

**Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department
2024 Community Health Needs Assessment**

**Wheeling-Ohio County
Health Department**



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Assessment was done inconjunction with Hancock, Brooke, Marshall
and Wetzel/Tyler Health Departments**

2024 Community Needs Assessment Report

Top Identified Health Conditions

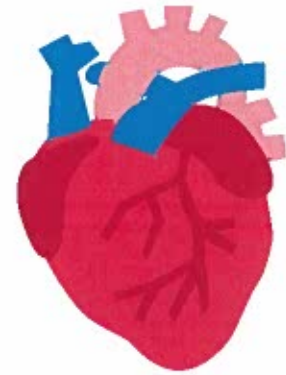
High Blood Pressure



Obesity



Heart Disease



Top Identified Substances Used

Alcohol



Tobacco



Marijuana



Community Health Problems

In our community, several significant health problems have emerged as top concerns among residents. According to public opinion, the most pressing challenges we face are:

- 1. Obesity**
- 2. Substance abuse**
- 3. Mental health issues**
- 4. Inadequate infrastructure**

These issues are interconnected and impact the overall well-being of our community, underscoring the need for targeted public health initiatives to create a healthier and more supportive environment for all.

Community Services

In addition to the critical health problems identified, our community is also facing a shortage of essential services. According to public opinion, there is a significant lack of the following:

- 1. Recreational facilities**
- 2. Transportation services**
- 3. Childcare services**
- 4. Senior services**

The absence of these key services contributes to the overall health and well-being challenges within our community, highlighting the need for improved infrastructure and support systems to ensure all residents have access to the resources they need for a better quality of life.

Top Community Issues

Better Access To Healthcare

Residents are concerned about improving access to medical care, mental health services, dental clinics, and affordable healthcare options

Residents are calling for more parks, outdoor activities, recreational facilities, and activities for kids and teens

More Recreational and Outdoor Activities

Quality Employment

There is a significant concern about the need for better job opportunities with quality insurance and fair wages

Recommendations

Based on the above conclusions, several recommendations are suggested. Implementing many of these recommendations may be most effective through partnerships with other local agencies and organizations. We present three specific recommendations in light of these findings.

Integrated Community Health and Wellness Centers

Address obesity, high blood pressure, and heart disease through comprehensive health and wellness programs

- *Develop partnerships with local gyms, community centers, and schools to provide free or low-cost exercise programs and health education workshops.*
- *Implement chronic disease management programs that offer regular check-ups, personalized care plans, and support groups for individuals with high blood pressure and heart disease.*
- *Promote community-wide health initiatives, such as "Walk with a Doc" programs, to encourage physical activity and foster community engagement*

Substance Use Prevention and Treatment Initiatives

Reduce substance use and its associated health problems through targeted prevention and treatment efforts

- *Launch public awareness campaigns focused on the dangers of alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana use, leveraging social media, local media, and community events.*
- *Develop school-based prevention programs that educate students about substance abuse and provide resources for at-risk youth.*
- *Collaborate with law enforcement, healthcare providers, and community organizations to create a coordinated response to substance use issues, including referral systems and joint training programs.*

Improved Access to Healthcare and Essential Services

Enhance access to healthcare and essential services, with a focus on underserved populations

- *Expand public transportation options to improve access to medical facilities, recreational centers, and senior services, especially in rural and underserved areas.*
- *Develop a network of community health workers who can provide in-home visits, health education, and connections to healthcare services for vulnerable populations.*
- *Increase the availability of affordable childcare services by partnering with local organizations and businesses to create subsidized childcare programs.*
- *Establish senior wellness programs that offer health screenings, social activities, and preventive care services to improve the quality of life for older adults.*
- *Advocate for policy changes and funding to support infrastructure improvements, such as safe walking and biking paths, clean water initiatives, and the development of new recreational facilities.*

These recommendations aim to leverage the resources and influence of health departments to address the key health issues identified in the community needs assessment, fostering a healthier and more equitable community.