Community Health Assessment Project
Supplemental Report: Chautauqua County
Project Overview

The following report summarizes findings from a community based public health assessment process that began in the summer and fall of 2003. During this time period, over a dozen community focus groups were conducted throughout Allegany (predominate baseline data resource), Cattaraugus, and Genesee Counties. (Note: Chautauqua County chose not to participate in this developmental phase of the project.) Group participants brainstormed nearly 500 hundred responses to the prompt question, "What are the health needs of our county?"

A panel of local health and human service experts was convened to pare down received responses to a number suitable for the development of a randomized community rating survey. The pool of responses was first sorted and reduced based upon "appropriateness to the mission of public health". Further paring occurred in consideration of "feasibility for meaningful response" and finally in consideration of "perceived importance" to the community as a whole. In the end, the local panel selected 48 items for inclusion within a cross-county survey tool.

Once constructed, the survey tool was randomly mailed to slightly more than 4000 individuals across the four county region (1000 per county) and was also provided to a small set of selected individuals targeted separately by each of the health departments. In total, 836 surveys were completed and returned for analysis by the WNY R-AHEC within the time frames allotted. This represents an approximate 20% return rate.

Returned survey data was then utilized as input into a Concept Systems analysis, the results of which are contained within this document.

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