

Community Partner Assessment 2024 Report



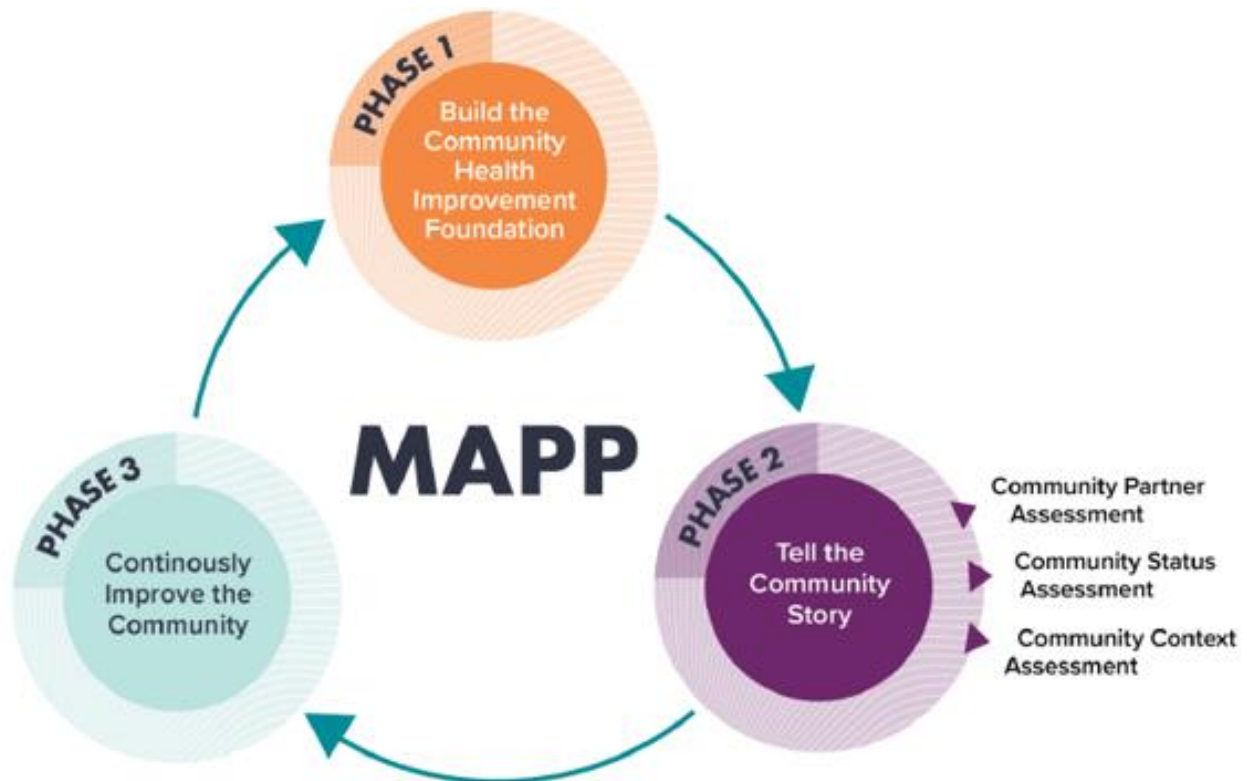
Partnering for the health of Goodhue County, Minnesota



Overview of MAPP

Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) is a community-driven strategic planning process for improving community health. Facilitated by public health leaders, this framework helps communities apply strategic thinking to prioritize public health issues and identify resources to address them. MAPP is not an agency-focused assessment process; rather, it is an interactive process that can improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and ultimately the performance of local public health systems.

More information about MAPP can be found on [NACCHO's website](#).



Community Partner Assessment: Goals & Intentions

The Community Partner Assessment (CPA) is an assessment process that allows all of the community partners involved in MAPP to critically look at 1) their own individual systems, processes, and capacities and 2) their collective capacity as a network/across all community partners to address health inequities. This tool helps identify the range of actions that are currently being taken and could be taken moving forward to address health inequity at the individual, systemic, and structural levels.

CPA Goals

The goals of the Community Partner Assessment are to:

- Describe why community partnerships are critical to community health improvement (CHI) and how to build or strengthen relationships with community partners and organizations

- Name the specific roles of each community partner to support the local public health system and engage communities experiencing inequities produced by systems
- Assess each MAPP partner’s capacities, skills, and strengths to improve community health, health equity, and advance MAPP goals
- Document the landscape of MAPP community partners, including grassroots and community power building organizations, to summarize collective strengths and opportunities for improvement
- Identify who else to involve in MAPP moving forward, along with ways to improve community partnerships, engagement, and community power-building

Methods

The CPA consisted of an online survey and two community partner meetings in September – October 2024. 49 organizations participated in the CPA in some way. Some participated in the survey, some attended meetings, and others participated in both.

Survey

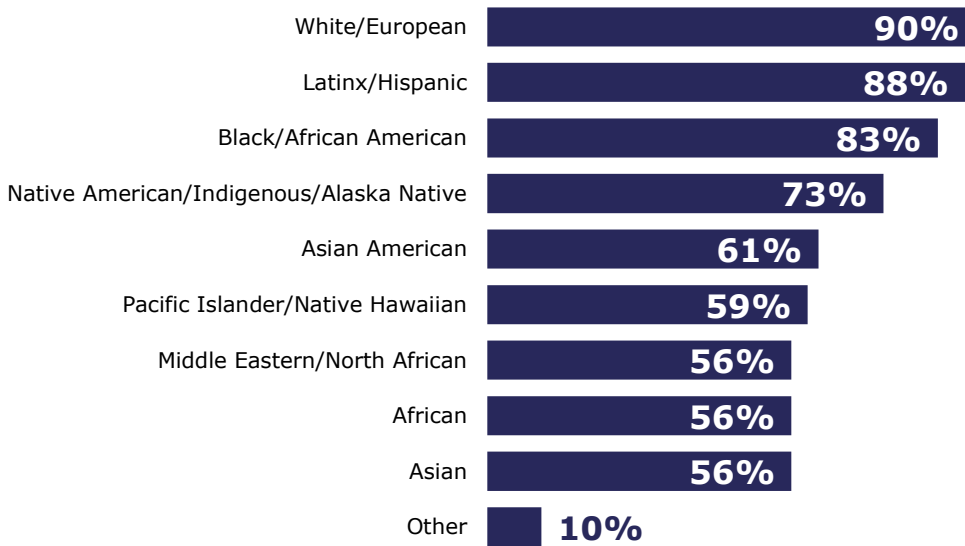
41 partner organizations participated in the CPA survey. The CPA survey consisted of 58 questions on the following topics: about the organization, interest in participating in the community health improvement process, demographics of people served, topic area focuses, organizational commitment to equity, who the organization is accountable to, capacities as they relate to the 10 Essential Public Health Services, general capacities and strategies, data access and systems, community engagement practices, policy, advocacy, and communication.

Partner Discussion Meetings

43 partner organizations participated in at least one virtual meeting to build connections and learn about what is needed in Goodhue County to address health inequities and improve community health. Meeting topics included: defining health equity, understanding upstream and downstream approaches, the local public health system, current health priorities and how those priorities are changing, and reflections on lessons learned.

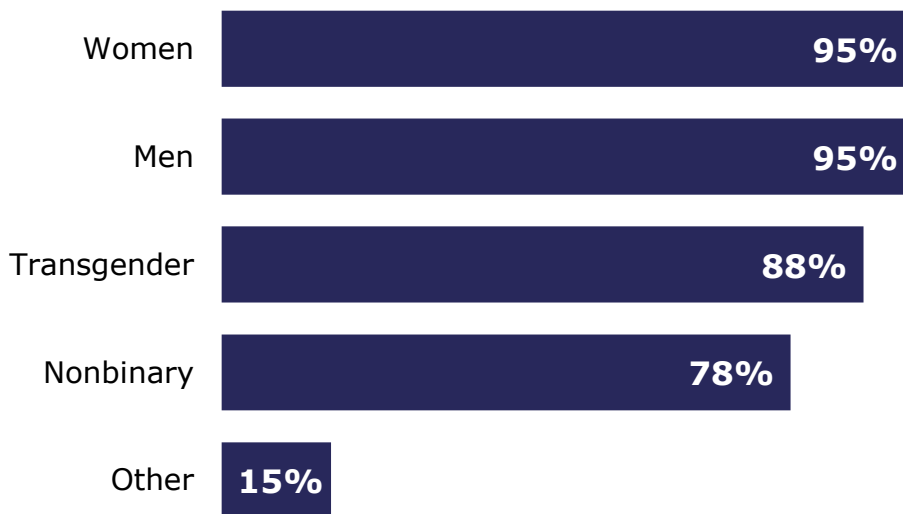
About Our Community Partner Organizations

Percent of Organizations Who Work with Racial/Ethnic Groups



More than half of partner organizations stated that they work with all racial and ethnic populations.

Percent of Organizations Who Work with Gender/Sex Identities

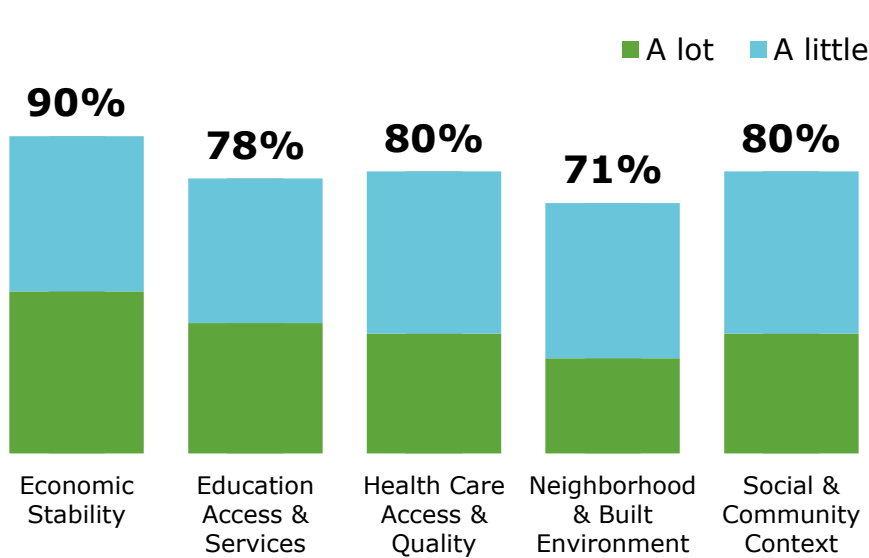


The majority of partner organizations stated that they are open to all gender and sex identities.

Other Population Groups Served by Partner Organizations

- Seniors/Elderly
- Low-income
- People with disabilities
- Uninsured or underinsured
- Immigrants
- Food insecure
- Unstable housing
- Veterans
- Youth
- Abused or neglected
- Justice involved
- Mental illness
- Families
- Business owners

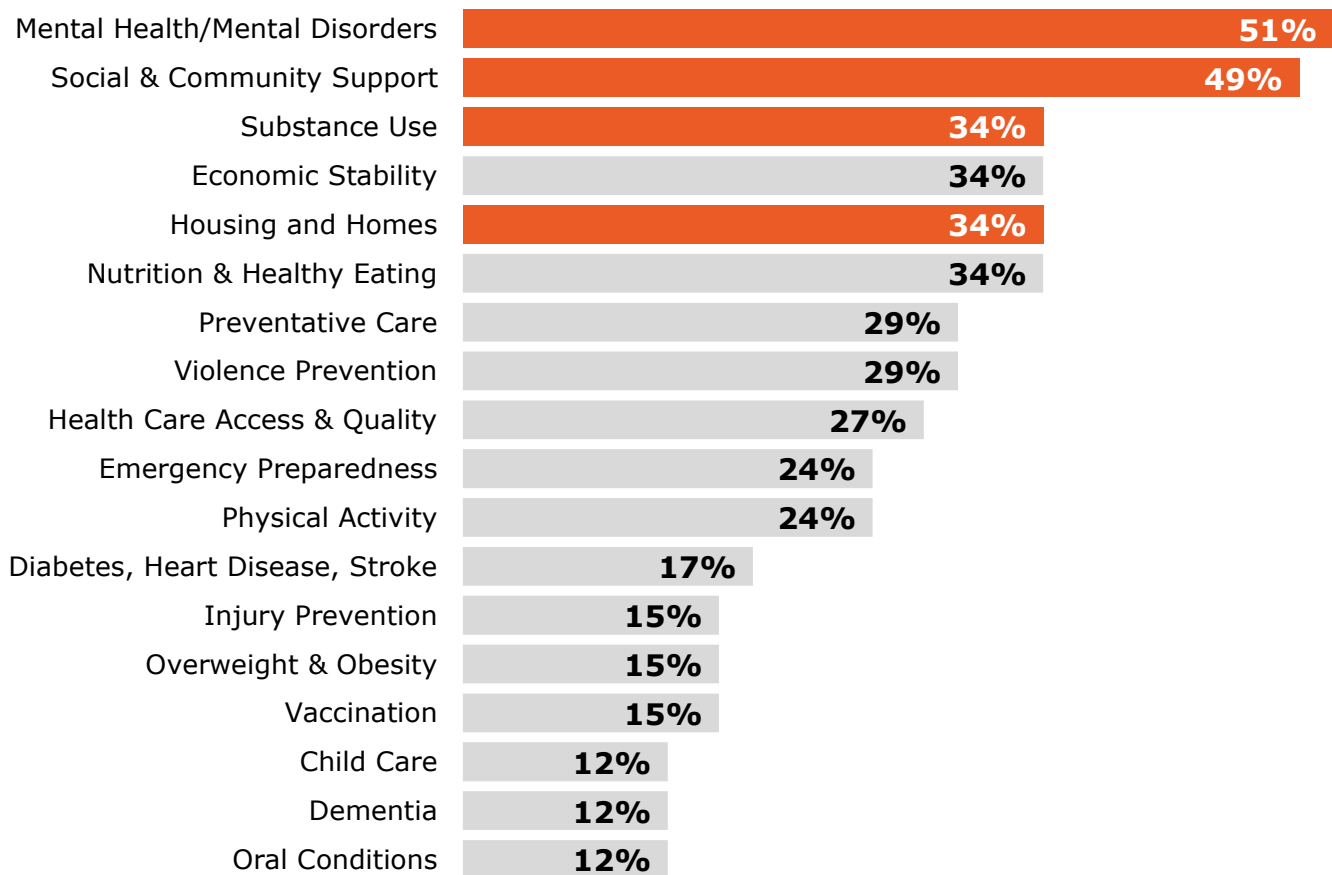
Organizational Focus on Social Determinants of Health



Healthy People 2030 defined social determinants of health as “the conditions in the environments where people are born, live, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks”.

Nearly half of partner organizations work “a lot” on Economic Stability. Only about a quarter of partner organizations work “a lot” on Neighborhood & Built Environment; 29% don’t work on it at all.

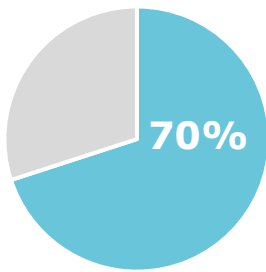
Organizational Focus on Health Issues



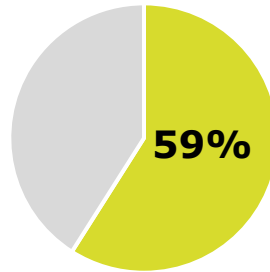
The top health issues in Goodhue County identified in 2022, shown in orange, remain high priorities for many partner organizations. Mental health and social connection are by far the most common health topic among partner organizations, with about half working on these issues.

There are several other health topics that partner organizations work on including physical activity, preventative care, chronic disease, health care access & quality, and injury & violence prevention. Very few organizations are working on oral health, dementia, and childcare.

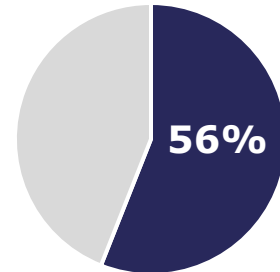
Partner Commitment to Health Equity



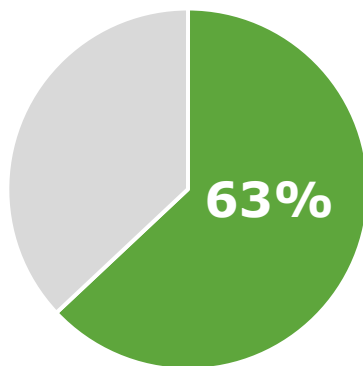
Partners that have at least one individual dedicated to addressing equity in their organization



Partners that have a team dedicated to advancing equity/addressing inequities in their organization



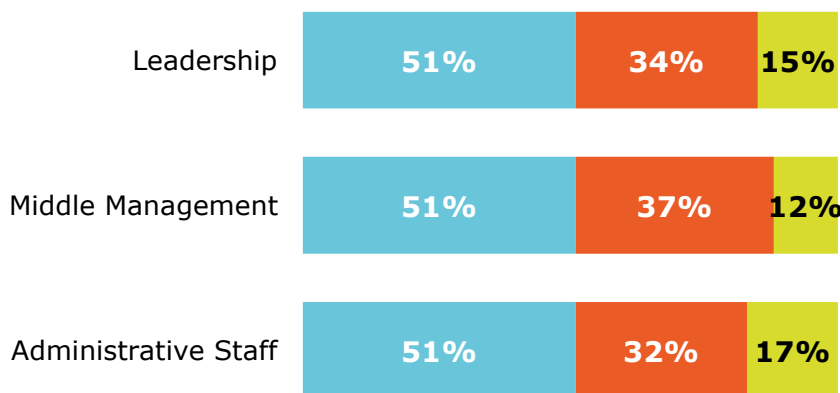
Partners that have advancing equity/addressing inequities is included in all or most staff job requirements



Partners that have an advisory board of community members, stakeholders, youth, or others who are impacted by the organization. This shows immense growth since 2022, when only 48% of partner organizations had an advisory board.

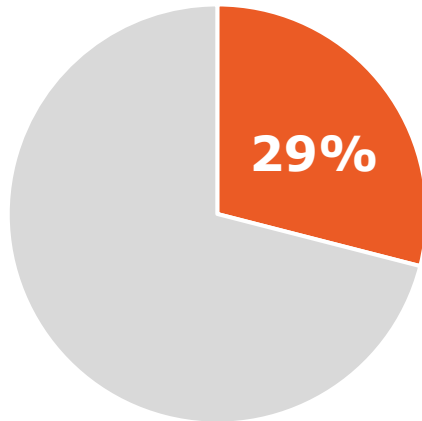
Partner Demographic Reflection

■ Yes ■ No ■ Unsure



About half of partner organizations have leadership, middle management, and administrative staff that reflect the demographics of the community they serve. Since 2022, there has been growth in middle management and administrative staff demographic reflection. There is also more awareness of organizational demographics.

Partner Capacity

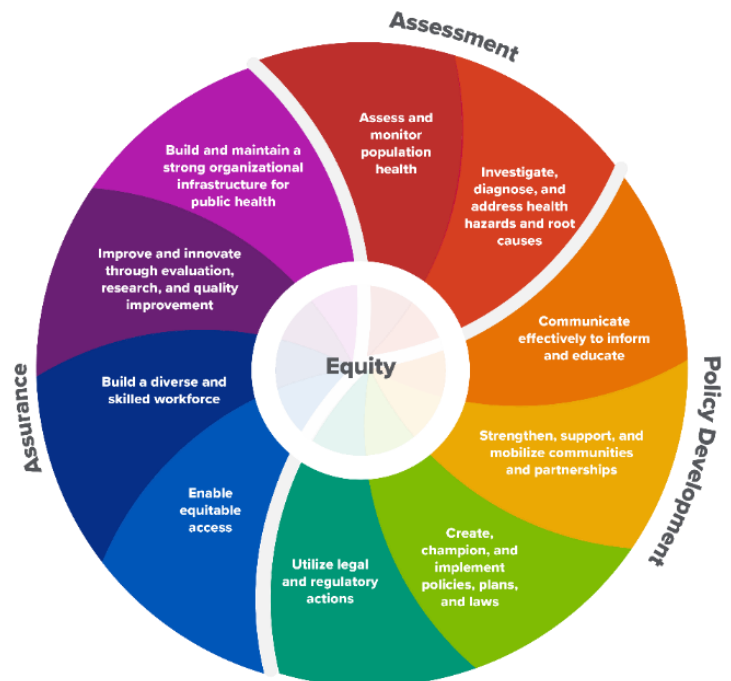


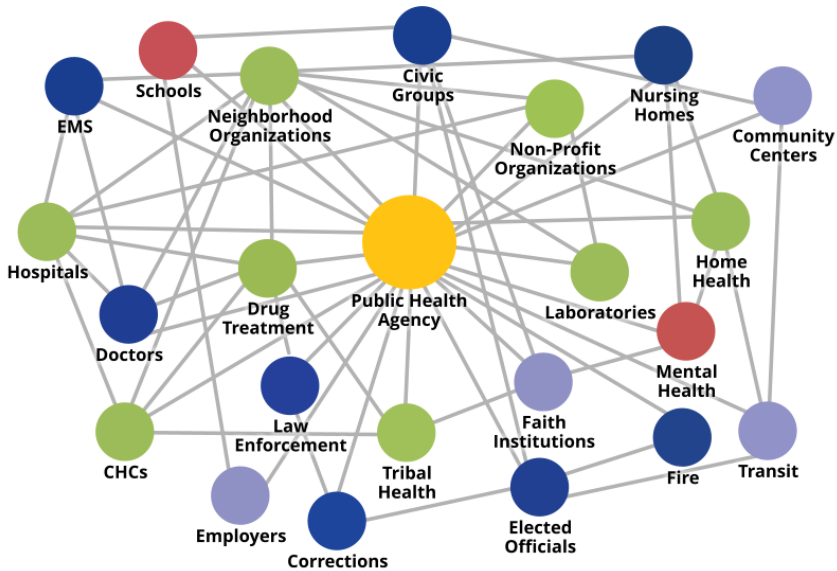
Only 29% of partners feel that have sufficient capacity to meet the needs of their clients/members.

The 10 Essential Public Health Services

The 10 Essential Public Health Services describe the public health activities that all communities should undertake. They are:

- Assess and monitor population health status, factors that influence health, and community needs and assets
- Investigate, diagnose, and address health problems and hazards affecting the population
- Communicate effectively to inform and educate people about health, factors that influence it, and how to improve it
- Strengthen, support, and mobilize communities and partnerships to improve health
- Create, champion, and implement policies, plans, and laws that impact health
- Utilize legal and regulatory actions designed to improve and protect the public's health
- Assure an effective system that enables equitable access to the individual services and care needed to be healthy
- Build and support a diverse and skilled public health workforce
- Improve and innovate public health functions through ongoing evaluation, research, and continuous quality improvement
- Build and maintain a strong organizational infrastructure for public health

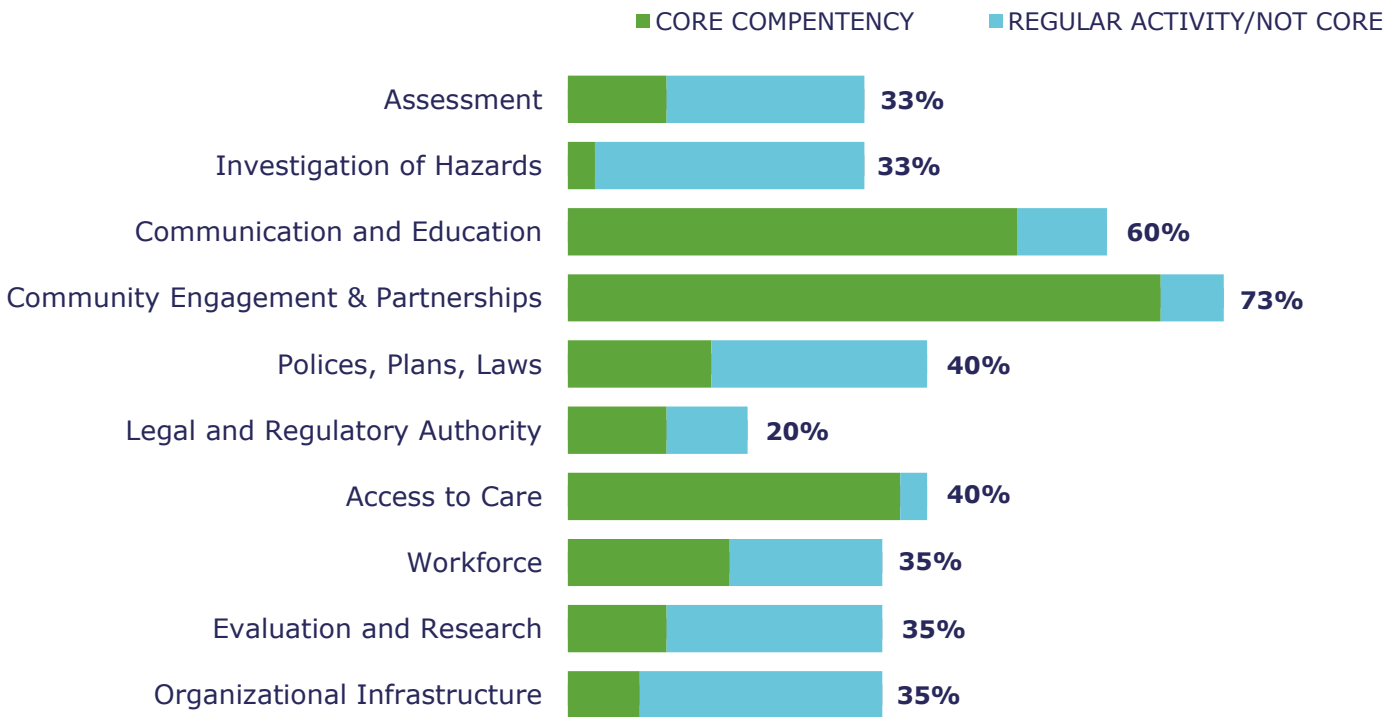




The public health system in Goodhue County is a network of entities with different roles, relationships, and interactions that all contribute to the delivery of the 10 Essential Public Health Services, and to the community's health and well-being.

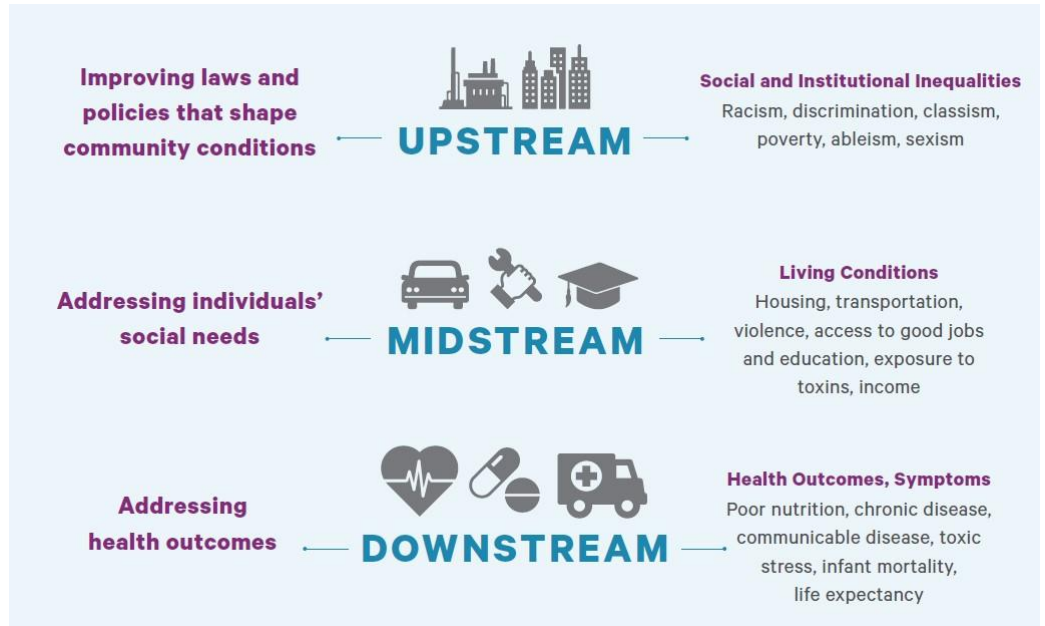
As the local public health system consists of a broad range of community members, this depicts an idea of what entities contribute to the local public health system.

Partner Organizations that Regularly Work on the 10 Essential Public Health Services



Upstream vs. Downstream Work

In public health, there is the concept of "upstream" and "downstream" health interventions. The analogy of the river is used to describe how policies, and social and institutional inequities have a profound impact on health outcomes. Upstream work focuses on improving the structures that influence health, whereas downstream work addresses individual health outcomes and symptoms.



In Goodhue County, partner organizations are heavily focused on downstream and midstream work. Many partners acknowledge the importance of upstream work and expressed a desire to do work further upstream, but felt funding, capacity, and skill set prevented them from doing so.



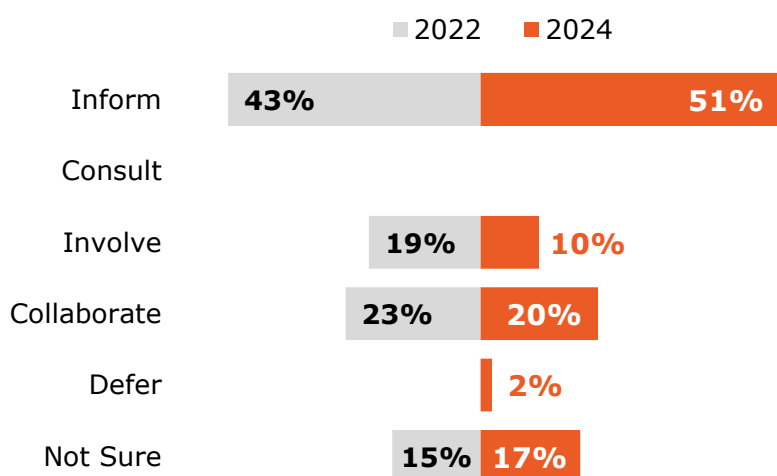
Partner organizations participated in an activity where they put the main activities their organizations participate in on the river. This helped create a visual representation of the health work being done throughout Goodhue County. This is an example from one of the breakout groups.

Community Engagement

The Spectrum of Community Engagement charts a pathway to strengthen our communities through participation, particularly by populations that are commonly excluded from voice and power. The more voices at the table, the more capacity we have to understand and address community health issues.



Type of Community Engagement Practices Most Often Used by Partners



Informing is the most common community engagement practice used by community partners. The percentage of partners informing the community has grown since 2022. Similarly, the number of partners gathering community voice and ensuring the community plays a leadership role in decision-making has decreased since 2022.

Existing & Emerging Health Priorities

Mental Health & Social Connection

Access to providers has greatly improved and there is more acceptance of mental health issues, resulting in reduced stigma in our communities. However, there is still a lot to be done. Goodhue County’s suicide rate in 2023 was double the State of Minnesota’s, youth are experiencing gaps in social emotional development, and social media continues to have significant impacts on adult and youth mental health. To combat these issues, schools are adding more social worker positions, community organizations are focusing on social emotional learning, and providers are expanding telehealth offerings, drop-in centers, and crisis response resources. There has also been a heavy focus on social connection and support as a protective factor for mental health. We must continue reducing barriers to accessing mental health services, training people on recognizing the warning signs of suicide, and collaborating with others to make positive change.

Housing

Several housing developments are being built across the County, with some affordable housing options included. However, zoning issues continue to prevent additional affordable housing proposals and shelters from opening. The cost of living has increased, including rent and home

prices. Partner organizations are looking for ways to increase housing capacity and strategically plan for additional market-rate and affordable housing options.

Substance Use & Overdose Prevention

The Goodhue County Opioid Settlement Advisory Council has engaged people with lived experience in the decision-making process and will begin allocating funds towards early intervention and prevention in 2025. Additional grant opportunities have boosted organizational capacity to work on substance use and overdose prevention. The legalization of cannabis has decreased people's perception of its dangers, particularly in youth, despite potency being at an all-time high. The presence of contaminants like fentanyl and xylazine have caused overdoses to increase in recent years.

Other

Organizations are expanding their service area to include additional Counties in our region and creating regional Coalitions to collaborate and share information and resources. Limited capacity has decreased the ability to assess individual needs and work upstream.

Lessons Learned

Community Strengths

Goodhue County has a diverse range of people and organizations that are engaged and interested in improving community health and well-being. There is a strong desire among partners to collaborate and continue learning from each other to improve. Most organizations are engaged in equity work and there is a desire to continue involving community members, youth, and other stakeholders in decision-making. Goodhue County has partners working on all of the 10 Essential Public Health Services and many continue to prioritize the top health issues identified in the 2022 Community Health Assessment.

Organizational Capacities

Most organizations struggle with capacity, which prevents them from doing more upstream work. There is a growing need for resources, but limited growth in the availability of resources. However, partners recognize that collaboration and networking can help expand capacity to continue to address health inequities.

Systems of Power

Many organizations are working to address the social determinants of health, however there is still a long way to go to address the inequitable systems and power imbalances in the community. Despite the recent growth, organizations need to continue working to involve community members, youth, and other stakeholders in decision-making and other leadership positions to continue making change throughout the community. Addressing power, privilege, and oppression are important to community health, and partners need to continue to move forward to breakdown barriers and improve equity.

Health Behaviors & Health Outcomes

Many partners play a role in supporting community health and well-being, even if they don't realize it. Many of the health issues we see today change over time, it's critical that we continue to collaborate with other organizations to ensure we can have the most effective impact. Health is not just an individual endeavor, and the systems, environment, and resources all have a

critical impact on health outcomes. Every partner has a role in connecting those they serve with the resources that impact health behaviors and outcomes. Creating a sense of belonging is vital to individual and community health.

Additional Lessons

- Goodhue County has a wide variety of organizations and resources to collaborate with
- Partners don't realize the positive role they have in supporting community health
- No organization works in a bubble
- A unified approach to addressing health issues will be important to ensure we leverage resources in a meaningful way

Next Steps

As Goodhue County continues working through the Community Health Assessment process, the information gathered in the Community Partner Assessment will help identify organizations to connect with to address the top health issues, gather further data, and advance health equity. Additionally, the CPA advances community connections and collaboration to further improve the community's health.

The next step is to review the data gathered in the Community Health Needs Assessment Survey sent to a random sample of Goodhue County residents in September and October and gather secondary data sources. This data will help us identify the top 10 health issues in Goodhue County.

Acknowledgements

Participating Partners

Blue Cross Blue Shield
Cannon Falls Area Schools
Cannon Falls Library
CARE Clinic
City of Pine Island
City of Red Wing
City of Zumbrota
CommonBond
Fernbrook Family Center
First Choice Clinic
First English Lutheran Church
Goodhue County Court Services
Goodhue County Education District
Goodhue County Habitat for Humanity, Inc.
Goodhue County Health & Human Services
GCHHS Board Member
Goodhue County Sheriff's Office
Goodhue County Veteran Services
Goodhue Public Schools
Hiawatha Valley Mental Health Center
Honoring Dakota Project
Hope and Harbor
HOPE Coalition
International Fellowship of Chaplains
Kenyon Public Library
Lake City Public Schools
Mayo Clinic Health System
MPLS VA Health Care System
NAMI Southeast Minnesota
Pine Island United Methodist Church
Prairie Island Indian Community Health Dept.
ProAct, Inc.
Red Wing Area Chamber of Commerce
Red Wing Area Food Shelf
Red Wing Area Seniors
Red Wing Arts
Red Wing Environmental Learning Center
Red Wing Family YMCA
Red Wing Public Library
Red Wing Shoe Company
RiseUp Red Wing
Sand Prink Consulting, LLC
SE MN Center for Independent Living
South Country Health Alliance
Southeastern Minnesota Multi-County HRA
Three Rivers Community Action
University of Minnesota Extension
United Way of Goodhue, Wabasha, & Pierce Counties
Workforce Development Inc.
Zumbrota Area Emergency Food Shelf

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