



Marion County OREGON

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Marion County Completes Community Health Assessment

After an eight-month process involving 14 community organizations, Marion County Health Department completed a comprehensive Community Health Status Assessment (CHSA). The overall goal of the assessment is to analyze the data to identify priority health issues. This information will be used for strategic planning and promoting actions to improve community health.

The assessment compared data from the following categories to state and nationwide data: demographic and socioeconomic characteristics; health resource availability; quality of life; behavioral risks; environmental health; social and mental health; maternal and child health; death, illness and injury; and communicable disease.

Two key findings of the assessment are high rates of obesity and adolescent pregnancy.

According to the most recent (2005) Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 25 percent of Marion County adults report they are obese, and 39 percent of respondents report they are overweight. An adult with a Body Mass Index (BMI) between 25 and 29.9 is considered overweight, and a BMI greater than or equal to 30 is considered obese.

While the adolescent (age 15-17) pregnancy rate has been declining since 1997, Marion County's rate remains significantly higher than Oregon's. In 2006 Oregon's rate was 27.2 per 1,000 females aged 15-17 and Marion County's rate was 40.5. The Oregon Progress Board 2010 benchmark is set at a rate of 20 per 1,000 females aged 15-17.

Besides collecting data, two public surveys were conducted between April 15 and July 25, one for residents, and one for health care providers.

The resident survey had 2,916 respondents. The survey was available in hard copy as well as on-line in English, Spanish, and Russian. The demographics of the resident survey respondents were fairly well matched to the demographics of Marion County. The provider survey garnered 162 responses

Depression was the number one reported chronic disease among English speaking survey respondents, and diabetes was the number one response among Spanish speaking respondents. There was no top response for Russian speaking respondents. Seventy-three percent of all residents rated their health as either good or excellent.

The Marion County Health Advisory Board and the CHSA subcommittee reviewed data and agreed two issues that merit further community discussions are: obesity and adolescent pregnancy.

The Tobacco Related and Other Chronic Disease Subcommittee to the Marion County Health Advisory Board will look at issues related to obesity. People interested in participating in this discussion may contact Tonya Johnson at (503) 566-2901.

Next steps will include sharing the results of the assessment with the public and community partners, and using the findings in the health department triennial plan. Anyone with questions about the assessment should contact Pam Heilman at (503) 566-5612. The entire Community Health Status Assessment, highlights from the data, and in-depth survey results can be found at: www.co.marion.or.us/hlt/cha.

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