

Executive Summary of the Delaware State Health Assessment: 2022-2023 Report

The Delaware Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health (DPH) completed a state health needs assessment (SHA) of the state of Delaware with support from the University of Delaware Epidemiology Program and the Partnership for Healthy Communities (UD EPI/PHC). The assessment was designed to compare Delaware's health to the health of the nation. The intent of the SHA was to determine the health needs of Delaware's residents. To determine the needs of the state, survey data was collected to analyze the current health of Delawareans. In addition, community members and stakeholders across various sectors and all counties of Delaware were selected to gather further information about access and barriers to health and well-being using the framework of the vital conditions. The vital conditions of health and well-being framework guide the major determinants of health, factors necessary to producing health and well-being, and the discussions surrounding the areas of need in the state. The SHA also highlights the factors that contribute to the challenges across the state and if existing resources can be mobilized to address them. Delaware undertakes a full statewide SHA every five years, with the last report being completed in 2017.

Since the last SHA, Delaware has made progress on several important measures:

- Excessive drinking decreased from 18.9% to 14.3% of adults between 2019 to 2021.¹
- Flu vaccination rates among adults increased from 38.2% in 2018 to 49.8% of adults in 2021.²

The 2022-2023 SHA (September 2022-June 30, 2023) appraised community health needs through a multi-pronged approach by using interviewer-administered surveys, hosting community conversations, and forming a statewide partnership coalition. Secondary data, including statistics from federal, state, and local sources about various health indicators (i.e., education, poverty, and health care services) were also gathered and assessed throughout the assessment period. The methods used to accomplish the assessment were established by the Public Health Accreditation Board.³ The vital conditions for health and well-being framework were used to create an equity-driven assessment by producing a meaningful and broad portrayal of factors that most impact the health of Delawareans.⁴

DPH, UD EPI/PHC, and its partners will use the findings from this assessment to identify a set of health priorities. This will be the focus of the State Health Improvement Planning (SHIP) process. The SHIP will provide opportunities for communities and other stakeholders to work together to improve health outcomes and health equity for all Delawareans. To read the full SHA, please visit the Delaware SHIP website (<https://delawareship.org/>).

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