

**H**earthland Healthy Neighborhoods is a community health coalition, and we put equity at the forefront of the work we hope to accomplish in our communities. Our mission is to mobilize the community to act on health priorities so that policy, environment and practice influences a culture shift toward health and wellness for everyone in Topeka and Shawnee County.

### Community Perception

- Seven out of eleven focus group respondents would be more motivated to shop at the local farmers' markets if they knew which vendors accepted EBT and had more information on the Double Up Food Bucks program.
- Nine out of eleven focus group respondents said they would rather buy fresh produce at Walmart, Aldi, and Dillions than at a Farmers Market due to convenience and better deals.
- All focus group respondents agreed that people without cars have been impacted the most from limited or lack of access to healthy foods due to various reasons.

**“** The Pathways grant provides opportunities for us to validate people's experiences and learn why and how the system doesn't work for them. ”

— Lissa Staley,  
Shawnee County Library



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# Shawnee County



### Healthy Eating

We are working toward providing people in the community the opportunity to make healthier food choices by making our farmers' markets accessible to everyone in Topeka and Shawnee County. We will work with both farmers and consumers to help promote the use of SNAP benefits and Double Up Food Bucks at current farmers' markets.



### Active Living

We are looking to increase the safety of walkers and bicyclists in Topeka and Shawnee County. We are working on the Multimodal Transportation Planning Package to enhance sidewalk connectivity for those who want to use sidewalks for physical activity and transportation.

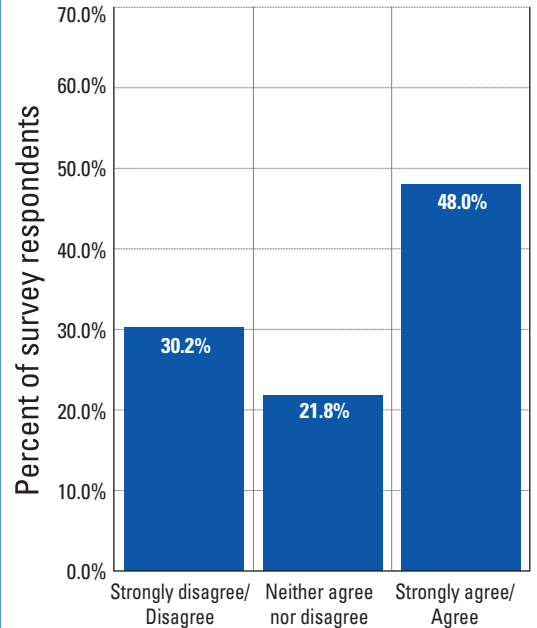


### Commercial Tobacco Control

This year we are working with Shawnee County Health Department and Kansas Department of Health and Environment to start a Resist Chapter in the Auburn-Washburn school district and are excited to support two juniors from Washburn Rural High School with starting a Resist chapter that empowers their peers to take a stand against the tobacco industry.



### 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.

**6**  
Number of Projects for Year 1

**30**  
Partners Engaged

**176,875**  
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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