community health assessment (CHA) is an important tool in determining how healthy a community is currently and what issues need to be addressed to optimize health for all. The CHA is both a process and a document that uses quantitative and qualitative methods to systematically collect and analyze data to understand the health of a specific community. CHAs review data on health-related risk factors, quality of life, morbidity (impact of living with illness), and mortality (cause of death), along with information on community assets and social and economic factors that influence health and quality of life.

CHA data and information is used broadly for community decision-making, prioritization of health problems, and the development, implementation, and evaluation of community health improvement plans. The North Shore CHA has three components to thoroughly assess health and quality of life in the North Shore. This document is a brief summary of findings from all three components (see diagram to the left).

More details can be found in the full CHA, available on our website at nshealthdept.org/CHA.
General Health
Since 2003, the percent of North Shore residents reporting their own health as “excellent” has dropped from 29% to 21%, while the percent reporting their own health as “fair” or “poor” has increased from 7% to 11%.

Source: North Shore Community Health Survey, 2015

Leading Causes of Death: North Shore and Wisconsin, 2014

* Deaths with any mention of alcohol, tobacco use, or other drugs on death certificate; a death with more than one of these causes mentioned is counted for each one.

Sources: Wisconsin and North Shore Public Health Profiles, 2016

Cancer
Cancer is the leading cause of death in the North Shore. Rates of North Shore residents living with cancer are higher for many cancer types than the rates for Wisconsin statewide. The percent of people who report having breast, cervical and colorectal cancer screenings is also higher in the North Shore than in Wisconsin.

Cancer Incidence, North Shore and Wisconsin, 2013

1 North Shore data includes all residents of 53209, 53211, 53217 and 53223, including some Milwaukee residents who share 53209, 53211 and 53223.

2 Rates include cases per 100,000 sex-specific population

Source: Wisconsin Public Health Profiles 2016, reported to Wisconsin Cancer Reporting System; 2013 cases
Access to Health Care

Although lower than rates statewide (8%), 5% of North Shore residents do not have medical insurance.

*Source: US Census Bureau, ACS 2011-2015*

In 2015, the following percent of North Shore residents reported having unmet medical care:

- 9% Medical Care
- 14% Dental Care
- 4% Mental Health Care

*Source: North Shore Community Health Survey, 2015*

Barriers to health care, including cost and access, were the top health concern, reported by 59% of residents who completed surveys for the community health priority assessment.

*See full details at nshealthdept.org/CHA.*

Top Health Concerns of Surveyed North Shore Residents, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top Health Concerns</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barriers to Health Care</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Health Concerns</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug Concerns</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Racism or Segregation</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stress Management</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pedestrian/Bike Safety</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood Safety</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bullying</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obesity</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Quality</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: North Shore Community Health Priority Assessment, 2017; n = 194*

From the Priority Assessment

“Proactive health care for mental health and substance abuse is very important to me.”

“Suicide and cancer rates [are] growing.”

“Access to guns, gun violence and safe storage/accidental shootings are also a strong concern.”

*See full details at nshealthdept.org/CHA.*

From the Stakeholder Assessment

“... concern with the number of physicians or healthcare facilities in the North Shore that may not accept Medicaid or Medicare which may reduce the accessibility of quality healthcare to certain residents.”

“Mental health to me is the biggest one. It’s the unspoken one. It’s taboo. Often times it’s easier to gravitate to the problems that are more tangible.”

*See full details at nshealthdept.org/CHA.*
Sexually Transmitted Infections
In 2016, the North Shore had 421 reported cases of communicable diseases. Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are the largest category of communicable disease requiring investigation by a local health department (DHS 145.15). Although Wisconsin rates of STIs are higher than North Shore rates in most age categories, for those 45 or older, North Shore STI rates exceed the Wisconsin rates. In 2016, 235 STI cases were diagnosed in the North Shore.

Source: Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System, 2017

Vaccination To Prevent Communicable Diseases
In 2016, 76% of 24-month-old children in the North Shore had received the recommended vaccinations for their age, with all benchmark percentages exceeding the State’s levels. Source: Wisconsin Immunization Registry, 2017

For the 2016-17 flu season, 59% of adults 65 and older in the North Shore communities received an influenza (flu) vaccination, compared to 57% in Wisconsin, and 52% in the U.S.

Source: Medicare Claims Data, National Vaccine Program, Office of U.S. Department of HHS, 2017

Alcohol and Drugs
Nationwide, Wisconsin has the highest proportion of binge drinkers, who report having as many as nine drinks on an occasion, and averaging five episodes of binge drinking a month. (Binge drinking is defined as four or more drinks per occasion for females; five or more for males.) Self-reported percentages of binge drinking in the North Shore have increased to be similar to statewide percentages.

Prescription and street drug use and abuse has also increased in the North Shore. Over the past decade in the North Shore, drug overdose deaths involving prescription opioids increased by 52%, and drug overdose deaths involving heroin increased by almost 300%.

Drug-Related Death Rates Per 100,000: North Shore ZIP Codes, Milwaukee County and Wisconsin, 2007-2015

Source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services, 2016

Percent of Adults Self-Reporting Binge Drinking in the Last 30 Days

Source: North Shore Community Health Survey, 2015; BRFSS, 2015
Older Adults

Seventeen percent of the population in the North Shore is over 65 years of age, compared to 15% statewide. Of those over age 65, 31% live alone, compared to 29% statewide.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2011-2015

A high population of older adults poses special health concerns to a community. Older adults are more likely to fall, and fall fatalities increase as adults age. Falls among older adults are one of the leading causes of injury-related deaths in the North Shore.


**Fall-Related Deaths, Milwaukee County and Wisconsin, 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Milwaukee County</th>
<th>Wisconsin death rate (per 100,000)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>65-69</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>14.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-74</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>36.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75-79</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>82.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>185.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85+</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>591.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FROM THE STAKEHOLDER ASSESSMENT**

“We have a larger proportion of seniors with health problems that occur due to aging and they have issues with depression and alcohol and DUIs.”

**FROM THE PRIORITY ASSESSMENT**

“... irritable bowel syndrome, dementia and Alzheimer’s as more older adults around; mental health issues.”

See full details at nshealthdept.org/CHA.
Youth
Twenty-nine percent of families in the North Shore have children under age 18 — the same percent as statewide. Fifteen percent of children under age 18 in the North Shore are at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, compared to 39% statewide.  

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2011-15

Eight percent of Wisconsin High School students in 2017 were current cigarette smokers. This rate is down from 21% in 2007. However, in the same year, 12% percent of students report current use of an electronic cigarette device. No North Shore specific data is available, as the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) is not administered in all North Shore high schools.

Source: Wisconsin YRBS, 2017

Childhood Environmental Health Concerns
In the North Shore, 59% of homes were built prior to 1960, compared to 37% of homes statewide. Older housing can increase the potential for exposure to environmental substances that can cause adverse health effects, such as lead poisoning or asthma. Children are particularly susceptible to environmental exposures. Rates of childhood lead poisoning in the North Shore have remained relatively steady at about 2.5%, while rates have dropped statewide. Levels are still lower in the North Shore than in Wisconsin in general.

Asthma hospitalization rates for North Shore ZIP Codes (children and adults) are twice as high as those statewide (180 per 100,000 population vs. 90 per 100,000 population). In 2015, there were 253 asthma-related hospitalizations in North Shore ZIP Codes.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2011-15; Wisconsin Department of Health Services, 2017; Public Health Profiles, 2016

FROM THE PRIORITY ASSESSMENT
"Would love to help support initiatives that remove the use of herbicides and pesticides from all lawn care and landscaping in the North Shore."

See full details at nshealthdept.org/CHA.

Lead-Poisoned Children by Year Tested

Source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health, 2017

Eight percent of Wisconsin High School students surveyed in 2017 reported attempting suicide in the prior year, a similar percentage as in 2007 (7%). No North Shore specific data is available, as the YRBS is not administered in all North Shore high schools.  

Source: Wisconsin YRBS, 2017