

# Community Health Needs Assessment

## Executive Summary



### **Compelled to Care for our Community**

As a faith-based health care organization in the Catholic Christian tradition, St. Mary Mercy Livonia's (SMML) work of providing services that benefit the community is core to our identity. While governed by laws and regulations for non-profit tax-exempt hospitals to provide services to those in need, we are ultimately compelled by a desire to extend the healing ministry of Jesus Christ (*cf.* John 13:14-17, Matthew 25:35-36). Our mission and core values call us *to improve the health of our community* with a particular concern for the poor and underserved.

### **Assessing Community Health Care Needs**

SMML collaborated with county and metro area health service agencies, and other community partners to conduct a community health needs assessment (CHNA) for the Western Wayne County and South Oakland County service area. The targeted service area included the communities of Livonia, Northville, Plymouth, Canton, Westland, Wayne, Redford, Farmington Hills, and Novi, representing a population of about 532,949 residents.

The CHNA consisted of an eight (8)-question web-based survey, with opportunity for respondents to voluntarily participate in focus group sessions, which aided in the validation of the survey results.

In conjunction with the survey and focus groups, additional sources utilized included national, state and local demographic and community health databases, and SMML's utilization data and asset maps. Multiple community partners, such as Southeast Michigan United Way and Wayne Metro Community Action Agency, also shared results from their respective community needs assessments.

### **The Challenge: Determining Health Needs, Information and Process Gaps**

Two major challenges in the CHNA process were identified: skewing of data within Wayne County toward the city of Detroit, which is not a part of SMML's service area, and a small sample size.

The city of Detroit, while part of Wayne County but not in the SMML's service area, distorts the data for the surrounding suburban communities. Compounding the issue was the absence of a coalesced effort to create a health needs assessment specific to Western Wayne County, primarily due to timing and other issues.

The total sample size of people who participated in the survey within the SMMH service area was small – 800 out of a total service area population of over 500,000 residents.

### **Health Care Priorities**

The CHNA identified five top health concerns for Western Wayne County and South Oakland County:

- Obesity
- Youth and adult substance abuse
- Adult mental health
- Chronic disease management/access to care
- Senior care.

These specific needs were identified based upon size, severity, and the hospital's ability to impact the need.

### **Our Response**

The health needs identified by the CHNA have been integrated into SMML's three-year implementation plan designed to address these needs with activities that align with St. Mary Mercy Livonia's strategic initiatives, mission and vision. With the guidance from SMML's Strategic Leadership Council and Community Benefit Steering Committee, stewarding existing resources, strengthening partnerships, and creating innovative programs both on the hospital campus and within the community, the goals, objectives and outcome measures defined in the implementation plan will be reviewed annually for impact.

To access the full CHNA Report, visit [www.stjoeshealth.org/cbm](http://www.stjoeshealth.org/cbm)