



Live Well Lincoln

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Live Well Lincoln 2022 Community Health Survey Results

Introduction—

Live Well Lincoln is a partnership among various sectors and community members with a goal of improving health in Lincoln County through advocacy, prevention and implementation of best practices. Lincoln County Health Department, Aspirus Health, UW-Madison Division of Extension Lincoln County, Aging & Disability Resource Center of Central Wisconsin, and Lincoln County Department of Social Services provided oversight in the development and distribution of this survey.

The Live Well Lincoln Community Health Survey for 2022 was completed by 752 Lincoln County residents from September 12th to October 31st. The survey was available in English and Spanish as well as online and paper versions. Respondents, who indicated they did not live, work, or use services in Lincoln County from question #1 were not included in the data. Respondents who did not indicate their demographics (Questions 1-9) were not included in the data as they had an invalid response with questions 1-9 being required in order to continue.

When calculating the percentages for each question in which more than one answer could be selected, the number of responses in a particular category was divided by the total number of individual responses to that question to obtain the percentage. Under the categories within Community Health Concerns there are notes based on the number of responses as well as how many surveys were left blank, answered one option, or those that responded to two options. Surveys that displayed more than two responses were not calculated in our data collection.

Our previous community health survey that was conducted in 2017 had a higher percentage of “no responses” or “invalid responses” which may suggest difficulties in how the survey questions were worded. These questions were addressed within our 2022 survey in hopes to avoid confusion and questions being answered throughout the survey.

Demographics Data—

What is your zip code

	# Responses	% Responses
54452 (Merrill)	486	64.6%
54487 (Tomahawk)	137	18.2%
54435 (Gleason)	40	5.3%
54442 (Irma)	17	2.3%
54564 (Tripoli)	1	0.13%
Outside County *	71	9.4%
Total Responses	752	100%

* Zip code is outside of Lincoln County, but work or use services in Lincoln County.

Although the survey was distributed throughout all of Lincoln County 64.6% (n=486) surveys were completed from Merrill residents. The next highest number of surveys were 18.2% (n=137) from Tomahawk residents. Zip codes outside of Lincoln County were accepted because even if they don't live in Lincoln County they do work or use services within the county.

With which gender do you most identify

	# Responses	% Responses
Female	554	73.7%
Male	194	25.8%
Prefer to Self Describe	4	0.5%
Total Responses	752	100%

Of the 752 survey responses the top gender of the respondents were female at 73.7%, the second highest was male at 25.8%, and the third choice being prefer to self-describe at 0.5% of the respondents. The US Census Bureau: American Community Survey, Lincoln County, from 2020 indicated that the percentage of males were 50.3% (n= 13,934) of the population and females were 49.7% (n=13,753) of the population. Based on the survey results, the gender is inconsistent with that of the Census data meaning the male group is underrepresented when it comes to looking at the Community Health Survey data.

Your age group

	# Responses	% Responses
15-19	3	0.4%
20-24	15	2.0%
25-34	86	11.5%
35-44	119	15.8%
45-54	108	14.4%
55-59	66	8.8%
60-64	66	8.8%
65-74	160	21.3%
75-84	102	13.6%
85+	26	3.5%
Total Responses	751	100%

1 invalid response (no category: 51-61). Not included in Total.

Of the 751 responses on age group only one was invalid due to choosing an age range that wasn't listed in the chart. The top age group that completed the community survey was between the ages of 65-74 at 21.3% (n=160), the next highest was between the ages of 35-44 at 15.8% (n=119) and the third highest being the age group between 45-54 at 14.4% (n=108). The reason these age groups were selected was due to the comparison of the American Community Survey that is conducted by the US Census Bureau every 10 years. According to the US Census American Community Survey the median age for Lincoln County residents in 2020 was 47.9 years old. With surveys being completed most often by the age group of 65-74, special efforts may be needed in future surveys to obtain more information from different age groups within Lincoln County.

Your highest education level completed

	# Responses	% Responses
Less than 9th grade	6	0.8%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	25	3.3%
High school graduate, or equivalent	166	22.1%
Some college, no degree	157	21.0%
Associates degree	129	17.2%
Bachelors degree	161	21.4%
Graduate or professional degree	107	14.2%
Total Responses	751	100%

1 invalid response (no category: graduate studies). Not included in Total.

Of the 751 responses on highest level of education, only one was invalid due to filling in "graduate studies" instead of selecting Graduate or professional degree. The most often picked category for the highest level of education completed was "High school graduate or equivalent"

with 22.1% (n=166). The second most picked answer was “Bachelors degree” with 21.4% (n=161) and not far behind was “Some college, no degree” with 21% (n=157).

Which of the following best describes your ethnicity

	# Responses	% Responses
Not Hispanic or Latino	718	95.5%
Hispanic or Latino	34	4.5%
Total Responses	752	100%

The US Census Bureau: American Community Survey, Lincoln County, from 2020 indicated the percentage of not Hispanic or Latino was 98.1% (n=718) while Hispanic or Latino (of any race) was represented by 1.9% (n=34) of the population. According to the data that we collected throughout this 2022 Community Survey we represented the ethnicity data for Lincoln County in a greater response rate compared to the US Census Bureau. The ability to have access to the 2022 community survey translated in Spanish and online and offline was one of the special efforts we took in order to obtain a better understanding of the population in Lincoln County.

Which of the following best describes your race

	# Responses	% Responses
White	723	96.4%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	11	1.5%
Black or African American	6	0.8%
Two or more races	5	0.7%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	2	0.3%
Other	2	0.3%
Asian	1	0.1%
Total Responses	750	100%

2 invalid responses (host, inappropriate question). Not included in Total.

Of the 750 responses on describing your race two answers were invalid due to writing in different responses that were not included in the table above. The answer most often picked by recipients of the survey was “White” with 96.4% (n=723), the second most common race was “American Indian or Alaskan Native” at 1.5% (n=11). According to the US Census Bureau for Lincoln County from 2020 the races were divided amongst; white (98.4%), Black or African American (1.4%), American Indian and Alaskan Native (0.90%), Asian (0.80%), and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islanders (0.30%). According to the data collected from our 2022 community health survey there appears to be some differences in the data we had collected compared to the US Census data collected with the different races within the populations. On future surveys, special efforts should be made to obtain more information on a wider variety of people of different races.

Current employment status

	# Responses	% Responses
Employed	341	45.3%
Retired	311	41.4%
Self-employed	40	5.3%
Unable to Work	33	4.4%
Homemaker or stay-at-home parent	18	2.4%
Out of work less than 1 year	6	0.8%
Out of work 1+ years	2	0.3%
Student	1	0.1%
Total Responses	752	100%

Of the 752 responses on the current employment status all were valid answers and able to be used. The most common employment status is “Employed” at 45.3% (n=341). The second most common is “Retired” at 41.4% (n=311) with the third being at “Self-employed” at 5.3% (n=40).

Household income per year

	# Responses	% Responses
Less than \$10,000	37	4.9%
\$10,001-\$14,999	56	7.4%
\$15,000-\$24,999	82	10.9%
\$25,000-\$34,999	86	11.4%
\$35,000-\$49,999	107	14.2%
\$50,000-\$74,999	157	20.9%
More than \$75,000	227	30.2%
Total Responses	752	100%

Our data collection team was curious to look over the household income throughout Lincoln County. The most common household income per year that was chosen was “More than \$75,000” by 30.2% (n=227) of the respondents. The second most common household income was “\$50,000-\$74,999” with 20.9% (n=157) and the third most common being at “\$35,000-\$49,999” with 14.2% (n=107). According to the US Census Bureau data the median household income from 2017-2021 was \$61,363.

How many adults and children, including you, live in your household

	# Responses	% Responses
1	177	23.6%
2	320	42.6%
3	112	14.9%
4+	142	18.9%
Total Responses	751	100%

Are any of the individuals in your household children

	# Responses	% Responses
Yes	215	29.7%
No	510	70.3%
Total Responses	725	100%

Of the 751 respondents from how many individuals live in your household the most common response was “2” at 42.6% (n=320) followed by “1” at 23.6% (n=177) and “4” following with 18.9% (n=142). The following question involving children was not a required question, which is why it was answered less often than the number of individuals in the household. Of the 725 respondents, households without children was 70.3% (n=510) and households with children was 29.7% (n=215).

Summary of Survey Results—

On page #2 of the Community Health Survey we ask respondents to look into Community Health Concerns. When looking at community it is referring to where one lives, works, learns, and plays. This could be identified as a neighborhood, city/town, or Lincoln County as a whole. Many things can affect our health. We took a look at the top major concerns for the community/county residents in 5 different areas; Clinical Care, Health Behaviors, Social & Economic Factors, Physical Environment and Outcomes & Systems. Below is a breakdown of each area and the top major health concerns for the community/ county residents.

1. Clinical Care—Survey respondents had the opportunity to leave the answer blank, pick one option, or pick two options.

Clinical Care (choose up to 2 options)

	# Responses	% Responses
Availability and affordability of health care	432	59.1%
Availability and affordability of dental care	306	41.9%
Lack of mental health care providers	270	36.9%
Lack of doctors and other healthcare providers	190	26.0%
Low rates of routine vaccinations (flu, infant vaccines)	64	8.8%
Limited use of preventive services (ex: annual exam, mammogram, colonoscopy)	54	7.4%
Other	21	4.8%
Total Responses	1337	184.9%

731 responses (606 selected two options, 125 selected one option) 21 left blank

Of those who took the community health survey, the top concern for clinical care in Lincoln County was “Availability and affordability of health care” with 59.1% (n=432). The second top concern was “Availability and affordability of dental care” with 41.9% (n=306) and the third was “lack of mental health care providers” with 36.9% (n=270). Of the 731 respondents for the Clinical Care issues question, 606 selected two options, 125 selected one option, and 21 left this question blank. Respondents who selected more than two choices were recorded as “invalid responses.” This was able to be prevented on the electronic version of the survey because it wouldn’t allow respondents to choose more than two choices. On future surveys, possibly reword the question on the paper copies to ensure individuals are only selecting two options.

2. Health Behaviors—Survey respondents had the opportunity to leave the answer blank, pick one option, or pick two options.

Health Behaviors (choose up to 2 options)

	# Responses	% Responses
Drug abuse (prescribed and illegal)	334	46.2%
Alcohol use/misuse	308	42.6%
Physical inactivity	174	24.1%
Overall well-being	139	19.2%
Tobacco, e-cigarettes/vaping	106	14.7%
Poor oral or dental health	80	11.1%
Unintentional injury (motorvehicle, bicycle, ATV, snowmobiling, etc.)	40	5.5%
Intentional injury (self-harm, suicide)	37	5.1%
Other	8	0.8%
Total Responses	1226	169.3%

723 responses (618 selected two options, 105 selected one option) 29 left blank

Of those who took the community health survey, the top concern for health behaviors in Lincoln County was “Drug abuse (prescribed and illegal)” with 46.2% (n=334). The second top concern was “Alcohol use/misuse” with 42.6% (n=308) and the third health behavior concern was “Physical inactivity” at 24.1% (n=174). Of the 723 responses to the health behaviors question, 618 selected two options, 105 selected one option, and 29 left this question blank. Respondents who selected more than two choices were recorded as “invalid responses.” This was able to be prevented on the electronic version of the survey because it wouldn’t allow respondents to choose more than two choices. On future surveys, possibly reword the question on the paper copies to ensure individuals are only selecting two options.

3. Social & Economic Factors—Survey respondents had the opportunity to leave the answer blank, pick one option, or pick two options.

Social and Economic Factors (choose up to 2 options)

	# Responses	% Responses
Not enough money for housing, household expenses and food	268	38.7%
Caregiving for your family (child care, aging relative, special needs)	251	36.2%
Aging related health concerns	232	33.5%
Family issues (divorce, parenting)	122	17.6%
Employment opportunities	112	16.2%
Lack of social or community support	75	10.8%
Lack of job related skills	57	8.2%
Availability and affordability of education	36	5.2%
Violence in the home and community	36	5.2%
Race/ethnic relations (harassment, discrimination)	31	4.5%
Other	26	2.7%
Total Responses	1246	178.8%

693 responses (553 selected two options, 140 selected one option) 59 left blank

Of those who took the community health survey, the top concern for Social & Economic factors in Lincoln County was “Not having enough money for housing, household expenses and food” with 38.7% (n=268). The second top concern was “Caregiving for your family (child care, aging relative, special needs)” with 36.2% (n=251) and the third social and economic concern was “Aging related health concerns” with 33.5% (n=232). Of the 693 responses to the social and economic factors question, 553 selected two options, 140 selected one, and 59 left the question blank. Respondents who selected more than two choices were recorded as “invalid responses.” This was able to be prevented on the electronic version of the survey because it wouldn’t allow respondents to choose more than two choices. On future surveys, possibly reword the question on the paper copies to ensure individuals are only selecting two options.

4. Physical Environment—Survey respondents had the opportunity to leave the answer blank, pick one option, or pick two options.

Physical Environment (choose up to 2 options)

	# Responses	% Responses
Lack of safe and affordable housing options	347	49.2%
Internet access	290	41.1%
Limited access to public transportation	181	25.6%
Drinking water quality	148	21.0%
Access to healthy foods	127	18.0%
Access to healthy recreational activities (walking, biking, hiking, parks)	73	10.3%
Air pollution	57	8.1%
Other	22	2.2%
Total Responses	1245	175.5%

706 responses (539 selected two options, 167 selected one option) 46 left blank

Of those who took the community health survey, the top health concern for physical environment for Lincoln County was “Lack of safe and affordable housing options” with 49.2% (n=347). The second highest concern was “Internet access” with 41.1% (n=290) and the third top concern was “Limited access to public transportation” with 25.6% (n=181). Of the 706 responses, 539 selected two options, 167 selected one option, and 46 answers to the physical environment question were left blank. Respondents who selected more than two choices were recorded as “invalid responses.” This was able to be prevented on the electronic version of the survey because it wouldn’t allow respondents to choose more than two choices. On future surveys, possibly reword the question on the paper copies to ensure individuals are only selecting two options.

5. Outcomes & Systems—Survey respondents had the opportunity to leave the answer blank, pick one option, or pick two options.

Outcomes & Systems (choose up to 2 options)

	# Responses	% Responses
Overweight or obesity across the lifespan	348	52.0%
Poor mental health	296	44.2%
Chronic diseases (diabetes, heart disease)	218	32.6%
Poor physical health	202	30.2%
Communicable disease (chlamydia, COVID-19)	66	9.9%
Infant and child health	47	7.0%
Other	8	0.8%
Total Responses	1185	176.7%

669 responses (516 selected two options, 153 selected one option) 83 left blank

Of those who took the community health survey, the top health concerns for outcomes & systems for Lincoln County was “Overweight or obesity across the lifespan” with 52% (n=348). The second highest concern was “Poor mental health” with 44.2% (n=296) and the third top concern was “Chronic diseases (diabetes, heart disease)” at 32.6% (n=218). Of the 669 responses, 516 selected two options, 153 selected one option, and 83 surveys left the question for outcomes and systems blank. Respondents who selected more than two choices were recorded as “invalid responses.” This was able to be prevented on the electronic version of the survey because it wouldn’t allow respondents to choose more than two choices. On future surveys, possibly reword the question on the paper copies to ensure individuals are only selecting two options.

Since our previous community health survey there has been a major change that has affected us which is the COVID-19 pandemic. The virus occurred in March of 2020 and still manages to have an impact on community members' lives. We wanted survey responses based on what negative impacts are still being experienced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2022.

What negative impacts are you still experiencing as a result of COVID-19 (check all that apply)

	# Responses	% Responses
None	312	42.8%
Stress or fear related to getting sick	206	28.3%
Stress or fear related to having the virus and spreading it to someone else	177	24.3%
Social isolation	119	16.3%
Long COVID	104	14.3%
Accessing medical care	69	9.5%
Schooling/education issues	58	8.0%
Unemployment/ job loss	52	7.1%
Child care constraints	48	6.6%
Other	28	2.8%
In-home violence/abuse	8	1.1%
Total Responses	1181	161.1%

729 responses (23 left blank)

Of the 729 responses related to COVID-19, the top answer that individuals picked was "None" with 42.8% (n=312). The next highest was "Stress or fear related to getting sick" at 28.3% (n=206) and the third largest impact of COVID-19 was "Stress or fear related to having the virus and spreading it to someone else" at 24.3% (n=177). Of the 729 total responses individuals had the opportunity to choose as many answers as they would like which resulted in 1,181 responses and 23 total responses that were left blank.

We then wanted to look at the strengths of the community. Community referring to where the respondent lives, learn, works, and plays. This could be the neighborhood, city/town, or Lincoln County as a whole. The responses when asked what are the three greatest strengths of Lincoln County were:

Community Strengths

What are the greatest strengths of Lincoln County (choose up to 3 options)

	# Responses	% Responses
Access to community parks and other recreation	303	41.7%
Clean environment (air and water quality)	219	30.2%
Community events	190	26.2%
Low levels of crime/ safe neighborhoods	179	24.7%
Good schools	150	20.7%
Access to exercise activities	119	16.4%
Religious and spiritual values	96	13.2%
Access to health care	92	12.7%
Access to affordable and healthy foods	73	10.1%
Strong family life/ relationships	66	9.1%
Access to public transportation	59	8.1%
Age-related health resources/ ability to age in your home	51	7.0%
Social or community support	48	6.6%
Low levels of discrimination and harassment (racism, sexism, ageism, disability)	33	4.5%
Safe and affordable housing	33	4.5%
Having enough income to live on	28	3.9%
None of the above/ choose not to answer	28	3.9%
Access to dental care	24	3.3%
Well-paying jobs/ strong economy	23	3.2%
Respecting cultural differences	19	2.6%
Access to mental health care	12	1.7%
Other	10	1.1%
Mental health/ well-being	9	1.2%
Low levels of violence in the home	8	1.1%
Low levels of child abuse/ neglect	7	1.0%
Low levels of substance abuse (drug abuse, alcohol misuse)	1	0.10%
Total Responses	1880	258.8%

726 responses (499 selected three options, 156 selected two options, 71 selected one option) 26 left blank

Of the 726 responses related to the greatest strengths in Lincoln County, the top choice for the greatest strength was “Access to community parks and other recreation” with 41.7% (n=303). The second greatest strength was “Clean environment (air and water quality)” at 30.2% (n=219) and the third highest choice was “Community events” with 26.2% (n=190). Of the 726 responses, 499 selected three options, 156 selected two options, 71 selected only one option, and 26 respondents left the community strengths question blank. Respondents who selected more than three choices were recorded as “invalid responses.” This was able to be prevented on the electronic version of the survey because it wouldn’t allow respondents to choose more than three choices. On future surveys, possibly reword the question on the paper copies to ensure individuals are only selecting three options.

Thank you to the 752 individuals who took time out of their day to complete the Community Health Survey. We appreciate you providing insight on what we can do to make Lincoln County a healthier place to live, work and play!

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