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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tell Us About Your Health:

2022 Community Health Assessment Survey & Community Conversations

The Genesee, Orleans and Wyoming (GOW) County Health Departments and Hospitals are currently working with community partners to gather information from residents and those who work in these counties to help with public health planning for the next three years. The information will help inform and guide documents called the Community Health Assessment (CHA), Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), and Community Services Plan (CSP). This initiative is part of the New York State Prevention Agenda, the state's health improvement plan, which is a blueprint for state and local action to improve the health and well-being of New Yorkers.

The 2019-2024 NYS Prevention Agenda Priority Areas are to Prevent Chronic Diseases; Promote a Healthy and Safe Environment; Promote Healthy Women, Infants and Children; Promote Well-Being and Prevent Mental and Substance Use Disorders; and Prevent Communicable Disease. In the 2019-2022 GOW Community Health Improvement Plan, the community survey and community conversations helped inform some of the public health initiatives that the local health departments and hospitals focused on, which were:

- Promote Well-Being and Prevent Mental and Substance Use Disorders

- Prevent opioid overdose deaths
- Prevent Chronic Disease
 - Promote tobacco use cessation
 - Increase cancer screening rates
 - In the community setting, improve self-management skills for individuals with chronic diseases, including asthma, arthritis, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, prediabetes and obesity.

Now, we are looking for community input to help inform the next Community Health Improvement Plan and to fully assess the health status of our communities. We are asking the public to participate by taking a survey and sharing their viewpoints during community conversations. An online survey is available and paper copies will be available at various locations throughout each county. You can access the survey by visiting the following link:

- English: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GOWCHA2022English>
- Spanish: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GOWCHA2022Spanish>

The survey is anonymous, only takes about 15 minutes to complete and focuses on the health of the person taking it. If you are under the age of 18 years old, be sure to receive permission to take the survey from your parent(s) or guardian(s).

“As chief health strategists, the health departments are working toward identifying major community health challenges, gaps in services, and other factors that may contribute to a less than optimal health status for our community residents,” stated Paul Pettit, Public Health Director for Genesee and Orleans County Health Departments (GO Health).

“The input from our residents will help identify community health needs, which will ultimately help us to develop our Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) for the next few years.”

The health departments are also seeking to schedule Community Conversations with willing groups to learn what they feel are the greatest health concerns or issues in their community and thoughts on how they can be improved.

“This process offers an opportunity for our community members to have a voice about the barriers and issues they face when trying to be healthy,” stated Laura Paolucci Wyoming County Health Department Public Health Administrator. “The more members of the community who participate, the more inclusive and stronger these plans will be.”

To participate in a community conversation, obtain hardcopies of the survey, obtain flyers that promote completing the survey online, or have any questions, please contact your local health department:

- Genesee County Health Department at: 585-344-2580 ext.5555, visit their website at www.GOHealthNY.Org or visit Facebook at: [Genesee & Orleans County Health Departments](#).

- Orleans County Health Department at: 585-589-3278, visit their website at www.GOHealthNY.Org or visit Facebook at: [Genesee & Orleans County Health Departments](#).
- Wyoming County Health Department at: 585-786-8890, visit their website at <https://www.wyomingco.net/203/Health-Department>, or visit Facebook at: [Wyoming County Health Department](#).

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