

Reason for Assessment

The Community Themes and Strengths Assessment identifies assets in the community and issues that are important to community members. The Community Themes and Strengths Assessment answers three questions:

1. What is important to the community?
2. How is quality of life perceived in the community?
3. What assets does the community have that can be used to improve community health?

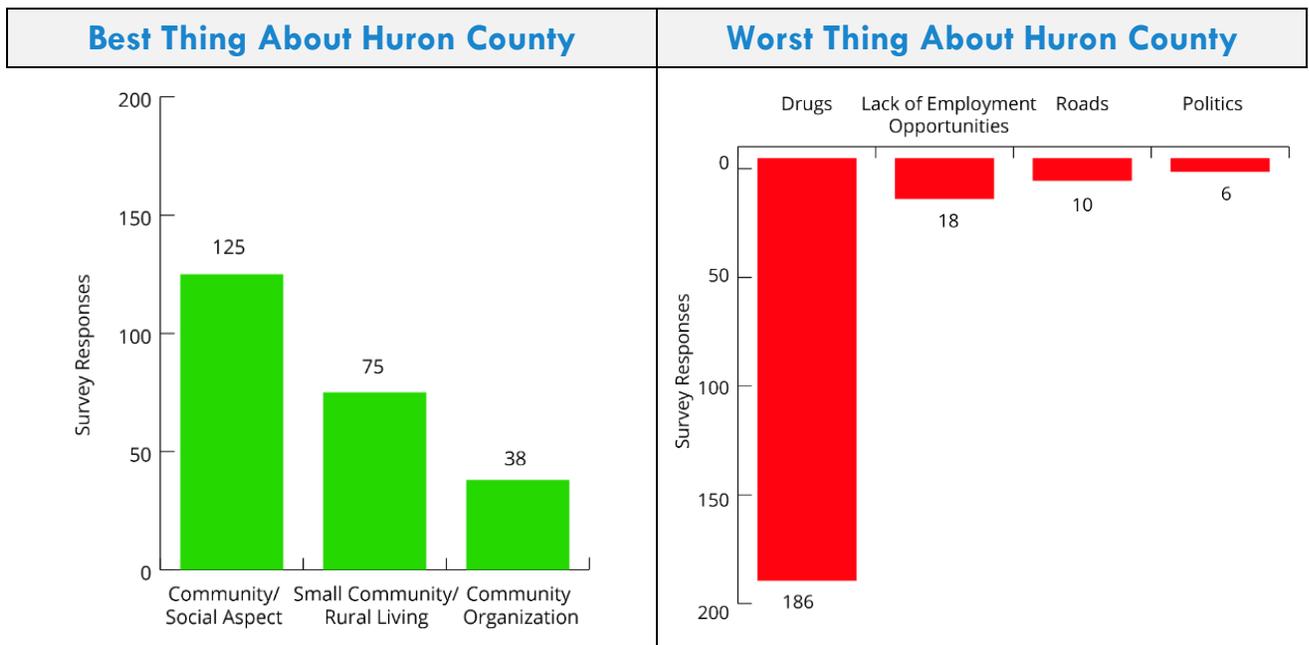
Methodology & Results

Norwalk Area United Fund - The Norwalk Area United Fund held open discussions with individuals and groups for their informal opinions and perceptions about quality of life and health concerns. These groups and individuals were prompted with questions such as, “How do you see the community?” and “If you could change something in your life, what would it be?” The themes from these discussions are contained in the table below. Please note that all community comments are anecdotal.

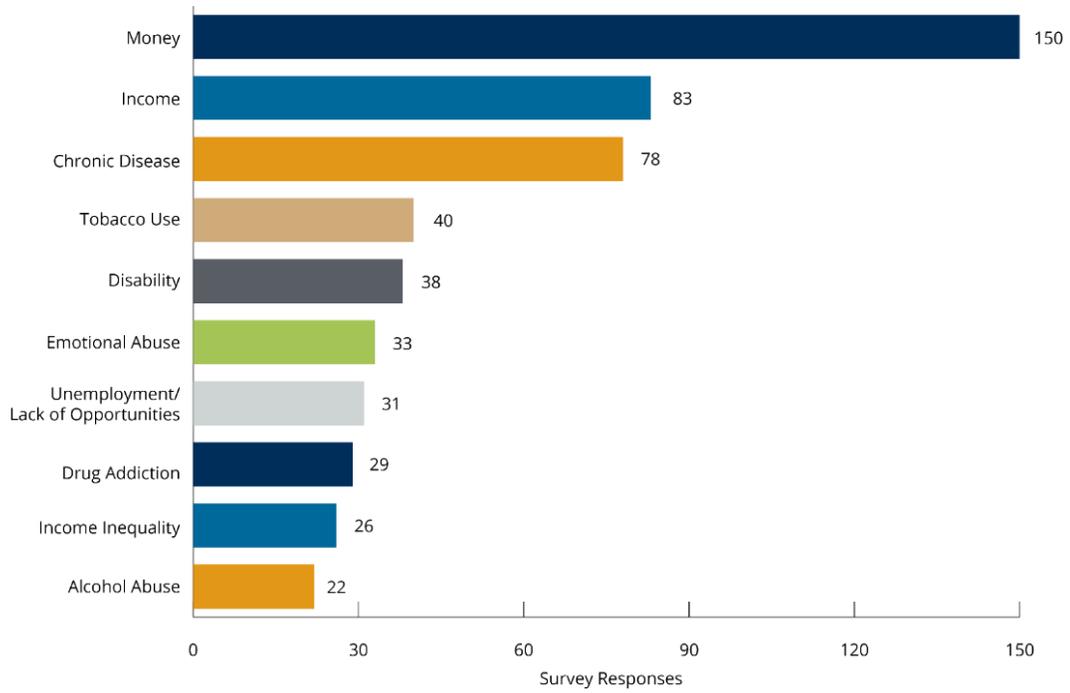
Theme	Community Comments
Community/ Social Aspect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small towns work together - recruit mentors, build relationships to get things done • Relationships are personal • Church activity should be used as a social outlet, giving hope
Community Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60-80% of clients of safety net services have mental health and/or drug issues • There is no step-out program to help people get off of assistance. There have been examples in our community of individuals who refuse raises because of potential loss of benefits • Agencies should work together to help in a more holistic way, not just give stuff out but help people get ahead
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make it a priority for people in poverty to look after themselves - dentist and doctor
Income/ Money	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The federal poverty line is nationwide and does not differentiate between, for example, Kentucky and California • Childcare is expensive and hard to get consistently when working for minimum wage • Pay rates are lower in service jobs • Families (even in two-income households) are struggling to pay bills, childcare, and student loans

Theme	Community Comments
Jobs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Businesses are having a hard time hiring and can't grow if they're always training • Employees can't pass drug tests • Employees who do pass drug tests and get hired are not consistent in attendance or productivity • Employees think they have skills but once hired, businesses find that they don't • Need to make available trainings for what area businesses need - i.e. business/school cooperation • Businesses cooperating to understand the community and educational systems to train potential employees
Seniors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seniors are driving when they shouldn't be • Seniors are living at home alone with dementia
Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People in poverty and the elderly are behind in technology skills and may not have a computer at home or access to internet, yet many forms are online-based. These people would need transportation to the library to use computers, but may not have a library card.
Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't condone bad behavior - call them out on it - it's hard to look bad in front of someone you admire (examples: kids wandering the street, bad language, late hours, kids hanging out at park because parents lock them out of the house until dark) • Help kids to stay away from drugs, make the most of education, keep them busy in area activities using adult mentors for people in poverty (not agency driven or top down but peer-to-peer grassroots). Help kids to stay away from drugs, make the most of education, keep them busy in area activities using adult mentors for people in poverty (not agency driven or top down but peer-to-peer grassroots).

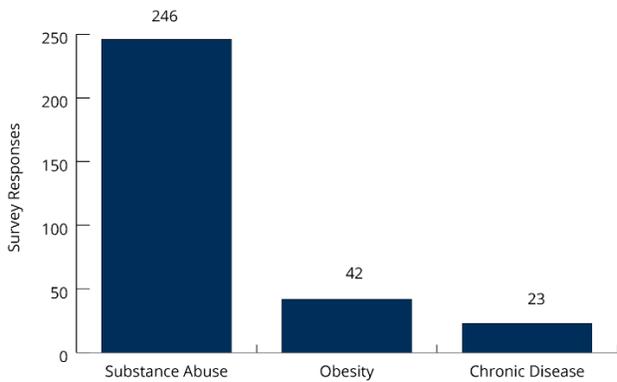
Huron County Public Health - Huron County Public Health surveyed community members at the Huron County Fair. 322 Huron County adults (18+) were surveyed, as well as 57 out-of-county fairgoers. Results from the Huron County Fair are as follows:



Select topics that have had a “big impact” on your life



What is Huron County’s Biggest Health Problem?



What Can Organizations do to Improve the Community’s Health?

