



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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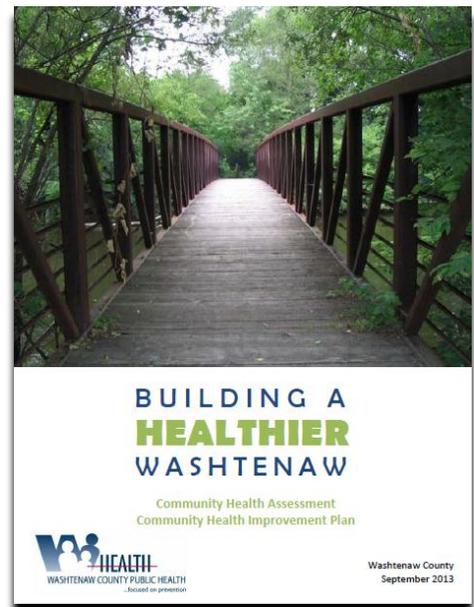
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**Washtenaw County Public Health Releases
Community Health Assessment and Improvement Plan**
“Building a Healthier Washtenaw” Tells the Story of our Community Health

YPSILANTI, Mich., October 23, 2013 – Washtenaw County Public Health is pleased to announce the availability of “Building a Healthier Washtenaw: Community Health Assessment and Community Improvement Plan.” This latest report helps define the health of our community, identify priorities and highlight available assets. Interested residents are invited to visit <http://publichealth.ewashtenaw.org> to review the new report.

“Building a Healthier Washtenaw” is the product of Washtenaw County Public Health’s countywide partnership, called the Health Improvement Plan or HIP. The partnership includes University of Michigan Health System, St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor, Chelsea Community Hospital, community agencies, coalitions, government entities, universities and residents.

“We hope residents find this report valuable,” says Richard Fleece, Health Officer for Washtenaw County Public Health. “It tells the story of what our community health looks like; what resources are in place; what issues have been prioritized for action; and which community organizations are involved.”



The report contains two major sections: a community health assessment and a community health improvement plan. The assessment describes the health of the county population, using reliable

data from a variety of sources. It also describes the resources currently available to address existing health challenges. The improvement plan details how Washtenaw County Public Health will work in partnership with the community to improve identified health issues. Through the HIP partnership, local experts, residents and stakeholders provided input as a part of the overall process. A public comment period also took place for two weeks in late August and early September.

Together, assessment and improvement plan processes as well as the resulting report help us fully describe the health of our community *and* how diverse sectors can work together to improve the health of the entire community.

Washtenaw County Public Health promotes health and works to prevent disease or injury in our community. Visit us online at <http://publichealth.ewashtenaw.org>.

More on local data, including maps, tables and presentations is available at <http://hip.ewashtenaw.org>. Since 1995, HIP has conducted a 2,000 household survey every five years. Use of survey results has helped the Washtenaw County public health community focus resources, partnerships and health improvement strategies where they can be most effective.

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