

Kankakee County



2021 Community Health Needs Assessment





Acknowledgements

To the Kankakee County residents and community partners in our public health system,

We are happy to present to you the 2021 Kankakee County Community Health Needs Assessment. Completion of this assessment is vital to the planning and promotion of coordinated health strategies and services that align with key strategic issues.

This triennial assessment is completed using the MAPP (Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnership) process that is conducted by the Partnership for a Healthy Community. Many individuals, agencies, and organizations that form the Partnership for a Healthy Community have been involved throughout this process. Those collaborators are dedicated to helping make Kankakee County a healthier and better place to live.

This Community Health Needs Assessment will help guide the Partnership for a Healthy Community to implement interventions and activities for around the key health priorities over the next three years. This report will serve as a tool to educate residents, community organizations, businesses, and leaders of Kankakee County of ways to improve health, prevent illness, and move towards health equity.

We are excited by the possibilities this report has for improving the health and wellness for all those that work, live, and play in Kankakee County.

Steering Committee for the Partnership for a Healthy Community



AMITA Health
St. Mary's Hospital



Helen Wheeler Center
for Community Mental Health



Kankakee County Hispanic Partnership, Inc.



Kankakee County Health Department



Iroquois-Kankakee Regional Office of Education



Riverside Healthcare



United Way of Kankakee & Iroquois Counties



Pledge for Life Partnership



Project SUN



Olivet Nazarene University



Twenty-first Judicial Circuit Family Violence Coordinating Council

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Executive Summary

Kankakee County Community Health Needs Assessment

The Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) is a collaborative effort of the Partnership for a Healthy Community. The purpose of the CHNA is to provide a community plan that is developed by and for the community. The assessment and planning process is required every three years for hospitals and every five years for local health departments. The Kankakee County Health Department has aligned its assessment process with the three- year hospital requirements to avoid a duplication of efforts.

Mission, Vision and Value Statements

Mission

We are committed to creating a healthy community through comprehensive assessments and the implementation of effective plans.

Vision

Partnership for a Healthy Community, building a strong, healthy and safe Kankakee County

Values

- We commit to collaborate with active engagement, commitment, and accountability of all partners.
- We commit to open communication, understanding, and respect for the needs and viewpoints of all partners.
- We commit to gathering comprehensive quality data in order to identify and prioritize community needs.
- We commit to sharing the findings of our assessment in order to inform and educate the community.
- We commit to creating and implementing realistic plans, measuring the impact, and communicating our results.

Collaborative Process and Assessment Methodology

In late 2019, the Partnership for a Healthy Community convened to organize and conduct the fourth iteration of the MAPP 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 the identification of resources to address them, as defined by the 10 Essential Public Health Services. The MAPP process has six phases which include four assessments. Due to time constraints that arose due to the onset and duration of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Partnership delayed conducting the Local Public Health System Assessment. The *Mobilizing and Organizing Partners to Achieve Health Equity* supplemental guide was used during this assessment process.

Community Health Status Assessment

The Community Health Status Assessment (CHSA) is one of four assessments conducted as a part of the MAPP process. During this assessment, information regarding demographics, health status, health behaviors, and social determinants in the community is gathered and analyzed. Data is collected from a variety of resources and analyzed comparing local, state, and national benchmarks when available. The CHSA was conducted January 2020– July 2020.

Community Themes and Strengths Assessment

The Community Themes and Strengths Assessment (CTSA) aims to gather community members' perceptions, thoughts, opinions, and concerns regarding quality of life in Kankakee County. This input provides valuable insight into the issues of importance to the community. The CTSA was conducted February 2021-April 2021.

Forces of Change Assessment

The Forces of Change Assessment (FOCA) aims to identify all the forces and associated opportunities and threats that can affect, either now or in the future, the local public health system. Forces may be social, economic, political, technological, environmental, scientific, legal, and/or ethical in nature.

Forces can be trends, factors, or events. The FOCA was conducted October 2020-March 2021.

Local Public Health System Assessment

The Local Public Health System Assessment (LPHSA) is planned for summer 2021 and will serve as an addendum to this CHNA. The LPHSA is used to understand the overall strengths and weaknesses of the public health system based on the 10 Essential Public Health Services.

Prioritization of Strategic Issues

On April 21, 2021, fifteen Kankakee County public health stakeholders participated in a virtual planning session to review key findings from the three MAPP assessments, identify cross-cutting themes and potential strategic issues, and prioritize a set of strategic issues. The meeting was facilitated by the leadership from the neighboring Will County Health Department. Attendees identified three strategic issues and areas of focus for Kankakee County:

- Health and Wellness
Focus Areas: Prevention and primary care, social determinants of health, & chronic diseases
- Behavioral Health
Focus areas: Substance use, mental health, & trauma awareness and prevention
- Education and Employment
Focus areas: Job skills, employability, & career ladder

Health and Wellness

This strategic issue encompasses both access to care, taking into consideration the impact of social determinants of health, as well as chronic disease prevention. Access to comprehensive, quality healthcare services is important for promoting and maintaining health, preventing, and managing disease, reducing unnecessary disability and premature death, and achieving health equity. Chronic diseases are the most common, costly, and preventable of all health problems.

Lack of access to routine health services creates health disparities in many health indicators based on race, ethnicity, income, and geography in Kankakee County. Heart disease is the second cause of hospitalizations and leading cause of death in Kankakee County. Heart disease, stroke, and diabetes account for over 50% of deaths in Kankakee County. Four of these health risk behaviors—lack of physical activity, poor nutrition, tobacco use, and excess alcohol consumption—cause much of the illness, suffering, and early death related to chronic diseases and conditions. Findings from the assessments detail access issues to chronic disease resources.

Specific priority needs and populations identified in the assessment process include:

- Screening and addressing social determinants of health and social needs during health visits to reduce health disparities and improve health outcomes.
- Promotion and development of community interventions to address social determinants of health.
- Navigation to primary medical homes for prevention and early detection of disease, reducing risk factors, managing conditions, and utilizing additional preventative care and screenings.
- Increased education among target populations on diseases of the heart and the intersection with physical health and obesity.
- Improving health literacy and health care navigation, including virtual health or telehealth opportunities, especially in low-income and rural areas.
- Better data to define and prioritize chronic disease and access issues, including direct community input, to assist populations most affected, and monitor progress.

Figure 1.1. Summary of Key Findings Related to Health and Wellness

Issue	Target Populations
Social Determinants of Health	
<p>Those living in poverty have more social needs that affect their overall health and health access. Eighteen percent of the county aged under 18 lives in poverty, which is higher than the last assessment (16%). There is a higher prevalence of poverty among older adults aged 65+, those that are Hispanic/Latinx, African American/Black or Native American/Alaskan Native. There are geographical disparities of poverty for adults and children in targeted zip codes.</p> <p>The percent of adults in Kankakee County receiving SNAP benefits has remained steady (17%) but remains higher than Illinois (13%). 55.3% of children are eligible for free or reduced lunch in Kankakee County, which has increased by 5% since 2017. There are also areas with low access to food stores. The prevalence rate of grocery stores per population remains lower (17.63 per 100,000 population) compared to Illinois (21.04 per 100,000 population). Access to transportation or higher use of public transportation makes getting to routine services including health care more difficult. Those that reside in the center of the county rely the most on public transportation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adults ● Children ● African American/Black population ● Native American/Alaskan Native population ● Hispanic/Latinx population ● Zip Codes: 60901, 60914, 60915, 60944, 60958
Health Behaviors	
<p>Heart disease is the top cause of death in Kankakee County. There is a greater percentage of African American/Black population and men that have heart disease. Among older adults 65+ there is a high prevalence of health disease, high cholesterol, and hypertension. There has been an increase in adults who report they are not physically active (37% Kankakee County; 22% Illinois) and adults who are obese (41.4% Kankakee County; 31.36% Illinois). Obesity rates are higher than the state average (10%; 11%) for 10th (14%) and 12th (13%) grade students in Kankakee County. The percent of adults diagnosed with diabetes is lower than Illinois and the United States, which could indicate a higher undiagnosed population with diabetes. Many of these health behaviors in adults can be attributed to an increased rate of life lost and premature death which is highest among the African American/Black population (14,400 years per 100,000 population) in Kankakee County.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adults ● Older Adults 65+ ● Youth ● Men ● African American/Black population

Access to Health

Having a primary healthcare provider is important to receive routine health promotion and preventative care. Kankakee County is in a Health Resource Shortage Area (HRSA) for having too few primary care physicians and mental health providers for the population. The county also has a lower ratio (1.76) of Federally Qualified Health Care Center (FQHCs) compared to Illinois (3.05). While the percentage of the population that is uninsured continues to decrease, there are disparities that exist among those that are insured. Sixteen percent of the Hispanic/Latinx population is uninsured and 8.19% of the African American/Black population is uninsured compared to 4% of the non-Hispanic white population. There is a higher percentage of the adult population in Kankakee County that receives Medicaid (22.9%) than Illinois (21.20%). As people age, the need for medical care increases, especially if there has been a lack of access to routine and preventive care during the life span. The second highest portion of residents are older adults aged 65+ in Kankakee County. Additionally, there is a higher percentage of older adults living in poverty in Kankakee County (17%) compared to Illinois (9%), which adds additional strain on the health care system and increased need for other social services for older adults.

- Adults
- Older Adults 65+
- Males
- African American/Black population
- Hispanic/Latinx population
- Asian population
- Zip Codes: 60950, 60901, 60944, 60958

Behavioral Health

Behavioral health as a strategic issue is used to include both mental health, substance use disorders as well as violence, safety, and trauma among Kankakee County residents. Depression is on the rise among both youth and older adults while the number of suicides per year in Kankakee County is unstable. Behavioral health was the top health issue named in the community input survey. Behavioral health issues impact population groups across income levels as well as racial and ethnic groups with effects of the COVID-19 pandemic adding additional strain on the local public health system. Findings from the assessments detail issues with access to local behavioral health services and resources. Specific priority needs and populations identified in the assessment process include:

- Continue to reduce stigma behind seeking mental healthcare, especially in communities of color, as those needing care are expected to grow due to COVID-19 pandemic.
- Increase opportunities for affordable, equitable and accessible treatments for both mental health and substance use disorders, including virtual health or telehealth opportunities, especially in low-income and rural areas.
- Advocate for funding for expansion of services, resources, and providers in the county.
- Increase outreach and support programs for high school youth and parents as well as older adults 65+ years.
- Better data to define and prioritize behavioral health issues, including direct community input, to assist populations most affected, and monitor progress.

Figure 1.2. Summary of Key Finds Related to Behavioral Health

Issue	Target Populations
Substance Use Disorders	
<p>There has been a significant increase in drug overdose deaths in recent years, but a decline in 2018 and 2019 in Kankakee County (29 overdose deaths each year). Drug overdose deaths are more common among the white/Caucasian population than any other race. In 2019, more females (52%) had overdoses, but in recent years more men had overdose deaths. The average age of individuals that die from a drug overdose in Kankakee County is 43 (2019) years of age, which has increased since 41 years of age in 2016. The most common overdose drug is Fentanyl.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White/Caucasian population • Middle-aged adults
Mental Health	
<p>Nearly 14% of adults in Kankakee County have reported having more than 7 “not good” mental health days in the past month. Respondents on the community survey identified that they struggled more with their mental health and felt an enhanced sense of isolation during the pandemic.</p> <p>While the suicide rate has come down in Kankakee County (10.1 per 100,000 population) close to the Illinois rate (10.5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults • Children • Older Adults 65+

<p>per 100,000 population), the number of suicides in recent years is unstable. Since 2011, the percentage of the Medicare population has reported more depression (16.98%). The ratio of mental health providers to residents is almost double (820:1) than the Illinois rate (480:1), but the ratio (990:1) has decreased since 2016. Kankakee County is in a Health Resource Shortage Area (HRSA) for having too few primary care physicians and mental health providers for the population.</p>	
<p>Violence, Safety & Trauma</p>	
<p>Accidents are the third leading cause of deaths in Kankakee County. The accidental death rate (50.9 per 100,000 population), the motor vehicle death rate (138 per 100,000 population), and the homicide death rate (8.6 per 100,000) are all higher than the Illinois and United States rates, respectively. The number of years of life lost prematurely (before 75 years) is significantly higher in Kankakee County (8,899 per 100,000 population) compared to Illinois (6,698 per 100,000 population). Respondents on the community survey mentioned the issue of not feeling safe in their neighborhood or in parts of the county, and the prevalence of crime in Kankakee County. Gun violence, drugs, and gang activity, particularly in the city of Kankakee, is of significant concern to many of the survey respondents.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adults ● Kankakee (city)
<p>Children & Youth</p>	
<p>The Illinois Youth Survey captures self-reported data on substance use among 8th, 10th, and 12th grade students throughout the Kankakee County school system. Alcohol is the most common substance used among youth. Ten percent of 8th graders, 21% of 10th graders, and 32% of 12th graders self-report using alcohol in the past 30 days. Marijuana use has remained stable (4%; 13%) for 8th and 10th graders since 2018 but has decreased among 12th graders (19%). Nearly 50% of youth in 8th are reporting being bullied, which has remained consistent since 2016. More 10th and 12th graders are experiencing depression (45%; 40%) and thoughts of suicide (21%; 15%) in 2020.</p> <p>The Early Development Instrument was used to determine Kindergarten readiness in school districts within Kankakee County during the 2016-2017 (Wave 1) school year and 2018-2019 school year (Wave 2). More students are at risk and vulnerable in Wave 2 with the highest percentage of developmentally vulnerable in Pembroke (53%) and Kankakee (51%). Language, cognitive development, and emotional maturity are the most vulnerable domains in Wave 2.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Youth ● Children ● Children residing in Pembroke & Kankakee (city)

Education & Employment

Education is an important social determinant of health because the rate of poverty is higher among those without a high school diploma or high school equivalency exam (GED). Individuals without a high school education are at a higher risk of developing certain chronic illnesses, such as diabetes, as well as have less employment opportunities at higher wage rates. The median family income has increased in Kankakee County, but disparities exist among race and ethnicity. Poverty is a social determinant of health that can create barriers to accessing health services, healthy food, and other necessities needed for good health status. It can also affect housing status, educational opportunities, an individual's physical environment, and health behaviors.

Unemployment can create financial instability, and, as a result, can create barriers to accessing healthcare services, insurance, healthy foods, and other basic needs. The effects of COVID-19 pandemic on unemployment and loss of insurance are on the horizon. The unemployment rate for Kankakee County (5.4) has declined since 2010 but is still higher than the rates for Illinois (4.3) and the U.S. (3.9). Respondents to the community survey identified lack of higher-wage jobs as a significant issue that impacts the quality of life in Kankakee County.

Specific priority needs and populations identified in the assessment process include:

- Increase youth workforce development program opportunities that increase job readiness and interpersonal skill development.
- Expand career ladder programs in local businesses and organizations to retain higher level positions with competitive benefits in the community.
- Close the technology gap needed to stay connected to sustain education and workforce opportunities.
- Increase education and training to reduce unconscious bias in the educational and workplace settings.
- Better data to define and prioritize education and employment gaps, including community input, to identify populations most affected, and monitor progress

Figure 1.3. Summary of Key Finding Related to Education & Employment

Issue	Target Populations
Education	
<p>While the high school graduation rate in Kankakee County has increased in recent years (93%) to above the Illinois rate (85%), disparities exist among race and geography in obtaining a high school diploma. Significantly less Kankakee County residents (20.9%) have obtained a bachelor’s degree than Illinois (34%) or U.S. residents (31.5%). However, the number of residents that have obtained a bachelor’s degree has grown from 18.8% (2015) to 20.9% (2018) in Kankakee County.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Youth ● Adults ● Non-Hispanic White/Caucasian population ● Residents in Kankakee (city) and Pembroke Township
Employment	
<p>The unemployment rate for Kankakee County is higher (5.4) than Illinois (4.3) and the U.S. (3.9). This rate follows the rate trend in the past 10 years but has consistently remained higher than the Illinois and U.S. rates. Lack of employment correlates to a higher rate of uninsured and those living in poverty.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adults ● Labor workforce
Income	
<p>The median family income has increased to \$71,508 since the last assessment (\$63,716), but disparities exist among race and ethnicity. The Black/African American families have the lowest median family income (\$38,140). Other Races population (\$42,228) and the Hispanic/Latinx population (\$48,642) also have significantly lower median family incomes. Respondents to the community survey identified lack of higher-wage jobs as a significant issue that impacts the quality of life in Kankakee County. Similarly, community stakeholders cited a lack of higher wage jobs and benefits in the county.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adults ● Black/African American population ● Other Races population ● Hispanic/Latinx population

Introduction

Demographic Profile of Kankakee County

Kankakee County is a small urban county in the northeast part of Illinois with a population of 109,862. The racial composition of Kankakee County has remained the same with 79.7% white and 15.1% black. The percent of the population that is Hispanic/ Latino has increased slightly from 8.2% to 10% since the last assessment.

The largest portion of residents are 5 to 17 years of age, the second highest portion is over the age of 65 years. A larger percentage of older Kankakee County residents (65 or older) are living in poverty than the percent in Illinois. The average age of a person living in Kankakee County (37.6) is similar to Illinois average (37.9). The life expectancy is 76.6 years for those living in Kankakee County, which is less than Illinois (79.3 years).

Sixteen percent of the Kankakee County population are living in poverty, which has remained nearly the same since 2015. Eighteen percent of children are living in poverty in Kankakee County, which is higher than Illinois (16.2%). Poverty is disproportionately high among the Black/African American and Native Americans/ Alaskan Natives populations and those with Hispanic/ Latino ethnicity. Residents most socially vulnerable reside in parts of Kankakee (City), Ganer Township, and Pembroke Township.

The unemployment rate has been declining since 2013 but remains higher than Illinois and the US. The percent of children eligible for free/reduced lunch has increased from 50.6% to 55.3%. Due, in part, to the passing of the Affordable Care Act and local agency efforts to enroll residents, the percentage of Kankakee County without insurance is decreasing, however disparities exist among race and ethnicity for insurance coverage.

Kankakee County Partnership for a Healthy Community

The Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) is a collaborative effort of the Kankakee County Partnership for a Healthy Community. The purpose of the CHNA is to provide a community plan that is developed by and for the community. The assessment and planning process is required every three years for hospitals and every five years for local health departments. The Kankakee County Health Department has aligned its assessment process with the three-year hospital requirements to avoid a duplication of efforts.



Established in 2011 as an effort to meet the IRS guidelines for not-for-profit hospitals and the requirements of the Illinois Department of Public Health for local health department certification, a member steering committee guided the community through the MAPP Strategic Planning Framework. The first collaborative needs assessment was completed in 2012.

The second iteration of the MAPP process was completed in December 2015. The third round of the MAPP process began in January 2017 and the fourth iteration in late 2019.

The Steering Committee of the Kankakee Partnership meets regularly to provide oversight to the ongoing MAPP process and make recommendations. Action Teams were established around the identified priorities and have been implementing action plans and strategies to address those needs. The action teams are led by chairs and co-chairs from partner organizations. Most of the teams meet monthly or bi-monthly as needed.

Organizations on the Kankakee Partnership for a Healthy Community Steering Committee are listed below:

- AMITA Health St. Mary’s Hospital
- Helen Wheeler Center for Community Mental Health
- Iroquois-Kankakee Regional Office of Education
- Kankakee County Health Department
- Kankakee County Hispanic Partnership, Inc.
- Olivet Nazarene University
- Pledge for Life Partnership
- Project SUN
- Riverside Healthcare
- Twenty-first Judicial Circuit Family Violence Coordinating Council
- United Way of Kankakee & Iroquois Counties

The general membership consists of partners who are not involved directly with an Action Team but participate as appropriate for their organization. They contribute to the overall assessment process and some implementation strategies.

Many partners participated in developing this Community Health Needs Assessment, which are listed below:

AMITA Health	Kankakee Workforce Services
AMITA Health St. Mary’s Hospital	Iroquois & Kankakee County Regional Office of Education
Bradley-Bourbonnais Community High School	Manteno Police Department
City of Kankakee	Maternity BMV Church, Bourbonnais
Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley	Olivet Nazarene University
Easterseals	NAACP, Kankakee County Branch
Economic Alliance of Kankakee County	Pembroke Public Library District
Garden of Prayer Youth Center	Pledge for Life Partnership
Helen Wheeler Center for Mental Health	Project SUN
Kankakee Community College	Riverside Healthcare
Kankakee County Coalition Against Domestic Violence	Salvation Army

Kankakee County Health Department	Twenty-first Judicial Circuit Family Violence Coordinating Council
Kankakee County Hispanic Partnership, Inc.	United Way of Kankakee & Iroquois Counties
Kankakee High School District 111	Village of Manteno
Kankakee Valley Symphony	Zip-Pak

Mission, Vision and Value Statements

During Phase Two of the MAPP framework, the Kankakee Partnership for a Healthy Community reviewed the existing and reconfirmed the Mission, Vision and Value statements.

Mission

We are committed to creating a healthy community through comprehensive assessments and the implementation of effective plans.

Vision

Partnership for a Healthy Community, building a strong, healthy and safe Kankakee County

Values

- We commit to collaborate with active engagement, commitment, and accountability of all partners.
- We commit to open communication, understanding, and respect for the needs and viewpoints of all partners.
- We commit to gathering comprehensive quality data in order to identify and prioritize community needs.
- We commit to sharing the findings of our assessment in order to inform and educate the community.
- We commit to creating and implementing realistic plans, measuring the impact, and communicating our results.

Collaborative Process and Assessment Methodology

Framework

In 2019, the Kankakee Partnership for a Healthy Community convened to conduct the fourth iteration of the MAPP 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 the identification of resources to address them as defined by the 10 Essential Public Health Services.

The MAPP process includes four assessments, as shown in the graphic to the right.

Figure 2.1 MAPP Process Framework



Community Health Status Assessment

The Community Health Status Assessment (CHSA) is one of four assessments conducted as a part of the MAPP process.

During this assessment, information regarding demographics, health status, health behaviors and social determinants in the community is gathered and analyzed.

Data is collected from a variety of resources and analyzed comparing local, state, and national benchmarks when available.

The CHSA provides a picture of our community by answering three questions:

1. Who are we and what do we bring to the table?
2. What are the strengths and risks in our community that contribute to health?
3. What is our health status?

The MAPP process recommends and identifies health indicators in the following eleven categories for conducting the CHSA:

- Behavioral Risk Factors
- Communicable Diseases
- Death, Illness and Injury
- Demographics
- Environmental Health
- Health Resource Availability
- Maternal and Child Health
- Quality of Life
- Sentinel Events
- Social and Mental Health
- Socioeconomics

In 2020, a subcommittee was formed among partnering organizations to collect and summarize data in the above categories. County level data from public and proprietary sources were used. The Steering Committee Team reviewed, edited, and provided data for the report.

Community Themes and Strengths Assessment

The Community Themes and Strengths Assessment (CTSA) aims to gather community members' perceptions, thoughts, opinions, and concerns regarding quality of life in Kankakee County. This input provides valuable insight into the issues of importance to the community. This assessment engages the community by requesting their input on the following questions:

1. What is important to our community?
2. How is quality of life perceived in our community?
3. What are the assets in our community?

Community engagement is key to the success of any community-wide initiative and provides residents with a sense of ownership and participation in their county. The Partnership for a Healthy Community conducted a community-wide survey among Kankakee County residents to answer the questions above.

The survey contained 63 questions on a variety of topics, including quality of life, health status, access to resources, social support, economic opportunity, health equity, and social issues. Additional questions were added to focus on impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Respondents were able to report on their perceptions of health and quality of life issues within their homes, community, and county. Most of the survey questions asked participants to rate issues on a Likert scale, however, some questions were open-ended, giving respondents opportunities to comment on their responses.

The CTSA survey was developed using Survey Monkey and made available online in both English and Spanish. The survey was open to all Kankakee County residents and the collection period ran from March 10, 2021 through April 13, 2021. A total of 401 individuals initiated the survey during this collection period. Eleven of the respondents were disqualified immediately if they answered no to the first question "do you live in Kankakee County?" This resulted in 390 respondents that completed some or all of the survey (385 English and 5 Spanish surveys).

During the midpoint of the collection period, demographics were evaluated to look for under-represented populations and plan for additional targeted outreach. The most significant under-represented populations included the following groups: Men, African American/Black and Hispanic/ Latinx.

A Facebook boost feature was used to target more men to take the survey. The CTSA Subcommittee attempted to further outreach to the Hispanic/ Latino and Black populations through community partnerships and promotion with the City of Kankakee.

Questions addressing health equity were included in the survey to measure the effects of discrimination on health. Respondents were asked to identify perceptions of discrimination in Kankakee County. These questions were adapted from “Experiences of discrimination: Validity and reliability of a self-report measure for population health research on racism and health.”

Forces of Change Assessment

The Forces of Change Assessment (FOCA) aims to identify all the forces and associated opportunities and threats that can affect, either now or in the future, the local public health system. Forces may be social, economic, political, technological, environmental, scientific, legal, and/or ethical in nature.

Forces can be trends, factors, or events.

- Trends are patterns over time, such as migration in and out of a community or a growing disillusionment with government.
- Factors are discrete elements, such as a community’s large ethnic population, an urban setting, or the jurisdiction’s proximity to a major waterway.
- Events are one-time occurrences, such as a hospital closure, a natural disaster, or the passage of new legislation.

During the FOCA, participants answer the following questions:

1. What is occurring or might occur that affects the health of our community or the local public health system?
2. What specific threats or opportunities are generated by these occurrences?

On October 6, 2020, the Partnership for a Healthy Community emailed and invited key stakeholders in the community to participate in a FOCA survey through Survey Monkey to help identify the forces of change affecting Kankakee County’s local public health system and the community. The survey included multiple choice questions and open-ended questions, with guided prompts, which was intended to help identify the different categories of forces of change. Although diverse community input was encouraged, an answer was not required for every question on the survey.

During the survey, the participants were first asked to list any social, economic, political, legal, technological, environmental, ethical, or scientific force that has recently occurred or may occur in the future (in the county, in Illinois, nationally or globally) and can affect the local public health system or community. Next, the participants were asked to choose the most impactful force, the second most impactful force, and the third most impactful force on the community from the forces they had listed previously. They were also asked to identify any threats or opportunities

associated with the top three forces they selected. The participants were also asked a question about the health equity of all the forces they identified addressing if these forces will positively or negatively impact equal opportunity for health and access to care based on gender, race, socioeconomic status, etc. The survey was open to anyone who lived or worked in Kankakee County. The survey link recipients had until February 26, 2021 to complete the survey, giving them a total of 5 months. Survey results were analyzed by the FOCA Subcommittee and used to determine the top identified forces. A total of 23 complete surveys were used for this assessment.

Prioritization of Strategic Issues

On April 21, 2021, fifteen Kankakee County public health stakeholders participated in a four-hour virtual meeting to review key findings from the four MAPP assessments, identify cross-cutting themes and potential strategic issues, and prioritize a set of strategic issues. The meeting was facilitated by the leadership from the neighboring Will County Health Department.

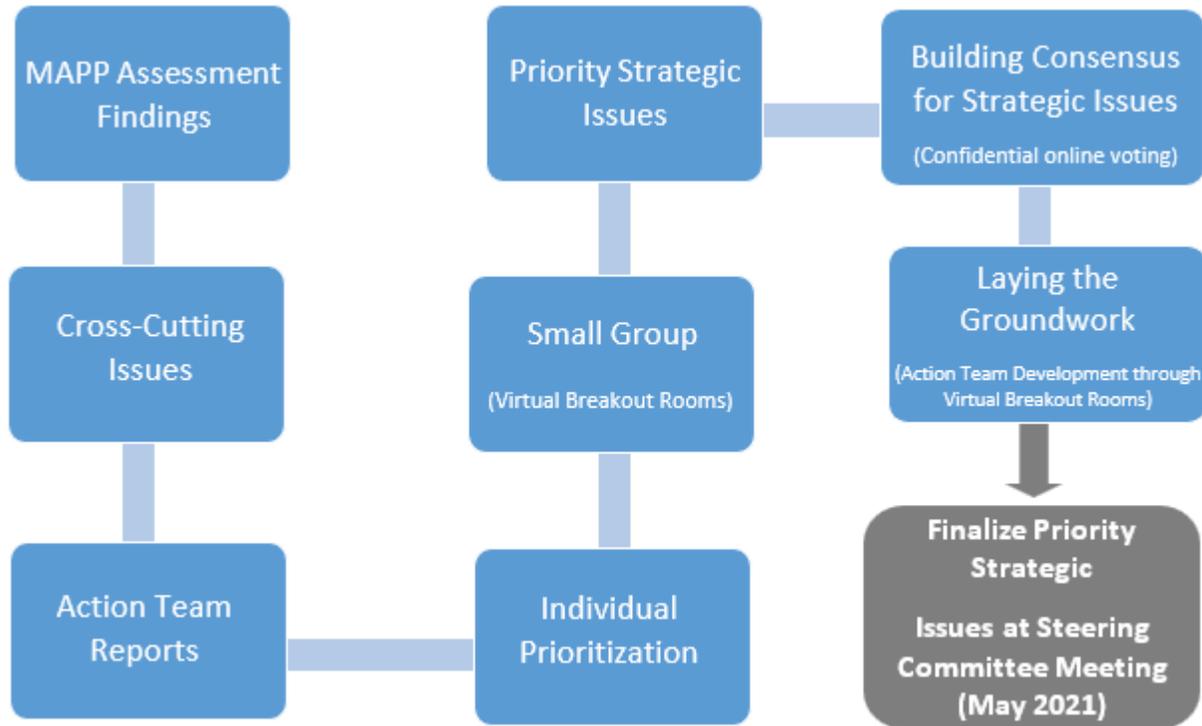
Following the discussion of assessment findings and updates on progress of the action teams efforts in addressing the previous CHNA strategic issues, participants were asked to individually reflect on the cross-cutting themes using a worksheet. Participants were then sent into virtual small groups to discuss and build consensus around the top three strategic needs for the county. Next, each small group shared their recommendations and rationale for the top three strategic issues, followed by a facilitated discussion to further explore and define the potential priorities. A confidential online voting feature was used for each participant to select the top three. The top strategic issue named was Behavioral Health. Additional discussions among participants ensued to narrow down the issues to Access to Health/Health and Wellness and Education and Employment.

Thus, the following top priorities were identified:

- Health and Wellness
- Behavioral Health
- Education and Employment

The remaining time of the strategic session was used to plan next steps around these issues including the formation of action teams. Goals and action plans will be developed or updated for each of these priority health issues. These action plans will be implemented and aligned to improve the local public health system, and ultimately the health of the Kankakee County community in alignment with our vision.

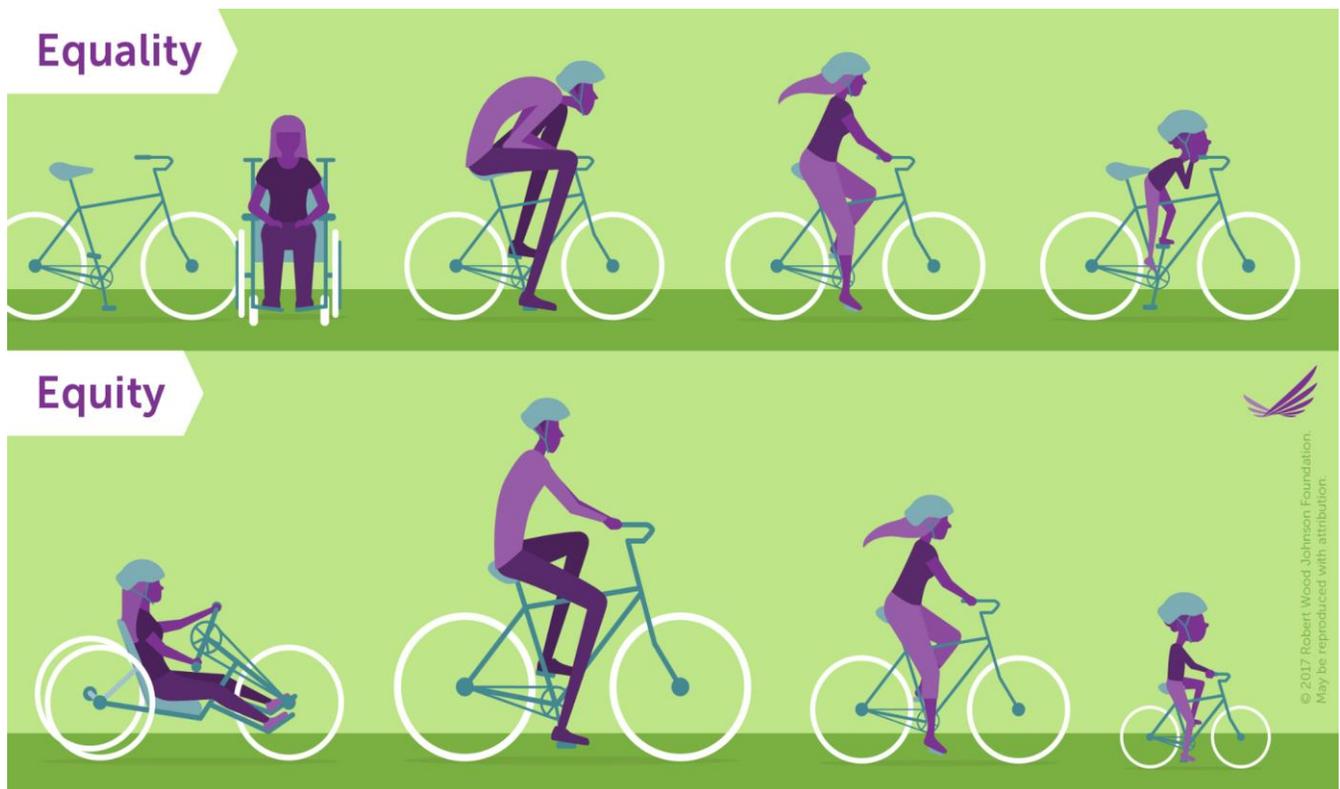
Figure 2.2. Process for Prioritization of Strategic Issues



Health Equity

Healthy People 2020 defines health equity as the "attainment of the highest level of health for all people." To achieve health equity, avoidable health inequities and health disparities must be eliminated. This requires short- and long-term strategies addressing the root causes of health inequities and health disparities, specifically social determinants of health. The *Mobilizing and Organizing Partners to Achieve Health Equity* supplemental guide was used during this assessment process.

Figure 2.3. Health Equity



Source: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, <https://www.rwjf.org/en/library/infographics/visualizing-health-equity.html>

Key Findings of Strategic Issue: Health and Wellness

Overview

This strategic issue encompasses both access to care, taking into consideration the impact of social determinants of health, as well as chronic disease prevention. Access to comprehensive, quality healthcare services is important for promoting and maintaining health, preventing, and managing disease, reducing unnecessary disability and premature death, and achieving health equity. Chronic diseases are the most common, costly, and preventable of all health problems.

Lack of access to routine health services creates health disparities in many health indicators based on race, ethnicity, income and geography in Kankakee County. Heart disease is the second cause of hospitalizations and leading cause of death in Kankakee County. Heart disease, stroke and diabetes account for over 50% of deaths in Kankakee County. Four of these health risk behaviors—lack of physical activity, poor nutrition, tobacco use, and excess alcohol consumption— cause much of the illness, suffering, and early death related to chronic diseases and conditions. Findings from the assessments detail access issues to chronic disease resources.

Specific priority needs and populations identified in the assessment process include:

Priority Needs	Target Populations
Screening and addressing social determinants of health and social needs during health visits to reduce health disparities and improve health outcomes.	Adults Parents African American/Black population Native American/Alaskan Native population Hispanic/Latinx population Zip Codes: 60901, 60914, 60915, 60944, 60958
Promotion and development of community interventions to address social determinants of health.	Low Food Access population Adults Parents African American/Black population Native American/Alaskan Native population Hispanic/Latinx population Zip Codes: 60901, 60914, 60915, 60944, 60958

Navigation to non-emergency primary health services for prevention and early detection of disease, reducing risk factors, managing conditions, and utilizing additional preventative care and screenings.	Low-income adults Men African American/Black population Hispanic/Latinx population
Increased education among target populations on diseases of the heart and the intersection with physical health and obesity.	Adults Older Adults 65+ Medicare Beneficiaries Children & Youth Men African American/Black population
Improving health literacy and health care navigation, including virtual health or telehealth opportunities, especially in low-income and rural areas.	Adults Older Adults 65+ Medicare Beneficiaries Males African American/Black population Hispanic/Latinx population Asian population Zip Codes: 60950, 60901, 60944, 60958
Better data to define and prioritize chronic disease and access issues, including direct community input, to assist populations most affected, and monitor progress.	All populations

Assessment Findings

The Forces of Change Assessment identified the lack of equitable and quality healthcare as a major concern in Kankakee County. Opportunities pinpointed in this assessment include:

- Assist underserved areas to reduce barriers to access to care (transportation methods, insurance options, affordable treatment options).
- Open new healthcare facilities in underserved areas to make care physically accessible.
- Allocate more funding into healthcare.
- Utilize telehealth for people living in rural areas that cannot travel far to see a provider.
- Educate the community on effective ways to live a healthy life with a focus on preventative care.

The Community Health Status Assessment data identified numerous indicators that identified access to care as well as chronic disease as a major concern.

Provider Ratio

The rate of primary care providers (per 100,000) has decreased slightly since the last assessment to a rate of 40.14 providers per 100,000 population from 42.2 providers per 100,000 population. The Kankakee County rate is consistently lower than the state and national rates. The ratio of primary care providers to residents is 2,490:1 compared to 1,250:1 for Illinois.

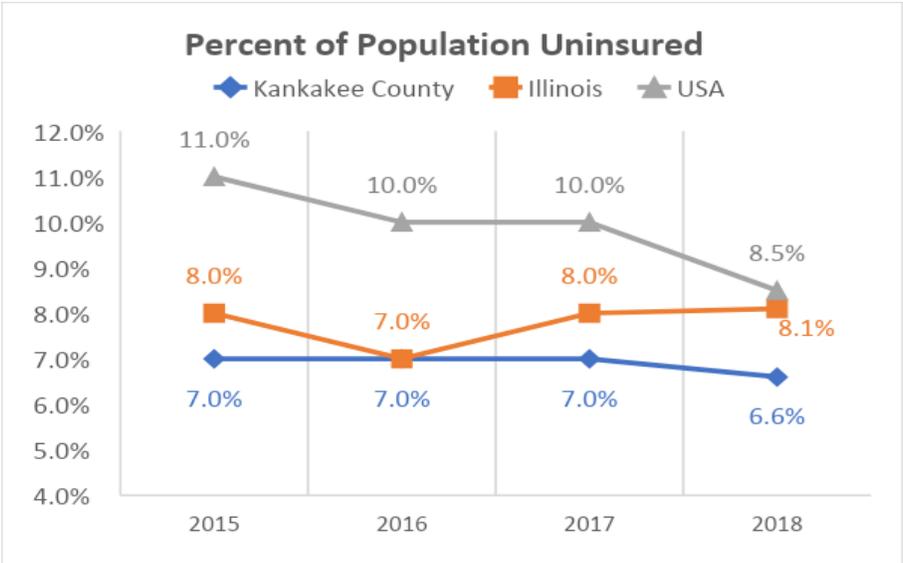
Additionally, there is an identified Health Resource Shortage Area (HRSA) in Kankakee County for having too few primary care, dental and mental health providers for the population (2019). The rate of Federally Qualified Health Care Centers (FQHCs) in 2019 in Kankakee County per population of 100,000 is significantly lower (1.76) than the Illinois (3.05) and United States (2.94) rates. This indicator is relevant because FQHCs provide health care to vulnerable populations and receive federal funding to promote health access to the medically underserved.

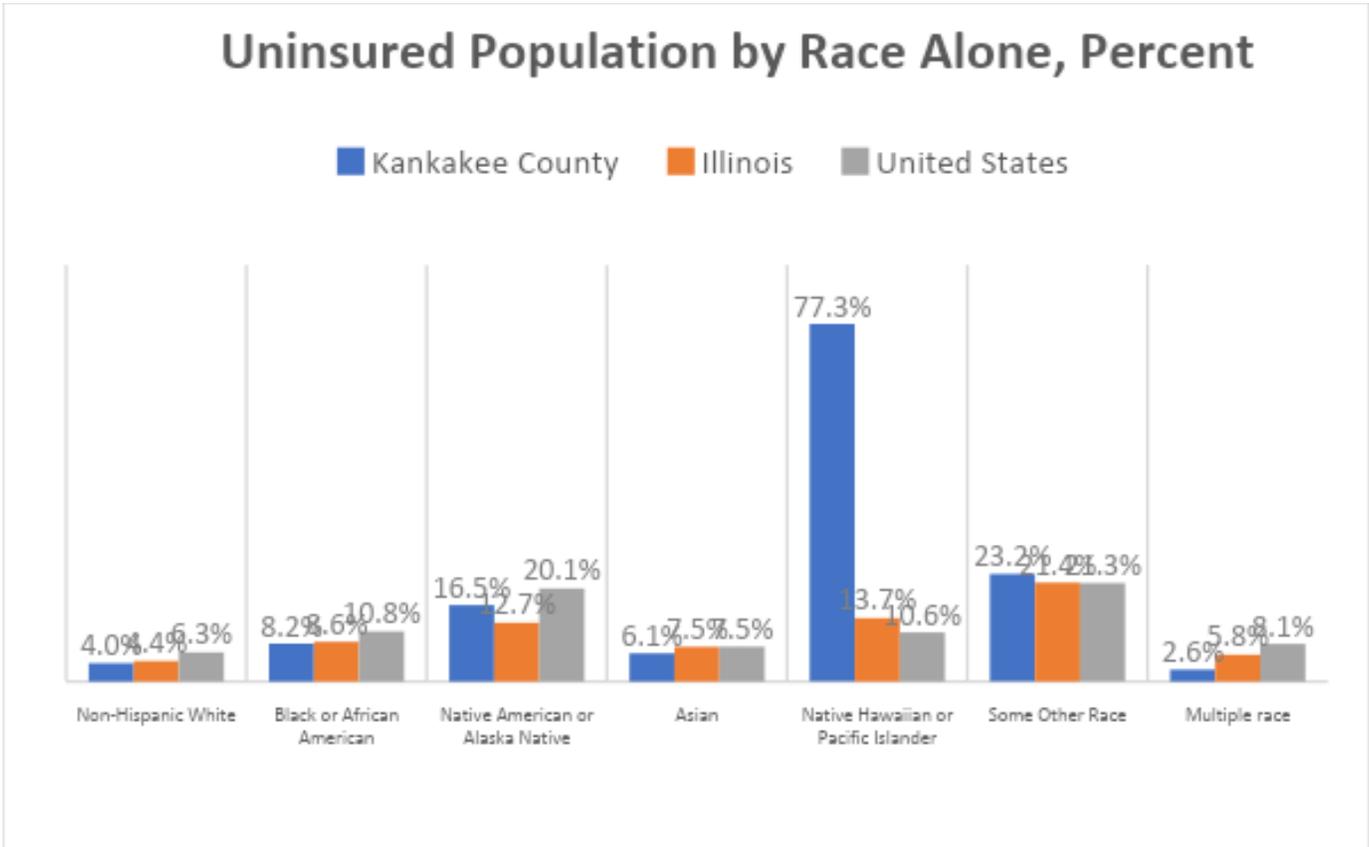
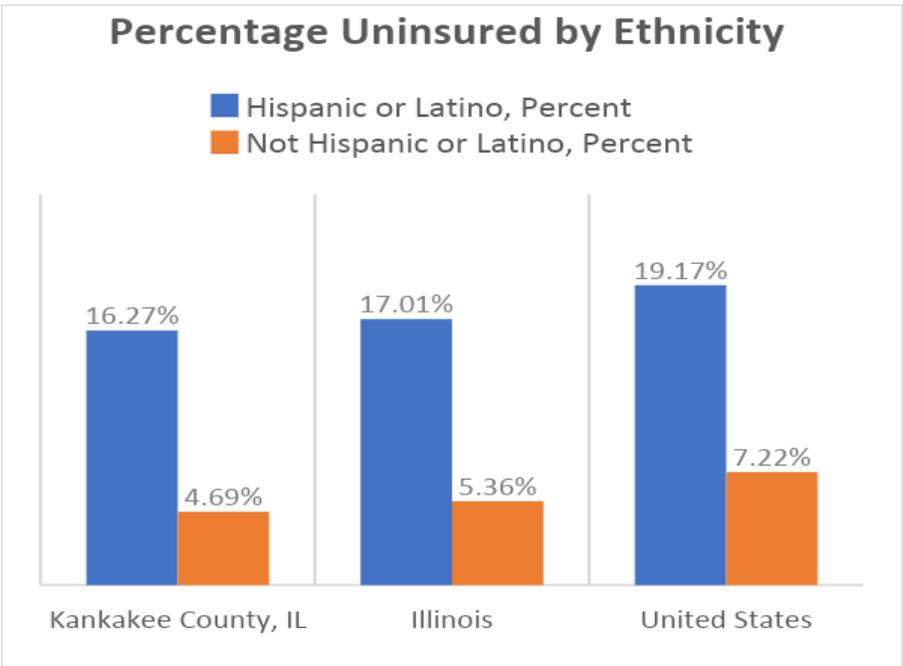
**Ratio of Population
to Primary Providers
2,490:1
Kankakee County**

**Ratio of Population
to Primary Providers
1,250:1
Illinois**

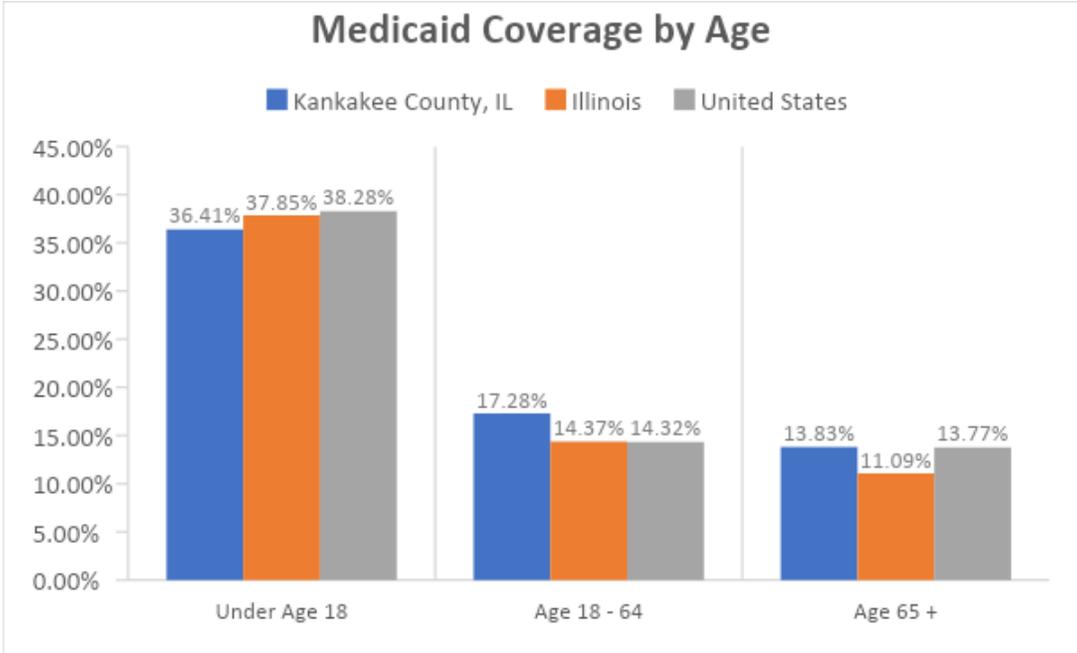
Uninsured & Medicaid

While largely due in part to the expansion of Medicaid in Illinois as well as the Affordable Care Act, the percent of the uninsured population has decreased. However, having insurance does not indicate access to all health providers. There are also disparities in insurance coverage among race and ethnicity. There is a higher percentage of adults and older adults receiving Medicaid in Kankakee County than in Illinois.





Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2012-2018.



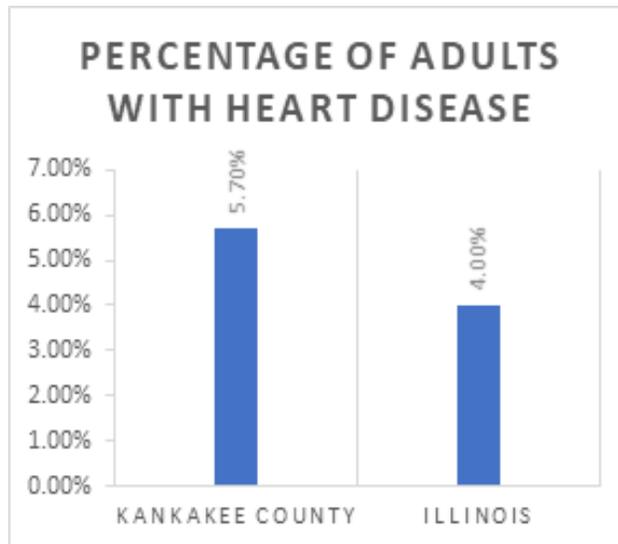
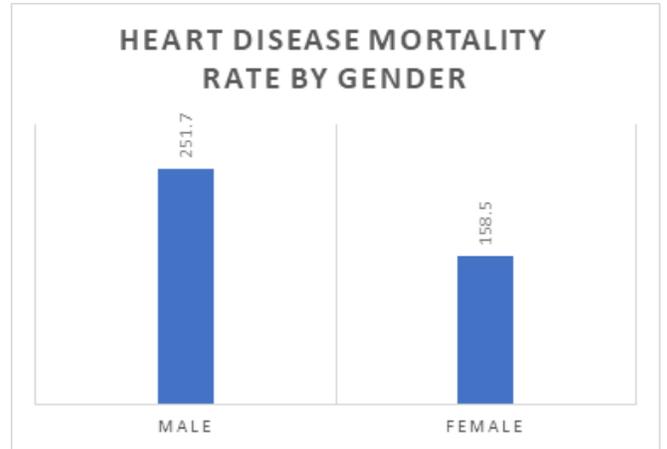
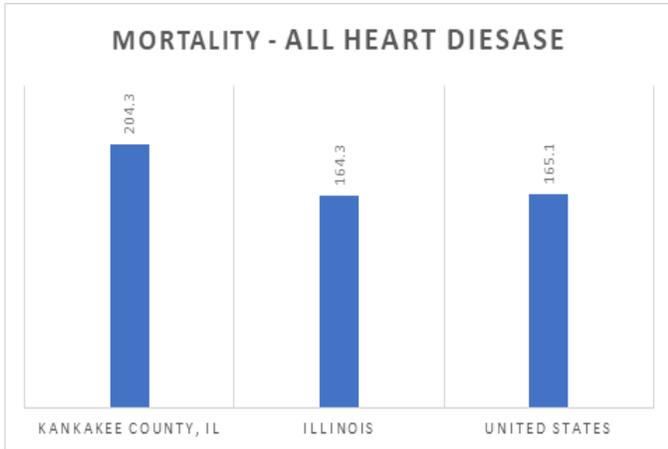
Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2012-2018.

Heart Disease, Diabetes & Obesity

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in Kankakee County. Heart disease is the second cause of hospitalization in Kankakee County. The rate of death due to coronary heart disease per 100,000 population is 204.3 in Kankakee County. The rate in Kankakee County is much higher than Illinois (164.3) or the US (165.1). More men (272.6 per 100,000 population) are likely to die from heart disease than women (150.8 per 100,000 population) in Kankakee County. The percentage of adults with heart disease in Kankakee County is higher at 5.7% than the Illinois rate of 4.0%.

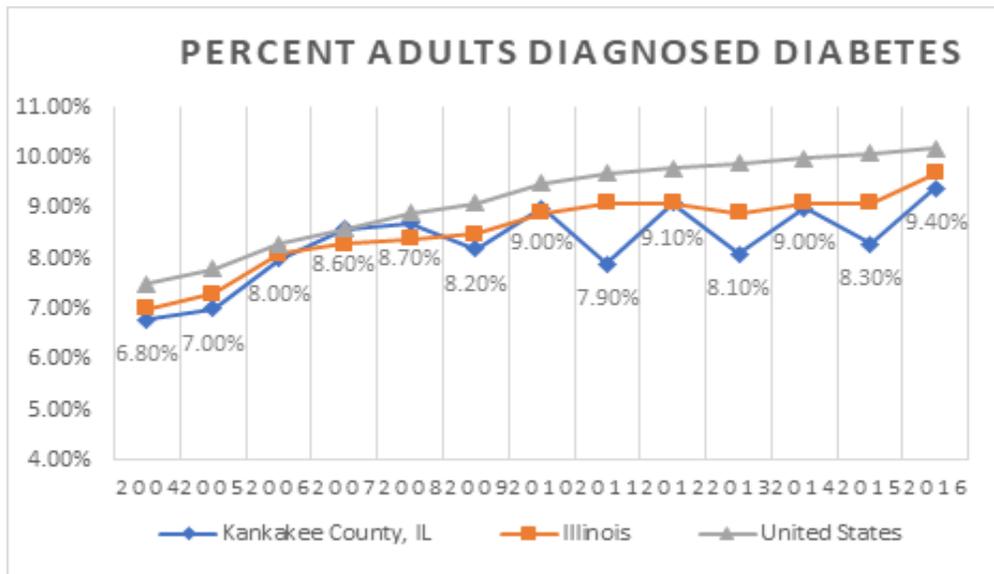
There are multiple factors that contribute to heart disease, including obesity, high cholesterol, high blood pressure and smoking. Poor nutrition and physical inactivity are associated with heart disease risk as well. The percent of adults living with diabetes has fluctuated in recent years but has decreased to lower than the Illinois and US percentages since 2011. Low rates of diagnosed diabetes can also be a larger portion of the population with unknown diabetes diagnosis.

Being overweight and obese creates significant health issues and are associated with risk for diseases, including diabetes, heart disease, and stroke. The percent of adults that are obese has stabilized nationally, while still slightly increasing in Illinois. In Kankakee County the percentage has significantly risen in 2016. For youth, the rate of obesity has decreased or remained stable since 2016. Kankakee County adults are less physically active than the average in Illinois and in the United States in previous years. Eighth thru 12th grade youth are also reporting a low percentage of physical activity each day.

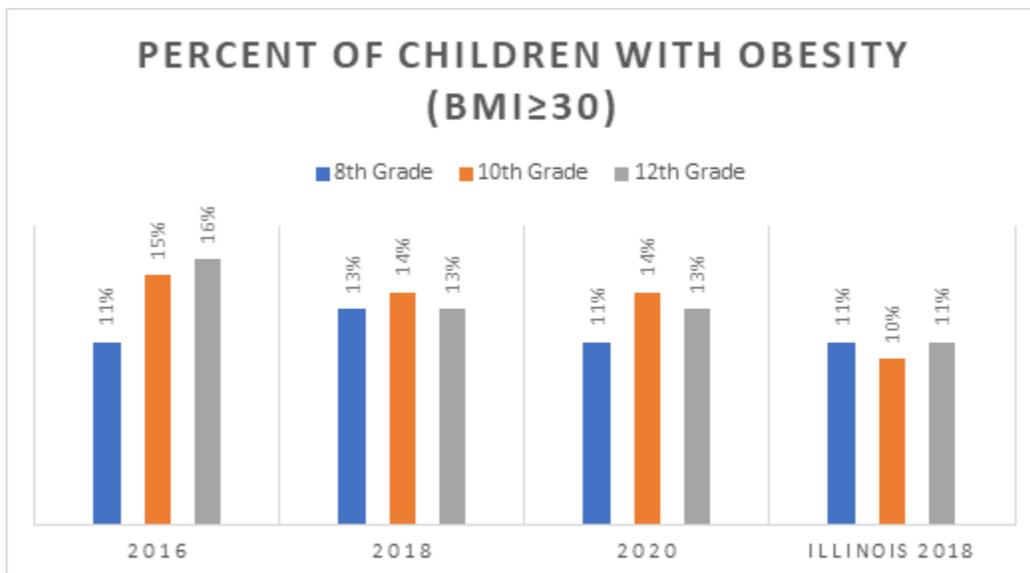


Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics Systems, 2016-2018.

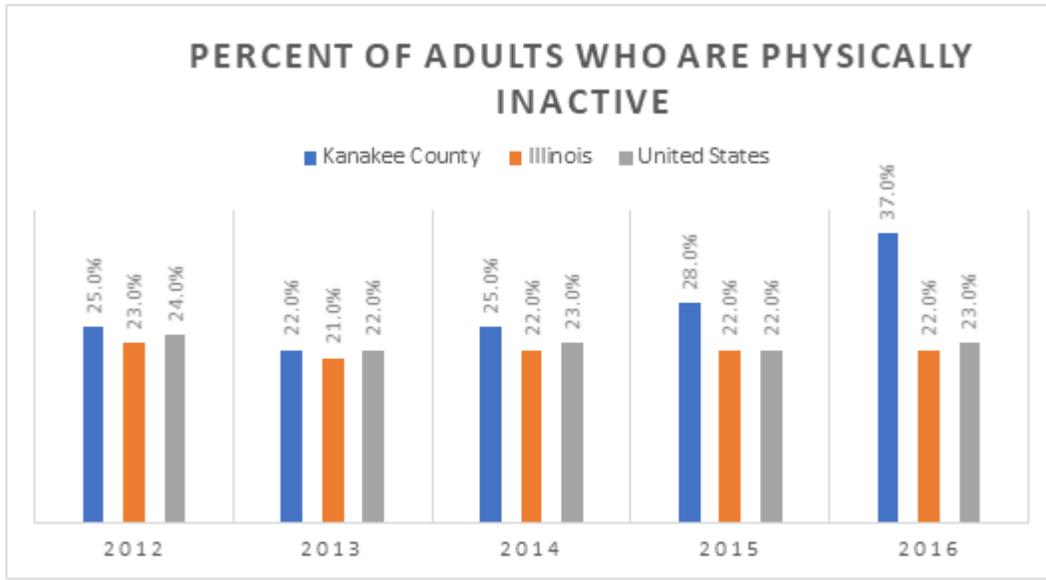
CDC Interactive Atlas of Heart Disease and Stroke, 2014.



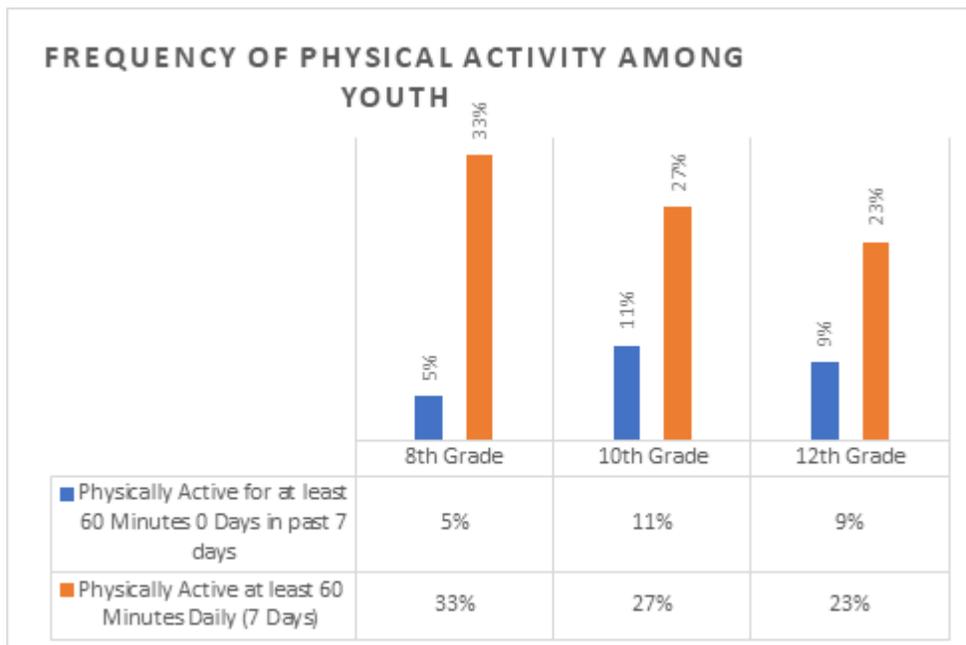
Source: United States Diabetes Surveillance System, 2016.



Source: Illinois Youth Survey, 2016, 2018, 2020.



Source: United States Diabetes Surveillance System, 2016.

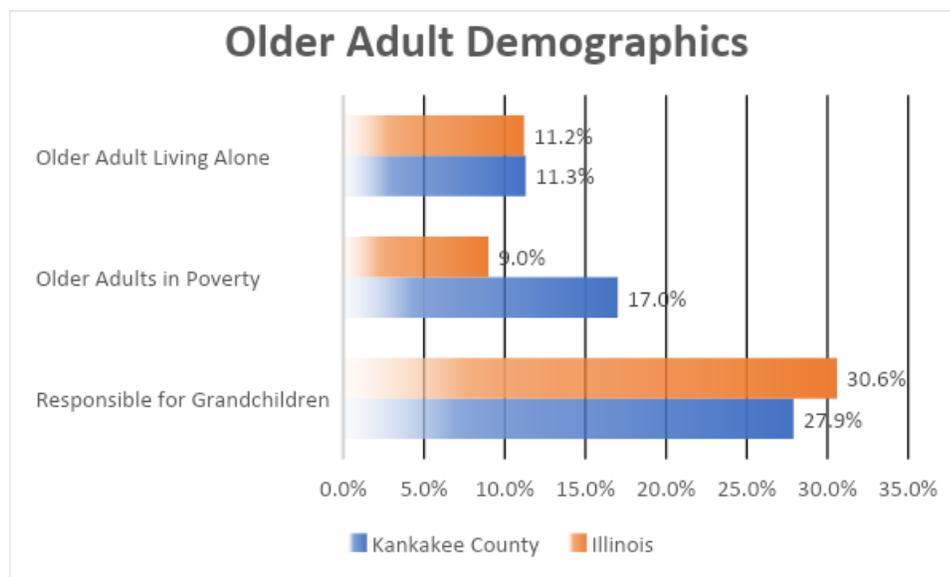


Source: Illinois Youth Survey, 2020.

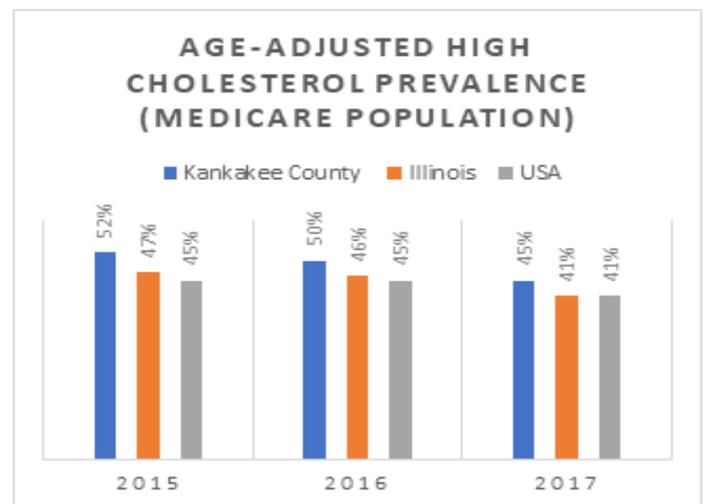
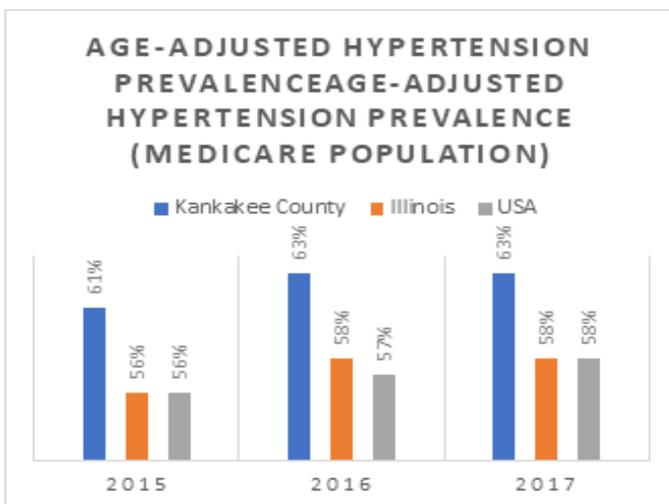
Older Adults

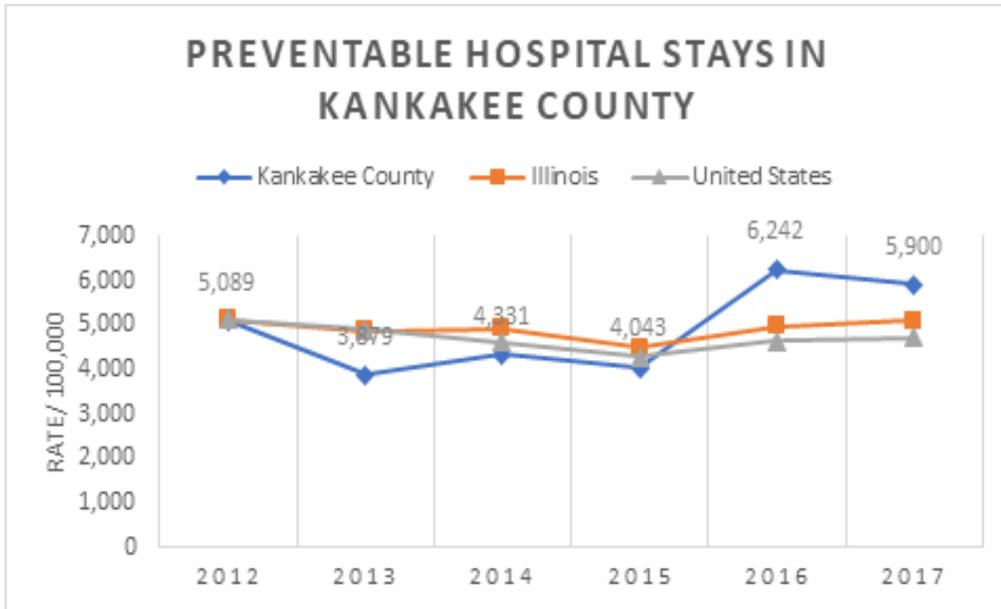
Adults over 65 years are the second highest population age group in Kankakee County. It is notable that there has been an increase in the older population living in Kankakee County from 16.9% in 2018 to 17.3% in 2019. Additionally, there is a significantly higher percentage of older adults living in poverty in Kankakee County (17%) than in Illinois (9%).

The percent of Kankakee County residents that are Medicare beneficiaries that were told they had high cholesterol (63%) and high blood pressure (45%) has remained higher than the state and national average. The rate of hospital stays for Medicare beneficiaries that are considered preventable with regular access to health care, are higher in Kankakee County than Illinois and the United States.



Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2018.

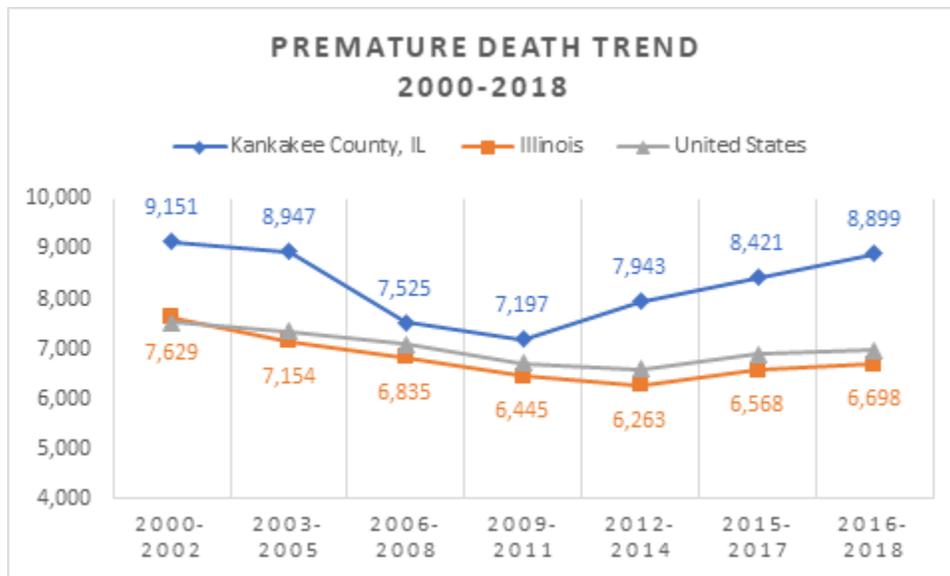
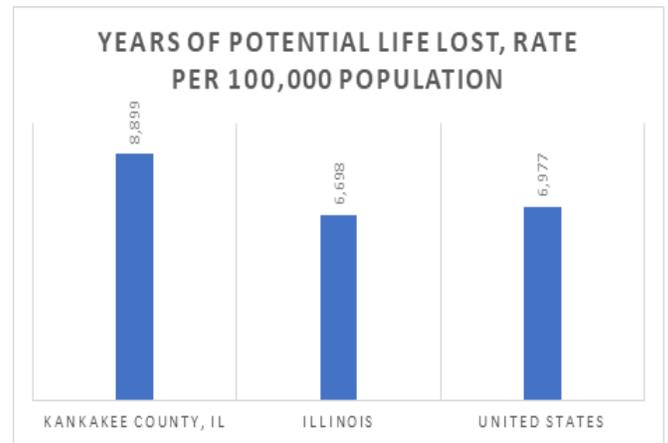
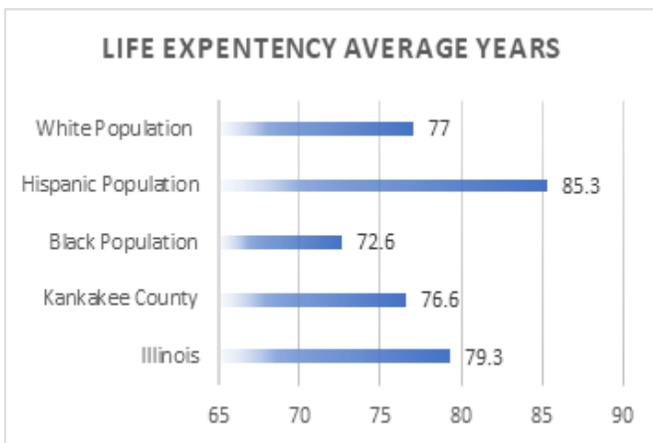




Source: CMS Mapping Medicare Disparities Tool, 2018.

Life Expectancy & Premature Death

The life expectancy in Kankakee County is less than the Illinois average years. The Black population has the least average life expectancy years, and the Hispanic population has the most average life expectancy years in Kankakee County. Years of Potential Life Lost (YPLL) before age 75 per 100,000 population for all causes of death is relevant because a measure of premature death can provide a unique and comprehensive look at overall health status. The rate of premature death in Kankakee County was 8,899 years lost per 100,000 population, which is significantly higher than Illinois and the United States as shown below. The African American/Black population in Kankakee County has a much higher life lost rate at 14,400 years per 100,000 population. The trend of premature death in Kankakee County was on a decreasing trajectory along with Illinois and the United States, but since 2011 it has risen in comparison to state and national rates of early death.

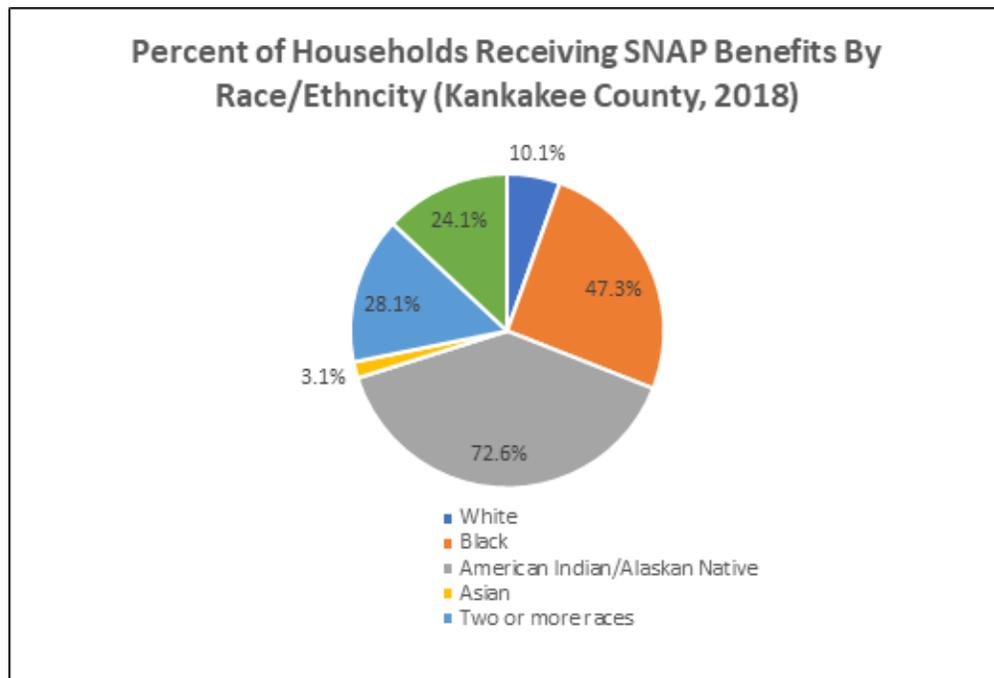
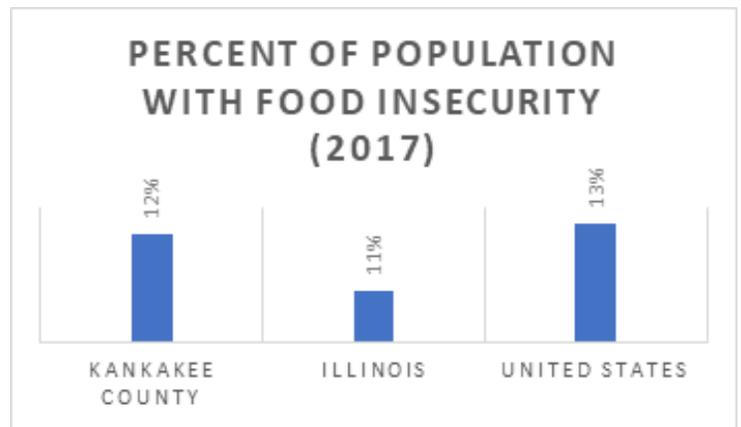
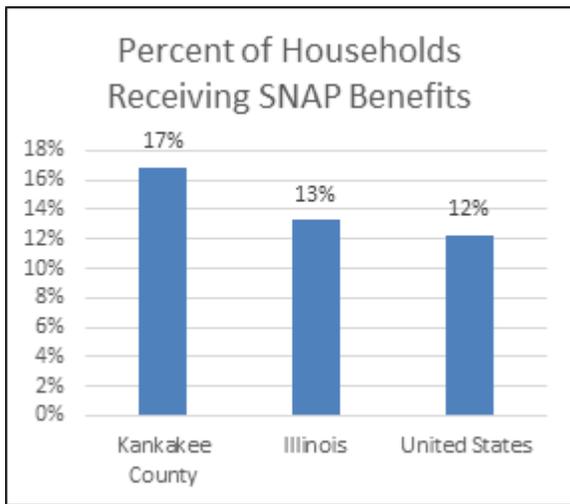


Source: County Health Rankings, 2015-2017, 2016-2018.

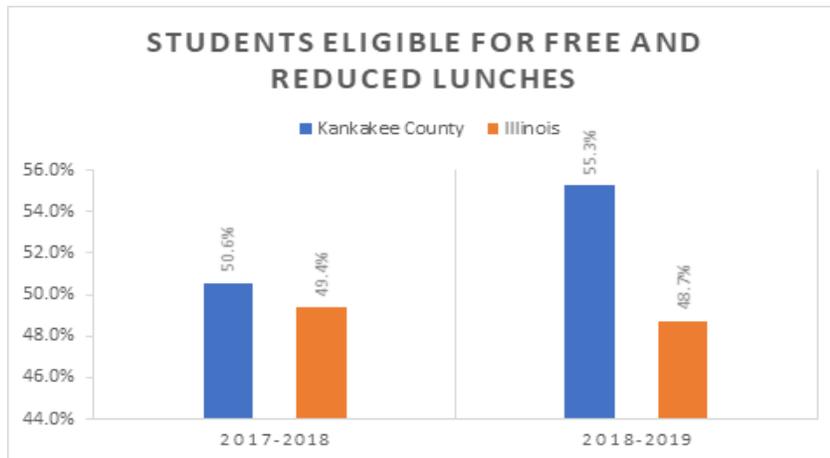
Food Access & Insecurity

Nearly 17% Kankakee County (16.9%) residents receive SNAP benefits, compared to 13% for Illinois and the US (12.2%). This number has remained relatively stable since the last assessment when 17.1% of Kankakee County residents received SNAP benefits (2013). There are disparities that exist among Kankakee County households that receive SNAP benefits by race and ethnicity. Geographically, more residents in the city of Kankakee and the southeastern portion of the county receive these benefits. Twelve percent of the population has food insecurity, which is higher than Illinois (11%).

The percentage of students eligible for free or reduced lunch in Kankakee County has increased since the 2017-2018 school year from 51% to 55% and is higher than Illinois (49%). This indicator is important to assess vulnerable children that are more likely to have multiple social needs. Children with one or more development domains and greatest food access issues as scored on the Early Development Instrument (EDI) study in Kankakee County reside in the city of Kankakee and Pembroke/Hopkins Park.

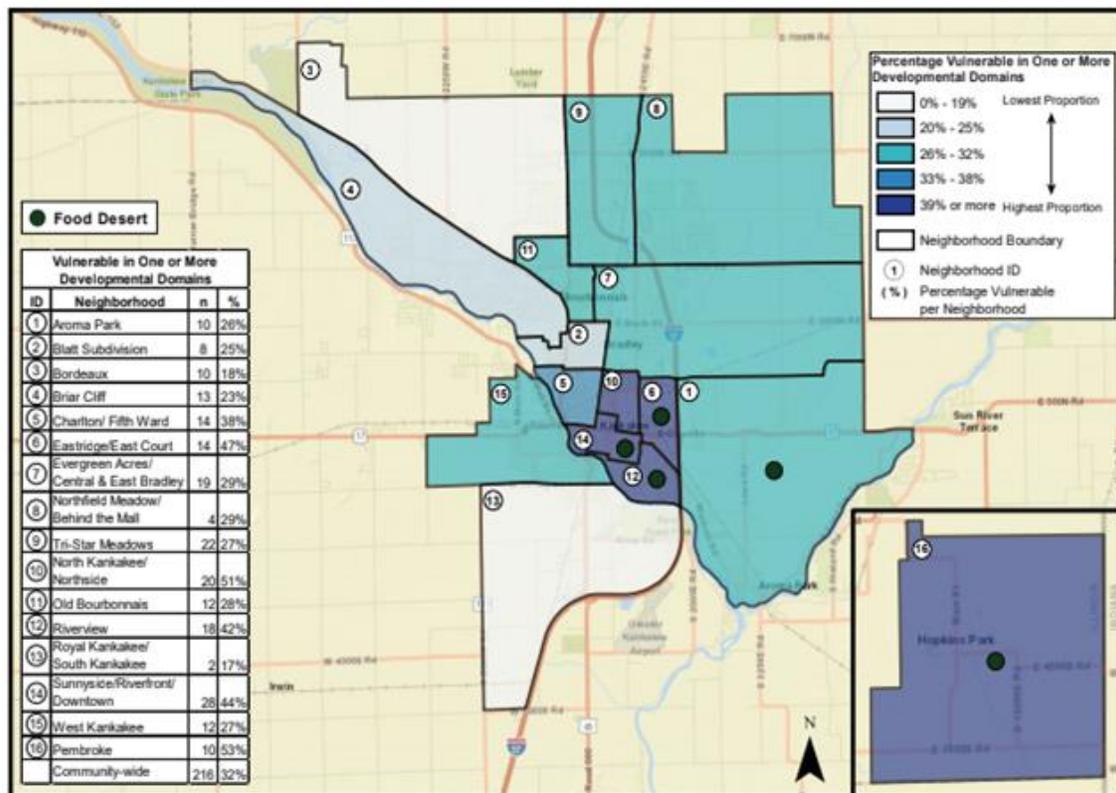


Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015 & 2014-2018. Feeding America, Food Insecurity Report, 2017.



Source: National Center for Education Statistics, 2017-2019.

Food Access and Children Vulnerable on One or More Developmental Domain

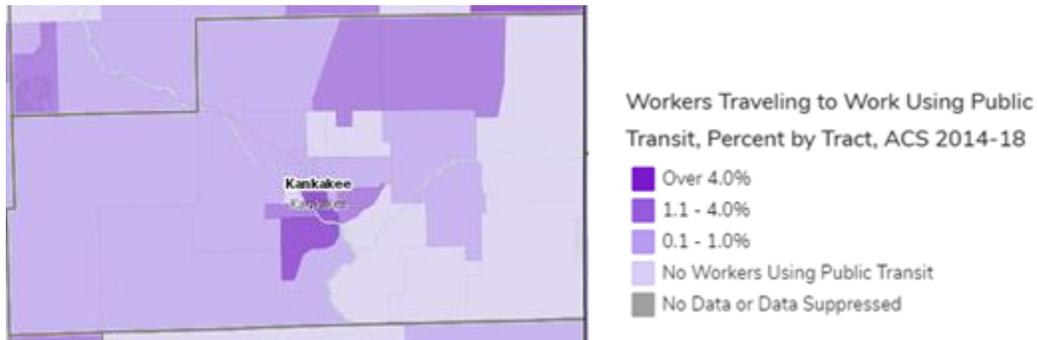


Data Source: Food Access Research Atlas at <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-access-research-atlas/>; EDI Results, School Year 2019-2020.

Description: Under this measure (i.e., low-income, low-access with vehicle access), a tract is considered low access if at least 100 households are more than half a mile from the nearest supermarket and have no access to a vehicle; or at least 500 people or 33 percent of the population live more than 20 miles from the nearest supermarket, regardless of vehicle access. The base-layer map is the EDI results for Children Vulnerable on One or More Developmental Domains to examine potential relationships between community-level patterns of access to food and developmental vulnerability that could warrant closer investigation.

Transportation

A very low percentage of Kankakee County residents (1.5%) use public transportation to commute to work compared to Illinois (9.4%) and the United States (5.1%). However, there are geographical disparities in the county of those that rely on public transportation as shown.



Source: CARES Engagement Network, 2013-2017.

Community Survey Findings

Lack of access to healthcare as well as high costs of healthcare were a top concern on the Community Themes and Strengths Assessment survey. Over one-third rated the quality of the healthcare system in Kankakee County as fair or poor on the assessment.

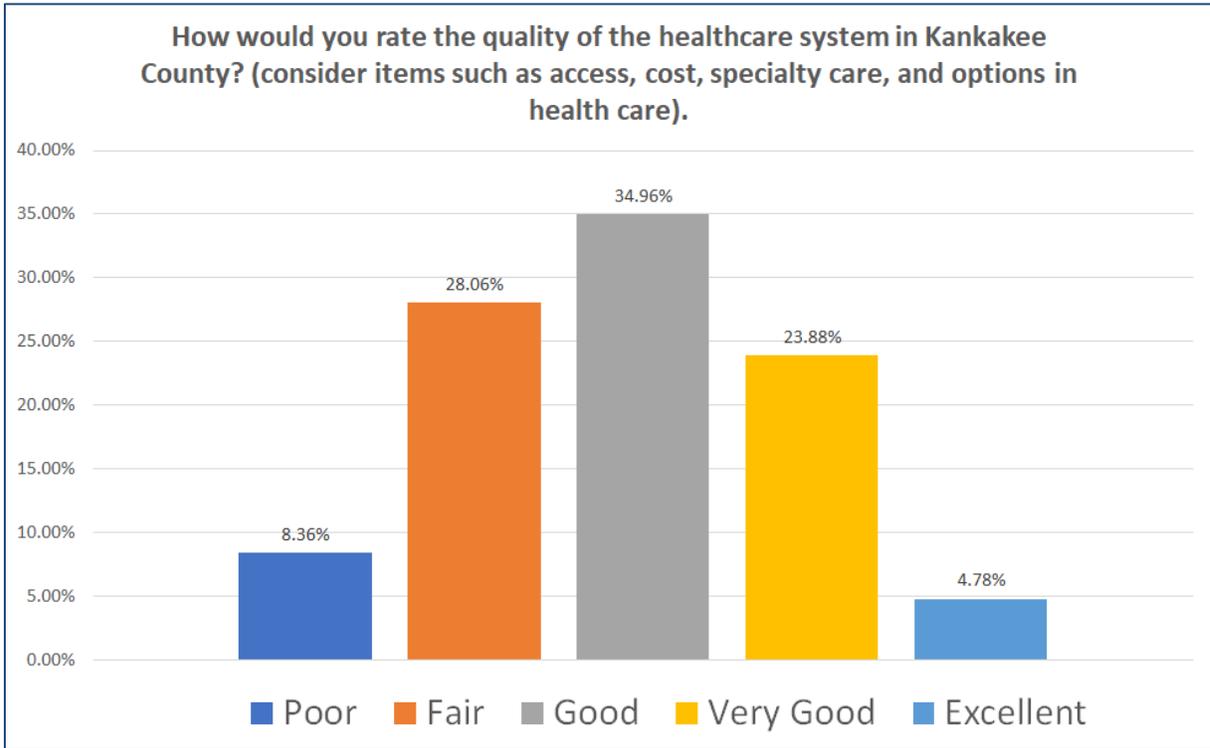
Respondents addressed in the open comments their concerns regarding the lack of access to healthcare in the area, the lack of resources and transportation for those living in rural areas needing care, lack of access for the disabled, as well as acceptance of health insurance locally, both state and private insurance. Respondents voiced concerns with accessing appointments and quality with local primary care physicians and psychiatrists.

Within the Community Themes and Strengths Assessment survey respondents were asked about where they receive health related information. The top six resources that were selected included the internet (67.67%), their healthcare provider (65.09%), their local health department (43.97%), the newspaper (43.10%), news stations (31.47%), and family (31.03%).

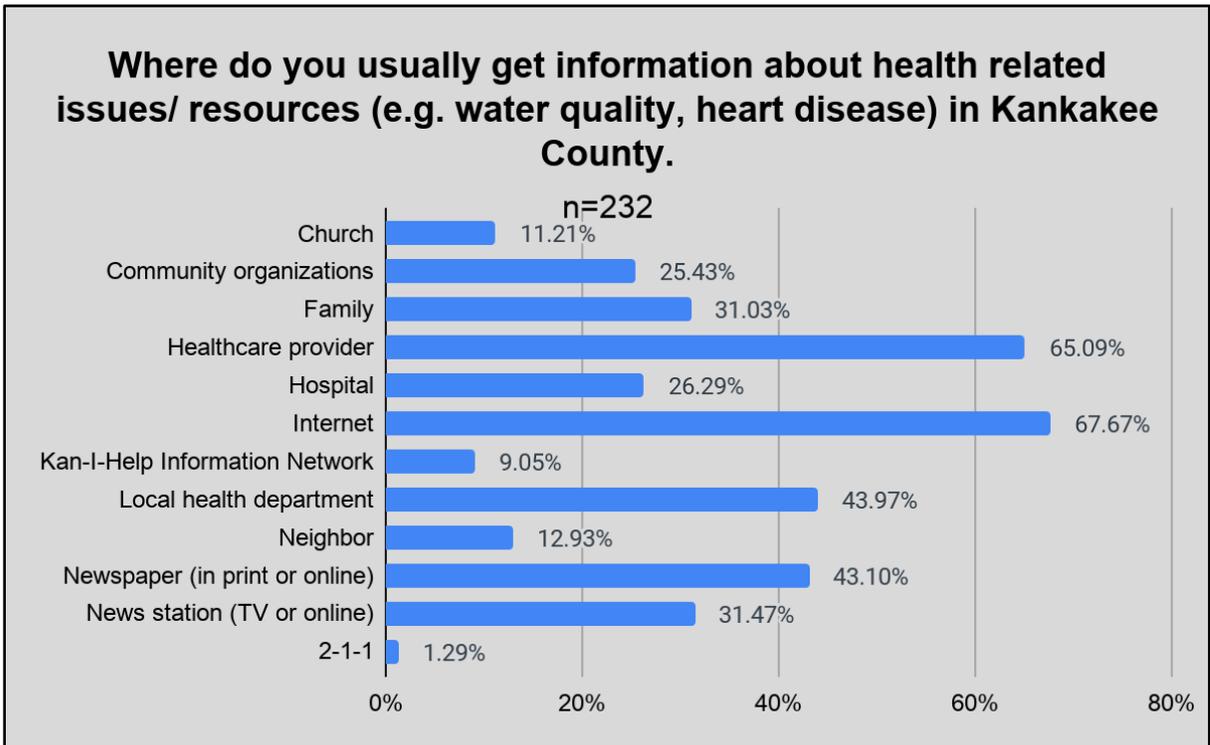
Having adequate access to healthcare is important for individuals to receive preventative health care and treatment of diseases, illness, and injuries. Over 27% of survey respondents said they go to the emergency department when they are in need of health care, which could correlate with a lack of access to primary health care. Additionally, 3.04% said they would visit the emergency department for their or their families' mental health care while over five percent expressed the difficulty accessing mental healthcare facilities in our county resulting in not receiving adequate care or leaving the county for healthcare purposes.

Nearly five percent of the respondents left responses related to why they and their family do not receive dental services. Comments noted high costs, lack of dental insurance or finding a dental provider in the county that accepts their insurance, and that they simply do not go to the dentist. Routine oral care is another preventative healthcare service that is important for residence overall wellness.

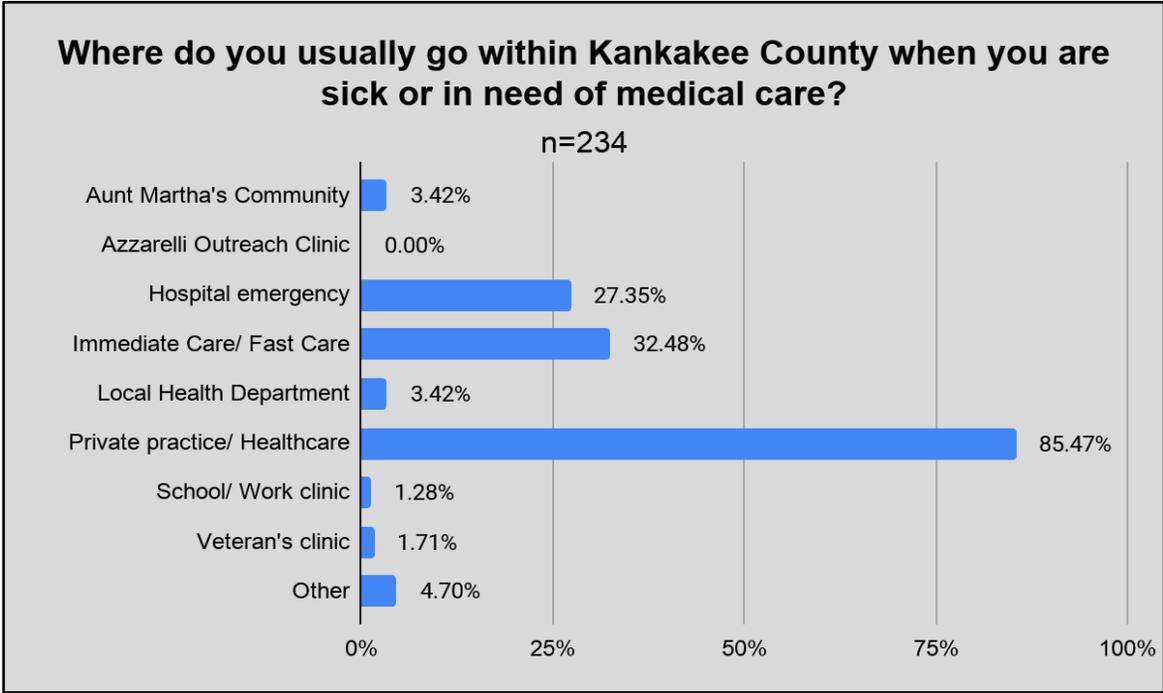
Since the COVID-19 pandemic, nearly forty-three percent of respondents reported changes to their access to healthcare. For the majority of respondents these changes have been mild, such as in-person appointments transitioning to telehealth. However other respondents have faced delays in care, problems receiving prescriptions, and even the inability to access needed care.



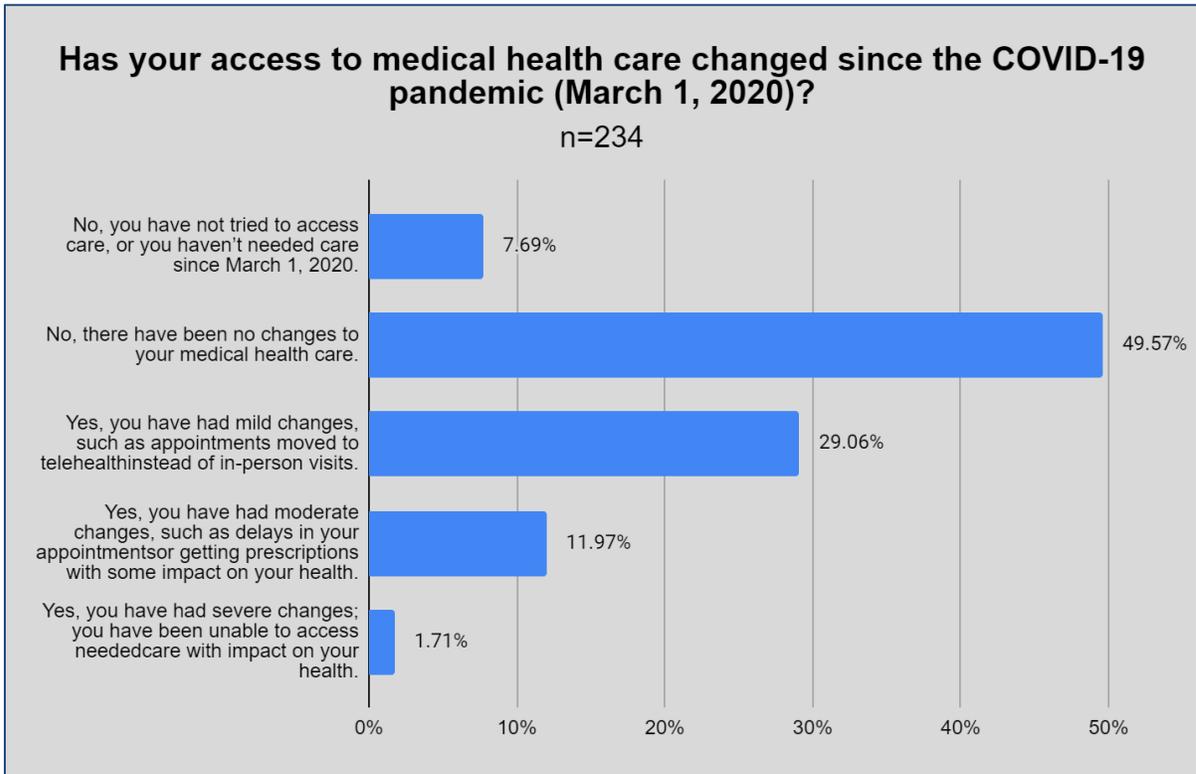
Source: Kankakee County Community Themes and Strengths Assessment, 2021.



Source: Kankakee County Community Themes and Strengths Assessment, 2021.



Source: Kankakee County Community Themes and Strengths Assessment, 2021



Source: Kankakee County Community Themes and Strengths Assessment, 2021.

Key Findings of Strategic Issue: Behavioral Health

Overview

Behavioral health as a strategic issue is used to include both mental health, substance use disorders as well as violence, safety, and trauma among Kankakee County residents. Depression is on the rise among both youth and older adults while the number of suicides per year in Kankakee County is unstable. Behavioral health was the top health issue named in the community input survey. Behavioral health issues impact population groups across income levels as well as racial and ethnic groups with effects of the COVID-19 pandemic adding additional strain on the local public health system. Findings from the assessments detail issues with access to local behavioral health services and resources.

Specific priority needs and populations identified in the assessment process include:

Priority Needs	Target Populations
Continue to reduce stigma behind seeking mental healthcare, especially in communities of color, as those needing care are expected to grow due to COVID-19 pandemic.	Communities of color Adults Adults 65+ Medicare Beneficiaries Youth Parents of children residing in Pembroke & Kankakee (city) Low Income populations
Increase opportunities for affordable, equitable and accessible treatments for both mental health and substance use disorders, including virtual health or telehealth opportunities, especially in low-income and rural areas.	Adults Youth Children Low Income populations Rural populations
Advocate for funding for expansion of services, resources, and providers in the county.	All populations Low Income populations Medicaid Beneficiaries
Increase outreach and support programs for high school youth and parents as well as older adults 65+ years.	High School Youth Parents of High School Youth Adults 65+ Medicare Beneficiaries
Better data to define and prioritize behavioral health issues, including direct community input, to assist populations most affected, and monitor progress.	All populations

Assessment Findings

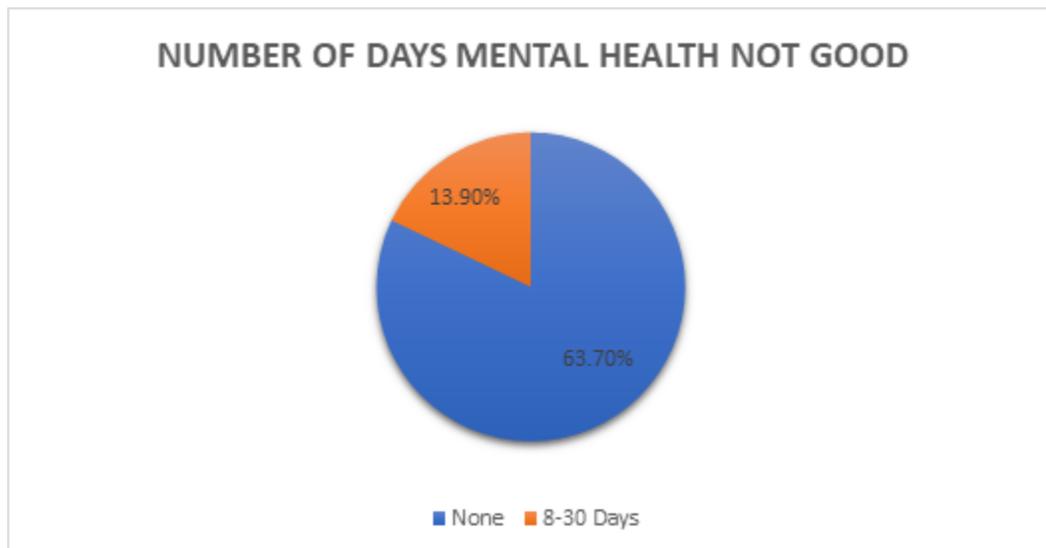
The Forces of Change Assessment identified behavioral health as a major concern in Kankakee County. Opportunities pinpointed in this assessment include:

- Increase opportunities for more affordable treatments.
- Increase outreach and support programs for community members to support each other.
- Reduce stigma behind seeking mental healthcare.

The Community Health Status Assessment data identified numerous indicators that identified behavioral health as a major concern.

Mental Health Status

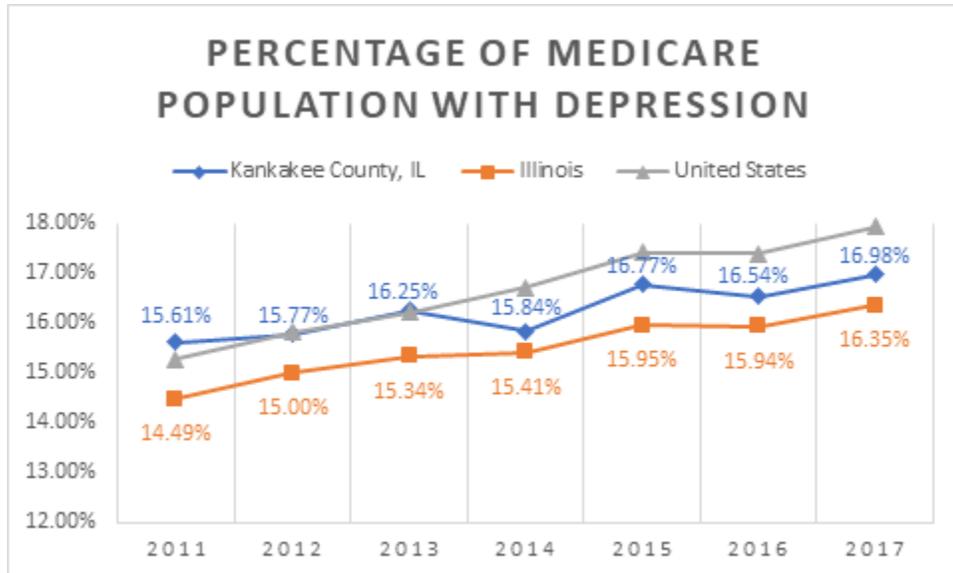
Nearly 14% of adults in Kankakee County have reported having more than 7 not good mental health days in the past month.



Source: Behavior Risk Surveillance System, 2019.

Older Adult Depression

Since 2011, the percentage of the Medicare population has reported more depression (16.98%). The percent of depression for older adults in Kankakee County trends higher than the percent in Illinois.



Source: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, 2017.

Mental Health Provider Ratio

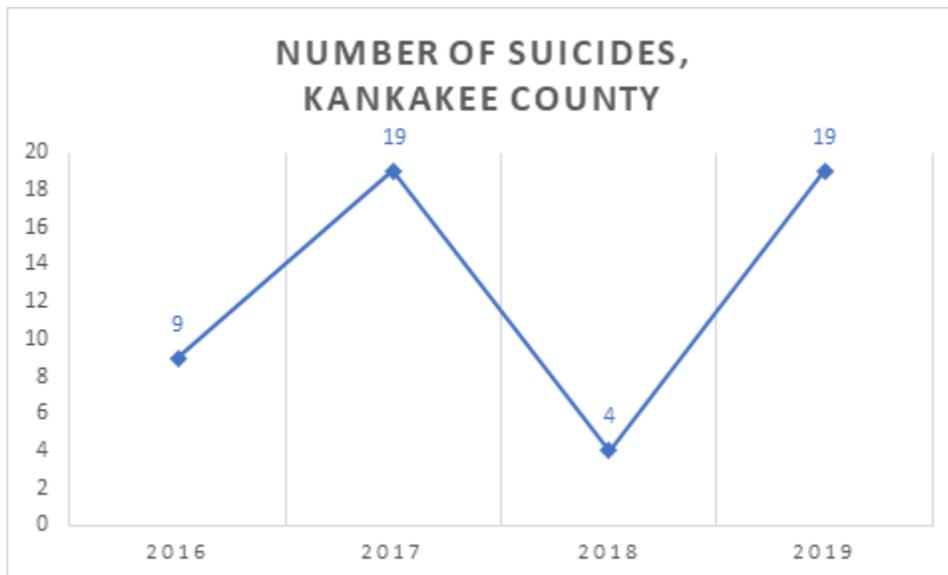
The ratio of mental health providers to residents is almost double (820:1) than the Illinois rate (480:1) but has decreased since 2016 (990:1). Kankakee County is in a Health Resource Shortage Area (HRSA) for having too few primary care physicians and mental health providers for the population.

Number Kankakee
County Residents for
every Mental Health
Provider
820:1

Number of Illinois
Residents for every
Mental Health Provider
480:1

Suicide

Kankakee County is below the CDC Healthy People 2020 target of suicides (10.3 age-adjusted per population 100,000) at 10.1 rate per 100,000 population. While the suicide rate has come down in Kankakee County (10.1 per 100,000 population) close to the Illinois rate (10.5 per 100,000 population), the number of suicides in recent years is unstable.

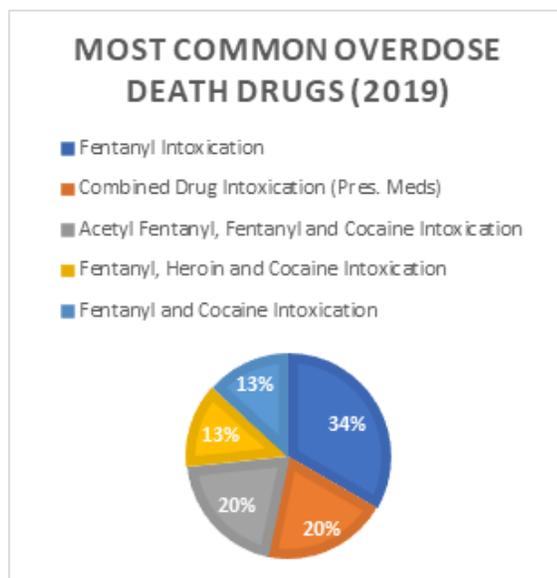
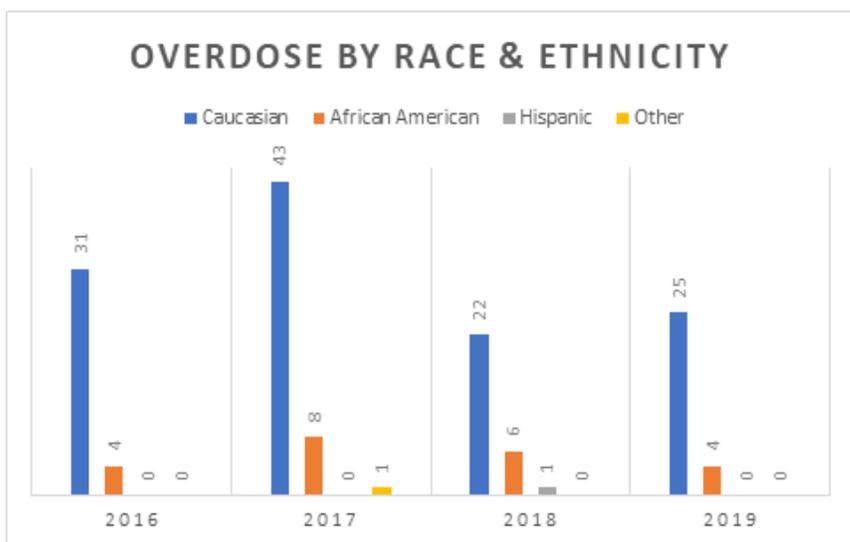
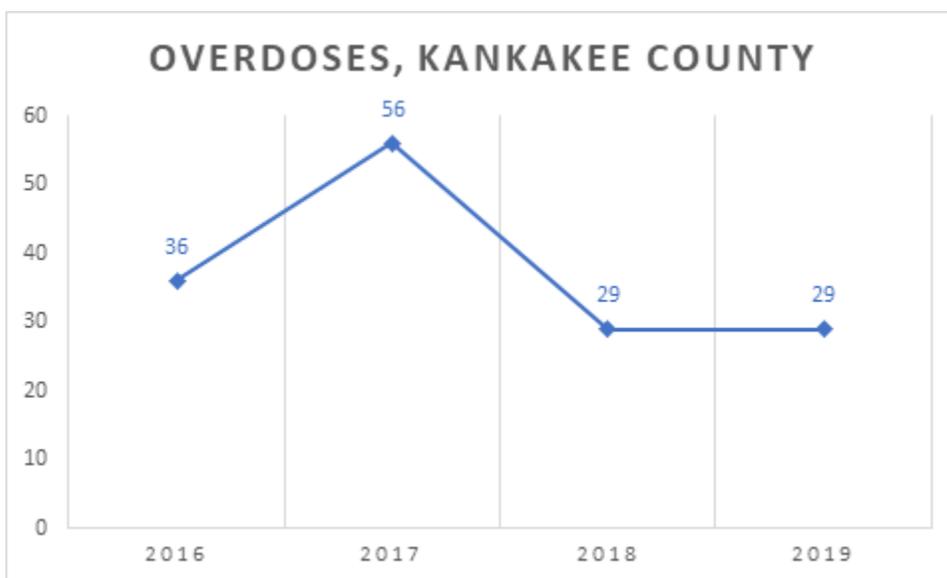


Source: Kankakee County Coroner's Office, 2016-2019.

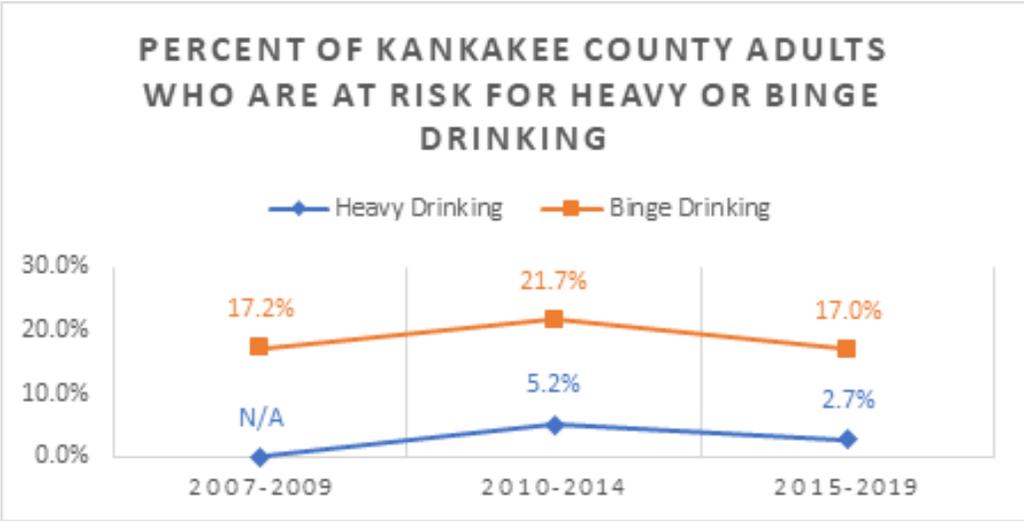
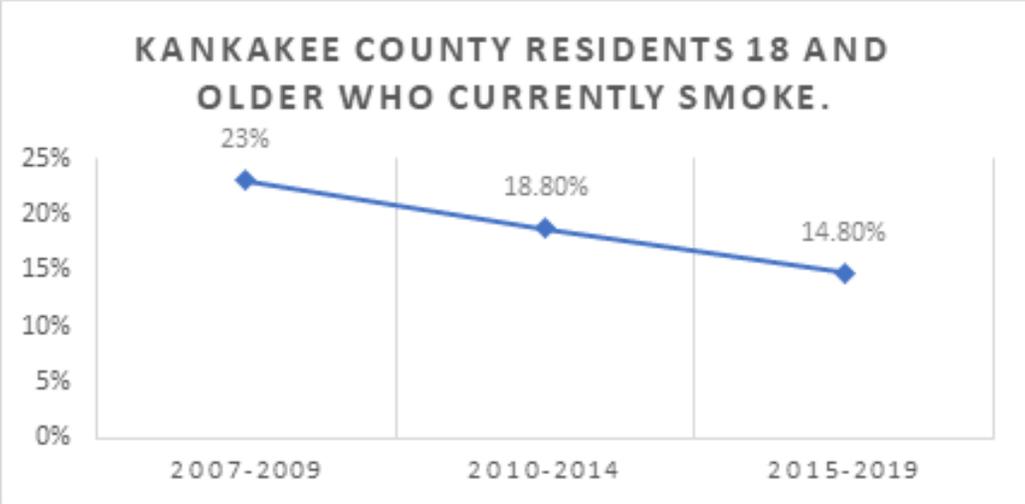
Substance Use Disorders & Overdoses

There has been a significant increase in drug overdose deaths in recent years, but a decline in 2018 and 2019 in Kankakee County (29 overdose deaths each year). Drug overdose deaths are more common among the white/Caucasian population than any other race. In 2019, more females (52%) had overdoses, but in recent years more men had overdose deaths. The average age of individuals that die from a drug overdose in Kankakee County is 43 (2019) years of age, which has increased since 41 years of age in 2016. The most common overdose drug is Fentanyl.

The percent of adults who smoke, heavy drink or binge drink have decreased in Kankakee County. The Healthy People 2020 goal for percent of adults who smoke is 12.0% and the current percent of adults who smoke in Kankakee County remains higher than the goal at 14.8%. The Healthy People 2020 goal for adult binge drinking is 24.2% and the current percent of adults who binge drink in Kankakee County remains lower at 17%.



Source: Kankakee County Coroner’s Office 2019.

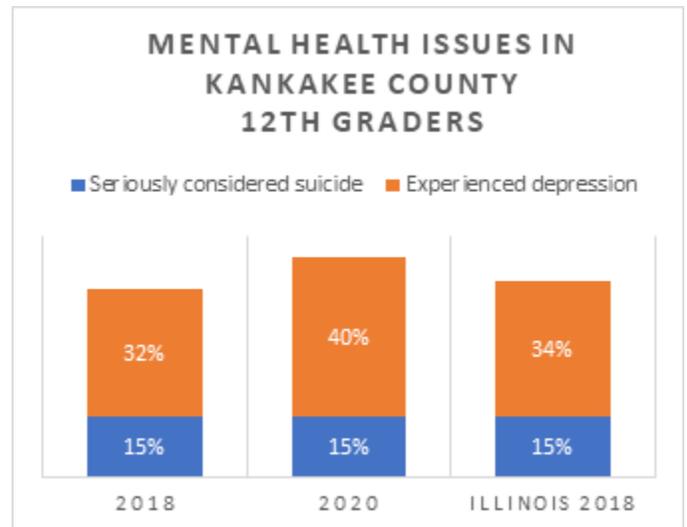
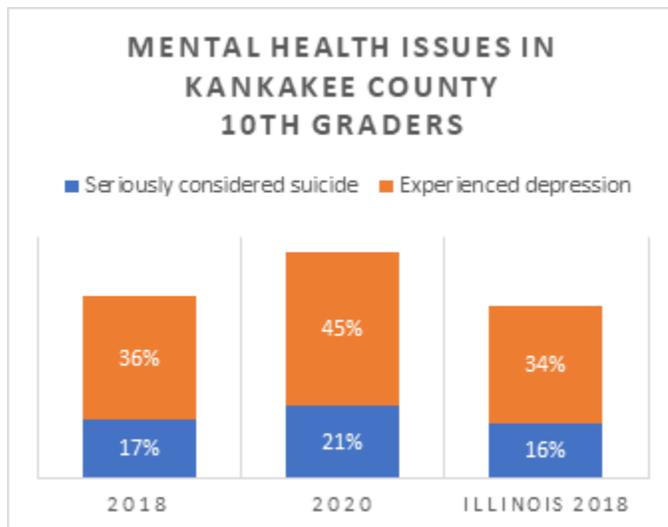
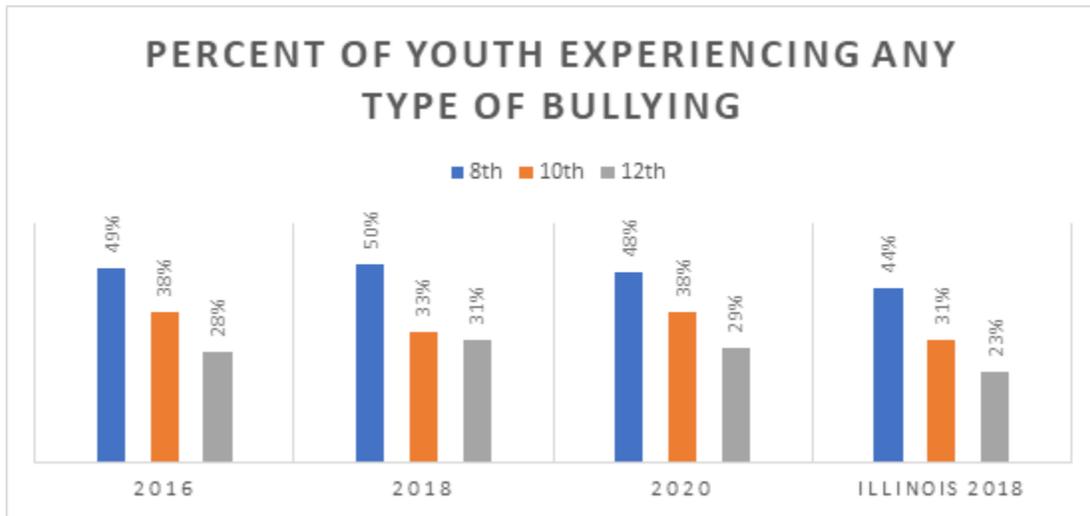


Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2007-2019.

Child & Youth Mental Health

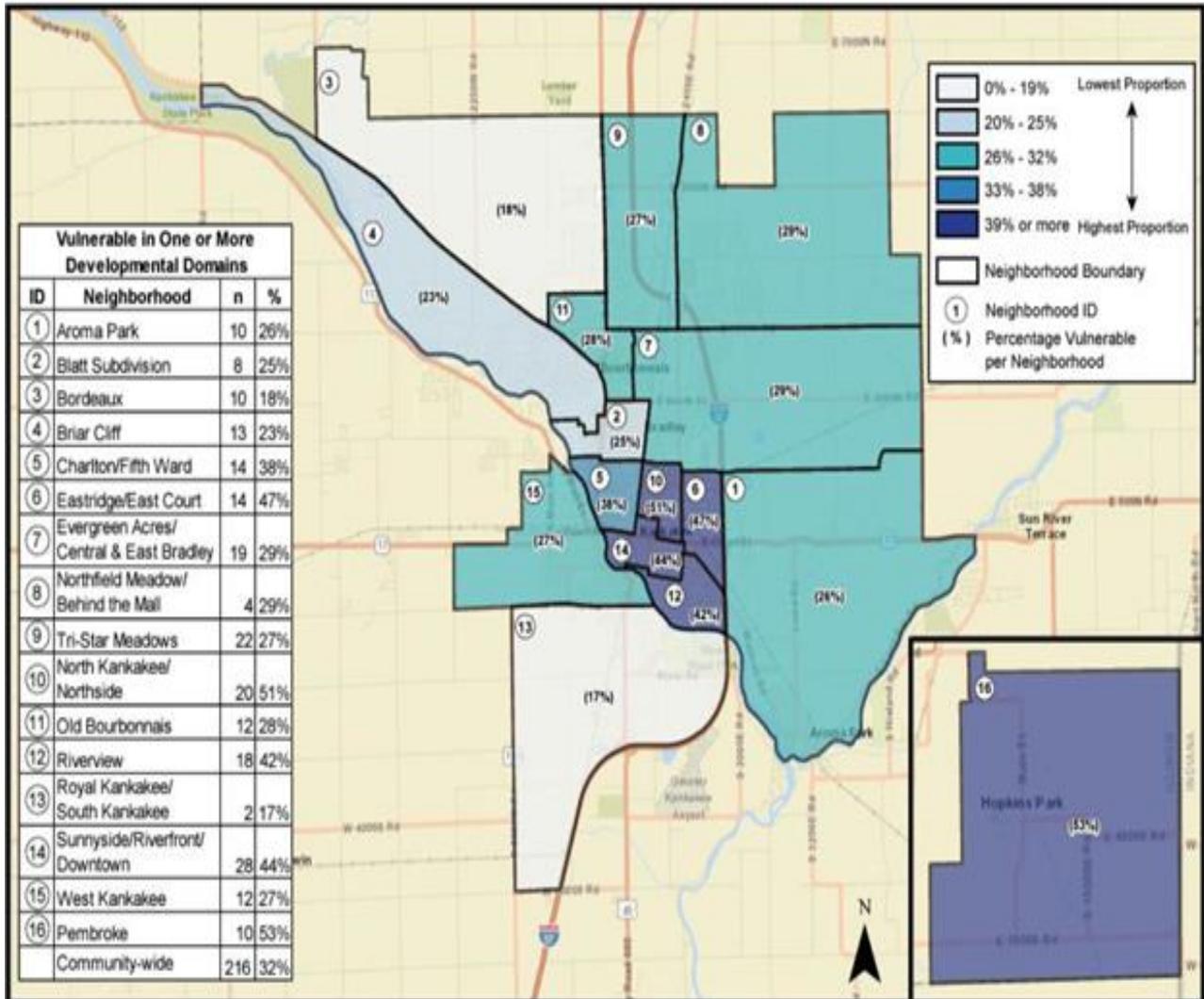
The Illinois Youth Survey captures self-reported data among 8th, 10th, and 12th grade students throughout the Kankakee County school system. Nearly 50% of youth in 8th are reporting being bullied, which has remained consistent since 2016. More 10th and 12th grade youth are experiencing depression (45%; 40%) and thoughts of suicide (21%; 15%) in 2020.

The Early Development Instrument was used to determine Kindergarten readiness in school districts within Kankakee County during the 2016-2017 (Wave 1) school year and 2018-2019 school year (Wave 2). More students are at risk and vulnerable in Wave 2 with the highest percentage developmentally vulnerable in Pembroke (53%) and Kankakee (51%). Language, cognitive development, and emotional maturity are the most vulnerable domains in Wave 2.

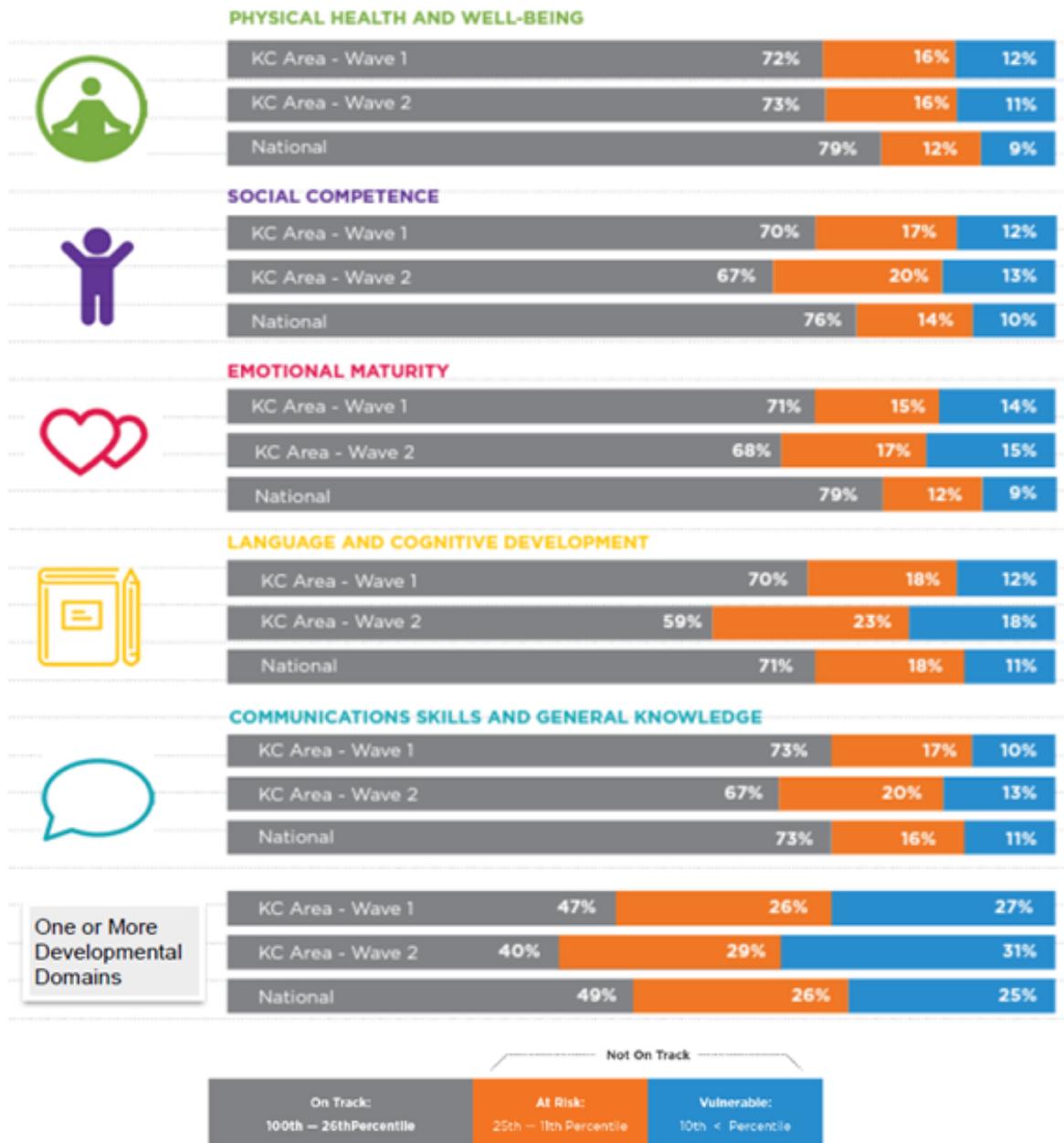


Source: Illinois Youth Survey, 2018-2020.

EDI Results of Children Vulnerable in One or more Domains



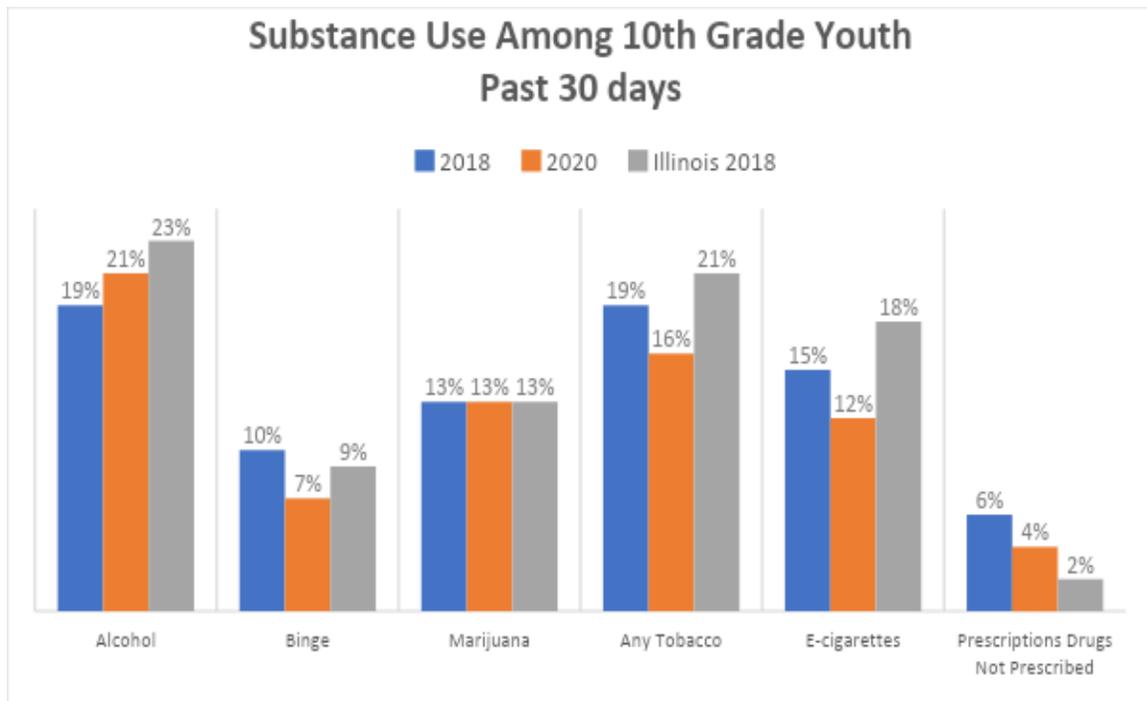
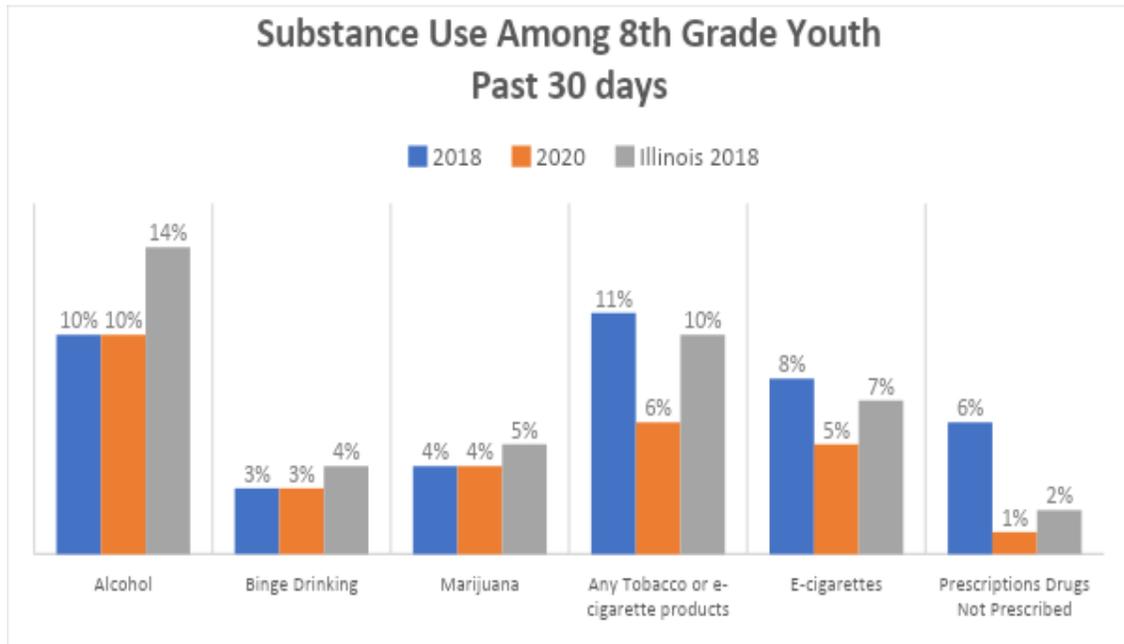
Kankakee EDI Comparison Wave 1 (Kankakee County 2017), Wave 2 (Kankakee County 2019) National EDI (2017) Results

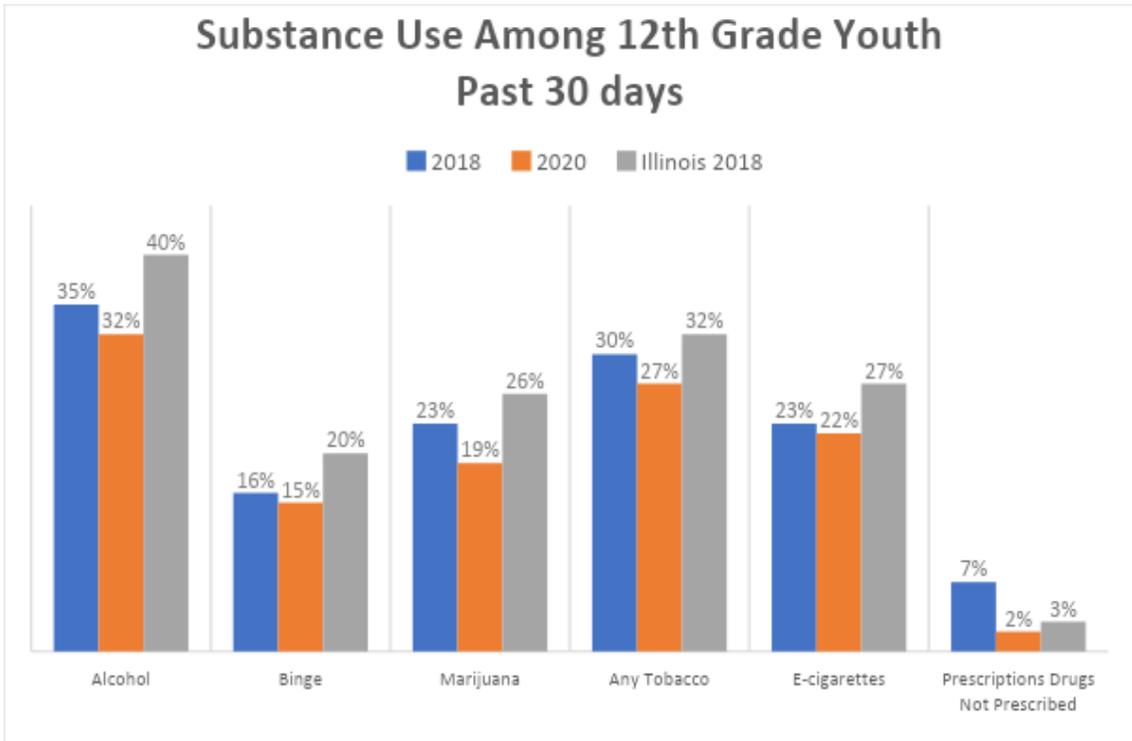


Source: Erikson Institute Early Development Instrument Data, 2016-2019.

Youth Substance Use

Alcohol is the most common substance used among youth. Ten percent of 8th graders, 21% of 10th graders, and 32% of 12th graders self-report using alcohol in the past 30 days. Marijuana use has remained stable (4%; 13%) for 8th and 10th graders since 2018, but has decreased among 12th graders (19%).

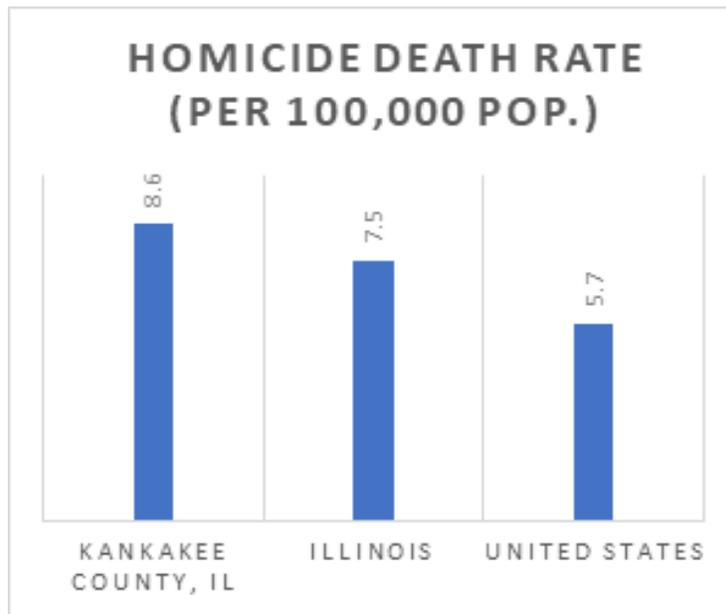
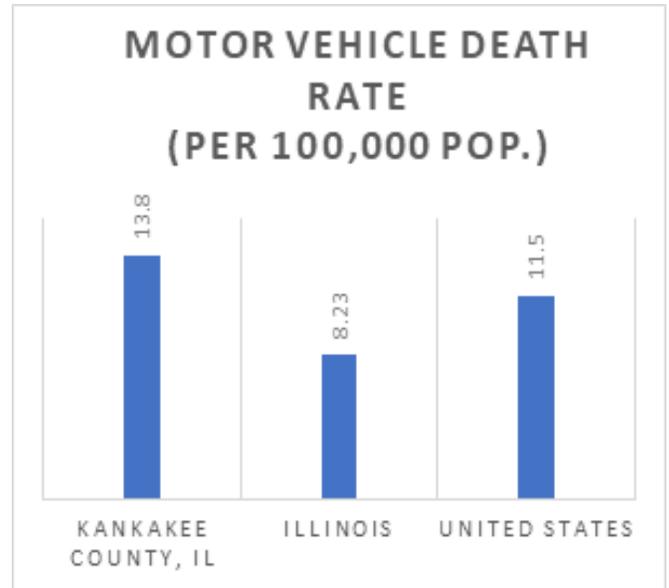
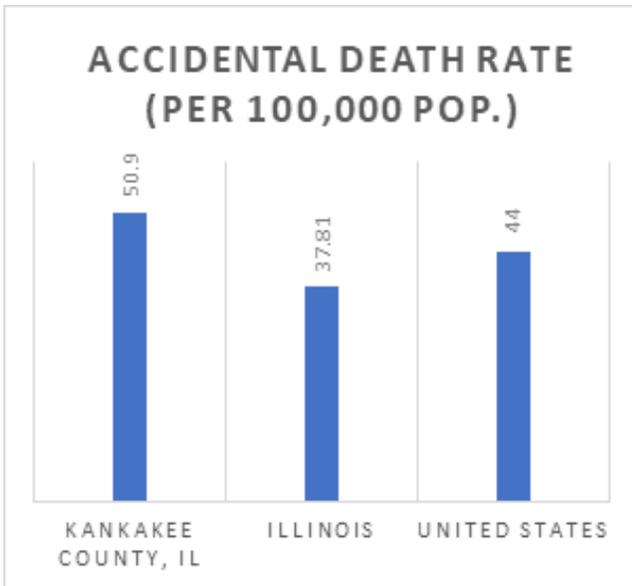




Source: Illinois Youth Survey, 2018-2020.

Violence & Safety

Accidents are the third leading cause of deaths in Kankakee County. The accidental death rate (50.9 per 100,000 population), the motor vehicle death rate (138 per 100,000 population) and the homicide death rate (8.6 per 100,000) are all higher than the Illinois and United States rates respectively.



Source: National Vital Statistics, 2013-2017.

Community Survey Findings

Mental health and substance abuse issues were a top concern on the recent Community Themes and Strengths Assessment survey. Respondents identified significant behavioral health concerns for Kankakee County as illegal drug use, violence, depression/ anxiety along with other mental health issues, and youth violence, bullying, and gangs. The top health issue that residents identified experiencing at home was depression and anxiety followed by other mental health issues. Respondents identified depression/ anxiety, other mental health issues, youth violence, and illegal drug abuse as “large problems” in their community. Many respondents identified these behavioral health concerns increasing in their community since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Further detail from open responses identified subjects for concern in Kankakee County, as listed: Suicide, accessing mental health providers, mental health in communities of color, and STD rates.

In the open comments, many respondents referenced the lack of local community resources available to residents including the lack of mental health services. The need for increased prevention and treatment of substance abuse disorders and mental health support groups was also commonly mentioned. Respondents also mentioned the issue being more prevalent in rural areas of Kankakee County.

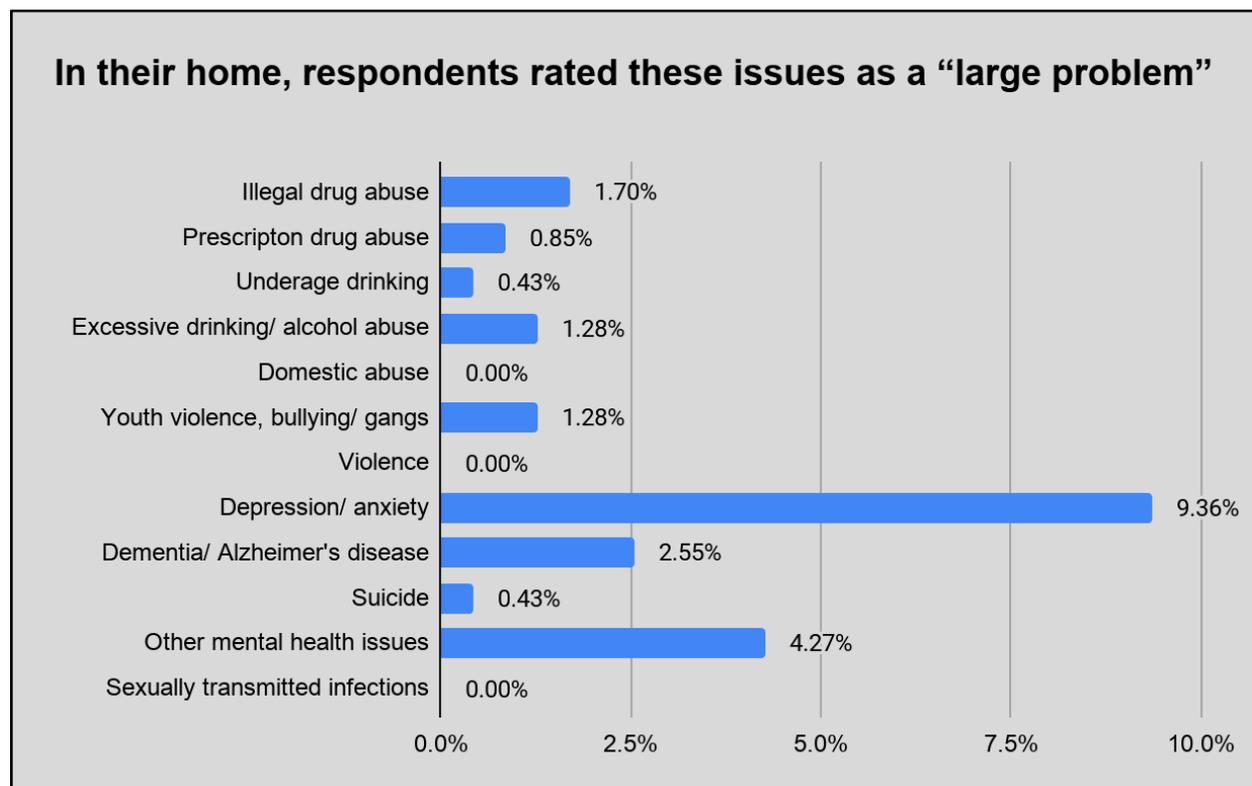
Violence and safety were a concern reported across the Community Themes and Strengths Assessment as over fifty percent of respondents rated the community safety as poor or fair. Thirty-one percent of respondents in the open comments mentioned the issue of not feeling safe in their neighborhood or in parts of the county, and the prevalence of crime in Kankakee County. Gun violence, drugs, and gang activity, particularly in the city of Kankakee, is of significant concern to many of the respondents.

Over twenty percent of the survey respondents identified that they struggled more with their mental health and/or felt an enhanced sense of isolation during the pandemic. These feelings stemmed from the sense of others not taking the pandemic seriously, people’s judgement on how to manage life with COVID-19 and having to protect themselves or keep high risk relatives safe from the virus.

Figure 3.1 Top Health Issues

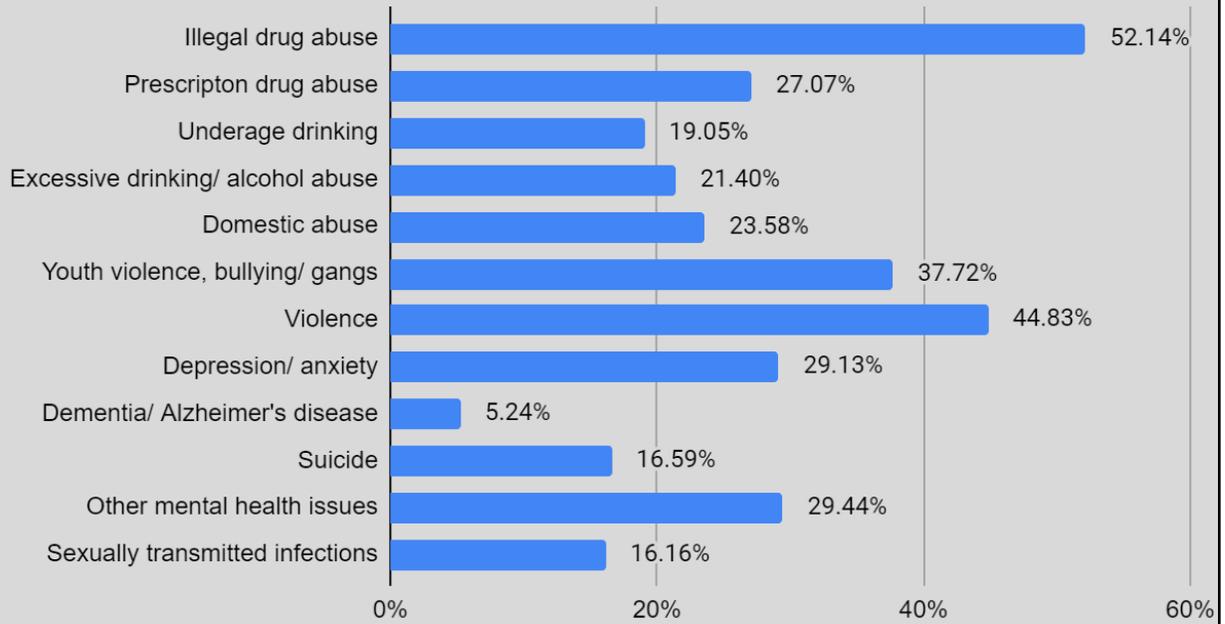
In their Home	In their Neighborhood or Community	In your community since the COVID-19 pandemic	In Kankakee County
1. Depression/ anxiety	1. Other mental health issues	1. Depression/ anxiety	1. Illegal drug abuse
2. Other mental health issues	2. Depression/ anxiety	2. Other mental health issues	2. Violence
3. Dementia/ Alzheimer's disease	3. Youth violence, bullying/ gangs	3. Illegal drug abuse	3. Youth violence, bullying/ gangs
4. Illegal drug abuse	4. Illegal drug abuse	4. Youth violence, bullying/ gangs	4. Other mental health issues
5. Excessive drinking/ alcohol abuse and Youth violence, bullying/ gangs	5. Excessive drinking/ alcohol abuse	5. Violence	5. Depression/ anxiety

Source: Kankakee County Community Themes and Strengths Assessment, 2021.



Source: Kankakee County Community Themes and Strengths Assessment, 2021.

In Kankakee County, respondents rated these issues as a “large problem”



Source: Kankakee County Community Themes and Strengths Assessment, 2021.

Key Findings of Strategic Issue: Education and Employment

Overview

Education is an important social determinant of health because the rate of poverty is higher among those without a high school diploma or high school equivalency exam (GED). Individuals without a high school education are at a higher risk of developing certain chronic illnesses, such as diabetes as well as have less employment opportunities at higher wage rates. The median family income has increased in Kankakee County, but disparities exist among race and ethnicity. Poverty is a social determinant of health that can create barriers to accessing health services, healthy food, and other necessities needed for good health status. It can also affect housing status, educational opportunities, an individual’s physical environment, and health behaviors.

Unemployment can create financial instability, and, as a result, can create barriers to accessing healthcare services, insurance, healthy foods, and other basic needs. The effects of COVID-19 pandemic on unemployment and loss of insurance are on the horizon. The unemployment rate for Kankakee County (5.4) has declined since 2010 but is still higher than the rates for Illinois (4.3) and the U.S. (3.9). Respondents to the community survey identified lack of higher-wage jobs as a significant issue that impacts the quality of life in Kankakee County.

Specific priority needs and populations identified in the assessment process include:

Priority Needs	Target Populations
Increase youth workforce development program opportunities that increase job readiness and interpersonal skill development.	High School Youth Low Income populations Residents in Kankakee (city) and Pembroke Township
Expand career ladder programs in local businesses and organizations to retain higher level positions with competitive benefits in the community.	Adults Labor Workforce
Close the technology gap needed to stay connected to sustain education and workforce opportunities.	Youth Adults Labor Workforce Low Income populations
Increase education and training to reduce unconscious bias in the educational and workplace settings.	Youth Adults Labor Workforce

Better data to define and prioritize education and employment gaps, including community input, to identify populations most affected, and monitor progress.	All populations
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Assessment Findings

The Forces of Change Assessment identified the lack of quality job opportunities, qualified workforce and technology as major concerns in Kankakee County. Opportunities pinpointed in this assessment include:

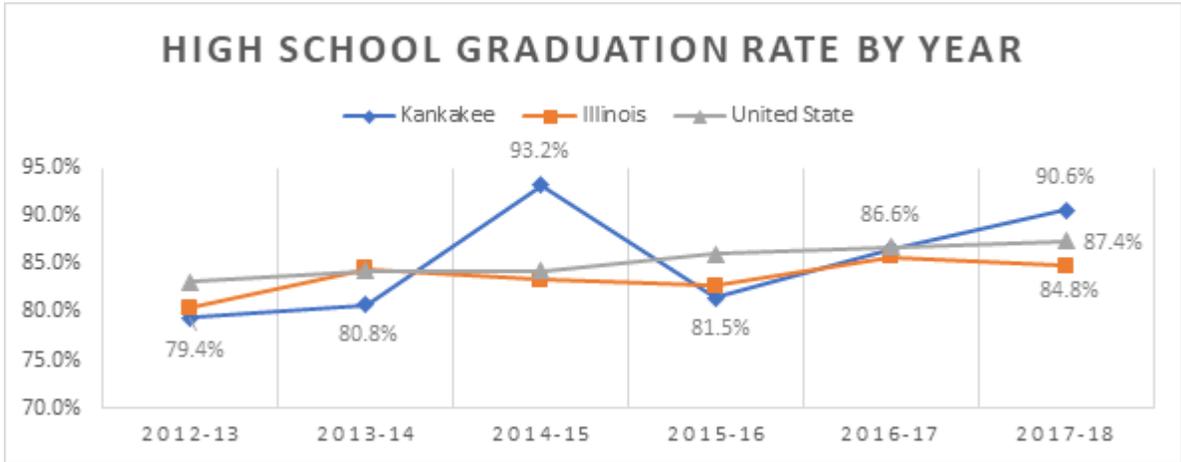
- Support small businesses that are struggling due to the pandemic.
- Create more jobs within the community including those with advancement opportunities and competitive benefits.
- Utilizing technology to stay connected, provide telehealth services, sustain education and workforce.
- Engage the community in racial and cultural sensitivity training opportunities.
- Provide additional technology for the underserved and rural areas.
- Provide resources for students and others who are struggling to navigate technology.

The Community Health Status Assessment data identified numerous indicators that identified this social determinant as a top health concern.

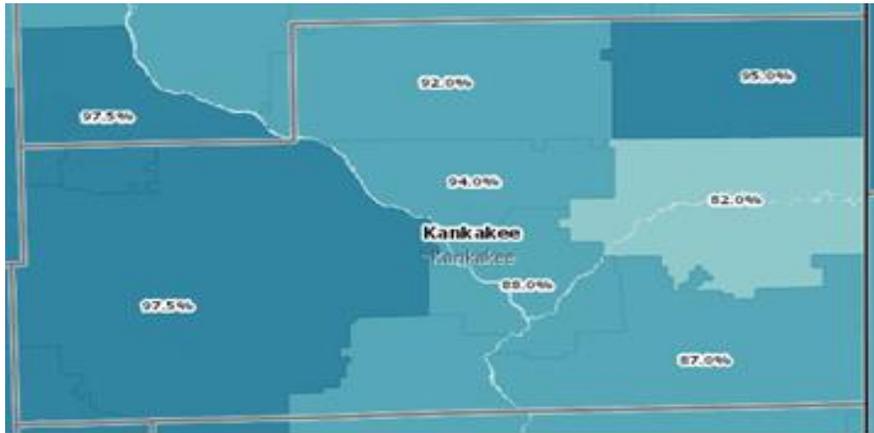
Education

Education achievement is an indicator associated with employment, higher income, healthcare access and healthy behaviors. Overall, there is a lower percent of the Kankakee population that has not received a high school diploma within four years (9.4%) than in Illinois (15.6%) and the US (12.2%). Disparities exist among race and ethnicity in obtaining a high school diploma in Kankakee County. The associated map indicates areas in the center (Kankakee City) and southeast corner (Pembroke Township) where fewer high school students graduate on time.

Significantly less Kankakee County residents (20.9%) have obtained a bachelor’s degree than Illinois (34%) or US residents (31.5%). However, the number of residents that have obtained a bachelor’s degree has grown from 18.8% (2015) to 20.9% (2018) in Kankakee County.



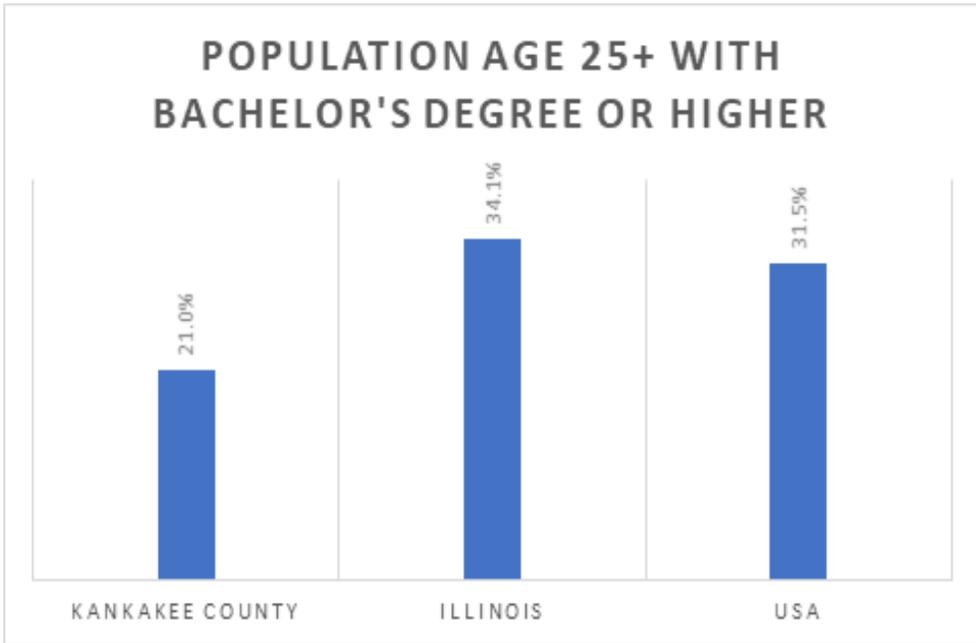
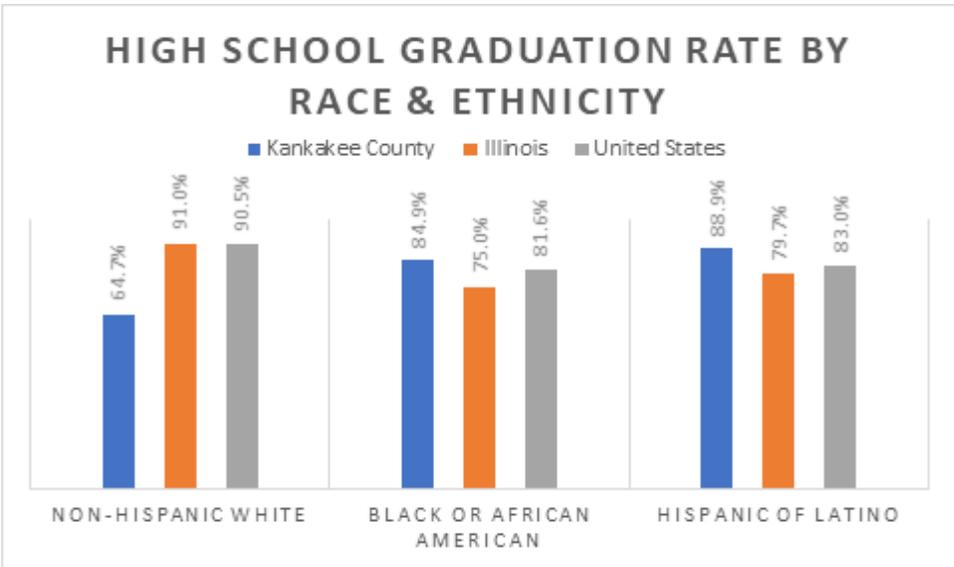
Source: Us Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012-2018.



On-Time Graduation, Rate by School District (Secondary), ED Facts 2017-18



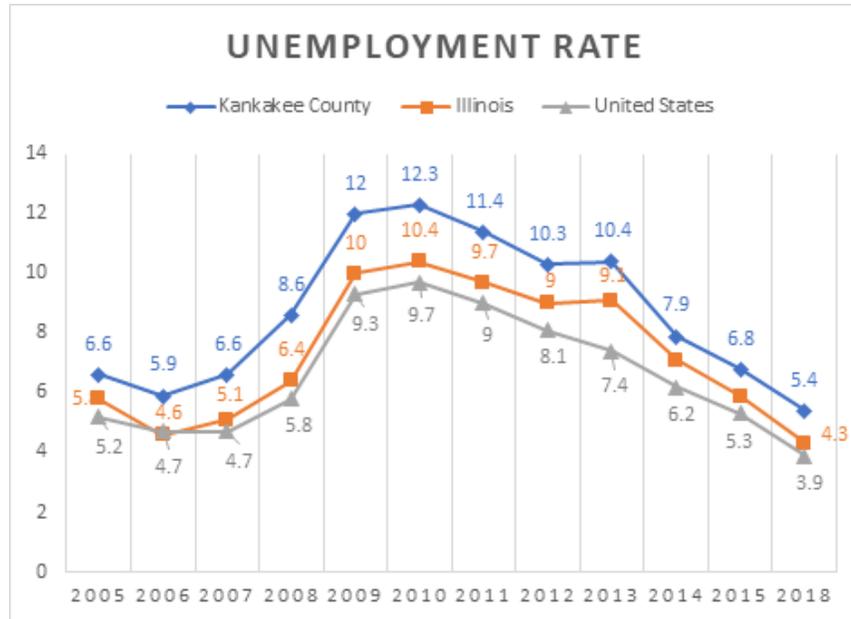
Source: CARES Engagement Network, 2017-2018.



Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014-2018

Unemployment Rates

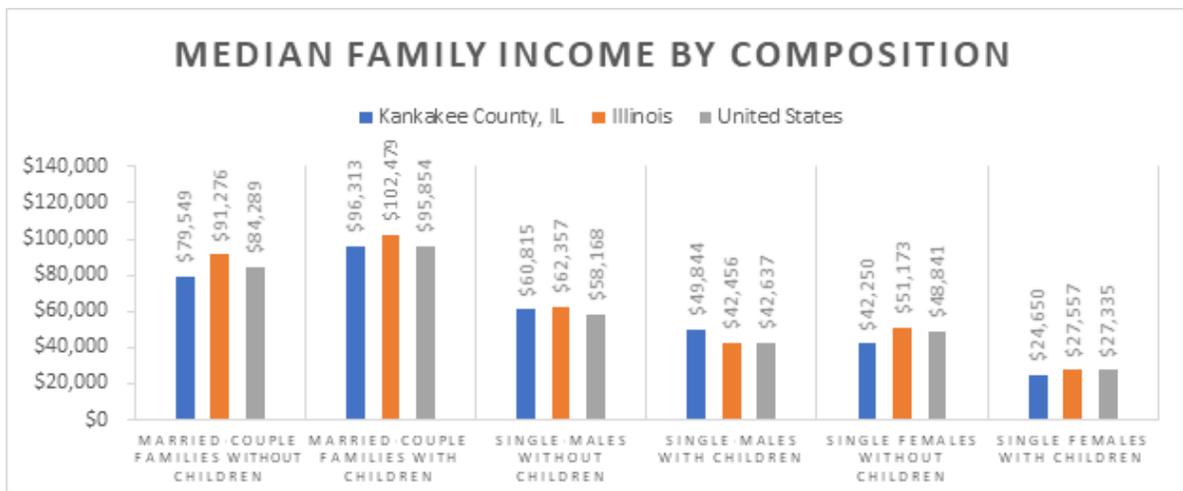
The unemployment rate is the number of civilian, non-institutionalized individuals aged 16 and older (non-seasonally adjusted) per 100,000 population. The unemployment rate for Kankakee County is higher (5.4) than Illinois (4.3) and the US (3.9). This rate follows the rate trend in the past 10 years but has consistently remained higher than the Illinois and US rates.



Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2019.

Income

Income is measured as any housing unit in which someone is living with one or more individuals related to him or her by birth, marriage, or adoption, and includes the income of all family members 15 years of age and older. The median family income is significantly less than that of the income for Illinois residents, and slightly less than the US population. The median family income has increased (\$71,508) since the last assessment (\$63,716). The median family income is highest among Asians and lowest among black populations.



Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014-2018.

Community Survey Findings

Lack of sufficient jobs as well as low-wage jobs were top concerns on the Community Themes and Strengths Assessment survey. Nearly 30% of respondents identified lack of high-wage jobs as a significant issue that impacts the quality of life in Kankakee County.

It was noted in the responses that many of the jobs available are low paying and do not offer benefits. Several individuals described having a job that does not pay enough to support their family or having to go out of the county to find a job that was able to support them. Many respondents described the need for more local businesses requiring a variety of knowledge and skill capabilities. Being able to find good jobs and live in a healthy economy was the third most important social issue on the survey.

Inequalities in schools depending on location within the county were noted in resident comments. Among all four survey settings, residents identified being able to go to a good school as one of the top five most important social issues. Some open comments noted the need for additional resources and support for parents.

Figure 3.2 Top Social Issues

In their Home	In their Neighborhood or Community	In your community since the COVID-19 pandemic	In Kankakee County
1. Access to interpreter services*	1. Access to interpreter services*	1. Residents are able to participate in arts, culture, and community events	1. Residents are able to participate in arts, culture, and community events
2. Youth (under 18 years of age) residents practice healthy behaviors and lifestyles	2. Residents are able to participate in arts, culture, and community events	2. Access to interpreter services*	2. Access to interpreter services*
3. Residents are able to go to good schools	3. Residents have transportation	3. Residents are able to go to good schools	3. Residents are able to find good jobs and live in a healthy economy
4. Those with disabilities have access to services	4. Residents are able to go to good schools	4. Residents are able to participate in recreational activities	4. Residents are able to go to good schools
5. Residents find importance in religious or spiritual values	5. Residents find importance in racial/ ethnic diversity	5. Residents find importance in racial/ ethnic diversity	5. Residents find importance in racial/ ethnic diversity

Source: Kankakee County Community Themes and Strengths Assessment, 2021.

References

Reference	Website Link
American Community Survey	https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/
Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2006-2019.	https://www.cdc.gov/brfss/index.html
CARES Engagement Network	https://www.communitycommons.org/entities/97daac2a-0476-4c9b-be05-c87d59c7b8ba
Center for Disease Control and Prevention	https://www.cdc.gov/
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services	https://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/OMH/OMH-Mapping-Medicare-Disparities
County Health Rankings & Roadmaps	https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/
Erikson Institute	https://www.erikson.edu/policyleadership/early-development-instrument-edi/
Illinois Department of Public Health, I Query	https://iquery.illinois.gov/iquery/
Illinois Youth Survey	https://iys.cprd.illinois.edu/
Kankakee County Community Health Status Assessment 2020	https://www.kankakeehealth.org/documents/about-3/community-health-needs-assessment-and-improvement-plan-1/mapp/2021-2/469-community-health-status-assessment-2/file
Kankakee County Community Themes and Strengths Assessment 2021	https://www.kankakeehealth.org/documents/about-3/community-health-needs-assessment-and-improvement-plan-1/mapp/2021-2/470-community-themes-and-strengths-assessment-1/file
Kankakee County Coroner's Office	https://www.kankakeecountycoroner.org/
Kankakee County Forces of Change Assessment 2021	https://www.kankakeehealth.org/documents/about-3/community-health-needs-assessment-and-improvement-plan-1/mapp/2021-2/471-forces-of-change-assessment-2/file
National Center for Education Statistics	https://nces.ed.gov/
National Vital Statistics System	https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/index.htm
US Bureau of Labor Statistics	https://www.bls.gov/
US Census Bureau	https://www.census.gov/
US Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service	https://www.ers.usda.gov/
US Department of Health & Human Services	https://www.hhs.gov/
US Diabetes Surveillance System	https://gis.cdc.gov/grasp/diabetes/diabetesatlas.html

Appendix A

Community Health Status Assessment

Executive Summary

Based on the information gathered through this Community Health Status Assessment and the guidelines set forth in Healthy People 2020, the following “areas of opportunity” represent the significant health needs of the community.

Areas of Opportunity Identified by the Kankakee County Community Health Status Assessment

Area of Opportunity	Data Identified	Target Population
Cancer	#2 Leading cause of death	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All of Kankakee County ● African American/Black
	Higher rate for colon/rectum and lung cancer than state and national average	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All of Kankakee County
	Higher rate of breast cancer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Females
	Higher rate of cervical cancer	
	Lack of updated data on colorectal cancer screening	All of Kankakee County
Diabetes	#7 leading Cause of Death	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All of Kankakee County
	Increase in adults who have been told they have diabetes from previous years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All of Kankakee County
Health Behaviors	Increase in adults who report they were not physically active	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adults of KC
	Increase in obesity rates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kankakee County Adults
	Higher chlamydia rates than state average	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● African American/Black
	Increase in Gonorrhea Rates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● African American/Black
	Increase in Youth substance misuse rates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 12th Grade Students
	Obesity rates higher than state average	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 10th and 12th Grade Students
Heart Disease	#1 leading cause of death	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All of Kankakee County ● African American/Black
	Mortality from all heart disease higher than state and national average	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All of Kankakee County ● Males ● African American/Black

	High prevalence of Heart disease compared to state average	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older Adults (65+)
	High prevalence of Medicare use for hypertension and high cholesterol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All of Kankakee County • Older Adults (65+)
Mental Health	Increased number of suicides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All of Kankakee County
	Increase in report of experiencing depression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicare Population
	Increase in youth who experienced depression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10th and 12th Grade Students
	Increase in youth who seriously considered suicide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10th grade students
	Youth experiencing bullying higher than state average	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8th, 10th and 12th Grade students
Oral Health	Low prevalence of on time dental exams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All of Kankakee County
	Lack of accessible data for oral health visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kankakee County Youth (17 and under)
Premature Death	Rate of life lost and premature deaths increasing and higher than state and national average	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African American/Black
	Accidental Death #2 leading cause of death	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All of Kankakee County • Males
	Lower life expectancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African American/Black
	Motor vehicle deaths higher than state and national average.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Males
	Higher prevalence of Homicides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Males • African American/Black
	Increasing overdose death rates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caucasian • 30-60 years old • Zip Codes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60901 • 60950 • 60914
	Higher rate of unintentional injury than state and national average	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Males • Caucasian • African American/Black

Social Determinants of Health

The CDC defines Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) as conditions in the places where people live, learn, work, and play affect a wide range of health risks and outcomes.

Social determinants of health are conditions in the environments in which people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks. SDOH includes both social and physician conditions.

Examples of SDOH including:

- Access to health and health care
- Economic Stability
- Education
- Neighborhood and Built Environment
- Social and Community Context



Areas of Opportunity Identified by the Kankakee County Community Health Status Assessment that Correlates with the Social Determinants of Health

Social Determinant of Health	Data Identified	Target Population
Access to Health	High percentage of adults with Medicaid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults ages 18-64
	Disproportionate uninsured population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Males • Age group 18-64 • Hispanic/LatinX • African American/Black
	Higher population of disabled adults than state and national average	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older Adults (65+) 60940 60944 60958 60950 60901 central and west
	Low primary care physician ratio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All of Kankakee County
	Mental Health Provider Shortage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All of Kankakee County • Youth and Adolescents
	Increase in older adult population (65+)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asian • Female • Zip codes: 60950, East and South 60901 60944 60958

Economic Stability	Low access to food stores	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zip code/area level data (EDI Data)
	Higher prevalence of poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native American/Alaskan Native • African American/Black • Hispanic/ LatinX, • Older adults (65+)
	Average unemployment rate higher than state and national average	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All of Kankakee County
	Increase in population below 100% Poverty level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African American/Black • Hispanic/LatinX • Older adults (65+) • Zip Codes: 60901 Central and Southwest 60914 60915 60944 60958
	Children below 100% Poverty level higher than state and national average	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African American • Zip Codes: 60901 60914 60915 60944 60958
	Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch (50% or higher)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kankakee School District • Lorenzo R. Smith Academy • St. Anne School District • Momence School District • Bradley West Elementary School • Bradley Middle School
	Higher Percentage of households receiving SNAP benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All of Kankakee County
Education	Disproportionate On-Time Graduation Rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African American/ Black • Hispanic/LatinX • South Eastern and Central Portion of Kankakee County
	Population with bachelor's degree or Higher lower than state and national average	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural Kankakee County
	Children Vulnerable in One or more developmental Domain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zip Codes: 60901 Central 60944 60958
Neighborhood and Built Environment	Substandard Housing Units (greater than 34%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zip codes: 60950, East and North 60901 60944 60958
	Cost burdened households (30%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zip codes: 60950 60901

		60914 60944 60958
	Use of public transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central region of Kankakee County
Social and Community Context	Incarceration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> African American/ Black Hispanic Males 22-40 Age Group

HEALTHY PEOPLE 2020

Category Definition: Healthy People 2020 (HP2020) includes a set of 10-year national goals and objectives to improve the health of Americans. The HP2020 framework provides guidance and action steps to address health issues to improve health behaviors and outcomes. Leader Health Indicators (LHI) are high priority issues included in the HP2020 goals. The table below indicates the LHI with available data for Kankakee County, and how Kankakee County compares to Illinois, the US, and the HP2020 targets.

■ Meeting HP2020 Target
 ■ Not Meeting HP2020 Target

Leading Health Indicator Category	HP2020 Target	Kankakee County	Illinois	United States
ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES				
Persons with medical insurance (Percent, <65 years)	100%	93.4%	87%	85%
Persons with a usual primary care provider	83.9%	86.6%	82%	76.4%
Adults receiving colorectal cancer screening based on the most recent guidelines	70.5%	61.9% (2014)	69.1% (2018)	66.8% (2018)
INJURY AND VIOLENCE				
Homicides (Age-adjusted, per 100,000 population)	5.5	8.6	7.5	5.5
MATERNAL, INFANT, AND CHILD HEALTH				
All Infant Deaths (Rate per 1,000 live births <1 Year)	6.0	8.1	6.3	5.7
Total preterm live births Percent, <37 weeks gestation)	9.4%	10.3%	10.7%	10.3% (2017)
MENTAL HEALTH				
Suicides (Age-adjusted per 100,000 population)	10.2	10.1	10.5	13.3
NUTRITION, PHYSICAL ACTIVITY, AND OBESITY				
Obesity among adults (Age-adjusted, percent 20+)	30.5%	41.4%	29.4%	28.8%
Obesity among adolescents	16.1%	12.7%	10.7%	18.5%

EDUCATION				
Students graduating from high school 4 years after starting 9 th grade	87%	90.6%	87%	85%
SUBSTANCE ABUSE				
Binge drinking in past month – Adults	24.2%	17%	19.5%	26.5%
TOBACCO				
Adults cigarette smoking (Age-adjusted, percent, 18+ years)	12%	14.8%	15.5%	16.1%
Adolescent cigarette smoking in past 30 days (Percent, grades 9-12)	16%	4%	3.5%	5.8%

Appendix B

Community Themes and Strengths Assessment Executive Summary

A community survey opened to all Kankakee County residents on March 10th, 2021 in an English version and March 25th, 2021 in a Spanish version. Both surveys closed April 13, 2021. As a result, 390 responses were elicited from the community, answering questions on their perceptions of their quality of life, social issues, health issues, and access to health care.

The majority of respondents in this survey are white, non-Hispanic women over the age 35 years of age and are not a representative sample of Kankakee County as a whole. Responses were recorded from every zip code in Kankakee County, except for Hopkins Park (60958), Reddick (60961), and Union Hill (60969). The majority of respondents have lived in Kankakee County longer than 16 years, use English as their primary language, and have taken some college courses or have a college degree.

The majority of respondents perceive life in Kankakee County “good” or “fair” for overall quality of life, “very good” or “good” for quality of environment, and “good” or “fair” for quality of healthcare. The majority of respondents perceive Kankakee County as a “fair” or “good” place to raise children, grow old, and view Kankakee County as a safe community. Comments related to quality of life indicate social concerns related to safety and crime, education, and access to healthcare.

Most respondents rate that they have enough money to pay for needed items (e.g., food, clothing, housing, and medicine), have people they can get help from when needed, and have a sense of responsibility to help improve the health of their community. Respondents rated lower to having a sense of community pride and there being enough jobs in Kankakee County.

Respondents identified areas in which they have experienced any type of discrimination in Kankakee County. The top three areas in which respondents experienced discrimination are at work (36.3%), on the street/ in a public setting (29.2%) and getting hired/ getting a job (26.4%). Additional perceptions of discrimination that were shared through comments are racial discrimination, discrimination related to age, and discrimination within the school setting.

Respondents identified social issues of important concern for community residents. Access to interpreter services was identified as the most important social concern for residents in their home and in their neighborhood or community. These results may be less valid since respondents were not given the option of “not applicable,” even if interpreter services were not needed in their home or neighborhood/ community. Other top social issues of concern for respondents were living in a safe neighborhood, being able to find good jobs, living in a healthy economy, and the ability to participate in arts, culture, and community events. Another area of concern identified in the home of community residents was youth practicing unhealthy behaviors and lifestyles and the community's concern for access to good schools. Respondents’ comments related to this issue include safety, high healthcare costs, and lack of diversity within Kankakee County.

Respondents identified significant health concerns for Kankakee County including depression/ anxiety, other mental health issues, violence, and domestic abuse. Most respondents identify youth violence, alcohol abuse, and illegal drug use as the most significant health issues within their

neighborhood or community. The majority of respondents commented on the lack of resources for mental health, suicide, and Sexually Transmitted Disease as additional health concerns. Many respondents identified health concerns increasing in their community since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The survey captured valuable data on where community members obtain their health information and services within the Kankakee County health system. Most respondents receive health information from a variety of sources, including the internet, their healthcare provider, the local health department, and the newspaper (in print or online). Most respondents visit their private practice healthcare provider when they are sick or in need of Medicare care (85.5%). Forty percent of responses reported using a private healthcare provider for themselves or family when needing mental health care, but over fifty percent reported these services did not apply to them. When residents and their families are in need of dental services 95.3% use a private dentist. Over seventy percent of residents reported no need for prenatal care, however those needing services reported using private practice healthcare providers (26.3%). Many respondents also visit immediate care/ fast care clinics (32.5%) and hospital emergency rooms (27.4%) when they are sick or need medical care. A significant portion of respondent's comments included seeking a variety of healthcare services outside of Kankakee County.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had an effect on health and quality of life in Kankakee County and globally. Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic residents in Kankakee County have reported an increase in feeling anxious, stressed, lonely, and have faced a barrier to regular exercise. Most respondents did report that they were still going to their workplace for the same number of hours as before the pandemic (38.1%). The majority of responses related to changes in medical health care since the COVID-19 pandemic noted no major changes, however, some noted mild changes such as the use of telehealth appointments or delays in care.

The following themes were identified by survey respondents as perceived issues that need to be addressed in Kankakee County:

- Discrimination
- Healthcare: High cost and lack of access
- High rates of crime, violence, and bullying
- Jobs: Lack of jobs and low-wage jobs
- Lack of community resources
- Mental illness and substance abuse

Appendix C

Forces of Change Assessment

Executive Summary

The Forces of Change Assessment (FOCA) survey elicited broad community input to identify forces of change impacting the local public health system in Kankakee County. Community members reported on current trends, events, and factors that may have implications on the local public health system and quality of life for Kankakee County residents. FOCA participants also addressed threats and opportunities posed by each of the three major forces they identified.

An analysis of the forces reported by community members through the FOCA survey identified these forces that came up more frequently than others in the responses of the top three most impactful forces that were identified by the participants.

- Lack of trust in policymakers and science
- Job and insurance loss due to the pandemic
- COVID-19 social impacts
- Lack of access to healthcare
- Racial divisions and inequality
- Mental health
- Increasing use of virtual technology
- Educational opportunities

Although most of these forces are external influences and cannot be avoided, the survey participants identified many opportunities for each force, which can potentially create positive changes in Kankakee County regarding the issues at hand. Below are some of the notable opportunities that were mentioned for the main forces identified above.

Forces of Change	Opportunities
Lack of trust in policymakers and science	Provide resources to credible unbiased news sources.
	Educate the community on the facts surrounding COVID-19 vaccinations and guidelines.
Job and insurance loss due to the pandemic	Support small businesses that are struggling due to the pandemic.
	Create more jobs within the community including those with advancement opportunities and competitive benefits.
COVID-19 social impacts	Utilizing technology to stay connected, provide telehealth services, sustain education and workforce.
Lack of access to healthcare	Assist underserved areas to reduce barriers to access to care (transportation methods, insurance options,

	affordable treatment options).
	Open new healthcare facilities in underserved areas to make care physically accessible.
	Allocate more funding into healthcare.
Racial divisions and inequality	Work together as a community to acknowledge racial disparities and adjust actions.
	Engage the community in racial and cultural sensitivity training opportunities.
Mental health	Increase opportunities for more affordable treatments.
	Increase outreach and support programs for community members to support each other.
	Reduce stigma behind seeking mental healthcare.
Increasing use of virtual technology	Utilize telehealth for people living in rural areas that cannot travel far to see a provider.
	Provide additional technology for the underserved and rural areas.
Educational opportunities	Provide resources for students and others who are struggling to navigate technology.
	Educate the community on effective ways to live a healthy life with a focus on preventative care.

The FOCA and the other three MAPP assessments are key resources in identifying and prioritizing health issues in Kankakee County. The issues identified through FOCA, as well as the opportunities stemming from them, will inform future strategic planning in Kankakee County to improve the health and overall quality of life of Kankakee County residents.