Results From The Community Health Needs Assessment: Part I

The Greater Brockton Community Health Network Area (CHNA 22)… Serving the Communities of:
Abington • Avon • Bridgewater • Brockton • East Bridgewater
Easton • Holbrook • Stoughton • West Bridgewater • Whitman

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The Southeast Center for Healthy Communities, a program of Health Imperatives
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Introduction

- Assessment required by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) Determination of Need (DoN) program
- Assessment should reflect the three statewide health priorities:
  - Eliminating racial and ethnic health disparities and their social determinants;
  - Promoting wellness in the home, workplace, school, and community;
  - Preventing and managing chronic disease.
Community Health Network Areas (CHNAs)

- Coalitions of agencies in the private, public, and non-profit sectors working together to build healthier communities
- Established by MA DPH in 1992
- State is divided into 27 CHNAs
Mission and Guiding Principles of the Greater Brockton CHNA

- **Mission:** to work toward healthier communities by promoting collaboration between CHNA partners, providing support to local health initiatives and prevention programs, and educating and increasing awareness of local identified health issues throughout the communities the CHNA serves.

- **The guiding principles of the CHNA include:**
  - Diversity Awareness
  - Collaboration
  - Continuity of CHNA
  - Decrease duplication of services
  - Prevention focus
  - Support for all ten CHNA communities
  - Meet community needs
  - Communication
  - Flexible participation respecting members’ time
The Greater Brockton CHNA Community Health Assessment Subcommittee

Linda Barros, Self-Help, Inc.
Bonnie Black, Lincoln Technical Institute
Ruth Blais, Salvation Army
Amy Bourkiche, Stoughton Youth Commission/Council on Aging
Nancy DeLuca, Signature Healthcare Brockton Hospital
Jean-Paul Despres, South Bay Mental Health
Mary Eager, Salvation Army
John Eastman, Self-Help, Inc.
Matt Elliott, Lincoln Technical Institute
Maria Evora-Rosa, Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Hilary Lovell, Signature Healthcare Brockton Hospital
Kerrin Miniutti, Lincoln Technical Institute
Robert Retalic, Lincoln Technical Institute
Robert Short, Caritas Good Samaritan Hospital
Teresa Tapper, Stoughton Youth Commission/Council on Aging
Brenda Viveiros, BMC Health Net Plan
Methodology

Five-pronged approach:

1. Collection and analysis of existing community health data;
2. “Impressions sessions” with community residents;
3. Key informant interviews with people who work in CHNA towns other than Brockton;
4. A review of existing programs and services in the CHNA;
5. Anonymous surveys left in locations around the CHNA.
Analysis of Existing Data

- Where possible, data from the city of Brockton was analyzed separately from all other CHNA towns due to differences in demographics.

- Data came from such sources as:
  - Massachusetts Community Health Information Profiles (MassCHIP);
  - The Census Bureau;
  - The Plymouth County District Attorney’s Office;
  - The United Way;
  - Brockton’s Promise.
Impressions Sessions

- Questions about major health concerns were asked to 10 groups of community residents.
- The film “Place Matters” was used to frame the conversation.
- Sessions took place using existing groups:
  - Activate Easton
  - Brockton Neighborhood Health Center
  - Brockton Parents’ Academy
  - Lincoln Technical Institute
  - Self-Help, Inc. in collaboration with the Cape Verdean Association
  - Signature Healthcare Brockton Hospital
  - Stoughton Council on Aging

![Race/Ethnicity Distribution for Community Impressions Sessions]
Key Informants

- Key informant interviews were used to gain more information about CHNA towns outside of Brockton.
- Key informants were selected by the assessment subcommittee, and their identities are confidential.
- Two key informants were interviewed per town.
List of Priority Assessment Issues

- Poverty
- Unemployment
- Homelessness
- Access to transportation
- Disability
- Health literacy
- Cultural and linguistic barriers to accessing health care
- Race/ethnicity health disparities
- Violence
- Chronic diseases
- Adolescent health issues
- Mental health
Demographics
Population Distribution of Towns in the Greater Brockton CHNA, 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Brockton (%)</th>
<th>CHNA towns without Brockton (%)</th>
<th>State (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Race/Ethnicity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White non-Hispanic</td>
<td>56.4</td>
<td>92.0</td>
<td>81.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black non-Hispanic</td>
<td>31.1</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>7.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/Pacific Islander</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>4.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data source: MA Dept of Public Health, 2000
Languages

- 28% of people age five and older in the city of Brockton, 18% in Stoughton, and 10% in Bridgewater speak a language other than English in the home.
- According to the Census Bureau, the top three languages spoken in Brockton other than English were:
  - Portuguese or Cape Verdean Creole
  - French Creole, and
  - Spanish or Spanish Creole.
### Educational Achievement for People Age 25 and Older in the CHNA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Brockton City (%)</th>
<th>Other CHNA Towns (%)</th>
<th>State (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than high school</td>
<td>24.1</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>15.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school graduate</td>
<td>35.7</td>
<td>32.8</td>
<td>27.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college</td>
<td>26.2</td>
<td>29.2</td>
<td>24.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College graduate plus</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>26.9</td>
<td>33.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data source: MA Dept of Public Health and U.S. Census 2000
Percentage of Families/Individuals Below The Poverty Level, City of Brockton, Other CHNA Towns, and state, 2000

Data source: MassCHIP, Census 2000 dataset
Environmental Justice Populations, 2000
From the Community

- Brockton residents spoke about the difficulties they had affording basic services, stress due to unemployment and, conversely, stress due to working multiple jobs. Poverty emerged as a dominant concern from the community impressions sessions.
From the Community

- In towns outside of Brockton, themes relating to poverty emerged during conversations with key informants:
  - Economic situation—subtle signs of poverty;
    - “I don’t know about here, but in other situations, people can be needy but not needy enough to fit the mold. And so they’re left, they’re falling between the cracks, they make just enough but it’s not enough. And that’s the tough part that you see.”
    - Foreclosure;
    - Expense of healthy food.
Housing and Homelessness
Housing

- The percentage of renters in CHNA towns was the lowest in Easton (16%) and the highest in Brockton (42%) compared to the Massachusetts state total of 35%.
- 43% of the housing in Brockton and Whitman was built in 1939 or earlier, compared to the state total of 36%.
- Almost 50% of homeowners and renters in Brockton spend over one-third of their household income on rent or mortgage, compared to the state total of 40% for renters and 32% for homeowners.
Foreclosure

- Brockton became the community with the most distressed properties in Massachusetts as of April 1, 2010 (41.8 per 1,000 housing units) pushing past Lawrence.
- Holbrook was ranked 18th in the state for the number of distressed properties and Whitman was ranked 15th in 2007.
- In addition, Abington, Whitman, Brockton, and Bridgewater all contained zip codes that were in the top 20 for homes with negative equity (purchased 2004-2008) in the fourth quarter of 2008.
Homelessness

- The point-in-time count of the homeless population in Plymouth County on January 27, 2010 was as follows:
  - 226 households with dependent children in emergency or transitional shelters (655 total people), which represents a 74% increase over 2005;
  - 192 households without dependent children in shelters;
  - 23 unsheltered individuals.
From the Community

“What I am seeing now in this economy, is a lot of people who probably actually live in very nice homes, who are maybe one step away from foreclosure, who have a great address but may not have the money to buy snacks for their kids’ school lunch.”—Key informant
From the Community

- Whether they own or rent property, many residents of the Brockton CHNA have felt the impact of the recent housing collapse.
- Some residents reported that they had either owned property that was foreclosed on or were renting property where the landlords had been foreclosed on, forcing them into emergency shelters and prompting them to send their children to stay with relatives.
Health Care Access
Percentage of People Age 5 and Older Who Speak English "Less Than Very Well"

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abington</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avon</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridgewater</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brockton</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easton</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holbrook</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holbrook</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stoughton</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W. Bridgewater</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whitman</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000
Medical Interpretation

- In 2007, Caritas Good Samaritan Medical Center had the 8th highest number of interpretation sessions conducted in the state of Massachusetts. The top 3 languages for which interpretation services were provided were Portuguese, Cape Verdean Creole, and Spanish.

- The top 3 languages at Signature Healthcare Brockton Hospital for which interpretation services were provided in 2007 were Cape Verdean Creole, Portuguese, and Spanish.
Disability

- According to Census data from 2000, approximately 30% of people age 21-64 in Brockton had a disability compared to 18% in the state overall.

- According to the BRFSS, in the CHNA, 22% of people age 18 and older reported that they had a disability compared to 21% in the state overall.
Health Insurance Coverage

- From 2007 to 2009, approximately the same percentage of CHNA residents (2%) and Massachusetts residents age 18-64 (4%) reported that they did not have health insurance.

- From 2003 to 2008, a significantly lower percentage of Hispanic residents of the CHNA age 18 and older (76%) reported that they had health insurance than White non-Hispanic CHNA residents (95%).
Emergency Department Utilization for City of Brockton, Other CHNA Towns, and State, 2006-2008

Data source: MassCHIP Emergency Department Dataset, 2006-2008

*Significantly higher than state
**Significantly lower than state
Residents of Brockton identified the following issues with health care access:

- Inability to afford health insurance or having insurance with high copayments for visits and/or medications;
- People do not want to spend money on copayments for sick visits; they would rather spend their money on food for children;
- Many people such as workers of minimum-wage jobs and seniors are unable to qualify for services due to being just above the income guidelines.
Key informants in towns outside of Brockton identified the following issues with access to health care:

- High copayments (even though kids have insurance);
- Services that Medicare and Medicaid won’t cover;
- People not getting insurance because the tax penalty is cheaper than insurance coverage;
- Difficulty navigating the health care system;
- Cuts to health education and other preventive programs due to budget shortfalls;
- Lack of dental insurance or dentists who accept MassHealth;
- Lack of well-care clinic due to funding cuts;
- Lack of access to public transportation.
Next Time

- In April, will review the following topics:
  - Safety
  - Substance Use and Behavioral Health
  - Maternal and Child Health
  - Sexually Transmitted Infections and HIV/AIDS
  - Risk Behaviors and Health Screening
  - Chronic Illnesses
  - Community Impressions Sessions Themes
  - Key Informant Interview Themes
  - Next Steps for CHNA 22
Thank you.

Questions?