

2020 Survey Results: Dickinson County Residents

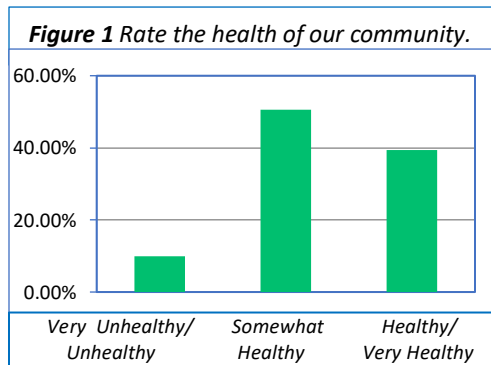
Find Healthier Options

Thank you to community members for taking the community perception survey. Your invaluable feedback guided us throughout the years of the [Pathways to a Healthy Kansas](#) project, an initiative of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas. As we reflect on our work, the Quality of Life Coalition staff and leadership team are especially proud of the following accomplishments in Dickinson County:

- Thirty-four separate grants totaling \$400,000, were awarded to businesses and entities located in Solomon, Abilene, Chapman, Herington, Hope, Enterprise, and Woodbine.
- Four locally owned grocery stores and four locally owned restaurants added healthy options to their offerings. ADA accessible entries were added in two locations, benefitting senior/disabled residents.
- A community orchard, two community gardens, three walking paths, and several safe sidewalks have been constructed or are underway in diverse locations throughout Dickinson County.
- Nine worksites and five school districts added exercise equipment, water bottle filling stations and/or healthy snack areas, benefitting thousands of area residents.

Thank you to the many stakeholders involved in this work!

The 2020 survey highlighted numerous successes, including an increased perception of overall health.



In Dickinson County, almost four out of ten survey respondents (39.4 percent) rated our community Healthy or Very Healthy (*Figure 1*). When the same question was posed in 2017, only 27.1 percent of respondents said that the community was Healthy or Very Healthy. We are building on this success as we work towards expanding the availability of healthy foods and the opportunities for tobacco free physical activity in Dickinson County, especially in areas where access continues to be an issue.

The 2020 survey also brought attention to at least one ongoing concern. More than half of survey respondents (53.7 percent) Disagreed or Strongly Disagreed that the community has a sufficient number of sidewalks or bike/walk paths. *Pathways* funding was used to design and construct a quarter mile long crushed gravel path in Woodbine's city park following the adoption of a Tobacco Free Parks policy by the city council (*Figure 2*).

The Quality of Life Coalition plans to build on the *Pathways* funded work already completed, by seeking resources for additional walking/bike paths in Dickinson County, such as the one in Woodbine.

The *Pathways to a Healthy Community Initiative* has supported Dickinson County residents in eating better, being more active and avoiding tobacco by making the health choice the easy choice!

For more information about the survey or the *Pathways Initiative*, contact Vicki Gieber, Director 300 N. Cedar St., Abilene, KS 67410 785-263-1550 or by email director@qlcdkcoks.org Like us on Facebook or find us online at www.QualityofLifeCoalition.org



Figure 2. Woodbine, KS Walking Path