

SHAPE 2010 Frequently Asked Questions

If you have additional questions please contact SHAPE@co.hennepin.mn.us or call the SHAPE Survey Help Line at: (612) 348-6150.

What do the letters S-H-A-P-E stand for?

SHAPE stands for the Survey of the Health of All the Population and the Environment

What is SHAPE?

SHAPE is a survey collecting information on the health of Hennepin County residents and the factors that affect their health and well-being. It covers a broad range of topics on both adults' and children's health.

Why is Hennepin County doing SHAPE?

One of Hennepin County's primary goals is for all residents to be "healthy and successful". The County strives to accomplish this by supporting a range of programs and improving services that help residents become and stay healthy. SHAPE data will help us to know if residents are healthy and what barriers are preventing some of the county's residents from being as healthy as they might be.

Why is SHAPE important in our community?

Hennepin County will conduct the SHAPE survey to learn more about the health of all its residents. SHAPE was done before in 1998, 2002, and 2006. This time, the project is called SHAPE 2010. The County will take the results and report how adults and children in general are doing and also assess how various groups within the county are doing. Since SHAPE has been done before, we will be able to see if things are getting better or worse for county residents.

How will SHAPE 2010 collect the information about health?

People will receive a survey packet sent to their homes by mail. The adult questionnaire will ask about the health of an adult in the household. If there are children living in the household, there is a child questionnaire that asks some additional questions about one of the children.

When will SHAPE 2010 happen?

Survey packets will be mailed out to randomly selected households in mid-June, 2010. We expect to have all of the data collected by mid-August, 2010.

Who will be asked to participate in SHAPE?

We plan to contact households in every city and community in Hennepin County. The households will be chosen completely at random. Compared to the total number of households in Hennepin County, only a very small percentage will be asked to participate. This is why it is very important to respond to the SHAPE survey if your household is one of the few selected.

How many people will participate in SHAPE?

We want to get answers back from 7,500 adults. We also want to get information on approximately 4,000 children. We need to get answers from people of all ages and backgrounds living throughout the county so we know how every geographic area and population group is doing.

What types of questions will be included in SHAPE?

The SHAPE survey will ask questions on many different areas of health. There are general questions about health and health care, exercise, the foods we eat, common diseases or health conditions, neighborhood safety and general questions about community “livability.” For children, the survey has questions about visits to the doctor, common illnesses, and the foods they eat. For younger children, there will be questions about “school readiness” and child care. For older children, there are questions about after school activities, “family connectedness” and how much exercise they get.

Is my personal information secure?

The information collected in the survey is completely private. It is not shared with anyone. No one, not neighbors, friends, family members or any one else in the community will have access to your personal information. Your name is not known to the researchers and any other identifying information is removed and kept separate when the data are analyzed. Individual answers are combined with responses from others and reported as a group total or percentage.

Why does the survey ask questions about age, race, ethnicity and place of birth?

It is important for us to be able to report on communities within Hennepin County that have specific health needs or issues. The health needs of different groups may be quite unique. To be able to address these needs more directly, we need health and well-being information that comes represents the specific racial, ethnic and immigrant communities within Hennepin County. Collecting this information helps us better understand and correctly interpret the results, and helps focus our efforts to make improvements in health and well-being.

Will answering the questions affect my immigration status?

No. This survey has nothing to do with your citizenship or immigration status. If you live in Hennepin County, we would like to have you participate in the survey regardless of your status.

Will answering the questions affect my eligibility for public services?

No. This survey has nothing to do with determining your eligibility for services from the county, state or federal government.

What if I don't want to answer a question?

If you don't know or do not want to answer a question for any reason, you can skip the question. However, we hope that if possible, you will answer all the questions, because your answers are very important to understanding the health needs and issues of all the members of the community.

What if I don't want to participate in the survey?

Participation in the survey is completely voluntary. We hope that you will consider participating because your health matters and your answers matter.

How will I know if I've been selected to participate in SHAPE?

You'll know that you've been selected if you receive a postcard in the mail asking you to participate. A few days later, you will receive a survey packet in the mail that says SHAPE 2010 on the outside. It will contain an introductory letter, adult and child survey questionnaires, and a pre-paid survey return envelope.

Can't you get this information from some other place?

No. Only very limited information about the health of people in Hennepin County is currently available from other sources. The data gathered from the SHAPE survey are not available elsewhere. SHAPE provides needed health information and helps us better understand the health issues of those who are members of the smaller population groups who live within Hennepin County.

How long will this take?

On average, it will take about 20 minutes to answer all the questions about one adult who lives in the household. The questions about a child take about 20 minutes to answer.

What if I don't speak or read English?

There is a SHAPE Survey Helpline available to assist people who receive the survey packet and are in need of language assistance. Please call 612-543-2499 and follow the instructions for Spanish, Somali, Hmong and Vietnamese.

How will this help my family and community?

The answers to these questions will help the County and other organizations understand community health issues and any barriers that may be keeping people from becoming healthier. Various neighborhood and community groups have used the SHAPE survey results in the past to apply for grants and to pursue other opportunities for improving the health and well-being of their residents.

Where can I get more information about the SHAPE survey?

You can get more information about the SHAPE 2010 project at www.Hennepin.us/SHAPE. Or, please contact the project team by e-mail: SHAPE@co.hennepin.mn.us.