

COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

GREELEY AND WALLACE COUNTIES

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OUR COMMUNITIES...OUR HEALTH



Greeley and Wallace Counties are frontier communities located along the Colorado border in far western Kansas. The five population centers within the counties are Tribune, Horace, Sharon Springs, Weskan and Wallace. Tribune and Sharon Springs are the county seats and the main thoroughfares through Greeley Co. are Kansas Highways 96 and 27 and through Wallace Co. are Highways 27 and 40.

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chrysanne Grund, Christy Hopkins, John Kennedy, Lisa Moritz, Eldonna Sylvania
Contributors - Brenda Drennan, Aften Gardener

Our community members primarily make their living from agriculture or ag-related businesses. Education and family-owned business are other major employers.

School activities are central community events which draw residents of all ages together. Our communities value a family oriented lifestyle.



Wallace County Clinic

HIGHLIGHTS

- Healthy People
- Access to Care
- Strong Families
- Healthy Children

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT (CHNA)?

A Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) is a disciplined approach to collecting, analyzing and using data to identify barriers and gaps to health and well-being of its residents. The CHNA identifies the problems, leads to the development of targeted action plans and suggests placement of resources where they are most needed and effective.

Greeley County Health Services has partnered with community organizations to complete this assessment in both Greeley and Wallace Counties.

RESOURCES USED TO GUIDE THE PROCESS

KDHE: www.kdheks.gov

Kansas Health Matters:
www.kansashealthmatters.org

County Health Rankings &
Roadmaps:
www.countyhealthrankings.org

Healthy People 2020
www.healthypeople.gov

The Annie E. Casey Foundation
Data Center Kids Count:

www.datacenter.kidscount.org

Work Group for Community Health and Development
vcollie@ku.edu

Southeast Kansas Education Service
Center – Greenbush
www.kctcdata.org

Quick facts from the US Census Bureau
www.quickfacts.census.gov

Public Square Communities Process
Community Survey
Community Interviews



PUBLIC SQUARE PROCESS

Since 2004, Greeley and Wallace Counties have been engaged in the Public Square Process, a citizen-driven process to identify community needs and develop solutions to challenges. Utilizing large-scale community conversations and vision retreats, community priorities are set, goals are established, and action teams are developed to work to reach the community's dreams. The Public Square Process ensures that stakeholders from business, education, health and human services, and government are represented in each conversation and on each team to ensure broad-based perspectives.

The most recent Community Conversation and Vision Retreat in Greeley County, which were attended by 100 and 30 people respectively, set new community goals for 1) building and renovating affordable workforce housing, 2) increasing community recruiting efforts to result in additional

healthcare providers in the future, 3) developing non-agriculturally based businesses and expanding existing businesses, 4) revitalizing and improving the existing park system, and 5) developing an art council to organize and facilitate visual and performing arts.

Wallace County is at work in the Public Square process with a local effort called Tri-Hope focused on bringing resources to the three communities in Weskan, Sharon Springs and Wallace. Projects in these communities include historical facilities improvements, housing research, and other communication and coordination efforts.



COMMUNITY SURVEY

Purpose-To obtain community members' input into the importance of, and the satisfaction with, various community health issues. **Methods-**A thirty item survey was adapted for our use in Greeley and Wallace Counties. The survey consisted of a number of statements that described community issues. Participants were asked to rate the importance of each issue and their personal satisfaction with how well the issue was being addressed. Surveys were administered via Survey Monkey online with paper copies also made available. Outreach was conducted to promote completion of the survey through email blasts, newspaper articles and social media messaging. **Results-**Surveys were completed by 125 residents in the 2 counties. Perceptions of importance and satisfaction with the issues were used to determine the relative strengths and problems. When an issue was rated as very important and people indicated satisfaction with the community's efforts to address the issue, that issue was identified as a relative strength. Conversely, when an issue was rated very important and people were unsatisfied with the community's efforts to address the issue, the issue was identified as a relative problem. **Please see the next page to review the top strengths and problems identified by the community members.**

STRENGTHS

- Children and youth have access to basic medical services.
- Children and youth are up to date on their immunizations.
- Quality education is available for all.
- Health care is available for all.
- Pregnant women have access to early prenatal care.
- Individuals are aware of and know how to access health care services.

ISSUES

- Quality childcare is available and affordable.
- Dental care and preventive screenings are available for all.
- People do not drink and drive.
- Alcoholism and drug dependence are recognized and treatment is available.
- Adults and youth know how to avoid unsafe sex and have access to contraceptives.

COMMUNITY INTERVIEWS

Members of the Greeley County Community Development Board and staff interviewed 15 community members. When selecting individuals for the interviews, the board deliberately selected a diverse group of people from business, education, health and human services, and government.

Each individual was asked eight questions, ranging from Greeley County’s assets and perceived leaders to ideas for

improvement and welcoming others to the community. Subjects were asked about their hopes and dreams for the community. After the results were combined, major themes were identified. These were collated and identified as assets or concerns. These themes helped to inform the community conversation and subsequent vision retreat which identified community based goals for the future.



See boxes below for identified assets and concerns.

COMMUNITY ASSETS

Welcoming Community,
Community Members,
Great Place to raise kids,
Safe, VOLUNTEERISM,
Unification, Community
Conversations

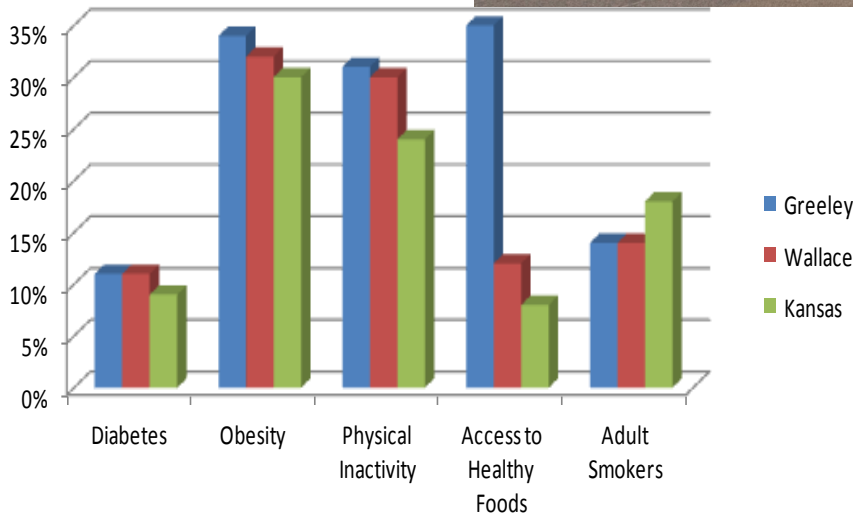
COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Industry businesses needed,
Affordable Housing,
Water Resources, Integration
of Hispanic Population,
CONTINUING
EDUCATION

HEALTH INDICATORS

The health indicators that were chosen for this report were selected based on publicly available Healthy People 2020 data and many were also identified as part of Kansas' Healthy People Indicators. They include: Healthy People, Access to Care, Strong Families, Healthy Children and Supportive Physical Environment.

Healthy People

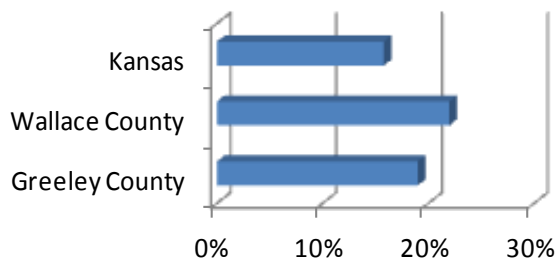


In our rural areas, the elderly population has increased. With aging, there is a rapid increase in the prevalence of a number of chronic diseases. Environmental factors such as long distances and geographical barriers, as well as diverse cultures, inactivity and poorer economic conditions add to the worsening health conditions of rural elderly. Diabetes, cardiovascular disease and other chronic diseases are responsible for the majority of healthcare costs spent in rural areas.

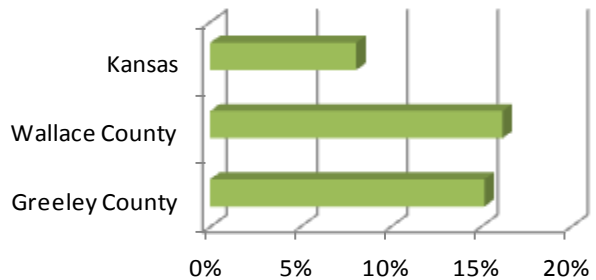
Access to Care

Health insurance typically impacts utilization of health system resources. The Kansas state average shows only 15.8% of population without insurance. Our counties have a higher rate of no insurance and an even larger population who are “under-insured” or who may have a deductible higher than can be supported by the annual income. These statistics reflect our current insurance environment. The impact of the Affordable Care Act and the state health insurance exchanges remains to be seen. Access to care may come in many forms. One of the ways our counties provide access is through robust county health fairs in the communities of Tribune and Sharon Springs which bring attendance from across the region.

Uninsured Adults



Uninsured Children



COUNTY HEALTH FAIRS

Both Wallace and Greeley Counties have yearly health fairs which regularly attract around 20% of the county residents. Annually 250-300 blood samples are taken on people for their annual screening tests. These screening measures including cholesterol, diabetes, thyroid, PSA, and a complete chemistry are cooperatively used by the health departments and the health care providers to follow the health status of the citizens of the

counties. In addition, the health fairs have education booths that inform the citizens on issues such as: obesity, blood pressure control, healthy eating, local resources, aging, retirement, mental health, home health, emergency transportation, breastfeeding, prescriptions, physical therapy and bone health and many more.

Many volunteers support the efforts for these fairs which



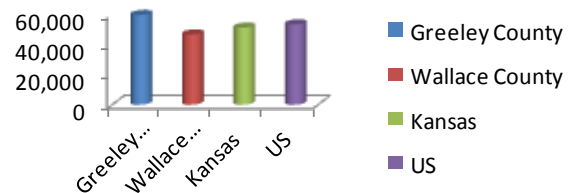
make them a wonderful educational resource for local residents. Often the health fairs include children's exhibits covering a wide range of topics such as safety, healthy eating, dental health and lead screening.

Strong Families

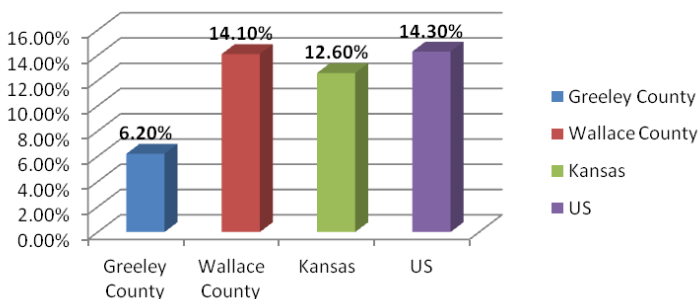


Our communities have mixed results with regard to household income. Wallace County falls slightly below state average with 14.1% of persons below the federal poverty level. Greeley County ranks above Kansas and national averages for income with 6.2% of population below the FPL. Income information influences our children and our schools and their ability to access appropriate resources. More than 50% of school children in Wallace County qualify for free and reduced lunches with 48.54% of the school children in Greeley County also qualifying.

Median Household Income



Persons below poverty level, percent, 2007-2011



Unemployment Rates:

Wallace 4.6%
Greeley 3.3%
Kansas 6.2%

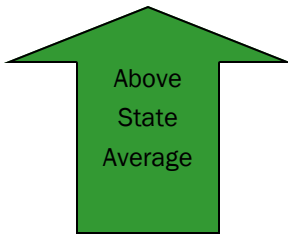
"This country can promise you more and give you less and can promise you less and give you more than any place in the country."

- Otto Epp

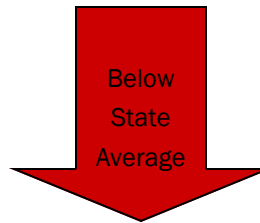
Healthy Children

YOUTH INFORMATION

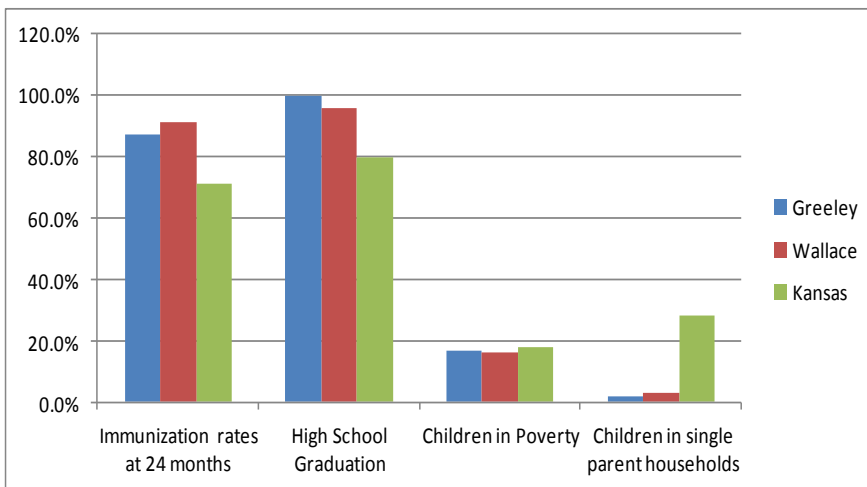
The Kansas Communities That Care (KCTC) youth survey has been administered annually free of charge throughout the state since 1994. The survey tracks teen use of harmful substances such as alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. It provides a measurable level of risk and protective factors that influence behavior, attitudes, and opinions of Kansas teens. In the Community Domain Risk Factor category both Wallace and Greeley Counties rate low in the state of Kansas in areas of risk and rate high in protective factors.



Children feel rewarded for Community Involvement
Laws and Norms Restricting Drug Use



Availability of Drugs
Alcohol Consumption
Marijuana use
Binge Drinking



Children are raised in a safe and healthy environment with accessible health care and education.

SUPPORTIVE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

A relatively dry, moderate climate lends itself to outdoor activity, especially from March to October. Many citizens have a desire to be active, walking, running, and cycling through our towns and on the rural roads that surround them. Swimming pools are present in Tribune and Sharon Springs.

Our almost non-existent crime rate brings security and people can be found exercising alone or in groups at all hours of the day and night. November through February bring a marked

decrease in outdoor activity because of the unpredictable and occasionally bitterly cold temperatures.

There are no fast food restaurants in either community. There are grocery and convenience stores, family-operated restaurants and senior citizen meals available.

Recent efforts have brought new life to recreation, parks and wellness in our communities. A large park project was completed in Sharon Springs including a walking trail several years ago and current park renovations are planned in

both communities in upcoming years. Summer recreation programs play an important role for residents of all ages with many participating in softball, baseball, swimming, soccer, wrestling, running and biking.

The annual county fairs bring many families home and residents out to enjoy the festivities. This event brings together volunteers in a safe family environment. Through 4-H, younger members of our community develop a sense of achievement and leadership development.

KEY FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

Strengths

- Strong community engagement through the Public Square process keeps all segments of the community involved in decision making for the good of all the citizens.
- The communities see themselves as welcoming to outsiders and encourage volunteerism at all levels of civic life.
- Greeley County Health Services, which serves both counties, is seen as an asset and serves all its citizens regardless of ability to pay.
- Both communities have increased adult and youth exercise and wellness available in the community.

Concerns

- Dental services are not available in the counties and residents must travel long distances for dental care.
- Housing is recognized as a limiting factor in attracting new residents. Shortage of work force housing is especially lacking.
- The water table in the counties is being drastically reduced and concern for the future water supply for our agricultural industries and human consumption is a major problem.
- Early childhood education and care for our youngest citizens and continuing education for adults as well as GED is needed.
- Chronic physical and mental illness management is an ongoing concern. Access to health services is limited due to the higher rate of uninsured in our communities and a relatively large population of working poor.

CURRENT, ONGOING COMMUNITY AND ORGANIZATION STRATEGIES TOWARDS WELLNESS

Business

A dental partnership is under development which would connect a private practice to our health system, bringing new access to residents.

Community teams in both communities are developing strategies to address the housing shortages.

Evidence of business succession planning is apparent in many family owned businesses.

Many businesses are actively involved in community events, volunteerism and support of local schools.

Education

Healthy moments in the Tribune school system bring education on legal issues, relationships, reproduction and individual wellness for teenagers.

Greeley County Health Services engages healthcare providers in classrooms, using medical students to explore health careers and education in both communities.

The Community Learning Center was just developed and is a non-traditional diploma completion program.

Government

In 2011, Greeley County voted to increase the mil levy in support of primary care services

Awareness and educational events are taking place in our communities regarding water conservation.

Rural Opportunity Zones provides an incentive to attract residents to our communities.

Greeley County has developed a tax break for new property development.

Human Services

Recreation programs are active and engage residents of all ages.

Wellness centers have been created in both communities.

Food bank resources are available for local residents.

An integrated behavioral health program expands access to Greeley County patients.

Newly implemented information technology systems will assist with chronic disease management.

County and health fairs are well attended

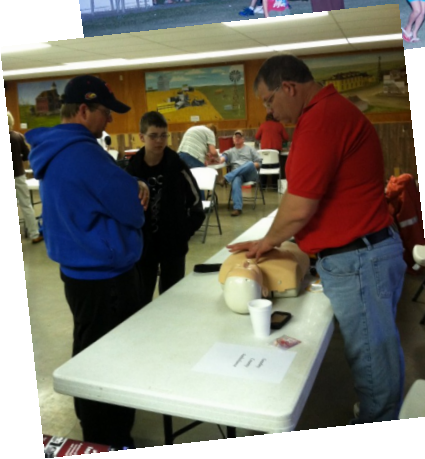
Local assistance programs work to reach the uninsured improving access to healthcare.

Action teams and community organizations provide opportunities for community directed goals.

View this report on the web at
www.mygchs.com

Greeley County Health Services
PO Box 338
Tribune, KS 67879
Phone: 620-376-4221
Fax: 620-376-2772
E-mail: cgrund@mygchs.com

County Fairs, County Health Fairs and other community celebrations are central activities for our residents.



This report is prepared to meet the requirements of the Affordable Care Act regulations for 501 c 3 public hospitals. The report was completed with the assistance of the Western Kansas Frontier Information Network.

Our appreciation to local photographers—Peggy Fischer, Keith Anglemyer and Christina Aldridge and to Greeley County Community Development for the use of their photos.