



*A Collaborative Project between the
Community Foundation for the Land of
Lincoln, United Way of Central Illinois,
and UIS' Center for State Policy &
Leadership*

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This report was written and prepared by the staff of the Survey Research Office. This report reflects the observations of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln, United Way of Central Illinois, nor those of the members of the 2015 Citizen Survey Steering Committee. If you have any questions about this project, contact the Survey Research Office at (217) 206-6591 or sro@uis.edu.

Executive Summary

The purpose of the Sangamon County Citizen Survey is to establish benchmarks and evaluate changes in residents' assessments of the quality of life in Sangamon County. The first survey was conducted in 2013 and provided local leaders, community organizations, and citizens with insight into issues facing local residents. This year's survey is the second iteration of the survey with an expanded examination of issues surrounding education in the County. The following sections contain an expansive analysis of the data collected by researchers from 576 individuals on a hundred questions across nine topical areas, including: culture and recreation, social well-being, health, education, economy, infrastructure, government and civic participation, environment, and public safety. In this executive summary, we highlight some of the major findings.

The health and personal finances of Sangamon County residents are improving.

When asked about their own personal health and their personal economic situation, Sangamon County residents report a marked increase from 2013 to 2015. The results of the 2015 Sangamon County Citizen survey indicate an increase in the rates of insured residents as well as those who report having a primary care physician. In fact, 96 percent of those surveyed report having health insurance coverage. This is up almost seven percentage points from the 2013 survey. In addition, the percent of Sangamon County residents who report that there have been times in the past 12 months when they did not have enough money to pay for health care or medicines decreased from 21 percent in 2013 to 15 percent in 2015.

Residents also report an increase in their overall health with a fewer number of individuals reporting days of poor physical health, poor mental health, and days in which they were kept from usual activities.

When asked about their own personal finances, Sangamon County residents are slightly less pessimistic. The 2015 Sangamon County Citizen Survey found that 4.7 percent of residents are unemployed and currently seeking employment. Of those who are employed, 17 percent report being underemployed compared to 21 percent in 2013. In addition, residents who report that their personal financial condition is "worse off" than it was 12 months ago has decreased from 21 percent in 2013 to 13 percent in 2015.

Residents report more positive evaluations of local leaders but less positive about the county, in general.

Forty-one percent of Sangamon County residents feel Sangamon County has "strong" leadership. This perception has increased by 10 percentage points from the 2013 Sangamon County Citizen Survey. Fifty-nine percent of Sangamon County residents are confident that local elected leaders can effectively address local problems. This perception has increased seven percentage points from the 2013 Sangamon County Citizen Survey. Despite this, Sangamon County residents rate the county, in general, less positively. The percentage of residents who think Sangamon County is an "excellent" place to live, raise children, work, and retire has decreased while the percentage who rate it is a "poor" place to work, live, and retire has increased.

Executive Summary

Policy support is contingent.

The 2015 Sangamon County Citizen Survey includes several policy questions on a variety of issues. Some of the key findings are listed below.

Citizens are more likely to support an initiative if it uses the term “combine” rather than “consolidate.”

| | Local waste management services | Local government services |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Support consolidation | 33% | 45% |
| Support combining | 43% | 51% |

Three-fourths of Sangamon County residents support the possibility of creating a citizen advisory board (an independent board of users and citizen/owners) who can focus on the challenges facing City, Water, Light, and Power (CWLP).

Most residents would not support a tax increase (neither property nor sales) to support local infrastructure or alternative transportation in Sangamon County. However, attitudes are mixed towards supporting local schools. When asked if residents would support an increase in property taxes, increase in local sales taxes, or not support any tax increase to support local schools, 22% support an increase in property taxes, 39% support an increase in local sales taxes, and 39% do not support any tax increases. This is consistent with 28 percent who report that the biggest change they would like to see in their local school district is increased funding to schools.

One-fourth of residents think a second source of water (Hunter Lake) is a “high priority.” An additional 41% believe it is a “medium priority.”

Education is still a priority.

Pre-K programs, K-12, and post-secondary education are high priorities for Sangamon County residents. The survey indicates that a higher percentage of Sangamon County residents believe that programs for children three to five years old are “very important” compared to programs for children ages two and younger, yet a majority of respondents report that both types of programs are either “very important” or “somewhat important.” Overall, parents give their child’s school positive ratings. Eighty-one percent of parents believe that their child is receiving an “excellent” or “good” education and 99 percent think that their child is either “very safe” or “somewhat safe” at school. The majority, 96 percent, of residents report that post-high school institutions are important to the region. In addition, 90 percent report that it is either “very important” (55 percent) or “somewhat important” (35 percent) for an individual to have a college degree. The expanded education section discusses all aspects of education in detail.

Methodology

The 2015 Sangamon County Citizen Survey includes 576 completed telephone interviews (32% completed by landline numbers and 68% completed by cell phones) of Sangamon County residents. The survey is representative of Sangamon County, Illinois and the data was weighted for probability sampling and to match the most recent population estimates as provided by the U.S. Census Bureau. The overall response rate for the survey is 13.2%, the cooperation rate is 23.2%, and the margin of error is +/- 4.08 percentage points. This report consistently references the 2013 Citizen Survey, which can be found at <http://cspl.uis.edu/SurveyResearchOffice>.

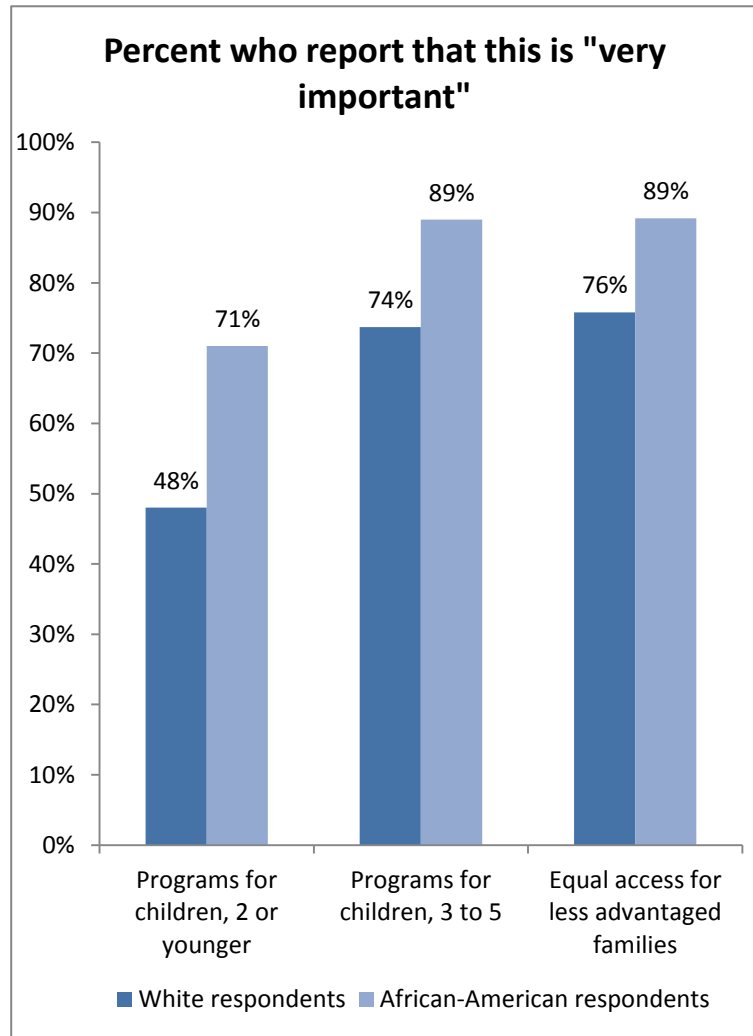
| | Unweighted Sample | Weighted Sample | Sangamon County Data ¹ |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| SEX | | | |
| Male | 48.6% | 48.0% | 48.0% |
| Female | 51.4% | 52.0% | 52.0% |
| RACE | | | |
| White | 87.5% | 82.8% | 83.5% |
| Black | 7.2% | 12.4% | 12.2% |
| Two or More Races | 2.4% | 2.3% | 1.9% |
| Other | 2.9% | 2.4% | 2.4% |
| ETHNICITY | | | |
| Hispanic/Latino(a) | 1.9% | 1.9% | 1.9% |
| Non-Hispanic/Latino | 98.1% | 98.1% | 98.1% |
| EDUCATION (18-24 year olds) | | | |
| Less than High school Diploma | 10.5% | 11.8% | 14.9% |
| High School Diploma | 36.8% | 24.6% | 25.7% |
| Some College Or Associate's Degree | 39.4% | 43.5% | 45.6% |
| Bachelor's Degree or Higher | 13.2% | 20.1% | 13.8% |
| EDUCATION (25 and older) | | | |
| Less than High school Diploma | 1.9% | 7.1% | 8.0% |
| High School Diploma | 17.8% | 28.4% | 28.3% |
| Some College Or Associate's Degree | 33.0% | 30.5% | 31.5% |
| Bachelor's Degree | 27.3% | 21.1% | 20.3% |
| Graduate Or Professional Degree | 19.7% | 12.6% | 12.2% |
| AGE | | | |
| 18-24 years old | 6.6% | 8.9% | 6.0% |
| 25-34 years old | 8.9% | 21.3% | 12.7% |
| 35-44 years old | 11.7% | 18.1% | 13.1% |
| 45-54 years old | 22.4% | 18.4% | 15.4% |
| 55-64 years old | 19.8% | 15.7% | 12.9% |
| 65 years old and older | 30.6% | 17.7% | 13.8% |

¹ According to U.S. Census' American Community Survey estimates.

Education

pre-K programs

The 2013 survey found wide support for Pre-K education programs. This trend continues in the most recent survey and provides better context by examining attitudes specifically towards programs for children ages two and younger, programs for children ages three to five, and equal access for low income families. The survey indicates that a higher percentage of Sangamon County residents believe that programs for children three to five years old are “very important” compared to programs for children ages two and younger, yet a majority of respondents report that both types of programs are either “very important” or “somewhat important.” When asked how important, if at all, it is for children from all income levels to have access to the services, 92 percent of survey respondents report that it is important. On all three items, African-Americans report a higher level of support than white respondents (see figure).



KEY FINDINGS:

- ✓ While Sangamon County residents believe that pre-K programs are important for all age groups and support equal access for less advantaged families, there is mixed support for what public or private organization, if any, should be providing less advantaged families with access to pre-K programs. Thirty eight percent of individuals believe it is the “entire community’s responsibility,” 32 percent believe it is the responsibility of the individual families, and 21 percent believe it is the responsibility of the local school district.
- ✓ Of the roughly 8,000 Sangamon County children ages three to five, an estimated 2,000 (25 percent) are less advantaged.¹ Existing programs, including Early Start, which is Springfield Public School District’s Preschool for All program, and the eight Head Start sites in the county, appear to reach about two-thirds of this population.

¹ Data is available through Illinois’ Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity’s population projections.

Education

K-12 programs

KEY FINDINGS:

- ✓ The biggest change that Sangamon County residents would like to see in their local school district is increased funding to schools (28 percent). This is consistent with the 2013 survey findings (25 percent). In 2013, 12 percent reported that their local school district needed improved leadership/administration; in 2015, this decreases to seven percent. The second most reported needed change in 2015 is smaller class sizes (11 percent).
- ✓ Eighty-one percent of parents believe that their child is receiving an “excellent” or “good” education and 99 percent think that their child is either “very safe” or “somewhat safe” at school. This does not differ among public school respondents but is slightly higher among parents’ whose children attend private schools.

School Districts¹

While evaluations of the quality of education that children receive at Rochester and Springfield schools did not change, Ball Chatham parents’ ratings of their child’s education declined slightly, yet the differences are not statistically significant. The table below provides comparison data and includes average teacher salary, high school four-year graduation rates, and the percentage of students who are low income from the Illinois State Board of Education, 2013-2014 data.² It is important to note that Springfield is a much larger school district (more than three times as large as the next largest school district) and serves a larger low income student population.

| | <i>Ball Chatham</i> | <i>Rochester</i> | <i>Springfield</i> | <i>Williamsville</i> |
|--|---------------------|------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| <i>High school 4-year graduation rate³</i> | 88% | 98% | 70% | 99% |
| <i>2015 Education quality rating (change from 2013 rating)</i> | 3.28 (-.32) | 3.50 (nc) | 3.11 (nc) | 3.55 (na) |
| <i>2015 Safety rating (change from 2013 rating)</i> | 3.71 (+.14) | 3.50 (+.09) | 3.46 (-.10) | 3.94 (na) |
| <i>Percent low income</i> | 22% | 14% | 68% | 12% |
| <i>Total enrollment</i> | 4,652 | 2,323 | 14,580 | 1,498 |
| <i>Average teacher salary</i> | \$46,559 | \$50,831 | \$56,468 | \$49,424 |

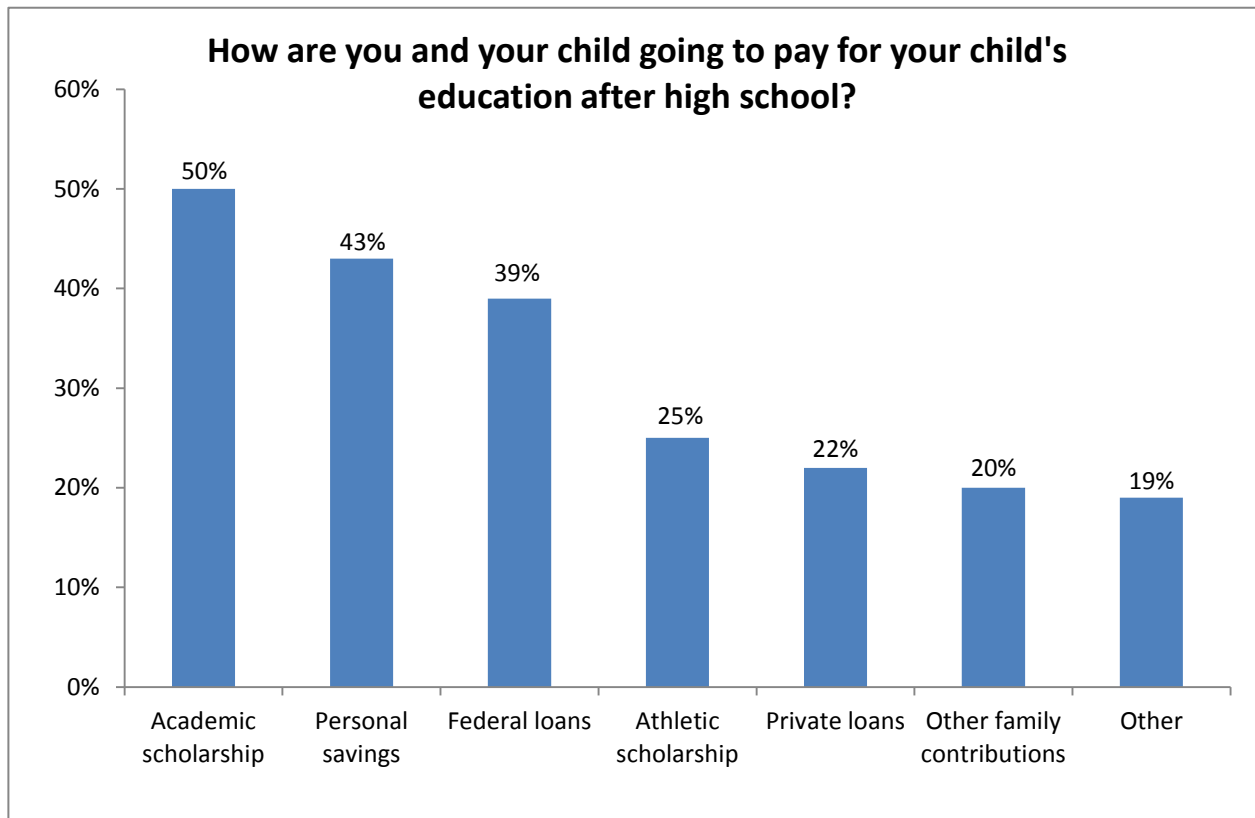
¹ Ball Chatham, Rochester, Springfield, and Williamsville had enough responses to be statistically valid, we find that ratings did not statistically differ from the 2013 results, or from each other. The 2013 survey did not have enough respondents from Williamsville to be included in the sub-group analysis.

² Data is available at <http://www.illinoisreportcard.com/Default.aspx>

³ Graduation rate is calculated by dividing the number of students who graduate in four years or less with a high school diploma by the number of students who form the adjusted cohort (starting cohort plus transfers into cohort, minus students who transfer out, emigrate, or die from the graduating class).

Education

Post-secondary



KEY FINDINGS:

- ✓ Ninety-four percent of Sangamon County adults who have a child between the ages of 5 and 18 report that they plan on their child pursuing education after high school.
- ✓ Fifty percent of parents plan on their child receiving an academic scholarship to cover the cost of their child's education after high school. In addition, 43 percent report that they will pay for these educational pursuits using personal savings, 39 percent report that they will rely on federal loans, and 25 percent report they plan on their child receiving an athletic scholarship (see figure).

94% of parents plan on their child pursuing educational opportunities after graduating high school.

100% of parents who earned a college degree plan on their child pursuing a similar experience, compared to **81%** of individuals with a high school diploma or GED.

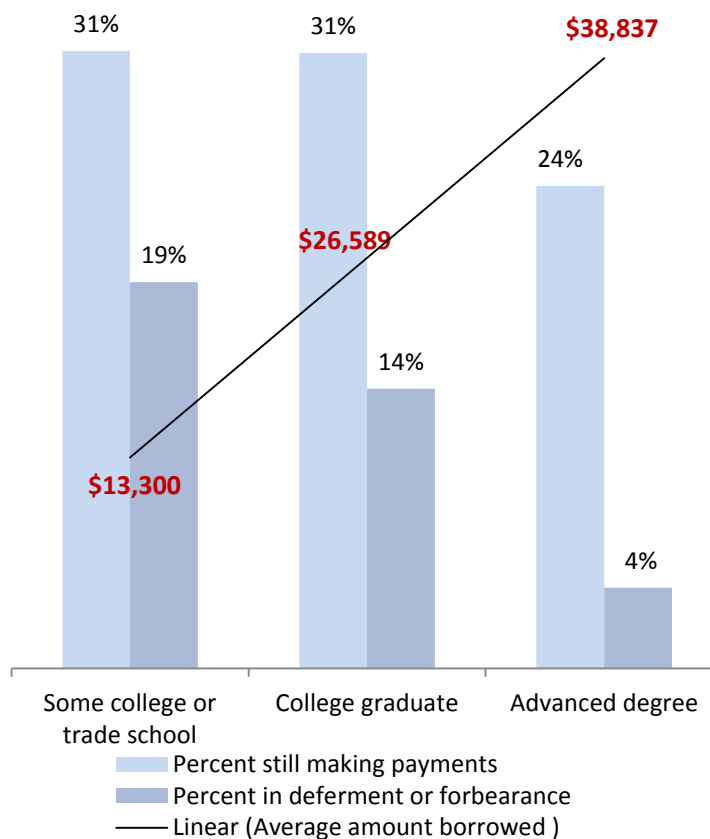
Education

Post-secondary

KEY FINDINGS:

- ✓ Thirty-two percent of Sangamon County residents have a bachelor's degree or advanced degree. Almost half (44 percent) of these individuals received this degree from a local college or university.
- ✓ Almost all (96 percent) of Sangamon County residents report that post-high school institutions are important to the region. Ninety percent report that it is either "very important" (55 percent) or "somewhat important" (35 percent) for an individual to have a college degree. These numbers are identical to the 2013 findings.
- ✓ Almost half of college graduates living in Sangamon County used public or private student loans to pay for their college education. Individuals without a college degree (individuals who attended trade school or some college) borrowed on average, \$13,300. College graduates, those who completed a four-year college degree, borrowed, on average, \$26,589. Individuals who have an advanced degree borrowed, on average, \$38,837 (see figure below).
- ✓ Younger adults report borrowing at a higher rate; individuals between the ages of 18 and 24 years old report that they borrowed, on average, \$37,816.

Student loan status and average amount borrowed



Sangamon County citizens borrow \$25,440 to attend post-secondary institutions.

Americans, in general, borrow \$28,400 to attend post-secondary institutions.¹

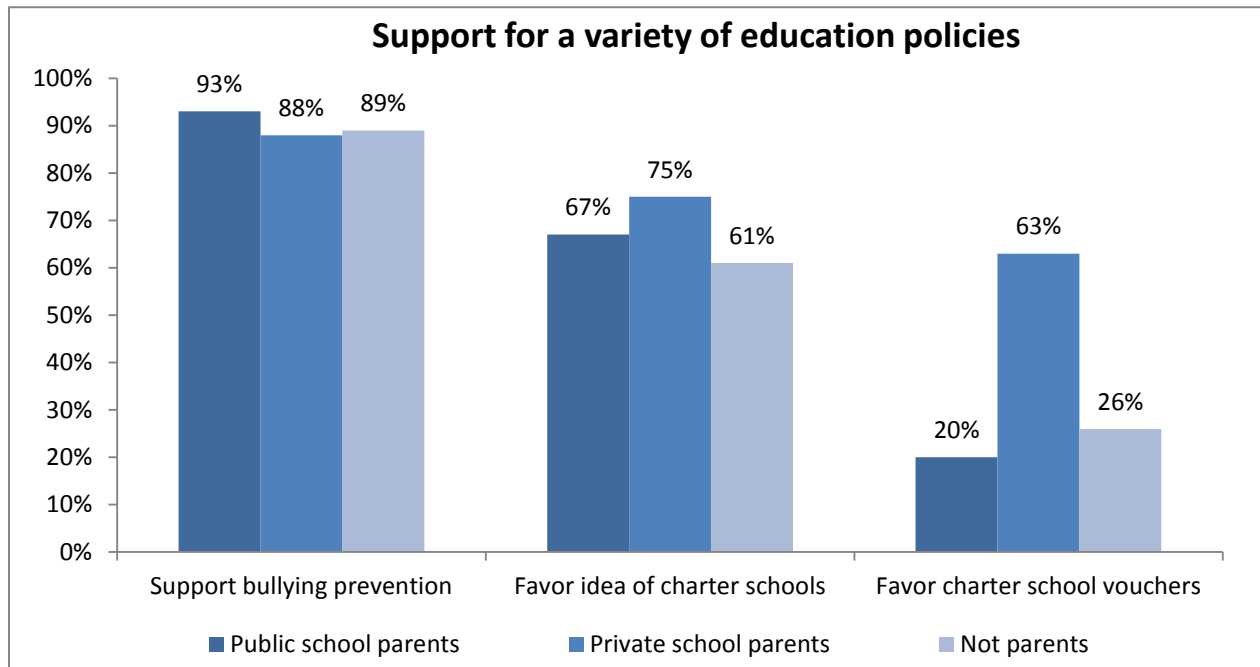
Illinois residents borrow \$28,543 to attend post-secondary institutions.

¹ Data is available from the Institute for College Access & Success at <http://ticas.org/posd/map-state-data#>.

Education

education policy

The 2015 Sangamon County Citizen Survey included several questions examining education policy including support for charter schools, school vouchers, and bullying prevention. We examine levels of support among public school parents, private school parents, and Sangamon County residents who did not have a child between the ages of five and 18.



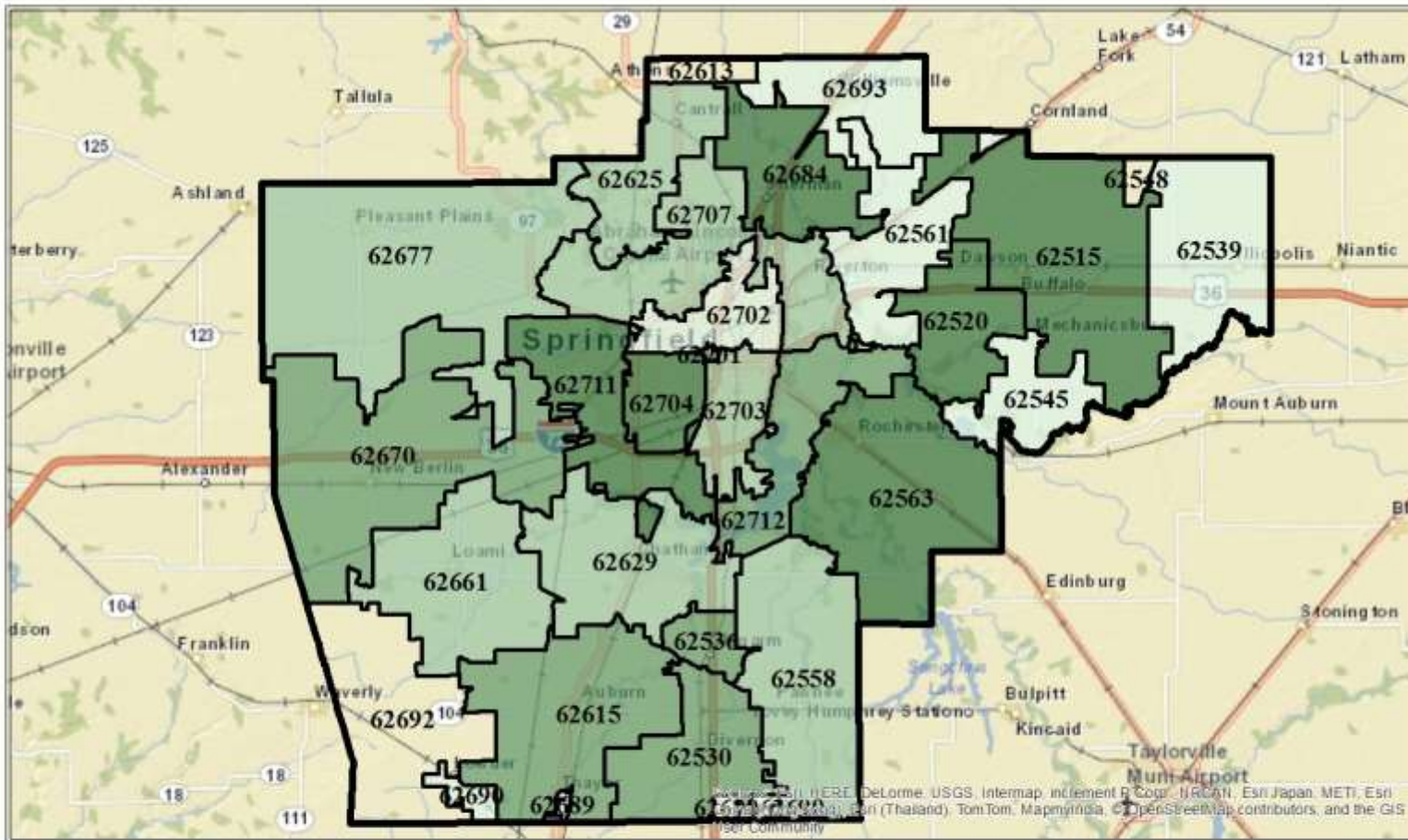
KEY FINDINGS:

- ✓ Eighty-nine percent of individuals believe that bullying prevention (including physical and cyber-bullying) should be part of school curriculum. This is higher than the national average of 78 percent of national survey respondents in the 2012 PDK/Gallup poll who support such an initiative.¹
- ✓ While 63 percent of respondents in the 2015 Citizen Survey favor the idea of charter schools, only 26 percent favor allowing students and parents to choose a private school to attend at the public's expense. Nationally, 37 percent of the population favors this type of policy (as reported in the 2014 PDK/Gallup poll²). As you can see in the figure, Sangamon County residents are slightly less supportive of this type of initiative with 26 percent reporting that they "favor" this education policy, 67 report that they "oppose," and seven percent report that they either "don't know" or refused to answer the question.
- ✓ African-American residents are more likely to favor both the idea of charter schools as well as charter school vouchers. Forty-one percent of African-American residents favor charter school vouchers compared to 24 percent of white residents.
- ✓ Private school parents are significantly more likely to support charter school vouchers than public school parents. Sixty-three percent of private school parents favor vouchers compared to 20 percent of public school parents.

¹ Data is available at http://valees.org/pdf/pdk_2012_gallup_poll.pdf.

² Data is available at <http://pdkpoll.pdkintl.org/#13>.

| | Percent who responded they are “very confident in local school board” | Percent who responded that they are “very involved” in their local school | Percent who responded that local colleges are “very effective” in training workforce |
|------------------------------------|---|---|--|
| SEX | | | |
| Male | 13% | 9% | 32% |
| Female | 14% | 12% | 41% |
| RACE | | | |
| White | 15% | 11% | 35% |
| African-American | 11% | 8% | 49% |
| EDUCATION | | | |
| Less than High school Diploma | 8% | 4% | 22% |
| High School Diploma | 17% | 11% | 37% |
| Some College Or Associate’s Degree | 14% | 6% | 39% |
| Bachelor's Degree | 11% | 14% | 38% |
| Graduate Or Professional Degree | 11% | 18% | 38% |
| AGE | | | |
| 18-24 years old | 15% | 15% | 27% |
| 25-34 years old | 6% | 9% | 23% |
| 35-44 years old | 23% | 16% | 37% |
| 45-54 years old | 15% | 16% | 36% |
| 55-64 years old | 14% | 6% | 47% |
| 65 years old and older | 11% | 4% | 48% |



Percent with a four-year degree or higher

- 0% - 33%
- 34% - 43%
- 44% - 51%
- 52% - 100%

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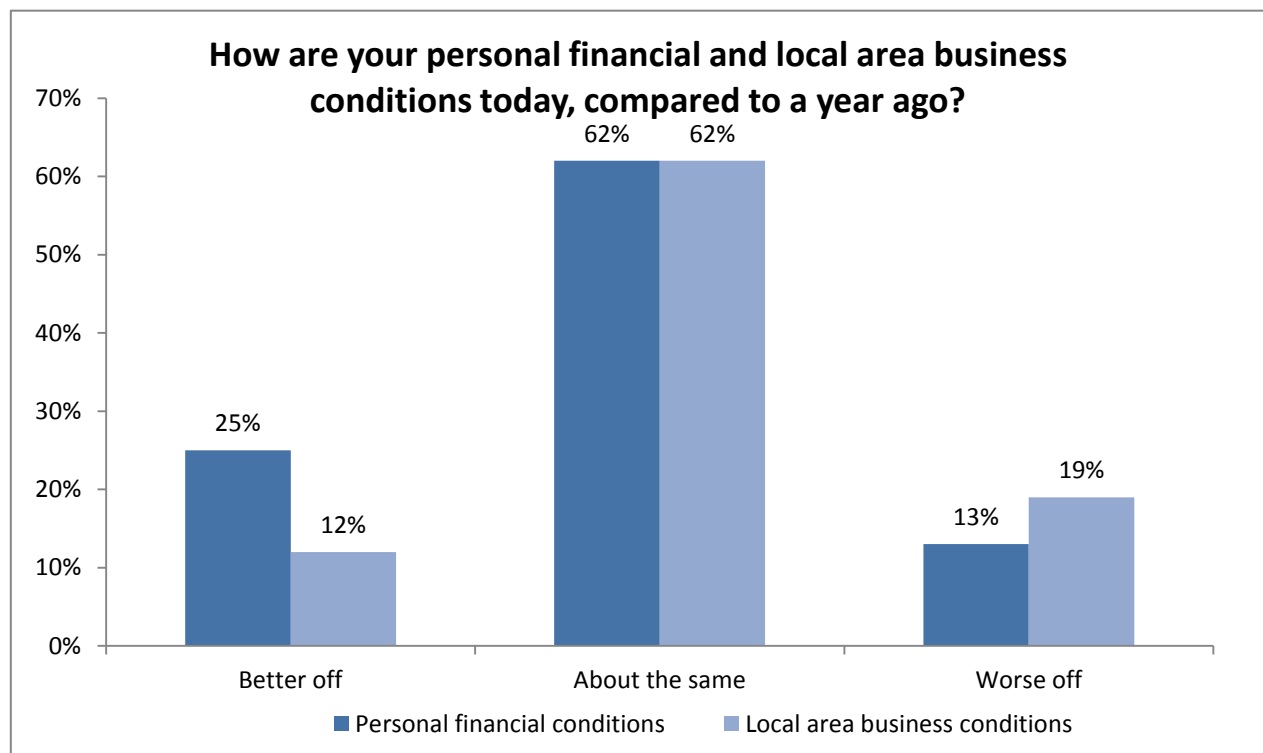


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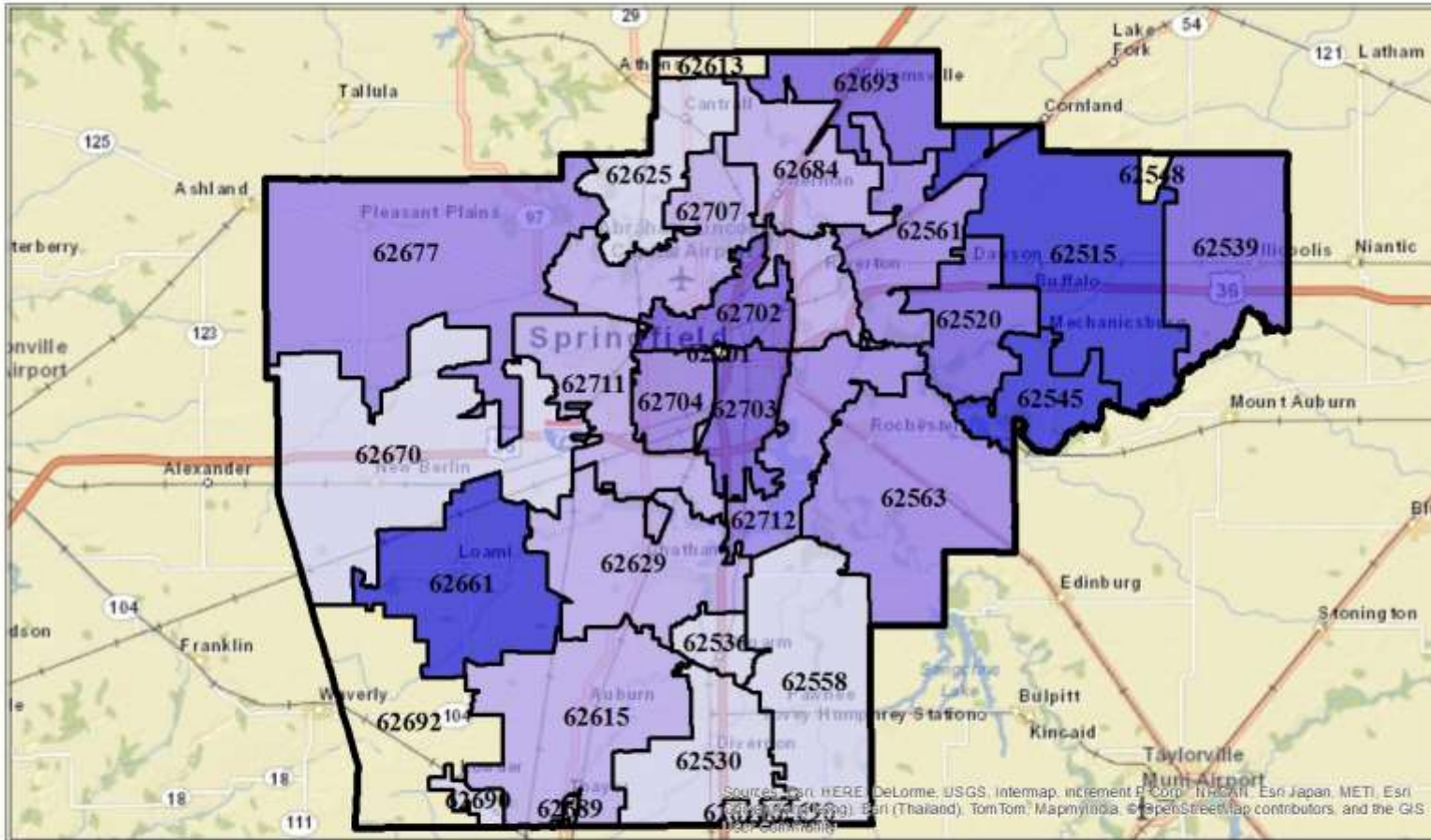
Economy

KEY FINDINGS:

- ✓ The 2015 Sangamon County Citizen Survey finds residents slightly less pessimistic about personal and county economic conditions.
- ✓ The unemployment rate for Sangamon County in April 2015, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics is 4.3 percent. The 2015 Sangamon County Citizen Survey found that 4.7 percent of residents are unemployed and currently seeking employment.
- ✓ In 2013, 21 percent of employed residents reported that they were underemployed in their current position. The 2015 survey finds that the percent of employed residents who report that they are currently underemployed has decreased to 17 percent.
- ✓ The percent of Sangamon County residents who report that their personal financial condition is "worse off" than it was 12 months ago has decreased from 21 percent in 2013 to 13 percent in 2015. The percent of Sangamon County residents who believe that local business conditions are "worse off" than they were 12 months ago has decreased from 30 percent in 2013 to 19 percent in 2015. Despite this, the survey does not find an increase in the percent of Sangamon County residents who think their personal financial and local business conditions are "better off." Those numbers remain static from 2013 to 2015.
- ✓ Personal economic conditions differ drastically by demographic group (see table on next page).



| | Percent who responded they are “unemployed, and seeking employment” | Percent who responded that they are “underemployed” | Percent who responded their personal financial conditions are “worse off” |
|------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| SEX | | | |
| Male | 4% | 15% | 10% |
| Female | 6% | 19% | 16% |
| RACE | | | |
| White | 4% | 18% | 12% |
| African-American | 14% | 14% | 19% |
| DISABILITY STATUS | | | |
| Have a disability | 2% | 40% | 27% |
| Does not have a disability | 5% | 15% | 10% |
| EDUCATION | | | |
| Less than High school Diploma | 9% | 46% | 30% |
| High School Diploma | 11% | 19% | 14% |
| Some College Or Associate’s Degree | 1% | 14% | 10% |
| Bachelor's Degree | 2% | 15% | 10% |
| Graduate Or Professional Degree | 3% | 13% | 10% |
| AGE | | | |
| 18-24 years old | 7% | 18% | 7% |
| 25-34 years old | 6% | 22% | 14% |
| 35-44 years old | 9% | 15% | 15% |
| 45-54 years old | 4% | 12% | 9% |
| 55-64 years old | 2% | 13% | 17% |
| 65 years old and older | 2% | 14% | 13% |



Percent worse off financially vs. one year ago

- 0%
- 1% - 8%
- 9% - 13%
- 14% - 25%
- 26% - 100%

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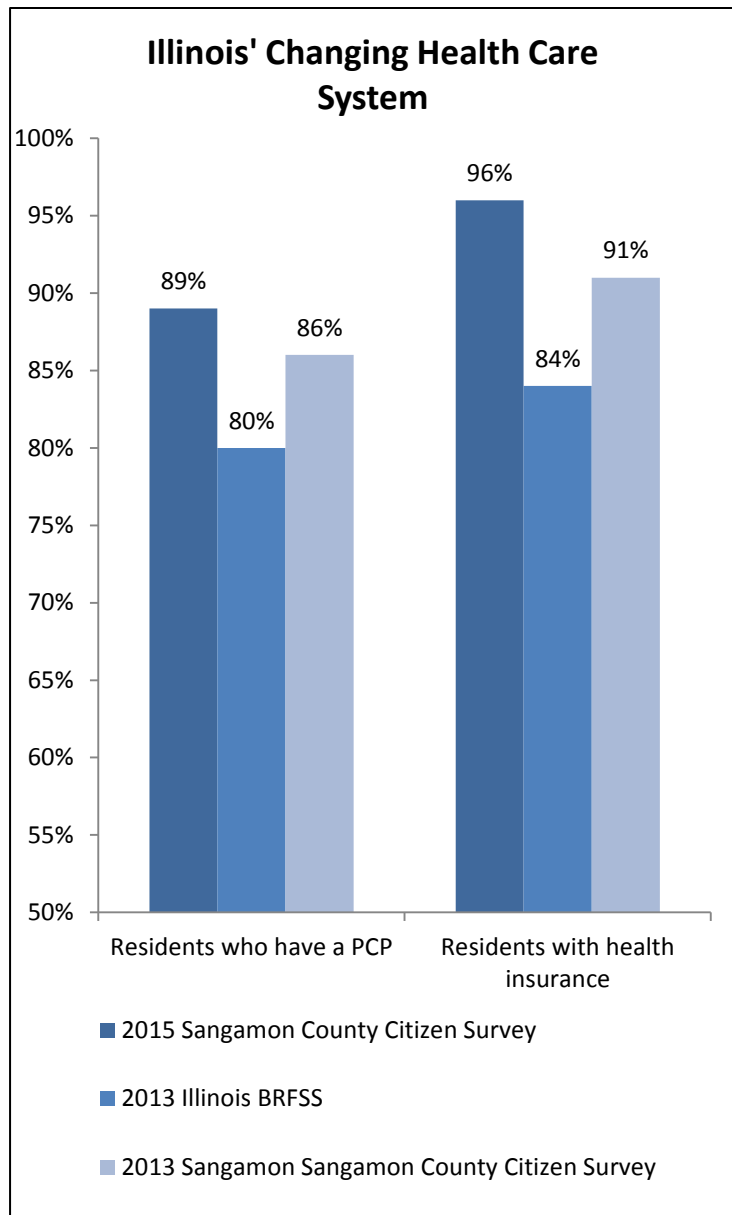
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Health

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) has changed the system of health care in the United States with the requirement that all Americans have health insurance, as well as the provision that no one can be denied due to pre-existing conditions.¹ And while Sangamon County ranks first among all the 102 Illinois counties in terms of access to care² (*2015 County Health Rankings and Roadmaps*), having access to care has not always translated to people being able to receive health care.

The results of the 2015 Sangamon County Citizen survey indicate an increase in the rates of insured residents as well as those who report having a primary care physician. Eighty-nine percent of residents now report having a primary health care provider (PCP). This is up three percentage points from the 2013 survey. But maybe even more significant, 96 percent of those surveyed report having health insurance coverage. This is up almost seven percentage points from the 2013 survey.

In addition, the percent of Sangamon County residents who report that there have been times in the past 12 months when they did not have enough money to pay for health care or medicines decreased from 21 percent in 2013 to 15 percent in 2015.



96% of Sangamon County residents report having health insurance coverage.

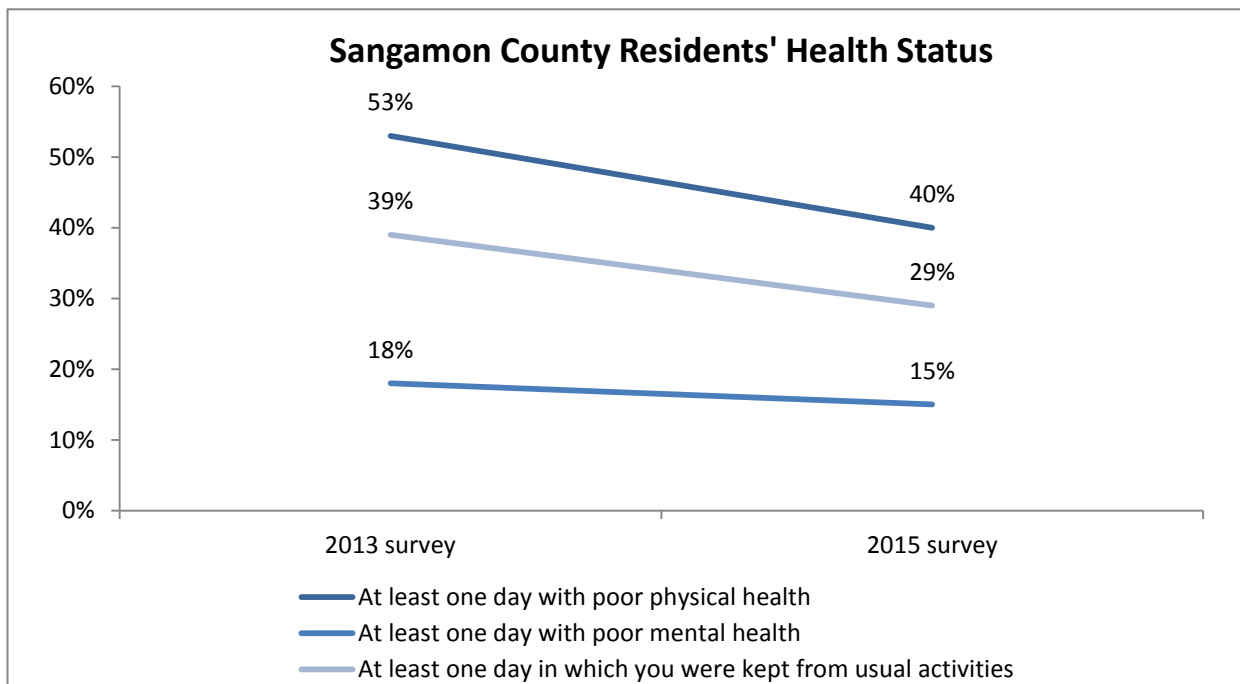
¹Data is available at: (<http://www.hhs.gov/healthcare/rights/law/>)

² Data is available at

(<http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/illinois/2015/rankings/sangamon/county/outcomes/overall/snapshot>)

KEY FINDINGS:

- ✓ Sangamon County residents report improvements in their overall health status.
- ✓ Eighty-nine percent of residents have a primary health care provider.
- ✓ Ninety-six percent of those interviewed for the 2015 Sangamon County Citizen's survey report currently having health insurance. The 2013 Sangamon County Citizen's survey results found 91 percent of those interviewed were covered by insurance.
- ✓ Sangamon County residents report being physically active. Eighty-five percent report engaging in physical activity in the past 30 days.
- ✓ Of all the males who took the survey, 35 percent report that they've had at least one poor physical health day in the last 30 days; for females the rate was 46 percent. The difference was similar when asked about mental health in the last 30 days, with 11 percent of the males reporting to having had one bad day. This compares to 19 percent for females.



When asked about their health in the past 30 days, 40 percent report there was at least one day in which their physical health was not good, 15 percent report at least one day in which their mental health was not good, and 29 percent report there had been at least one day in which they had been kept from usual activities due to health problems. When comparing these rates to the most recent statewide data,¹ we find that the percentage of Sangamon County residents report better health statuses than statewide rates as well as the 2013 survey (see figure above). The percent who report that their physical health was not good on at least one day is nearly even with the state rate of 40 percent, and is also less than 53 percent in 2013. The percent who report at least one day with poor mental health is significantly lower than the state rate of 38 percent as well as 18 percent in 2013. Additionally, the percent that report at least one day in which they had been kept from usual activities due to health is lower than the state rate of 41 percent as well as 39 percent in 2013.

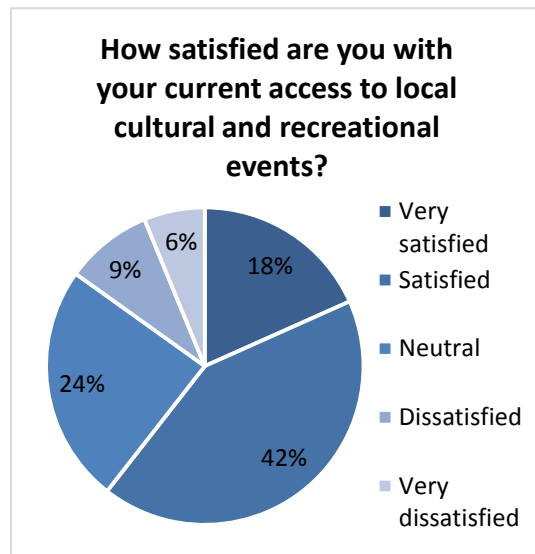
¹ Data is available at

<http://app.idph.state.il.us/brfss/statedata.asp?selTopic=hlthstatus&area=il&yr=2013&form=strata&show=freq>

| | Percent who report at least one poor physical health day in last 30 days | Percent who report not having health insurance | Percent who report at least one poor mental health day in last 30 days |
|------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| SEX | | | |
| Male | 35% | 2% | 11% |
| Female | 46% | 6% | 19% |
| RACE | | | |
| White | 41% | 3% | 14% |
| African-American | 43% | 3% | 22% |
| EDUCATION | | | |
| Less than High school Diploma | 48% | 9% | 30% |
| High School Diploma | 38% | 1% | 14% |
| Trade School | 60% | 20% | 20% |
| Some College Or Associate's Degree | 41% | 6% | 16% |
| Bachelor's Degree | 34% | 3% | 10% |
| Graduate Or Professional Degree | 41% | 3% | 13% |
| DISABILITY STATUS | | | |
| With Disability | 63% | 2% | 27% |
| Without Disability | 36% | 4% | 13% |
| AGE | | | |
| 18-24 years old | 37% | 4% | 15% |
| 25-34 years old | 29% | 8% | 14% |
| 35-44 years old | 50% | 5% | 11% |
| 45-54 years old | 40% | 2% | 18% |
| 55-64 years old | 40% | 2% | 23% |
| 65 years old and older | 44% | 2% | 11% |

Culture & Recreation

While the majority of the 2015 survey respondents report high levels of satisfaction with local recreational and cultural events in Sangamon County, they are slightly less satisfied than the 2013 survey respondents. Sixty-one percent of 2015 survey respondents report being “very” or “somewhat satisfied” compared to 68 percent of 2013 respondents. Only 15 percent of 2015 respondents report being “dissatisfied” or “very dissatisfied” with local recreational and cultural events.



Satisfaction with events varies across demographic groups. For instance, while 64 percent of white respondents report being “very” or “somewhat satisfied” with access to local events, only 43 percent of nonwhite respondents report the same level of satisfaction. Additionally, individuals not born in Sangamon County (57 percent “very” or “somewhat satisfied”) were more positive about access to events than those who were born in the county (54 percent “very” or “somewhat satisfied.”)

KEY FINDINGS:

- ✓ Respondents born in Sangamon County were less positive about access to local cultural and recreational events than those who were not born in the county.
- ✓ Nonwhite respondents report lower levels of satisfaction with access to cultural and recreational events than white respondents.
- ✓ Parks are rated highly by all demographic groups.
- ✓ An increasing number of Sangamon County residents report that they do not have access to a local library; seven percent of 2013 survey respondents reported not having access compared to 11 percent of 2015 survey respondents.

While there are considerable differences across demographic groups in terms of evaluating access to local cultural and recreational events, all respondents were extremely positive about their local parks. Nearly three-fourths of respondents rate their local park as either “excellent” or “good,” including 73 percent of nonwhite respondents and 76 percent of white respondents. Interestingly, Springfield residents and those living outside of the city rate their parks equally positively, with 73 and 75 percent rating their local park as “excellent” or “good,” respectively. These results are consistent with the 2013 survey in which respondents also reported positive attitudes towards their local parks.

Evaluations of local libraries are slightly less positive in the 2015 survey than the 2013 survey results, with an increasing number of individuals reporting that they do not have access to a local library. In 2013, seven percent of all Sangamon County residents reported that they did not have access to a local library; of those who had access, 65 percent rated it positively. In 2015, 60 percent rate their local library positively and 11 percent report that they do not have a local library.

| | Percent who view their local park as "excellent" | Percent who are "very satisfied" with access to local recreational and cultural events | Percent who report that they do not have access to local library |
|---------------------------------|--|--|--|
| SEX | | | |
| Male | 26% | 19% | 7% |
| Female | 30% | 18% | 14% |
| RACE | | | |
| White | 29% | 20% | 10% |
| African-American | 30% | 8% | 13% |
| EDUCATION | | | |
| Less than High school Diploma | 22% | 0% | 13% |
| High School Diploma or GED | 25% | 24% | 10% |
| Some College | 29% | 15% | 13% |
| Bachelor's Degree | 23% | 18% | 11% |
| Graduate Or Professional Degree | 48% | 23% | 5% |
| DISABILITY STATUS | | | |
| With Disability | 20% | 13% | 11% |
| Without Disability | 30% | 19% | 11% |
| AGE | | | |
| 18-24 years old | 37% | 11% | 19% |
| 25-34 years old | 24% | 12% | 3% |
| 35-44 years old | 23% | 22% | 5% |
| 45-54 years old | 38% | 21% | 13% |
| 55-64 years old | 25% | 19% | 15% |
| 65 years old and older | 28% | 20% | 15% |

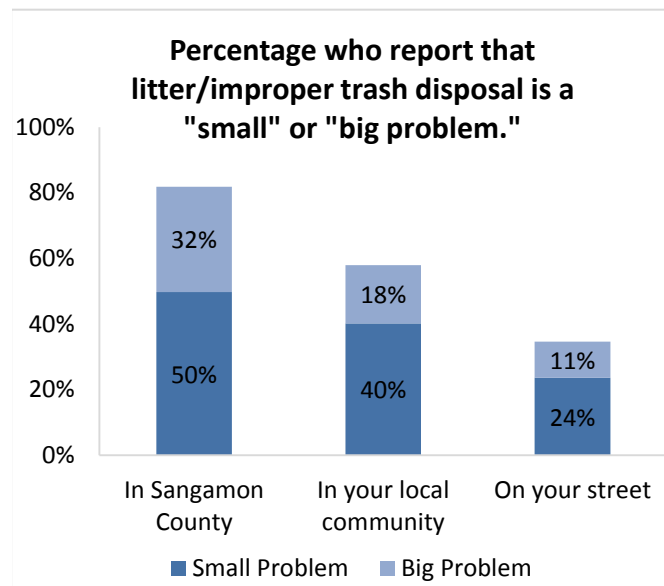
Environment

KEY FINDINGS:

- ✓ Thirty-one percent of Sangamon County residents report that litter/improper trash disposal is a “big problem” in Sangamon County. This is four percentage points higher than the 2013 survey results.
- ✓ Sangamon County residents living in zip code 62703 are more likely to report that litter/improper trash disposal is a problem than residents living in any other zip code. Residents living in the metro area are more likely than non-metro residents to report that litter is a problem.¹
- ✓ Sixty-eight percent of Sangamon County residents report recycling in their homes. This is slightly higher than the 66 percent who reported recycling in 2013 but still significantly less than the national average of 77 percent.²
- ✓ Married individuals or individuals in a domestic partnership or civil union report recycling at a higher rate than single respondents, 73 percent versus 60. This difference is likely attributable to differences in income and homeownership.

Respondents judge litter to be a problem in Sangamon County though not necessarily in their own neighborhoods. Seventy-nine percent of respondents say that litter/improper trash disposal is either a “big” or “small problem” in Sangamon County. This compares to 58 percent of respondents who say litter is a problem in their local community and 35 percent who report it is a problem on their street.

Sangamon County metro residents are more likely to report that improper trash disposal is a problem on their street. One-fourth of respondents living outside of the metro area report trash and improper litter disposal as a “big problem,” while almost half (45 percent) of metro residents report the same. Residents living in 62703 zip code have the highest percent who report that litter is a problem with 49 percent reporting that it is a “big” problem in Sangamon County, 34 percent reporting that it is a “big” problem in their local community, and 30 percent reporting it is a “big” problem on their street.



For years, Sangamon County residents have heard about efforts to consolidate local waste management services. The 2015 survey tried to dissect these attitudes by asking it in two different ways (using either “combine” or “consolidate”). It appears that question wording matters, with 33% of residents supporting consolidation and 43% of residents supporting combining local waste management services.

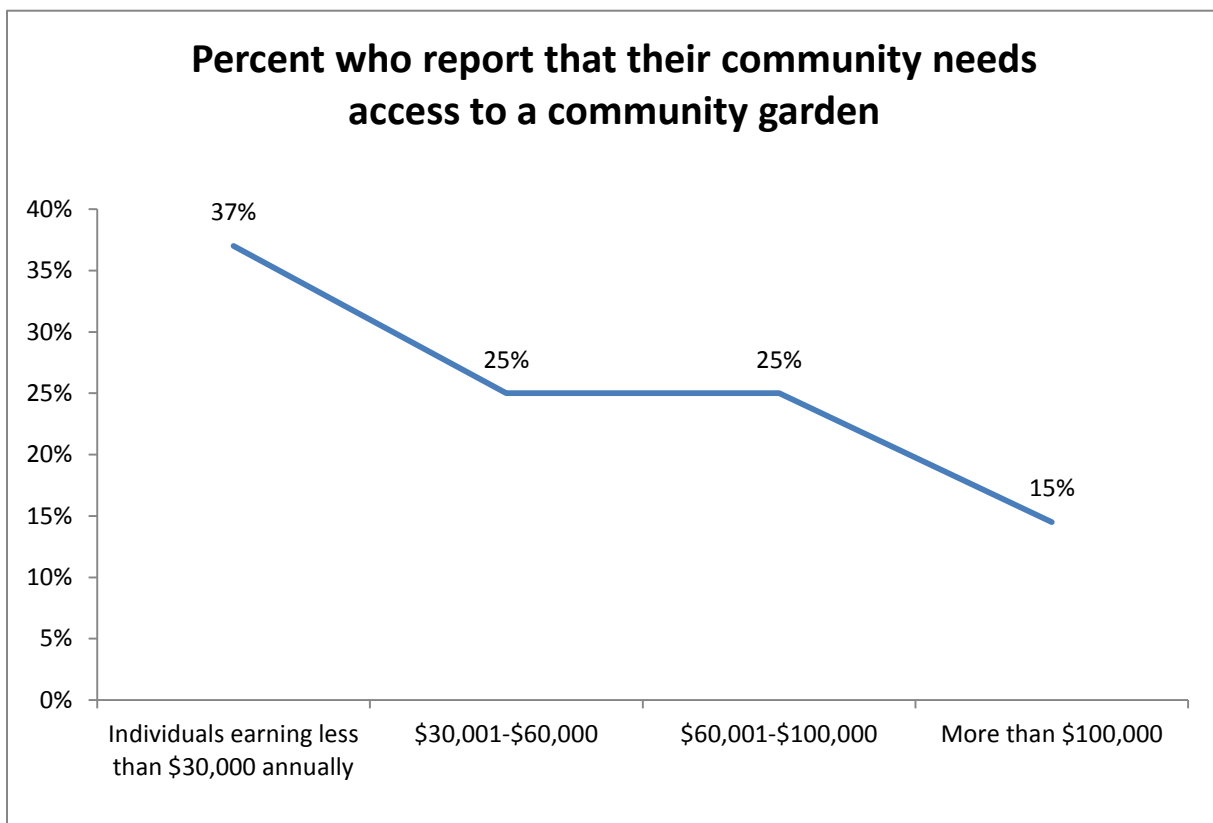
¹ Sangamon County metro residents are defined as individuals who reported their zip codes as 62701, 62702, 62703, or 62704.

² Pew Research Center for People and the Press. (2009). Trends in Political Values and Core Attitudes: 1987-2009.

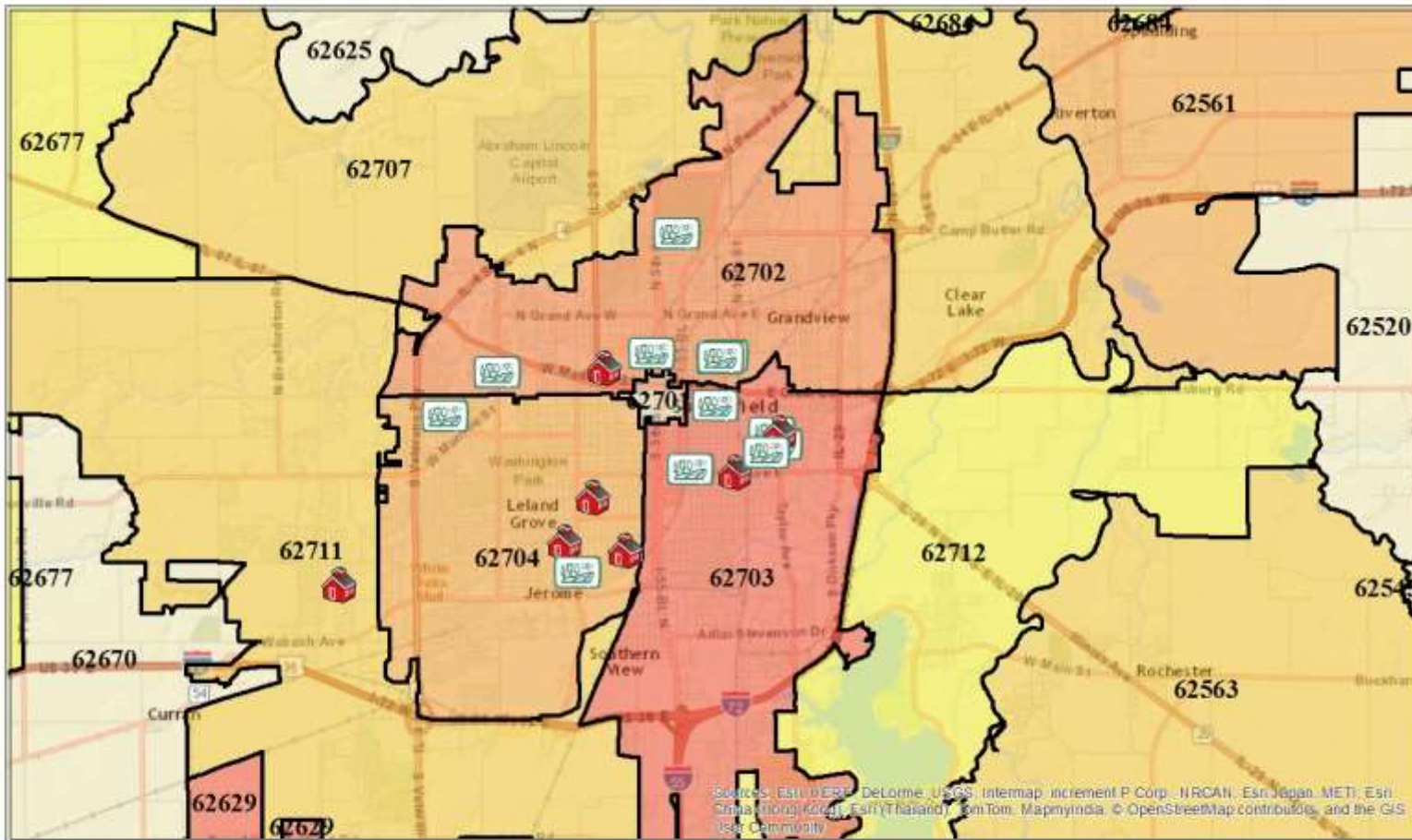
Environment

One of the major findings of the 2013 Sangamon County Citizen Survey was that 31 percent of residents reported that they did not have access to a community garden and they needed access. In addition, individuals with lower incomes were more likely to report that they needed access to a community garden. At that time, there were 10 community gardens located in Sangamon County.

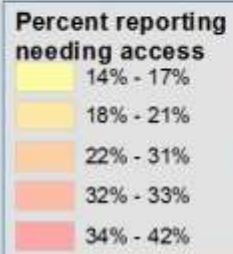
In 2015, there are 21 community gardens located in Sangamon County with all of them situated within the Springfield metro area. With this increased access, the 2015 survey finds a slightly lower percentage of individuals who report that they do not currently have access and they need access (26 percent). Yet, access to community gardens among low income residents has not improved (as seen in the figure below).



| | Percent who report recycling at home | Percent who believe trash/improper waste disposal is a “big problem” on their street | Percent who report their community “needs access” to a community garden |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| SEX | | | |
| Male | 70% | 9% | 27% |
| Female | 65% | 13% | 29% |
| RACE | | | |
| White | 70% | 11% | 28% |
| African-American | 54% | 14% | 27% |
| LOCATION | | | |
| Sangamon County metro resident | 67% | 17% | 33% |
| Sangamon County non-metro resident | 69% | 4% | 24% |
| EDUCATION | | | |
| Less than High school Diploma | 65% | 26% | 57% |
| High School Diploma or GED | 53% | 14% | 29% |
| Some College | 71% | 6% | 29% |
| Bachelor’s Degree | 73% | 10% | 23% |
| Graduate Or Professional Degree | 85% | 8% | 17% |
| DISABILITY STATUS | | | |
| With Disability | 62% | 27% | 37% |
| Without Disability | 68% | 8% | 26% |
| AGE | | | |
| 18-24 years old | 70% | 11% | 24% |
| 25-34 years old | 59% | 19% | 51% |
| 35-44 years old | 60% | 5% | 32% |
| 45-54 years old | 73% | 9% | 24% |
| 55-64 years old | 77% | 15% | 19% |
| 65 years old and older | 72% | 6% | 14% |



Source: Esri, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, increment P Corp., IRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Swisstopo, Esri Thailand, Swisstopo, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community



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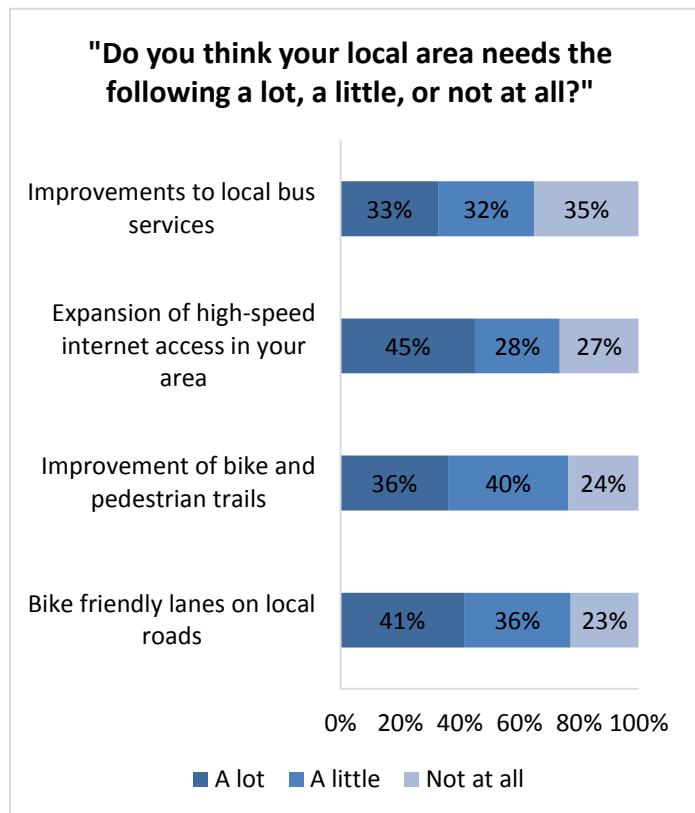


Infrastructure

Respondents to the 2015 Sangamon County Citizen Survey believe that Sangamon County is in need of improvement across several areas including implementation of bike friendly lanes on roads, improving bike and pedestrian trails, and expanding high-speed internet access. A smaller percentage of respondents see improving local bus services as a priority (see figure)

A higher percentage of residents living in the metro area report needing bike friendly lanes and improvement of bike and pedestrian trails. Nearly half (48 percent) of metro residents say that their local area needs bike friendly lanes on local roads “a lot,” compared to 35 percent of non-metro residents. Metro residents are also more likely (41 percent) than those living outside of the city (32 percent) to say that improvement of bike and pedestrian trails is needed “a lot.”

Residents were less likely to report that their local area needs improvements to local bus services with one-third of residents reporting that this is needed “a lot.” However, it is important to note that bus ridership, particularly as a regular form of commuting to work is quite low in Sangamon County (and nationally). According to 2013 American Community Survey, 1.3 percent of workers in Sangamon County use public transportation to commute to work.¹ The national average for this figure is 5 percent.



In fact, only five percent of respondents to the 2015 survey indicate they use the Springfield Mass Transit District (SMTD) at least once or twice a week and 85 percent report “never” using the system. African-American residents are more likely than White residents to report that the local bus service improvements are needed “a lot,” 54 percent compared to 25 percent.

The 2015 survey finds that 2 percent of Sangamon County residents report using a bicycle to commute to work. This is higher than the 0.6 percent of respondents reported using a bicycle to get to work in 2013 according to the Census. This places Springfield 112th out of 184 mid-sized cities in America in terms of bicycle commuting.

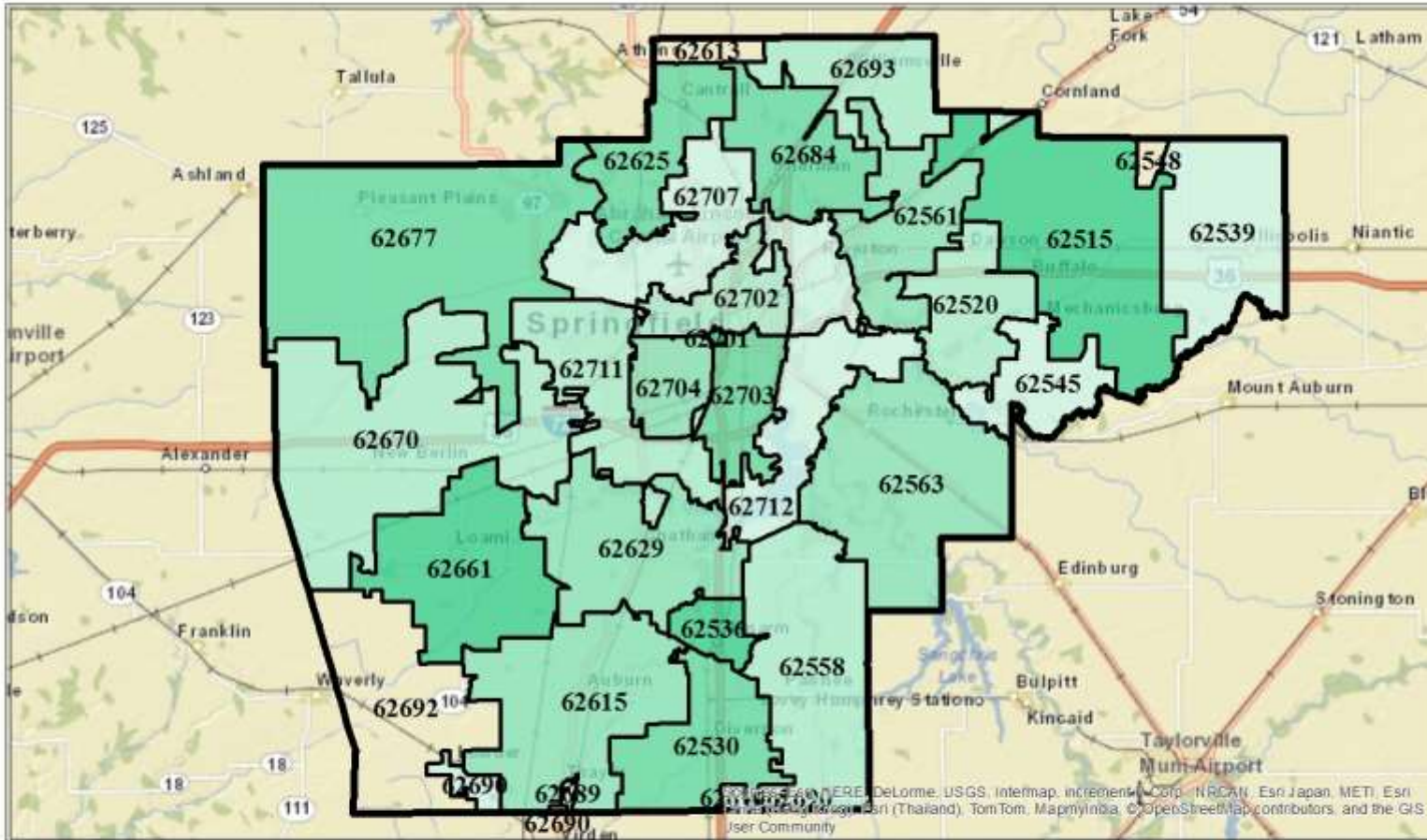
¹ Data on commuting is available through the U.S. Census Bureau in both 3-Year and 5-Year American Community Survey.

http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_13_3YR_S0802&prodType=table
http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_13_5YR_S0802&prodType=table

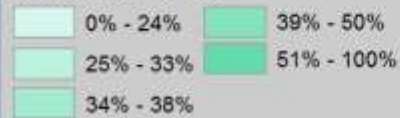
| | Percent who believe improvements to local bus services is needed “a lot” | Percent who commute to work |
|------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| SEX | | |
| Male | 23% | 59% |
| Female | 43% | 50% |
| RACE | | |
| White | 25% | 54% |
| African-American | 54% | 59% |
| LOCATION | | |
| Sangamon County metro resident | 38% | 52% |
| Sangamon County non-metro resident | 29% | 57% |
| EDUCATION | | |
| Less than High school Diploma | 35% | 39% |
| High School Diploma or GED | 36% | 47% |
| Some College | 32% | 56% |
| Bachelor’s Degree | 31% | 59% |
| Graduate Or Professional Degree | 31% | 67% |
| DISABILITY STATUS | | |
| With Disability | 49% | 31% |
| Without Disability | 30% | 59% |
| AGE | | |
| 18-24 years old | 26% | 70% |
| 25-34 years old | 39% | 61% |
| 35-44 years old | 33% | 66% |
| 45-54 years old | 24% | 73% |
| 55-64 years old | 42% | 50% |
| 65 years old and older | 29% | 13% |

| | Percent who traveled via Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport in the past year | Percent who traveled via Amtrak in the past year |
|--|---|---|
| SEX | | |
| Male | 26% | 30% |
| Female | 18% | 25% |
| RACE | | |
| White | 22% | 24% |
| African-American | 17% | 46% |
| LOCATION | | |
| Sangamon County metro resident | 18% | 30% |
| Sangamon County non-metro resident | 25% | 24% |
| EDUCATION | | |
| Less than High school Diploma | 4.3% | 21% |
| High School Diploma or GED | 6.8% | 19% |
| Trade school or technical training after HS | 25% | 27% |
| Some College | 19% | 31% |
| Bachelor's Degree | 32% | 29% |
| Graduate Or Professional Degree | 53% | 40% |
| DISABILITY STATUS | | |
| With Disability | 10% | 18% |
| Without Disability | 23% | 29% |
| AGE | | |
| 18-24 years old | 30% | 32% |
| 25-34 years old | 17% | 31% |
| 35-44 years old | 17% | 32% |
| 45-54 years old | 27% | 30% |
| 55-64 years old | 23% | 22% |
| 65 years old and older | 21% | 18% |

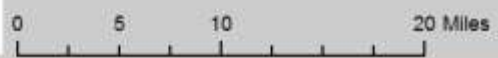
| | Percent who favor increasing property or sales taxes to fund infrastructure improvements | Percent who feel “somewhat” or “very safe” when traveling on local streets |
|---|--|--|
| SEX | | |
| Male | 47% | 67% |
| Female | 55% | 58% |
| RACE | | |
| White | 53% | 63% |
| African-American | 41% | 63% |
| LOCATION | | |
| Sangamon County metro resident | 54% | 56% |
| Sangamon County non-metro resident | 48% | 70% |
| EDUCATION | | |
| Less than High school Diploma | 39% | 22% |
| High School Diploma or GED | 46% | 61% |
| Trade school or technical training after HS | 33% | 80% |
| Some College | 52% | 61% |
| Bachelor’s Degree | 59% | 71% |
| Graduate Or Professional Degree | 57% | 80% |
| DISABILITY STATUS | | |
| With Disability | 42% | 47% |
| Without Disability | 53% | 66% |
| AGE | | |
| 18-24 years old | 52% | 59% |
| 25-34 years old | 50% | 58% |
| 35-44 years old | 51% | 70% |
| 45-54 years old | 53% | 64% |
| 55-64 years old | 48% | 65% |
| 65 years old and older | 51% | 57% |



Percent who say improvement of bike and pedestrian trails is needed "a lot"

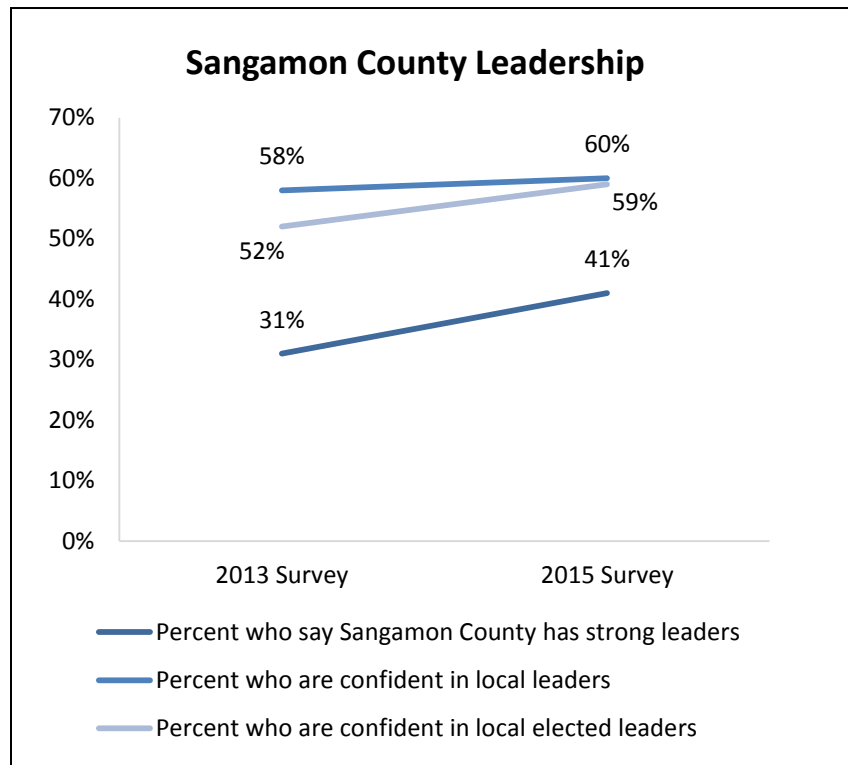


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Government & Civic Participation

The perception of local leadership in Sangamon County shows some variation from the 2013 Sangamon County Citizen Survey. In 2015, respondents are more likely to report confidence in local leaders and local elected leaders compared to 2013. Additionally, respondents are 10 percentage points more likely to indicate Sangamon County has strong leaders compared to 2013. The chart to the right illustrates changes in the perception of leadership.



KEY FINDINGS:

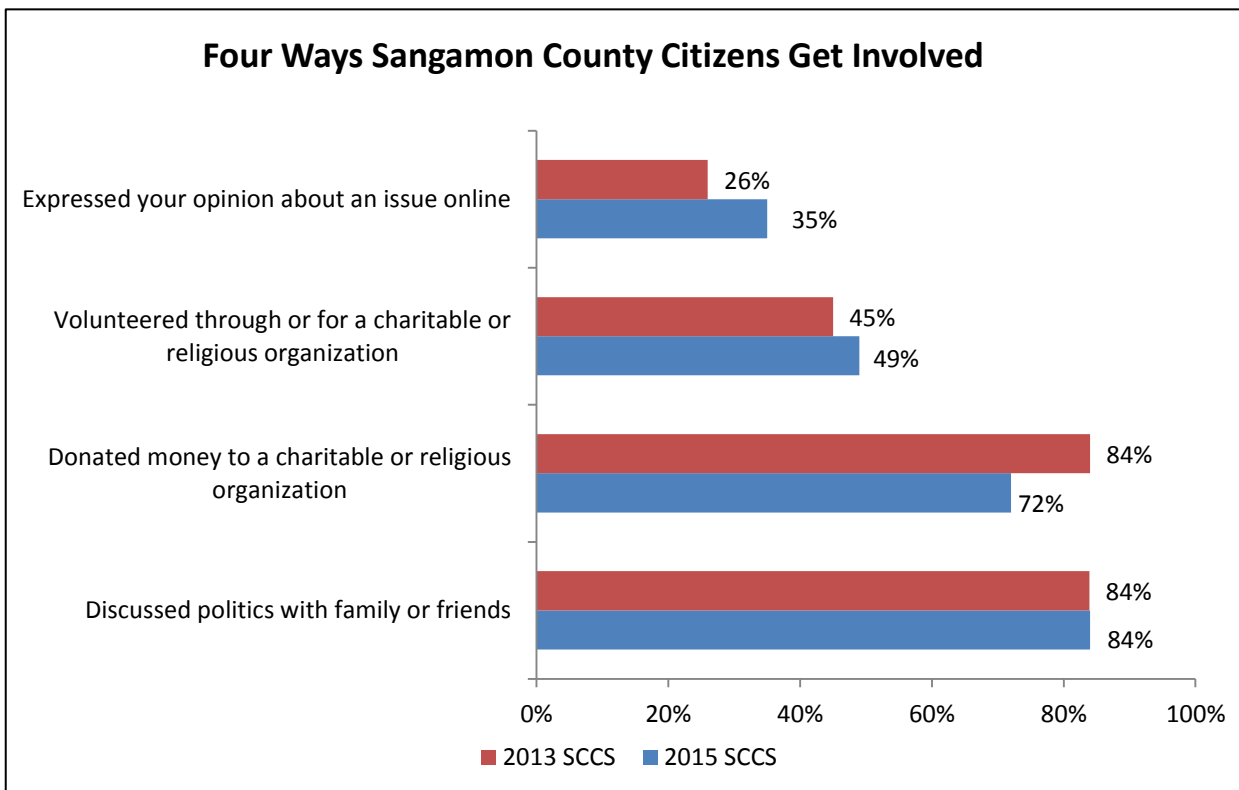
- ✓ Forty-one percent of Sangamon County residents feel Sangamon County has “strong” leadership. This perception has increased by 10 percentage points from the 2013 Sangamon County Citizen Survey.
- ✓ Fifty-nine percent of Sangamon County residents are confident that local elected leaders can effectively address local problems. This perception has increased seven percentage points from the 2013 Sangamon County Citizen Survey.
- ✓ The youngest respondents, ages 18-24, generally have positive perceptions of local leadership. Seventy-four percent of the youngest respondents make the evaluation Sangamon County has “strong” leaders. Eighty-two percent of the youngest respondents report confidence in local elected leaders and 71 percent report confidence in the ability of local leaders to address local problems. In comparison, respondents ages 35-44 are less optimistic about local leadership. Fifty-six percent of these respondents report confidence in local leaders and local elected leaders. Furthermore, only 38 percent of these respondents make the evaluation Sangamon County has “strong” leaders.
- ✓ African-American respondents (50 percent) are more likely than white respondents (39 percent) to indicate Sangamon County has “strong” leaders.
- ✓ Only 35 percent of individuals without a high school diploma express confidence in the ability of local elected leaders to effectively address local problems. Conversely, 69 percent of respondents with a four-year college degree indicate having confidence in local elected leaders.

Government & Civic Participation

Many Sangamon County residents indicate they volunteer or engage in other forms of civic participation in the community. Four measures of civic engagement in Sangamon County are represented in the graph below. The 2015 survey finds an increase in the percent of individuals who express opinions online and a decrease in the percent who have donated money to charitable or religious organizations. Monetary donations to charitable organizations have been down since the economic downturn in 2008 but recent reports by the Giving USA Foundation indicate that it is beginning to recover with donation rates now consistent with pre-recession levels.¹ It is unclear why the most recent Sangamon County Citizen Survey finds a decrease in charitable giving among residents.

Forty-nine percent of Sangamon county residents indicate they have volunteered through or for a charitable or religious organization within the last 12 months. The percent of respondents who report having volunteered in Sangamon County in the last 12 months is significantly higher than reported state (26 percent)² volunteer rates, but on par with national (49 percent)³ volunteer rates. Younger Sangamon County residents (18-24 year olds) are more likely to express their opinion online (44%) and more likely to volunteer for a charitable organization (52%).

It is important to note that in self-report measures like surveys, people tend to over-report their civic participation. However, we would not expect changes in self-reporting to be dependent on the year.



¹ Data is available at <http://givingusa.org/>

² Data is available at <http://www.volunteeringinamerica.gov/export.cfm>

³ As reported by the NORC's General Social Survey (GSS) in 2014. Data available at <https://gssdataexplorer.norc.org/>

Government & Civic Participation

KEY FINDINGS:

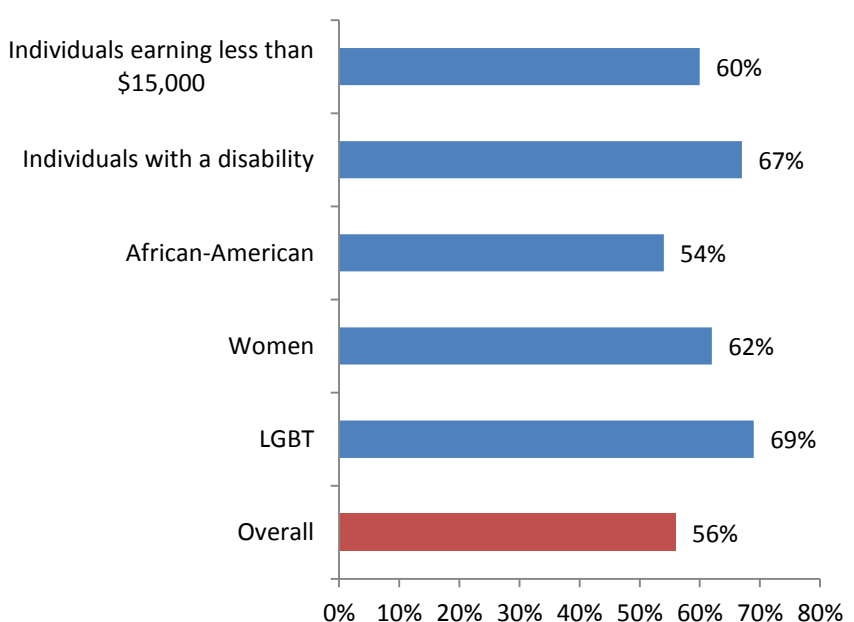
- ✓ Attitudes on whether Sangamon County residents believe everyone in their community is treated equally are strongly correlated to demographic and minority status. LGBT individuals, individuals with a disability, women, and individuals earning less annual income are less likely to report that they think everyone in the community is treated equally. Interestingly, African-American respondents (54 percent) are equally as likely to report that everyone in their community is not treated equally as white respondents (54 percent).
- ✓ Forty-six percent of residents believe that it is the entire community's responsibility to take care of the most disadvantaged citizens compared to 25 percent who believe it is the individuals' own responsibility and 15 percent who believe it is the responsibility of local government.

56% of respondents do not think everyone in their community is treated equally.

46% think it is the entire community's responsibility to take care of the most disadvantaged population.

When asked "Do you think everyone in your community is treated equally, in other words, does everyone get a fair shake?" 42 percent of respondents indicate they did believe everyone in their community was treated equally. Fifty-six percent of respondents indicate they do not think everyone in their community is treated equally. These results differ slightly than the 2013 survey with a higher percentage of residents reporting that they believe everyone in their community is treated equally, 42 percent compared to 37 percent.

Percent who report that everyone is not treated equally

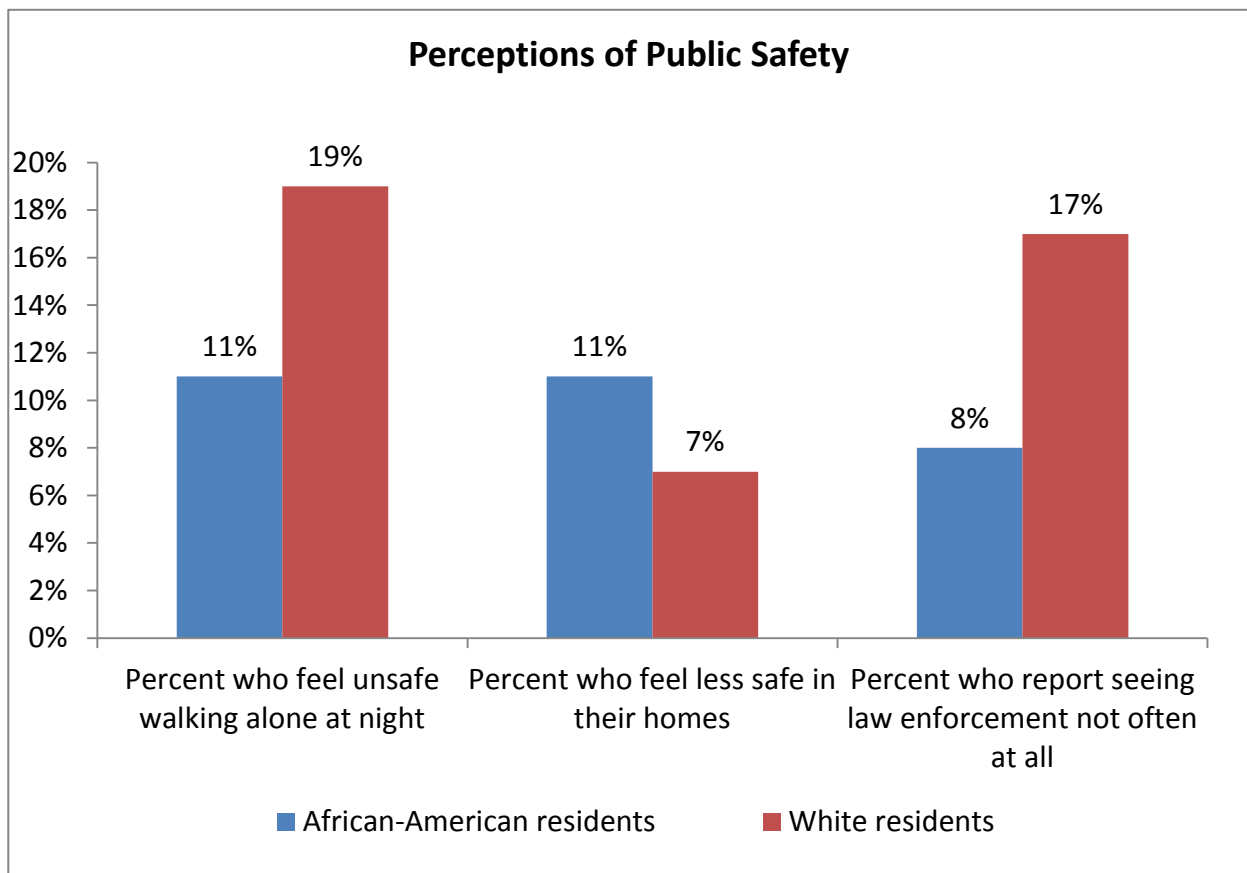


| | Percent of Sangamon County residents who feel Sangamon county has “strong” leaders. | Percent of Sangamon County residents who do not think everyone in their community is treated equally. |
|------------------------------------|---|---|
| SEX | | |
| Male | 43% | 47% |
| Female | 39% | 62% |
| RACE | | |
| White | 40% | 54% |
| African-American | 50% | 54% |
| EDUCATION | | |
| Less than High school Diploma | 44% | 65% |
| High School Diploma | 36% | 47% |
| Some College Or Associate’s Degree | 44% | 55% |
| Bachelor's Degree | 41% | 60% |
| Graduate Or Professional Degree | 45% | 56% |
| DISABILITY STATUS | | |
| With Disability | 33% | 67% |
| Without Disability | 42% | 53% |
| AGE | | |
| 18-24 years old | 74% | 56% |
| 25-34 years old | 33% | 65% |
| 35-44 years old | 38% | 45% |
| 45-54 years old | 38% | 48% |
| 55-64 years old | 38% | 60% |
| 65 years old and older | 43% | 53% |

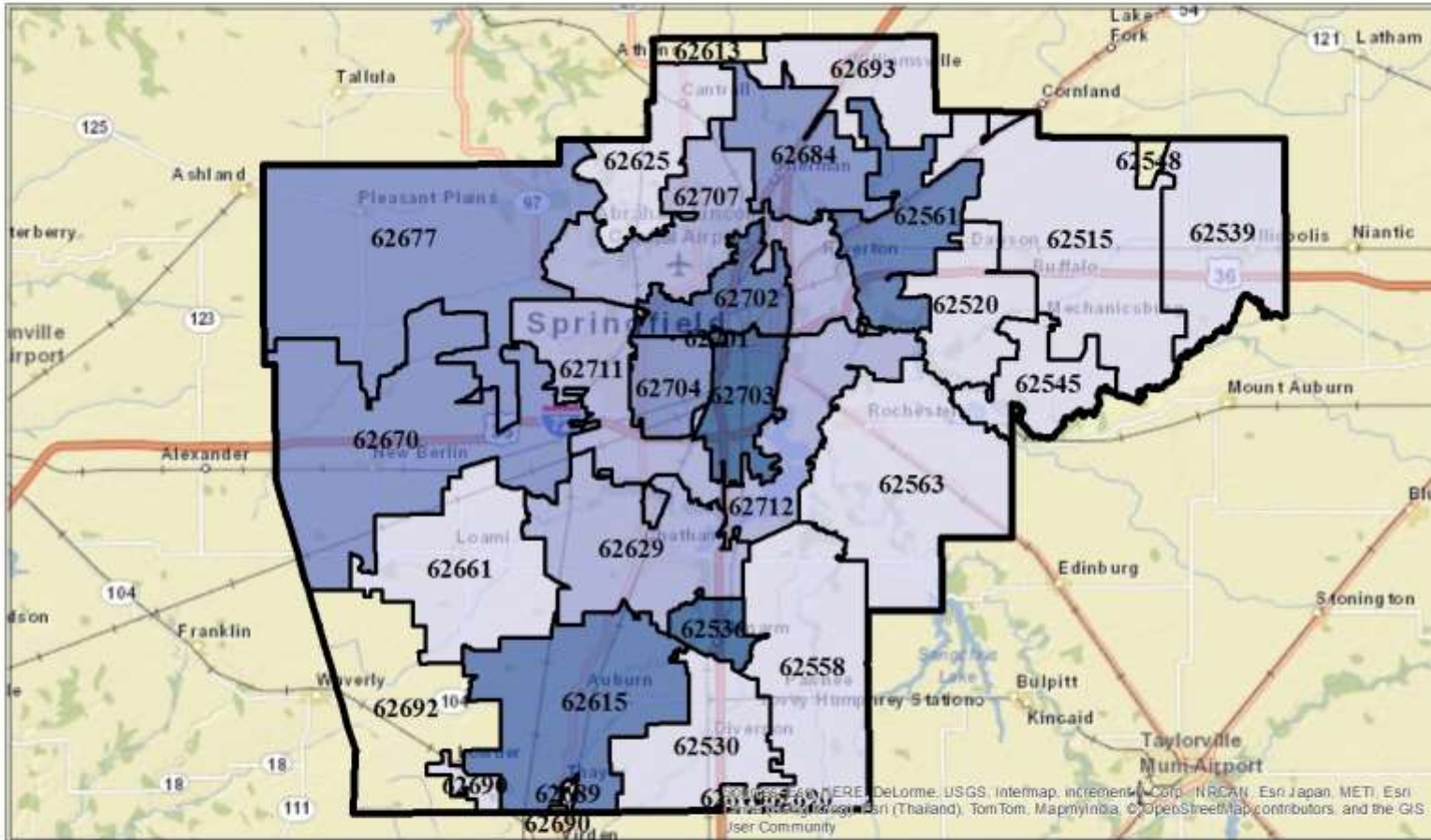
Public Safety

KEY FINDINGS:

- ✓ Eighty percent of Sangamon County residents report that they feel safe walking alone at night in their neighborhood compared to 17 percent reporting that they feel unsafe. These results are consistent with the 2013 survey and do not indicate a significant change in perceptions of public safety among Sangamon County residents.
- ✓ Seven percent of residents feel less safe in their home now than they did a year ago.
- ✓ Perceptions of law enforcement presence have decreased slightly with only 22 percent of respondents reporting that they see police or other types of law enforcement patrolling their neighborhood (or street) “very often,” compared to 31 percent in 2013.
- ✓ African-American residents report a higher law enforcement presence in their neighborhoods and also report feeling “safe” while walking alone at night in their neighborhoods at a higher rate than white residents. However, they are more likely to report that they feel “less safe” in their homes now compared to a year ago.
- ✓ One-fourth of female Sangamon County residents report feeling “unsafe” walking alone at night in their neighborhood or on their street.



| | Percent who responded they feel “less safe” in their homes, compared to a year ago | Percent who responded that they feel “unsafe” walking alone at night in their neighborhood |
|------------------------------------|--|--|
| SEX | | |
| Male | 6% | 9% |
| Female | 9% | 25% |
| RACE | | |
| White | 7% | 19% |
| African-American | 11% | 11% |
| EDUCATION | | |
| Less than High school Diploma | 8% | 48% |
| High School Diploma | 11% | 21% |
| Some College Or Associate’s Degree | 30% | 20% |
| Bachelor's Degree | 5% | 10% |
| Graduate Or Professional Degree | 5% | 5% |
| DISABILITY STATUS | | |
| With Disability | 13% | 44% |
| Without Disability | 6% | 12% |
| AGE | | |
| 18-24 years old | 4% | 11% |
| 25-34 years old | 8% | 25% |
| 35-44 years old | 9% | 9% |
| 45-54 years old | 4% | 16% |
| 55-64 years old | 8% | 20% |
| 65 years old and older | 7% | 19% |



Percent who feel unsafe walking alone at night

- 0%
- 1% - 6%
- 7% - 11%
- 12% - 30%
- 31% - 50%

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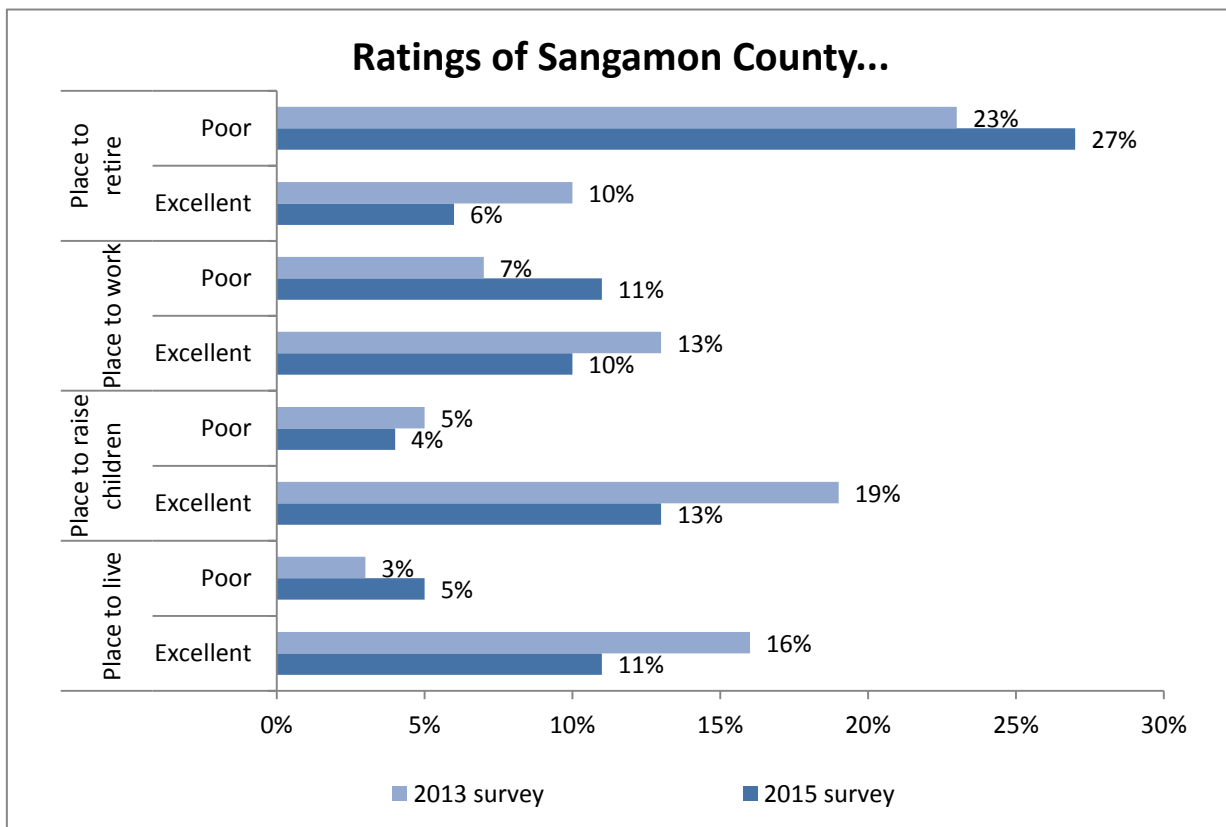
Social Well-Being

Sangamon County residents rate the county less positively in the 2015 survey compared to the 2013 Sangamon County Citizen Survey. The percentage of residents who think Sangamon County is an “excellent” place to live, raise children, work, and retire has decreased while the percentage who rate it is a “poor” place to work, live, and retire has increased (see figure below).

In addition, when asked if things in Sangamon County are generally on the right track or do you think things are going in the wrong direction, the 2015 survey has a fewer percentage of individuals who report that things are on the right track, a decrease from 60% in 2013 to 53% in 2015. However, there is also a decrease in the percent of individuals who report that things are headed in the wrong direction.

In 2013, 31 percent of Sangamon County residents reported that things were headed in the wrong direction. In 2015, this decreases to 28% (with more individuals reporting that they “did not know” or were “unsure.”) This results in a net favorable/unfavorable change from +29 in 2013 to +25 in 2015, which indicates that overall ratings in 2015 are still favorable yet not as favorable as they were in 2013.

When asked about their immediate area as a place to live, 16% report that it is getting better, 16% report that it is getting worse, and 66% report that it is staying the same. These results are consistent with the 2013 survey. Interestingly, in the 2015 survey, there are no significant differences among demographic groups which were present in the 2013 survey.



Social Well-Being

KEY FINDINGS:

- ✓ Based on recent current events, the 2015 Sangamon County Citizen Survey asked residents their attitudes towards race relations in the area. Overall, 64% of residents report that race relations are either “very good” (6%) or “fairly good” (58%). This is considerably higher than a national poll¹ which found that only 39% of U.S. residents reporting that race relations are “generally good.”
- ✓ The largest percentage of respondents to report race relations as very good are between the ages 55-64 (29.4%) while younger respondents (25-34 year olds) are more likely to report race relations as “very bad” (40%).
- ✓ Sixty-five percent of white respondents report that race relations are good compared to 60% of African-American respondents.



Thanks to the Survey Research Office staff and students who helped collect and analyze the data (some pictured above).

¹ According to a *New York Times*/CBS News poll. Data available at <http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/05/05/us/05poll-doc.html>.

| | Percent who view Sangamon County as an “excellent” place to retire | Percent who describe race relations in Sangamon County as either “very good” or “good” |
|------------------------------------|--|--|
| SEX | | |
| Male | 7% | 40% |
| Female | 5% | 38% |
| RACE | | |
| White | 7% | 39% |
| African-American | 6% | 50% |
| EDUCATION | | |
| Less than High school Diploma | 0% | 26% |
| High School Diploma | 6% | 66% |
| Some College Or Associate’s Degree | 7% | 68% |
| Bachelor's Degree | 8% | 66% |
| Graduate Or Professional Degree | 8% | 67% |
| DISABILITY STATUS | | |
| With Disability | 2% | 51% |
| Without Disability | 7% | 67% |
| AGE | | |
| 18-24 years old | 11% | 72% |
| 25-34 years old | 8% | 55% |
| 35-44 years old | 2% | 67% |
| 45-54 years old | 4% | 61% |
| 55-64 years old | 8% | 67% |
| 65 years old and older | 7% | 68% |

Methodological Report

In 2015, the UIS Survey Research Office (SRO) became a charter member of the American Association for Public Opinions Research's Transparency Initiative (TI). By joining the TI, the SRO is supporting broader and more effective disclosure of research methods by all organizations. The Transparency Initiative provides formal public recognition by AAPOR of an organization's voluntary commitment to abide by the disclosure standards in the AAPOR Code of Professional Ethics and Practices, while benefiting the public by providing more information with which to evaluate the quality of individual surveys.

As part of SRO's continued investment in this initiative, it has committed to providing a detailed methodological report of all of its survey projects. For more information on the TI, please visit <http://www.aapor.org/AAPORKentico/Transparency-Initiative.aspx>.

Transparency Initiative Methodological Report

The 2015 Sangamon County Citizen Survey is sponsored by the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln, United Way of Central Illinois, and the University of Illinois Springfield's Center for State Policy and Leadership. It was conducted by researchers at the University of Illinois Springfield's Survey Research Office. A steering committee assisted with questionnaire development (comprised of University and Chamber representatives). The topline report includes actual question wording and frequencies for each answer category as well as all open-ended responses.

Sample and Methodology

The survey is representative of Sangamon County, Illinois and the data was weighted for probability sampling and to match the most recent population estimates as provided by the U.S. Census Bureau. The results include 576 completed telephone interviews (32% completed by landline numbers and 68% completed by cell phones) of Sangamon County residents. The overall response rate for the survey is 13.2%, the cooperation rate is 23.2%, and the margin of error is +/- 4.08 percentage points. Telephone interviews began on April 15, 2015 and concluded on May 18, 2015. Interviews were conducted between the hours of 9am and 9pm, Monday through Friday, and 1-5pm on Sunday. All respondents were contacted at least once with the average number of attempted phone calls of 4.. The maximum number of attempts for a respondent is 10 attempts.

For more information on this study, please contact SRO Director, Dr. Ashley Kirzinger at akirz2@uis.edu, or 217-206-6591.



Topline Report

Introductory Questions and Demographics

Am I contacting you today on your cell phone or on your landline telephone?

| | |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Landline (House) Telephone | 22.5% |
| Cell Phone | 77.5% |

(FILTER, asked of landline respondents) And do you happen to have a cell phone number with the 2-1-7 area code?

| | |
|-----|-------|
| Yes | 59.1% |
| No | 40.9% |

(FILTER, asked of cell phone respondents) And do you happen to have a landline number with the 2-1-7 area code?

| | |
|-----|-------|
| Yes | 19.6% |
| No | 80.4% |

What is the highest grade of school that you completed? Is it...

| | |
|--|-------|
| Less than high school diploma | 7.4% |
| High school diploma or GED | 27.8% |
| Trade school or technical training after high school | 3.2% |
| Some college | 28.4% |
| Four-year college degree | 20% |
| An Advanced degree (PhD, MD, Law) | 12.7% |
| DON'T KNOW | 0% |
| REFUSED | 0.5% |

Are you the parent or primary guardian of a school aged child (between the ages of 5 and 18)?

| | |
|------------|-------|
| Yes | 33% |
| No | 66.3% |
| DON'T KNOW | 0.3% |
| REFUSED | 0.4% |

Age categories

| | |
|-----------------|-------|
| 18-24 years old | 8.9% |
| 25-34 years old | 21.3% |
| 35-44 years old | 18.1% |
| 45-54 years old | 18.4% |
| 55-64 years old | 15.7% |
| 65 or older | 17.7% |

(FILTER, asked of parents/guardians of school aged child only) What is the age of your oldest (only) child who is between the ages of 5 and 18?

| | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| Five to seven years old | 19.2% |
| Eight to ten years old | 10.3% |
| Eleven to 13 years old | 21% |
| 14 to 16 years old | 31.4% |
| 17 or 18 years old | 18.2% |
| DON'T KNOW | (1) |
| REFUSED | (0) |

What is your gender?

| | |
|--------|-----|
| Male | 48% |
| Female | 52% |

Do you consider yourself Hispanic or Latino (a)?

| | |
|------------|-------|
| Yes | 1.8% |
| No | 98.6% |
| DON'T KNOW | 0.1% |
| REFUSED | 1.2% |

Do you generally consider yourself...

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| White | 80.1% |
| African American | 12% |
| Asian-American | 0.7% |
| Mixed race or two or more races | 2.2% |
| Hispanic | 6.2% |
| Another race, specify below | 0.8% |
| DON'T KNOW | 0.7% |
| REFUSED | 2.6% |

Others mentioned: American; Hispanic; Native; Native American; and White American

What is your disability status? Do you...

| | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| Have a disability | 14.7% |
| Do you not have a disability | 83.7% |
| DON'T KNOW | 0% |
| REFUSED | 1.6% |

Do you identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender?

| | |
|------------|-------|
| Yes | 4.9% |
| No | 91.2% |
| DON'T KNOW | 0.3% |
| REFUSED | 3.7% |

What is your marital status?

| | |
|---|-------|
| Are you... | |
| Single | 29.2% |
| Divorced | 8.3% |
| Married | 51.4% |
| Separated | 1.9% |
| In a civil union or have a domestic partner | 2.5% |
| Widowed | 3.6% |
| Other, specify | 0.3% |
| DON'T KNOW | 0.1% |
| REFUSED | 2.7% |
| Others mentioned: Engaged | |

How often, if at all, do you attend religious services? Do you attend them...

| | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| More than once a week | 9% |
| Once a week | 22.8% |
| One to three times a week | 14.6% |
| At least twice a week | 17.1% |
| Less often than twice a year | 9.2% |
| Never | 25.5% |
| DON'T KNOW | 0.2% |
| REFUSED | 1.6% |

Were you born in Sangamon County?

| | |
|------------|-------|
| Yes | 49.6% |
| No | 49.2% |
| DON'T KNOW | 0.2% |
| REFUSED | 1% |

In the past twelve months, have you considered moving out or away from Sangamon County?

| | |
|------------|-------|
| Yes | 35.4% |
| No | 63.1% |
| DON'T KNOW | 0.5% |
| REFUSED | 1% |

What was your household's income last year before taxes? (IMPUTED INCOME)

| | |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Less than \$15,000 a year | 8.9% |
| \$15,000-\$30,000 | 17.5% |
| \$30,001-\$45,000 | 12.9% |
| \$45,001-\$60,000 | 13.2% |
| \$60,001-\$75,000 | 11.5% |
| \$75,001-\$100,000 | 13.9% |
| More than \$100,000 a year | 18.1% |
| DON'T KNOW | 3.9% |

We know that individuals get their news from a variety of sources. We are interested in finding out where you get most of your news? Do you get it from...

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| Local or national television | 47.9% |
| Local or national talk radio programs | 6.3% |
| National public radio or affiliate | 3.8% |
| Facebook or other social media site | 10.1% |
| Local or national newspaper | 10.6% |
| Other internet site | 12.3% |
| Other source of news, specify | 6.4% |
| DON'T KNOW | 0.9% |
| REFUSED | 1.7% |

Others mentioned: A combination; A combination of local news sources; All above; All of them; And internet; And local tv; And NBC; And newspaper; And the internet; And TV; Both television and newspaper; Combination of television, radio, and the paper; International media; Internet; Internet sites; Local and national paper and radio; Local national papers and internet; Local newspaper and social media; Local newspaper, radio station, tv; Local newspaper; Local newspaper, local/ national television; Local or national internet sites; Local or national newspaper; Local television and newspaper, SJR.; Mostly all of these areas; National news; national radio and news websites; network news; news source from my wife; Newspaper and tv; Newspaper on line, internet; No news; NPR; Or local news, internet sites; People; Radio; Radio and television; Radio, internet, newspaper; Radio, Television, and newspaper; Radio, tv, and they get 3 newspapers; Read Illinois times; Several sources; Talk shows , fb , internet , don't watch our any local news due to being one sided; Talking with other people; Television, local or national talk radio, local newspaper; Then newspaper; TV and Facebook; TV, newspaper and the radio; TV, radio, local newspaper, social media; TV radio, Internet; and WAND in Decatur, NCR radio

Culture and Recreation

Thinking about culture and recreation in Sangamon County.

How satisfied, if at all, are you with your current access to local recreational or cultural events?

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Very satisfied | 18.1% |
| Satisfied | 41.9% |
| Neutral | 24.1% |
| Dissatisfied | 8.8% |
| Very dissatisfied | 6.2% |
| DON'T KNOW | 0.8% |
| REFUSED | 0.1% |

How important, if at all, is Abraham Lincoln's legacy to the culture of Sangamon County? Is it very important, somewhat important, neither important nor unimportant, somewhat unimportant, or not important at all?

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Very important | 71.4% |
| Somewhat important | 21.8% |
| Neither important nor unimportant | 2% |
| Somewhat unimportant | 2.3% |
| Not important at all | 1.7% |
| DON'T KNOW | 0.7% |
| REFUSED | 0.1% |

How important, if at all, is Abraham Lincoln's legacy to the economy of Sangamon County? Is it very important, somewhat important, neither important nor unimportant, somewhat unimportant, or not important at all?

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Very important | 71.2% |
| Somewhat important | 21.3% |
| Neither important nor unimportant | 2.7% |
| Somewhat unimportant | 2.5% |
| Not important at all | 1.3% |
| DON'T KNOW | 0.8% |
| REFUSED | 0.1% |

Thinking about public facilities close to your home, would you rate the following as excellent, good, fair, or poor? Or do you not have one?

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| Your local library | |
| Excellent | 22.2% |
| Good | 38.3% |
| Fair | 17% |
| Poor | 5.5% |
| Don't have one | 10.5% |
| DON'T KNOW | 6.5% |
| REFUSED | 0.1% |

Thinking about public facilities close to your home, would you rate the following as excellent, good, fair, or poor? Or do you not have one?

| | |
|-----------------|-------|
| Your local park | |
| Excellent | 27.8% |
| Good | 44.1% |
| Fair | 14% |
| Poor | 6.6% |
| Don't have one | 4.9% |
| DON'T KNOW | 2.5% |
| REFUSED | 0.1% |

Infrastructure

Now thinking about local infrastructure in Sangamon County.

How safe or unsafe do you feel it is to travel on local roads and highways?

Would you say it is...

| | |
|-------------|-------|
| Very safe | 15.7% |
| Safe | 46.5% |
| Neutral | 25.3% |
| Unsafe | 10.6% |
| Very unsafe | 1.6% |
| DON'T KNOW | 0.3% |
| REFUSED | 0.1% |

And thinking about local infrastructure improvement projects. Do you think your local area needs the following a little, a lot, or not at all?

Bike friendly lanes on local roads

| | |
|------------|-------|
| A lot | 40.4% |
| A little | 34.9% |
| Not at all | 22.2% |
| DON'T KNOW | 2.3% |
| REFUSED | 0.2% |

Improvement of bike and pedestrian trails

| | |
|------------|-------|
| A lot | 33.2% |
| A little | 37% |
| Not at all | 21.8% |
| DON'T KNOW | 8% |
| REFUSED | 0.1% |

Expansion of high-speed Internet access in your area (FASTER ACCESS AND CABLE INTERNET ACCESS)

| | |
|------------|-------|
| A lot | 42.9% |
| A little | 27% |
| Not at all | 25.2% |
| DON'T KNOW | 4.8% |
| REFUSED | 0.1% |

Improvements to local bus services

| | |
|------------|-------|
| A lot | 26.5% |
| A little | 26.1% |
| Not at all | 28.3% |
| DON'T KNOW | 18.7% |
| REFUSED | 0.4% |

And if local leaders chose to pay for new roads, road upgrades, and other transportation improvements, would you support an increase in property taxes or an increase in local sales taxes to support these improvements? Or would you not support any tax increase?

| | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| Increase property taxes | 12.3% |
| Increase local sales taxes | 36% |
| Not support any tax increase | 47.1% |
| DON'T KNOW | 4.2% |
| REFUSED | 0.4% |

For several years, local leaders have discussed the need for a second source of water in Sangamon County, also referred to as Hunter Lake or Lake 2.

Do you think it is a high priority, a medium priority, a low priority, or not a priority at all?

| | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| A high priority | 20.9% |
| A medium priority | 40.5% |
| A low priority | 20.2% |
| Not a priority at all | 12.1% |
| DON'T KNOW | 6.2% |
| REFUSED | 0.1% |

How important, if at all, do you think growing downtown Springfield is to Sangamon County? Is it very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not important at all?

| | |
|----------------------|-------|
| Very important | 47.3% |
| Somewhat important | 38.9% |
| Not very important | 8.9% |
| Not important at all | 3.9% |
| DON'T KNOW | 0.1% |
| REFUSED | 1% |

Do you commute to work?

| | |
|------------|-------|
| YES | 53.9% |
| NO | 45.4% |
| DON'T KNOW | 0.1% |
| REFUSED | 0.6% |

During a normal work week, what form of transportation do you use to get to work?

Select all that apply

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------|
| Car | 92.1% |
| Bus | 0.8% |
| Walk | 3.6% |
| Bike | 1.7% |
| Other, SPECIFY BELOW | 1.2% |
| DON'T KNOW | 0% |
| REFUSED | 0.5% |
| Others mentioned: Taxi and Truck | |

And if local leaders chose to increase taxes to support alternative transportation here in Sangamon County (such as bike paths, buses, and trains). Would you support an increase in property taxes or an increase in local sales taxes to support these improvements? Or would you not support any tax increase?

| | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| Increase property taxes | 9% |
| Increase local sales taxes | 28.5% |
| Not support any tax increase | 59.6% |
| DON'T KNOW | 2.6% |
| REFUSED | 0.3% |

In the past year, when traveling out of town, which of the following modes of transportation have you used?

Select all that apply

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport | 21.5% |
| Amtrak | 27.5% |
| An intercity bus like Greyhound | 2% |
| Or none of the above | 59% |
| DON'T KNOW | 0.5% |
| REFUSED | 0% |

Recently local leaders have been discussing the possibility of creating a citizen advisory board (an independent board of users and citizen/owners) who can focus on the challenges facing City, Water, Light, and Power (CWLP).

Do you support or oppose the creation of a citizen advisory board for CWLP?

| | |
|------------|-------|
| Support | 75% |
| Oppose | 13% |
| DON'T KNOW | 11.4% |
| REFUSED | 0.6% |

And now we are interested in learning how often, if at all, you use the Springfield Mass Transit District bus system. Thinking about a normal month, do you use it almost every day, once or twice a week, once or twice a month, less often than once a month, or never?

| | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| Almost every day | 1.4% |
| Once or twice a week | 3.6% |
| Once or twice a month | 3.2% |
| Less often than once a month | 6.2% |
| Never | 85.1% |
| DON'T KNOW | 0.4% |
| REFUSED | 0.1% |

Government and Civic Participation

Now thinking about leadership in the community.

In general, how much confidence would you say you have in local leaders to effectively address local problems? Would you say you are very confident, somewhat confident, not very confident, or not at all confident?

| | |
|----------------------|-------|
| Very confident | 8.8% |
| Somewhat confident | 51.1% |
| Not very confident | 22.7% |
| Not at all confident | 13.3% |
| DON'T KNOW | 3.8% |
| REFUSED | 0.3% |

Now thinking about local elected governmental leaders in the community (IF NEEDED: CITY ALDERMAN, CITY TREASURER, MAYOR).

In general, how much confidence would you say you have in local elected leaders to effectively address local problems? Would you say you are very confident, somewhat confident, not very confident, or not at all confident?

| | |
|----------------------|-------|
| Very confident | 7.6% |
| Somewhat confident | 51.3% |
| Not very confident | 24.6% |
| Not at all confident | 12.7% |
| DON'T KNOW | 3.2% |
| REFUSED | 0.6% |

And do you think Sangamon County has strong or weak leaders?

| | |
|----------------|-------|
| Strong leaders | 40.6% |
| Weak leaders | 35.9% |
| DON'T KNOW | 20.7% |
| REFUSED | 2.7% |

And do you think everyone in your community is treated equally, in other words, does everyone get a "fair shake?"

| | |
|------------|-------|
| YES | 41.5% |
| NO | 54.5% |
| DON'T KNOW | 4% |
| REFUSED | 0.1% |

Recently local leaders have been discussing the possibility of local governments combining local services? Do you support or oppose the combining of local services among local governments?

| | |
|------------|-------|
| Support | 50.8% |
| Oppose | 32.6% |
| DON'T KNOW | 15.2% |
| REFUSED | 1.4% |

Recently local leaders have been discussing the possibility of local governments consolidating local services? Do you support or oppose the consolidating of local services among local governments?

| | |
|------------|-------|
| Support | 44.9% |
| Oppose | 30% |
| DON'T KNOW | 23.5% |
| REFUSED | 1.6% |

Are you currently registered to vote?

| | |
|------------|-------|
| YES | 88.3% |
| NO | 11.3% |
| DON'T KNOW | 0% |
| REFUSED | 0.4% |

Did you happen to remember to vote in the most recent election (IF NEEDED: THIS CAN BE EITHER THE 2012 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, THE 2014 STATEWIDE ELECTION, OR THE 2015 CITY/COUNTY ELECTIONS)?

| | |
|------------|-------|
| YES | 68.1% |
| NO | 31.2% |
| DON'T KNOW | 0.1% |
| REFUSED | 0.6% |

Could you please tell me the location of your polling place?

| | |
|----------------------|-------|
| Able to name place | 0% |
| Unable to name place | 60.2% |
| DON'T KNOW | 28.8% |
| REFUSED | 11% |

And finally, can you please tell me the name of either your County Board member, village board member, or alderman that currently represents you?

| | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Able to name person | 0% |
| Unable to name person | 77.3% |
| DON'T KNOW | 20.6% |
| REFUSED | 2.1% |

I am going to read you a list of activities you may have done in the past 12 months. Please just say yes or no, if in the past 12 months, you have done any of the following?

| | |
|--|-------|
| Wrote a letter to the editor of a local newspaper | 3.7% |
| Expressed your opinion about an issue online | 34.5% |
| Discussed politics with family or friends | 84.4% |
| Donated money to a charitable or religious organization | 72.7% |
| Volunteered through or for a charitable or religious organization | 13.5% |
| Worked with other people in your neighborhood to fix a problem or improve a condition in your community or elsewhere | 10% |
| Contributed money to a political party or candidate | 4.3% |
| Worked for a political party or candidate | 2% |
| Participated in an adults sports or recreation team | 6.8% |
| Participated in a neighborhood, school, or community association | 8.2% |
| Or have you not done any of the things mentioned | 1.6% |

Thinking about Sangamon County's most disadvantaged members of the community. Who do you think is responsible for taking care of these individuals? Is it the responsibility of...

| | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| local government | 15.1% |
| charity or church group | 5.1% |
| entire community (ALL OF US) | 46.3% |
| or, individuals themselves | 25.4% |
| DON'T KNOW | 6.3% |
| REFUSED | 1.7% |

Do you have a charitable component of your will or estate plan?

| | |
|------------|-------|
| YES | 18.6% |
| NO | 77.8% |
| DON'T KNOW | 2% |
| REFUSED | 1.6% |

Social Well-being

And now we are going to move onto questions about social well-being in Sangamon County.

Would you say things are generally on the right track, or do you think things are going in the wrong direction here in Sangamon County?

| | |
|-----------------|-------|
| Right track | 53.4% |
| Wrong direction | 27.8% |
| DON'T KNOW | 17.4% |
| REFUSED | 1.4% |

In general, do you think race relations in Sangamon County are very good, fairly good, fairly bad, or very bad?

| | |
|-------------|-------|
| Very good | 5.7% |
| Fairly good | 58.4% |
| Fairly bad | 19.9% |
| Very bad | 9.6% |
| DON'T KNOW | 5.8% |
| REFUSED | 0.5% |

Compared to a year ago, would you say the immediate area where you live is getting better, about the same, or getting worse as a place to live?

| | |
|----------------|-------|
| Getting better | 15.9% |
| About the same | 65.5% |
| Getting worse | 16% |
| DON'T KNOW | 2.6% |
| REFUSED | 0% |

Now I am going to ask you to rate Sangamon County on a couple dimensions.

Starting off, do you think Sangamon County is an excellent, good, fair, or poor place to live?

| | |
|------------|-------|
| Excellent | 11.2% |
| Good | 51.4% |
| Fair | 31.4% |
| Poor | 5.1% |
| DON'T KNOW | 0.4% |
| REFUSED | 0.4% |

Do you think Sangamon County is an excellent, good, fair, or poor place to raise children?

| | |
|------------|-------|
| Excellent | 12.5% |
| Good | 50.7% |
| Fair | 30% |
| Poor | 4.3% |
| DON'T KNOW | 2.1% |
| REFUSED | 0.4% |

Do you think Sangamon County is an excellent, good, fair, or poor place to work?

| | |
|------------|-------|
| Excellent | 9.5% |
| Good | 48.7% |
| Fair | 29% |
| Poor | 10.5% |
| DON'T KNOW | 2.1% |
| REFUSED | 0.2% |

Do you think Sangamon County is an excellent, good, fair, or poor place to retire?

| | |
|------------|-------|
| Excellent | 6.1% |
| Good | 32.1% |
| Fair | 32.2% |
| Poor | 26.8% |
| DON'T KNOW | 2.7% |
| REFUSED | 0% |

Have there been times in the past 12 months when you did not have enough money to pay for food that you or your family needed?

| | |
|------------|-------|
| YES | 20% |
| NO | 79.6% |
| DON'T KNOW | 0.3% |
| REFUSED | 0% |

Have there been times in the past 12 months when you did not have enough money to pay for shelter or housing that you or your family needed?

| | |
|------------|-------|
| YES | 7.1% |
| NO | 92.3% |
| DON'T KNOW | 0.6% |
| REFUSED | 0% |

Have there been times in the past 12 months when you did not have enough money to pay for healthcare and/or medicines that you or your family needed?

| | |
|------------|-------|
| YES | 15% |
| NO | 84.1% |
| DON'T KNOW | 0.7% |
| REFUSED | 0.2% |

Now thinking about your local neighborhood, how many years have you lived in your local neighborhood? Have you lived there...

| | |
|---------------------|-------|
| Less than one year | 8.1% |
| One to five years | 23.8% |
| 6-10 years | 23.4% |
| 11-20 years | 24.9% |
| More than 20 years | 16.7% |
| Or all of your life | 2.6% |
| DON'T KNOW | 0.1% |
| REFUSED | 0.2% |

Would you move away from your current neighborhood if you could, or would you stay in your current neighborhood?

| | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| Move away | 37% |
| Stay in current neighborhood | 61.5% |
| DON'T KNOW | 1.4% |
| REFUSED | 0.1% |

In general, how much trust and confidence do you have in the local media-such as newspapers, TV, and radio-when it comes to reporting the news fully, accurately, and fairly? Do you have a great deal of trust, a fair amount, not very much, or none at all?

| | |
|---------------------|-------|
| Great deal of trust | 7.2% |
| A fair amount | 52.7% |
| Not very much | 24.7% |
| None at all | 13.7% |
| DON'T KNOW | 1.6% |
| REFUSED | 0.1% |

Education

We would like to hear your views on education in Sangamon County. This includes pre-K education, K-12 education, and post-high school education.

Starting off, what school district do you currently live in?

| | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| A-C CENTRAL | 0.6% |
| ATHENS #213 | 1.2% |
| AUBURN #10 | 2.9% |
| CHATHAM #5 | 11.4% |
| EDINBURG #14 | 0% |
| MT. PULASKI #23 | 0% |
| NEW BERLIN #16 | 3.1% |
| PAWNEE #11 | 1.8% |
| PLEASANT PLAINS #8 | 5% |
| PORTA #202 | 0% |
| RIVERTON #14 | 2.4% |
| ROCHESTER #3A | 4.9% |
| SANGAMON VALLEY #9 | 1% |
| SPRINGFIELD DISTRICT 186 | 52.3% |
| TRI-CITY #1 | 1.2% |
| VIRDEN #4 | 0% |
| WAVERLY #6 | 0% |
| WILLIAMSVILLE #15 | 4.8% |
| OTHER | 2.7% |
| DON'T KNOW | 4.3% |
| REFUSED | 0.5% |

Others mentioned: #27; District #12; District 16; District 193; Macoupin co schools we live on the line in Sangamon County

Thinking about your local school district, what is the biggest change needed, if any, in order to improve K-12 education? Is it?

| | |
|--|-------|
| Improved leadership and administration | 7.5% |
| Better quality teachers | 8.4% |
| Increased funding to schools | 28.1% |
| Smaller class sizes | 10.6% |
| Improved technology and resources | 5.8% |
| Improved or newer buildings | 3.2% |
| Improved curriculum | 7.1% |
| Improved safety | 2.3% |
| Increased diversity in schools | 3.3% |
| Something else | 11.1% |
| DON'T KNOW | 11.4% |
| REFUSED | 1.3% |

And if local leaders chose to increase taxes to support local public schools, which of the following would you be most likely to support? An increase in property taxes or an increase in local sales taxes to support these improvements? Or would you not support any tax increase?

| | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| Increase property taxes | 21.1% |
| Increase local sales taxes | 37.1% |
| Not support any tax increase | 37.6% |
| DON'T KNOW | 3.3% |
| REFUSED | 0.9% |

How much confidence would you say that you have in your local school board to effectively address problems in your local schools? Would you say that you are...

| | |
|----------------------|-------|
| Very confident | 13.8% |
| Somewhat confident | 49.8% |
| Not very confident | 16.8% |
| Not at all confident | 5.6% |
| DON'T KNOW | 12.8% |
| REFUSED | 1.3% |

Now thinking about early childhood education programs in Sangamon County. How important, if at all, are educational programs for children two years old or younger, to the local community? Would you say that they are...

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Very important | 51.2% |
| Somewhat important | 21.6% |
| Neither important nor unimportant | 3% |
| Not very important | 13.6% |
| Not important at all | 7.5% |
| DON'T KNOW | 2.5% |
| REFUSED | 0.6% |

What about educational programs for children three to five year olds? Would you say that they are...

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Very important | 72.1% |
| Somewhat important | 18.8% |
| Neither important nor unimportant | 0.6% |
| Not very important | 3.6% |
| Not important at all | 1.8% |
| DON'T KNOW | 2.4% |
| REFUSED | 0.6% |

And thinking about these early childhood educational programs. How important, if at all, would you say that it is for all families, regardless of income, be able to obtain these types of educational programs? Would you say that it is...

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Very important | 76% |
| Somewhat important | 15.7% |
| Neither important nor unimportant | 1.2% |
| Not very important | 2.8% |
| Not important at all | 1.8% |
| DON'T KNOW | 1.9% |
| REFUSED | 0.6% |

And thinking about children from lower income families. Whose responsibility, if anybody's, is it to provide these types of educational programs for children ages 5 and younger?

| | |
|--|-------|
| Your school district's | 21.3% |
| A charitable non-religious organization's responsibility | 2.1% |
| Religious organizations' | 0.3% |
| The entire community's | 38.3% |
| Or is the responsibility of individual families | 32.2% |
| DON'T KNOW | 4.8% |
| REFUSED | 1% |

Now thinking about K-12 education. There are a lot of programs that help students currently enrolled in traditional K-12 education. These programs include before and after-school care, tutoring, and other educational assistance occurring outside of classroom instruction.

| | |
|--|-------|
| Your school district's | 35.4% |
| A charitable non-religious organization's responsibility | 1.7% |
| Religious organizations' | 0.5% |
| The entire community's | 37% |
| Or is the responsibility of individual families | 18.7% |
| Other | 2.6% |
| DON'T KNOW | 2.9% |
| REFUSED | 1.2% |

Others mentioned: All of the above for the past two questions; All of the above.; All of the above need to work together.; Also the family as well.; And school districts; And the responsibility of individual families; Everybody in the state, the government has to take a

role in it using taxes; Family and then community; Feel the answer is all of these; Government (Washington); Government; Including individual families; Individual families; Or any charitable organization; She believes all of the above; Should be the federal government; State of Illinois; The board of education; The government and state; The state of Illinois should support these types of programs.

Thinking about your own personal involvement in your local school or local school district. Would you say that you are very involved, somewhat involved, not very involved, or not at all involved?

| | |
|---------------------|-------|
| Very involved | 10.6% |
| Somewhat involved | 30.5% |
| Not very involved | 18.1% |
| Not at all involved | 38.5% |
| DON'T KNOW | 1.5% |
| REFUSED | 0.8% |

Now on to some broader questions about education policies. Do you think bullying prevention should be part of your local school's curriculum? This includes physical and cyber-bullying?

| | |
|------------|-------|
| YES | 89.2% |
| NO | 7.8% |
| DON'T KNOW | 1.9% |
| REFUSED | 1.1% |

As you may know, charter schools are schools that operate under a charter or contract that frees them from many of the state regulations imposed on public schools and permits them to operate independently.

In general, do you favor or oppose the idea of charter schools?

| | |
|------------|-------|
| Favor | 63.4% |
| Oppose | 19.5% |
| DON'T KNOW | 16.2% |
| REFUSED | 1% |

And do you favor or oppose allowing students and parents to choose a private school to attend at the public's expense?

| | |
|------------|-------|
| Favor | 25.7% |
| Oppose | 67.4% |
| DON'T KNOW | 6.4% |
| REFUSED | 0.5% |

(FILTER, asked of, a four-year college degree or an advanced degree (PhD, MD, Law) respondents). What is the highest grade of school that you completed? Is it...

Did you get any of these degrees (college or advanced) from a local college or university?

| | |
|-----|-------|
| Yes | 46.4% |
| No | 53.6% |

(FILTER, asked of, trade school or technical training after high school or some college respondents). What is the highest grade of school that you completed? Is it...

Did you get any of these degrees (college or advanced) from a local college or university?

The next set of questions deal with student loans. Remember these questions are for local leaders to develop better policies and will not be used to identify you as a respondent.

Did you take out any student loans to help pay for your education?

| | |
|-----|-------|
| Yes | 44.3% |
| No | 55.7% |

(FILTER, asked of yes, respondents) Did you take out any student loans to help pay for your education?

And thinking about all your student loans. Approximately, how much, in total, did you borrow? (Private and Public loans combined)

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| Less than \$7,000 | 20.1% |
| \$7,001- \$11,000 | 20.2% |
| \$11,001- \$20,000 | 31.5% |
| 20,001 – 30,000 | 8.7% |
| 30,001 or more | 19.5% |
| DON'T KNOW | (6) |
| REFUSED | (4) |

And what is the current status of your student loans? Are you...

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| Currently making payments | 28.9% |
| In deferment or forbearance | 13.1% |
| Paid off or forgiven | 53.5% |
| DON'T KNOW | 3.6% |
| REFUSED | 0.9% |

In general, how important, if at all, do you think it is for an individual to have a college degree?

Is it...

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Very important | 55.2% |
| Somewhat important | 34.5% |
| Neither important nor unimportant | 4.2% |
| Somewhat unimportant | 3% |
| Not important at all | 1.1% |
| DON'T KNOW | 1.5% |
| REFUSED | 0.4% |

How important, if at all, do you think post-high school institutions (UIS, Lincoln Land Community College, and apprenticeship programs) are to the local community?

Is it...

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Very important | 76.6% |
| Somewhat important | 19.6% |
| Neither important nor unimportant | 1.4% |
| Somewhat unimportant | 1% |
| Not important at all | 0.2% |
| DON'T KNOW | 1% |
| REFUSED | 0.2% |

Now thinking only about traditional higher education institutions in Sangamon County (UIS, Robert Morris, Benedictine University).

How effective, if at all, do you think these institutions are in preparing individuals for the workforce?

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Very effective | 36.2% |
| Somewhat effective | 46.6% |
| Neither effective nor ineffective | 2.8% |
| Somewhat ineffective | 2.9% |
| Not effective at all | 1.8% |
| DON'T KNOW | 8.8% |
| REFUSED | 0.9% |

Now thinking only about workforce training programs, technical institutes, and community colleges in Sangamon County.

How effective, if at all, do you think these institutions are in preparing individuals for the workforce?

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Very effective | 50.7% |
| Somewhat effective | 39.1% |
| Neither effective nor ineffective | 0.8% |
| Somewhat ineffective | 1.4% |
| Not effective at all | 1.5% |
| DON'T KNOW | 6% |
| REFUSED | 0.5% |

And thinking about your oldest (only) child, do they attend public or private school? Or is your child homeschooled?

| | |
|------------------------|-------|
| Attends public school | 89.8% |
| Attends private school | 8.1% |
| Is homeschooled | 1.9% |
| DON'T KNOW | 0.2% |
| REFUSED | 0% |

If you had to rate the quality of education that your oldest (only) child is receiving, would you say it is...

| | |
|------------|-------|
| Excellent | 38.2% |
| Good | 43% |
| Fair | 15.5% |
| Poor | 2.5% |
| DON'T KNOW | 0.9% |
| REFUSED | 0% |

Thinking about your child's personal safety at school. Do you think your child is very safe at school, somewhat safe, not too safe, or not at all safe?

| | |
|-----------------|-------|
| Very safe | 57.6% |
| Somewhat safe | 41.8% |
| Not too safe | 0.5% |
| Not at all safe | 0% |
| DON'T KNOW | 0% |
| REFUSED | 0% |

We know that today's lives are really busy and parents do not have a lot of time to help their children with their school work or with other educational activities.

Thinking about the past month, how often, if at all, have you helped your child(ren) with school work or other educational activities? Would you say that you have done this five or more times a week, between 3 and 4 times a week, once or twice a week, less than once a week, or have you not done this at all?

| | |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Five or more time a week | 30.7% |
| Three or four times a week | 35.1% |
| Once or twice a week | 20.1% |
| Less than once a week | 4.8% |
| Never | 9.4% |
| DON'T KNOW | 0% |
| REFUSED | 0% |

Moving on to your oldest (only) child's education plans, if any, post-high school. Do you plan on your child pursuing additional education after high school?

| | |
|------------|-----|
| Yes | 94% |
| No | 6% |
| DON'T KNOW | 0% |
| REFUSED | 0% |

There are many ways in which post-high school education is paid for. Thinking about your child's education, in what ways do you plan to pay for education after high school? (Select all that apply)

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| You or your child's personal savings | 56.6% |
| Federal student loans | 60.6% |
| Private student loans | 77.8% |
| Athletic scholarship | 75% |
| Academic scholarship | 49.7% |
| Other family member's contributions | 80.3% |
| Other: | 81.4% |

Others mentioned: 529 plan; A state 529 plan; All of the above; Anywhere I can get the money; Cash; Combination of loans and savings; Competition Scholarships; Competition Scholarships; Federal study; Going into military; Grants; Have a IRA for their college; Memorial Medical Center will pay all loans, enrolled RN program; Military; Military- GI Bill; Mixture of scholarships; Out of pocket or military; Pay for credits for college; Savings and scholarships; Scholarship and out of pocket; Using home equity loan or something like that; VA is paying; and working for university to get tuition benefit

Economy

What is your current employment status? Are you...

| | |
|---|-------|
| Employed full-time | 42.7% |
| Employed part time | 11.2% |
| Self-employed | 6.9% |
| Full-time student | 4.3% |
| Unemployed and seeking employment | 4.7% |
| Unemployed and not currently seeking employment | 3.8% |
| Disabled, unable to work | 4.6% |
| Retired | 20.8% |
| DON'T KNOW | 0.3% |
| REFUSED | 0.9% |

(FILTER, asked of employed respondents only) What is your current employment status? Are you...

Do you consider yourself underemployed?

| | |
|------------|-------|
| Yes | 16.8% |
| No | 82.4% |
| DON'T KNOW | 0.8% |
| REFUSED | 0% |

(FILTER, asked of unemployed respondents only) What is your current employment status? Are you...

Thinking about twelve months ago, would you say you are better off financially, worse off, or about the same?

| | |
|----------------|-------|
| Better off | 24.9% |
| Worse off | 12.8% |
| About the same | 62.2% |
| DON'T KNOW | 0% |
| REFUSED | 0.1% |

What about current local business conditions in Sangamon County. Do you think these are better off, worse off, or about the same as they were 12 months ago?

| | |
|----------------|-------|
| Better off | 12.3% |
| Worse off | 19.1% |
| About the same | 61.8% |
| DON'T KNOW | 6.4% |
| REFUSED | 0.4% |

Health

Now thinking about your own health care. Please remember this is for local leaders to develop programs and policies and the data collected is completely anonymous.

Health insurance is complicated, and tens of millions of people in this country do not have it for various reasons? Are you covered by a health insurance plan?

| | |
|------------|-------|
| Yes | 95.6% |
| No | 3.8% |
| DON'T KNOW | 0.3% |
| REFUSED | 0.3% |

Many people's health insurance coverage has changed over the past year. Please think about where you were one year ago today.

Were you covered by a health insurance plan one year ago?

| | |
|------------|-------|
| Yes | 91.1% |
| No | 7.8% |
| DON'T KNOW | 0.7% |
| REFUSED | 0.3% |

Do you have anyone who you think of as your personal doctor or primary health care provider?

| | |
|------------|-------|
| Yes | 89% |
| No | 10.3% |
| DON'T KNOW | 0.2% |
| REFUSED | 0.5% |

Thinking about the last 30 days, was there at least one day in which your physical health was not good?

| | |
|------------|-------|
| Yes | 40.4% |
| No | 59% |
| DON'T KNOW | 0.2% |
| REFUSED | 0.3% |

Thinking about the last 30 days, was there at least one day in which your mental health was not good?

| | |
|------------|-------|
| Yes | 14.9% |
| No | 83.9% |
| DON'T KNOW | 0.6% |
| REFUSED | 0.6% |

Thinking about the last 30 days, was there at least one day in which you were kept from your usual activities due to your physical or mental health?

| | |
|------------|-------|
| Yes | 28.8% |
| No | 70.8% |
| DON'T KNOW | 0.1% |
| REFUSED | 0.4% |

Thinking about the last 30 days, was there at least one day in which you engaged in physical leisure time activity?

| | |
|------------|-------|
| Yes | 84.7% |
| No | 14.5% |
| DON'T KNOW | 0.1% |
| REFUSED | 0.6% |

Environment

How big of a problem, if at all, is litter/improper trash disposal in each of the following areas? Is it a big problem, a small problem, or not a problem at all?

Starting with Sangamon County?

| | |
|----------------------|-------|
| A big problem | 30.9% |
| A small problem | 48.1% |
| Not a problem at all | 17.7% |
| DON'T KNOW | 3.3% |
| REFUSED | 0% |

In your community?

| | |
|----------------------|-------|
| A big problem | 17.7% |
| A small problem | 40.2% |
| Not a problem at all | 41.9% |
| DON'T KNOW | 0.2% |
| REFUSED | 0% |

And on your street?

| | |
|----------------------|-------|
| A big problem | 55.2% |
| A small problem | 34.5% |
| Not a problem at all | 4.2% |
| DON'T KNOW | 3% |
| REFUSED | 1.1% |

Do you happen to recycle at your home?

| | |
|------------|-------|
| Yes | 11% |
| No | 23.5% |
| DON'T KNOW | 65.3% |
| REFUSED | 0.1% |

Recently, there have been proposals to consolidate local waste management services in Sangamon County.

Do you support or oppose this proposal?

| | |
|------------|-------|
| Support | 43.1% |
| Oppose | 38% |
| DON'T KNOW | 18.5% |
| REFUSED | 0.3% |

Do you have access to a community garden? If not, does your community need access to one?

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Have access | 16.8% |
| No access and needs access | 26.1% |
| No access and doesn't need access | 50.6% |
| DON'T KNOW | 6.5% |
| REFUSED | 0.1% |

Public Safety

Now moving one to topics related to safety in Sangamon County.

Do you feel safe or unsafe walking alone at night in your neighborhood?

| | |
|------------|-------|
| Safe | 80.1% |
| Unsafe | 17% |
| DON'T KNOW | 2.8% |
| REFUSED | 0.1% |

Compared to a year ago, do you feel less safe, safer, or about the same level of safety in your own home?

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| Less safe | 7.3% |
| Safer | 6.6% |
| Same level of safety | 84.5% |
| Did not live there a year ago | 1% |
| DON'T KNOW | 0.4% |
| REFUSED | 0.2% |

How often, if at all, do you see police or other types of law enforcement patrolling your own neighborhood or street?

Do you see them...

| | |
|------------------|-------|
| Very often | 22.1% |
| Somewhat often | 31.3% |
| Not very often | 29.6% |
| Not often at all | 16.4% |
| DON'T KNOW | 0.2% |
| REFUSED | 0.4% |

Open-ended Questions

What is your zip code?

| | |
|------------|-------|
| 62200 | 0.6% |
| 62515 | 0.2% |
| 62520 | 0.8% |
| 62530 | 0.5% |
| 62536 | 0.5% |
| 62539 | 0.7% |
| 62545 | 0.3% |
| 62558 | 2% |
| 62561 | 2.4% |
| 62563 | 3.2% |
| 62568 | 0.3% |
| 62605 | 0.3% |
| 62615 | 2.2% |
| 62625 | 0.7% |
| 62629 | 6.7% |
| 62661 | 1.4% |
| 62670 | 1.4% |
| 62677 | 2.1% |
| 62684 | 3.9% |
| 62689 | 0.5% |
| 62690 | 0.5% |
| 62693 | 0.5% |
| 62701 | 1% |
| 62702 | 19.5% |
| 62703 | 14.8% |
| 62704 | 16.9% |
| 62705 | 0.3% |
| 62707 | 3.7% |
| 62711 | 7% |
| 62712 | 5% |
| DON'T KNOW | (2) |
| REFUSED | (10) |

What city, village or township do you currently live in?

Auburn Township
Ball Township
Buffalo
Cantrell
Capital Township
Cartwright Township
Chatham
Clearlake Township
Cooper
Cotton Hill Township
Curran Township
Dawson

Divernon Township
Fancy Creek Township.
Gardner Township
Grandview
Highland grove
Illiopolis
Jacksonville
Jerome
Leland Grove
Loami Township
Mechanicsburg Township
New Berlin
Pawnee Township
Pleasant Plains
Refused
Riverton
Rochester
Sangamon County
Sherman
Southern view
Spaulding
Springfield
Thayer
Torren-gardener
Village Jerome
Virden
Williamsville township
Woodside Township

What would make you want to stay in Sangamon County?

60 degree weather all year long.
60,000 dollars a year.
A better job.
Affordable safe housing
A lot of things
Better school, job, safety
Better Business environment and better employment.
Better economy
Better food choices and shopping.
Better Government

Better house
Better improvement in the city
Better job opportunities
Better job opportunities.
Better job that pays more money
Better jobs.
Better nursing programs in Springfield
Better paying job
Better school system
Better schools, better airport, clean infrastructure, cleaner community
Better weather
Better weather
Better work environment for wife and improvement in sidewalks and libraries.
Born and raised here
Business friendly
Cheaper taxes and housing; cost of living is a big issue.
Child to finish their high school education
Close proximity to medical facilities
Closer to work
Cold conditions
Couldn't tell me
Divorced ourselves from the state of Illinois
Don't know
Employment
Employments
Family in the area
Family only
Family, house and community
Financially viable.
Find employment, rid of one neighbor
Friends
Full time employment
Gas too high; foods also, to high.
Get rid of all politicians
Getting close to retirement
Government would have to step down no taxes
Grandkids family
Have good cognitive neuroscience program
Have great grandchildren here, if they move we move
Having her children closer.

Health

Her job.

I don't know

I live here

I wish to have a good job or have the funding to go back to school. Also I have an issue in the law enforcement such as profiling.

If children moved closer

If daughter went to school for higher education in Sangamon

If i was able to I would , would move out of Illinois

If my property taxes would drop and my spouse finds a good job.

If the winters weren't so dang cold

If we had better weather.

Illinois is not good

It is not so much the county, it is the state of Illinois.

Its Home

Job

Job Creation

Keep the kids in school

Knowing people in area.

Less government control

Less taxes

Less violence

Less winter

Likes the size of Illinois and the cost of living. And her mother is ill and lives in the county.

Lower property taxes

Lower taxes and better roads

Lower utility rates in Riverton

Medical facilities

More community diversity, less community segregation, and lower crime rate, and more job opportunities.

More diversity and recreation

More fun things to do

More help, nursing home, someone to help her in her home at night time.

More jobs in his industry.

More opportunities for kids and family

More opportunities for jobs.

More opportunities in my chosen field

More progressive approach to everything

My children

My family

My kids job

Neutral on the situation

New/better job opportunities.

Nicer lake

No

No idea

No way to make good money

Nostalgia

Nothing in particular

Nothing-----> because the weak leaders are stagnant and never want to explore ne

Nothing.

Overall lower state tax

Own home

Palm trees, ha ha...um, I don't know, I really don't know. I'm not 100% sure I'm going to move. It's really my financial status. I'd love to live here and winter in Florida, but not sure I can afford that, so I'm considering relocating there completely.

People tell him we really need you on the board. We need you here in Sangamon County. He has prolonged moving back to Michigan. When you're told he's needed, it overwhelms him. He has a desire to do what he does and it's hard to make that decision. He's not packing his bags today and he doesn't want to think about it today. He likes the environment he's in; he likes the people he associates with.

Prices of everything is too high

Raised here

Safer environment

See what Rauner

So much. I guess new government, lower taxes, better education programs for the

The reason she stays is because this is where her children are. What would make her stay more is if there was better community rapport or better community services. We need somewhere a person with problems can go to get help or transportation to get somewhere like the grocery store. We need access to transportation services for people who can't get out.

This is where i am from, it my hometown

Tropical weather and other employment than Abraham Lincoln sites. More cultural events.

Your children

Waiting for their grandson to graduate for high school.

Warm weather like Arizona

Warmer weather in the winter time

Weather

Winters were above 60 degrees

Work

Work and family

Would if I could get in to medical school

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your experience as a Sangamon County resident?

Terrible job doesn't have safe routes for bikes and pedestrians. Local leaders failed in their duties. Not do enough to promote community college, low cost and high quality education for local students. Local officials need to study the sanitary discharge for secondary water source. They need to work for foundation and services.

We are farmers and hardly ever leave the dairy farm, great place to raise children. This has taught my children a good way of life. I have the only dairy farm in Sangamon County.

Been a single mom for 25 years put herself and her children through college, has had public assistance at one point.

been pretty productive since I've come here ten years ago

Being a Sangamon county resident all my life and raising my boys, I am very pleased with Sangamon county.

Buses are biggest problems.

Casino

Clean up east side of Springfield

Deadly against the city and who is working for it, because they do not know what they are doing. The cops are also not doing their jobs, they think that they can do whatever they want. People in power are able to do anything that they want. Ex-Chief, was a big fire at the lake area, and it was hushed up because of the people who were inside. The downtown area, also does not have anything, they close too early, while the bars stay open all night. They should also put pictures up, or decorating something about Lincoln, to make the downtown area better off.

Does not like political polices.

Economy is hype up - a lot of false hoods in media for unemployment and opportunities are limited to individuals without skills. Put Barriers to protect bicyclist on busy streets unsafe in the east side for all shootings (which are called terrorists) really problems on the east side of Springfield feels very unsafe to drive around areas of Springfield at night voting - open primary voting.

Everything seems to be fine in her local neighborhood, with good neighbors.

Experiences come at different times hard to respond.

Farther you move away from Springfield is better in Sangamon.

Free education, bring the pell grants back.

From the Chicago area would like to see the library developed like other areas and more bike paths and upgrade tennis courts. Anything that would invite the community to be activity and out of their homes.

Generally speaking it has been good enough for me, and I have lived in this county all my entire life and I am 77 years old.

Get the roads and sidewalks fixed. Don't promise something and not come through with it.

Good place to live

Good place to live. There are more business that are closing.

Great place to live

Great place to raise kids terrible state

Have high confidence in local radio and paper but none in TV

He love it here.

I am disappointed in the elections. The good old boy network still rains in Springfield. Need more suitable practices in Springfield and the county. CWLP should collect garbage fees. Each trash company should be allocated in one place in the city. I believe we need composting in the city and county. More bike and pedestrian trails needs to be developed. Need more green space to offset parking area. To offset the flooding and improve the quality of people's lives.

I am very pleased. Moved to Rochester a few years ago and is very happy.

I became unemployed because of my health and got behind in my water bill and my water was shut off and she lived in her house without water for a year. She asked the mayor if she could do community service or something someone would not do to pay for her bill but he said no. It was a struggle; she camped out for a year. Nobody in the community helped her and everybody knew it. She was in dire needs. There should be something and people should step up and ask what we can do. It turned her whole opinion of the community. She also lived without utilities for two months. She lived by her fireplace because she had no heat, lights, water or anything. There was nobody to lend her hand. After she inquired, someone steered her to a church organization that paid her utility bills and got them turned back on. If someone is in these situation, unless you have a family who can help you, you're on your own. That's really sad. She pays over \$2,000 in property tax for a 1,200 square foot house and her neighbor pays \$300 for a two-story home with huge garage and apartment. In 2011, she was hospitalized and while in the hospital her house caught on fire. It was a total mess and is still pretty much like that because she's disabled and can't lift heavy things and can't do anything. You would think the neighbors or someone would come over and help her. Her neighbors have complained about her house being an eyesore and the police have told her if she doesn't get it cleaned up within a certain amount of days, we'll fine you. The community hasn't helped her but want to fine her \$1,000 if she doesn't get it cleaned up. It has turned her against this community. She used to love living her. If you need help, you're SOL. The community doesn't exist her and that's why she moved here in the first place and it disappoints her and she's ready to move because of it. The people are not friendly, the business people are very unfriendly; it's just not what it's supposed to be - a tight-knit, solid community with a foundation of help your neighbor. Nobody's concerned about that; they're concerned about their own self.

I do agree there is a workable solution and that's when the weight is put on everybody to make it a better place. Do unto others as they do unto you. What happens to my neighbor affects me; what happens to anybody in the community affects me. Understanding that and knowing that, try not to think only of yourself but others. Strong education can help people qualify for jobs and people can qualify for jobs in the community. Early childhood education makes a difference to the community. It's very important and if we give them what they need they will grow up and become good leaders in this community. We need to give them the best tools we have available to offer. Dig deep down inside and find respect for your neighbors. These people have lived and given to their community for years and we need to treat them with utmost and dignity as if they were your own grandparents.

I enjoy living here and I enjoy this facility. There is a lot for the people and it's a lot of free things and also things that are available at a low cost and it is important that these things are available.

I feel that we have too many politician and too corruption.

I hate this place, spend too much money and don't budget.

I have been almost 50 years.

I have lived here for 30 years and i cannot believe the racism.

I have lived here most of my life and raised children here and i am proud to call it my home.

I like because of Lincoln Sites. Fly dumping is a big issue. When people are caught doing this nothing is done, Landlords are then ticketed it. This is not fair because they did not dump it.

I like living near the playgrounds and the rivers and the lake, i do a lot of fishing and going to the races, things like that.

I moved from Chicago to Springfield specifically due to opportunities (greenery, Lincoln sites) More improvements needed like everywhere. (ex: busses, more libraries, jobs, educations) Springfield is less crime rate, and more opportunities available. She raved about the police department from sheriff to local being very kind and helpful.

I think Jerome residents should be able to use Springfield libraries.

I think Springfield has a lot to do with School district.

I think that new leader ship is on its way and Sangamon is headed in the right direction.

I think we're very fortunate to have the medical facilities we have in Sangamon County. It amazes him how many people come into this city for medical treatment. The Lincoln heritage sites bring people in from all over the world. There are some fantastic people in this city. This city is very blessed with great parks that are well maintained for the most part. He is amazed during a snowstorm at how well the city takes care of the road and the department deserves a big hand. It is a little country town compared to big cities.

I would like more city support of habitat for humanity. Replace dilapidated housing for housing available to habitat for humanity.

I would like to see a more honest government, schools, jobs, and much more.

I wouldn't want to live any place else!!

Improve downtown Springfield-the library-residential development and planning.

In certain areas, the quality of life is good when comparing energy, housing and utility prices. It is also is a good place to raise children although we need to have more culture to offer them. It is lacking when compared other capitals in attracting industry and diversity. Policies need to be changed in order to attract more businesses to the area.

In regards to schools (is a substitute teacher). He sees a severe lack in parental involvement in education.

There are plenty of kids that would thrive with more parental involvement. If they don't, they may run afoul with the law and we all end up paying for it.

In Springfield major improvements need to be made to sidewalks.

Incompetence in govt. more political and not worried about anything else.

Infrastructure is in pretty bad shape.

It is a good county but there are many problems. There is a lot of waste of money. There is no comradery to fix the problems. There needs to be joint efforts to get that taken care of.

It is a great place to live and work and raise a family.

It is very enjoyable living here

It would be very beneficial to contact surrounding areas for the politicians.

I've lived here all my life so I am not a good judge of anywhere else (can't compare).

Job market not good

Kudos to police dept. in Sangamon county.

Largest issue with county is that playing field not level. When I moved to Springfield in 1995 if you were a friend of Bill Celini or one of his friends for contribute to the republican party you were permitted to receive contracts, and allowed to prosper. If not, you were left out in the cold. Some of this has changed, but not enough.

Leaders would look at the individual candidate.

Like the cost of community.

Like to see bring ethic festival back maybe in May. They give out way to many entitlements to people and for them to get a better grasp on the money.

Like very much living in Sangamon County.

Lived there all his life

Living in Sangamon has worse conditions, not the same place to live in.

Lot of taxes

Lovely place to live happy here

Lower the property taxes. Grow business somehow. Get people to move downtown and convert downtown to condos/apartments, fix the roads, and upgrade the downtown area.

Media not supporting. (Especially the police not there in town).

Minimum wage was better, individuals losing jobs due to race, pregnancy.

More diverse activities

More reliance family vs local government. District 186 needs to clean house. Need better Administration and more teachers in the class room. Need to have drop off dumpster for free. Or have free dumping to dump trash for people. A lot of empty buildings in Springfield. And no one can afford the buildings because of fees.

Do not need parking meters downtown.

Mostly the roads are in terrible shape.

Moved down here in the 70's very corrupt local and state.

Moving along fairly smoothly as far as my needs go.

My family has been in Sangamon county more than 50 years (farmers).

My family has lived in Sangamon county since 1827 so I don't think we are going to go anywhere soon. I think it's a county that's graveling with job changes, infrastructure and things like that. But, I have seen where they were working on issues but there are always room for improvement.

Need economy to improve, kids cannot find jobs.

Needs to be more free cultural activities. About Hunter Lake, they keep moaning and groaning about it, and we probably do need another source. But, they are going to have to solve the problems they have at the current site first and find an alternate location. Until you fix that mess, don't come to me and say you need more water.

Needs to be more officers for traffic.

Newspaper is poor and not interested in SFD. All the automobiles sales are owned by one person and he is a criminal.

Nice place to live, highly political

Nice time living here

No

No been very happy.

No taxes going up. Especially no property tax.

No that is all

No, Not really. Better education options (elementary, high school and post high school).

No. It is a good area except weather.

No. Things are very quiet. No bad experiences. She wishes they will have more cultural events such as live blues shows and concerts. Broaden all events to different cultural. More concerts during the summer for adults.

No.15yrs. Enjoyed. Prefer a beach living!

Nope.

Not at this time.

Not really

Opinion not very high, be nice to live in state where governors weren't known for going to prison and get rid of Chicago.

People not paying attention to the education system. Children not going to good college.

Property taxes are really too high, at 74 property taxes should be a lot lower.

Property taxes are too high.

Property taxes are way too high.

Property tax too high. Have doubled in last 10 yrs. Needs to have a hold to it. 100% disabled so property tax should be 0 (veteran)-7300\$ for property tax. Government to consolidate.

Sangamon County needs to concentrate on blue collar jobs Springfield. Like industry and car manufacturing.

Sangamon county are attacking from people because of social activities.

Schools need help

She likes Springfield because of the size of it. Which they had a better newspaper and more cultural events.

Happy they are starting to do more with the State Fair because it was losing money. Illinois is her home and she enjoys living here. Wish the government did a better job monitoring money to make improvements. Hope they do more with downtown because it needs an uplift.

She thinks Sangamon County is a decent place to live.

She thinks someone needs to investigate the health care for the poor at community health places. Find out number one if the doctors are really doctors and have degrees. Look into the health care issues.

Some of these? Are too vague to give a more direct answer, Illinois is driving business away, pay too much taxes for owning a business and political side term the limits and go to workers.

Survey too long

Taxes are too high so I am leaving

Tell government leaders to quit wasting money.

They are he lives in is very protected and there is very little crime

The biggest thing I have is that the eastern entrances and road way into the down town areas are full of trash and so are the outer courters of 55 and 72 it looks terrible.

The county does not

The disadvantage individual questions. Needs to be better defined. Are these individuals handicapped, have special needs etc.

The importance of Downtown area

The improvement is slow but they are getting there.

The roads in my area are especially bad

The taxes are too high

There are 1 utilities 2 CWLP need to be regulated.

There is a lot more taxes.

There is not a lot of unity. It would be better if there was better unity.

There needs to be more focus on zoning and building down town up and sprawl containment state budget cuts Sangamon will have major problems with that.

They block the park off on weekends, so I, as a senior, cannot enjoy it. I've lived here all my life, and I enjoy it or I probably wouldn't be here. I've lived here all my life, and I've gotten to know a lot of people.

They can do better.

They need more money

They need to get a hold of entire govt. Better education is needed. They need to get rid of electronic devices.

They need to learn to budget the money more and live within their means, there is plenty money there if they spend it correctly.

They need to something about racism.

They should hire more veterans.

Think they can improve the roads because they are bumpy

Thinks that all government leaders should not get paid

This is one of the better places, not as good as Madison Wisconsin.

Too expensive taxes and government, and schools. They do not pay attention to cost.

Very concerned about state of Illinois, they need to follow thru before starting new projects.

Very enjoyable

Very pleasurable

Want more government support for the local animal shelters

We have very good ambulance services in Sangamon - the neighbors are good.

We need a better road commissioner.

We need to downsize government downsize police department, fire department

When the government says they will do things they should follow thru. Like bringing vans to pick up disabled people.

Wife lost job and hence moving away

Wish had a better bike plan.

With the education I am very disappointed in Benedictine University killing of programs, economy need more diversity jobs, sort sided in leadership where potential employers were driven away.