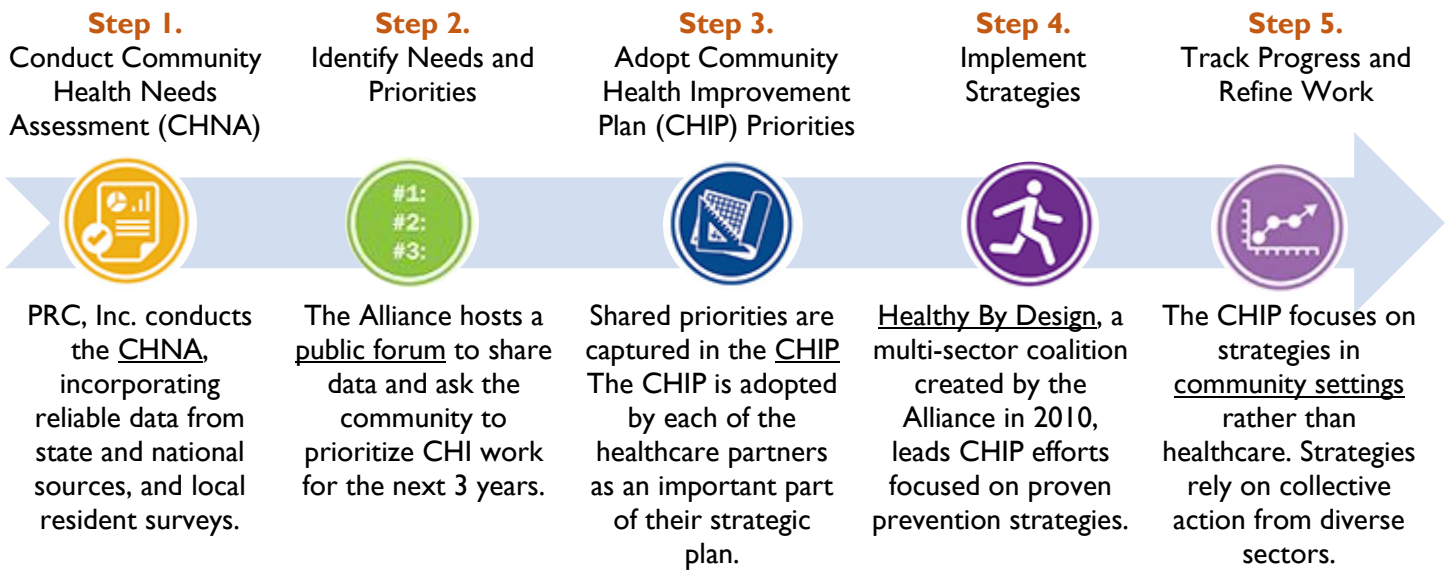


What is Community Health Improvement (CHI)?

Community health improvement is a process to identify and address the needs of communities¹. CHI brings together public health, health care, and other partners to improve community health locally.

CHI Process in Yellowstone County

Our CHI process is co-sponsored by Billings Clinic, St. Vincent Healthcare, and RiverStone Health (Yellowstone City-County Health Department), known as the healthcare Alliance. This collaboration maximizes resources to create a larger impact than any one organization could achieve alone.



Did you know?
The healthcare Alliance and HBD have received state and national attention for our CHI process.

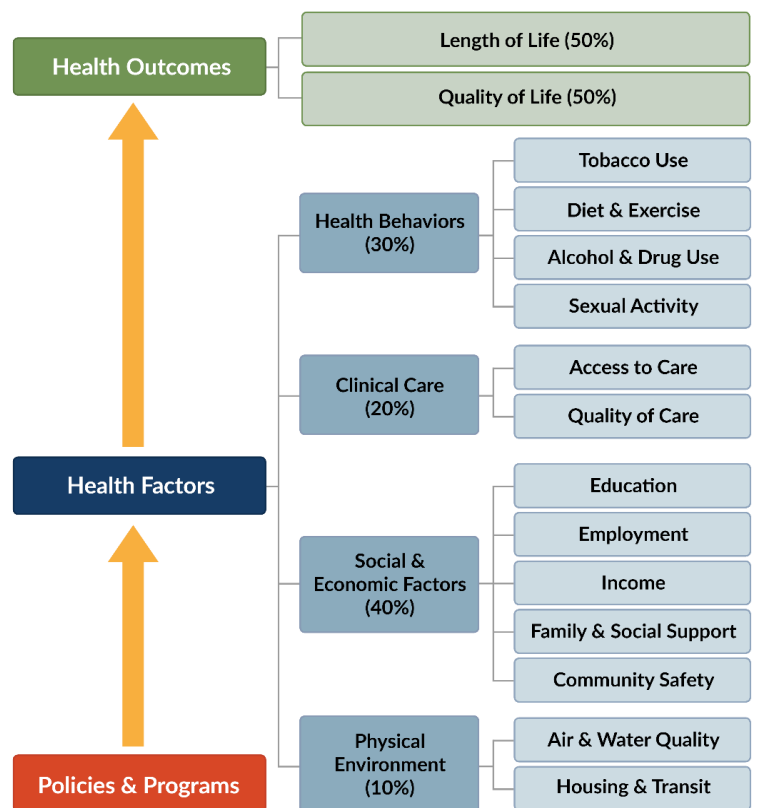
When do CHI activities to occur?

Hospitals repeat the CHI process every 3 years, per IRS community benefit requirements. Health departments are given 5 years, however, we follow the hospitals' timeline.

Who is involved?

Representatives from business, faith, government, social services, health, civic organizations, elected officials, and residents are also involved. The CHNA provides leaders, organizations, and residents with important information to make decisions around strategic goals, resources, and activities.

County Health Rankings Model for Population Health²



Sources:
1. Community Health Improvement Navigator. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Available: <https://www.cdc.gov/chinav/index.html> Accessed December 2020.
2. County Health Rankings Model for Population Health. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Available: <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org> Accessed: December 2020.

What are examples of CHI initiatives in Yellowstone County?

Our efforts focus on non-clinical strategies that make the healthy choice, the easy choice for people who live, work, learn, and play in Yellowstone County. We do our best to tackle the root causes of disease. For example, diet and exercise are lifestyle behaviors that influence weight and heart health. Root causes of poor diet and exercise include lack of healthy, affordable food and safe places for activity. Examples of projects:

- HBD Gardeners' Market in the South Side, a low income neighborhood without a grocery store;
- Support for trails, bike lanes, and safe routes to schools, work, and daily needs; and
- Connect seniors in need with volunteers who can help shovel their sidewalks in winter.

Social Determinants or Root Causes of Health ³					
Economic Stability	Neighborhood and Physical Environment	Education	Food	Community and Social Context	Health Care System
Employment	Housing	Literacy	Hunger	Social Integration	Health Coverage
Income	Transportation	Language	Access to Healthy Options	Support Systems + Community Engagement	Provider Availability
Expenses	Safety	Early Childhood Education		Discrimination	Provider Linguistic and Cultural Competency
Debt	Parks	Vocational Training		Stress	Quality of Care
Medical Bills	Playgrounds	Higher Education			
Support	Walkability				
	Zip Code/ Geography				
Health Outcomes					
Mortality, Morbidity, Life Expectancy, Health Care Expenditures, Health Status, Functional Limitations					

How do we know CHI efforts have an impact?

By conducting a CHNA every 3 years, and using many of the same questions since 2005, we can track short and long term progress. Performance metrics are also included for each effort, reported on every 6 months.

What else should people know about CHI efforts?

- Efforts often focus on residents experiencing the worst health outcomes. Increasing food access among seniors will help close the gap between age groups, but may take longer to impact access overall.
- Persistent issues and root causes may take many years to measurably address. Distributing food boxes may provide immediate gains in the short term. Putting in bike lanes and developing healthy corner stores take years of planning, funding, implementation, and awareness⁴.
- Our CHNA, administered by PRC Inc., incorporates reliable data from state and national sources and primary data from resident surveys. With 400+ randomly selected residents participating, our results are statistically valid with a high level of confidence. Due to Yellowstone County's size, data collected by others can lag behind or contain incorrect estimates.

Improvements in YC since 2005:

- Mental health care access
- Alcohol treatment access
- Health & dental insurance coverage
- Teen birth rates
- Overall blood pressure & cholesterol
- Access to fresh produce
- Physical activity rates (all ages)
- Prescription costs
- Infant mortality
- Deaths from kidney disease, stroke, heart disease, cancer, Alzheimer's & flu

To learn more about CHI efforts in Yellowstone County, visit www.hbdyc.org

Sources:

3. Social Determinants of Health. Kaiser Family Foundation, 2018. Available: www.kff.org Accessed December 2020.

4. Hi-5 Interventions. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2016. Available: <https://www.cdc.gov/policy/hst/hi5/interventions/index.html> Accessed December 2020.