

## Helping Hospitals Meet the Needs of Their Communities

### What was the problem/situation?

**A**s part of requirements under the Affordable Care Act, tax-exempt hospitals are required to conduct a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) and adopt an implementation strategy at least every 3 years to maintain their tax-exempt 501(c)(3) status. NJ hospitals preparing CHNAs require health data specific for the communities they serve, along with comparison data at the county, and state level.



### How was Tracking involved?

**N**ew Jersey Tracking and partners added a CHNA data source webpage within the NJSHAD data portal, <https://www-doh.state.nj.us/doh-shad/resources/CHAcontactlist.html> to help hospitals, individuals, and communities obtain the multiple datasets they need for the creation of a CHNA.



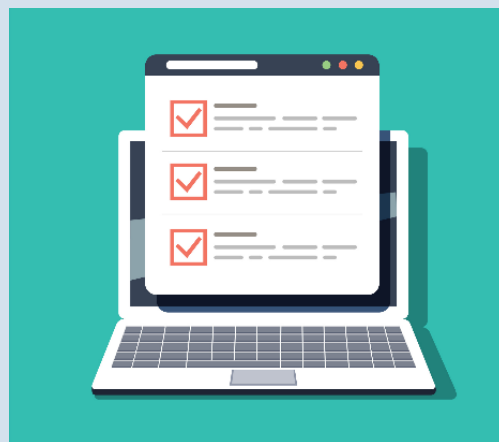
Hyperlinks to data portal resources provided include: state, county and municipal-level data for all NJ births; deaths; emergency department discharges; inpatient hospitalizations; state, county, and local health department-level Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance (BRFS) telephone survey data; and immunization status by municipality and school-level.

The NJ data portal, NJSHAD, provides NJ hospitals and consultants preparing CHNAs with the option to filter datasets and frame their own questions through user-selected demographics, geography, health outcome, and risk factors. [Local health data](#) are available in several ways including [community dashboards](#).

### What action was taken to resolve the problem?

The 2018 CHNA for Penn Medicine Princeton Health, <https://www.princetonhcs.org/-/media/files/community-wellness/pmph-2018-chna-report.pdf?la=en>, examined the health status of residents in the 3-county area served by Penn Medicine Princeton Health, which includes > 1.5 million people. The CHNA process is being used to guide Princeton Health programming, data-driven planning efforts, and strategic opportunities.

NJSHAD provided 30.8 % of all data (25 instances out of 81) found within the 2018 Penn Medicine Princeton Health CNHA Final Report. Data were obtained from the NJSHAD Behavioral Risk Factor Survey (BRFS) 18 times, and from the NJSHAD Birth Certificate database 7 times. Subsequently Penn Medicine Princeton Health determined that the community needs identified in the recent CHNA would be addressed their 2018-2020 Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP).



NJSHAD serves as the main data portal for NJDOH, providing public access to data and information from the entire New Jersey Department of Health, and hosts datasets for the New Jersey Environmental Public Health Tracking (NJEPHT) Program. NJSHAD provides static public health indicators which combine data and information, and dynamic custom public health query tools. The functionality, content, and utility of NJSHAD and the NJEPHT portal continue to be enhanced.