

NEIGHBORHOOD WELLNESS CHECKLIST



Like so many cities across the country, Pittsburgh faces gentrification and neighborhood displacement. At Covestro's *THINC³⁰ Tank: Ensuring Inclusive Pittsburgh Neighborhoods*, regional civic and business leaders gathered to address these issues and develop preventative measures that promote the health and vibrancy of the city's 90 unique neighborhoods. This resulting Neighborhood Wellness Checklist is a tool to help individuals and organizations assess the health of their communities and be prepared for opportunities and challenges that develop.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Yes No

- Are you engaged in decision making in your neighborhood?

- Do you talk with/know your neighbors?

- Are most of your neighbors involved/active in the community?

- Do you have a community meeting place (e.g., library, community center, town hall) to gather formally with your neighbors, share important local news and offer input on decisions?

- Are you proud of your neighborhood?

- Is the input of residents valued and used in decision making?

EDUCATION

- Would you give your local school district high grades?

- Are career or technical education opportunities available?

- Is the high school graduation rate high in your district?

- Is the student-to-teacher ratio in your local school district satisfactory?

- Are there after-school or enrichment programs available in your local school district or neighborhood?

- Does your neighborhood value education/educational achievement?

- Does a "school-to-prison" pipeline exist in your neighborhood?

JOBS AND LOCAL ECONOMY

- Is your neighborhood unemployment rate high?

- Are there small businesses located in your neighborhood?

- Is there a business or retail shopping district?

- Is there property available for potential employers/developers?

- Does your neighborhood have community organizations active in working with potential employers/developers to address the needs of the neighborhood?

- Are there employment opportunities in your neighborhood?

- Are there barriers to employment in your neighborhood?

- Are there incentives for entrepreneurs in your neighborhood (i.e., networking space, shared workspace, etc.)?

FINANCIAL HEALTH

- Is personal economic stability an issue in your neighborhood?

- Are there banks or other mainstream financial services available in your neighborhood?

- Would you say that your neighbors are financially literate?

- Is generational wealth building a reality in your neighborhood?

INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Yes No

Is owning a car necessary to live in your neighborhood?

Are public transportation options available?

Is your local public transportation system adequate?

Does your neighborhood have access to roadways/major highways?

Is your neighborhood easily walkable?

Are there adequate green spaces (i.e., gardens, trees, parks)?

Are there places for young people to play safely?

Are there a variety of animals and bugs in your neighborhood?

Is blight a problem (i.e., rundown homes, empty commercial buildings)?

Does your neighborhood have access to clean water?

Is air quality a concern?

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Is homeownership attainable for most people?

Is there access to mortgage lending in your neighborhood?

Do more people own their home, rather than rent in you neighborhood?

Are property taxes an obstacle to homeownership?

Are longtime residents frequently moving away due to housing costs?

Are new people frequently moving in and affecting a rise in property values?

Is gentrification and resident displacement an issue in your neighborhood?

SOCIAL JUSTICE, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Is your neighborhood diverse?

Does segregation exist in your neighborhood?

Is there open dialogue about diversity and inclusion in your neighborhood?

Are there forums that allow all residents to participate in neighborhood planning, development and decision making?

Do all residents have access to technology (i.e., computers, mobile devices)?

Do all residents have access to internet?

Do most people vote in elections?

Do your elected officials reflect the demographic composition of your neighborhood?

Does the police department reflect the demographic composition on your neighborhood?

Is the relationship between residents and the local police department positive?

Do social services employees reflect the demographic composition of your neighborhood?

Do education system employees and leadership reflect the demographic composition of your neighborhood?

CLIMATE CHANGE

Does your neighborhood have access to affordable, clean energy?

Are investments being made in green infrastructure?

Are local environmental leaders active in your neighborhood?

Have key environmental issues been identified in your neighborhood?

Are residents involved in any sustainable practices or programs?

Is your neighborhood considered resilient?

HEALTHY LIVING

Are there primary care doctors or health clinics in your neighborhood?

Is there a full-service grocery store in your neighborhood?

Are fast food restaurants prevalent in your neighborhood?

Are fresh fruits and vegetables easily available for purchase?

Is there a high rate of obesity in your neighborhood?

Is there a high rate of asthma in your neighborhood?

Are there exercise facilities or programs available to residents?

Are other chronic illnesses prevalent (e.g., diabetes, cancer, autoimmune) in your neighborhood?