



## COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT

# Woonsocket



The Woonsocket Community Health Assessment was held at Senior Services, Inc., on Wednesday, May 21, 2014. In addition to more than a dozen stakeholders from around the state (including Department of Health Director, Michael Fine, MD), 32 individuals attended, 27 of whom were representatives of community and healthcare organizations. Residents were asked to name the health issues that most concerned them in their community. The full *Woonsocket Community Health Assessment* report provides in-depth analysis of the residents' health concerns.

### HEALTH ISSUES VOICED BY WOONSOCKET RESIDENTS:

#### **Increased access to quality healthcare**

- “I think a big part of our problem is the socioeconomic structure. A lot of people don't have insurance, many of them don't have money so it's hard for them to get healthcare in the first place... they go to the hospital much sicker. They don't have insurance to go so they wait for the last minute when they can't stay at home any longer.”

#### **Create opportunities for community collaboration**

- “We are able to sit together, we have resources, we just have to be able to pull them together. We are all working with the same people, and we all want to help them. So we just need to spend more time working together.”

#### **Improve education to address teen pregnancy**

- “We need to focus on the problems of children dropping out of school. Maybe this way fewer kids get pregnant and we won't have as many children born with low birth weights.”

#### **Address alcohol and drug abuse**

- “We are really concerned about the high-risk behaviors that we see in young people related to alcohol and other drugs.”

#### **Expand transportation**

- “Woonsocket probably has the worst transportation system in the world, because it takes people an hour to come from one side of the town to the other. We need to fix that so they can actually get the help that they need.”



Department of Health Director, Michael Fine, MD, spoke with community members.