

Using NCHPAD Tools to Make Data-Driven Decisions

Success Story by:

Coalition for a Healthy Greater
Worcester



NATIONAL CENTER ON HEALTH, PHYSICAL ACTIVITY & DISABILITY

NCHPAD

nchpad.org

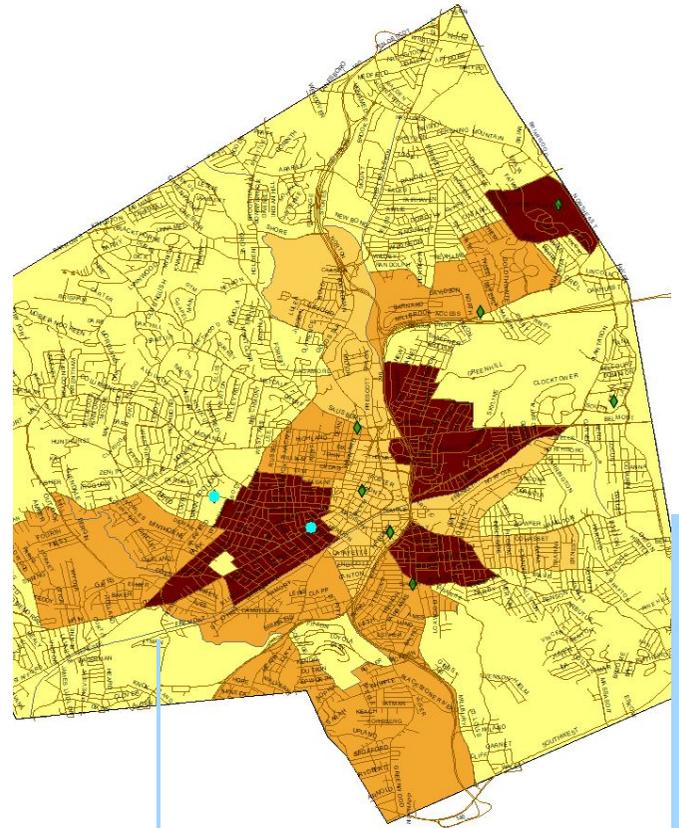


Casey@HealthyGreaterWorcester.org

Yeisen2@uic.edu

Background

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) Mass in Motion Municipal Wellness and Leadership Program (MiM) and the Health and Disability Program (HDP) in the Office of Health Equity (OHE), provided mini grants for 4 communities to collect data on community inclusion to inform the decision making process. Communities were required to use the Community Health Inclusion Index (CHII), a tool for assessing the extent to which healthy living resources are inclusive of people with a disability.



Worcester Spotlight

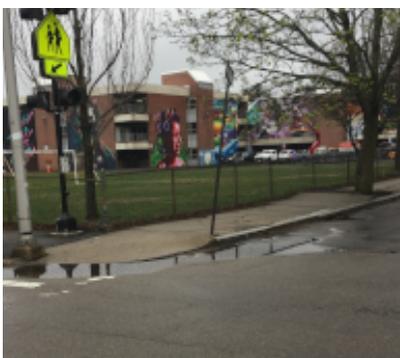
The Coalition for a Healthy Greater Worcester proposed to address access to physical activity infrastructure for people with disabilities. A team from the coalition utilized the CHII to identify which playgrounds in the community should be a priority for improving inclusion. The team assessed all elementary school playgrounds and outdoor play spaces in the City of Worcester. The Coalition scaled their work to include public parks and recreation spaces beyond playgrounds for 2 target neighborhoods to provide a comprehensive understanding of the options for families in those neighborhoods. This process generated a large database of information on inclusion of playgrounds and recreation spaces.

Using data

Data from the CHII helped identify the playgrounds that had the lowest accessibility for people with disabilities. The CHII data collection team presented the results to the Coalition for a Healthy Greater Worcester. The Physical Activity Committee used the findings from the CHII along with criteria about neighborhoods, and populations served to choose 2 priority schools to provide funding for in the current fiscal year and 2 more schools for the next fiscal year. The Coalition identified additional funding sources for the creation and maintenance of playgrounds. Funds will be used to improve the playgrounds to become universally designed for all members of the community.



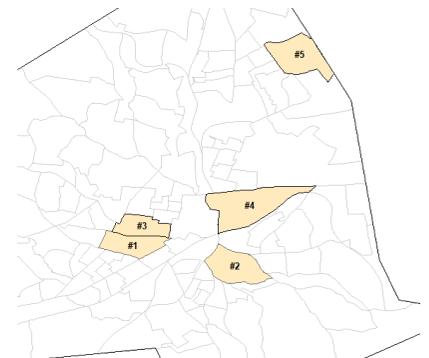
Three Assessment Areas of Focus



Macro Community Assessments



Onsite CHII assessment of WPS playgrounds



Onsite CHII assessment of indoor and outdoor recreation facilities in the top 5 census tracts for Latino Community residence.

Summary

NCHPAD has a suite of tools that can be used by community groups to improve inclusion in community healthy living settings. The Coalition for a Healthy Greater Worcester used data they collected on inclusion to prioritize improvements of playgrounds. Without the data on inclusion, the coalition would not have as much confidence that funding is being spent wisely and in the places where it is most needed.



Healthy Community Design

Parks, playground, and other recreation environments support physical activity that can be inclusive of people with and without disabilities if they are designed for all members of the community. Because much of the recreational infrastructure in the US is not universally designed, there is important improvements that are needed in many communities. Collecting data to inform decisions is a key to successfully improving inclusion of people with disabilities in community's health living resources. To find more out about the CHII visit:

<https://www.nchpad.org/1273/6358/Community~Health~Inclusion~Index>

To find out more about the efforts to improve inclusion in Worcester visit: <https://www.healthygreaterworcester.org/>



Universally Designed
Playgrounds