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Contact: Anna Shum  
Program Coordinator: Communications  
(603)259-3700 x257

## **NCHC releases 2022-2025 North Country Community Health Improvement Plan**

North Country Health Consortium (NCHC) is pleased to present the 2022-2025 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) for the region. A living document, the CHIP aims to create long-term strategies that improve health outcomes for the North Country and its residents throughout Coos and Northern Grafton Counties.

The CHIP is a road map that calls to action a broad set of regional partners to mobilize in areas where we can be most impactful in improving the health of North Country residents, particularly those most vulnerable. Through a collaborative process, the CHIP framework can be used over the next three years by a variety of sectors, organizations, and individuals serving the region, including business, education, health, safety, municipalities, faith-based, community support, task forces, and coalitions.

“For the North Country, Social Determinants of Health, including rurality and poverty, have long been recognized as a barrier for accessing health care as does it reflect higher rates of mortality and morbidity in the region when compared to state and national averages,” said Kris van Bergen Buteau, NCHC’s Director of Workforce Development and Public Health Programs. “When we also factor in the COVID-19 pandemic and its disruption to the social, economic, and healthcare systems, we realize these stresses have profoundly and unevenly impacted the lives of North Country residents. Social Determinants of Health require intentional focus, and for the first time was highlighted as a health priority area in the 2022-2025 CHIP.”

The CHIP update retains previously identified priority areas of the last 2018 – 2020 edition; Obesity, oral health, public health emergency preparedness, misuse of drugs and alcohol, heart disease and stroke, and mental health are still significant areas of concern.



These six health priorities had been established based on surveys, community health needs assessments, and County Health Ranking data, in which Coos County ranked 10 out of 10 in health outcomes when compared with New Hampshire's nine other counties during assessments conducted between 2016 - 2020. The latest CHIP broadens these priority areas to be more inclusive of the population's identified needs. Objectives and strategies for these priorities have also been augmented to reflect current assets and gaps in our communities and include the global pandemic's regional impacts on population health in the North Country.

Successful implementation of the CHIP will require the collective resolve and collaboration of community stakeholders and partners. To view the 2022 - 2025 North Country Community Health Improvement Plan, go to: [nchcnh.org](http://nchcnh.org). Contact [phn@NCHCNH.org](mailto:phn@NCHCNH.org) to find out how you can get involved.

The North Country Health Consortium (NCHC) is a non-profit public health organization based in Littleton that collaborates with health and human services providers serving northern New Hampshire. NCHC is the hub of the North Country Public Health Network (PHN). To learn more about the North Country PHN, and other programs and initiatives of NCHC, visit [NCHCNH.org](http://NCHCNH.org), or contact [phn@NCHCNH.org](mailto:phn@NCHCNH.org).

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