Planning Directors
Health in Planning Survey
Sacramento Region

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Plan4Health Initiative is a collaboration between APA’s Planning and Community Health Center and the American Public Health Association and is supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

*By leveraging the complementary strengths of planners and public health professionals, Plan4Health seeks to strengthen the connection between planning and public health and be a catalyst for collective action toward a healthier future.*

To learn more about Plan4Health, visit the project website [www.plan4health.us](http://www.plan4health.us).
Social Determinants of Health

*The term “Social Determinants of Health” (SDoH) is defined as “the social, physical and economic conditions in which we live, work, learn and play.”

SDOH

Neighborhood And Built Environment

Economic Stability

Health and Health Care

Education

Social and Community Context

Social Determinants of Health
California Planning Roundtable (CPR) Survey

• National Survey (Fall 2014) – 230 respondents
• 4 multiple choice questions
  • Desire for health considerations in planning
  • Accessing ‘how to’ tools
  • Methods for learning about health
  • Integration of health into the planning practice
• 1 open ended question
  • Share other thoughts/suggestions
SDoH CPR Survey Findings

1. Planners believe that addressing **HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS** is an **IMPORTANT** aspect of planning.

2. The best tools for planners to learn about the Social Determinants of Health are **WEBSITES** and **WEBINARS**.

3. Planners want to learn how to successfully integrate health into planning through **BEST PRACTICES** and **ARTICLES**.

4. Planners see the **GENERAL PLAN** and **COMMUNITY DRIVEN INITIATIVES** as the best opportunities to integrate health concepts into the planning practice.
SDoH CPR Survey Findings

5. Respondents also shared:
   • Very exciting. Planning for healthy communities is long overdue.
   • Be multi-disciplinary and rigorous.
   • Develop indicators to help measure community health.
   • Research the processes of implementing health policies.
   • Important for citizens and elected officials to be engaged and understand the ‘why’ when making decisions.
   • *Planners cannot do it alone, other partners are needed; especially groups that are already engaging in healthy communities planning.*

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Sacramento Region Findings
Health In Planning Survey

What is your position?

- City Manager's Office: 1
- Director: 10
- Department Manager: 4
- Senior Planner: 1
- Consultant: 1
Professional Experience

How long have you worked in the planning department?

- Less than one year: 1
- 1-5 years: 3
- 6-10 years: 2
- 11-15 years: 3
- 16-20 years: 2
- More than 20 years: 6
Top Areas of Collaboration

- Environmental Health/Exposures
  - Proactively Involved: 35%
  - Involved: 24%
  - Somewhat Involved: 24%
  - Relevant, But Not Involved: 12%
  - Not At All: 12%

- Transportation
  - Proactively Involved: 35%
  - Involved: 24%
  - Somewhat Involved: 24%
  - Relevant, But Not Involved: 12%
  - Not At All: 12%

- Community Design/Land Use Planning
  - Proactively Involved: 29%
  - Involved: 24%
  - Somewhat Involved: 24%
  - Relevant, But Not Involved: 12%
  - Not At All: 12%

- Green/Open Spaces
  - Proactively Involved: 29%
  - Involved: 24%
  - Somewhat Involved: 24%
  - Relevant, But Not Involved: 12%
  - Not At All: 12%
Health Involvement

- Development Review/Zoning/Ordinances/Conditional Use Permits:
  - Proactively Involved: 18%
  - Interested, But Not Involved: 29%
  - Involved: 24%
  - Somewhat Involved: 12%
  - Not At All: 6%

- Regional Transportation Plans/Sustainable Community Strategies:
  - Proactively Involved: 12%
  - Interested, But Not Involved: 18%
  - Involved: 35%
  - Somewhat Involved: 35%

- Master Bike/Pedestrian Plans/SRTS:
  - Proactively Involved: 24%
  - Interested, But Not Involved: 29%
  - Involved: 12%
  - Somewhat Involved: 12%
Which local organizations, agencies or institutions responsible for planning in the above areas have included and engaged participation from your local health department?
What health field activities are useful in reaching planning objectives?

- Providing comments at planning commission and city council meetings (41%)
- Reviewing plans or projects in early phase of development (41%)
- Scheduling meetings with health staff to seek input on health issues in planning projects (35%)
- Inviting health representatives to serve on local planning advisory bodies or commissions (29%)
- Incorporating issues that concern health into required community needs assessments information and surveys (29%)
- Convening forums or summits of planners and public health leaders/experts to discuss issues (29%)
Barriers for Planners Working with Health Professionals?

• Lack of dedicated staff time and funding to participate in collaborative efforts with health (53%)
• Health departments are not structured to provide information into existing planning process (53%)
• Health Department cannot respond to Planning data requests in a way that is timely (29%)
• There is not enough time in the planning process to engage health, incorporate health into the planning and entitlement processes (24%)
• Health/environmental department participation in planning is not mandated or authorized in code (24%)
• Sometimes health priorities conflict with planning or municipal priorities or needs (24%)
What knowledge, skills or support do planners need to collaborate with health?

- Health professionals need a greater understanding of planning language, processes, legislation and legislative mandates (76%)

- Models/approaches for incorporating health into planning (76%)

- Create opportunities for planners and public health to come together and engage in conversation about the work and partnership opportunities (65%)
We need more...

• Planners need a greater understanding of health language, processes, agency responsibilities, authority, and legislative mandates (59%)

• Knowledge of what funding is available and where collaborative opportunities are (59%)

• Understand what public health measures and resources are available to use by Planners (59%)
What are the most important areas for planners and health to collaborate at the local level to meet shared objectives?

- **Community Design/Land Use Planning** (59%)
- **Transportation** (public and active transportation, complete streets, SRTS) (59%)
- **Green/Open Spaces** (47%)
- **Economic Development** (Smart Growth, vibrant economy) (47%)
- **Environmental Health/Exposures** (47%)
- **Climate Change/ Environmental Sustainability** (41%)
Recommendations?

• Interdepartmental groups to work on system changes for healthier built environments.

• Health leaders, planners, and local elected officials are likely to consider and seek input on the health implications of policies and decisions that are being made.

• New grants to incorporate health and planning components into the deliverables.