

Statewide health assessment updates: 2018

During 2018, Healthy Minnesota Partnership members and their partners worked on a number of key public health issues and community assets identified in the 2017 Minnesota statewide health assessment. At Partnership meetings, members and others discussed the new data and information these reports provide and how these contribute to increased understanding and action on these important issues. Links to the reports (in the meeting summaries and below) allow the Partnership and others to incorporate this information into their own actions to improve population health and health equity.

Health and incarceration

Voices for Racial Justice published a report in 2018 on health and incarceration, called *Unfit for Human Consumption*. In this project, they listened to the stories of people who have been in prison and family members of people currently and formerly incarcerated. Voices learned that those who have experienced incarceration, either directly or indirectly, experience profound effects on their physical and mental health. Links to health include nutrition, connections to the community, and experiences while in prison, with lasting impacts on rates of incarceration, rehabilitation, and reentry to the community.

This information contributes to the “Belonging” section of the 2017 statewide health assessment.

- [Unfit for human consumption: Health and healthcare in Minnesota prisons: Community summary \(PDF\)](https://voicesforracialjustice.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Unfit-for-Human-Consumption-Summary.pdf) (voicesforracialjustice.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Unfit-for-Human-Consumption-Summary.pdf)
- [Unfit for human consumption: Health and healthcare in Minnesota prisons \(PDF\)](https://voicesforracialjustice.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Unfit-for-Human-Consumption-Full-Report.pdf) (voicesforracialjustice.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Unfit-for-Human-Consumption-Full-Report.pdf)

Water quality and wild rice

The **Minnesota Department of Health** was a consultant and partner with the **Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa** on a report detailing the effect of water quality on wild rice production. The health impact assessment documents and publicizes effect of water quality on wild rice production and the connections this has to cultural wellbeing, community health, social cohesion, access to healthy food, equity, and other important issues.

This information contributes to the “Nature” section of the 2017 statewide health assessment.

- [Expanding the narrative of tribal health: The effects of wild rice water quality rule changes on tribal health \(PDF\)](http://www.fdlrez.com/RM/downloads/WQSHIA.pdf) (www.fdlrez.com/RM/downloads/WQSHIA.pdf)

Housing, home, and health

The **Minnesota Housing Finance Agency** and the **Minnesota Department of Health** were among the agencies involved in two significant reports containing data and describing the issues of housing, home and health.

This information contributes to the “Opportunity” section of the 2017 statewide health assessment.

- [Heading home together: Minnesota’s plan to prevent and end homelessness](http://www.mnhousing.gov/sites/multifamily/headinghome) (www.mnhousing.gov/sites/multifamily/headinghome)
- [More places to call home: Investing in Minnesota’s future \(PDF\)](http://mn.gov/gov-stat/pdf/Housing%20Task%20Force%20Report_FINAL.pdf) (mn.gov/gov-stat/pdf/Housing%20Task%20Force%20Report_FINAL.pdf)

Family care and caregiving

ISAIAH conducted over 400 door-to-door interviews on family care in Central Minnesota, including affordable childcare, funding for in-home care, paid leave for new parents and solutions for the elder care crisis. Over 84 percent of the people interviewed shared their struggles around getting care and care giving.

This issue contributes to both the “Opportunity” and “Belonging” sections of the 2017 statewide health assessment.

- [New report shows St. Cloud families want politicians to focus on care issues](http://isaiahmn.org/2018/05/14/new-report-shows-st-cloud-families-want-politicians-to-focus-on-care-issues) (isaiahmn.org/2018/05/14/new-report-shows-st-cloud-families-want-politicians-to-focus-on-care-issues)

MDH Center for Public Health Practice & Healthy Minnesota Partnership
625 Robert Street N
PO Box 64975
St. Paul, MN 55164-0975
651-201-3880
health.ophp@state.mn.us
www.health.state.mn.us

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To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-3880. Printed on recycled paper.