

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**



**Office of the Director**

April 12, 2010

In March 2009 DOH convened a team of DOH staff from the Office of the Director to respond to a request for a health survey by the residents of Riggs Park. The purpose of this survey was for DOH to determine a health profile of the Riggs Park community through the voice of its residents. The survey sought to gain knowledge of resident's perceptions of current health status, insurance status, access to healthcare and relevant demographic information. Summarily, the results of this survey could be utilized to address the subsequent unmet healthcare needs of the residents of Riggs Park.

Upon the commencement of an open Riggs Park community meeting (March 2009), the survey was vetted by the group and revised to reflect their concerns. The survey was loaded online and also mailed with an initial deadline of April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Due to slow response, the survey deadline was extended to May 30, 2009. The majority of residents responded to the survey by mail and all data was manually entered into the database by June 2009.

The results were as follows:

Sixty four participants completed the Riggs Park health survey during the allotted timeframe. Participants' consisted of 45.3% male and 54.7% female responses. Over 90% of participants were African Americans, with a median age of 70.7, and living alone. Of the 64 respondents, 8.5% reported asthma compared to 11%, nationally, in a similar age related cohort. Other health related issues included high blood pressure of which 72.6% of respondents were clinically diagnosed compared to the national average of 57.9% for the respective age cohort. Further, 29.6% of African Americans over 60 years of age are likely to develop cancer in various sites which is slightly above the 22.2% of residents who had been diagnosed with some form of cancer. Prostate cancer was the cancer most reported in the survey at 7.2% and the national data suggests that it accounts for 34% of reported cancer in African American men over the age of 60.