

Kitsap Community Health Priorities (KCHP) Community Themes and Strengths Assessment Community Survey Results

Executive Summary

This community survey revealed many important community values and concerns. We recognize that the natural beauty of our county is important to us, including access to nature such as water, trees and mountains. We value having a small and safe community that is still within reach of Seattle, Tacoma and urban amenities. In general, we consider Kitsap County to be a good place to raise children and we're satisfied with the quality of life found here. There are networks of support in our communities and we like having family and friends close by.

The limitations of public transportation and lack of economic opportunity are overwhelming concerns in Kitsap County. In addition, many respondents mentioned disliking the lack of community cohesion, presence of crime, limited options for healthy living, unfavorable growth planning, and poor climate.

A majority of respondents rated their family as "mostly healthy" but consider that others in the county are only "somewhat healthy." The common themes preventing families from enjoying better health were personal behaviors including lack of exercise, bad eating habits, substance use, chronic conditions, and the costs of health care and healthy living.

The highest rated consideration for health in Kitsap County is access to healthcare, including medical, dental, and mental health care, followed by health behaviors, employment, and our environment. Interestingly, lower ratings were given for the importance of race, ethnicity and religion to health in our community.