
Contact: Stacy Wong (808-521-8961)
(Cell 860-805-2472)

swong@hah.org

Julie Schweitzer Ford (808-384-3386)

Julie@SchweitzerConsulting.com

HAWAII HOSPITALS FIND HEALTH DISPARITIES WORSENER BY PANDEMIC; WILL RENEW FOCUS ON HEALTH ACCESS ISSUES AND SOCIAL NEEDS REVEALED IN NEW REPORT

Hawaii's nonprofit hospitals announce five priority intervention areas to address in their unique populations, in collaboration with key community partners

HONOLULU – HAH.org – New research released today by the Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH) shows that the COVID-19 pandemic has intensified the unique and significant health needs of Hawaii residents, especially those who were already struggling to make ends meet before the pandemic began.

The Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) report is produced by private hospitals every three years as required by the IRS, and it identifies the significant health needs of the community, based on input from the community. Hawaii is unique among states in that all private hospitals collaborate to produce a core report that is then customized by each participating hospital. Each hospital also identifies action steps to address targeted health needs, some of which are the subject of existing efforts with community partners.

The 2021 CHNA report identifies 11 significant health needs. Five rose to the top as highest priorities:

1. Financial Security
2. Food Security
3. Mental & Behavioral Health
4. Housing
5. Trust & Equitable Access

These “social determinants of health” are conditions that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes. Social determinants of health are risks in the unique communities in which people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age¹.

The CHNA report also includes best practices for addressing these issues; strategies for actionable steps to be considered by hospitals; and policy opportunities to better address these areas.

The report is the culmination of input from more than 200 people, 82 key informant interviews, 18 community meetings, three expert panel webinars, four small focus groups, and an extensive literature review of both local and national data throughout 2021.

“This work is about hospitals joining forces with their community partners to expand beyond the walls of their institutions and into their communities as they provide care in multiple settings and improve wellness,” said HAH President and CEO Hilton R. Raethel.

“In collaboration with cross-sector partners, hospitals are moving upstream to get ahead of health challenges faced by the unique populations they serve. Improving the health of their community and reducing the need for hospitalization, particularly for chronic disease, is a primary goal. They’re looking for positive health outcomes long before residents need hospital care. This work represents almost a year of research, collaboration, and the sharing of best practices across many sectors,” he said.

HAH is the nonprofit trade association for Hawaii’s hospitals and other healthcare providers. It represents more than 170 organizations, including acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, Type II ARCHs, home health agencies and hospices.

Hospitals will be customizing and releasing their respective action steps over the next six to ten months, and will make them available to the public on their websites.

Participating hospitals:

1. Adventist Health Castle
2. Kahuku Medical Center
3. Kaiser Permanente Moanalua Medical Center
4. Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children
5. Kuakini Medical Center
6. Kula Hospital

¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services “[Healthy People 2020](#)”.

7. Lanai Community Hospital
8. Maui Memorial Medical Center
9. Molokai General Hospital
10. North Hawaii Community Hospital
11. Pali Momi Medical Center
12. The Queen's Medical Center - Punchbowl
13. The Queen's Medical Center - West Oahu
14. Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific
15. Shriners Hospitals for Children
16. Straub Medical Center
17. Sutter Health Kahi Mohala
18. Wahiawa General Hospital
19. Wilcox Medical Center

About the Healthcare Association of Hawaii

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH) is the nonprofit trade organization serving Hawaii's hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, Type II ARCHs, home care companies, and hospices. It is the state affiliate for national organizations that include the American Hospital Association (AHA), the American Health Care Association/National Center for Assisted Living, the National Association for Home Care and Hospice, and the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization. For more information, find us at hah.org, Facebook, Twitter (@HealthcareHAH), and Instagram.

###