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St. Lawrence County Public Health Department Releases Focus for 2019-2021 Community Health Assessment and Improvement Plan

St. Lawrence County Public Health Department and its partners are pleased to announce the publication of the 2019-2021 St. Lawrence County Community Health Assessment and Improvement Plan. The Community Health Assessment and Improvement Plan provides an overview of demographic and health indicator data for St. Lawrence County residents, as well as current health challenges, determinants of health, and existing community assets and resources. The document also outlines a collaborative plan for addressing community health priorities. The 2019-2021 priority areas are: 1) Prevent Chronic Diseases and 2) Promote Well-Being and Prevent Mental and Substance Use Disorders.

The Community Health Assessment and Improvement Plan was developed by the St. Lawrence County Public Health Department in partnership with St. Lawrence County Health Initiative, Canton Potsdam Hospital, Claxton Medical Health Center, Clifton Fine Hospital, Gouverneur Hospital, and Massena Memorial Hospital. This work would not be possible without the support of local hospitals and numerous community agencies. “The Community Health Assessment and Improvement Plan is one of many ways that organizations in our community work together. We are able to maximize our resources while supporting each other to meet differing missions and services” said Anne Marie Snell, Executive Director for the St. Lawrence County Health Initiative and Co-Lead for the Bridge to Wellness Coalition.

“The Community Health Assessment and Improvement Plan helps us understand how social determinants of health, like poverty, transportation, education, and housing can impact health, and provides an important framework for our community partners to collectively engage and implement strategies focused on improved outcomes” said Dana McGuire, St. Lawrence County Public Health Director. The 2019-2021 Community Health Improvement Plan strategies include worksite nutrition and physical activity programs, promotion of community walking, wheeling, or biking programs, increased access to chronic disease management classes, and medication assisted treatment (MAT) training and mentorship for the treatment of substance use disorders.

The 2019-2021 St. Lawrence County Community Health Assessment and Improvement Plan is available on the St. Lawrence County Public Health Department website.