

IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF NORTHERN KENTUCKY

JANUARY 2018—JULY 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

The Northern Kentucky Community Health Improvement Plan is a five-year plan (2016-2020) created to address priority health issues and outcomes in Northern Kentucky. The plan describes how community partners will work together to improve the health of Northern Kentucky residents. These highlights describe some of the activities and achievements that have been accomplished.

For more information, go to <https://nkyhealth.org/health-plans/>

PRIORITY HEALTH ISSUE Healthy Behaviors

The BUILD Health Challenge launched in Covington in August 2018 and will run until August of 2019. This project aims to reduce smoking and secondhand smoke exposure. Over 200 doses of free nicotine replacement therapy has been given out, representing 100% of the goal.

PRIORITY HEALTH ISSUE Health Care Capacity, Access and Delivery

SUN Behavioral Health and St. Elizabeth Healthcare jointly opened a new 197-bed hospital in Erlanger in February 2018. This facility, which serves both youth and adults, expands access to inpatient services for mental health and substance use disorders in NKY.

PRIORITY HEALTH ISSUE Changes in Policies, Systems & the Environment

Community health partners advocated for an increase in state cigarette taxes to reduce the smoking rate in KY. In July 2018, a fifty cent increase went into effect - an example of policy change to promote health.

PRIORITY HEALTH OUTCOMES - SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS

The mobile Syringe Access Exchange Program (SAEP) began operating in July 2018 in Covington and Newport. Services are provided by NKY Health Department nurses on a mobile unit that is on loan from the Kentucky Fire Commission, parked at the St. Elizabeth Urgent Care in Newport on Tuesday afternoons and at the St. Elizabeth Covington site on Thursday afternoons. The purpose is to help stop the spread of infectious diseases like HIV and Hepatitis C, as well as to prevent overdose deaths with naloxone kits, and refer people to treatment for their substance use disorders. For more information on this and the Grant County SAEP, go to <https://nkyhealth.org>.

