

# Community Assessment for Spokane County 2018



## Top Three Priorities Identified:

- **Priority 1: Reduce Impacts of Family Trauma and Violence**  
**NEXT SELECTED PRIORITY 2019-2023\***
  - [7.3.1 Domestic Violence Rate](#)
  - [7.3.3 Child Abuse & Neglect](#)
  - [5.2.3 Youth Self Reporting Abuse](#)
- **Priority 2: Increase Access and Services for Residents with Co-occurring Substance Abuse and Mental Health Issues**
  - [5.2.4 Youth Mental Health and Substance Abuse](#)
  - [5.1.7 Opioid Related Deaths](#)
  - [5.4.3 Adults Admitted to State Funded Treatment Services](#)
  - [5.3.2 Adults Reporting Poor Mental Health](#)
- **Priority 3: Improve the Availability of Affordable Housing**
  - [6.2.3 Renters Paying 50% on Shelter Costs](#)
  - [6.3.2 Housing Affordability Index](#)
  - [6.2.1 Rental Vacancy Rate](#)

### About this process...

Non-profit hospitals, public health, accountable communities of health, and others are required by federal law, state mandates, or agency policy to conduct assessments reviewing data every three to five years that result in a focused list of priorities and a community improvement plan. Historically, these processes have been planned and conducted independently. For the first time, stakeholders in Spokane County have aligned planning and assessment cycles to leverage resources and improve collaboration for collective impact.

### What is the goal of this process?

By April 2018, community members will have selected 3-5 priority areas of focus through a county-wide, coordinated assessment process. This process provides us with an opportunity to pull together, identify community needs, and move in the same direction. Our community partners can align their resources and efforts have a greater impact to make Spokane even better. Additionally, partners will be well-positioned to align timelines and coordinate future improvement cycles as well.

### Basic Information

1. 529 stakeholders from across Spokane County participated in 13 meetings focused on reviewing data and discussing needs and issues related to the following six areas: Economic Vitality, Education, Environment, Healthy People, Housing & Transportation, & Public Safety.
2. Over 200 individuals participated in the final Community Assessment meeting and cast their vote to select the top 3 priorities.
3. Two CoChairs were recruited for each of the 6 topic areas for their experience and leadership in that area. They were responsible for identifying stakeholders and inviting them to participate. Those CoChairs were: Shelly O'Quinn & Todd Mielke (Economic Vitality), Superintendent Mike

Dunn & Dr. Vincent Alfonso (Education), Britt Bachtel-Browning & Katy Sheehan (Environment), Sara Clements-Sampson & Torney Smith (Healthy People), Amber Waldref & Pam Tietz (Housing & Transportation), & CM Karen Stratton & Police Chief Craig Meidl (Public Safety).

4. Dr. Patrick Jones & his staff at the Community Indicators Project were responsible for presenting and reviewing relevant data at each meeting and updating the Spokane Indicators Website based upon the data voted upon.
5. The Community Assessment process was sponsored by Priority Spokane and the Community Health Advisory Board (CHAB) and will be used by over two dozen organizations across Spokane County to help prioritize and plan including: Providence, Spokane Regional Health District, MultiCare Deaconess, SNAP, Lutheran Community Services, Kalispel Tribe, Shriner's Children's Hospital, and others. This process marked the first time so many organizations collaborated to participate in one coordinated assessment versus conducting their own independently.

### ***All Priorities Identified***

- ***Economic Vitality (72 participants for 2 meetings)***
  1. *Develop a more educated workforce*
  2. *Create nationally competitive and sustainable jobs*
  3. *Increase wages and income*
- ***Education (68 participants for 2 meetings)***
  1. *Improve access and services among students for mental health needs*
  2. *Assist low income students success in K-12 and their entry into postsecondary education*
  3. *Improve school safety*
- ***Environment (51 participants for 2 meetings)***
  1. *Reduce local impacts of climate change by local actions*
  2. *Protect and preserve the Spokane Rathdrum Aquifer*
  3. *Increase population density to prevent urban sprawl into rural land*
- ***Healthy People (146 participants for 3 meetings)***
  1. *Reduce suicide rates by improving life preservation strategies*
  2. *Reduce impacts of family trauma and violence*
  3. *Reduce food insecurity*
- ***Housing & Transportation (115 participants for 2 meetings)***
  1. *Improve the availability of affordable housing*
  2. *Develop housing together with transit systems*
  3. *Reduce poverty rates*
- ***Public Safety (77 participants for 2 meetings)***
  1. *Reduce impacts of family trauma and violence*
  2. *Increase access and services for residents with co-occurring substance abuse and mental health Issue*
  3. *Increase access and services for residents dealing with substance abuse issues*