COMMITMENT TO THE COMMUNITY

Children’s Hospital Los Angeles has a strong tradition of responding to the needs of its community. In fact, it is in response to our community that we heard the call of children and families at the turn of the previous century and opened up a facility dedicated to the care of children.

Over the years, the institution has deepened its commitment to providing world-class care, and is now the highest ranked children’s hospital west of the Rocky Mountains. Increasingly, as a leading academic medical center that treats children well over half a million times each year, trains pediatricians and health professionals, and is one of the highest-funded research institutions for children in the U.S., we have an even greater opportunity to translate our acumen into communities that are healthier and stronger.

It is for this reason that we lead a tri-annual Community Health Needs Assessment, gathering experts in child and family health together every three years to understand the community’s most significant and unmet needs. For everyone at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles, we see our ability to provide world-class care, recruit preeminent experts and train the health leaders of the future as a direct investment in support of our community. Further, it is our commitment to follow the lead of our community in pointing the way to where we can do more to support the unmet health needs of children and families.

COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

In April 2019, Children’s Hospital Los Angeles completed its Community Health Needs Assessment that is driving its current efforts in direct support of its community.

To understand the health care needs and issues that affect children and adolescents in our community, the assessment drew upon existing demographic and health data for Los Angeles County. Using this information, a group of child and family health experts from across the county were brought together to ensure that the institution’s efforts directly address the needs of the community in compliance with California and federal regulations regarding the provision of community benefits.

The results of the assessment indicated that CHLA continue to prioritize efforts that:

- Improve access to health care services
- Enhance the public health of the community
- Advance medical or health care knowledge that provides public benefit
- Relieve or reduce the burden of government or other community efforts

This document provides an overview of the key findings from this analysis along with the resources that the institution has committed to addressing the needs identified as part of this process.
COMMUNITY IMPACT
Fiscal Year 2019

Total Community Benefit: $336 million

- $3 million Subsidized Health Services
- $45 million Research Activities
- $21 million Health Professions Education
- $9 million Community Health Improvement Services and Other Community Benefits
- $258 million Unreimbursed Costs for Medical Services of Government-Sponsored Programs and Charity Care
COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT SERVICES – DOMAINS

Our hospital’s Community Benefit and Community Impact Advisory Committees, community leaders and community members were included in this process. The findings were used to guide the development of the hospital’s Community Benefit goals into three broad domains: (1) health access, (2) community growth and (3) economic advancement. These are defined below and efforts that have gained footholds in the communities we serve are highlighted as examples of the kind of work that our institution is doing to make our community stronger, healthier and more vibrant.

1. HEALTH ACCESS

Goals:
• Preserve access to pediatric care: Carry out advocacy efforts that focus on children’s health initiatives including behavioral health and preventive services
• Expand access to pediatric health services: Explore partnership opportunities with community organizations to address access issues and gaps
• Increase awareness of pediatric health care resources and information: Conduct outreach regarding available programs and services that address children and adolescent health, emotional and social issues

Highlight: ‘Stop the Bleed’ Community Trainings
“Stop the Bleed” is a national community education initiative designed to provide bystanders with the tools and knowledge to stop life-threatening, uncontrolled bleeding resulting from man-made and natural disasters or everyday emergencies like vehicle crashes, glass window accidents or power tool accidents. To date, Children’s Hospital Los Angeles’ Trauma and Injury Prevention Program has trained more than 425 CHLA staff members and over 6,000 community members, including teachers, construction workers, city employees and stay-at-home parents—plus approximately 500 youth—on bleeding control methods. Presently, Children’s Hospital Los Angeles is the only hospital in Southern California that is training children to recognize and treat life-threatening bleeding.

2. COMMUNITY GROWTH

Goal:
• Foster neighborhood revitalization: Advance local initiatives that promote quality of life for all residents in a neighborhood.
Highlight: Project SEARCH

Children’s Hospital Los Angeles launched the Project SEARCH Program in collaboration with the Los Angeles Unified School District, PathPoint, Lanterman Regional Center and South Central Los Angeles Regional Center this year. This program provides internship opportunities to prepare young people with significant disabilities for success in integrated, competitive employment. The inaugural Project SEARCH cohort at Children’s Hospital included four young adult interns placed in various departments at the institution. The program provides real-life work experience combined with skills training, career exploration and independent-living skills. Recruitment for the next Project SEARCH cohort began in 2020.

3. ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT

Goals:
• Build workforce pipeline for youth and young adults: Advance current hospital efforts to increase internships, mentorships and work experience initiatives
• Diversify workforce pipeline: Develop workforce training programs for special populations
• Support local business growth: Explore opportunities to strengthen alliances with the local business community, including women- and minority-owned small businesses.

Highlight: Careers in Health and Mentorship Program (CHAMP)

CHAMP at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles provides underrepresented young adults from the community the opportunity to participate in a series of comprehensive job-readiness trainings, leadership development workshops and internships. More than 250 young adults have been able to strengthen their career pathways by gaining unique work experiences and mentorship from our hospital leaders affiliated with nonclinical systems. The students applying come from various educational institutions including trade techs, community colleges, undergraduate and graduate universities, and private professional organizations—many from underserved areas in Los Angeles County and across the country. “Champers” are paired with departments across the organization that have included Ambulatory Operations, the Foundation, Information Services, Research, Facilities, Academic Affairs and more. Approximately half have been offered a position in a health care setting including, but not limited to: Children’s Hospital Los Angeles, Cedars-Sinai, the UCLA Health System, Kaiser Permanente and the University of Southern California. More than 75% of the students continued to pursue higher education including degrees such as Masters in Business Administration, Masters in Public Health and Masters in Health Administration, to name a few.
COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT
2019 FINDINGS

LOS ANGELES COUNTY POPULATION: 10 MILLION

RACE AND ETHNICITY

- HISPANIC OR LATINO: 49%
- WHITE: 27%
- ASIAN: 14%
- BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN: 10%

LANGAUGE

Language isolation: Population over age 5 who speak English "less than very well" = 26%

- SPEAK SPANISH AT HOME: 39%
- OTHER: 18%
- SPEAK ENGLISH ONLY: 43%

EDUCATION
Of the population age 25 and over:

- LESS THAN A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA: 21%

MENTAL HEALTH

- 24% of residents (all ages) needed help for emotional or mental health problems.

HEALTH BEHAVIORS

- 13% of teens and 11% of children reported as overweight
- 22% of children ages 0-17 consumed fast food three or more times per week
- 75% of children eat LESS than 5 fruits and vegetables a day
- 25% of children consumed five or more fruits and vegetables a day
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS

Unemployment rates decreased from 11% in 2015 to 8% in 2017.

20% lived at or below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).

27% of children under age 18 lived at or below FPL (2017 FPL: 1 person = $12,060; 4-person family = $24,600).

40% of residents were not able to afford food on a regular basis.

Only 60% of qualified adults and 53% of qualified children participated in the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program.

Nearly 50,000 people were homeless. The majority (84.1%) were homeless individuals; 15.8% were homeless families, and 0.1% were unaccompanied minors.

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

98% vs. 89%

Insured under 18

Insured adults

45% Children insured by employment-based health insurance

47% Children insured through Medi-Cal (California’s Medicaid program)

BIRTH CHARACTERISTICS AND MORTALITY

Since 2008, there has been a decline in birth rates; the number of births decreased from 147,684 in 2008 to 116,950 in 2017.

From 2014 to 2016, average number of teen births was 6,084 (17% of all live births).

THE LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH:

Infants: Complications – low birth weight or prematurity. 7% of babies were born with low birth weights in 2017.

<1-year-olds: Low birth weight/prematurity

1- to 4-year-olds: Birth defects

5- to 14-year-olds: Motor vehicle crash

15- to 24-year-olds: Homicide

RATIO OF POPULATION TO PROVIDERS

Primary Care Providers:

Los Angeles County: 1 for every 1,390 people
State of California: 1 for every 1,280 people

Dentists:

Los Angeles County: 1 for every 200 people
State of California: 1 for every 210 people

Mental Health Providers:

Los Angeles County: 1 for every 340 people
State of California: 1 for every 320 people

22% of the population have visited an emergency department in the past 12 months.
ABOUT CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL LOS ANGELES

In 1901 city leaders envisioned a place of hope, compassion and healing for all children, regardless of their families’ financial status. A two-story house was turned into a hospital and a sign was placed on the balcony that read “Children’s Hospital.” Though its beginnings were humble, the generosity of our community helped turn scientific advances into better health care for children.

More than 100 years later, CHLA is a place that families have counted on for generations. Here world-class experts in medicine, education and research work together to deliver family-centered care half a million times each year. From primary to complex critical care, more than 350 programs and services are offered, each one specially designed for children.

As a landmark organization in Los Angeles with a mission to create hope and build healthier futures, Children’s Hospital Los Angeles cares for the region’s most vulnerable citizens—its children. Its footprint places it in locations where specialized expertise in the health of children is needed most. We are proud of the communities that we call home and it is an honor to deliver care in the heart of a city as diverse and metropolitan as Los Angeles.

CONTACT US

We value your input. Share your ideas, recommendations and stories related to our community’s health by emailing us at communitybenefit@chla.usc.edu. You can also email us to request a copy of our 2019 Community Health Needs Assessment report, or visit CHLA.org/community.

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