

*Health and  
Safety  
Community  
Action  
Team*

## **Health and Safety**

### **Critical Statements:**

#### **Threats:**

- 1.) Substance abuse is a threat to the Lakewood community.
- 2.) Due to our aging housing stock, lead poisoning is the major environmental threat to our young children.
- 3.) Untreated/under-treated mental illness in all age brackets is a major threat to the health of the community.
- 4.) Unhealthy lifestyles, including poor nutrition, smoking, lack of exercise, excess stress, threaten the health of the community.
- 5.) Decreasing economic opportunities in Lakewood threatens the sustainability of current services.

#### **Weaknesses:**

- 1.) There exists a lack of representation by African-American and Middle Eastern members of the community
- 2.) There are a large and increasing number of uninsured and underinsured patients in Lakewood and surrounding communities.
- 3.) There is no inpatient adolescent mental health treatment center on the West Side.
- 4.) Communication between potential users and the community resources is lacking and inefficient.

## **Health and Safety**

### **Opportunities:**

- 1.) New and improved public spaces allow better access to the general public for health education and services.
- 2.) For Lakewood citizens and families interested in pursuing a healthy lifestyle, there are an increasing number of opportunities. Examples are YMCA, walking trails, the MetroPark, Main Street
- 3.) Opportunities to collaborate and coordinate health care professionals and health care services.
- 4.) Opportunity exists to improve services to our growing immigrant community.

### **Strengths:**

- 1.) Lakewood has high and varied health resources.
- 2.) Lakewood department of human services enhances the health and quality of life for residents.
- 3.) Lakewood has good safety forces, including CERT and neighborhood watch programs.

### **Critical Issues Questions:**

1. Poverty is increasing in Lakewood requiring an increase in services.
2. How do we maximize the use of our health care resources with an increase in poverty and decrease in available resources?

## **Health and Safety**

### **Diversity:**

1. What barriers need to be removed to engage the diverse population of Lakewood in health and safety issues?

### **Health Education and Prevention:**

1. What kinds of health promotion activities do we need in Lakewood?

### **Strengths:**

1. How can we improve access to Lakewood's existing health and safety resources?
2. How do we enhance the services to meet the needs of our ever-changing population?
3. What safety problems are we experiencing and how do we best address them?

### **Opportunities:**

1. How do we utilize these new spaces to promote health?
2. How do we engage Lakewood citizens to take responsibility for healthy lifestyles for themselves and their families?
3. How do we collaborate and coordinate health care professionals and health care services?
4. What are the needs of our immigrant community?

## **Health and Safety**

### **Weakness**

1. How do we identify and engage individuals of African American and Middle Eastern heritage?
2. What do we do about the large and increasing uninsured and underinsured patients in Lakewood?
3. What are the barriers to opening an inpatient adolescent mental health facility?
4. Which community tools should be used to make information accessible to families and children?

### **Threats:**

- 1.) What actions can be taken to decrease the violence and substance abuse?
- 2.) How do we educate the community about the threat of lead poisoning and ways to prevent it?
- 3.) How do we address the mental health issues in our community?
- 4.) What can be done to improve the overall health of the community regarding healthy behaviors?
- 5.) How do we keep Health and Safety issues a priority in the face of varying economic resources?