



CITY OF NEW ORLEANS HEALTH DEPARTMENT

DR. JENNIFER AVEGNO, DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Isis Casanova
Public Information Officer
Isis.casanova@nola.gov
(504)423-5666

New Orleans Health Department Releases the 2022-2025 Community Health Improvement Plan Report

New Orleans, LA (Feb. 11, 2022) - The New Orleans Health Department (NOHD) today announced the release of the New Orleans Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). The CHIP is a collaborative action plan developed by a broad network of local public health system partners and will guide health improvement efforts in our priority areas for the next three years.

“One of the lessons of COVID has been that diseases and poor outcomes do not stop at parish borders,” said Dr. Jennifer Avegno, NOHD Director. “This pandemic has reaffirmed the need to have a strong foundation for public health – one that is built on cross-sector partnerships, sustainable funding, data-driven decisions, and sound policies that work for all New Orleanians, and the CHIP serves as a framework to build this foundation. With this plan, NOHD and local partners from the health, business, non-profit, and academic sectors will work together with the larger community on specific goals to implement programmatic, policy, and system-level changes to improve health in an equitable and sustainable way.”

Now entering our third year of the COVID-19 pandemic, some previous areas of progress in health outcomes have stalled, and longstanding issues worsened. High rates of chronic disease, poverty and injury continue to contribute to unnecessary deaths and a lower quality of life for our residents. The priorities of the CHIP stem from a wide array of preventable health issues:

- **Priority 1: Increase access to care.** Despite the progress made by Medicaid expansion, many residents still face barriers to accessing quality health care—whether it is cost, discrimination, or lack of transportation. Removing these barriers and building the capacity of our public health system to prevent and treat health issues before they become life-threatening is critical.

- Priority 2: Improve economic stability. One of every four New Orleanians, including one of every three children, are living in poverty and are food insecure. In addition, over half of all renters are housing cost-burdened, making them more vulnerable to poor housing quality and eviction. Creating more economic stability for residents and families through housing, food and supportive work environments is a necessary foundation for health.
- Priority 3: Ensure community safety. Last year marked the highest number of homicides and traffic fatalities the city has seen for 17 years. Additionally, our community is increasingly vulnerable to the impacts of public health emergencies, many of which are due to extreme weather. Without consistent security in multiple aspects of life, residents are unable to connect with neighbors, engage with the built environment and make healthy choices. Changes in policy, planning and infrastructure improvements will create better conditions for resident safety.

The CHIP is a living document that will be regularly adapted to reflect community needs. Progress will be evaluated and reported annually. The 2022 to 2025 CHIP may be viewed on the Health Department's website at nola.gov/health if you would like to learn more.

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About the New Orleans Health Department

The mission of the nationally accredited New Orleans Health Department (NOHD) is to protect, promote, and improve the health of all our residents where we live, learn, work and play. NOHD is committed to building a healthy New Orleans through equitable social and environmental conditions and through policies, programs and partnerships that promote health. Learn more at www.nola.gov/health.