

The Community Foundation of Southern Indiana surveyed Clark and Floyd county residents, nonprofit community service organizations, business and community leaders, and our own fund holders to develop strategic community goals based on needs and priorities. Information from the needs assessment report will be used to guide the Community Foundation in its grant making to support the community's greatest needs and highest priorities. Basic human needs, education and workforce development, healthful living, economy, arts and culture, and community building were the areas highlighted in the report. While respondents shared that they are proud of this community, its history and culture and they feel safe and enjoy opportunities to engage in the community, they also recognize that more needs to be done to better meet the needs of local residents and build an educated workforce and a strong economy.

Healthful living combines attention to the health of our natural resources, with aspects of built environment that can encourage or facilitate a healthy active lifestyle and educational activities and programming designed to encourage health and wellness.

Community Perceptions of Needs and Priorities

Healthful Living Priorities for Southern Indiana

- 1 – Clean water in our streams and rivers
- 2 – Recreational space, including bike lanes and paths, parks and indoor recreational facilities
- 3 – Access to fresh local produce
- 4 – Air quality
- 5 – Health and wellness education and programs for youth

Natural Resources and Health Behaviors

Clark and Floyd counties are home to abundant natural resources. However, heavy industry, multiple interstates, power generation and the natural dynamics of a valley location converge to generate serious air quality concerns. The area suffers high rates of respiratory illness, likely related to the combination of poor air quality and problematic health behaviors, including smoking. Heavy use of the Ohio River for industry, power and waste removal have left it polluted, and rapidly growing suburban communities are placing heavy demands on water delivery, filtration and sewage systems. The Louisville Metro Area averages more high ozone days that comparable cities in Indiana and over two times more than Indianapolis, which has twice the population.

Contributors to Local Air Pollution

- Increased traffic due to:
 - Lack of public transportation.
 - Located at the crossroads of three major interstates.
 - Mixed rural and suburban location requires longer often solo commutes.
- Power plants/Industry from Evansville, IN as well as Owensboro, KY and Meade County, KY.
- Deforestation to make way for development or agriculture

Average Number of High Ozone Days per Year



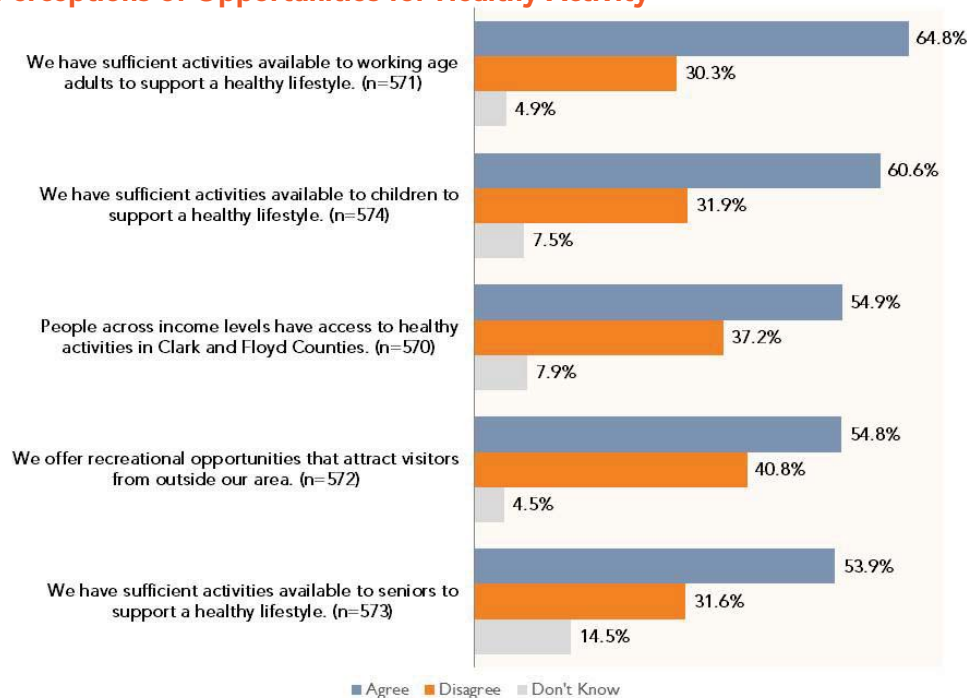
Source: American Lung Association. www.stateoftheair.org. These figures were very recently updated (during the final editing of this report). Note: The numbers you see reflect a decrease in the gap over prior year figures—Louisville high ozone days went down by one day and Indianapolis and Evansville increased by two and three days, respectively. Bloomington did not have data for the most recent year, but had only 2.3 high ozone days in the last data set

Health Behaviors and Outcomes, 2015 County Health Rankings

	Clark	Floyd	Indiana
Health Behaviors	62	60	X
Percent of Adults who Smoke	26%	28%	23%
Percent Physically Inactive	33%	29%	27%
Health Outcomes Rank	63	54	X
Percent Reporting Fair or Poor Health	18%	19%	16%
Physically Unhealthy Days	4.0	4.0	3.6
Mentally Unhealthy Days	4.8	3.7	3.7
Percent Diabetic	13%	10%	11%
Percent Obese	30%	31%	31%
Other Health Factors			
Percent With Access to Exercise Opportunities	83%	94%	75%

- Nearly 60% of respondents rank “Clean and Safe Environment” as a top overall priority.
- 40.4% rank “activities and spaces that create and maintain a community that values health and wellness” as a top overall priority. Recreational space was the number two priority within “healthful living.”
- Within the category of health and wellness, support for water and air quality and fresh local produce are top priorities that require attention to protecting natural resources.
- Respondents see youth as an important focus for health and wellness education.

Perceptions of Opportunities for Healthy Activity



In terms of abundant natural resources, opportunities for active lifestyles and programs to support healthful living, the majority of respondents think the community does well - but public data suggests we are not utilizing those assets to their full potential.



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