

Health Equity Champions Among Illinois Family Medicine Physicians

Laura Hurley, BA,¹ Tiffany Ku, BA,² Vince Keenan, MSPH, CAE³

¹Rush Medical College, ²Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine, ³Illinois Academy of Family Physicians

Introduction

Given its inclusive scope and community-oriented practice, the Family Medicine specialty is uniquely poised to identify and address health inequity. Nationally, the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) urges all members “to identify tangible next steps... and reduce health inequities within their scope”.¹ In Illinois, family physicians work in rural and urban settings through novel partnerships to address the health inequities they witness daily.

Methods

To identify Health Equity Champions and inform future collaboration with the Illinois Academy of Family Physicians (IAFP), the AAFP provided a “Health Champion Survey” to all IAFP physician members. Members rated likelihood of partnering with IAFP in listed activities and indicated topics of professional interest using a 5-point scale; they also provided qualitative responses to highlight topics not listed.

In total, 120 members completed the survey and geographically represented the entire state of Illinois (Figure 1). Among health equity topics, respondents were most passionate about access to healthcare, followed by food insecurity and poverty (Table 1). Respondents were most willing to engage employers and organizations to improve health equity, followed by implementing interventions to address social determinants of health (Table 2).

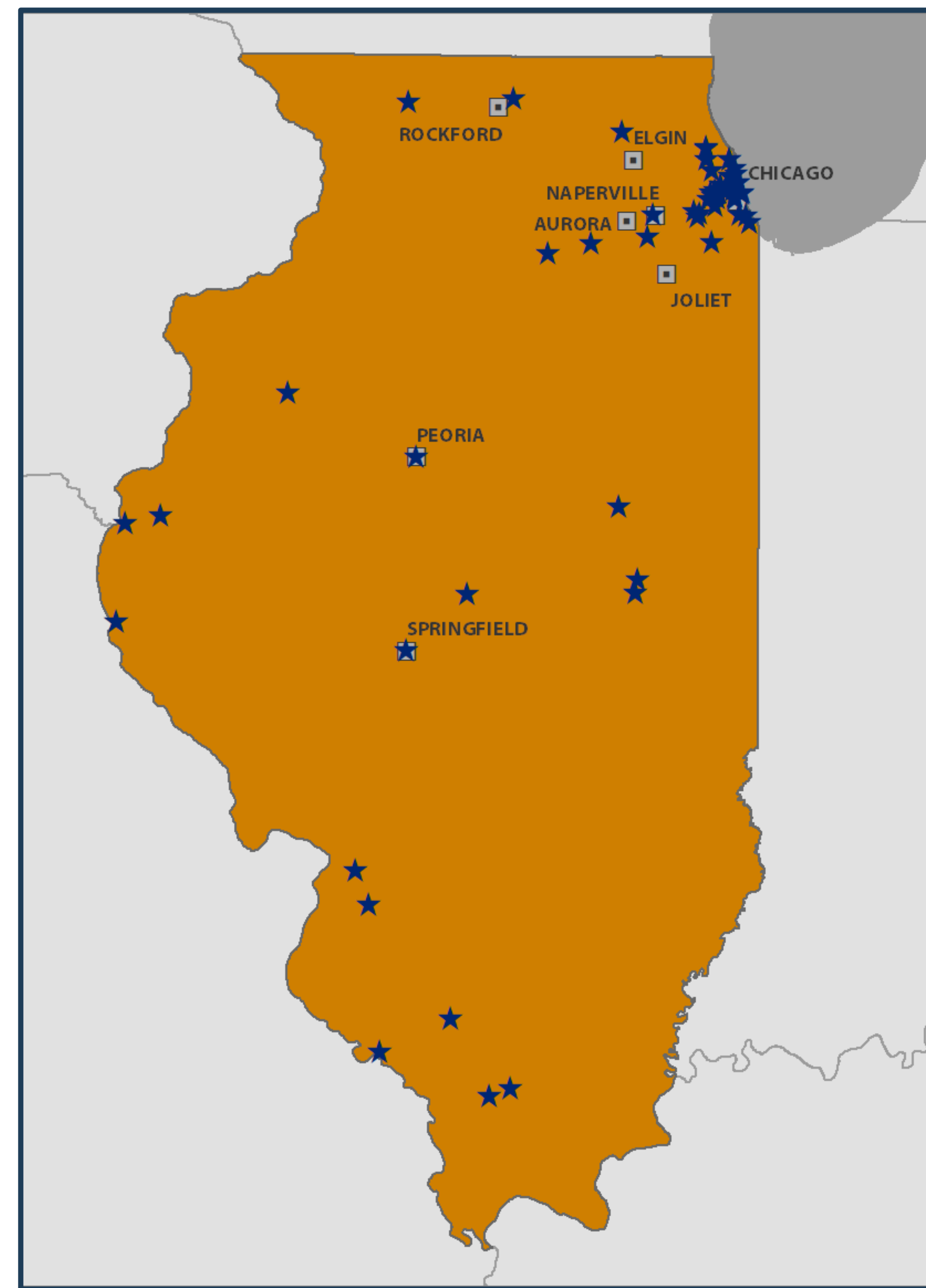


Figure 1: Geographical location of survey respondents. Not all 120 respondents provided location.

Results

How likely would you be to work with the IAFP on the following issues? (n=76)

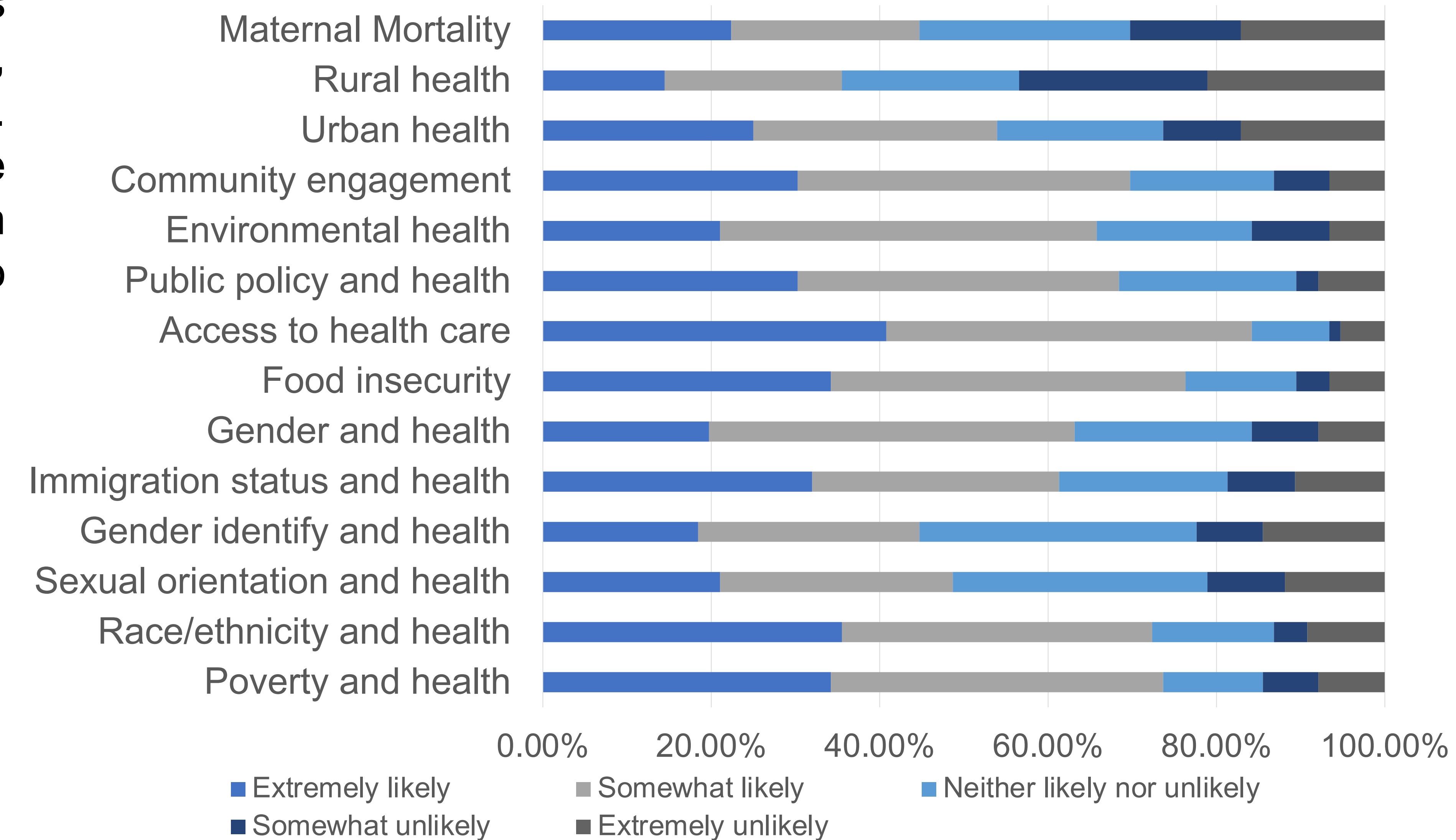


Table 1: How likely would you be to work with the IAFP on the following issues? (n=76)

Table 2: What IAFP Champions are willing to do

“Respondents that are extremely or somewhat likely to work with the IAFP in the following ways”



Engage employer or organization to improve health equity (n = 62)

Implement/test interventions to address the social determinants of health (n = 61)

Work to empower vulnerable populations (n = 61)

Next Steps

Results will direct future IAFP efforts to facilitate collaboration between members and empower individuals to act on health inequities in Illinois.

Acknowledgements

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References

1. American Academy of Family Physicians (2019 April). *Advancing Health Equity by Addressing the Social Determinants of Health in Family Medicine (Position Paper)*. American Academy of Family Physicians. <https://www.aafp.org/about/policies/all/socialdeterminantofhealth-positionpaper.html>

