

HEALTH for Kitsap Survey Results

CONTACT INFORMATION

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PROJECT OVERVIEW

The HEALTH for Kitsap project is a partnership between United Way of Kitsap County and the Kitsap County Health District and seeks to connect public health professionals, community based organizations and residents of Kitsap County to current data regarding health care, safe home environments, social services, and to help to make children “ready for school.” HEALTH is an acronym for Health Education Answers Learning and Training. The long term goal for the project is the creation of a toolkit for public health professionals, community based organizations as well as libraries and schools that provides relevant data about the Standard of Health for Kitsap County and promotes the National Library of Medicine (NLM) database (PubMed, Medline Plus, TOXNET, etc.) as a trusted source of information.

The first step in the HEALTH for Kitsap project was to conduct a survey. This survey asked participants about their knowledge and use of web-based resources, workshops or trainings, and how they share information with their constituents. Based on the results of this survey, the HEALTH for Kitsap project partners will know the best way to disseminate information regarding health and human service related topics.

SURVEY RESULTS

200 surveys were distributed to school, library, city and county employees, public health workers and individuals employed at health and human service community based organizations that have direct contact with the public. **97** surveys were returned and the results were tabulated using the web based tool Survey Monkey.

Respondents were asked to identify their profession. Most of those who returned the survey work in the health and human service industry in a managerial capacity. Among those who returned the survey were a Mayor, a mental health administrator, a children’s librarian, a pediatrician and an assistant school superintendent.

The first question asked whether or not the individual completing the survey was familiar with or had knowledge of “The Standard of Health for Kitsap Families” that was developed by the Kitsap County Health District and community partners. The majority of the responses, **76%**, said yes to this question.

The second question allowed for multiple answers and asked how the individual learned about “The Standard”. The choices and responses are as follows:

- Attended a meeting or presentation – **72%**
- Colleague – **17%**
- Media – **17%**
- Other – **6%**

Question three allowed for multiple answers and asked how the individual when working with the public, clients or patients provided information about health and human service related topics, what is the **source** of the information they are providing. The choices and responses are as follows:

- Print materials such as brochures and fliers – **81%**
- Journal articles – **19%**

- Websites or on-line searches – **67%**
- Trainings/seminars/workshops – **33%**

Question four allowed for multiple answers and asked what types of resources do they/their organization offer to the public, clients or patients. The choices and responses are as follows:

- Print materials such as brochures and fliers – **93%**
- Computer access to websites or on-line searches – **48%**
- Trainings/seminars/workshops – **33%**
- Other – (write in responses included counseling, resource library, anticipatory guidance) **5%**

The sixth question relates back to numbers three and four and asked that if the respondent checked 'websites or on-line searches or computer access to websites or on-line searches' did they utilize or promote the National Library of Medicine databases (PubMed, Medline Plus, TOXNET, etc.). **60%** said they did not.

Question seven asked the respondent to rate their computer skills in terms of conducting online searches to find the information they need in terms of a health and human service related question. **53%** of individuals said they were moderately skilled, **29%** said they were highly skilled and **19%** said the information they found was the result of a "lucky guess".

And finally – **81%** of respondents said they would like additional training on how to on-line searches and better utilize the National Library of Medicine databases.

EVALUATION AND NEXT STEPS

The results of the HEALTH for Kitsap Survey were presented at the October 15th Standards of Health for Kitsap Families Coordinating Council meeting. Members of the Council agreed that the logical next step for the HEALTH for Kitsap project is to conduct training on the NLM resource for those who were surveyed.

Members of the Council recognize the importance of additional community partners in the HEALTH for Kitsap project in order to sustain ongoing efforts. It was suggested the Olympic Education Service District 114 or the Kitsap Regional Library host the training rather than the Kitsap County Health District. Follow-up discussions with both organizations has been initiated and it is anticipated a decision on who will host the training will be made by early November. Once it is determined who will host the training members of the Council will develop a recruitment plan and determine a date.

In follow-up to the trainings there will additional efforts made to jointly promote the NLM resources and the Standards of Health for Kitsap County throughout the community. These efforts will include encourage community based organizations, libraries and schools for example to place a link to NLM databases (as appropriate) on their web sites. Promotional material will also reference NLM in the context of "to find more information on well-child visits please visit...."

In summary, the HEALTH for Kitsap Survey provided key stakeholders in the project with valuable information on how those in the health and human service industries find information and how they disseminate it to the public. This information will help further Council's goal of ensure consistent and relevant information about the Standards of Health for Kitsap Families reaches the community at large.