

The logo features the acronym 'SCCS' in a large, serif font. The 'S' on the left and the 'S' on the right are dark blue, while the 'CC' in the middle is a brownish-gold color. Behind the letters is a faint, light gray outline of the Sangamon County map. Below the acronym, the text 'Sangamon County Citizen Survey' is written in a smaller serif font. The word 'Citizen' is underlined and colored brownish-gold to match the 'CC' in the acronym above.

SCCS  
Sangamon County Citizen Survey

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A Cooperative Project between

THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR THE LAND OF LINCOLN,  
THE UNITED WAY OF CENTRAL ILLINOIS,  
and THE CENTER FOR STATE POLICY & LEADERSHIP AT UNIVERSITY  
OF ILLINOIS SPRINGFIELD

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The Sangamon County Citizen Survey is a collaborative effort between the UIS Center for State Policy & Leadership, the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln, and the United Way of Central Illinois. The project's purpose is to establish benchmarks and evaluate changes in residents' assessments of the quality of life in Sangamon County. The periodic survey will provide local leaders, community organizations, and citizens with longitudinal insight into issues facing local residents.

The 2013 survey was conducted by interviewers at the Survey Research Office, a unit within the Center for State Policy & Leadership at the University of Illinois Springfield. The survey is representative of Sangamon County, Illinois and the data was weighted for probability sampling and to match 2012 population estimates as provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.<sup>1</sup>

The sample for this year's survey includes 524 completed interviews (618 partial interviews). The landline component included 391 responses with a 12.1% response rate and 22.8% cooperation rate. The cell phone component included 133 responses with a 10.3% response rate and 19.6% cooperation rate.<sup>2</sup> The margin of error for the survey is plus or minus 4.2%. The survey was conducted from March 7<sup>th</sup> to April 9<sup>th</sup> 2013.

Many dedicated local leaders and organizations worked together in order to ensure the success of the 2013 Sangamon County Citizen Survey. In particular, the project is the direct result of the hard work of John Stremsterfer, President and CEO of the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln; John Kelker, President of the United Way of Central Illinois; Bob Gray, President of the Citizens Club of Springfield; and Dr. David Racine, Executive Director of the Center for State Policy & Leadership at UIS.

The following individuals served as the 2013 Citizen Survey Steering Committee and were instrumental to the development of the survey items:

*Dr. Ashley Kirzinger, Survey Research Office (chair)*  
*John Allen, Citizens Club*  
*Lynn Arrindell, Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP*  
*Dr. Gordon Brown, Citizens Club*  
*Dr. Beverly Bunch, UIS*  
*Heather Burton, United Way of Central Illinois*  
*Josh Collins, Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce*  
*Dr. Barbara Ferrara, UIS*  
*Larry Johnson, IL National Guard & Militia Historical Society*  
*Sarah Mackey, Habitat for Humanity of Sangamon County*  
*Norm Sims, Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission*  
*Dr. David Steward, SIU*  
*Dr. John Transue, UIS*  
*Kenley Wade, Citizens Club*

Regional indicator data was provided by the staff at the Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission. The Citizens Club of Springfield assisted in the development of this project as well as provided the forum for the releasing of the survey findings.

The report was written and prepared by the staff of the Survey Research Office. This report reflects the observations of the author(s) 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 2013 Citizen Survey Steering Committee. You can download the entire report at <http://cspl.uis.edu/SurveyResearchOffice/index.htm> or contact the Survey Research Office at (217) 206-6591.

<sup>1</sup> Weighting survey responses are done in order to ensure that the sample is representative of the population. Two separate weights were assigned in this project—probability and post-stratification. Probability weights are assigned based on an individual's chance to be included in the survey and post-stratification weights are assigned due to the fact that people with certain characteristics are not as likely to respond to the survey as others. Education, gender, age, and race/ethnicity were used as post-stratification weighting variables.

<sup>2</sup> Response rate is the proportion of completed interviews of all eligible respondents. Cooperation rate is the proportion of completed interviews of all contacted eligible respondents.

The following sections contain an expansive analysis of the data collected by researchers from more than 600 individual responses on 100 questions across nine different areas, including: culture and recreation, social well-being, health, education, economy, infrastructure, government and civic participation, environment, and public safety. Because of the depth of this survey, we believe we have accumulated enough data to discern some positive and negative areas in which the majority of residents are in agreement.

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### *Sangamon County is rated highly as a place to raise children*

There are several factors that inform this but none as telling as the majority of residents (67.8%) that rated Sangamon County as either an excellent or good place to raise children. In addition, individuals who have children enrolled in local schools rated their schools positively. In fact, 82% of parents think that the quality of education their child receives at a local school is either excellent or good. While there are small differences between school districts as well as private v. public schools; overall, parents believe that their child is safe in local schools. And finally, the majority of respondents are satisfied with the recreational opportunities for youth in the area with 57.8% of respondents reporting overall satisfaction.

### *Education programs are a priority for the area*

In addition to asking respondents about K-12 education in the region, individuals were also asked about pre-Kindergarten programs, post-high school educational programs, and workforce development training programs. Across the board, respondents report that the educational-based programs are important and a priority for Sangamon County. When asked about their support for different forms of tax increases to assist various projects (infrastructure, education, alternative forms of transportation), support for local schools received the highest level of backing.

In fact, 20% of respondents report that they would support an increase in property taxes and 37.8% report that they would support an increase in local sales taxes to support local public schools. Overall, a majority of respondents (57.8%) support a tax increase to assist local public schools. Beyond K-12 education, citizens believe that both pre-Kindergarten programs and post-high school institutions are important for the local community. 75.4% of residents believe pre-K programs are very important and 83.8% believe post-high school institutions are very important. An additional 14% believe that both pre-K programs and post-high school institutions are somewhat important. And finally, when asked whether increasing workforce/employment training programs and increasing the number of local apprentice training programs were a priority in the area, the majority of respondents report that both are a high priority. We find that 59.6% of respondents say that increasing workforce training programs are a high priority and 58.7% believe that increasing the number of local apprentice training programs is a high priority.

### *Despite downward trends, crime is still a concern among Sangamon County residents*

Regional data indicates that the number of violent crimes in Sangamon County have been a continued downhill trend for the past several years. In 2010, there were reported 1,452 violent crimes in Springfield and 170 in unincorporated Sangamon County. In 2011, there were 1,258 violent crimes in Springfield (no data available on the unincorporated area). Most recently in 2012, there were 1,138 violent crimes in Springfield and 150 violent crimes in unincorporated Sangamon County. Despite this, 85% of respondents believe that reducing local crime is a top priority in the area. There are slight differences between how safe residents of Springfield feel compared to residents from other parts of Sangamon County. 22.5% of Springfield residents report feeling unsafe walking alone at night in their neighborhood, while 13.5% of residents from other areas in Sangamon County feel the same.

### *Growing downtown Springfield is important to all Sangamon County residents*

The majority of all Sangamon County residents, including those living outside of Springfield, believe that growing downtown Springfield is important. The survey finds that 47.9% of Sangamon County residents believe that growing downtown Springfield is very important and 33.6% report that it is somewhat important. There are not significant differences between those respondents who live in Springfield and those who live in other areas in Sangamon County, with 83% of Springfield residents believing growing downtown is important compared to 80.4% of individuals who live in other parts of Sangamon County.

### *At-risk population groups in Sangamon County*

One of the more troubling findings in the 2013 survey is the percentage of individuals who report being unable to afford housing, food, or healthcare for themselves or their family members. One-in-five respondents report that at least once in the past 12 months, they were unable to afford food (21.7%) or healthcare (20.9%). While housing insecurity is a lesser problem, only 6.7% of respondents report being unable to afford housing, the number of individuals in the community who are struggling daily to provide basic needs for themselves or their family members is concerning.

We find that these insecurities disproportionately affect individuals with disability, individuals without a high school diploma, younger respondents, and African-American respondents. For example, 47.8% of African-American respondents report not having enough money in the past 12 months to afford food for themselves or their family, compared to 18.3% of White respondents. In addition, 56.9% of all respondents report that they feel not everyone in their community gets a “fair shake” or is treated equally. And as we try to better understand these at-risk groups in the region, we also find that slightly more than half of respondents (51.5%) think it is the entire community’s responsibility to take care of the disadvantaged members of the Sangamon County community.

### *From the Director:*

When we set out to measure the quality of life in Sangamon County, we knew that the task ahead of us was daunting. Sangamon County is a diverse public, rich in history, a blend of both rural and urban communities; at the same time, a region adapting in order to remain relevant in the current economic environment. The 2013 Sangamon County Citizen Survey is an attempt to capture a glimpse into the lives of Sangamon County residents. We were interested in finding out what residents enjoy about their community, what they would like to see improved, how they rate local leaders, and an assessment of the overall quality of life in the region.

The executive summary has highlighted several positive and negative indicators for the region. As you delve further into the report, you will find more in-depth analysis on each topical area. And while this report by itself provides useful insight for local leaders and community organizations, the goal of this project is not simply to prepare this single report. Rather our purpose is to make data available on the quality of life in Sangamon County for the next decade. Researchers from UIS will be continually updating the website and issuing future reports so that government, community, and civic leaders will be able to make data-driven decisions in an effort to better our community.

The 2013 Sangamon County Citizen Survey serves as the benchmark for comparison as we track changes in Sangamon County over the next ten years. In the meantime, enjoy what residents told us about their current lives, including their struggles and their successes, in Sangamon County.



Dr. Ashley Kirzinger  
Director, Survey Research Office  
Center for State Policy & Leadership, UIS

Demographics	Unweighted Sample	Weighted Sample	Sangamon County Data <sup>1</sup>
<b><u>Gender</u></b>			
Female	39.6%	51.4%	52.0%
Male	60.4%	48.6%	48.0%
<b><u>Age</u></b>			
18-24	2.5%	8.1%	6.0%
25-34	5.4%	15.6%	12.7%
35-44	10.9%	16.8%	13.1%
45-54	16.5%	21.0%	15.4%
55-64	26.2%	20.1%	12.9%
65 and older	38.6%	18.3%	13.8%
<b><u>Education</u></b>			
Less than High School	3.8%	7.2%	8.5%
High School diploma or equivalent	19.3%	29.0%	28.7%
Some college/ trade school	30.9%	33.2%	31.5%
College degree	26.1%	20.5%	19.7%
Advanced degree	19.9%	10.2%	11.5%
<b><u>Race</u></b>			
White/Caucasian	86.2%	83.5%	85.6%
Black/ African-American	7.6%	11.1%	13.2%
Hispanic	1.4%	2.2%	1.8%
Asian	1.2%	1.7%	2.0%
Other	3.7%	1.4%	1.5%
<b><u>Ethnicity</u></b>			
Hispanic	1.5%	2.0%	1.8%
Non-Hispanic	98.5%	98.0%	98.2%
<b><u>Annual Income</u></b>			
Less than \$15,000	7.6%	9.5%	- <sup>2</sup>
\$15,000-\$30,000	15.2%	17.8%	-
\$30,001-\$45,000	12.0%	11.1%	-
\$45,001-\$60,000	15.2%	15.2%	-
\$60,001-\$75,000	12.0%	12.6%	-
\$75,001-\$100,000	15.8%	14.2%	-
More than \$100,000	20.4%	18.2%	-

<sup>1</sup> As reported by the most recent U.S. Census Bureau data.

<sup>2</sup> The survey is not weighted using income due to the fact that income data is subject to nonresponse error and because it is not a fixed or stable attribute.

## MORE DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Demographics	Weighted Percent	Demographics	Weighted Percent
Urban	37.2%	Rent home	24.3%
Suburban	37.9%	Own home	73.3%
Rural	24.1%		
<b>City/Village</b>		Born in Sangamon County	47.1%
Auburn	2.2%	Single	28.1%
Berlin	.1%	Married	52.6%
Buffalo	.6%	Divorced	8.8%
Cantrall	.2%	Widowed	8.4%
Chatham	4.8%	Domestic partner	1.9%
Clear Lake	3.4%		
Curran	2.9%	Adults who report having a disability	18.1%
Dawson	.7%	Adults who identify as LGBTQ	4.1%
Divernon	.9%		
Grandview	.8%	Housing insecure <sup>3</sup>	6.9%
Illiopolis	.2%	Food insecure <sup>4</sup>	21.7%
Jerome	.5%	Healthcare insecure <sup>5</sup>	20.9%
Leland Grove	.6%		
Loami	.2%		
Mechanicsburg	.3%		
New Berlin	.5%		
Pawnee	1.1%		
Pleasant Plains	.4%		
Riverton	2.1%		
Rochester	3.6%		
Sherman	2.2%		
Southern View	1.3%		
Spaulding	.3%		
Springfield	61.1%		
Williamsville	1.1%		
Unincorporated	4.8%		

<sup>3</sup> Percent of respondents who reported that there had been at least one time in the past 12 months when they were unable to afford housing for them or their family.

<sup>4</sup> Percent of respondents who reported that there had been at least one time in the past 12 months when they were unable to afford food for them or their family.

<sup>5</sup> Percent of respondents who reported that there had been at least one time in the past 12 months when they were unable to afford healthcare services for them or their family.

*83.8% believe post-high school institutions (like University of Illinois Springfield, Benedictine University, Lincoln Land Community College, and apprenticeship programs) are very important to the local community.*

**8.5%**

*of Sang. Co. residents' highest educational attainment is an Associate's*

**19.7%**

*of Sang. Co. residents' highest educational attainment is a Bachelor's*

**11.5%**

*of Sang. Co. residents' highest educational attainment is a graduate or professional degree*

**8.5%**

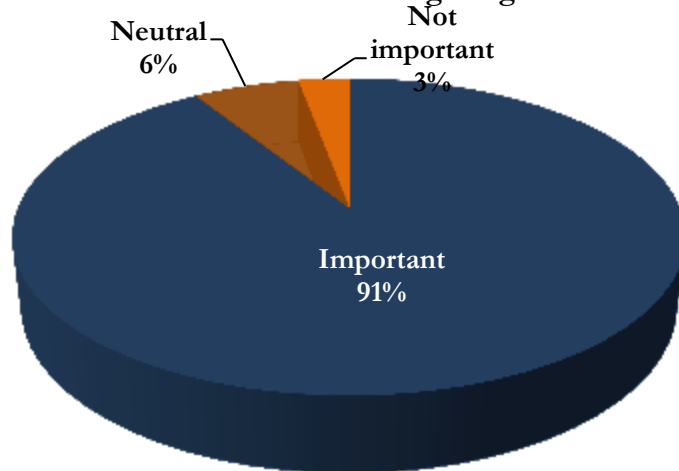
*of Sang. Co. residents are without a High School diploma*

**College Education**

**13%** of respondents received a post-high school degree from a local college or university.

**90%** of respondents believe it is either very important (57%) or somewhat important (33.1%) for an individual to have a college degree while less than 3% report they do not believe it is important.

**How important, if at all, do you think it is for an individual to have a college degree?**



**Pre-K Education**

In 2012, there were more than 80 pre-Kindergarten programs serving three, four, and five-year olds in Sangamon County (including Head Start, Preschool for all, preschool programs, and childcare centers). Three-fourths of respondents believe Pre-Kindergarten education programs are very important for the local community (75.4%) with an additional 13.6% reporting that they are somewhat important.

**3 in 4** survey respondents believe Pre-K education programs are very important for the local community.

Individuals with lower incomes (less than \$60,000 annually) are more likely than those earning \$60,000 or more annually to report that pre-K educational programs are very important. Over 80% of individuals earning less than \$60,000 believe these programs are very important, compared to, on average, 70% of those earning more than \$60,000.

A higher percent of African American respondents think pre-K programs are very important (91.5%) than White respondents (75.8%).



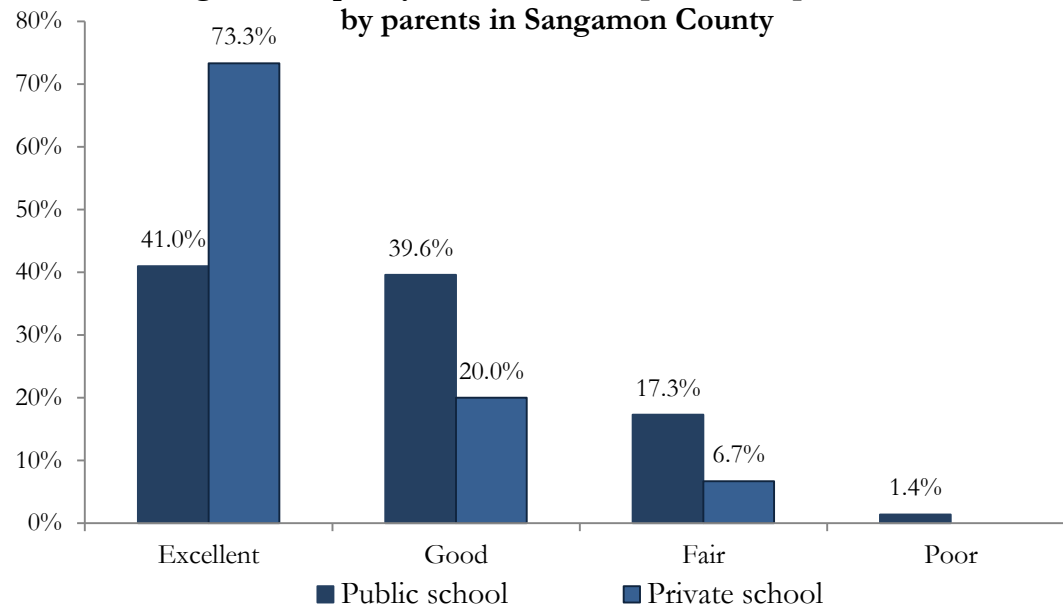
Overall, the respondents in Springfield, Chatham, and Rochester believe the biggest change needed (if any) in order to improve K-12 education in their area is increased funding to schools. One-fourth of Springfield respondents report that their local school district needs to increase funding to schools, as did one-fourth of Chatham respondents, 44.4% of Rochester respondents, and only 4.8% of Riverton respondents. Riverton respondents are more concerned over increasing the quality of their teachers (23.8%) as well as improving leadership and administration (19%).

**Evaluating local education leaders**

The majority of Rochester and Chatham respondents are confident in their local school board to effectively address problems in their school district, unlike Riverton and Springfield. As seen in the table below, Springfield respondents have the lowest levels of confidence in their school board.

	Very confident	Somewhat confident
Rochester	26.7%	50.0%
Chatham	13.0%	56.5%
Riverton	7.4%	37.0%
Springfield	6.5%	30.5%

**Ratings of the quality of education in public and private schools by parents in Sangamon County**



**Parent Evaluations**

Of the individuals with a child enrolled in public school, 41% report the education their child is receiving is excellent, with another 39.6 % reporting the quality of their child’s education is good. Less than 19% of public school respondents report the education their child is receiving is either fair (17.3%) or poor (1.4%).

Parents with children in private schools had more favorable ratings with 73.3% reporting the quality of education their child is receiving is excellent,

20% reporting it is good, 6.7% reporting it is fair, and none of the respondents rating it as poor. In addition, 94.1% of respondents with children attending public school report that when thinking about their child’s safety at school, they believe that their child is either very safe (57.2%) or somewhat safe (36.9%) as did 100% of individuals with children in private schools with 75% reporting that their child is very safe, and 25% reporting their child is somewhat safe.

<sup>6</sup> The 2013 Sangamon County Citizen Survey interviewed respondents from 13 different school districts in Sangamon County, with the majority of the respondents from Springfield School District #186 (54.6%). In order to evaluate the K-12 education questions, we include breakdowns from respondents in District #186 as well as Chatham Unit #5, Rochester Unit #3A, and Riverton Unit #14. No other school district had enough respondents to report on their district independently. In addition, 136 individuals reported having a child who either attended a local public or private school.

*School districts in Sangamon County*

When examining the four districts (Ball Chatham, Riverton, Rochester, and Springfield) that there are enough responses to analyze, we find differences across average teacher salary rate, four-year graduate rates, percentage of students who are low income, and total enrollment. Springfield is a much larger school district (more than 3 times as large as the next largest school district), has a higher percentage of low income students, and has the lowest four-year graduation rate. Rochester and Ball Chatham school districts have the highest four year graduation rates and the lowest percentage of low income students. Average teacher salary, high school four-year graduation rates, and the percentage of students who are low income were provided by the Illinois State Board of Education. The four-year 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 the cohort, minus students who transfer out of the cohort, emigrate, or die) for that graduating class.

	Average teacher salary	High School 4-year graduation rate	Education quality rating	Safety rating	Percent low income	2012 Total enrollment
Ball Chatham	\$49,912	92.3%	3.60	3.57	15.9%	4,525
Riverton	\$47,419	84.2%	3.38	3.56	46.4%	1,533
Rochester	\$51,258	96.0%	3.50	3.41	9.9%	2,333
Springfield	\$61,148	68.2%	3.11	3.56	60.0%	14,328

All of the school districts received positive evaluations in terms of education quality and safety from parents with children enrolled in public schools. The education quality rating and safety rating were survey items asked of respondents who currently had children enrolled in the public school system in their district. The education quality rating scale ranges from 1-4, with 4 representing an “excellent education quality” and 1 indicating a “poor education quality.” The safety rating scale ranges from 1 to 4, with 1 indicating that the parents do not feel like their child is safe at school and 4 indicating that the parents believes their child is very safe at school. Overall, Ball Chatham parents rate their schools most positively with a 3.6 education quality rating and a 3.57 safety rating. In addition, Ball Chatham reports the second highest four-year graduation rate with 92.3% of high school students graduating in four years. Rochester parents give their schools a 3.5 rating in the quality of education and 3.41 rating in school safety and they have the highest four-year graduation rate. Springfield parents give their schools the lowest education quality rating (3.11) but the second highest rating in school safety (3.56). Riverton parents give their school a 3.38 education quality rating and 3.56 school safety rating.

### Attitudes towards Pre-K and Higher Education

Demographics	Percent of Sangamon County residents who think Pre-K educational programs are very important <sup>7</sup>	Percent of Sangamon County residents who think a college degree is very important <sup>8</sup>	Percent of Sangamon County residents who think post-high school institutions are very important for the community <sup>9</sup>
Female	78.7%	60.8%	84.1%
Male	72.0%	52.9%	83.5%
18-24 years old	88.2%	67.6%	100%
25-34 years old	89.4%	51.5%	76.9%
35-44 years old	77.1%	62.9%	91.5%
45-54 years old	82.8%	55.2%	83.0%
55-64 years old	76.5%	52.9%	91.7%
65 or older	65.3%	50.0%	81.3%
White	75.8%	55.3%	86.3%
African American	91.5%	56.5%	83.0%
Hispanic	90.0%	55.6%	77.8%
Less than \$15,000 a year	81.1%	59.5%	78.4%
\$15,001-\$30,000 a year	85.7%	59.2%	84.5%
\$30,001-\$45,000 a year	81.8%	55.8%	90.9%
\$45,001-\$60,000 a year	81.4%	41.0%	78.3%
\$60,001-\$75,000 a year	76.0%	52.0%	81.6%
\$75,001-\$100,000 a year	79.6%	67.3%	91.1%
More than \$100,000 a year	66.7%	60.6%	93.1%
Less than HS	69.4%	67.6%	63.9%
HS diploma or GED	74.1%	55.1%	77.5%
Some college or trade school	79.7%	52.7%	86.2%
College degree	76.7%	61.2%	94.2%
Advanced degree	64.7%	57.7%	88.2%
Urban	82.8%	61.8%	89.8%
Suburban	73.8%	50.3%	83.6%
Rural	77.0%	53.9%	84.2%

<sup>7</sup> Percent of respondents who reported that Pre-K programs are very important to the local community.

<sup>8</sup> Percent of respondents who reported that it is very important for an individual to have a college degree.

<sup>9</sup> Percent of respondents who reported that post-high school institutions are very important for the local community.

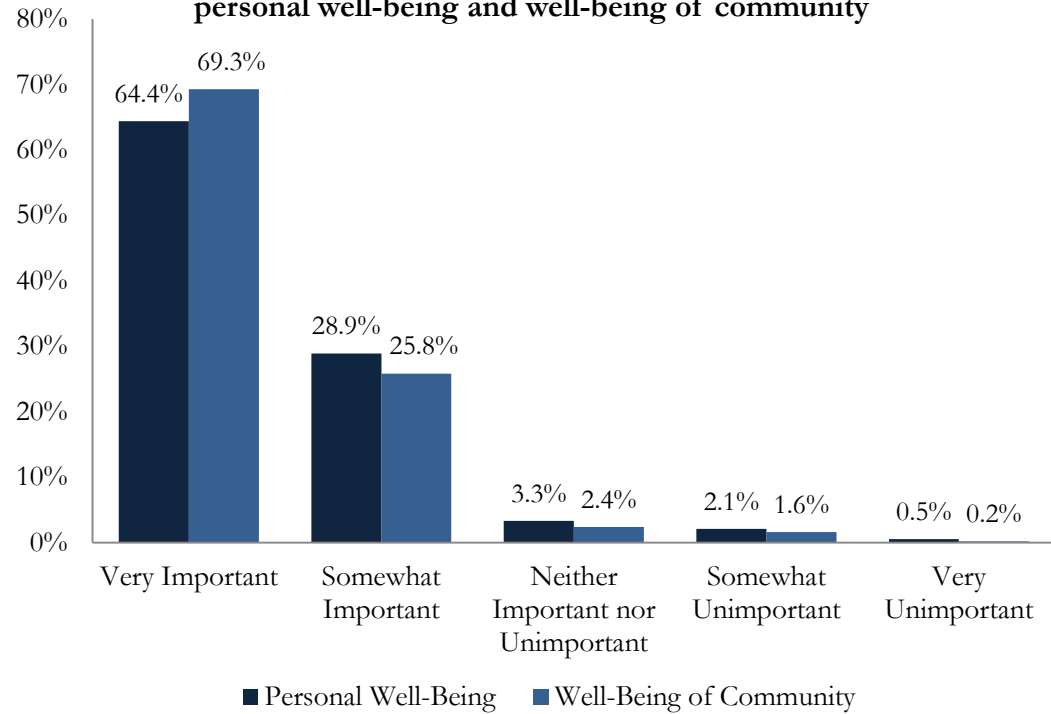
A higher percentage of survey respondents report litter as a big problem in Sangamon County (27.2%) than in their local community (16.6%), or on their own street (10.6%). A larger percentage of rural respondents report litter is a problem in their community (21.8%) than urban (17.8%) and suburban (14.3%) respondents. We find the same difference when respondents are asked about litter on their street. 15.8% of rural respondents report it is a big problem, compared to 13.4% of urban respondents and 5% of suburban respondents.

**Air and Water Quality**

While just under one-third (31.4%) of survey respondents reported being very concerned about water quality, only one-fifth of respondents (20%) reported the same level of concern about air quality. Concern over water quality seems to weigh heaviest on those respondents who reported living in the rural areas of Sangamon County. Thirty-seven percent of these respondents rate their level of concern toward local water quality as very concerned as compared to 33.8% of urban respondents and 26.3% of suburban respondents.

	Very Concerned about Air Quality	Very Concerned about Water Quality
Urban	20.9%	33.8%
Suburban	18.0%	26.3%
Rural	22.3%	37.3%

**Importance of conserving local natural environment to personal well-being and well-being of community**



**Conserving the environment**

The majority of Sangamon County residents report that conserving the local environment is very important for the well-being of their community (69.3%) as well as the well-being of them personally (64.4%).



**Local agricultural issues**

While 70.9% of survey respondents reported they think local agriculture plays a major role in the Sangamon County economy, only 11.3% reported they were very informed on local agricultural issues.

Only 1.1% of the days in 2011, Sangamon County residents experienced “unhealthy air quality.”

Two-thirds of survey respondents report recycling at their home.

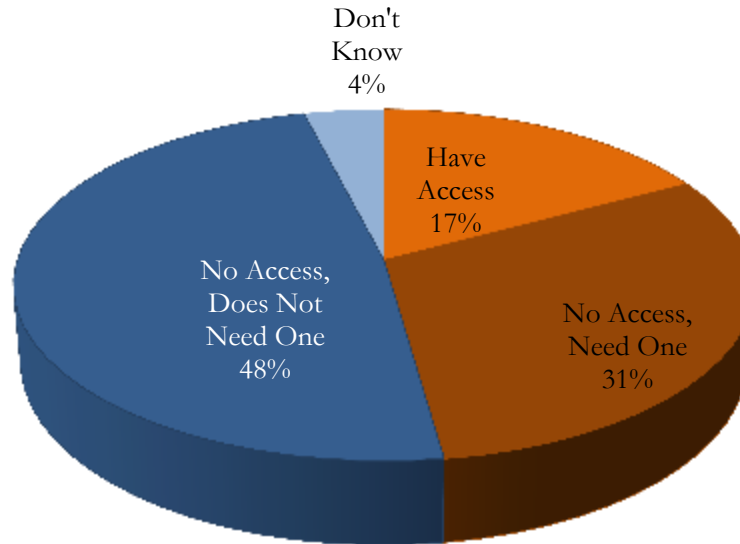
Sangamon Valley Landfill processed 475,504 cubic yards of solid waste in 2011.

**2 in 3** survey respondents reported that knowing a product is locally grown makes them “more likely” to purchase that product.

*Do you have access or need access to a community garden?*

78.9% of survey respondents report not having access to a community garden. Of these individuals, 61.2% report not needing access and 38.8% report needing access. This means that one-third of all survey respondents report currently not having and yet needing access (30.6%) to a community garden.

The need for access is most prevalent among individuals with lower incomes. 68.4% of respondents making less than \$15,000 a year report not having access to a community garden and needing one. This is 28 percentage points higher than the next income category (\$30,001 to \$45,000 a year) reporting the same need.



*Local Waste Management*

There are mixed results among survey respondents’ attitudes towards recent proposals to consolidate local waste management services, as 41.3% report they oppose the idea, 33.7% support it, and 19.3% have no opinion or are neutral.

By location in Sangamon County, Chatham and Springfield residents are the most negative, as 45% of Chatham and 40.9% of Springfield respondents opposing it. Rochester respondents are mostly neutral (64.3%), as 21.4% oppose and 14.3% support it.

*Of the 33.5% of respondents who do not currently recycle, the top reason given for not recycling was lack of interest.*

33.5%

*Do not recycle because they have no interest*

31.1%

*Do not recycle because they do not have access to curbside recycling*

11.3%

*Do not recycle because it is too expensive*

### Attitudes towards litter

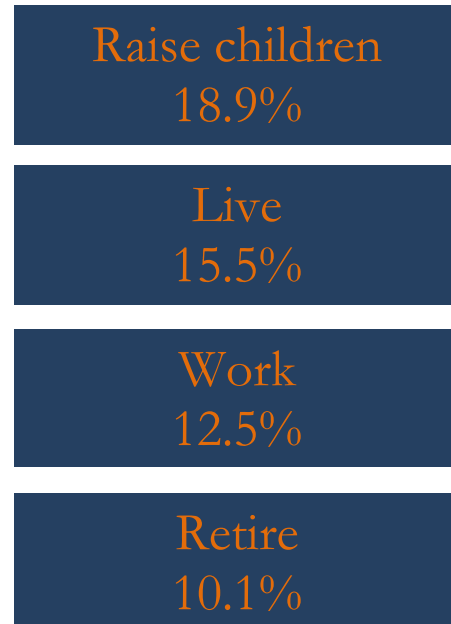

Demographics	Percent of Sangamon County residents who think litter in Sangamon County is a big problem <sup>10</sup>	Percent of Sangamon County residents who think litter in their own community is a big problem <sup>11</sup>	Percent of Sangamon County residents who think litter on their street is a big problem <sup>12</sup>
Female	27.4%	16.2%	10.3%
Male	27.2%	16.8%	10.6%
18-24 years old	20.6%	20.6%	8.8%
25-34 years old	27.3%	17.2%	6.2%
35-44 years old	31.4%	23.9%	12.9%
45-54 years old	23.9%	14.8%	11.4%
55-64 years old	29.8%	17.9%	15.5%
65 or older	30.7%	13.2%	10.4%
White	29.4%	18.6%	10.3%
African American	17.4%	6.5%	8.7%
Hispanic	20.0%	30.0%	40.0%
Less than \$15,000 a year	43.2%	34.2%	21.1%
\$15,001-\$30,000 a year	32.9%	17.4%	11.4%
\$30,001-\$45,000 a year	47.7%	29.5%	11.6%
\$45,001-\$60,000 a year	18.6%	21.3%	18.3%
\$60,001-\$75,000 a year	18.4%	18.0%	8.0%
\$75,001-\$100,000 a year	23.2%	8.9%	8.9%
More than \$100,000 a year	22.2%	11.0%	4.2%
Less than HS	20.7%	13.8%	3.4%
HS diploma or GED	36.2%	23.8%	14.7%
Some college or trade school	25.5%	14.3%	9.7%
College degree	23.5%	12.2%	9.1%
Advanced degree	22.4%	14.3%	10.0%
Urban	29.7%	17.8%	13.4%
Suburban	24.5%	14.3%	5.0%
Rural	29.7%	21.8%	15.8%

<sup>10</sup> Percent of respondents who reported that litter in Sangamon County is a big problem.

<sup>11</sup> Percent of respondents who report that litter in their own community is a big problem.

<sup>12</sup> Percent of respondents who report that litter on their street is a big problem.

*Do you think Sangamon County is an excellent place to...*

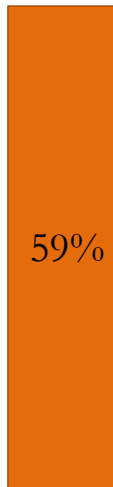



14.9% of respondents report that compared to a year ago, their immediate area is getting better as a place to live, 12.9% report that their immediate area is getting worse, while 68.9% report that their immediate area is about the same as it was a year ago.

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***

- 59.5% of respondents report things are generally on the right track.
- 67.7% of individuals between the ages of 25 and 34 report things are on the right track. This was six percentage points higher than any other age group.
- A larger percentage of individuals with higher levels of education and income report things are on the right track in Sangamon County. In fact, more than three-fourths of individuals making between \$60,001 and \$75,000 a year report that they think things are on the right track.
- Rural and suburban respondents were more likely to report things are on the right track (with 65% and 63.3%, respectively), than urban respondents (50%).



***Wrong Direction***

- 30.6% of respondents report things are going in the wrong direction in Sangamon County, Illinois.
- African-Americans report things are going in the wrong direction at a higher rate (37.2%) than either Whites (31.7%) or Hispanics (30%).
- More than half (55.6%) of individuals with less than a high school diploma report things in Sangamon County are going in the wrong direction, compared to 23.4% of individuals with a college degree and 19.6% of individuals with an advance degree.
- 57% of individuals earning less than \$15,000 a year report they believe things are going in the wrong direction.



***Don't Know***

- 10% of respondents responded with a “don’t know” when asked about the direction of Sangamon County.



## Community Social Well-being

Demographics	Percent of Sangamon County residents who think things are on the right track <sup>13</sup>	Percent of Sangamon County residents who think things are going in the wrong direction <sup>14</sup>	Percent of Sangamon County residents who report their immediate area is getting better <sup>15</sup>
Female	62.1%	28.5%	14.2%
Male	56.7%	32.6%	15.7%
18-24 years old	61.8%	26.5%	17.1%
25-34 years old	67.7%	26.2%	16.9%
35-44 years old	61.4%	30.0%	17.1%
45-54 years old	50.0%	43.0%	12.5%
55-64 years old	60.3%	30.8%	13.3%
65 or older	59.5%	24.3%	13.2%
White	59.5%	31.7%	12.9%
African American	51.2%	37.2%	23.4%
Hispanic	60.0%	30.0%	44.4%
Less than \$15,000 a year	40.0%	57.1%	27.0%
\$15,001-\$30,000 a year	42.9%	37.1%	18.6%
\$30,001-\$45,000 a year	43.2%	47.7%	9.1%
\$45,001-\$60,000 a year	70.7%	24.1%	16.7%
\$60,001-\$75,000 a year	77.1%	18.8%	6.0%
\$75,001-\$100,000 a year	65.5%	20.0%	5.4%
More than \$100,000 a year	67.6%	26.8%	20.8%
Less than HS	37.0%	55.6%	22.2%
HS diploma or GED	48.4%	36.3%	11.4%
Some college or trade school	64.0%	29.5%	15.4%
College degree	69.1%	23.4%	18.8%
Advanced degree	67.4%	19.6%	13.0%
Urban	50.0%	36.8%	19.0%
Suburban	65.0%	26.8%	16.8%
Rural	63.3%	30.6%	7.8%

<sup>13</sup> Percent of respondents who reported that things in Sangamon County are generally on the right track.

<sup>14</sup> Percent of respondents who reported that things in Sangamon County are generally headed in the wrong direction.

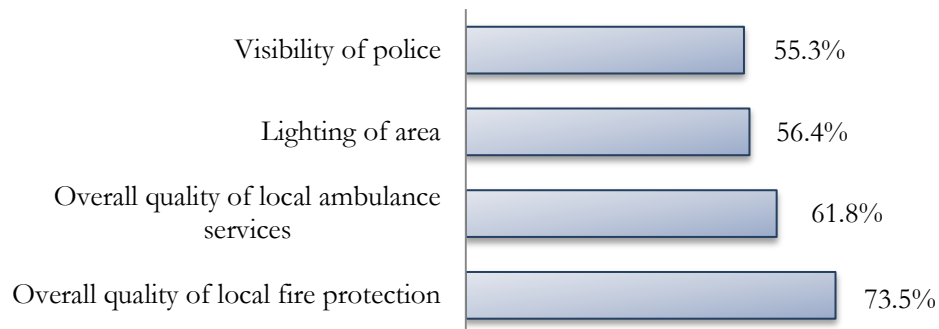
<sup>15</sup> Percent of respondents who reported that their immediate area where they live is getting better as a place to live, compared to a year ago.



Over the past three years, both Springfield and unincorporated Sangamon County have seen a decrease in violent crimes. In 2010, there were reported 1,452 violent crimes in Springfield and 170 in unincorporated Sangamon County. In 2011, there were 1,258 violent crimes in Springfield (no data available on the unincorporated area). Most recently in 2012, there were 1,138 violent crimes in Springfield and 150 violent crimes in unincorporated Sangamon County.



**Percent of respondents who believe that the following public safety improvements are a "high priority"**



**18.2% feel unsafe walking alone at night**

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

This sentiment is more common among respondents who were female (22.7%), between the ages of 18 and 24 (32.4%), African American (19.6%), earning less than \$15,000 a year (37.8%), and living in an urban environment (25.5%).

**16.4% report no police and law enforcement presence**

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

Only 16.4% of respondents report seeing police not often at all. The majority of respondents report that they see police or other types of law enforcement patrolling their neighborhood either very often (30.6%) or somewhat often (24.1%).

**85% believe reducing local crime is a high priority in Sangamon County.**

**10.9% feel less safe in their own homes**

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

15.2% of African-Americans feel less safe now than a year ago compared to 10.6% of white respondents. Of the respondents who reported feeling less safe in their homes, 57.1% report that they would move away from their current neighborhoods if they could.

**11.5% feel unsafe traveling on local streets**

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

Less than 12% of respondents reported feeling either unsafe (9%) or very unsafe (2.5%) when traveling on local roads and highways. In 2011 there were 4,869 vehicular accidents in Sangamon County, 415 fewer than in 2010.

### Attitudes towards public safety

Demographics	Percent of Sangamon County residents who feel unsafe walking alone at night <sup>16</sup>	Percent of Sangamon County residents who feel less safe in their own homes <sup>17</sup>	Percent of Sangamon County residents who do not see police in their neighborhoods <sup>18</sup>
Female	22.7%	15.2%	17.6%
Male	13.2%	6.2%	14.9%
18-24 years old	32.4%	11.8%	26.5%
25-34 years old	20.0%	9.2%	16.9%
35-44 years old	11.4%	11.4%	10.0%
45-54 years old	9.2%	15.9%	13.8%
55-64 years old	12.0%	7.2%	19.3%
65 or older	26.3%	12.8%	17.1%
White	14.7%	10.6%	17.5%
African American	19.6%	15.2%	10.6%
Hispanic	66.7%	0%	0%
Less than \$15,000 a year	37.8%	16.2%	13.2%
\$15,001-\$30,000 a year	26.8%	20.0%	14.3%
\$30,001-\$45,000 a year	18.2%	18.2%	13.6%
\$45,001-\$60,000 a year	19.0%	11.7%	20.3%
\$60,001-\$75,000 a year	12.0%	7.8%	18.0%
\$75,001-\$100,000 a year	12.5%	7.1%	16.1%
More than \$100,000 a year	1.4%	2.8%	18.3%
Less than HS	19.4%	19.4%	20.0%
HS diploma or GED	23.1%	11.3%	13.9%
Some college or trade school	19.3%	10.8%	16.2%
College degree	10.8%	8.9%	19.8%
Advanced degree	15.7%	7.8%	14.3%
Urban	25.5%	15.9%	11.5%
Suburban	10.6%	8.8%	17.5%
Rural	12.0%	8.9%	22.0%

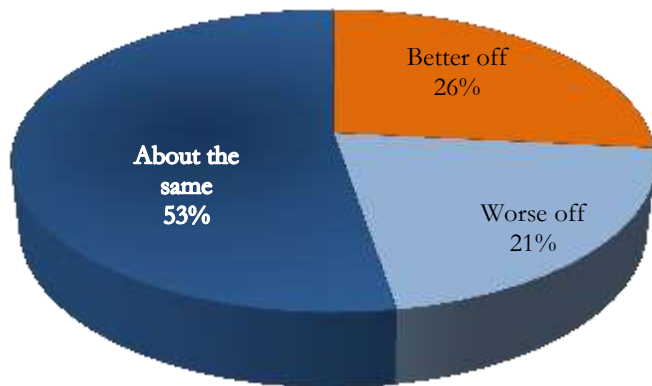
<sup>16</sup> Percent of respondents who reported that they feel unsafe walking alone at night in their own neighborhood.

<sup>17</sup> Percent of respondents who reported that compared to a year ago, they feel less safe in their own homes.

<sup>18</sup> Percent of respondents who reported that they see police or other types of law enforcement patrolling their neighborhood “not often at all.”

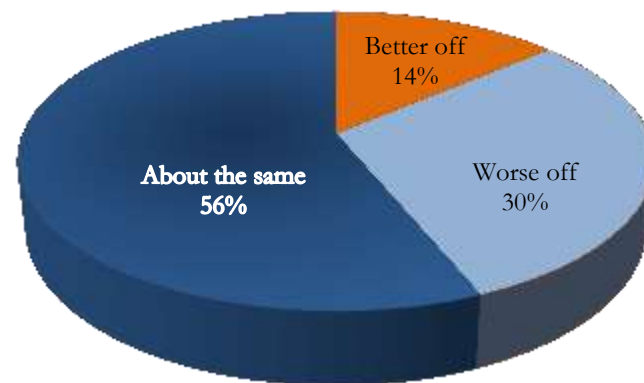
*How are your personal financial conditions and local area business conditions today, compared to a year ago?*

**Personal financial conditions**



26.5% of Sangamon County residents believe they are better off financially than they were a year ago, compared to 20.7% who report they are worse off financially and 52.4% who report that their financial status is about the same as it was a year ago.

**Local area business conditions**



Only 13.1% of Sangamon County residents believe that current local business conditions in the county are better off than they were a year ago. The majority of respondents report local business conditions are about the same (56%) and 28.6% report that local area business conditions are worse off today than they were a year ago.

**Sangamon County experienced less than a 1% job growth from 2011 to 2012.**

***Sangamon County's Unemployed or Underemployed Citizens***

While only 3% of respondents report currently being unemployed and seeking employment (the actual unemployment rate in Sangamon County according to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics is 7.6%), 21.2% of the employed respondents consider themselves to be underemployed. The majority of both unemployed and underemployed Sangamon County residents believe that employment training programs are important for the area. One-fifth of underemployed and 28.5% of unemployed respondents report participating in such programs in the past.

	Participated in employment training programs	Thinks employment programs are important for the area
Underemployed	20%	88.3%
Unemployed	28.5%	100%

***Top Economic Priorities***

- 83.7% of respondents believe attracting new businesses and jobs to Sangamon County are a high priority for the area.
- 65% believe reducing local government spending is a high priority.
- 59.6% believe increasing workforce/employment training programs are a high priority.
- 58.7% report increasing the number of local apprentice training programs are a high priority.
- 51.2% believe increasing minority participation/ diversity development in the local economy is a high priority.

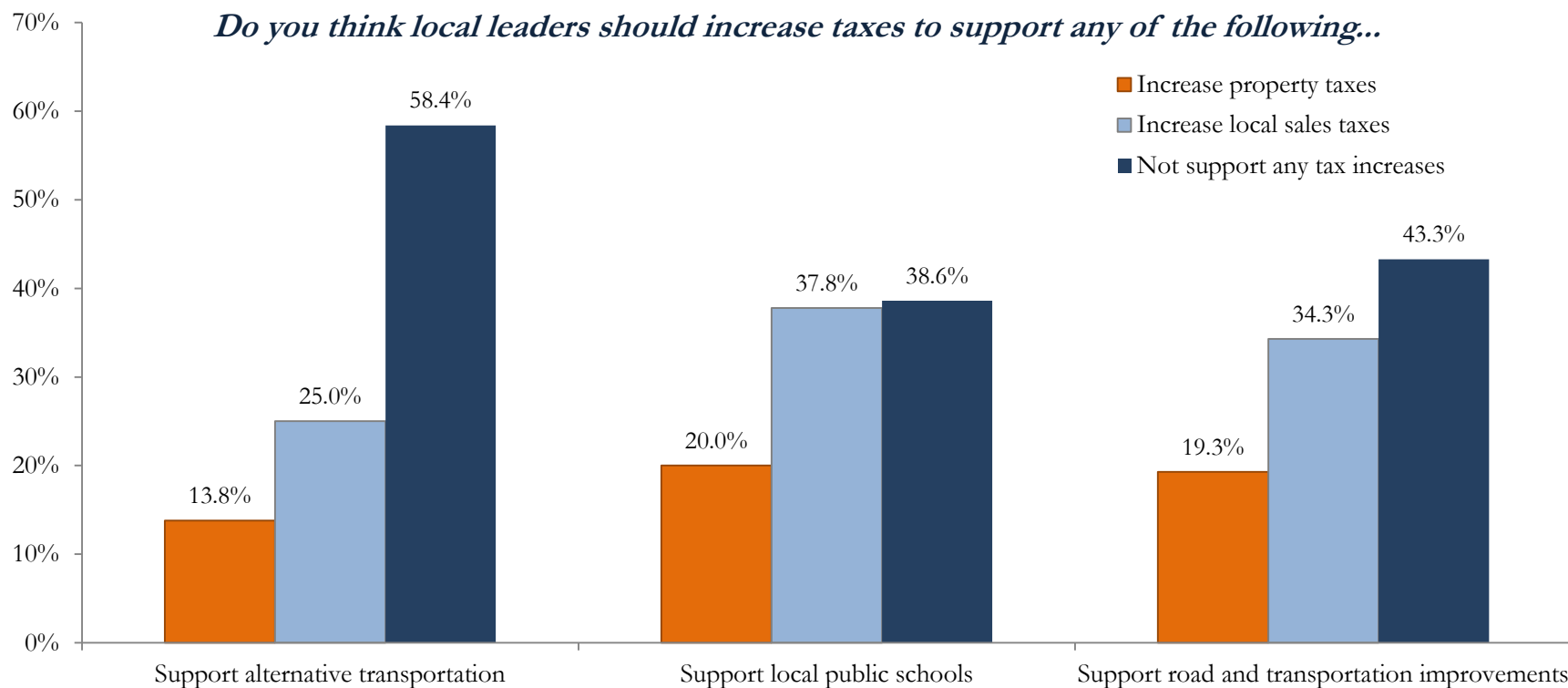
**Tax Priorities**

Sangamon County residents give mixed responses when asked whether “not allowing new tax increases” or “decreasing property taxes” were a high priority, medium priority, low priority, or not a priority at all. 37.6% of respondents report not allowing any tax increases is a high priority, 30.6% believe it is a medium priority, 21.2% said it is a low priority, and 9% reported it is not a priority at all. In comparison, 35.7% of respondents believe that decreasing property taxes is a high priority, 29.3% report it is a medium priority, 23.3% say it is a low priority, and 10% report it is not a priority at all.

Sangamon County residents were asked a series of different questions gauging their support for increases in either property taxes, local sales taxes, or whether they would not support any tax increases in order to fund

- a) alternative transportation,
- b) local public school,
- c) road and transportation improvements.

For all three categories, a higher percentage of individuals report they would not support any tax increases than support any form of increase. The tax increase receiving the most support deals with supporting local public schools. 37.8% of respondents report they would support an increase in local sales taxes to support local public schools.



## Attitudes towards the economy

Demographics	Percent of Sangamon County residents who are better off financially than they were a year ago <sup>19</sup>	Percent of Sangamon County residents who consider themselves underemployed <sup>20</sup>	Percent of Sangamon County residents who support a local sales tax increase to fund local public schools <sup>21</sup>
Female	23.1%	21.0%	38.2%
Male	30.0%	21.7%	37.5%
18-24 years old	23.5%	43.8%	61.8%
25-34 years old	45.5%	35.0%	40.0%
35-44 years old	38.0%	19.7%	50.0%
45-54 years old	18.2%	14.3%	25.0%
55-64 years old	19.0%	15.2%	34.5%
65 or older	19.7%	16.7%	40.8%
White	25.2%	21.9%	40.1%
African American	27.7%	34.5%	31.9%
Hispanic	44.5%	.22	-
Less than \$15,000 a year	24.3%	40.0%	39.5%
\$15,001-\$30,000 a year	28.6%	28.6%	31.9%
\$30,001-\$45,000 a year	15.9%	36.0%	50.0%
\$45,001-\$60,000 a year	26.7%	28.9%	31.7%
\$60,001-\$75,000 a year	18.4%	17.9%	34.0%
\$75,001-\$100,000 a year	26.8%	22.2%	50.0%
More than \$100,000 a year	43.1%	5.9%	49.3%
Less than HS	23.3%	22.2%	38.9%
HS diploma or GED	26.7%	23.2%	34.3%
Some college or trade school	25.2%	31.0%	40.0%
College degree	27.0%	16.9%	39.4%
Advanced degree	34.0%	2.9%	34.0%
Urban	31.6%	16.7%	35.7%
Suburban	30.2%	25.2%	39.0%
Rural	13.9%	25.0%	43.6%

<sup>19</sup> Percent of respondents who reported that compared to twelve months ago, they are personally better off financially.

<sup>20</sup> Percent of employed respondents who reported that they consider themselves currently underemployed. <sup>20</sup> Percent of respondents who reported that compared to twelve months ago, they are personally better off financially.

<sup>21</sup> Percent of respondents who support an increase in local sales taxes in order to support local public schools.

<sup>22</sup> Too few of individuals in this category to report frequencies.

**Traveling in/out of Area**


Residents and visitors of Sangamon County have several options when it comes to traveling in and out of the area. In 2012, the Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport handled 138,135 passengers and 192,216 passengers went through the Springfield Amtrak station. When survey respondents were asked about their traveling out of the town in the past year, a higher percent report using Amtrak than the Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport and Intercity buses combined.

Amtrak 40.7%

Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport 33.8%

Intercity Bus 5.2%

**Half** (49.4%) of all survey respondents report there are no Internet Hot Spots in their neighborhood.



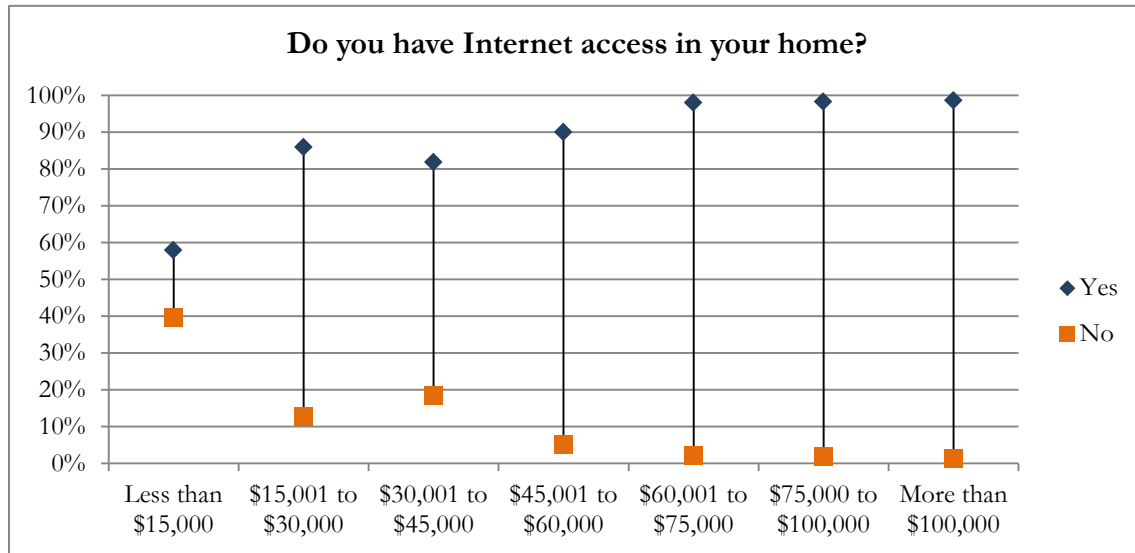
**Do you currently have Internet access in your home?**

87.7% of respondents currently have Internet access at home.

57.9% of those making less than \$15,000 a year report having Internet access in their home. This was 24 percentage points below the next lowest reporting group who made \$30,001 to \$45,000 a year (81.8%).

88%

16.2% of respondents with a disability also report not having Internet access in their home, compared the only 7.8% of individuals without a disability.



58%

**How do you connect to the Internet?**

58.2% of respondents connect to the Internet via cable/satellite. The second most reported method is through a wireless provider (38.2%) with dial up being reported the least at 2.5%. While only 2.5% of all respondents reported using dial up, 7.5% of those in rural areas report still using it, a 5.1 percentage point increase over suburban and 6.4 percentage point increase over urban respondents.



On average, 34,805 people ride Springfield Mass Transit buses each week. 38.9% of respondents are satisfied with improvements to local bus services.

59 miles

of bike trails or bike friendly lanes in Sangamon County. 43.8% of residents are satisfied with the status of this improvement project.



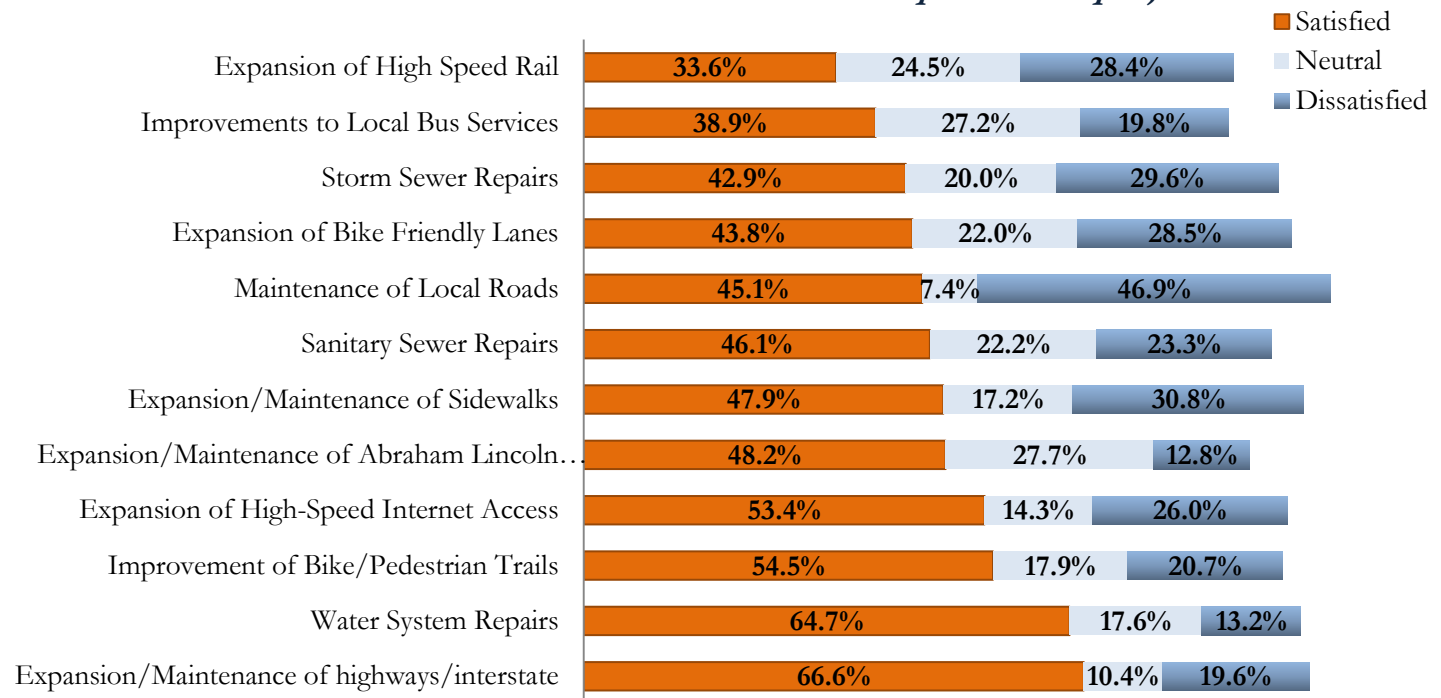
26% of Sangamon County residents believe that the need for a second water source in Sangamon County is a high priority.

81.5%

47.9% of Sangamon County residents believe growing downtown Springfield is very important and 33.6% reporting that it is somewhat important.

When asked their satisfaction with a variety of different infrastructure improvements in the area, Sangamon County residents are most satisfied with projects expanding or maintaining the highways and interstates (66.6%) and water system repairs (65.0%). Respondents are most dissatisfied with the maintenance of local roads (46.9%) and storm sewer repair (29.6%).

State of satisfaction with infrastructure improvement projects



Of the respondents who own their homes, 65% are satisfied with current water system repairs, 44% are satisfied with sanitary sewer repairs, and 39% are satisfied with storm sewer repairs.

## Attitudes towards infrastructure priorities in Sangamon County

Demographics	Percent of Sangamon County residents who think a second source of water in Sangamon County is a high priority <sup>23</sup>	Percent of Sangamon County residents who think growing downtown Springfield is very important to Sangamon County <sup>24</sup>	Percent of Sangamon County residents who commute to work <sup>25</sup>
Female	21.9%	46.9%	47.7%
Male	31.3%	48.7%	58.5%
18-24 years old	29.4%	47.1%	44.1%
25-34 years old	25.8%	65.2%	90.8%
35-44 years old	18.3%	45.7%	71.4%
45-54 years old	30.6%	51.1%	68.2%
55-64 years old	24.7%	51.2%	45.2%
65 or older	33.3%	39.5%	7.9%
White	29.4%	49.1%	53.3%
African American	8.5%	60.9%	60.9%
Hispanic	40.0%	30.0%	50.0%
Less than \$15,000 a year	35.3%	62.2%	50.0%
\$15,001-\$30,000 a year	24.3%	38.0%	47.1%
\$30,001-\$45,000 a year	29.5%	43.2%	50.0%
\$45,001-\$60,000 a year	26.7%	50.0%	51.7%
\$60,001-\$75,000 a year	22.0%	48.0%	64.0%
\$75,001-\$100,000 a year	27.3%	54.4%	55.4%
More than \$100,000 a year	27.4%	57.7%	70.8%
Less than HS	20.7%	43.8%	34.4%
HS diploma or GED	32.8%	48.9%	44.7%
Some college or trade school	27.0%	47.5%	54.3%
College degree	20.6%	52.0%	63.4%
Advanced degree	24.0%	38.0%	62.0%
Urban	32.1%	55.1%	51.3%
Suburban	20.9%	48.1%	57.5%
Rural	28.2%	44.1%	55.9%

<sup>23</sup> The percent of respondents who reported that they believe the need for a second source of water in Sangamon County, also referred to as Hunter Lake or Lake 2 is a high priority.

<sup>24</sup> The percent of respondents who reported that that they believe growing downtown Springfield is very important to Sangamon County.

<sup>25</sup> The percent of respondents who reported that they commute to work.



11.3%

of Sangamon County residents do not have health care coverage

13.8%

of Sangamon County residents do not have a primary health care provider

20.9%

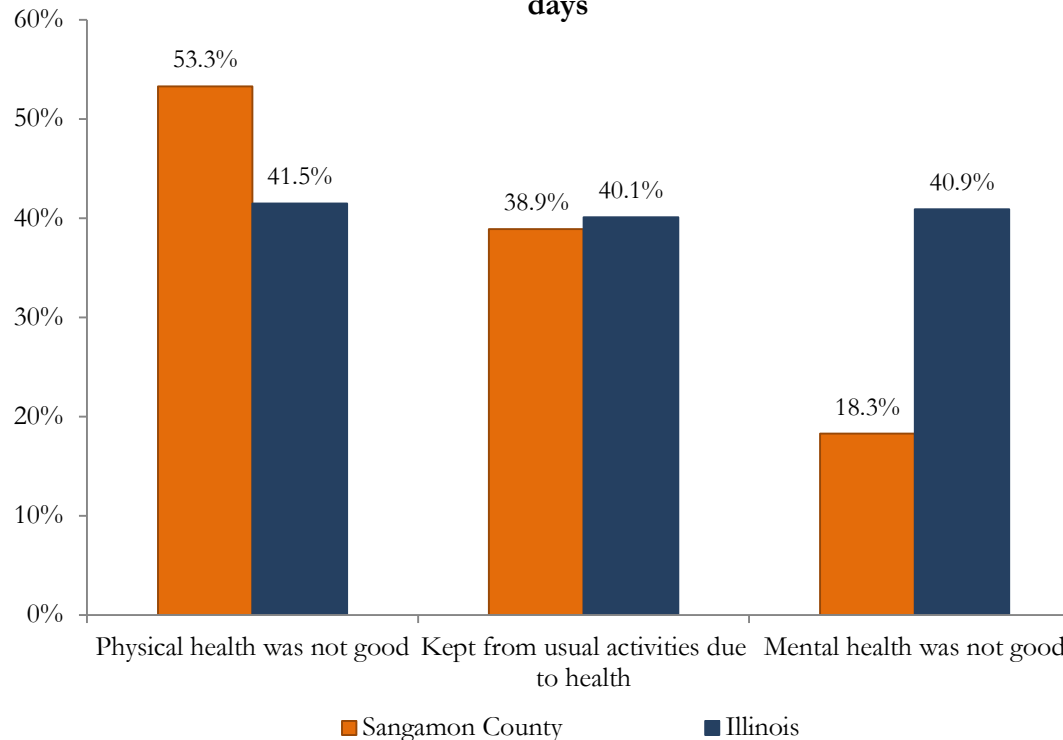
of Sangamon County residents are economically insecure about their family's health care

**Health Status**

When asked about their health in the past 30 days, 53.3% report there was at least one day in which their physical health was not good, 38.9% report there had been at least one day in which they had been kept from usual activities due to health, and 18.3% report at least one day in which their mental health was not good. When comparing these rates to the most recent statewide data (2011 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey) we find that while a higher percentage of Sangamon County residents report that their physical health was not good on at least one day than statewide respondents, a lower percentage report that their mental health was not good or they were kept from usual activities due to health on at least one day.

In addition, 19.9% of respondents say they have not engaged in any physical leisure time activity in the past 30 days compared to 25% of Illinois respondents. 91.5% of Sangamon County residents think physical activity is very important to your general health.

**Percent of residents who experience the following in the past 30 days**



**Sangamon County's Uninsured Population**

11.3% of respondents in the 2013 Sangamon County Citizen survey report not having health care coverage (including health insurance, HMOs, government plans, or Medicare). This is slightly lower than the statewide estimate provided by the most recent American Community Survey, which reports the statewide uninsured rate at 13.1%. One in four individuals under the age of 34 report not having health insurance as do 37.8% of individuals making less than \$15,000 a year, and 33.3% of individuals without a high school diploma. African Americans also report a higher uninsured rate (19.1%) than White respondents (9.2%).

### Important health indicators

Demographics	Percent of Sangamon County residents who are uninsured <sup>26</sup>	Percent of Sangamon County residents who do not have a primary doctor <sup>27</sup>	Percent of Sangamon County residents who report being healthcare insecure <sup>28</sup>
Female	8.0%	12.4%	19.6%
Male	14.9%	15.4%	22.2%
18-24 years old	24.2%	24.2%	27.3%
25-34 years old	27.3%	36.9%	47.7%
35-44 years old	8.6%	11.4%	12.7%
45-54 years old	11.4%	10.3%	21.6%
55-64 years old	7.2%	8.3%	15.5%
65 or older	0%	3.9%	10.5%
White	9.2%	9.7%	18.3%
African American	19.1%	28.3%	32.6%
Hispanic	- <sup>29</sup>	-	-
Less than \$15,000 a year	37.8%	18.9%	45.9%
\$15,001-\$30,000 a year	18.6%	32.4%	47.1%
\$30,001-\$45,000 a year	15.9%	11.6%	20.5%
\$45,001-\$60,000 a year	15.0%	11.7%	11.7%
\$60,001-\$75,000 a year	2.0%	2.0%	16.0%
\$75,001-\$100,000 a year	0%	5.4%	12.5%
More than \$100,000 a year	6.9%	13.9%	8.3%
Less than HS	33.3%	30.0%	59.3%
HS diploma or GED	14.6%	15.4%	28.2%
Some college or trade school	12.7%	14.8%	21.1%
College degree	3.1%	8.2%	7.3%
Advanced degree	2.1%	6.3%	6.4%
Urban	14.0%	19.1%	22.3%
Suburban	12.4%	14.3%	21.7%
Rural	7.8%	5.9%	17.6%

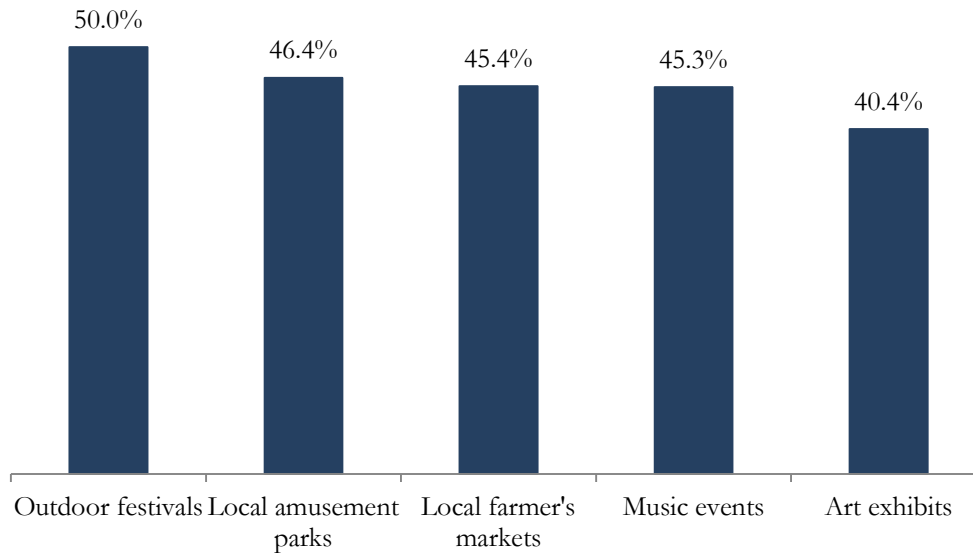
<sup>26</sup> Percent of respondents who reported that they do not have health care coverage through either health insurance, HMO, government plan, or Medicare.

<sup>27</sup> Percent of respondents who reported that they do not have anyone that they consider their primary doctor or health care provider.

<sup>28</sup> Percent of respondents who reported that at least once in the past 12 months they did not have enough money to pay for health care or medicines that them or someone in their family needed.

<sup>29</sup> Too few of individuals in this category to report frequencies.

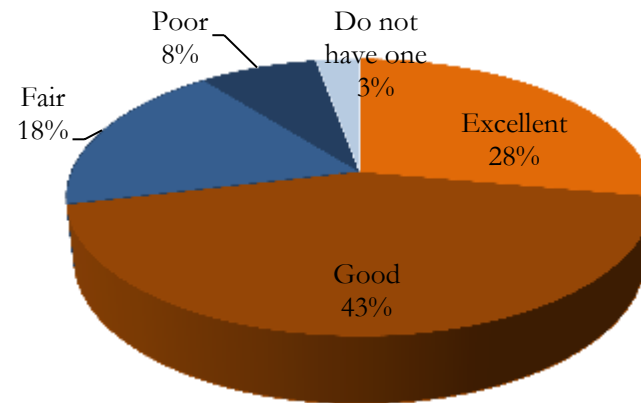
Percent of respondents who think there are not enough of the following events in Sangamon County



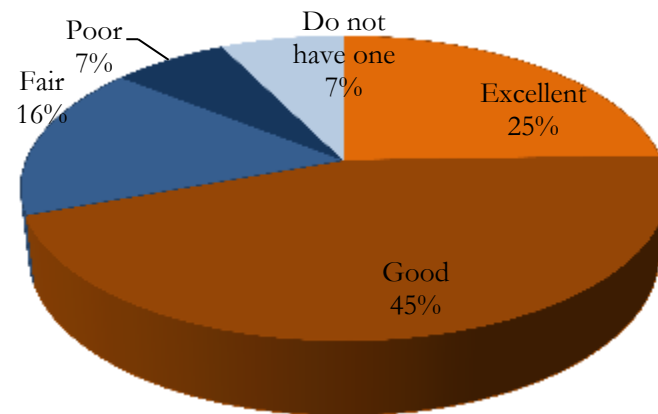
*Evaluating local parks and libraries*

When asked to evaluate their local parks and libraries, the majority of respondents rate their local library and their local park as either excellent or good. In fact, 71% of respondents rate their local park as either excellent or good and 70% rate their local library as either excellent or good.

*How would you rate your local park?*



*How would you rate your local library?*



A higher percentage of African American respondents give their local library or local park a poor rating. 12.8% of African American respondents rate their local park as poor, compared to 5.5% of White respondents. 21.7% of African American respondents also rate their local library as poor, which is a 15 percentage point increase over the percent of White respondents who rate their local library as poor.

Rural respondents are the most negative in their evaluations of local parks and libraries with 8.9% rating the quality of their local library as poor, compared to 5.7% of suburban respondents and 5.7% of urban respondents. In addition, 11.8% of rural respondents rate the quality of their local park as poor, compared to 10.1% of urban respondents and 4.4% of suburban respondents.

### Attitudes towards recreational facilities

Demographics	Percent of Sangamon County residents who rated local library as poor <sup>30</sup>	Percent of Sangamon County residents who rated local park as poor <sup>31</sup>	Percent of Sangamon County residents who do not think there are enough outdoor festivals <sup>32</sup>
Female	7.9%	5.3%	50.9%
Male	5.0%	10.4%	48.9%
18-24 years old	0%	20.6%	58.8%
25-34 years old	4.6%	9.1%	78.5%
35-44 years old	7.1%	4.3%	52.9%
45-54 years old	8.0%	12.4%	48.9%
55-64 years old	8.3%	6.0%	47.6%
65 or older	6.6%	3.9%	26.7%
White	6.3%	5.5%	47.4%
African American	21.7%	12.8%	56.5%
Hispanic	-.33	-	-
Less than \$15,000 a year	18.4%	31.6%	60.5%
\$15,001-\$30,000 a year	4.3%	7.2%	51.4%
\$30,001-\$45,000 a year	2.3%	15.9%	56.8%
\$45,001-\$60,000 a year	3.3%	3.3%	44.3%
\$60,001-\$75,000 a year	8.0%	6.1%	57.1%
\$75,001-\$100,000 a year	0%	0%	35.7%
More than \$100,000 a year	8.2%	6.9%	54.2%
Less than HS	6.9%	32.1%	44.8%
HS diploma or GED	4.1%	7.3%	53.8%
Some college or trade school	8.0%	8.1%	52.3%
College degree	6.3%	3.1%	48.0%
Advanced degree	8.3%	4.3%	41.7%
Urban	5.7%	10.1%	50.6%
Suburban	5.7%	4.4%	48.4%
Rural	8.9%	11.8%	50.5%

<sup>30</sup> Percent of respondents who reported that their local library is of poor quality.

<sup>31</sup> Percent of respondents who reported that their local park is of poor quality.

<sup>32</sup> Percent of respondents who reported that there are not enough outdoor festivals (not including fairs) in Sangamon County.

<sup>33</sup> Too few of individuals in this category to report frequencies.

Strong or Weak Leaders?

52.4% of Sangamon County residents feel Sangamon County has weak leaders.

This evaluation was most common among male respondents (57.3%), individuals between the ages of 45 and 54 (59.3%), African-American respondents (61.4%), individuals making less than \$15,000 a year (75.0%), and individuals without a high school diploma (88.9%). Additionally, large differences in sentiment were reported by those who identify as LGBTQ and those who report having a disability. 70.6% of those who identify as LGBTQ believe that Sangamon County has weak leaders, which is almost 20 percentage points higher (52.1%) than those who do not identify as LGBTQ. Of those who report having a disability, 69.9% believe Sangamon County leaders are weak, also a 20 percentage point increase (49.6%) over those without a disability.

71% of respondents believe it is either very important or somewhat important for local governments to consolidate local governmental services.

Confidence in Local Leaders?

57.7% of Sangamon County residents are confident that local leaders can effectively address local problems.

In general, women (63.5%) are more confident in local leaders than men (52.1%). Individuals between the ages of 45 and 54 are the least confident (44.3%) while those aged 18-24 are the most confident (66.7%).

Education level also made a large difference in confidence as those with less than a high school degree report being less confident. 32.1% of individuals without a high school diploma report being confident in local leaders, which is almost 30 percentage points lower than the percentage of individuals with an advanced degree (61.7%) who reported they are confident in local leaders.

Confidence levels did not differ based on whether respondents voted in the most recent election.

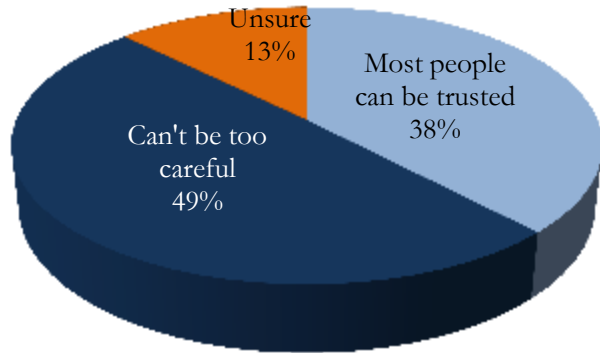
Confidence in Elected Leaders?

51.7% of Sangamon County residents are confident that local elected leaders can effectively address local problems. Of the respondents who voted in the last election, 54.3% are confident in local elected leaders.

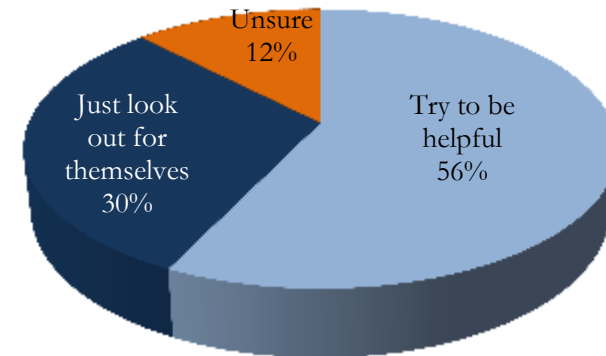
Specifically, again, women are more confident (58.3%) than men (44.9%) and those between the ages of 18 and 24 are the most confident (70.0%) while those between the ages of 45 and 54 are the least confident (43.2%).

Additionally, income and education levels matter with those making less than \$15,000 a year being the least confident (22.2%) which is 50 percentage points below those making \$75,001 to \$100,000 a year (73.2%). Individuals without a high school diploma have less confidence (33.3%) than those with a four-year college degree (60.4%).

*Would you say most people can be trusted?*



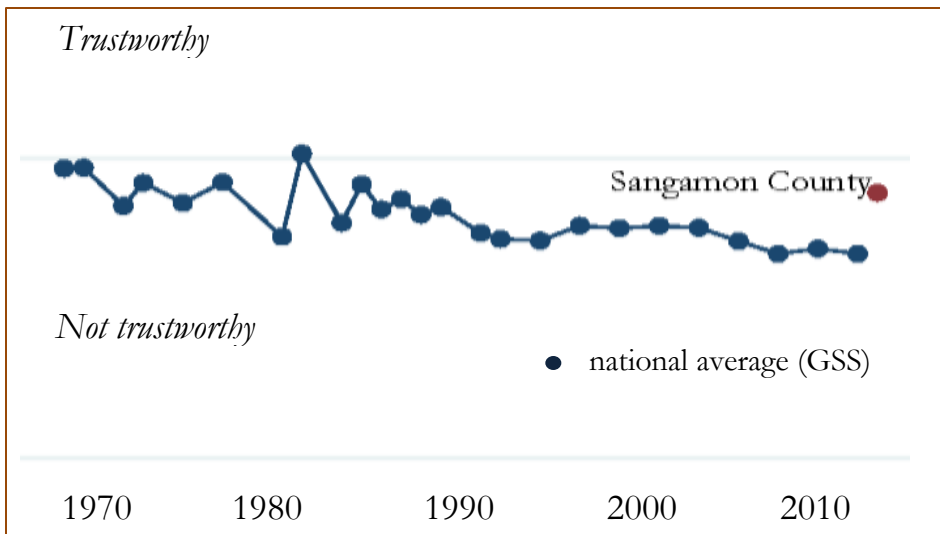
*Would you say people try to be helpful?*



49.3% believe you cannot be too careful when dealing with people. 35.3% of women and 40% of men believe most people can be trusted. 60.9% of African-Americans believe you can't be too careful when dealing with people.

56% believe that most of the time people try to be helpful. 72% of those making \$60,001 to \$75,000; and 25.4% of those making \$15,001 to \$30,000 believe people try to be helpful. 40% of those with a disability believe people only look out for themselves.

Since 1972, the General Social Survey (GSS) has been monitoring societal change in America. Conducted by NORC, at the University of Chicago, the survey is largely regarded as the most comprehensive data on contemporary American society. The 2013 Sangamon County Citizen survey contained several questions included in the GSS in order to examine how Sangamon County compares to the national average. Below, we present two comparisons: "Would you say most people can be trusted" and "Would you say people try to be helpful." The graphs include longitudinal data from NORC, but also include our data from Sangamon County residents. As you can see, on both trust and helpful, Sangamon County residents have higher evaluations than the most recent national average (2012).



**81.1%**

of Sangamon County residents reported donating money to charitable or religious organizations.

**51.5%**

of residents believe it is the entire community's responsibility to take care of disadvantaged members of the community.

**36.5%**

of Sangamon County residents believe that everyone in their community is treated equally.

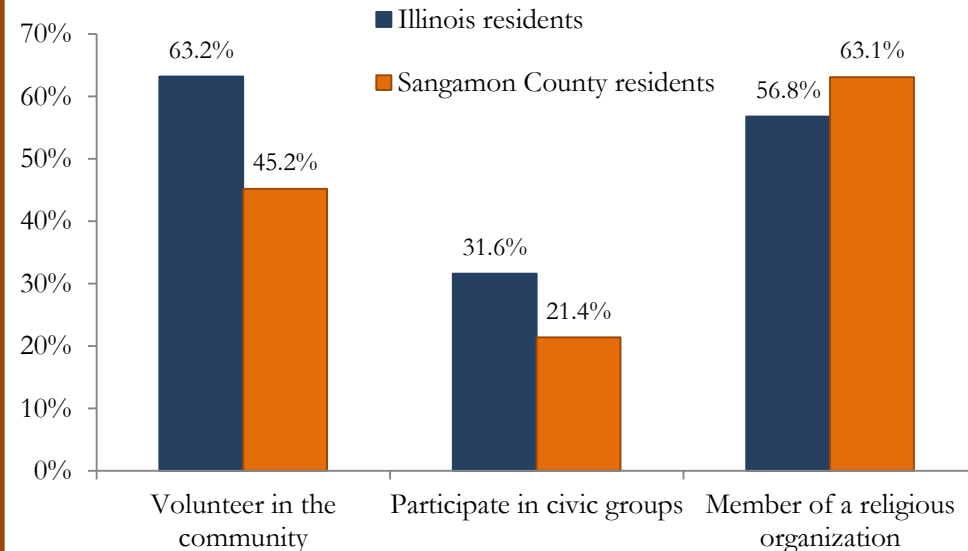
**Where do Sangamon County residents get local news**

According to the Citizen Survey, Sangamon County residents rely on two main sources for local news: 39% cite television as their main source, while nearly as many, 37%, cite newspapers. 10% use radio as their main source for local news, while only 7% use the Internet as their main source for local news. A very small percent (4%) rely on word of mouth for local news.

When respondents were asked whether they watch local television news, listen to local news on the radio, read a local newspaper, or read local news online on a normal day, we find interesting age group differences. The youngest age group (18-25 year olds) reports the lowest levels of news consumption across all mediums except television. 82.4% of 18-24 year olds report watching local television news. 25-44 year olds report the highest levels of news consumption, especially through local radio and the Internet. Approximately 70% of these individuals report getting local news through the radio or the Internet on a normal day. Older respondents (ages 55 and older) are most reliant on the local newspaper with 72% reporting that they read a local newspaper on a normal day.

**Comparing Sangamon County to statewide results**

When we compare Sangamon County citizens to a statewide survey of Illinois residents, we find differences in their levels of community service, participation in civic groups, and religious attendance.<sup>34</sup> According to a 2009 statewide survey conducted by the UIS Survey Research Office, 63.2% of Illinois residents are involved in community volunteer activities, 31.6% participate in a school, neighborhood, or civic groups in the past year, and 56.8% are a member of a church, synagogue, temple, or mosque. In the 2013 survey, we find that 45.2% of Sangamon County residents report being involved in community volunteer activities, 21.4% participate in school, neighborhood, or civic groups, and 63.1% are a member of a church, synagogue, temple, or mosque.



<sup>34</sup> It is important to note that the differences between Sangamon County responses and statewide responses may also be due to the differences in years. The statewide survey was conducted in 2009 with 700 respondents. UIS Survey Research Office.

## Confidence in Sangamon County leaders

Demographics	Percent of Sangamon County residents who feel Sangamon County has weak leaders <sup>35</sup>	Percent of Sangamon County residents who are confident in local leaders <sup>36</sup>	Percent of Sangamon County residents who are confident in local ELECTED leaders <sup>37</sup>
Female	47.6%	63.5%	58.3%
Male	57.3%	52.1%	44.9%
18-24 years old	38.2%	66.7%	70.6%
25-34 years old	49.2%	63.6%	53.8%
35-44 years old	54.5%	65.7%	55.1%
45-54 years old	59.3%	44.3%	43.2%
55-64 years old	56.15%	53.6%	50.0%
65 or older	52.8%	63.2%	53.9%
White	52.6%	59.4%	52.3%
African American	61.4%	45.7%	51.1%
Hispanic	55.6%	44.4%	33.3%
Less than \$15,000 a year	75.0%	48.6%	22.2%
\$15,001-\$30,000 a year	54.3%	47.1%	43.7%
\$30,001-\$45,000 a year	53.5%	52.3%	54.5%
\$45,001-\$60,000 a year	45.6%	56.7%	48.3%
\$60,001-\$75,000 a year	59.6%	66.0%	60.0%
\$75,001-\$100,000 a year	46.4%	68.4%	73.2%
More than \$100,000 a year	47.9%	66.2%	50.0%
Less than HS	88.9%	32.1%	33.3%
HS diploma or GED	47.5%	60.2%	44.7%
Some college or trade school	55.5%	56.6%	53.9%
College degree	47.9%	61.5%	60.4%
Advanced degree	43.2%	61.7%	56.5%
Urban	53.9%	51.6%	49.0%
Suburban	52.6%	61.9%	50.9%
Rural	52.9%	60.8%	57.8%

<sup>35</sup> Percent of respondents who believe that Sangamon County has weak leaders.

<sup>36</sup> Percent of respondents who believe that Sangamon County has strong leaders.

<sup>37</sup> Percent of respondents who reported that they are either very confident or somewhat confident that local elected leaders can effectively address local problems.



## TOPLINE REPORT

What school district do you currently live in...

	Valid percent
A-C Central	0.1%
Athens Unit #213	0.4%
Auburn Unit #10	3.5%
Chatham Unit #5	9.7%
Edinburg Unit #14	0.0%
Mt. Pulaski Unit #23	0.0%
New Berlin Unit #16	1.6%
Pawnee Unit #11	1.2%
Pleasant Plains Unit #8	3.8%
Porta Unit #202	0.0%
Riverton Unit #14	5.6%
Rochester Unit #3A	5.9%
Sangamon Valley Unit #9	0.4%
Springfield District #186	55.9%
Tri-City Unit #1	2.3%
Virden Unit #4	0.0%
Waverly Unit #6	0.0%
Williamsville Unit #15	2.1%
Other	0.4%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	6.7%
Refuse	0.3%

Others mentioned: Delaware, Illiopolis, Wilcox.

Thinking about your local school district, what is the biggest change needed (if any) in order to improve k-12 education?

	Valid percent
Improve leadership/administration	11.8
Better quality teachers	6.6
Increase funding to schools (including increasing teacher salaries)	24.9
Decrease class sizes	12.7
Improve technology and resources	1.4
Improve (or build) buildings	2.6
Improve curriculum	12.9
Improve safety (including decreasing bullying)	1.2
Increase diversity in schools	0.9
Other	6.6
Don't know	18.4

If local leaders chose to increase taxes to support local public schools, which of the following would you be most likely to support?

	Valid percent
Increase property taxes	20.0%
Increase local sales taxes	37.8%
Not support any tax increase	38.6%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	3.6%

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

	Valid percent
Very confident	9.6%
Somewhat confident	37.9%
Not very confident	23.8%
Not at all confident	15.6%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	13.1%

Thinking about Pre-K education programs... How important, if at all, would you say these programs are for the local community?

	Valid percent
Very important	75.4%
Somewhat important	13.6%
Neither important nor unimportant	1.7%
Not very important	3.4%
Not at all important	2.3%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	3.6%

Are you the parent or primary guardian (GRANDPARENT) of a school age child? (Between the ages of 5 and 18)

	Valid percent
Yes	31.6%
No	67.2%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	1.1%

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

	Valid percent
Attends public school	86.9%
Attends private school	10.4%
Is homeschooled	0.4%

## TOPLINE REPORT

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

	Valid percent
Excellent	44.1%
Good	37.9%
Fair	16.2%
Poor	1.4%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	0.5%

Thinking about your child's personal safety at school, do you think your child is...

	Valid percent
Very safe	57.2%
Somewhat safe	36.9%
Not too safe	3.7%
Not at all safe	0.6%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	1.6%

Did you get your highest degree from a local college or university?

	Valid percent
Yes	42.5%
No	57.1%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	0.4%

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

	Valid percent
Very important	57.0%
Somewhat important	33.1%
Neither important nor unimportant	6.0%
Somewhat unimportant	0.9%
Not at all important	2.0%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	1.1%

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

	Valid percent
Very important	83.8%
Somewhat important	14.0%
Neither important nor unimportant	0.3%
Somewhat unimportant	0.3%
Not at all important	0.4%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	1.2%

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

	Valid percent
Safe	79.8%
Unsafe	18.2%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	2.0%

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

	Valid percent
Less safe	10.9%
Safer	6.9%
Same level of safety	78.6%
Did not live there a year ago	3.3%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	0.3%

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

	Valid percent
Very often	30.6%
Somewhat often	24.1%
Not very often	27.9%
Not often at all	16.4%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	1.0%

## TOPLINE REPORT

Thinking about public safety in your local area, please let me know if you think the following improvement is a high priority, a medium priority, a low priority, or not a priority at all?

	High priority	Medium priority	Low priority	Not a priority at all
Overall quality of local fire protection	73.5%	14.2%	6.1%	4.0%
Overall quality of local ambulance services	61.8%	21.2%	7.7%	4.3%
Lighting of area	56.4%	23.7%	13.0%	5.9%
Visibility of police	55.3%	25.3%	10.3%	8.6%

Thinking about local infrastructure in Sangamon County...

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

Valid percent

Very safe	14.7%
Safe	54.6%
Neutral	18.1%
Unsafe	9.0%
Very unsafe	2.5%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	1.0%

If local leaders choose to pay for new roads, road upgrades, and other transportation improvements, would you support an increase in...

Valid percent

Increase property taxes	19.3%
Increase local sales taxes	34.3%
Would NOT support any tax increase	43.3%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	3.0%
Refused (NOT OFFERED)	0.0%

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 believe it is a...

Valid percent

High priority	26.5%
Medium priority	29.5%
Low priority	16.4%
Not a priority at all	21.8%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	5.8%

What is your state of satisfaction with the following infrastructure improvement projects?

	Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
Expansion of high-speed Internet access in your area	25.6%	27.8%	14.3%	12.4%	13.7%
Improvement of bike and pedestrian trails	20.8%	33.7%	17.9%	12.9%	7.8%
Water system repairs	19.0%	45.6%	17.6%	7.5%	5.7%
Expansions and/or maintenance of highways/interstate	18.1%	48.6%	10.4%	13.3%	6.2%
Expansions of bike friendly lanes on local roads	15.9%	27.9%	22.0%	14.5%	14.0%
Maintenance of local roads	16.6%	28.5%	7.4%	25.1%	21.9%
Improvements to local bus services	14.6%	24.3%	27.2%	9.7%	10.1%
Expansions and/or maintenance of Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport	14.5%	33.8%	27.7%	8.0%	4.7%
Expansions and/or maintenance of sidewalks	12.9%	35.0%	17.2%	15.9%	14.9%
Sanitary sewer repairs	12.5%	33.6%	22.2%	12.7%	10.6%
Storm sewer repairs	11.6%	31.3%	20.0%	14.3%	15.3%
Expansion of high speed rail	9.3%	24.3%	24.5%	12.7%	15.7%

## TOPLINE REPORT

Of the list previously mentioned, which infrastructure improvement would you rate as the highest priority in Sangamon County?

	Valid percent
Sidewalk maintenance	4.4%
Sidewalk expansion	1.6%
Expansion of bike friendly lanes on local roads	4.4%
Improvement of bike and pedestrian trails	1.7%
Storm sewer repairs	6.7%
Sanitary sewer repairs	6.4%
Water system repairs	5.2%
Expansion of high-speed Internet access in your area	3.9%
Maintenance of local roads	40.1%
Maintenance of highways/interstate	6.5%
Building of new roads and highways	2.0%
Building sidewalks	1.2%
Expansion of high speed rail	5.8%
Maintenance/expansion of Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport	5.5%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	4.2%
Refused (NOT OFFERED)	0.4%

How important, if at all, do you think growing downtown Springfield is to Sangamon County? Is it...

	Valid percent
Very important	47.9%
Somewhat important	33.6%
Not very important	9.9%
Not important at all	6.8%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	1.8%

Do you commute to work?

	Valid percent
Yes	53.0%
No	46.9%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	0.1%

On a normal work week, what form of transportation do you use most often to get to work?

	Valid percent
Car	92.0%
Bus	2.5%
Walk	2.7%
Bike	0.8%
Other	1.8%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	0.3%

If local leaders chose to increase taxes to support alternative transportation here in Sangamon County, (such as on bike paths, buses and trains) which of the following would you support?

	Valid percent
Increase property taxes	13.8%
Increase local sales taxes	25.0%
Not support any tax increase	58.4%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	2.8%

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

	Yes	No
Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport	33.8%	65.5%
Amtrak	40.7%	58.5%
An intercity bus like Greyhound	5.2%	93.8%

Now thinking about technology in Sangamon County, do you have Internet access in your home? [NOT JUST ON CELL PHONE]

	Valid percent
Yes	87.7%
No	11.3%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	0.9%

How do you connect to the Internet?

	Valid percent
Cable/Satellite	58.2%
Dial up	2.5%
Through wireless provider	38.2%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	1.1%

## TOPLINE REPORT

What would you rate as the biggest reason you do not currently have Internet in your home?

	Valid percent
Cost/Expense	17.6%
Do not have the ability to have access	3.0%
Do not use the internet/have no interest	38.8%
Have the internet through their phone	2.7%
Don't have a computer	28.6%
Worried about computer viruses/internet security	7.2%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	2.0%

Are there any Internet Hot Spot areas in your neighborhood?

	Valid percent
Yes	18.7%
No	49.4%
Unsure	32.0%

What is your current employment status?

	Valid percent
Employed Full-Time	40.1%
Employed Part-Time	12.5%
Self-Employed	8.0%
Full-Time Student	4.1%
Unemployed and seeking employment	2.9%
Unemployed and not currently seeking employment	1.7%
Disabled, unable to work	5.8%
Retired	23.8%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	0.3%
Refused (NOT OFFERED)	0.8%

Do you consider yourself underemployed?

	Valid percent
Yes	21.2%
No	77.5%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	1.3%

Have you participated in employment training programs in Sangamon County, and how useful do you think these programs were:

	Valid percent
Did not participate	81.6%
Participated and useful	14.2%
Participated and not useful	2.4%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	1.8%

How important, if at all, do you think these programs are for the local area?

	Valid percent
Very important	61.1%
Somewhat important	29.0%
Neither important nor unimportant	2.1%
Somewhat unimportant	2.3%
Very unimportant	1.6%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	3.8%

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

	Valid percent
Better off	26.5%
Worse off	20.7%
About the same	52.4%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	0.4%

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

	Valid percent
Better	13.1%
Worse	28.6%
About the same	53.6%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	4.6%

## TOPLINE REPORT

How important are the following priorities to you? Are they a high priority, a medium priority, a low priority, or not a priority at all?

	High priority	Medium priority	Low priority	Not a priority at all
Reducing local crime	84.4%	11.95%	3.2%	0.4%
Attracting new businesses and jobs to Sangamon County	83.7%	12.8%	2.4%	0.8%
Reducing local government spending	65.0%	20.6%	8.5%	3.1%
Increasing workforce/employment training programs	59.6%	29.4%	6.2%	3.2%
Increasing the number of local apprentice training programs	58.7%	29.6%	7.1%	2.5%
Developing the medical district in Springfield	55.4%	26.6%	11.1%	6.4%
Increasing minority participation/diversity development in the local economy	51.2%	29.3%	11.5%	5.7%
Not allowing any new tax increases	37.6%	30.6%	21.2%	9.0%
Decreasing property taxes	35.7%	29.3%	23.3%	10.0%

How big of a problem, if at all, is litter/improper trash disposal in each of the following areas? In Sangamon County?

	Valid percent
Big problem	27.2%
Small problem	49.8%
Not a problem at all	18.4%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	4.6%

In your local community?

	Valid percent
Big problem	16.6%
Small problem	36.9%
Not a problem at all	45.0%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	1.6%
Refused (NOT OFFERED)	0.0%

On your street?

	Valid percent
Big problem	10.6%
Small problem	27.8%
Not a problem at all	61.2%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	0.4%
Refused (NOT OFFERED)	0.0%

Do you happen to recycle at you home?

	Valid percent
Yes	66.5%
No	33.5%

Is it because you do not have interest in recycling, you don't have curbside recycling, or the costs of recycling are too much?

	Valid percent
Does not have interest	33.5%
Does not have curbside recycling	31.1%
Cost is too much	24.2%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	11.3%

There have recently been proposals to consolidate local waste management services in Sangamon County. Do you support or oppose this proposal?

	Valid percent
Support	33.7%
Neither support nor oppose	19.3%
Oppose	41.3%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	5.7%

How important, if at all, is conserving the local natural environment to your personal well-being? Very important, somewhat important, neither important nor unimportant, somewhat unimportant, or very unimportant?

	Valid percent
Very important	64.4%
Somewhat important	28.9%
Neither important nor unimportant	3.3%
Somewhat unimportant	2.1%
Very unimportant	0.5%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	0.8%

## TOPLINE REPORT

How about for the well-being of your community?

	Valid percent
Very important	69.3%
Somewhat important	25.8%
Neither important nor unimportant	2.4%
Somewhat unimportant	1.6%
Very unimportant	0.2%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	0.7%

Thinking about a normal trip to the grocery store, does knowing that the product is locally grown make you less likely, more likely, or does it not affect the likelihood of you purchasing the product?

Less likely	2.2%
More likely	66.9%
Does not affect the likelihood	28.9%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	1.9%

Do you think that local agriculture plays a major role, minor role, or no role at all in the Sangamon County economy?

	Valid percent
Major role	70.9%
Minor role	24.2%
No role at all	0.9%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	4.0%

How informed, if at all, are you on local agriculture issues? Would you say you are very informed, somewhat informed, not very informed, or not at all informed?

	Valid percent
Very informed	11.3%
Somewhat informed	45.8%
Not very informed	30.5%
Not at all informed	12.2%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	0.2%

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

	Valid percent
Have access	17.2%
No access, needs one	30.6%
No access, DOES NOT need one	48.3%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	4.0%

How would you rate your level of concern toward local air quality? Would you say you are very concerned, somewhat concerned, not very concerned, or not at all concerned?

	Valid Percent
Very concerned	20.0%
Somewhat concerned	33.0%
Not very concerned	32.2%
Not at all concerned	13.9%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	1.0%

What about water quality? How would you rate your level of concern toward local water quality? Would you say you are very concerned, somewhat concerned, not very concerned, or not at all concerned?

	Valid percent
Very concerned	31.4%
Somewhat concerned	34.1%
Not very concerned	21.6%
Not at all concerned	12.9%

How satisfied are you with the current access to local recreational or cultural events?

	Valid percent
Very satisfied	24.5%
Somewhat satisfied	43.9%
Neutral	19.0%
Dissatisfied	5.7%
Very dissatisfied	3.3%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	3.6%

## TOPLINE REPORT

Thinking about the following events in Sangamon County, do you think there are too many, not enough, or the right amount?

	Too many	Not enough	The right amount
Outdoor festival (not including fair)	1.5%	50.0%	44.6%
Local amusement parks	0.7%	46.2%	48.4%
Local farmer's market	0.2%	45.4%	53.4%
Music event/concert	1.0%	45.3%	50.7%
Art exhibit/gallery	1.1%	40.4%	47.1%
Local flea market	2.5%	37.0%	45.5%
Theater production	0.9%	29.2%	65.7%
Museum	1.3%	28.8%	68.0%
Lecture/discussion	3.7%	28.5%	50.2%
Local sporting event	3.7%	28.2%	62.0%
State or local fair	3.6%	14.3%	78.6%

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?)

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Do not currently have one
Your local library	23.1%	42.2%	15.5%	6.5%	6.9%
Your local park	27.2%	42.4%	17.7%	7.6%	2.8%

Are you satisfied with the recreational opportunities for young kids in your area?

	Valid percent
Yes	57.8%
No	36.1%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	6.1%

Are you satisfied with the recreational opportunities for teens in your area?

	Valid percent
Yes	34.1%
No	53.8%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	12.1%

Thinking about your own personal health care, do you...  
Have health care coverage (including health insurance, HMOs, government plans, or Medicare)?

	Valid percent
Yes	88.7%
No	11.3%

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

	Valid percent
Yes	86.2%
No	13.8%

What kind of place do you USUALLY go to when you are sick or need advice about your health? Is it a...

	Valid percent
Clinic	24.0%
Doctor's office	55.7%
Emergency room	5.7%
Urgent care facility	12.3%
Some other place	0.7%
Do not have such a place	0.5%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	1.0%

What would you say is your primary source of information about your health? Would you say:

	Valid percent
Family/friends	8.1%
Primary care provider/doctor	64.1%
Local media	2.0%
The Internet	18.1%
Something else	7.0%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	0.6%



## TOPLINE REPORT

Normally, when you get directions from a health care provider, would you say you fully understand the directions, understand some of the directions, or you do not understand the directions at all?

	Valid percent
Fully understand the directions	86.4%
Understand some of the directions	13.5%
Do not understand the directions at all	0.0%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	0.1%

Thinking about the last 30 days, was there at least one day in which your...

Physical health was not good?

	Valid percent
Yes	53.3%
No	46.6%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	0.1%

Mental health was not good?

	Valid percent
Yes	18.3%
No	81.4%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	0.3%

You were kept from your usual activities due to your physical or mental health?

	Valid percent
Yes	38.9%
No	61.1%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	0.0%

Have you engaged in physical leisure time activity?

	Valid percent
Yes	80.0%
No	19.9%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	0.1%

How important, if at all, do you think physical activity is to your general health?

	Valid percent
Very important	91.5%
Somewhat important	7.6%
Neither important nor unimportant	0.0%
Somewhat unimportant	0.1%
Not important at all	0.1%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	0.6%

How much attention do you think the local schools are paying to helping students adopt and practice healthy nutrition and physical activity behaviors?

	Valid percent
Too much attention	2.5%
About the right amount of attention	33.0%
Not enough attention	50.8%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	13.7%

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

	Valid percent
Right track	59.5%
Wrong direction	30.6%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	10.0%

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?

	Valid percent
Getting better	14.9%
About the same	68.9%
Getting worse	12.9%
Did not live there a year ago	2.3%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	0.9%

Do you think that Sangamon County is an excellent, good, fair, or poor...

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Place to live	15.5%	47.9%	33.6%	2.7%
Place to raise children	18.9%	48.9%	24.8%	5.3%
Place to work	12.5%	46.7%	31.5%	7.1%
Place to retire	10.1%	36.4%	25.3%	23.4%

## TOPLINE REPORT

Have there been times in the past 12 months when you did not have enough money to pay for...

	Yes	No
Food that you or your family needed?	21.7%	77.2%
Shelter or housing for you and your family?	6.9%	92.0%
Health care and/or medicines that you or your family needed	20.9%	77.9%

What level of satisfaction do you have with your current housing? Are you...

	Valid percent
Very satisfied	45.9%
Satisfied	40.1%
Neutral	11.7%
Unsatisfied	1.2%
Very unsatisfied	0.9%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	0.2%

Thinking about your local neighborhood, how many years have you lived in your local neighborhood?

	Valid percent
Less than a year	4.8%
One to five years	24.3%
Six to ten years	23.5%
Eleven to twenty years	22.8%
More than 20 years	21.3%
All your life	3.3%

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

	Valid percent
Move away	42.3%
Stay in current neighborhood	56.2%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	1.4%

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?

	Valid percent
Very confident	8.7%
Somewhat confident	49.0%
Not very confident	22.0%
Not at all confident	17.1%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	3.2%

Do you think Sangamon County has strong or weak leaders?

	Valid percent
Strong	31.3%
Weak	52.4%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	16.3%

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

	Valid percent
Yes	36.5%
No	56.9%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	6.6%

In general, how much confidence would you say you have in local ELECTED leaders to effectively address local problems? Would you say you are...

	Valid percent
Very confident	5.8%
Somewhat confident	45.9%
Not very confident	26.2%
Not at all confident	19.5%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	2.6%

Do you feel that you understand how your local government makes decisions?

	Valid percent
Yes	68.6%
No	30.3%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	1.0%

## TOPLINE REPORT

Are you aware of a current initiative in Sangamon County aimed at consolidating some governmental services?

	Valid percent
Yes	52.0%
No	44.7%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	3.3%

How important, if at all, do you think it is for local governments to consolidate local services? Is it...

	Valid percent
Very important	35.5%
Somewhat important	35.4%
Neither important nor unimportant	10.2%
Somewhat unimportant	7.1%
Not important at all	3.7%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	8.1%

Are you currently registered to vote?

	Valid percent
Yes	94.4%
No	4.9%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	0.7%

Did you happen to remember to vote in the most recent presidential election?

	Valid percent
Yes	87.9%
No	12.1%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	0.0%
Refused (NOT OFFERED)	0.0%

Voting (CONSTRUCTED VARIABLE: Self reported voter + Know polling place)

	Valid percent
Voter + Knew polling place	76.1%
Voter + Did not know polling place	11.9%
Did not vote	12.1%

Have you done any of the following in the past 12 months?

	Yes	No	Don't know (NOT OFFERED)
Wrote a letter to the editor of the local newspaper	4.4%	94.9%	0.7%
Went online to express your opinion about political or community issues	25.9%	73.4%	0.7%
Discussed politics with friends or family	83.9%	15.4%	0.7%
Donated money to charitable or religious organization	83.9%	17.5%	0.7%
Donated money to support local veterans	48.2%	49.6%	2.2%
Bought or boycotted a certain product because of the social or political value of the company	28.1%	70.4%	1.6%
Volunteered through or for a charitable or religious organization	45.2%	54.1%	0.7%
Contacted or visited a public official to express your opinion	23.7%	75.5%	0.9%
Participated in a school group (PTA) or neighborhood/community association (Neighborhood watch) or civic group (American Legion/Lions Club)	21.4%	77.7%	0.9%
Participated in adult sports or recreation organization	20.8%	78.5%	0.7%
Worked for a political party or candidate	8.2%	91.1%	0.7%
Contributed money to a political party or candidate	19.1%	80.2%	0.7%

Thinking about the disadvantaged members of the Sangamon County community, who do you think is responsible for taking care of these individuals? Is it the...

	Valid percent
Local government	16.9%
Charity/church group	3.4%
Entire community (all of us)	51.5%
Individuals themselves	23.0%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	5.2%

## TOPLINE REPORT

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

Valid percent

Yes	13.6%
No	81.2%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	5.2%

Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted or that you can't be too careful in dealing with people?

Valid percent

Most people can be trusted	37.8%
Can't be too careful	49.3%
Unsure (it depends)	12.5%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	0.4%

Do you think most people would try to take advantage of you if they got a chance, or would they try to be fair?

Valid percent

Would try to take advantage of you	36.9%
Would try to be fair	50.3%
Unsure (it depends)	12.0%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	0.9%

Would you say that most of the time people try to be helpful, or that they are mostly just looking out for themselves?

Valid percent

Try to be helpful	56.0%
Just look out for themselves	30.0%
Unsure (it depends)	12.0%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	1.9%