

**Q**uality of Life Coalition, Inc., serves as a catalyst to promote social, physical, and mental well-being for the residents of Dickinson County, placing an emphasis on the reduction of youth substance use, and to foster a thriving environment in which to live, work, play and learn.

### Community Perception

- We interviewed people across Dickinson County and most generally thought that the health of our county is average. New trails were seen as great opportunities for health as those we talked to were interested in having more safe and affordable opportunities to be physically active.
- Most people interviewed felt that access to healthy food was fair to low in our community. It was noted that grocery stores may have healthy options, but those tend to be more expensive. People also said that when you are dining out there are a lot of fast or fried food options.
- Among those we interviewed almost all were in favor of local policies to prohibit the use of commercial tobacco products (e.g., cigarettes, chewing tobacco, vaping products) in outdoor public spaces, like parks and trails.

**“** *The Pathways Initiative has provided an opportunity to build strong community partnerships and collaboration with a goal to make Dickinson County a healthier community for all.*

— Vicki Gieber, Executive Director, Quality of Life Coalition

# Dickinson County



### Healthy Eating

Double Up Food Bucks is a program that makes it easier for low-income families to eat fresh fruits and vegetable while supporting local growers and the local economy. We are working to identify farmers markets and grocery stores interested in participating and actions needed to eliminate barriers to participate.



### Active Living

We are excited to participate in work related to Rails-to-Trails development being led by the Community Foundation of Dickinson County, Abilene & Smoky Valley Railroad Association, K-State Research & Extension, Kansas Trails Council, and other volunteers. Work has begun to seek out funding, and formulate policies related to accessibility and equity.

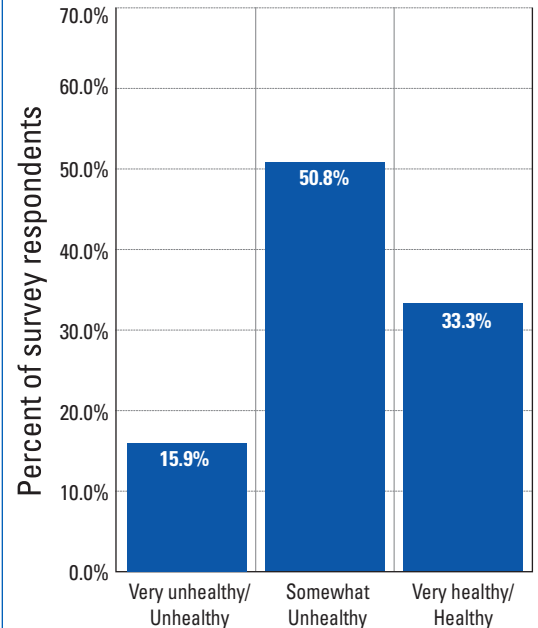


### Commercial Tobacco Control

With the rise of e-cigarettes and vaping device use among students, we are working with each of our school districts to review tobacco control policies. As we review, we will consider best practice guidance provided by the Kansas State Department of Education which recommends expanding policies to include visitors and staff.



### Initiative Wide: In general, how would you rate the overall health of your community?



### Key findings:

One third of respondents across the 24 Pathways communities said that their community was healthy or very healthy.

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.