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## **Health partners announce 2024 Community Health Assessment findings; invite comments and partnerships**

A new comprehensive Quad Cities health report strengthens our community's understanding of health status and the impact of social conditions on our collective well-being. Community members are invited to provide feedback and to join partnerships that advance the health of the Quad Cities.

The 2024 Community Health Assessment is a data-driven approach to determining the health status, behaviors and needs of residents in the Quad Cities area. The study was sponsored by Community Health Care, Inc., MercyOne Genesis, Quad City Health Initiative, Rock Island County Health Department, Scott County Health Department, Trinity Muscatine Public Health and UnityPoint Health – Trinity.

The study, posted at [quadcities.healthforecast.net](https://quadcities.healthforecast.net), is a follow-up to similar studies conducted since 2002 and builds upon a long history of collaboration. The report's data sources include telephone and internet surveys, area focus groups, and secondary data.

"Our collaborative health assessment process is the foundation for community health improvement," said Nicole Carkner, executive director of the Quad City Health Initiative (QCHI). "The new report will help us to understand priority health issues based on information provided by community residents and to develop plans that help to address those issues. We invite all organizations in our community to partner with us and advance the health of Quad-Citians."

The report highlighted improvements over time such as fewer Quad-Citians are unemployed, more have dental insurance coverage and cancer death rates have decreased. Our area also fares better than the national average on selected indicators, including the percentage of adults who have had a stroke, the percentage who are food insecure and the percentage who have had a routine checkup in the past year.

Additionally, the assessment identified "areas of opportunity" for Scott County and Muscatine County, Iowa and Rock Island County, Illinois. "Initial conversations with community stakeholders have affirmed interest in three areas currently featured in the county health improvement plans: mental health; access to health care; and nutrition, physical activity, and weight," says George Verástegui, administrator, Rock Island County Health Department. "We will be working closely with the Community Stakeholder Committees formed in the Quad Cities and in Muscatine to help us determine how we can make an impact," says Jennifer Craft, director public health, Trinity Muscatine Public Health.

"Since the 2021 assessment, health partners have taken action on these priority health issues," says Pamela Samuelson, director of business planning and development at UnityPoint Health – Trinity. "We expect this new data will lead to new ideas for programs and community outreach."



UnityPoint Health  
Trinity

Partners also currently support existing coalitions in the community that have formed to address the health priority areas such as the Be Healthy QC Coalition, the Quad Cities Behavioral Health Coalition and the Access to Care Workgroup.

“Our health is influenced by economic disparities and inequalities where people are born, live, work, play, worship and age,” said Brooke Barnes, deputy director of the Scott County Health Department. “Our challenge is to address the broad community conditions that contribute to poor health in our area by collaborating across sectors,” Barnes said.

“The collaborative community health assessment process and our community coalition work recognizes the important role that all sectors play,” says Tom Bowman, CEO of Community Health Care, Inc.

With funding provided by MercyOne Genesis and UnityPoint Health – Trinity, the partners hired Professional Research Consultants (PRC) of Omaha, Nebraska, to conduct a survey, analyze data and provide a comprehensive report. The 2024 Community Health Assessment included a community survey of 1,150 individuals in Scott, Rock Island and Muscatine counties, extensive secondary data analysis and the gathering of input from local community members in focus groups held across the counties. The qualitative data were collected by the study sponsors in partnership with Community Stakeholder Committee members and other community partners. The integrated process leveraged best practices in assessment methodology and the study was designed to provide comparative data at the state and national levels.

“We are proud to sponsor this assessment and hope this report is a resource for many local organizations,” says Ameya Kotwal, business development specialist, MercyOne Genesis. “We invite the community’s feedback and encourage conversations about how we can improve health together.”

Representatives of the community health assessment partner organizations are available to answer questions. Community members are invited to provide feedback on the assessment report through a survey linked on [quadcities.healthforecast.net](https://quadcities.healthforecast.net). Organizations and individuals interested in joining community coalition efforts may contact the Quad City Health Initiative (QCHI) at (563) 421-2815.

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