

Minnesota Local Health Assessment Surveys

Data drives action. For the first time, all 87 of Minnesota's counties measured rates of adult obesity, physical activity, nutrition & tobacco use.

What is it? A county-level adult health assessment survey that includes, but is not limited to, specific questions related to weight status, tobacco use, nutrition and physical activity. SHIP grantees were asked to conduct two surveys: the baseline survey between 2013 and 2016 and the follow-up survey between 2017 and 2020.

Why is it important? A core function of public health is to assess and monitor the health of a population to identify health problems and priorities. Population health data have been used throughout the life of the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP) to identify the needs, refine SHIP activities and monitor long-range health outcomes.

Because SHIP is a locally driven initiative, where local public health departments and their community partners implement policy, systems and environmental changes to address the specific health needs of their communities, county-specific data are essential to the success of SHIP at the local level. The Minnesota Local Health Assessment Surveys ensure that all counties have local level data on adult health behaviors and outcomes related to SHIP.

What is collected? Seven key indicators on adult tobacco use, weight status, physical activity levels and fruit and vegetable consumption.

How is this information used? Local public health departments and community members use county-level data to describe county health status, refine SHIP activities, write grants, and over time, will monitor long-term trends in health outcomes and behaviors. In addition, local leaders can use county-specific information to drive decision-making and create plans that will improve the health of their community.

Local level data helps communities plan and focus work where the need is greatest.

