

Marion and Polk County Community Themes and Strengths Assessment Profile 2018

Community Themes and Strengths Assessment

It is one of four assessments in the Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships Framework. It answers the following questions.

What is important to the community?

How is quality of life perceived in the community?

What assets does the community have that can be used to improve health?

For more information please visit: <http://www.co.marion.or.us/HLT>

Key Findings for our Community (Marion & Polk County)



Community members believe that they have access to parks and that this access helps them to be healthier.



Community members believe that local fruits and vegetables sold at farmer's markets help keep them healthy, but worry that these locations are not available to everyone, and the amount of fast food restaurants available lead to poor eating habits.



Community members believe that physical activity helps them to be healthy, but are concerned that lack of sidewalks prevent people from being able to walk as much as they'd like.



Community members need more access to a wide range of health services.



Community members believe that lack of affordable housing is preventing them from being healthy and that access is worse in their community than others. Lack of affordable housing is also contributing to increasing rates of homelessness in our community.



Community members believe that lack of access to public transportation options prevents them from being healthy. Additionally, community members believe that availability of public transportation options are worse in their neighborhood than the neighborhoods around them.

Community groups
said:



Top **5** things that
help them to be
healthy

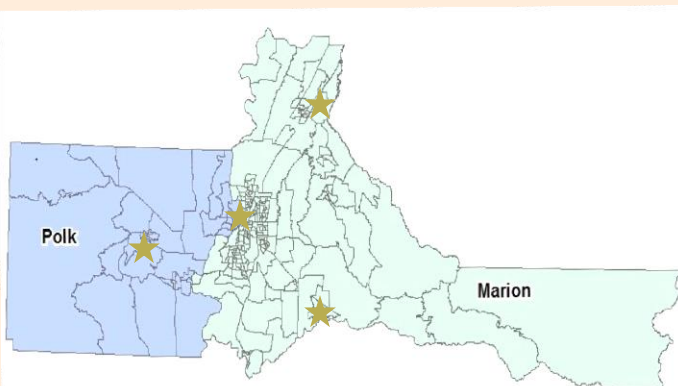
1. **Green Space**-neighborhood parks, hiking trails, etc.
2. **Community organizations** – YMCA, libraries, etc.
3. **Physical activity** – recreational sports teams, gyms, etc.
4. **Local fruits and vegetables** – Farmers markets and “You Pick”, etc.
5. **Neighborhood support** – neighborhood organizations, neighborhood events, etc.

1. **Lack of public transportation**
2. **Lack of access to health care services**
3. **Lack of affordable housing**
4. **Fast food restaurants**
5. **Lack of continuous sidewalks**

Top **5** things that
prevent them from
being healthy

Top **5** things that
need to change
for them to be
healthy

1. **Increased access to affordable housing**
2. **Increased access to public transportation (buses, shared bikes, ride share, etc.)**
3. **Increased access to healthy foods**
4. **Increased communication about available services**
5. **More walking routes**



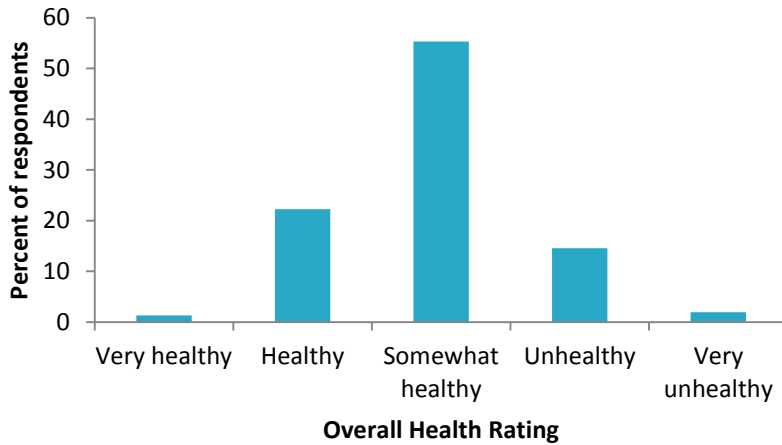
This information was collected at four regional forums (Independence, Salem, Stayton, and Woodburn). Participants had large group discussions about what in their communities helped them to be healthy and what things in their communities prevented them from being healthy.

Survey respondents
said:



Overall Community Health

How community members rate overall community health, 2018



Quality of Life



46% of community members **agree** that their community is a good place to raise children.



36.2% of community members **agree** that their community is a good place to grow old.



50.9% of community members **agree** that their community is a safe place to live.



35.7% of community members **disagree** that there is affordable housing in their community.

Neighborhood Health



32% of community members believe the quality of available housing is **worse** in their neighborhood than others



28% of community members believe the availability of job opportunities is **worse** in their neighborhood than others



35% of community members believe the availability of parks, green spaces, and recreational areas are **better** in their neighborhood



41.6% of community members feel availability of public transportation options in their neighborhood is **worse** than in other neighborhoods.

Health Care Access



48.9% of community members believed that when they needed medical care, they received **all** the care they needed

Barriers to Accessing Health Care



Cost



Lack of available appointments



No paid leave time

Survey respondents
said:



The most important health
problems are:



Mental Health Problems



Alcohol/Drug Abuse



Housing Needs, Unsafe
Housing/Unaffordable Housing)



Homelessness



Obesity

The behaviors that affect the
community the most are:



Drug Abuse



Poor Eating Habits



Alcohol Abuse



Lack of Exercise



Dropping Out of School

The survey was available online, from May 21st, 2018-June 29, 2018. The survey consisted of seven different question sections, including sections on overall community health, quality of life, neighborhood health, health care access, the most important health problems in the community, the health behaviors that affect the community the most, and demographics. 621 people filled out the survey online, which was available in English and Spanish.