

How Data Were Obtained

There were three forms of data used by the HCC to create the CHNA.

- First, the member agencies of the HCC provided guidance about some of the key issues their institutions face regarding the health of people in the Lehigh Valley. The discussions at the monthly HCC meetings provided meaningful insight into the priorities and root causes that were further investigated through secondary data sources and through qualitative methods.
- Second, a thorough review of secondary data sources was conducted. All sources and indicators utilized in the first Community Health Needs Assessment Health Profile from 2013 were updated. Then, the HCC group requested the inclusion of many additional indicators that were also gathered from secondary sources. The complete list of secondary sources consulted throughout the CHNA Health Profile process is as follows:
 - County Health Rankings www.countyhealthrankings.org
 - Community Commons www.communitycommons.org
 - CDC Wonder www.wonder.cdc.gov
 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Community Health Status Indicators <http://wwwn.cdc.gov/CommunityHealth/home>
 - National Center for Health Statistics Health Indicators Warehouse <http://www.healthindicators.gov/>
 - Pennsylvania Department of Health www.health.pa.gov
 - Pennsylvania Department of Education www.education.pa.gov
 - American Community Survey <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/>
- Qualitative information was collected through three different focus groups. One was conducted in Lehigh County, one was conducted in Northampton County, and the third comprised teens between the ages of 13-19 from both Lehigh and Northampton Counties. The focus groups solicited information about the needs of the community, particularly vulnerable populations, and ranked those needs.
- St. Luke's University Health Network conducted a focus group in Allentown with key stakeholders in 2015, and made the results available to the HCC for use in the CHNA Health Profile.
- Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Network also commissioned a study conducted by the Lehigh Valley Research Consortium in 2015 called, "The Lehigh Valley Disability Community: Re-Examining Community Needs & Opportunities." Good Shepherd shared this report with the HCC for use in the CHNA Health Profile.