

2017 • State Health Assessment & State Health Improvement Plan

The Vermont Department of Health is embarking on a process to update the *State Health Assessment* and the *State Health Improvement Plan*. In combination, these two publications serve as the cornerstone of planning for public health and health system partners who are working to improve the health and well-being of Vermonters.

[Healthy Vermonters 2020](#) is the current state health assessment that informs the 2012-2017 [State Health Improvement Plan](#). During 2017, these will be updated by purposefully applying a health equity lens as we collect and analyze data, and determine priorities to better provide all Vermonters an equal opportunity to be healthy.

The new State Health Assessment will offer information, maps and data from an array of sources to describe the current health status of Vermonters, identify areas for health improvement, factors that contribute to health equity, and assets and resources that can be mobilized to improve public health.

The assessment will serve as the primary source of data for the new State Health Improvement Plan for the next five years (2018-2023). The plan will detail strategic priorities and best practices for setting budgets, policies and programs across the health system and by partners from the variety of sectors that contribute to health and equity.

The project will be managed through the Planning Unit of the Health Department. A steering committee will oversee the process. Public health system partners and members of the broader community will serve as key advisors.

Health Equity exists when all people have an equal opportunity to be healthy, especially those who have experienced socioeconomic disadvantage, historical injustice and other avoidable inequalities that are often associated with race, gender, ethnicity, social position, sexual orientation and disability.