

DeKalb Medical System Community Health Needs Assessment: Implementation Plan



 **DeKalb Medical**
Long Term Acute Care
at Downtown Decatur

With You all the way™



I. Background and Process:

The DeKalb Medical System completed its second community health needs assessment (CHNA) in June 2016. It has now developed this Implementation Plan with strategies to address the health needs of its communities that were identified in the CHNA. For the 2016 assessment, DeKalb Medical at Downtown Decatur has defined its community as the geographic area of DeKalb, Fulton and Gwinnett counties.

The CHNA was conducted in partnership with Truven Health Analytics, an IBM company. Truven Health Analytics performed a qualitative and quantitative assessment to help identify the health needs of DeKalb Medical at Downtown Decatur's community. More than 100 public health indicators were evaluated during the quantitative analysis. For each indicator, values or scores for the community were compared to that of the state and nation. The qualitative analysis drew input from the community via focus groups comprised of community leaders, public health experts, and those representing the interests of minority, underserved, and indigent populations. The outcomes of these analyses were evaluated to create a comprehensive list of community health needs, which were then reviewed by DeKalb Medical leadership to establish and prioritize the areas of focus for DeKalb Medical.

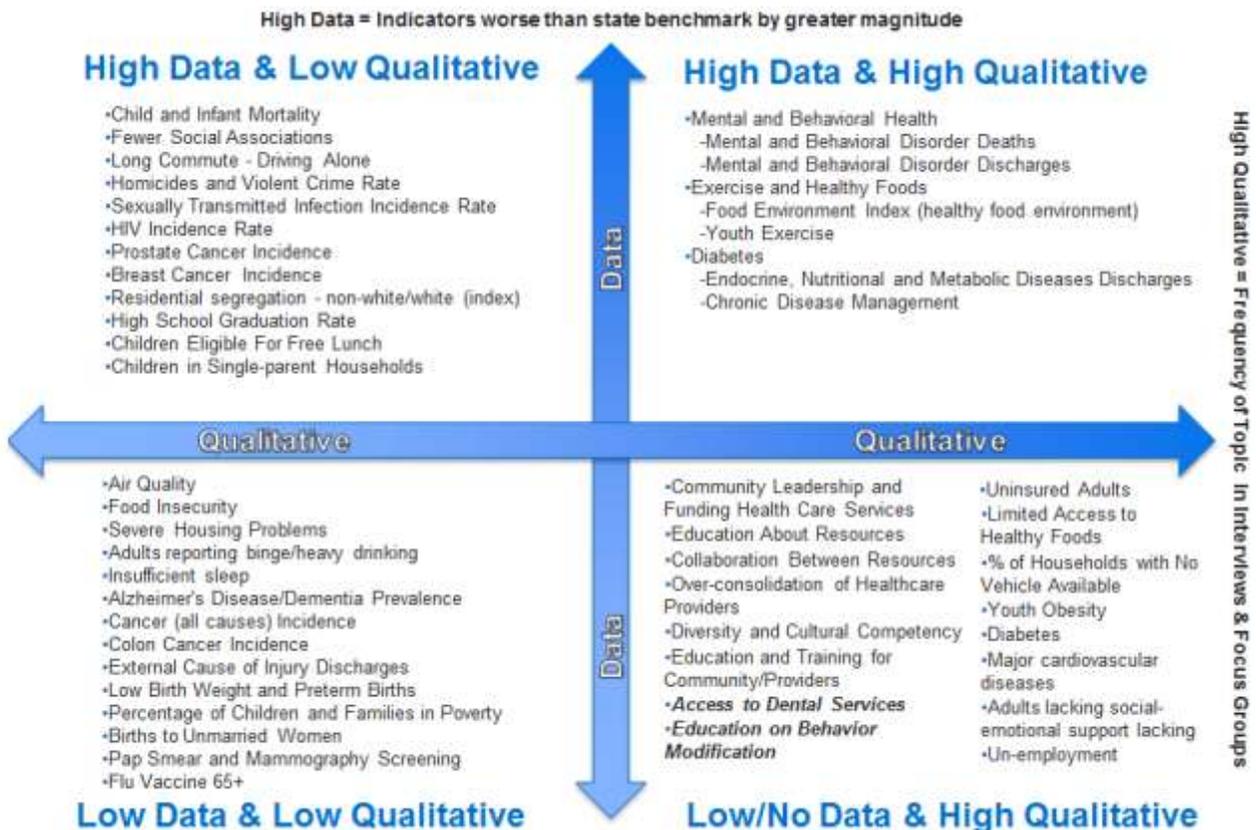
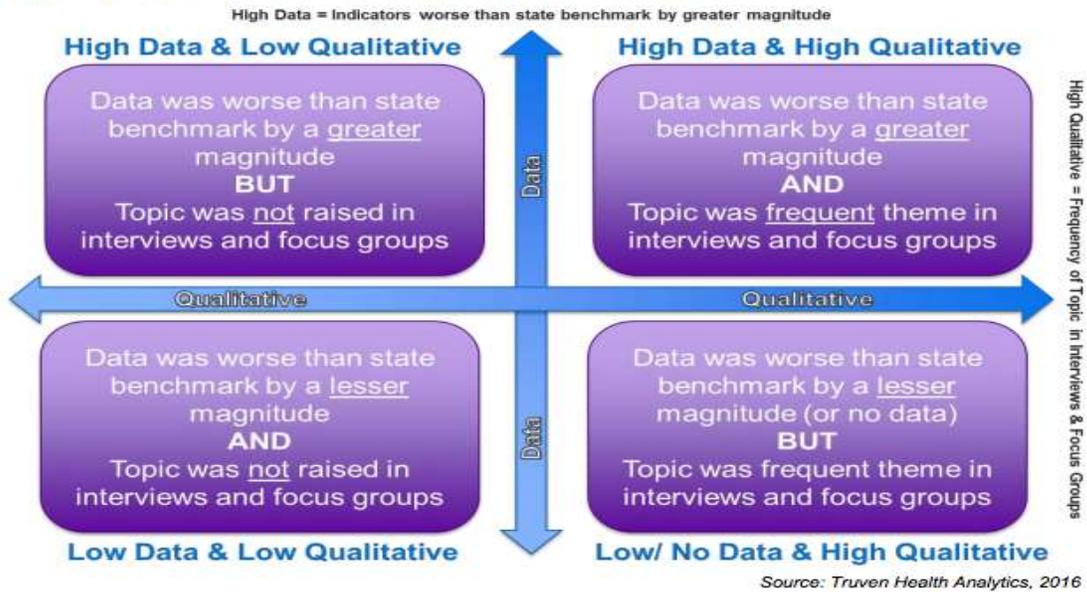
This 2016 Implementation Plan has been prepared to document the efforts of DeKalb Medical at Downtown Decatur to address the community health needs prioritized in the CHNA, and is intended to meet the requirements set forth in federal law by the Internal Revenue Code Section 501(r).

The 2016 CHNA and this Implementation Plan is available for download and can be accessed at www.dekalbmedical.org.

II. Identified Needs and Prioritization:

The quantitative and qualitative data was analyzed and placed into health needs matrix classifying health needs on the basis of quantitative indicator performance and qualitative frequency of the topic in interviews.

Putting It All Together: The Health Needs Matrix



In May 2016, DeKalb Medical leadership reviewed the matrix to prioritize and those health needs in the community it would focus its efforts on. Based on feasibility, hospital capacity, ability to measure, and alignment with the health system's strategy, the following needs were identified as the top priorities for DeKalb Medical System to address.

1. Cancer incidence and disease management, with a focus on breast and prostate cancer
2. Cardiovascular disease incidence and disease management
3. Education and training of community providers
4. Diabetes incidence and disease management

There are additional areas of need which were identified in the health needs matrix, but not addressed as priority health needs in the 2016 CHNA or Implementation Plan. The needs classified in the bottom left "low data, low qualitative" quadrant were not considered the community's significant health needs. Additionally, while the needs access to dental services and education on behavior modification were classified as "high qualitative", there was no matching quantitative data available. For other needs listed in the matrix, it was determined that DeKalb Medical at Downtown Decatur has limited ability to affect, lacks system resources/data available to influence change, or there are other healthcare and community organizations better aligned to address these priorities. Additionally, many health needs are a result of social, economic, or environmental issues which are outside of the scope of DeKalb Medical's mission and resources.

III. Implementation Plan:

This Implementation Plan was developed based on the findings and top priorities established by the 2016 CHNA and taking into account the quantitative and qualitative data and community stakeholder input. In order to address the priorities, DeKalb Medical at Downtown Decatur leaders identified measurable goals for the management of the identified health needs and outside and inside strategies to address various aspects of the priorities. The accompanying plan outlines those strategies. Measures on the identified needs from DeKalb Medical's fiscal year ending June 30, 2016 are used as baselines and progress goals are set for the three year period. Where projected goals are not available or reasonable for all three years, they will be evaluated each year for the next three years. In addressing the selected priorities, special priority will be placed on building upon existing programs, initiatives, and measures.

I. Community Providers	
Education and training of community providers.	
Objective 1:	
<i>Indicator/Measure</i>	<i>Baseline Year – 2016</i>
Number of nursing students with clinical rotation at DeKalb Medical at Downtown Decatur measured year over year.	12 students
<i>Projected Goal</i>	<i>Year</i>
20 students	2017
25 students	2018
25 students	2019
<i>Actions/Strategies</i>	
It is a measure of DeKalb Medical's vision to partner with the best providers to prepare students who are in clinical education programs by providing a location for training in a clinical setting. Hospitals are an ideal training location due to the wide range of illnesses and conditions inherent to hospital patients. The DeKalb Medical system has existing agreements to include as a practicum site for nursing students.	

II. Education	
Education and collaboration between resources	
Objective 1:	
<i>Indicator/Measure</i>	<i>Baseline Year – 2016</i>
New and updated patient/family discharge information introducing the new outside providers for their next phase of care for head-injury patients that will transition from inpatient ventilator patients to outpatient head- injury, rehabilitative providers.	Current Discharge Information
<i>Projected Goal</i>	<i>Year</i>
Full-scale review of existing information with strengths and weaknesses.	2017
New, improved discharge information produced, reviewed and tested.	2018
Full roll-out and use of new discharge information.	2019
<i>Actions/Strategies</i>	
DeKalb Medical at Downtown Decatur will work with the head-injury outpatient provider, the Side-By-Side Brain Injury Clubhouse, to review and improve the discharge information for patients transitioning to an outpatient setting.	

III. Long Term Care	
Access to long term care	
Objective 1:	
<i>Indicator/Measure</i>	<i>Baseline Year – 2016</i>
Long term acute care patient capacity.	Current access to care.
<i>Projected Goal</i>	<i>Year</i>
Review of current and potential preferred relationships, possible Medicaid expansion, changes in national regulations, and cost of additional bed capability	2017
Work with preferred relationships to better identify LTAC level of care, complete appropriate information to expand Medicaid capacity, and begin increase in bed capability	2018
Utilize increase in bed capability to provide better access to LTAC level of care	2019
<i>Actions/Strategies</i>	
Work with current preferred providers to better identify LTAC patients earlier in their stay. Investigate and initiate new preferred relationships with other hospitals, state agencies and physician groups. Increase nurse staffing to increase capability to admit patients when ready for transfer. Minor upgrade to future patient rooms to increase capacity of the LTAC.	

Conclusion

DeKalb Medical at Downtown Decatur's Implementation Plan will help guide efforts towards community health needs that have been identified during the 2016 CHNA. All the needs identified have a negative impact on the health and wellness of the people of DeKalb County. For the purposes of this CHNA and the 2016 Implementation Plan, we have chosen to place our primary focus on the priorities identified above. However, we will continue to address other health issues identified by assisting, where possible, our community partners with their endeavors related to these issues.