

## Prioritization Scoring Methodology

### How Prioritization Scores were Gathered

From November 2023 – January 2024, the Washtenaw County Health Department sought community input on the three priority health needs the forthcoming Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) would focus on. Participants at the following events filled out a prioritization scorecard as part of a facilitated activity:

- State of Our Health event
- 5 smaller community engagement sessions with the following groups: Educate Youth, Whitmore Lake, Survivors Speak, Ypsilanti Twp., and the Latinx community.

Nine significant areas of need emerged from the Community Health Assessment (CHA): Access to Healthy Food, Affordable Housing, Equity in Education, Financial Stability, Health Care Access and Navigation, Infectious Disease, Mental Health, Older Adult Health, and Substance Use.

Participants scored these nine health topics on three criteria (resources, severity of issue, and community readiness). For each health topic, participants assigned a score of 1-3 to each criterion, with a higher score indicating a greater need for that topic to be prioritized. This methodology describes how all individual scorecards were combined to create a final overall prioritization score.

### Scoring Methodology

For each priority area and each of the three criteria, the number of responses that were scored as 1s, 2s, and 3s were added together and weighted accordingly (1s x 1, 2s x 2, and 3s x 3) to produce a total weighted sum for each criteria. These weighted sums for each of the three criteria were then added together for each priority area. Those sums were then divided by 3 to produce an average sum per criteria, and subsequently divided by the number of respondents, resulting in the “final” score for each area as an average score per criteria per respondent. Below is a hypothetical example of scoring for a single health topic with 10 respondents to further illustrate the methodology that was used:

#### Criteria 1: Resources and Capacity

	1 – Few/none	After weighting (x1)	2 - Some	After weighting (x2)	3 – A lot	After weighting (x3)	Total weighted sum
Example priority area	2	2	5	10	3	9	<b>21</b>

#### Criteria 2: Severity of Issue

	1 – Few/none	After weighting (x1)	2 - Some	After weighting (x2)	3 – A lot	After weighting (x3)	Total weighted sum
Example priority area	3	3	3	6	4	12	<b>21</b>

### Criteria 3: Community Readiness

	1 – Few/none	After weighting (x1)	2 - Some	After weighting (x2)	3 – A lot	After weighting (x3)	Total weighted sum
Example priority area	2	2	3	6	5	15	<b>23</b>

### Overall score

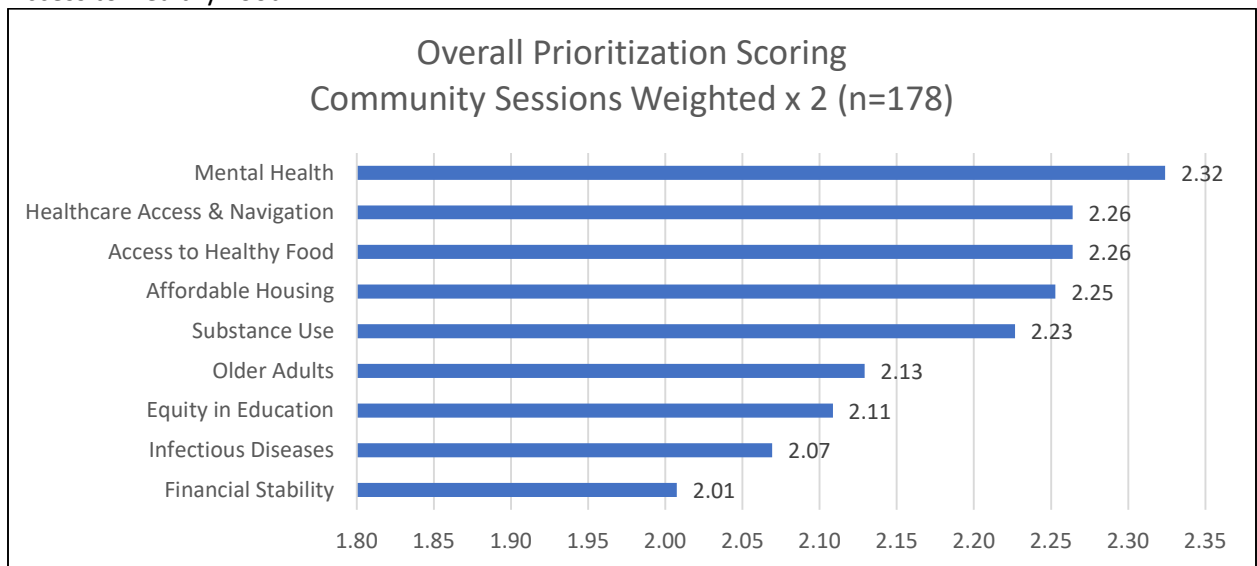
	Criteria 1 sum	Criteria 2 sum	Criteria 3 sum	Total sum	Average sum	Number of respondents	Final score
Example priority area	21	21	23	65	21.7	10	<b>2.17</b>

This methodology inevitably creates close scoring among all of the categories, given that the “final” score produced is an average score for each respondent per criteria, and therefore must be between 1 and 3. Most of the final scoring fell between 2 and 3 given that 2s and 3s were more prevalent across the scoring than 1s.

### Final Results

We looked at these responses in two ways, one looking at average scores and one looking at average ranking. Both ways gave us the same set of 3 final priorities.

1. We averaged the scores from all individual responses, weighting the responses from the smaller community sessions x2, essentially counting those responses twice. The three topics that had the overall highest average scores were Mental Health, Health Care Access and Navigation, and Access to Healthy Food.



2. We averaged the overall rankings of the 5 highest scoring topics at the State of Our Health event with the rankings of the 5 highest scoring topics from the community sessions. The three topics that had the overall highest average rankings were Mental Health, Health Care Access and Navigation, and Access to Healthy Food.

	State of Our Health event	Community Sessions (combined)
Priority #1	Mental Health	Health Care Access and Navigation
Priority #2	Affordable Housing	Access to Healthy Food
Priority #3	Access to Healthy Food	Mental Health
Priority #4	Health Care Access and Navigation	Substance Use
Priority #5	Substance Use	Affordable Housing

**Mental Health:** (priority 1 from SOOH event + priority 3 from community sessions)/2 groups we're combining = average priority ranking of **#2**

**Health care Access and Navigation:** (4+1)/2 = **2.5**

**Healthy Food:** (3+2)/2 = **2.5**

Affordable Housing: (2+5)/2 = **3.5**

Substance Use: (5+4)/2 = **4.5**