



Oak Park

# Oak Park and River Forest Community Health Plan Community Themes & Strengths Assessment

## PURPOSE

In Phase Three of the Mobilizing for Action Through Planning and Partnerships, or MAPP, process, four different assessments are conducted to paint a comprehensive picture of health in the community.

The Community Themes and Strengths Assessment (CTSA) gathers perspectives from community members using qualitative approaches. It answers questions like:

- What is important to community members?
- How is quality of life perceived in the community?
- What assets and barriers exist in the community?

## PROCESS

The IPLAN core team used several methods to gather community perspectives. The primary one was an online community survey conducted between April and June 2022 which was distributed widely throughout Oak Park, River Forest, and neighboring communities. Community members were asked questions about themselves, their families, and the overall community. Questions covered overall health, access to care, mental health, substance use, disabilities, safety, and climate change, with additional optional sections on nutrition, maternal health, transportation, COVID-19, and violence.

A total of 751 respondents took the survey. Respondents were demographically diverse and came from across Oak Park, River Forest, and other adjacent communities.

In addition, the IPLAN core team gathered open-ended feedback through a public comment period on the health department's website during fall 2021, one-on-one phone interviews conducted during June and July 2022, and a brainstorming activity on community assets and barriers at an in-person meeting in July 2022.

## RESULTS

Common themes emerged from the survey and other qualitative feedback methods around barriers to accessing health care, traffic safety and community violence, the impact of mental health, substance use, and climate change, and concerns about service availability, awareness, and coordination.



### Self-identified demographics of survey respondents

62% from Oak Park, 8% from River Forest, 30% other/unknown

78% white, 8% Black/African American, 8% Asian

13% Hispanic/Latino

74% female, 22% male, 1% nonbinary, 1% gender fluid

5% transgender

83% heterosexual, 7% gay/lesbian, 5% bisexual, 1% pansexual

Mix of ages from 20 to 80+

Mix of incomes from <\$40,000 to >\$130,000

