

Cheyenne County Health Care Improvement Task Force  
Health Survey conducted March 24 – April 15, 2014

The Cheyenne County Health Care Improvement Task Force conducted a survey of Cheyenne County residents with regards to a community health survey from March 24 through April 15, 2014 as part of the United Health Ministries Fund's Kanas Rural Health Systems Improvement Pilot.

The methodology used for the survey is as follows:

1. Survey was created by HMS Associates, Getzville, NY based on the Center's for Disease Control and Preventions "Behavioral Risk Factors Surveillance System." It included changes to questions proposed by the Cheyenne County Task Force to include some of the same questions that were included from the survey conducted in June 2011 for continuity and comparison.
2. The results were stated to be published to the community in December 2014.
3. The survey was designed to be a comprehensive survey to reach all persons ages 18 and older (79% of community – 2,147 persons) of Cheyenne County (broad community input) regardless of health disparity or economic status. Qualifying questions were included to determine if respondents were unemployed or lacked health care.
4. The survey was **heavily and broadly distributed** through multiple channels to reach all possible residents of Cheyenne County.
  - a. A Spanish version of the survey was created and distributed at the Food Pantry, Thrift Store (both St. Francis and Bird City), employees with Spanish-speaking employees.
  - b. Lower-income residents were targeted by including distribution at the Thrift Store, Food Pantry, local churches, and at the community health fair with reduced costs for services.
  - c. Older residents were targeted by attending the senior center (both St. Francis and Bird City) and providing an overview of the survey process and importance of participation.
  - d. Younger demographics were targeted by use of social media (Facebook) and several large Cheyenne County groups on Facebook.
  - e. Paper copies were included in billing statements with the Equity Coop to reach farmers and ranchers.
  - f. Paper copies or emails with links were sent by major employers in the county to their employees: Hospital, Good Samaritan Village, Home Health, County, City, Schools (both USD 297 and 103), Bird City Dairy.
  - g. Paper copies were left in various drop box locations in St. Francis and Bird City: Bird City health center, both Clinics, hospital, thrift store (both St. Francis and Bird City), Bird City post office, both senior centers

- h. Emails were sent to civic organization members (Churches, Eastern Star, 4-H, Community Builders of Cheyenne County)
  - i. Paid advertisements were run in both the St. Francis Herald and Bird City Times for three weeks: March 20, 27, and April 3
  - j. A press release was issued and published in the St. Francis Herald and Bird City Times the week of March 20.
- 5. The survey had a remarkable response.
  - a. 439 responses were received
    - i. 20.4% response rate persons 18 or older in the community
    - ii. Gender:
      - 1. 289 women
      - 2. 144 mail
      - 3. 6 blank
    - iii. Age Range:
      - 1. 15 – 18-24: 3%
      - 2. 50 – 25-34: 11%
      - 3. 66 – 35-44: 15%
      - 4. 85 – 45-54: 19%
      - 5. 105 – 55-64: 24%
      - 6. 60 – 65 – 74: 14%
      - 7. 56 - 75 or older: 13%
      - 8. 2 – blank
    - iv. Employment Status:
      - 1. 17 unemployed
      - 2. 97 retired
      - 3. 5 blank
      - 4. 320 employed
    - v. Zip Code:
      - 1. 294 - 67756 (St. Francis)
      - 2. 88 – 67731 (Bird City)
      - 3. 57 – Other (MacDonald, Atwood, Goodland, etc.)
- 6. The survey data is being utilized by the Cheyenne County Health Care Improvement Task Force to evaluate community priorities and determine ways to improve health care while reducing disparities.
- 7. The task force is comprised of stakeholders from each of the healthcare providers in Cheyenne County, county government, and a member of the community at large:
  - a. Hospital: Brenda Hays, Director of Nursing; Jennifer Padgett, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator; Scott Jenkins, incoming Administrator / CEO
  - b. Good Samaritan Village: Jeffrey Paulsen, Administrator
  - c. Cheyenne County Clinic: Dr. Mary Beth Miller, MD

- d. Home Health: Celeste Hays, Director
- e. County Health Department: Mila Bandel
- f. EMS: Reid Raile, Director
- g. Tristate Emergency Response: Ryan Murray, Director
- h. County Commissioner: Dale Patton
- i. Century II Foundation / Bird City: Cathy Domsch
- j. General Community Member: Kary Jo Meyer
- k. Project Coordinator: Carol Sloper, hospital

### **About Cheyenne County's population:**

According to current census data, we have an older population with our age distribution being: 5% under 5 years old, 21% under 18 years old, 48% between 18 and 65 years old, and 26% over 65 years old. Nearly 10% of the population lives below the poverty level.

The primary health disparities for Cheyenne County tend to be less based on ethnicity and more based on economic and age factors. According to Kansas Health Matters data, the following factors definitely impact our community. 1) While the general poverty level in Cheyenne County is lower than the state's average, we are in a yellow indicator when it comes to young children living below poverty level with 29.5% (>34.4% red, <=26.2 green). This is a rising trend in our county and this level reached an all-time high in the 2008-2012 reporting period. 2) Medicaid Enrollment Rate per 1,000 Population, 20-64 age group: 210.8 in 2011 up from 192.5 in 2010 (KS average is 257.9 per 1,000). 3) Medicaid Enrollment Rate – Children per 1,000 population ages 0 to 19. Average is 77.0 per 1,000; Cheyenne Co is 137.8 per 1000 in 2011– which has increased over 2010 from 113.2.

Cheyenne County meets the federal criteria of a frontier area with a population of 2,718 dispersed across 1,021 square miles (population density of 2.70). According to USA.com, Cheyenne is in the bottom ten Kansas counties with regards to population density.