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HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
NEWS RELEASE



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Kent County Health Department Completes Community Health Needs Assessment**

**GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.** (March 16, 2021) The Kent County Health Department (KCHD) has completed its most recent Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) identifying the community's most pressing health concerns, according to its residents. The top health concerns are access to health care, discrimination and racial inequity, economic security, and mental health.

The CHNA is conducted every three years in Kent County with funding support from KCHD and our local health care system partners, Mary Free Bed, Mercy Health, Metro Health, Pine Rest and Spectrum Health.

The information was collected throughout 2020. More than 3,000 people participated in the multi-faceted health assessment which includes the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, a community survey, and community-led focus groups. KCHD also partnered with 50 community-based organizations in the assessment.

"The CHNA provides a detailed profile of multiple factors that influence population health," said Maris Brummel, Public Health Epidemiologist at KCHD. "Now that this information has been compiled, we will begin the process of sharing the data and using this information in our work to promote a healthy community for all."

KCHD and other partners will utilize information from the CHNA to develop a detailed Community Health Improvement Plan to address the identified priorities through supporting or expanding existing community initiatives and developing new strategies if. For information on how to join the improvement planning process, please visit <https://accesskent.com/Health/CHNA/>.

The assessment is available at <https://accesskent.com/Health/CHNA/pdf/FINAL-2020-CHNA-REPORT.pdf>

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KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 260 employees including public health nurses, sanitarians, health educators, technicians, public health administrators, and specialized staff at the Kent County Animal Shelter. The Health Department operates one main clinic and three satellite clinics located in Kentwood, Rockford, and Grand Rapids. To learn more about KCHD services, visit [www.accesskent.com/health](http://www.accesskent.com/health).

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