



Background

The third phase of *San Francisco Healthy Homes (SFHH) Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnership (MAPP) Process* involves the completion of four separate assessments. The **Community Themes and Strengths Assessment (CTSA)** identifies the most critical issues of concern for residents of Bayview Hunters Point and other surrounding neighborhoods and the local assets or resources from which to build successful strategies. Findings from this assessment provide a depiction of the community as seen through the eyes of its residents.

Method

Community input for the CSTA was gathered using four different data collection tools: surveys; focus groups; key informant interviews; and a secondary source data review.

Surveys

Members of the SFHH Resident Committee engaged a cross-section of community members in completing a survey of approximately 25 questions. Surveys were distributed in English, Spanish and Chinese. The survey asked about perceptions of health, safety, and availability of resources in Bayview Hunters Point and surrounding neighborhoods. A total of 402 surveys were completed by community members.

Focus Groups & Key Informant Interviews

Bayview Hunters Point YMCA staff facilitated focused discussion groups to collect qualitative data from community members about their opinions and insight into the availability of community resources and experiences of residents living in Bayview Hunters Point and surrounding neighborhoods. They facilitated three one-hour focus groups--one Spanish-speaking, one Chinese-speaking, and one English-speaking--and three one-on-one interviews with community leaders. In total, 36 participants provided feedback through the focus groups and interviews.

Secondary Source Data Review

A number of prior assessments and planning efforts have informed the MAPP Process and this CTS Assessment. These reports include: *Bayview Hunters Point YMCA Anchor Implementation Plan*; *Eastern Neighborhoods Community Health Impact Assessment*; *Communities of Opportunity Initiative: Final Report of the Community Voices Project*; and *Seva: Community-based Health Policy, Practice and Advocacy Recommendations*. This assessment included a review of these reports and their findings.

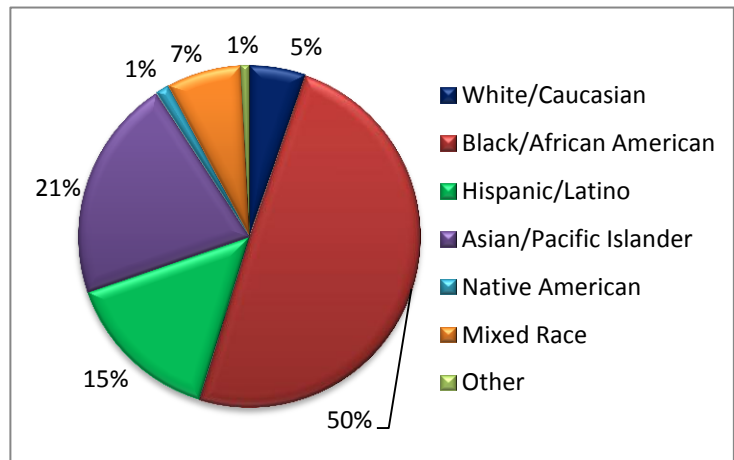


Survey Participant Demographics

The graphics below depict the demographics of the individuals who completed the CTSA survey, including participants' race/ethnicity, gender, age, neighborhood, and number of years lived in the neighborhood.

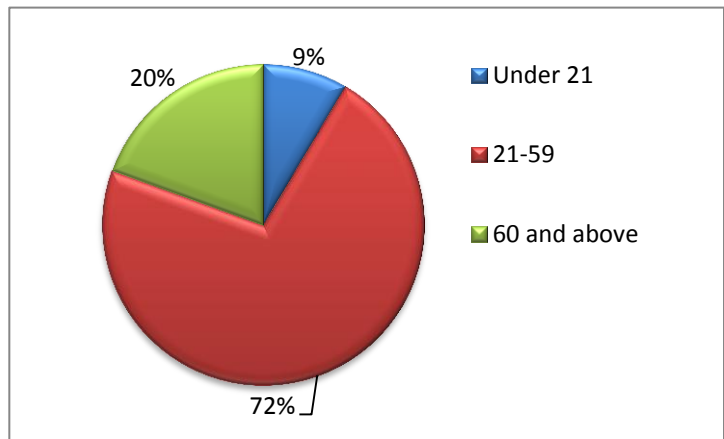
Survey Participant Race/Ethnicity

The graph to the right illustrates the self-reported race/ethnicity of survey participants. Half of respondents (50%) reported as Black/African American and 21% reported as Asian/Pacific Islander. A smaller, yet significant, proportion (15%) identified as Hispanic/Latino.



Survey Participant Age (years)

The graph to the right depicts the age of survey participants. Almost three quarters (72%) of survey participants were adults, between the ages of 21 and 59 years old, 20% were 60 years old or older, and 9% were under 21 years old.

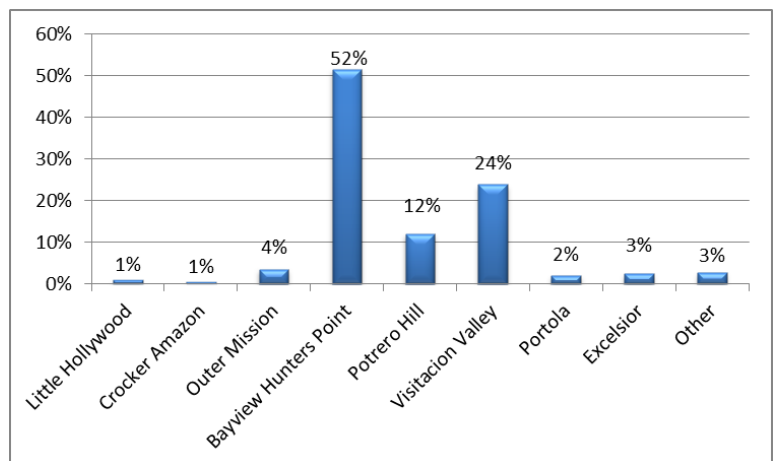


Survey Participant Gender

Nearly two thirds (65%) of survey participants were female, and the remaining 35% were male.

Survey Participant Neighborhood

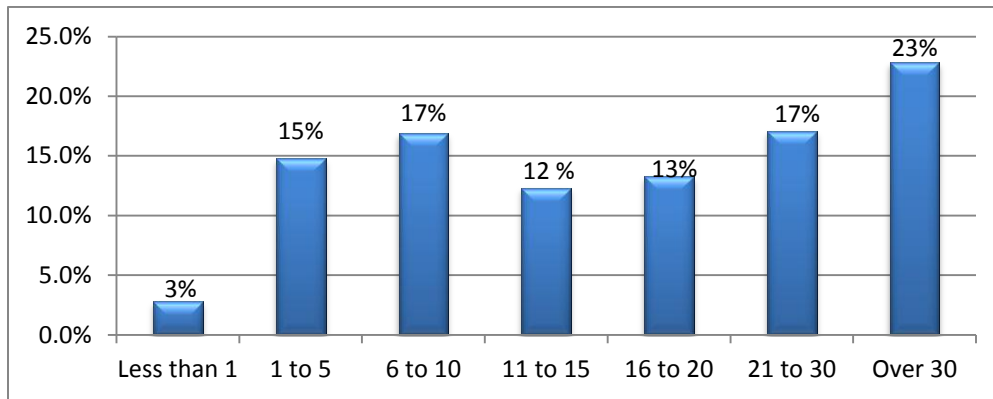
The graph below demonstrates that more than half (52%) of the survey respondents live in Bayview Hunters Point. Nearly a quarter (24%) live in Visitacion Valley.





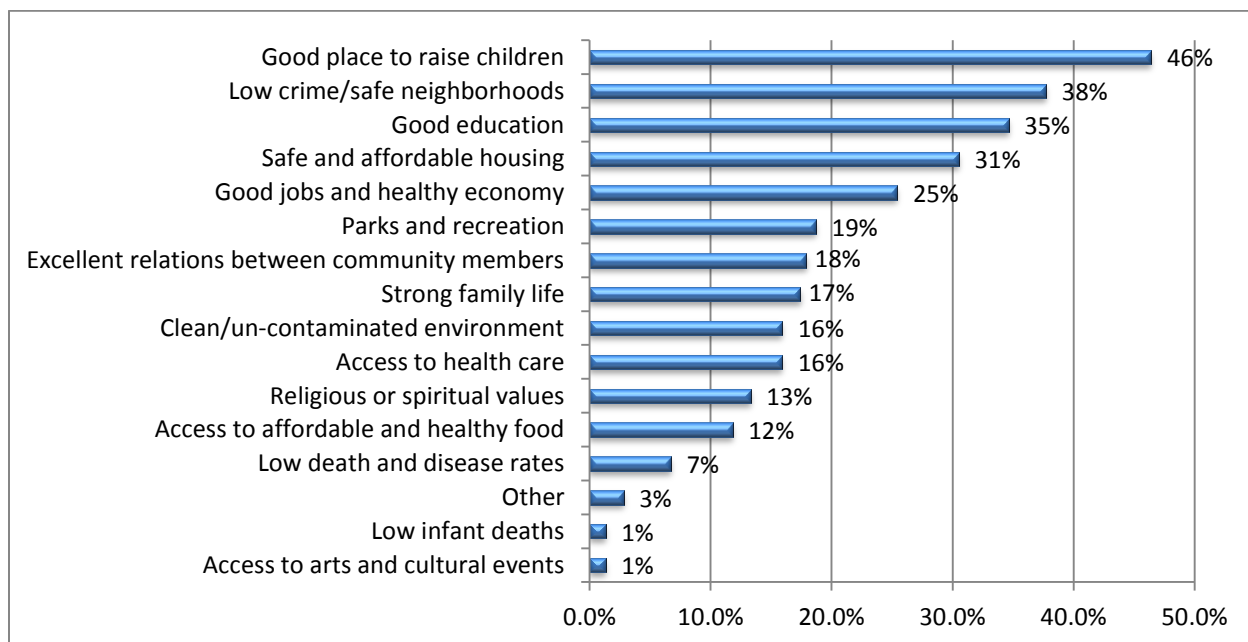
Duration of Residency

The following graph represents the length of time survey participants have lived in the community. The majority of respondents are long-term residents. Fewer than 3% have lived in the neighborhood for less than one year, while 66% of respondents report having lived in the community for more than 10 years.



Key Themes from the CTSA Survey

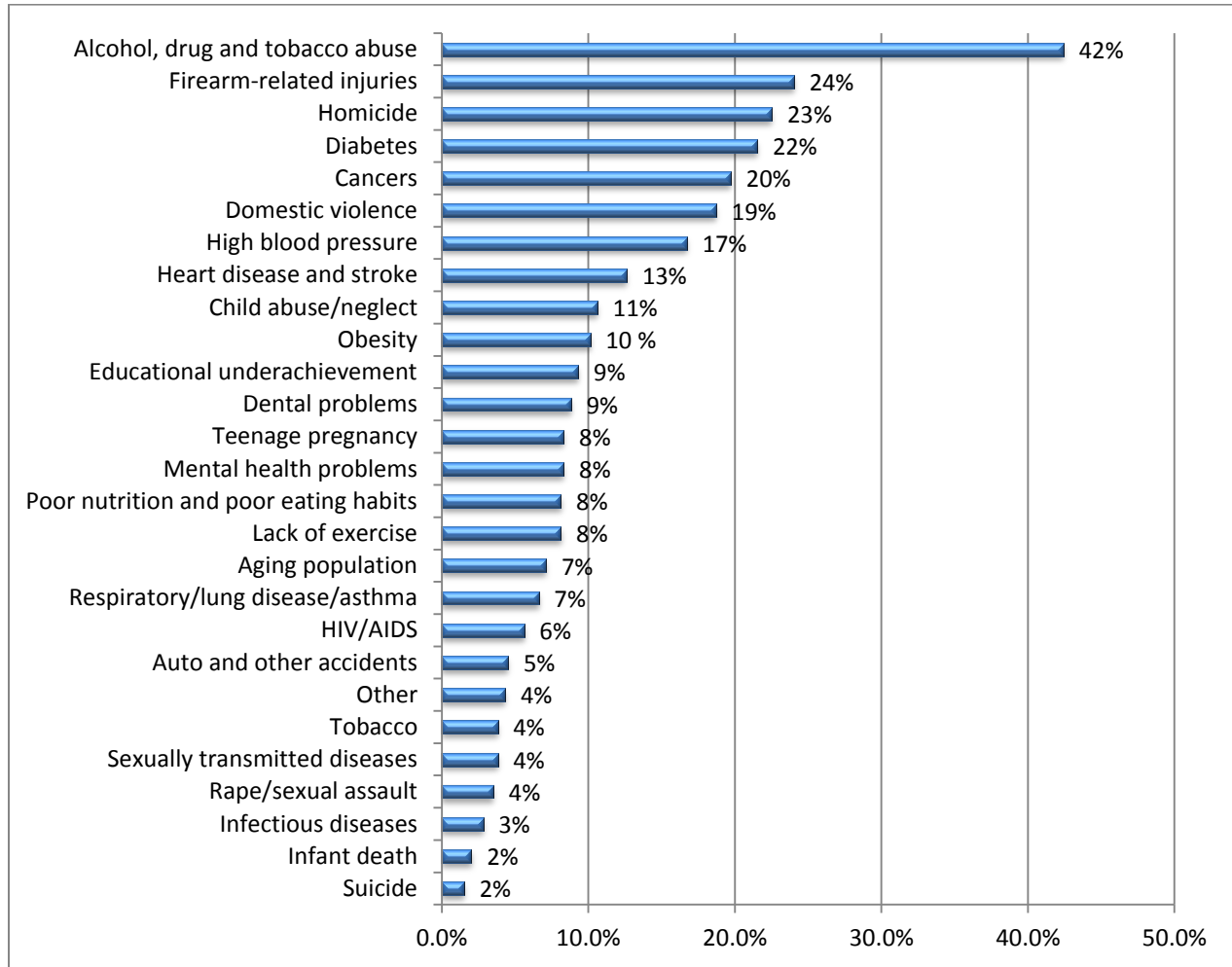
The survey asked respondents to select the three most important factors for a healthy home and neighborhood; the figure below reflects the proportion of respondents who selected each of these community assets. Respondents indicated that the most important aspects of a healthy community include a healthy place to raise children; community safety; quality education; and safe and affordable housing.





San Francisco Healthy Homes Project: Community Themes and Strengths Assessment

The survey asked respondents to select the three most serious health problems in the community; the figure below reflects the proportion of respondents who selected each of these health issues. The use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs was by far the greatest concern among survey participants.



Community Strengths and Challenges

Strengths

One of the clear strengths of Bayview Hunters Point and surrounding communities is the strong sense of community felt by residents. Two thirds of survey participants share the belief that all residents—alone and together—can make the community a better place to live, work, or play. This belief is supported by focus group participants who shared that neighbors help each other, for example, by reminding each other of street cleaning. They feel that a good neighbor can be like family, especially for those whose family lives far away. Residents also described the strong networks of support in the community. For example, there are many organizations that help individuals and families who are experiencing stress from violence and/or substance



abuse. Not only do these organizations provide support, but they also empower residents to become advocates in the community.

Residents describe the pride they feel for their community, and emphasize that it is a beautiful, sunny place to live. The length of time residents have lived in their neighborhood also reflects the deep investment they feel in the community. Almost two thirds of survey participants have lived in the community for more than ten years. One focus group participant stated, “I love Bayview Hunters Point. I have lived here for seven years and I get mad when I hear people talking bad about it.” Another participant shared, “I would love to grow old here. I see a big change coming, and I hope to be here to see it.”

Bayview Hunters Point community members actively participate and are involved in community change efforts. The *Communities of Opportunity Initiative Report* acknowledges the interest residents have in being a part of improving conditions for themselves, their families, and the larger community. Not only do residents identify challenges, but they also offer feasible and creative solutions for community issues. Furthermore, the degree of participation by community members in the assessment process, and the engagement of the Resident Committee, is evidence of their sustained commitment to making Bayview Hunters Point a healthy place to live.

Challenges

The greatest challenge is that residents do not feel the community is a safe place to live. Focus group participants provided examples of experiences that make them feel unsafe, including: random acts of violence in the community; break-ins to people’s homes and cars; and a lack of responsiveness from police when crimes are reported. One woman described being followed after getting off the bus and having her handbag stolen. After the incident she felt too unsafe to walk by herself, so her husband now goes with her. Several examples of gun violence were also described, including one where an elderly woman was shot while taking the clothes off the line in her yard and another where a child was shot while walking with his father. The apparent randomness of these events causes even greater concern among residents about their safety, and their insecurity is reinforced by the perception that police don’t respond to their calls. Fear of violence informs their view that Bayview Hunters Point is not a good place to raise children or to grow old.

Residents also express concern about the health of the environment and the quality of life in the neighborhood. Residents are concerned with environmental contamination, including: the exhaust from buses and trucks; the toxic impact of the sewage and chemical plants; and the presence of pests such as raccoons and skunks in the neighborhood. Participants indicate that they are aware of the connection between these environmental issues and various health problems such as asthma and other respiratory issues. Residents also voice frustration about the mold and mildew in the housing, which, despite being reported to the Housing Authority and landlords, have not been addressed, and in some cases, have been painted over to hide the problem. The combination of these issues has a serious impact on both the health and the quality of life of residents in the community.



Residents feel that services and supports are often inaccessible or absent. Health care services are of particular concern to residents, who complain that clinics do not have evening or weekend hours for people who work, and are not equipped to accommodate all languages. Residents describe having to go through a lottery process to potentially get a same day appointment and being put on hold for long wait periods when they call to schedule appointments, which are two to three months away and only allow for ten minutes with a clinician. These issues have caused residents to seek health care from providers in other neighborhoods.

CTSA Survey Data Summary

The CTSA Survey asked participants to rank 15 statements on a 5-point scale, that ranged from strongly disagree to strongly agree. The table below presents the combined responses for each question.

Statement	Agree	Neutral	Disagree
All residents – alone and together – can make our community a better place to live, work, or play.	66.0%	17.3%	14.5%
Services in our community are accessible to all members.	45.7%	24.6%	26.3%
Community members have an active sense of pride in their community.	40.4%	24.9%	29.5%
I’m satisfied with the availability of healthy food in my community.	38.2%	23.5%	33.9%
My community has good networks of support for individuals and families during times of stress and need.	36.5%	29.0%	29.6%
There is economic opportunity in my community.	34.6%	23.5%	37.4%
The quality of indoor environments in my community is good.	34.3%	25.8%	38.1%
I’m satisfied with my housing situation.	34.3%	23.5%	39.7%
I’m satisfied with the health care resources in my community.	31.8%	28.5%	34.8%
I’m confident that local government is providing the necessary services in my community.	32.1%	21.0%	40.0%
My community is a good place to grow old.	30.5%	25.7%	40.1%
My community is a good place to raise children.	33.2%	24.2%	40.6%
The quality of the outdoor environment in my community is good.	31.9%	23.4%	41.7%
I’m satisfied with the quality of life in my community.	30.7%	25.9%	41.8%
My community is a safe place to live.	28.0%	23.8%	46.9%