



Maine SHNAPP Community Engagement Phase  
 Summary Report of Forum & Event Input  
 Androscoggin County  
 April 2016

This serves as a brief summary report of the input provided by community members attending the 2 community forums and 13 community events that took place between November 2015 and March 2016.

**Community Forums**

Androscoggin County Forum-Lewiston	3/14/2016	Lewiston Public Library
Androscoggin Community Forum-Auburn	3/22/2016	Auburn City Hall
<b>Total Attending Forums:</b>		<b>46</b>

**Community Events**

Androscoggin Chamber of Commerce	11/17/2015	Chamber of Commerce
St. Mary's Planning Committee	1/6/2016	St. Mary's Regional Medical Center
Healthy Androscoggin staff	1/11/2016	124 Lisbon St., Lewiston
Elder Abuse Task Force	1/15/2016	Seniors Plus, Lewiston
Healthy Androscoggin Board of Directors	1/21/2016	Healthy Androscoggin, Lewiston
Community Clinical Services Board Meeting	1/25/2016	B Street Health Center
La Recontre	2/11/2016	Franco Center, Lewiston
Central Maine Healthcare Management Group	11/23/2015	Central ME Medical Center, Lewiston
Sandcastle Clinical & Educational Services & LA Hearing Center	3/9/2016	Lewiston
Androscoggin -Maine Military Community Network	3/23/2016	1155 Lisbon Street, Lewiston
St. Mary's HIV Case Management *	3/24/2016	Lewiston
Tri County Mental Health Board of Directors	12/15/2015	Social Learning Center, Lewiston
Tri County Mental Health Services Joint Leadership Team	2/3/2016	Community Concepts Conference Room

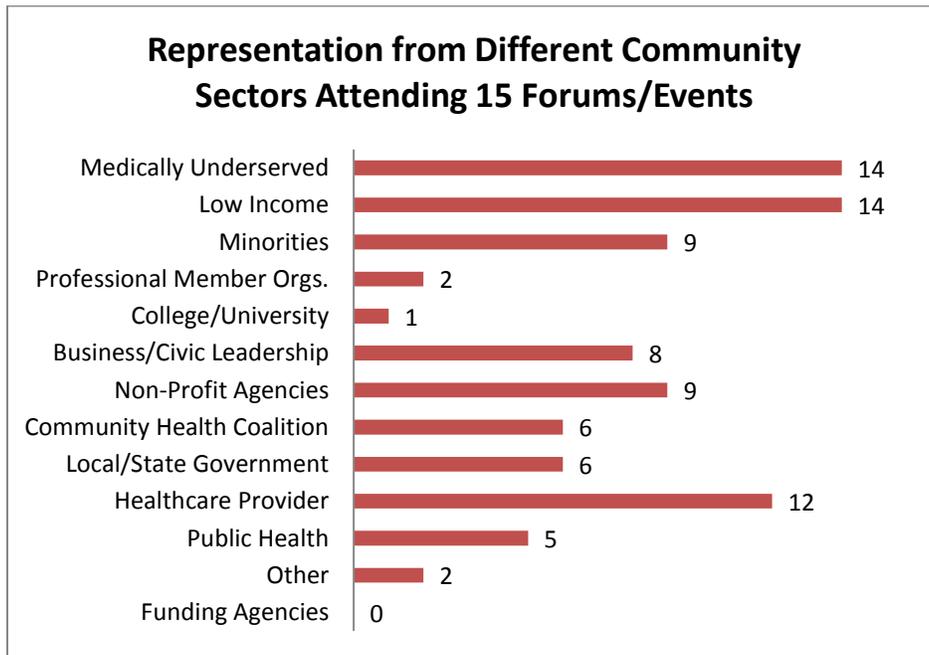
\* Survey

<b>Total Attending Events:</b>	<b>474</b>
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<b>Total Attending Forums &amp; Events</b>	<b>520</b>
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*Attendance numbers may contain duplicates if one person attended more than one event.*

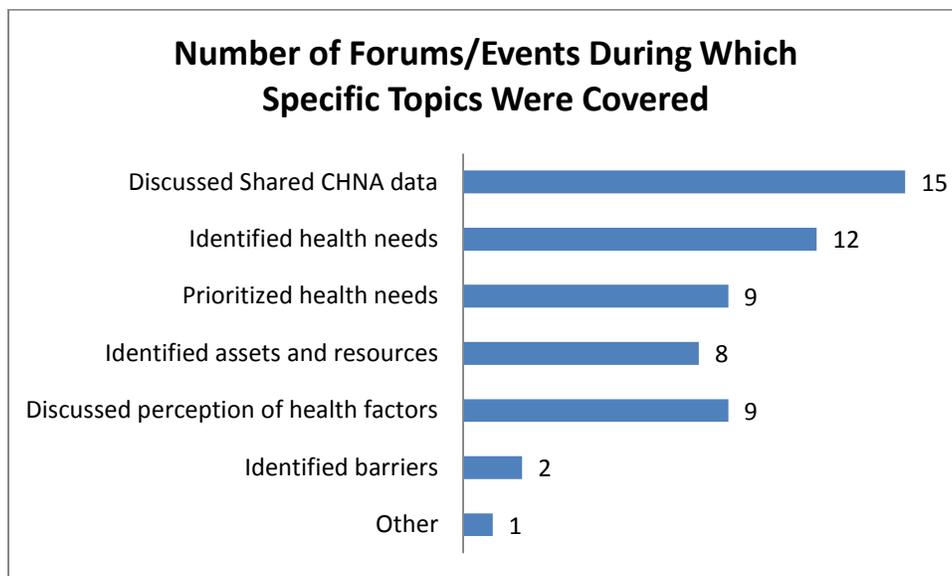
## Community Sectors Represented During Forums and Events



“Medically underserved,” “low income,” and “racial/ethnic minorities” are sub-populations named specifically by the Department of Treasury/IRS regulations.

“Other” included: People with HIV/AIDS, Legal/Attorney

## Type of Input Obtained During Forums and Events



“Other” included: Needs specific to the veteran population

## Community Forums

These forums, organized and co-led by Maine CDC DLs and SHNAPP hospital community benefit representatives, typically consisted of a prepared Power Point presentation followed by breakout sessions on health topics. In general, breakout sessions obtained input about:

- Summary statements about the issue and/or its effect on the community
- Identification of local assets and resources to address the issue
- Identification of barriers to addressing the health issue or needs of the community before more adequately addressing the issue
- Ideas for next steps, how to solve the health issue, who to include, and what the community should look like in the future

### Themes Identified During Androscoggin County Forums

#### Health Issue: **Mental Health**

**Summary of assets to resources to address issue:** Local agencies and St. Mary's have programs and offer medication management; affordable housing options in community.

**Summary of barriers or community needs (if reported):** Most of what is cited as barriers and needs in Androscoggin are around mental health and substance abuse. One very common theme was the idea of loss of services and professionals to practice, thereby creating gaps in services and people not getting the support they seek. Aligned with this is also the idea of longer waiting times for the services that are needed, these gaps being identified as reasons people may fall into relapse or treatment and possibly continue using.

**Summary of next steps, solutions, future ideal:** To be successful in addressing this issue, Maine needs to expand MaineCare and reduce the stigma of mental health diseases.

#### Health Issue: **Drug/Alcohol Abuse**

**Summary of assets to resources to address issue:** Healthy Androscoggin Project Unite (upcoming opiate forum, medication take back), St. Mary's inpatient and outpatient programs; community needle exchange; AA support group and Women for Sobriety group, support from law enforcement for routine checks and party patrol other local agencies (not specified by name).

**Summary of barriers or community needs (if reported):** Most of what is cited as barriers and needs in Androscoggin are around mental health and substance abuse. One very common theme was the idea of loss of services and professionals to practice, thereby creating gaps in services and people not getting the support they seek. Aligned with this is also the idea of longer waiting times for the services that are needed, these gaps being identified as reasons people may fall into relapse or treatment and possibly continue using.

**Summary of next steps, solutions, future ideal:** Success in addressing this issue comes from creating jobs, funding prevention, and focusing on youth.

#### Health Issue: **Obesity**

**Summary of assets to resources to address issue:** n/a

**Summary of barriers or community needs (if reported):** See above barriers/needs summaries

**Summary of next steps, solutions, future ideal:** n/a

**Other Health Issues Identified by Forum Participants:**

- Lead poisoning
- Sexual/reproductive health (including teen pregnancy), STDs
- Health care access
- Oral health

**Health Factors Identified by Forum Participants:**

- Poverty
- Policy
- Safe housing
- Livable wages
- Affordable health care
- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)
- Comorbidities and interrelation of top 5 issues

**Community Events**

These events were organized and carried out by community stakeholders (including Maine CDC DLs, SHNAPP hospital employees, or others who sat on local community engagement committees). Typically already formed groups or organizations held a presentation about the Shared CHNA data and discuss their reactions based on the group leader's questions. In general, input from events consisted of brief summary statements or questions about health issues and health factors affecting the geographic area.

**Themes Identified During Androscoggin County Events**

**Priorities Identified During Androscoggin County Events:**

- Substance abuse (8 of 13 events)
- Mental health, (7 of 13 events)
- Obesity (6 of 13 events)
- Poverty (3 of 13 events)
- Drug affected babies (3 of 13 events)
- Lack of transportation (3 of 13 events)
- Dental care (3 of 13 events)
- Lack of safe, affordable housing and heat, depression, stress, lack of education, STDs, diabetes, hearing, dementia, medical management. (2 of 13 events each)
- Asthma, injuries/falls, environmental tobacco smoke, childhood disabilities, heart disease, physical inactivity, bedbugs, disintegration of family; no jobs, high unemployment, ACEs, nutrition, HIV/AIDS. (1 of 13 events each)

**Additional Themes Identified During Androscoggin County Events:**

- Need for more collaboration
- Multifactorial elements of chronic mental illness (can lead to obesity, diabetes, other medical conditions)
- Specific information on New American health issues is needed
- St. Mary's program for drug-affected babies as a resource
- Need for tighter controls on prescribers
- Higher rates of hospitalization for substance abuse are a reflection of resource location.
- Access to care: even if people have insurance they don't know how to access care or have transportation

If you are interested in reviewing individual reporting forms represented in this summary, please contact [communitybenefits@emhs.org](mailto:communitybenefits@emhs.org)