

Healthy Hawai'i 2020

A Community Health Plan

Introduction and Background

A community health improvement plan has become standard practice in the public health assessment and planning process. Along with a community health needs assessment (CHNA) and a health agency strategic plan, a health improvement plan is typically the middle step in the three-step process of identifying community health needs, setting goals and objectives, and devising a work plan to meet those objectives.

The [Healthcare Association of Hawaii conducted a CHNA](#) in 2013, setting the stage for Healthy Hawaii 2020 (HH2020) by identifying the health needs of Hawaii communities, with special attention paid to health disparities, the needs of vulnerable populations, and gaps in health services. The areas of greatest need in the CHNA were used to create subject area categories for the HH2020. In 2016 the Hawaii State Department of Health (HDOH) released its department [Strategic Plan](#), with the theme of “Health – Our Shared Value.” The major priorities of the Strategic Plan – to invest in healthy babies and families, take health to where people live, work learn and play, and create a culture of health throughout Hawaii – are mirrored and reinforced by the framework of objectives and strategies found in HH2020.

The development of HH2020 was led by the Office of Planning, Policy, and Program Development (OPPPD) at the HDOH. OPPPD staff reached out to HDOH personnel working in program areas that correspond to HH2020 subject areas. If a comprehensive planning process that solicits input from a wide variety of professionals as well as the community at large already takes place for a subject area, HH2020 goals and strategies reflect those in the most recent plan for that area. If there was no current plan to draw from, key individuals and workgroups were contacted and asked to help select indicators and strategies for HH2020. Where no target existed for an indicator, a general rule of 5% change by 2020 was adopted.

Each HH2020 section contains a brief narrative, indicators by which we can measure progress, and strategies that will help move us in the right direction. The indicators that appear in HH2020 were chosen for much the same reasons as the Leading Health Indicators found in Healthy People 2020, that is, for their ability to motivate action, the availability of data to measure their progress, and their relevance as broad public health issues. Of course, many more indicators and strategies than those included in HH2020 are important to public health practice. Each section includes links to relevant plans, organizational frameworks, and data dashboards with more information.

Reducing and eliminating health disparities, or preventable differences in health status of different groups of people, is essential to public health progress. Health disparities are often linked to social, economic, environmental, and historical inequities. In Hawaii, we often see disparities by race/ethnicity and geography. A HH2020 section that highlights these disparities and some of the strategies used to address them is in development.

The goals and strategies found in HH2020 are rooted in the idea that prevention is foundational to population health, and that community-based prevention relies on strong partnerships between organizations and individuals working in different sectors across the state. While effective partnerships depend upon a shared purpose, it is important to acknowledge that there is a great diversity of cultures and lived experiences in Hawaii. Individuals and communities may have different views on what good health is and how to achieve it. As we move forward together in the ever changing public health and health care landscape, we invite you to share with us the issues that matter most to you and to join the discussion.

Send comments to opppd@doh.hawaii.gov.