Focused Community Health Initiatives: the Community as a Learning System for Health: Using Local Data to Improve Community Health

National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics

Subcommittees on Population Health and Privacy, Confidentiality and Security

February 8, 2011

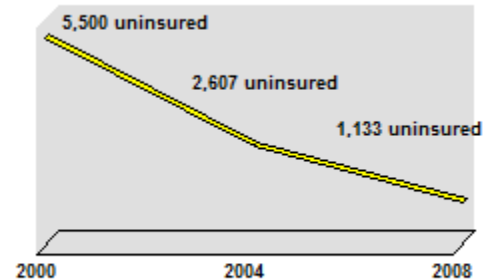*Matt Stefanak, Mahoning County (Ohio) Health Commissioner, Panelist*

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An Illustration of the Local Use of Data with Outcomes

- Using Ohio Family Health Survey data to benchmark and measure improvement in children's health insurance (CHIP) program
- *"Group works to insure children: local coalition working to insure than children of the Valley receive health insurance."*

  The Vindicator

  March 24, 2009
- *"Mahoning County had the <u>lowest</u> rate of uninsured children among Ohio metropolitan counties despite having the <u>highest</u> rate of children living in families…. below poverty."*

  Mahoning Valley Covering Kids and Families Coalition, May 4, 2009

Uninsured Children and Children Living in Poverty 2008		
Ohio Metropolitan Counties		
	Uninsured	≤200% FPL
Cuyahoga	3.4%	45.3%
Franklin	4.5%	45.9%
Hamilton	4.3%	49.2%
Lucas	4.1%	48.6%
Mahoning	**2.2%***	**53.9%**
Montgomery	6.1%	50.4%
Stark	3.0%	47.6%
Summit	3.0%	47.6%

5,500 uninsured
2,607 uninsured
1,133 uninsured
2000   2004   2008

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Questions from the Committee

- What are your long-term (5-10 year) goals for community health improvements, given the necessary resources and conditions?
- What enables and impairs your acquisition and use of the necessary data?
- What do you particularly need in the way of data and other resources to be able to accomplish your goals for your community?
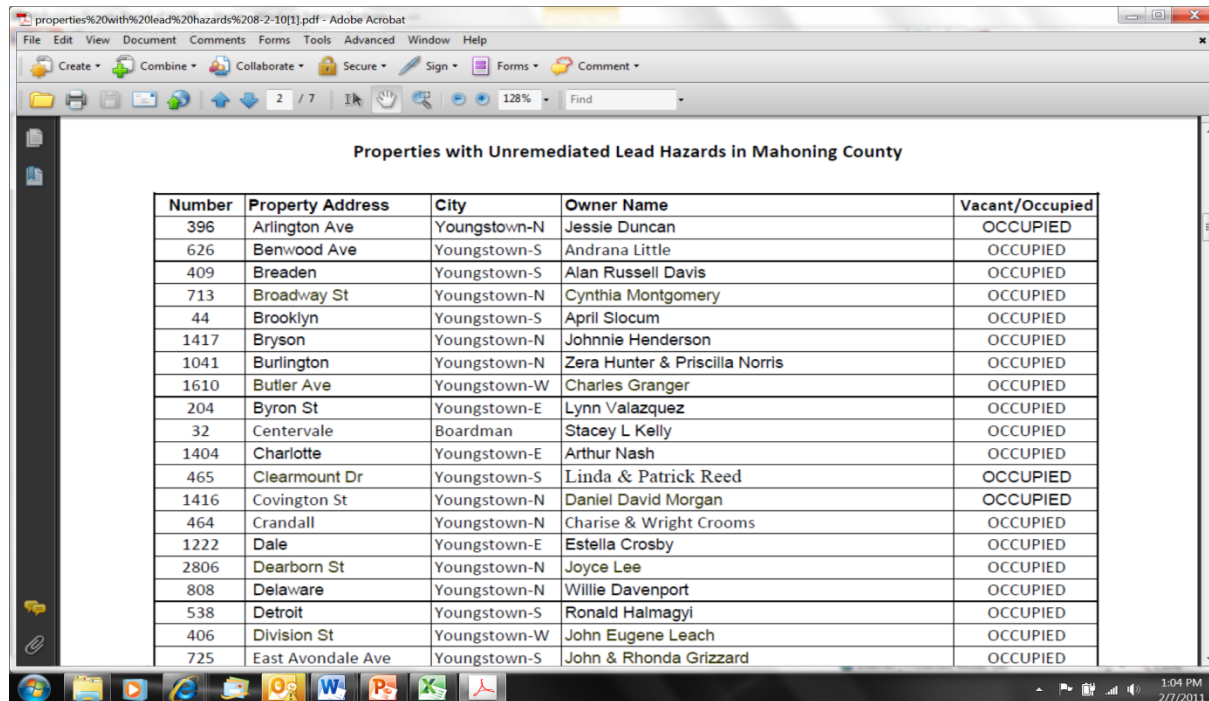- What is the single most important message you want the Committee to hear about your community as a learning system for health?
- What issues of privacy or confidentiality is the use of local data posing?

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1st Question

- What are your long-term (5-10 year) goals for community health improvements, given the necessary resources and conditions?

  - **How can we ensure a green community in the Mahoning Valley?**
    - **Indicators: ambient air quality, child blood lead levels**
  - **How can we reduce violence and harm in the community?**
    - **Indicators: homicides, suicides, motor vehicle crashes**
  - **How can we ensure access to physical and behavioral healthcare?**
    - **Indicators: ED visits for ambulatory care sensitive conditions, trimester of first prenatal care, self-reported access to care and health status**
  - **How can we educate and promote healthy eating and behaviors?**
    - **Indicators: adult obesity prevalence, self-reported fruit and vegetable consumption and physical activity, healthy food access**
  - **How can we ensure access to healthy foods and physical activity?**
    - **Indicator: healthy food access**
  - **How can we engage all members of the community groups/individuals to build a healthier community?**
    - **Indicators: TBD**
  - **How can we motivate and support the community in identifying ways to dream of a better life and community?**
    - **Indicators: high school graduation rates, number of college graduates in the Valley**
  - **How can we help the community to understand the link between poverty and health?**
    - **Indicators: poverty and unemployment rates, number of children living in poverty**

    from the Tri-County Community Health Assessment and Planning Committee, February 3, 2011

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2ⁿᵈ Question

- What data are you using or do you hope to use to accomplish your goals?

  - **Available "off-the-shelf"**
    - **U..S Census**
    - **SMART BRFSS**
    - **County Health Rankings**
    - **Ohio Family Health Survey**
  - **"Home-grown" - locally collected**
    - **Communicable and environmental disease reports (child lead poisoning)**
    - **Hospital discharge data from partners**
    - **School surveys (BMI, vending machine)**
    - **County-level BRFSS - 1993, 2000, 2005, 2011(?)**

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3rd Question

- What do you particularly need in the way of data and other resources to be able to accomplish your goals for your community?

  - More "granular" data on a community (my city, village or township) level
  - Commitment to "staying the course" with chosen community health measures, e.g., County Health Rankings, Ohio Family Health Survey
  - Access to academic partners or expertise in population-based survey data collection and analysis, e.g., county-level BRFSS

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4th Question

- What is the single most important message you want the Committee to hear about your community as a learning system for health?

  - Community members that get involved in community health assessment and planning usually want to select measures unique to their community. Can we help them get what they want and still accept a *prix fixe* menu of measures so we can compare our community with others?
  - Too many indicators can lead to "indicatoritis"

5th Question

- What issues of privacy or confidentiality is the use of local data posing?
  - **How to use data about child lead poisoning to mobilize city government to act – the ethics of publishing lists of "toxic houses" and their owners**

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