

Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNAs) help identify a community's health needs and gaps by collecting and analyzing data. This process includes input from community members and professionals, along with information from standard community and public health datasets. The federal Internal Revenue Service (IRS) requires non-profit hospitals to complete CHNAs every three years. Hospitals must also create an implementation plan that explains how they will address the needs identified through the CHNA.

Injuries, both unintentional and intentional (violence-related), are leading causes of death across all age groups in the United States. Yet they are not comprehensively or consistently included in the CHNA process. If injury topics are omitted from CHNAs, communities miss opportunities to allocate resources to address them.

To address this gap, Safe States developed a menu of questions on injury and violence prevention in partnership with the University of Michigan Injury Prevention Center. The questions are organized by injury topic and designed to be flexible and easily adapted to different formats, including focus groups, open-ended responses, and multiple-choice surveys. Along with the suggested questions, potential responses are provided for the different question types (e.g., open-text and Likert-scale responses).

Hospitals often work to prevent injury and violence through community education. By incorporating these questions into the CHNA process, hospitals can more effectively gather injury-related information, strengthen their role in community injury prevention, and direct resources to where they are most needed.

Click on the injury category in the table on the right to access sample questions and responses for each specific category.

INJURY & VIOLENCE CATEGORIES

[General Injury and Violence Prevention](#)[Abuse/Neglect](#)[Adverse Childhood Experiences \(ACEs\)](#)[Burns/Scalds](#)[Concussions/Traumatic Brain Injury \(TBI\)](#)[Drowning \(fatal and non-fatal\)](#)[Falls \(pediatric and older adults\)](#)[Overdose/Substance Use](#)[Suicide and Mental Health](#)[Traffic-related/Motor Vehicle Crashes \(child passenger safety, pedestrian safety, bicycle safety, micromobility\)](#)[Violence](#)

General Injury and Violence Prevention					
What injury and violence prevention programs, resources, or support would you like to see in your community? (e.g., overdose reversal training, older adult falls prevention, teen driver safety training, water safety classes, firearm safety awareness, etc.)	Open text				
How concerned are you about injury and violence in your community?	Not concerned	Slightly concerned	Concerned	Very concerned	Don't know/Unsure
What makes it hard for people to prevent injuries in your community? (e.g., lack of safe roads, lack of safety education, limited access to childcare or safe teen spaces, etc.)	Open text				
What role do you believe hospitals should have in working to prevent injuries and violence in your community? (Check all that apply)	• Collect/share data or information about injuries and violence in the community • Provide education and training on the different types of injury and violence prevention • Partner with community members and organizations to address injury and violence • Distribute safety equipment (such as car seats, bike helmets, smoke alarms, grab bars) • Other _____ • Hospitals should not have a role • Not sure				

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Abuse/Neglect					
How concerned are you about child abuse/neglect or elder abuse/neglect in your community?	Not concerned	Slightly concerned	Concerned	Very concerned	Don't know/ Unsure
If you are <i>Concerned</i> or <i>Very concerned</i> about child and/or elder abuse/neglect in your community, please explain.	Open Text				
Residents can easily access organizations in the community that are working to prevent (child/elder) abuse/neglect before it happens (such as social workers, counselors, and the health department).	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know/ Unsure
Current community resources support individuals who have experienced trauma related to (child/elder) abuse/neglect. o If you <i>Disagree/Strongly disagree</i> , please explain.	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know/ Unsure
	Open text				

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ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES (ACEs)					
How concerned are you about Adverse Childhood Experiences (such as abuse, neglect, household violence, or family instability) in your community?	Not concerned	Slightly concerned	Concerned	Very concerned	Don't know/ Unsure
If you are <i>Concerned</i> or <i>Very concerned</i> about Adverse Childhood Experiences in your community, please explain.	Open text				
Youth in my community can easily access positive programming (such as sports, mentorship, extracurriculars).	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know/ Unsure
Current community resources support children and families who have experienced ACEs (such as counseling and parent support programs). o If you <i>Disagree/Strongly disagree</i> , please explain.	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know/ Unsure
	Open text				

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BURNS/SCALDS					
How concerned are you about burn and scald injuries (due to housefires, hot water, chemicals, etc.) in your community?	Not concerned	Slightly concerned	Concerned	Very concerned	Don't know/ Unsure
If you are <i>Concerned</i> or <i>Very concerned</i> about burns/scald injuries in your community, please explain.	Open text				
Residents can easily access burn safety education (such as testing water temperature to be 120 degrees or less, kid-free zones in the kitchen, and smoke alarm installation programs).	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know/ Unsure
Current community resources support those who have experienced burn injuries. o If you <i>Disagree/Strongly disagree</i> , please explain.	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know/ Unsure
	Open text				

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CONCUSSIONS/TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY (TBI)

How concerned are you about concussions or traumatic brain injuries in your community?	Not concerned	Slightly concerned	Concerned	Very concerned	Don't know/ Unsure
If you are <i>Concerned</i> or <i>Very concerned</i> about concussions or TBIs in your community, please explain.	Open text				
I feel confident that I can identify signs and symptoms of a concussion.	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know/ Unsure
Residents can easily access resources that help prevent concussions before they occur (such as healthcare providers, sports safety protocols, or school programs).	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know/ Unsure
Current community resources support those who have experienced concussion injuries. o If you <i>Disagree/Strongly disagree</i> , please explain.	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know/ Unsure
	Open text				

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DROWNING (fatal and non-fatal)

How concerned are you about fatal drowning or non-fatal drowning in your community?	Not concerned	Slightly concerned	Concerned	Very concerned	Don't know/ Unsure
If you are <i>Concerned</i> or <i>Very concerned</i> about drowning in your community, please explain.	Open text				
Residents can easily access swimming and water safety education (such as boating safety, bathtub safety, and backyard pools).	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know/ Unsure
There is an appropriate level of supervision (lifeguards or trained staff) at public swimming areas (such as pools, lakes, beaches, rivers, creeks) in my community. o If you <i>Disagree/Strongly disagree</i> , please explain.	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know/ Unsure
	Open text				
Safety measures at public swimming areas in my community to help prevent drowning (such as rescue equipment, life jackets for loan, warning signs, and CPR-trained personnel) are appropriate. o If you <i>Disagree/Strongly disagree</i> , please explain.	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly agree	Don't know/ Unsure
	Open text				

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FALLS (Pediatric/Older Adult)					
How concerned are you about fall injuries (pediatric/older adults) in your community?	Not concerned	Slightly concerned	Concerned	Very concerned	Don't know/ Unsure
If you are <i>Concerned</i> or <i>Very concerned</i> about falls (pediatric/older adult) in your community, please explain.	Open text				
Residents can easily access fall prevention programs and resources to help prevent falls (such as home safety, exercise/balance classes, and healthcare provider evaluations).	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know/ Unsure
Current resources support community members with fall-related injuries (e.g., medical and home care). o If you <i>Disagree/Strongly disagree</i> , please explain.	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know/ Unsure
	Open text				

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OVERDOSE/SUBSTANCE USE					
How concerned are you about overdose or substance use in your community?	Not concerned	Slightly concerned	Concerned	Very concerned	Don't know/ Unsure
If you are <i>Concerned</i> or <i>Very concerned</i> about overdose or substance use in your community, please explain.	Open text				
Residents can easily access substance use/overdose resources and services.	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly agree	Don't know/ Unsure
Current resources (such as naloxone or naloxone training, counseling, treatment) support those affected by addiction in your community. o If you <i>Disagree/Strongly disagree</i> , please explain.	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly agree	Don't know/ Unsure
	Open text				

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SUICIDE and MENTAL HEALTH					
How concerned are you about residents in your community affected by mental health conditions (such as anxiety, depression, PTSD)?	Not concerned	Slightly concerned	Concerned	Very concerned	Don't know/ Unsure
If you are <i>Concerned or Very concerned</i> about residents affected by mental health conditions in your community, please explain.	Open text				
How concerned are you about residents in your community experiencing suicidal thoughts or behaviors?	Not concerned	Slightly concerned	Concerned	Very concerned	Don't know/ Unsure
If you are <i>Concerned or Very concerned</i> about residents in your community experiencing suicidal thoughts/behavior, please explain.	Open text				
Residents can easily access mental health resources or services.	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know/ Unsure

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TRAFFIC-RELATED & MOTOR VEHICLE CRASHES (child passenger safety , pedestrian safety , bicycle safety , micromobility)					
How concerned are you about traffic or motor vehicle-related crashes in your community?	Not concerned	Slightly concerned	Concerned	Very concerned	Don't know/ Unsure
If you are <i>Concerned</i> or <i>Very concerned</i> about traffic or motor vehicle crashes in your community, please explain.	Open text				
What do you think are the leading causes of motor vehicle crashes in your community (such as speeding, distracted driving, poor road conditions, inadequate signage/lighting, driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, drowsy driving)? o What do you think could be done to prevent these causes?	Open text				
	Open text				
Are there specific roads or intersections you consider particularly hazardous in your community?	Open text				
Residents can easily access pedestrian crossings in their community.	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know/ Unsure
Do you think your community is walkable or bikeable (for example, does it have sidewalks in good condition, bike paths, and lanes)? o If <i>Neither</i> , please explain.	Walkable		Bikeable	Both	Neither
	Open text				
Current resources support child passenger safety needs in the community (such as training in installing and using car seats). o If you <i>Disagree/Strongly disagree</i> , please explain.	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know/ Unsure
	Open text				

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VIOLENCE					
How concerned are you about violence (such as assault, domestic disputes, accidental shootings, gang violence) in your community?	Not concerned	Slightly concerned	Concerned	Very concerned	Don't know/ Unsure
If you are <i>Concerned</i> or <i>Very Concerned</i> about violence in your community, please explain.	Open text				
People in your community who have firearms use safety measures, such as locks or safes, to secure firearms.	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know/ Unsure
Current community resources support those affected by violence (for example, assault, domestic disputes, accidental shootings, gang violence). o If you <i>Disagree/Strongly disagree</i> , please explain.	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know/ Unsure
	Open text				

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