



JACKSON COUNTY HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COALITION 15th ANNIVERSARY—2003-2018 History and Background

The Jackson County Healthy Communities Coalition (JCHCC) was formed in 2003 to be a catalyst for improving health and overall quality of life in Jackson County, Illinois. This vision is accomplished by raising awareness, developing projects to address unmet needs or gaps in health services, fostering collaboration, encouraging advocacy, accessing funding, and developing plans and reports to chronicle the health status of the county. This coalition has been a vital part of this community and has become a model for other communities in Illinois and across the nation.

Representatives from over 50 local government, education, civic, and health and human services agencies, as well as community members themselves, meet monthly to plan, implement, and evaluate important services that will best meet the critical health and wellness needs of Jackson County. A steering committee provides oversight to the coalition and Southern Illinois Healthcare - Community Benefits continues to provide facilitation and logistical support for the Coalition.

A critical aspect of the JCHCC is assessment of the health priorities of the county and the development of a five-year Jackson County Community Health Improvement Plan. The coalition has participated in this planning process three times: 2005, 2010, and 2015. The 2015-2019 Plan focused on the following priority health problems: cardiovascular disease including diabetes and obesity, behavioral health issues of depression, anxiety, and the misuse of prescription drugs and cancer. Action teams have been developed around the identified priorities as well as emerging concerns such as positive youth development. Some of the action teams have been in existence since 2003, some have come and gone, and new action teams have emerged over the years. Over 80 community members are involved in action teams. It is through the action teams that the work of the coalition is accomplished. The current 2018 action teams include:

- Behavioral Health
- Diabetes Today Resource Team
- Joint Access to Care
- Preparedness
- Southern Illinois Cancer Action Network
- Built Environment
- Healthy Living
- Positive Youth Development
- Sexual Health

The JCHCC is also a member of the Healthy Southern Illinois Delta Network, which was formed in 2008. This is a network of the Healthy Communities Coalitions that serve the southernmost 15 counties of Illinois which are part of the Delta Regional Authority. Much of the work accomplished by the JCHCC has been shared and replicated throughout the region.

For more information about the JCHCC visit

<https://www.hsidn.org/jackson-county-healthy-communities-coalition.html>