

**B**arber County United (BCU) strives to strengthen its communities by bringing people together to become healthier Kansans. Offering guidance and compassion, BCU connects people to services, ministries, and organizations aimed at enhancing relationships and enriching lives as “Neighbors Helping Neighbors.” BCU is driven to ignite and inspire the residents of the individual towns of Barber County, Kansas, into one united community.

### Community Perception

- We conducted a survey in Barber County. Three-fourths of respondents said they are interested in donating healthy food bank items. Half reported the availability of a food bank box or cart at local retailers would be helpful.
- As barriers to donating healthier food to Barber County food banks, 40% of respondents identified price, while 20% said shelf life was a key barrier.
- Of the respondents reporting they only donate food during food drives, 45% stated it is a food drive at their child’s school that prompts or motivates them to donate.

*“The Pathways projects are great. But the greatest accomplishment will be the relationships formed working together to address issues identified locally.”*

— Robin Eubank-Callis, M.S.,  
Barber County United President  
and K-State Barber  
County Extension Agent

# Barber County



### Healthy Eating

We are working to increase access to healthier foods at countywide food bank locations. We surveyed individuals who donate to the food banks to learn more about what motivates them to donate, how they make decisions about what to donate, and potential barriers and opportunities.



### Active Living

Work is underway at Memorial Peace Park developing a system of walking trails aimed at increasing year-round outdoor, physical activity opportunities in the Medicine Lodge area. Watch for upcoming announcements of enhanced trail projects, connecting sidewalks and travel paths to areas in the city of Kiowa.

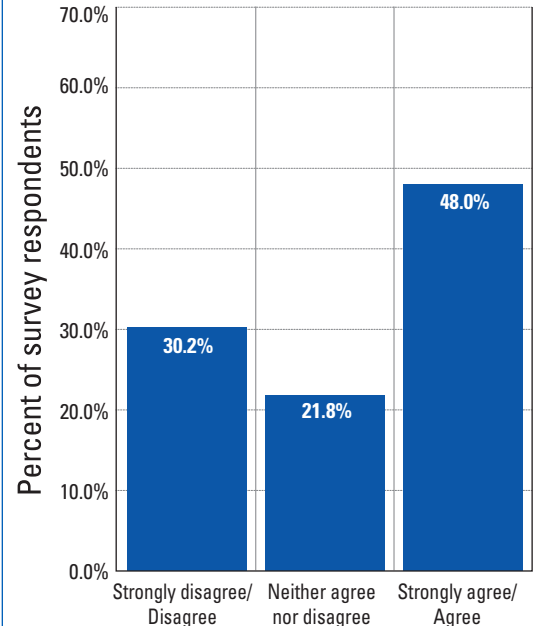


### Commercial Tobacco Control

We are passionate about instilling a sense of community pride by increasing commercial tobacco free areas across the county, including the awe-inspiring outdoor spaces of Barber County. We will encourage anti-tobacco practices empowering our citizens, including our youth, with tobacco and vaping prevention opportunities.



### Initiative Wide: In general, my community has sufficient options for healthy eating.



### Key findings:

About half of survey respondents across the 24 Pathways grantee counties said that their community has sufficient options for healthy eating.

Results are based on data from an initiative-wide survey of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas members for whom e-mail addresses were available in each of the 26 counties in which BCBSKS has funded coalitions as part of the Pathways to a Healthy Kansas Initiative. N=2,857. The survey response rate was 3.4 percent.



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**6**

Number of Projects for Year 1

**15**

Partners Engaged

**4,427**

Population Impacted

Pathways to a Healthy Kansas combines evidence-based solutions and promising practices for improving healthy eating, active living and tobacco prevention to make a large impact in communities. The program provides community coalitions with the tools and resources needed to remove barriers and engage their communities – and represents the largest community grant program ever funded by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas.

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