

Promoting child health in our communities



At Connecticut Children's, we know that behavioral, genetic, and social/environmental factors determine 90% of children's health, development, and wellbeing outcomes. While pervasive, such factors are particularly important in areas of concentrated poverty. We therefore fully support opportunities to address community needs that impact the health and wellbeing of our patients and their families.

The federal government requires all hospitals with a 501(C) 3 non-profit designation to submit a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) every three years to the Internal Revenue Service that details specific community health goals, such as improving community health, increasing access to health services, and educating health professionals. Connecticut Children's triennial CHNA identifies key health needs of the Hartford community through data collection and analysis.

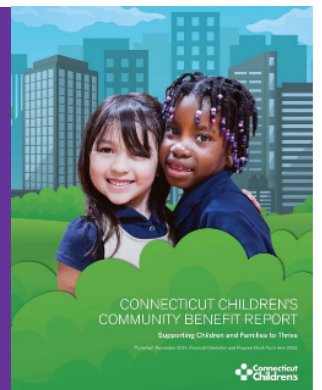
How does Connecticut Children's conduct the CHNA?

For the most recent CHNA, completed in 2022, Connecticut Children's partnered with the United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut to collect data from sources including Data Haven, the Connecticut Hospital Association, Hartford Public Schools and Hartford residents.

What did we learn from the CHNA?

Key priorities that were identified in 2022 as drivers of health and wellbeing outcomes included:

- Access to nutritious foods
- Access to health care
- Educational, occupational opportunity, and well-being
- Safe neighborhoods and violence prevention
- Healthy, stable, and secure housing



How did these findings inform our work?

We used the 2022 CHNA to develop a Community Health Improvement Plan with these goals:

- Improve housing conditions and affordability to make housing healthy, stable and secure for Hartford families.
- Improve access to nutritious food for Hartford children and families.
- Identify and address barriers in access to healthcare for underserved and vulnerable families and children in Hartford.
- Increase access to learning, higher education, and workforce development opportunities for Hartford children, youth and caregivers.
- Decrease violence and violent injuries in Hartford neighborhoods.

Please see our [2022 plan](#) for a complete listing of objectives and strategies.

What progress has been made to address these goals?

Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program—Three Level 1 trauma centers in Hartford (Connecticut Children's, Saint Francis Hospital and Hartford Hospital) have developed the Hospital-based Violence Intervention Program Strengthening Collaborative. Community partners include: COMPASS Youth Collaborative, Hartford Communities that Care, and Mothers United Against Violence.

Results: In our two years of work, the hospitals have **treated 444 gunshot wound victims** and **successfully connected 70% of the gunshot wound victims to supportive services** once they return home.

Produce Prescription Program—Start Childhood Off Right, a program of our Office for Community Child Health, supports access to healthy foods for patient families who screen positive for food insecurity in our primary care clinics and hospital emergency department. Through a partnership with Hartford Food System, a small refrigerator stocked with fruits and vegetables now allows our Emergency Medicine team to distribute fresh produce to patient families during their visit.

Results: So far, this effort has **provided families with more than 350 vouchers and over \$4,000 worth of fresh fruits and vegetables**.

Healthy Homes—The Connecticut Children's Healthy Homes Program champions the fundamental right of all children and families to reside in safe, quality, and affordable housing. Our unwavering commitment revolves around ensuring lead paint hazards and other housing hazards, such as asbestos, mold, and pests, are removed from families' homes and, in doing so, we foster healthier living environments statewide. We help ensure housing affordability and stability by requiring property owners to charge rental rates in accordance with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development guidelines, reducing the risk of families facing frequent relocations due to escalating rents.

Results: In fiscal year 2023, the program **addressed hazards in 173 residences, ensuring that over 125 families live in healthier environments**.

North Hartford Ascend Promise Neighborhoods Grant—North Hartford Ascend is a cradle-to-career initiative designed to ensure that children living in the North Hartford Promise Zone – which includes Clay Arsenal, Northeast, and Upper Albany neighborhoods – have the support they need to reach their full potential. The initiative is funded by a major Promise Neighborhoods grant from the United States Department of Education.

Results: In collaboration with the community and a multidisciplinary, cross-sector team, Connecticut Children's is working with community-based organizations, leaders, and residents to **integrate achievement-oriented schools with essential community services and programs**, all within a cohesive and coordinated care navigation system.

Next Steps

In 2025, Connecticut Children's will again partner with the United Way to conduct the next triennial Community Health Needs Assessment so we can continue to strengthen the health of Hartford's children, families and neighborhoods.