Community Health Assessment
Our Process

- Data Team
- Indicators identified
- Community Profile development
- Initial Priority Area identification
- Further investigation through additional data sources
- Priority Areas solidified
Data Team

Summer 2021: Representatives from ITP, Esperanza and SWOP held a series of meetings with an Epi from CDPH to determine common indicators around the 6 SW issue areas pertinent to understanding the Health Equity landscape in each community area.
May 2022: Each Community Lead used the list of indicators to generate quantitative Community Profiles using the Health Atlas, Census data, CMAP and presented these profiles in their hyperlocal collaboratives.

This kicked off the Community Health Assessment Process.
Initial Priority Area Identification

Community Leads used community profiles to surface key indicators/priority areas in community areas that required further investigation.

Each Hyperlocal collaborative determined additional methods and data sources to gather information on these priority areas from profiles.
Methods

Surveys (Chicago Lawn/Ashburn - Healthcare Coverage; Garfield Ridge - Food Access)

Focus Groups (West Elsdon)

1-1 Interviews (Back of the Yards and Gage Park)

PHA Feedback

Review of hyperlocal data and methodology
## Priority Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Area(s)/Hyperlocal Collaborative</th>
<th>Priority Issues Emerging through Community Health Assessments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Archer Heights/Brighton Park              | • Access to Healthcare  
                                                • Healthcare Coverage  
                                                • Resources to Navigate Medicaid |
| Back of the Yards/New City                | • Community Safety |
| Gage Park                                 | • Access to Primary Care |
| Chicago Lawn/Ashburn                      | • Employment/Jobs  
                                                • Healthcare Access  
                                                • Food Access |
| Clearing                                  | • Adult Smoking Rate  
                                                • Lung Cancer Mortality Rate  
                                                • Food Access |
| West Lawn                                 | • Crowded Housing  
                                                • Rent Burden  
                                                • Food Access |
| Garfield Ridge                            | • Food Access |
| McKinley Park                             | • Access to Healthcare |
| West Elsdon                               | • Preventative Healthcare  
                                                • Food Access/Security  
                                                • Education |
HEALTHY SOUTHWEST

CHICAGO LAWN/ASHBURN
Access to Primary Care, Jobs & Food

BRIGHTON PARK/ARCHER HEIGHTS
Supporting residents in using full range of Medicaid

GAGE PARK/BACK OF THE YARDS
Public Safety

BRIDGEPORT/ARMOUR SQUARE
Ensure healthcare access to PCP for annual screenings

MCKINLEY PARK
Mental Health

GARFIELD RIDGE/CLEARING/WEST ELSDON/WEST LAWN
Food Security: Access & Education

Midwest Asian Health Association
Regional Priority

Public Health Workforce Development
HEALTHY CHICAGO EQUITY ZONE

The West Region
Introduction

HCEZ & Assessment Overview
The Assessment Workgroup will collaboratively develop community assessments to understand the root causes of health inequities on the West Side.

We will establish a stronger coalition of support, align with priority health needs, and identify resources to create a collective effort to build healthier West Side communities.
The West Region

United for Healthier West Side

Population: 465,315
Life Expectancy: 73.1 years
Median Income: $64,003
The West Region

9 Community Areas, 8 Community Leads

124 COMMUNITY PARTNERS ENGAGED
02

Data & Methods

HCEZ & Assessment Overview
Our Data

Priority Indicators
- Required metrics
- Chicago Health Atlas

Additional Indicators
- Supplemental metrics for community-specific issues

Community Input Survey
- Designed and disseminated by the West Region

AHE Data
- Survey & focus group data collected by Alliance for Health Equity

Quantitative

Qualitative
# Data Collection Process

**RL:** Regional Lead (=West Side United), **CL:** Community Lead

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Process</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Existing Data Review</td>
<td>The group reviewed the quantitative data and existing assessment reports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Areas of Interest Selection</td>
<td>Based on the data, each CL selected 3-5 areas to collect community input for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Tool selection</td>
<td>RL introduced different tools to collect community input; the group decided to conduct surveys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Data Collection Plan</td>
<td>Each CL developed a data collection plan (e.g. outreach strategy, target population, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Survey Development</td>
<td>RL met with each CL to design and develop a survey tailored to each CL’s areas of interest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Review &amp; Finalize</td>
<td>RL and CLs reviewed the survey with their internal teams and finalized the questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Survey Dissemination</td>
<td>Community input surveys were disseminated by each CL through different channels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Survey Data Analysis</td>
<td>Once the survey was closed, each CL analyzed the results and drafted a survey analysis report</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Community Input Survey Overview

Data Collection Period: 10/17/22 - 11/7/22
Actual survey close dates vary; we kept the deadline flexible (± a few days) to accommodate community leads' schedules and capacity.

7 surveys conducted, 974 responses collected.

8 community areas, 42 partners engaged.

2 main sections, 8 topics covered.

Section 1: Same across all 7 surveys
- Demographics
- Community Health Needs (23 categories)
- Areas for Improvement

Section 2 was customized for the 3-5 areas of interest selected for each community area by CLs. The 8 health issues covered in this section are housing, healthcare access, youth, personal health, mental health, chronic diseases, healthy food, and neighborhood safety.
Community Input Survey Results

Priority Health Needs

- **HOUSING STABILITY**: 28%
- **MENTAL HEALTH**: 27%
- **VIOLENT CRIME**: 23%
- **COVID-19 RESPONSE**: 18%

Race & Ethnicity

- Of our respondents identify as BIPOC: 91%

- Categories:
  - African American/Black
  - American Indian or Alaskan Native
  - Asian
  - Hispanic/Latinx
  - Pacific Islander or Hawaiian Native
  - White
  - Other
Capacity Building: How We Supported Community Leads

- Provided tools and resources to help build capacity around data literacy
- Hosted workshops, working sessions, and office hours to provide tailored support
- Helped CLs identify potential partnership opportunities
- Connected CLs with new partners to carry out HCEZ-related tasks
- Provided additional funding to support community input gathering activities
- Shared professional development opportunities
- Introduced new tools and resources for data collection and analysis
# Top Priority Area in Each Community Area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Area</th>
<th>Top Priority Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Austin</td>
<td>Mental Health Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Garfield Park</td>
<td>Food Access</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Lawndale</td>
<td>Financial/Economic Stability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humboldt Park</td>
<td>Mental Health Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower West Side</td>
<td>Mental Health Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Lawndale</td>
<td>Housing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Garfield Park</td>
<td>Neighborhood Safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Town</td>
<td>Chronic Diseases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Near West Side</td>
<td>Chronic Diseases</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thank you!
Community Health Assessments and Plans

HEALTHY CHICAGO EQUITY ZONE: FAR SOUTH REGION

August 18, 2023
Phalanx Family Services
Building Strong Families

A close-knit body of people, unified by a common goal. Founded in 2003, our management staff has more than 120 cumulative years experience providing workforce development solutions and strength-based social services to disadvantaged and at-risk population. Phalanx Family Services builds emotionally healthy, self-sufficient families in a community in which they can thrive.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CVCA High School</th>
<th>Phalanx Family Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hoyne Elementary School</td>
<td>Hegewisch Nutrition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th Ward Alderman's Office</td>
<td>Roses in Roseland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th Ward Alderman's Office</td>
<td>Youth Advocacy Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th Ward Alderman's Office</td>
<td>Hegewisch Business Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21st Ward Alderman's Office</td>
<td>Tamvakis Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Representative Marcus Evans</td>
<td>Steve's Catering/Banquet Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Representative Justin Slaughter</td>
<td>Hegewisch Veterans Memorial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advocate Trinity Hospital</td>
<td>South Shore Post #388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compassion Baptist Church</td>
<td>Instavaxx, Inc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicago Police Department</td>
<td>Mission Inflatable, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>316 Magazine</td>
<td>Pallee Made</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beacon Light Ministries</td>
<td>Roseland Community Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goddess Mentoring</td>
<td>University of Illinois (Chicago)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People Helping People</td>
<td>University of Chicago</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant A Wish</td>
<td>Christ Our Light Parish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Chicago Medical Center</td>
<td>CPD-CAPS Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morgan Park Roots Organization</td>
<td>Rush Medical Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calumet Heights Homeowner’s Assoc.</td>
<td>Beverly Arts Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduates Over Guns</td>
<td>Chicago Parks Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kids off the Block</td>
<td>Ada Park Advisory Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Generation Fancy Drill Team</td>
<td>Helping Communities Help Themselves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Project Brotherhood</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Faith-based Partners

City-Hope Evangelistic Ministry
935 E. 134th Street
Chicago, IL 60827

Arnett AME Chapel
11218 S. Bishop Street
Chicago, IL 60643

Advocate United Church of Christ
10359 S. Avenue L
Chicago, IL 60617

Beth Eden Baptist Church
11121 S. Loomis
Chicago, IL 60643

Oakdale Covenant Church
9940 S. Vincennes
Chicago, IL 60643

Urban Comuniversity Center
9101 S. Jeffrey Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60617
MOTTO: We want to hear from you!

Listen to what the community has to say.

Join forces with neighborhood organizations, other local leaders, and public health services.

Educate yourself and promote change.

Participate in planning and assessing community needs.

Engagement of the community, empowerment, and modification of societal norms.

Proactive not reactive (Get to the root)

GET TO WORK!
What are the disparities in OUR Communities?
Providing education to our community leads to promote sustainability, and pave the way to equity.

What is the root cause of social determinants of health? In 1906, W.E.B. DuBois noted that social conditions, not genetics, impacted the health of Blacks, causing racial disparities in mortality rates. Sep 22, 2020

Social determinants of health (SDOH) are 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. SDOH can be grouped into 5 domains:
EACH COMMUNITY LEAD
Data Collection
Mixed Methods

300 Surveys
3 Focus Groups
Pullman Focus Groups
Morgan Park Focus Groups
Top 6 Focus Areas Identified in the Far South Region

- Violence Prevention
- Mental Health
- Diabetes
- Cancers
- Heart Disease/Strokes
- Environmental Health
What we are most proud of...

- INCREASED VISIBILITY OF THE FAR SOUTH REGION AND OUR WORK in community outreach and engagement.
- Large pool of community member volunteers.
- Phalanx has been accepted and welcomed to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Diabetes Prevention Recognition Program. We are conducting 2 cohorts.
- Submitted abstracts that were accepted for presentation at American Public Health Association (APHA) in 2022 & 2023.
- Separate concentration of work for seniors and youth.
- All community leaders are registered to take the BE CIRTification training program in human research protections which is offered by the UOC.
- Phalanx is an internship and field experience site for public health and health and human services students.
The End.
Northwest Region
Chicago Health Equity Zones
NORTHWEST
  Edison Park
  Norwood Park
  Jefferson Park
  Forest Glen
  North Park
  Albany Park
  Portage Park
  Irving Park
  Dunning
  Montclare
  Belmont Cragin
  Hermosa
  Avondale
  Logan Square
NORTH WEST REGION
COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT
NW REGION'S TOP THREE ISSUE AREAS

1. Housing
2. Public Safety
3. Health & Human Service
NORTHWEST CENTER: BELMONT CRAGIN

160% INCREASE IN PEDIATRIC DIABETES
16% OF CHILDREN IN CHICAGO HAVE ASTHMA
NORTHWEST CENTER: BELMONT CRAGIN
COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER LED INTERVENTIONS

HEALTHY HOMES

DIABETES FRIENDLY MENU ITEMS
Based on community feedback, MFS created programs and interventions to target public safety in the Irving Park community.

**Mexican Music Program**
MFS partnered with Sones de Mexico to create a Mexican music program, aligned with community call for alternative spaces and activities for youth.

**The Gang Resistance Education and Training Program**, is a gang and violence prevention program, intended as immunization against delinquency, youth violence, and gang membership for children.
Many of the collected city-wide data does not reflect the current public safety concerns within our Albany Park community. Through focus groups and gathered community intelligence, our community members have voiced their needs for:

- Expanded violence prevention programming and survivor resources
- Advocating for alternative ways to deal with conflict and violence
- Identify and address street deficiencies that make areas of Albany Park unsafe.

**Problems**

- 10% Few to no programs/areas for children to attend
- 5% Lack of knowledge of where to get help
- 10% No sense of community
- 35% More organizations with resources for mental health and domestic violence services
- 35% No mediators to connect to these services
- 10% Residents don’t call 911 when crime happens

**Solutions**

- 26% Education campaign on available resources in Albany Park
- 26% After school programs for youth
- 11% Community run sports
- 21% More social workers in Albany Park
- 16% Public safety workshops (self defense, neighborhood watch, etc)
Through focus groups and gathered community intelligence, our community members have voiced their needs for expanded violence prevention programming, advocating for alternative ways to deal with conflict, and addressing street deficiencies that make Albany Park unsafe.

What public safety projects has NRC started to respond to community voice?

- **Healing Village/ Restorative Justice Circles**
  Healing Villages carve out intentional space to connect and help prevent the circle of violence through the lens of restorative justice.

- **Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)**
  MHFA increases access to mental health resources for social service organizations that interact with community members prevent further community trauma.

- **#LightUpAlbanyPark**
  Using a youth-led peer mentorship program, this collective initiative identifies street deficiencies in Albany Park through social media and helps increase the sense of safety.

What other work is NRC doing to address public safety?

- North River Youth Council
- Parent Mentor Program
- Apprenticeship Program
- Lot Jams & Public Art
- Community Health & Safety Meetings
- Victim Family Support Services
- Light Up Albany Park Campaign
“Housing is the base for everything. If you don’t have shelter you can’t be well.” - Logan Square Resident
Thank You!
HEALTHY CHICAGO EQUITY ZONES
NEAR SOUTH REGIONAL
COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

2022
“Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. The ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results.” – Andrew Carnegie

HCEZ Near South Regional Structure
ECO MAP

The Healthy Chicago Equity Zones initiative deploys hyper-local strategies to confront the social and environmental factors that contribute to health and racial inequity – with the ultimate goal of closing Chicago’s racial life expectancy gap.

Efforts began with the community leadership of COVID-19 vaccination campaigns. This included outreach and engagement during 2021 where there was a focus on increasing COVID-19 vaccination rates, and have now evolved to confront factors that contribute to health and racial disparities. This includes healthcare and social service access, food access, housing conditions, community safety, and the physical and built neighborhood environment.

Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation (GAGDC) is the regional lead for the HCEZ Near South Region. GAGDC has assigned a corresponding Community Lead for each neighborhood in the Near South Region, and we take pride in these cross community collaborations.
Our mission is to empower residents to share in the responsibility of building community through resource development and collaborative partnerships. We envision today's underserved communities becoming self-sufficient, livable communities for individuals, families, and organizations.

To ignite in people the pure quality of being friendly, generous, and considerate by leading with acts of kindness. We envision a future where compassion is at the core of all human interaction.

Founded in 1971, Centers for New Horizons, Inc. (Centers) is a nonprofit organization that assists children, youth, and families in becoming self-reliant, improving the quality of their lives, and participating in rebuilding their community.

The South Shore Works Planning and Preservation Coalition (hereinafter referred to as South Shore Works) is an emerging 501(C)(3) community-based organization dedicated to the revitalization and restoration of the South Shore community.

Our mission is to improve the quality of life of the residents and stakeholders of Englewood by facilitating economic, educational, and social opportunities. We build community capacity by collaborating with local and potential stakeholders to create an environment that fosters the tenants for a healthy and vibrant Englewood.

At Project H.O.O.D., we provide mentorship, training, and community for residents of Woodlawn and Englewood. We care for our neighbors through services that empower.

The UChicago Medicine mission is to provide superior health care in a compassionate manner, ever mindful of each patient's dignity and individuality.

Chicago Family Health Center promotes health while working to prevent disease and provide treatment, through the delivery of quality and accessible primary healthcare, that is culturally sensitive, affordable, and responsive to community and individual needs.
Mayor Lori Lightfoot participated in a Violence Prevention focus group on October 10, 2022. The Mayor and her staff took time to understand the experiences and testimonies of Target Area Development, St. Sabina's Strong Future's SCAN, True Believers/Stay L.I.T, GAGDC, 79th St Corridor Ambassadors and WVON.

**Data Collection**

**HCEZ Near South Region**

**Phases & Process**

**01**

**Coalitions**
There were 8 coalitions formed across the Near South Region, and our Community Leads also joined pre-existing coalitions to ensure that all community partners were aware of the vision and values of this Community Assessment.

**02**

**Surveys**
Surveys were disseminated through Community Lead outreach programs, partners that were identified through resource mapping, and additional online outreach efforts via social media.

**03**

**Focus Groups**
There were more than 20 focus groups that were led by Community Leads to have candid conversations about healthy communities.

**04**

**Interviews**
Community Leads in the Near South Region have conducted hundreds of interviews in regards to this Community Assessment, whereas some are recorded videos and others are verbal testimonials.
Near South Region Data Overview

Collection & Analyzation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1,719 Survey Respondents</th>
<th>20+ Focus Groups</th>
<th>100+ Interviews</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Ages 25-34  | Ages 35-54  | Ages 55-74  | Ages 75-84 |

50%  | 40%  | 30%  | 20%  | 10%  | 0%  |

HealthyChicago Equity Zones Near South Regional Community Assessment
THE NEAR SOUTH REGION OF CHICAGO'S HEALTHY EQUITY ZONES SERVES OVER FIFTEEN ZIP CODES ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF CHICAGO. HERE IS A BREAKDOWN OF OUR SURVEY RESPONDENTS ACROSS COMMUNITIES.

SURVEY RESULTS BY ZIP CODE

Majority of our survey results were from the community zip codes of Bronzeville, South Shore, Greater Grand Crossing, Kenwood, Douglas, Chatham and Auburn Gresham.
HEALTH ISSUES

What do you think are the three most important health problems in your community? (Choose top 3):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Issue</th>
<th>Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>468 (63.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Health</td>
<td>368 (59.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substance Abuse</td>
<td>322 (23.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart Disease</td>
<td>253 (28.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer</td>
<td>184 (21.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obesity</td>
<td>102 (12.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violence</td>
<td>61 (7.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental Related Issues</td>
<td>56 (6.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STDs/STIs (including HIV)</td>
<td>33 (3.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lung Disease</td>
<td>24 (2.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stroke</td>
<td>24 (2.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Violence</td>
<td>13 (1.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please describe)</td>
<td>31 (3.6%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS

What are the top three things that you would like to see improved in your community?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Improvement</th>
<th>Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Safety and low crime</td>
<td>668 (77.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic development</td>
<td>517 (62.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>116 (13.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community cohesion</td>
<td>113 (13.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health care</td>
<td>344 (41.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affordable housing</td>
<td>258 (30.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food accessibility</td>
<td>258 (30.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>130 (15.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>127 (14.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleanliness</td>
<td>106 (12.3%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HEALTHY COMMUNITY NEEDS

What do you think are the three most important concerns that are necessary for a healthy community? (Choose top 3):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Healthy Community Need</th>
<th>Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Access to health care and m.</td>
<td>565 (63.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety and low crime</td>
<td>460 (53.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to community services</td>
<td>252 (29.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to healthy food</td>
<td>252 (29.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affordable housing</td>
<td>252 (29.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good schools</td>
<td>209 (24.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality job opportunities</td>
<td>153 (18.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clean environment</td>
<td>109 (12.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to transportation</td>
<td>71 (8.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks and recreation</td>
<td>61 (7.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strong Community Cohesion</td>
<td>114 (13.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion/Spirituality</td>
<td>56 (6.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affordable Childhood</td>
<td>56 (6.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts and Cultural Events</td>
<td>34 (4.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please describe)</td>
<td>10 (1.2%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
With more than 1,700 surveys completed by the Community Leads in the Near South Region, we were able to assess that 90% of the respondents were African American with over 40% being between the ages of 25-34. Surveys were circulated online through eblasts and social media, at events, at focus groups, and during general community canvassing outreach by Community Leads.

The survey results allowed us to assess the residents current view of whether or not they live in a health community, and provide insight on what they acknowledged as the needs to achieve a healthy community. That main need is for safer communities, and improved public safety. 44% of our participants determined that violence prevention is a concern that needs the most attention in their communities.

The survey responses with the largest percentages were for violence, safety and low crime. Our residents want a safe community with low crime, and they identified violence as the most important health problem. Public safety in a neighborhood is an important determinant of health, and we now understand the importance for it to become a priority in the Near South Region.

Survey results also revealed that 49% of residents in the Near South Region do not feel as though they have healthy eating options, and only 33% believe that they do have healthy eating options in their local communities. Many respondents associated gas stations and convenient stores as access to food instabilities.

40% of participants confirmed that they or someone they know needs mental health services. In reference to the barriers to receiving the healthcare services they need, 48% identified costs as the barrier with 37% deciding transportation was the main barrier.

On a positive note, 44% of residents agreed that they have good access to local healthcare through hospitals, urgent cares, and doctors offices. We are also pleased to report that 53% of participants said that no one in their household had a serious health condition, and only 25% has someone in the household with a serious health condition.
Due to the great work of our Community Leads through the coalitions, focus groups and surveys discussed there are three priority focus areas that have been identified in the Near South Region. Public Safety, Mental Health and Diabetes were the three most prevalent health inequities discussed and addressed amongst the participating audiences. These are the three main health disparities that are directly affecting residents in the Near South Region of Chicago.

1. — Public Safety
   Refers to the welfare and protection of the general public. It is also the prevention of and protection from events that could endanger the safety and security of the public from significant danger, injury, or property damage.

2. — Mental Health
   A person’s condition with regard to their psychological and emotional well-being.

3. — Diabetes
   A disease in which the body’s ability to produce or respond to the hormone insulin is impaired, resulting in abnormal metabolism of carbohydrates and elevated levels of glucose in the blood and urine.
THERE IS A NEED FOR PUBLIC SAFETY

"Public health and safety are essential for residents to feel protected and cared for as individuals- and as a cohesive community. Every year thousands of Chicagoans die earlier than they would if there were no health inequities. The inequities continue to persist and are more common for violence-related deaths, especially involving the city’s pervasive gun violence. Thousands of violent incidents every year result in hundreds of deaths and injuries, as well as trauma for individuals and communities." - GAGDC

QUESTION
Of the options provided- which do you feel needs the most attention in your community?

- Quality Education: 14%
- Mental Health Clinic: 26%
- Violence Prevention: 44%
- Economic Development: 3%
- Grocery Stores: 13%

HCEZ Near South Regional Community Assessment
PUBLIC SAFETY

Our coalitions developed a consensus to decide public safety as our regional priority issue after our analyst assessed the data, and it was apparent that violence prevention was the most vocalized concern was mental health. This decision was hard because the second most vocalized concern was mental health, but after further assessment of the data it was noticed that the communities whole-heartedly believe that gun violence has a correlation with mental health issues. Therefore we decided to focus on the direct impact of public safety on the macro level, with the goal of developing a trauma resiliency approach that will address both public safety and mental health.

Exposure to crime and violence can truly take a burden on families and neighborhoods. This is the most pertinent issue to address, particularly due to the relationship it has with the life expectancy gap. Residents of all ages are being affected by gun violence, and are seeking violence prevention efforts that will make a real difference in their communities.

“To close the racial life expectancy gap, people affected by inequities must have power to decide how we measure and monitor our city’s progress.” - Chicago Department of Public Health

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KEY INDICATOR</th>
<th>GENERAL CONSENSUS</th>
<th>DATA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Survey Results</td>
<td>A safe community is necessary for a healthy community.</td>
<td>• 77% believe that safety and low crime is a top priority.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• 44% believe that violence prevention needs the most attention.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Focus Groups</td>
<td>Residents believe that gun violence causes long term trauma.</td>
<td>• Men, women, and youth were vocal about the fear for violence in their communities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>There is a need to have a healthy community with low crime.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interviews</td>
<td>Youth and adults fear for their lives daily while trying to navigate the communities where they live.</td>
<td>• The consistent theme in all interviews were violence prevention requests, and the continuous rise in crime potentially being related to unaddressed mental health issues.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
True public safety requires a collaboration between law enforcement and the community. - Betsy Hodges

During a youth focus group hosted by UChicago Medicine, participants described their neighborhoods as "risky, divided, dangerous, toxic, wild and unpredictable." They talked about how "it is impossible to exercise or spend time outside because of the violence and crime." This is a perfect example of why public safety must be the focal point because all communities deserve to feel safe, and we must begin to implement the necessary strategies to shift the paradigm.

The life expectancy gap is evidently unbalanced when it comes to residents of the Near South Region, due to an abundance of our population dying from gun violence before age thirty. There is research that discusses how gun violence is also a mental health issue. Therefore although public safety has been identified as our priority issue, we will also work diligently with partners to address the mental health aspect of it.

1. — Better Relations with Police
There is a lack of trust and reliability within communities with the Chicago Police Department that needs to be rectified. We must implement opportunities for collaboration between the community and local police officers to build better relations that result in residents feeling safe to contact the police in any event of their public safety being compromised.

2. — Community Accountability
Creating public safety initiatives that will last for decades has to be rooted in community outreach, and everyone taking accountability when violence takes place. We have to hold our fellow residents accountable, and uphold standards of safety. We all have to be an investor, and play the role of stakeholder in order to achieve low crime communities.

3. — Action & Commitment
Once we have identified the best options to increase our public safety footprint and ways to deter gun violence in our individual communities, it is imperative that we put those solutions into action with the police department and local community organizations. There are a vast majority of individuals implementing violence prevention initiatives, but we must work together to create the change we want to see.
We have been able to accomplish this great work through our partners and coalition members who assisted with surveys, focus groups, interviews and events. Most importantly, we were able to complete this Community Assessment because of the residents of HCEZ’s Near South Region who participated in the focus groups, surveys, and interviews. We thank you for your honest responses, dedication to community, and resiliency to strive towards developing healthy communities.

Special thanks to the Community Leads for your hard work and effort to execute the 2022 Near South Regional Community Assessment.

We appreciate CDPH for the opportunity to assess the needs of our Near South Region, and achieve this measurable goal of developing healthy south side communities.

Regional Lead
Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation
Allyson Scrutchens
Regional Director

www.gagdc.org