



*Sacramento Valley Section*

# Planning Directors Health in Planning Survey Sacramento Region

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# PLAN4Health

An American Planning Association Project

**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."*



Source: [www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topicsobjectives2020/overview.aspx?topicid=39](http://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topicsobjectives2020/overview.aspx?topicid=39)

# 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:

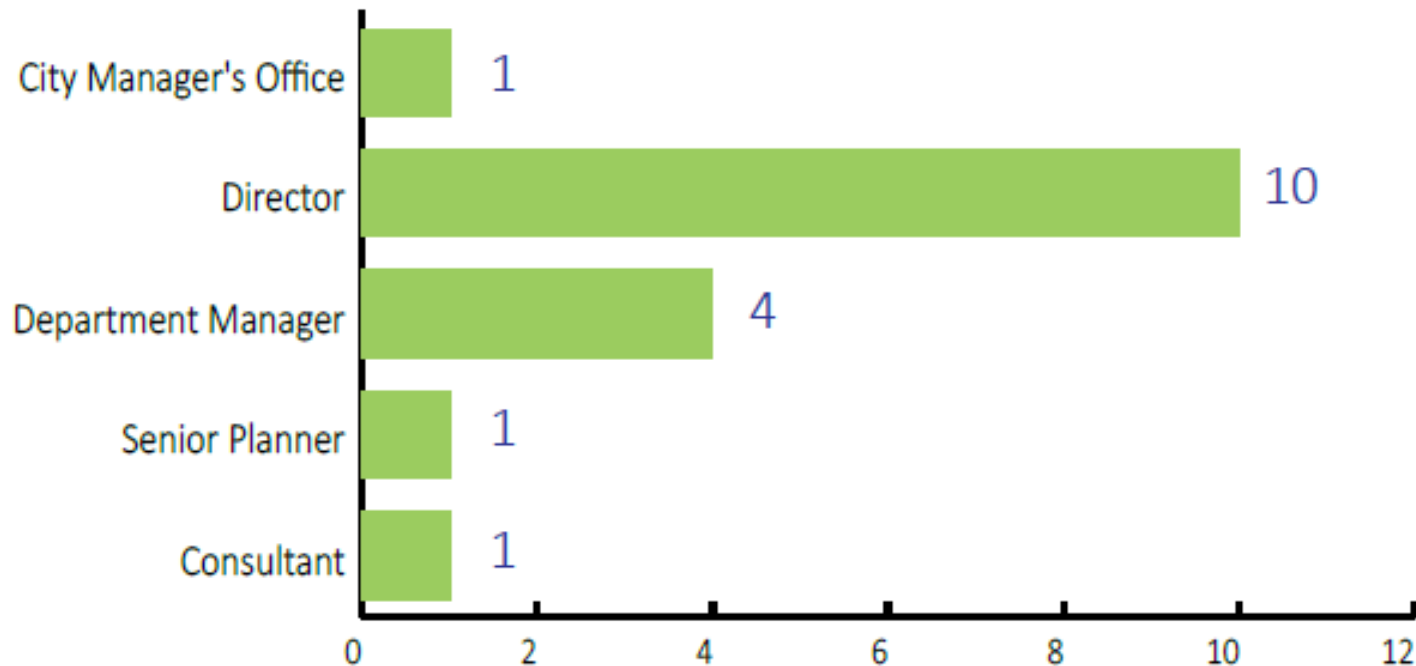
- Very exciting. Planning for healthy communities is long overdue.
- Be multi-disciplinary and rigorous.
- Develop indicators to help measure community health.
- Research the processes of implementing health policies.
- Important for citizens and elected officials to be engaged and understand the ‘why’ 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

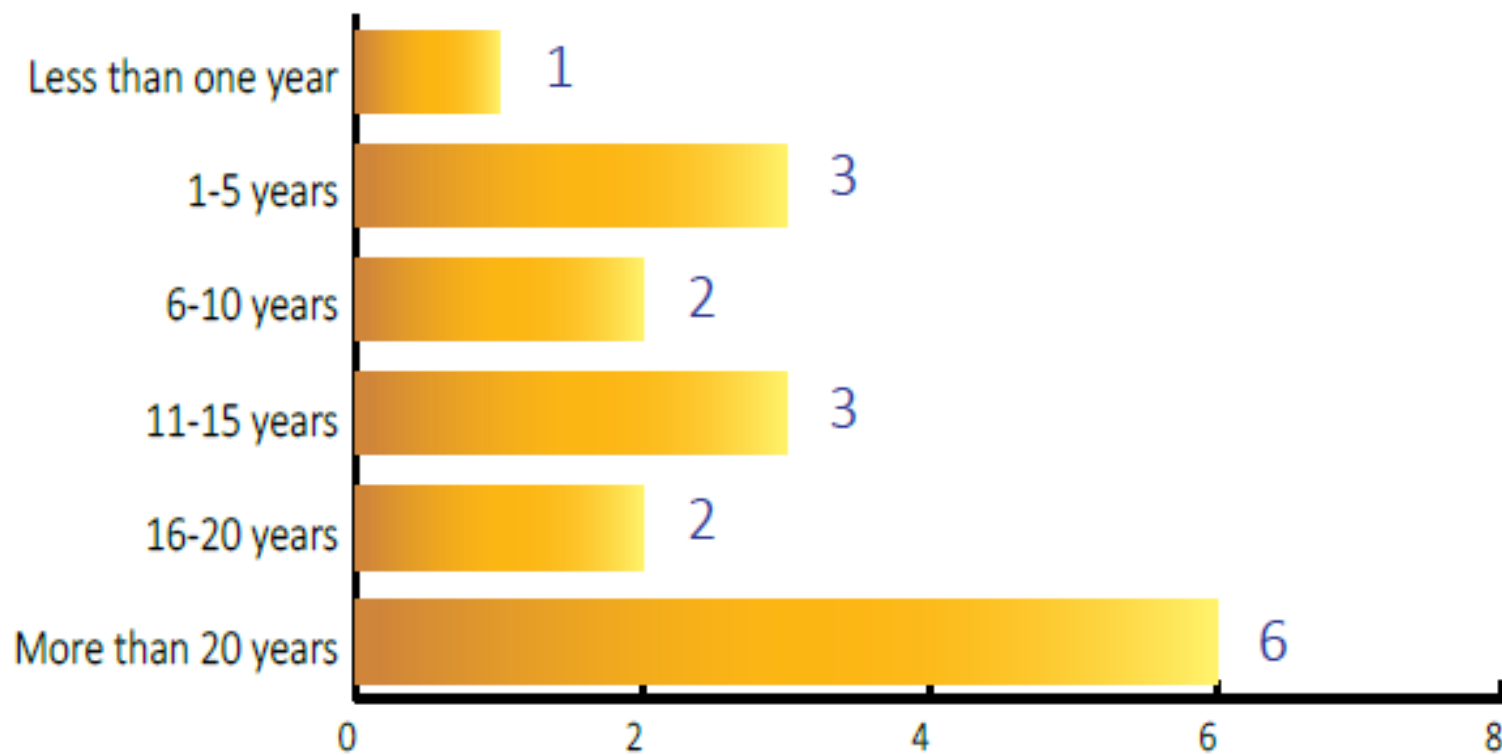


What is your position?



# Professional Experience

How long have you worked in the planning department?

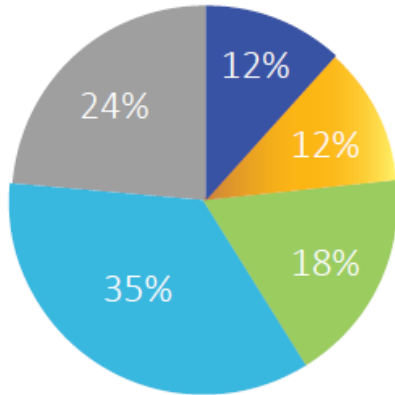




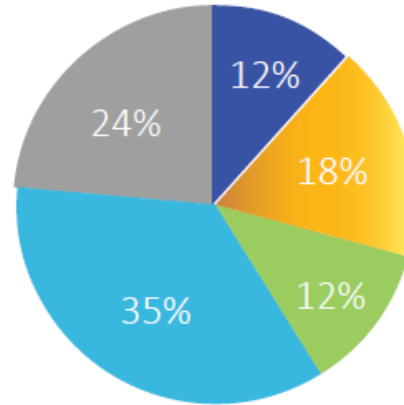
# Top Areas of Collaboration



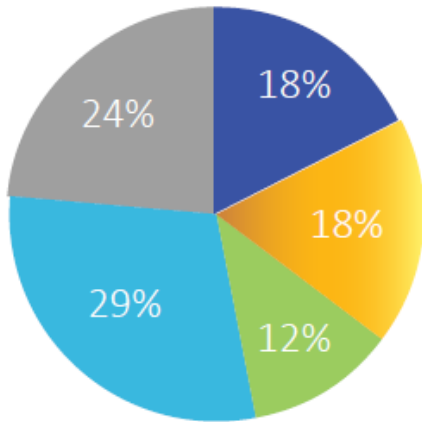
Environmental Health/  
Exposures



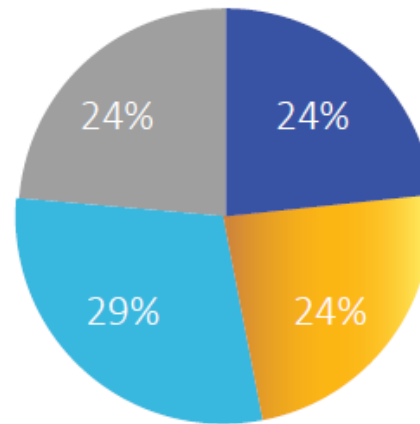
Transportation



Community Design/  
Land Use Planning

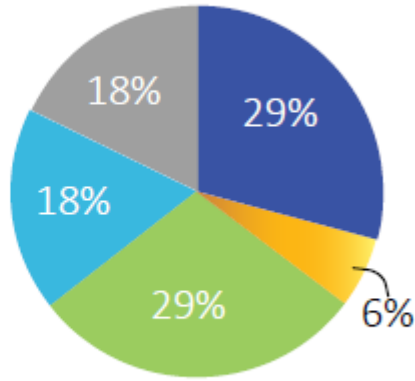


Green/Open  
Spaces

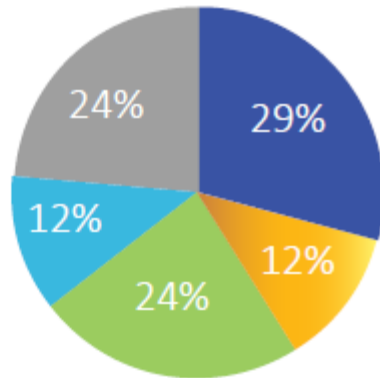


# Health Involvement

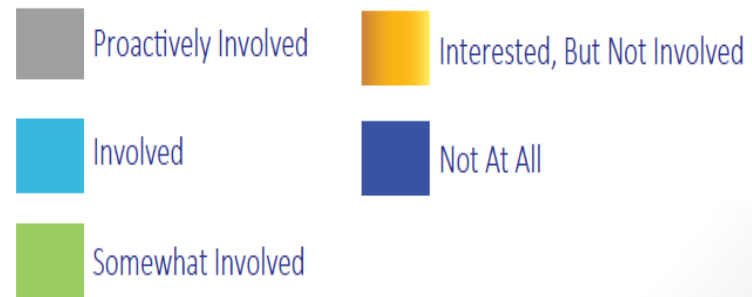
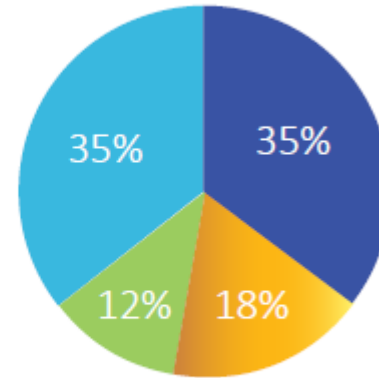
Development Review/  
Zoning/Ordinances/  
Conditional Use Permits



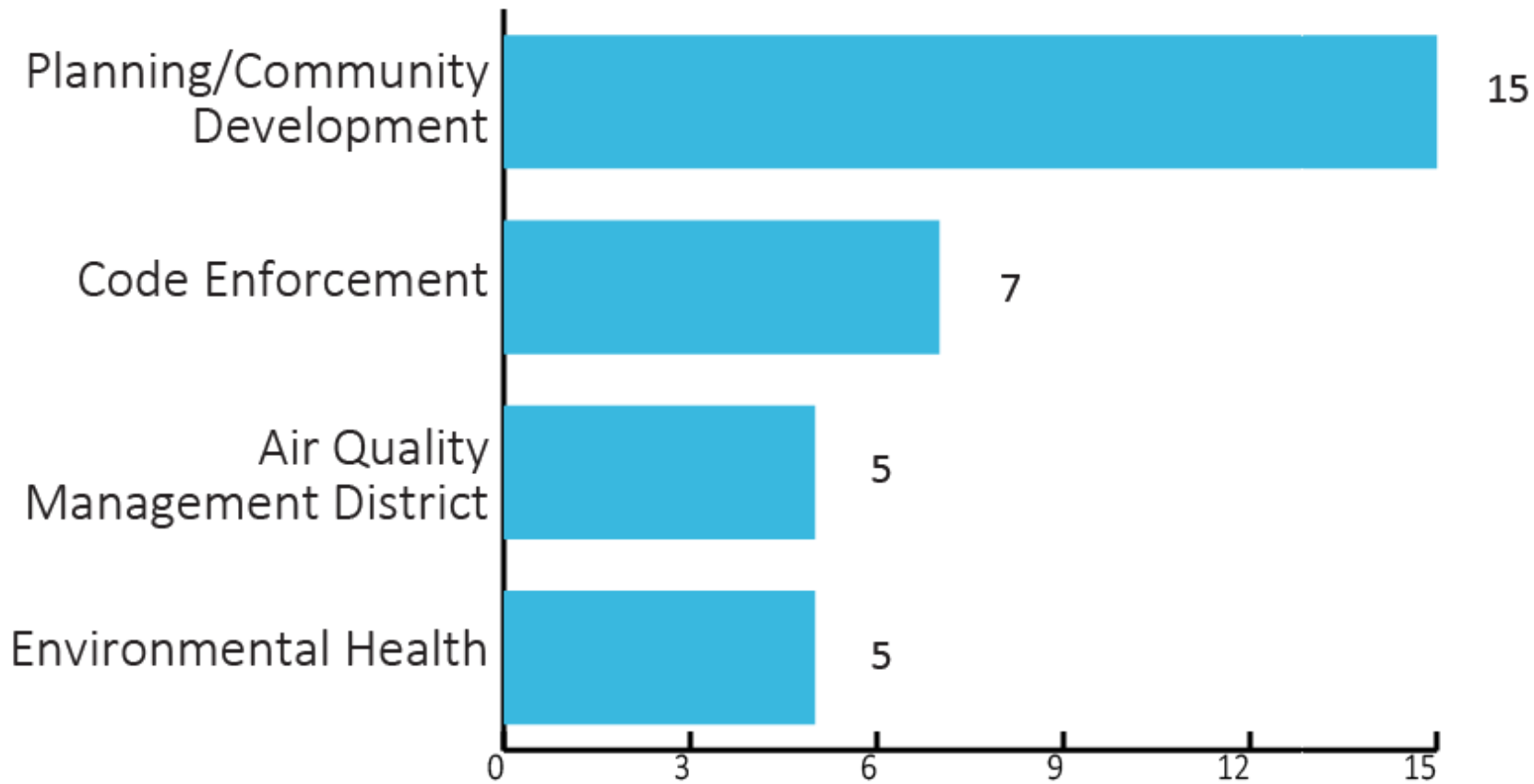
Master Bike/Pedestrian  
Plans/SRTS



Regional Transportation  
Plans/Sustainable  
Community Strategies



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.