life.

Health status and related-health behaviors are determined by influences at multiple levels: personal, organizational/institutional, environmental, and policy. Because significant and dynamic interrelationships exist among these different levels of health determinants, educational and community-based programs are most likely to succeed in improving health and wellness when they address influences at all levels and in a variety of environments/settings.

Education and community-based programs and strategies are designed to reach people outside of traditional healthcare settings. These settings may include schools, worksites, healthcare facilities, and/or communities.

Using nontraditional settings can help encourage informal information sharing within communities through peer social interaction. Reaching out to people in different settings also allows for greater tailoring of health information and education.

Educational and community-based programs encourage and enhance health and wellness by educating communities on topics such as: chronic diseases; injury and violence prevention; mental illness/behavioral health; unintended pregnancy; oral health; tobacco use; substance abuse; nutrition; and obesity prevention.

– Healthy People 2020 (www.healthypeople.gov)

A total of 21.7% of NMH Service Area adults participated in some type of organized health promotion activity in the past year, such as health fairs, health screenings, or seminars.

- Similar to the MCHC Region prevalence.
- Similar to the national prevalence.
- Marks a significant increase over time.
- Note that 48.3% of adults who participated in a health promotion activity in the past year indicate that it was sponsored by their employer.
The following chart outlines participation by various demographic characteristics.

Note that seniors (age 65+), those with lower incomes, and the uninsured less often report participation in health promotion activities than their demographic counterparts.

Related Focus Group Findings: Education

Many focus group participants discussed education and prevention needs for the community, with conversation delving into these issues:

- Prevention
- Health literacy
- Cultural competence
- Provide education where people live, work and play; Churches
- Employee wellness programs
- Radios and billboards
- “Stages of change” theory

Downtown/West Chicago focus group participants feel health education represents an important aspect of prevention and improving the overall health of community members. All aspects of health need to be discussed, including stigmatized topics like mental health and HIV/AIDS.

Providing education where people live, work, and play is critical, and outreach should include health screenings and education. The health education messaging must occur regularly and if possible, should utilize community health workers. Currently the community still functions with old wives’ tales or hearsay from neighbors, as one participant explains:
“A lot of our communities are still – still functioning under – I want to say – not necessarily lists, but what they used to do. Okay? ‘You don’t need to go to the hospital for that. Just put that on there,’ or ‘Just do that, or ‘It’s okay if your sugar is a little high,’ or whatever else. And all of those things – well, what does that even mean?” — Key Informant (Downtown/West Chicago)

Or participants simply lack the knowledge or information to grasp the depth of a medical situation. One participant recalls a recent event with a tragic outcome:

“A young lady that lives across the street from me – her sister died. And her sister had been having symptoms of hypertension. Passed out at work, which is why they rushed her to the emergency room. The doctor gave her a prescription for a hypertensive medication. She didn’t know how serious – and her sister said to me, ‘Well, Athena, what happened. We know you do medical stuff. You know we don’t know what happened. He gave her a prescription.’ The reason he gave her the prescription was – when you get a prescription, the next thing is to go fill the prescription. Well, he told her she had high blood pressure, but they also told her she was okay when she left the emergency room.” — Key Informant (Downtown/West Chicago)

Culturally-appropriate education can also have a powerful affect. Providers and social service agencies must listen to community members and meet them where they stand, remembering “stages of change” theory.

“If you’re not ready to hear something, well, that puts you at Stage 1 or whatever. So why do we keep designing programs and interventions for people who are not ready to hear? When we should be designing programs for each of the stages.” — Key Informant (Downtown/West Chicago)

Focus group participants agree that health education represents an important factor in the equation of prevention and improving the overall health of community members. Attendees believe that Cook County residents suffer due to limited prevention programming and that prevention does not occur regularly because of minimal subsidies for those services. School-based clinics do their best to educate students, but funding is always a challenge:

“I’m going back to our school-based health centers and I think of all the wonderful work that our RNs do and that it’s all prevention and education and keeping people out of the emergency departments. But nobody pays me for that. So you’re constantly writing grants which are not sustainable and taking up time of mine where I could be doing something much more functional than continuing to write.” — Key Informant (Cook County)

Providing education where people live, work and play is critical to ensuring that education reaches the entire community. Agencies and providers must recognize the diverse cultures and ethnicities in the community and provide programming in multiple languages.

South Chicago focus group participants agree that health education is an important aspect of prevention and improving the overall health of community members. KLEO, a local non-profit, provides health fairs and food pantry days which also include health education for participants.

Overall, health literacy levels in Cook County remain low and urgently need to increase. Higher health literacy would help residents realize the importance of preventative
healthcare, medication management and healthy eating. Health-literate residents would seek improved communication with their physicians.

South Chicago group attendees also consider local health literacy levels to be low and agree that they urgently need to increase. Currently, many residents do not realize that their choices impact their health, and that they are not predestined to have a certain health condition. One participant explains:

*The community has a low health literacy. They may think that 'because mama had diabetes, I'm going to get diabetes.' They don't realize that's it's something that they can prevent. You know, 'I'm 50 years old and I made it this far, I've lived a really good life, I've lived a long life,' because some people don't know that they can live a longer life, you don't have to go through all these different illnesses, these chronic diseases that you have.* — Key Informant (South Chicago)

Cook County participants also feel strongly that employee wellness programs can positively impact workers. In addition to better engagement at work, many wellness programs increase overall health and quality of life.

“So now there’s a push to encourage employers to continue with the health prevention programs and not to look for a return on the investment per se but look for — these are all jargon — return on engagement, that what happens is because you offer this prevention in general your employees will feel more engaged even if they don’t take advantage of the prevention services.” — Key Informant (Cook County)

South Chicago focus group participants believe that both physicians and social service providers need to possess cultural competence in order to make an impact on an individual’s health. Culturally-competent providers recognize the myriad ways in which culture affects a patient’s attitude, and can tailor their message accordingly to each patient. Physicians must demonstrate high levels of cultural sensitivity, and community members must be willing to listen. The focus group participants stressed the importance of two-way communication between physician and patient. Here, one participant describes the responsibility which physicians possess:

“I would also add that the medical community shares some of the responsibility on that because I think often physicians are oriented to that frame of mind and that thought process that some people of color will not access services. And so they stop offering.” — Key Informant (South Chicago)
LOCAL HEALTHCARE
Perceptions of Local Healthcare Services

A total of 51.2% of NMH Service Area adults rate the overall healthcare services available in their community as “excellent” or “very good.”

- Another 29.1% gave “good” ratings.

### Rating of Overall Healthcare Services Available in the Community
(Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area, 2012)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>22.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Very Good</td>
<td>28.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>29.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources:  
- 2012 PRC Community Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc.  
- 2011 PRC National Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc.

Notes:  
- Asked of all respondents.

However, 19.7% characterize local healthcare services as “fair” or “poor.”

- Less favorable than found regionally.
- Less favorable than reported nationally.
- The decrease over time is not significant.

### Perceive Local Healthcare Services as “Fair/Poor”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region/Year</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NMH Svc Area</td>
<td>19.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCHC Region</td>
<td>15.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources:  
- 2012 PRC Community Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc.  
- 2011 PRC National Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc.

Notes:  
- Asked of all respondents.
The following residents are more critical of local healthcare services:

- Adults under age 65.
- Residents with lower incomes.
- Blacks and Hispanics.
- Uninsured adults (note the 44.8% response).

**Perceive Local Healthcare Services as “Fair/Poor”**
(Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service Area, 2012)

Sources: ● 2012 PRC Community Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 6]
Notes: ● Asked of all respondents.  
● Hispanics can be of any race. Other race categories are non-Hispanic categorizations (e.g., “White” reflects non-Hispanic White respondents).  
● Income categories reflect respondent’s household income as a ratio to the federal poverty level (FPL) for their household size. “<200% FPL” includes households with incomes up to 199% of the federal poverty level, and “200%+ FPL” includes households with incomes at twice or more the federal poverty level.
Other Issues

Related Focus Group Findings: Collaboration

Participants spent time discussing the varying degrees of collaboration occurring in the community between non-profit organizations, schools, healthcare providers and hospitals. The issues surrounding collaboration were:

- Varying degrees of collaboration/willingness to collaborate
- Operation in silos
- Resource guide
- Streamline the collaborative efforts
- Faith-based organizations
- Operating in silos
- Low level of funding
- Competitive over-funding

Many of the focus group respondents feel there are varying degrees of collaboration in Cook County and collaboration is not the norm. Historically, organizations in Cook County have operated in silos and do not communicate (aside from non-profits). The status quo frustrates participants because they believe it is critical to connect primary care physicians with public health and for hospitals to coordinate care.

However, with the reduction in state funding and with grant applications pushing coordination, attendees note that some collaborative efforts have begun:

“I mean I think that recent events have tended to create more pressures, opportunities in some cases to look at ways to partner and work together to address issues where it used to be one organization that could do it. As those resources are being cut back they’re looking for partners to kind of continue meeting that need that’s out there even if they can’t do it within their own organization.” — Key Informant (Cook County)

North Chicago group respondents agree that a willingness to collaborate exists within the community, but that organizations have enormous time, turnover and financial pressures, limiting their capacity for collaboration. Participants consider informal networks and referrals to represent the most successful collaborative efforts. As one participant explains:

“I would say there’s a great desire on behalf of most agencies. It seems to be the same agencies that you see at meetings. Resources are thin. I think that it’s a lot of informal collaboration. Just thinking last night, I saw a patient at a shelter who had seen Teresa at Heartland that morning, who knew I was going to be there that night. And so we had this informal referral going around and we know, ‘Oh, I know so-and-so is working here, I’m going to call them and see if there’s a place over there where I can send.’” — Key Informant (North Chicago)
Participants also see a need for a **resource guide**, some type of clearinghouse or system where agencies and residents can locate information about the current resources available. Participants believe easy access to information and services will facilitate better access to care for the community members. One participant explains:

“I think a lot of it’s we don’t have the information at our fingertips and then it becomes a hassle to do it so we don’t. In the last two years is when I finally found out about access clinics.” — Key Informant (Cook County)

South Chicago focus group respondents agree that collaboration does occur within the community, but that organizations have room for improvement; larger organizations need to spearhead collaborates and coordinate their efforts, as one participant explains:

“We can do a much better job of collaboration. Organizations like those larger, non-profits that are backed by big money backers. And those organizations can collaborate with smaller organizations that are doing a lot of good services.” — Key Informant (South Chicago)

In North Chicago, limited funding makes it difficult for agencies to work together, although grants that require collaboration often act as a catalyst. Recognizing quality collaborations can be the most efficient use of resources; participants agree that they are overburdened by the number of meetings and if local organizations could **streamline their collaborative efforts**, so much more could be accomplished.

“For us, we kind of designate one person to go to all the meetings and then bring it all back and disseminate it to all the case managers. Because we do home visits, we’re going out on the home visits. But the case managers have to be out doing the home visits; the doctors have to be seeing the patients. You know they don’t have time to be out collaborating all the time unless you find that super champion that’s out doing everything. But not everybody’s a super person.” — Key Informant (North Chicago)

Limited funding makes it more difficult for South Chicago agencies to work together, although new grant applications request coordinated efforts. Currently, many agencies **compete for the same funding**. Focus group attendees have hope for future collaborative efforts similar to the University of Chicago’s efforts:

“The University of Chicago’s been reaching out to a lot of different people to work with them on various programs that they’re trying to do within the community. So I know that if you look at that example, that’s one example they’ve been reaching out to different, smaller, grass-root organizations to work with them. But there could be more.” — Key Informant (South Chicago)

In North Chicago, focus group attendees agree that local non-profits need to capitalize on relationships that the **faith-based organizations** have within the community; these established relationships can create buy-in for the agencies. Local agencies need to work on opening the lines of communication.

“In terms of partnering with congregations to share information to access, groups of people do health and wellness activities. I think congregations would be very open, a number of them would be very open to it.” — Key Informant (North Chicago)
Many of the Downtown/West Chicago focus group respondents consider poor collaboration to be the status quo in the City of Chicago, although the city is perceived as trying very hard to collaborate with Cook County. Currently most organizations operate in silos and some duplication of service occurs; however, new grant applications push collaboration, so organizations have begun to coordinate efforts.

Participants agree that the state budget cuts and the overall low level of funding affect agencies ability to collaborate. A participant describes how he considers organizations to compete under the name of collaboration:

“So instead of having collaboration, we have competition under the name of collaboration. So when they get ready to send in their grant application, of course everybody is there. But when you come to the table, and you start breaking it down – ‘Okay. Now who’s really going to do this?’ ‘Well, that’s not what I was going to do. Why do you get to – why are you the fiduciary agency, and not me?’ You know?” — Key Informant (Downtown/West Chicago)

Related Focus Group Findings: Senior Health

Many focus group participants discussed geriatric health issues, with primary concern over:

- A need for health advocates
- Isolation
- Cultural sensitivity

Cook County focus group attendees believe that senior citizens experience unique health concerns, facing such barriers as hearing or vision difficulties. In general, physicians do not have extra time to explain procedures or prescriptions to them; therefore, many seniors leave the office without a complete understanding of their medications. Participants agree that having a health advocate for this population would assist in comprehension and treatment adherence. Further, long-term use of health advocates could potentially result in lower hospitalization rates.

“They have a little bit of a hearing problem and the providers speak fast like me and soft, so the seniors can’t hear. Nothing is given to them in writing to follow up. There isn’t a chance to meet with somebody perhaps less expensive than the physician’s specialist provider to really go through the visit to say, ‘What just happened here and what questions do you have?’ or beforehand to say what questions you have when you want to go in. I despair for the people who don’t have somebody to accompany them on every visit and help them.” — Key Informant (Cook County)

In North Chicago, focus group participants worry about the high levels of isolation which many seniors live with daily. Local neighborhoods do not facilitate easy access and are even perceived as limiting a senior citizen’s ability to get around town. There are many resources available for seniors, but attendees consider this population to be unaware of all the opportunities accessible to them. In addition, seniors may not ask for help because they do not want to be considered a burden to their families, as a participant explains:
“Seniors have a knowledge deficit, too, on what is available. For example, my father: he lives across the street at Covenant Home. He is 89. But for the longest time he didn’t want to – for one thing, he didn’t know about resources, and he didn’t want to access any of them. ‘Because he didn’t want to be a burden.’” — Key Informant (North Chicago)

Many North Chicago seniors possess strong ties with their heritage and culture. Providers and social service agencies need to possess cultural sensitivity when working with these populations, as one participant describes:

“So we have a vast, large scale of minorities. And often they’re senior. There’s this apathy, there’s no interest I’ve noticed in seeking healthcare, or health and wellness. And part of that is truly cultural too. I know that in the Asian community, your orientation is to try to stay healthy. You eat more vegetables and what have you. And when you do get sick, you accept that. You know, that’s your fate. And you don’t resist it. You may want to seek treatment, but to an extent you don’t resist the deterioration of your body or whatever. So we need that cultural sensitivity.” — Key Informant (North Chicago)

Related Focus Group Findings: Specialties

Many South Chicago focus group participants discussed difficulties accessing medical specialists in their community, with primary focus on:

- Limited number of specialists

Nearly all of the focus group participants feel the community has a limited number of specialists available. South Chicago respondents agree that specialists are needed in the following areas: psychiatry, dentistry, ophthalmology, rehabilitative services (both physical and speech), and wellness/fitness coaches. One participant describes:

“Wellness, you know. Myself as an example, I have a Blue Cross Blue Shield PPO and they always send me these discounts for fitness plans, part of their program. But when I click to link on where the closest one, it’s a Life Time Gym at Orland Park. Well, that’s about 25 miles south from where I live. Not quite something in my neighborhood.” — Key Informant (South Chicago)