

**Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department
Health Equity Community Partners Survey Results**

Executive Summary

Overview:

The Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department is in the process of completing a *TPCHD Health Equity Assessment* based in large part on the Bay Area Regional Health Inequities Initiative's (BARHII) *Organizational Self-Assessment Toolkit*. This toolkit includes a community partner survey. In January 2015, the survey was modified and implemented to understand community partner perceptions of the health department and health equity in Pierce County. The survey had a response rate of 31% (62/199).

The survey focused on work the community and the Health Department do together to impact the social and economic factors that influence 40 – 55% of a person's health outcomes. These are called the social determinants of health and include: income, education, community resources, and effects of policies that impact people differently based on their race, ethnicity, gender, age, neighborhood etc.

Key Themes:

Partner organizations are generally aware of the environmental, social, and economic conditions that impact health , or they are moving in that direction. Most partners feel that addressing these conditions is a high priority for them or they are moving in that direction.

- 86% of partners feel that there is a general awareness or they are moving in that direction.
- 85% of partners feel that these conditions are a high priority for them or are moving in that direction.

Partners who responded to the survey were most likely to have worked with TPCHD to address early childhood development and education. They were least likely to have worked with us on community economic development, quality public education, and racial justice. Some examples:

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| • Early childhood development and education: 42% | • Transportation planning: 19% |
| • Community safety: 33% | • Land-use planning: 19% |
| • Recreational opportunities, parks, etc: 28% | • Racial justice: 16% |
| • Environmental justice: 23% | • Quality public education: 15% |
| • Quality affordable housing: 22% | • Community economic development: 14% |

Partners believe their work with TPCHD impacts social determinants of health, that the department should address those social conditions, and that TPCHD demonstrates a commitment to doing that.

- Partners agree (87%) that TPCHD should play a significant role in addressing these conditions.
- Most partners (68%) feel that their organization's work with TPCHD addresses the environmental, social, and economic conditions that impact health.

- Partners (70%) agree that TPCHD demonstrates a commitment to addressing these conditions.

Partners feel they have trusting relationships with the staff they work with and believe staff advocates on behalf of the community. Partners are less clear on whether department staff understand the major concerns of the community.

- 74% of partners indicate that they have trusting relationships with TPCHD staff.
- 58% of partners believe that TPCHD staff advocate on behalf of the community.
- 48% of partners either disagree or are unsure whether department staff understands residents' major concerns in our community.

Partners feel they are often invited to participate in planning processes but they are less confident their involvement is meaningful. Partners also feel the health department does not consistently inform the people it works with about the results of community input into planning.

- Partners (82%) feel that they are invited to participate in planning processes at least sometimes.
- Some partners (10%) feel they are never meaningfully involved in TPCHD planning processes.
- Many partners (46%) feel that TPCHD only *sometimes* informs people and groups about the results of community input, with 26% indicating they don't know if TPCHD does this at all.

Partners and community leaders commonly provide input in the beginning of planning processes, but are less likely to participate in making decisions about programs and service delivery.

- 73% of community leaders provide input in the beginning of the planning process.
- 69% of partners provide input in the beginning of the planning process.
- 56% of community leaders maintain active involvement throughout the planning process, as appropriate.
- 52% of partners maintain active involvement throughout the planning process.
- 43% of community leaders participate in the decision-making of program planning and delivery.
- 44% of partners participate in the decision-making of program planning and delivery.

Partners don't feel the health department consistently holds meetings that are welcoming and "familiar" to community residents (33%).

- 26% of partners feel that meetings are consistently scheduled at convenient times for community members.

Partners feel TPCHD values input from community residents and from organizations like theirs and is generally responsive to community priorities. Partners believe TPCHD may not communicate openly and honestly with community and it is not always clear why decisions were made if they do not reflect community input. 65% of partners agree or strongly agree that TPCHD values input from community residents.

- 78% of partners agree or strongly agree that TPCHD values input from organizations like theirs.
- 59% of partners agree or strongly agree that TPCHD is responsive to community priorities.

- 42% of partners either disagree or don't know whether TPCHD communicates openly and honestly with community members/partners.
- 28% of partners agree or strongly agree that when TPCHD decisions do not reflect community input, it is clear why those decisions were made.

Networking or sharing information was the most common type of relationship that partner organizations had with TPCHD (61%). Coordinating activities together was the least common (45%).