

# Community Health Assessment (CHA)

## What is a Community Health Assessment?

In January of this year, the Blue Ridge Health District (BRHD), UVA Health, and Sentara Martha Jefferson Hospital launched their fifth Community Health Assessment (CHA). This 18-month effort involves surveying community members across the district and analyzing local qualitative health data. The goal is to better understand community health needs and to implement initiatives that improve equitable access to resources for a healthy, safe community.



## How is the CHA conducted?

This CHA follows new guidelines from the National Association of County & City Health Officials. The process, called Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP2Health), is led by a six-member Core Group. Additionally, a new 16-member Steering Committee, representing various organizations and agencies throughout the District, takes an advisory role providing valuable insights from their areas of expertise and the communities they serve. Another new element is a door-to-door household survey led by BRHD, currently underway in a Nelson County census tract covering Amherst, Arrington, Faber, Gladstone, Norwood, Schuyler, Shipman, and Wingina. This survey aims to collect and analyze 100 responses. Up to 21 focus groups will be conducted this fall, alongside an online community and stakeholder survey.

## Can I participate in the CHA?

YES! You can participate by completing the community survey online. [Take the survey](#) by December 1, 2024, to have your voice heard as part of the CHA. To learn more, visit BRHD's website or email [BlueRidgeHD@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:BlueRidgeHD@vdh.virginia.gov).



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