



Knox County Health Department

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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KCHD releases Community Health Assessment

The most significant report KCHD develops, the Assessment offers a detailed look at the state of health in Knox County

Knoxville, Tenn. – The Knox County Health Department (KCHD) today released its 2019 Community Health Assessment, which provides a comprehensive view of health in Knox County.

The assessment is the culmination of two years of data collection and evaluation by KCHD’s epidemiology and health planning staff, a formal process based on a national model to improve community health.

“The significance of the Community Health Assessment cannot be overstated,” said KCHD Senior Director and Public Health Officer Dr. Martha Buchanan. “Releasing this report is a crucial step in raising awareness of key health issues our community is facing while informing our path to building a healthier community.”

The Community Health Assessment covers health outcomes in ten topic areas, bringing together county-level data from dozens of sources. Areas include active and healthy living, chronic disease, mental health, among others. The report includes official data reported to KCHD and the Tennessee Department of Health from hospitals and other organizations, self-reported survey data and information about how the community perceives health issues. Because the data was compiled before the COVID-19 pandemic began in early 2020, this report represents the pre-COVID-19 baseline for our community.

The Community Health Assessment is a key part of KCHD’s strategic plan to improve health in Knox County and will be used to inform and monitor the organization’s efforts. The assessment is also used by a variety of groups, including medical providers, nonprofit organizations, and hospitals, to inform their work as well. In addition, this report will serve as the basis for the



Community Health Council's health improvement plan, which lists priority health issues for Knox County, as well as how best to address them as a community.

This is the third Community Health Assessment KCHD has conducted; the first was released in 2010, followed by the second in 2015. KCHD plans to release similar assessments every five years.

A pdf of the 2019 Community Health Assessment is attached to this email. The public may also review it on the Knox County Health Department's [website](#).

About Knox County Health Department:

The first health department in Tennessee to achieve national voluntary accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board, the Knox County Health Department (KCHD) is dedicated to ensuring the conditions in which every resident can be healthy. As a chief health strategist for the community and with more than 240 team members, KCHD's broad scope of work includes convening partners to improve community health, identifying community health threats, investigating disease outbreaks, conducting extensive outreach and education, preparing for public health emergencies, providing and connecting the public with medical care, enforcing food safety and air quality laws, and more. For more information, visit www.knoxcounty.org/health.

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