



2024 State Health Report (SHR)

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WASHINGTON STATE 
BOARD OF HEALTH

Overview

- SHR Community Engagement
- Brief Updates on 2022 SHR Recommendations
- 2024 Recommendations
- Timeline and Next Steps

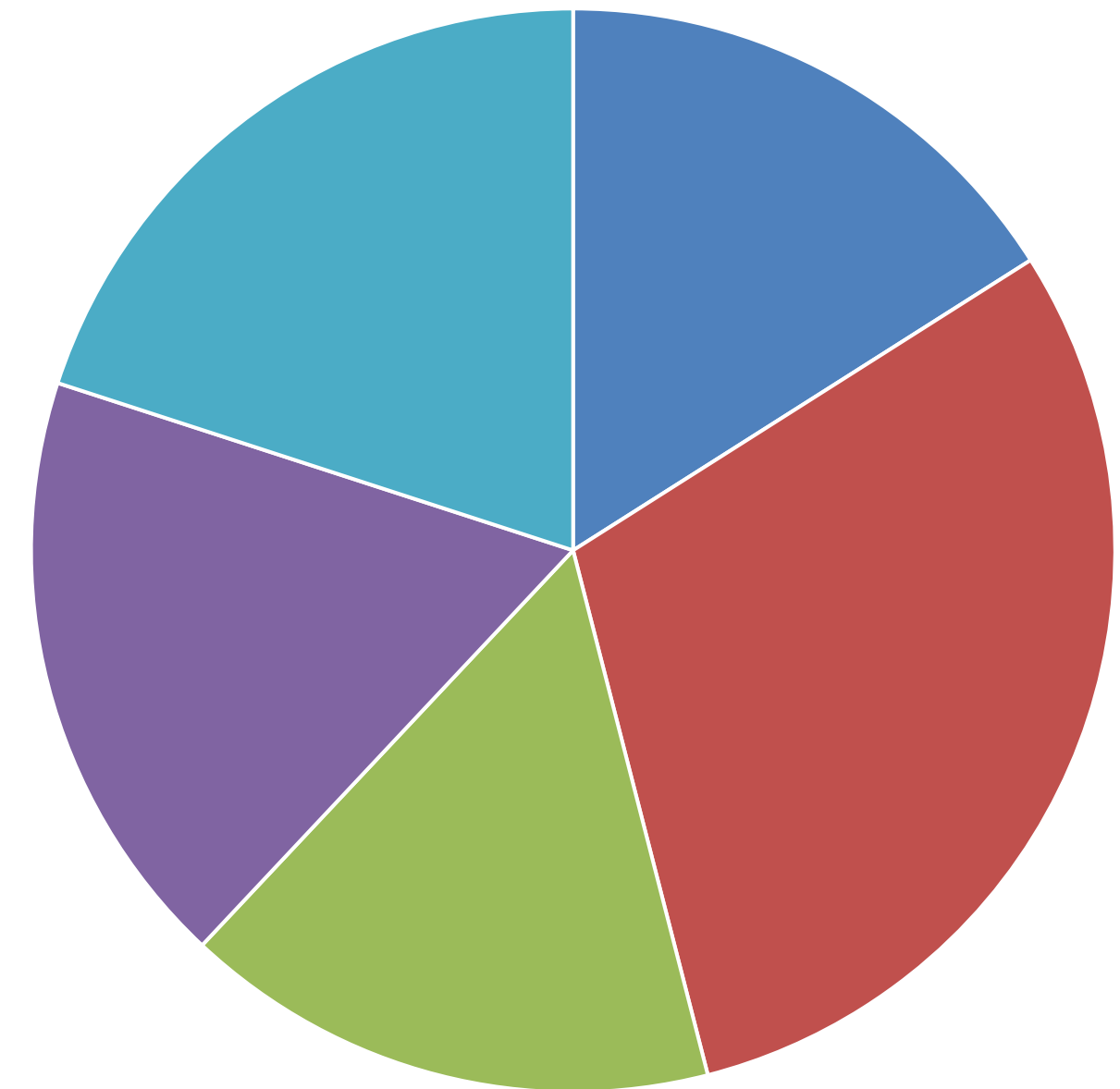


SHR Community Engagement



Community Engagement

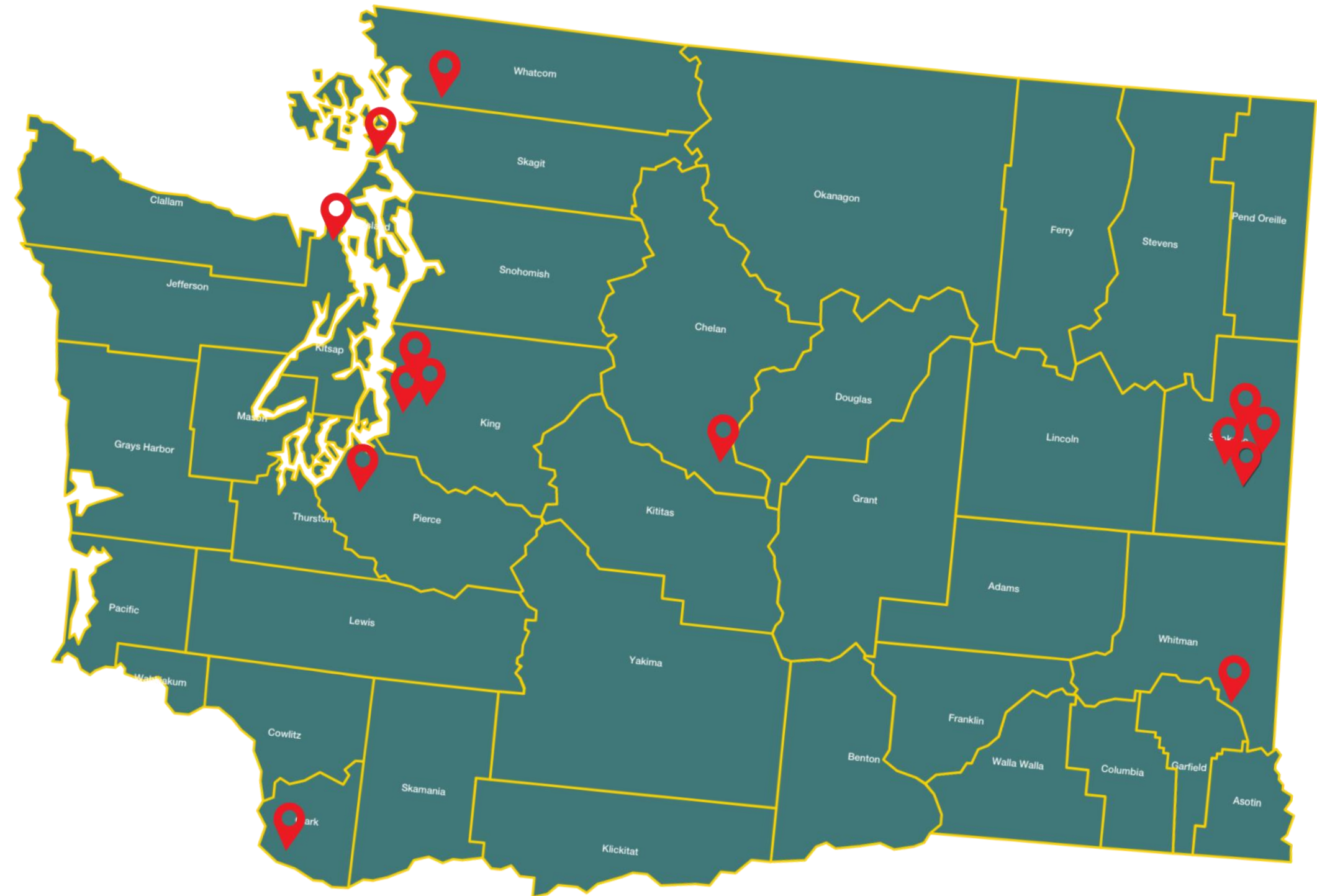
- The Board held two community panels in March and April 2024, with 8 panelists from across the state.
- Staff met with each panelist at least once in preparation for the panels.
- Panelists represented Accountable Communities of Health, community-based organizations, and community health workers.
- After the panels, staff engaged in multiple follow-up activities, including evaluation conversations.



- Maternal and Pregnant Person Health
- Health Justice and Culturally Appropriate Care
- Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Response
- Data Equity
- Environmental Justice and Climate Change

Community Engagement

Over the last five months, Board staff interacted with 26 community members, each with deep relationships with at least one community impacted by the topics focused on in the State Health Report.



Community Engagement

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“Being a panelist was a great experience, but the most valuable part for me was the chance to network with Board Members and other panelists.”

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“We felt heard by the Board. Being listened to at this (state) level is so important.”

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“Stepping into a Board meeting environment is challenging, but the preparation from staff made a big difference.”

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“This work moves at the speed of trust.”

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“I was honored to have the chance to represent the lived and living experience community. It helped me feel more confident in the value of my own lived experience.”

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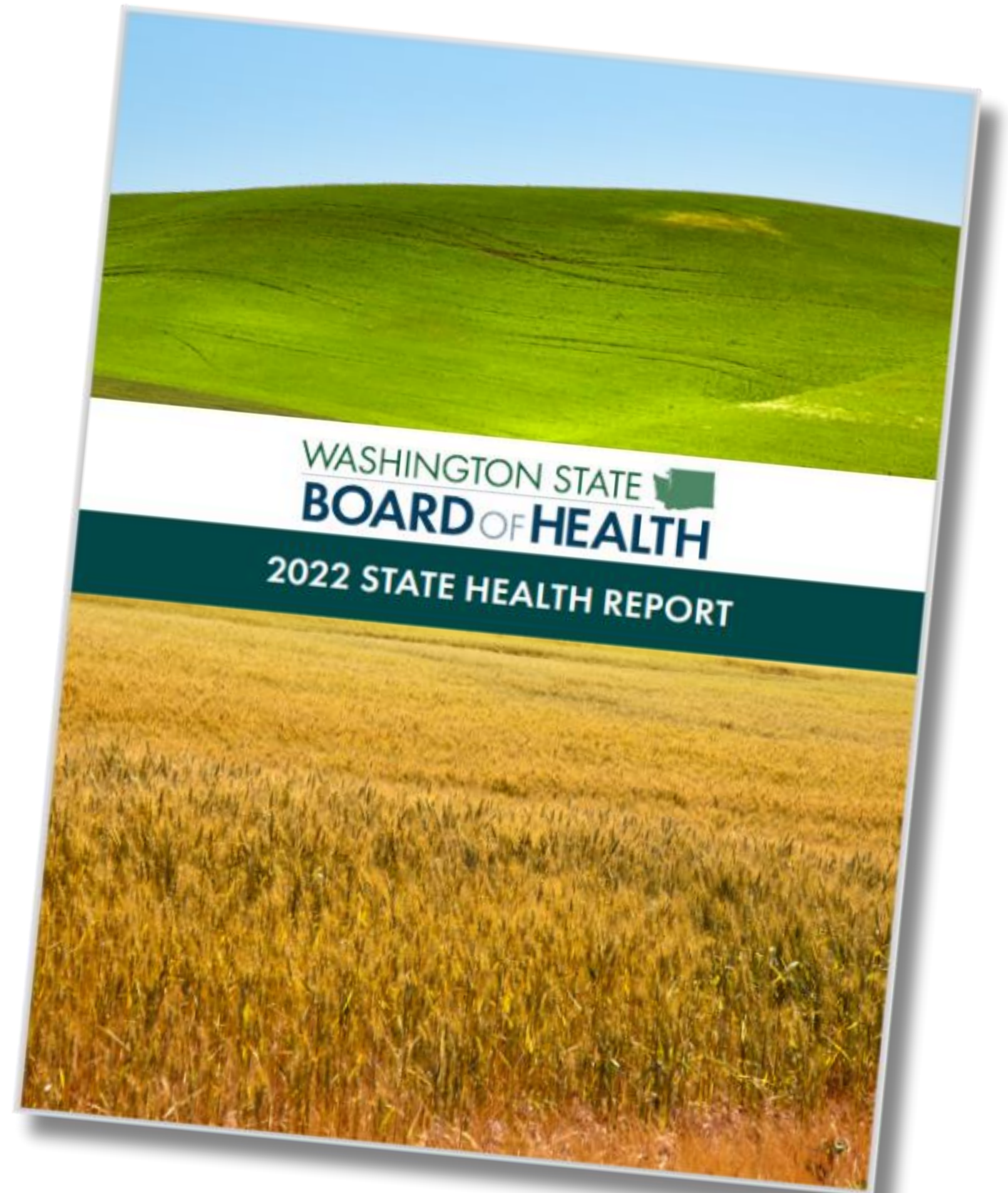
“Are the right folks being represented in the conversations, and from the beginning?”

Brief Updates on 2022 Recommendations



WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

- Improving Public Health's Response to Health Inequities Through Data Reform
- Removing Barriers to Health Care Insurance and Care Coverage
- Improving Access to Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Health Services
- Making School Environments Healthy and Safe
- Decreasing Youth Use of Tobacco, Nicotine, and Vapor Products
- Strengthening Washington's Public Health System Through Continued Investments



2024 Recommendations



Recommendation 1

Increase Data Disaggregation in Washington State Through Data Reform to Promote Data Equity.

- Continue to monitor and participate in opportunities to advocate for improvements in federal standards for interoperability and disaggregated demographic data collection. Ensure agencies can comply with updated federal standards within the appropriate timelines.
- Direct and provide funding to state agencies, boards, and commissions to enhance interoperability of data systems to facilitate the collection, analysis, storage, and protection of uniform, disaggregated demographic data.
- Provide funding to the Office of Equity to lead a community-centered process aligned with Washington's pro-equity and anti-racism (PEAR) plan and playbook to develop enterprise-wide standards for the collection, analysis, storage, and protection of disaggregated demographic data, starting with race/ethnicity data.

Feedback to date:

- This recommendation needs to be plain-talked. It also covers much more than data disaggregation. Consider changing the topic title to better represent the broader goal of using data to enhance health equity.
- Consider explaining how not breaking down data in Washington also worsens health disparities in rural areas.
- Include data or citations in this report section to support the discussion of increasing workforce diversity in Washington.

Recommendation 2

Remove Barriers to Healthcare Insurance and Coverage for Culturally Appropriate Care.

- Continue to provide funding to expand current programs that provide access to health insurance for people who are income-eligible and at least 19 years of age, regardless of their immigration status.
- Remove systemic barriers to care, such as cost and limited provider networks, so communities can access timely, culturally appropriate care.
- Actively monitor and participate in opportunities to advocate for coverage of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) at the federal level.
- Require insurers to cover the cost of CAM, including for traditional healthcare practices provided by qualifying providers at Indian Health Service (IHS) and Tribal facilities.

Feedback to date:

- Consider expanding the topic title to reflect that the recommendations go beyond increasing access to health insurance. For example, it could be revised to “Improve healthcare access and increase the availability of culturally appropriate care.”
- Suggest discussing the intersection of rural health and race/ethnic health inequities, e.g., migrant worker health.

Recommendation 3

Re-envision the Quality of Care in Washington by Increasing Access to Community-Driven, Culturally and Linguistically Relevant Services.

- Follow the recommendations and feedback from the recent State Language Access Workgroup, including enhancing language accessibility in Washington by establishing a specialized Office of Language Access and a permanent public advisory body for interpreters at the state level.
- Expand culturally and linguistically appropriate healthcare services, including—but not limited to—implementing Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate (CLAS) standards and federal non-discrimination in healthcare standards, requiring medical information translation, and increasing access to interpretation services for appointments.
- Advocate for the growth of a community-based workforce in the state, encompassing roles such as community health workers, peer navigators, recovery navigators, and more. Explore diverse public policy strategies to enable reimbursement for the community-based workforce's services and ensure fair compensation. Ensure that community members in this workforce lead and direct this work.

Feedback to date:

- For the first dot point, does the recommendation cover just interpretation services, or would it also include translation?
- Initially, the second dot point only mentioned requiring prescription information translation. Should this be expanded to all medical information?

Recommendation 4

Advance School Environmental Health in Washington.

- Prioritize the School Rule Review Technical Advisory Committee's (TAC's) findings and recommendations for updating statewide minimum environmental health and safety standards for schools. Findings and recommendations will be available by July 2025.
- Allocate state funds towards essential upgrades for school facilities and to address remediation issues, following the recommendations of the School Rule Review Committee, with particular emphasis on overburdened and underserved communities.
- Upon completion of the School Rule Review in July 2025, support the implementation plan and remove the proviso preventing the Board from implementing modernized school environmental health and safety rules.
- Provide funding for localized school environmental health programs.
- Continue investing in the upkeep and modernization of HVAC systems in K-12 schools to mitigate the spread of contaminants and infectious diseases.

Feedback to date:

- Switch around the order of the recommendations (change incorporated).
- In the discussion of indoor air quality, consider mentioning the disproportionate impact of wildfire smoke on rural communities.
- Suggest including a discussion about other ways that schools serve as important community hubs.

Recommendation 5

Strengthen Investments in Washington's Public Health System to Build a Modern and Responsive Public Health System.

- Prioritize continued and expanded foundational public health investments in the 2025-2027 biennium and future biennia to build a modern and responsive governmental public health system in Washington State. These investments ensure that the system can prevent, identify, and control communicable diseases, enhance environmental public health services, improve services over the life course, improve system business competencies, and address inequities within the system.

Feedback to date:

- “Really important recommendation.” Curious if we should make some connection with what we’ve learned from the pandemic and call out the importance of community engagement. See the “Chorus of COVID” report.

Recommendation 6

Decrease Use of Commercial Tobacco Products, With Special Attention to Flavored Vaping Products.

- Prohibit the sale of all flavored commercial tobacco products to the public to reduce the appeal and use of these products by youth and young adults and communities disproportionately impacted by tobacco industry marketing.

Feedback to date:

- Should we explicitly mention vaping as one of the products? These are given good air-time in the body of the report, but it might be good to either call out vaping in the topic title or the recommendations (change incorporated).

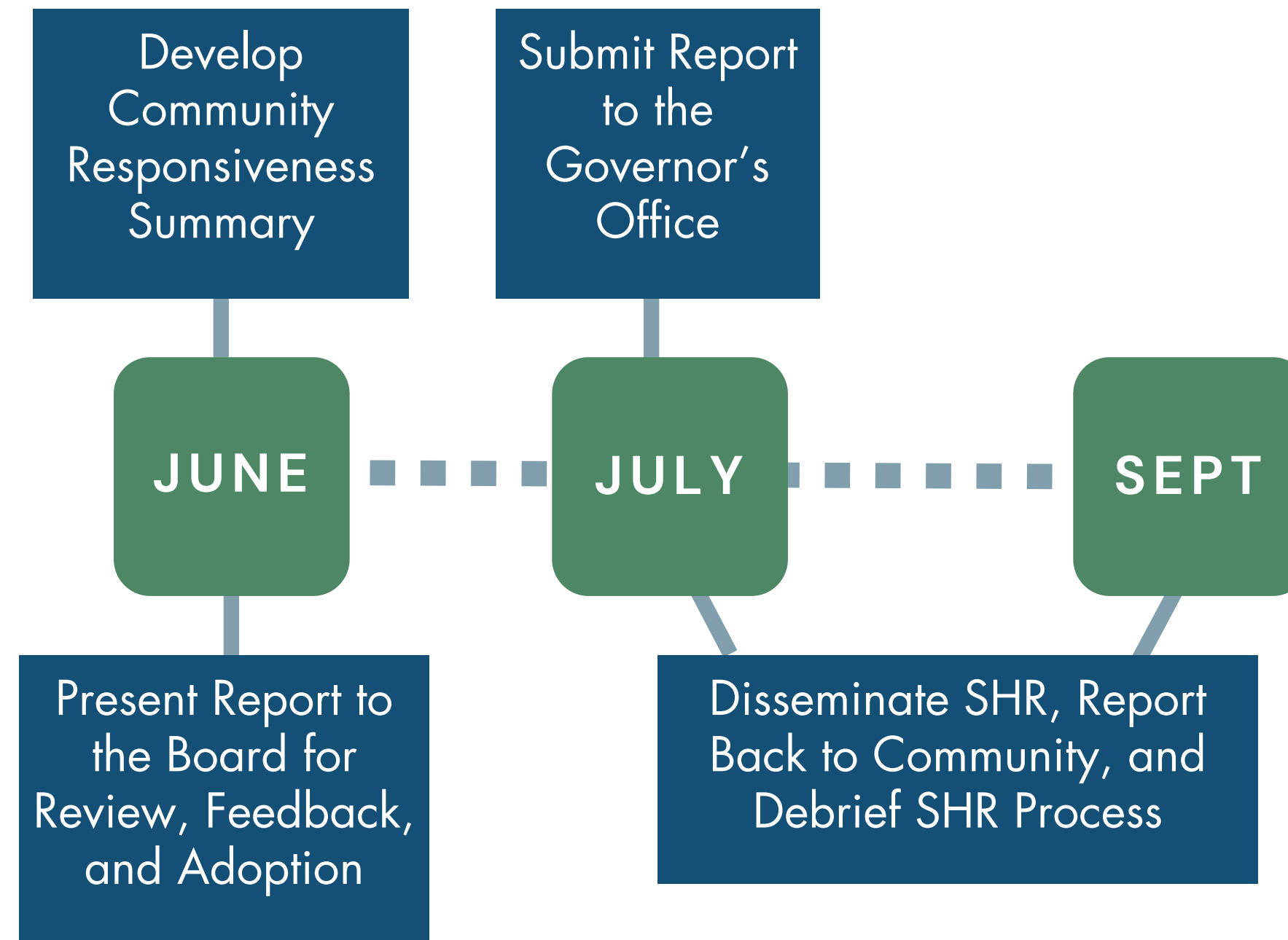
Recommendation 7

Support Public Health Improvements to Mitigate Environmental Hazards and Promote Environmental Justice.

- Provide adequate funding to increase the capacity of public health agencies to increase blood lead testing, reporting, and linkages to follow-up care, particularly for people on Medicaid.
- Expand public health safeguards, such as establishing sanitary controls for commercially harvested crab, to protect Washingtonians from environmental hazards.
- Continue to provide funding to support environmental justice assessments and ensure communities disproportionately impacted by environmental justice issues, such as environmental racism, are centered in this work.

No feedback to date.

Next Steps and Timeline



Questions?

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