

Hopkins and the East Baltimore Community

STUDENT SURVEY

In May 2005, an online survey entitled the "JHSPH Community Involvement Survey" was broadcast to all students via the student-I listserv. A total of 282 students and post-docs responded.



RESULTS

Student Involvement

*"As public health professionals, we have a responsibility to the communities where we study and work"**

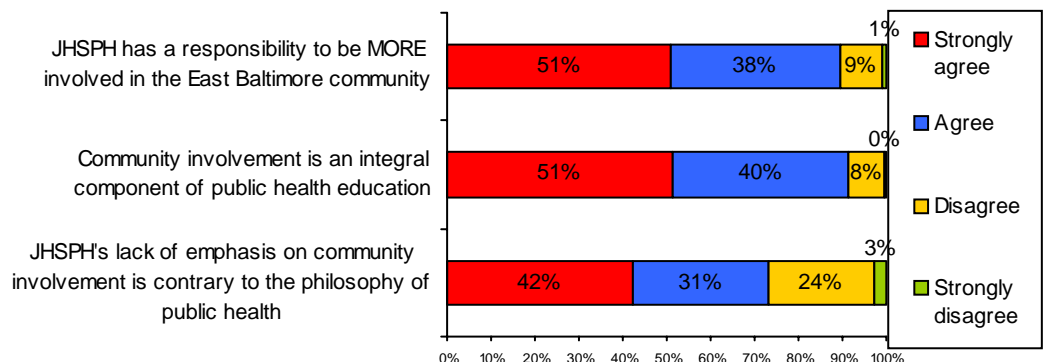
- Almost half of the respondents (49%) indicated that they participate in community-related activities about once a term or more frequently.
- **70% of the respondents indicated they would like to increase their level of involvement.**
- Many students experienced barriers to increased participation (54%). Barriers included lack of time (82%) and the sense that JHSPH's administration and faculty do not value community involvement (46%).

Institutional Involvement

*"Considering the vast resources available at Hopkins, Baltimore should be the healthiest city in the world. The fact that it's not is a stain on our reputation."**

- **An overwhelming majority (90%) agreed or strongly agreed that JHSPH has a responsibility to be more involved with the East Baltimore community, and that community involvement is an integral component of public health education (92%).**
- Nearly three-quarters (73%) thought that JHSPH's lack of emphasis on community involvement is contrary to the philosophy of public health.
- Three-quarters of all respondents indicated some or strong support for a greater emphasis on community involvement in JHSPH's mission statement.
- Slightly more than three-quarters (78%) indicated that this increased emphasis would affect how they recommend JHSPH to others; nearly 30% said it would greatly affect their recommendation.

Answers to the question:
"How do you feel about the following statements?"
(N=268)

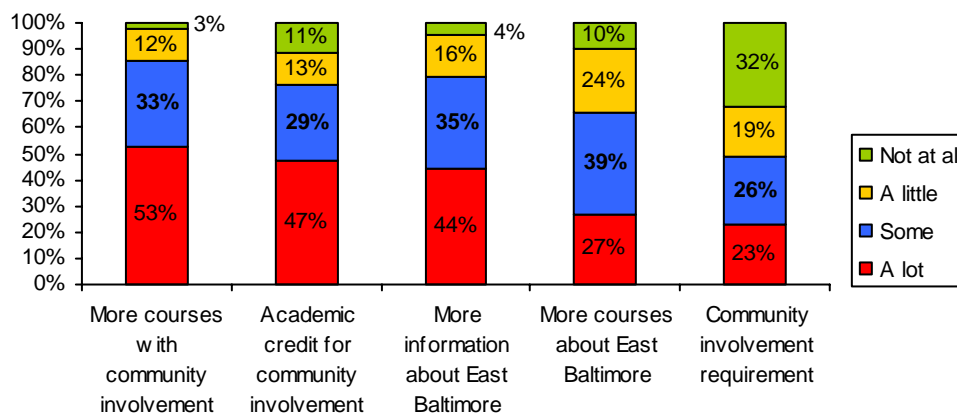


* All quotes are from survey responses

Promoting Involvement

“Having faculty and institutional policies set an example of community service would mean a lot, but it’s currently either missing or very underpublicized.”*

- Respondents showed strong support for adding more relevant courses or recognizing community work with academic credit.
- Nearly all respondents (97%) were in favor of having more courses incorporate community involvement, and 90% supported courses that focused on East Baltimore.
- **An overwhelming majority (89%) of the respondents were supportive of receiving academic credit for community involvement.**



Answers to the question:
“How much would you support the following changes at JHSPH?”
(N=270)

WHY NOW?

Community engagement has become an increasingly important tenet of public health ideology and practice. The Association of Schools of Public Health encourages schools to reconsider the definition and scope of scholarship to include academic-community partnerships as an integral component of research, education and practice. Nationally, many public health schools are increasing their commitment to community-engaged scholarship.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

Curricular:

- *Increased number of courses that incorporate community involvement*
- *Academic credit for self-directed community-based learning*
- *Community-based MPH capstone projects and MHS internships*
- *Public health in Baltimore course*
- *Community-based participatory research (CBPR) methods course*

Institutional:

- *Visible and effective direct aid to East Baltimore*
- *Increased recruitment and retention of community-engaged faculty members*
- *Increased coordination and visibility of East Baltimore-based research activities*
- *Financial support for community-based student field work*

For more details on the results of the student survey, and to get involved with SPARC, go to:

www.jhsph.edu/source/SPARC