

Health and Safety C.A.T.  
Driving Forces and SWOT Statements

**Driving Forces**

- 1.) Poverty is increasing and requires an increase in services.
- 2.) Diversity provides opportunity and the challenge of meeting the needs of a culturally and economically diverse population in health and safety arenas.
- 3.) Health promotion activities are needed to prevent health problems. There is a need for a better understanding of how to engage our community to access available health and safety services.

**Strengths**

- 1.) Health resources in Lakewood are numerous and varied.
- 2.) Lakewood's department of human services enhances the health and quality of life for residents.
- 3.) Lakewood has excellent safety forces, including but not limited to CERT and neighborhood watch programs.

**Weaknesses**

- 1.) There exists a lack of culturally diverse representation among members of the community.
- 2.) There are a large and increasing number of 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.

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**Opportunities**

- 1.) New and improved public spaces allow better access to the general public for health education and services.
- 2.) For Lakewood's citizens and families interested in pursuing a healthy lifestyle, there are increasing opportunities. Examples are the 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.

**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.) Under-treated mental illness is a major threat to the health of the community.
- 4.) Unhealthy lifestyles, including poor nutrition, smoking, lack of exercise and excess stress threaten the health of the community.
- 5.) Decreasing economic opportunities in Lakewood threaten the sustainability of current services.