



May 8, 2014

Dear Cambridge Community,

We are pleased to present the final report of the **2014 City of Cambridge Community Health Assessment**.

The Cambridge Public Health Department conducted the community health assessment to better understand the city's most pressing health needs. This report captures what community members—city officials, community leaders, parents, youth, seniors, immigrants, and people with disabilities, among others—believe makes Cambridge a healthy place to live and work, and also identified opportunities for improvement.

The assessment is part of an effort by the City to have a nationally accredited health department and to transform the practice of local public health.

In this report, you will find the most current data available for Cambridge on overweight and obesity, substance abuse, chronic illness, access to health care, and many other health topics. The report also looks at social, economic, and environmental issues that impact health, such as income and poverty, education, housing and homelessness, transportation, crime, and the city's physical and built environment.

The community health assessment reflects the broad participation of people who live and work in Cambridge:

- Over 1,600 people completed the 2013 Community Health Survey.
- In interviews and small focus groups, over 90 people shared their priority health concerns, perceptions of community challenges and strengths, and envisioned opportunities for the future.

Based on key data and themes from the assessment, community stakeholders and health department staff identified seven health priority areas for the City, which will be the focus of the forthcoming Cambridge Community Health Improvement Plan.

We hope you will find this report illuminating and inspiring. We invite each of you to join us on the journey to a healthier Cambridge.

Handwritten signature of Richard C. Rossi in blue ink.

Richard C. Rossi

City Manager

Handwritten signature of Patrick R. Wardell in blue ink.

Patrick R. Wardell

Commissioner of Public Health