

2024 COMMUNITY PARTNER ASSESSMENT

Updated June 2025

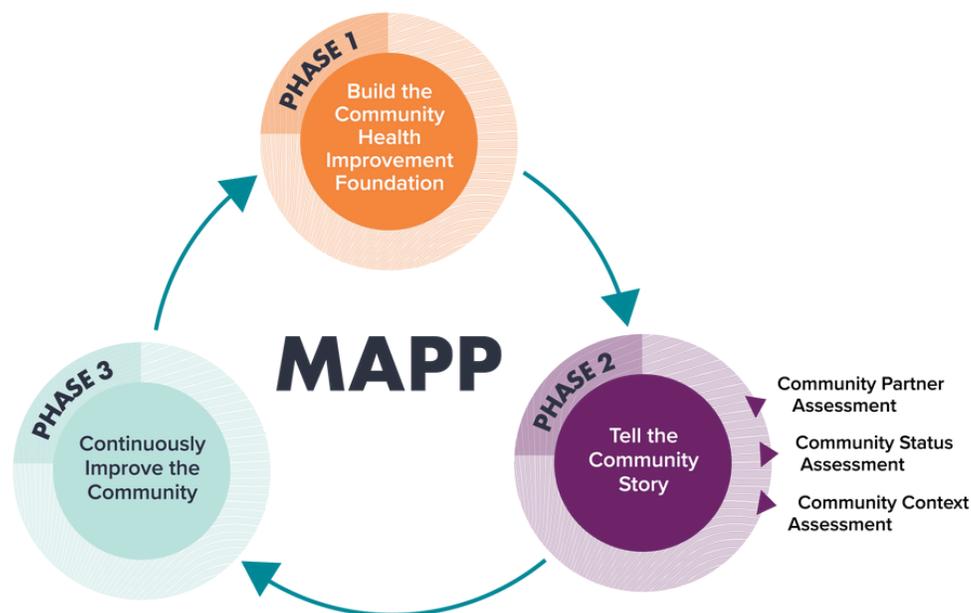


Introduction

At least every five years, local health departments are tasked with conducting a health assessment of their residents. When conducted, our community health assessment (CHA) tells the story, at a point in time, of the different factors impacting the health of residents in Washington County.

Washington County Public Health and Environment (PHE) used elements of the *Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships* (MAPP) 2.0 framework to steer CHA efforts, including a community status assessment, community context assessment, and this community partner assessment.

While engagement with partners happens continuously throughout the year, this community partner assessment (CPA) summarizes specific actions taken to convene key community partners to look critically at 1) their individual systems, processes, and capacities, and 2) collective capacity as a network of community partners to address health inequities. Our engagement efforts documented the landscape of community partners as well as community strengths. We also used this as an opportunity to share and discuss health data.



Specific tools provided in the MAPP 2.0 handbook were used to engage partners from various sectors.

The process included gathering input and reflection on 1) each partner's place in the system, 2) each partner's resources and capacity, and 3) how each partner can play a role in addressing community-identified needs. This information was gathered through:

- Facilitated conversations at existing coalition and partner meetings.
- The convening of partner organizations to share quantitative and qualitative health data from the county and to allow partners to inform and identify countywide priorities for the next community health improvement plan (CHIP).
- Discussions that focused on impactful, countywide priorities, and included recognition that the county will continue to engage in place-based and cultural-based work that is community-specific, community-driven, and equity-focused.

Community Strengths

Washington County has many community strengths, assets, and resources that help create, maintain, and build health for our residents. This can include government agencies, schools, funding resources, community organizations, the natural and built environment, and businesses and industries.

In addition to organized sectors, there are also strong networks of community residents throughout the county, formed around geography, cultural connections, and shared interests. The following list summarizes key assets identified by county staff and our partners. The list, not intended to be all-inclusive, represents a wide range of resources available in the county. A detailed description of how each of these can support community health can be found in **Appendix A**.

Community Assets

Local governments

- Cities and townships
- Community Development Agency (CDA)
- County departments (e.g., libraries, parks, public works, community services)
- Metropolitan Council
- State agencies
- Watershed districts/Washington Conservation District

Schools and childcare

- In-home and center-based childcare providers
- Private and charter schools
- School districts

Funding resources

- Child and Teen Checkups grant
- County levy funding
- Eliminating Health Disparities grant
- Foundation Public Health Responsibilities grant
- Local Public Health grant
- Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) grant
- Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP) grant
- Strong Foundations for Home Visiting grant
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant
- Title V Maternal and Child Health block grant
- Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) grant

Businesses and industries

According to the U.S. Census Bureau's County Business Patterns, Washington County was home to nearly 6,400 businesses in 2022.

Community organizations

- Allina Health
- American Heart Association
- Blue Cross and Blue Shield
- Canvas Health
- Chambers of commerce
- Civic and volunteer organizations
- Community Thread
- Faith-based organizations
- FamilyMeans
- Food shelves
- HealthPartners
- M Health Fairview
- SoWashCo CARES
- Vital Aging Network
- Washington County United Way East
- YMCA (Woodbury and Forest Lake)

Natural and built environment

- County/regional parks
- County/regional trail system
- Groundwater
- Natural areas
- Other parks
- Other trails
- Road system
- Surface water
- Transitways

Coalition Engagement

The public health system includes partners from many different sectors. Washington County engages in various coalitions and partnerships, either as a lead/facilitator or member. A summary of these coalitions can be found in **Appendix B**.

As part of our partner engagement for the CPA, Washington County Public Health and Environment facilitated conversations at multiple coalition meetings in fall 2024. Those engaged included CONNECT Washington County, Community Health Action Team (CHAT), Mental Health Local Advisory Council (LAC), and Worksite Health Partnership (WHP).

We invited coalition members to review county health data and our community status report. We requested they share feedback on both how they view the data and their organization's role in impacting that data.

A survey was distributed to coalition members to capture feedback about the health data and status report. Survey results and feedback gathered during coalition meetings indicated housing, transportation, mental health concerns, substance use, and social determinants of health were top areas of focus for participants. Participants appreciated being able to provide feedback and felt this was a collaborative process.



Partner Convenings

In January 2025, PHE convened over 30 community partners to engage in data sharing, discussion, and prioritization of health issues. Since many factors impacting health and well-being happen outside of the health sector, a number of different sectors were invited to attend: other county departments (e.g., libraries, parks), local government, health systems, nonprofit and community organizations, and school districts.

These partners were selected due to their roles in improving community health through their connections to key populations and their impact on specific health topics. A list of these participants can be found in **Appendix C**.

First Partner Convening

The purpose of the first partner convening was to help them understand their relationship to the local public health system and their role in advancing health equity. The following activities were conducted to help achieve this goal:

- Collectively defined health equity.
- Introduced *Healthy People 2030 Social Determinants of Health** and described how they relate to our collective work to promote community health.
- Identified the main ways in which partners impact each social determinant of health domain.
- Introduced the concepts of root causes of inequities and the spectrum of prevention using the upstream versus downstream river metaphor.
- Mapped partner activities on a visual representation of the spectrum of prevention.

Defining Health Equity

One goal of the MAPP process is to work toward achieving health equity. To ensure partners were aligned on a definition, health equity was defined and discussed at the first meeting. The definition used was modified from the definition used by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH):

“Health equity is the idea that everyone has what they need to be healthy, and that no unjust or unfair barriers exist that prevent a person from being healthy. To achieve health equity, systemic problems such as racism, poverty, discrimination, and lack of access to good jobs with fair pay, quality education and housing, safe environments, and healthcare must be resolved.”

Discussion centered on how health goes beyond the individual person and encouraged partners to look at what systems create or hinder health.

**Social determinants of health: The conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks.*

Partner Convenings

Healthy People 2030: Social Determinants of Health

The second activity encouraged participants to reflect on social determinants of health (SDOH) and how their collective work can promote community well-being. Partners were asked to list the primary activities of their organization and post them under the corresponding SDOH domains (below). This activity helped partners visualize the breadth of their collective work and capacity to meet the needs of our community.

Education Access and Quality



Healthcare Access and Quality



Social and Community Context



Neighborhood and Built Environment



Economic Stability



Other



Partner Convenings

Mapping the Spectrum of Prevention On the River

The final activity introduced the concepts of root causes of inequities and the spectrum of prevention. According to MAPP 2.0, “the river metaphor has been widely used in public health to describe the tension between population-level prevention versus emergency response and individual health care services.” In the river activity, upstream efforts are focused on policy and systems change, while downstream efforts include service provision and crisis response efforts.

Using sticky notes from the activities and programs identified in the SDOH exercise, participants mapped their primary activities on the river image, determining if the activity was upstream, midstream, or downstream. This visual represented the diversity of services offered by partners. It also emphasized the importance of working along the spectrum of prevention to ensure our community has their basic needs met, while also advancing efforts to reduce barriers for all residents.

More details on the activities and programs identified as upstream, midstream, and downstream can be found in **Appendix D**.



Partner River Activity Highlights

Community Impact



UPSTREAM

Upstream Examples:

- Mental health education, resources, and destigmatization.
- Community health initiatives and community partnerships.
- Food security efforts and partnerships.
- Workforce outreach and training.
- Sustainable public transit planning.
- Built environment development.

Individual Impact



MIDSTREAM

Midstream Examples

- Vaccination clinics.
- Naloxone access points.
- Free bike helmets for youth.
- Groundwater education.
- Assist households with accessing economic support programs (e.g., SNAP).
- Yoga in the park.
- Meals on Wheels.

Individual Impact



DOWNSTREAM

Downstream Examples

- Homecare and hospice.
- Active tuberculosis case management.
- STI testing.
- Home chore and maintenance for older adults.
- Crisis response unit.

Partner Convenings

Second Partner Convening

The second partner convening focused on sharing data from the other components of our CHA process, including the community status report and community context assessment, followed by a prioritization exercise and discussion.

PHE staff and an external data consultant, *arcadia research and evaluation*, presented a variety of quantitative and qualitative data grouped into several different health topics/issues. The presented data can be found in **Appendices E and F**. Topic areas included mental health, healthcare access and quality, housing, substance use, environmental conditions, transportation, infectious disease, community safety, food access, economic stability, education, and built environment.

Participants were also reminded that there are many other assessments, plans, and initiatives taking place in Washington County with the goal of impacting community health. Prior to data being shared, partners were given an assignment for the meeting: to weigh the data presented, along with their insights as someone who works, lives, and/or plays in Washington County, and ultimately select three topic areas that PHE should focus additional resources on for the next three years. Partners were asked to consider the following selection criteria as they listened to the presentations.



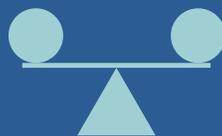
Size of the problem (number of individuals impacted)



Seriousness of the problem



Availability of solutions



Potential to positively impact health disparities



Effectiveness of public health interventions to impact the problem



Momentum (related efforts in the community)



Cost to address the problem

Partner Convenings

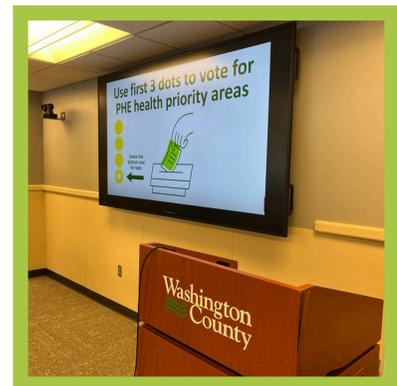
Partners were provided with materials (e.g., notetaking tools, guiding questions) to engage with the data presented. They were also reminded that PHE plans to use their input, along with other data, to help prioritize health issues for the coming year. PHE will continue its work addressing all the topic areas discussed, with additional resources and staff time devoted to the areas selected as priorities.

After data was presented, partners engaged in a multi-stage voting process to select health priorities. First, partners voted for the top three health issues they felt the county should focus on based on available data, their experiences, and the selection criteria (listed on page 8). Each participant was given three stickers to vote on their top priorities from the health issues (also listed on page 8). Although partners had an option to vote for “something else” to add another topic to the list, no one chose to do so. After all partners had completed the first stage of voting, they were asked to designate their overall top priority area using a different colored dot.

The internal community health assessment planning group and senior leaders within PHE reviewed the top health priorities identified by community members in the CCA and selected by partners during the CPA convenings. Four health areas rose to the top in both groups and were selected as Washington County’s health priorities:

- Mental health and community safety
- Healthcare access
- Housing
- Transportation

The next step of the process is to move into action planning for each health priority in order to develop a community health improvement plan (CHIP). County staff will develop strategy language and engage community partners as appropriate in implementation and progress tracking within each health priority.



Appendix A

Community Assets and Resources

The county has many coalitions and partnerships that work toward furthering community health. There are many others (not listed) that will be engaged as part of the community health improvement plan (CHIP) process.

Government Agencies

Resource/Asset	How does this support community health?
Cities and townships	Cities and townships have a unique role in keeping people healthy. These local units of government have a primary responsibility for long-term planning and decision-making about housing, land use, land protection, and many other local zoning issues. There are 27 cities and 6 townships in Washington County.
Community Development Agency (CDA)	The Washington County CDA provides programming to assist and promote the development of affordable owner-occupied and rental housing options, including its ownership of affordable rental units. In addition, the CDA assists cities and townships with a variety of community development efforts, including public facility financing and redevelopment initiatives.
County departments	In addition to PHE, many Washington County departments have a role in supporting community health efforts. This includes Community Services, Public Works, Administration, Community Corrections, Libraries, Sherriff's Office, and the Attorney's Office.
Metropolitan Council	The Metropolitan Council is the regional policy-making body, planning agency, and provider of essential services (including transportation/transit, wastewater, and housing) for the Twin Cities metropolitan region. The most recent vision and framework developed for the Twin Cities Region, Thrive MSP2040 , overviews regional investments that support a prosperous, equitable, and livable region now and in the future.
State agencies	Various state agencies are involved in statewide efforts to improve the health of residents. Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) is the primary state health agency and is charged with overseeing local health departments and implementation of the Local Public Health Act. Many other agencies also provide critical policy direction, infrastructure, and funding support for community and environmental health efforts, including the departments of Human Services, Natural Resources, Transportation, and the Pollution Control Agency.
Watershed districts/Washington Conservation District	Watershed districts and watershed management organizations are special purpose units of government that provide long-term protection for surface and groundwater resources. The Washington Conservation District (WCD) is a special purpose local unit of government dedicated to managing soil and water resources in Washington County under the direction of a five-member elected board.

Appendix A

Community Assets and Resources

School Districts and Childcare

Resource/Asset	How does this support community health?
In-home and center-based childcare providers	Childcare centers and providers are essential to community health, offering early childhood education, developmental support, and a safe environment for children while enabling parents and caregivers to work or pursue education. A variety of childcare options are available throughout the county to meet the diverse needs of families.
Private and charter schools	Private and charter schools in Washington County play a vital role in the community by offering diverse educational options, supporting student well-being, and fostering academic success, with a variety of these schools serving families throughout the county.
School districts	School districts, including Forest Lake, Mahtomedi, North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale, South Washington County, and Stillwater, play a vital role in community health by providing education, support services, and programs that promote student well-being.

Funding Resources

Resource/Asset	How does this support community health?
Child and Teen Checkups grant	Local implementation of the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) program, providing coordination for families with children under the age of 21 to connect with comprehensive medical and dental care.
County funding	The county collects funds through property tax levy, the Washington County Environmental Charge (a fee on solid waste collection), Local Public Health grant, and federal, state, and other grants.
Eliminating Health Disparities grant	Supports refugee health programmatic work and tuberculosis case management.
Foundation Public Health Responsibilities grant	Funding from the Minnesota Legislature allocated to community health board to strengthen local and tribal public health in Minnesota, aligning with the foundational public health responsibilities .
Local Public Health grant	Local Public Health grant, authorized by the Minnesota Legislature every two years, provides funding to community health boards and tribal governments in Minnesota.
Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP) grant	Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP) dollars are appropriated by the state legislature and support community-driven solutions to expand opportunities for active living, healthy eating, and commercial tobacco-free living.

Appendix A

Community Assets and Resources

Funding Resources (Continued)

Resource/Asset	How does this support community health?
Strong Foundations for Home Visiting grant	Support the delivery of coordinated and comprehensive high-quality voluntary early childhood home visiting services to eligible families.
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant	Used for eligible program services including non-medical home visiting for families and youth development.
Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) grant	The Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) federal grant provides crucial funding for local health departments to build foundational capacities to prepare for and respond to emergencies that directly impact public health, such as infectious disease outbreaks or widespread environmental contamination.
Title V Maternal and Child Health block grant	Key source of support for promoting and improving the health and well-being of the nation's mothers and children, including children with special needs and their families.
Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) grant	Administration of WIC program that provides supplemental nutritious foods, nutrition education, and healthcare referrals to eligible pregnant women, new mothers, infants, and young children.
Other funding sources	Potential funding sources include state and federal agencies, foundations, or private funding.

Community Organizations

Resource/Asset	How does this support community health?
Allina Health	Allina Health provides hospital and clinic services, mental health support, and community wellness initiatives focused on preventative care and chronic disease management.
American Heart Association	The American Heart Association promotes cardiovascular health through education, advocacy, CPR training, and community programs that address heart disease prevention.
Blue Cross and Blue Shield	Blue Cross and Blue Shield provides health insurance and supports community health through wellness programs, preventive care initiatives, and partnerships with local organizations.

Appendix A

Community Assets and Resources

Community Organizations (Continued)

Resource/Asset	How does this support community health?
Canvas Health	Canvas Health offers mental health, crisis intervention, and substance use services, ensuring individuals have access to essential behavioral health support.
Chambers of commerce	There are several chambers of commerce in Washington County.
Civic and volunteer organizations	Rotary Club, Lions, volunteer groups.
Community Thread	Community Thread provides services aimed at older adults, as well as advocating for and supporting volunteers throughout the St. Croix Valley region.
Faith-based organizations	Churches and religious centers provide food assistance, financial aid, emotional support, and community programs to enhance physical, mental, and spiritual well-being.
FamilyMeans	FamilyMeans is a multi-service nonprofit organization with the mission to strengthen communities by helping individuals and families through challenges in all life stages.
Food shelves	Food shelves provide free nutritious food to individuals and families in need, reducing barriers to access and improving health outcomes. Organizations in Washington County include: Basic Needs, Community Helping Hand, Elim-Scandia-Marine Food Shelf, Family Pathways, Friends in Need, Hugo Good Neighbors Food Shelf, Mahtomedi Area Food Shelf, Oakdale Library, Open Cupboard, Park Grove Library, St. Andrew's Community Resource Center, and Valley Outreach.
HealthPartners	HealthPartners operates hospitals and clinics, promotes preventive health care, and engages in community health improvement efforts, focusing on overall well-being.
M Health Fairview	M Health Fairview provides comprehensive medical care, including specialty services and community health programs, improving access to quality healthcare in the region.
SoWashCo CARES	SoWashCo CARES focuses on improving mental health awareness, suicide prevention, and access to behavioral health services in South Washington County.
Vital Aging Network	The Vital Aging Network promotes healthy aging by offering educational programs, social engagement opportunities, and advocacy for older adults to maintain independence and well-being.

Appendix A

Community Assets and Resources

Community Organizations (Continued)

Resource/Asset	How does this support community health?
Washington County United Way East	The mission of United Way East is to unite our community and local resources to give each person the opportunity to build a better life. Focus areas include: YOUTH: Promote thriving children and youth, BASIC NEEDS: Provide basic needs and financial stability, HEALTH: Improve health and independence, SELF-SUFFICIENCY: Support self-sufficiency and connection to services.
YMCA	The county has two YMCA centers located in Woodbury and Forest Lake. Both centers provide youth and adult programming and actively participate in wellness initiatives in their respective communities.

Natural and Built Environment

Resource/Asset	How does this support community health?
County/regional parks	County parks, which are part of the regional system, provide gathering places, physical activity opportunities, and access to natural areas for both county residents and those of neighboring jurisdictions. The county park system, which includes over 4,700 acres, logged approximately 1.9 million visits to seven regional parks and trails in 2023.
County/regional trail system	The county is involved in development and/or maintenance of several types of trails. There are currently 25 miles of existing county-owned regional trails, with an additional 58.5 miles to be completed. The 2040 Comprehensive Plan identifies several “search corridors” within the county that are envisioned as part of the regional trail system.
Groundwater	Groundwater provides 100% of drinking water for county residents. See the Washington County Groundwater Plan for additional information on groundwater quantity and quality issues.
Natural areas	There are Scientific and Natural Areas (5) and Wildlife Management Areas (5) found within the county. Both of these amenities are owned by the DNR.
Other parks	There are many additional parks within the county that are operated by cities or townships, in addition to two state parks.
Other trails	Two major state trails exist in the county, Gateway and Brown’s Creek, totaling 24 miles. A state trail is described as a route that connects state or national park destinations, and provides access to significant scenic, historic, scientific, or recreational areas.

Appendix A

Community Assets and Resources

Natural and Built Environment, Continued

Resource/Asset	How does this support community health?
Road system	The county contains approximately 2,195 centerline miles of highways, which includes all state, county, and local roads. Washington County Public Works is responsible for 282 centerline miles of highway.
Surface water	The county is bordered by two major river systems, the Mississippi and the St. Croix, the latter of which is a National and Scenic River. Surface waters cover about ten percent of Washington County's 424 square miles. The majority of the county's surface waters consist of lakes and wetlands, and most are located in the northern half of the county. See the water resources chapter of the county's 2040 Comprehensive Plan for more information.
Transitways	There are three major transitways planned within the county. Washington County leads two joint powers boards overseeing the development of the METRO Gold Line (previously known as the Gateway Corridor) and the Red Rock Corridor. Additionally, the county is a member of the Rush Line Corridor Task Force. More information is available in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan .

Businesses and Industries

According to the U.S. Census Bureau's County Business Patterns, Washington County was home to nearly 6,400 businesses in 2022. Many of these businesses (85.7%) are comprised of less than 20 employees. Additionally, Washington County was home to 21,351 self-employed businesses or "non-employers" in 2022 (defined as businesses without employees that are subject to federal income tax).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau's County Business Patterns (CBP) and Non-employer Statistics

Appendix B

Coalitions

Resource/Asset	How does this support community health?
Community Action Partnership (CAP)	CAP helps low-income families achieve financial stability through services such as housing assistance, food support, and workforce development, improving overall health and well-being.
Community Health Action Team (CHAT)	CHAT collaborates with local organizations primarily in the Stillwater area to address public health concerns, promote wellness initiatives, and support efforts to improve community well-being.
CONNECT Washington County	CONNECT focuses on building strong social connections within communities to improve mental health, reduce isolation, and enhance access to health resources and services.
Forest Lake Health UP	Health UP promotes healthy lifestyles and chronic disease prevention through community-wide education, fitness initiatives, and partnerships with local health organizations.
Heading Home	Heading Home works to address homelessness in Washington County by providing housing support, advocacy, and access to essential services, improving stability and overall health.
Lakeview Health and Wellness Advisory Committee	Facilitated by Health Partners and Washington County, the Lakeview Health and Wellness Advisory Committee is the primary advisory council for all community health work, helping Lakeview Hospital to provide vital programs and services designed to meet the health needs of community.
Mental Health Local Advisory Council (LAC)	The Mental Health LAC advocates for improved mental health services, educates the community on mental wellness, and supports individuals and families affected by mental health challenges.
M Health Fairview Lakes Community Advisory Committee (CAC)	Facilitated by M Health Fairview, the Fairview Lakes CAC advises the health system about collective efforts that impact community health and health equity in the northern Washington County/Chisago County area.
M Health Fairview Woodwinds Community Advisory Committee (CAC)	Facilitated by M Health Fairview, the Woodwinds CAC advises the health system about collective efforts that impact community health and health equity in the Woodbury area.
School Nurse Group	This coalition of school nurses ensures student health and well-being through health screenings, immunization programs, and support for students with medical needs, promoting a healthier learning environment.

Appendix B

Coalitions

Resource/Asset	How does this support community health?
Washington County Breastfeeding Coalition	The Washinton County Breastfeeding Coalition promotes breastfeeding education, supports new mothers, and advocates for breastfeeding-friendly policies to improve infant and maternal health.
Washington County Transportation Consortium	Facilitated by the Community Services Department, the Washington County Transportation Consortium (WCTC) brings together partners from different sectors to inform, share, and network around transportation options and access.
Woodbury Thrives	Woodbury Thrives works to enhance community well-being through health initiatives, social connections, and access to resources that support physical, mental, and social health.
Worksite Health Partnership	The Worksite Health Partnership (WHP) is a coalition of businesses within Washington County that meet on a quarterly basis to network and share wellness ideas and resources to create or strengthen their employee wellness programs.

Convening Meeting Participants (January 2025)

Attendee and Organization

- Andrea Anderson, HealthPartners Lakeview
- Andrea Martinez, M Health Fairview
- Ann Bensen, Washington County Public Health and Environment
- Annette Sallman, Stillwater Area Schools
- Barbara Bursack, Washington County Community Services
- Brandi Poellinger, Allina Health
- Dan Parnell, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)
- Dave Brummel, Washington County Public Health and Environment
- Emma Wallo, Washington County Public Health and Environment
- Emily Carpenter, M Health Fairview
- Heather Peterson, American Heart Association
- Jill Timm, Washington County Public Health and Environment
- Kristin Kroll, United Way of East Washington County
- Laure Lofgren, ISD 622
- Lia Burg, Washington County Public Health and Environment
- Liz Rachel Freedman, arcadia research and evaluation
- Mark Skeie, Vital Aging Network
- Melissa Taphorn, Washington County Community Development Agency
- Commissioner Michelle Clasen, Washington County
- Mike Adams, Lakeview Hospital
- Rachel Presslein, Community Thread
- Rebecca Leighton, Washington County Public Health and Environment
- Reed Smidt, City of Woodbury
- Roger Green, Woodbury THRIVES (Woodbury Foundation)
- Shelly Schafer, City of Woodbury
- Smita Rakshit, Washington County Public Health and Environment
- Stephanie Kovarik, HealthPartners Lakeview Hospital
- Stephanie Souter, Washington County Public Health and Environment
- Tiffany Hoffman, Washington County Public Health and Environment
- Tina De Ruyter, Washington County Library
- Jacob Wasmund, Washington County Community Services
- Gerald Klebsch, Washington County Community Services
- Murugi Mutiga, Washington County Community Services/Public Health and Environment

Upstream (Community Impact)

Healthcare

- Education about reducing stigma of mental health and illness (MakeltOk)
- Mental health and well-being resources community initiative, MakeltOk: helping reduce stigma of mental health and well-being so all people get care and support they deserve.
- Resources and programming for kiddo and community health PowerUp initiative: helping kids and families grow up healthy (eat better, move more).
- Community outreach and engagement.
- Provide career partners and exposure to future leaders.
- Little moments count: early childhood brain development.
- Community health initiatives: little moments count.
- Support open gyms for kids and families (HP/Lakeview).
- Trusted community partnerships: working together to help improve the health of the community.
- Partnering on food and nutritional insecurity.
- Outreach and education activities.
- Partnerships focused on addressing health needs.
- Food shelf partnerships super shelf.
- Local CHNA at hospital level with community advisory committees.
- Psychological First Aid training.
- Anchor institution within community/county.
- Primary care SDOH screening.
- Washington County CONNECT (youth mental health and substance use).

Government

- Woodbury Community Foundation: Nonprofit roundtable, connecting, and enhancing community services.
- Park facilities that support health and wellness.
- Community events: expos, one Woodbury, new resident welcoming.
- Washington County Community Engagement.
- Connections to the environment (parks and trails).
- Provide transit/transportation.
- Econ stability through connecting businesses and schools for talent development.
- Workforce outreach/training, career fairs.
- Provide parks and trails.
- Sustainable public transit for all.
- Community gardens.
- Built environment: community development tech advice to cities.
- Tobacco cessation.
- Transit planning (gold line).
- Elevate/amplify voices of comm.
- Increase access to affordable housing.
- Econ stability through business expansion and retention services.
- Community engagement: building trust with communities.
- Preventing youth access to substances (alcohol, tobacco, cannabis. etc.)
- Inspect and license restaurants.
- Social emotional development.
- Promote waste reduction.
- Community health workers (navigating programs and services).
- Improve quality of life through access to materials or lifelong learning.
- Improve/increase child and adult literacy.
- Understand and create pathways to participation.
- Support individuals with job training and skills development to secure adequate employment education.
- Educate people on resources available.

Community Organizations/Schools

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UW connecting and empowering 6th grade girls for social success. • UW connecting women to create social ties. • UW educating youth on community challenges and action. • Woodbury Community Foundation: community academy, building future volunteer leaders. • Woodbury Community Foundation: racial equity collaboration, housing inequality. • UW education and collaboration with community for improved DEI. • Woodbury Thrives: social connectiveness • AHA: established BP hubs at community sites. Access to BP measurement and health education. • Woodbury Community Foundation: environmental sustainability fund. • AHA: Community education r/t prevention and interventions r/t heart disease and stroke. • AHA: Provide scholarships to students pursuing health-related careers. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social work to support with resources. • Age-friendly community transportation (Oakdale). • Adult basic education. • ISD 622 access to education. • Provide youth with safe spaces in the out-of-school time. • Alternative learning options. • Transition program to support special ed young adults. • AHA: Funding, tools, and resources to FQHCs and others r/t quality care focused on hypertension, health behaviors, etc. • Educate all ages on healthy lifestyles. • Home visiting for young families. • Engage people in lifelong learning. • Assess 3-5-year-olds for developmental delays. • Engage all ages in physical fitness. • AHA: Provide funding to social/economic entrepreneurs r/t health initiatives. |
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Other

- NAMI Washington County advocacy (policy, legislative) for mental health, services, treatment, legal issues.

Midstream (Individual Impact)

Healthcare

- | | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diabetes education and nutrition education. • Faith community nursing. • Clinics (vaccinations and other). • Provide healthcare services. • Naloxone access points. • Provide free bike helmets to youth. • Philanthropic outreach and funding (memberships and sponsorship). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HealthPartners/Lakeview: new hospital (more services to offer residents). • Cultural brokers. • HealthPartners/Lakeview: increase healthcare access and equality. • Food is medicine initiative. |
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Government

- Educate on groundwater and secure policies to support our plan.
 - Educate/administer on vaccinations.
 - Provide educational programming.
 - Recreation programs for all ages and abilities.
 - Washington County Child Protection Services.
 - Washington County access to support for aging and disabled adults.
 - Washington County Employment Services.
 - Provide nutrition support/education.
 - Collaborative grants with partners (health).
 - Neighborhood and built environment: home improvement funding.
 - Offer opportunities for social connectedness or connections.
 - Adaptive and special needs program.
 - Provide fitness and wellness programs.
 - Econ. stability through small business advisory services and fund access.
 - Built environment: access to lower rent housing.
- SHIP school funding and partnerships.
 - Support new substance use “reduction” efforts.
 - Washington County: disease monitoring, contact tracing.
 - Liaison/conn between acute/emergency and ongoing needs.
 - Job/career assistance.
 - Active living grants (SHIP).
 - Provide information to meet people’s needs.
 - Level the playing field.
 - Assist people in navigating state/fed systems.
 - Food security efforts.
 - Support and meet the needs of the aging.
 - Support and meet the needs of citizens with disabilities.
 - Assist households with accessing economic support programs (SNAP, cash, healthcare).
 - Maintain and enhance county parks and trails.
 - Regulate hazardous and solid waste.

Community Organizations/Schools

- UW educating adults on community challenges and supports.
 - Woodbury Thrives: wellness (volks mound), yoga in the park.
 - UW: providing school supplies to students.
 - Woodbury Thrives: environment (park cleanings).
 - AHA: “get with the guidelines” hospital-based program.
 - Provide convening and meeting space for community activities.
 - Promote volunteerism and advertise/match rolls to NPO agencies.
- Social activities for older adults.
 - Provide resources and keep older adults in home (safely) longer.
 - Promote volunteerism and mobilize volunteers for community service projects.
 - Wellness 50+.
 - Access to initial health assessment for students.
 - RN in each school building.
 - Meals on Wheels.
 - Provide childcare so parents can work.
 - Reduce social isolation for all ages.
 - GED and prep language education for adults.

Other

- NAMI Washington County: support groups for families experiencing mental illness.

Downstream: Individual Impact

Healthcare

- Healthcare services: specialty care, primary care, emergency, etc.
- Homecare and hospice.

Government

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emergency services/public safety.• Safety net services.• Private well testing.• MOUD in the jails (opioid tx).• Family home visiting programs.• Investigate disease (measles, pertussis, TB).• Support breastfeeding.• Healthcare in the jail.• Vaccinate un/underinsured.• Case management for active TB cases prevent the spread of disease.• Washington County Jail Medical: opiate use disorder treatment, health of inmates.• Refer families to community resources.• Ensure there is adequate access to mental health services.• Prevent and end homelessness. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Washington County adult social services.• Washington County: resources and supports for families.• Low or zero cost rec. programs/scholarships.• Econ. stability through homebuyer/owner counseling.• Crisis rides.• Family home visiting prenatal/postpartum support.• Econ. stability: housing stability.• Support refugees in accessing healthcare.• STI testing.• Protect child and vulnerable adult safety.• Crisis response unit.• Distribute resources (after) (barrier) determining eligibility.• Advocacy for under-represented people.• Connect people to resource and information. |
|---|--|

Community Organizations/Schools

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• UW: resources direction for individuals seeking help.• Woodbury Caring Foundation: winter clothing drive with SoWashCo.• UW: funding basic need access.• UW: funding safe, quality care for youth.• UW: funding housing.• UW: funding healthcare access.• UW: funding mental health services.• Host bus loop 1/day/week for all ages. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transportation for older adults/vol. drive program.• Home chore and maintenance for older adults.• Aging with Gusto.• AHA: funding to food shelves to expand/support capacity, healthy offerings, etc.• Promote clinic for uninsured/underinsured.• Mental health services within the school day.• Woodbury Thrives: food insecurity (community?). |
|--|--|

Other

- NAMI Washington County: Classes related to aspects/topics of mental illness.

Qualitative Data Findings

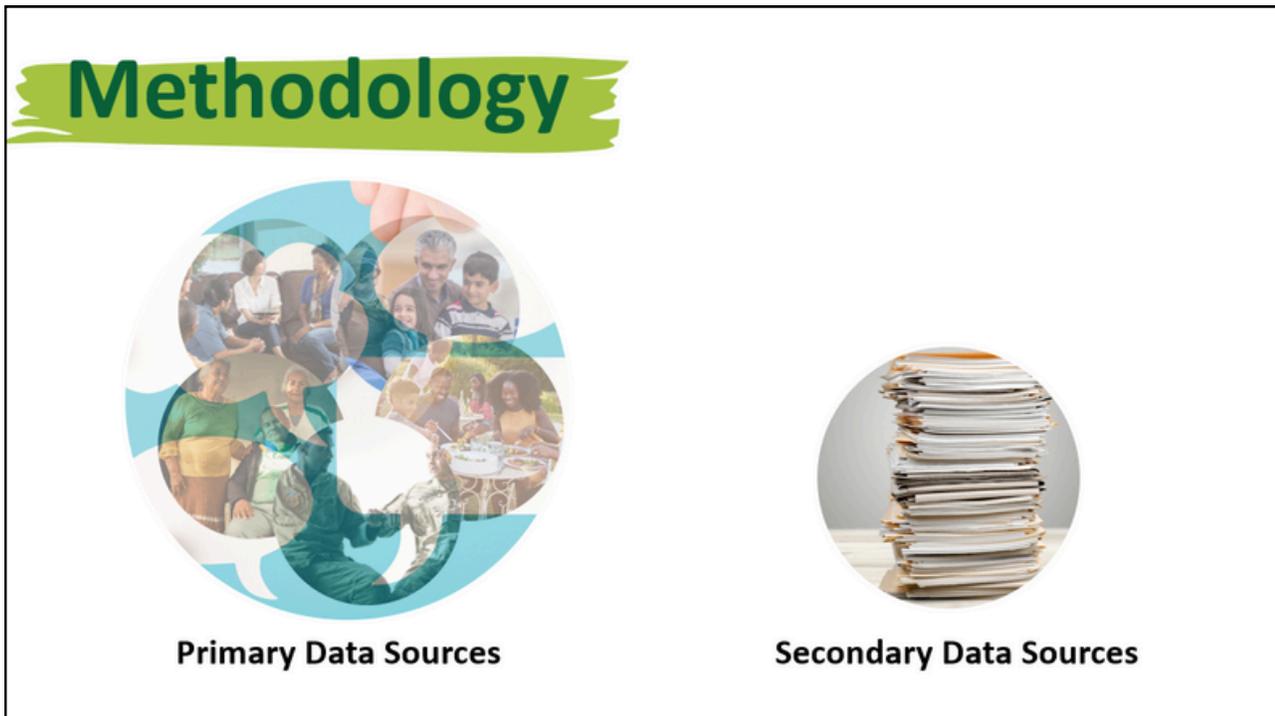


**Washington County
Community Health
Assessment
Qualitative Data
Findings**

**Why collect
qualitative
data?**



Qualitative Data Findings



Primary Data Sources



Community Conversations

- Hmong elders
- Hmong adults
- Somali youth
- Somali adults
- West and Central Africans
(Togolese, Congolese, Cameroonians, Nigerians)
- Kenyan and Ugandan adults
- Latino Cimarron mobile home community
- Latino Forest Lake community
- Townhome/apartment renters in Cottage Grove
- Oak Terrace Senior Living residents
- Veterans



Qualitative Data Findings

Primary Data Sources



Community Conversations



Led by trained PHE staff and trusted messengers to ensure they were culturally and linguistically appropriate



Participants shared community challenges and potential solutions in a group setting



Facilitators were assisted by dedicated notetakers trained to record data

Topics discussed

 <p>Health Care Access and Quality</p>	 <p>Transportation</p>	 <p>Housing</p>	 <p>Food Access</p>	 <p>Community Safety</p>
 <p>Mental Health</p>	 <p>Economic Stability</p>	 <p>Education</p>	 <p>Built Environment</p>	 <p>Something else</p>

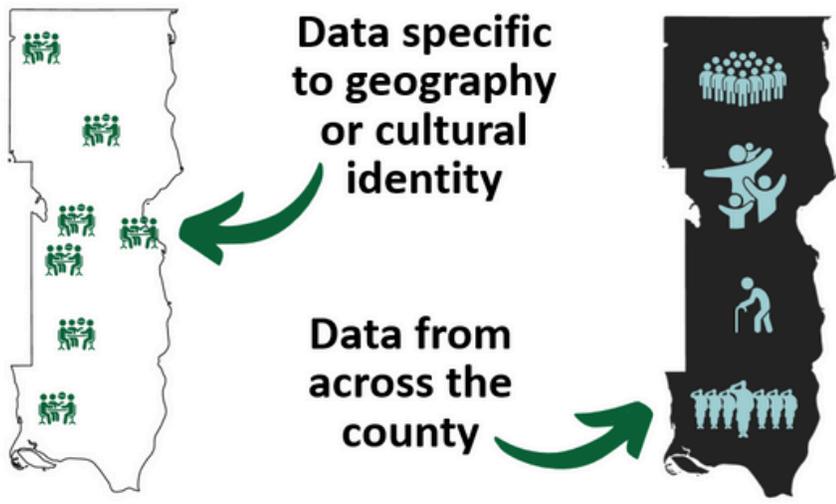
Qualitative Data Findings

Secondary Data Sources



- Washington County community event engagement efforts, Fall 2024
- Landfall Resident Leader Survey Findings report, October 2024
- FamilyMeans Cimmaron Healthy Aging Community Survey
- FamilyMeans Landfall Healthy Aging Community Survey
- 2022 Washington County Resident Survey
- 2023 Washington County Community Services Community Needs Assessment
- HealthPartners Teen Leadership Council report

Data Categories



Data specific to geography or cultural identity

Data from across the county

Findings

Top Ranked
Community
Concerns
Across
Groups



Qualitative Data Findings



Health Care Access and Quality

- Hmong elders
- Somali youth
- Somali adults
- Oak Terrace Senior Living residents
- Townhome/apartment renters in Cottage Grove
- Veterans



Health Care Access and Quality

-  Unaffordability
-  Language and cultural barriers
-  Obtaining & maintaining insurance
-  Long wait times, especially for speciality care
-  Geographic access issues
-  Inequitable outreach and resources for BIPOC communities

Qualitative Data Findings



Transportation

- West and Central Africans
- Kenyan and Ugandan adults
- Latino Forest Lake community
- Oak Terrace Senior Living residents
- Townhome/apartment renters in Cottage Grove



Transportation



Limited public transportation, especially in farther flung areas of the county

Long wait times



Insufficient service to support residents in their language of choice



Qualitative Data Findings



Housing

- Kenyan and Ugandan adults
- Latino Forest Lake community
- Oak Terrace Senior Living residents
- Townhome/apartment renters in Cottage Grove



Housing



The high cost of housing and rising rent prices are large concerns shared by many groups



Wait list times for housing subsidies can last years



Some residents experience housing discrimination

Qualitative Data Findings



Hmong elders

West and Central Africans

Latino Cimarron mobile home community

Food Access



Food Access



Rising food prices take a toll on low-income residents



Lack of awareness of food banks, and geographic distance in some parts of the county



Culturally relevant foods can be hard to obtain

Qualitative Data Findings



Community Safety

- Hmong elders
- Somali adults
- Kenyan and Ugandan adults
- Latino Cimarron mobile home community
- Veterans



Community Safety



Racism and exclusion is primary issue for many communities



Communities of color experience a lower sense of safety compared to white residents



Proximity to prison, violence, drugs is a concern for some residents

Qualitative Data Findings



West and Central Africans

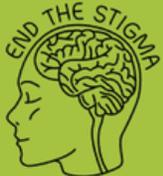
Kenyan and Ugandan adults

Latino Cimarron mobile home community

Mental Health



Mental Health



Many communities experience stigma around mental health needs



Residents face long wait times for services, and culturally relevant services can be hard to find



Residents shared concerns about mental distress and isolation



Qualitative Data Findings



Somali young adults

Forest Lake Latino population

Veterans

Economic Stability



Economic Stability



Limited opportunities for those without a degree



Labor jobs come without benefits



Residents experience discrimination in the workplace



Long commutes and/or low access to public transportation

Qualitative Data Findings



Somali youth

Somali adults

Latino Forest Lake community

Education



Education



Lack of affordable after-school care



Students have experienced bullying and discrimination

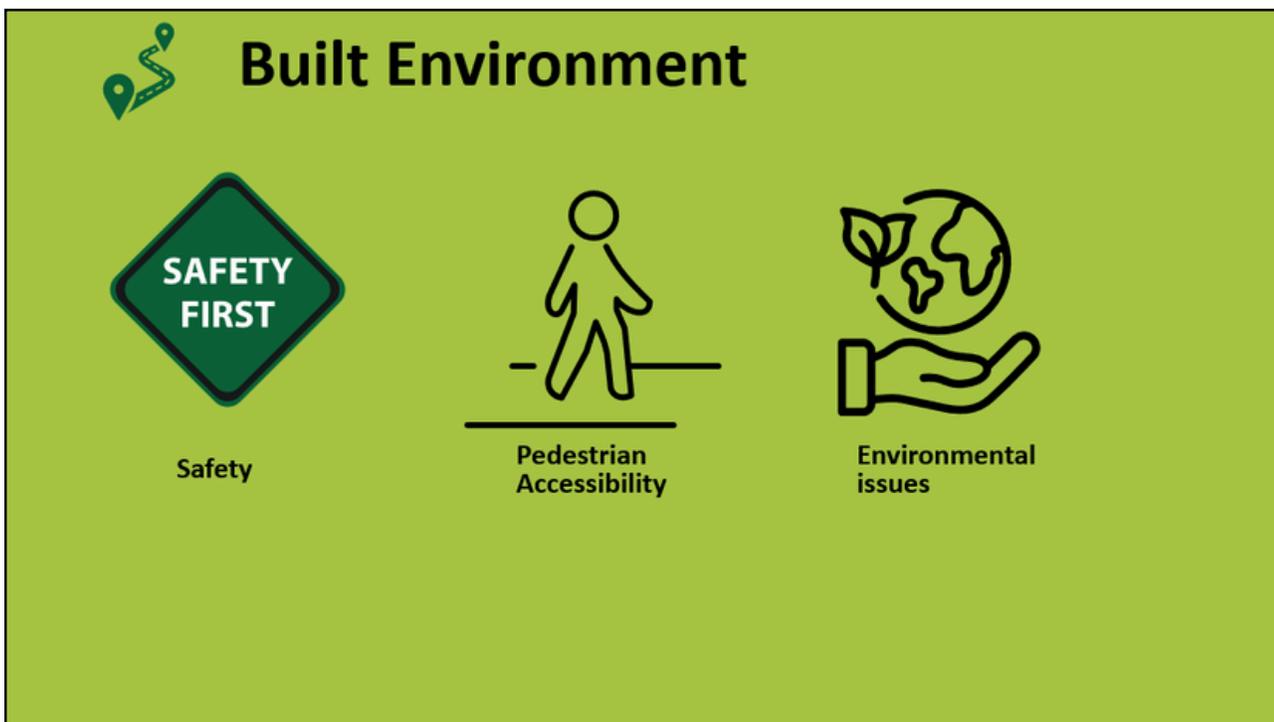


Lack of prayer spaces



Language barriers in communications from school

Qualitative Data Findings



Qualitative Data Findings

Small Group Discussion

Which findings stood out to you?



What is new information?

Which findings align with what you already know about Washington County residents?

Use first 3 dots to vote for PHE health priority areas

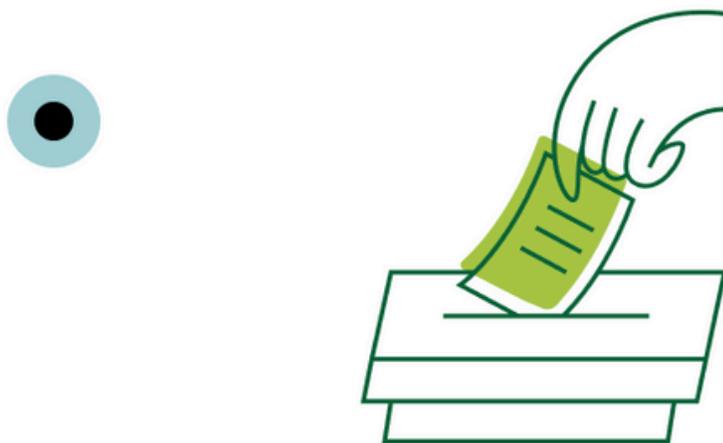


Leave the bottom one for later

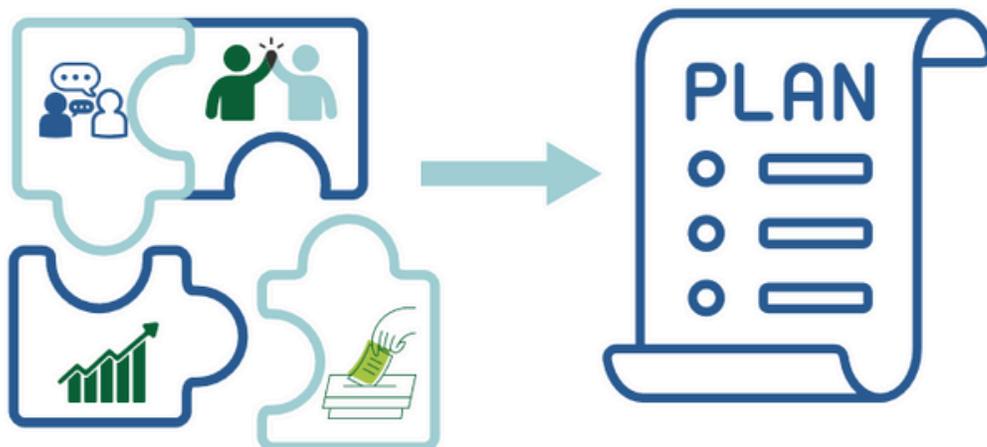


Qualitative Data Findings

Use final dot to vote for TOP PHE health priority area



Next steps



Meeting #2 Presentation



**Washington County Community
Health Assessment**

January 23, 2025

Welcome & Introductions



2

Meeting #2 Presentation

Recap



Community Health Assessment Process



Defined Health Equity



Healthy People 2030 Partner Mapping



On the River Exercise

Community Health Assessment – local public health

- Community Health Boards (local public health) are required by Minnesota State Statute 145A to conduct a Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) at least every 5 years
- State and local health departments accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) must demonstrate completion of a CHA/CHIP
 - Washington County re-accredited in 2022



Meeting #2 Presentation

Partner Mapping and River Exercise



Purpose for Today

- Partner engagement to:
 - Review and discuss health data
 - Provide **insights** and **input** on health priorities and focused areas of work
- County (PHE) will finalize priorities, weighing input from various sources and acknowledging complimentary efforts
- Foundational Public Health areas and capabilities continue to drive work



Meeting #2 Presentation

Agenda



Review Quantitative Data



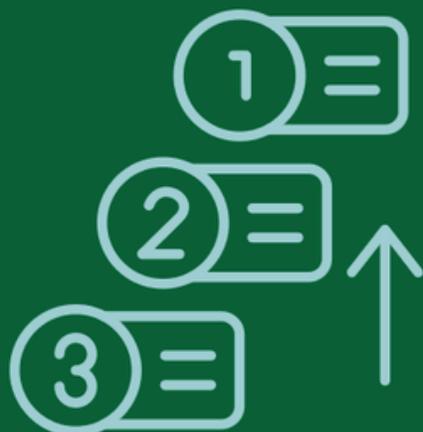
Review Qualitative Data



Discussion and Prioritization



Wrap up and Closing



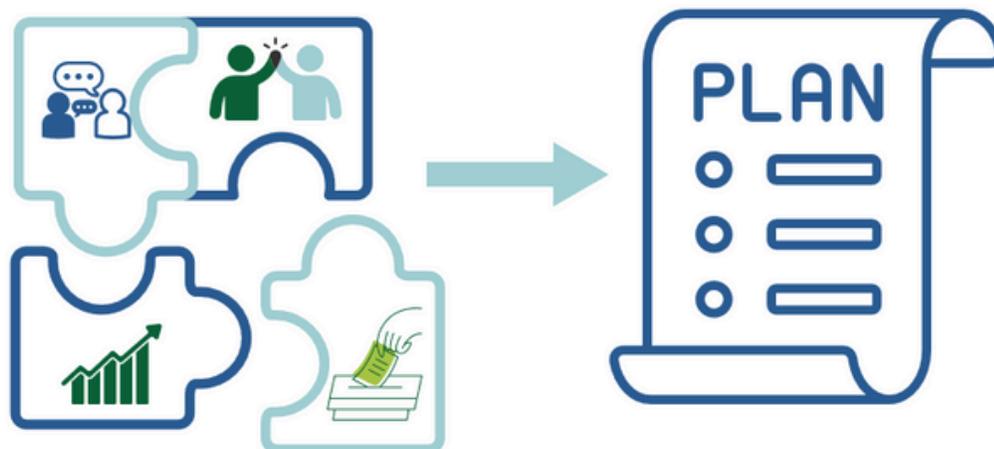
**Helping select
public health
priority areas for
2025-2028**

Meeting #2 Presentation

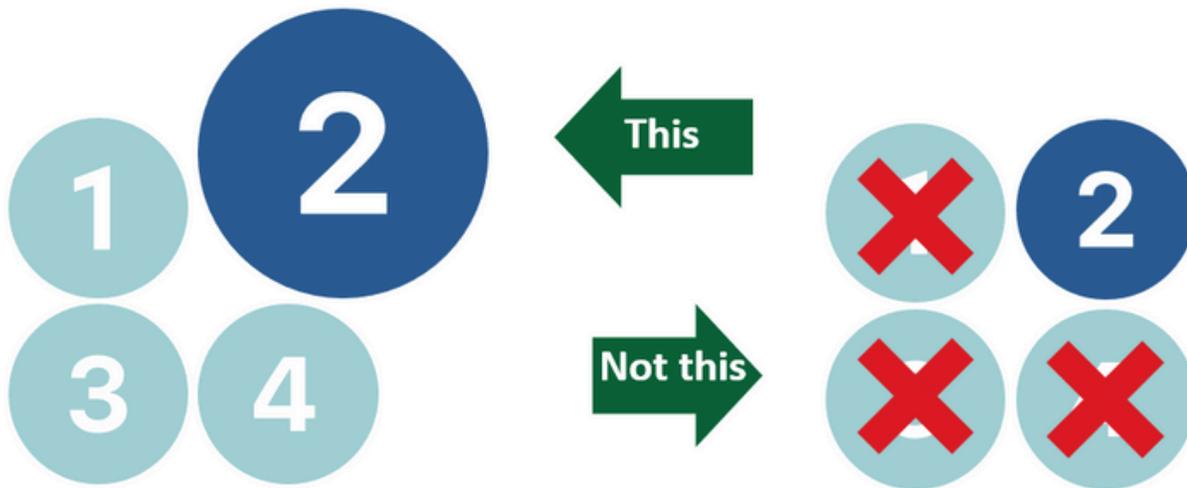
Meeting Charge



Using your input



Selecting a priority



Resources

Priority Selection Considerations

- Size of problem (if of individual's interest)
- Seriousness of problem
- Availability of solutions
- Potential to positively impact health disparities
- Effectiveness of public health interventions to impact problem
- Minimum (political effort)
- Cost to address the problem

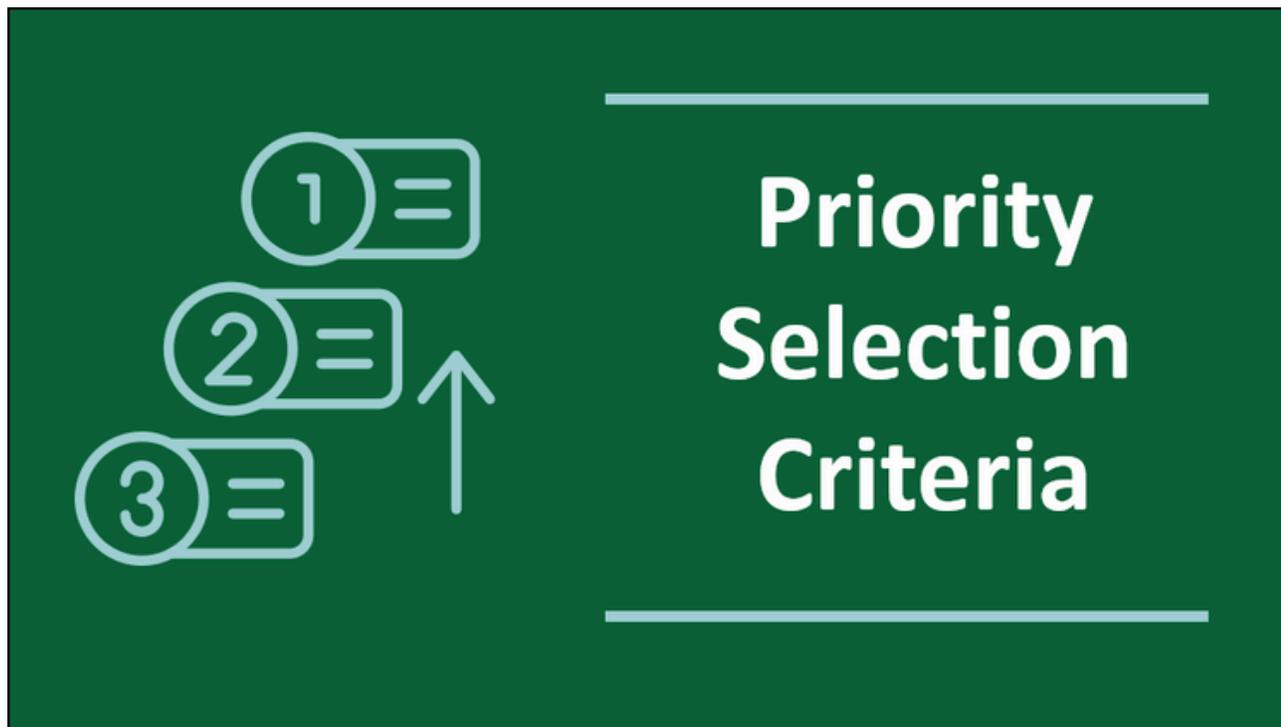
Topic Areas

- Mental Health
- Health Care Access and Quality
- Housing
- Substance Use
- Environmental Conditions
- Transportation
- Infectious Disease
- Community Safety
- Food Access
- Economic Stability
- Education
- Built Environment

Notes

Small Group Discussion Prompts

- Which findings stand out to you?
- What is new information?
- Which findings align with what you already know about Washington County residents?



Priority Selection Criteria

The graphic features three numbered speech bubbles (1, 2, 3) on the left, with an upward-pointing arrow next to bubble 2. The text 'Priority Selection Criteria' is centered on the right, flanked by two horizontal lines.



Size of problem
(Number of individuals impacted)

The graphic shows a group of stylized human figures in light green, with a cluster of dots above them representing the size of the problem. The text 'Size of problem (Number of individuals impacted)' is centered below the figures.

Meeting #2 Presentation

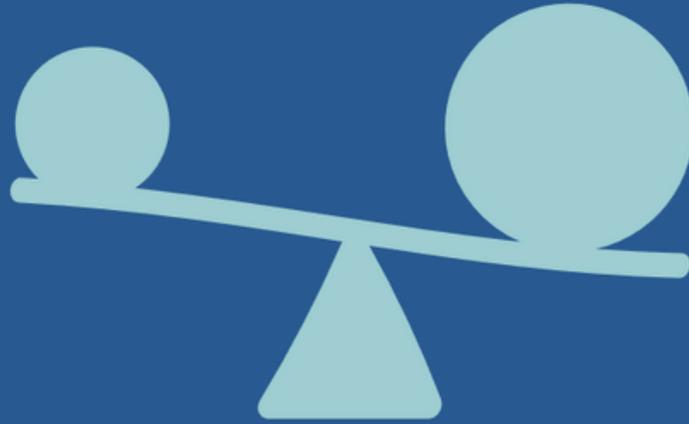


Seriousness of problem



Availability of solutions

Meeting #2 Presentation

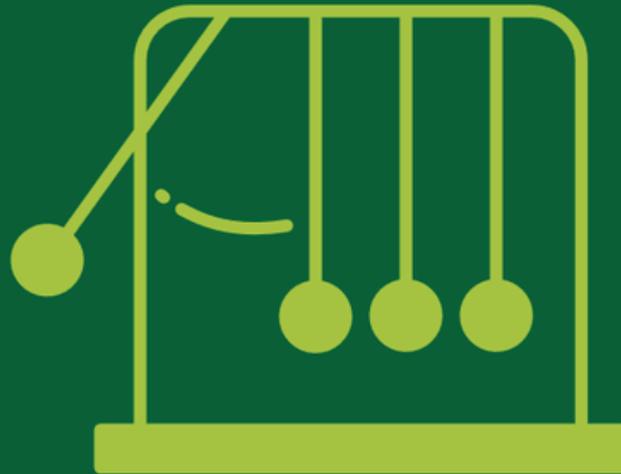


Potential to positively impact health disparities



**Effectiveness of public health
interventions to impact problem**

Meeting #2 Presentation



Momentum
(related efforts in the community)



Cost to address the problem

Resources

Priority Selection Considerations

- Size of problem (if of individual's impact)
- Seriousness of problem
- Availability of solutions
- Potential to positively impact health disparities
- Effectiveness of public health interventions to impact problem
- Maximum potential efficacy
- Cost to address the problem

Topic Areas

- Mental Health
- Health Care Access and Quality
- Housing
- Substance Use
- Environmental Conditions
- Transportation
- Infectious Diseases
- Community Safety
- Food Access
- Economic Stability
- Education
- Built Environment

Notes

Small Group Discussion Prompts

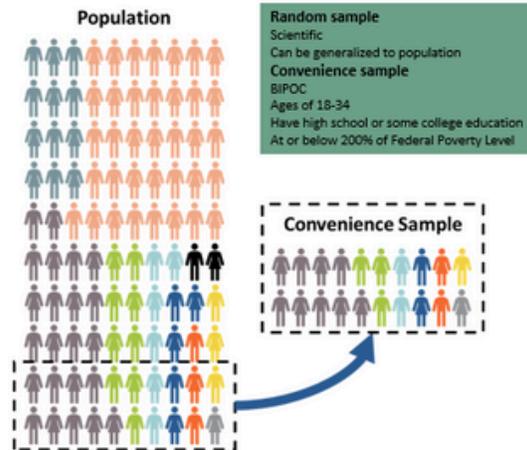
- Which findings stand out to you?
- What is new information?
- Which findings align with what you already know about Washington County residents?

Quantitative Data

Meeting #2 Presentation

Few things of note

- Community Status Report
 - Highlights of 3-4 data points under each category
- We collect more data- they are on our on our health data profile page
 - <https://www.washingtoncountymn.gov/3661/Health-Data-Profiles>
- Health Trends Across Communities in Minnesota (HTAC)



Key statistics

- **5th largest county** by population- 267,568
 - Expected to grow by 27% by 2040
- Race and ethnicity
 - 80% White, **20% BIPOC**
 - 5% Hispanic/Latino
 - 7% born in another country
- Age
 - 65 and older- **16%**
- Median household income
 - \$100,569 annually



Washington County Health Outcomes



Washington County Health Factors



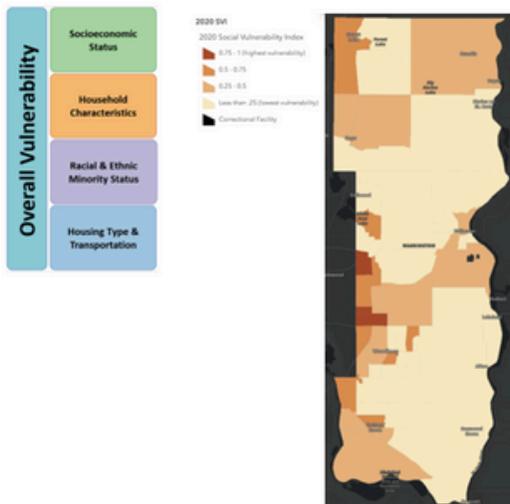
Meeting #2 Presentation

Key statistics

- Housing insecurity
 - **Cost-burdened: 18% of homeowners, 40% of renters**
 - Missed housing payment- **21% in the convenience sample respondents, comparing to 4% in the general population**
- Unemployment rate- **3%**
- Population at or below 200% Federal Poverty Level- **13%**
- Food insecurity-
 - In 2019, **36% in the convenience sample respondents, comparing to 5% in the general population**



Social Vulnerability Index



What we have seen in other surveys

- Resident survey topic includes:
 - Residents' opinions about community issues
- Opinions about community issues differs from what we hear from residents with lived experiences

TOP Health Concerns

- Overweight adults
- Depression/anxiety
- Overweight children
- Heart disease
- Loneliness



Meeting #2 Presentation

Overall health

- In 2022, **5%** of Washington County adults reported **fair or poor health**, comparing to **21%** in the convenience sample.
- In 2021, the **top 3 leading causes of death** in the county were **cancer, heart disease, and COVID-19**.
- In 2022, the **top chronic health conditions** for those living $\leq 200\%$ FPL were
 - **Depression**
 - **Anxiety**
 - **High cholesterol**
 - **Other mental health conditions.**



Nutrition and physical activity

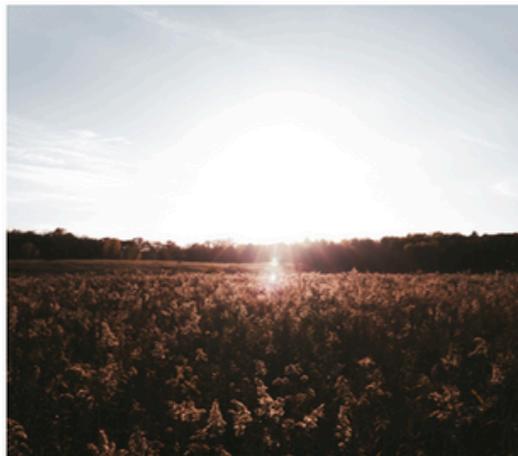
- About **1 in 3 adults** eats the recommended servings of fruits and vegetables each day.
- Almost **1 in 2 adults** consumes one or more sugar-sweetened beverages a day.
- In 2019, about **34%** convenience sample respondents, **haven't engaged in any exercise in 30 days**.
- **4%** of households in the county receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.



Meeting #2 Presentation

Mental health and wellbeing

- In 2019, **9% of adults** reported having **frequent mental distress**. The rate is **25%** for the convenience sample respondents.
- In 2020, **suicide** was **the 10th leading cause of death in Washington County**.
- In 2019, **34% residents delayed care due to cost or lack of insurance**
- In 2022, approximately **1 in 4 female students** were bothered by **feeling down, depressed, or hopeless**, which is twice as high as male students



Substance use

- In 2021, American Indian Minnesotans were **ten times as likely to die from a drug overdose** as white Minnesotans.
- Black Minnesotans were **more than three times as likely to die from a drug overdose** as white Minnesotans.
- Between 2020 and 2022, there was **an average of 36 drug overdose deaths per year** among county residents.



Meeting #2 Presentation

Infectious disease

- In 2022, **chlamydia accounted for 45% of all reportable infectious disease cases** in Washington County.
- The **vaccine coverage rate for two-year-olds receiving the full primary series was 70% in 2022.**



Maternal and child health

- In 2021, **89% of women in the first trimester received prenatal care** in Washington County.
- In 2021, **smoking rates of pregnant women decreased from 5% to 2%** in Washington County.
- Comparing live births and maternal mortality by race, **American Indian and Black mothers face higher rates of maternal mortality** although they make up less than 15% of live births together in Minnesota.



Meeting #2 Presentation

Healthcare capacity and access

- In 2021, comparing to **2%** of the general population, **15% convenience sample** respondents were uninsured.
- **21% residents** found it **difficult to pay** for health insurance.
- **7%** of adults skipped a dose of medication because they **could not afford it**.
- In 2019, the top 3 reasons for delaying health care were **related to cost**.



Injury and violence

- We have seen increase in rate of unintentional injury fatalities from 2017-2020. It rose to **44.1 per 100,000 people, from 33**.
- Falls are the leading cause of injury death among Minnesotans aged **65 and older**. The age-adjusted **rate for falls is 4.5 times higher** than the next three leading causes.
- **10% male and 10% female 9th graders** have reported being pushed, shoved, hit or kicked by someone at school.



Meeting #2 Presentation

Environmental conditions

- Poor housing conditions are associated with a many health conditions- **respiratory infections, asthma, lead poisoning, injuries, and mental health.**
- In 2023, there were **76 properties** that tested positive for radon.
- Minnesota has gotten **warmer and wetter** due to climate change- which will continue to impact the community's health
- The state has issued well advisories for **1,695 private wells for PFAS** and **351 private wells for TCE.**



Break

Meeting #2 Presentation

Qualitative Data

Wrap Up

- Next steps
 - Finalize top priorities
 - Develop Community Health Improvement Plan
 - Engage stakeholders