Speak to Your Health! Community Survey
A valuable resource for improving health in Genesee County

Abstract
The Speak to Your Health! Community Survey is a demographically and geographically representative health survey providing information on health conditions and factors related to health across Genesee County. The survey has been conducted biennially since 2003 by a partnership including the Genesee County Health Department, health system, academic, and community representatives. The data are used for a wide variety of assessment and evaluation activities.

Purpose
The survey was designed via collaborative process to:
1. Understand residents’ health-related behaviors and perceptions
2. Provide information for needs assessments and evaluations of projects
3. Identify community assets
4. Understand the associations between residents’ health-related behaviors and perceptions, social determinants, and health outcomes
5. Provide training opportunities
6. Develop a community health agenda that is widely disseminated and democratic

Survey Topics
- Physical health and chronic health conditions
- Mental health
- Health care access, coverage, satisfaction, trust
- Physical and mental health screening
- Health promoting behaviors (nutrition, exercise, etc.)
- Health adverse behaviors (tobacco use, etc.)
- Health literacy
- Access to healthy foods
- Sleep quality
- Spirituality, religion, and health
- Experiences of discrimination
- Financial health
- Violence and crime
- Relations with police
- Incarceration
- Neighborhood conditions
- Involvement in neighborhood improvement

Survey Strengths
- Data can be used for needs assessment, planning, and assessing programs and interventions
- Among the best local data available in Michigan on health and health behaviors
- Results can be used to compare health status at various levels (City, County, State, National)
- Geographic mapping of information can identify areas with certain assets or need

Method
- Random sample of households in Genesee County
- Adults ages 18 years and older
- Mailed hard copy surveys
- On-line survey linked to GCHD homepage
- Results can be weighted to take into account sampling strategy and demographic distribution

Community Survey Products
Community Survey results have been featured in:
- 5 Health Department publications
- 15 Local media (newspaper, TV, radio) features
- 50+ Local presentations
- Series of Health Briefs carried by local publications
- 100+ Requests for data analyses by 20+ agencies/orgs
- 50+ Academic/Professional conference presentations
- 20+ Peer-reviewed journal articles
- 20+ Grant applications

Survey data informed the establishment of the Genesee Health Plan

The Genesee County Health Department uses the survey data in strategic planning:
- Results inform development of strategic plan priorities
- Activity and source of data for strategic plan strategies
- Monitor progress of strategic plan intermediate outcomes

Speak to Your Health! 2015 Community Partners
- Bridges Into The Future
- Building Neighborhood Capacity Program
- Community Based Organization Partners
- Community Outreach for Family and Youth
- Crim Fitness Foundation
- Diplomat Pharmacy
- Flint Odyssey House Health Awareness Center
- Genesee County Community Action Resource Department (GCCARD)
- Genesee County Health Department
- Genesee Health System
- Genesee Intermediate School System
- Genesys Health System
- Greater Flint Health Coalition
- Hurley Medical Center
- Mass Transportation Authority
- Michigan State University
- Michigan State University Extension
- Michigan Youth Violence Prevention Center
- National Kidney Foundation of Michigan
- University of Michigan Flint – Public Health and Health Science Department
- University of Michigan Institute for Clinical and Health Research
- University of Michigan – School of Public Health