

Local Input Findings

A total of 2,525 individuals responded to the survey. Of these, 2,478 (98%) were in English and 44 (2%) were in Spanish. Respondents were asked to indicate the county where they receive the majority of their healthcare. Jasper County, MO (38%); Greene County, MO (26%); and Newton County, MO (16%) accounted for 81% of the total responses, which coincides with the location of the largest hospitals in the OHC Region.

Of the respondents, 83% were female; 58% were 46 years of age or older; 91% identified themselves as white, 4% as Hispanic or Latino; 39% reported having children under the age of 18; 66% were married or in a domestic partnership; and, overall, the group was highly educated with 51% having a bachelor's degree or higher compared to 15% with a high school diploma or less. Only 5% of those taking the survey reported themselves as unemployed and self-pay/uninsured, respectively. Home ownership was reported by 76% of those surveyed, and 4% reported living without stable housing either currently or at some point within the past two years.

The large majority (88%) of respondents rated their own health as either healthy or very healthy, with 1% rating themselves as very unhealthy. The primary barrier preventing use of health services was cost (43%), with lack of insurance coverage (21%) and lack of providers (10%) also cited.

Mental illness (75%), maternal and child health (64%), and opioid abuse (63%) were the top three health issues to be addressed in their communities, as indicated by the rating "really important." The three most important factors for a "Healthy Community" selected were access to health care (49%), low crime/safe neighborhoods (47%), and good jobs and healthy economy (47%). Other influential factors included good schools (32%) and healthy behaviors and lifestyles (29%).

The majority of those surveyed (77%) denied any exposure to secondhand smoke. When exposure was reported, 15% of the time it was attributed to exposure from restaurants and businesses. Secondhand smoke exposure at home was reported by 9% of those surveyed.