



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER

Healthy Communities Are Engaged Communities

COLUMBUS, OHIO

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*Population Health,
Noteworthy Project*

OVERVIEW

Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center developed a Healthy Community Strategy to help centralize finite financial and human resources to meet priority health needs in Central Ohio through community engagement.

PROBLEM IDENTIFIED

In alignment with a community health needs assessment and a state health improvement plan, Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center identified six areas in which its community was in greatest need of interventions: access to care, obesity, infectious disease, chronic conditions, mental health and addiction, and infant mortality.

METHODS

OSU and Wexner Medical Center invested \$1.9 million into a new Healthy Community Strategy in fiscal year 2019. The strategy included hosting Healthy Community Days to provide no-cost clinical and social services. Nearly 1,700 community members attended the Healthy Community Day events, resulting in 1,561 completed health screenings. Ohio State Wexner Medical Center also implemented a communitywide prenatal and first-year-of-life program, called Mom2B; as a result, the infant mortality rate in Franklin County declined from 9.6 per 1,000 live births in 2011 to 6.6 in 2019.

ENGAGEMENT

Ohio State Wexner Medical Center also partnered with several community entities as part of the Healthy Community Strategy. The health system created a nonprofit partnership with the city of Columbus, Ohio, Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority, and community stakeholders to address poverty. This partnership implemented homeownership incentives for OSU employees and produced a Blueprint for Community Investment that since has garnered more than \$220 million in physical development.

The strategy also called for Ohio State Wexner Medical Center to combat the opioid crisis through a new affiliation between Ohio State Wexner Medical Center and Bon Secours Mercy Health System, in Cincinnati.

RESULTS AND DATA

Two new programs—an Exercise is Medicine physician-referral program and a Produce Connect Program in partnership with Mid-Ohio Foodbank allowing providers to refer patients experiencing food insecurity—saw similar success. More than 1,400 people were referred to the Exercise is Medicine program, and the Produce Connect Program secured \$50,000 in funding for a pilot group of 500 patients.

The affiliation with Bon Secours resulted in a 66 percent reduction in morphine equivalent doses prescribed per discharge and an 18 percent reduction in opioid prescriptions at discharge from 2015 to 2018.

