Stakeholder Insights Survey
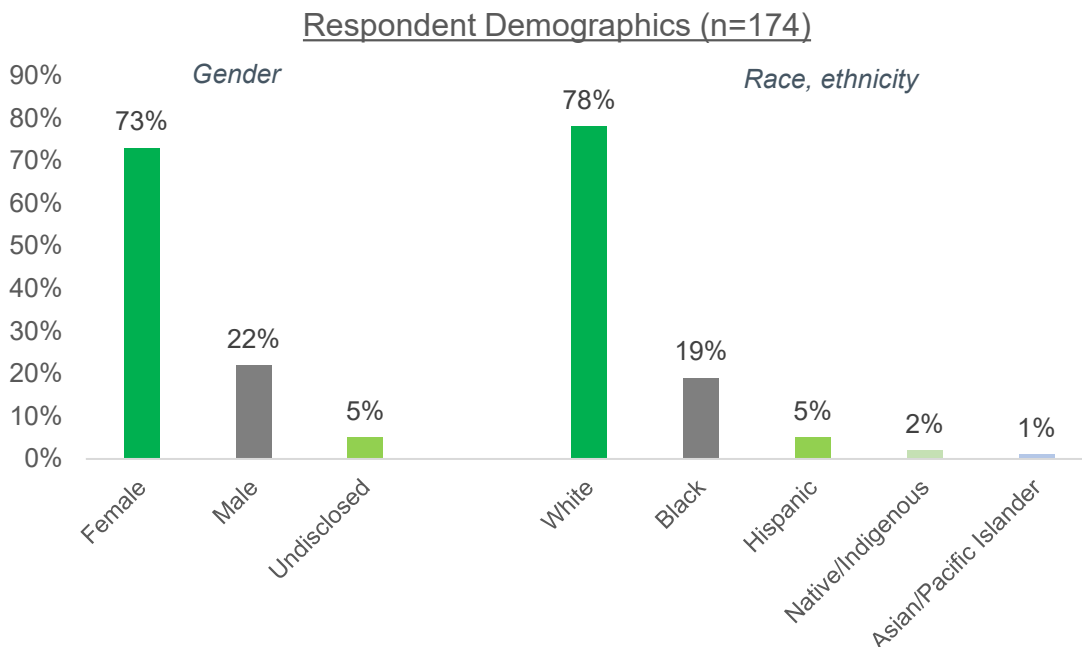
2022 Strategic Planning Process

Background

Throughout 2022, Interact for Health is conducting a strategic planning process that will help us lay out our next five-year plan (2023-2027), including priority areas for our grant funding as well as the unique roles that we might play to amplify our work. We are proud of the work we have done with grantees, community partners, and so many people across our region since our founding over 25 years ago. And yet, we want to learn and do better as we strive to advance health equity so that every person in the region reaches their fullest potential for health.

One way we are learning is by listening to people. From April to May 2022, Interact for Health conducted a survey of our community partners to better understand our region's top health needs and what we can do about them.
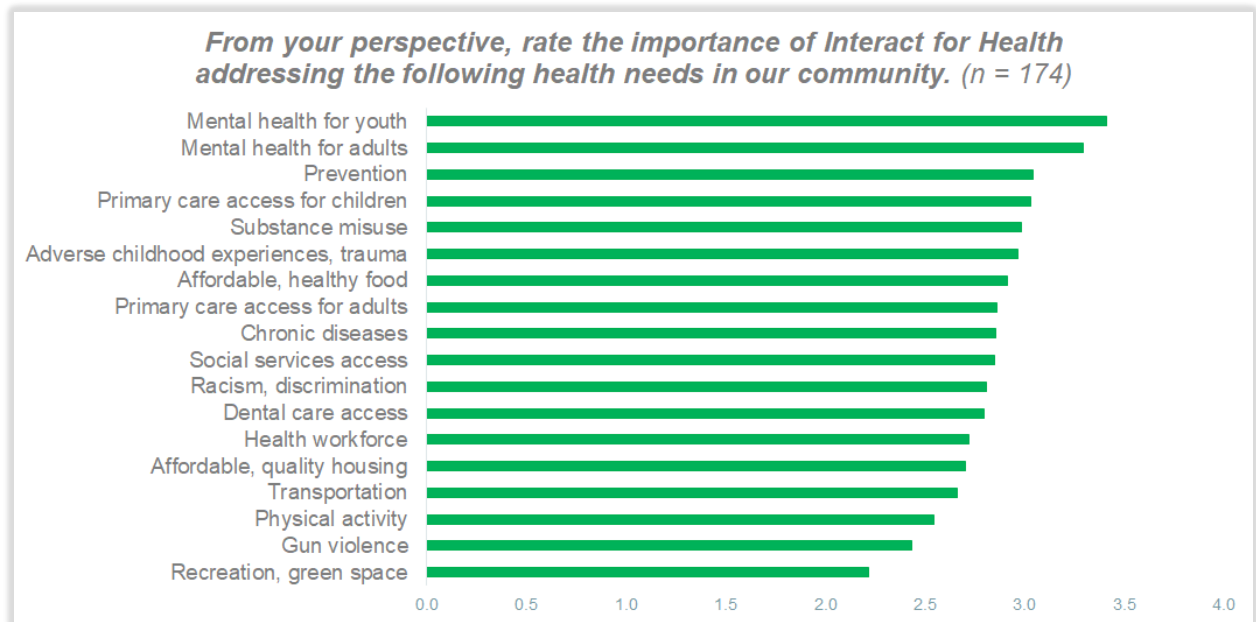
Who took the survey

A total of 174 people participated in the survey. We heard from people who know us and may not know us well. Almost half (47%) of respondents have never had a grant with Interact for Health. About three-quarters of respondents were female (73%) and white (78%). All of Interact for Health's 20 counties were represented.

Respondent Demographics (n=174)

Top health needs

Mental health for youth and mental health for adults rose to the top as the most important health needs that Interact for Health is uniquely positioned to address. Health needs related to children (i.e., prevention, primary care access for children, adverse childhood experiences/trauma) as well as those related to substance misuse followed closely behind. The rankings in order from most to least important for Interact for Health to address are in the table below.

From your perspective, rate the importance of Interact for Health addressing the following health needs in our community. *(n = 174)*

Health need	
Mental health for youth	
Mental health for adults	
Prevention	
Primary care access for children	
Substance misuse	
Adverse childhood experiences, trauma	
Affordable, healthy food	
Primary care access for adults	
Chronic diseases	
Social services access	
Racism, discrimination	
Dental care access	
Health workforce	
Affordable, quality housing	
Transportation	
Physical activity	
Gun violence	
Recreation, green space	

Recognizing that important nuances in the data can be missed by grouping all results together, the data were broken down by race (Black and white) and geography (the communities in which respondents' work: rural, suburban, urban/Hamilton County).[1]

Black and white respondents

Similar to the overall results, white and Black respondents both identified mental health for youth and mental health for adults as the top two health needs. However, Black respondents identified racism and discrimination as the third most important health need while white respondents identified social services access as the third most important.

Rank	Black Respondents *(n=34)*	White Respondents *(n=137)*
1	Mental health for youth	Mental health for youth
2	Mental health for adults	Mental health adults
3	Racism, discrimination	Social services access

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[1] Due to a small sample size or no meaningful differences between some groups, additional subgroup results are not included.

Black respondents were also more likely than white respondents to rank chronic diseases higher and give more weight to the importance of addressing gun violence.

Geography

Regardless of the communities in which respondents work, mental health for youth and mental health for adults were identified as the top two health needs. However, rural respondents (n=43) were more likely to rank transportation as a top health need than urban/Hamilton County (n=104) and suburban (n=60) respondents.[2] And rural and suburban respondents were more likely to identify substance misuse and dental care access as top health needs.

Strategies to improve health with $50 million

Big ideas are required to solve the problems we are up against. Respondents were asked: *If your community had $50 million to spend over the next few years, how would you start to address the health issues you identified as most important.* While ideas ranged widely based on individual perspectives, several themes emerged.

Summary of responses to the $50 million survey question. The size of the word reflects the number of respondents who mentioned it in their answer.

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[2] Respondents may be included more than once across geographical groupings based on the scope of the service area in which they work.

The strategy to address the top health needs in our region most often mentioned by respondents is tackling the social determinants of health, specifically issues related to housing, access to quality food and transportation (31 mentions).

Second, respondents recommended implementation of comprehensive prevention and mental health services in school and community settings to allow for improved access for youth to mental health support (21 mentions). In particular, identifying adverse childhood events and using evidence-based practices to build skills were recommended.

Several respondents recommended increasing access to affordable physical and mental health services, especially for underserved populations (17 mentions), including expanding existing school-based health centers and related services.

Community-driven change was a priority for many respondents. Allowing communities to identify their top needs and provide the funds to create strategies to address them was mentioned by 12 respondents. One individual recommended that funds be given directly to individuals to ensure that those with the highest need benefitted from the funds. Recommendations for how to execute this strategy varied across respondents. Some recommended a narrow focus on specific communities while others encouraged a regional approach.

Other considerations for Interact for Health

Respondents were also given the opportunity to provide additional thoughts and feedback as we build out our next strategic plan. Many suggested that Interact for Health take a more trust-based approach, including providing more funding to grassroots organizations and organizations led by people from various racial and ethnic backgrounds as well as funding more general operating support (versus project funding). Respondents also appreciated the chance for input and encouraged Interact for Health to continue to engage with different community members.

Respondents asked Interact for Health to think big and be innovative to address the top health needs in our community while also remaining realistic. One individual said, "*Put forward a bolder vision for a healthy region.*"