

NURS-FPX6218 Assessment 2: Assessing Community Health Care Needs

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COURSE XXX: Title of Course

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Assessing Community Health Care Needs

A community health needs assessment entails comprehensive data collection and analysis regarding the community's resources and infrastructure consistent with care accessibility and utilization. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2019), a community health assessment is a systematic process that operates on various principles, including promoting proactive and diverse community engagement to improve results, allowing population-wide interventions for addressing health disparities, and informing continuous improvement processes. While assessing community health needs consistently enhances care equity and quality, this paper discusses community health needs assessment for the Jordan Community in Minneapolis, MN. It highlights current health and environmental issues in Jordan City to inform interventions for promoting people's health and well-being.

General Conditions and Needs of the Jordan Community from a Public Health Perspective

The windshield survey of Jordan City provides a general overview of the community, including its health infrastructure and resources. It is vital to contend that the study shows that the city is a relatively healthy community, considering its socio-economic and recreational infrastructure to influence health utilization. One of the community's resources and infrastructural endowments is the presence of learning institutions like Jordan public schools that offer student and single-family-friendly campuses, Jordan High School, which offers athletics, art programs, and extra-curricular activities. Also, the city has a community education and recreation center, which includes a 3-gym station with a multipurpose floor, an elevated walking track, a fitness center, and community locker rooms.

Other vital infrastructure that renders Jordan a healthy community includes Oak Terrace Senior Living (a retirement community that offers independent living, assisted living, and

memory care), Rademacher's fresh market, which provides access to healthy foods, Jordan Baseball Park, Snap fitness center, Penn Avenue Family Dental care center, Armatage community center that includes meal program for youths ≤ 18 years, and St. Francis Health Services aligned with Allina Health and Park Nicollet Health Services. Further, the community has a good road network facilitating transportation, and several religious institutions provide spiritual nourishment and support.

However, some issues present health deficiencies in the Jordan Community. For example, the houses in the downtown area are in poor condition and can risk people's health. According to Palacios et al. (2020), poor housing leads to multiple health risks, including sanitation issues, a high prevalence of respiratory infections, sanitation issues, lead poisoning, asthma, and poor outdoor air quality. As a result, upgrading houses and neighborhood infrastructure can ensure healthy living conditions.

Environmental Factors Affecting Population Health in the Community

Environmental aspects contribute to healthy living for people in Jordan City. For instance, the city has a Lagoon Park, a baseball park, educational institutions, health centers, and a good road network, forming a more excellent physical environment. Although the city's peripheral downtown areas grapple with poor housing structures, it is valid to argue that the above infrastructure contributes to healthy living and people's well-being. Gibson (2017) argues that a built environment not conducive to walking or cycling leads to physical inactivity and associated adverse health outcomes such as diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and obesity. Also, the Jordan Community has access to healthy foods, though only over 20 families rely on the food shelf every weekend. Therefore, this infrastructure can prevent the prevalence of chronic conditions such as diabetes and cardiovascular diseases (CVDs).

Social Determinants of Health in the Jordan Community

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC, 2021) defines social determinants of health (SDOH) as "conditions in the places where people live, learn, work, and play that affect a wide range of health and quality-of-life-risks, and outcomes." Examples of social determinants of health include income and social status, physical environments, access to care, social support systems, education and literacy, housing, and employment and working conditions (Islam, 2019). The Jordan Community has healthy and favorable social determinants of health due to the presence of learning institutions, groceries, religious institutions that offer social and spiritual support, a good road network that promotes transport efficiency, recreational facilities like Lagoon Park and the baseball park, and access to health centers and physical exercise facilities. However, the downtown area has unfavorable social determinants of health in the form of poor housing and neighborhood infrastructure that pose various health risks, including sanitation issues, disease transmission, and poor outdoor air quality.

The Summary of Windshield Survey and Environmental Analysis Findings for Executive Leaders

While the windshield survey presents Jordan City as a healthy community, it is essential to note that some aspects are unfavorable environment and social determinants of health. Poor housing in the downtown area is a significant aspect of adverse social determinants of health. Also, the community struggles with overdependence on food shelves. Therefore, policy interventions to improve housing quality and reduce over-dependence on the food shelf can improve people's health and well-being by eliminating multiple health risks, including poor sanitation, respiratory infections, and pollution.

References

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