

# North Jersey Health Collaborative

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*health matters*



## Annual Report 2021

## Leadership Message: President of the Board of Trustees

We have had a busy year developing CHNA's in each of our 5 counties and now are currently working to bring our partners together working on the CHIPs for each county. There has been and continues to be a lot of positive engagement and collaboration amongst our partners in this process. In addition, we have been working with the Rutgers New Jersey Cancer Institute this past year on their implementation of Screen NJ, a project funded by the NJ DOH. We also completed an 8-week ECHO program with Rutgers NJCI bringing partners together with the focus on working with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This work will all continue and develop in 2022.

We thank each of our partners ([click here to see our partners](#)) for their support financially and with services in kind. Help The Collaborative to continue to build new partnerships to strengthen our work. Each of you has a voice in your community. Help to spread the word bringing in new organizations that also align with this work. Help to be a voice in your community that could bring larger corporations into this work to help to mutually support each other.

*-Sherilyn Cognetti, President and Chair of the Board*

## Leadership Message: Executive Director

The North Jersey Health Collaborative (NJHC) is an independent, self-governed 501(c)(3) organization with a diverse set of partners representing health care, public health, human services and other community organizations. Our core function is a shared process of community needs assessment and health improvement planning to identify the most pressing health issues and facilitate the development of collaborative action plans to address them.

Our County Committees and Strategic Workgroups share best practices and deliver programs, services, resources, and information that will improve behaviors that lead to positive physical and mental health, and that address social needs.

In 2021 we completed the Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNAs) for Morris, Passaic, Union, Sussex, and Warren Counties. We have identified the following four areas to focus on for the 2022 Community Health Improvement Plans (CHIPs). Those key indicators are: **chronic disease and cancer, maternal and child health, mental health and substance use, and healthy aging.**

We send our thanks to all who participate in our work, and all who support our efforts. Together we are the North Jersey Health Collaborative.

Be Well!

*Laura O'Reilly-Stanzilis RN, MSM- Public Health & Public Policy Executive Director  
North Jersey Health Collaborative*

## Working Together in Five Counties

The North Jersey Health Collaborative (NJHC) collaborates with healthcare, community agencies and local offices of public health on community health improvement in 110 municipalities across Morris, Passaic, Sussex, Union, and Warren Counties.

Our key focus areas are:

Chronic disease and cancer, maternal child health, healthy aging, and mental health and substance use while addressing social determinants of health.

*Our mission is to Build Capacity to Improve Community Health using data to inform Community Health Needs Assessments and Community Health Improvement Plans; to build networks across sectors, and to provide a shared framework to leverage resources and demonstrate impact.*

## **Healthy People, Healthy Communities - That's Our Vision**

Through our work on the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) we engage with public health, local government agencies, non-profits, and businesses who provide resources, programs, and services in the community

We provide support to our healthcare partners by linking clinical to community through our network of partner organizations.

## 2021 CHNAs

Working together across sectors, the NJHC and its partners seek to establish a more coordinated collective approach to community health improvement. Core functions of the NJHC include a shared process of community health needs assessment and health improvement planning to target factors that drive poor health, and the development of collaborative strategies and action plans designed to create communities where opportunities for health and well-being are available for all people. These Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNAs) are part of our continued commitment to collect, analyze, and share data to inform and modify the collective health improvement efforts of more than 100 partner organizations.

### **Key Objectives of these reports are:**

- Describe the county's socio-demographic characteristics, health status, and disparities.
- Engage community partners and residents to identify unmet needs related to health and well-being.
- Assist the NJHC and community partners to identify needs and develop effective shared strategies and solutions with the greatest impact.

*Our Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) processes are guided by The NJ Public Health Practice Standards of Performance for Local Boards of Health in New Jersey, 8:52-10.2 Community Health Assessment to minimize costs and for consistency with existing data, the minimum unit of analysis for New Jersey shall be the county.*

### **Community Health Needs Assessments by County:**

[Morris County CHNA](#)

[Passaic County CHNA](#)

[Sussex County CHNA](#)

[Union County CHNA](#)

[Warren County CHNA](#)

## Collective Impact (Progress Tracker)

Chronic Disease and Cancer: Reduce new cases of chronic disease, cancer, and associated complications.



Healthy Aging: Improve and maintain mobility and independence and reduce the risk of falls and fall related injuries in aging populations.



Mental Health, Substance Misuse, and Suicide Prevention: Improve access to mental health services and educate the community about mental health.



The NJHC developed Community Health Needs Assessments on behalf of **32 health departments** serving **112 municipalities**. The # of individuals impacted by partner organizations are added to the progress tracker to show that they:

- had a health screening
- received a referral or intervention, or were provided access to integrated care or services
- showed positive changes or demonstrated improved knowledge related to the referenced indicator

The collaborative effort of multiple organizations sharing a common goal and implementing services, programs, and interventions fosters social connections that lead to positive outcomes. Organizations that provided information and educational materials in the community are listed on our County Pages on [njhealthmatters.org](http://njhealthmatters.org) to demonstrate the outreach efforts related to the CHIP.

## County Committee & Workgroup Meetings

The North Jersey Health Collaborative's County Committees and Strategic Workgroups work together within each county and across counties to share best practices and deliver programs, services, resources, and information that will improve health outcomes for North Jersey Residents.

Quarterly County Committee Meetings are held via zoom, and meeting minutes are made available on each county's committee webpage on the NJHC website.

In addition to the Morris, Passaic, Sussex, Union, and Warren County Committees, the North Jersey Health Collaborative also hosts Cross Collaborative Workgroups that focus on specific topics such as maternal & child health, chronic disease, mental health, healthy aging, nutrition, obesity, physical activity, and social determinants of health. Cross Collaborative Workgroups have forums with guest speakers specializing in a given field, followed by a Q&A and networking opportunities.

## County Committee Workgroups

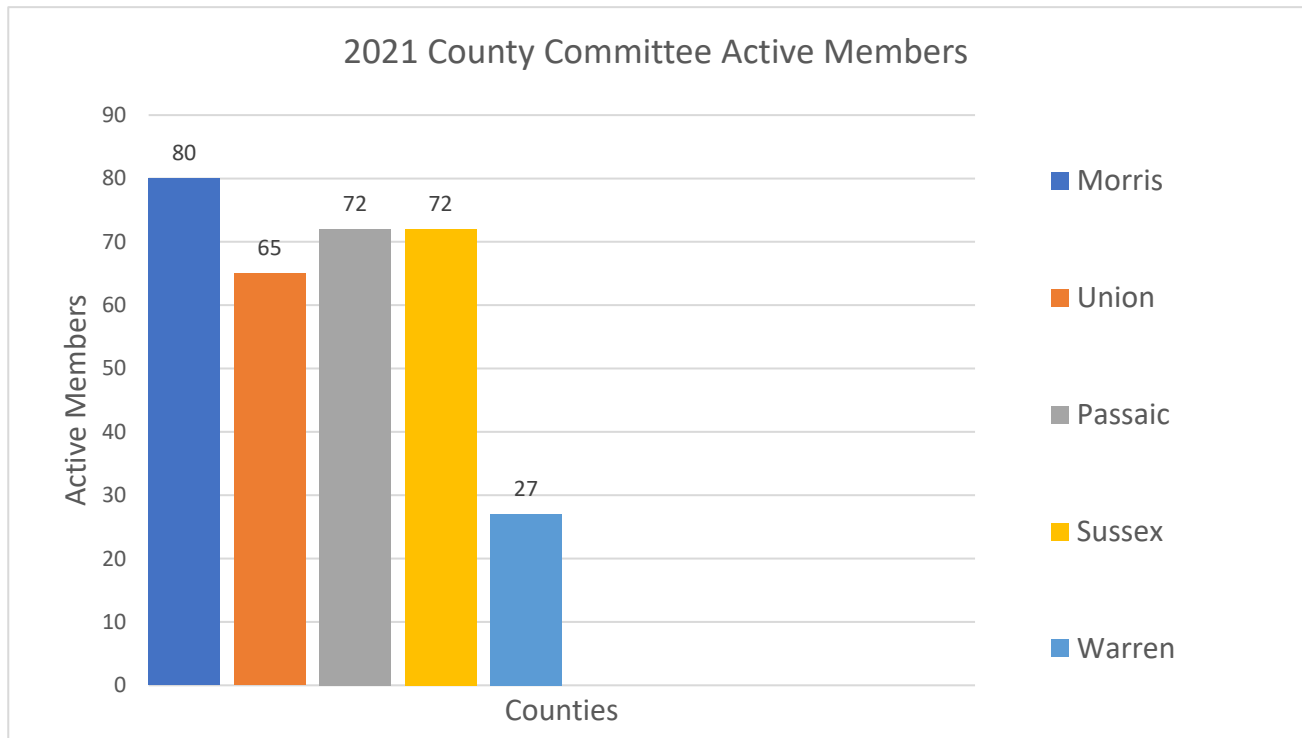
Morris County Committee

Passaic County Committee

Sussex County Committee

Union County Committee

Warren County Committee





## Grant Funded Projects



### **North Jersey Health Collaborative and Screen NJ Partner Project**

542 Individuals (Professionals and members of the public) attended webinars and live cancer screening education sessions through June 30, 2021:

Six webinar templates were developed and are archived on the NJ Health Matters website resources library:

1. [Cancer 101 Basics + lung cancer screening](#)
2. [Cancer 101 Basics + lung and colorectal cancer screening](#)
3. [Cancer 101 Basics + lung cancer and smoking cessation](#)
4. [Cancer 101 Basics + lung cancer and smoking cessation in Spanish](#)
5. [Colorectal Cancer and Nutrition](#)
6. [Cancer Screening Resources for Agency Professionals](#)

Visit our [Resource Library](#) to learn more about ScreenNJ services, how cancer screenings can save your life, and where to get screened.



Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey & The North Jersey Health Collaborative hosted a **Project ECHO® Educational Series: Addressing Barriers to Healthcare & Cancer Prevention Screenings for Adults with Developmental and/or Intellectual Disabilities.**

**68** professionals in the healthcare and disabilities services fields registered for the series over 8 weeks.

Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) allowed us the opportunity to make connections with disabilities services providers and start a conversation in public health and the community about inclusion of individuals with disabilities in community screening activities.

This generous grant of \$30,000 has supported us in the implementation of a process that will continue into 2022.

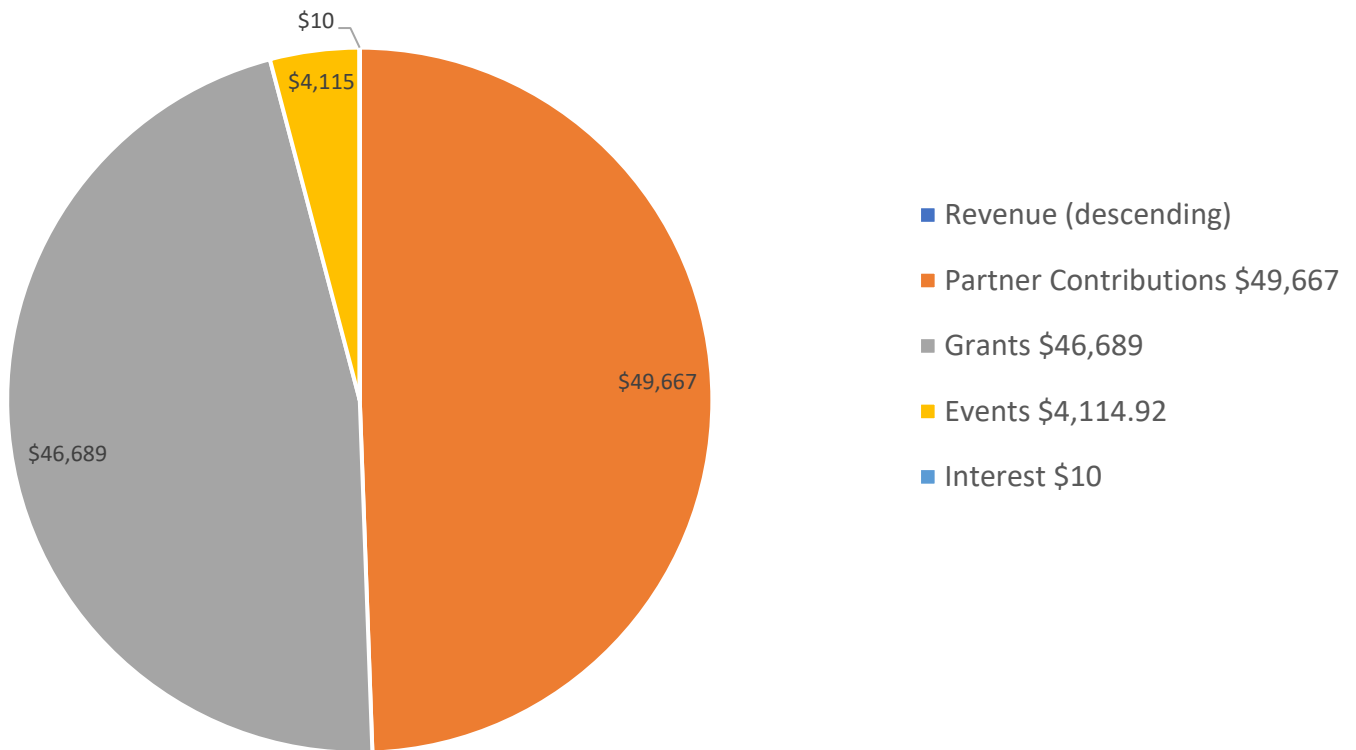
Find out more about the series' [speakers and topics](#) or take a look at the [NJHC Disability and Health Resource Guide](#).

## 2021 Revenue and Funding Partners

Funding Partners help sustain the collective impact of the NJHC by providing shared governance and financial support to improve community health.

Thank you to all our supporting partners.

The North Jersey Health Collaborative Revenue, 2021



## NJHC Leadership and Board of Trustees

### Officers of the Board of Trustees for 2022-2023



**Sherilyn Cognetti**  
President of the Board of Trustees

Fanwood-Scotch Plains  
YMCA, Ret.



**Maureen Cianci, RN**

*President-Elect, NJHC*

Sussex County Division of  
Health



**Trevor Weigle**

NJHC Treasurer, Finance  
Committee Chair

Health Officer

Mount Olive Township Health  
Department



**Amy Lewis, MPH MCHES**

*Secretary, NJHC*

Public Health Educator  
Westfield Regional Health  
Department



**Laura O'Reilly-Stanzilis RN MSM-PHPP**

Executive Director of The North Jersey Health Collaborative

### County Committee Chairs:

- Morris County Committee: [Sarah Rubenstein, MPH](#)
- Passaic County Committee: [Catherine Scutti](#)
- Sussex County Committee: [Claudia Pelaez Yepes, MPH](#)
- Union County Committee: [Nicole Castellucci](#)
- Warren County Committee: [Pauline Shehata, MPH](#)
- Administrative Support: [Daniel Wikstrom](#)

The North Jersey Health Collaborative thanks the Board of Trustees for their direction and leadership in 2021. For more information on board of trustees, [click here](#). For the North Jersey Health Collaborative Organizational Chart, [click here](#).

# North Jersey Health Collaborative

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[www.NJHealthMatters.org](http://www.NJHealthMatters.org)