



American Public Health Association
*Community Health Planning and
Policy Development Section*

**Summary Perspectives on Member Involvement in Policy and
Planning Activities – September 2007**

Executive Summary

Introduction

The Community Health Planning and Policy Development (CHPPD) Section members were invited to complete a web-survey in the third week of September, over two weeks. Two reminders were sent via blast emails to regular members, and three reminders to student members.

In all, 11.7% of members (205 members from the 1,745 who received the survey) responded to the survey. Of these 156 were regular members, and 49 students. The response rate increased three percent from 2006, and the response rate for students was significantly better, as compared to only six responses in 2006. Most members who responded were either researchers, administrators or represented academia.

Selected Major Findings

- Most members (55% regular members, 68% students) who responded to the survey were not involved in CHPPD or APHA activities in the past year.
- Most members were not actively involved because they did not know about the opportunities (61% regular members, 77% students).
- Activities that members were most involved in are: contacting a legislator (23% regulars, 9% students), presenting papers at the annual meeting (18% regulars, 11% students); and reviewing abstracts/moderating sessions (16% regulars, 11 % students).
- Member described benefits of participation are: personal growth, helps with activities related to their jobs, and connecting with people.
- Most members are interested in community health and public policy.
- In all 71 regular members and 35 students had expressed an interest in connecting (via email or phone) with a member of the leadership team about CHPPD/APHA activities. These names have been forward to committee chairs.

Discussion

- The survey response rate at 12% was three percent higher in 2007. There was significantly better participation from students, and more

members who are not actively involved in CHPPD activities participated.

- Members who responded want to be involved in section activities, and need to information on how to be involved.

Next Steps

Previously, 72% of the regular members who responded to a survey said that they chose the CHPPD Section because they wanted to stay updated on policy and planning issues, while 82% of students said so because they were interested in community health, and 64% wanted to learn from other researchers and practitioners.

This summary should be considered a preliminary draft and “work-in-progress”.
The survey results are being discussed among section members.