Executive Summary

This report is intended to meet the Public Health Accreditation Board standards for health departments. The assessment process is an ongoing cycle that includes: building partnerships; coordinating a consortium; assessing data, community needs, and capacity; and conducting planning, prioritization, interventions, implementation, and evaluation. This report begins the 3-year cycle. The Center for Marketing and Opinion Research (CMOR) was selected by the Board of Health to conduct data collection and analysis for the CHA through four project phases.

The first phase of the project, a Community Survey, consisted of a random sample telephone survey of Carroll County households. This method was used to ensure representativeness of the population and to warrant statistical validity. The final sample size was 400 which resulted in an overall sampling error of +/-5.0% within a 95% confidence level.

The second phase of the project, Secondary Data Analysis, consisted of reviewing and analyzing secondary data sources to identify priority areas of concern when compared to survey data. CMOR gathered and compiled health and demographic data from various sources.

The third phase of the study, a Youth Health Survey, consisted of a survey of 300 area middle and high school students. The fourth and final phase, a Community Focus Group, consisted of a facilitated discussion with a demographic mix of adult Carroll County residents.

When available, data was compared to previous year’s information and other geographic areas such as Ohio or the United States. Analysis included survey data, and health and demographic data. As of October 22, 2019, utilizing all available data at the time, CMOR identified priority health needs for the county including (in alphabetical order):

1. Access to Health Care and Health Care Facilities including lack of primary care doctors, dentists and access to specialists
2. Changing demographics of the county population: aging population, increasing number of grandparents raising grandchildren
3. Chronic disease management
4. Heroin/Opiate/Illegal Drug Use
5. Lack of preventative care
6. Mental Health Services/Suicide including lack of mental health providers
7. Obesity and Healthy Lifestyle Choices
8. Tobacco use and vaping
Process for Identifying Priority Health Needs

Analysis for the CHA included survey data in conjunction with health and demographic data. Using all data available, CMOR identified priority community health needs for the county. The data is included in this document. The findings from the secondary data reinforce the findings of the surveys and focus group.