

Riley County Community Needs Assessment

SOCIAL ISSUES FINDINGS



FOUR OF THE TOP SEVEN concerns of respondents are directly related to **SUBSTANCE ABUSE** including drinking and driving, youth drug or alcohol use, adult drug or alcohol use, and manufacture or selling of drugs.

TOP SOCIAL ISSUES OF CONCERN

Inattentive driving	Adult drug or alcohol use
Drinking and driving	Manufacture or selling of drugs
Poverty	Hunger
Youth drug or alcohol use	Homelessness
Mental illness	Domestic Violence



13% have physical or developmental disabilities in their household



Top needs to help address social issues



Availability of services for people with low income



Positive activities for youth



Availability of employment



Availability of mental health services



Child care

* Discrimination related to sexual orientation and/or race appears most likely to occur in public accommodations.

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The 2014 Riley County Community Needs Assessment, conducted by Wichita State University Center for Community Support and Research, included the compilation of selected secondary data, administration of a community survey (N=1,126), key informant interviews, and focus groups with persons who were underrepresented in the survey. The following key findings related to physical health were drawn from the methods noted above.

Social issues encompasses such concerns as poverty and resulting problems like substance abuse, crime, suicide, and others. Like the state itself, Riley County is experiencing an increase in residents and their children living at or below the poverty level. At the same time, assistance to those most in need is decreasing (e.g., decreased amount of child care assistance available and fewer families receiving it). This issue of the increasing needs of those with the fewest resources emerged as one of the overriding concerns in interviews and focus groups as well. It was also noted that those with the fewest resources are often overlooked in Riley County. However, Riley County fares well as compared to the state in general on many of the pieces of secondary data, except for drop-out rates and adult binge drinking. The data from the survey support the secondary data in terms of noting substance abuse (including alcohol), poverty, mental health issues, and lack of childcare as primary concerns.

Selected data from secondary sources

Social Issues	Riley County	Kansas	Source
Percent of persons (all ages) below federal poverty level, 2012	21.2%	14.0%	US Census Bureau Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates
Percent of persons with food insecurity, 2012	16.2%	15.0%	Kansas Association of Community Action Programs Hunger Atlas
Percent of 9th grade students enrolled in 2007 - 2008 who graduated in 2011 - 2012	76.12%	84.92%	Kansas Kids Count
Rate of infant mortality (deaths per 1000 live births), 2012	7.65	6.07	Kansas Kids Count
Rate of teen pregnancy (per 1,000), 2012	14.5	19.7	KDHE
Percent of adults who are binge drinkers, 2013	24.4%	15.4%	BRFSS
Index of crime offenses (per 1,000), 2013	18.1	31.4	Kansas Bureau of Investigation
Number of domestic violence arrests, 2012	228 (40.9% arrest rate)	14,102 (57.9% arrest rate)	Kansas Bureau of Investigation
Rape arrests, 2012	4 (14.8% arrest rate)	222 (20.8% arrest rate)	Kansas Bureau of Investigation

For the full report, go to: www.rileycountycommunityneedsassessment.org