

Guiding Principles for SHAPE 2006 Survey Item Selection

SHAPE 2006 Objectives

SHAPE is an ongoing *public health surveillance* and *assessment* project. The overall objectives for SHAPE 2006 are to:

- Assess the health level and trends among Hennepin county residents, adults as well as children
- Understand the factors and conditions that relate to the health of county adults, by major geographic area, and by race, ethnicity;
- Understand the factors and conditions that relate to the health of county children, by selected developmental stages, and if possible, by major geographic area, and by race, ethnicity; and
- Fill the data gaps at the county level to facilitate effective program planning and policy development related to improving the health status of Hennepin County residents.

Definition of Health

Health is a state of well-being and the capacity to function in the face of changing circumstances(1). The term "state of well-being" is interpreted to include physical, mental and social aspects.

To acknowledge the rapid developmental changes and the dependent nature of children, the Institute of Medicine (IOM)'s definition of health for children has been adopted to guide the selection of child survey items. This IOM definition is - Children's health is the extent to which individual children or groups of children are able to (a) develop and realize their potential, (b) satisfy their needs, and (c) develop the capacities that allow them to interact successfully with their biological, physical, and social environment(2).

Public Health

Public Health is what we, as a society, do collectively to assure the conditions in which people can be healthy(3).

Public Health Surveillance

Public health surveillance is the systematic and ongoing assessment of the health of a community, including timely collection, analysis and interpretation, dissemination, and subsequent use of data, for the planning, implementation and evaluation of public health practice(4).

Public Health Principles

The public health principles(5) that are of great use in guiding health data collection will be used to guide survey item selections.

The aggregate: The public health focuses on the health needs of the population as a whole.

Prevention: Public health gives priority to primary prevention over treatment to those who are ill.

Community Organization: Public health organizes community resources to meet health needs.

SHAPE relies heavily on communities to recognize priority health concerns, data needs and strategies to reach community members.

The Greater Good: Public health gives first consideration to interventions that provide the greatest good for the greatest number of people.

References:

1. Institute of Medicine. Improving Health in the Community - A Role for Performance Monitoring. National Academy Press, 1997.
 2. Institute of Medicine. Children the Nation's Wealth: Assessing and improving child health. National Research Council and Institute of Medicine of the National Academies. National Academy Press, 2005.
 3. Institute of Medicine. The Future of Public Health. National Academy Press, 1988.
 4. Teutsch, S.M. & Churchill, R. E. Principle and Practice of Public Health Surveillance. Oxford University Press, 1994.
 5. Selected principles that have great use in guiding data collection. Local Public Health Association of Minnesota (1996). Local Public Health: Working for Minnesota Communities.
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General screening criteria

Does it serve the purpose of the survey's objectives?

Is the health concern of public health significance?

(Does it resonate with the principles of public health? -the size of the problem as well as the seriousness of the problem)

Is it meaningful in capturing the health for county residents using the project's definition of health?

Is it feasible to measure via survey method at reasonable cost and reasonable effort?

Is the measure reliable and valid?

Is the measure culturally appropriate? Can it be conceptually translated across populations?

Is the measure sensitive to change due to intervention efforts?

Is this data not available at population level locally?

Evaluating survey content and forming a 30 minutes survey questionnaire

Strive to reach a balance of survey content across all major domains of health using project's definition of health specified below.

For adults:

- o Physical and mental health
- o Community support and social environment
- o Lifestyles and risk behaviors
- o Health care access and utilization
- o Demographics

*For children at each development stage**

Three domains of health:

- o Health conditions
- o Functioning
- o Health potential

Four domains of influences:

- o Biological factors
- o Behavioral factors

- o Social environmental factors
- o Physical environmental factors

(* based on "a model of Children's health and its influences" proposed in the 2005 IOM report3)

Strive to reach a balance of survey content across measures on individuals, households (families) and communities.

Evaluate survey items that were SHAPE 2002 questions

- o Did it measure the health concern that it was intended to?
- o Have data been used by intended key stakeholders and community partners?
- o Do we have sufficient reason to believe that the indicator has changed since SHAPE 2002?

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