# **2021 Partnership Survey Executive Summary**

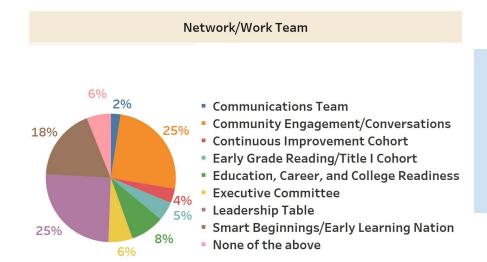


### About the survey

In September of 2021, Building Our Future (BOF) sent our annual Partnership Survey to 153 community partners hoping to get a 75% response rate or at least 115 total responses. **We received 83 responses (54% response rate); though short of our goal, it was the highest total number of responses in the four years since we began conducting the survey.** The survey was centered on how well the partnership is living the core tenets of collective impact work.

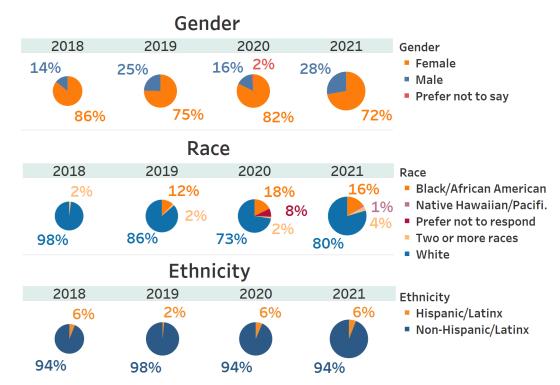
#### **Respondent Demographics**

Respondents were asked to provide demographic information such as gender, race, ethnicity and the network/work team they were most involved in. The majority of respondents were most involved with the Leadership Table, Smart Beginnings/Early Learning Nation, and Community Engagement /CommUNITY Conversations.



#### Tenets of Collective Impact Work:

- A common agenda (shared vision)
- Shared measurement
- Continuous communication
- Mutually reinforcing activities (collaborative action)
- A strong backbone organization



While the share of respondents was more diverse in terms of gender, race and ethnicity than in years past, the demographics still did not represent the Kenosha community equally in terms of share. For example, Kenosha County has a roughly 1:1 ratio of males to females, whereas females outweighed males 3:1 in survey responses. Kenosha's Hispanic/Latinx residents make up roughly 14% of the population while only 6% of survey respondents. These two gaps demonstrate a need for more targeted relationship cultivation for the partnership.

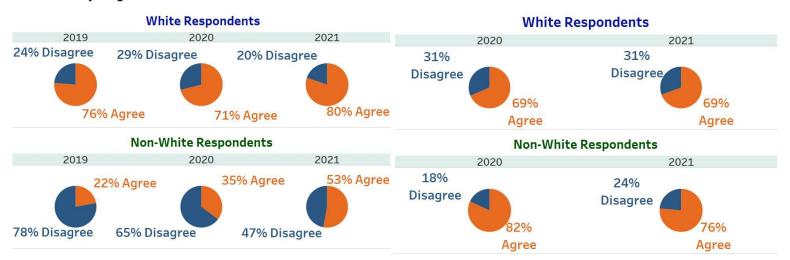
### **Equity in Kenosha County**

In response to the agree/disagree statement: "Kenosha County programs and institutions, governmental or otherwise, make an effort to create equitable outcomes for all children and young adults," we've seen a promising increase in the share of respondents agreeing. However, when disaggregated by race, white respondents have agreed at a higher rate than non-white respondents over the years, with almost half of non-white respondents still disagreeing with the statement.

Non-white respondents were, however, more favorable of their own organization's approach to equity. In response to the agree/disagree statement "Your organization, in its vision, goals, and/or values, explicitly speaks to inequity by calling out institutional racism," non-white respondents agreed at a higher rate, though still lower than in 2020, suggesting room for more work to be done in 2022. Both questions were posed to all 83 survey respondents.

Kenosha County programs and institutions, governmental or otherwise, make an effort to create equitable outcomes for all children and young adults.

Your organization, in its vision, goals, and/or values, explicitly speaks to inequity by calling out institutional racism



# **Partnership Next Steps on Equity**

The four agree/disagree questions with the highest rate of agreement were:

Question	Your network focuses its work on equitable outcomes.	The data and research from Building Our Future advances work on student equity.	Your Building Our Future network/work team has prioritized racial and economic equity for children and young adults.	Building Our Future has an ongoing plan for implementing and sustaining practices to advance racial equity and inclusion.
Rank	#1	#2	#3	#4
Agreement	97%	96%	96%	89%

The overwhelming majority of agreement on BOF's approach to equity is positive, however the greater division over Kenosha County programs or institutions and partner organizations' approach to equity in the previous section suggests that the partnership's approach isn't as fully embraced by all organizations yet. Connected to this might be the fact that the question with the second lowest overall rate of agreement was "Your organization has incorporated knowledge or skills gained through your partnership with Building Our Future into its policies/procedures/standards of conduct/DEI plan, Continuous Improvement process etc." at 55%.

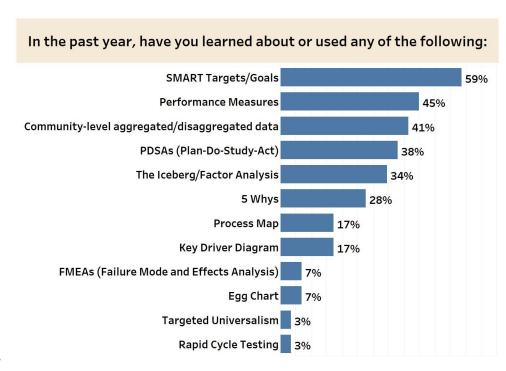
The apparent under-utilization of knowledge or skills gained through the BOF partnership, combined with the positive attitudes on the partnership's approach to equity, may provide an opportunity to increase consensus on Kenosha County programs, institutions, and partner organizations' approach to equity.

This could potentially be done by providing coaching and support for local partners to strengthen their own services and offerings, a tactic that **73%** of respondents felt the partnership is already doing to make a difference in the community, and equipping and supporting community leaders to lift up important policy agendas, a tactic that **70%** of respondents felt the partnership is already doing to make a difference in the community.

## Where else can the BOF Partnership lean in?

Like in prior years, Networks practiced using continuous improvement tools to strengthen their own organization's services and offerings. However, many of these tools were still underutilized, as seen in the responses to the right. This provides an opportunity for BOF's backbone team to train more partners on the tools and strengthen other organization's capabilities in executing continuous improvement.

By providing partners the space to step away from their daily work, evaluate their own practices more rigorously, and embed continuous improvement into their routines, we can improve the systems serving our youth and families. In 2022, the BOF backbone team will offer more opportunities for organizations to participate in continuous improvement cohorts as well as practice these tools in our regular network meetings.



### **Survey Next Steps**

BOF will continue to administer the survey on a yearly basis and track changes in responses to baseline questions over time. Data will continue to be analyzed at the aggregate and disaggregated levels by demographics and sector. We will also add new questions based on community priorities and updates to our parent organization, StriveTogether's, Theory of Action. For more information, contact Kevin Meagher, Data Manager, at <a href="mailto:kmeagher@buildingourfuturekc.org">kmeagher@buildingourfuturekc.org</a>