
Community Health Assessment

2013

An Initiative of Wedco District Health Department



Harrison, Nicholas and Scott Counties

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Mobilizing for Action through Planning & Partnerships

Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) is a strategic tool utilized by the three Wedco District Health Department Counties. This tool helps communities work together to improve health and quality of life through community-wide strategic planning. It was developed between 1997 and 2000 by a work group consisting of local health officials, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) representatives, community representatives and academicians. The MAPP model shown below was developed by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) in cooperation with the Public Health Practice Program Office and the CDC. Using the MAPP process, communities identify their resources, take into account their unique circumstances and needs, and form effective partnerships for strategic action.

The illustrated roadmap depicts the roads the community will travel when working with MAPP. The MAPP process consists of six phases, and is initiated when the local public health system (all those concerned about the health and safety of their community, not just the local health department) organizes for the planning process, recruits participants, and prepares to implement MAPP. The second phase is visioning, which provides a framework for pursuing the long-range community goals.



The third phase of MAPP consists of four assessments: Community Themes and Strengths, Local Public Health System, Community Health Status and Forces of Change. These provide critical insights into the challenges and opportunities throughout the community. The assessments assist the participants during the fourth and fifth phases of the MAPP process; identifying the issues the community faces, and then formulating goals and strategies to address each issue.

The next phase of the MAPP process is the action cycle, in which planning, implementation, and evaluation are linked. Though this phase is the sixth and final phase of the process, it is not the “end” of the process. This is where the efforts in the previous phases begin to process results visible to all in the community.

Executive Summary

The Wedco District MAPP project began in the Spring of 2011 and is supported by the Wedco District Health Department. Committee members followed a community health improvement planning model developed by NACCHO in cooperation with CDC, called Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP). The committees assessed Cynthiana/Harrison County, Carlisle/Nicholas County, and Georgetown/Scott County individually for their strengths and needs and formulated a plan to address identified concerns.



Data collected during the four MAPP assessments: Community Themes & Strengths Assessment, Local Public Health System Assessment, Community Health Status Assessment and Forces of Change Assessment; informed the entire process. Wedco MAPP is continuously organizing for success through partnership development and began by conducting organizational meetings and determining a vision for each community. Wedco MAPP analyzed all assessment data, identified priority health issues and created a plan specifying program, policy, systems and environmental change strategies to improve the health of each Wedco county.

This document presents the findings of the four MAPP assessments that were initially collected by MAPP committee members between July 2011 and December 2012.

The Wedco District Health Department and the Community Health Partners of each county in the district are committed to making a positive difference in the health and safety concerns of the citizens. The goal of the Partners is to prioritize public health issues and identify resources to address health, safety and quality of life issues using the MAPP model.

The Partners consist of representatives from a broad cross-section of each county's service providers, as well as active community members. Without their commitment and dedication to the process, this project could not have been possible.

County Assessment Committee Members

Harrison County

Becky Allen
Zona Babb
Alex Barnett
Angela Burns
Kathy Brown
Gary Brunker
Traci Carr
Rose Clifford
Penny Coleman
Connie Copes
Linda Huesing
Chief Ray Johnson
Bob Laytart
Missy Lutz
Lauren Mattox
Steve Moses
Rachel Northcutt
Julie Plummer
Lisa Ramsey
Wendy Reeder
Martha Short
Ed Taylor
Angel Wagner

Bullard
Harrison Memorial Hospital
Harrison County Judge Executive
Bluegrass Rape Crisis Center
Cedar Ridge Heath Campus
Cynthiana City Commissioner
Cynthiana Vision Center
Harrison Memorial Hospital
Harrison Memorial Hospital
Housing Authority of Cynthiana
Bullard
Cynthiana Police Department
Cynthiana E-911
Harrison Fiscal Court Magistrate
Maysville Community College/Licking Valley
Cynthiana City Mayor
Family Court System
Blue Grass Energy
Hospice of the Bluegrass
Harrison Memorial Hospital
Housing Authority
Harrison County Board of Education
Family Court System

Wedco District Health Department Employees:

Greg Bolin
Debbie Bradford
Spencer Cathey
Crystal Caudill-Miller
Tony Hall
Elizabeth Ritchey
Janie Whitehead

Health Environmentalist
Clinic Nurse Supervisor
Director of Administrative Services
Director of Public Health
Health Education
HANDS Supervisor
Health Education/Diabetes Program Manager

Nicholas County

John Anderson
Sandy Bailey
Doug Bechanan
Angela Burns
Jennifer Foster
Georgia Gilvin
Shawn Hatton
Paula Hunter
Virginia Kingsolver
Dr. Wendall Kingsolver
Dawn Letcher
Kenneth Lyons
Barry Papania
Angle Scholch
Dr. Bob Sparks
Adam Tubbs

Nicholas County Board of Health
Nicholas County Hospital
Nicholas County Schools
Bluegrass Rape Crisis Center
Nicholas County Hospital
Nicholas County Hospital
Nicholas County Senior Citizens
Nicholas County Schools
Nicholas County Community Member
Nicholas County Board of Health
Nicholas County Attorney
Nicholas County Judge Executive
Nicholas County Hospital
Community Action
Nicholas County Board of Health
Nicholas County Extension Service

Wedco District Health Department Employees:

Greg Bolin	Health Environmentalist
Spencer Cathey	Director of Administrative Services
Denise Hatfield	Home & Community-Based Waiver Prog, Mgr.
Millie Jolly	Sr. Support Services Associate
Kristi Morris	Health Environmentalist
Jo Ritchie	HANDS Home Visitor
Janie Whitehead	Health Education/Diabetes Program Manager

Scott County

Elizabeth Anderson-Hoagland
SCAD Michelle Anderson
Carrie Apple
Kim Barber
Paula Brathwaite
Angela Burns
Hannah Caudill
Claude Christensen
Ella Coleman
Arin Cox
Kitty Dougoud
Laura Eastes
Judy Feedback
Tina Foster
Jared Hollon
Garnett Jones
John Jones
Joi Jones
David Klee
Shannon Likens
Connie Minch
Geri Remley
Debora Smith
Terry Smith
Beth Stone
Sharon Watts
Cindy Wesley
Anita Woods

Bluegrass Prevention Center,
Scott County Housing Authority
Scott County Schools
Scott County Housing Authority
Scott County Housing Authority
Bluegrass Rape Crisis Center
Coventry Care
Sadieville Mayor
Community Member
Kentucky Courts
Georgetown Chamber of Commerce
Georgetown News Graphic Newspaper
Active Day of Georgetown
Kentucky Courts
Scott County Government
Hispanic Initiative
Georgetown Scott County EMS
Scott County Schools
Scott County Board of Health
The Studio
Scott County Extension Service
Scott County Parks and Recreation
Scott County Housing Authority
Scott County Parks and Recreation
Nia
Georgetown Community Hospital
Georgetown Community Hospital
Scott County Schools

Wedco District Health Department Employees:

Crystal Caudill-Miller	Director of Public Health
Tony Hall	Health Education
Donna Long	Clinic Nurse Supervisor
Gene Thomas	Environmental Director
Laurie Tucker	HANDS Nurse

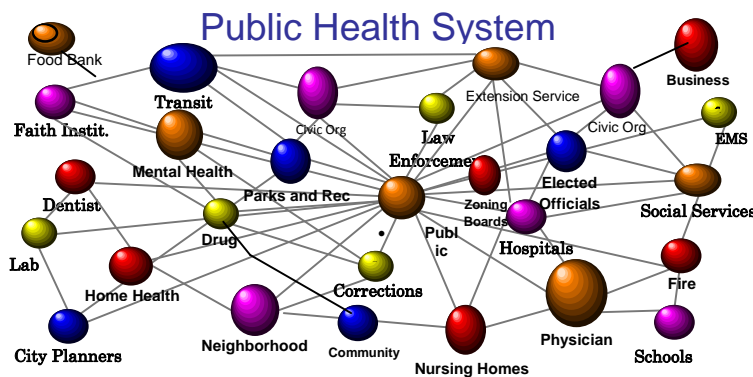
Mission

To promote healthy people who strive to be productive, life-long learners in a safe, healthy community built upon trust, offering quality health care and a high quality of life for every citizen.

The Assessments

Local Public Health System Assessment

Each county participated in the National Public Health Performance Standards Program (NPHPSP) developed by the CDC (2007) and partnered with American Public Health Association, Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, National Association of County and City Health Officials, National Association of Local Boards of Health, National Network of Public Health Institutes, and Public Health Foundation. The purpose of the assessment was to identify our public health systems' strengths and weaknesses and then decide upon opportunities for continuous improvement.



The “jelly-bean” chart depicts a sample of various people and organizations that comprise the public health system. The local health department is only one of the partners in the county public health system, which also includes other

governmental agencies, health care providers, human service organizations, schools and universities, faith institutions, youth development organizations, economic and philanthropic organizations, environmental agencies, and many others. The NPHPSP instrument was completed in a one day session for each county individually.

The NPHPSP assessment was based on the 10 Essential Public Health Services and how well the community was addressing each service. The 10 Essential Services are:

1. Monitor health status to identify community health problems.
2. Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community.

3. Inform, educate and empower people about health issues.
4. Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems.
5. Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts.
6. Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.
7. Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable.
8. Assure a competent public healthcare workforce.
9. Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services.
10. Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.

The National Public Health Performance Standards Program has several benefits. They include.

- Improving organizational and community communication
- Promoting cohesion and collaboration among system members
- Providing the essential service context for public health issues
- Providing a benchmark for public health practice improvements

Each county’s responses to the questions should indicate how well the model standard, which portrays the highest level of performance of “gold standard” – 100%, is being met. System partners responded to assessment questions using the response options below. These same categories are used in the reports to characterize levels of activity for Essential Services and Model Standards.

No Activity	0% or absolutely no activity
Minimal Activity	Greater than zero, but no more than 25% of the activity described within the question is met
Moderate Activity	Greater than 25%, but no more than 50% of the activity described within the question is met
Significant Activity	Greater than 50%, but no more than 75% of the activity described within the question is met
Optimal Activity	Greater than 75% of the activity described within the question is met

The challenges of preventing illness and improving health are ongoing and complex. The ability to meet these challenges rests on the capacity and performance of public health systems. Public health performance standards are intended to guide the development of stronger public health systems which are capable of improving the health of the population. The development of high- performing public health systems will increase the likelihood that all citizens have access to a defined optimal level of public health services. Public health leaders can improve collaboration and integration among the many components of public health system through periodic assessments guided by model performance standards. This enables them to use resources more effectively while improving health intervention services.

Community Health Status Assessment

Demographics

Wedco District Health Department is a collaboration of four rural counties; Bourbon (for Home Health only), Harrison, Nicholas, and Scott. Wedco is located in the central portion of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Each county has a health center within its borders. The District Administrative office is located in Cynthiana, Kentucky. A local board of health serves each county and a district board of health services the entire district as the Governing Body. A director oversees the district's day-to-day operations and reports to the District Board of Health.

The service area for Wedco District Health Department covers 792 square miles. The communities served range from small rural to larger business and industry. The population distribution is nearly 50% male and 50% female. The majority of residents are Caucasian with growing African-American and Hispanic populations.

Industry in the counties range from extremely limited to a large car manufacturing company. The local school systems are among the largest employers in the three counties.

Data was gathered from the 2010 U. S. Census.

Demographics	Harrison	Nicholas	Scott
Population (2010)	18,846	7,135	47,173
Persons 18 years old and under	5,057	1,882	14,098
Persons 65 years and older	2,812	1,110	4,367
% Female	51	50.4	50.7
% Male	48.9	49.7	49.5
Caucasian/White persons	18,037	6,983	42,405
Black persons	385	41	2,468
Hispanic	337	98	1,994
Occupied Housing Units	7,343	2,809	17,408
Renter-Occupied Housing Units	2,170	701	5,072
Median Household Income	\$42,415	\$36,910	\$58,595
High School Graduation- in 4 years	89%	82%	83%
Some College aged 25-44	45%	35%	62%

Behavioral Risk

Wedco surveyed members of the individual communities. Each community determined that alcohol and other drug abuse is the number one behavior risk that affects the health of the community. The other areas that were in the top five were in different order within the counties but the top five were the same. The areas determined by communities to be the behavior risks that affect the health of the community were: Poor Diet/Inactivity, Chronic Diseases, Obesity, and Child Abuse/Neglect. Although the national surveys may not show these areas as large problems, the citizens living in the communities determined these areas as the issues to address.

Indicator	Harrison	Nicholas	Scott	KY
Obesity (Adults)	30%	34%	33%	33%
Lack of Physical Activity (Adults)	35%	36%	31%	31%
Mammograms	54%	57%	62%	63%
STD (per 100,000)	295	15	182	311
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	67	73	42	52
Drug Arrests	180	134	347	61,413

Environmental Health Indicators

The physical environment directly impacts health and quality of life. Clean air and water are examples of environmental factors that influence health. Additionally, access to healthy foods and recreational opportunities are also environmental factors impacting health. For example, “physical activity levels are positively affected by structural environments, such as the availability of sidewalks, bike lanes, trains and parks.” (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2011)

The County Health Rankings for the individual counties placed Harrison as 59th, Nicholas as 110th, and Scott as 7th overall among Kentucky’s 120 counties. These rankings include all aspects of quality of life in the counties, including environmental indicators. The specific physical environment factors place Harrison as 23rd, Nicholas as 3rd, and Scott as 63rd in Kentucky.

Health Resource Availability

Each Wedco community has one community hospital within their boundaries. Harrison Memorial Hospital is a 61 bed facility, Nicholas County Hospital has 16 beds available, and Georgetown Community Hospital is a 75 bed facility. Although the hospitals are expanding their programs, patients

with a major health issue or trauma are often sent to larger facilities in Lexington, Louisville, or Cincinnati, Ohio.

Indicator	Harrison	Nicholas	Scott	KY
Primary Care Physicians	1,248:1	3,447:1	1,540:1	1,232:1
Mental Health Providers	18,717:1	6,894:0	4,963:1	3,909:1
Dentists	3,121:1	7,143:0	3,107:1	
Forego Care Due to Cost (% Adults)	16%	16%	18%	17%
Uninsured Population	17%	26%	13%	17%

Social and Mental Health

Social and mental health factors can directly or indirectly influence overall health status, as well as individual and community quality of life. Mental health conditions and overall psychological well-being and safety may be influenced by substance abuse and violence within the home and within the community. The 2010 Kentucky Crime Report indicates that the counties are remaining at about the same level in numbers as the previous year.

Indicator	Harrison	Nicholas	Scott	KY
Drug Related Collisions	10	4	9	1,617
Collisions Involving Drinking Drivers	25	2	41	4,762
DUI Convictions	62	52	118	24,899
Homicide Rate (per 100,000)	1.1 – Rank 112 in state	9.5 – Rank 12 in state	3.4 – Rank 69 in state	5.0
Suicide Rate (per 100,000)	12.5 – Rank 79 in state	17.2 – Rank 36 in state	10.3 – Rank 98 in state	15.08
Child Neglect Investigations	124	104	282	37,132
Physical Abuse Investigations	38	15	83	10,674
Sexual Abuse Investigations	10	5	35	3,097

Maternal and Child Health

One of the most significant areas for monitoring and comparison relates to the health of vulnerable populations: infants and children. This category focuses on birth data and outcomes as

well as mortality data for infants and children. Because maternal care is correlated with birth outcomes, measures of maternal access to, and/or utilization of, care is included. Births to teen mothers are a critical indicator of increased risk for both mother and child. Data was compiled from KIDS Count Data, the Center for Disease Control and the Kentucky Department for Public Health.

Indicator	Harrison	Nicholas	Scott
Infant mortality within 1 st year. (per 1,000 live births)	10.7	3.1	4.1
Births to mothers receiving early and regular prenatal care	65%	62%	71%
Births to adolescents	627	627	1,664
Births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	39%	39%	21%
Repeat births to teens	12 (26%)	5 (% too low to calculate)	6 (10%)
Low Birth weight (% < 2500g)	10.9%	8.8%	8.6 %
High Birth weight (% > 4000g)	6.7%	6.9%	5.1 %
Ever Breastfed	36.7 %	23.5 %	39.0 %
Smoking in Household	18.3 %	58.2 %	16.0 %
Children receiving food stamps (monthly average)	1,280	573	2,912
Early Childhood Obesity (\geq 95 th percentile)	11.5%	9.8%	16.7%

Death, Illness and Injury

Health status in a community is measured in terms of mortality (rates of death within a population) and morbidity (rates of the incidence and prevalence of disease). Mortality may be represented by crude rates, or age-adjusted rates; by degree of premature death (years of productive life lost); and by cause (disease- cancer and non- cancer, or injury- intentional, unintentional). Morbidity may be represented by age- adjusted incidence of cancer and chronic disease. According to the Kentucky Department for Public Health, the leading cause of death in Harrison and Nicholas counties is attributed to diseases of the heart. Scott County's leading cause of death is Malignant Neoplasm followed closely by diseases of the heart.

Mortality	Harrison	Nicholas	Scott	KY
Accidents (unintentional injuries)	5	5	13	2,253
Alzheimer's Disease	6	1	13	1,329
Cerebrovascular Disease	9	4	21	1,973

Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis	6	1	4	408
Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	9	1	20	2,818
Diabetes Mellitus	4	5	9	1,334
Diseases of the Heart	61	30	77	9,500
Influenza and Pneumonia	6	3	7	970
Malignant Neoplasms	40	25	84	9,478
Premature Death per population	9,976	13,938	6,510	8,781

Morbidity	Harrison	Nicholas	Scott	KY
Asthma Hospitalizations ages 0-17 (per 10,000)	16	9	34	6,965
Cancer				
Incidence Rates	590	239	956	1224,459
Breast	12	>5	25	2,967
Cervical	>5	0	>5	304
Uterine	>5	>5	0	248
Colon and Rectum Cancer	26	7	32	4,388
Prostate	12	12	19	1,984
Cardiovascular Disease				
CVD number of hospitalization	363	144	533	81,468
Average length of hospital stay in days	3.83	3.78	4.05	4.60
Average charger per hospitalization	\$24,148	\$20,141	\$29,094	\$31,860
Total charges billed	\$8,765,813	\$2,900,281	\$15,507,080	\$2,595,598,446
Heart Disease				
Number of hospitalizations	276	124	418	63,313
Average length of hospital stay in days	3.55	3.53	3.79	4.50
Average charge per hospitalization	\$24,584	\$19,862	\$28,899	\$32,185
Total charges billed	\$6,785,240	\$2,462,830	\$12,079,857	\$2,037,748,816
Stroke				
Number of hospitalizations	63	10	59	10,542
Average length of hospital stay in days	4.67	4.90	5.80	5.06
Average charge per hospitalization	\$23,973	\$18,907	\$33,429	\$27,850
Total charges billed	\$1,510,302	\$189,073	\$1,972,288	\$293,596,207

Data was provided by Kids Count County Data Book, Kentucky Cancer Registry, Close to the Heart of Kentucky, County Health Ranking, and Kentucky Department for Public Health. This data helps to show how each community has their individual strengths and weaknesses and helps identify focus areas to bring about a healthy community. Each county within the WEDCO District has health issues distinctive to their populations. The rise of unemployment has presented an increased burden on families that had never experienced financial hardships. The uninsured population has increased considerably and meeting their needs for medications and access to care presents a challenge. A focus on utilization of the Kentucky Prescription Assistance Program and the Journey and Scott County Medical Missions enabled many unemployed individuals to obtain their much needed care.

Community Themes and Strengths Assessment

The purpose of this assessment was to gain a better understanding of community perceptions about health and quality of life; to provide useful information for local programmatic and fiscal decision-making; and to inform the development of the strategic community health improvement plan. This survey was used to gather insight into issues of concern, as well as local assets and resources related to health and quality of life. A University of Kentucky doctoral student helped in the delivery of the survey and compilation of the results data. More detail and the results can be found reported with the individual county information.

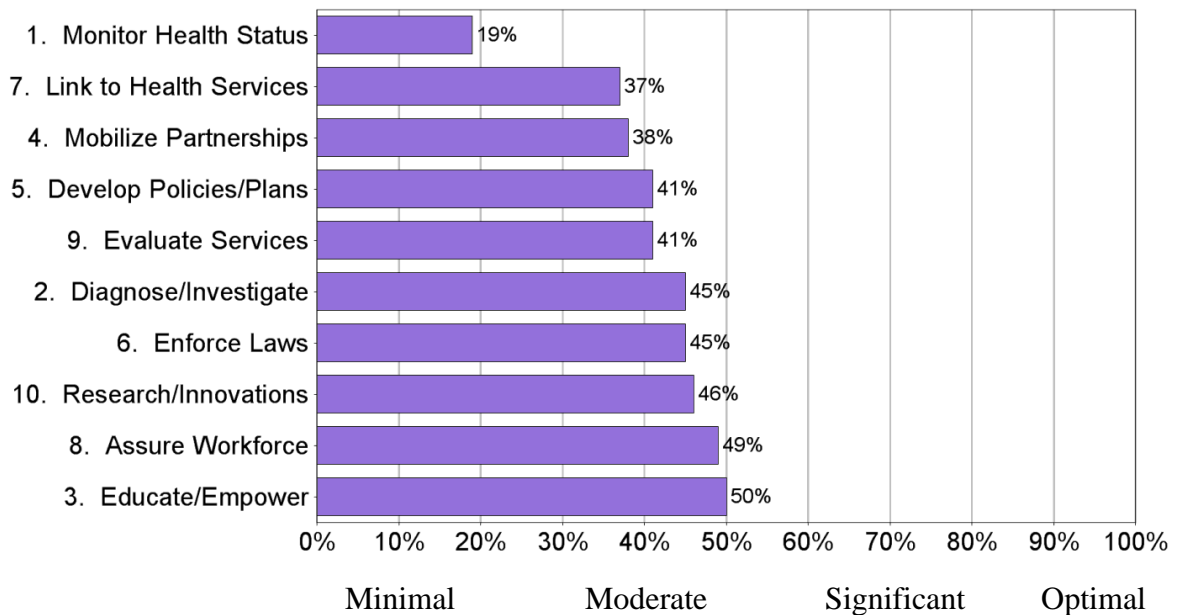
Forces of Change Assessment

Wedco District Health Department conducted a Forces of Change Assessment in 2012. During the Forces of Change Assessment all city and county governing officials, health department personnel, local and district Board of Health members, and all service agency personnel were asked about the forces that they were up against and had no control over and how that would affect them in the coming year. The findings are listed with the individual county information.

Harrison County

Local Public Health System Performance Assessment

The results of the local public health system partners' assessment helped to determine the areas that were excelling or lacking in the Harrison County community in relation to the 10 Essential Public Health Services. The results were:



Some areas of relatively low performance may be enhanced through the Harrison County Partners initiative, including assessing the community partners and bringing in additional agencies to find out what is available and what the needs are in the community. With the additional information, groups can be formed to begin addressing the most pressing issues for the Harrison County community.

Community Themes and Strengths Survey Results

The Community Themes and Strengths Survey was made available to the general public, ages 18 and older who live, work, learn or shop in Harrison County, through electronic survey and paper copy. One hundred and twenty- seven community members participated in the survey along with 136 high school seniors who were chosen as a focus group.

While there are areas that need improvement within the community, Harrison County has

several areas of strengths that make community members proud.

Physical Activity is an area where there is great need for community members and there are several businesses that offer adults and children an opportunity to exercise and pursue their personal interest for a fee. The community also has a parks and recreation committee which offers activities year round for children and adults. With the newly forming Parks and Recreation Department, the city and county officials have informed community members that more will be offered. The Chamber of Commerce, Harrison Memorial Hospital and Wedco District Health Department have offered opportunities for 5K run/walk events that are open to everyone for a small entry fee.

There are several areas where community members can do their own walking, jogging, or running program within the city at no cost. The Battlegrove Cemetery has people walking within their property during the day with paved walkways that offer areas of differing elevation and beautiful scenery to take in while walking. The area around the High School, Middle School, and Southside Elementary school is available before and after school with limited traffic. The old football stadium track is used by several members of the public during times that it is open.

The Veterans Flat Run Park has a wonderful walking trail that has trails with different degrees of difficulty depending on your level of physical ability. This park has great potential and the community is ready for more development within the park. The community is using the park for entertainment purposes and has seen a large growth in the number of community members using the park.

When asked about what activity they would participate in if available or what activity was requested, the largest response was for a community swimming pool. If the pool was indoors it could be used year round in any weather and hold activities for all ages and levels of physical ability.

Community members are proud of the small town atmosphere and friendliness, as well as the community involvement, especially in times of crisis. The schools, churches, businesses and other community partners join together to help meet the needs of the community.

The historical value of the town is appreciated and the buildings are being maintained in keeping with the historical era at the time the buildings were constructed. This is a great asset to the preservation of the community. There has been increased interest to improve the condition of the Main Street area which has been needed for several years.

Forces of Change

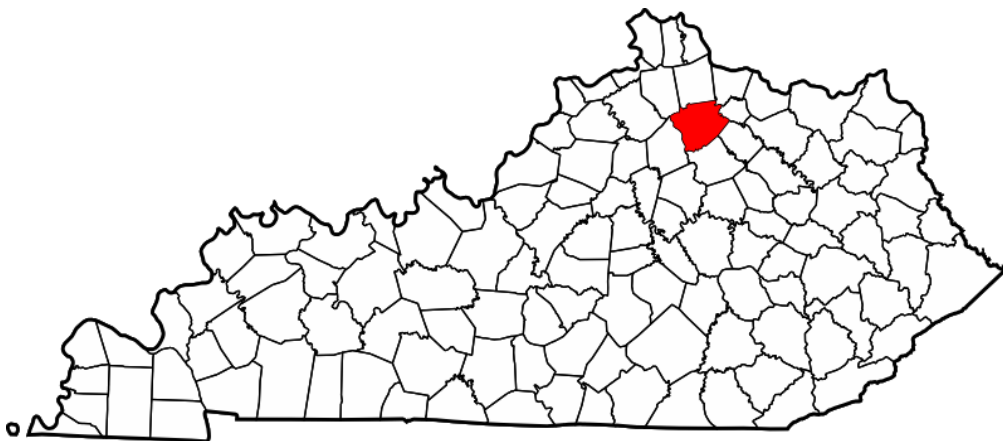
Cuts in Medicare, as well as fewer doctors providing services to that population, have led to greater medical costs due to patients seeking care via hospital emergency departments. Funding cuts are leading to greater cost, as an end result. Kentucky changed to a managed care system in 2012 and the difficulty in receiving payment has caused great concern and the possibility of many providers making the difficult decision to no longer accept those patients or to close their offices completely. Many services are no longer being covered, and if they are covered the payment is not received for many months, or not at all.

Many patients in Harrison County took Coventry Cares because they did not charge a co-pay; this will be changing for 2013, placing more of a burden on patients who do not have the funds, and most likely delaying medical care. Nearly every provider in Harrison County will only accept Coventry Cares, so in truth the patients do not have a choice in the coverage they choose.

Continued lack of new businesses coming into the county increases the need for residents to leave the community in order to earn their living. This results in decreased tax dollars for the community, contributing to a greater expense to community members.

Harrison County has a higher cost for gasoline than most surrounding counties. The continued increase in fuel cost leads to reduced funds for other items to be purchased. This has a definite economic impact on the entire community.

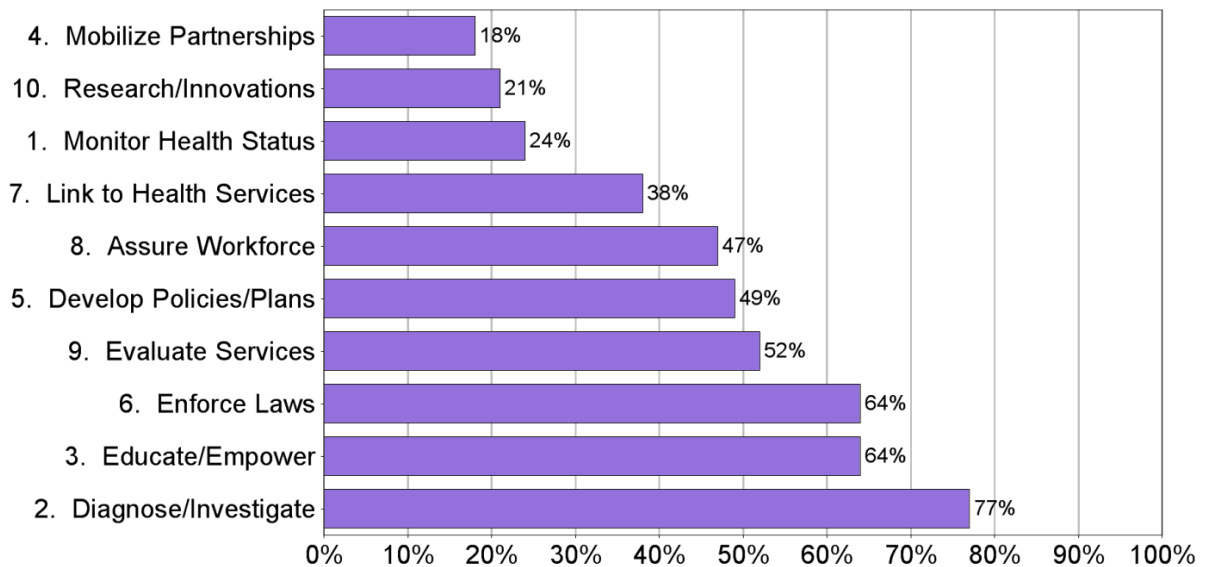
The most prevalent Force of Change is continued budget cuts which affect the ability to provide services, as well as a large number of community members in need of free or low cost services.



Nicholas County

Local Public Health System Performance Assessment

The results of the local public health system partners' assessment helped to determine the areas that were excelling or lacking in the Nicholas County community in relation to the 10 Essential Public Health Services. The results were:



Mobilizing Partnerships received the lowest score by the participants for the lack of groups working together to plan and carry out programs and activities.

Community Themes and Strengths Survey Results

While the Community Themes and Strengths Assessment revealed that the overall quality of life in Nicholas County is perceived to be good, there are areas identified for improvement. Nicholas County is perceived to be a good place to raise children and to grow old; a safe place with a network of support for individuals and families. One of the main areas of concern is the economic opportunities available in the community (i.e. locally owned and operated businesses, jobs with career growth, job training/higher education opportunities, affordable housing, reasonable commute, etc).

Citizens, both the general public and the high school seniors were equally satisfied as not satisfied with the health care system in the community in areas of access, cost, availability, quality, options in health care, etc.

Both the general public and the high school seniors felt all individuals and groups have the opportunity to contribute to and participate in the community's quality of life, but the students did not feel all residents perceive that they-individually or collectively- can make the community a better place to live.

Citizens did not have a defined opinion on the levels of mutual trust and respect increasing among community partners; a sense of civic responsibility and engagement of civic pride, or if they were satisfied with the community environment. The results were very close to even on those topics.

In looking at what made citizens the proudest in their community it was disturbing that the top answers of high school seniors when asked was "nothing". In order to keep young people in the community they need to feel pride and a reason to continue their future within the Nicholas County community.

Both the general public and the high school seniors believe one of the most important issues to be addressed to improve the health and quality of life in the community was drug abuse. Both groups also felt the main issue keeping the community from doing what needs to be done to improve, was drugs in the community. The general public saw lack of jobs as another issue hindering the community, while the students expressed concern that apathy, not caring, and laziness were also big issues.

Forces of Change

The community has a large number of members with heart disease and high blood pressure. Most of the life-time residents worked in the tobacco and hay fields, and smoking is very prevalent.

There are no free medical clinics in the county. The health department has a physician who sees patients on a sliding scale fee system, two and a half days each month. A large number of people do not qualify for government assistance and do not have insurance or income to obtain medical care for preventative care or acute care. There are few physicians and no obstetric providers in the county.

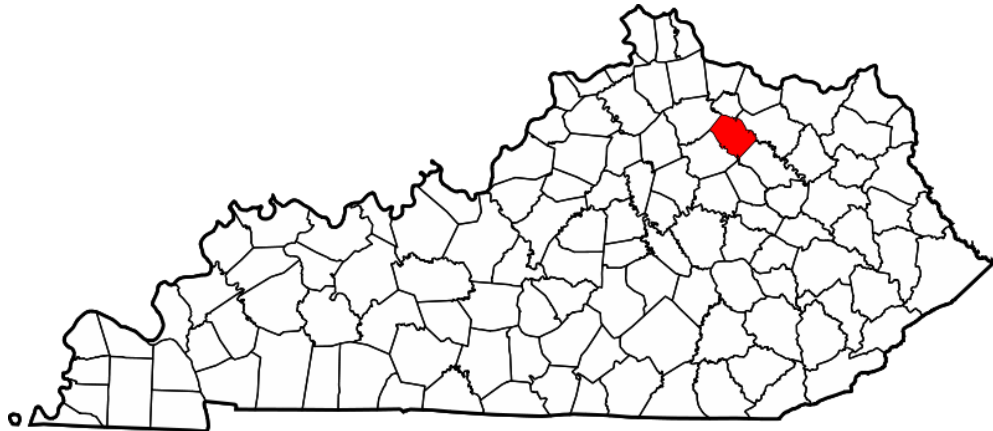
Cuts in Medicare have lead to greater medical issues that will be seen as emergency situations and, in turn, cost much more money. Funding cuts are leading to greater costs as an end result. Kentucky changed to a managed care system in 2012 and the difficulty in receiving payment has caused great concern and the possibility of many providers making the difficult decision to

no longer accept those patients or to close their offices completely. Many services are no longer being covered, and if they are covered, often times the payment is not received for many months or at all.

Many patients in Nicholas County took Coventry Cares medical coverage because they did not charge a co-pay. This will be changing for 2013, placing more of a burden on patients who do not have the funds for a co-pay, which will delay medical care.

There is no major industry in the community and the previous large employer closed several years ago. Continued lack of businesses coming into the county creates the need for residents to leave the community in order to earn their living. This in turn, takes away much needed tax dollars from the community, and leads to greater expense to community members.

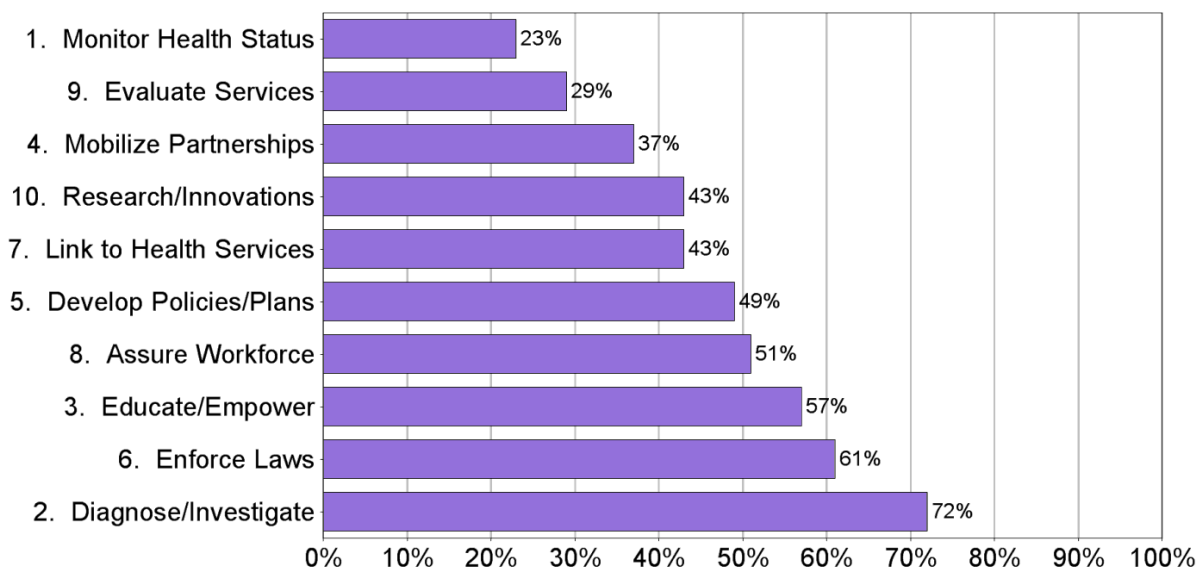
The most prevalent Force of Change is continued lack of industry and budget cuts which affect the ability to provide services, as well as a large number of community members in need of free or low cost services.



Scott County

Local Public Health System Performance Assessment

The results of the local public health system partners' assessment helped to determine the areas that were excelling or lacking in the Scott County community in relation to the 10 Essential Public Health Services. The results were:



Some areas of relatively low performance may be enhanced through the Scott County Connection initiative, including assessing the community partners and bringing in additional agencies to find out what is available and what the needs are to the community. With the additional information, groups can be formed to begin addressing the most pressing issues for the Scott County community.

Community Themes and Strengths Survey Results

The Community Themes and Strengths Assessment revealed that the overall quality of life in Scott County is perceived to be good. Scott County is perceived to be a good place to raise children and to grow old, with a network of support for individuals and families.

The Community was seen to be a safe place to live, with streets and roads in good repair. Most buildings in town are historical in their appearance and several have been recently repaired with well kept landscaping.

Community members felt all individuals and groups had the opportunity to contribute to and participate in the community's quality of life, but were equal in their ranking for neither positive or negative response that all residents perceive that they-individually or collectively-can make the community a better place to live.

Access to health care and other services, along with alcohol and other drug abuse, and poor diet with inactivity were the areas of the most concern for Georgetown and Scott County.

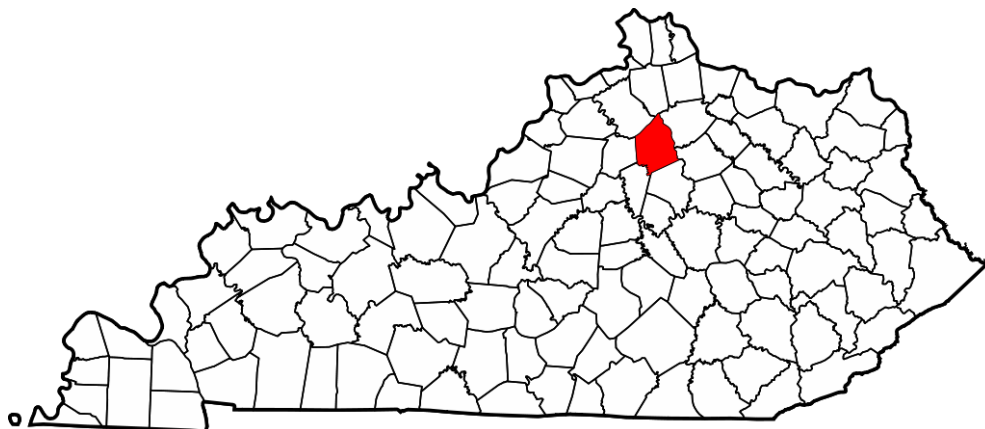
Forces of Change

The community has been fortunate to have the generosity of the Toyota Manufacturing personnel and the increased tax base from all the workers and spin off industries that located in Scott County. However, with the drop in the economy the auto industry took a big hit. Further, the safety issue with the Camry, which is produced in the Georgetown plant, has made the sales decrease by a higher margin. Though, the forecast for sales improvement does provide a greater opportunity for additional donated funds to be given to the community.

The community has a large number of physicians and a large pediatric practice that draws patients from surrounding counties. There is one free clinic that is operated with assistance from the Georgetown Hospital and volunteer physicians and nurses.

Although the median household income is substantial there are many families that remain in need of medical insurance and care. There is also a large Hispanic population in the county with a great need for medical care, as they have no health insurance.

The most prevalent Force of Change is continued federal and state budget cuts which affect the ability to provide services, as well as a large population of community members who need housing and medical services, including mental health services.



Information and data gathered from the following sources:

Centers for Disease Control and
Prevention Close to the Heart of
Kentucky
County Health Rankings
Franklin County Health Department
KIDS County, County Data Book
Kentucky Cancer Registry
Kentucky Department for Public
Health Kentucky Health Facts
Kentucky State Police
National Association of County and City Health Officials
Three Rivers District Health Department
U. S. Census 2010

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