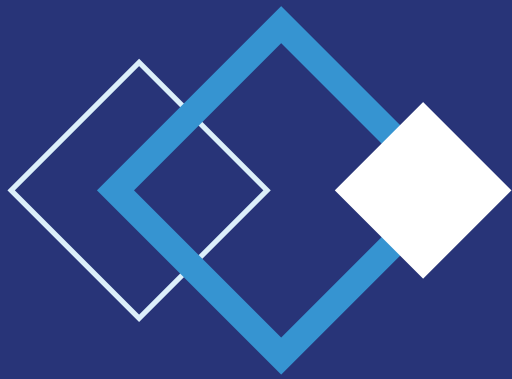


COMMUNITY PARTNER ASSESSMENT

CHI Tompkins
February, 2025



PURPOSE

In August 2024, as part of the Community Health Improvement Process (CHI Tompkins), community organizations and non-profit agencies were invited to participate in the Community Partner Assessment (CPA). This assessment, in the form of an online survey, focused on the collective effort to improve health outcomes in Tompkins County.

The data will contribute to a community health plan that will be used for the next five years (2025-2030), provide information about local data sources, and identify new possibilities for partnership. The insights will shape strategies and recognize the strengths and needs of community organizations.

DATA COLLECTION

The CPA consisted of two components, a survey and discussion session.

The CPA survey was completed by 76 organizations. All questions were optional and not all respondents answered every question.

The survey consisted of 38 questions, organized into three sections:

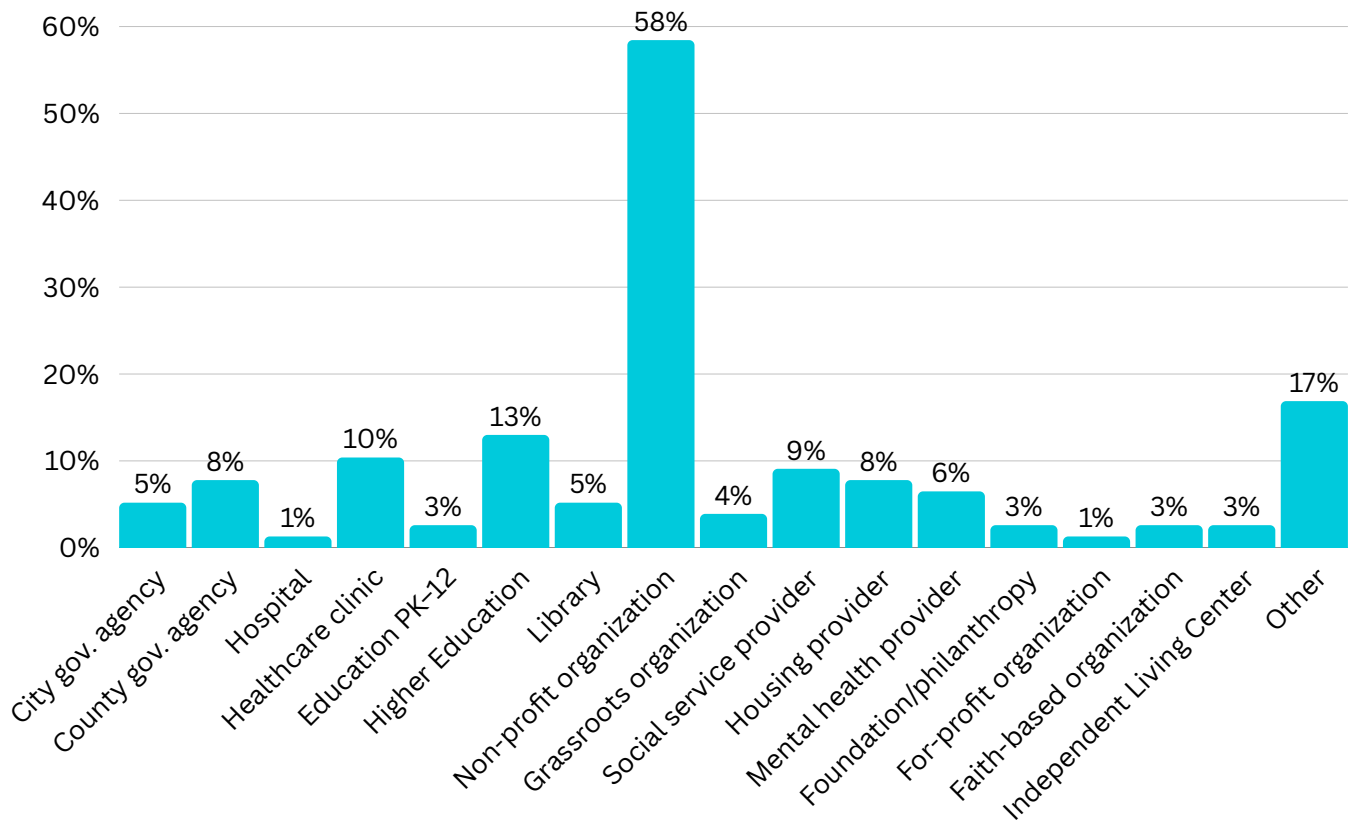
1. About Your Organization
2. Organizational Capacity
3. Capacities to Support Community Health Improvement

In September 2024, representatives from community organizations who completed the CPA survey were invited to participate in a discussion-based follow-up session. This session was held in September 2024 at the Tompkins County Public Library. During this session, participants further reviewed the results of the CPA survey and explored topics of transformative change, accountability, and power.



WHO RESPONDED

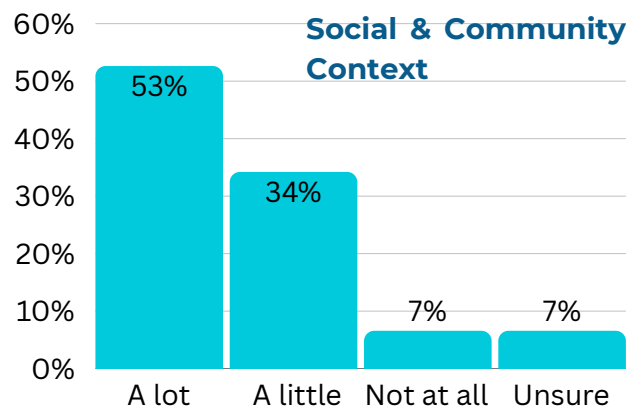
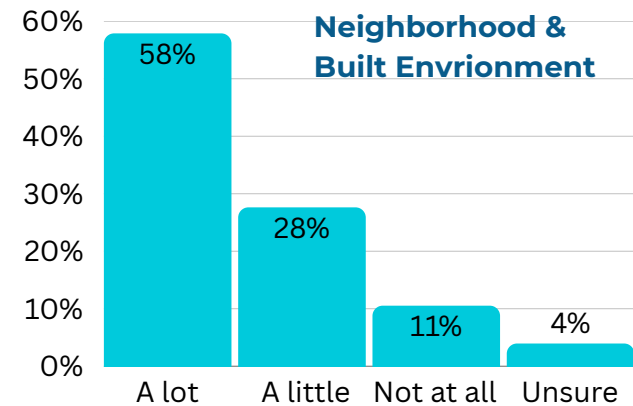
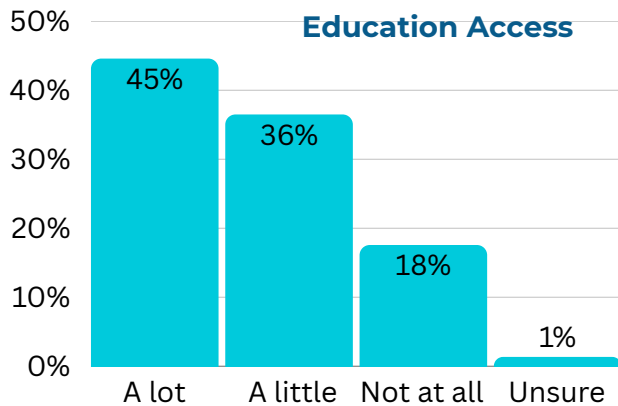
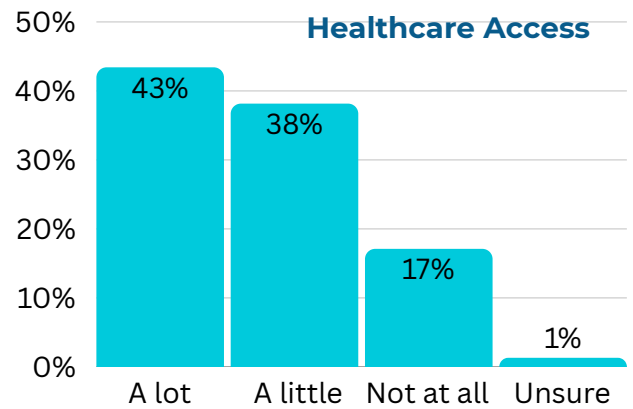
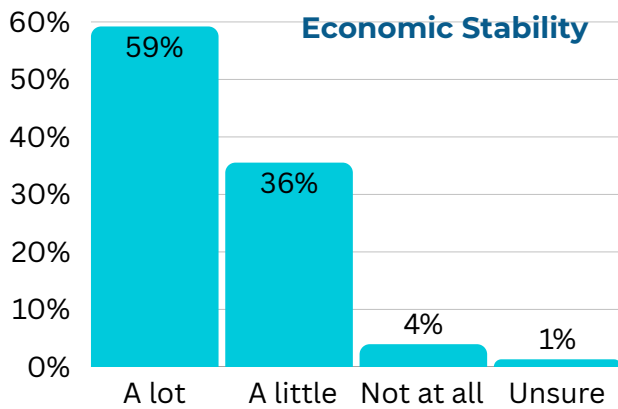
Which of the following describes your organization?



The majority of respondents identified as non-profit organizations, with others selecting from a range of options, including higher education, healthcare clinics, and social service providers. A significant portion also chose "Other" which consisted of a municipal government task force, a care management organization, a legal services provider, the state health department, and other intersectional organizations.

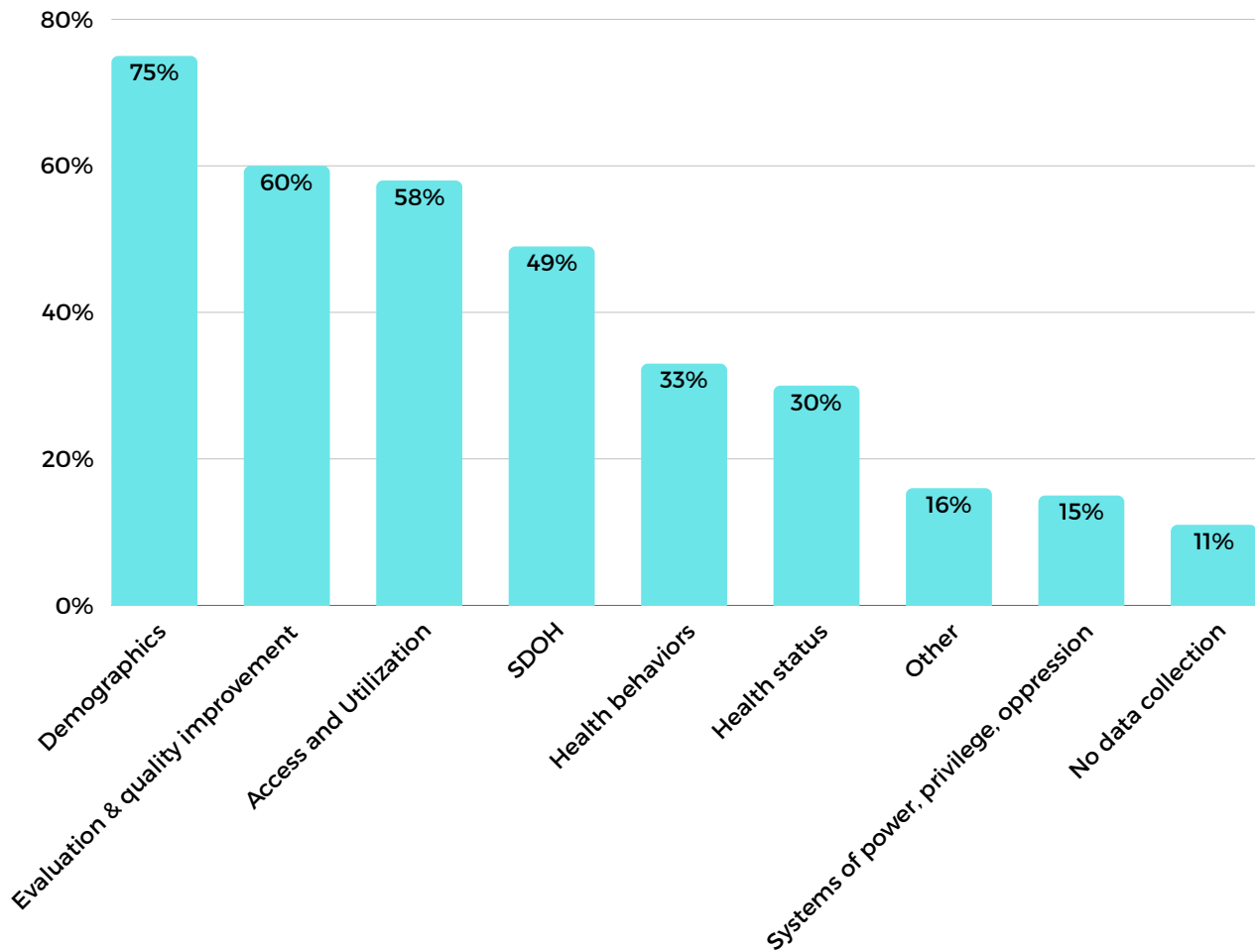
AREAS OF FOCUS

How much does your organization focus on each of these topics?



DATA COLLECTION AND SKILLS

What data does your organization collect?



The majority of responding organizations collect data for demographics (75%), evaluation and quality improvement (60%), and access and utilization (58%).

Organizations identified data skills in the following areas: survey design, needs assessment, focus group facilitation, and interviewing.

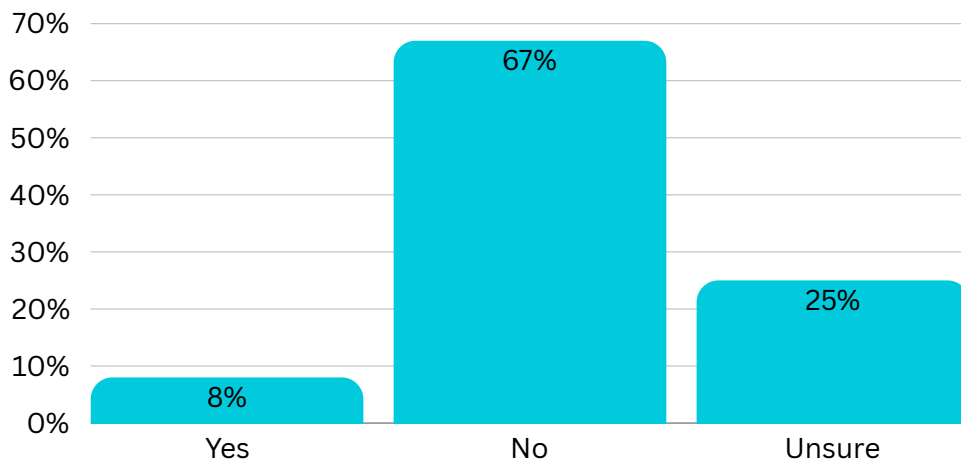
COLLECTIVE CAPACITY

Organizations were asked to give a brief description about their priorities to build collective capacity:

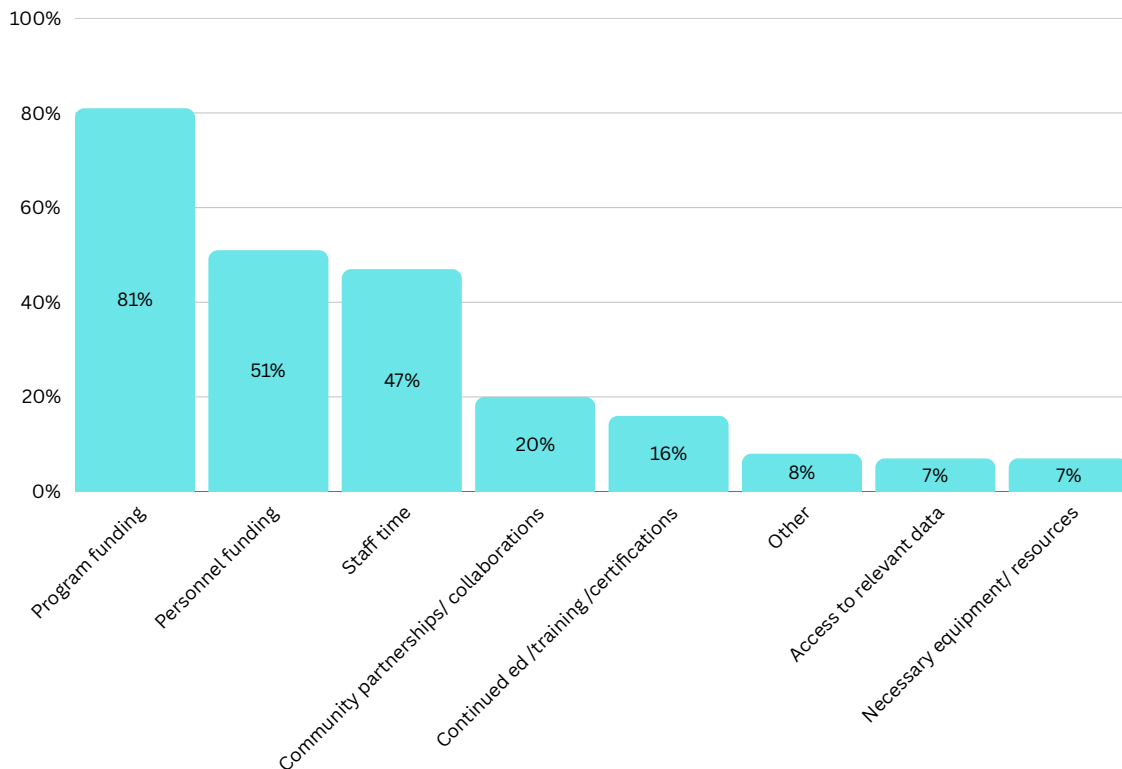


AREAS OF NEED

Does your organization have sufficient capacity to meet the needs of your priority population?



What are primary barriers to having greater capacity to meet the needs of your priority population?

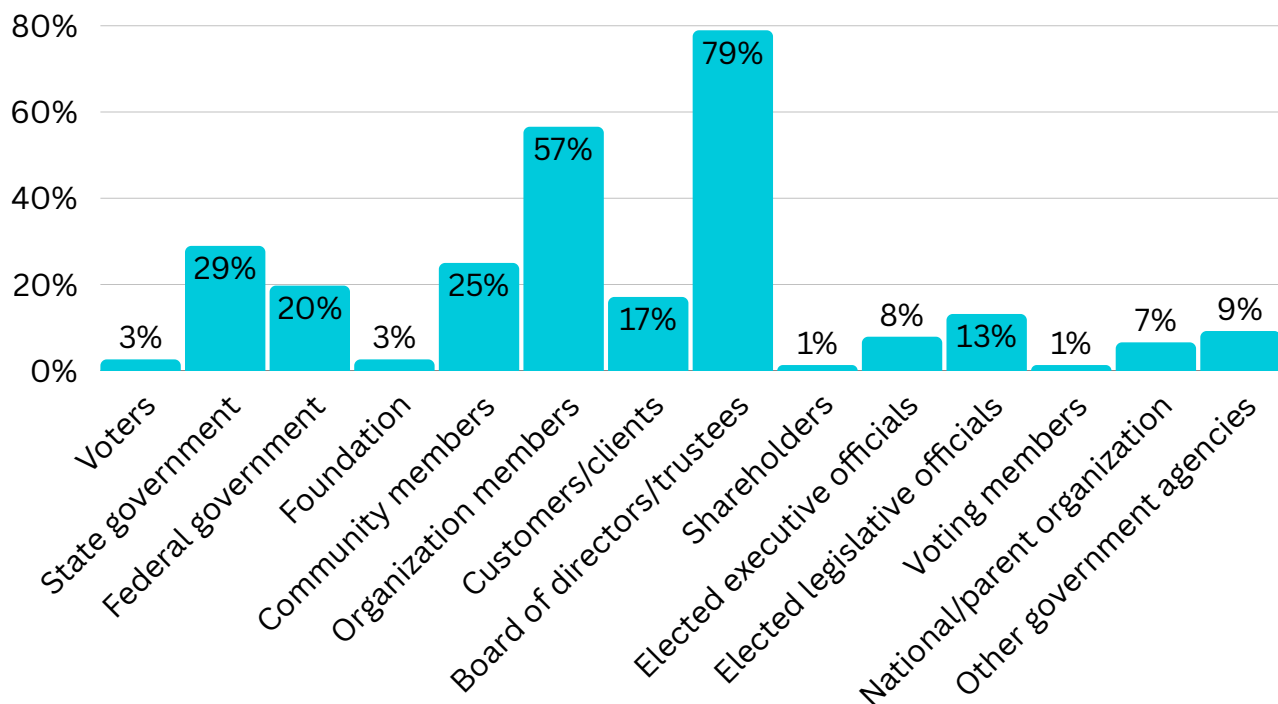


NOTABLE CONCLUSIONS

When asked about their ideal outcomes of a more collaborative community health improvement process, the top answers were:

- 81.8% - “to build **networks** and **partnerships**”
- 71.4% - “to deliver programs **effectively** and **efficiently**”
- 68.8% - “to **increase communication** among groups”
- 66.2% - “to create long-term, permanent **social change**”

Over three-quarters (76.3%) of organizations reported having an advisory board of community members or impacted individuals. However, decision making power was reported as follows:



PARTNER FOLLOW-UP SESSION



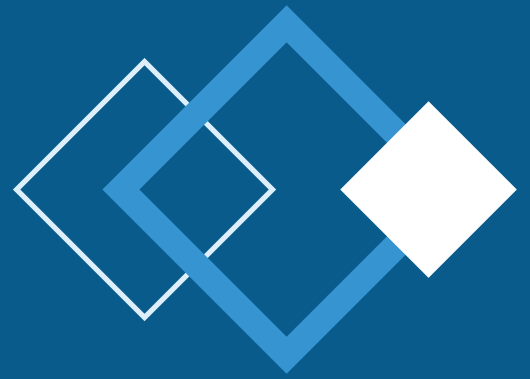
Transformative change in public health requires structural shifts to embed equity, collaboration, and data-driven approaches throughout systems. It demands a community-wide commitment to addressing complex issues like poverty and mental health, with an emphasis on inclusivity, clear communication, and measurable outcomes.

Accountability relies on transparency, defined roles, and equitable resource distribution, supported by long-term funding and genuine feedback.

Power dynamics in public health must be addressed through inclusive strategies, neutral facilitation, and trust-based funding to break down silos, balance power, and ensure effective, sustainable change.

*Word cloud compiled from the notes taken during the discussion.

THANK YOU



This assessment was developed in partnership with the Tompkins County Community Health Improvement Steering Committee.

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