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The Institute for Health Policy (IHP) at The University of Texas School of Public Health was funded in 2008 by the Houston Endowment to develop and field a comprehensive health survey of the greater Houston area, called the Health of Houston Survey 2010 (Survey 2010), to accurately portray the population's health status and health care gaps. The survey team aims to determine the survey content based on the health information needs of stakeholders and community groups of the Houston area.

Health-focused organizations, through their membership groups, and the Houston Department of Health and Human Services were invited to provide input for the survey. Neighborhood and civic associations were also identified through the City of Houston Mayor's Citizen Assistance Office and invited to respond via e-mail or mail. Key informants for those organizations suggested topics to be included in the Houston 2010 Survey questionnaire through either an online or paper-based form.

The following summary is based on data provided from all respondents from the spring and summer of 2009. Responses were divided into five groups based on either the membership group through which they were identified or invited.

Percentages throughout the fact sheet were calculated within each of the five response groups using the total number of respondents per group as the denominator. Table 1 describes numbers of invitations, responses and organizations represented in each response group.

Table 1. Stakeholder and Community Group Response by Invitation Source

Invitation Source	Invitations	Responses	Organizations
Harris County Healthcare Alliance	107	26	19
Gateway to Care	250	47	28
One Voice Texas	150	19	13
Houston Department of Health and Human Services	*	20	1
Community Groups and Civic Associations ⁺	278	39	32
Total		151	89[^]

*Unknown number of invitations due to dissemination method.

⁺This group represents those that responded to the Greater Houston Partnership invitation as well as those who responded to the e-mails and mailings to community and civic associations. There were at least 278 invitations. A few independently responded to the Web page link. If they were associated with a membership group they were reassigned, but if not then they were included here under this heading, "Community and Civic Associations".

[^]There were only 89 unique organizations that responded, as four organizations responded to more than one invitation.



Health Topics Selection

Q. "From among the eleven categories listed below, please select/suggest HEALTH TOPICS for inclusion in the Health of Houston 2010 Survey."

Key informants were first asked to choose from a list of 67 health topics for inclusion. Respondent selections were calculated by group. Selection percentages were then averaged across groups to account for response size differences between groups.

The five topics with the highest average selection percentages were:

- ★ Family violence (82%)
- ★ Diet/obesity (81%)
- ★ Public program participation (77%)
- ★ Access to mental and behavioral health services (77%)
- ★ Usual source of care (75%)

Other topics may have had high selection percentages within specific groups but not across all groups. Topic selection percentages by group are available in the appendices.

A few respondents suggested additional topics which could not be grouped into given topics. All suggestions will be considered for survey inclusion if survey space is available and the health topic is prevalent enough to warrant a population-based inquiry.

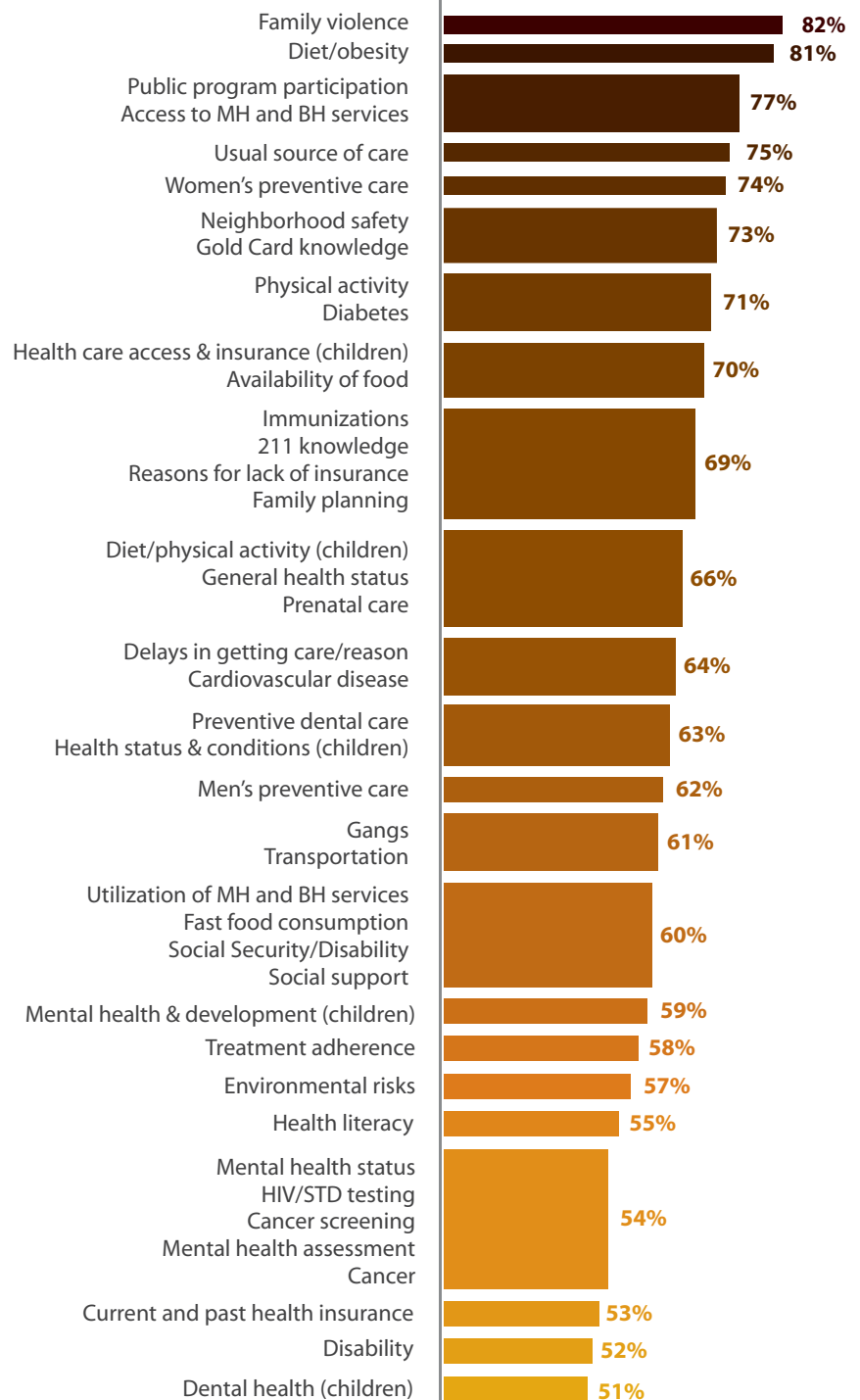


Figure 1 Health Topics by Average Total Respondents

Only topics with average percentages of greater than 50% are depicted.

MH= mental health
BH= behavioral health

Health Topic Priorities

Q. “From the topics you selected, which are your top THREE priorities?”

After selecting possible topics to be included, respondents were asked to cite their top three priorities. We created an overall ranking of topics by taking into account the number of times a topic was listed and weighting first priority more than the second and the second more than the third priority. Rankings were created within each group. Topics ranked one through five within each group are displayed below.

Health care access/health insurance was a first priority for four out of five groups and in the top five of the fifth group (HDHHS). Children’s health, mental health, prevention services and health status and chronic conditions were also very important for the respondents, as four out of five groups ranked them in the top five priorities. Additionally, diet/obesity was ranked in the top five priorities for a majority of the groups (three out of five). A complete list of priorities and their ranks is available in the appendices.

Table 2. Health Topics Priorities Ranked Highly by Each Group

Rank	HCHA	Gateway to Care	One Voice	HDHHS	Community and Civic Associations
1 st	Health care access/ health insurance	Health care access/ health insurance	Health care access/ health insurance	Prevention services	Health care access/ health insurance
2 nd	Children's health Health status and chronic conditions	Health status and chronic conditions	Children's health	Mental health	Diet/obesity Prevention services
3 rd	Mental health	Children's health Diabetes Diet/obesity	Environmental risks	Children's health	Health status and chronic conditions Mental health
4 th	Access to MH and BH services Diet/obesity HIV/AIDS status, testing, risk behaviors Reasons for lack of insurance	Prenatal care/services	Mental health	Health status and chronic conditions Neighborhood, environment and housing	Environmental risks General health status Interpersonal violence Neighborhood, environment and housing Substance abuse
5 th	General health status	Prevention services Reasons for lack of insurance	Access to MH and BH services Prevention services Public program eligibility and knowledge	Health care access/ health insurance	Current and past health insurance

HCHA=Harris County Healthcare Alliance; HDHHS=Houston Department of Health and Human Services; MH=mental health; BH=behavioral health

Survey Demographics

Q. “The Health of Houston Survey 2010 will include the following social and demographic characteristics: income, education, employment status, age, gender, race and ethnicity. Please add any others that you believe are important.”

Key informants were asked what social and demographic characteristics were important to them other than the ones listed in the question above.

Among the five respondent groups surveyed, household composition was the most often cited social characteristic to be included in Survey 2010 (See Table 3).

Populations of Interest

Q. “What populations/groups that reside in Harris County are of special interest to you?”

Several populations were mentioned by key informants from all five respondent groups surveyed:

- ★ Low-income
- ★ Hispanic
- ★ Minority populations
- ★ Women

Though some of the populations suggested are not well defined (i.e., “at-risk youth”), the table provides an overall insight on populations of special interest that will guide the sample design and the analytical plan for the Survey 2010.

Table 3. Demographics Suggested by Number of Response Groups and Total Respondents

Demographics	Respondent Groups	Respondents
Household composition	5	11
Zip code/neighborhood/urban/rural	4	5
Marital status	4	5
Language (primary, spoken at home, preference)	3	11
Religion	2	3
Housing status/homelessness	2	2
Citizenship status	1	1
Country of origin/nationality	1	1
Length of time in the United States	1	1
Length of time in Harris County	1	1
Literacy	1	1

Table 4. Populations of Interest by Number of Respondent Groups

Population of Interest	Respondent Groups	Population of Interest	Respondent Groups
Low-income groups	5	Refugees/immigrants/undocumented	2
Hispanics	5	Abused women	1
Minorities	4	Adults	1
Women	5	Alzheimer's patients	1
Adolescents/teens	4	At-risk youth	1
African Americans	4	Children living with adults other than parents	1
Children	5	Family caregivers of elderly	1
Elderly	4	Fathers	1
Uninsured/underinsured	3	People living in flood prone areas	1
Children and adults with developmental and/or intellectual disabilities	3	Gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender (GLBT)	1
Homeless	3	HIV positive	1
Medically underserved	3	Infants/toddlers	1
Unemployed/underemployed	2	Groups with limited or no access to care	1
Asians, Asian-Americans, South Asian Americans	2	Mid-income groups	1
Employees	2	Non-English speakers	1
Families/young families	2	Childbearing women	1
Parents/teen parents	1	Those at risk (chronic illness, etc.)	1

Data Sources

Q. “What data sources do you use for program planning, grant proposals or other evidence-based planning?”

Many health information sources are available to Houston and Harris County organizations. Knowing which one of these sources is the most important to respondent groups helps the Survey 2010 identify which sources should be emulated as best practices. Additionally, the Survey 2010 team plans to incorporate other available information sources into the Survey 2010 Web-based interactive data systems. Knowing which health information sources get the most use helps direct those efforts, as well.

Census and vital statistics were the most popular information sources across all respondent groups. The Community Health Information System provided by St. Luke’s Episcopal Health Charities was the next most widely used. Many respondents reported that they used data from other health information sources such as the Pew Foundation for Research, the Kaiser Family Foundation, the Center for Public Policy Priorities and the Commonwealth Foundation.

Table 5. Data Sources Used by Percent Respondents

Data Source	HCHA	Gateway to Care	One Voice	HDHHS	Community & Civic Associations	Mean Percentage
U.S. Census	77	70	47	40	44	58
Vital statistics	73	57	37	40	18	45
BRFSS	46	38	26	30	3	28
SLEHC	73	49	26	25	15	38

HCHA=Harris County Healthcare Alliance; HDHHS=Houston Department of Health and Human Services; BRFSS=Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System; SLEHC=St. Luke’s Episcopal Health Charities

Health Information Needs

Q. “In the past year, have you needed health information that you were unable to find?”

Much of the respondent data needs described will eventually be met by the Survey 2010. The suggested topics included insurance coverage, prevalence of diabetes and other chronic diseases and demographics of residents at the local level. Several respondents were interested in having access to more current data, suggesting that much of the Web-based data is often outdated. On the other hand, many of the responses were related to service-based inquiries (e.g., location of services for disabled persons or seniors, substance abuse/use resources), which cannot be addressed by a population-based health survey.

General Comments

Q. “If you have any other concerns or comments that were not addressed above, please list them in the space below.”

Concerns about topics not addressed in the input form varied amongst respondents. A couple of respondents were interested in collection of data on specific populations difficult to reach, including African and South Asian immigrants and non-English speaking immigrants and refugees. Additionally, development of an annual needs assessment to better understand the needs of the HIV/AIDS population in Houston was suggested. The survey team intends to address several of these concerns, including obesity, food programs, immunization, and primary care services.

Participating Organizations

We extend a big thank you to all the respondents and organizations who provided input to the Survey 2010 questionnaire development. Your contribution is much appreciated. Table 6 alphabetically lists all organizations that responded to our input form. Organizations whose members did not disclose their organizational affiliation are not included.

Table 6. Alphabetical List of Organizations that Contributed Input

Advocacy, Inc.	Mental Health America
American Cancer Society	Montgomery Terrace Civic Club
Andover/Southview/Fairlawn Civic Association, Inc.	Montrose Counseling Center
Asian American Health Coalition	MotherLand, Inc. dba Independence Heights Community Health Center
AT&T	NAM Children's Clinic/UTHSC Pediatrics
Bee Busy Learning Academy, Inc	National Alliance on Mental Illness/West Houston
Bering Omega Community Services	National Institute of Community Enterprise (NICE)
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas	Neighborhood Centers, Inc.
Blueridge Civic Club	North Houston Association
Breath of Life Clinic	One Voice Texas
Care for Elders	Outpost Estates Civic Club
Catholic Charities of Galveston - Houston	Pasadena Health Center
Center for Faith and Health Initiatives	Planned Parenthood
Children's Defense Fund Texas	Precinct 2
CHRISTUS Health	Proctor Plaza Neighborhood Association
City of Houston - Mayor's Office	Quality Assurance and Auditing
Clark Pines Civic Association	San Jose Clinic
Collaborative for Children	Senior Guidance Directory, Inc.
Community Health Choice	Shalom Health Ministry
de Madres a Madres, Inc.	Southwest Security Association
Department of Family and Protective Services	St. Luke's Episcopal Health Charities
El Centro de Corazon	Sunset Heights Civic Club
Epiphany Community Health Outreach Services	Super Neighborhood Council - Braeburn (#30)
Families Under Urban & Social Attack, Inc.	Super Neighborhood Council - Spring Branch Central (#85)
Family Services of Greater Houston	Super Neighborhood Council - Spring Branch North (#84)
Garden City Civic Club	Super Neighborhood Council - Spring Branch West (#10)
Gateway to Care	Super Neighborhood Council - Bush Airport (#42)
Good Neighbor Healthcare Center	Super Neighborhood Council - Fondren Gardens (#39)
Greater Houston Community Foundation	Super Neighborhood Council - Golfcrest/Bellfort/Reveille (#73)
Harris County Breastfeeding Coalition	Super Neighborhood Council - Inwood (#5)
Harris County Healthcare Alliance	Super Neighborhood Council - OST/South Union (# 68)
Harris County Hospital District	Super Neighborhood Council - Westbury (#37)
Harris County Protective Services for Children & Adults	Super Neighborhood Council - Midwest (#20)
Healthcare for the Homeless - Houston	Super Neighborhood Council - Alief (#25)
HOPE Clinic	Super Neighborhood Council - Kingwood (#43)
Houston Department of Health and Human Services	Super Neighborhood Council - MacGregor (#83)
Houston Shifa Services Foundation	Texas AgriLife Extension - Harris County
Houston-Galveston Area Council	Texas Children's Health Plan
Ibn Sina Foundation	Texas Children's Pediatric Associates
Immunization Partnership	Texas Youth Commission
Independence Heights Redevelopment Council	The Community Clinic
LaSalette Place Civic Club	The Hope Foundation
LBJ General Hospital	The Lighthouse of Houston
Legacy Community Health Services	UTHSC and CAN DO Houston
Lincoln City Civic Club	Westbury Civic Club
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	YMCA of Greater Houston
March of Dimes	