

# DELAWARE COUNTY'S FIRST COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT

## KEY FINDINGS

In 2023, we heard from nearly 5,000 community members and reviewed health and population data to better understand the health needs of Delaware County, PA.

### Community Participation

**136**  
Joined  
Community  
Conversations

**67**  
Joined  
Focus  
Groups

**4,728**  
Completed  
Health  
Surveys

**4,931 TOTAL  
COMMUNITY MEMBERS**

### We identified three priority areas:

- 1) Promote Whole Person Care & Prevent Mental Health & Substance Use Disorders
- 2) Promote Maternal, Parental, and Infant Health
- 3) Prevent Chronic Diseases

### Overarching themes will guide plans for each priority area:

- 1) Promote Health Equity
- 2) Improve Access to and Awareness of Health Care and Community Services

#### PROMOTE WHOLE PERSON CARE & PREVENT MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS

- Mental health and substance use disorders **emerged as a top concern.**
- People aged **25-34** years had the **lowest scores for mental health and connection to others.**
- **Access to care** for mental health is a challenge, especially along the **I-95 corridor.**
- **Marijuana** and **vape** use have increased among **youth.**
- **Drug induced deaths** for White residents were **significantly** higher than PA.
- 911 calls for **overdose response** were most common in the **Upper Darby, Millbourne, and Chester City** areas.

#### PROMOTE MATERNAL, PARENTAL, & INFANT HEALTH

- More babies are **born here without prenatal care** than PA, especially **Black, Hispanic** and **Multi-race** babies.
- Babies here are more likely to be **born very early** and have a **very low birthweight** than PA.
- **Maternal opioid use** and **neonatal abstinence syndrome** is higher than PA and nearby counties.
- The **severe maternal morbidity** rate is higher than other nearby counties, but lower than PA and Philadelphia.
- **Mothers** are more likely to **die during or shortly after pregnancy** than PA.
- **Babies** are more likely to **die before age 1** than PA, especially **Black infants.**

#### PREVENT CHRONIC DISEASES

- Chronic diseases account for **6 of the 10 leading causes of death** in the county.
- Our rate of **deaths** due to **stroke** is **significantly** higher than PA.
- When adjusted for age, both **incidence and death rates for breast and uterine cancers** are higher here than PA.
- **Breast cancer screening rates (mammography)** are lower among **Asian** and **Black women** than White and Hispanic women.
- **Black women** in Delaware County are more likely than White women to be **diagnosed at later stages and die due to breast cancer.**

## WHAT'S NEXT?

DCHD is working with community partners to develop a **Community Health Improvement Plan** for 2024-2028 that will address the health needs identified in each priority area.