



The Quality of Life Coalition, which has been in existence since 1991, serves as a catalyst to promote social, physical, and mental well-being for the residents of Dickinson County, and to foster a thriving environment in which to live, work, play and learn.

Dickinson County



Community Perception

- More than 80% of those interviewed reported they are most interested in finding fresh local produce at the Abilene Farmers Market.
- Respondents to our interview noted that people who are elderly, low income, or have no transportation are most impacted by lack of access to healthy foods.
- When asked how to improve access to the Abilene Farmers Market, respondents suggested advertising focused on those who are elderly or low income, offering incentives, and accepting SNAP benefits.

“It is amazing to see these leaders in our surrounding communities come together to work toward common goals to help and give people opportunities.”

— Haley Jones,
Director of Development
and Marketing,
Memorial Health System

Healthy Eating



K-State Research & Extension received *Pathways* grant funding to establish a community orchard in **Abilene’s Eisenhower Park**.

When the trees and bushes bear fruit, anyone in the community can come and pick this fresh healthy food!



Active Living



Memorial Health System received *Pathways* funding to construct a **concrete walking path**. They have recently added lighting and

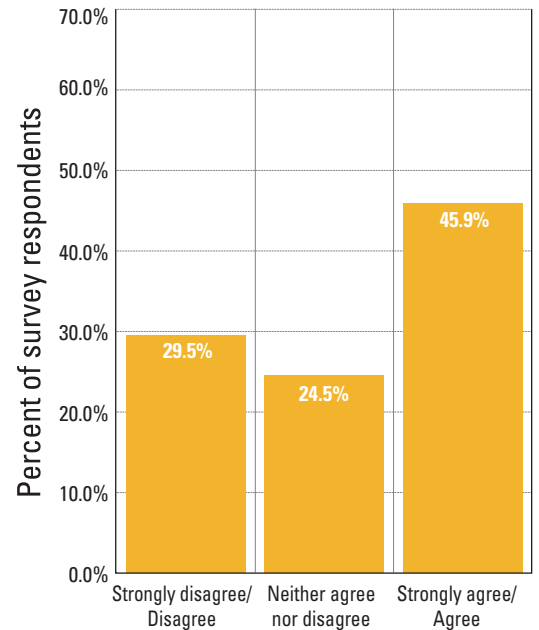
benches to make it more inviting. It is used regularly by nearby residents, patients and staff of the Memorial Health Systems, and a **senior center** which is bringing community members to walk there.

Commercial Tobacco Control



The **Central Kansas Free Fair** board passed a tobacco policy so fairgoers and visitors can enjoy tobacco free experiences. The fair board is concerned about the rise of vaping, especially among youth, and is taking steps to increase healthy living in Dickinson County.

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



Key findings:

More than two-in-five respondents across the 24 *Pathways* communities said 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 = 4,845. The survey response rate was 6.9 percent.