



Survey on the Health of All the Population and the Environment

SHAPE, a public health surveillance project in Hennepin County, was initiated in 1998 to gather data on the health status of residents and the factors that affect their health. The first two editions of the SHAPE survey, implemented in 1998 and 2002, gathered data on adult residents of the county (only). Beginning in 2006, a second component was added to the SHAPE survey to collect information on the health status of Hennepin County children aged 0 to 17 years through parent report. The SHAPE 2015 – Child Survey continues the health status monitoring efforts initiated by the SHAPE 2006 and 2010 – Child Survey by collecting information directly from parents.

For the first time, the SHAPE 2015 – Youth Survey gathered information directly from adolescents aged 13 to 17. This is being done for two primary reasons. First, a review of literature found that parental knowledge of health behaviors, specifically risk behaviors, among adolescents is often not a reliable measure of child behavior. This approach allows for *more accurate reporting* of adolescent health behaviors and allows for comparison to other school-administered youth surveys (specifically the Minnesota Student Survey). Secondly, Hennepin County seeks *county-level estimates* of adolescent behaviors that would not likely be accurately known to parents, such as alcohol or tobacco use and connection to parents and the community. County level estimates of adolescent behaviors will not be available from the 2013 Minnesota Student Survey due to Minneapolis Public Schools not participating in the administration of that survey.

History

SHAPE, a public health surveillance project, was initiated by the Hennepin County Community Health Department in 1998 in partnership with the Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support. A primary reason for conducting the SHAPE survey was to provide data on the health status and the factors that affect health for adults in Hennepin County, for use in planning, programming and policy development in a range of government, community and health organizations. A second goal was to provide baseline data for Hennepin County to help measure changes in health indicators and status over time. SHAPE has been implemented every four years since 1998. In 2014, Metro SHAPE 2014 was coordinated with seven other local public health jurisdictions in the Twin Cities metro area (City of Bloomington, City of Minneapolis, Carver County, Dakota County, Ramsey County, Scott County, and Washington County). Hennepin County administered the Child and Youth SHAPE 2015 survey separately from the larger metro-wide effort for Metro SHAPE 2014.

Methodology

Child SHAPE 2015 collected information about children in Hennepin County through a mixed mode online and mail survey sent to randomly selected households in the county. The online component was developed using Qualtrics. Youth SHAPE was administered via online mode only.

The households included in the Child and Youth SHAPE 2015 survey came from a sample of addresses in the U.S. Postal Services' Delivery Sequence File (DSF). Within the two geographic sampling areas (Minneapolis and suburban Hennepin County), some smaller areas were oversampled to increase the probability that residents of sub-populations of special interest (e.g., Hispanics/Latinos, Hmong, Somalis, U.S.-born Blacks, low-income households, etc.) were included. In addition to the oversampled areas, a child flag was developed using state and county program records such as WIC and birth records, indicating the likely presence of a child in the household. This indicator has two conditions (two strata) – “Likely household” with a child present vs. “Not likely” to have a child present. Within a household, parents were instructed to select a random child for whom to complete the survey.

Using the Post Office's Delivery Sequence File, 26,000 households that were not in group homes were randomly selected to be in the sample. Each household was contacted six times.

- 1) Mailing 1 – a postcard notifying the household that they were selected to participate in Child and Youth SHAPE 2015.
- 2) Mailing 2 – a letter describing the project and instructing parents to take the Child SHAPE on-line using the included ID and password and to ask their teen 13-17 years of age to complete the Youth SHAPE survey online.
- 3) Mailing 3 – a postcard thanking the households who had already completed the survey and asking those who had not completed the survey to do so.
- 4) Mailing 4 – a letter describing the project and instructing parents to take the Child SHAPE on-line using the included ID and password and to ask their teen 13-17 years of age to complete the Youth SHAPE survey online.
- 5) Mailing 5 – a letter to parents to complete the Child SHAPE survey using the enclosed written version along with a postage-paid return envelope and a card for teens to complete the Youth SHAPE survey online.
- 6) Mailing 6 – a final letter to parents to complete the Child SHAPE survey using the enclosed written version along with a postage-paid return envelope.

Preliminary results are:

963 households in the sample were vacant

2,848 households contacted the Metro SHAPE staff to be removed from the survey sample

578 parents completed the Child SHAPE survey online.

128 youth completed the Youth SHAPE survey online.

796 households completed the survey by mail.

The overall response rate is 5.5%.

The first reports presenting the results from Child and Youth SHAPE 2015 and Metro SHAPE 2014 are scheduled to be published in the summer of 2015.

Further Information

For more information about Child and Youth SHAPE 2015, see www.hennepin.us/SHAPE or contact SHAPE@hennepin.us.

For more information about Metro SHAPE 2014, see www.MPHAN.org or contact SHAPE@Hennepin.us.