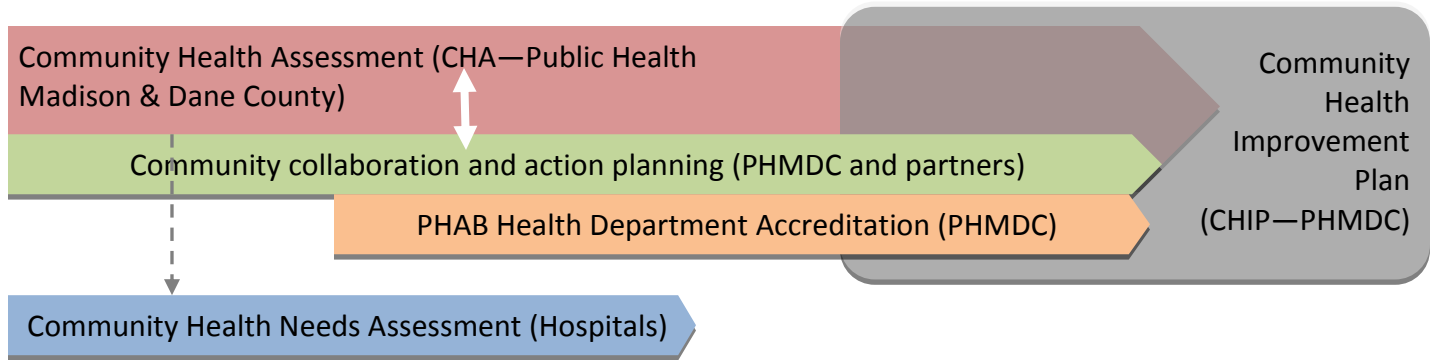


## Setting Public Health Priorities: Community Health Assessment and Improvement



### Community Health Assessment (CHA)

The State of Wisconsin and the CDC require that local public health departments assess the health needs of the community they serve.

Community health assessment is the systematic collection, analysis and dissemination of information about the health of the community.

Through the assessment process, public health departments engage with community partners to identify and collect information on community assets, strengths, resources and needs.

Community health assessments are used to:

- Understand how a disease or other health risk impacts a population
- Plan, prioritize or target interventions and resources in the best way
- Stimulate action
- Evaluate public health efforts

CHA provides a foundation of data and information for identifying shared priorities for a Community Health Improvement Plan, or CHIP.

### Accreditation

PHMDC is working toward national accreditation through the [Public Health Accreditation Board \(PHAB\)](#). It is a voluntary accreditation program designed to improve services, value and accountability of health departments. The program documents the capacity of public health departments to deliver the core functions of assessment, policy development and assurance, and the [Ten Essential Public Health Services](#).

PHAB requires completion of a Community Health Assessment, and a Community Health Improvement Plan before applying for accreditation.

### Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)

PHMDC will use information gathered from the Community Health Assessment to develop a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). The plan is a strategic planning tool for improving the health of Dane County.

CHIP uses community health data to identify priority issues, develop and implement strategies for action, and establish accountability to ensure measurable health improvement.

The plan is collaborative and looks at how organizations can collectively contribute to community health improvement.

### Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA)

The Affordable Care Act requires that non-profit hospitals, as a condition of maintaining federal tax-exempt status, conduct community health needs assessments and implement community initiatives at least once every three years. PHMDC is working with hospital and health care partners to make sure our CHA aligns with and, as much as possible, is integrated with the CHNA. The CHNA will be made widely available to the public.

Community collaboration comes in many forms. In some cases, strong existing collaboration takes place. In others, there is no strong collaborative presence addressing a major health issue. We will use the assessment process to gauge how to best support existing new efforts.