As an affiliate of Advocate Aurora Health, our purpose is to help people live well. Our process begins with our Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), for which we obtain input from community members, public health representatives, and community partner organizations. We use that information to prioritize identified community health needs and develop a Community Health Implementation Strategy (CHIS) plan with specific targets and measures for the needs we are best positioned to address. This report shares highlights of progress we made on our plan in 2021. To see our most recent CHNA report and CHIS plan, please visit www.aurora.org/commbenefits.

In 2020, Advocate Aurora’s community benefit programming efforts pivoted and transformed to meet the newly identified significant health needs of the community during the COVID-19 pandemic and that work continued through 2021. Implementation remained delayed for some previously planned programs, and activities for some existing programs were applied differently or were temporarily paused. This allowed our team members and resources to be redirected to focus on the community’s need to prevent and control the spread of COVID-19.

**Priority #1 | Access to Innovative Care and Services**

**Focus | Access to care**

Access to Innovative Care and Services is about creating conditions in our hospital, across our health system and in our community to provide accessible, available, affordable, and targeted health care and health services to support everyone’s ability to live well. Access to care offers an opportunity to detect and treat disease at an earlier stage, improve overall health, prevent disease and disability, and reduce preventable deaths. To address this in 2021, 261 patients who arrived at our Emergency Department (ED) seeking non-emergent care and did not have a primary care physician were seen by an Aurora Health Care primary care provider within 28 days following their ED visit.

**Priority #2 | Access to Behavioral Health Programs and Services**

**Focus | Behavioral Health: Mental Health and Substance Use**

Behavioral health, which includes treatment and services for mental health conditions and substance use disorder is a growing public health concern and was identified as a top health issue in our hospital's most recent Community Health Needs Assessment. In response to this identified critical need in 2021:

- 247 people were assessed by an Aurora Behavioral Health services team member in the ED and received expedited referrals as appropriate for behavior health services.
- 73 patients with substance use disorders were provided with services through the hospital's intensive outpatient treatment (IOP) program.
Priority #3  Address the underlying causes of persistent health problems

The socioeconomic and environmental conditions where people live, work, learn, play and pray have a direct impact on a wide range of wellness and quality of life outcomes. The Advocate Aurora Health Community Strategy provides an overarching framework for the health system centered on six areas of focus which include: access to innovative care; access to behavioral health; workforce development; community safety; housing; and food security. Our CHIS aligns with the Advocate Aurora Community Strategy, but this plan is unique to the health needs of the community we serve.

Focus | Community Safety - Sexual assault

Sexual violence can have harmful and lasting consequences for survivors, families, and communities including, but not limited to, unintended pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, long-term physical consequences, immediate and chronic psychological issues, health behavior risks, and financial costs.

During 2021, our hospital's Forensic Nurse Examiners (FNEs) provided trauma-informed care and follow-up referrals for 185 people at our hospital. Our FNEs and advocates also facilitated 22 community education/prevention/outreach trainings for 790 attendees; 75 referrals were received from physician offices and/or other community partners that received education.

Focus | Obesity and food security

Physical activity and nutrition remain among the top five health issues for Winnebago County. To address this in 2021, we remained engaged in the following community-based initiatives:

- Fox Valley Community Data Hub: Kickoff meetings were held for the Governance subgroup and Technology Benchmarking subgroup in late 2021 to begin developing scope and purpose. An Advocate Aurora Community Health Team Member participated in both groups.
- Eat Well for Life Action Team: The first round of classes were completed virtually and all participants received one box of food each week that they attended class.

Focus | Aurora Cancer Care

A Cancer Nurse Navigator (CNN) is a certified nurse whose clinical expertise and training allows them to effectively enable patients and their loved ones to make informed decisions and guide them through the cancer care process, starting from diagnosis, to help them to overcome barriers to optimal care. In 2021, with the help of our hospital's CNNs:

- 85 survivorship plans were developed.
- 1 survivorship event was held for 8 attendees.
- 1 breast cancer screening event was held with 3,390 people screened. Four additional breast cancer education events were held.
- 1 lung cancer screening event was held with 552 people screened.

Priority #4  Covid-19 Pandemic Response

The COVID-19 pandemic brought significant changes to the ways people work, communicate, learn, play, eat, socialize, and receive health care. As COVID-19 raced across our community, our team members answered the call to serve at the front lines of the pandemic.

Focus | COVID-19 Testing and Vaccinations

Our vaccination strategy started in late 2020 with our team members who were providing care to patients and community members. In 2021, we were able to open our vaccination clinics to community members. Throughout 2021, 5,426 people were partially vaccinated, 4,936 people were fully vaccinated, and 17 people received their COVID booster immunization through our hospital.
During 2021, a total of 44 hospital team members pledged $23,990 to the Advocate Aurora Team Member Giving Campaign. The campaign supports more than 1,300 local not-for-profit funds, including Advocate Aurora Health funds, local United Way agencies, and other not-for-profit organizations responding to important community health needs.

People like you have helped Advocate Aurora Health serve communities for more than 100 years. Through your charitable gift, you can carry on that inspiring tradition of partnership. Together we can make a difference in the lives of the people and families who need us most. Visit www.advocateaurorahealth.org/foundations/ to learn more about the many ways you can give.