Health Trends Across Communities in MN

Knowledge is power when working to improve the health of our communities. Better data can lead to a better understanding of community health needs and more effective action plans. Health Trends Across Communities (HTAC) uses information from electronic health records (EHR) to help fill gaps in the information available to health professionals, organizations, policymakers, and community members to promote health in Minnesota.

What is HTAC?

HTAC is a collaboration between health systems, public health departments, health organizations, and health plans in Minnesota.

HTAC uses summary reports from EHRs on a range of chronic, behavioral, and mental health conditions. The information comes from 11 health systems that make up the Minnesota Electronic Health Record Consortium (MNEHRC).

Information from the MNEHRC represents around 90% of healthcare for Minnesotans, which makes HTAC a powerful tool to describe the health of many communities.

What Does HTAC do?

The HTAC health information complements other sources of public health data and is available through reports and an interactive dashboard. HTAC provides:

· Trends in prevalence data (positive or negative changes in the proportion of people with certain diagnoses over time) for high-priority health conditions across the state.

· Health information by patient characteristics (race, ethnicity, language, sex, age, status of experiencing homelessness and incarceration).

· Data at state, county, zip code, and Census tract levels.

· A picture of how social and environmental factors can affect someone's health.

· Annual updates.

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Who Is Involved?

The HTAC collaboration involves people with great ideas and a passion for creating healthier lives for all Minnesotans.

Project partners include the MNEHRC, Hennepin County Public Health, and the Center for Community Health (CCH) Assessment Alignment Committee. The CCH identified 24 priority health topics to include in the HTAC data to start. Organization and community partners help inform the development of the data dashboard and technical assistance materials.

Contact Us

Contact us at:

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What Does That Mean?

Electronic Health Record

Doctors and other healthcare team members mark down conditions discussed and identified during a patient's visit. Health conditions, test results, and other information are given a code. All of this information is stored in an Electronic Health Record at the office or hospital.

Summary Reports

Summary reports use information about a group of people. Information about individuals is not used. This means that individuals cannot be identified from the summary reports.

Community

Community can be defined in many ways. A few examples include where people live (geography), shared background (ethnicity), and characteristics (such as age and race).

Hennepin

Center for Community Health

MN EHR CONSORTIUM