

# CommuniVax Environmental Scan

Data for the environmental scan should be collected using a combination of publicly available data and key informant interviews. It is possible that some of the data categories below may not be available or applicable for your locality. You should tailor the scan accordingly.

As you search for information, conduct key informant interviews, and generally prioritize your efforts, please keep in mind the following areas that should be emphasized in this process:

- From a holistic perspective, how is your local community experiencing the pandemic? (e.g. What is the disease burden, and has it varied between subpopulations? What are the health care options like? Have employment and housing been impacted, and if so how?)
- What unique, long-term challenges has your local community faced prior to the pandemic and what impact, if any, has the pandemic had on these challenges?
- What systems are in place to administer COVID-19 vaccination? What organizations are involved? What planning has already occurred?

## DEMOGRAPHICS

These data are meant to provide a general overview of the local area. As you collect this information please pay particular attention to how the demographic data may intersect, for example, race and SES or living situations and SES, and also consider how these demographic factors may intersect with COVID-19 exposure and susceptibility.

Reporting: Provide a 1 page (~3 paragraph or 500 word) description of the demographics of your local community. Include a description of the geographic area covered, as well as the most recent census data on the racial/ethnic makeup in this area. Include other details, including socioeconomic and other demographic data, as you feel is pertinent to your local population. Please make sure to provide full citations for the information provided.

1. Race/Ethnicity
  - a. What is the racial/ethnic makeup of the local area?
  - b. What is the geographic spread of different racial/ethnic groups within the local area? Are they intermingled? Segregated?
2. Socioeconomics
  - a. What is the income makeup of the local area? How does income relate to race/ethnicity and geography?
  - b. What type of work do people in the local area do? What kinds of occupational risks/exposures are they subject to? What proportion are 'essential workers' whose jobs entail higher risk of exposure to SARS-CoV2, and what kinds of essential work is done? How do occupation-related risks relate to race/ethnicity?
  - c. What is the housing situation in the local area like (e.g., single family housing, multi-family housing, average household size)? What is the quality of the housing stock (e.g. are there issues with lead or crowding)? How does housing relate to race/ethnicity and geography?

- d. Is public transportation available? If so, what proportion of the population uses public transportation? If not, how do community members without their own transportation access essential goods and services (grocery stores, medical clinics, etc.)?
- e. Is food security or health care access an issue in your community? If so, how?

## COMMUNITY RESOURCES

These data are meant to provide an understanding of community assets that exist in local areas. Understanding what local assets exist is key to developing collaborations and identifying community resources that can be leveraged to promote equity in COVID-19 vaccination.

Reporting: Provide a table of all the community resources (question 1 below) that serve the specific population of interest in your local area. This table should provide details on the type of resource (e.g., produce worker's union, places of worship), who the resource serves (children, retirees, etc.), and any other data you feel is important to include. Provide a 1 page (~500 word) description of the communication options/resources that exist in your local community (as detailed in question 2 below). Finally, provide a narrative description (~1 paragraph or 150 words) for each of the top (based on your own assessment) 3-5 community resources included in the table, as well as a short (1-2 paragraph or 300 word) answer to questions 2 and 3 below.

1. What community resources exist for members of your local community and what do they offer? Consider, but do not limit your assessment to, the following:
  - a. Faith communities
  - b. Community based NGOs
  - c. Community groups/clubs
  - d. Senior centers
  - e. Unions
  - f. Other resources/community gathering places (e.g., barbershops, community gardens, ethnic grocery stores, Walmart)
2. What resources exist for communication? How is communication happening for members of your population of interest?
  - a. What unique local resources (e.g. Spanish radio stations, city Facebook pages, etc.) exist for members of the local community to access information?
  - b. Across the geographic area covered by your local community, what type of broadband/internet access exists?
  - c. What other communication resources exist in your local area (e.g. hotlines, helplines)? Where are they located? What language are they in?
3. What is civic engagement like in your community? Does local government communicate via town hall meetings, newsletters, etc.? How engaged is the local community with these efforts? How does this vary by SES and/or race ethnicity?
4. What is the state of social capital and cohesion in the community? Are diverse segments of this community united or in competition generally speaking? Currently, are there any contentious issues that affect this community?

## HEALTH ASSETS/RESOURCES

These data are meant to provide an understanding of the public health and general health care resources that exist in local areas. Understanding these health assets exist is key to developing collaborations and identifying potential “end users” for local findings and reports.

Reporting: Provide a table of all the public health and health care resources that exist in your local area. This table should provide counts of each type of resource and any other data you feel is important to include. In addition to the table, provide a short (1-2 sentence) summary on health insurance coverage (as detailed in question 3 below, ideally using local data, but if this is not available state data will suffice) and a ½-1 page (~1-2 paragraph or 200 word) description of the local health department (as detailed in question 4 below). Please make sure to provide full citations for the information provided.

1. What health resources exist in the local area? Consider the following:
  - a. Community health centers, including WIC offices and other specialized care centers (e.g. reproductive health)
  - b. HMOs
  - c. Hospitals
  - d. Pharmacies
  - e. Private medical clinics
  - f. Public health offices
  - g. Traditional healers or other forms of care
  - h. Other vaccination sites including school clinics and food distribution centers that offer vaccinations, mobile vaccination clinics, etc.
2. Who accesses these health care resources? How does SES and/or race/ethnicity relate to access?
3. What proportion of the population has health insurance? What proportion of the population is on Medicaid? Is there any variance based on race/ethnicity?
4. How well resourced is the local health department in terms of staff, budget and partnerships? How has the pandemic affected organizational capacity?

## COMMUNITY RELATIONS WITH PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE

These data are meant to help assess the current relationships between the communities of interest and the government and health systems that are meant to promote public health and safety. This information is foundational to establishing coalitions and strengthening lasting partnerships between community members/organizations and public health officials/organizations.

Reporting: Provide a 2-5 page (1000-2500 word) summary based on answers to the questions below. Not all questions will be applicable to each local area. For the questions that are applicable, please provide empirical, specific data along with narrative assessments. Also, please make sure to provide full citations for the information provided.

1. What is the nature and quality of public health outreach to racial and ethnic minorities in the local community?
2. Do community health boards or community advisory panels exist, and if so, are they inclusive of these populations? How?

3. Are there local community leaders or community organizations that have taken up the mantle of improving the health and well-being of the jurisdiction's racial/ethnic minority populations?
4. Has there been any significant local event or happening in the past that has either positively or negatively shaped interactions between formal health institutions and local racial/ethnic minority communities? How so?
5. Are there any current public health programs/initiatives that are well regarded, or conversely not well regarded, by community members? Why?

## **VACCINATION TRENDS AND CURRENT EFFORTS**

These data will provide important context on local COVID-19 vaccination efforts.

Reporting: Provide a 2-4 page (1000-2000 word) summary that answers each of the questions posed below. Please make sure to provide full citations for the information provided.

What is the current vaccination rate for children in the local area (please clarify what vaccines the rate is based on)? What is the current vaccination rate for adults in the local area (this is likely limited to information on flu vaccination and shingles vaccination for older adults)? How do these rates relate to SES, race/ethnicity, or other demographic variables?

1. Is there any evidence of clustering of non-vaccinated individuals/families within the local community? If so, please describe.
2. What are known barriers to and/or facilitators of vaccination for individuals within the local community?
  - a. What (if any) pro-vaccination efforts exist in the local area?
    - i. Are there any specific pro-vaccination outreach efforts to reach racial/ethnic minority communities? Why or why not? If yes, what is their approach?
  - b. What (if any) anti-vaccination efforts exist in the local area? Please describe.
  - c. Are there any vaccination-related issues (e.g. access difficulties, anti-vaccination sentiment) that are specific to local Black/Indigenous/Latino communities?
3. What are state and local authorities and their partners planning in terms of COVID-19 vaccine distribution?
  - a. How many doses will be available locally?
  - b. Where will COVID-19 vaccines be provided? Why were these locations picked? Was accessibility and appropriateness considered and if so how?
  - c. How will vaccines be paid for?
4. What are state and local authorities and their partners planning in terms of community engagement around COVID-19 vaccination? Have they established advisory or consultative bodies that are inclusive of community members, especially racial and ethnic minority populations? Do they have plans to conduct education and outreach specific to racial/ethnic minorities and if so what?

\*\*\*This information may not be available now, but this is something that local teams will need to pay attention to on a monthly basis throughout the project period (i.e. December to May/June). We will be asking for periodic updates about this.\*\*\*

- a. Where do authorities see their strengths and deficits?
- b. Where could they use help?

## COVID-19 IMPACTS AND RESPONSES

These data will provide insight on how COVID-19 is affecting local populations of color.

Reporting: Provide a 3-5 page (1500-2500 word) summary that answers each of the questions posed below. Please make sure to provide full citations for the information provided.

1. How has the COVID-19 disease burden developed over time in the local area? How have the number of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths compared across local demographic groups? How does the local community compare to the state as a whole?
2. What has been the public health response to COVID-19 up to this point? What have been the local policies on mask wearing and curtailed gatherings? What do public health or government officials believe people are doing with regard to mask wearing and social distancing?
3. To what extent have community actors (versus formal healthcare and public health entities) played a role in the pandemic response? For example, have local houses of worship hosted COVID-19 testing clinics? Are universities or others conducting local research related to the impacts of COVID-19/COVID-19 vaccination? Have local clubs made and distributed masks to low income populations?
4. What have local schools done with regard to hybrid, online or in person learning? Has this changed over time and if so how? What has been the impact of this within the local area?
5. What has been the local reaction to COVID-19 up to this point? Is mask wearing and social distancing accepted or challenged, etc.? How do these responses vary by demographic factors including SES, race/ethnicity, political affiliation, etc.?

## RESOURCES

- US Census data: <https://www.census.gov/data.html>
- CDC data on vaccination rates: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vaxview/index.html>
- Center for Civic Impact data on state policy decisions: [https://github.com/govex/COVID-19/blob/master/data\\_tables/README.md](https://github.com/govex/COVID-19/blob/master/data_tables/README.md)
- Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center: <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/>
  - This resource includes information on COVID-19 incident rates, testing trends, policy decisions by state as well as data on some local areas
- Johns Hopkins map of COVID-19 incidence and hospitalizations by county: <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/us-map>
- ARP data on state level mandates: <https://www.aarp.org/politics-society/government-elections/info-2020/coronavirus-state-restrictions.html>

## ADDITIONAL DETAIL ON KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS

### Who to include:

The number and type of key informants will vary with each local area; however, you should aim for interviewing 5-10 people total including at least one person in each of the following three categories:

- Immunization officers (ideally talk to person in charge)
- Public health information officer
- Public health emergency preparedness coordinator

You should also consider the utility of interviewing some or all of the following, depending on local circumstances:

- Community health center officials
- Health care system (e.g. Kaiser, UMMS) officials
- Community ombudsman/liaison boards attached to health departments or health systems
- Social service providers
- Political leaders including mayors, county executive officers, and city managers
- Community organization leaders

#### **Possible questions to ask:**

\*Please note that this list is to give examples of possible questions, it is far from an exhaustive list of possibilities. What questions are included in any key informant interview will vary depending on who is being interviewed.

Working with racial/ethnic minority communities:

- What type of relationship does your organization have with local racial/ethnic minority communities?
  - Tell us about any programs/initiatives your organization has to work with local \*Black/Latino/Native communities? \*For these and other questions, please ask only about the specific community you are working with in this project.
  - With what other organizations or stakeholders does your organization work to engage with local Black/Latino/Native communities?
- What challenges is the (Black/Latino/Native) community currently facing? How does COVID-19 fit into this?
- How could this project help your organization with outreach to minority communities?

COVID-19 vaccination:

- What are your current plans regarding COVID-19 vaccination?
  - What decisions have been made? What is still being determined?
  - Who is involved in making these decisions?
- What are supportive factors and/or roadblocks your organization sees to implementing a COVID-19 vaccination campaign?
- What would an ideal COVID-19 vaccination rollout in this area look like?
  - What resources are currently available for this effort, what resources are needed?
  - Who needs to be involved with this type of effort and what do they need to do?
  - In your opinion, what could be done to fully engage the local Black/Latino/Native community in COVID-19 vaccination efforts?
- What do you anticipate the public response to COVID-19 vaccination will be? What will the response be within the local Black/Latino/Native community? Do you have any ideas yet about what your team/organization will do to encourage a positive response or offset any negativity?