

## Result from the Pathways Community Perception Survey and the Community Health Assessment

In 2020, the Healthy Harvey Coalition conducted a survey to examine the perceptions of Harvey County residents and employees about the issues of healthy eating, active living, and tobacco cessation. This was part of both our Health Needs Assessment and the Pathways Initiative.

[Pathways](#) is a Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas initiative. Thank you to the 713 community members who took the time to complete the survey. Here are a few key findings from the perception survey results.

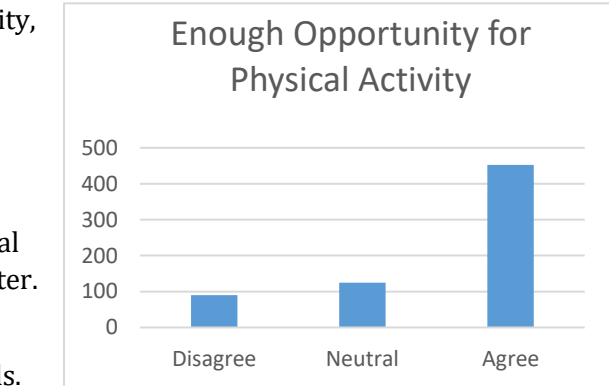
When asked about opportunities for physical activity, 68 percent of survey respondents thought there is enough. However, 48 percent of Harvey County adults do not get the recommended amount of physical activity despite plenty of opportunities suggesting other barriers exists. One Pathways funded project to address opportunities for physical activity is the new Fit Trail at Newton Medical Center.

For the third year running respondents have an almost even split opinion on access to healthy foods.

This year 36 percent of respondents thought there is plenty of options for eating healthy foods while another 37 percent say there are not enough options for eating healthy food. New coolers,



Figure 1: Newton Medical Center Fit Trail Entrance Sign



funded in part by Pathways, at Halstead Market help keep produce fresh and in stock.

Additionally, restaurants across Hesston, Newton, and North Newton also received funding to help add healthier food options to their menus.

To reduce exposure to secondhand smoke and to reduce litter 72 percent of respondents support prohibiting tobacco use in parks and at public events. Hesston recently adopted a policy prohibiting tobacco use on city owned property, including parks. Tobacco use is still allowed at the golf course.

Since 2017, 18 policies – city, school, and individual businesses – have been adopted to help change the culture of health in Harvey County. The Pathways Initiative provided \$400,000 of funding to help make those changes in 30 different businesses, agencies, schools, and governments. On July 16, the Healthy Harvey Coalition was awarded the Pathways Initiative Phase 2 grant for another \$400,000 to continue the momentum to improve the health, safety, and success of all people in Harvey County.

*For more information about the survey or the Pathways initiative, contact: Lorrie Kessler, Healthy Harvey Coalition Coordinator, 316-283-5667, ext 228, [lkessler@harveycounty.com](mailto:lkessler@harveycounty.com). Facebook Healthy Harvey Coalition, Twitter @HealthyHarvey, [www.healthyharveycoalition.com](http://www.healthyharveycoalition.com)*