

2009 HERKIMER COUNTY RISK ASSESSMENT PROFILE



Herkimer County HealthNet, Inc.
&
Herkimer County Integrated County Planning

The 2009 Risk Assessment Profile is available on the Herkimer County Website:
<http://www.herkimercounty.org>

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March 12, 2010

Dear Agency Director,

Presented here is a copy of the 2009 Herkimer County Risk Assessment Profile Update, a data-based assessment of community strengths and challenges that affect the health and well being of Herkimer County residents. The data included in the Profile gives us a snapshot of the level of risk that exists in the community and the areas in which there is a need to work collaboratively to improve outcomes.

The 2009 Profile was created by Herkimer County Integrated County Planning and Herkimer County Health Net, Inc., in collaboration with the members of the Comprehensive Assessment Task Force. It is an update to the previous Risk Assessment Profiles published in 2000, 2003 and 2006. The 2009 Profile is organized utilizing the six Life Areas of the *New York State Touchstones* model: Community, Citizenship, Physical and Emotional Health, Family, Economic Security, and Education, and incorporates the *New York State Department of Health's Prevention Agenda's Priority Health Areas* into the Physical and Emotional Health section of the document.

We hope that the 2009 Risk Assessment Profile provides information that will help your agency assess the scale and scope of community needs. We also hope that it can be used as a resource as you plan for services that impact the health and well-being of Herkimer County's residents.

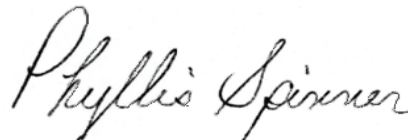
The 2009 Herkimer County Risk Assessment Profile Update is available for download in PDF format from the Herkimer County HealthNet, Inc. website at www.herkimerhealthnet.com and the Herkimer County website at www.herkimercounty.org.

Please contact Herkimer County Integrated County Planning or the Herkimer County HealthNet, Inc. if you have any questions or comments regarding the Risk Assessment Profile.

Sincerely,



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Herkimer County Integrated County Planning
Co-Chair Comprehensive Assessment Task Force



Phyllis Spinner
Executive Director
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- The Herkimer County Health Net, Inc. Board of Directors and the Integrated County Planning Human Resource Planning Team for their vision, leadership and financial support.
- The members of the Comprehensive Assessment Task Force, for contributing countless hours of their time collecting, organizing, and interpreting the data collected. Without your hard work, this project could never have been completed.
- The individuals, agencies and organizations which provided data, narrative and commentary included in the Profile.
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- The many focus group participants who volunteered their time to provide valuable insight into the issues that affect the residents of Herkimer County.
- The Herkimer County Office for the Aging for their financial assistance to help defray the costs associated with printing the Risk Assessment Profile.
- Jeffrey Whittemore, our volunteer, for collating and assembling the Profile document.
- The New York State Office of Children and Family Services and the Department of Health - Charles D. Cook Office of Rural Health for their support of this initiative.

Without the support and collaboration of all the individuals and agencies listed, the creation of the 2009 Herkimer County Risk Assessment Profile would not have been possible. Thank You.

Herkimer County Comprehensive Assessment Task Force (CATF)

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Introduction

The 2009 Herkimer County Risk Assessment Profile is an update to the previous Risk Assessment Profiles published in 2000, 2003 and 2006. It represents the collaboration between Herkimer County Integrated County Planning (ICP), Herkimer County HealthNet, Inc. and the various agencies that make up the Comprehensive Assessment Task Force.

The Profile is organized in accordance with the six Life Areas of the *New York State Touchstones* model; Community, Citizenship, Physical and Emotional Health, Family, Economic Security, and Education. This format was used initially in 2006, and has allowed for a more comprehensive look at the needs of Herkimer County residents than the former structure used in the 2000 or 2003 Profiles provided. The 2009 Profile also incorporates the *New York State Department of Health's Prevention Agenda's Priority Health Areas* into the Physical and Emotional Health section of the document. The data collected within the Profile gives a snapshot of the level of risk that exists in our community and the areas in which there is a need to work collaboratively to improve outcomes.

Background

Herkimer County HealthNet, Inc. has been in existence since 1990 when the Herkimer County Health Care Consortium successfully applied for funding from New York State Department of Health to establish itself as a Rural Health Network. Its membership comprised of governmental agencies, health and human services providers has as its mission to improve the health and well being of Herkimer County residents.

In 1998, Herkimer County developed a collaborative, integrated planning process to address the needs of children, youth, families and vulnerable adults. This planning process combines the planning requirements of the Department of Social Services and the Youth Bureau, and includes other county departments, service providers and community-wide collaborations that address needs.

Herkimer County Integrated County Planning (ICP) has identified issues that affect the health and well-being of youth and families, improved coordination of human service delivery, reduced fragmentation and duplication of effort, and made more efficient and effective use of federal, state, and local tax dollars.

Input and involvement from the community remains a vital component of Integrated County Planning. Community members, along with representatives from the areas of health, human services, education and law enforcement, began meeting in January of 1999 to collaboratively identify and respond to the needs of children, youth and families. The

Communities That Care model of risk-focused prevention was adopted as a strategic planning tool to accomplish this goal.

Since 1999 Integrated County Planning and Herkimer County HealthNet, Inc. have been working collaboratively to provide a comprehensive assessment of health and human service needs in Herkimer County. They have co-chaired the Comprehensive Assessment Task Force, whose mission is to assemble a diverse group of stakeholders in government, health, education, and human services to facilitate comprehensive long term planning geared to improve the quality of life for the residents of Herkimer County.

In 2000, data - based predictors were collected and organized into the *Communities That Care* format. Focus groups were held with community stakeholders, including youth, to review data and identify priority needs. Out of the Risk Assessment process in 2000, five risk factors emerged as priorities for Herkimer County:

- Extreme Economic Deprivation
- Family Management
- Family Conflict
- Early and Persistent Antisocial Behavior
- Early Initiation of the Problem Behavior

In October 2000, the Herkimer County Risk Assessment Profile was published. Herkimer County departments, service providers and various community groups began to discuss ways to better support children, youth and families in order to address identified needs. A Resource Inventory was created to identify gaps in services, and promising approaches were researched that would reduce risks. Resources were allocated to address the issues identified, and various grants were pursued to address major service gaps.

In March 2003, ICP again partnered with the Herkimer County HealthNet, Inc. to update the data collected within the original profile. An analysis of the 2003 Herkimer County Risk Assessment Profile confirmed the need to address the five priority risk factors identified during the 2000 planning process. In addition, other risk factors were identified in 2003 as emerging areas of concern: the Availability of Drugs, Lack of Commitment to School, and Alienation and Rebelliousness. Herkimer County planning groups continued to meet to address these concerns.

In 2006 Herkimer County HealthNet, Inc. and Integrated County Planning partnered for the third time to create an updated Risk Assessment Profile. The new *Touchstones* format expanded the scale and scope of the document and allowed for a more comprehensive look at the needs of Herkimer County residents, particularly in the areas of community demographics, physical and emotional health, the elderly, and children from birth to five. Herkimer County planning groups utilized the information presented to

establish goals and identify strategies that reduced risks, addressed needs, and improved outcomes in their specific areas of focus.

In 2009, the Touchstones format was utilized again. The New York State Health Department, in partnership with federal, state and local partners, unveiled a new "Public Health Prevention Agenda for the Healthiest State" in 2009 which identifies ten priorities for improving the health of all New Yorkers and asks communities to work together to address them.

- Access to Quality Health Care
- Chronic Disease
- Community Preparedness
- Healthy Environment
- Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies, Healthy Children
- Infectious Disease
- Mental Health and Substance Abuse
- Physical Activity and Nutrition
- Tobacco Use
- Unintentional Injury

The Prevention Agenda required a wide range of organizations and community members to collaboratively develop community health plans that identify and address problems that affect the health of New Yorkers. The Prevention Agenda calls on local health departments and hospitals to identify two or three of the ten Prevention Agenda priorities and to work with community providers, insurers, community based organizations and others to address them. Statewide program and policy initiatives will complement local efforts.

In 2009, Herkimer County Public Health, Herkimer County HealthNet, Inc. Little Falls Hospital, Faxton-St. Luke's Hospital, St. Elizabeth Medical Center, and Bassett Healthcare joined together to conduct community health planning and develop improvement plans.

The Physical & Emotional Health section of this documents reflects the work undertaken as part of the new Community Health Assessment process outlined in the Prevention Agenda.

Herkimer County remains committed to the collaborative identification of needs and to developing programs and services that address and prevent the issues identified.

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