

Norwood Community Health Assessment

June 2005



Assessment Process

- Review of local health data
- Discussion with Board of Health members
- Focus Groups

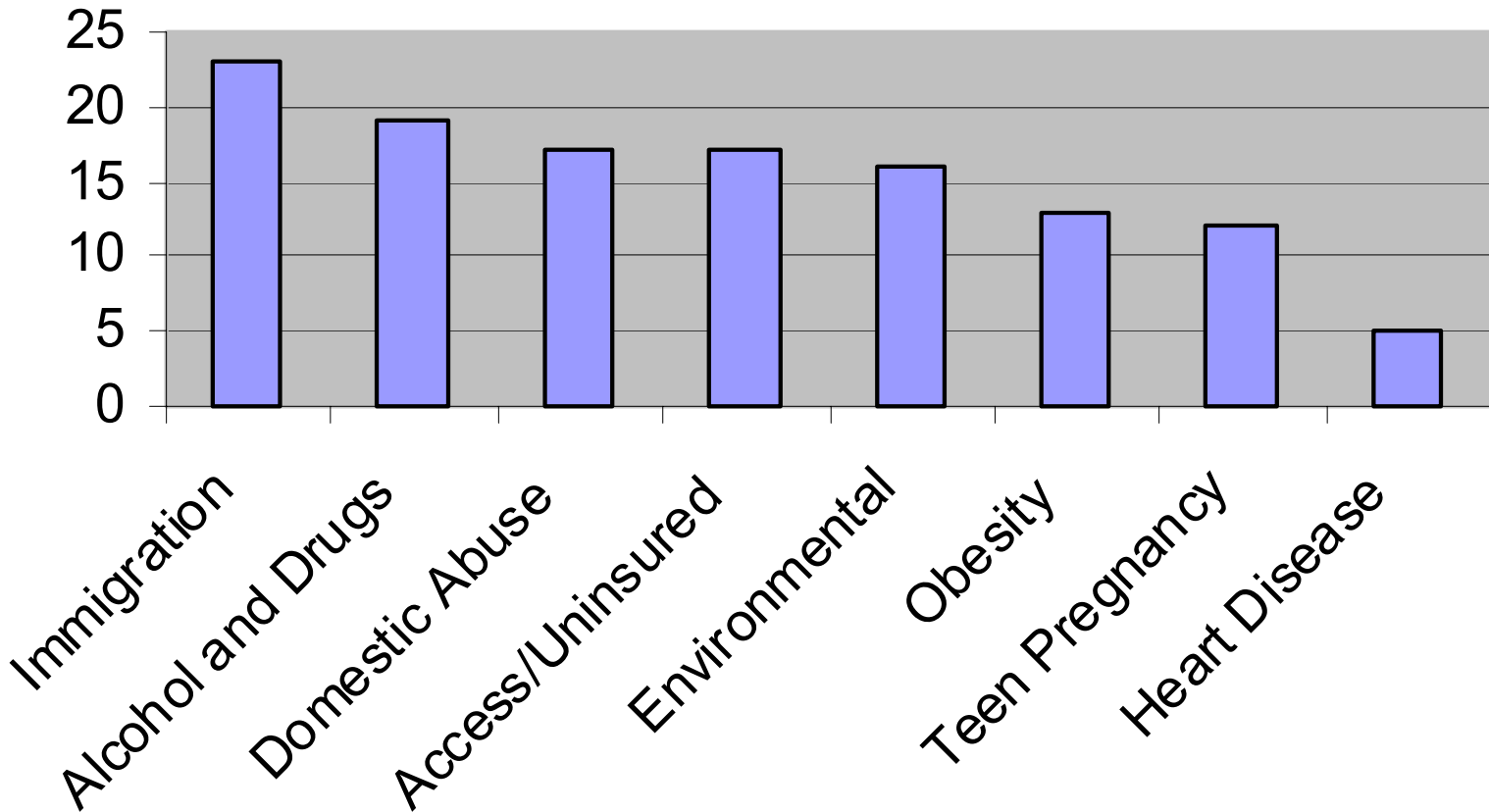
Focus Groups

- Five focus groups conducted
- Participants recruited through flyers, organizations and personal contact
- 47 Norwood residents took part

Characteristics of focus group respondents

- 75% were female
- 54% were over 55 years of age; 33% were over age 75
- 89% were white
- 58% had at least some college experience

Norwood Community Health Concerns



Priority Health Concerns

- Immigration
 - Language barriers
 - Inability to provide services
 - Different cultural expectations
- Alcohol and substance use, tobacco
- Access to health care
 - Uninsured, under insured

Priority Health Concerns

- Environmental issues
 - Trash
 - Neglected or abandoned property
- Domestic abuse
 - Elder abuse/unsafe living conditions
 - Child abuse
- Obesity—school age children
- Teen Pregnancy and STDs

Other Issues and Concerns

- Communication with the community
 - No newspaper
 - Lack of awareness of services
- Importance of the health department
 - Responsive to community need—"If you call them, they will come"
 - Ability to collaborate and partner

“The health department is a life source for this community”

Suggestions

Develop New Community Partnerships

- Develop community-wide approach to address:
 - Drug and alcohol issues
 - Environmental and property maintenance issues
 - Lack of communication system (newspaper)
 - Routine contact and services to elderly residents

Inform People

- Education
 - Information and outreach to Spanish speaking immigrants
 - Promote available health department services
 - Healthier activities for youth
 - Encourage parents as healthier role models

Add Services thru Partnerships

- Promote healthier school policies
- STD counseling and testing services
- Establish a communication system for Norwood

Keep Health Dept in public eye

- Use assets already present in community
- Publicize efforts to increase public awareness