



## What it was like as a community member to review 700+ questions in preparation for an urban community health survey: A community member's perspective on the review process as a member of the Community Advisory Council

In response to growing health inequalities in Chicago, Sinai Health System (SHS) conducted a survey that has changed the way public health data are used in Chicago. In 2002 and 2003, the SHS research arm, Sinai Urban Health Institute (SUHI), collaborated with several community organizations, residents and local leaders to complete one of the largest door to door health surveys in Chicago, titled *Sinai's Improving Community Health Survey*. In 2014, SUHI was granted \$1.4 million by the Chicago Community Trust to complete an even larger community health survey in conjunction with the University of Illinois at Chicago.



*Above: Members of the Community Advisory Council.*

I was asked to be a member of the Community Advisor Council as a community member representing Chicago Lawn, one of the ten areas to be surveyed. My most significant contribution was making sure that my community's voice was heard in the formulation of the survey.

### 2014 APHA ROUNDTABLE SESSION 4409 HANDOUTS: Youth and community leading the way to healthier communities

1. Invitation to join Community Advisory Council
2. Map of the 10 communities to be surveyed
3. List of Health Topics
4. Sample question review



**Jana Stringfellow-Estell, BS**  
Community Health Educator II  
SINAI URBAN HEALTH INSTITUTE  
1500 S. CALIFORNIA RM. K447  
CHICAGO, IL 60608  
[JANA.STRINGFELLOW@SINAI.ORG](mailto:JANA.STRINGFELLOW@SINAI.ORG)



## *Sinai Community Health Survey* CAC Invitation Letter



September 3, 2013

Dear Jana Stringfellow:

It appears quite likely that our Institute (the Sinai Urban Health Institute or SUHI) will be funded to repeat the landmark community survey that we did about 10 years ago

(<http://www.suhichicago.org/files/publications/P.pdf>; <http://www.suhichicago.org/suhi-book>).

This will be the largest door-to-door health survey ever conducted in the history of Chicago, this time in 10 community areas, interviewing people in 3,000 different households. It is a very exciting possibility and I am writing to you to ask you to participate and help make it a success.

As you know, the foundation of SUHI's work has always been community engagement. Consistent with this, we are forming a Community Advisory Committee of people who live and/or work in one of the 10 communities we will be surveying. You have been nominated to serve on this Committee by Dennis Ryan based upon the fact that you work in Chicago Lawn, one of the communities that will be included in the survey. The initial phase of the Committee's work will be to review all of the proposed questions and help us decide what should or should not be included on the survey.

We have set aside 4 meeting times, on October 8, 15, 22 and 29. Each meeting will be from 9-11 am at Mount Sinai Hospital in Room K434 (on the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor of the Kurtzon Building, just off of the B Elevators). We are honored to pay you \$50 per meeting for this work, but will need you to make a commitment to attend all four meetings.

Please let me know by September 13 if you will be able to participate in this exciting process.

Thanks,

Steve Whitman, Ph.D.

Director

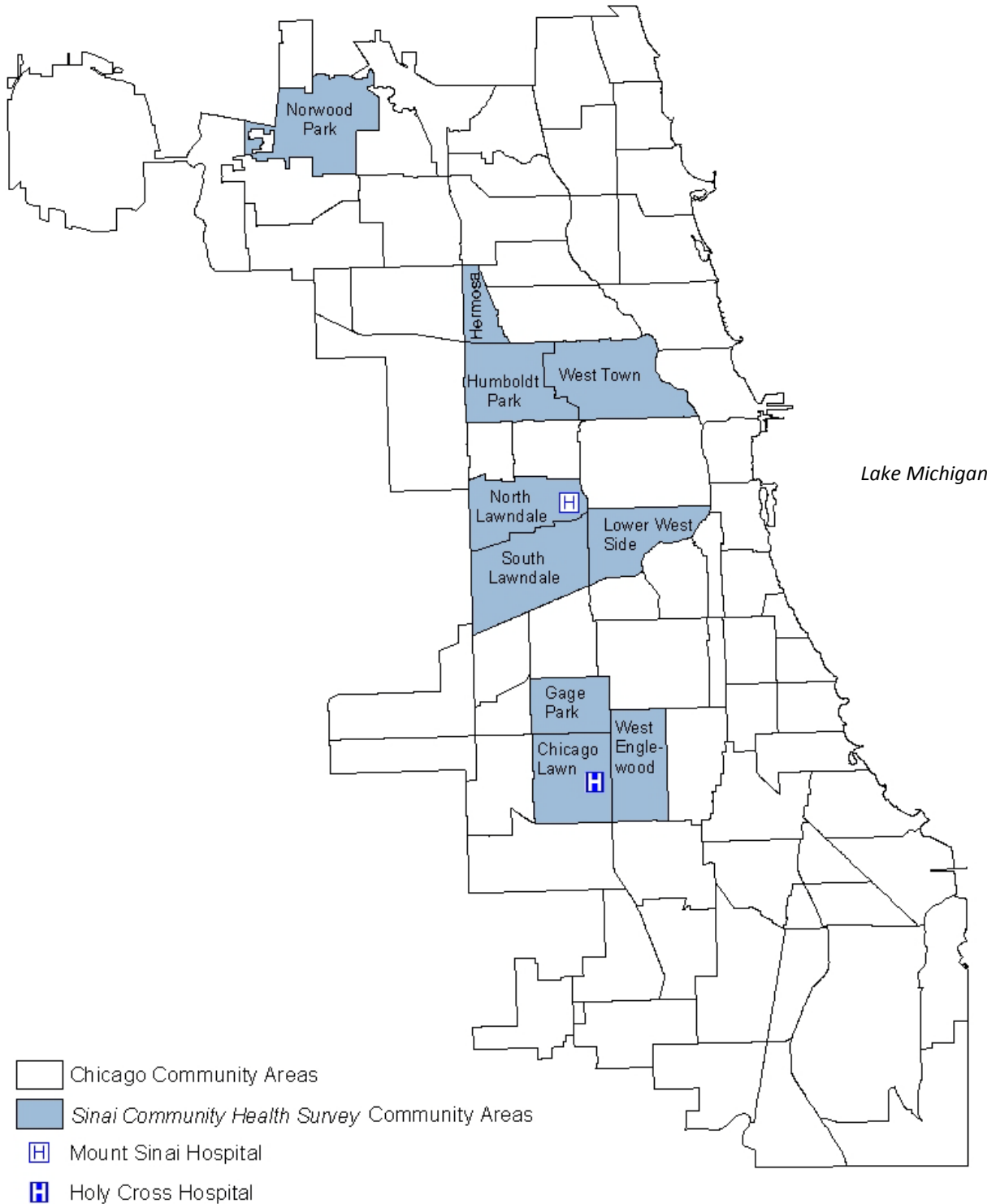
Sinai Urban Health institute



# Sinai Community Health Survey

## Selected Community Areas – 2014

THE  
CHICAGO  
COMMUNITY  
TRUST  
AND AFFILIATES





A proud member of Sinai Health System

# Sinai Community Health Survey 2014 Questionnaire

THE  
CHICAGO  
COMMUNITY  
TRUST

AND AFFILIATES

HEALTH STATUS	Adult	Child
Quality of Life	√	
Self-Rated Health	√	√
HEALTH CONDITIONS	Adult	Child
Chronic Conditions	√	√
Disability and Activity Limitations	√	
HIV	√	
Obesity	√	√
HEALTH CARE UTILIZATION	Adult	Child
Access to Care	√	√
Health Care Utilization	√	√
Health Insurance	√	√
Medications	√	√
Perception of Health Care Services	√	
MENTAL HEALTH	Adult	Child
Anxiety	√	
Depression	√	
Mental and Emotional Well-Being	√	√
Stress and PTSD	√	
HEALTH BEHAVIORS	Adult	Child
Alcohol and Drug Use	√	
Alternative Medicine	√	
Cancer Screening	√	
Diet and Nutrition	√	√
Physical Activity	√	√
Prenatal Care and Infant Health	√	
Sleep	√	√
Smoking	√	√
Vaccines	√	√
DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION	Adult	Child
Demographics	√	√
Socioeconomic Status and Employment	√	
SOCIAL FACTORS	Adult	Child
Acculturation	√	√
Discrimination	√	
Neighborhood Factors	√	
Food Environment and Insecurity	√	√
Incarceration	√	
Religion	√	√
Self-Efficacy and Control	√	
Social Cohesion and Support	√	
Violence	√	√
TOTAL # OF SURVEY QUESTIONS	450	150



# Sinai Community Health Survey

## Sample Survey Page

Stringfellow-APHA 2014-Session # 4409

THE  
CHICAGO  
COMMUNITY  
TRUST  
AND AFFILIATES

**Imagine if you were a community member on a CAC, what changes, if any, would you make to these questions?**

### **Child Violence** (Total questions= 4)

\*No questions were asked on this subject were asked in the 2002 survey.

1. When a person is murdered, it means someone killed them on purpose. In the last year, was anyone close to you murdered, like a friend, neighbor or someone in your family?  
Yes/No  
*Source: JVQ*  
*Notes: On the JVS, this is asked directly to kids*
2. In the last year, was (CHILD) in any place in real life where (HE/SHE) could see or hear people being shot, bombs going off, or street riots?  
Yes/No  
*Source: JVQ*  
*Notes: On the JVS, this is asked directly to kids*
3. To your knowledge, has your child ever been bullied?  
Yes/No  
*Source: None (Made up)*
4. (If yes) Where did this occur? In school, at home, in your neighborhood, or another place?  
SCHOOL  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
HOME  
OTHER  
*Source: None*



# Sinai Community Health Survey

## Sample Survey Page With CAC Changes

Stringfellow APHA 2014-Session # 4409



### Child Violence (Total questions= 6)

1. When a person is murdered, it means someone killed them on purpose. In the last year, was anyone close to you murdered, like a friend, neighbor or someone in your family?

Yes/No

Source: JVQ

Notes: On the JVS, this is asked directly to kids

2. In the last year, was (CHILD) in any place in real life where (HE/SHE) could see or hear people being shot, STREET FIGHTS, OR GANG-RELATED VIOLENCE ~~bombs going off, or street riots?~~

Yes/No

Source: JVQ

Notes: On the JVS, this is asked directly to kids

3. To your knowledge, has your child ever been bullied? **Bullying means aggressive and repeated actions including making threats, spreading rumors, or attacking someone physically or verbally.**

Yes/No

Source: None (Made up)

4. (If yes) Where did this occur? In school, at home, in your neighborhood, or another place?

SCHOOL

NEIGHBORHOOD

HOME

ONLINE OR BY PHONE

OTHER

Source: None

5. To your knowledge, has your child ever bullied another child?

YES

NO

DK

REFUSED

Source: None, suggested by CAC, similar to adult question in 2002 survey

6. Has (CHILD) ever witnessed domestic violence?

YES

NO

DK

REFUSED

Source: None, suggested by CAC, similar to adult question in 2002 survey

### Feedback from the CAC

1. Question 2: Should be modified to read something along the lines of, "....could see or hear people being shot, street fights or gang-related violence." DONE

2. Question 3. Can we add a definition of bullying/examples, such as taking money or belongings, repetitive name calling, physical threats or violence, etc.) They suggested we look for an official definition. DONE

3. Question 4: Add online or texting DONE

4. Suggested additional questions:

- a. Have your child ever been the aggressor/ bully? DONE

- b. Has your child ever witnessed domestic violence? DONE