Kane County Community Themes and Strengths Assessment Report 2015

Prepared by the Illinois Public Health Institute
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Introduction

The Kane County Community Themes and Strengths Assessment was conducted in 2015 as one of the four assessments in the Kane County Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) Collaborative process.

MAPP is a community-driven strategic planning framework that assists communities in developing and implementing efforts around the prioritization of public health issues and identification of resources to address them as defined by the Ten Essential Public Health Services. The MAPP process includes four assessment tools, as shown in the graphic below.

Within the MAPP process, there are four assessment tools. One of these assessment tools is the Community Themes and Strengths Assessment (CTSA). The CTSA is conducted to form an understanding of community issues and concerns and perceptions of quality of life across the state. The CTSA seeks to answer the questions:

- What is important to our community?
- How is quality of life perceived in our community?
- What assets do we have that can be used to improve community health?¹

To answer these questions, the Kane County collaborative conducted a series of focus groups, conducted asset mapping, and invited community members to participate in a photo voice project. The following report is a summary of three focus groups conducted for the CTSA.

¹ National Association for County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), 2015.
Assessment Methodology

Focus Groups

A focus group is a group interview and facilitated discussion. It is designed to get information from a specific peer group about a topic. Open-ended questions allow people to share their beliefs, experiences, and opinions about social or health-related topics. It also allows people to interact with each other in expressing their opinions. What people say in a group may be different from what they say in an individual survey. This adds unique qualitative data to the community health assessment results and increases community involvement.

It was determined that certain demographic groups and populations were underrepresented in other assessment data. Focus groups were conducted with the Village of Elburn, the Kane County Mental Health Council, Compañeros en Salud, and the All our Kids (AOK) Early Childhood Network.

Survey

On March 28, 2015 the Kane County Health Department administered a survey at the Aurora African American Health Fair to better understand the needs of the African American community. Representation from this community was scant during focus groups. It was identified that additional feedback was necessary.

Asset Mapping

Asset mapping is a way to outline the strengths and resources of a community. The use of maps and geographical information systems (GIS) to identify valuable pieces of the Kane County community provides supplemental information for the assessment process. Asset mapping also aids in the development of policies and programs based on a more complete understanding of organizational resources and community capacities. It helps to manage and maximize resources to solve problems and improve the health and well-being of a community.

Photovoice Project

Photovoice is a project through which people can identify and represent their community through photography. Kane County started the Photovoice project on Facebook in September of 2014 to create a collection of photographs taken by people in the community. These pictures reveal what people view as healthy or what can be done to make Kane County a happier, healthier, safer place to live. The Photovoice project was advertised in Health Matters, the Kane County Health Department Annual Report, and was featured in the scrolling news bar on the Kane County Health Department website. The Facebook page called: Photovoice: Capturing a Healthy Kane County is still active but all of the photos collected can be found within this report.
Executive Summary:
Cross-Cutting Themes among Focus Groups

Four community focus groups conducted with Elburn village residents, the Kane County Mental Health Council, Compañeros en Salud, and the All our Kids (AOK) Early Childhood Network, along with results from a survey at the African American Health Fair, revealed a number of cross-cutting findings.

1) Vulnerable Populations

Vulnerable populations are those that are at a greater risk for poor health outcomes. Their poor health status may also be compounded by socioeconomic, physical, geographical, psychological, or other issues. Some of these groups identified in Kane County are:

- Individuals with mental/behavioral health needs
- Adolescents
- Disabled individuals
- Aging individuals
- Undocumented/non-citizens
- Non-English speaking community members

2) Barriers to Health

Vulnerable populations also face significant barriers to improving their health status. Potential barriers were identified as:

- Lack of public transit
- Lack of affordable housing
- Challenges of navigating services
- Lack of access to culturally and linguistically appropriate services
- Cost-prohibitive healthcare

3) Strengths and Resources to Leverage

- Good networking of public health workforce to address needs of Kane County community members
- Good coordination of education regarding health issues, but lack of coordinated action to prevent health problems and to address social, economic, and environmental determinants of health
FOCUS GROUPS
Elburn Village Residents

This focus group was conducted on February 2, 2015 as part of an Elburn Village Board Meeting. Elburn is a small but quickly growing community in west-central Kane County with a population of 5,602 residents as of the 2010 census, up from 2,756 at the 2000 census.

Health and Community Service Needs and Barriers in Elburn

Aging Population:

Summary

The aging population in Elburn identified a handful of specific needs to aid them in living happier, healthier, fuller lives. They identified the need for a nursing home or aging facility that would provide appropriate care for those who need it. Along with this, questions were asked about providing well-being checks and ensuring health and safety without violating HIPPA laws.

The aging population in Elburn expressed the need for more opportunities for activities and exercise. Specifically, they would like more social activities, health education, and better access to the forest preserve.

Details

- As residents age, Elburn is missing nursing homes for seniors that need this level of care, as we all as aging enhanced facilities (like the one in Greenfield) that have services for older people that allow them to stay in the community and to age in place.
- There is a senior club but we need a senior center to offer social activities and to do health education and exercise for seniors.
- One citizen expressed concern about how to do senior well-being checks without violating new HIPPA laws meant to protect privacy. This is a concern for making sure that seniors are safe and looked after while staying within the boundaries of the law.
- Accessibility to forest preserves is a challenge for aging people and people with limited mobility-they are confined to one small section of trail, when there is so much that able-bodied people can explore-need to make trails more accessible.
- Transportation is a particular barrier for seniors but public transit is also a gap in general for the village
- Access to opportunities to stay active:
  - “The main thing when you get older is to get up off the couch and get moving. My chiropractor says that motion is lotion.”
  - Other residents echoed this, but added that we don’t need to limit this to older adults- staying active is important for everybody.
Youth:

Summary:

Issues for youth in Elburn were specifically related to activities. People expressed concerns with availability and participation in youth organizations and a lack of unstructured activities. People do not want to have to travel to other areas in order for their children to participate in recreation.

Details:

- Access to recreation opportunities:
  - “My son has to go to St. Charles for swimming club, so we have to pay a non-resident fee.”
- Elburn has a lot of very active youth organizations (baseball, scouts, etc.) but as kids get older, their interest waivers and wanes…. Residents need to try to find things that youth can be engage in and find ways to help them launch themselves for their future:
  - “Career planning is one example. The high school does a good job of this, but we can take the next step. If youth don’t want to do college, they need to know their next steps- there is a gap here. Some kids go to Waubonsee Community College, but there should also be apprenticeships and internships available across a range of interests.”
- There is good youth involvement in structured activities like soccer, but there doesn’t seem to be many unstructured opportunities for youth activity/social engagement. Kids are just at home in their rooms. There is no such thing as a pick-up game, never see kids riding bikes. This could be because there is no place to go, or because parents have concerns about kids running around in the nature preserves alone.
- Questions about substance abuse:
  - “I don’t know what the drug issue is in our city, if we have one, but you read about the cities east of us with heroin and all that, but I don’t know if this is an issue for us.”

For all residents:

Summary:

Residents expressed a desire for wellness centers and accessible walking trails. Residents also stated that they have some difficulty accessing healthcare. A few general physicians exist but they have to travel if they need a specialist or urgent care provider.

Residents expressed concerns with mental health issues; particularly a lack of training for first responders in appropriately handling those kinds of crises. Also, residents agreed that the general public should become more aware of mental health issues.

Details:

- Need more wellness facilities, and an exercise center/ pool and park center
- There are a few isolated walking trails, but they are not connected. They should be connected through the village (train expansion and bridge over railroad is in Elburn Village Plan).
- Have a few general practice physicians, but lacking in specialists, and no urgent care walk in clinic where you don’t need an appointment
- Barriers to access- residents have to drive to St. Charles, etc. for clinics, and have to pay a non-resident fee, so it is very expensive. Costly in terms of time, travel, and expense.
  - “I live here, but I have to go all the other places to get those services.”
- Community Engagement/Connectivity:
  - “Is there a top secret way to get rid of electronic devices? My dad called them idiot boxes, and we have a lot of idiot boxes.”
  - “But on the other side, we need to make sure that people have good connectivity- this is something we’ve talked about on the board, exploring things like wireless services… to ensure that people have the connectivity they need to in their lives.”
  - “We need more enhancement of our public gathering spaces- we need to get everybody together to lower apprehensions and fear levels- when you gather together, you realize who your neighbors are and who the kids are, and there is a building of friendship and trust throughout the community that comes through more interface time.”
- Mental Health Issues:
  - There are a lot of things that the police get called on to respond to that are not law enforcement-related, like mental health issues, like suicide, hoarding, crisis intervention- these are growing problems.
  - Elburn police sergeants are trained in crisis intervention- needs to be more public awareness that these are issues in the community, and that police officers are trained to know how to appropriate handle/mediate crises. The newspaper could be helpful in communicating this to citizens.
- A couple residents expressed that there was panic about recent bubbling up of infectious diseases like Measles in the news- would be good to provide some community education/information about whether or not we should be concerned about this in Elburn.

**Community Assets unique to Elburn**

- Locally Sourced Foods
  - Great options for locally-sourced foods right here in the community-we have farmer’s markets, and we know who in the community makes fresh bread, we know who has a cow, etc.
  - Fresh drop offs at our local food pantries are common, which is something you might not be likely to see in other communities
  - Our schools now offer fresh fruits and veggies for kids.
- Services for Mental Health/ and Developmentally/Intellectually Disabled community members at Blackberry Townships (under-publicized community resource)
- Quiet, close-knit community
  - “It’s a very family-oriented community”
  - “It’s very quiet and low stress out here. For those of us that work in the city, you come back out here and you just hear the difference- it’s so calm.”
- Good communication about services available throughout the community
- Great Board of Trustees/Mayor
- Excellent civic organizations like Lions Club, Legion, and churches
- Good EMS services
- Great open spaces - two forest preserves - these are open spaces that are maintained for resident and community use.
  - “On the one hand you have a lot of open space but there are challenges for an aging population and that makes accessibility challenging - it really is both of those things - what is wonderful about the community can also make challenges. Because of the size of the community, there are not a ton of services.”

### Ideas to strengthen existing services for Elburn residents

- **Funding**
  - “It’s all about funding, both public and private….but it all comes down to funding.”
  - “We don’t need any more unfunded mandates- state can stop “helping out” anytime.”
- **Community Engagement**
  - “In addition to funding, we need to bring all the community assets together like the scouts and lions to try to integrate some of these healthy lifestyle practices by having a nature walk down north avenue and by working with older folks and scouts…it’s not only getting the word out but getting people enthused…we could do a camp out, a nature treasure hunt, whatever…. But we have all these assets around us but we need to try to create more public participation in our village.”
  - “A lot of this is unpaid, and we have the 80/20 rule here in Elburn-we need more people stepping up and getting involved.”
- **Accessibility of open spaces**
  - “We have wonderful forest preserves- if you are a senior citizen you are limited to one little trail. If you can run or bike you can enjoy it, but if you’re 80 or 90 yrs old you can’t enjoy much of the forest.”
Kane County Mental Health Council

The Kane County Mental Health Council is a group of mental health service providers dedicated to improving mental health services for children, adults and families throughout Kane County. The group works to coordinate services and to make the system more responsive by bringing together provider organizations, mental health authorities, major funders of mental health services, mental health advocacy groups, and public officials.

Unmet Mental Health Needs in Kane County

- Services for Spanish speakers
  - Under-recognized need for bilingual and bicultural services in the Tri-City area.
  - Latino/Hispanic residents often seek mental health care from their families, churches or anywhere other than mental health service providers, which could be a result, in part of the lack of culturally appropriate services.
- Affordable psychiatric services
  - Particularly for children and adolescents
- Short term residential care for adolescents
- Substance abuse services
  - Particularly for adolescents
- Supportive Housing for vulnerable community members:
  - Individuals with mental/behavioral health needs
  - Chronically homeless individuals (particularly on the north and south ends of the county)
  - Individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities
  - Dementia patients with a history of violence
  - Individuals with a past history of sexually predatory behaviors

Underserved/Vulnerable Populations

- Undocumented community members
- Community members living in low income housing
  - need is overwhelming
  - residents don’t know about existing services and find them very difficult to access
- Laotian community
- Aging community members
  - Access to affordable housing is the top barrier for seniors

Barriers to Mental Health in Kane County

- Lack of resources to do advocacy-oriented work to improve the mental health safety net
- Lack of effective marketing of services and low awareness of services available among community members
- Low reimbursement/lack of reimbursement
  - Particularly for treatment and services for individuals on the Autism Spectrum
- Patients find the system hard to navigate
Consumers of behavioral health services perceive services as fragmented and difficult to find a range of services they need within a reasonable distance.

The transition to Managed Care Organizations for Medicaid is complex not only for providers but also consumers—people don’t know what insurance they have. People can get two different answers when they ask about their benefits

- Providers used to be able to provide lower level of services, but due to resource limitations, they now have to focus on acute, emergency issues
  - This is problematic because providers don’t have a chance to de-escalate and avoid a more acute situation.
- There is duplication and competition among mental health service providers.
- High turnover rate among home health workers and direct service workers serving individuals with disabilities due to low wages
  - Potential increase in minimum wage could reduce turnover rate, but also presents a threat that this would lead to services becoming cost prohibitive for low income individuals due to low reimbursement

### Strengths and Resources to Leverage

- Mental Health Council is a network of providers discussing these issues
- Strong partnerships, capacity, and commitment to addressing these issues among public health workforce.
  - Need to maintain strong networks and partnerships as the system changes so providers can continue to coordinate and refer properly.
- This county has a number of hospital systems and organizations that provide behavioral health services.
- Kane County has a university and good community colleges that are preparing the future mental health and social service workforce.
- Providers feel comfortable partnering and calling each other to make appropriate linkages and referrals to ensure people get the services they need.
- More primary care providers are involved in mental health and networking with mental health service providers and are banding together to ask questions about what services exist for patients with mental health needs.
  - High involvement of primary care providers in mental health care is a double-edged sword—it is not necessarily appropriate that 80% of psychotropic medication prescriptions are written by primary care providers rather than specialists—this points to gaps in specialty care access. However, increased advocacy and interest in mental health concerns from primary care providers is an asset that can be leveraged for community health improvement.
- Kane County Health Department can serve as a convener for mental health providers and advocacy issues.
- Degree of grassroots faith communities in providing basic human services for the community is very valuable.
- Strong linkages between mental health providers and schools.
  - Grant to provide youth mental health first aid and prevention services in schools
Compañeros en Salud/ Partners in Health

Compañeros en Salud/Partners in Health is a coalition of health and social service providers dedicated to addressing issues affecting the Latino/Hispanic community in the Fox Valley region.

Unmet Needs among the Kane County Latino/Hispanic Community

- Emotional support for parents and family units
  - Particularly for moms
- Access to affordable medications
- Access to specialty care
  - Speciality care is particularly difficult to access for uninsured and publically insured populations-- individuals have to wait until issues get bad enough to go to ER
  - Mental health services
    - Lack of bilingual services and bilingual support groups
    - Particularly strong need for adolescents with self-harm/suicidal behaviors
- Nutrition and health education
- Health services for people that are not citizens
- There is a need for coordinated prevention efforts for the community. While there is a lot of coordinated education, there is not enough activity in actually changing the conditions that create poor health
  - Lack of funding is a barrier to doing this work

Barriers to Health and Well-being among the Kane County Latino/Hispanic Community

- Lack of access to public transportation
- Lack of access to affordable and quality childcare and respite services for caregivers
- Lack of access to safe and affordable housing
  - Renters have very little control over limiting exposure to asthma triggers, lead, other indoor pollutants like mold
- Lack of access to culturally and linguistically appropriate services
  - Interpretive services are very expensive
- Individuals with language barriers may have difficulty navigating health and social service systems and understanding how to use their insurance.
- Cultural stigma may prevent individuals from accessing needed substance abuse or sexual health services
- Healthcare and medication is cost prohibitive for many families
  - There are patient assistance programs but there are limitations to those that are not citizens or residents

Underserved/Vulnerable Populations

- Undocumented community members
- GLBT population
- Parents of young children and caregivers of aging and disabled individuals
- Adolescents
- Grandparents raising grandchildren
- Need financial support in particular

- HIV positive individuals
  - Need culturally appropriate education and prevention services for HIV prevention and treatment
  - Due to cultural stigma of testing and prevention, many HIV positive tests among Latino/Hispanic patients are very late-stage diagnoses so patients may also be getting AIDS diagnoses

**Strengths and Resources to Leverage**

- Compañeros en Salud advocates on behalf of the Latino/Hispanic Community
  - Strong networking between service providers and strong commitment and passion to do this work
  - Health fairs for women and for men to do community outreach and education

- Aurora has 3 FQHCs that serve vulnerable populations
- Family Focus Welcome Center provides ESL and other support services for Latino/Hispanic families
- Aurora schools offer services to Hispanic/Latino youth and their families
  - Bilingual parent liaison is an invaluable resource for parents that wouldn’t go out into the community
  - Aurora Schools have a 21st Century Learning Grant which funds afterschool programming and parent engagement
  - Each district has a homeless coordinator-these coordinators network with one another to create a coordinated safety net
  - Homeless coordinator in each school district, that are coordinated
  - Early childhood has some good programming through SPARK (Strong Prepared and Ready for Kindergarten). This program is funded by the school district and the city. Families have access to home visit programs that work with newborn and pregnant women and connect parents to family case management and WIC
  - Boys 2 Men program provides supportive services for young men

- Both area hospitals provide health education opportunities, including a walking club and free diabetes classes
- SPARK is putting a training together for organizations to come together on collective impact to improve community health and wellbeing
All our Kids (AOK) Early Childhood Network

The AOK focus group was held on December 11, 2014 at the Kane County Government Center in Geneva. AOK is a coalition of local agencies and maternal-child services that ensure that all families with children under the age of five years receive needed services from pre-natal care to well-baby checkups, parenting education to specialized services.

Unmet Needs for Kane County Children:

- Mental health
- Specialty services
- Capacity to help families build natural network/support
  - How can we help them grow?
- Fitness
  - Culture that is electronic-focused and provides no physical activity
  - However, must be realistic, this is the new reality and new era so we must be adaptable
- Dental services
- Resources are available, but the public does not know about them
- Build education at high school and college level on parenting. Start younger
- Not educating parents about tobacco cessation and younger children
- Education on issues related to healthy homes

Barriers Faced by Kane County Families & Children Trying to get Needed Health Services

- Transportation
- Accessibility
  - Time
  - Money
  - Physical
- Language
- Knowledge of services available
- Poor customer service
  - Given wrong information
  - Lack of trust
- Physical barriers in built environment that hinder physical activity/walkability
- Generational and cultural
  - Remedies passed down from earlier generations
- Stigma of mental health services
- Complex, information overload from “experts”
  - Also, many changes in information and it is difficult to keep up with what is up-to-date
- Cost of school lunch improvements are preventing healthier lunch options
- No time or personnel to prepare school lunches with healthy options. Example: cut up apples instead of whole. More children will eat it if it is cut up.
- Federal guidelines for school lunches
- School regulations – example: no water in classroom
• Discuss regulations that are unfavorable to healthy eating and active living Food deserts? U.S.
designated or ethnic grocery may have cultural gap

What challenges are specific to birth-to-five age group?

• Reading to and by children
• Parents neglecting creative play
• Different expectations for learning
• Technology at an early age/harmful and helpful example: electronic babysitter
• Breastfeeding in the workplace/no support

What can be done to strengthen existing health services for children in Kane County?

• More specialists (neuro, etc.)
  o Children, low-income
• More affordable, available mental health services
  o Need openings, one-to-one counseling
• Dental specialists (children go to Chicago)
• Bilingual services
• Education about services that are needed
• Pediatricians do more developmental screening and referrals
  o “doctors frequently tell families to wait”
• More screenings (social-emotional, developmental, vision, hearing)
• Use consistent messaging
  o with parents for screening
  o nutrition education
  o development with commitment to deliver
• More access to social workers in health system
• More hours of operation
• Transportation to get to services
• Follow-up on vision and hearing referrals (glasses, services)
• Place to find openings for childcare
• Chronic diseases – need more support
• Fitness- accessibility to resources (include winter options). Consider cultural differences (home
country has a warmer climate)
• Need to look more broadly when supporting groups. There is an issue of resentment when we
subsidize certain groups
• Make physical activity fun; family dance at a school that is open to the community
• Postpartum depression has a stigma; doctors and schools should do more to help, beyond a
handout.
• Environment of classroom and childcare may be positive, but home environment may not be
conducive to what is done in school
Aurora Health Fair African American Survey

On March 28, 2015 the Kane County Health Department administered a survey at the Aurora African American Health Fair to better understand the needs of the African American community. Representation from this community was scant during focus groups. It was identified that additional feedback was necessary.

Survey results demonstrated numerous areas of the health system to be improved upon as well as enhancements of services which community members would find be helpful. According to participants, the top 3 health-related services that are necessary but not meeting the community’s needs are: mental health, nutrition education, and senior housing. Other suggestions for improvement involved financial education, health screenings and access to specialty care.

When asked about barriers experienced by African-American residents, the majority of participants answered that they are not aware of available services and that there is lack of both transportation and insurance coverage. Another moderately perceived barrier was the inability to pay for lab tests and doctor or hospital bills.

Responses from community participants also revealed some perceived strengths of the health system in Kane County. These included: the variety of agencies available, partnerships, transportation, and Obama Care.

Contributors were then given an opportunity to grade numerous health issues on a scale ranging from failing to excellent. According to collected data, three areas scored the highest including cleanliness of the streets and maintenance of public areas, availability of fresh fruits and vegetables, as well as bike and pedestrian trails, recreation centers, and parks. Other areas were found to be particularly weak including accessibility to public transportation and quality of available housing. The lowest ranked issue was availability of affordable housing.

Survey results revealed a common theme of health and physical activity requiring improvement. When asked about participation in Park District activities, the majority of residents indicated that they do not participate in Park District activities. According to residents that do participate in such activities, fitness classes ranked the most popular. A question regarding employer-sponsored wellness programs exposed another area for advancement. Just over half of the residents do not participate in employer-sponsored wellness programs.

When residents were asked about health conditions/diseases most prevalent in their family the majority responded high blood pressure/stroke. Diabetes was also highly ranked as a major health concern. Although cancer and obesity were found to be of concern, these were not as dominant as high blood pressure/stroke and diabetes.

When participants were asked what could be done to strengthen existing health services the overwhelming census revealed health education and awareness. Suggestions were also made to tie education and awareness to existing faith-based organizations to increase participation. Additional responses included affordable health options and medical insurance.
In summary, the majority of African American residents of Kane County responded that mental health, nutrition education, and senior housing were major areas for improvement. Many residents are facing barriers including lack of awareness of available services as well as lack of transportation and insurance coverage. The quality and availability of affordable housing ranked low among participants and designates need for development. Many residents do not participate in Park District activities or employer-sponsored wellness programs and have strong family history of high blood pressure/stroke and diabetes.
The Kane County Health Department is conducting a survey to assist with community health planning efforts. The information gathered will be used to identify and prioritize health issues in our community and contribute to updating the Kane County Community Health Improvement Plan. Please take a few minutes and complete the following questionnaire. **All information provided is anonymous.**

*Please circle the best answer*

1) The community I **live** in is located:
   a. In Kane County (please write in name of city/village and ZIP code)
      _________________________________
   b. Outside of Kane County

2) The community I **work** in is located:
   a. In Kane County (please write in name of city/village and ZIP code)
      _________________________________
   b. Outside of Kane County
   c. I am not employed at this time

3) What health-related services do residents need that they are not currently getting? (circle all that apply)
   a. Mental health
   b. Senior housing options
   c. Nutrition education
   d. Other (please list) _________________________________
      _________________________________
      _________________________________
      _________________________________

*Continued on back*
4) What barriers do African-American residents experience in trying to get health services they need? (circle all that apply)
   a. Lack of transportation
   b. Awareness of services available
   c. Lack of insurance coverage
   d. No Internet access or access to technology
   e. Cannot get an appointment with doctor
   f. Office hours are inconvenient
   g. Specialists are located too far away
   h. Cannot pay for prescription drugs
   i. Cannot pay for lab tests
   j. Cannot pay for doctor or hospital bills
   k. Other (please describe) ____________________________________________

5) What are some strengths of the health system in Kane County? (please list)

____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
6) Using a grading scale like they do in schools—where A is excellent, B is good, C is fair, D is poor and F is failing—how would you grade each of the following issues in the area where you live?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opportunities and places for people to interact with one another</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Fair</th>
<th>Poor</th>
<th>Failing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The availability of fresh fruit and vegetables</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Failing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bike and pedestrian trails, recreation centers, parks, etc.</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Failing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The quality of available housing</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Failing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Availability of affordable housing</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Failing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety from crime</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Failing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noise levels</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Failing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessible public transportation</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Failing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The cleanliness of the streets and maintenance of public areas</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Failing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior services</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Failing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public schools</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Failing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Availability of neighborhoods and shopping opportunities designed for people who can’t or don’t drive cars</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Failing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7) I/my family participate(s) in Park District activities including (circle all that apply)
   a. I/we do not participate in Park District activities
   b. My community does not have a Park District
   c. Fitness Center membership
   d. Fitness classes
   e. Aquatics (indoor and/or outdoor)
   f. Sports programs
   g. Open gym
   h. Arts and crafts
   i. General interest (photography, cooking, science)
   j. Other (please describe): ________________________________
      ________________________________
      ________________________________

8) I have access to employer-sponsored wellness programs through my employer or a family member’s employer:
   a. Yes
   b. No
   c. No, I am self-employed
   d. No, I am not employed at this time and/or do not have access through a family member

Continued on back
9) What disease or health condition is the biggest problem for your family?
   a. High blood pressure/stroke
   b. Diabetes
   c. Cancer
   d. Heart disease/heart attack
   e. Asthma
   f. Obesity
   g. Arthritis
   h. Other (please describe) ____________________________________________

10) What can be done to strengthen existing health services for African-American residents? (please list)

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

11) Additional Comments:

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Thank you for participating! Please return this questionnaire to the Kane County Health Department booth.
ASSET MAPPING
Hospitals and Federally Qualified Health Centers

Kane County is home to five major hospitals and 13 Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). As pictured on the map below, all of these resources are located in the eastern, more populated portion of Kane County.
Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs)

Kane County experiences the largest Health Professional Shortage Areas in the southeastern corner of the county near Aurora and its surrounding area. There is also a HPSA in the northeastern area of the county near Elgin and its surrounding areas. HPSAs are indicated by green shading.
Shelters in Kane County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>ZIP Code</th>
<th>FBC County Code</th>
<th>FBC Agency Category Code</th>
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### Soup Kitchens in Kane County

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### Pantries in Kane County

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Community Gardens in Kane County

Numerous entities in Kane County have received funding to improve access to fresh fruits and vegetables through community gardens.

Some examples of these garden projects include:

- Lifespring Ministries in Aurora installed a garden and changed food policies requiring more fruits and vegetables to be used in communal meals.

- Assisi Homes-Batavia Apartment uses their garden produce to stock their on-site food pantry. They have also installed playground equipment.

- Village of Gilberts launched an effort to boost backyard gardens.

- Western Avenue School in Geneva installed its garden. It includes an orchard, berry bushes, and space for the children to grow produce. The garden has been integrated into school curriculum.

- The Elgin Community Garden Network in cooperation with the City of Elgin installed new gardens for the 2012 season.

- Highland Fellowship Church installed gardens onsite. The gardens will serve low income neighbors and include food preservation classes.

- Pushing the Envelope Farm provided hands on, demonstrations classes for children throughout the county on the value of growing food. Children planted their own micro greens to take home.
Bike Paths in Kane County

Kane County is working to promote bicycling as both recreation and as an economical form of transportation that improves health and is environmentally friendly. Kane County has five major regional trails: the Fox River Trail, the Great Western Trail, the Virgil Gilman Trail, the four spurs of the Illinois Prairie Path, and the developing Mid-County Trail. These regional trails are also connected to an extensive local bikeway system.
Walkability in Kane County

Map Legend

Walk Score Ranking by Place, WALKSCORE 2012
- 90 - 100 Walker's Paradise
- 70 - 89 Very Walkable
- 50 - 69 Somewhat Walkable
- 25 - 49 Car-Dependent
- 0 - 24 Very Car-Dependent
Forest Preserves in Kane County

Forest Preserve District of Kane County Properties 2014
Approximately 20,241 Acres

Legend
- FP Main Entrance
- Campground
- Forest Preserve

Regional Trails
- Elgin Twp. Bike Trail
- Fox River Trail
- Great Western Trail
- Illinois Prairie Path_Aurora
- Illinois Prairie Path_Batavia
- Illinois Prairie Path_Elgin
- Illinois Prairie Path_Geneva
- Kirk-Fabyan Regional Trail
- Randall Road Trail
- River Bend Trail
- Deer Run Trail
- Virgin Gilman Trail

Forest Preserve Administrative Office

Kane County Community Themes and Strengths Assessment Report 2015
Protected Farmland in Kane County

Kane County Farmland Protection Program
- Protected Farmland -
Prime and Important Farmland in Kane County

Prime & Important Farmland

Without Drainage

With Drainage

Source: USDA-NRCS
PHOTOVOICE PROJECT
PhotoVoice’s mission is to build skills within disadvantaged and marginalized communities. To achieve this, we utilize innovative participatory photography and digital storytelling methods. These skills enable individuals to represent themselves and create tools for advocacy and communication. Through this, and through developing partnerships, we deliver positive social change.

http://www.photovoice.org

Community Gardens-
Refugee families work on tending plots.

Walk to School Day-
Fabyan Elementary school students walk together with Kane County Board Chairman Chris Lauzen, excited to start their day.

Walk to School Day-
Despite the rain, Walk to School Day is still a success.
Walk to School Day - Waldo Middle School

Walk to School Day - Sleepy Hollow Elementary School

Walk to School Day - The Hope D. Wall School

Walk to School Day - Brady Elementary School
Walk to School Day - Alice Gustafson Elementary School

Walk to School Day - Allen Elementary School

Walk to School Day - Bell-Graham Elementary

Walk to School Day - Century Oaks Elementary

Walk to School Day - Clinton Elementary School
Farmers Market - Aurora

Sidewalks and Trails - Helping Kane County Stay Active

Sidewalks and Trails - Helping Kane County Stay Active

Farmers Market - West Aurora
Healthy Choices-
Kane County Elementary Schools Serve Healthy Options

Community Improvement-
Building New Parks

Community Gardens-
Locally Grown Produce

Community Gardens-
Building New Parks

Community Improvement-
Feeding the County

Farmers Market-
Locally Grown Produce
Community Gardens - Feeding the County

Sidewalks and Trails - Helping Kane County Stay Active

Community Gardens - Feeding the County

School Gardens - Feeding the Students of the County Western Avenue School
South Elgin FUNdation -
Adopt a Parkee

Sidewalks and Trails -
Helping Kane County Stay Active

Community Gardens -
Feeding the County

Community Gardens -
Feed the County
Community Gardens - Feeding the County

Pound 4 Pound Fitness - Elburn

Youth Sports Leagues - Keeping Kane Kids Fit

South Elgin FUNdation - Youth Basketball League

South Elgin FUNdation - Tuna Kahuna Fishing Contest
South Elgin FUNdation - 7K run

Winter Bike Commute to Work - Kane County Resident

A Kane County Elementary School - Finding fun ways to keep their students active
Walk to School Day -
Parkview Elementary School

Walk to School Day -
Rollins Elementary School

Walk to School Day -
Freeman Elementary School

Walk to School Day -
Freeman Elementary School

Walk to School Day -
H. C. Storm Elementary School

Walk to School Day -
Western Ave Elementary School
Walk to School Day -
Westfield Community School

Walk to School Day -
Williamsburg Elementary School

Walk to School Day -
Freeman Elementary School

Walk to School Day -
Freeman Elementary School